In May 1914, an impressive group of individuals founded an organization they called the International Garden Club (IGC). In search of a home, they alighted upon a rundown property in the Bronx then known as “the old Bartow Mansion.” Undaunted by its condition, this civic-minded group entered into a long-term lease with New York City in exchange for a promise to restore the mansion and manage the site. Thanks to these pioneers of historic preservation, the mansion was saved, unlike more than a dozen other grand country estates located on Pelham Bay. In 2014 the Bartow-Pell Conservancy will celebrate those farsighted founders and the legacy they preserved for future generations: the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum and gardens.

Early Days Two prominent and spirited women—Alice Martineau, a British garden writer, and Zelia Hoffman, a Manhattan socialite—inspired the IGC to become a horticultural club with international reach. Contrary to popular belief, the original board and membership of the IGC were not made up entirely of women; in fact, 10 of the 16 founding board members were men. However, all 38 presidents of the IGC have been women, starting with the formidable Mrs. Hoffman. (A full-length portrait of her hangs in the museum’s library.)

The IGC was fashioned after Britain’s Royal Horticultural Society, which at the time was over one 100 years old, and the founding board developed grand plans for gardens, publications, a library, scholarly talks, gardening certifications, and shows. In 1916–17, the IGC restored the dilapidated Bartow mansion for use as a clubhouse and installed an elegant terraced and walled garden. Both the house restoration and the garden were designed and completed by the renowned architectural firm of Delano & Aldrich. Unfortunately for the IGC, World War I intervened and the group was forced to downscale its grand horticultural vision. Nevertheless, for the past century the IGC has kept its promise to maintain and improve the site.

Centennial Planning As the successors of the IGC, the Bartow-Pell Conservancy (BPC) is excited to honor the accomplishments of its founders, and many plans are afoot to celebrate the IGC’s centennial in 2014.

Formal Garden Restoration In 2011, it was clear that the 100-year-old garden needed a thorough rehabilitation, and, happily, the necessary funding was made available just in time for the centennial. In May 2012, Bartow-Pell won a grant through Partners in Preservation, a partnership of American Express and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. A special garden rehabilitation committee is working with landscape architect Mark K. Morrison to create plans in keeping with the original design while considering today’s realities of funding, staffing, climate change, and the growing deer population in Pelham Bay Park. A true testament to that group’s tenacity and hard work, the plans were approved by NYC’s Department of Parks & Recreation in April, and construction is slated to start soon. The newly restored garden will be a showcase of the 2014 celebrations.

Programs Celebrating the IGC Another hard-working group, led by BPC’s curatorial committee chair Nora Mazur and BPMM’s education director and curator, Margaret Highland, has developed an extraordinary array of programs for the centennial. The focus is not only the IGC’s horticultural mission and architectural preservation, but also the period of American history when it was formed—the first quarter of the 20th century. A fall 2013 exhibition of antiquarian
Letter from the President and the Executive Director

The Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum, unlike many house museums, is alive with activity in every season. Although most of this activity is inspired and accomplished by volunteers, visitors, and staff, Mother Nature gave us a helping hand last fall. Hurricane Sandy swept through and brought down a great many trees, opening up vistas to the water of Pelham Bay—something we had in our master plan but did not have sufficient funding to accomplish. We were equally fortunate that no one was hurt and damage to the mansion was minor.

A year ago, many people helped us win the Partners in Preservation grant to restore the formal garden, the horse chestnut grove, and the Pell family cemetery. Since then, Mark K. Morrison Landscape Architects and members of the Bartow-Pell Conservancy garden rehabilitation steering committee have accomplished a minor miracle—approval of the rehabilitation plans in record time. The approved plans were presented in a public talk by Mark Morrison in April. They reflect the original Delano & Aldrich design, but in a sustainable manner that can be easily maintained with today’s modest staff and resources. Construction—which includes regrading, installing an irrigation system, reintroducing original planting beds, replacing ailing trees, and restoring the decorative wrought iron garden gates—is scheduled for completion by end of 2013.

In our many efforts, whether it involves garden rehabilitation or shutter restoration, school programs or local author talks, woodland hikes with Urban Park Rangers or fund-raising parties in the mansion, a tremendous number of volunteers help make it all happen. We are very fortunate in our donors, both individuals and organizations, without whom we could not continue to operate. We are immensely appreciative and proud of each and every volunteer and funder who sees the value in providing their time, talent, and funds to support this beautiful piece of living history in Pelham Bay Park. Don’t miss out on the many exciting offerings this season and in the coming centennial year. Join us at Bartow-Pell!

Catherine Campbell Scinta, President
Bartow-Pell Conservancy

Ellen Bruzelius, Executive Director
Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum

2014—a Centennial Celebration (continued)

gardening books in the IGC collection, curated by Parks Preservation Landscape Architect Joseph Disponzio, will precede a spring exhibition on the history of the IGC and its founders, curated by long-time member Barbara Bartlett and Ms. Highland. In keeping with the IGC’s horticultural mission, an inaugural annual plant sale is set for May 2014, and the spring lecture series will feature topics relating to the IGC. Fall 2014 will bring another new event—an outdoor antiques fair—and a lecture series by renowned experts on classical American architecture, fine art, and the decorative arts.

Party of the Century No centennial would be complete without a grand party, and so a fabulous dinner dance with an early jazz theme capturing the gaiety of the new 20th century is the aim of the centennial gala committee, chaired by Cynthia Brown. With the new garden in bloom, this May evening party will commemorate the IGC’s founding. Look for details early next year on this great event!

Centennial Members and Supporters As with the original IGC, the Conservancy is only as strong as its members. On offer for 2014 will be a special centennial membership to encourage Bartow-Pell’s growth and outreach. In tandem with this effort, the Conservancy’s board is exploring the feasibility of a capital campaign to further restore the mansion and grounds and to establish an endowment fund.

Without the IGC, our beloved site would most likely have remained a remote spot without its elegant mansion, carriage house, and gardens that remain open for the enjoyment of all. Join in celebrating and supporting their legacy during the 2014 centennial.
THE PELL TREATY ON DISPLAY AT BPMM

BY BLAKE BELL

Bartow-Pell has the distinct privilege of displaying the famous Pell Treaty during the first two weeks of June, in connection with the 325th anniversary celebration of the settlement of nearby New Rochelle. This unique document played an important role not only in Bartow-Pell's history but also in that of its many neighboring communities.

Tradition has long held that Thomas Pell, an Englishman from the Colony of Connecticut, stood beneath the spreading branches of a massive oak tree on the grounds of today's Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum on June 27, 1654, and struck a bargain with the local Native Americans for a large tract of land, which some estimate to have encompassed nearly 50,000 acres. That land, which covers much of what is now the Bronx and the southeastern half of Westchester County, became known as the Manor of Pelham, although Pell never lived here but remained in Fairfield, Connecticut. However, as we shall see, he was a strategic thinker, one of the first Englishmen to establish a settlement in the Dutch-controlled colony of Nieuw Amsterdam.

Though often referred to as the Pell “Treaty,” that agreement under the “Treaty Oak” was not between sovereign nations. Rather, it was a deed by which Pell purchased the land for what is believed to have been 500 English pounds sterling for what became the “Lordshipp & Mannour of Pelham,” a transaction that had enormous implications at the time for the dispute between the English and the Dutch over control of the region. The tract was huge, and the Dutch claimed much of it. Effective control of the area by an Englishman could help block any further northwestward movement of Dutch settlers toward New England.

The enormity of Pell's move was not lost on Dutch authorities, who confronted and arrested many of the earliest English settlers whom Pell installed on portions of the land shortly after he acquired it. Ultimately, however, the strength and resolve of Pell and the English settlers were fruitful. The Dutch, facing a war with England they knew they could not win, surrendered their nearby settlement of Nieuw Amsterdam to the English on September 8, 1664, and the English promptly renamed that settlement New York. Two years later, on October 6, 1666, Thomas Pell’s ownership of virtually all the land transferred to him by local Native Americans under the 1654 deed was confirmed by royal patent, signed and sealed by colonial Governor Richard Nicolls.

The whereabouts of the original deed are not known. Fortunately, a copy exists in what is thought by scholars to be Thomas Pell's own handwriting. That copy has long been on display in the Thompson-Pell Research Center located at Fort Ticonderoga, a National Historic Landmark in Ticonderoga, New York. Now the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum will exhibit the copy in early June this year on behalf of all the neighboring lands that once were part of the Pell acquisition. Visit the museum soon to view this piece of local history up close.

Editor's note: Thanks to Christopher Fox, Curator of Collections at Fort Ticonderoga, and Lili Pell Whitmer for making this loan possible. Pelham and New Rochelle historians Blake Bell and Barbara Davis will give a talk about the treaty on Thursday, June 13, at 7:30 p.m.
PROFILES AND POETRY

“What do we need to acquire for the collection?” the auction committee asked me a couple of weeks before the December 2012 fund-raiser. “We would like to include a giving tree for one or two objects.”

The walls in George Bartow's bedchamber were a little bare, and for some time we had thought that a full-length silhouette portrait of a gentleman would be ideal in that room. What better way to celebrate the success of our recent fall exhibition Shade and Shadow: A Selection of British and American Silhouettes?

It was easy to come up with a second item. Robert Bartow owned a publishing company with his brothers William Augustus and George, and they produced handsome leather-bound books from about 1815 to 1826. Their most ambitious project was a multivolume series of British poetry. Our goal is to collect each one of the volumes, since Mr. Bartow undoubtedly had a complete set here in the mansion. And now for the happy ending: Generous donors gave us the funds to buy not just one but two silhouettes in period maple frames for George's bedchamber—a dapper gentleman and a teenage boy—and three of the Bartow-published poetry books by Burns, Milton, and James Thomson (on view in the south parlor bookcase). We are delighted to expand our collections with these recent acquisitions.

Above: Teenage Boy with a Top Hat, 2nd quarter of the 19th century. British, artist unknown. Painted silhouette, watercolor on paper. Bartow-Pell Landmark Fund 2012.05

MADE IN NEW YORK: RECENT GIFTS FROM MR. AND MRS. STUART FELD

In the fall of 2012, thanks to generous gifts from Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Feld, Bartow-Pell’s museum collection added several pieces of original New York furniture.

The first is an unusual fire screen/desk attributed to Duncan Phyfe and is remarkably similar to one made in 1841 by D. Phyfe & Son for John L. Manning and his wife, Susan Hampton Manning, of Millford Plantation in South Carolina. Fire screens allowed people sitting near a fireplace to control the amount of heat they received. This special version features a fall-front writing surface and interior storage compartments for papers and writing implements. Its new home—close to the fireplace in Clarina Bartow’s bedchamber—is near a high-post bedstead attributed to Phyfe by former Metropolitan Museum of Art curator Berry Tracy.

The second gift is an exquisite pair of early Gothic Revival New York side chairs with lancet arches and mahogany veneer. Before joining the BPMM collection, the chairs were featured in two exhibitions at the Hirschl & Adler Galleries—The World of Duncan Phyfe: The Arts of New York 1800–1847 and In Pointed Style: Gothic Revival in America, 1800–1860. It is interesting to note that the Bartows’ neighbor Rev. Robert Bolton was an enthusiastic proponent of the Gothic Revival style in America. These beautiful new acquisitions flank the...
MARY MEANS HUBER: BPMM’S CURATOR EMERITA IN HER OWN WORDS

Raised in Woodbridge, Connecticut, Mary Means Huber was the daughter of a registered nurse and an antiques dealer, appraiser, and collector. Her father, an authority on American and English history and antiques, owned The Collectors’ Shop, which specialized in vintage stamps and coins. Mary inherited the family home full of American antiques.

After receiving her B.A. from Wheaton College in Massachusetts, Mary was a fellow in the University of Delaware’s Henry F. duPont Winterthur Museum Program, earning an M.A. in 1956. She worked as the assistant to Joseph T. Butler, curator of Sleepy Hollow Restorations (later Historic Hudson Valley). Mary has been connected with Bartow-Pell since the late 1970s and was curator for more than 30 years. One of her close friends, Nancy Wixom, worked alongside her as part of the curatorial team starting in the late 1980s. Today Mary continues to advise us in her current role as curator emerita. Mary served as Bronxville Village Historian from 1978 to 1989 and has volunteered at the Hudson River Museum and for church and service organizations. After her marriage to Charles Huber, Mary and her husband settled in Bronxville, where they raised three children. Mary and her late husband have seven grandchildren.

In the late 1970s, friends brought me to the Bartow-Pell Mansion for the first time. My initial impressions of the entrance hall with its spiral staircase and woodwork and the fireplaces and draperies of the double parlors are unforgettable. I felt that I was back in the Empire rooms at the Winterthur Museum! However, for protection, the Aubusson carpets were covered with heavy nautical plastic laid wall to wall, which gave the impression of an indoor skating rink! Then I learned that these first-floor period rooms had been professionally furnished by Joseph Downs, who had been the curator of the Winterthur Museum, where I had studied after college. Most of the furniture in these main rooms was on loan from New York City museums.

When I joined the International Garden Club to assist my friend Jean Bartlett of the Museum Committee, we set out to refurbish the Upstairs Sitting Room together with the then-president, Virginia Brooks. A recently deceased member, Elizabeth Ames Cleveland, had left an endowment fund for the purpose. At the time, the room had applied rectangular wall moldings, antique French furniture, and Chinese porcelain vases. It was used for board meetings.

That was the beginning of the long process of acquiring our own furnishings for all the main rooms to reflect more accurately the way the Bartow family lived while they were in residence. This project will continue as long as more historical knowledge is interpreted and adapted to the functions of a modern house museum.

MADE IN NEW YORK (continued)

marble fireplace in the upstairs sitting room.

The Felds’ third donation is a New York barometer made of rosewood by P. Salvade during the second quarter of the 19th century. This lovely, functional object now hangs in the mansion’s entrance hall, monitoring the weather and temperature just as it has done for over 150 years.

We are grateful to Mr. and Mrs. Feld for giving Bartow-Pell these superb objects, made in New York. Please come see them for yourself in their new home.
In recent years, Bartow-Pell has offered a wonderful new lecture series called “Local Author Spotlight,” in which authors from the area give informal talks about their recent books, followed by a book signing reception.

The book subjects vary widely, although they have generally been non-fiction titles. In September 2011, Dorothy Wickenden, managing editor at The New Yorker, spoke about *Nothing Daunted: The Unexpected Education of Two Society Girls in the West,* in which she reconstructs the adventures of her grandmother and a friend, two intrepid women who, bored by society luncheons, charity work, and the effete men who courted them, left their families in Auburn, New York, to teach school in the wilds of northwestern Colorado.

In November 2011, Carol Wallace gave a talk on her novel *Leaving Van Gogh,* in which she paints an indelible portrait of Van Gogh’s final days, telling his story from an utterly new perspective—that of his personal physician, Dr. Gachet. Among Ms. Wallace’s long list of both fiction and non-fiction books, is *To Marry an English Lord,* recently republished as a result of the huge popularity of the BBC television series *Downton Abbey.*

Veering off in another direction altogether, Kristin van Ogtrop led off 2012 by speaking in January about her entertaining and insightful book *Just Let Me Lie Down: Necessary Terms for the Half-Insane Working Mom,* in which she wittily shares her experiences and advice about being a wife, mother, and career woman and trying to keep her wits about her.

In June 2012, award-winning journalist Guy Gugliotta described the history and the broader meaning of the Capitol building in Washington, D.C., as explored in his book *Freedom’s Cap: The United States Capitol and the Coming of the Civil War,* which was intended to settle the “slavery question” for all time, but as the new Capitol rose above Washington’s skyline in 1850, battles over slavery and secession ripped the country apart.

In September 2012 we welcomed Richard Zacks, author of *Island of Vice,* who gave a fascinating history of Teddy Roosevelt’s tenure as police commissioner of New York City during the 1890s, which was then teeming with 40,000 prostitutes, illegal casinos, and all-night dance halls. Mr. Zacks is currently working on a new book on Mark Twain which we look forward to hearing about in 2014.

This January the Local Author Spotlight shone on award-winning journalist Andrew Nagorski, who talked about his book *Hitlerland: American Eyewitnesses to the Nazi Rise to Power.* Drawing on the dispatches, interviews, and writings of journalists and diplomats in Berlin leading up to World War II, Mr. Nagorski presents what Henry Kissinger called “a fascinating account of a fateful era.”

And coming up on October 17, Edward Ball, author of *The Inventor and the Tycoon: A Gilded Age Murder and the Birth of Moving Pictures,* focuses on Eadweard Muybridge, who was the first to capture time in a camera and play it back for an audience; he was also a murderer who killed coolly and meticulously, and his trial is one of the early instances of a media sensation. His patron was railroad tycoon (and former California governor) Leland Stanford, who hired Muybridge to determine whether all four of a galloping horse’s feet ever left the ground at the same time. Mr. Ball’s book interweaves Muybridge’s quest to unlock the secrets of motion through photography, an obsessive murder plot, and the peculiar partnership of an eccentric inventor and a driven entrepreneur. Save the date!
Contributions to Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum support the care and growth of the museum collection, development and implementation of public and school programs, and general operating support. There are many ways to help. For further information or to become a member, please call 718.885.1461.

MAKE A PLANNED GIFT
BPMM’s Legacy Can Be Your Legacy
Support the preservation of the history, buildings, collection, and grounds of BPMM by entering into a planned giving program. This can be accomplished by including BPMM in your will. By doing this you can help to ensure that future generations experience the museum’s rich collection and offerings.

ESTABLISH A NAMED ENDOWMENT
Help Secure the Future of BPMM
Named endowment funds are a meaningful way to honor a loved one, celebrate a family’s commitment to history, or recognize the contribution of a foundation or corporation. These provide crucial financial support, in perpetuity, for BPMM’s important work. Income generated by named endowments may be applied to general operations or a specific use such as school programs, care of gardens, or acquisitions.

MATCHING GIFTS
Companies often will match employee contributions to cultural organizations. If you are eligible to have your gift to BPMM matched by your company, please complete the matching gift form (provided by your employer) and send this paperwork with your donation.

VOLUNTEER AT BPMM
A wide range of volunteer opportunities is available for anyone interested in donating their time and energy to help keep the mansion and property accessible to the public. Volunteer opportunities include, but are not limited to, leading education programs, supporting public programs and special events, providing administrative assistance, and garden help (seasonal). Benefits include training and advance notice of lectures and concerts.

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A yearlong membership to Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum makes a great gift for any occasion.
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INSIDE THIS ISSUE: CENTENNIAL PREVIEW, PELL TREATY EXHIBITION, RECENT ACQUISITIONS, CURATOR EMERITA MARY HUBER PROFILE

PLEASE VISIT WWW.BPMM.ORG OR CALL 718.885.1461 FOR MORE INFORMATION

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