

# Window on Woodville



The Newsletter of the

Neville House Associates

Volume X, Number 1

April 2010

## A LETTER FROM the PRESIDENT



If you ask most people, 2009 was a year that they would like to put behind them. Throughout the year, the news media bombarded us with stories of a steadily worsening economy, rising

unemployment, political stalemates crippling our legislatures and a reduction in personal income. While these stories painted a rather gloomy picture for Americans in general, the picture was much brighter for many historical venues, including Woodville.

As countless Americans found themselves with less discretionary income, they introspectively looked to local venues to satisfy their historical and travel requirements. Even nationally prominent sites such as Mt. Vernon and Colonial Williamsburg, which have seen declining visitation over the past several years, have begun to experience a turnaround in their visitation shortfalls. Is it possible that in our deepest moments of despair, we Americans look to our past for answers? Certainly.



Woodville Plantation

Woodville had a very busy, innovative and productive year for both our volunteers and visitors. In 2009, we saw an increase in overall Sunday and event visitation by 26% and an all-time record of 2,115 recorded visitors. This marks the fifth consecutive year of increases, dating back to 2005 when attendance was recorded at approximately 600 visitors.

In addition to this, the estimated number of guests that have visited the grounds only for a self-guided tour on Wednesday through Saturday increased 175%, to over 600 people. This estimate is made through informal counts made by volunteers that are in attendance during the weekday hours and through a count of the number of self-guided tour pamphlets that are distributed from the informational sign near the entrance. It is likely

that this estimate is moderate and could be as high as 1,000.

Our outreach programs took Woodville's historical message offsite to almost 500 people in 2009, going to venues as far away as Berlin, Pennsylvania, and

*(Continued on Page 2)*

## Table of Contents

A Letter From the President.....	page 1	New NHA Members.....	page 9
2010 Programming Schedule.....	page 3	Word From Woodville.....	page 10
From the Garden to the Table.....	page 5	2010 NHA Membership.....	page 11
St. Tammany's Day: the Forgotten Holiday.....	page 6	Woodville Plantation's New Blog.....	page 12

# A LETTER FROM the PRESIDENT

Steubenville, Ohio. After totaling all of the attendance numbers, the final count reached 3,039 visitors (including members, volunteers and school groups). This is a record number for Woodville and one that we hope to build on in 2010.

So how did we achieve this objective? One critical factor was the increase in volunteers at the site. In 2010, volunteer activities grew by 14% to over 1,300 hours simply to maintain our Sunday openings, special events and outreach programs. This does not include any of the NHA Board activities which require over 200 hours of volunteer time or any of the behind the scenes jobs (feeding chickens, maintaining the grounds, repair projects, etc.) that account for over 600 additional hours every year.

In total, our volunteers donate an estimated 2,500 hours of their time to support the site. Using the minimum wage in Pennsylvania as an estimate, these generous volunteers donate almost \$20,000 of their time to running the site! Again, this is a conservative estimate considering that our volunteers are exceptionally educated and skilled. In the historical jobs market, they would likely command a wage much higher than the minimum.

These volunteers have also donated over 150 hours of their time toward creating some of the new exhibits that encourage visitors to come to our site. Exhibits like the newly-opened Visitor Orientation Room and Exhibition, the newly-constructed roosting house for our flock of dominique chickens and the soon to be opened Still House Meeting and Conference Room. This statistic becomes even more astonishing when you consider the total number of volunteers that keep the doors of Woodville open each year has continued to shrink and now numbers fewer than a dozen active participants.

So why should this information be important to the members of the Neville House Associates? To state it succinctly, we can't do it without you. The only category of attendance that did not see double digit increases in 2009 was member attendance, which declined by 32%. While we appreciate and need your continued financial support, we would like you to experience the changes, improvements and new programs that we offer each year. In 2009, we had over twenty events at the site. More events than we have ever conducted in any year prior. If you did not have a chance to attend these unique events (like the historical walking lecture and battle re-enactment on Bower Hill or a stool ball game on the lawn behind the house), you have missed an opportunity to experience history that is re-created better than at any other site in Western Pennsylvania. If you don't believe me, ask one of the 3,000 visitors that did attend in 2009. If you did attend, we thank you and hope that you enjoyed your visit. If not, please make it a point to stop by and see us this year.

Finally, if 2009 did not offer you enough incentive to see the site, we have again expanded and improved our programming in 2010. Included are four 18th century cooking classes titled "Cookery Made Plain and Easy" and expanded programs involving the Wayne's Legion military re-enactors based at the site. If you like what you see, great. If not, please let us know how we can do it better. Your input and comments are important to us. Ultimately when you visit, the easiest thing you can do to support our programs is to thank the volunteers that make it all happen. Without them, we would not be as successful as we have been in the past several years. We look forward to your continued support, and especially your visit, in 2010.

*Rob Windhorst*  
President  
Neville House Associates



# 2010 PROGRAMMING SCHEDULE



Step back in time at Woodville Plantation, the home of John and Presley Neville, Western Pennsylvania's link to the late 18th century. Explore the lives of Pittsburgh's wealthiest citizens during the period of 1780 to 1820, the Era of the New Republic.

Woodville Plantation is open for guided tours every Sunday throughout the year, from 1 pm to 4 pm. Admission is \$5.00 for adults, \$3.00 for children age 6 through 12 and free for children under age 6. The grounds are open for free self-guided tours Wednesday through Saturday throughout the year, from 10 am to 6 pm. Special tours can be arranged for groups of 20 or more by contacting the site. Please visit [www.WoodvillePlantation.org](http://www.WoodvillePlantation.org) or call 412-221-0348 for additional information.



Throughout 2010, Woodville Plantation will present a series of hands-on educational programs titled *Cookery Made Plain and Easy*. Guests will have a unique opportunity to join our interpreters in the original Woodville kitchen to learn preparation, cooking and food presentation methods of the late 18th century. Using Hannah Glasse's 1796 cookbook and other period resources, students will participate with the site's interpretive cooking staff to prepare tasty dishes such as pork pies, forced cabbages, lemon creams and carrot puffs. The cost for each class is \$15. Interested participants are asked to pre-pay and register by mail. Registration fees are non-refundable. Please call 412-221-0348 to pre-register or if you have any questions.

April 4 - Easter Sunday: Site is Closed

April 11 - Cookery Made Plain and Easy: Lemon Creams

Join the cooks at Woodville Plantation for a unique class. Participants will prepare an 18th century "receipt" in the original kitchen. This special opportunity will allow students to prepare dishes using historic preparation methods, period correct ingredients and reproduction cookware. Class will be held from 1 pm to 5 pm, and is limited to 4 students. Cost for the class is \$15. Pre-registration is required.

May 1 and 2 - Wayne's Fourth Sub-Legion Encampment

Meet soldiers of the Fourth Sub-Legion of the United States, the men who defended Neville's Bower Hill house during the Whiskey Rebellion. Soldiers will drill, fire muskets and discuss general camp life in Anthony Wayne's army of 1794. Special hours for this event are Saturday, May 1, from 5 pm to 8 pm; and Sunday, May 2, from noon to 5 pm. Special admission price for the encampment and house tour is \$3 per person.

May 23 - Laundry Demonstration

Join Woodville Plantation's laundress as she presents the unique and interesting practices required for washing and ironing the clothing and linens at a late 18th century plantation, including some very unusual methods of removing stains.

June 6 - Cookery Made Plain and Easy: Forced Cabbage

Join the cooks at Woodville Plantation for a unique class. Participants will prepare an 18th century "receipt" in the original kitchen. This special opportunity will allow students to prepare dishes using historic preparation methods, period correct ingredients and reproduction cookware. Class will be held from 1 pm to 5 pm, and is limited to 4 students. Cost for the class is \$15. Pre-registration is required.

June 13 - Spinning and Knitting Demonstration

Join the wool spinster to learn how wool was sheared, spun into thread and then knitted into the many items needed for warmth in the cold winter months.

July 17 and 18 - Whiskey Rebellion Weekend

July 17 - Walking Lecture: The Events of July 1794

Woodville Plantation and the Scott Conservancy team up to present a unique walking lecture titled *The Events of 1794*. Join the soldiers of Wayne's Fourth Sub-Legion as they return to Bower Hill to discuss and re-create the fateful events

(Continued on Page 4)

# 2010 PROGRAMMING SCHEDULE (cont.)



of the Whiskey Rebellion, as they occurred in July of 1794. This unique event will begin at 3 pm at the PA State Historical Marker on Bower Hill (near Kane Regional Center) and end at Whiskey Point (near Old St. Luke's Church). The walk covers approximately 1-1/2 miles along the newly restored trails of Bower Hill. Topics covered include the Battle of Bower Hill, soldiers that participated in the battle and the Whiskey Rebellion. The walk is free to the public. Following the walk, visitors are invited to join the soldiers as they make camp at Woodville Plantation. The camp and Woodville Plantation will be open to the public on Saturday evening from 5 pm to 8 pm. Admission for this special opening is \$3 per person.

## July 18 - Whiskey Rebellion Day

Join the troops of the Fourth Sub-Legion of the United States as they make camp at Woodville Plantation. Experience camp life and participate with the soldiers as they march and drill. Visitors will learn about 18th century cooking techniques as the Woodville cooks prepare dinner for the encamped troops. Special hours for the event will be from noon to 5 pm, with a special admission price of \$3 per person.

## August 1 - Games of the New Republic: Stool Ball Competition

Visitors are invited to participate in a fun and interesting game of stool ball, the forerunner of modern baseball. Both the gentry and working classes enjoyed stool ball during the 18th century, including President Washington and his troops during the War for Independence.

## August 29 - Harvest Day

Join the gardeners of Woodville Plantation as they harvest heirloom vegetables grown at the site throughout the summer. Meet the head gardener and learn about 18th century crops, growing techniques and tools.

## September 12 - Legion Drill Day

Join the soldiers of Wayne's Fourth Sub-Legion, the first army of the United States, as they practice the drills of Baron Von Steuben from 1794. Events of the day include tactical demonstrations, musket firing, marching and ceremonial drills. Weather permitting.

## October 3 - Cookery Made Plain and Easy: Carrot Puffs

Join the cooks at Woodville Plantation for a unique class. Participants will prepare an 18th century "receipt" in the original kitchen. This special opportunity will allow students to prepare dishes using historic preparation methods, period correct ingredients and reproduction cookware. Class will be held from 1 pm to 5 pm, and is limited to 4 students. Cost for the class is \$15. Pre-registration is required.

## November 6 and 7 - Wayne's Fourth Sub Legion Encampment

Meet soldiers of the Fourth Sub-Legion of the United States, the men who defended Neville's Bower Hill house during the Whiskey Rebellion. Soldiers will drill, fire muskets and discuss general camp life in Anthony Wayne's army of 1794. Special hours for this event are Saturday, November 6, from 5 pm to 8 pm; and Sunday, November 7, from noon to 5 pm. Special admission price for the encampment and house tour is \$3 per person.

## November 21 - Holidays at the House

Come celebrate the holidays in a "different light" with candlelight tours of Woodville Plantation. Learn how 18th century holiday customs such as Twelfth Night, Boxing Day and the firing of Christmas guns differ from our modern-day celebrations. Included will be a magnificent display of the "full table" feast celebrated during Twelfth Night. Candlelight tours are conducted from noon to 8 pm.

## December 5 - Cookery Made Plain and Easy: Cheshire Pork Pie

Join the cooks at Woodville Plantation for a unique class. Participants will prepare an 18th century "receipt" in the original kitchen. This special opportunity will allow students to prepare dishes using historic preparation methods, period correct ingredients and reproduction cookware. Class will be held from 1 pm to 5 pm, and is limited to 4 students. Cost for the class is \$15. Pre-registration is required.

*Woodville Plantation will be closed from December 13, 2010, through January 8, 2011.  
Woodville will re-open for the 2011 season on Sunday, January 9, 2011.*

# FROM the GARDEN.. TO the TABLE



“As quick as cooking asparagus.” This phrase is an old Roman saying indicating something that can be completed quickly. This phrase tells us two things: that asparagus takes very little time to cook and that even ancient Romans were partaking of this interesting vegetable. Ancient Greeks and Romans were so taken by the vegetable’s distinct flavor that it was consumed fresh, when in season, and preserved by drying, to be eaten throughout the year. According to one source, the Roman’s also preserved it by freezing it. “Chariots and runners took asparagus from the Tiber River area to the snowline of the Alps where it was kept until the Feast of Epicurus.”

Asparagus is native to Europe, Mediterranean regions and parts of Asia. It was cultivated in North America by the Europeans that settled there. In the eastern region of our country during the 1700s, asparagus was a major farm crop. The Pennsylvania Gazette routinely advertised property for sale with notices of asparagus beds:

“The Pennsylvania Gazette  
Philadelphia, October 7, 1768

WILL be sold by public vendue, on the premises, at one oin the afternoon, on Friday, the 28th instant, sundry lots of ground, part in Moyamensing, and part in Passyunk township, late the estate the James Lownes, situated near the Five Mile Road, and Robert Smithnew house, viz.

No. 1. 5 acres and 62 perches of very good ground, either for gardening or grass, with a new two story frame house, not quite finished, a large new barn, a good bearing orchard, asparagus bed, &c. and acres of good meadow, nearly adjoining the said lot, which has a good never failing spring of water.

No. 2. 89 perches of as good ground for producing early garden truck as any near the city, without exception, with an old frame house, a large and good asparagus bed, some large English cherry trees, several young peach and pear trees.”

American Indians were also known to dry asparagus to be used perhaps as medicine. As a natural diuretic it was an aide for bladder and kidney problems. Prior to the 17th century, in parts of England it was known as sperage or sperach. During the 1600s this perennial was assigned the nomenclature “Asparagus officianalis,” which was degraded to “sparrow grass.” In the 19th century, references to asparagus as sparrow grass, or simply grass, were considered ill-mannered and uncouth. Asparagus has very specific instructions with regard to its cultivation, yet it ironically grows wild in many places. Our own Neville Island was once known for the wonderful quality of asparagus grown there. It was served in some of the finest restaurants of New York City, including the Waldorf-Astoria.

For a unique and delicious way to prepare and serve asparagus try “Asparagus Forced in French Rolls.” This version of the recipe, popular in the 18th and 19th centuries, is from *The Art of Cookery Made Plain and Easy* by Hannah Glasse (1796 edition). The term forced means to stuff. It is derived from the French verb farcir, to stuff. Similar versions of this preparation are “Asparagus Loaves” and “Sparrow Grass Rolls.” Enjoy reading the recipe in its original text and be encouraged to try the modern version, as a welcome harbinger of spring!

## Asparagus Forced in French Rolls (1796 Recipe)

Take three French rolls, take out all the crumb, by first cutting a piece of the top crust off; but be careful that the crust sits again the same place; fry the rolls brown in fresh butter; then take a pint of cream, the yolks of six eggs beat fine, a little salt and nutmeg, stir them well together over a slow fire till it begins to be thick; have ready a hundred of small grass boiled; then save tops enough to stick the rolls with, the rest cut small and put into the cream, fill the loaves with them: before you fry the rolls make holes thick in the top crust and; then lay on the piece of crust and stick the grass in, that it may look as if it were growing. It makes a pretty side-dish as a second course.

(Continued on Page 9)

# ST. TAMMANY'S DAY: the FORGOTTEN HOLIDAY



Throughout history, the world's population has anxiously awaited the warm and energizing advent of the growing season. They mark its arrival with celebrations that are as numerous as they are varied. To a citizen of Pennsylvania in the 18th century, having endured and survived a "mini ice age" which gripped the northern hemisphere throughout the 1700s, the commencement of summer would have also been observed as a milestone of survival. May Day celebrations, which were prolific throughout Europe, traveled to America in many forms as European populations crossed the Atlantic Ocean. As they reached the shores of North America, these customs began to take on uniquely American qualities and traditions. The St. Tammany Day celebrations were an excellent regional example of this adaptation.

Tammanend or Tammany (loosely translated as "The Affable One") was a Native American chief of the Lenni-Lenape tribe which resided in the Delaware Valley during the 17th century. It was Tammany who first met with William Penn in 1683 (under the branches of an enormous elm just north of present-day Philadelphia) and agreed to a peace with Pennsylvania's original Quaker settlers that would last for over a century. Using concepts outlined by the Great Law of the Iroquois (and possibly Tammany's actual words), Penn wrote in June of 1682 that the treaty would, "incline our heart to love peace and Justice that we would live friendly together as becomes the workmanship of the Great God."

Tammany became as much a supporter of the rights of white settlers among his people, as Penn was a supporter of Native American rights among the whites. The result was that Eastern Pennsylvania, through its first hundred years, was populated in relative peace. A truly exceptional circumstance

when compared to colonial neighbors in both the north and south. It is through this exemplary and unique harmony that one must view and understand the celebration and glorification of Pennsylvania's founders, both European and Native.

May Day celebrations have their roots in pre-historic Europe as pagan celebrations of the beginning of the growing season. In England, the Druids celebrated the festival of Beltane, which marked the beginning of the agricultural half of the year.



*William Penn and Tammany meet to sign their peace treaty.*

This growing season ended six months later with the feast of the Samhain, which has evolved into our modern Halloween celebrations. The Romans added their traditions to these celebrations during their occupation of Britain from the time of Christ to around 400 A.D., including the custom of dancing around a decorated pole (or maypole) in honor of the goddess

Flora. These celebrations, which permeated all outposts of the Roman Legions, were called Floralia. They eventually devolved into wild bacchanalian celebrations of licentiousness and sexuality as a symbol of the renewal of life in spring.

It is this particular derivation that almost caused the holiday to lose its place in North American history. It was outlawed by the Puritans in both England and America, who were specifically opposed to the more base and physical displays.

Maypoles were outlawed in England from 1640-1648 under the puritanical rule of Oliver Cromwell, returning to popularity with the "Restoration" of Charles II to the throne in 1660. This Puritan tradition permeated the American tradition primarily in the New England colonies. Elsewhere in America celebrations persevered with maypoles, streamers

## ST. TAMMANY'S DAY: the FORGOTTEN HOLIDAY (cont.)

and bonfires continuing as a tradition well into the 20th century. With the exception of these superficial customs, celebrations little resembled the chaotic and overtly profligate primitive celebrations that were the hallmarks of European predecessors. The American celebration, from its earliest examples, takes on a much more nationalistic symbolism than the earlier ones of romantic or wanton love.

In Philadelphia, and in the surrounding countryside, the May Day tradition began to take on distinctive characteristics as early as 1637. May Day began its evolution into St. Tammany's Day with a small change in the principle symbol of the spring celebration, the maypole. In most large towns, the maypole was a permanent fixture. Occasionally as large as 80-feet high, the maypole was erected in the town square, public marketplace or local fair-ground. In smaller towns, the maypole would be put up and taken down each year. The maypole was put up, usually with great fanfare, on the day prior to the general celebration, May 1.

In the Philadelphia area, even prior to Penn's treaty with the Native Americans, the native populations were invited to join the May Day parties. Deer antlers, evergreens or buck tails replaced the European tradition of flowers at the top of the pole, thus commencing the Americanization of the tradition. St. Tammany emerged as a "patron saint" in 1732, when the Schuylkill Fishing Company adopted the chief as their "official" protector, proclaiming their rights to fish the river as granted by his treaty. By the 1750s, various clubs and organizations in Eastern Pennsylvania began using Tammany's motto- "Kwanio Che Keeteru," or "this is my right and I will defend it."

It is around this time that St. Tammany emerges as a symbolic representative of the American colonies. As a symbol, St. Tammany significantly contrasted with the saints symbolizing the United Kingdom (St. George, St. Andrew, St. Patrick and St. David) and concurrently symbolized the independence and right of self determination of the American people. In short, the colonists were beginning to view themselves as uniquely American, rather than subjects of a foreign power.

During the early 1770s, St. Tammany became the symbol of many of the regional groups protesting English taxation, including the Sons of Liberty in



*A village celebrating May Day.*

Boston and New York, and the Sons of Tammany in Philadelphia. It is not coincidence that the men who boarded the ships during the Boston Tea Party in late 1773 were dressed as Native Americans,. A weak disguise, but a strong symbol of American resolve.

It was in that same year that a Philadelphia woman wrote on May 1, "This morning was ushered in by the ringing of bells in memory of King Tammany, as he was used to be called, but now I think that they have got him canonized, for he is now celebrated as Saint Tammany." Less than four years later, John Adams enthusiastically wrote to his wife Abigail on May 1, 1777, regarding the origin of the American holiday, "This is King Tammanys Day the people here have sainted him and keep his day."

By the following year, a soldier in the American Army describes the celebration of St. Tammany's day at Valley Forge as, "Washington's men spent the day in mirth and jollity the soldiers parading and marching with fife and drum and Huzzaing as they passed the poles their hats adorned with white blossoms. The following was the procession of the 3rd J Regiment on the aforesaid day first one serjeant in an Indian habit representing King Tammany. Second Thirteen Serjeants drest in white each with a bow in his left hand and thirteen arrows in his right. Thirdly thirteen Drums and fifes. Fourthly the privates in thirteen platoons, thirteen men each. The Non-Commissioned Officers and Soldiers being drawn up in the aforesaid manner gave three cheers at their own pole in the evening the officers of the aforesaid Regt assembled and had a song and dance in the honor of King Tammany." (Continued on Page 8)

# ST. TAMMANY'S DAY: the FORGOTTEN HOLIDAY (cont.)



So what would the typical May Day celebration be like during the time of the Neville family's occupation of Woodville? One can only imagine that like most celebrations of the period, there would be quite a bit of drinking and firing of guns. Bonfires would be lit on the evening before as the poles were erected. The fires would be maintained throughout the following day. It appears from all accounts that the celebration could be observed by women and children, but was generally actively participated in by men.

One custom of the celebration was written about in 1771. The reference described the men dressed as Indians on the evening prior to May 1, "giving a whoop and dancing in the style of these people," with the intention of scaring the children and later showing them that there was nothing to be afraid of. It is easy to surmise that the children of Western Pennsylvania would have been more intimately acquainted with the "whoops" of the Native Americans in the area and would not have found this custom so charming.

A very good description of a "typical" St. Tammany celebration comes from accounts of the 1783 celebration in Philadelphia. In May of 1783, in commemoration of the end of the Revolution, the Philadelphia Society of St. Tammany celebrated with thirteen of its members being dressed in native attire. The Tammany Grand Sachem declared for the day that, "every man do as he please." The events of the day were concluded with a ceremonial burying of a hatchet, with each man in attendance throwing a stone on top of the grave. (Hence giving rise to the modern colloquialism for peace.) Following this event, cannons and muskets were fired. A six-foot peace pipe with thirteen feathers was smoked by several hundred men in "pow wow dress." The group eventually participated in a "manetta dance" for all to observe. The Yankee Doodle and other patriotic songs were played and a special song was written for the occasion:

"Of Andrew, of Patrick, of David, and George,  
What mighty achievements we hear!  
While no one relates great Tammany's feats,  
Although more heroic by far, my brave boys,  
Although more heroic by far.

These heroes fought only as fancy inspired,  
As by their own stories we find;  
Whilst Tammany, he fought only to free  
From cruel oppression mankind, my brave boys,  
From cruel oppression mankind.

When our country was young and our numbers were few  
To our fathers his friendship was shown,  
(For he e'er would oppose whom he took for his foes,)  
And he made our misfortunes his own, my brave boys,  
And he made our misfortunes his own.

At length, growing old and quite worn out with years,  
As history doth truly proclaim,  
His wigwam was fired, he nobly expired,  
And flew to the skies in a flame, my brave boys,  
And flew to the skies in a flame."

The festivities ended with numerous toasts and three cheers. (Although several accounts show the number of toasts approaching the symbolic American number of thirteen, rather than three.)

To the early citizens of Pittsburgh, the May Day celebrations would have taken on similar characteristics to those in the larger cities. Although in the context of the Pittsburgh-based military campaigns being fought against the Native Americans in 1790, 1792 and 1794, it is likely that a holiday celebrating natives, symbolic or otherwise, would have lost its more jovial inferences.

By the last decade of the 18th century, there would have been only the occasional May Day ball or party mentioned in the Pittsburgh Gazette. By 1794, even the maypole had taken on a much more politically-charged symbolism. Maypoles were converted into liberty poles, becoming symbols of resistance in the west to the Federal Excise Tax on Whiskey. As the army marched west under George Washington in the fall of 1794, there are numerous accounts of the poles being cut down by the soldiers as they moved thorough towns such as Bedford, Greensburg and Somerset.

By 1790, the celebrations had spread from Boston to Savannah to Richmond. Within five years, around the time of the Whiskey Rebellion, the Tammany celebrations would have reached their zenith. They would steadily decline throughout the next century. For a short time during the end of the 19th century and into the early 20th century, May Day celebrations would see a benign resurgence that never quite reached the popularity it had seen during the post-Revolutionary years. A further lamentable loss resulting from the demise of this holiday is the fading from history of a significant Native American leader who single handedly was responsible for the peaceful settlement and resulting economic success of Pennsylvania, Chief Tammany.



# FROM the GARDEN.. TO the TABLE (cont.)

## Forced Asparagus (Modern Recipe)

### Ingredients:

6 small French rolls or baguettes  
20-30 spears of asparagus (depending on thickness)  
4 Tbsp butter (do not use margarine or vegetable spreads)  
16 oz. cream  
6 egg yolks (beaten)  
1/2 tsp ground nutmeg (preferably grated from whole nutmeg)  
1/4 to 1/2 tsp salt (to taste)



Cut the top crust off of the French rolls in an oval shape (keeping each top with its respective bottom section) and remove the inside breading creating a hollow center. In each top crust, carefully make 2 or 3 holes. Melt butter in a frying pan and lightly brown the rolls and their tops on all sides. Trim off and discard the tough bottoms of the asparagus spears and simmer the stalks in very lightly salted water for approximately 5 or 6 minutes. Do not overcook. Drain well. Cut off the tops of the asparagus spears to about 3 inch lengths and set aside. Chop the remainder of the asparagus spears into small pieces and also set aside. Combine the cream, egg yolks, salt and nutmeg in a saucepan and stir constantly over medium heat until the mixture thickens. Add the small pieces of previously chopped spears and remove from heat. Fill the rolls with the cream and asparagus mixture. Replace the tops for each roll. In each hole, place asparagus tops (one or several, depending on thickness) so that they appear to be growing from the roll. Serve.

## NEW NHA MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members to the Neville House Associates. Huzzah and thank you for joining!

Please add the following new names to your NHA Membership Directory:

Charles & Roslyn Hahn      Ronald C. Manges      Dan Ragaller      Allison Thompson

Also, please make the following changes in your directory:

Amelia Horak      Larry & Mardi Jackley

Virginia Nicklas      Sally Ford



# THE WORD from WOODVILLE



## Woodville Was Closed...

During the month of February due to inclement weather and inaccessible conditions at the site. The snow on the lawn between the Still House and Main House was measured at over 26 inches on Sunday, February 14. Thank you to Dan Ragaller, Erin and Mike Athey, Larry Jackely and Paul Day who helped the site "dig out".



Woodville, after the February snow storm.

## Twelfth Night Was Celebrated...



Party goes dancing in the parlour.

In grand style with a dinner and party for all members and volunteers who donated over 40 hours of their time in 2009. This is the third year this event has been held and a fun time was had by all. The Woodville cooks prepared a "full table" meal in the 18th century manner that included roasted pork, forced cabbage, carrot puffs and many other period delicacies. Included was a batch of cherry bounce that was made using Martha Washington's original recipe. Following dinner in the newly finished Still House Conference Room, the party enjoyed several English country dances in the parlour, with music provided by Allison Thompson and Donna Isaac of the Jane Austen Society of North America. Thank you to all of our volunteers for their excellent work in 2009, and we look forward to having others join us for our 2010 celebration.

## An Easy Way to Get a Start...

On working 40 hours in 2010 is by volunteering to work during "Keep Collier Beautiful Day" on Saturday, April 24, 2010. The event is coordinated by Mardi Jackley, the NHA's liaison to Collier Township. This will be Woodville's fourth year of participating in the event. Participants will clean the roadways and sidewalks along Route 50 and Thoms Run Road, as well as spruce up the site. Contact Mardi Jackley at Woodville or Bob Caun at [beaun@colliertwp.net](mailto:beaun@colliertwp.net) for details.

## The Still House Meeting Room...

Is scheduled for opening and rental on June 1, 2010. The newly-renovated meeting room can hold up to 30 people. The Still House also has a newly-renovated kitchen and bathroom. Thank you to volunteers Dan Ragaller, Jim Galbraith and Rob Windhorst for donating over 75 hours of time towards the project. Rental information should be available on the website or by contacting Woodville after May 1. More info will be available in the July newsletter.

## Thank You...

Woodville would like to thank the following businesses that have donated to historical restoration projects at the site. We encourage you to support their business:

Handy Dan Ragaller	Remodeling Services	412-352-0166
Sutherland Hardwoods	Lumber	724-947-3388

## Goodbye...

On Saturday March 21, 2010, Woodville said goodbye to our good friend and fellow re-enactor, Regina Riley, who passed away at the age of 82. Regina assisted our Woodville cooks during Legion events at the site and was an active participant in re-enactments, along with her son Pat. In 2009, Regina joined members of Woodville as they sailed in the Brig Niagara on Lake Erie. Regina was an active volunteer with the Vicary House and the Beaver County Historical Society. Our deepest condolences are with Pat and his family during this difficult time.



Regina, aboard the Brig Niagara.

# 2010 NEVILLE HOUSE ASSOCIATES MEMBERSHIP



Please take time to renew your NHA membership for 2010. Renewing will help the Neville House Associates staff with programming and activities costs, as well as with newsletter and postage costs. Woodville is one of only 2,500 National Historic Landmarks in the United States. Your gift will help to support the continuing preservation, restoration and interpretation of this historic site.

## DONATION LEVELS

Student/Senior.....	\$20.00	Wrenshall.....	\$100.00
Basic.....	\$35.00	Christopher Cowan ....	\$250.00
Mary Fauset.....	\$75.00	Presley Neville.....	\$500.00
John Neville.....	\$1,000.00 (Lifetime Member)		

All memberships include free family admission to Woodville Plantation for the regular hours of operation, gift shop discounts, invitation to “members only” events and a NHA newsletter. Your gift is tax deductible.

Many companies also match their employee’s donations to organizations such as Woodville Plantation. If your employer provides matching donations, please let them know about your contribution. This is an easy way to double your donation. *Thank you for your support!*



## 2010 NHA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Make checks payable to:*

Neville House Associates, Inc.

1375 Washington Pike

Bridgeville, PA 15017

Attn: *Julianna Haag, Membership*



# WOODVILLE PLANTATION IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE OUR NEW BLOG:

*woodvilleplantation.blogspot.com*

There is always something new happening at Woodville Plantation. Stay up to date on our latest news by visiting our blog. Viewers will find event notices, programming schedules, photos, site information, articles of late 18th and early 19th century interest and much more.



*Don't miss out, join us on the web!*

*Window on Woodville*

Neville House Associates  
1375 Washington Pike  
Bridgeville, PA 15017

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED