

# Tate House Gazette

News from the Tate House Museum

Connecting people to Maine's colonial roots and helping them to discover, imagine, and value the relevance of this history to our lives.

VOLUME 23 NUMBER 2

[www.tatehouse.org](http://www.tatehouse.org)

APRIL 2015



*Happy New Season  
2014 In a Nutshell*



## Long-planned Climate Improvements Begin At Tate House

In 2014 Tate House Museum began its long-planned \$111,125 capital project to improve climate conditions at our National Historic Landmark. It addresses Tate House drainage, foundation repairs, and window conservation to seal the building envelope as well as physical improvements to create a more authentic landscape and enhance overall access at the site. In March 2014 the Davis Family Foundation provided the lead grant of \$38,000. The Davis Family Foundation has long been a vital supporter of Tate House through key preservation grants. We are most grateful for their continuing commitment; this project would not have moved forward without it. This generous support allowed work to begin with the historic archaeology required by the Maine Historic Preservation Commission (MHPC). Work will continue in 2015 thanks to the essential support of the Morton-Kelly Charitable Trust (\$8,700), the Margaret E. Burnham Charitable Trust (\$4,750), the P.W. Sprague Memorial Foundation (\$3,000) and Maine Historic Preservation Commission has awarded Tate House Museum \$20,417 through the Certified Local Government Program. Elizabeth Bradley brought this opportunity to the museum's attention; Deborah Andrews at the City's Historic Preservation Program and MHPC staff members encouraged us to apply. The Daughters of American Revolution has a Special Projects' Grant Program run by its national office. Kitty Chadbourne and Deborah Jolly of the Maine DAR's Elizabeth Wadsworth Chapter kindly wrote in support of our application for \$10,000. Notification on this grant will be made in the spring. Our deepest thanks are extended to our generous funders and to the others who have helped make this project, essential to the preservation of Tate House, possible.

Laura Fecych Sprague

## Crane and Morrison Archaeology Sheds New Light on Tate House Landscape

Reconfiguring the land surrounding Tate House in order to improve drainage and protect the building is vital to our museum. This work provides an important opportunity to fulfill another of our missions: improving the historical accuracy of the house and our understanding of its past. In this vein, the museum used funds from the generous Davis Family Foundation grant to hire Crane and Morrison Archaeology to work at the house in October and November 2014. Pamela Crane and Peter Morrison had previously excavated test units at Tate House in 2004 and 2005. Archaeology has provided vital information about the house ever since Walter Macomber's work in 1951.



Surveying Starts



18<sup>th</sup> century landscape features.

This work revealed the foundation of the ell, brick drains, and a flagstone path, as well as some of our most fascinating artifacts, such as the Stroudwater militia and Long Live the King buttons on view in the ell. From 1983 to 1984, Aileen Agnew investigated the historic landscape. She found a walkway of flint ballast nodules at the front of the house dating to the 19<sup>th</sup> century Colonial Revival period. Crane and Morrison's work has expanded Agnew's interpretation. They have identified that between one-and-a-half and two feet of clay fill was added to the original surface

of the front yard. Why this happened is not known but it means that the original entrance to the house would have required a higher flight of stairs. Additionally, parallel soil stains in the test units lined up with the front door and the flanking pilasters of the door surround and indicate the sills that supported a wooden walkway. As part of the museum's capital improvements project, a wooden walkway and new wooden steps and handrail will be reconstructed, replacing the current brick walk and granite steps built in the 1930s. Further research will be conducted by consulting curator Laura Sprague, who will work with archaeologists and architectural historians to determine the most accurate approach to reconstructing this wooden walkway and the steps to the house.

Harper G. Batsford

## Griswold Fund Supports New Acquisitions

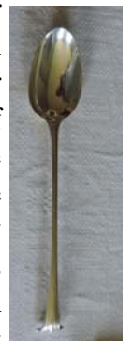
This spring Tate House Museum and the NSCDA acquired English silver and brass tablewares in memory of Cynthia Griswold who died in 2012. For



David (right) and Roger Griswold in front of the Bofat containing Tate House Museum's newest acquisitions in Cynthia's Griswold's name

those who didn't have the pleasure of knowing our great friend Cynthia, she was devoted to the history of foodways in colonial America. Upon her arrival in Maine from Connecticut in 2000, she brought her extensive knowledge and experience in the interpretation of house museums and ably served both the Dames and Tate House Museum. One of her great accomplishments was the research that ensured the proper installation of the English clock jack or spit engine in the Tate House hearth. This key object was acquired in 2011 using restricted NSCDA collections funds. A labor saving kitchen device – advanced 18<sup>th</sup> century technology, it enlivens the kitchen and is something that 21<sup>st</sup> century visitors love. Contributions to Tate House Museum in memory of Cynthia totaled \$3,775. Her family requested that objects acquired with these funds be related to foodways, an appropriate way to honor her interests and legacy. This large category ranges from wrought iron cooking pots to the finest imported table wares. But because the collection is under-represented by high-quality table wares made of metal, including silver, this became the priority. Tablewares made of sterling silver, that lustrous precious metal, were among the most prized household possessions in colonial America.

Ownership of silver objects indicated wealth and social standing but it also served a more practical purpose before banks were established. Its value could be easily converted to cash when needed. Standard forms appearing in colonial New England inventories include tankards, mugs, caster, porringers, and flatware. The popularity of tea & coffee drinking accounted for a large number of silver form – tea and coffee pots, sugar bowls and creamers - made for this social ritual. Tate House owns two English silver salvers, or footed trays, but other examples are limited to punch ladles and tablespoons. After looking for over one year with little success finding appropriate, affordable objects, Christopher Monkhouse recommended we contact S. J. Shrubsole, a dealer of fine English silver in New York City. (Son of Putty Monkhouse, longtime member of the Tate House Committee, Christopher is a curator at the Art Institute of Chicago.) A London silver coffee pot made by silversmiths Shaw & Priest working in partnership in 1758 fit the bill for quality, form and value. With its bold Rococo form, it represents a popular style found throughout the century. The Tates surely could have owned this important form. A conservative example, the coffee pot fits with what we know of Tate's choice of domestic architecture – stylish but not the most expensive. It's a form that would have been used in combination with fine Chinese export or English porcelains, such as the Worcester porcelain tea set on view in the parlor chamber. In March the NSCDA purchased three London serving or platter spoons and a ladle in memory of Cynthia Griswold, using the furnishings fund. Their decorative scrolled handles, known as the Onslow pattern, are notable. Colonial families acquired silver over many years, as need arose. The popularity of the Onslow pattern is demonstrated by the work of four different silversmiths from 1743 to 1776.





### Griswold New Acquisitions Cont...



The ladle complements the English salt-glaze stoneware sauceboat in its table setting for dinner. Because the guild system controlled the silver-making craft, objects of British silver can be easily identified by their hallmarks – a city mark, makers' mark, a date letter, and an assay mark that guaranteed the quality of the silver maker. The new Tate House silver all features these British hallmarks. Tate House Museum also purchased an unusual turned English brass salver from Hollis Brodrick's Antiquarian in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. Hollis has long been a friend of Tate House. In the 1980s he assessed the wrought iron collection, weeding out late and inappropriate cooking implements. In 2010 he found the clock jack and donated a 1760s brass cooking pot for the hearth stamped by its British maker. The brass salver, a rare survivor circa 1760, makes a wonderful addition to our brass and bell-metal collection. In addition to these purchases, gifts were also made in memory of Cynthia. Three Chinese export porcelain plates, 1740-1760 – that complement examples in the collection – were given by Laura Sprague in 2013 and a bookplate by The Ascensius Press has been made for the 100+ books from Cynthia's library, generously given to Tate House Museum by her family.

### A Labor of Love

Not only did Andy Stickney paint our garage at the Means House, he did it right. He spent hours scraping and sanding each board, then he primed with a like



color before he even started painting. Day after day he chiseled away until it was finally completed. What a wonderful job he did. Andy, who is the treasurer on the Tate House Board of directors, is also the son of a Dame. Anita Stickney belongs to the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of Maine. How fitting that this task was taken on by someone so connected to this wonderful legacy set up by the Dames. How proud Anita Stickney must be of her son! Thank you Andy, for such a dedicated and professional job!



### Annual Tate House Museum Teas



Last year's Tea was a beautiful day for everyone who participated many wearing their "tea outfits". On the afternoon of June 8<sup>th</sup> tables, decorated with lace, ribbons and flowers, were set up on the back lawn of the Tate House overlooking Mary Tate's Gardens and the Stroudwater River.



Marianne Russo of *Nellie's Teas* and her assistant Paula served many varieties of tea along with scones enhanced by jams, clotted cream and lemon curd. We were happy to have many docents and Dames who gave tours of the Tate House to those who had never had the opportunity to see the house. Joan Hatch visited with the tables to share tea lore with the guests and answer questions relating to tea in colonial times. The afternoon was such a success that we have decided to have a **Second Annual Tea on Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup>** from 1 to 4PM. This is a wonderful event for children and adults. The admission will be \$12 for members and \$16 for non-members. Reservations are made by calling the Tate House Office at 774-6177 or e-mail to [info@tatehouse.org](mailto:info@tatehouse.org). Please make your reservation at least one week in advance of the event and please let your friends know so they can save the date.



## EDUCATION COMMITTEE NEWS

### From the Tate House Education Chair

It has been a privilege to work on the education committee at the Tate House Museum this past year. I need to commend our wonderful volunteers for their enthusiasm, creativity, and take-charge attitudes! Without this engagement, the Tate House would be just another house museum. Instead, it is vibrant and exciting! The potential for research, activities, and educational outreach is limited only by record breaking snowstorms. I am in awe of the great ideas put forth by the volunteers, and even more so by the follow-through and support which make those ideas become realities.

Last season we coordinated a flurry of activities, and the upcoming season will bring us together for even more lectures, events, and gatherings.

Many of you know that we have hosted educational programs for our docents periodically during the off-season. This year the docents have requested to get together more frequently throughout the year. Additionally, the education committee thought we should include all of our members in our Soup & Connoisseur gatherings. Beth Maitland, one of our education committee members is leading us in a S&C sewing project! Every-other month we gather to discuss, plan, and begin the process of sewing an additional component of a complete colonial outfit. Join us in making your own period garb.

Other Soup & Connoisseur topics will include new youth tours and collaborations, an exclusive peek into the Textile Tool Collection of Peter Cook, and an in-depth tour of the Tate House Kitchen. Consider joining us for good food, good company, and learn a little more about colonial times and how our museum can engage the public in its fascinating story.

This season we will continue our lecture series with **Poetry by the Stroudwater on June 30th**, **Quilting Through the Ages on July 7th**, and later in the summer; **A Genealogy Lecture August 11th by Carol P. McCoy PHD**, and a **Gravestone Preservation Lecture September 15th**.

Our family activities will include a **Colonial Tea on June 7th**, a traditional **Quilting Bee on June 20th**, and an interactive **Puppet Show based on the Education of the Tate Boys August 8th**. The education committee is very excited about all of these activities and we hope that you will be too. If you are interested in participating or attending any of these activities, we welcome you whole-heartedly!

### Did You Know



In the Tate House kitchen on the cupboard sets a pair of unique candle sticks commonly known as Courting Candles. The story of their purpose is also unique.

Courting candles were an important part of the household and the family. In the 1600's to the 1800's, courting candles were used by the man of the house to establish rules of conduct for his daughters. When a suitor came calling, the father lit the candle in the sitting room where the couple sat talking. When the candles burnt to the metal at the top of the candle holder, it was time for the gentleman to promptly leave. However, the father had the option of changing the height of the candle based on how he felt about the suitor. The courting candle served as a quiet, yet firm reminder to the gentleman caller it was time to end his visit.

The courting candle was used by all fathers, rich or poor. It taught daughters to respect their parents' judgment and was a lesson to the suitor to defer to the father's ability to judge a man. By today's standards, the courting candle may sound archaic but then, they served as an important boundary line in the family and an important part of the social fabric.

## NEWS OF INTEREST

### Change in the Neighborhood



Stroudwater Village Association held its Annual Pancake Breakfast at the Stroudwater Baptist Church on Saturday, February 14th, Valentine's Day, from 8:30 to 10:30. In addition to breakfast of yummy pancakes, a large, beautiful and delicious fruit salad, sausages, coffee, juice and even a few donuts from Tony's, the attendees were served an interesting presentation. The Elks Club which holds a "conditional use" designation in what is otherwise a Residential (R2) zone is seeking to sell its seven-acre property, with an agreement to let them continue to use their space. They have found a buyer, a doctor who wants to build two office buildings on

the property in addition to the existing (but reduced in size) Elks Club building. Standing in his way are the zoning requirements which would have to change to allow him to do that. The presentation was made by the developer, the doctor, and the building designer.

This issue is important to the Tate House Museum because of the implications of such a change to the nature of our neighborhood.

Those who oppose the development with its zoning change point out that 1) Portland needs more residential development, not more commercial development, 2) once such a change is made it encourages and facilitates other property owners' (e.g. the two churches or the Masonic Lodge) attempts to seek do the same, thereby increasing the value of their property by allowing fast food stores and other such development, 3) such development would encroach on our neighborhood, removing the tranquility of the village aspects of our surroundings, increasing traffic flow and making it look like many other areas in our city - filled with gas stations, fast food establishments and congestion.

Those who support this change believe the plans as presented are a good use of the space and change is inevitable. Some are suggesting the City do a visioning process to establish how we all would like to see this neighborhood evolve.

Anita B. Jones

### Spirits of Stroudwater



Once again for two consecutive Saturdays in October volunteers and staff from the Tate House Museum hosted the Spirits of Stroudwater Cemetery Tour. Guests were escorted through the historical Stroudwater Cemetery where they encountered the spirits of prominent village residents during the 18th century. The tour guides provided the guests with a brief history of the area and the spirits with a synopsis of their lives. The weather on both days cooperated and lent a beautiful fall setting to the occasion. The tours began in the front yard of the Means' house where a multitude of delicious treats were available for purchase with the proceeds from the sale benefiting the museum. One of the highlights was the live television coverage provided by WMTW Channel 8. During the broadcast news reporter Morgan Sturdivant interviewed Joan Hatch, Nancy Ladd and the spirit of 18th century tavern owner Thaddeus Broad. Thanks to the efforts of the Tate House Museum staff and volunteers as well as the WMTW news staff the event was a huge success. Preparations are underway to make the 2015 Spirits of Stroudwater even better.



## THE TATE HOUSE MUSEUM WELL REPRESENTED AT THE WESTBROOK BICENTENNIAL

Colonel Thomas Westbrook, for whom the city of Westbrook was named, was the first Mast Agent representing England's King George III. Upon his death Captain George Tate was named as his replacement in the colonies thus establishing a direct relationship with what is now the Tate house Museum and the City of Westbrook. It was this connection that prompted the City of Westbrook to invite our organization to participate in their Bicentennial Parade held on Saturday May 31, 2014.



We had a very short time to create a float but with the stellar effort of Betty - Janus and a multitude of volunteers we were able to pull together a display worthy of The Tate House Museum and its part in the history of the area. Les Wilson & Sons provided a semi tractor with flatbed trailer and hay bales as the basis of our display. In addition Mr. Wilson drove the truck and his family rode on the float dressed in period costumes. Docents Fred and Beth Maitland, also dressed in authentic period costumes, rode on the float. Beth taught the Wilson girls how to use a Lucet Braider (a tool that has been used in braiding, plaiting, decorative rope work, and cord making for hundreds of years) lending authenticity to the display. Jim Stenberg portrayed Captain Tate as the successful Mast Agent and merchant he was. Jim also did an excellent job of cutting the King's Broad Arrow in to a log representative of the size of white pine used for masts in the King's Navy.



white pine used for masts in the King's Navy.

John Farmer portrayed a woodsman whose job was to harvest these fine trees and ready them for their sea voyage to England. Hunt's Photo & Video of South Portland graciously provide a large photo of the Tate House as it is today. The framed photo was displayed on the grill of the tractor and banners, designed by Betty Janus, were hung down each side of the trailer. Betty, Jolene Froton, Lin Brown, Jessica Siraco and Mary Ann Farmer walked along side the float



handing out balloons and passes to the museum. From the applause and comments received along the parade route our efforts were very successful in helping Westbrook celebrate its Bicentennial as well as bringing attention to the historic treasure we have in our area, The Tate House Museum. Many thanks go out to all those volunteers who give so freely of their time and energy to showcase this part of our heritage. A very special thank you goes to the Colonial Dames of America in the State of Maine for their ongoing efforts to preserve our history for generations to come. Without their foresight in obtaining the Tate House this historical landmark might have been lost forever.



**Saco River Theatre**, 29 Salmon Falls Road, Bar Mills, Me.  
207-929-6472 SACORIVERTHEATRE.ORG  
DOWN EAST FIDDLERS JAMBOREE

Saturday, May 9, 2015  
7:30pm 9:30pm

Maine's champion fiddlers return, hosted by the venerable **OLD GREY GOOSE** (Jeff McKeen, Doug Prozik, Carter Newel, Eric Rolfson and Bennett Konesni on fiddles, accordion, piano, guitar, banjo, harmonica, fiddlesticks and bones.)

JENNIFER PORTER  
Friday, May 22, 2015  
7:30pm 9:30pm

Jennifer will be joined by the incomparable **Sonny Barbato** on piano, with regional greats **Jim Lyden** (bass) **Les Harris, Jr.** (drums) **Matt Langely** (saxophones), **Trent Austin** (trumpets), **Jason Anick** (violin) and others .

GET TICKETS: Call (207) 929-6472



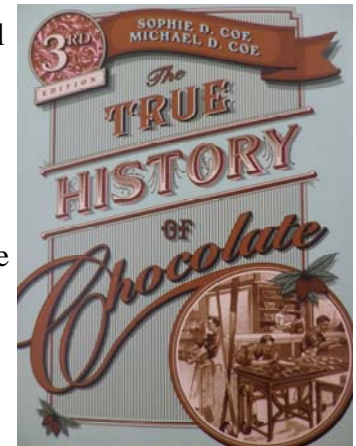
## Happenings at the Tate House Museum Gift Shop



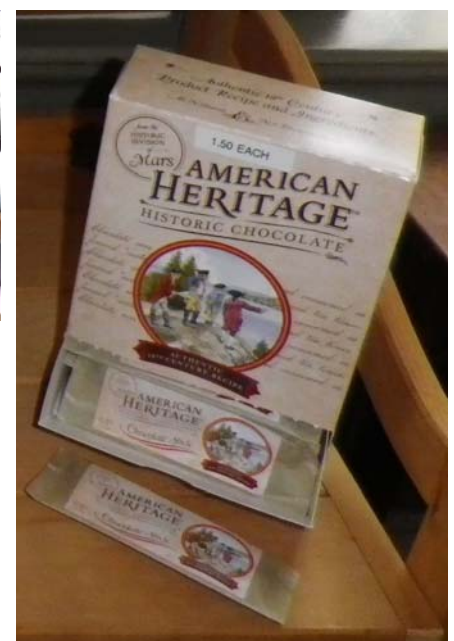
In case you haven't been into the Means House to wander through the gift shop there are new things for your consideration. Joan has been busy following up on suggestions from members and volunteers. She likes to give you new items to peak your interest and remember these sales help support the museum in its mission.

American Heritage Chocolate is now being offered in the gift shop and we will shortly be having a tasting of their chocolate drink. This is chocolate which is made from a recipe used in colonial times and has hints of vanilla and other spices used by chocolate makers of the 1700's with no artificial additives. We are selling chocolate sticks, chocolate bites and drink mix with more to come. For more information on this product see

[www.americanheritagechocolate.com/](http://www.americanheritagechocolate.com/) or come in and check it out. Along with the chocolate we are selling **The True History of Chocolate** by Sophie and Michael Coe for our foodies who want to know more.



In the book department we have also purchased a few copies of **Independent Dames** by Laurie Halse Anderson. This is a children's book, perfect for young ones between 6 and 10 years of age. It tells the story of the women and girls of the American Revolution who are overlooked in the heat of the battle. A perfect gift for your budding historian.



# Tate House Museum Members 2014

## Captain Tate

Richard and Cate Gilbane  
Phineas and Mary Lou Sprague  
Andrew Stickney

## Colonel Westbrook

Elizabeth and David Bradley  
William Hubbell  
Anita B. Jones  
Barbara and Robert Luke  
Amy Shinn

## Mast Agent

Col. William Hall Jr.  
Joan and James Hatch  
Katherine Watson

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Kathleen Conrad	James D. Colthart
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Tim & Sarah Stickney	
Tristram & Lois Thompson	
Mary K. Strout	
Helen Ginder	
Alice White	
Johannah Hart	

## Individual

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Elizabeth B. Sims	Dick Kempton	
Deborah S. Shinn	Jacqueline Robinov	
Anne Barnes	Hazel Rue Maloney	
Ruth Collins	Kristin Sweeney	
Diane Dyer	Jane Cutter	
Melanie Jean Frazier		
Joline Froton		
Merton G. Henry		
Helen Ginder		
Perry Hopf		
Diane Hoppe		

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Gail Rae Carter	Ann Galloupe	Victoria Kurtz	
Nancy Chatfield	Cate Gilbane	Virginia Kurtz	
Kathryn Clark	Margaret Glover	Nancy Ladd	
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Elizabeth Coleman	Talie Harris	Virginia Link	
Jane Cutter	Hilary Harwood	Sally Lombard	
June Dolcater	Harriet Hathaway	Susan Mace	
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Janet McGuire	Nancy Seabury	Elena Vandervoort	
Nina McKee	Cassandra G. Simonds	Katherine Wheeler	
Nancy Mckusick	Elizabeth Simms	Ann Williamson	
Zareen Taj Mirza	Meredith Smith	Anne Wood	
Corallie Murray	Mary Lou Sprague	Ann Worster	
Ruth Parker	Henrietta Stewart	Sherod Yancey	
Elizabeth Preti	Howsie Stewart		
Mary Rea	Janet Stewart		
Deborah Reed	Anita Stickney		
Barbara Rencurrel	Mary Strahan		
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## Letter from the Chair

Each year about this time of year, I begin to sense a stirring of excitement and energy at Tate House Museum. Committees are meeting, the Portland History Docents (PHD) training is being put on the calendar, new merchandise is coming by the boxful into the Gift Shop. Yes, even this year - the year of multiple, frigid snows - things are beginning to thaw a bit and to stir.

The Education Committee is preparing for our open season and beginning began in February holding informational and social gatherings, the first in a series, for docents and other interested folks to learn about clothing in colonial days - what it consists of and how to make it. Joan Hatch has found a supplier for colonial chocolate and is bringing everything from hot chocolate to chocolate candies to add to her shelves. The Publicity Committee is planning how to get the word about Tate House Museum out to the public. The Events Committee has rejected one fun-sounding event that didn't match what the vendor was able to provide, and is focusing on another - more details to follow. The Ramble on the radar screen for this fall is Strawberry Banke Museum.

Some events we are anticipating: word from foundations on grants written earlier, the full report from our archaeologists, and more details about events, trips. Not to mention a Plant Sale May 16th, a Family Fun Days starting June 7th, Opening Day May 30th a fundraising dinner and presentation by Colin Woodard, and events - lot of things to look forward to! Stay tuned!

## Poetry in the Garden

The evening of July 1, 2014 provided the ideal night for the first Poetry in the Garden at the Tate House Museum. The garden was in full bloom and the temperature ideal. Our inaugural event was started by readings from Mihku Paul followed by Linda Aldrich. Each of them wrote an "occasional poem". These are poems written for a specific occasion. They will be available in the Means House office for all to read. We hope to make a collection of each years "occasional" poems.

Mihku is a Maliseet poet and visual artist. Her first book of poetry was written in 2012 and is titled " Twentieth Century PowWow Playland." She read poems from that book plus her occasional poem titled "the Broad Arrow and The Rose". It skillfully weaves the Tate history of sailing, trees, and Mary Tate utilizing the broad arrow and the multiple ways the "rose" is used in sailing, gardening and life . She has since become an active volunteer at the Tate House Garden. Linda Aldrich wrote 3 poems specifically for the occasion. "Valerian Officianalis "was inspired by the valerian in the garden and a specimen she took home for her garden. "Seeds" and "On Seeds"were also written for the occasion. She read these plus others from her books "Foothold" and "March and Mad Women". Her husband participated in one of the readings,taking the male voice which added an extra dimension.

This years "**Poetry in the Garden**" will be held on **June 30th**. Our poets will be Marcia Brown, who is the current Poet Laureate of Portland, and Alice Persons, who is publisher of Moon Pie Press and a poet in her own right. We hope you will join us

Barbara Luke

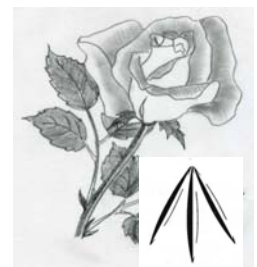
## The Broad Arrow and the Rose

By Mihku Paul-Anderson

In seventeen and fifty-five, a house was built upon a hill.  
No greater home then stood to strive and keep old English grandeur alive.  
Each stone and timber pulled from a land so new, that none dared say  
nor even knew, how long this home might last.  
Steadfast, it stands there still.

Tate House, abode of one who sought to trade and prosper so he bought  
goods near and far, and sent them on his ships across the sea and back again  
until his tradesman status brought the title Captain, so bestowed from time he spent, oceans crossed, n'aer a ship lost,  
he'd won the treacherous sea with  
cunning, common sense and good thought.

His Majesty's navy, bold and strong, ruled the seas both far and wide,  
Warfare stole his chessmen sailing o'er the world, the winds of conquest  
driven hard against new lands claimed and taken in King George's name.  
The compass rose would be their guide.





On wings of canvas flying past,  
those mighty ships fought storms and enemy alike  
and some were lost to deep blue death while others  
suffered canon strike and crippled, lay without a mast.

A King's hunger stirs to action those of similar attraction,  
so the colonies afforded timber of sufficient size and strength.  
White pine trees grown hundreds of years provided masts of goodly length,  
the best claimed for king and empire, England guaranteed as buyer.

Marked by an arrow, broad and deep, proclaimed its destiny and future laid,  
chosen for royalty to keep, become the goods of the mast trade.  
Great Pinus Strobus, named by Linnaeus, felled for transport, for profit sold,  
made Tate a tidy sum of gold.

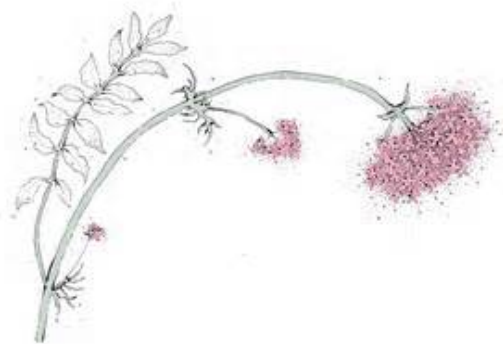
Two hundred fifty years and more, flown by the place George Tate called home,  
Stroudwater where he built Tate House, which stands today for all to see.  
What we now call a history, might then have been his destiny,  
at least the story of a man whose aspirations led him on  
the broad arrow's straight, unyielding path to forge a stature and a name  
that centuries on still bring him fame.

Home and hearth, and wife named Mary,  
a rose that bloomed too short a time, his compass in a life ambitious,  
guiding him beyond his prime, her goodness lingers on in rooms,  
where visitors watch and listen wary, perhaps her spirit wanders there,  
in doorways or upon the hill where roses bloom and memories echo  
a life far less contrary.

### **Valerian Officinalis**

You stand tall among us—oh practical one,  
not given to showiness, you keep to the back row  
for the class photo, your small blooms like clouds  
moving in the breeze, like hands raised  
with the right answer. Adaptable perennial,  
you come back despite life's pain  
with your philosophy of fragrance,  
your long stem a wand you wave over us.

*Lean close, you say, take in my scent of happier  
days, and in the dark of winter, drink tea  
made from my roots. I am balm. I calm  
your nerves. I will soothe you into sleep.*



*by Linda Aldrich for the Tate House Garden Poetry Reading, July 1, 2014*



Tate House Museum  
1267 Westbrook Street  
Portland, ME 04102  
207-774-6177  
www.tatehouse.org



Our mission is to connect people to Maine's colonial roots, and to help them discover, imagine, and value the relevance of this history to our lives.

### *Make a Donation*

Tate House Museum, its history, and neighborhood will serve as a catalyst for educational programs and research for students and the general public who visit the house, as well as a community resource.

*You can help!!*

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Tate House Museum is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization.

I wish to remain anonymous \*