



The Gilbert Stuart

Birthplace and Museum

April 2021

815 Gilbert Stuart Road
Saunderstown, RI 02874
Phone 401-294-3001
Fax 401-294-3869
www.gilbertstuartmuseum.org

Museum Celebrates Ninetieth Year!

Gilbert Stuart Memorial's endurance is linked to Caroline Hazard's exceptional leadership and generosity



Caroline Hazard

In the last newsletter it was noted that the serendipity of having Nathaniel Vose set up a summer retreat a stone's throw from the dilapidated Gilbert Stuart birth site led to the creation of the Gilbert Stuart Memorial (dba Gilbert Stuart Birthplace and Museum.) The original founders - Vose, Herbert Cross, Mr. and Mrs. J.W. Greene, Ira Letts, Norman Isham, and others - were all critical to the early development of the museum. No one was more important, however, than the first museum president, Caroline Hazard.

Caroline Hazard, the daughter of industrialist Rowland G. Hazard, owner of the Peace Dale Manufacturing Company (textiles and other ventures), was born on June 10, 1856, in Peace Dale, RI. Caroline was educated privately in her early years, then at the Mary A. Shaw School in Providence. She received tutoring at Brown University and studied in Europe.

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We are opening April 24th!

We are very excited to be opening our doors again (cautiously) for visitors. We will be carefully following state Covid protocols. Masks will be required. We've made changes to our tours and access to buildings to allow for social distancing. We will be open for regular business on weekends through May. (Due to gathering limits, there will be **NO Spring Fair** this year.)

April 24 & 25, 2021: open Saturday and Sunday

May 2021: open Saturdays and Sundays

Doors open at 10:30—Last admission 2:00

Days and hours are subject to change.

Check www.gilbertstuartmuseum.org for days and hours for 2021



Annual Membership Drive ~ Help preserve this Rhode Island treasure

Donations via website: www.gilbertstuartmuseum.org (on the membership page under "donate")

Donations via mail: Gilbert Stuart Museum, 815 Gilbert Stuart Road, Saunderstown, RI, 02874

Caroline Hazard continued

Caroline was passionate about several diverse interests. Her interest in education led to her setting up a school for the employees of her father's manufacturing company. She developed a literary career, authoring volumes on history, poetry, and education, as well as biographies.

Caroline was asked to join the board of visitors (trustees) at Wellesley College. She so impressed the board that she was asked to become the fifth president of the college in 1899. At the time, the school had declining enrollment and was in deep financial trouble. She accepted the position and the challenge. Through her social and educational connections, strong fund-raising skills, and firm support from the faculty, things turned around. In her eleven-year tenure, the college's debt was eliminated, and an endowment was established that grew to \$1.3 million by 1910 (the equivalent of 35.6 million today); enrollment doubled, the curriculum expanded, and new buildings were constructed, including the president's house- which she paid for- and is still in use. She worked with Frederick Law Olmstead in designing new campus space. Caroline retired from the presidency in 1910 but remained on the board until 1927.

After her retirement from Wellesley, she spent part of each year at the family's west coast home in Santa Barbara, California. Caroline became a board member of the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History in 1918. She was well known for her watercolors and her

devotion to poetry, history, and education. She continued to author books, essays, magazine and newspaper articles, and pamphlets on those subjects.

Caroline was active in the art community in RI and joined the South County Art Association in Kingston after its founding in 1929. It was through some of the members of SCAA that she learned of the project to save the birthplace of Gilbert Stuart. The Stuart project was made into a separate entity from the SCAA. Caroline joined in to help save the birthplace and became the president of the group. The official incorporation of the Gilbert Stuart Memorial, Inc. took place on February 2, 1931. The first formal meeting as the Gilbert Stuart Memorial, Inc. was held three days later on February 5.

Funding was the top priority for the Gilbert Stuart Memorial. Caroline, Nathaniel Vose, Mr. and Mrs. J.W. Greene, and Herbert Cross sent out hundreds of solicitations. Pageants, teas, and galas were organized. A pamphlet on the history of the snuff and grist mills, written and published by Caroline, was sold to aid in the effort.

Though they were successful in raising some funds, more support was needed. The birthplace was a money pit. The house had been neglected for so long that Norman Isham and his construction team kept running into unforeseen problems. The work would stop, and more cash would be sought. The quest for funding never ended. Caroline and Mr. Vose continued to send out appeals right into the 1940's. Throughout the project Caroline was known to have made many "anonymous" gifts to keep things progressing.

Caroline's health began to decline. In 1939 she wished to retire as the museum president. The trustees cajoled her into serving another term and added a vice-president to help with administrative duties.

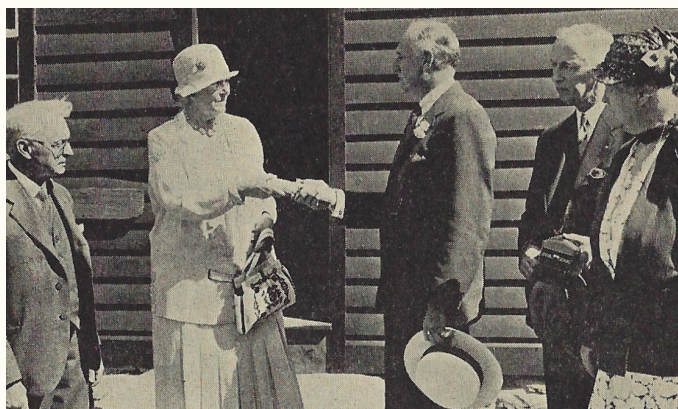
In 1943 Caroline decided to arrange an endowment for the Gilbert Stuart Memorial. She felt that the dependence on fund drives was not enough to sustain the museum. A large block of her stock portfolio was put in trust, called the Caroline Hazard Trust and later the Caroline Hazard Fund. A financial fall back would always be there. Originally managed by Brown, Lisle, and Cummings, it was merged with the Rhode Island Foundation in 1977. It continues to be a valuable resource for the museum.

The endurance of the Gilbert Stuart Memorial can be linked to Caroline Hazard's exceptional leadership and generosity. When she died on March 19, 1945 in Santa Barbara, she was still president of the museum. Caroline is buried in Oak Dell Cemetery in Peace Dale.

By David O'Connor

From "The Gilbert Stuart Birthplace"

A booklet published in 1935 which includes "A brief History of the Birthplace, its Purchase and Restoration, the forming of the Corporation, and Future Projects" by Caroline Hazard



"Passing of the Deed" L to R: Architect Norman Isham, Caroline Hazard, Nathaniel Vose, Joseph Greene, Mrs. Greene, Sr.

1927	Nathaniel Vose sends an appeal to save the birthplace
July 1930	First thousand dollars raised for the purchase of the birthplace
September 30, 1930	Entire amount raised for purchase
October 4, 1930	Property sold by Mrs. Hazel Green Henniger and held by the Wakefield Trust Company until incorporation
January 31, 1931	Articles of Incorporation drawn up and signed for the GILBERT STUART MEMORIAL INC
August 29, 1931	Housewarming Open House Celebration
June 11, 1932	Snuff mill waterwheel runs for the first time

ENDOWMENT FUND: All donations to the Caroline Hazard Fund at the Rhode Island Foundation directly benefit the Gilbert Stuart Memorial (dba Gilbert Stuart Birthplace and Museum.) The museum receives vital support from the yearly disbursement of dividends from this fund.

To donate to the endowment: <https://rifoundation.org/>

We are very grateful to Caroline Hazard for her foresight and generosity in setting up this endowment and to all who donate to the fund to support the museum.



Keeping the Wheels Turning

From the Executive Director

How were we able to survive being closed for a whole year, with the loss of 41% of operating fund revenues from admissions, gift shop sales and activities and the additional 35% drop in membership dues?

The Wheels WILL continue to turn thanks to:

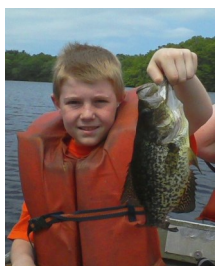
- Dramatic cuts in operating costs including a much reduced director's salary (made possible by an in-kind donation from the director)
- Income from the RI Foundation endowments (15% of yearly income)
- Unprecedented response from generous donors

We will be forever grateful to all museum friends who donated to the Annual Appeal. We must especially thank several (anonymous) benefactors for major contributions to the Appeal. We are extremely grateful to Beatriz and John Struck for offering the incredibly generous challenge of matching \$9000 in donations, which translated to \$18,000 for this fund. Additional donations brought the total to an unprecedented \$33,000. Your generous support at all levels has kept the museum afloat!

As we embark on the 2021 season and our ninetieth year as a museum, we thank Caroline Hazard and the museum founders for their vision of preserving this site and the legacy of Gilbert Stuart for future generations. The "red house" continues to stand, humbly looking upon its own reflection in the millpond. The river herring have begun their migration, the property is alive with herons, kingfishers, and osprey, and the grounds are bright with daffodils. The wheels will continue to turn thanks to our loyal members and friends.

Peggy O'Connor

Milling Around at the Museum



Join or Renew Your Membership Today to Enjoy **BOATING AT THE MUSEUM**

Boat rentals are a unique and popular perk of membership at the museum. Boaters enjoy rowing and fishing the scenic and peaceful 68 acres of Carr Pond, also known as Pausacaco Pond.

2021 Museum Boat Rentals New Guidelines

- You must be a current 2021 member, over the age of 18
- Boats are available by confirmed reservation only
- Boats are available when the museum is open for business
- Boats must be returned by 2:30 pm
- Boating daily rental fees:
12 foot boat = \$20 / 14 foot boat = \$25

Renew your membership at www.gilbertstuartmuseum.org
Call to reserve your boat 401-294-3001



Join Our Team of Volunteers

*Do you have some free time?
Do you have a passion for history, art,
and nature?*

Our volunteers play a vital role in making each visitor's experience memorable. No classes necessary, individualized training. *This may be your most rewarding and fun volunteer job yet!*

Volunteer opportunities:

Docent - Our enthusiastic docents give scripted tours of the museum buildings and grounds

Garden & Grounds - Maintain / create small gardens on the property

Research - Several projects available

Nature Trail - Periodically check / maintain trails

Painting Project - One inside project, experienced painter preferred.

Please call 401-294-3001 or email the museum
info@gilbertstuartmuseum.org

Help to preserve this Rhode Island Treasure!

President's Message

April 1, 2021



Dear Friends of the Museum:

I would like to say an official "Goodbye" as President of the Board of Trustees. I have served in this capacity for seven years. It does not feel that way mostly because I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as President.

The museum has always been one of my homes away from home. From the time Peggy O'Connor asked me to come over and just visit the property, I was hooked. We went into the Gristmill and I was awestruck. I felt as if I had stepped back in time! I wanted that feeling to continue. That was 2005. I became a docent, then a Trustee, then

Vice President and then President. It is now 2021! Where does the time go?

I simply want to say that from that day I stepped into the Gristmill until this day, I still have the same feelings and love for this remarkable property, the buildings, and water wheels nestled in the hollows of Saunderstown!

I am sure many of you feel the same. Please think of yourself as an ambassador for the museum. Please continue to support the museum in all its efforts whether membership, fundraising, and/or serving in any capacity here. We are always in need of volunteers. I can attest that you too will be totally hooked to be part of this piece of history.

My thanks to so many of you for your faithful support through the years. All of us here are deeply appreciative and thankful, especially this past year. You are all amazing. Again, thank you.

We look forward to seeing the museum continue to grow and prosper under the leadership of our new president Jackie Lamoureux.

Sincerely,

Peggy Todd

President of the Board of Trustees

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Officers: Peggy Todd, President; Jacquelyn Lamoureux, Vice-President; Sandra Makielski Lindstrom, Secretary; Wheaton Vaughan, Treasurer, **Trustees:** Betsy Coghlin, Karen Lucas, Ray Wertz, David Wrenn **Trustees Emeritus:** Henry L.P. Beckwith, Daniel Bell
Executive Director: Margaret O'Connor

MISSION STATEMENT:

The Gilbert Stuart Birthplace and Museum preserves the birthplace of Gilbert Stuart and its surrounding acreage. Focused on history, art, and nature, the Museum is charged with directing and supporting its operation as a National Historic Landmark and with the conservation of its natural setting.

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