

Annual Report

April 1, 2009 - March 31, 2010



Royall House & Slave Quarters

Board of Directors 2009-2010

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Penny Outlaw

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Thomas Lincoln

PRESIDENTS' REPORT

Dear Members and Friends:

As you know, the mission of the Royall House and Slave Quarters is “to explore the meanings of freedom and independence before, during and since the American Revolution, in the context of a household of wealthy Loyalists and enslaved Africans.” All missions imply a journey, and this year ours has taken us toward a deeper understanding of the interdependence of these two distinct yet intertwined groups.

This winter, the 1772 Foundation awarded the Royall House and Slave Quarters a \$45,000 grant to reinterpret the kitchen in the Royall mansion, the chamber above it, and the narrow, worn staircase that connects them. This service corridor was the center of activity for much of the household. From the kitchen, enslaved people fed **all** the occupants of the house, including the Royall family and up to thirty-five resident workers. Upstairs, in the “kitchen chamber” enslaved people would have folded and marked textiles, cared for Isaac and Elizabeth Royall’s clothing and may have helped them dress. The 1739 inventory that details the contents of the house tells us that several enslaved people also slept in these two rooms, on mattresses that were tucked away while the rooms were in active use.

The reinterpretation work began this spring with a careful examination of all aspects of the spaces including analysis of the paint, plaster, and woodwork, and the research into what type of furnishings and working tools would have been found in the rooms during the middle of the eighteenth century. We hired experts in the field to help us with these investigations, and they have produced reports that are

changing the way we understand daily life in the Royall House.

Along with the refurbished and reinstalled spaces, this ambitious project will also include changes in how we show visitors through the Royall House. Starting this year, visitors will no longer enter through the imposing front door or the formal dining room, but will instead enter directly into the kitchen. This subtle shift in our tour route will inform the story that we tell, allowing visitors to experience the site from a whole new perspective—one not typically seen in historic house museums. When we launch our new tour later this summer, we hope that it presents a balanced picture of northern colonial slavery, illustrating the relationships between all the people who lived and worked in the Royall House.

At a time when visitation to house museums across the country has decreased, interest in our mission continues to soar. We have had excellent media coverage, both in print and on the air, resulting in more individual visitors to the site and more requests for group tours. History clubs, book groups, universities, and public schools have been calling the museum to schedule visits, resulting in the busiest April and May on record. Of course, we are always looking for volunteers who are interested in learning the tour and helping to lead groups during the week.

As we work on this exciting project, our staff and volunteers continue to make progress on other core museum activities. We continue to catalog our collections, conduct research on the buildings and their occupants, preserve the historic fabric

of our two structures, and enhance the landscaped grounds. And of course, our success would not be possible without you, our loyal members, donors, and volunteers. Your contributions of time, expertise, and financial support make it possible for us to serve the public, and it encourages us to strive to become a world-class museum and destination for visitors of all ages and interests. On behalf of the Board of Directors, we all look forward to welcoming you to the Royall House and Slave Quarters this tour season.

Penny Outlaw and Peter Gittleman
Co-Presidents

OPERATING REVENUE AND EXPENSES*

REVENUE	
Admissions	\$4,335
Annual Appeal	5,425
Events	4,755
Contributions and gifts	14,265
Endowment utilization	9,087
Membership	6,570
Rentals	11,875
Sale of merchandise	2,186
Miscellaneous Income	320
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TOTAL REVENUE	\$58,818
EXPENSES	
Operations	
Advertising	\$547
Alarm	612
Bank Fees	110
Cost of Goods Sold	829
Fees	1,950
Insurance	7,543
Payroll	26,184
Taxes and Filing Fees	50
Utilities	4,113
Miscellaneous	808
Total operations expenses	\$42,746
Collections and Buildings	
Maintenance	7,293
Reinterpretation Project	4,980
Total collections expenses	\$12,273
Public Outreach	
Honoraria	\$1,500
Postage, printing	1,990
Supplies	309
Total public outreach expenses	\$3,799
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TOTAL EXPENSES	\$58,818
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NET OPERATIONS	\$0

**Please Note: These represent unaudited figures.*

ASSETS

Money Market	\$39,037
CD Portfolio	31,094
Cash	1,207
Principal Investments	381,194
Shop Inventory	663
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TOTAL ASSETS	\$453,195

LIABILITIES

Liabilities	\$0
Temporarily Restricted Funds	45,000
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TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$45,000

PROPOSED SLATE OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR 2010-2011

Co-Presidents	Peter Gittleman and Penny Outlaw
Communications Secretary	Gracelaw Simmons
Recording Secretary	Jennifer Pustz
Treasurer	Emily Fletcher
Assistant Treasurer	Margen Kelsey

Directors whose terms expire:

in 2011

Anne Donaghy
Michael Oliver
Pamela Speciale

in 2012

John Anderson
Michael Baenen
David Goodine
Kathryn Kucharski

Honorary Directors

Lois Hahn
Julia Royall