When in the course of human events ...........

The Continental Congress assigned the task of writing the Declaration to a committee consisting of John Adams (MA), Benjamin Franklin (PA), Thomas Jefferson (VA), Robert Livingston (NY) and Roger Sherman (CT). On July 8, 1776, the first public readings of the Declaration of Independence were held in Philadelphia to the ringing of bells and band music. One year later, on July 4, 1777, Philadelphia marked Independence Day by adjourning Congress and celebrating with bonfires, bells and fireworks. In an extraordinary coincidence, both Jefferson (the writer) and Adams (the editor) died a few hours apart on July 4, 1824, the 50th anniversary. Jefferson was age 83 and Adams was 90. For more on this, visit the National Archives exhibit: “Charters of Freedom-A New World Is at Hand” at http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/charters.html.

IN CONGRESS, July 4, 1776

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen United States of America

When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.--That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, --That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.--Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.

He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.
He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.
He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only.
He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.
He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people.
He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within.
He has endeavoured to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands.
He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary powers.
He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.
The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen United States of America, continued from previous page

He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harrass our people, and eat out their sub-
stance.
He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our legislatures.
He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil power.
He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giv-
ing his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation:
For Quartering large bodies of armed troops among us:
For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States:
For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world:
For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent:
For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an Arbitrary government,
and enlarging its Boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these Colonies:
For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments:
For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoev-
er.
He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us.
He has plundered our seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.
He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to compleat the works of death, desolation and tyranny,
already begun with circumstances of Cruelty & perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized nation.
He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands.
He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merci-
less Indian Savages, whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions.
In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A Prince whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.
Nor have We been wanting in attentions to our British brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our com-
mon kindred to disavow these usurpations, which, would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends.
We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonie
s, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States; that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.

The Declaration consists of 1,328 words and has 56 signatures.

★ Memorial Day ★

Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, is a day of remembrance for those who have died in our nation’s service. There are many stories as to its actual beginnings, with over two dozen cities and towns laying claim to being the birthplace of Memorial Day. Memorial Day was officially proclaimed on May 5, 1868 by General John Logan, national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, in his General Order No. 11. For the continuation of this story on Memorial Day, visit http://www.usmemorialday.org/backgrnd.html.

★ Military personnel and their families have free admission to 1,800 museums across America, including PMA, Memorial Day through Labor Day 2013 in collaboration with the National Endowment for the Arts, Blue Star Museums and the Department of Defense. www.arts.gov/bluestarmuseums

A heartfelt thank you.
Greetings from the Chair

Happy Fourth of July! Where better to celebrate our nation’s birthday than right here in Philadelphia? Even though many of you have escaped to the Shore or to cooler climes, many are here gearing up for the new Guiding Year that began July 1. Thanks to all who filled up the July Duty Calendar so quickly, thus getting our new year off to a great start.

Those Guides who did not quite fulfill the 30 or 60 hour guiding requirement for the 2012-2013 Guiding Year will receive a reminder in the mail shortly explaining the time frame for making up deficient hours and other related information. Unfortunately, any hours not reported by June 30, either on-line or to Maryl or me, will not be credited. Timely reporting of both credit and non-credit hours is extremely important, not only for the administration of this program, but to the Museum as well.

Last year we hit a “dead zone” during the months of January, February and March as far as guiding opportunities were concerned. Basically the same schedule will be in effect in 2014. In order to better reflect the guiding opportunities available throughout the year, the Board has voted to create a new Guiding Year from January 1 through December 31. From July 1 through December this year only, hours will be prorated which means that Active Guides will be expected to accrue 40 hours by January 1, 2014 and Associate Guides will be expected to accrue 20 hours by January 1, 2014. The 2014 Guiding year will hopefully put us back on track with easily filled calendars each month.

Many Guides took advantage of the recent refresher courses for the Sculpture Garden and Woodford Mansion to expand their guiding repertoire. Many thanks go to Shelly Schwartz, Jill Raich, Christine Mifsud and Martha Moffat for organizing and presenting these refreshers. As a result, there are now additional Guides who have checked out for these tours and Guides who may have checked out previously and now are armed with fresh information to confidently give the tours.

Be on the lookout for more study days and educational opportunities as we move into the new year. Coming up in July, Emily Afflitto, Site Manager at Strawberry Mansion will be offering half-day training sessions to Active Guides. You may sign-up with Emily for either July 11, 18, or 25, http://www.historicsstrawberrymansion.org. In September, Justina will be presenting two study days devoted to Stories of the Workers at Mount Pleasant and Cedar Grove. On September 12, the subject will be tour content and on September 19, the subject will be tour interpretation and guiding techniques. Jill and Sandy have additional programs in the works.

Jean McNelis is busy putting the finishing touches on the Fall Trip—the really BIG study opportunity offered annually to the Park House Guides. This year, September 23-26, Guides will be treated to historic sites, collections, etc. in Connecticut. Sign-up online under http://www.parkhouseguides.org/trips.php.

Tilde reports that she and her able evaluators are now at the halfway point of the on-going, bi-annual evaluation process. As a reminder, tour check-outs do not count as an evaluation. Please refer to the Handbook if you have questions regarding the process.

Lastly, please join me in welcoming Joan Momjian, Carolyn Ramsey, and Charlotte Rosenthal into the Emeritus Guides. Each has given many years of dedicated service and has contributed mightily to the program, helping to make it what it is today. Thank you! And thanks to Karen Love, Coordinator of Emeritus Activities, who continues to plan great things for this exclusive group who never seem to stop.

Enjoy the summer and great guiding!

George
News from Volunteer Services

PMA Admissions phone number
Please take a moment to enter the PMA Admissions phone number into your cell phone—215-684-7832. That way if you are stuck in traffic, late for a tour, canceling a rained out tour (one hour prior), you will be able to reach a person whenever the PMA is open and when Joyce is not available, i.e. evenings and weekends.

Entering the Main Building on Mondays
Unless otherwise notified, the West Entrance will be open on Mondays from 8:30 a.m. to 6:15 p.m. Sometime this September, Volunteers will be given new badges that will allow them to access the North Entrance (new staff entrance) and the elevators.

Women’s Committee Grant
We recently received wonderful news from The Women’s Committee of the Philadelphia Museum of Art. Once again they have renewed grant support for the Weekday, Weekend, and Park House Guides totaling $6,000 ($2000 per group). We are thankful for their generosity, support and their vote of confidence.

Lockers
Twenty lockers for Volunteers are now located in the Volunteer Services office next to the copier. The keys for the lockers will remain in the locker doors and should be returned to the doors when you are finished with the locker. You will need to sign out a key. Please no food or anything organic is to be left in the locker. There is also the coat closet by the library computers for your convenience.

Twelve lockers for Volunteers only are also by the Student Entrance under the window where the wheel chairs are located. (The lower eight lockers are for Education only.) You will need to sign out keys and return keys to the kiosk. No keys should be left in these lockers.

Save The Date

Staff Ice Cream Social
Wednesday, July 24, 2013
2:00—3:30 p.m.
South Terrace

Must wear your PMA I.D.
No RSVPs please.
No Guests please.
Rain location: Vaulted Walkway

Hope to see you there!

Emeritus News
Congratulations to Joan Momjian, Carolyn Ramsey and Charlotte Rosenthal who have become Emeritus Park House Guides.

Happy Summer

Happy Guiding
The Busy Body: Notes from the Site Manager

The restoration of Cedar Grove's exterior envelope is nearly complete, and thanks to funding from the Women's Committee, the electrical system will be upgraded this summer. The collections will be reinstalled in late summer/early fall, and we should be able to schedule tours by appointment in the fall. Our public re-opening will be for Holiday tours in December (see below for dates).

You will also notice our colleagues from Fairmount Park Historic Preservation Trust working on plaster repair and painting in the South Pavilion at Mount Pleasant as part of our ongoing work to improve our visitor experience throughout the Museum's sites.

For this year's Holiday Open House, there will be expanded operating hours at both Mount Pleasant and Cedar Grove. Beginning December 5th through the 29th, both houses will be open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Thursdays through Sundays, as well as Monday, December 30 through Wednesday, January 1.

Holiday Trolleys will be scheduled the first two weekends, Thursdays through Sundays, December 5, 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, 14 and 15.

Finally, and most importantly, mark September 12 and 19 on your calendar for continuing education sessions on the stories of the workers - enslaved, indentured, and free. I will share some new content and new discoveries regarding our Mount Pleasant and Cedar Grove families, and we will discuss the challenges and opportunities of interpreting difficult histories. The first week is content and the second week is technique. Please join me for both of these exciting sessions.

Justina
FROM THE HOUSES

Historic Strawberry Mansion Training Days

The Committee of 1926 has scheduled three training days, July 11, 18 and 25, 10 a.m. to noon, for the Active Park House Guides. In addition, they have prepared an updated interpretive inventory.

Please RSVP to Emily Afflitto, Site Manager, Historic Strawberry Mansion for one of the three training days by emailing strawberrymansion@me.com or phoning 215 228 8364. She will let you know if the date is available. Attendance is limited to twenty Guides on each day.

The interpretive inventory will be uploaded to our website at Continuing Ed/Strawberry Mansion as soon as possible.

Woodford

A word of thanks …

For many years I have admired the work of Hester Bateman without knowing too much about her. When I became aware of her life story I developed a great deal of respect for her as a person and decided to do a report.

Thanks to a generous long term loan of this book, *Women Silversmiths 1685-1845*, from the personal library of Beverly Wilson, my colleague in Guides, I was finally able to do so. For that, I sincerely thank her.

A copy of this report will be at Woodford.

Marie J.

PHG Dues For All PHGs

Please mail your check in the amount of $50 payable to Park House Guides to Linda Field, 1185 Wisteria Drive, Malvern, PA 19355.

Note: Dues received after September 30 will incur a $5 late fee.

Thank you.

Evaluations

From page 5 of the PHG Handbook (on the website at PHG Info/Handbook)

Evaluation – In order to maintain the integrity and excellence of the Park House Guide program, the Division of Education at the Museum has required that all Active and Associate Guides will be observed and evaluated while giving a tour at least once in the course of the Board two-year term that starts in July. The Guide may be evaluated on one of our standard tours including Mount Pleasant or Cedar Grove house guiding, Parthenon on the Parkway, Perelman, School Tour, Sculpture Garden, Schuylkill Stroll, Water Works or an Outreach program. In this case, evaluators would attend the public tour being given. Effective July 1, 2012, tour check-outs do not qualify as evaluations.
Spring Forward: Contemporary Fiber Art at Mount Pleasant and Lemon Hill

Mount Pleasant was “yarn bombed” by artist Melissa Maddonni Haims who creates large-scale crocheted and knitted works mixed with found objects. She is known as one of “the Philadelphia yarn bombers” and is engaged in a recent global phenomenon that involves wrapping inanimate objects with colorful mixes of yarns. The exhibit was at MP from May 18 to June 30. For more about Melissa, who studied at Parsons School of Design and Temple’s Tyler School of Art, visit her website at www.melissamaddonnihaime.com. In addition, Lemon Hill was also “yarn bombed” by artist Rachel Blythe Udell from May 18 through June 9. For more on Rachael, visit www.racheludell.com.

Suggestions? Comments? News?
Something you would like to see in the next Villas’ Voice? Please send it to phgvillasvoice@gmail.com.
WHAT’S HAPPENING?
Save These Dates

Note: Specific PHG dates and events are highlighted. Please see the Events Calendar on our website www.parkhouseguides.org for complete information and listings.

July 9, Sept. 10 or Oct. 22
Building The Barnes: From Paul Philippe Cret to Tod Williams and Billie Tsien. 2—4:00 p.m. $50 members, $45 nonmembers The Barnes Foundation, Ben Franklin Parkway. Tickets online at www.barnesfoundation.org/programs or call 215 278 7200.

July 11, 18 or 25
Strawberry Mansion training. RSVP required. See page 6 of this newsletter for more information.

July 17 and 20
Curator Talk: For Me Sculpture is an Outdoor Art. 11 a.m. Rodin Museum. www.rodinmuseum.org/calendar/Events/

July 24
Ice Cream Social. See page 4 of this newsletter for more information.

Sept. 9
Literary Club to discuss Revolutionary Summer by Joseph Ellis. 10 a.m., balcony café. All are welcome.

Stories of the Workers at MP and CG Training Days
Sept. 12 Part 1—Tour Content.
Sept. 19 Part 2—Guiding Techniques.
1—3 p.m., Committee Room. Please sign up on the Events Calendar.

Sept. 23-26
PHG Fall Study Trip to Connecticut. $500 deposit due to Linda Field to hold your spot. For more info. and to sign up, please go to our website’s Study Day Excursions/Trips/View Trips List/Conn.Trip/Trip_info_6_15_13.

Oct 7 PHG Annual Meeting.
More information to follow.

March 5—8, 2014

Boat to Bartram’s Gardens
Three-hour cruise to Bartram Gardens. Sat. and Sun., June to Oct. For schedule of dates and times, visit www.zerve.com/PhillyByBoat/Bartrams or www.bartrams.org/events/page/2/

New on the Website
www.parkhouseguides.org

The Schuykill Villas—An informative article by Joan Church Roberts from the 2006 Antiques Show Loan Exhibit. See Continuing Ed/Miscellaneous

Hitchings Post—It is a new tab on our website where documents will be uploaded.

Looking at Sculpture—From February 2010 training. See Continuing Ed/Sculpture Garden

Correction: In the May issue of VV, under Online Book, page 3, there was a typo in the spelling of author Thompson Wescott’s name.

Useful Links
Google Art Project—redesigned with improved, faster searching, scrolling and zoom features. View over 40,000 pieces of art from 250 museums worldwide. www.googleartproject.com

City of Philadelphia Parks & Recreation—boat houses, park houses and more www.phila.gov/parksandrecreation/Pages/default.aspx

Association for Public Art Interactive Map—sculptures galore www.associationforpublicart.org/interactive-art-map

American Architects and Buildings www.americanbuildings.org/pab

Historical Society of Pennsylvania www.hsp.org (So much to read, including the fun questions of the week blog with an article on Samuel Powel, the Patriotic Mayor of Philadelphia. www.hsp.org/blogs/question-of-the-week)

For more fun websites, see the Useful Links tab on our website.

Exhibition
Common Destinations: Maps in the American Experience, Winterthur, April 20, 2013 to January 5, 2014. A related conference will be held Oct. 11-12. For more information, visit www.wintherthur.org/

Sleuthing for more on Mount Pleasant acreage

Did Captain John Macpherson own the 36 acre Abraham Liddon parcel prior to Liddon purchasing it in 1772? (See map below.) If so, that would agree with Macpherson’s 1769 advertisement describing his property as 160 acres. This fifth parcel would bring his total in 1769 to about 155 acres.

As you know, the 1777 Landowners Map (in March 2013 issue of VV) shows by 1777 Macpherson owned between 118 and 119 acres which agrees with his 1777 advertisement describing his property as 120 acres.

Research in the city archives for a deed should turn up the name of the seller who sold Liddon the parcel in 1772. Was it John Macpherson?