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HOURS OF OPERATION

April 1 through December 11, 2010

Thursday and Saturday

Noon to 4 pm – last tour 3:15 pm

January 6 through April 2, 2011

Thursday and Friday

Noon to 4 pm – last tour 3:15 pm

Other times by appointment

Call to reserve a tour 215-438-1861

Cost of tours - \$6

“American Gothic” featured in *Victorian Homes*

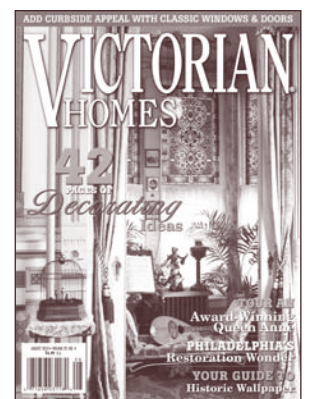
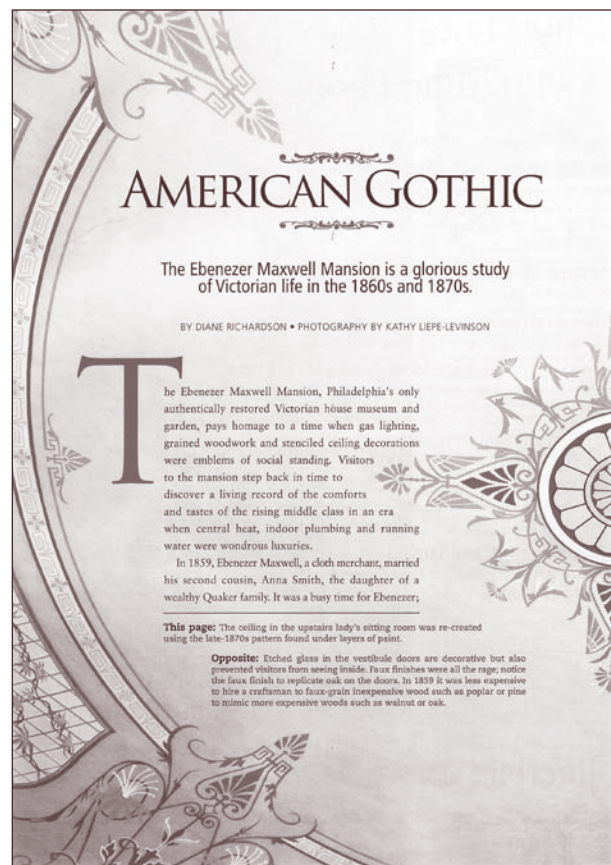
The Mansion is featured prominently in the August 2010 issue of *Victorian Homes* magazine with a lavish 14- page full color article that shows the public rooms and furnishing details. The article titled *American Gothic: The Ebenezer Maxwell Mansion* is a glorious study of Victorian life in the 1860s and 1870s and describes the house and its original inhabitants along with details of its furnishings and its Industrial Revolution technology. *Victorian Homes*, with a circulation of over 60,000, is published six times per year. The Mansion was fortunate to obtain Kathy Liepe-Levinson, a professional photographer from New York City, to photograph the Mansion's interior rooms.

Her pictures may also be seen on the Mansion's web site:

www.ebenezermaxwellmansion.org/interiors. The Mansion is of particular

interest to readers of *Victorian Homes* because of its authentic restoration and furnishings to particular periods; the first floor is interpreted to the 1860 time period and the second floor represents the 1880s following

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UPCOMING EVENTS



SEPTEMBER

Saturday, September 11, 9:30 am to Noon

ARCHITECTURAL WALKING TOUR – GEORGIAN REVIVAL (1870'S & BEYOND) INTERIOR PEEK AT 269 WEST WALNUT LANE

Join architect Sandra Radich on a walking tour of select mansions in the Tulpehocken Station Historic district featuring the Georgian Revival architectural style. Tour begins at the Maxwell Mansion.

Cost: \$25 Member cost: \$20

Reservations required.



Sunday, September 25, 2010

FIRST ANNUAL GARDEN PARTY

The Ebenezer Maxwell Mansion is having a Garden Party, but we'd rather you not come. Please, stay home and maybe plant autumn seeds. Have your own garden party. No need to dress up or listen to speeches. Feel good about not attending. However, we do kindly request a donation for staying away. All proceeds will be used to start a fund to restore the Mansion's cornices, architectural icons of an era. Call the Mansion to donate with a credit card.



OCTOBER

Sunday, October 10, 1:30 to 3:30 pm

VICTORIAN WATERCOLOR WORKSHOP

Step back in time to 1860 to visit Anna Maxwell on a Sunday afternoon to create this Victorian autumn still life.

Join instructor Kathleen Smith and new friends to practice watercolor techniques. In true Victorian style, cookies and tea will be served.

All materials included. All skill levels welcome.

Cost: \$35 Member Cost: \$30

Reservations required

AT THE MANSION



Saturdays, October 23 & 30 – first performance at 6 pm
Sundays, October 24 & 31 – first performance at 2:30 pm

FOURTH ANNUAL MURDER MYSTERY **GOOD TO THE LAST GHOST**

World renowned ghost hunter Dr. Holzer brings a group of people to investigate one of the most haunted houses in the world. The Mansion is cursed and the demented Lady Winchester and her servants are the only living inhabitants. After a séance where Dr. Holzer said he learned a dark secret, his body is discovered in one of the haunted rooms. The detective in charge quickly discovers that everyone in the Mansion had a reason to kill him, or was his death by a ghost?

Cost: \$15 Member cost: \$13 Cost for six or more tickets (each): \$13

Online ticketing is available. Go to: www.ebenezermaxwellmansion.org/events.html

Get your tickets early—this event sells out!



NOVEMBER

Saturday, November 20, 2 to 4 pm

ANNUAL MEETING

This members-only event features Robert Skaler's illustrated lecture *From Swamp to Swank – Philadelphia's Rittenhouse Square*. Rittenhouse Square became the city's most elegant and prestigious neighborhood between 1845 and 1865.

Members will receive a copy of the Mansion's 2010 Annual Report. Wine, tea and light refreshments will be served.

No cost. *Reservations suggested.*



DECEMBER

Saturday, December 11, 2 to 4:30 pm

DICKENS CHRISTMAS PARTY

Visit the Mansion beautifully decorated for Christmas to hear readings of selections from Victorian authors Charles Dickens and Louisa May Alcott. The gift shop will feature wonderful holiday gifts for the entire family. Children can purchase then wrap their purchases with art teacher, Antoinette. Elegant Christmas cookies and punch served in the dining room.

Cost: \$16 Children under 12: \$8 Member cost: \$14

Reservations recommended.

Pictured left: Isaiah Price portraying Charles Dickens in 2009

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK
AUGUST 5, 2010

Dear Friends,

The Maxwell Mansion interiors are looking better than ever, and the Board was gratified by the wonderful fourteen-page full-color coverage in the August 2010 issue of *Victorian Homes* magazine. Restoration work on the interiors over the past two years has resulted in refreshing the Mansion's interior. Many of the rooms have been painted, new historical reproduction wallpapers have been hung, antiques have been added to displays, and porches and window surrounds have been recently restored and painted.

With increasing concern, The Mansion's Board is reviewing options for restoring the building's architectural roofline cornices and its masonry walls. Both have been subject to the elements for more than 150 years and are rapidly deteriorating. Water penetration into the mortar seams and repeated freezing and thawing have exacted a toll on the historic gray sand and lime mortar. Extensive repair was undertaken in the 1970s when the building was rehabilitated for use as a historic house museum; however, what remains of the original mortar, along with inappropriate patching performed in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, has now deteriorated badly, with extensive losses throughout.

Even worse, the decorative painted cornices that span the roofline to form Gothic Revival crenelations are showing extensive paint loss and rot. The cornices were originally constructed of wood that has been pieced to create the curves that follow the roofline. Imbedded in the wooden cornices are box rain gutters made of terne metal, a combination of lead and tin used in the nineteenth century. The entire span has been patched with sheet metal over the years, and much of the wood is now rotten and open to the elements. The cornices not only provide a decorative roofline and rain water control, but they bridge the opening between the slate roofs and stone walls.

Estimates to restore the masonry and cornices are staggering and the Maxwell Mansion must raise funds

to make the repairs. The Mansion is seeking grant funding and also contributions from its friends and supporters to finance the needed restorations. The magnificent gray Wissahickon granite walls with their decorative red sandstone inserts and the soaring cornices remain a Germantown landmark and an example of the fine craftsmanship of Victorian-era building construction. The original founders of the Ebenezer Maxwell Mansion made enormous strides by saving the building and restoring it to be a public museum. We are dedicated to continuing this effort so that the Mansion's structure remains sound and is maintained in a historically appropriate manner for generations of future visitors. Please help us with your contributions to this important effort.

Sincerely,
Susan Harrison, President



Mansion's Iconic Cornices

From the Director's Desk

by Diane Richardson, Executive Director

THE IRISH BRIDGET: IMMIGRANT WOMEN DOMESTIC SERVANTS IN THE U.S., 1840-1930

Saturday, May 8, 2010



Gordon Magee (Irish guest), Margaret Lynch-Brennan (speaker), Susan Harrison (Board President), Laurence Banville (Irish guest)

Margaret Lynch-Brennan, author of *The Irish Bridget: Immigrant Women Domestic Servants in the U.S., 1840-1930*, spoke to a capacity audience in May about the experience of Irish women "in service" in American homes in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Dr. Lynch-Brennan's slide talk included excerpts

from letters written by the young immigrants to their families in Ireland describing their difficult and sometimes rewarding lives tending other people's children and keeping their homes.

The full capacity audience included fourteen visitors of Irish descent, new to the Maxwell Mansion, who heard about the program through the WTMR Irish radio announcements and the *Irish Philadelphia* newspaper. Wine and light refreshments were served in the dining room. Because the Maxwell family employed three Irish maids and their lives and work are described in the Mansion's docent-led tours, the lecture

resonated as an enlightening history lesson for attendees.

The program was funded through Historic Germantown by the Pew Center for Arts and Heritage and its Heritage Philadelphia Program. This grant was shared by the fifteen historic sites that are part of Historic Germantown for programming related to work and industry through Germantown history.

EXTENDED HOURS FOR THE MANSION

For the first time the Mansion was open during the winter months of 2010 keeping regular hours on Thursday and Friday afternoons from Noon to four. During these three months, the Mansion offered private docent-led tours. This practice will continue during January, February and March 2011. Increased awareness of winter hours will attract even more visitors. The Mansion also offers tours by appointment throughout the year.

OLD FASHIONED PICNIC

Saturday, June 12, 2010



Guests dressed in Victorian costumes for photos at the Old Fashioned Picnic

The 2010 Old Fashioned Picnic attracted 94 visitors from the Tulpehocken community, Philadelphia and New Jersey. Participants enjoyed old fashioned games—ring toss, croquet, scavenger hunts and dressing in Victorian costumes for photographs. For the first time

children and adults alike could French-cut green beans and peel apples using newly-patented kitchen gadgets from the period of the Industrial Revolution, just as the Maxwell maids did in 1860. Hot dogs, root beer and ice cream, foods popularized in the Victorian era, were served.

LA SALLE UNIVERSITY

Spring 2010

The Board of Directors of the Mansion funded a certificate in Non Profit Management for the Executive Director. The classes included

- Board Meetings and Responsibilities
- Best Practice in Board Governance
- Fundamentals of Fundraising
- Nonprofit Management 101
- Introduction to Marketing
- Strategic Planning

After completion of each class, a report on the content was submitted to the Board; therefore, the classes benefitted not only the Executive Director but the Board as a whole.

PHILANTHROPY

The Maxwell Mansion was pleased to receive a 2010 Barra Foundation Community Fund grant to be applied to operating costs. At a time when funding is so difficult, it is gratifying to be awarded a grant by this charitable foundation that helps so many Philadelphia area institutions.

New Volunteer Program At The Mansion

With the help of Kathleen Wisniewski, professional volunteer coordinator, the Mansion has created a new volunteer handbook along with a new volunteer recruitment strategy. The following are volunteer opportunities at the Mansion:

TOUR GUIDE

Tour guides should be comfortable speaking to groups. Initially a potential tour guide will attend docent training at the Mansion and study a Guides Manual. New guides will accompany experienced guides, then the experienced guides will accompany the new guide.

GARDENING VOLUNTEER

Gardening volunteers should enjoy working outside. Tasks include weeding, watering, planting annuals and perennials, sweeping walkways, and raking.

EVENT VOLUNTEER

Responsible for assisting with various tasks at events at the Mansion. Tasks include serving food, collecting email addresses of guests, setting-up for an event or cleaning-up afterwards (moving antique furniture, setting-up and removing folding chairs).

MAINTENANCE / PRESERVATION VOLUNTEER

Responsible for cleaning the interior spaces of the Mansion and cleaning and polishing museum objects according to museum collection maintenance standards. This volunteer must take great care with the Mansion's antiques and finishes.

OFFICE/CLERICAL VOLUNTEER

Responsible for assisting with general office duties such as printing and applying mailing labels, photocopying, assembling printed hand-outs, filing, answering the telephone, and in-putting data.

PROOFREADER VOLUNTEER

Responsible for proofreading the Maxwell Mansion newsletter, documents and publications, as necessary, for accuracy, consistency, spelling and grammatical errors.

GRANT WRITING VOLUNTEER

Responsible for assisting with drafting written grant proposals to secure grant funds to support the mission of the Mansion.

EDUCATION VOLUNTEER

Responsible for assisting with presentation of special educational programs to school groups. Teaching experience is needed.

LEGAL VOLUNTEER

Responsible for assisting the Mansion with legal matters by providing pro bono legal services including legal counsel, reviewing policies and documents, etc.

COLLECTIONS VOLUNTEER

Inputs collection catalog data from card files into online museum system. Assists with organization of paper collection files. Photographs collection items.

PHOTOGRAPHY VOLUNTEER

Takes photos at events and workshops, edits pictures, and saves to the Mansion computer.

GIFT SHOP VOLUNTEER

Assists in pricing and displaying gift shop items. Works in the gift shop during events, makes sales, takes money, record sales, and processes credit cards.

If any of these opportunities appeal to you, go to www.ebenezermaxwellmansion.org/volunteer to download an application, or call Diane at 215-438-1861.



continued from cover

the 1876 Centennial Celebration in Philadelphia where visitors discovered design elements of exotic cultures such as the Far East and Egypt. The Mansion is one of very few house museums in America that retains Egyptian Revival painted and stenciled wall and ceiling decoration.

The painted and stenciled decoration on the ceiling in the upstairs sitting room is an exact copy of the original work done after the Centennial Celebration in 1876 in Philadelphia.

Photo by Kathy Liepe-Levinson.



Thank You

Many thanks to Leslie Cerf for her generous donation of a complete silver tea service including coffee pot, tea pot, creamer and sugar container. Already this tea set has been used for two elegant tea parties for special Mansion guests. Thank you!

BECOME A FRIEND OF THE EBENEZER MAXWELL MANSION, PHILADELPHIA'S ONLY AUTHENTICALLY RESTORED VICTORIAN HOUSE MUSEUM AND GARDEN!

PLEASE SELECT MEMBERSHIP LEVEL:

MANSION FRIEND \$40

- Free admission to the Mansion
- Research privileges in the Mansion library
- 10% discount in the gift shop
- Invitations to all free events
- Discounts to workshops and paid events

MANSION SPONSOR \$60

- Membership for immediate family
- All privileges listed above

BUSINESS SPONSOR \$75

- All privileges listed above

MANSION CONSERVATOR..... \$125

- Two guest passes
- All privileges listed above

MANSION SUSTAINER \$200

- Three additional gift passes
- All privileges listed above

MANSION PRESERVATION

CIRCLE \$500

- Private docent-led tour for your party of 10
- All privileges listed above

MANSION BENEFACTOR..... \$1,000

- Recognition in newsletter
- All privileges listed above

Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Work/Cell Phone _____

Email _____

Your gifts fund preservation of this Philadelphia Victorian gem. Your support helps us continue to offer events and workshops that allow us to share our history and expand our reach.

Ebenezer Maxwell Mansion 200 West Tulpehocken Street Philadelphia, PA 19144
215-438-1861 emaxwellmansion@yahoo.com www.ebenezermaxwellmansion.org

Ebenezer Maxwell Mansion
Gazette

Ebenezer Maxwell Mansion
200 West Tulpehocken Street
Philadelphia, PA 19144

WHAT'S INSIDE:

Victorian Homes Magazine

Upcoming Events at the Mansion

New Volunteer Program



**HISTORIC
GERMANTOWN**
Freedom's Backyard

freedombackyard.com

All correspondence should be sent to:
Ebenezer Maxwell Mansion
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