

PRIESTLEY LANDHOLDINGS, TOPIC OF SEPTEMBER ANNUAL MEETING

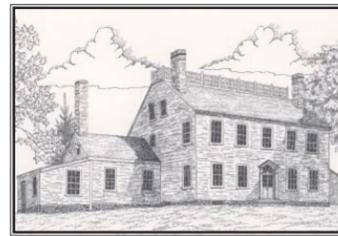
Photo shows some of the estimated 30 people who attended the 20th annual dinner meeting for members of the Friends of Joseph Priestley House. The event was held on September 24 under the maharajah tent at the Priestley-Savidge House, 620 Front St., Northumberland, Pa. Dr. Alfred Siewers of Bucknell University was the evening's guest speaker. He reported on the progress on an ongoing student research program that focuses on the real estate holdings of Joseph Priestley in north-central Pennsylvania. He also discussed the relationship of these holdings to the community of French Asylum on the Susquehanna River's North Branch.



FRIENDS OF JOSEPH PRIESTLEY HOUSE



P.O. Box 346
Lewisburg, PA. 17837



POSTINGS FROM PRIESTLEY HOUSE

Newsletter of
The Friends of Joseph Priestley House

Number 60 Fall 2014

www.josephpriestleyhouse.org

570-473-9474

2015 SEASON

Visitor Center open
from 1 to 4 p.m., Saturday &
Sunday (except Easter)
March 8 through Nov. 29
Tours at 1, 2 and 3 p.m.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Sunday, January 4
Twelfth Day
Open from 1 to 4 p.m.
Dr. Priestley's Demonstrations
at 1:30 & 2:30
House decorated as English
manor house.
Children's games
Regular Admission fees

Sunday, March 8
Commonwealth Charter Day
and Priestley's Birthday
Open from 1 to 4 p.m.
Dr. Priestley's Demonstrations
at 1:30 & 2:30
Free admission

Sunday, August 2
Oxygen Day
Open from 1 to 4 p.m.
Dr. Priestley's Demonstrations
at 1:30 & 2:30
Free Admission

Sunday, November 1
Heritage Day
Open from 1 to 4 p.m.
Dr. Priestley's Demonstrations
at 1:30 & 2:30
Free Admission

Sunday, January 3, 2016
Twelfth Day
Open from 1 to 4 p.m.
Dr. Priestley's Demonstrations
at 1:30 & 2:30 p.m.
Children's games
Regular Admission fees

VIDEOS ON PRIESTLEY'S SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERIES

Explaining the chemical discoveries of Joseph Priestley is a daunting task for docents at Joseph Priestley House. To help guides answer questions and to enrich visitor experience, the Friends of Joseph Priestley House are producing a series of short videos titled: "Discoveries of Joseph Priestley." Two that have been produced so far are about the discovery of carbon monoxide late in Priestley's career and ammonia one of his earliest discoveries. Two others are planned: nitrous oxide (laughing gas) and sulfur dioxide.

Research and script writing is done by Dr. Mary Ellen Bowden. The videos follow the same format: first the history of the discovery is portrayed using images from Priestley's books and clips from the orientation video "The Legacy of Joseph Priestley," which is shown visitors. Next the discovery is demonstrated in a modern chemistry lab with appropriate safety precautions. The lab at Bucknell was used with Dr. Dee Casteel conducting the demonstration and narrating. Each video closes with a look at the relevance of the discovery today by examining the uses and hazards of each gas. Also, narrating was Mark Lawrence from WKOK radio.

The video was filmed and produced by SECV Productions, a video production company based in Danville, PA that is part of the Service Electric Cablevision group of companies. The Service Electric Cablevision-SECV8, Northumberland, PA also did video work and editing for this project.



The Friends have used similar funding process for the videos. Using our funds, the Friends hired Dr. Mary Ellen Bowden, to prepare scripts based on reading original literature and her extensive knowledge of the history of science. The Friends then sought funding support to cover the costs of filming in the lab and for follow up editing and final production including close captioning for hearing impaired.

Funding support for the carbon monoxide video came from American Chemical Society local section grant to the Susquehanna Chapter. Funding for the ammonia video came from a Neighbors of Choice grant from Cherokee Merck. We are currently seeking funding for the nitrous oxide and sulfur dioxide videos. Suggestions for funding support are welcome.

The videos on carbon monoxide and ammonia are now shown at Priestley House and posted on the Priestley House website link to our YouTube channel. Viewers are asked to complete a short survey after viewing the videos.

MARY PRIESTLEY VISITS PRIESTLEY HOUSE, SHARES IMPRESSIONS OF JOSEPH

An award-winning storyteller, Marilyn Hanchett, presented her interpretation of Mary Priestley during special Heritage Day programming at Priestley House on Nov. 2.

Based in Westminster, Md., Hanchett said that her "interpretation of Mary Priestley seeks to humanize the iconic figure of the Rev Dr. Priestley by using 'wifely' anecdotes, humor, and personal reflections."

According to historians, Mrs. Priestley was deeply involved in planning the three-story Federal-Georgian residence, but died in 1796 before the house was completed.

Ronald Blatchley, a retired chemistry teacher from New Berlin, portrayed Dr. Priestley, who died in the house in 1804. He re-enacted the English-born Priestley's early scientific demonstrations. Priestley was renowned as a scientist, clergyman and innovator in education. He discovered oxygen and carbon monoxide. He is also credited with discovering a process that used carbon dioxide to produce artificial carbonation.

Hanchett and Blatchley gave their presentations in the Pond Building on the Priestley House grounds.

Costumed guides staffed Priestley House during the afternoon and provided information about life in Northumberland between 1794 and 1804, when Priestley pursued his scientific and religious interests here.

Two Bloomsburg women also displayed 18th century crafts. Iva Kressler demonstrated lace making and tatting, and Christa Hobson showed how to weave antique overshot patterns.

The annual fall event, sponsored by Friends of Joseph Priestley House, attracted 50 visitors.



Christa Hobson demonstrates weaving

The house is owned by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and administered by Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission. The Friends group, under an agreement with the PHMC, provides volunteer staff to keep the museum open to the public on weekends from March through November.

Hanchett, the storyteller, is a registered nurse; her research interest is in the history of nursing in the United States. Originally from Missouri, she is a volunteer



Marilyn Hanchett as Mary Priestley

with the National Museum of Civil War Medicine, Frederick, Md. She received a 2012 Master Docent award from the Frederick Historic Sites Consortium. In 2013 she was elected a trustee of the Historical Society of Carroll County, where she resides. In 2014 she expanded the characters she portrays from women of the Civil War to the colonial era.

Blatchley has portrayed Joseph Priestley for many years and in 2010 addressed a meeting of the Priestley Society in Heckmondwike, England. He has also performed as Priestley in educational videos.

Hobson is a spinner as well as a weaver. She belongs to the Susquehanna Valley Spinners and Weavers Guild located in Mifflinburg, and the Spins and Needles Guild, Bloomsburg. She has a hand-dyed yarn and original knitting patterns business called Aisling Yarns.

Kressler said she has been making lace for about four years, but has been tatting much longer. "I was taught to tat by my 80 plus year old grandmother when I was about 20 years old," she said.

Tatting involves the use of knots and loops to make a type of lace.

FRIENDS OF JOSEPH PRIESTLEY HOUSE

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JOSEPH PRIESTLEY HOUSE
473 PRIESTLEY AVE.
NORTHUMBERLAND, PA 17857

2014 HOURS OF OPERATION

March thru November

Every Weekend
Except Easter Sunday

Visitors Center

Open 1-4 p.m.
Tours Given at 1, 2 and 3 p.m.

Special Tours

Can be arranged by calling
570-473-9474 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.

Priestley House
Call 570-473-9474 or visit
www.josephpriestleyhouse.org

LIBERTY'S FIRST CRISIS TO EXAMINE PROSECUTION OF THOMAS COOPER

The federal prosecution of Northumberland newspaper editor Thomas Cooper in 1800 will be one of the topics of a new book by Connecticut author Charles Slack. "Atlantic Monthly Press will publish my new book, Liberty's First Crisis, in March 2015," Slack said in a post on his website.

Cooper was a close friend of Dr. Joseph Priestley and even lived in Priestley House following his release from prison in Philadelphia in late 1800. Slack visited Northumberland and Priestley House in 2012 while researching his subject.

In 1798, President John Adams won passage of a number of federal laws known in U.S. history as The Alien and Seditions Acts. The laws spelled out stiff penalties for people who criticized the government. In addition to Cooper, others targeted by the Adams administration included Benjamin Franklin Bache, a grandson of Benjamin Franklin. Bache's newspaper, the Philadelphia Aurora, frequently attacked President Adams.

A newspaper reporter before becoming an author, Slack said that he had long been curious about the enactment of the 1798 laws in "when the United States government decided to make criticizing elected leaders a crime. What were they so afraid of? Weren't these the same men who, seven years earlier, had enshrined free speech as the first right in the glorious Bill of Rights? What were they thinking? And, who were the victims of this law?"

Slack has said he will return to Priestley House and give a talk about his book in 2015.

Slack's other books include Noble Obsession: Charles Goodyear, Thomas Hancock, and the Race to Unlock the Greatest Industrial Secret of the Nineteenth Century and Hetty: The Genius and Madness of America's First Female Tycoon.

PBS SERIES TO FEATURE PRIESTLEY, 6 OTHER GROUND-BREAKING SCIENTISTS

The Mystery of Matter: Search for the Elements is a multimedia project about the human story behind the Periodic Table of the Elements. The centerpiece of the project is a three-hour PBS series that premiered in October on Oregon Public Broadcasting. The PBS national broadcast will follow sometime in 2015.

The series introduces viewers to some of history's most extraordinary scientists: Joseph Priestley and Antoine Lavoisier, whose discovery of oxygen—and radical interpretation of it—led to the modern science of chemistry; Humphry Davy, who made electricity a powerful new tool in the search for elements; Dmitri Mendeleev, whose Periodic Table brought order to the growing gaggle of elements; Marie Curie, whose groundbreaking research on radioactivity cracked open a window into the atom; Henry Moseley, whose discovery of atomic number redefined the Periodic Table; and Glenn Seaborg, whose discovery of plutonium opened up a whole new realm of elements, still being explored today.

The Mystery of Matter will show not only what these scientific explorers discovered but also how, using actors to reveal the creative process through the scientists' own words, and conveying their landmark discoveries through re-enactments shot with working replicas of their original lab equipment. And knitting these strands together into a coherent, compelling whole is host Michael Emerson, a two-time Emmy Award-winning actor best known for his roles on Lost and Person of Interest.

During the research and background phase of the project, members of the production team visited Priestley House and had several follow-up communications.

Production and Funding

Funded by the National Science Foundation, the Arthur Vining Davis Foundations, and the Camille and Henry Dreyfus Foundation, the project is produced by Moreno/Lyons Productions, a Boston company headed by two longtime contributors to public television, in association with Oregon Public Broadcasting, a leading producer of programming for PBS. Project Director Stephen Lyons has a long track record of developing and producing PBS science programs, including "Forgotten Genius," the Emmy Award-winning two-hour NOVA profile of the late African American chemist Percy Julian. On The Mystery of Matter, Lyons is collaborating with Muffie Meyer of Middlemarch Films, director of such award-winning PBS series as Liberty! and Benjamin Franklin. Education Development Center, Inc., is developing the Teacher's Edition & Guide, and the American Chemical Society has offered to make The Mystery of Matter a focus of National Chemistry Week during the year of the broadcast.