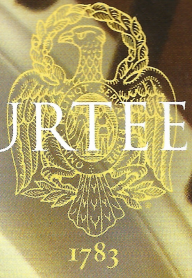




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THE REVIVAL OF THE HOYT GARDEN

Following the end of his tenure as president general, Harry Ramsay Hoyt made a remarkable leadership gift to the Society. He and Mrs. Hoyt personally contributed the funds needed to redesign and replace the garden at Anderson House. A generation later, that garden has been revived and serves as a tribute to the vision of one of the modern Society's most effective leaders.

Larz and Isabel Anderson took enormous pride in their gardens—both the spacious formal gardens at Weld, their home in Brookline, Massachusetts, and the more intimate garden at Anderson House. But by the early 1970s—over thirty years after Mrs. Anderson presented the mansion to the Society—the Anderson garden was badly overgrown and decayed. A thorough renovation was essential.

President General Harry Hoyt was both a leader and a generous donor. He saw what was needed and he and Mrs. Hoyt paid the costs as one of their many gifts to the Society. He was personally involved in designing the new garden and when it was complete, he and Mrs. Hoyt made a second generous gift to endow the maintenance of what they had worked to create.

The new garden, which a grateful Society named in honor of President General and Mrs. Hoyt, combined a rigidly geometric open space surrounding a reflecting pool with a series of island beds, planted with shrubs and ivy and divided by meandering gravel paths. The Anderson's large bronze Buddha, acquired in Japan, was moved from the entry hall of the house and placed in the center of the garden composition, overlooking a reflecting pool and providing a dividing point between the formal front and informal rear of the garden.

The Hoyt Garden design left in place the two large magnolia trees beside the east and west terraces. These trees were planted shortly after the house was finished in 1905 and are among the oldest and largest magnolia trees in Washington. Most other plants from the old Anderson garden were removed. In their place, the new garden



President General and Mrs. Hoyt at the 1974 Paris Triennial.

featured English boxwoods and low-maintenance shrubs. Magnolias were planted close to the south and west walls and trained as espalier. Hollies were planted in the southeast and southwest corners.

Along with the bronze Buddha, the Anderson's collection of fragmentary antique capitals and their outdoor statuary, including a bronze statue of Ceres, a headless and armless marble statue fragment (appearing ancient, but probably from the sixteenth or seventeenth century) and a lead alloy statue of Hercules, were moved to strategic points in the garden, along with a pair of

Japanese stone lanterns that originally graced the entry hall. The result was an attractive informal garden with a mixture of European and Oriental decorative elements.

The original Hoyt Garden plan served the Society well in its first decade, and reasonably well in its second, but by 2000 many of the plants had outgrown their spaces, and other significant maintenance issues had emerged. After a generation of exposure, some of the sculptures were showing signs of decay. The need for a thorough renovation of the Hoyt Garden was





The Hoyt Garden one year after completion: the Anderson's Japanese Buddha, moved from the entrance hall, was the central feature of the plan.

Jonathan Jensen (N.J.) and Kelly Stewart (N.J.), along with Harry Hoyt's grandson and successor, Bill Olinger (Pa.)—the new Hoyt Garden plan was devised during the fall and winter of 2009-2010.

The timing was fortuitous. The worst blizzard since 1922 struck Washington on February 5-6, 2010, dumping more than two feet of heavy, wet snow in the garden. Overgrown boxwood limbs snapped and magnolia branches broke under the weight. A large hemlock tree lost several limbs and began leaning toward the mansion.

In March—it took that long for the snow to

melt—crews from our landscaping contractor moved into to execute the renovation plan. Ruined magnolias against the west wall were removed, along with the spoiled shrubs and the damaged hemlock. The large magnolias were pruned. Heavy equipment plowed up the ivy and re-graded the garden.

The way was clear for the creation of the new Hoyt Garden. A large central lawn was installed for entertaining, with borders in front of the west and south walls. A slate patio was constructed surrounding the antique statue fragment on the east side of the lawn. The borders were planted out with boxwoods, azaleas, rhododendrons and

fully apparent by 2005, but there were other, more pressing maintenance concerns at the time, and the endowment fund—while sufficient for routine maintenance—could not bear the cost of a full renovation.

“We made an important decision in 2005,” says Executive Director Jack Warren. “Then property committee chairman Ross Perry and I decided that we should rely less on contractors and more on staff to maintain the garden.” We canceled the maintenance contract on reflecting pool and invested in the equipment and training needed to care for the pool ourselves. We began doing other work ourselves, too—and banked the savings to invest in a full-scale renovation. It took a few years for the savings to accumulate, but they did.

The next year we had all the outdoor sculpture—key elements in the Hoyt Garden plan—assessed by professional conservators. The two Japanese stone lanterns that had been moved from the front entry hall to the garden were found to have decayed through the freeze-thaw cycles of more than twenty Washington winters. They were stabilized and returned to the front entry hall.

The renovation of the Hoyt Garden was a priority of the 2007-2010 Triennium. With the encouragement of President General Forrest Pragoff, Property and Hoyt Garden Committee Chairman Jim Burke (N.J.), and advice from a group of committee members with experience in landscaping, gardening and architecture—Mark Ward (Pa.), Wayne Chatfield-Taylor (N.H.),

By the spring of 2010 the Hoyt Garden was a wilderness of overgrown shrubs and broken limbs, with none of the refined elegance of a generation earlier.



The new Hoyt Garden under construction in the spring of 2010, with the ground prepared for planting.



specimen shrubs. Hardy camellias were planted along the west wall. Spaces were saved in the front of the beds for annual and perennial flowers.

Most of the statuary and garden ornaments remain in the places assigned to them in the original Hoyt Garden plan, but the overall effect is much more open, with the central lawn

providing the Society with a new space for entertaining. The new design blends elements of the Anderson-era garden, which was essentially Italianate, in keeping with the Renaissance Revival design of the mansion, and the original Hoyt Garden, which drew inspiration from the Anderson's Asian art collection and Japanese garden design.



The focal point on the west side of the garden is a Ben Franklin Tree—*Franklinia alatamaha*—an unusual plant with historical ties to the revolutionary generation. The tree was chosen because it is both attractive—it has white blossoms and its leaves turn to orange-red in October and because of its symbolic significance. William Bartram, the great Pennsylvania horticulturalist of the revolutionary era, named the tree for an honorary member of the Pennsylvania Society.

Bartram discovered the tree in the 1770s while on a collecting trip in the South, growing in a small area along the Altamaha River in Georgia. He collected some of its seeds, from which he was able to grow the tree in his garden near Philadelphia. He recognized the tree as rare, noting that he had not found it elsewhere than that small patch on the Altamaha. An English naturalist visited the same spot in 1804 and described the tree (though he did not collect any seeds or cuttings from it).

Thereafter the tree was never seen again in the wild. It was apparently on the verge of extinction when Bartram first saw it. All specimens alive today are descended from the original tree Bartram grew in his famous Philadelphia garden. It remains an uncommon garden plant. It is neither easy to obtain nor easy to grow. It likes sandy, well-drained soil but does not tolerate drought well, and does not take kindly to being transplanted, so most gardeners do not attempt it.

Because of its beauty, its identity as an American plant with roots in the South, but most intimately associated with Philadelphia, home to Mr. Hoyt's Pennsylvania Society, and because it died out in nature at the time that the Society founders were passing from the scene, it seems an ideal plant for us to cultivate. It is a rare, fine and truly American plant, and a fitting focal point for the renewed Hoyt Garden.





Kelly L. Stewart was elected the new president of the New Jersey Society in October.

the state of New Jersey. This roster was sent to all members of the society either by e-mail or conventional mail.

Our Treasurer Benjamin Frick reviewed our finances and noted that some changes have been made in our investment portfolio, which

remains quite solid. He also reviewed the budget.

Jim Burke, chairman of the nominating committee, presented a slate of new officers: President, Kelly L. Stewart; Vice President; Nicholas Gilman; Secretary, John W. Gareis, M.D.; Treasurer, Benjamin C. Frick; Assistant Secretary, Randall Taylor; Assistant Treasurer, John Harvey; and Judge Advocate, Nicholas Gilman. These gentlemen were elected to office.

Jim also announced the history prize winner for 2010 is Gordon S. Wood, Professor Emeritus of History at Brown University and author of *The Creation of the American Republic, The Radicalism of the American Revolution* (for which he was awarded the Pulitzer

Prize) and most recently, *Empire of Liberty*.

The rest of the meeting focused on a discussion of the Triennial to be hosted by the New Jersey Society in 2013. Discussion focused on organization and financed. It was decided to schedule our spring meeting on April 29-30 in Princeton, the time of year we will host the 2013 Triennial in that city. President General Skid Masterson and Secretary General Ross Perry joined in our discussion about the Triennial. The participation of these gentlemen was much appreciated. Any member of the New Jersey Society or of the broader Society who would like to assist in planning and organizing the Triennial should contact John Harvey or Kelly Stewart.

President Kelly Stewart announced that Jonathan Jensen will serve as chairman of the Membership Committee and Logan Brown as chairman of the Government Committee.

A pleasant formal dinner in the beautiful ballroom of the Anderson House, and an early morning breakfast on Sunday, rounded out the activities for this productive annual meeting.

John W. Gareis, M.D., Secretary

The Society of the Cincinnati of Pennsylvania

The Pennsylvania Society of the Cincinnati held its annual George Washington Birthday luncheon on Monday February 22 at McCormick and Schmick's in center city Philadelphia.

The Standing Committee met briefly before a sumptuous meal. The luncheon was well attended including a visit from Treasurer General Jonathan Woods.

The venue was new to the Pennsylvania Society. Members and their ladies found the setting ideal, coupled with friendly service and excellent food. The Pennsylvania Society was pleased to have as honored guests the ladies of three deceased past presidents including Eleanor Murdoch, Hanna Cox and Judy Knight.

The Society was pleased to have as his speaker R. Scott Stephenson who holds a Ph.D. in American history from the University of Virginia. Mr. Stephenson currently serves as the Director of Collections and Interpretation at the American Revolution Center in Philadelphia. The topic of Mr. Stephenson's remarks where the progress toward establishing the American Revolution Center Museum.

The American Revolution Center is in the process of developing the first national museum of the American Revolution in the heart of historic Philadelphia. The center's original collection was housed at Valley Forge, but last September the center announced a land exchange with the National Park Service. At this time the Center exchanged their seventy-eight acres at Valley Forge for a location in historic Philadelphia on 3rd and Chestnut Street. This location is prominent in historic Philadelphia as it is steps away from Independence Hall and the First Bank of the United States.

The museum will exhibit its distinguished collection of objects, artifacts and manuscripts that will enable it to be the first museum to tell the entire story of the enduring legacy of the American Revolution.

William Hoyt Olinger, Assistant Secretary