

VISITORS FROM THE UK

Priestley House was visited in July by two scholars from the UK: Dr David Wykes, Director of the Dr Williams's Library (The Library of Protestant Dissent) in London and his wife Dr. Elizabeth Clapp, Professor in American History at the University of Leicester.



Tom Bresenhan with David Wykes

The Dr Williams's Library gave the Friends of Priestley House permission to use images of their original Priestley portraits by Henry Fuseli (1783) and William Artaud (1794) in the Priestley timeline exhibit in the Pond Building.

The couple also visited the Joseph Priestley Memorial Chapel. After the tour possible cooperative activities were discussed with Hope W. Kopf, Secretary of the Board and Tom Bresenhan.

FRIENDS OF JOSEPH PRIESTLEY HOUSE



P.O. Box 226
Northumberland, PA. 17857

LOCAL PRIESTLEY DESCENDANT DIES

The Rev. James H. Gold, a descendant of the scientist Dr. Joseph Priestley and a local pastor, died in May of this year. Pastor Gold served a variety of congregations in the Greater Susquehanna Valley including Nescopeck, Middleburg, Ickesburg, Mifflinburg, and Cowen. He was also a member of the Friends of the Joseph Priestley House and most recently visited the Joseph Priestley House Museum during a Priestley Descendants Day hosted by the Friends of Joseph Priestley House in August 2017.

Dr. Gold traces his lineage to Dr. Joseph Priestley through his mother, Margaret Russell Gold, who was the great-granddaughter of Marks John Biddle Priestley. Marks John was a son of Joseph Rayner Priestley, who was in turn a son of Joseph Priestley Jr. and his wife Elizabeth Ryland and, therefore, a grandson to Dr. Joseph Priestley.



Pastor Gold (front row, second from left) stands with other Priestley descendants on Descendants Weekend in 2017.



Number 71 Summer 2018

www.josephpriestleyhouse.org

570-473-9474

POSTINGS FROM PRIESTLEY HOUSE

Newsletter of The Friends of Joseph Priestley House

THE PRIESTLEY FAMILY IN NORTHUMBERLAND

Strange weather and a rising river were the backdrop for this summer's Priestley House Summer History Camp. The Friends of Joseph Priestley House held their annual History Camp July 25-27 from 9-12 daily. Six young attendees -- Violet Kerstetter, Malachi Snyder, Zachary Moore, Max Hallman, Jesse Klock, and Samantha Wolfe -- along with three junior helpers --



2018 History Camp

Nigel Kurtz, Rylee Kerstetter, and Michael Becker -- under the direction of Camp Coordinator Jo Ann Long and Lorie Becker comprised this summer's camp. And during their camping experience, the campers learned what life was like for the Priestley family in Northumberland.



Priestley House Tour

Susquehanna Jack, portrayed by John Moore, visited the camp and talked about life in the late 1700s,



Susquehanna Jack

especially life for children. Chores like belling the cows and horses, collecting eggs, carrying water in buckets, sewing, and cleaning the house were all part of a child's life at this time in history, definitely different from life for children in 2018.

Dr. Joseph Priestley, played by Ron Blatchley, also paid a one-day visit to camp. He did some special science demonstrations for the campers. Dr. Priestley made a pneumatic trough to collect gases; showed his

audience how he could see oxygen was in a bottle, using a flaming stirrer; and talked about carbonation and his discovery of the rubber (our modern day eraser)



Period Artifacts

Hope Webster Kopf spent time with the children in the Children's Room of the Priestley House where they could participate in some hands-on activities demonstrating a child's life in the late 1700s. There they had access to a yoke and buckets for carrying water and toys common among 18th century children. And Dixie Gavason gave the campers a guided tour of the 10,000 square foot house where Joseph Priestley lived with his son Joseph Jr.; Joseph Jr.'s wife, Elizabeth; and 5 of his grandchildren.

Of course, camp wouldn't be camp without crafts and games.

Lorie supervised construction of a cup and button game -- using an egg carton, string, and a button; helped campers make their own horn book out of cardboard, adding the alphabet and sayings similar to what was studied by children during Priestley's time; and constructed picture frames for their pictures taken on the steps of the Priestley House. Games like marbles, Jacob's ladder, Game of Grace, the whizzer, and the catapult game (using a ball) were also a part of camp days during History Camp.

Children living in the late 1700s worked, studied, and played, rather like campers at History Camp. This summer's journey in time made life for the Priestley family come alive for local campers, if only for a few days.

2018 SEASON

March 11 -- November 18
Except Easter Sunday & Mother's Day

Visitors Center
Open 1-4 p.m.
Tours given at 1, 2 & 3

SPECIAL EVENTS

Sunday, November 18
Final Day of the 2018 Season
Open from 1 to 4 p.m.

New Admission Rates at PHMC Sites

PHMC (Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission) announced two new admission rates for those with EBT Cards and for Veterans.

The new admission rate for any person who shows an EBT Card (up to 4 individuals per card) is \$2.00. If a family of 4 would like a tour and one of them shows their EBT card, the total cost for the family would be \$8.00.

The new admission rate for anyone who shows proof of military service is \$5.50 (same as AAA and Seniors). Veteran IDs will come in a variety of forms, but the most common will be an indication on the driver's license.

FIND US ON



In addition to our webpage you can Like us on Facebook (Joseph Priestley House Museum) to keep abreast of special Joseph Priestley House Museum events or follow us on Instagram (jphmuseum). Also, you can donate to the Priestley House via Amazon Smile! Go to www.smile.amazon.com and select "Friends of Joseph Priestley" as your charity. Everytime you shop at Amazon Smile, a portion of the purchase will be donated to the Priestley House!



Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

Tom Wolf, Governor ~ Nancy Moses, Chair ~ James M. Vaughan, Executive Director

DEE CASTEEL NAMED JPH VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

On April 28, 2018, Dee Ann Casteel was honored by the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission. At the 43rd Annual Recognition for Volunteers held at the Pennsylvania State Museum, Dee received the 2017 Volunteer of the Year Award for her work for and in connection with the Joseph Priestley House Museum.



Dee receives her Volunteer of the Year Award

Dee has been a crucial part of the Joseph Priestley House community for many years, but she has been exceptionally active in 2017. Dee was instrumental in bringing Joseph Priestley to the public throughout the entire year. Dee provided scientific expertise to the Bloomsburg Theatre Ensemble cast and crew as the ensemble staged the play *Gunpowder Joe*, which focused on Joseph Priestley's political and scientific endeavors during his years in Northumberland.

At the Susquehanna Valley American Chemical Society's Annual Awards Banquet for high school and college student award recipients, Dee presented a program entitled, "Joseph Priestley, Chemistry and Controversy." Instead of scientists traveling to Northumberland to learn about Joseph Priestley, Dee took Priestley to them at the 2017 Mid-Atlantic Regional Meeting (MARM). Dee organized a session entitled, "Life & Times of Joseph Priestley," which featured Ronald Blatchley, Tom Bresenhan, Sophie Rovner (National Historic Chemical

Landmark Program), and Dee herself giving talks on Priestley and the Joseph Priestley House. Dee has also been vital to the success of the site in her role as President of Friends of the Joseph Priestley House for three years, in addition to volunteering at various Joseph Priestley House events. Dee has also been instrumental in recruiting Unitarian Universalist Congregation members to carol for the annual Twelfth Night Event hosted at the Priestley House.

NEW EDITION OF PRIESTLEY MEMOIRS

The Friends of Joseph Priestley House are planning to publish a new edition of the Memoirs of Joseph Priestley. Priestley intended that his memoirs would be published after his death. Following this wish his son Joseph published the document written by his father that stopped in 1795 and added sections from 1795 until his death in 1804. The original 1806 edition was published in Northumberland and included two volumes: Volume 1 written by Dr Priestley with additions by his son and a Volume 2 consisting of commentary

Kyle worked three days a week from late June to middle of August the summer of 2017. A workspace was provided by the Rudy Gelnett Library in Selinsgrove, PA. He transcribed the OCR text file from a scan of the 1806 edition of the Memoirs provided by Google into a MS Word document. Kyle's work was reviewed by Tom Bresenhan. His work was then edited by John Moore. Additional editing was provided by Tom Bresenhan when he compared the typed text to Priestley's original handwritten copy of the Memoirs held in the Special Collections Library at Penn State University. For the book Moore will add a forward and Bresenhan a brief sketch of each person mentioned in the Memoirs. The final document will also contain portions of the graveside sermon delivered by Rev Christie in 1804.



Tom Bresenhan and Kyle Brosh at Priestley House on Oxygen Day.

on Priestley's scientific work by Thomas Cooper and on his religious view by Rev. William Christie. The Friends edition includes only Volume One.

The project began with the availability of Kyle Brosh, a senior at Line Mountain High School, employed through at PA Department of Labor Program for student work-based learning experience.

FRIENDS OF JOSEPH PRIESTLEY HOUSE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Pat Martino, President
Seth Rorhbach, Vice President
Hope W. Kopf, Secretary
George Godlewski, Treasurer
Dee Casteel
Angela Gockley
Wade Johnson
Laurie McCants
Colleen Ruths

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

JoAnn Long

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Deborah Bernhisel

JOSEPH PRIESTLEY HOUSE
473 PRIESTLEY AVENUE
NORTHUMBERLAND, PA 17857

Visitors Center

Open 1-4 p.m.
Tours given at 1, 2 & 3

Special Tours

Can be arranged by calling
570-473-9497 or
by e-mail at
info@josephpriestleyhouse.org

Special Assistance

Individuals who need special assistance or accommodation to visit The Joseph Priestley House should contact us in advance to discuss their needs.

To join the Friends of Priestley House call 570-473-9497 or visit www.josephpriestleyhouse.org



Bresenhan reviews Priestley's handwritten Memoirs at the Special Collection Library at Penn State.

DOLL DAY BROUGHT OUT THE DOLLS, AND PLENTY OF DOLL LOVERS

If you visited Joseph Priestley House on June 9, you probably counted as many dolls as people, maybe more. At least 40 children and 60 adults participated in the activities the Friends of the Joseph Priestley House sponsored at the World Doll Day Celebration.



Anna Priestley's Dolls

As the event's name suggested, the World Doll Day Celebration celebrated everything dolls, including portions of the Joseph Priestley House. The entrance hall and the library were open to all visitors during the event, and docents were on hand at the Visitor's Center to take guests on paid tours through the entire house. Merry Mary greeted visitors to the house in the entrance hall, dubbed Tribute Hall for the day. Merry Mary was a regular at Priestley House, where she, along with her creator Ruth Eleanor McCorkill, greeted children and visitors at special Priestley House Events. Even the Priestley family contributed to the World Doll Day Celebration. Annie Priestley's dolls, usually housed on the third floor of the Priestley-Forsyth Library, were on display on the mantelpiece in her great grandfather's library. And those who toured the Joseph Priestley House, could see a porcelain doll, used to model the newest dress styles coming out of England in the 1700s, on display in the upstairs bedroom.



Lessons for Doll Lovers

The Pond Building housed a variety of doll collections made available for the day by members of the Penn Ferry Doll Club, as well as local doll enthusiasts. In addition to the dolls and dollhouses, Treva Smith and Fiona Powell offered doll related history lectures. Treva lectured on the Hitty dolls and the Mary Hoyer Doll. The original Hitty, an antique store find in 1929, is a small wooden doll, about 6 and 1/2 inches tall. Hitty became the inspiration for the Rachel Field and Dorothy Lathrop Newberry Medal winning book *Hitty – Her First Hundred Years*.

The Mary Hoyer Doll made its start in a yarn shop in Reading, Pennsylvania, originally intended as a model for infant and children's clothes designed by Mary Hoyer. Eventually Mary Hoyer worked with Bernard Lipfert, a well-known doll sculptor, to create her own doll. Fiona entertained her audiences with information related to Civil War Handkerchief Dolls and Welsh Piggies (Pixies). American Girl Dolls and Madame Alexander dolls also found their place among the collection displays.



Daniella Snyder

The highlight of the day was the Merry Mary Tea held on the patio behind the Visitor's Center. Pre-registered guests were able to enjoy a Victorian Tea. Dolls and fancy dresses were welcome; children participating in the tea were also able to take home a china teacup and a crown. The adults seemed equally excited by the Victorian Tea, so the final setting of the afternoon was an Adults Only event.



Madame Alexander Dolls



Make and Takes

The day also included storytelling under the big tent; food concessions, including root beer floats in honor of Priestley's discovery of carbonation; doll related merchandise; and painted cutouts for special photo ops. Inspired by Ruth Eleanor McCorkill's love of dolls and Joseph Priestley House and the brainchild of Hope W. Kopf, the World Doll Day Celebration brought these seemingly diverse interests together. "An avid doll collector in her own right, Ruth Eleanor would have loved to see us combine dolls and Priestley House," said Hope.