

THE TAYLOR HOUSE MUSEUM QUARTERLY

SPRING 2020



A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

For almost 40 years the Taylor House Museum has been a showcase for Berlin history and an important part of our Berlin community. In this unprecedented time, we want to share with you how the museum is adapting and planning for the future. We have been using this opportunity to clean out spaces and organize new exhibits. We are looking closely at our expenses and working to streamline them as much as we can. Board members and volunteers have been writing grants to help fund a deep clean of the museum, as well as supply funding for our new exhibits focused on important members of the African American community in Berlin.

We are looking forward to welcoming our Berlin family as soon as we can open our doors, and we earnestly hope you can continue to support our mission to preserve and share the history of our beautiful town. Please consider renewing your membership or making a donation to the museum at this time. The Taylor House Museum was created by the Berlin community, and it has been maintained for almost 40 years by support from that same community. We appreciate now more than ever that support. Please take care of yourself and know that the staff and volunteers at the Taylor House Museum are looking forward to the day we can open the doors and welcome you in to view our new exhibits.

Sincerely,
Melissa Reid
President of the Taylor House Museum

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Online:

www.taylorhousemuseum.org

Mail:

PO Box 351 Berlin, MD 21811

Email:

taylorhousemuseum@verizon.net

SINGLE \$20 FAMILY \$30

Thank you for all the offers to help!

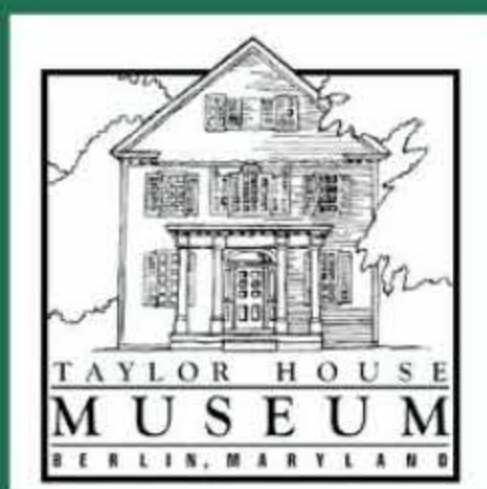
Dear Museum friends,

We are truly touched by your offers of support! Many have reached out to ask how they can most help us during this troubled time. Simply:

 @taylorhousemuseum

 @taylorhousemuseum

- Join or Renew your Membership
- Donate at
TaylorHouseMuseum.org
- Mail donations to:
P.O. Box 531 Berlin, MD 21811



We can't say thank you enough for the love and support you've given us. We hope you stay safe and we look forward to seeing you soon!

HAVE YOU CHECKED US OUT ON SOCIAL MEDIA?

We're on Facebook and Instagram
@TaylorHouseMuseum

Take a Virtual Tour
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~~~[See you there!](#)~~~



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CONTACT US ANYTIME! TAYLORHOUSEMUSEUM@VERIZON.NET

# CURATOR'S CORNER

*By Susan Taylor*



Hello from the 3rd floor! There is a lot happening at the Taylor House these days!

In the past, the majority of my time at the museum was spent on day-to-day administrative tasks. While this was very important, it left me with little time to actually work on my curator duties of caring for our collections. I am excited to report this all changed when we welcomed new museum administrator Heather Nottingham to the staff.

My responsibilities now include working with our inventory, archives, exhibits and docents. Our climate-controlled 3rd floor is completely re-organized and now includes my new curator's office overlooking Main Street. Intern Barrett Moncure has re-organized our archival storage area and she and I are now working on a new version of our Past Perfect inventory program. We are reviewing and updating the inventory records for each item in our museum's collections. While this is time consuming and labor-intensive, it will give us greater search ability and understanding of all the wonderful items that have been donated to the Calvin B. Taylor House since our museum opened in the early 1980's.

Our collections include more than the furniture you see in our historic rooms. There are many exciting items of Berlin history behind the scenes just waiting to come to light. While organizing our genealogy collection, I re-read a history of the Whalley Family. Major General Edward Whalley, the Regicide, was born in Northampton England in 1615 and served in Cromwell's army. His signature is on the death warrant of Charles I, after that of his uncle Oliver Cromwell. Whalley arrived in New England in 1660 after Charles I was beheaded, escaping Charles II's army sent to capture Cromwell's followers. In 1687 he fled again and settled in Worcester County, purchasing 2000 acres in Sinepuxent where he lived until his death in 1718 at the age of 103 years.

Other early items of note include documents and deeds from 1750 and 1773.

A more modern find from the 1940's are three scrapbooks of celebrity ties collected by Mrs. John Crumbacker of Salisbury, including ties worn by President Truman, General Wainwright, George Bernard Shaw, and Babe Ruth.

As you see, work continues here at the Taylor House during these unusual times of the pandemic. While we live through a time that will be recorded in history, we continue to care for and explore the historic items entrusted to us. I'm looking forward to sharing more archival finds in our next Curator's Corner. In the meantime stay safe and keep collecting!