

CRAIK-PATTON HOUSE NEWS

A Newsletter of Craik-Patton, Inc.

Winter 2014

Six Months at Craik-Patton

Happy Holidays to all friends and supporters of the Craik-Patton House! December marks my six month anniversary here at the museum. Let me be the first to say that it has been a joy! There has been a lot to learn but I am enjoying every minute of it. Our President Jessica Graney has been a great leader and support to me as I became comfortable in my new position, as have all the volunteers and members of the Board of Directors. Craik-Patton is extremely fortunate to have such a dedicated and supportive Board of Directors. It is my privilege to work under them.

Over the past six months the Craik-Patton House has played host to many events. From school groups, Cub Scouts, homes school children and members of the DAR and SAR. We have hosted many events noted by Jessica on the next page. Many of the events listed were those already scheduled and time honored traditions such as the Cocktail Party and Holiday Open House. One event I am proud of was the Evening with Edgar Allan Poe. This event was held October, 4th 2014 with an attendance of over thirty people. We had a speaker present dramatic reading of Poe's works accompanied by illustrations made in 1882 by Liverpool artist James Carling. This was the first event managed by me and I feel it was a great success.

Thanks Cailin!



by Paul Zuros, Executive Director



Paul, Abigail & Paul C. Zuros
Pose with R.E. Lee June 20, 2014

For 2015, we do not want to lose the momentum. We are ever hopeful to present events, speakers, tours and programs more often. In my short time here at the museum, I have come to appreciate why the museum and our mission is important. Sharing the story of not only the James

Craik and Patton family, but sharing the history of life here in the United States and Kanawha County during that period of Early American History is so vital. Being able to make our museum interesting, relatable, and accessible is what we are going to strive for this new year.

To accomplish our goals we need the continued support of all of you! Visit our web page, find us on Facebook, become a Friend of Craik-Patton. We hope you all stay active and informed of all our upcoming events and programs. With your help, we can make 2015 our best year ever!

In November we said goodbye to our AmeriCorp Member Cailin Howe. Cailin started at Craik-Patton in the September 2013.

Thanks to Cailin, we able to accomplish many needed updates to our collections, among countless other things. Cailin accepted the position of Exhibits Coordinator at the WV Division of Culture and History. Best Wishes Cailin!



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Letter from The President



Winter is here. The leaves are off the trees. And the Craik-Patton Museum House has never been better. Our Christmas Open House, held the first weekend in December, was an overwhelming success. The community, individuals, garden clubs, florists, Friends of Craik-Patton, and board members joined together to decorate the house, both inside and out, and be available to greet the hundreds of guests who came to enjoy the holiday decorations. Thank you to everyone, both visitors and volunteers, for making this Christmas Open House so very special.

We have had a busy and fun past six months. The first Friends of Craik-Patton picnic was held at the House in August. It was our way of saying welcome to our Friends and let's enjoy our treasure and work together to make it even better. Over fifty Friends from around the state came for a social evening of the most delicious bar b que ribs brought from Bluefield by Becky and Jim Stoerts. We look forward to the second picnic this summer.

Our annual Cocktail Benefit, held at the home of Freda and John Smallridge, Beaugemont, in Charleston in September was everything we could have hoped it to be. The weather was perfect, the food, prepared by Alex Franklin, was scrumptious, and like the picnic, it was a fun gathering of Craik-Patton supporters. This is our major fundraising activity each year and the proceeds make the operation of the House possible. I look forward to next year already!



But more important than recapping the past six months, I want to say thank you for all of the efforts of so many people who have joined together to make Craik-Patton the wonderful treasure that it is. Our director, Paul Zuros, has plans for the coming year which include literature readings, mother-daughter tea, and open house in June to celebrate West Virginia's birthday. Please follow us on Facebook or check our web site to see what fun and interesting activities are on the horizon.

I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Please come and see us in 2015!

Holiday Open House at Craik-Patton

On December 6th and 7th 2014, we held our annual Holiday Open house at the Craik-Patton House. From Saturday to Sunday, we hosted about 280 visitors to our museum. A special thanks goes out to the Kanawha Valley Doll Club for their exceptional doll and toy display.



Left-Libby Stultz in the Front Bedroom.



Right-Doll display by Kanawha Valley Doll Club

Florists and volunteers included:

Mary Payne
Youngs Floral
Food Among the Flowers
Pat Bibbee Designs
Sara Gaskins
Jeanne Grubb
Abigail Zuros
Peyton Forbes
Belmont Garden Club



Left-Dining Room Table by Abigail Zuros.



Right-Sideboard by Heather Humphry, Youngs Floral.

Pictures thanks to Alex Franklin.

Collections Corner

Our dedicated collections committee, chaired by Priscilla Lawson, has been hard at work over the past several months painstakingly going through the collections and investigating each object for period appropriateness. At the Craik-Patton House, we strive to present our museum to reflect the period between the 1830's and 1860's. Each piece that is considered for a place in our museum is researched thoroughly for period appropriateness. Our collections policy is a great tool that we can use in deaccessioning or not accepting pieces that do not fit with our mission. Through the efforts of the collection committee, we hope to provide a clear picture of life in the Kanawha Valley.

Several items have been recently accessioned into the collection:

Two Red Ware Pots



A Hatbox



Five Leather Bound Books Prior to 1820



A Top Hat and Derby



THANK YOU!

Thank you to all the many dedicated Volunteers who have made all of this possible! Your constant support of the Craik Patton House is an inspiration. It is through the dedication of all of our supporters, we can accomplish great things! 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 director@craik-patton.org or call 304-925-5341.

Our Gardens and Grounds

The Gardens and Grounds Committee has had their work cut out for them over the summer months. Marie Nesius and her committee have met every month working on a variety of projects relating to planting lovely flowers in the summer in the Parterre, to dealing with a pesky beaver on our property!

Some of the updates to the garden included a lovely bench donated to the museum that is located just outside of



the conference room. Also, in October we were fortunate to have the Master

Gardeners of Kanawha County here to plant bulbs for our spring plantings.

For those of you have not seen the gardens lately, you will be pleased to see the return of our herb garden. Our former AmeriCorp Member, Cailin Howe created a very informative brochure for visitors to our garden. Thank you Marie and committee for all of your hard work!

Give the Gift of Membership this holiday season!

Support the mission of the Craik-Patton House this holiday season by joining our Friends organization.

All memberships include the basic benefits listed below. Depending on the level you choose, you may receive additional benefits as well:

- **Free admission** to the museum throughout the year
- **Free or discounted rates** to museum programs and events

We are on the Web!

Please check our website often www.craik-patton.org. We are hoping to be able to grow and develop the website in the next year.

Please check out our blog posts!

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

- **One-year subscription** to our newsletter, *Craik-Patton House News*
- Member-only invitations to special events and exhibit openings
- Friends of Craik-Patton Picnic

Membership Levels

INDIVIDUAL FRIEND **\$50**

Basic benefits for **one** individual

COUPLE **\$60**

Basic benefits for **two** individuals

New Hours of Operation

We have new hours of Operation at the Craik-Patton House.

We are now open to visitors,

Monday thru Friday

10 A. M. to 12 P.M. And 1 P.M. to 4 P.M.

Call 304.925.5341 for more information.

FAMILY

\$75

Basic benefits for members of immediate household and two guest passes for the year

PIONEERS

\$100

Basic benefits for members of immediate household and four guest passes for the year

Call the Executive Director for more details!

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!

Like us on Facebook!

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