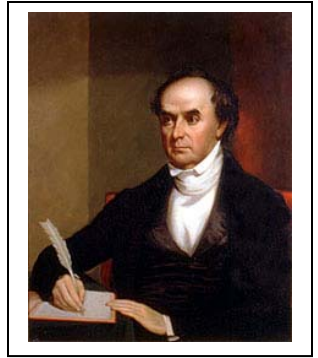


We have been taught to regard a representative of the people as a sentinel on the watch-tower of liberty.

-- Daniel Webster

March 2010

The Orator



Newsletter of the Daniel Webster Preservation Trust, Inc.

 *Dear Members and Friends,...*

Last year was a year of change for the Daniel Webster Preservation Trust (DWPT). At the Annual Meeting in October, a new slate of officers and trustees was elected, with yours truly being voted in as president. I have been with the DWPT since 1992, serving as secretary for most of the years since. Also, earlier in the year, we recruited Jean Peck as our newsletter editor to create and launch *The Orator*—a task on our “to do” list since 1996 and without which we could not share our historical perspective and keep you informed of our activities. Finally, over the course of the year, we completed some important restoration and maintenance projects, which you will read about later in this issue. These projects were accomplished through the tireless efforts of our trustees; the hard work of many members, friends, and MHS students; and the generous grants and kind donations of our supporters, including the Marshfield Cultural Council, Community League of Marshfield, and Walmart.

We hosted a variety of interesting historical, educational, and cultural events in 2009. For example, Prof. Andrew Holman of Bridgewater State College lectured on U.S.-Canadian relations in 1800-1850, during which time the Webster-Ashburton Treaty was negotiated and signed (the inkwell used is displayed in our Museum Room). We continued programs such as our Volunteer and Seasonal Teas, our Third-Graders Tours, and our YesterDays celebration, and we even hosted a meeting with Governor Deval Patrick. Our fundraisers—Girls’ Night Out Fashion Show, Family Fun Day, Victorian Christmas, and Italian Holiday Cooking Class—featured activities for all ages. We saw our membership grow significantly in 2009, and we hope this trend continues as more friends realize that their contributions to Webster’s beloved estate do indeed matter. The Board of Trustees and I look forward to welcoming you at our 2010 events, so please plan to join us and have some fun!

Barbara Carney, DWPT President

Jim Cantwell Steps Down as DWPT President



At the September 2009 meeting of the Board of Trustees of the DWPT, **Jim Cantwell** announced that he was stepping down as president but will serve ex officio. Jim formed the DWPT in 1989 with Michael Donohue and Bob McCracken and incorporated it in February of 1990 in order to keep the Estate from development and preserve it for public use and enjoyment. In 1993, through efforts by the Marshfield Historical Commission, and with the support of the DWPT, the house was listed on the National Register of Historic

Places. In 1995 Marshfield Town Meeting voted to purchase the house and its fourteen acres for \$500,000 (half that sum was provided by a state grant). More grant monies were later secured to restore the mansion, and by 2005 the Pilgrim Hall Museum in Plymouth sponsored a designer show house that completed the interior decorating and some exterior landscaping. Also in 2005 the Town of Marshfield awarded a three-year lease to the DWPT to maintain and continue restoration of the Estate. The lease was renewed for ten years in 2009. So it is that, for twenty years, the DWPT, the Town of Marshfield, and the entire region have been the beneficiary of Jim Cantwell’s vision, guidance, and leadership. We wish Jim well in his career in the Massachusetts legislature as a State Representative, or, as Daniel Webster regarded that position, as “a sentinel on the watch-tower of liberty.”

Membership/Volunteerism

OUR 2010 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE IS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY, AND WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

The DWPT welcomes new members and volunteers throughout the year and believes that supporting a nonprofit organization like ours is one of the best investments you can make. We encourage you to share in our on-going efforts to promote the use and further the restoration of the Webster Estate and invite you to become a member of the DWPT. We always need help with our fundraisers, special events, programs, restoration projects, tours, gardens, newsletter, and website. Your time and your donations are vital to our day-to-day operations and have a real impact on the future stewardship of the Daniel Webster Estate & Heritage Center.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES, PLEASE CALL 781-834-9867 AND VISIT OUR WEBSITE www.DanielWebsterEstate.org

TO BECOME A MEMBER OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP, PLEASE USE THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE AND INDICATE YOUR CATEGORY OF GIVING
Student/Senior \$15, Individual \$25, Family \$50, Friend \$75, Donor \$100, Sponsor \$250, Patron \$500, Benefactor \$1,000 or more
THEN MAIL YOUR TAX-EXEMPT CHECK (PAYABLE TO DWPT) TO Daniel Webster Preservation Trust P.O. Box 238, Green Harbor, MA 02041

YOU MAKE THINGS POSSIBLE, SO THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

Daniel Webster Preservation Trust, Inc. (DWPT)

An all-volunteer entity recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization

Executive Board of Trustees:

Barbara Carney, President
Jim Haddad, Vice President
Jim Botelho, Treasurer
Cathy Maher, Secretary
Jim Cantwell, Chairman Ex Officio

Board of Trustees:

Eileen Agostini, Pam Aieta, Eileen Byrne, Pat Cate, Gail Connolly, Virginia Gaffey, R-lene Gilgan, Gwen Frazier, Carol Kiburis, Ann McAleer, Larry Nelson, Phyllis Nielsen, Jean Peck

Newsletter Editor: Jean Peck

Estate location: 238 Webster Street, Marshfield, Massachusetts 02050

Mailing address: Post Office Box 238, Green Harbor, Massachusetts 02041

Estate telephone: 781-834-0548

Website: www.DanielWebsterEstate.org

Estate hours: Open for tours Thursdays, July—September, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., and first Sunday in May, June, August—November, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Did You Know...?



There were two Carolines in Daniel Webster's life.

While this issue focuses on Webster's daughter-in-law Caroline, we must be

careful to distinguish her from his second wife, New York socialite, **Caroline LeRoy Webster (1797-1882)**. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton made mention of her in an April 30, 2009 speech at the State Department's annual reception for donors to the diplomatic reception rooms. She noted, "the newest addition to the [fine arts] collection...is a portrait of a woman, Caroline LeRoy Webster...the wife of the great statesman Daniel Webster...what a fitting reminder that our nation was built not only by great men, but also by great women." In marrying Caroline, Webster chose a woman who added wealth, family, and political connections to his own base of power. A good stepmother to his children and a fine hostess during his time as Secretary of State, Caroline maintained a durable and affectionate relationship with Webster that sustained him for the rest of his life.

Sources: Office of Electronic Information, Bureau of Public Affairs, U.S. State Dept.; *Daniel Webster*, Irving H. Bartlett, 1978.

Daniel Webster's Daughter-in-law: Caroline Story White Webster (1811-1886)

Caroline Story White Webster, Daniel Webster's daughter-in-law (his son Fletcher's wife), built today's Webster mansion in 1880 on the site of the original house, which burned to the ground on the morning of the 14th of February 1878, along with nearly all objects of interest and art within. Caroline commissioned famed Boston architect William Gibbons Preston to design a 17-room Queen Anne-style Victorian mansion that departed from the amalgam of Dutch and Gothic architecture of the original structure but memorialized her famous father-in-law through details such as the stained glass parlor window and a fireplace that replicated one in his library. Trustee Jean Peck brought Caroline to life last fall when she obtained a photograph of her from the Hood Museum of Art. More recent research has revealed the following overview of her life.



Reprint of a painting in the collection of the Hood Museum of Art, Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire; gift of Miss Nancy Cox.

Born to Harriet Story and Stephen White, Caroline grew up in a magnificent mansion on Tonawanda Island, one of over forty islands in the Niagara River. Built by her father in 1835, their stately home also served as the headquarters for the East Boston Timber Company, which shipped white oak to eastern-seaboard markets for shipbuilding; Stephen White served as the company's president. It was in this house that Caroline met and eventually married Fletcher Webster. You see, Daniel Webster was an investor in the timber company and, accompanied by his son Fletcher, frequently visited the island and stayed in the White mansion. Fletcher married Caroline in the autumn of 1836 just after he had been admitted to the bar. He began practicing law in Michigan but later moved to Illinois, installing Caroline on a farm owned by his father. By 1840, with his family growing and his self-assurance and law practice faltering, Fletcher headed back east and, thanks to his father's influence, landed in Washington as Chief Clerk in the U.S. State Department. By 1861, with the Union in jeopardy, Fletcher took to the battlefield as a Union Colonel commanding the Twelfth Massachusetts Infantry but was killed in action in the Second Battle of Bull Run in 1862. Interestingly, according to Winslow Cemetery burial records, three of Caroline's daughters (Grace, Harriet, and Julia) had also died by that time; then, in 1865 and 1879 she lost two sons (Daniel Jr. and Ashburton). One wonders whether the rebuilding of the Webster mansion in 1880 was Caroline's way of honoring her husband's family while coping with her many losses. Whatever her reasons, Caroline built a beautiful house—one that we are honored to preserve and protect, and one that we all should value for its continuing role in Marshfield history.

Fireplace Restoration and Preservation in the House That Caroline Built (Or, in the Words of Trustee Pam Aieta, "It's Done!")

Flavia Perugini, Associate Objects Conservator, Museum of Fine Arts Boston, after careful examination and analysis, completed her restoration and preservation of the mansion's badly damaged first-floor parlor fireplace just in time for our 2009 Victorian Christmas Show House. The two Chelsea low art tiles missing from the original 1880 parlor fireplace surround are now in place—one celadon flower-patterned relief tile belonging to the Estate having been located in a Marshfield home and returned, and one natural process tile having been funded by Family Fun Day 2009 and then prototyped, molded, glazed, and replicated by L'Esperance Tile Works, Rock City Falls, New York. The masonry and mantle have been refurbished and painted; the marble hearth, cleaned and waxed. In short, Ms. Perugini's meticulous conservation treatment has restored the parlor fireplace to its former grandeur. Please take special note of it next time you visit! And we must take special note here of Trustee **Pam Aieta** because she is in great measure responsible for the successful completion of this historical restoration project. Her energy in the face of exhaustive research and her determination in the face of great challenge have made a lasting impression on the house that Caroline built. Thank you, Pam!

Happenings at the Mansion

Victorian Christmas Gala and Designer Show House 2009

Co-chaired by **Eileen Agostini** and **Virginia Gaffey**, the fifth annual Victorian Christmas event, "A Holiday by the Sea," transformed the elegant 1880 Webster mansion into a memorable celebration of the season. The opening Gala Cocktail Party gave guests a chance to meet our designers and preview their sparkling rooms as well as participate in a silent auction full of interesting items. Highlighting the evening were visits by none other than Daniel Webster himself (visit crankyanknees.net) and the one and only Saint Nicholas with his wife (visit santaisbelieving.com).

Dressed for the holidays, the mansion extended a gracious welcome to all who entered (some 850 visitors!). From the Veranda's festive greenery (by Gwen Frazier) to the Foyer's beautiful mantle and grand staircase decorations (Kelli Dolloff, Artistic Blossoms), everyone knew that they were in for a special treat. Who can forget the gorgeous snowy Parlor (Deb Dunphy, The Classic Interior) with its lovely fresh florals and greens (Ralph Hoelze, Interpretations) or the elegant beribboned Dining Room (Webster House Decorators, Morning Glories of Duxbury, Veronica's Sweetcakes)? The silvery Butler's Pantry (Jinny Gaffey) or the cobalt blue and peach Kitchen (Chickie Olson)?

The upstairs rooms held even more surprises. The Webster Study was furnished as a sea captain's retreat and boasted a magnificent antique desk (from Ellie Hoehn, Springbrook Antiques), Webster's circa 1800 chair, and a handcrafted ship model (Imants Kiburis). The Hall Bath (Tara Donovan and Michael Edwards) invited guilty—sorry, make that gilded—pleasures, while the Petite Room next to it served as an artist's nook and featured original works of art (by Pat Smith). The Webster Bedchamber (Y'ise Gardeners) sported lush floral arrangements, Caroline's Bath (Suzie Oakman and Adele Madden) was awash in beautiful baubles, and her Bedchamber (Seaside Gardeners) was a statement of floral elegance that the mistress of the house would certainly have loved. In prior years, the Show House would have ended here, but 2009 featured two more rooms—the Boudoir (Jean Peck), Caroline's private sitting room, which took its inspiration from the Silk Road and featured handmade origami cranes adorning a feather tree, and the Nursery (Cathy Maher and Jean Peck), which delighted us with its cuddly teddy bears and starry ambience.

The Webster mansion never looked so good (well, okay, we say that about every Victorian Christmas!). Our sincere thanks to all of the designers, sponsors, vendors, media personnel, volunteers, and visitors who made our signature event for 2009 a fabulous success!



Parlor



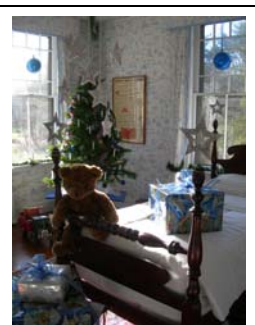
Dining Room



Webster's Study



Caroline's Bedchamber



Nursery

Please check our website www.DanielWebsterEstate.org to view more photos of Victorian Christmas 2009.

Planting of the Side Garden

Last year saw improvement not only inside the Webster mansion but also outside in the form of a lovely garden on the north side of the house. Trustee **Gwen Frazier** designed the Victorian-style garden and, with the help of many volunteers, including John Fucci, Ken Caruso, Barbara Caruso, Jane Johansen, Carol Kiburis, Barbara Carney, and Jinny Gaffey, prepared it for planting by rototilling the ground, pruning the big holly tree nearby, removing poison ivy, and repairing the stone wall bordering the area. The garden was then

planted with fifteen "Endless Summer" hydrangeas donated by Carol Kiburis, dozens of day lilies from Gail Brooks, and many other plants from DWPT members. Thanks to everyone's contributions, the Side Garden emerged in all its glory in the spring of 2009. When you tour the Webster Estate this spring and summer, be sure to stop and visit this charming space. And remember, this garden project is ongoing, so please contact Gwen (781-834-4180) if you wish to donate plant material.



Italian Holiday Cooking Class

On December 15, 2009, the Daniel Webster Estate hosted an Italian holiday cooking class with **Anna M. Frattaroli** of Lucia Ristorante on Hanover Street in Boston's Historic North End. Ms. Frattaroli is the vice president of the Gruppo Ristoranti Italiano, which is an Italian culinary institute in Piedmont, Italy, dedicated to preserving authentic Italian recipes and preparations. Born in Abruzzi, Italy, Ms. Frattaroli has led many culinary and wine tours of Italy and has extensively studied viticulture. Under her tutelage, the small-group cooking class gathered in the Webster Kitchen and prepared various gnocchi dishes, breadsticks, a sumptuous pork loin, and delicious seafood risotto and then repaired to the Dining Room to wine and dine on the fruits of their labor. We salute Trustee **Eileen Byrne** for organizing this spirited event, the substantial proceeds of which are earmarked for the Webster Estate's drive to save our century-old stained glass windows.

HOST YOUR SPECIAL HAPPENING AT THE GRACIOUS AND HISTORIC DANIEL WEBSTER ESTATE!

The Estate is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is shared with the public through tours, lectures, and a variety of programs. The mansion is available to rent for celebrations (including weddings) as well as corporate seminars and events.

Please call Function Manager Virginia Gaffey (781-837-2403) for rental details.

Daniel Webster Estate & Heritage Center

238 Webster Street, Marshfield, MA 02050



Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Marshfield, MA
Permit No. 238

The Estate is open to visitors of all ages, so please come and let us inform and entertain you!

Tour hours: Thursdays, July—September, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., and first Sunday in May, June, August—November, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Feel free to contact us for more information.

Telephone: 781-834-0548 *Website:* www.DanielWebsterEstate.org

Sincere Thanks to the Sponsors of Victorian Christmas 2009

From Marshfield: David Price Automotive; Rockland Federal Credit Union; ABC Equipment Company; Rand Handy Oil Company; Hubbard Plumbing Company; The Business Center of Marshfield; Damon, Topham and Company LLC; Marshfield Hills General Store
From Perkinsville, Vermont: Vermont Soapstone Company

Calendar of Programs and Special Events

- ▶ **March 21, *Volunteer Thank You Tea***, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., at the Daniel Webster Estate, by invitation.
- ▶ **April 10, *2010 South Shore History Symposium***, “Summer Folk: The History of Tourism on the South Shore,” 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. (registration at 9:30 a.m.), at Church of the Pilgrimage, Town Square, Plymouth. Please visit www.SouthShoreBackroads.org for further details.
- ▶ **May 16, *Springtime Victorian Tea***, first of our three 2010 Seasonal Teas, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. (seating at 2:00 p.m.), at the Webster Estate. Admission \$15.00 (mansion tour included). RSVP Virginia at 781-837-2403 or Eileen at 781-837-7579. Please mark your social calendar for our Summertime Tea on July 18 and our Fall Tea on October 17.
- ▶ **June 13, *YesterDays***, “A Celebration of Marshfield’s History,” 12 noon to 4:00 p.m., at the Webster Estate, Marsha Thomas House, and Winslow House. Event is free and open to the public. More details given on our website.

For information about the Estate’s upcoming programs, lectures, and special events,
please check our website www.DanielWebsterEstate.org.

Webster Estate Drive to Save Our Stained Glass Windows

Time and damage have taken their toll on two stained glass windows that have been a part of the Webster mansion since 1880.

The 130-year-old *parlor transom*, which bears the Webster crest, and *dining room fireplace alcove window* need repair and restoration.

The Webster Estate Drive to Save Our Stained Glass Windows extends heartfelt thanks to

the Marshfield Cultural Council for its generous grant and the Community League of Marshfield and Larry Nelson family for their kind gifts,
all of which made an inspiring dent in our \$5,000.00 goal and set this project in motion!

Now we ask for your help—please make a donation *today* so that we can save these historical treasures for *tomorrow*!