

ROYALL HOUSE AND SLAVE QUARTERS

Annual Report

April 1, 2010 - March 31, 2011



Royall House & Slave Quarters

Board of Directors 2010-2011

Co-Presidents

Peter Gittleman
Penny Outlaw

Communications Secretary

Gracelaw Simmons

Recording Secretary

Jennifer Pustz

Treasurer

Emily Fletcher

Asst. Treasurer

Margen Kelsey

Board of Directors

John Anderson
Michael Baenen
Anne Donaghy
David Goodine
Theresa Kelliher
Kathryn Kucharski
Michael Oliver
Pamela Speciale

Honorary Directors

Lois Hahn
Julia Royall

Executive Director

Thomas Lincoln

PRESIDENTS' REPORT

Dear Members and Friends:

This year the Royall House and Slave Quarters has moved significantly closer to achieving the goals of its mission statement: explore the meanings of freedom and independence before, during and since the American Revolution, in context of a household of wealthy Loyalists and enslaved Africans. As you know, last year we received a \$45,000 grant from the 1772 Foundation to reinterpret the kitchen in the Royall mansion, the chamber above the kitchen and the connecting staircase. As a result of this grant many board members and volunteers focused on this important project, which included finding the appropriate specialists to ensure that we chose accurate paint colors and furnishings, refining the interpretive tour, and installing new furnishings, textiles, and other objects to bring the story to life. We are pleased to announce that this work has been substantially completed. Now, when visitors walk from the Out Kitchen door in the slave quarters to the Kitchen door of the Royall mansion and enter as the enslaved people would have, they will have a greater understanding of the difference in perspective between the two interdependent groups who inhabited this property.

There were many issues to be addressed and decisions that had to be made with respect to the reinterpretation, and most of them were related to the unique attributes of the project. Some of these involved considering the best way to make physical changes to the spaces according to current preservation standards, which allows them to be reversible. We had to ask ourselves what year or years did we wish to present, given the fact that our story interprets two generations of the Royall family, both of whom made their own marks on the property. We also had to make careful use of the meager existing documentation to support the interpretation. Although Isaac Royall Sr.'s 1739 inventory provided a relatively rich

starting point, we had to think carefully about what bedding for enslaved people might have looked like, what made up the 110 pounds of pewter, and how the pewter and other objects in the rooms should be installed. We would like to extend to you a personal invitation to visit the Royall House and Slave Quarters this season to find out how we, and the experts we consulted, addressed some of these key issues and to experience this important national historic landmark from a new perspective. We guarantee that you will come away with a new understanding of everyday life in colonial Medford and the intertwined lives of the people who lived on this estate.

In addition to the Kitchen/Kitchen Chamber project, other work on core museum activities continued, and this year was productive from other perspectives as well. We made progress in the ongoing project of inventorying and documenting our collection. We continued working with the academic community to provide research that enhances our understanding of what life was like for the Royalls and the enslaved people who coexisted here. Author M. T. Anderson, author of the *Octavian Nothing* books for young adults inspired us at our annual fundraiser. We hosted emerging and established scholars Benjamin Carp and Marla Miller for programs that further educated our audience about the history of colonial America. Visitation increased by 30 percent this year and gift shop sales continued to increase. More visitors coming from greater distances indicate the broad appeal of our mission. Word of mouth has brought many new visitors to the Royall House thanks to the efforts of our dedicated friends. We are beginning to examine how we can expand our group tour program. Our focus on northern colonial slavery also brought numerous teacher training programs to the Royall House and Slave Quarters and this promises

to be a critical area of growth. Our executive director gave presentations to many local and regional groups of general audiences as well as museum professionals. The landscape committee continued its work to care for our historic plantings and improve the grounds. Finally, during the process of reinterpreting the kitchen wing, we made many new friends. From the students at Assabet Regional Technical High School who learned about eighteenth-century ironwork to produce tools for the Kitchen hearth to the tailors who fashioned clothing appropriate for both sides of the household, to the potter who created custom milk pans based on fragments from our archeological artifacts, we have found many talented partners who regularly commented on the honor they felt having their work included in this extraordinary installation.

All of this important work is made possible by our membership. Members ensure that our programs are always well attended, volunteer on many committees, and provide financial support and valuable feedback. On behalf of the Board of Directors, we would like to thank our members, donors, and volunteers. We know how valuable your time and resources are and we appreciate that you spend some of them with us. We would also like to issue an invitation to anyone who would like to get more involved as we continue to aspire to fulfilling our very important educational mission. We always welcome your comments, ideas and helping hands.

Penny Outlaw and Peter Gittleman
Co-Presidents

OPERATING REVENUE AND EXPENSES*

REVENUE	
Admissions	\$5,467
Annual Appeal	4,859
Events	3,561
Contributions and gifts	9,663
Endowment utilization	5,380
Grants	28,758
Membership	5,120
Rentals	11,910
Sale of merchandise	2,115
Miscellaneous Income	365
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TOTAL REVENUE	\$77,198

EXPENSES	
Operations	
Advertising	\$260
Alarm	612
Bank Fees	197
Cost of Goods Sold	784
Filing Fees	85
Insurance	6,720
Payroll	30,709
Professional Fees	2,350
Utilities	4,042
Miscellaneous	1,501
Total operations expenses	\$47,260

Collections and Buildings	
Maintenance	\$2,909
Reinterpretation Project	24,374
Total collections expenses	\$27,283

Public Outreach	
Honoraria	\$650
Postage, printing	1,621
Supplies	384
Total public outreach expenses	\$2,655

TOTAL EXPENSES	\$77,198
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NET OPERATIONS	\$0
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**Please Note: These represent unaudited figures.*

ASSETS

Money Market	\$9,720
CD Portfolio	31,538
Cash	2,657
Principal Investments	390,228
Shop Inventory	1,298
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TOTAL ASSETS	\$435,441

LIABILITIES

Liabilities	\$0
Temporarily Restricted Funds	17,622
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TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$17,622

PROPOSED SLATE OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR 2011-2012

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

Directors whose terms expire:

in 2012

John Anderson
Michael Baenen
David Goodine
Kathryn Kucharski

in 2013

Anne Donaghy
Michael Oliver
Pamela Speciale
Theresa Kelliher

Honorary Directors

Lois Hahn
Julia Royall