

# CRAIK-PATTON HOUSE NEWS

A Newsletter of Craik-Patton, Inc.

Spring 2014

## What are the Blue Cards in the Museum?

by Cailin Howe

As winter finally says "goodbye" for another 7-8 months we all breathe a sigh of relief. Spring and summer mean warm weather, nature coming back to life, and longer days filled with sunshine. However, in the museum community many staff members begin to cringe knowing that with increased light comes a new host of issues to worry about concerning their collection. At Craik-Patton we fight this battle on a daily basis. Currently, as some may have noticed if you have been on a tour since February, the collections committee is implementing the Blue Wool Scale test in 4 rooms of the museum deemed the most susceptible to sunlight. Unfortunately, many of the textiles and upholstery in the collection have already sustained visible light damage, so our goal now is to prevent further damage and fading. By having tangible evidence of fading measured by Blue Wool standard cards in these rooms, we are able to show why installing shades in the museum windows is imperative to extending and protecting the life of our collection, as well as why sunlight is so damaging.



A Blue Wool Scale test rests on the child's bed in the nursery.

Typically when we think of light damage, fading is the first form that comes to mind. This is the most recognizable form of damage from light, but there are many more issues that come with fading. Light in all forms is one of the most common

causes of damage to collections. Many objects you may not initially think of as especially sensitive to light: are paper, cloth, leather, photographs, and artwork. Even furniture, especially those made with hardwoods, will show discoloration and bleaching when left in sunlight for too long. Additionally, there can be damage to the physical and chemical structure of materials from both UV and visible light. Sadly any damage or fading caused by light is irreversible so it is important to practice preservation.

At Craik-Patton we have already taken the first step in protecting our collection from light

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## Thank you to our Garden and Grounds Sponsors!



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## George Washington Etchings Exhibit

This Fall, the Craik-Patton Collection Committee accepted 20 etchings of George Washington's life from Priscilla Lawson. These etchings were done by popular artists of the 1920s and 1930s and were sold in a portfolio. Because of James Craik's familial ties with George

Washington, these etchings will become a permanent exhibit in the downstairs conference room (as pictured below). Craik-Patton would also like to offer the exhibit to other institutions as a temporary, traveling exhibit.



Craik-Patton is currently seeking patrons for the exhibit. A patron will donate \$150 towards the conservation matting and framing of an etching so that this important exhibit can be displayed as soon as possible. Ten etchings have returned from the framer. We need 12 more patrons to commit to framing these impressive etchings. If you are interested in being a patron or would like to discuss this exhibit further, please contact Bri Jackson at 304.925.5341 or send a check for \$150 to Craik-Patton, Inc., PO Box 175, Charleston, WV 25321 with "George Washington exhibit" in the memo line. Thank you all in advance!

## What are the Blue Cards in the Museum? *continued from page 1...*

damage by installing UV blocking film. This film eliminates up to 99% of UV light that comes in through the windows of the museum. We also have to be very aware of visible light exposure, as it also causes extensive fading to items in our collection. Visible light levels are measured by a light meter in lux. Simply stated this is the measure of the intensity of light over one square meter.

One of the easiest ways to estimate the damage that can result is to use the ISO's Blue Wool standard cards. More than other measurements, the Blue Wool cards visibly demonstrate the destructive powers of light. Each Blue Wool standard contains eight samples of blue-dyed wool. The different shades of blue are degrees of fastness, and are used as light fastness standards. Sample 1, or the first line on the card, is extremely light sensitive, while sample 8, the last line and the darkest, is the most stable dye available. Line 2 takes twice as long to fade as line 1, line 3 takes twice as long as line 2, and so forth. We covered half the card to be the control line and let the other half fade over a 3

month period of time to measure the degree of fading caused by the intensity of light in these rooms. Since the sensitivity of the first few samples on the card corresponds to light sensitive materials such as watercolors and textiles, the results give us a good idea of the amount of damage expected at the current light level in that location.



The Blue Wool Scale test from the nursery shows signs of light damage.

As a standard for anyone looking to protect valuable furniture, or other items especially textiles and artwork, try as best as you can to keep them out of bright

sunny rooms. Sunlight is not recommended as a primary source of light because it is too intense, causes extensive fading, and has a high UV component. If you have objects you are concerned about, simply moving them out of a sunny space will help extend their life. Electric light is much easier to control and regulate than sunlight.

At Craik-Patton we are working toward having shades installed in all windows of the museum to offer full protection to the collection from the light. Until that goal is achieved, the collections committee is being proactive with their assessment and protection of sun damaged items. Recently several items on display were moved into storage, and quilts currently on display are covered to give them relief from the sun. We might be a small museum but we are committed to the care and longevity of our collection, and even small efforts help tremendously!

If anyone would like to assist in the effort to install shades in the museum, please contact Craik-Patton House staff.

## Letter from the President



It is with great enthusiasm that I embark on a two year journey as the president of the Craik-Patton Museum House Board of Directors. I am

delighted that I have been entrusted with the care of one of the Kanawha Valley's, and indeed, the entire state of West Virginia's, treasures. I have served on the Board of Directors for four years and have grown to appreciate how fortunate we are to have this House.

For the past two years the Craik-Patton House has had a full time director, Bri Jackson. Bri enabled us to have the House open for regular hours every week and this in turn gave the opportunity for many more visits to the House by school children, people traveling through West Virginia, history buffs, and the general public who just wanted to stop by. Once again the Craik-Patton House is becoming familiar to people and the attention is wonderful. The House is available for rent for private parties or meetings. The Garden and Grounds committee under the capable leadership of Marie Nesius, has made sure

the beautiful gardens behind the house have been maintained to a standard for which we are all proud.

Becky Steorts from Bluefield, WV has given countless hours to revitalizing the Friends of Craik-Patton. Through Becky's leadership our Friends membership has doubled in just one year. But Becky is still hard at work planning a picnic this summer for the Friends. From what I have heard, it will be a very special, fun event that I look forward to attending and hopefully meeting many of the old Friends and new Friends!

And this is just the beginning.....we hope to reach out to many more schools from within Kanawha County and from beyond our county lines...we hope to continue to offer wine and beer tastings...presentations by historical interpreters...educational classes in antiques, quilting, preservation. ..just to name a few. And of course this will take a commitment from not only the Board of Directors but also from the community. We plan to be in touch and invite our friends to tour the House and to join with us to continue to make this treasure even better for our community.

Bri Jackson and her husband, Will, are relocating to Birmingham, Alabama where Will has been accepted into a vascular

residency program. We will miss both of them because at times the job was a joint effort. Thank you Bri and Will.

Paul Zuros will take over as executive director June 1. Paul comes to Charleston with his wife and baby from Pittsburg, PA. Paul is a West Virginia native and we are delighted to welcome him home and look forward to benefiting from his experience in the area of house museums.

I would be remiss if I did not say thank you to Jeanne Grubb, the out-going board president. Jeanne has given tirelessly of her time, her creativity, and her resources. Although Jeanne has made it look easy, I know it hasn't been. Jeanne has delayed many of her personal plans during her tenure to make sure the House had the leadership it needed. Jeanne put together a Board of Directors who serve not only on the Board but also as committee chair. Their dedication has made the House begin to shine again and I look forward to working with them for the next two years. Fortunately, Jeanne is now an ex-officio member of the Board of Directors and we will continue to benefit from her wealth of knowledge and experience. Again, Jeanne, thank you.

Jessica Graney



## Thank you to John Christenson, his family and friends for all pitching in to clean the riverbank as a part of John's Eagle Scout Project!

Pictured are Mike Christenson, Hunter Christenson, Tom Grishaber, Sam Grishaber, Chad Napier, Blair Taylor, Justin Ransbottom, and John Christenson. Thank you Troop 5!

## Letter from the New Executive Director



Let me introduce myself, my name is Paul J. Zuros and I will be assuming the role of Executive Director for the Craik-Patton House Thursday the 29th of May. I am looking forward to the opportunity. I have quite the shoes to fill; it is my understanding that Bri has done an excellent job as Executive Director and her impact on the Craik-Patton House will be felt well into the future. I hope to build upon her success using my education, interests, and experience to benefit the organization.

Coming to the Craik-Patton House is very much a homecoming for me. I'm originally from Weirton, West Virginia, but for the past three years, my wife Abigail and son Paul Christopher and I have been living in Pittsburgh, PA. I'm happy to be returning to West Virginia where my interest in history all began. In the eighth grade, I

was one of four students from Hancock County to win the Golden Horseshoe Award and this set me on a course that would foster a deep love for West Virginia history. My interest eventually motivated me to join my local museum, the Hancock County Historical Museum in Hancock County, WV. It was there that I had my first taste of working with a museum and historical society. I also became very active in the Weirton Area Museum and Cultural Center in Weirton, WV, and I was able to be a part of the planning of their first museum which was a very gratifying experience for me. As I am able, I still offer a hand to these organizations. Supporting local historical societies is sometimes the most important thing one can do to preserve the collective memory of a local area.

I attended West Virginia University and obtained a degree in History with a minor in Public Relations and Italian Studies. During this time, I was able to have an internship with the National Park Service. I was a Park Ranger at the Richmond National Battlefield Park in Richmond, VA. I worked at many Civil War sites around the Richmond area including the 1862 Battle of Malvern Hill and the 1864 Battle of Cold Harbor. Working with the visitors at these sites galvanized my love for Public History. After the internship, I knew I wanted to work in the profession of Public History. In 2010 I enrolled in the Public History graduate program at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, PA. My concentrations in this program were in Museum and Archival

Studies. As part of my coursework, I had the privilege of working at the John Heinz History Center as an Intern in the Library and Archives and as an Intern Education Assistant with the Fort Pitt Museum both in Pittsburgh. While in graduate school, I met my bride Abigail Gardner from Brooklyn, New York, who was also in the Public History Program at Duquesne. She is a blessing and encouragement to me. I wouldn't be where I am today without her love and support. Just seven short months ago, we were blessed with the birth of our son, Paul Christopher.

For the past three years, I have worked with the Carnegie Institute at the Carnegie Science Center in the Miniature Railroad & Village. My role there was to build our annual model and work with visitors explaining the history of Western PA. It has been a rewarding experience working at the Science Center, but I am excited to begin my new role as Executive Director of the Craik-Patton House. Some plans I hope to complete in the near future are working on a new docent training program, working to grow the museums presence in the state, and growing the Craik-Patton House as a destination for school groups and visitors to Charleston among many other things. I look forward to serving the Craik-Patton House as well as the National Society of Colonial Dames of America in West Virginia. I am excited to meet many new friends, and with your help and continued support, we can make the Craik-Patton House the best museum it can possibly be.

## Volunteers Needed!

We are always looking for dedicated individuals to assist with various things in and around the Craik-Patton House

Museum. At this moment, we need volunteer docents to assist with leading tours for school groups and group tours.

If you are interested in volunteering at the Craik-Patton House, please email [info@craik-patton.org](mailto:info@craik-patton.org) or call her at 304-925-5341.

## Craik-Patton House Collections Care Week

In recognition of Preservation Week (April 28-May 2, 2014), the Craik-Patton House in Charleston hosted a series of Collections Care Workshops throughout the week.

Preservation Week was created in 2010 because some 630 million items in collecting institutions require immediate attention and care. Eighty percent of these institutions have no paid staff assigned responsibility for collections care; 22 percent have no collections care personnel at all. Some 2.6 billion items are not protected by an emergency plan. As natural disasters of recent years have taught us, these resources are in jeopardy should a disaster strike. Personal, family, and community collections are equally at risk. Preservation week promotes the role of libraries & other institutions in preserving personal and public collections and treasures.



Natural bristle brushes are used to dust the intricate woodwork.

On Monday, April 28, our staff vacuumed the upholstery throughout museum. Dust and dirt particles, though microscopic, can cause major damage, shredding, deteriorating and staining delicate fabrics. By vacuuming the upholstery with a low-suction, HEPA filter vacuum through a layer of polyester screening, dust and dirt particles are removed from the textiles without stressing them.

On Tuesday, April 29, our staff performed basic furniture care, dusting the wood furniture gently with natural bristle brushes.

On Wednesday, April 30, our staff continued their ongoing project of cleaning the extensive textile collection that consists of quilts, coverlets, and early clothing. Textile cleaning, like upholstery cleaning, is done with a low-suction vacuum through a screen.

On Thursday, May 1, our staff cleaned our varied ceramic and glass objects. This cleaning process consists of dry dusting and wet cleaning through soaking and gentle washing.

On Friday, May 2, our staff worked on architecture preservation care. On this day, we focused on proper cleaning of the floors, trim, woodwork, windows and other architectural features of the interior of the house.

## Kroger Cares Fundraising Program

We are now enrolled in the Kroger Cares fundraising program! This program will become a great fundraising source for Craik-Patton with your help. These cards can be used in any Kroger in any state as well as at Kroger affiliate stores (Dillon's, FredMeyer, Fry's, QFC, Ralphs, Smith's).

### How it works:

1. Get a card from Craik-Patton by calling 304.925.5341 or emailing [director@craik](mailto:director@craik)

-patton.org. You will need to give Craik-Patton \$5 for the card. The card will already have \$5 loaded on it

2. Take your card to the customer service counter at Kroger and put as much as \$500 on it as often as you need to refill it. Then, you use it at the register just like a credit card.

3. You can still use your Senior discount and buy Kroger gas with it! You can also

use it at Kroger affiliate stores (listed in first paragraph).

4. When card purchases and reloads to our account (all cards) reach \$5,000 or above, our organization will receive a 5% credit on our total balance.

Thank you in advance for supporting the Craik-Patton House through this giving program. You can schedule a time to pick up a card or have one mailed to you.

## Wish List for the Traveling Trunk School Program

There are several items needed to complete our Traveling Trunk Program. Please help us fill our trunk!

### Items needed:

Clothing (replica or real), Kitchen items,

Washboard, School slate, Hand dipped candles, Tools, Photographs of homestead/families/children/etc., Replica uniforms (Confederate/Union/militia, Haversack and contents, Canteen, Reproduction bullets, Period instruments,

Maps, Reproduction Union and Confederate documents, Civil War music CD, Hardtack

Call or email to donate: 304-925-5341 or [info@craik-patton.org](mailto:info@craik-patton.org).

## Calendar of Events



### **June 20 - West Virginia Day at Charleston's Antebellum Houses!**

Once again, Craik-Patton is partnering with the West Virginia Humanities Council and

Glenwood House to recognize our state's

birthday with a day of open houses. Glenwood, located at 800 Orchard Street, will be open from 10am-12pm. The West Virginia Humanities Council, located within the MacFarland-Hubbard House at 1310 Kanawha Boulevard, will be open from 12-2pm for punch and cookies. Craik-Patton will be open from 2-4pm.

**At 3pm in the Craik-Patton House conference room, General Robert E. Lee**

**will join us for a special tea.** This is a free event made possible by the West Virginia Humanities Council History Alive! Program. Please reserve your place at the tea by calling 304-925-5341 or emailing [info@craik-patton.org](mailto:info@craik-patton.org).



## New Website

Craik-Patton, Inc. has a new (and very basic) website, [www.craik-patton.org](http://www.craik-patton.org). We are hoping to be able to grow and develop the website in the next year with grant funding.

**Please check out our blog posts!**

**And, don't forget to find us on Facebook!**

## Give the Gift of Membership!

Support the Craik-Patton House by giving the gift of membership to your friends and family! Membership is annual and starts at \$25/year for individuals. Membership offers free tours of the Craik-Patton House Museum, four newsletters a year, special invitation to events and discounted admission to certain events.

## Rent our Facilities!

The Craik-Patton House offers a beautiful conference room, gardens and grounds perfect for weddings, parties, showers and business meetings. Rental fees include the use of tables and upholstered chairs within the conference room. Non-profit rates are available. Call us today to schedule an appointment to view the space!

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Like us on Facebook!

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Craik-Patton, Inc.  
PO Box 175  
Charleston, West Virginia 25321  
Tel: 304-925-5341  
Website: [www.craik-patton.org](http://www.craik-patton.org)  
E-mail: [info@craik-patton.org](mailto:info@craik-patton.org)