



NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2011

DOLLHOUSES THEN AND NOW PRESERVING ARCHITECTURE THROUGH MINIATURES

By Martha Hendrickson

I have always been fascinated by miniatures, especially ones that replicate real places. I am particularly interested in how they can serve to preserve history. I didn't fully realize the significance of this aspect of making miniatures until I started making them myself.

I had been making 1" scale furniture from kits for several years when my husband offered a 1" scale dollhouse kit for Christmas. He decided to let me select the kit I wanted, and I was very excited about it. About

a year prior, I had discovered our family homestead was slated to be demolished. The house belonged to the city and was a beautiful old stone house built in the 1850's. It was on the grounds of the Montebello Water Filtration Plant. My grandfather, James W. Armstrong, was a water filtration engineer hired in 1912 to design and build Baltimore's first water filtration plant at Montebello to provide clean water to the city. After the plant was built in 1915, he was asked to stay on and manage the plant. In an age before modern communications and travel, the plant manager needed to be available night and day for any water emergency, so that's how my family came to live in the old house, just a stones throw from the plant. They stayed there for next 25 years, until my grandfather retired in 1938.



Montebello House, circa 1912

the house my family had lived in would be demolished to make way for the addition. It was then that I knew I had to transform the dollhouse kit into my grandfather's house.

This has turned out to be an adventure and a challenge. With no experience making dollhouses, I embarked on changing the Vermont farmhouse kit purchased from kit-maker, Real Good Toys, to the stone house of my family history. First, I had to make six window openings on each side of the house where none had previously existed before I could even put the house together. With a lot of trepidation and my husband's help we cut the new openings. I studied old pictures of the house which we had many of in our family albums. The city also allowed me to photograph and measure the house as it is today. I did a lot of

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- *Dollhouses Then and Now*
- *Past Programs*
- *Donors*
- *RMD Charitable Contributions*
- *Community Outreach*
- *Calendar of Events*
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Miniature under construction

relatively light weight. They can also be painted. When they became expensive, I made my own molds of them, and cast my own plaster stones. I applied each stone to the house while studying the pictures; then I painted each one for a realistic look. Things finally started to come together when I finished the porch. It



Montebello House in 1913 before the plant was built

improvising. For the front door, I changed a store bought 1” scale door kit with sidelights to look like the real front door and had to scratch build the door itself. I experimented on how to build the chimneys and made one, before starting all over with a different technique. Probably the hardest part was modifying the front gable. The dollhouse kit gable was just not steep enough, so we cut entirely new pieces for the roof. It took a few tries to get it right, even after drawing it up on computer. I bought different windows than the kit and modified one to resemble the way the attic window really looked. The most challenging puzzle was how to create the look of stone. I found the answer in a mini-stone product I bought that is made from high density casting plaster. Each stone can be cut and modified and is

took a lot of experimenting and trial and error, but I completely scratch built the porch and used mortar for the cement look of the porch base. I created the porch columns out of dowels. The house is a “T” shaped house, and I decided to finish the first phase on the inside before starting back part of the house as a separate section.

The completed first section of my house was displayed at the Historical Society of Baltimore County in 2007 and 2008 as part of a miniature club exhibit and at an exhibit at the Star Spangled Banner Flag House Museum in 2007 and 2008 as part of a National Association of Miniature Enthusiasts (NAME) regional club exhibit. After the shows ended, I started work on the second phase. Now, after several years of working on

the project intermittently, I have finally completed the second part of the house. It will be on display at the exhibit, *Dollhouses Then and Now*, which is being held on October 15th and 16th to benefit the Historical Society of Baltimore County and to celebrate dollhouse month. (information below)

As the coordinator of the event, I am very excited that the Historical Society of Baltimore County has agreed to display a selection of some of their dollhouses that have been in storage. These houses were created with the same purpose as my own; to preserve and to celebrate the architecture and interiors of historic houses. They were scratch built and represent the best in craftsmanship. Several of these were created by artisan Tom Latané. The dollhouse “Ravenhurst” is a model of the historic Baltimore County home complete with gingerbread and cupola. A model of a Williamsburg Wythe house will also be displayed complete with furnishings. Other houses shown will be the Betsy Ross house, the McHenry House (or Sudbrook Manor) created in the 1860’s, a historic metal dollhouse, room boxes and furniture.

In addition, other creations by members of MMU and NAME miniature clubs will be on display including a variety of dollhouses, miniature scenes of different scales and room boxes done as projects of various miniature clubs. These will highlight various skills and purposes of miniature making. Included will be

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Montebello House in 2005



Completed miniature

dollhouses with electricity and a Tudor village. Several demonstrations of mini-techniques will take place for interest of adults and children alike showing that miniature making is a fun life-long hobby involving many skills and interests.

As far as my own project goes, I am now finished, and the kit is far behind. I have enjoyed solving each problem I encounter and conquering each challenge. I have enjoyed meeting others involved in miniatures and joined the local miniature club and NAME. I can imagine my grandfather on a similar journey in the world of engineering and architecture. He went from city to city designing water plants in that pioneering age, starting in New Orleans and going as far north as Montreal, Canada. Each place brought a new set of circumstances and experiences of problem solving. He joined with others along the way in this journey and took part in various professional organizations. He finally settled here in Baltimore, and it was here that the culmination of his work experience was realized and where his family grew. I hope that my model house will be a testament to the people who lived there and help bring to life not only a part of my family history but part of Baltimore's history. Please see page 6 for the details on the program, *Dollhouses Then And Now*.

YOU MAY HAVE MISSED...

HSBC PRESENCE AT STATE FAIR, AUGUST 26-SEPTEMBER 5, 2011



Barb Yingling instructs visitors



Jane Michael, Chuck Schwarzkopf, Johnna Suter



Our Fairground hosts, Betty and Leo

Twenty-eight HSBC volunteers logged 132 hours and welcomed over 1,144 visitors to our booth during the 2 weekends that HSBC was present at the Maryland State Fair. Team Leaders were: Kathy Aspden,

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(Recruiter), Evert Cornell (Lead), John Gasparini (Procurer), Melissa Heaver (Artifacts), Jim Lillie (Advisor) and Jim Long (Display).

Additionally, the following volunteers gave their time: Phyllis Bailey, Naomi Binko, Colleen Bowers, Charles Clifton, Diana Dugan, Tim Dugan, Dean Foreman, Marc Grossblatt, Linda Haynes, Jeff Higdon, Earl Hines, Dale Kirchner, Donna Keuck, Penny Scott Martin, Jane Michael, Kathleen O'Brien, Sally Riley, Patricia Routson, Chuck Schwarzkopf, Johnna Suter, Barbara Yingling and Chris Young.

THE INAUGURAL HSBC LEGACY TOUR, SEPTEMBER 17, 2011

A sellout! Co-hosted and co-narrated by Donna Keuck and Chris Young, this 7 hour excursion to northern Baltimore County presented multiple facets of north county history to the eager crowd.

A small sampling of the places of interest were historic houses, churches, mills, stores, railroads, a bank and much more. Our hosts conducted a running historical narrative as we traveled to each new place. The narrative continued upon arrival at each site and we had time to discuss and photograph the local culture. It became obvious that our hosts had done a tremendous amount of historical research to prepare for this one-of-a-kind event.

A catered lunch was held at the Morris Meadows Museum in Freeland, Md., followed by a guided tour of the museum by its founders, Clyde Morris and his wife, Virginia. Clyde could tell a story about every artifact in the building.

Then, back on the bus and off to additional historical sites.

The day finished with wine and cheese tasting at the Woodhall Wine Cellars, Parkton, Md. Each wine was presented and explained by Woodhall's co-owner. Volunteer Pat Routson conducted a re-enactment of what travel to the north county may have been like during the 1800's.

Participants received the commemorative booklet "A Traveler's Companion", describing in detail each place we just witnessed. Our departing statement was: "When is the next tour?"

Below: L-R: HSBC group hears about the former First National Bank of Parkton, now a private business; HSBC President Phyllis Bailey and Morris Meadows Museum founder, Clyde Morris; Donna Keuck (on sidewalk facing crowd) speaks about about the town of Maryland Line, previously named New Market.



Morris Meadows Museum

<http://www.morrismeadows.us/museumrooms.htm>

Woodhall Wine Cellars

<http://www.woodhallwinecellars.com>

Photos of Maryland State Fair and the HSBC Legacy Tour are courtesy of Jim Long.

MEETING ROOM AVAILABLE FOR PRIVATE RENTAL

Planning a family event or a business meeting? Consider the recently renovated *Galloway Room* located on the first floor of the historic Almshouse. Wheelchair accessible and seating up to 75, the room boasts power screen, data projector, microphone, podium, tables, chairs, and a rolling stand with electrical outlets for A/V or computer setups. Please contact Barbara Yingling at HSBC. (410)666-1878.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING HSBC

“GREAT DONORS MAKE GREAT PROGRAMS POSSIBLE”

To Elizabeth Cockey for her donation of a Sony Digital Video Camera Recorder. Its use will aid in our future oral history projects.

To the publisher and editor of the community magazine *Mason-Dixon Arrive*, Vickie K. Franz and Gregory J. Alexander, respectively, for the announcements of our recent functions. The September 2011, issue of their magazine mentioned our book sale and the HSBC Legacy Tour.

RMD CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS

If you are required to take a minimum distribution from your IRA, you have an opportunity to make a two-fold gift to the HSBC. The recent Tax Act extended your ability to donate all, or a portion of your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) to a charitable organization and avoid paying income tax on the distribution. The donation must be made directly to the charity.

By donating your RMD to the HSBC, your gift will have the two-fold benefit of assisting HSBC in its mission, while reducing your income tax payments. For further information about making a gift of your RMD, please contact Adam Youssi at info@hsobc.org or call (410)666-1878.

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Your Business Card Here

HSBC is providing a new service. If you have a business card, consider advertising here.

Send us your business card and it will go in the next HSBC newsletter, to be published in December. Cost is only \$25 per issue. Circulation is approximately 400. No long term commitment.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR FUN ACTIVITIES

Volunteer opportunities have opened within our museum to help photograph and investigate our cultural collections, research historical events such as the War of 1812, and to research and develop our varying exhibits concerning the history of Baltimore County. Register here: <http://www.hsobc.org/volunteerrecruitment.html>

COMING EVENTS

October 15-16, 2011, 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. *Dollhouses, Then and Now.* To celebrate Dollhouse Month, HSBC is hosting a two-day exhibit to promote the hobby of dollhouse miniatures. Miniature-making techniques will be demonstrated by miniature expert, Stacy Moser. See dollhouses from various collections and talk to the experts about making your own.

Donation: \$6 adults, \$2 for children, 6-16. Age 6 and under are free. *Please see the first-person account by Martha Hendrickson concerning the hobby on page one of this issue.*

October 22, 2011, 6:30 p.m. *Historical Society of Baltimore County's Fifth Annual Shrimp Feast and Bull Roast Fundraiser* to be held at Columbus Gardens, 4301 Klosterman Ave., Baltimore, MD 21236. Hot and cold buffet of shrimp, chicken, sausage and pit beef with a variety of sides. Cake (and



homemade ice cream by Prigel Family Creamery). Beer and soda included (cash bar for other drinks). Join in the silent auction, live auction, and the two-bit auction. Enter the Almshouse \$400 cash raffle. Win door prizes. Dance to music by Paul and Brenda Fader.

Enjoy all this while supporting the only 501(c)(3) Non-Profit that is dedicated to collecting, conserving, researching and interpreting the entirety of Baltimore County history. Please save the date for this HSBC flagship event.

\$40 per person. For credit card sales, please call HSBC at 410-666-1878.

November 13, 2011, 2 p.m. HSBC Almshouse headquarters. *Tempest From a Tea Cup: Maryland's Early Trade with China, 1643-1840.*

The trade with China is in the news a lot lately, with many Americans calling for protective policies that favor domestic manufacture over that of foreign. "Made in the U.S.A." is one theme of the current economic and political climate. But, what about the historic origins of American trade with China?

This presentation is titled "Tempest From a Tea Cup." It is a history of the early China trade, 1643 to 1840, with a focus on Maryland and Baltimore County. This illustrated talk is designed not only to discuss the various items imported to Colonial America and the early United States, but also to explore who imported them and what influence they had on American decorative arts and the nation's economy. Where did Baltimore's town of Canton get its name? What role did Tench Tilghman, an aide de camp to George Washington, play in this? Why did John O'Donnell's ship, *The Pallas*, come to Baltimore in 1785?

Join John Danz, who is presently lecturing on the origins of Maryland's trade with China at Notre Dame of Maryland University, for this illustrated presentation.

Admission: \$5/per person for non-members, free to HSBC members.

HSBC LIBRARY NEWS

Our research library is in need of new volunteers to help us on Saturdays. By volunteering on one Saturday a month (or more if you desire) you can help us remain fully staffed to serve the membership and other patrons. The Saturday hours of operation are from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. If you can help, please contact Mr. Jim Long at HSBC or fill out an application from our website.

<http://www.hsobc.org/volunteerrecruitment.html>

HSBC HAS A NEW TREASURER

The society recently added a new treasurer to its board of directors and volunteers. H. David Del-luomo is a Certified Public Accountant with his own practice. He specializes in auditing, accounting, and taxes. He acquired his B.S. in Accounting from the University of Maryland, College Park and attended the University of Baltimore, School of Law. He has worked exclusively in public accounting since 1979 and adds significant experience to HSBC's board in responsible fiscal oversight.

Born in Cumberland, Maryland, David has lived in the Baltimore area since 1978 and is married with two children. We welcome him to the organization and look forward to his input and oversight.

CONDOLENCES

George T. Causey, 82, of Parkville, MD. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, a sister, a son, Michael and his wife Dolly and a daughter, Cheryl and her husband Pat Ichniowski.

Lou Ellen Griffin, 78, of Cockeysville, MD, Megan's Law advocate. She is survived by a brother, Jess Hinson, and a sister, Carol Lee Hinson. Mrs. Griffin became nationally known for her work with missing and exploited children and successfully lobbied for the 1999 passage of Megan's Law in Maryland. The Griffin's son, James (Jamie) was murdered in 1982. He was 17.

BALTIMORE COUNTY RESIDENTS WHO LOST THEIR LIVES ON 9-11-2001:

Robert John Fangman, 33, Towson, MD

Cortez Ghee, 54, United States Army, Reisterstown, MD

Daniel McNeal, 29, Towson, MD

Linda Rosenbaum, 41, Pikesville, MD

LOST AND FOUND

A lone brass key was found on the Almshouse parking lot on 9/16/11. It is being held for claim.

NEW MEMBERS

Nancy Athey, Owings Mills, MD

Michael Beegan, Parkville, MD

Helen Blomeier, Cockeysville, MD

Ralph Brown & Elaine Kasmer, Cockeysville, MD

Deborah Burke, Towson, MD

Stephen Connor, Parkville, MD

Robert Garner, Catonsville, MD

Elaine Johnson-Dull, Nottingham, MD

Alan Jonas, Reisterstown, MD

Edward Murray, Reisterstown, MD

Richard Parsons, Towson, MD

Lee Taylor, Towson, MD

Rebekah Villano, Pasadena, MD

Catherine Warfield, Reisterstown, MD



AN INSIDE YARD SALE

Halloween is coming and HSBC still has Halloween items for sale in addition to a fine selection of books. And all at yard sale prices.

Shop the Almshouse Tuesday through Saturday between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.



HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF
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PRESENT AND FUTURE

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Hours of Operation:

Fridays from noon to 4 p.m.
Saturdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
2nd Wednesdays 7 p.m. to
8:30 p.m.



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