

# Window on Woodville



The Newsletter of the

Neville House Associates

Volume IX, Number I

March 2009

## A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



REFLECT for a moment on the Western Pennsylvania in which John Neville dwelled following the revolution. Neville returned in 1783, to a 10,000-acre farm, a country estate

and an even more elegant town home in the borough of Pittsburgh. Shortly after his homecoming, Neville was elected by the people of Washington County (everything south west of the Monongahela and Ohio Rivers) to the Supreme Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania. Prior to that, he had been elected as a representative for the state to the Constitutional Convention. In 1790, the people of the newly formed Allegheny County elected him as a state representative. His farms were profitable and he was revered and admired by the local population. Things could hardly have been better for him.

Then came 1791, and with it, Neville's decision to become the Inspector of Revenue for the Fourth Survey - head of the tax collectors for the hated Federal Excise Tax. Less than three years later, his Bower Hill estate was destroyed and he had escaped

under armed guard to Philadelphia. After all of his success, his fortunes had definitely changed for the worse. Imagine the feelings that Neville wrestled with following such a dramatic turn of events.



Woodville Plantation

The members of the Neville House Associates can appreciate how John Neville must have felt with fortunes and events changing so rapidly. For the NHA, 2008 was a monumental and immensely successful year in the history of the organization. Consider the following accomplishments from 2008:

- The largest annual attendance in the history of the organization, with almost 2000 people visiting Woodville.
- The site was opened year round for the first time in NHA history.
- More programming, twenty-four events in all, than ever before.
- The first restoration of a room in over twenty years, culminating in the completion of the Cowan bedroom in the fall of 2008.
- The preliminary opening of the still house for use as a multipurpose room.

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# A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

The NHA, like Neville, was very successful with its initial ownership of a historical house and farm museum. Also, like Neville, in spite of previous efforts and past achievements, sometimes things can take a negative turn.

This year has seen a dramatic slowdown, not only in visitation but in memberships and donations as well. It appears that the economic woes seen on a national level have found their way to our remote corner of western Pennsylvania history. The NHA has planned an ambitious series of events, programs and restorations for 2009. We are examining the differences between domestic life in the 21st and 18th centuries through a series of programs titled "Necessary Domestic Duties," which will occur once a month. We have also planned to continue our ambitious restoration plans by restoring the historic appearance of the porches, creating a visitor reception center, continuing the restorations of the still house and kitchen and working on updating the historic accuracy of the oldest portion of the house, the passage. All of these plans were initiated in 2008 and, until recently, potential funding was put in place. Unfortunately, for the current year and the next few years, state funding will no longer be available. Additionally, a very large grant, intended to finance the three largest projects listed, was cut by two thirds. This left us with some very difficult decisions regarding which programs and plans should be eliminated.

Why am I sharing this with you? Because the NHA needs your help. The easiest thing that you can do is talk. Encourage your friends, neighbors and relatives to visit the site and feel the power of history being remade and recreated. If you can get them to the site, I am certain that our interpreters, docents and members can convince them of the merits of investing in Woodville. You can also help directly. Please consider increasing your funding to the next level. If that doesn't fit into your current budget, how about giving us a few hours of your time by working as a museum aide, helping to spruce up the site, or by even giving tours. We have now even initiated a program where you can give tours without having to wear period clothing! Whatever you decide, please consider doing just a little extra. It will certainly help those who have been giving and doing a lot.

*Rob Windhorst*

Rob Windhorst

President, Neville House Associates

## NEW NHA MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members to the Neville House Associates. Huzzah and thank you for joining!

Please add the following new names to your NHA Membership Directory:

Kathryn L. Schanck

Jim & Sue Caster

Kathryn & Michael Bryson

The following NHA members have changed their contact information. Please make the following revisions to your NHA Membership Directory:

Jean McCullough

James Galbraith

Hazel Kornis

# 2009 PROGRAMS at WOODVILLE



Step back in time at Woodville Plantation, the home of John and Presley Neville, and visit Western Pennsylvania's principal link to the late 18th century. See how Pittsburgh's wealthiest citizens lived during the period of 1780-1820, The Era of the New Republic. Admission to the site is \$5.00 for adults and \$10.00 for families. The grounds are open year round for self-guided tours on Wednesday through Saturday from 10 am-6 pm. The house is open year round for guided tours on Sunday from 1 pm-4 pm. Special tours can be arranged for groups of fifteen or more by contacting the site. For additional information please visit [www.WoodvillePlantation.org](http://www.WoodvillePlantation.org).



Join the interpreters at Woodville Plantation throughout 2009 as they present *"Necessary Domestic Duties: a Thousand Little Occurrences Never Foreseen."* Each month, our interpreters will present the common everyday activities necessary to maintain and operate an 18th century plantation. Learn how these activities compare to our modern chores such as laundry, cooking, gardening and sewing. In addition, visitors will learn about some very different jobs such as raising chickens and cutting and hauling wood. In some cases, guests may participate in these interactive programs.

## April 5 - Necessary Duties: Raising Chickens

Woodville's rare breed Dominique chickens are showcased as our interpreters discuss the raising, maintaining, use and history of the 18th century's most prolific breed of "dung hill fowl" - the Dominiques (pronounced Dominick).

## April 12 - Easter Sunday: Site Closed

## April 19 - Necessary Duties: Cooking

Visit with the cooks of the plantation as they prepare original "receipts" from the late 18th century in the kitchen at Woodville. Learn the mysterious art of preparing food over an open fire.

## May 9 & 10 - Wayne's Fourth Sub-Legion Encampment

Meet the soldiers of Anthony Wayne's Fourth Sub-Legion of the United States, the defenders of Neville's Bower Hill house during the Whiskey Rebellion. Visitors will experience camp life in 1794 as the soldiers drill, fire muskets and discuss what it's like to be a member of Wayne's army. Special hours for the event are Saturday, May 9, from 5 pm-8 pm (free admission to grounds only) and Sunday, May 10, from noon-5 pm (reduced admission for C.A.M.P. members).

## May 24 - Above the Stairs: Behind the Scenes Tour

Visitors will experience a rarely seen side of Woodville, above the stairs in the main house. Tour the private rooms of the Neville and Cowan families and see the original painted checkerboard floor (circa 1790). Don't miss this rare opportunity for a look at the private lives of Woodville's residents.

## June 28 - Necessary Duties: Gardening

Join the gardeners at Woodville Plantation as they prepare the gardens for our summer growing season. Learn about 18th century planting methods and watch as heirloom plants are cultivated using historic tools and techniques.

## July 18 & 19 - Whiskey Rebellion Weekend

### July 18 - History Walk From Bower Hill

Woodville and the Scott Township Conservancy team up to present a walking lecture titled "The Events of July '94." Join the soldiers of Wayne's Fourth Sub-Legion as they return to Bower Hill for the first time since the Whiskey Rebellion to discuss the fateful events of July 1794 and the Neville family. This unique event will begin at 10 am at the historical marker on Bower Hill and will last approximately two hours. The walk will end at Old St. Luke's Church, covering approximately two miles along the newly restored woodland trails of Bower Hill. Topics covered will include the Battle of Bower Hill, the soldiers that participated in the battle and the Whiskey Rebellion. The walk will end with a tour of the Fourth Sub-Legion's encampment at Woodville. For additional details and to register please visit [www.scottconservancy.org](http://www.scottconservancy.org) or contact Woodville Plantation.

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# 2009 PROGRAMS at WOODVILLE



## July 19 - Whiskey Rebellion Day

Meet the soldiers of Anthony Wayne's Fourth Sub-Legion of the United States, the defenders of Neville's Bower Hill house during the Whiskey Rebellion. Visitors will experience camp life in 1794 as the soldiers drill, fire muskets and discuss what it's like to be a member of Wayne's army. Visitors will also learn about 18th century cooking techniques as the Woodville cooks prepare dinner for the encamped troops. The site will be open from noon-5 pm. Special admission for this day will be \$3.00 per person.

## August 2 - Above the Stairs: Behind the Scenes Tour

Visitors will experience a rarely seen side of Woodville, above the stairs in the main house. Tour the private rooms of the Neville and Cowan families and see the original painted checkerboard floor (circa 1790). Don't miss this rare opportunity for a look at the private lives of Woodville's residents.

## August 30 - Harvest Day

Join the gardeners of Woodville Plantation as they harvest heirloom vegetables grown at the site throughout the summer. Meet the head gardener and learn about 18th century crops, growing techniques and tools.

## September 20 - Games of the New Republic

Join the interpreters at Woodville Plantation as they enjoy a day of recreation following the harvest. Learn about games played during the Federal Period (1780-1820) and take part in 18th century diversions such as quoits, nine man morris and log tossing. The day will conclude with a game of stool ball. All are welcome to participate and join in the fun.

## October 4 - Necessary Duties: Laundry

Join Woodville's laundress as she presents the unique and interesting practices required for washing and ironing the clothing and linens of a late 18th century plantation.

## October 25 - Necessary Duties: Woodcutting

Join the overseer of the Neville farms as he explains the ever-present necessity of maintaining the fires used for heating and cooking in the Woodville house and the methods of cutting, stacking and use.

## November 1 - Wayne's Fourth Sub-Legion Encampment

Meet the soldiers of Anthony Wayne's Fourth Sub-Legion of the United States, the defenders of Neville's Bower Hill house during the Whiskey Rebellion. Visitors will experience camp life in 1794 as the soldiers drill, fire muskets and discuss what it's like to be a member of Wayne's army. Visitors will also learn about 18th century cooking techniques as the Woodville cooks prepare dinner for the encamped troops.

## November 22 - Holidays At the House

Come celebrate the holidays in "a different light" with candlelit tours of Woodville Plantation. Learn about holiday customs that differ from today's celebrations such as Twelfth Night, Boxing Day and the firing of Christmas guns.

## December 6 - Necessary Duties: Spinning and Knitting

Join the wool spinstress to learn how wool was spun into thread and then knitted into the many items needed for warmth in the cold winter months at Woodville Plantation.

## December 13 - Above the Stairs: Behind the Scenes Tour

Visitors will experience a rarely seen side of Woodville, above the stairs in the main house. Tour the private rooms of the Neville and Cowan families and see the original painted checkerboard floor (circa 1790). Don't miss this rare opportunity for a look at the private lives of Woodville's residents.

*Woodville Plantation will be closed from December 14, 2009,  
through January 2, 2010.*

*Woodville will re-open for tours on January 3, 2010.*



# CHRISTOPHER COWAN

## PITTSBURGH'S INDUSTRIALIST and WOODVILLE'S AGENT of CHANGE

Christopher Cowan built Pittsburgh's first rolling mill for mass producing and stamping iron. He was also the man responsible for making Woodville appear as it does today. In fact, almost one half of the present house at Woodville is interpreted to the second decade of the nineteenth century and can be attributed to the period when Cowan and his family lived in the house.

Arguably, he was as influential in the community during his time period as the Neville family was two decades earlier. In spite of this preeminence, we know very little about this individual.

Just who was Christopher Cowan?

In 1780, Enniskillen, Ireland, was the largest town in County Fermanagh, the south western-most county of Northern Ireland. Located directly in the center of the Erne River, the town itself was actually located half way between the upper and lower loughs named Erne. To this day, the denizens of the area only consider someone as a "true" resident of Enniskillen if they are "born between the bridges." This refers to the area located between the two roads that lead from the only bridge across the Erne and directly through town, Anne street and Wellington Road. (Based on what we currently know, Cowan would not have qualified as a "true" resident, rather a "local")

Although Cowan was born in the Townland of Shallany, located just north of the village, by 1796 it is possible that he had moved to the village of Derryvullan, located on the river approximately three miles south of his birthplace and two miles south of Enniskillen. In 1796, the Irish Linen Board published a list of 60,000 individuals that were growing flax in Ireland at the time. For individuals growing one acre of flax, the government awarded them four spinning wheels. For every five acres in production, a loom was awarded. It is in this early manifestation of socialism in the United Kingdom, that we find one of the earliest public references to Cowan. Along with the names of his father, James, and possibly a brother, Edward, we find Christopher Cowan listed as a grower of flax. Aside from these limited insights into the early life of Christopher Cowan, we know little else of his time in Ireland.

By 1800, Cowan set sail for America as a young twenty year old entrepreneur. The reasons he left his homeland are uncertain. Based on the Irish Linen Board listing, it appears that he and his family had some landholdings in Ireland prior to his immigration to the United States.

Limited evidence leads to conjecture that Cowan obtained a significant amount of wealth prior to his move, with the evidence coming from one of the most significant decorative art pieces at Woodville, the Cowan clock.



*An undated portrait of Cowan.*

The Cowan clock was donated to Woodville in 2005 by Cowan's descendants. Based on the anecdotal evidence and family history associated with this piece, it was apparently owned by Cowan and passed down through the Wrenshall families. Assuming this is correct, it is very likely the clock was brought to America by Cowan. The clock is an excellent example of English clock making in the region of Manchester, which is indicated by the makers mark on the face of the piece. Manchester was known for clock cases with ornate features and numerous wooden inlays, occasionally utilizing exotic species of wood. This particular clock was most likely made by Thomas Binch, who operated in Manchester around 1750 until late in the 18th century. With an abundance of master clockmakers in America at the time of

Cowan's relocation to Pennsylvania, including Thomas Perkins in Pittsburgh during the first two decades of the 19th century, it seems highly unlikely that Cowan would have imported this clock after his move to Woodville. Additionally, the city of Manchester is located near Liverpool, a common embarkation point for immigrants to the U.S. at the time.

Regardless of how he made his money between 1800 and 1810, Christopher Cowan had established himself as both a merchant and iron master. Early on, he was a merchant who dealt with dry goods, salted and cured meats, nails, cloth and various other sundries. While he was successful at this, it is for his metallurgical ventures that he achieved prominence and from which he gained his largest financial returns. Prior to 1810, he was one of the first cut nail makers in Pittsburgh, owning a water driven machine that was a new technology to the nail making industry. The machine permitted mass

production of nails about ten times faster than hand forging. This venture was not only profitable for Cowan, but was it was also important for Pittsburgh as well. Pittsburgh's population had grown from 1500 citizens in 1800 to over 8000 just fifteen years later. By 1810, western Pennsylvania's consumption of building materials was so voracious that Cowan made a colossal investment of \$100,000 toward developing and building the first steam-driven slitting and rolling mill.

Slitting and rolling mills were not new concepts, the first were developed in England in the late 16th century. The primary function of a slitting mill was to slit iron bars into square rods of various dimensions in order for them to be hammered more readily into nails and other small items. With the advent of the cut nail making machine, rods could simply be fed into the machine, turning out thousands of nails each day. At a rolling and slitting mill, the iron bars are first fed into the rolling wheels. The bars are flattened out into mill bars that are several inches wide and a half-inch thick. These were much easier to cut. The bars were then fed into the slitting mill, cutting them lengthwise into long iron rods. Prior to the 19th century, these machines were run by water driven mill wheels that turned with much less speed and power than its replacement. The new technology of the steam driven pile driver was also used to form larger slabs for much needed consumer goods such as farm implements, tools and sheet iron. Cowan's new pile driver ran at over seventy horsepower, an incredible amount of power for the time. A wise investor would certainly see the obvious advantages of this new technology. Cowan was just such an investor.

Into this burgeoning economy Christopher Cowan forged ahead. Pittsburgh had already become the Iron City. One early writer, John Melish, wrote of Pittsburgh in the beginning of the 19th century, "heard everywhere is the sound of hammer and anvil." By 1815, Pittsburgh was producing over \$765,000 annually of iron and iron related products in its dozen iron mills. Cowan's mill was a major contributor to this productivity, so much so that Cowan needed 20-50 wagons to haul bar iron from mills in the Juniata Valley and near Bellefonte to his site on the Allegheny River on the corner of Cecil's Alley and Penn Avenue. With the Pittsburgh Rolling Mill in full production as the largest mill in the region and utilizing "a most powerful steam engine, designed to reduce iron to various purposes," Cowan would have easily made a profit on his massive initial investment. His account at the Bank of Pittsburgh confirms the return on his investment, showing a reserve of over \$40,000 by 1813. Based on Cowan's iron production earnings relative to GDP, this

amount would be equivalent to over \$17,000,000 today!

During the same period, Cowan also began to make inroads into Pittsburgh's social circles. By 1813 he was serving on the Board of Directors at the bank that held his money. Evidence that Cowan was climbing the social ladder appeared in Pittsburgh even earlier, as indicated by his involvement with the "Neville Connection." Eventually he became part of the Neville family on September 29, 1810, when he married Eliza Kirkpatrick at Woodville. Eliza's father, Abraham Kirkpatrick, was one of John Neville's closest friends. Kirkpatrick was at Bower Hill during the second battle, capitulating the house for his friend just prior to it being burned by the rebels. The "Neville Connection" was a group of the most influential families in western Pennsylvania that conducted most of the commerce and business in the young borough of Pittsburgh. With John Neville as patriarch; the Craig, Kirkpatrick, and Neville families were the zenith of society in the area at this time. Essentially, in order to be accepted socially in Pittsburgh, you had to be part of the "Connection." (This description originated from Hugh Henry Brackenridge's accounts of the Whiskey Insurrection and most likely was formulated because of his exclusion from the "Connection." Although initially intended to be a derogatory term for the Neville family and friends, it appears to have been accepted and embraced.)

Although the second decade of the 19th century brought war with England and a waning economy throughout the United States, Pittsburgh and its ironworks continued to prosper by fulfilling the demand created by an increasing population and a war effort that desperately needed iron for ammunition and arms. By this time, Cowan had made a substantial profit and decided to retire from his business in the city. In 1814, he sold his ironworks to the firm of Stackpole and Whiting. Cowan then purchased land on the southwest end of Coal Hill, near the present day Monongahela Incline. (Cowan's son Richard was on the Board of Directors for this incline in the latter part of the 19th century.) It was in this section of Pittsburgh, once known as Cowansville, that Cowan intended to build a very elegant mansion house. During the second half of 1814, Cowan commissioned the famous architect, Benjamin Latrobe, to design and build this house. Latrobe had become celebrated for his work on the U.S. Capitol, the Basilica in Baltimore and the Bank of Pennsylvania. Latrobe had moved to Pittsburgh





during the War of 1812 to escape the ravages of war that had destroyed much of the capitol. By late 1814, for reasons presently unknown, Cowan abandoned his plans and paid Latrobe his design fee in late December of 1814. Instead, Cowan purchased Woodville.

Interestingly, at this same time, there were two other individuals listed under the Cowan surname in the 1815 "First Directory of Pittsburgh." John Cowan was listed as a bowstring maker at the "s e corner of the Diamond." Thomas Cowan was listed as a chair maker, located on the "n w corner of 2d and Wood." It is not certain if either of these men were related to Christopher Cowan, but based on their rather humble and ordinary occupations, it is doubtful they had any close connections to the Woodville family. The only other family member that was most certainly associated with Woodville was Cowan's brother Adam. Possibly, Adam occupied the largest room above the stairs at Woodville. His room was rather austere - containing one bedsted and table, four chairs and one bookcase. It has been speculated that Adam Cowan was possibly physically or mentally handicapped, since his brother made arrangements for him to be compensated with \$300 annually should he perish before Adam. If he was handicapped, it was likely a physical infirmity. The bookcase was a possible indicator of his ability to read.

Shortly after moving to the new estate, Eliza gave birth to the couple's third child, John Conway Cowan. He was the first of five additional children to be born at Woodville. It was during this time that the architecture of Woodville began to change, with the construction of a bedroom off of the parlour in 1815 and another similar room adjacent to it a year later. These two additions touched off a torrent of architectural changes that would continue for the next ten years - including extending the house seven feet and connecting it to the kitchen, creating the present day Cowan bedroom and dining rooms, adding a servants bedroom and porch on the southwest end of the house and painting Woodville the white color that visitors see today.

Even though Cowan retired to Woodville to lead the life of a gentleman farmer, his old habits were apparently hard to break. This quintessential businessman found it impossible to retire completely. Until his death in 1835, Cowan developed many rural business ventures that he managed from Woodville. Included was the operation of both a grinding mill and saw mill (located approximately where the stop light at Toms Run Road currently operates), a distilling operation with four stills and the management of a 1,000 acre farm which included over fifty cows, eight hogs and several horses. He died at the age of fifty-five in 1835. Cowan was buried in the graveyard

of Trinity Church in Pittsburgh, along with many of the other members of the "Neville Connection." Although most of the "Connection" was reinterred in the early 20th century to the more fashionable location of the Allegheny Cemetery in Lawrenceville, Cowan remained in a grave near the Sixth Avenue entrance to the church, marked by a simple obelisk.

Unfortunately, little else is known of the man who, at one time, was most likely the wealthiest man in western Pennsylvania. Also unfortunate, is the fact that we know little about the persona of this leader of industry. The only glimpse we have of his personality comes many years following his death when a writer of the Pittsburgh Gazette describes him as "that enterprising, good-hearted Irishman who built the first rolling mill in this place." It is with this description that present day visitors to Woodville should view the newly restored and interpreted rooms on the southern side of the passage. The Cowan bedroom is restored exactly to how it would have been seen in the second decade of the 19th century. The dining room is set up as it would have been seen during that time as well. Additionally in 2010, the dining room will undergo a historical reassessment, using Cowan's inventory, to ensure an accurate representation. The dining room will also be repainted using a recreation of the original vibrant paint colors that Cowan would have seen in this room. Ultimately, the Neville House Associates will be able to present and interpret a much more succinct consideration of the enigmatic life and personality of the man who made Woodville what it is today - Christopher Cowan.



*A view of the newly restored Cowan bedroom.*

# THE WORD from WOODVILLE



## *The new NHA office is set up in the still house...*

complete with a new accounting system, fax, email and computer. Our sincere thanks goes out to *Marty O'Toole* for his assistance in setting up all of our computer network and systems. The fax number for Woodville is the same as the phone number (412) 221-0348 and our email is [johnneville@verizon.net](mailto:johnneville@verizon.net).

## *Look for some changes...*

at Woodville in 2009. Recently the NHA received a grant that will fund the conversion of the modern kitchen in the house into a visitor reception area. Tentatively scheduled for completion by mid-summer, this area will be used to collect admissions, house the museum gift shop operations and recreate the pantry area that was once located there. Currently, architectural investigations are underway to determine the original use of this room.

## *Also, look for additional changes...*

in the Passage. This room is being further restored with changes being implemented to make it more authentic for the earliest period interpreted in the house, 1780-1790. In October, as the 1930s-era door into the Cowan bedroom was removed, plasterers reworked the walls of the passage using historically correct plaster and techniques to finish this room. Consequently, this method required a six month waiting period for the plaster to cure. Painting should begin in a few weeks. The original moldings were also meticulously reproduced to match the existing examples. Our thanks go out to *John Fullard* for his research and work on this project. Finally, you may notice that the doors look a bit different. Based on a paint analysis completed in 1979, the frames around the front and back doors of the passage are being grained to match the wood of the doors. The doors are made of walnut and the frames are pine. A common 18th century practice was to paint the less expensive wood to match the more elegant woods. This restoration will not only make the doors look larger, but will restore the original appearance of the moldings to the time period when the Neville families were in residence.



*The passage with its new plaster.*

## *The first set of donated windsor chairs...*

have been completed and painted using historically correct methods, including painting them with milk paint and finishing them with a linseed oil finish. Thank you to NHA members, *the Beatty and Meharey Families*, for their generous memorial contributions to this program. Look for these beautiful chairs in the passage.

## *The third annual Keep Collier Beautiful Day...*

is scheduled for Saturday April 18, 2009, from 9 am-1 pm. *Mardi Jackley* will be coordinating Woodville's efforts. To sign up, contact *Bob Caun* at (412) 279- 2525 or visit the website at [www.colliertownship.net](http://www.colliertownship.net).

*(Continued on page 10)*



# ORDER FORM for COMB BACK WINDSOR CHAIRS

Thank you for your contribution to the Windsor Chair Reproduction Program at Woodville Plantation, the home of John and Presley Neville. The Comb Back Windsor Chair, or "stick chair," that will be built for Woodville by local artisan Dave Burke is a style that was commonly found throughout America from 1790 to 1820. Fittingly named because of the resemblance of the back to a rooster's comb, these functional chairs would have been used for both formal occasions inside, as well as for more casual affairs on the verandah and in the garden.

Our reproductions are made using woods, such as oak, maple and pine, that would have been found near the site during the turn of the 19th century. The seats are formed from a single piece of white pine that will be contoured by hand. Spindles, legs and turnings will be created from hand-shaved maple or oak. The finished chair will be painted in an authentic verdant green color using a historic paint receipt. Mixed by hand, the paint looks just as it would have in 1790. Each chair will take an individual craftsman approximately one month to complete. Finally, each hand-assembled chair will be affixed with an engraved brass plate recording an inscription of the donors choice.

The Windsor Chair will be used exclusively at the site for events, general seating and re-enactments. Woodville Plantation and the Neville House Association Board of Directors thank you for your donation and for supporting our living history programs. We look forward to seeing you enjoy a respite on the verandah of the Woodville estate, on an authentic reproduction that you sponsored.



*An example of the finished  
Comb Back Windsor Chair.*

## COMB BACK WINDSOR CHAIRS

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*Amount Enclosed (Chairs are \$450.00 each =):* \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Inscription to Read:*

*Make checks payable to:* Neville House Associates  
Woodville Plantation Windsor Chair Program  
1375 Washington Pike  
Bridgeville, PA 15017

# THE WORD from WOODVILLE

## Party time...

Volunteers at the site celebrated the second annual Twelfth Night Party held at the Woodville Plantation. Guests were treated to an evening of festivities, including a six course dinner served in the Cowan dining room, a recital on the pianoforte and a rousing game of hazard, an 18th century dice game. Visitors were welcomed to the site with blazing cressets lining the walkways and a blazing bonfire at the rear of the property. This event is the NHA's way of saying thank you to the hardworking volunteers that tirelessly and thanklessly help to manage, maintain and show the house by working more than fifty hours each year. Thanks to each of you for all of your efforts.



*NHA volunteers enjoying the Twelfth Night festivities.*



WOOD COCK SHOOTING

*Wood Cock Shooting*

## Look for new artwork...

at Woodville this spring. The work, "Wood Cock Shooting," was originally printed in 1794 by engraver J.P. Cook. It depicts three well-dressed young gentlemen hunting for woodcocks. It is particularly relevant for Woodville, as it is an excellent period depiction of the type of clothing the youthful gentry, including Presley Neville and his companions, would be wearing. The man in the picture is very fashionably attired in a straight cut striped waistcoat, leather breeches with gaiters to protect his stockings and a very fashionable coat for the 1790's with a rise and fall collar. The artwork will be exhibited in an early carved frame. Later this year copies of the print will be available for sale in our museum gift shop.

## Returned to Woodville...

is Christopher Cowan's original clock. This clock was initially donated to the NHA in December 2005 by his descendants. The clock had been in storage at the site until January 2009, when the works were fully repaired and the case was cleaned and restored. In February of 2009, the clock was set up temporarily in the passage. In the following month, it was returned to its original location in the dining room where it was originally listed in Cowan's 1835 inventory as "one clock & case \$45.00". The clock was made in Manchester, England, by Thomas Binch in the mid to late 18th century. It is a very rare style of clock and is an extraordinary piece that, once again, keeps time at Woodville.



# NEVILLE HOUSE ASSOCIATES MEMBERSHIP



Please take time to renew your 2009 membership. Renewing will help the Neville House Associates staff with programming and activities, as well as with newsletter and postage costs. Woodville is one of only 2,500 National Historic Landmarks in the United States. Your gift will help to support the continuing preservation, restoration and interpretation of this historic site.

## DONATION LEVELS

Student/Senior.....	\$20.00	Wrenshall.....	\$100.00
Basic.....	\$35.00	Christopher Cowan ....	\$250.00
Mary Fauset.....	\$75.00	Presley Neville.....	\$500.00
John Neville.....		\$1,000.00 (Lifetime Member)	

All memberships include free family admission to Woodville Plantation for the regular hours of operation, gift shop discounts, invitation to "members only" events and a NHA newsletter. Your gift is tax deductible.

Many companies also match their employee's donations to organizations such as Woodville Plantation. If your employer provides matching donations, please let them know about your contribution. This is an easy way to double your donation. *Thank you for your support!*



## 2009 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Make checks payable to:* Neville House Associates, Inc.

1375 Washington Pike

Bridgeville, PA 15017

Attn: *Julianna Haag, Membership*



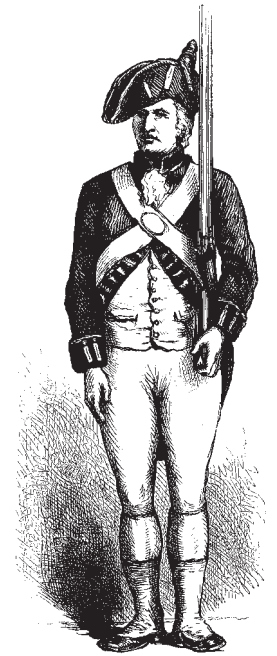


## *NEEDED, a FEW ABLE MEN*

The soldiers of Wayne's Fourth Sub-Legion have returned to Woodville Plantation and they are looking for recruits. The unit will recreate the twelve soldiers who bravely defended Neville's Bower Hill mansion in 1794. Exhibition camps will be set up in 2009 on May 9 & 10, July 18 & 19 and November 1. The men will march and demonstrate the military drills of 1794 (based on Von Steuben's "Blue Book" from 1777), along with recreating various activities of camp life.

Requirements are that you be at least sixteen years of age (fourteen if you are interested in becoming a fifer or drummer), able to attend at least one drill session per month at the Woodville site, able to attend the soldier programs at the site and are interested and committed to historical accuracy.

Woodville will provide you with a loaned uniform and all accoutrements, instruction and training on drill and history of the unit, and occasionally meals prepared by the Woodville cooks during our major events. 18th century civilian dress will be provided during the training period and a custom outfitted uniform will be provided following the successful completion of training. Soldiers will also have the opportunity to muster with other units of Wayne's Legion in the local area for off-site activities.



### *Window on Woodville*

Neville House Associates  
1375 Washington Pike  
Bridgeville, PA 15017

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED