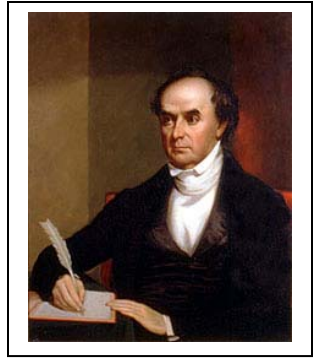


It is wise for us to recur to the history of our ancestors. Those who do not look upon themselves as a link connecting the Past with the Future do not perform their duty to the world.

--Daniel Webster



Winter 2009

The Orator

Newsletter of the Daniel Webster Preservation Trust, Inc.

<i>Message from Our President</i>	In This Issue
<p><i>Dear Friend,</i></p> <p>In John F. Kennedy's <i>Profiles in Courage</i>, Daniel Webster is lauded as a statesman who acted decisively to preserve our nation, setting the stage for the heroic leadership of Abraham Lincoln. Without Webster's individual acts, our nation would have been divided—and our democratic heritage endangered.</p> <p>Daniel Webster was there when our nation required action. Today, we are asking that you act in furthering our historic mission to preserve Daniel Webster's Estate!</p> <p>This first issue of <i>The Orator</i> is intended to provide you with details about our all-volunteer organization, the Daniel Webster Preservation Trust (DWPT), including our history, current events, and future goals.</p> <p>We invite you to join with us in our continuing efforts to preserve, protect, and enjoy the Daniel Webster Estate and Heritage Center. As you will see in the materials enclosed, your participation can take on many forms that fit your schedule and budget, from making a donation to serving as a tour guide, from tending our gardens to volunteering for one of our special events. Whatever your interest, we thank you in advance for your much-needed support!</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Jim Cantwell, DWPT President</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ President's Message ▶ Honoring Webster ▶ History of the Estate ▶ Calendar of New Events ▶ Happenings at the Mansion ▶ Organizational Information ▶ Estate Rental Opportunities ▶ Member/Volunteer Drive
<p>DWPT Recognized for Outstanding Work</p>	<p>Membership/Volunteerism</p>
<p>On February 9, the Marshfield Board of Selectmen, recognizing the tremendous work of the DWPT, voted unanimously to have the DWPT operate the Daniel Webster Estate and Heritage Center for ten more years. Among the terms of this ten-year lease is a requirement that the DWPT raise a minimum of \$25,000 per year to fund operation of the Estate, including the hosting of historical programs and the assumption of many structural repairs to the mansion.</p> <p>"It is gratifying for the town to recognize the significant work of our all-volunteer organization," stated Pam Aieta, one of fourteen Directors for the DWPT.</p> <p>This continued role confirms what many folks in Marshfield already know—that the DWPT has been hard at work maintaining this historical property. We look forward with enthusiasm to the next ten years. Come join us in the fun!</p>	<p>The Daniel Webster Estate and Heritage Center is operated and maintained by dedicated members and volunteers who implement an impressive array of historical, educational, and cultural events and programs. We welcome new members and individuals willing to share their time and talents.</p> <p>Our needs cover a wide range and include, for example, docents for special events and estate tours, hostesses for social events, gardeners, individuals interested in helping with a variety of fundraising activities, and persons skilled in secretarial and computer tasks. Please call Virginia Gaffey at 781-837-2403 for further information about volunteer opportunities, or visit our website: www.DanielWebsterEstate.org</p> <p>For membership/donation details, please see the envelope inserted for your convenience with this newsletter.</p>



Why We Honor Webster

As the great articulator of American nationalism in a time of great anxiety and change, Daniel Webster served our country over the course of forty years as lawyer, congressman, senator, and secretary of state. In concert with Henry Clay of Kentucky, he advocated preservation of the Union while other voices, led by John Calhoun of South Carolina, were threatening to tear it apart. In a January 1830 Senate speech, Webster, with effortless eloquence, delivered these powerful words:

“When my eyes shall be turned to behold for the last time the sun in heaven, may I not see him shining upon the broken and dishonored fragments of a once glorious Union; on states dissevered, discordant, belligerent; on a land bent with civil feuds or drenched... in fraternal blood. Let their last feeble and lingering glance rather behold the gorgeous ensign of the Republic, now known and honored throughout the earth...Liberty and Union, now and forever, one and inseparable!”

While his oration did not quell disagreements between North and South, it did postpone the rebellion until 1861, when there was widespread northern support to end slavery. Marshfield is honored to celebrate Webster’s life by preserving the site where he lived from 1832 until his death in 1852.

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:

Jim Cantwell, President; Jim Haddad, Vice President; Barbara Carney, Secretary; Jim Botelho, Treasurer

Board of Trustees:

Eileen Agostini, Pam Aieta, Jim Botelho, John Bowes, Eileen Byrne, Barbara Carney, Gail Connolly, Virginia Gaffey, Jim Haddad, Carol Kiburis, Ann McAleer, Larry Nelson, Phyllis Nielsen

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 to the public on Thursdays, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., July through September, and by appointment (call Virginia, 781-837-2403)

History of the Estate

While Daniel Webster is remembered by many as statesman extraordinaire, he is least known for being an exceptional farmer, fisherman, and hunter. Beginning in 1832 with his purchase of a 600-acre estate in Marshfield that had its origins in the land granted in 1640 to William Thomas by the Plymouth Proprietors, Webster went on to build a rural showplace and highly productive farm of some 1,800 acres that he called “Green Harbor.” After Webster’s death, his son Fletcher’s family continued to live on the estate, honoring his wish to preserve it. When the original house burned in 1878, Fletcher’s wife Caroline rebuilt it, with the help of the renowned Boston architect, William Gibbons Preston. In 1884 she sold the place to Walton Hall of Marshfield, and his family occupied it until 1950. Over the years the farm passed through several owners, including a day camp operator, and much of the land was subdivided for houses. The town of Marshfield, in partnership with the DWPT, acquired the mansion and last remaining 14 acres in 1995.

Did You Know...?

After taking the presidential oath of office on March 4, 1841, President William Harrison developed pneumonia due to the bitter cold on his Inauguration Day and died on April 4. Vice President John Tyler had returned to his home in Virginia and was notified of the president’s death by Daniel Webster’s son, Fletcher. Tyler was to be Harrison’s successor, but during the time of transition, the highest ranking official in Washington was then Secretary of State Daniel Webster. Webster became acting president until Tyler took the oath of office on April 6.

Source: *The Man and His Time*, by Robert Remini

Calendar of Programs and Special Events

The Estate is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is shared with the public through museum visits, lectures, and a variety of programs offered to South Shore residents, as well as wedding celebrations, rehearsal dinners, teas, and corporate meetings and events. Please call Virginia at 781-837-2403 for details regarding rental of the Estate. Our Lecture Series will be announced on our website.

- ▶ **April 18** *2009 Symposium, “For Lincoln & Liberty”: The South Shore in the Civil War*, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Allerton Hall, Church of the Pilgrimage, Town Square, Plymouth. As members of the Back Roads of the South Shore, we are very pleased to announce this symposium.
- ▶ **April 26** *Webster Estate Bridal Faire*, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., a showcase of the South Shore’s finest caterers, floral designers, photographers, and cake designers. Details and photos on our website.
- ▶ **May 31** *Marshfield “Yesteryears” Open House*, the beginning of a variety of exciting events at the historic homes located on Webster Street, Marshfield, including the Daniel Webster Estate, Marsha Thomas House, and Historic Winslow House. Please check our website for details.
- ▶ **June 7** *Webster Estate Summer Tea*, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. (seating between 2:00 and 3:00 p.m.), an afternoon of tea, sweets, and savories that includes a tour of the mansion. Cost is \$15.00 per person. Please call Virginia (781-837-2403) or Eileen (781-837-7579) for reservations.
- ▶ **June 18** *Docent Training*, 10:00 a.m. to noon, in anticipation of our public house tours, which are to be held on Thursdays from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in July through September.

Happenings at the Mansion

Victorian Christmas 2008

Our fourth Victorian Christmas Designer Show House was a huge success. Our designers transformed the Queen Anne-style Webster mansion into a very special "Musical Holiday" creation. Our Holly Boutique was filled with many handmade gift items; raffles and refreshments provided a perfect ending for our visitors.



Parlor, "O Tannenbaum," designed by Deb Dunphy, The Classic Interior, with floral decorations by Kate Farrington, Gatherings.

A Visit from the Governor

On January 16, Governor Deval Patrick visited the Daniel Webster Estate to learn about our efforts to preserve this historic site and to speak with local leaders about the state's fiscal challenges.



Photo courtesy of Carol Shrand
From back, DWPT Directors Larry Nelson, Eileen Agostini, Carol Kiburis, Gail Connolly, Jim Haddad, Virginia Gaffey, and Ann McAleer; Selectwoman Katie O'Donnell; Trust Directors Otis Carney, Barbara Carney, and Pam Aieta; Town Administrator Rocco Longo; Gov. Deval Patrick; State Rep. Jim Cantwell.

Weddings and More

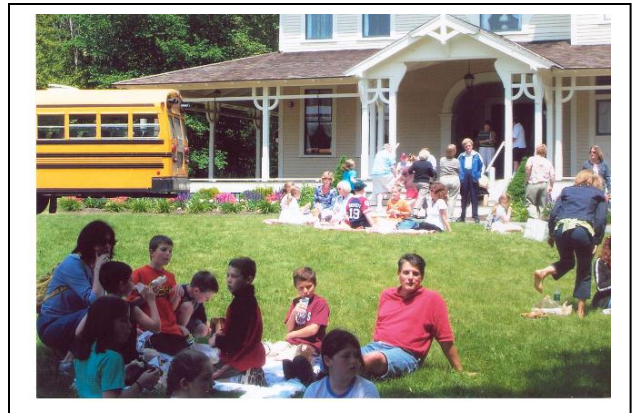
The Webster Estate provides a wonderful setting for a variety of functions, and we gladly accept reservations and contracts for weddings, rehearsal dinners, teas, and corporate events. As part of our service, we interact with your vendors and provide general oversight prior to and during your event.



Photo courtesy of Jack Foley Photography
"Historic" Walsh-Slaven 2008 Estate wedding, complete with antique car.

Educational Field Trips

As part of our mission to honor and share the Estate, we schedule educational field trips each spring for as many as 500 students from Marshfield's five elementary schools.



Third graders along with their teachers and chaperones are greeted by volunteer tour guides. The children picnic on the veranda, play Eye Spy to locate historic items, find leaves off the famous linden tree, and walk the Pilgrim Trail. All learn about our famous statesman and his estate.

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

Tour hours: Thursdays, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., July through September, and by appointment (call Virginia at 781-837-2403)

Location: 238 Webster Street, Marshfield, Massachusetts 02050

Telephone: 781-834-0548

Website: www.DanielWebsterEstate.org

Daniel Webster Estate & Heritage Center

www.DanielWebsterEstate.org

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Marshfield, MA 02050

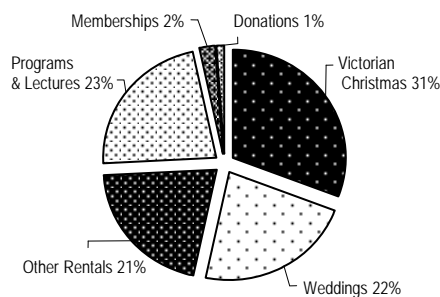
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The DWPT is proud to introduce you to the first issue of our newsletter, *The Orator*.
We hope to inform and inspire you!

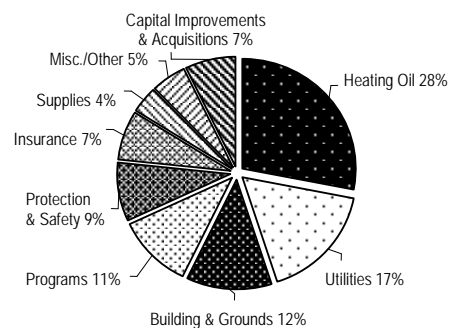
How We Allocate Your Donation

Your tax-exempt donation to the Daniel Webster Preservation Trust, Inc. has a significant impact. It gives the DWPT the resources it needs to continue its stewardship of this invaluable community property. We encourage you to help us in preserving and protecting this unique historical treasure!

2008 Income



2008 Expenses



Please feel free to contact us for more information.

Estate telephone: 781-834-0548

Website: www.DanielWebsterEstate.org