

BANKENOTES

STRAWBERRY BANKE MUSEUM

ISSUE 2 2020

Dear Strawberry Banke Friends and Family,

ALTHOUGH THE COVID-19 CRISIS closed the museum office doors in March, we cannot yet tell how lives and businesses will continue to be affected as the economy takes the hit from the necessary “Stay At Home” orders. But we and the rest of the Board of Trustees have made the difficult decision to postpone the seasonal opening of Strawberry Banke Museum until July 1, 2020.

Aside from the “Baby Animals: Heritage Breeds at the Banke” event which we had to cancel, the major visitation in the early part of the season in May and June comes primarily from two groups: school field trips and vacationers. With schools in New England closed, field trips have been cancelled.

Recreational domestic travel is also being discouraged at the moment. But we are looking forward to answering the pent-up demand when we do open, with some new programming that focuses on outdoor activities and demonstrations that keep people at safe physical distance. Senior staff members continue to work remotely on new programs and exhibits, including “Water Has a Memory: Preserving Strawberry Banke and Portsmouth from Sea Level Rise,” with plans to implement these later in the summer.

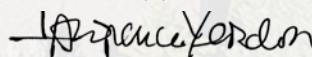
Meanwhile, the museum has ramped up access to our collections, developing new content, virtual classroom activities and virtual tours to provide resources and leadership in the area of online-learning.

Your support of those efforts is more valuable than ever (if you’d like to make a gift, please go to: StrawberryBanke.org/donate.cfm)

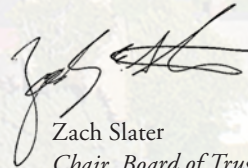
That Strawberry Banke Museum exists demonstrates that our society, throughout history, has had the will to survive, to sustain each other and to emerge from adversity stronger than we were before.

Be well. Let us know how we can help with the rich resources we have at hand. We look forward to seeing you again at Strawberry Banke.

Sincerely yours,



Lawrence J. Yerdon
President & CEO
603-433-1104



Zach Slater
Chair, Board of Trustees
603-498-1484

Virtual Tours

Physical distancing and guidance to “Stay At Home” makes it difficult to visit Strawberry Banke Museum, though the campus and sprouting gardens are open for strolling. Instead, these virtual tours transport armchair travelers to this historic waterfront neighborhood, from the comfort and safety of home.

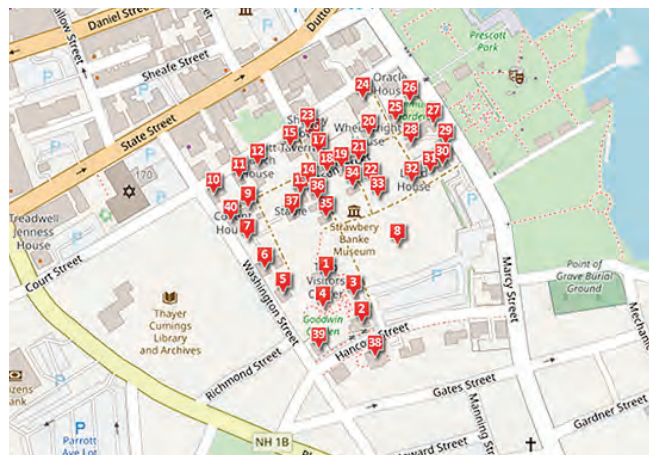
NH Public Broadcasting, VisitNH.gov and the Distinctive Destinations program of the National Trust for Historic Preservation have added Strawberry Banke digital resources to their catalogues.



Listen to the Landscape — Discover images that illustrate the rich history of this waterfront neighborhood accompanied by the voices, sights and sounds from the past.



Visit the Puddle Dock neighborhood, the historic houses, or the museum’s gardens and historic landscapes by logging in to strawberrybanke.org/visit.cfm



Historic Houses Sidewalk Tour — A virtual tour of Strawberry Banke Museum created by the UNH Geospatial Lab, for exploring the neighborhood from home or the sidewalk.



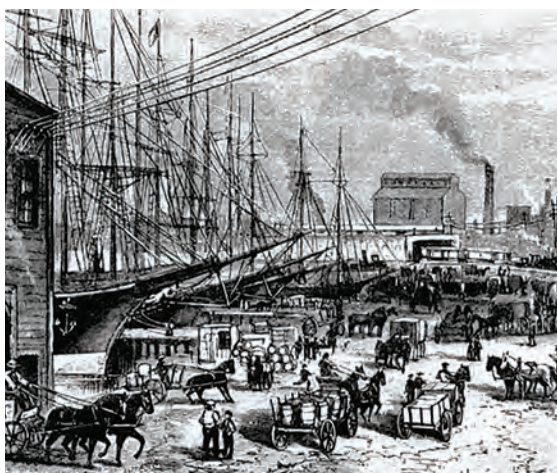
The orientation film usually shown in the TYCO Visitors Center puts Strawberry Banke into the context of Portsmouth’s 300-year history.



Strawberry Banke Signature Events — Sample the many special events at Strawberry Banke with a ‘flyover’ video produced by David Murray/ClearEyePhoto.com.

Step into the Strawberry Banke Virtual Classroom

The Strawberry Banke Education Department uses the Virtual Classroom to prepare school and homeschool groups for their field trip visits (the museum welcomes 10,000 schoolchildren each year!). Teacher’s guides connect the museum experiences and workshops to the state curriculum standards, while activity sheets provide lessons useful for at-home classrooms as well as in-school and on-site. Discover lesson-planning materials, primary documents, and interactive exercises. Some of the highlights include:



Puddle Dock Adventures



What’s a “roleplayer”?



Chase House Challenge

Taking the Collections, Gardens and Archaeology Online

As the Education Department brings more and more content to the aid of parents and teachers navigating the now-mandated world of online-learning, other museum staff are translating their knowledge and expertise to bringing the collections, horticultural and archaeological treasures of Strawberry Banke to the world. Here’s a curated selection of those resources. Remember the website offers access to Search the Collections at Strawberry Banke.



From the Collections: St. John’s Church. This painting (2014.43), is attributed to watercolorist Fidelia Bridges (1834–1923), thought to have known Celia Thaxter and Annie Fields and occasional visitor to Portsmouth. Recognizable buildings include St. John’s Church and the Portsmouth Navy Yard. Gundalows and other masted ships are reflected in the calm water. Bridges is best known for her depictions of nature — wildflowers, birds, and landscapes. In 1874, she became the first woman to join what is now the American Watercolor Society.



Transfer-Printed Pearlware Teacups. Once artifacts have been cataloged, each fragment is numbered and ceramic vessels can be pieced back together with water-soluble glue. Mending ceramics can help archaeologists see the shape of and print on a vessel, and figure out how many pieces were actually in a set. To learn when and where these transfer-printed teacups were made, visit strawberrybanke.org/collections/artifact-of-the-week.cfm



“Think Spring” with historic and organic gardening tips for a modern garden. Matthew Kochka, Strawberry Banke Horticulturist, starts the museum’s seedlings indoors, without a greenhouse or specialized equipment. Read his “Seed Starting Tips: The Basics” for tricks to jump-start seedlings, and other tips in the “Gardens at Strawberry Banke” blog.



14 Hancock Street
Portsmouth, NH 03801



Visit strawberybanke.org
for updated schedules
and event details



Virtual Baby Animals: Heritage Breeds at the Banke

Celebrate Spring by welcoming the baby animals that would have come to Strawberry Banke for the 5th annual Baby Animals: Heritage Breeds on the Banke! Learn more about the farmers and their animals, watch videos of the babies on their farms, and enjoy special online activities for learning, and fun! Download coloring sheets, try making a yarn “lamb” with a template like one used for the Children’s Breakfasts and plan which animals to meet in person, next year. Go to StrawberyBanke.org/events/barnyard-baby-animals.cfm and click on the Virtual Baby Animals button.

Thanks to Jay & Amanda
McSharry for leading a successful
March Match — and to all who
donated to the Annual Fund.

The generosity of donors
sustains Strawberry Banke:
StrawberyBanke.org/donate.cfm

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