HEADWATERS: THE BEGINNING OF WATER MANAGEMENT

In 1876, Tudor Place’s owner for 56 years, Britannia W. Kennon, oversaw a kitchen addition on the west end of the house. Underneath the addition lies a very large cistern, purportedly 20 feet deep, that Armistead Peter 3rd, her great-grandson, claimed provided the entire water supply for the house for a period of time in the late 19th century.

This historic cistern demonstrates innovative engineering by collecting rain water in the gutters and directing it into the cistern via the West Wing downspouts. Those downspouts were capped with specially-designed levers that directed water either onto the lawn or into the cistern for storage and reuse.

Armistead Peter 3rd described an “outlet” that kept the water in the cistern at roughly 11 feet deep, a design component to stop overflow even after it was no longer in use.

In the latter part of the 19th century, Britannia connected the house to city water. She paid $500 for what was supposed to be “an endless supply of water in perpetuity.” “Perpetuity” did not last very long, however, as her great-grandson had to pay a yearly bill for water consumption during his period of ownership.

The cistern was kept in working order throughout the house’s transition to city-supplied water. Choosing to do so helped Tudor Place’s Georgetown neighbors — Armistead Peter 3rd recalled that “many, many years ago, at the time of a shortage in Georgetown, many people in Georgetown came here for their water until the regular supply was put back into service. My father said that he has been told that there were lines of people standing from the gate carrying buckets, coming into the kitchen, and pumping the water from the cistern into the buckets.”

Armistead Peter 3rd, Tudor Place, (Washington, D.C., Georgetown: Privately Printed, 1969), 17
A CURRENT FLOW: MODERN ADJUSTMENTS FOR AN OLD IDEA

Today, property owners still struggle with the effects of excess and lack of water. When there is too much water for the ground to absorb (for example, during the summer of 2018) the excess is called stormwater. This type of water is a grave concern for Georgetown and the District because it carries pollution and silt runoff into rivers and streams. It can also damage infrastructure such as sidewalks and erode hillsides.

As dedicated stewards of Tudor Place’s unique urban landscape, including wildlife and historic trees, we designed an active stormwater management system to combat the dangers of stormwater and serve Georgetown’s water-based needs.

Our grounds are a place of refuge, a source of beauty, and a space of historic tranquility. Stewarding our National Historic Landmark with this cost-effective and environmentally-friendly project sets a standard for water management in historic institutions. In doing so, we further the Peter family’s legacy of preservation.

JOIN US – TOGETHER WE CAN PRESERVE THIS GEM OF GEORGETOWN. CLICK HERE.

WELCOME JOSH

Joshua Meyer joins Tudor Place as the new Director of Buildings, Gardens & Grounds. Josh comes to Tudor Place with a strong background in cultural landscape management, with experience in various planning and management endeavors in Pennsylvania, Virginia and the United Kingdom. Most recently, he was site caretaker at the Woodford Mansion in Philadelphia. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Landscape Architecture and graduate degrees in Sustainable Development and Library & Information Science.
Dear Friends of Tudor Place,

Installation of the South Lawn Cistern, described in the cover article, was the result of a planning process that included civil engineers, architects, local authorities, neighbors, contractors and many others. Designing the system was complicated because we had to balance effective operation with the multiple sensitivities of this special place and the surrounding neighborhood. I am proud of the design work and the Board of Trustees’ commitment to moving forward with this project, asserting our dedication to sustainable site operations and care for the environment we share.

In the coming months, our attention will turn toward projects that will ensure the preservation of the Main House, the long-term care of collections and the vitality of our educational programming. Updating the mechanical systems of the house, and introducing fire suppression systems, will protect this architectural treasure from slow deterioration through environmental factors and instantaneous destruction through disaster. We will transform the Garage into a center for the management of collections and archives, a flexible venue for the exhibition of collections, and a state-of-the-art facility to support educational programming.

These planning efforts build upon more than a decade of thoughtful preparation through architectural analysis, programmatic assessments and collections studies. As we enter our fourth decade of operation as a public museum, we confidently advance from conceptual ideas to concrete plans.

Standing firmly on the foundation built by those who came before us, we boldly address the challenges of the coming decade by using tomorrow’s ideas to preserve and share the rich stories of this landmark. Join us moving forward in the third century by visiting tudorplace.org/third-century.

Mark S. Hudson, Executive Director

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REMEMBERING 30 YEARS OF TUDOR PLACE MUSEUM HISTORY

FOUR YEARS AGO—2014
Tudor Place received the Ross Merrill Award for Outstanding Commitment to the Care and Preservation of Collections. The award, presented annually by the American Institute for Conservation of Historic & Artistic Works (AIC) and Heritage Preservation, was given to Tudor Place for its systematic and strategic efforts to provide for the long-term care of its diverse collections. In accepting the award, former Tudor Place Executive Director Leslie Buhler said, “It is an honor to see the often quiet work of many years recognized with this highly coveted award.”

FOURTEEN YEARS AGO—2004
Historical Detectives, an educational program for elementary school students, was introduced in the spring. Using objects, photographs and documents, students uncovered clues about daily life at Tudor Place. Over 400 students participated when the program was first introduced. To this day, thousands continue to benefit.

TWENTY-FOUR YEARS AGO—1994
Fifteen family marriages were commemorated through the exhibition, “Something Old, Something New: Two Hundred Years of Tudor Place Family Weddings.” Curated by Leni Preston, the exhibition centered on wedding gowns, photographs and manuscripts from the archives.

3. What year did Tudor Place become a public museum?
   a) 1918  b) 1805  c) 1988  d) 1914

4. How many Armisteads were owners of Tudor Place?
   a) 4  b) 3  c) 2  d) 1

5. Pierre Charles L’Enfant, who created the L’Enfant Plan for George Washington, played what role in the Continental Army?
   a) Advisor to the President  b) Engineer  c) Architect  d) Quarry Master

TUDOR PLACE
History Quiz

1. George Washington visited Tudor Place after he became president.
   a) True  b) False

2. What are Britannia’s sisters’ names?
   a) America and Columbia  b) Columbia and Liberty  c) Martha “Markie” and America

Students look for clues in the Tudor Place Saloon

Eryn Wentworth from AIC (left) and Lawrence Reger from Heritage Preservation (right) present the Ross Merrill Award to Leslie Buhler (center).

Family wedding dresses were the centerpiece of the “Something Old, Something New” exhibition.

Sustainability, International Style

In July, three Tudor Place staff members traveled to Sunderland, England to explore operations and share sustainability methodology at Washington Old Hall and other nearby National Trust sites. Staff observed how on-site composting and beekeeping promoted the vitality of their gardens and the overall health of the environment. Staff also participated in the annual July 4 celebration at Washington Old Hall—a unique, moving experience for these Americans. We are grateful to Ellaine Hush and her team at Washington Old Hall for making this a memorable experience.

This project was funded by the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities/Sister Cities Program, which is supported by the National Endowment for the Arts.

Sneak Peek at the 2018 Holiday Installation

This holiday season, visitors to Tudor Place will be transported back to Christmas 1918. We join together in commemorating the centennial of the First World War, which ended at the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918. The holiday décor throughout the house will evoke the styles of that particular year. Several programs will highlight the ways in which the Peter family and their servants celebrated Christmas—just six weeks after the end of World War I while continuing to support American troops abroad and here in Washington. Thanks to Armistead Peter Jr.’s diary, we know that Mrs. Peter knitted socks for American troops in Europe and that their son, Armistead Peter 3rd, remained on active duty for much of December 1918. During that holiday season, residents of Tudor Place could once again enjoy bacon and bread, made without substitutes, now that wartime restrictions and rationing had ended. Come experience this important time in Tudor Place and national history!

A Spectacular Setting for Your Special Event

Historic buildings and charming gardens provide an elegant setting for weddings, dinners, lunches and corporate retreats. Book your next special event at Tudor Place. For pricing and availability, call 202.965.0400 x115 or email us at events@tudorplace.org.

Strolling in the garden after the ceremony. Photo courtesy Erin Julius
**Please Join Us for These Upcoming Events**

**Tuesday, October 23 | 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM**
**Landmark Society Lecture: Mapping Early Washington**
Architectural historian and cartographer Don Alexander Hawkins will discuss how he creates historic maps for publications around the capital and country. Find your inner “map-head” and come listen to the intricacies of how the capital was designed.

**Pay What You Can**

**Click Here to Attend This Landmark Society Lecture!**

**Saturday, October 27 | 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM**
**Trick or Treat at Tudor Place!**
Explore the Tudor Place garden as the seasons change, and trick-or-treat throughout the site. Make your own superhero bracers and festive owl decoration. Play traditional outdoor games, enjoy face painting and paint your own pumpkin to take home. Costumes suggested, but not required. This outdoor event will take place rain or shine. Please dress for the weather!

**Child: Tudor Place Member $8 | Non-Member $10**
**Adult Chaperone $15**

**Click Here to Join Us for Trick-or-Treating!**

**Sunday, November 11 | 12:00 PM – 3:00 PM**
**Veterans Day: Generations of Service Tours**
In honor of Veterans Day, guided house tours focus on stories and artifacts recalling six generations of an American family in wartime, abroad and at home. Military families and veterans tour free.

**Click Here to Plan Your Special Veterans Tour!**

**Saturday, December 1 | 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM**
**Deck the Halls: A Family at Christmas**
Miss Duvall, continuing to knit socks to send to soldiers overseas. In the spirit of this service, Tudor Place will be collecting Toys for Tots, and new, warm, men’s crew socks that So Others Can Keep Striding will distribute to the homeless community.

**Tudor Place Member: Child $8 | Adult $3**
**Non-Member: Child $10 | Adult $5**

**Click Here to Join in the Festive Spirit!**

**Select Evenings: December 4-20 | 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM**
**Candlelight Tours**
Celebrate the season and the Centennial of the end of World War I with a festive evening at Tudor Place. Tour the mansion by “candlelight,” viewing decorations throughout the house inspired by 1918 post-war holiday celebrations. Take a nighttime stroll through the illuminated gardens and grounds and enjoy light refreshments inspired by food and drink at home and on the front lines a century ago. The perfect evening for history lovers and Christmas enthusiasts alike!

**Tudor Place Member: $15 | Non-Member: $25**

**Click Here to Join Us for an Illuminating Evening!**

For information on these events and more, visit us at www.tudorplace.org/programs or call 202.965.0400.