



EBENEZER MAXWELL MANSION

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Gazette

Spring 2022

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Artist in Residence – Linda Sanders

The Ebenezer Maxwell Mansion will be charged with artistic energy over the next six months, as artist-in-residence Linda Sanders paints an interior



mural honoring African American struggles and triumphs. Sanders was selected through an extensive search, but sometime the best things are found close to home, as the artist is a well-known community member who lives just around the corner from the Mansion. The idea to bring in an artist-in-residence came with the success of the Mansion's Deep Rivers tour, which highlights the lives, stories, and achievements of 19th-century Black entrepreneurs, intellectuals, and artisans. Sanders will bring the stories of these heroes to life as a mural painted within an unfinished space on the upper floor of the Mansion. Not only will this offer visitors the opportunity to experience contemporary art, but it also brings them into a space not previously included on tours.

Linda Sanders has exhibited extensively at Philadelphia art fairs, including the Rittenhouse Square Fine Art Show and Philadelphia Sketch Club. Most recently, her work was displayed as part of Chestnut Hill's "Art on the Avenue." Sanders' aesthetic is influenced by the great early 20th-century abstract painters like Pablo Picasso and Joan Miro, but her style is entirely her own. For example, *At the Club* is a composition so energetic that the music seems to stream out from the painting. Sanders infuses her work with what she calls "the magic and mysteries of African folklore," juxtaposing traditional elements with contemporary portraiture, still life, and social scenes. Sanders paints the "energy that emanates from the subject," a quality that will inform her work at the Ebenezer Maxwell Mansion.

The forthcoming mural focuses on the subjects from the Deep Rivers tour, including composer and musician Francis Johnson, which reflects her ongoing interest in depicting musical subjects. Francis Johnson lived and taught music at his home near 11th and Lombard Streets in Philadelphia, and his achievements were extraordinary. Johnson was the first African American to publish sheet music and the first Black musician to tour Europe with a band, including a performance for Queen Victoria at Buckingham Palace. In her mural, Sanders plans to portray the celebratory energy of Johnson's triumphs, along with the racism and unimaginable obstacles experienced by African Americans in the 19th century. The duality of struggle and celebration is a theme that runs throughout Sanders' concept for the mural, which will be on view beginning in September 2022

by Heather Moqtaderi, Curator, Past Present Projects

KENTUCKY DERBY PARTY



Mint juleps, horse racing, and fancy hats are coming to the gardens of the Mansion! Plans are underway for a Kentucky Derby party on Saturday, May 7th from 4:30 to 7 p.m. The first Kentucky Derby was held in 1875 and was the brainchild of Merriweather Lewis Clark, the grandson of the famed William Clark of the Lewis and Clark expedition. The Mansion's Kentucky Derby party will feature food, drink, entertainment, and—of course—the opportunity to watch the “most exciting two minutes in sports” and cheer for your favorite horse. Prizes will be awarded for striking and innovative headwear, so it's time to start planning those eye-catching bonnets and boaters. Mark your calendar, tell your friends, and get ready to watch the 147th Run for the Roses amidst the floral beauty of our elegant garden. Tickets will be available at <https://ebenezermaxwellmansion.org/kentucky-derby-party/>

by Amy Cohen

LOOKING BACK



MAGNIFICENT MAXWELL AFFAIR

On Saturday, September 11, 2021, the Mansion hosted the Magnificent Maxwell Affair - for the first time - in our beautifully restored gardens. Over one hundred guests enjoyed touring the landscape with our horticulturalist Scott Travaline and our garden ambassador Claire Casstevens. We served champagne, wine, and magnificent hors d'oeuvres. Beautiful weather created a lovely evening. Brett Danko was the Master of Ceremonies. Guests enjoyed buying raffle tickets for a chance to win themed gift baskets. Board members Roberta Moore and Michelle DiMeo brilliantly organized the entire evening.

EMILIE DAVIS'S CIVIL WAR

On Sunday, September 19, 2021, Civil War scholar and author Judith Giesberg, Ph.D., gave an illustrated talk on ZOOM about the diaries of Emilie Davis. Emilie Davis was 22 years old in 1861 when the Civil War began. Two years later, she penned the words with which we were introduced to her, “Today has been a memorable day,” opening up a small window into the black community during the war. Emilie wrote daily entries in three slim, pocket-sized diaries, recounting big and small events.



ARCHITECTURAL WALKING TOUR

On Sunday, October 10, Mansion Board members DuRay Montague and Concetta Martone Dragani, Ph.D., led guests on a walking tour of the Tulpehocken Station Historic District. The tour focused on the resilience of Germantown and the magnificent 19th-century architecture of the neighborhood.



GIFTS FROM MANSION FRIENDS

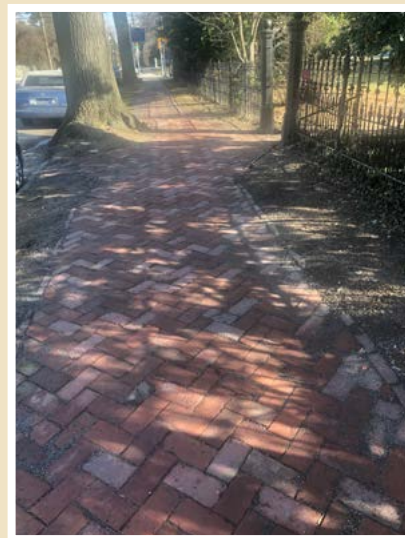


CRAZY QUILT

Long-time mansion supporter, Linda Corsover, donated this beautiful crazy quilt to the Mansion in December 2021. The silk and velvet quilt is constructed in squares; each square has a unique design. The 70 in. X 73 in. quilt is signed "Mamie Book 1896." The quilt's new home is the lady's bedroom. So do stop by to view this lovely antique quilt.

WALKWAY BRICKS

Over many years, the roots of the oak trees on Tulpehocken Street have caused the sidewalk to heave and become uneven. In late October, the Mansion's multi-talented horticulturist, Scott Travaline, pulled up all the bricks from the property's eastern edge past the first gate and the biggest oak. He then removed superficial tree roots (not essential) and laid a three to four-inch layer of stone ballast, preventing frozen water from heaving the bricks during winter. Next, Scott tamped the aggregate stone and began laying the bricks. Unfortunately, many of the original bricks were broken and unusable. Neighbor and long-time Mansion supporter Luke Russell donated bricks to complete this portion of the walkway.



*Bricks to restore our
walkway*



Tim Marsh and Roberta Moore

CREATE A LEGACY

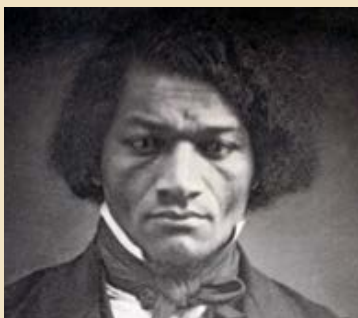
While we only recently returned to Philadelphia after many years away, we feel exceptionally fortunate to have landed in Germantown. Like many of you, the history and natural beauty of the area is what drew us but we soon discovered that that history requires tremendous effort. In addition to preserving a stunning example of Victorian architecture, we support the creative outreach and diversity-oriented programs offered by the Mansion. We decided on a legacy gift because we want to be sure the Mansion will remain a cornerstone in this wonderful neighborhood for generations to come.

Protect the past and the future by remembering Ebenezer Maxwell Mansion in your will or estate. For more information go to ebenezermaxwellmansion.org/support-the-mansion/



UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY



VICTORIAN THEATRE: *TEA WITH FREDERICK DOUGLASS* AND *A LIFE IN THREE DRESSES: THE STORY OF ELIZABETH KECKLEY*

Friday, February 11 at 7:00pm

Saturday, February 12 at 2:00pm and 7:00pm

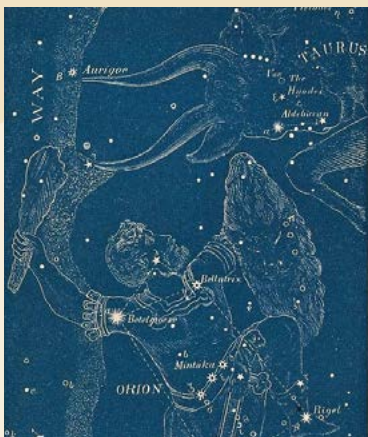
Ebenezer Maxwell Mansion proudly celebrates Black History Month with a double feature of two powerful one-act plays written and directed by Shav'on Smith. First, *A Life in Three Dresses* tells the story of Elizabeth Keckley, born into slavery, whose brilliance saw her rise to the White House, becoming the dressmaker and confidante of Mary Todd Lincoln. Then, *Tea with Frederick Douglass* finds him trying out his famous speech "What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?" while examining his own past. Together, these plays will give you an inside look into the lives of two extraordinary Black Americans.

Cost: \$30 Cost for neighbors with 19144 zip code: \$20

Masks and proof of vaccination are required for admission.

Call 215-438-1861 for details or make reservations online at

<https://ebenezermaxwellmansion.org/black-history-month-2022/>



NO LIMIT TO SPACE – POPULAR ASTRONOMY IN THE 19TH-CENTURY

Saturday, March 12 at 1:00 PM – This presentation surveys what discoveries were made in astronomy during the mid to late 1800s and how it was promoted and taught. What did people then think about intelligent life elsewhere? The size and nature of the universe? Robert Hicks, Ph.D. explores these topics through the work of a journalist who wrote the most popular guide to astronomy in America; the first professional woman astronomer and the first American scientist to discover a comet; and a lawyer, astronomer, and Civil War general who was the pre-eminent public lecturer on astronomy in the country. The presentation concludes with a virtual 1870s public observing night with a telescope!

Cost: \$25; Member cost: \$20 Masks and proof of vaccination are required for admission. Reservations at <https://ebenezermaxwellmansion.org/interactiveqa/>

ebenezermaxwellmansion.org/interactiveqa/

MARCH



LITERARY PARLOR – *A COUNTRY DOCTOR* BY SARAH ORNE JEWETT

Sunday, March 20 at 1:30 PM

Sarah Orne Jewett's story of a young medical woman remains an intelligent rendering of gender, society, and self-dilemmas. Nan Prince first became interested in medicine as a child, as the ward of the widowed physician Dr. Leslie. In time she becomes his protégée. But when she enters medical college, she realizes that she will have to choose between marriage and her career, between the demands of her society and her obligations to her true self.

Cost: \$10 Masks and proof of vaccination are required for admission. <https://ebenezermaxwellmansion.org/literary-parlor/>

AT THE MANSION

MAY



KENTUCKY DERBY PARTY

May 7 from 4:30 PM to 7:30 PM

Mint juleps, horse racing, and fancy hats are coming to the gardens of the Mansion! Plans are underway for a Kentucky Derby party. The Mansion's Kentucky Derby party will feature food, drink, entertainment, and—of course—the opportunity to watch the “most exciting two minutes in sports” and cheer for your favorite horse. Prizes will be awarded for striking and innovative headwear, so it's time to start planning those eye-catching bonnets and boaters.

Cost: \$50 Reservations are required.

<https://ebenezermaxwellmansion.org/kentucky-derby-party/>



LITERARY PARLOR – *MILL ON THE FLOSS*

May 22 at 1:30 PM

George Elliot's novel, *The Mill on the Floss* spans a period of 10 to 15 years, details the lives of Tom and Maggie Tulliver, siblings who grow up at Dorlcote Mill on the River Floss. The mill is situated at the junction of the River Floss and the minor River Ripple, near the village of St Ogg's in Lincolnshire, England. Both the river and the town are fictional. Join bibliophile Kate Howe for an exciting discussion.

Cost: \$10 Masks and proof of vaccination are required for admission.

<https://ebenezermaxwellmansion.org/literary-parlor/>

JULY



LITERARY PARLOR – *THE WONDERFUL ADVENTURES OF MRS. SEACOLE IN MANY LANDS*

Sunday, July 17 at 1:30 PM

Written in 1857, *Wonderful Adventures of Mrs. Seacole in Many Lands* is the autobiography of a Jamaican woman whose fame rivaled Florence Nightingale during the Crimean War. Seacole traveled widely before arriving in London, where her offer to volunteer as a nurse in the war was met with racism and refusal. Undaunted, she set out independently to the Crimea, where she acted as doctor and “mother” to wounded soldiers while running her business, the “British Hotel.” Her remarkable life story and accounts of hardships at the battlefield offer significant insights into the history of race politics.

Cost: \$10 Masks and proof of vaccination are required for admission.

<https://ebenezermaxwellmansion.org/literary-parlor/>

Make reservations online at <https://ebenezermaxwellmansion.org/> or call 215-438-1861



UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER



PREMIERE OF DEEP RIVERS ART SHOW

September 17 from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM

Join us to celebrate the lives of 19th-century African American heroes through an art installation by Linda Sanders. Her art honors the achievements of historical figures highlighted in the Deep Rivers tour, including Francis Johnson (musician and composer), John S. Trower (caterer and entrepreneur), Henry Ossawa Tanner (artist), and Eliza Greer (physician). Sanders will bring their stories to life through a mural installation that she will paint onsite at the Ebenezer Maxwell Mansion as an artist-in-residence. The party will be held in the garden with champagne and lovely hors d'oeuvres. Guests will be able to enjoy Linda Sanders' mural in small groups to allow for social distancing.

Reservations are required.

<https://ebenezermaxwellmansion.org/deep-rivers-artist-in-residence/>



LITERARY PARLOR – TOLSTOY SELECTIONS

Join bibliophile Kate Howe for a lively discussion about several works by Leo Tolstoy. Firstly, a short story entitled "How Much Land Does a Man Need" is an 1886 short story by Leo Tolstoy about a man who forfeits everything in his lust for land. Secondly, the group will discuss *The Kreutzer Sonata*, a novella named after Beethoven's Kreutzer Sonata published in 1889 and promptly censored by Russian authorities.

Cost: \$10 Masks and proof of vaccination are required for admission.

<https://ebenezermaxwellmansion.org/literary-parlor/>

ONGOING



DEEP RIVERS DOCENT-LED TOUR

Sunday, February 27 at 1:00 PM and 2:00 PM

Sunday, April 3 at 1:00 PM and 2:00 PM

Sunday, May 15 at 1:00 PM and 2:00 PM

Our docents lead you through the museum highlighting the lives, stories, and achievements of 19th-century Black entrepreneurs, intellectuals, and artisans with soundscapes and images.

Cost: \$10. Free for our neighbors in the 19144 zip code.

Reservations are required. Proof of vaccination and masks are required for admission.

<https://ebenezermaxwellmansion.org/deep-rivers/>

PLEASE SELECT MEMBERSHIP LEVEL:

{ } **Young Friend** (Under 30) \$25

- Unlimited docent-led tours
- Research privileges in the library
- Invitations to members-only events
- Advance notice of programs and events
- Discounts to Victorian workshops and events

{ } **Mansion Friend** \$50

- All privileges listed above

{ } **Mansion Sponsor** \$70

- All privileges listed above
- Membership for immediate family

{ } **Mansion Conservator** \$150

- All privileges listed above
- Membership to the North American Reciprocal Museum Program – free admission to over 985 museums nationwide-
BEST VALUE!

{ } **Mansion Sustainer** \$250

- All privileges listed above
- Two guest passes for docent-led tours

{ } **Mansion Preservation Circle** \$500

- All privileges listed above
- Acknowledgment in newsletter
- Two additional guest passes

{ } **Mansion Benefactor** \$1,000

- All privileges listed above
- Gift membership for a person of your choosing

* * * * *

{ } **Business Bronze** \$250

- Business logo on the Mansion's website with a link to your website and acknowledgement in the Mansion newsletter

{ } **Business Silver** \$500

- Same as above with special silver acknowledgement.

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- Same as above with special gold acknowledgement.

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EBENEZER MAXWELL MANSION
Gazette

Ebenezer Maxwell Mansion
200 West Tulpehocken Street
Philadelphia, PA 19144

WHAT'S INSIDE:

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EBENEZER MAXWELL MANSION
Victorian House Museum & Garden

All correspondence should be sent to:
Ebenezer Maxwell Mansion
200 West Tulpehocken Street
Philadelphia, PA 19144
(215) 438-1861
diane@ebenezermaxwellmansion.org
www.ebenezermaxwellmansion.org



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