

Views from The Gables

The
of the **House**
Seven Gables

SPRING/SUMMER 2015 NEWSLETTER



EDUCATION • PRESERVATION • COMMUNITY SERVICE

SPRING/SUMMER 2015 NEWSLETTER

Director's Message

At The House of the Seven Gables, we endeavor to serve several distinct, but often interrelated communities. The most obvious of these would be the thousands of tourists of all ages from across the globe that come to learn about American history and culture, for whom we strive to offer an educational and enjoyable experience. With a nod to Nathaniel Hawthorne, we serve the literary community by providing authors and their readers with the opportunity to engage in discussion through our Seven Lectures series. Through our Settlement Programs and Partnerships, we try to assist children and adults that are new to our country gain literacy and job skills that are critical to succeed in school and the workplace.

To be successful in all of these efforts we also rely on and are grateful for the support of these and other communities. We could not survive without the patronage of our visitors and the generosity of our donors. Nor could we function without the community of people performing the work: our dedicated staff, board of trustees and volunteers. Perhaps less visible is the support we receive from professionals in the museum and tourism communities.

I hope you enjoy reading the following articles, where you see evidence of all of these communities: those we are privileged to serve and those from whom we are fortunate to receive support.

Happy Spring!

Sincerely,

Kara McLaughlin



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A House in Miniature**by Ryan Canary, Marketing & Reservations Coordinator**

The House of the Seven Gables (Turner-Ingersoll Mansion) built in 1668, is a monument to the practical, sturdy construction of first-period New England houses, and the classically-inspired, elegant forms introduced to the house in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. This long-standing model for creativity is counted among the most recognizable and revered of New England's historic homes. Its grand and distinguished architecture has motivated many to immortalize it through photography, painting, literature and a host of other art forms. One such artist, inspired to preserve the legacy of the house was Edward Merchant, a retired executive who had a talent for crafting beautiful, immaculately detailed scale models of man-made structures. He would travel around the world with his wife, visiting the sites of the buildings that he was working on, to become immersed in their architecture. Mr. Merchant's enthusiasm for traveling to, and taking inspiration from, the real structures are apparent in his miniature creations.

In his model of The House of the Seven Gables, Mr. Merchant's precise attention to detail and accuracy of the framework of the house are astounding. In the 1990s, he and his wife made a trip to Salem to visit the "ancient" house. The trip was at the request of Ruth Kramer, who had fallen in love with the house after a previous visit, climbed the secret staircase, and walked the narrow halls. Mrs. Kramer came up with the idea to have a dollhouse model of the house built for her granddaughter, and asked Edward Merchant if he would construct it. Edward and his wife, along with Mrs. Kramer and her husband, made the trip to Salem to tour The House of the Seven Gables. While here, Mr. Merchant obtained a copy of early plans for the 1908-1910 restoration of the house, which he used in his design. When the house was completed after roughly 9 months, Mr. Merchant had created a unique, beautiful dollhouse for Mrs. Kramer and her granddaughter, which they would cherish for years. The dollhouse was donated to The House of the Seven Gables by the Kramer family in 2015, where it will be treasured and enjoyed by visitors and the community for years to come.

The donation of the dollhouse adds to an already rich collection of models of the famous Turner-Ingersoll Mansion (The House of the Seven Gables), some of which have been in our collection for decades, and some that have been recently built. One of the latest models of the house was made by The Gables own Brian Payne, who spent months on the design and construction of his model. This brilliant work of art is featured in an article further on in this issue.

We hope that you enjoy this newsletter, and hope to see you here at The Gables for what should be a wonderful spring and summer!



Photos showing the exterior of Edward Merchant's dollhouse. Courtesy of Mike Kramer.



Photos showing a few of the interior rooms of Edward Merchant's dollhouse. Courtesy of Mike Kramer.

Opening Night!**by Dan Marshall, Manager of Visitor Services**

Our new exhibit, “A Gracious Host: Visiting The Gables Through the Years”, opened to people, punch, and the ghosts of tours past on the evening of April 2nd, 2015.

A story 130 years in the making, party guests explored the informational panels and pictures of this in-depth telling of the history of The House of the Seven Gables as a tourist attraction. Some of the exhibit’s artifacts include our earliest souvenirs and pages from an early tour script hand-written by our founder Caroline Emmerton. In fact, special tours through the Turner-Ingersoll Mansion based on that pre-1920 script were a much talked about highlight of our opening night.

As the wonderful music of pianist Jacqueline Schwab filled the air, guests sampled dishes made from recipes featured in an old cookbook, titled “Gathered at the Gables”, that is now long out of print. These tastes of the past were expertly prepared by Rothwell Catering and the recipes were given out as a special gift. Some guests also came in costume from their favorite decade which added to the vintage atmosphere.

The evening had begun with a staff toast, recognizing all the hard work that went into the research, planning and implementation of this exhibit. I would especially like to thank our exhibits workgroup for sharing their talents on this project. They are: Ryan Conary, Deb Costa, Kristen Cunha, Merritt Kirkpatrick, Kara McLaughlin, David Moffat, Rachel Sherman, Mary-Ellen Smiley, Kevin White & Robin Woodman.

Though the food and music has faded, the history endures. Come and explore “A Gracious Host: Visiting The Gables Through the Years” through August 30th and make your own memories of our iconic historical landmark.



Guests enjoy the opening of our exhibition, *A Gracious Host*.

A Great Story of Migration

by Ana Nuncio, Manager of Settlement Partnerships

What's pink and red, and shimmers all over? A Caribbean swan, of course!

For Salem Education Day on Saturday, May 9th, Gables staff members gathered with other community organizations in Salem's Old Town Hall to promote the love of reading and books among Salem's families. Armed with a gorgeous origami swan created by Salem High student Frederick Fernández Cabrera, Gables staff members brought to life some stories from the book *Caribbean Tales*. The book was created last summer through a Gables partnership with students from the On Point program offered by Plummer Home, as well as with college-age students majoring in graphics and marketing at Endicott College, under the direction of Professor Kathleen McLaughlin.

Early on a Saturday morning, families found time to bring their children to browse through many books and hear some stories, but a favorite tale was about a red swan who led a swarm of fireflies to a new land. The fireflies, known as *nimitas* in the Dominican Republic, are the main characters in a featured story called "The Great Flight of the Nimitas." To escape a terrible hurricane, they follow the swan and make their way to America, eventually lighting up the whole eastern coast of the United States.



Girl poses with a pink swan during Salem Education Day

Gables Donor Soirée**By Karen Barter, Director of Development**

The House of the Seven Gables held an evening party at The Clarence Clarke House (c. 1894) on April 9th to honor select donors, the Board of Trustees and their guests. Homeowners, Steve & Darcy Immerman hosted the affair in their beautiful home. Kara McLaughlin, The Gables' Executive Director, greeted the attendees and thanked them for their support. She commended Steve & Darcy Immerman for their hospitality and support of The Gables. "The House of the Seven Gables was opened as a museum in 1910 by Caroline Emmerton to fund educational programs and services for immigrant families that helped them 'settle' into their new community. 'The Settlement Movement', a visionary cause had begun in England and was adopted here by individuals of means who chose to make their life's work purposeful in service to others.



The Clarence Clarke House (c. 1894)

Ms. Emmerton saved a number of historic houses from demolition building a campus of eight historic houses and broadening the visitor's experience. The dual mission of education and preservation continues to this day." Kara explained. "However, the financial woes of the past decade have created a challenge of deferred maintenance on the eight historic houses in our stewardship. The original model of admission fees funding everything no longer applies. Fundraising has become the only solution. In this time of need, we ask for your help!

Please reach out to your friends, tell our story and become a part of the solution. Where else can one gift preserve a piece of history and support educational programs for children? Preserve the Past. Empower the Future.

There are many ways to get involved. Please talk to us about volunteering, planned giving, a pledge, bequest, giving a party like this one at your home, or introducing us to someone who could help. Thanks to the support of donors like you, this National Historic Landmark District will be here for generations to come. We salute your generosity!" Donors were treated to the culinary talents of Vini Kutru of The Adriatic Restaurant, while renowned pianist, Jacqueline Schwab, played a selection of nostalgic melodies.



On May 13th, a beautiful spring evening, The House of the Seven Gables kicked off its series of Community Conversations on the topic of immigration with an intelligent and engaging discussion about the legality of immigration with Salem State University Professor of History Aviva Chomsky. The conversation was well attended with over 65 audience members from diverse backgrounds sharing their experiences and insights into an important topic. The success of this conversation speaks volumes about the level of importance the topic of immigration has among members of the community. We would like to thank all who attended, and we look forward to our upcoming Community Conversations.

A Summer of Celebration

By Deb Costa, Manager of Special Events

Summer feels like it's already here, and with that we would like to invite our members to attend our annual Fourth of July fireworks viewing at The House of the Seven Gables. We will be hosting a family-friendly event with birthday cake for Nathaniel Hawthorne (born July 4, 1804) before the fireworks begin. Everyone is encouraged to bring a picnic, but please no alcohol. We will have a cash bar available and complimentary lemonade. Please come and pick a comfortable spot on our waterfront lawn any time after 5pm. You may make reservations by contacting Ryan Conary @rconary@7gables.org. Anyone who is a regular to the event knows what a perfect view of the fireworks we have from the lawn!



One of the new wooden plaques featuring quotes by Nathaniel Hawthorne available in the Museum Store.

Presenting Hawthorne's Quotes

By Everett Philbrook, Store Manager

Each year we encounter visitors in the Museum Store who ask about the quotes that are featured on the walls of the Nathaniel Hawthorne birth house. These quotes were taken from various works by Hawthorne and hand-painted on the walls throughout the house. This year we are proud to offer selected quotes from the works of Hawthorne on wooden plaques.

These pieces of artwork will complement our existing products which feature his quotes, including ceramic mugs, book marks, and greeting cards. The plaques are available for purchase in a variety of sizes, and are painted in the same colors as the wood work of the birth house.

The quotes are in a script font that reflects the authors time period, and are a great gift for admirers of Hawthorne and the values that he expresses in them.

High Tide**By Kevin White, Director of Maintenance & Preservation**

It was President's Day, and as was common this past winter, it had snowed the night before. The temperatures were in single digits, and a stiff wind was gracing the air. On this particular occasion we were lucky to have the snow, because the entire maintenance staff was here for its removal. Other dedicated staff members were also arriving, when the sprinkler pipes above the ceiling in the Visitors Center function rooms burst.

It became extremely clear how effective these sprinklers can be. A great amount of water came pouring down and flooded the entire room in moments. All alarm systems worked as they should, and immediately notified the Salem Fire Department, who responded promptly. Shortly after their arrival, they were able to shut off the sprinkler pump, as there was no conflagration. In the meantime, the staff, including our executive director, jumped into action to mitigate the problem. As water began to infiltrate the basement area, staff started to sweep the water out of the function rooms into the lobby and out the front door toward the storm drains. Other staff rushed to cover sensitive articles in the basement's antiques and historical documents storage areas with protective plastic. Wet vacuums were deployed to help in the effort, and calls went out for further assistance. All of this transpired before 8:30 a.m.

The action that followed this calamity was truly amazing. Our call was heard. In very short order, friends from fellow institutions arrived to lend a hand and offer much welcome consultation and assistance. Staff from Historic New England and the Peabody Essex Museum arrived with much needed supplies and expertise. The team immediately went to work carefully removing all threatened historical collections items from the storage area to safer environs. It is our great fortune that very few items suffered damage. Those few that did suffer have been slated for proper conservation.

Although we have always been able to count on each other for support, the cultural community has, in recent years, formalized this understanding in a program known as COSTEP. In this capacity, institutions organize a co-operative support system in which they share expertise and other appropriate support in the face of crisis. First responders also work closely with institutions in this arrangement to help protect our regions historic resources. The response to our crisis was a great exercise in this system of cooperation.

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In the meantime, the maintenance staff worked to remove wet and damaged ceiling tiles and insulation, and extracted as much water as possible. Following such an excellent initial response, further cleanup of the flooded areas was performed by SERVPRO. They arrived early that afternoon and began the process of drying out and dehumidifying the affected area. Every effort was taken to ensure proper drying, and moisture/humidity levels were monitored over the course of the week to ensure proper dry out had been accomplished. Since that time, the affected sprinklers, the insulation, the ceiling tiles and the carpet have been replaced, and the function room is back in full swing. Our thanks go out to The Gables staff and the community as a whole. Special thanks to Julie Arrison and Megan MacNeil of Historic New England and Dave O’Ryan from P.E.M. who arrived on scene. To all others who responded, we are forever grateful.

Model Behavior

By Kevin White, Director of Maintenance & Preservation

The history of our fair mansion has been interpreted in many fashions over the course of the years. This house has seen many changes in appearance over time as well. Most of us are familiar with these changes, and have seen a model, or painted a picture in our minds eye. The house as it stood in the 17th century is familiar to us, as is the restoration taken up by our founder Caroline Emmerton and her architect Joseph Chandler. Although it was Hawthorne’s work that immortalized this house, we have only heard of the changes made by Capt. Samuel Ingersoll, and the appearance of the home when Hawthorne visited. What he saw in his time was very different from the structure with which we are so well acquainted today. Now, the House of the Seven Gables is in the proud possession of a model depicting the house as it stood when our native author visited his cousin Susannah Ingersoll here.

Over the course of the past few months, our very talented employee Brian Payne has created this model. The end result is quite impressive. Superior attention has been given to every detail and its properly scaled proportions have been derived from blueprints in our archive. Although the blueprints did provide correct dimensions for the structure itself, additional information was required to accurately portray the overall appearance of the house at this time. It is our good fortune to have at our fingertips a wealth of knowledge in the hands of our fellow employees, many of whom are passionate historians in their own right. Such is the case with Everett Philbrook who manages the museum store. He is in possession of a rare photograph that shows the house circa 1858-1860, and was instrumental in providing much detailed information from his own knowledge that was a great asset to this project. It is our hope to have this model on display for the visiting public in the near future. It is an excellent piece that will enable us to convey an important aspect of our architectural heritage for many years to come.



The Gables' own Brian Payne stands beside the model of the Turner-Ingersoll Mansion that he built using original plans and blueprints, historic descriptions and information and educated assumptions about the appearance of the house pre-1910.

Analyzing the Probate Inventory of John Turner II**By David Moffat, Senior/Lead Tour Guide**

One of the best historical sources left to inform us of the House of the Seven Gables' past is the probate inventory of John Turner II. Prepared shortly after his death in 1742, the document details the valuable possessions he owned, both in the mansion and elsewhere. The document is mentioned on tour to illustrate just how wealthy John Turner II was. At 14 pages long, it's significantly longer than the average probate inventory at the time. With an estate over £10,752, he was one of the wealthiest men in Essex County. Further analysis of the document illuminates several aspects of John Turner II's wealth.

Of Turner's business, it centered on four schooners (the Manchester, the John & Benjamin, the May Flower, and the Tryall) and the brigantine Adventure. Added with a two-masted sail boat and an 18-foot boat, his ships add up to almost a fifth of his wealth. Evidence of other ships, perhaps retired, is present. The rack and boat of the Abigail are listed, as is the hull of the brig Olive Branch. Among Turner's wharf and warehouse space (3% of his estate), is a wharf at the Burying Ground and a wharf at the end of Turner Street.

The largest portion of his estate was land. Including the mansion house and its 0.92 acre plot, 39% of Turner's estate consisted of land holdings. He had several lots in Salem as well as land at Castle Hill in Ipswich inherited from his father. Baker's Island was also owned by John Turner II, at a value of £1,526. Common rights, or the right to the use of undivided public land, make up 4% of his estate. Turner held common rights in Salem (at the Sheep pasture and the cow pasture), Manchester, and New Salem.

The slaves, Lewis, Titus, and Rebeckah, are the focus of widening interpretation at the house. We know unfortunately little of their lives save what a few surviving references can tell us. Their assigned prices give us another clue, suggesting that Lewis, at £130, was worth more to Turner than Rebeckah (£95) or Titus (£85). Titus had at least been in John Turner II's service for 14 years, since the record of his baptism in 1728.

Of goods in the House of the Seven Gables, Turner had 10 rooms outfitted. The three rooms with the lion's share of his possessions were the Great Chamber, the Kitchen and Lean-to, and the Best Room. In total, six rooms in the house had beds outfitted with bedframes and bedding. The bed in the Great Chamber was so finely adorned it was worth £42. It included a set of camlet curtains and a set of flowered muslin curtains, which were likely for winter and summer respectively. The bed has long been identified as the most expensive part of the house, but in reality Turner had over £534.71 in silver plate. Of the other wonders in the house, there were 18 cane chairs worth £34, a cabinet worth £25, and 30 knives and forks.

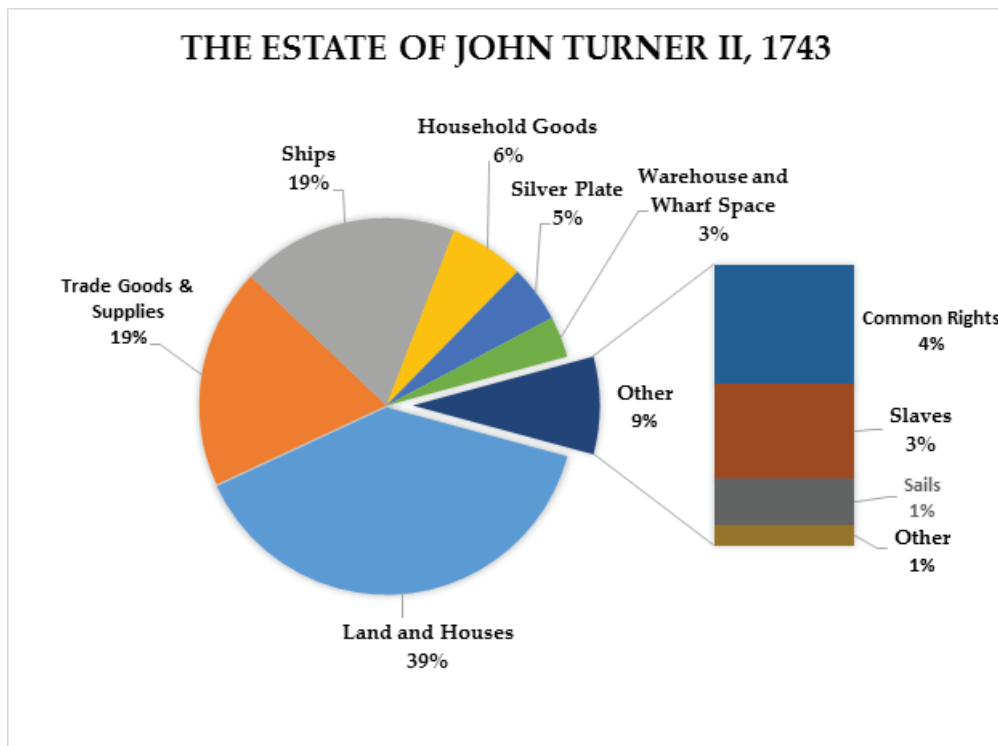
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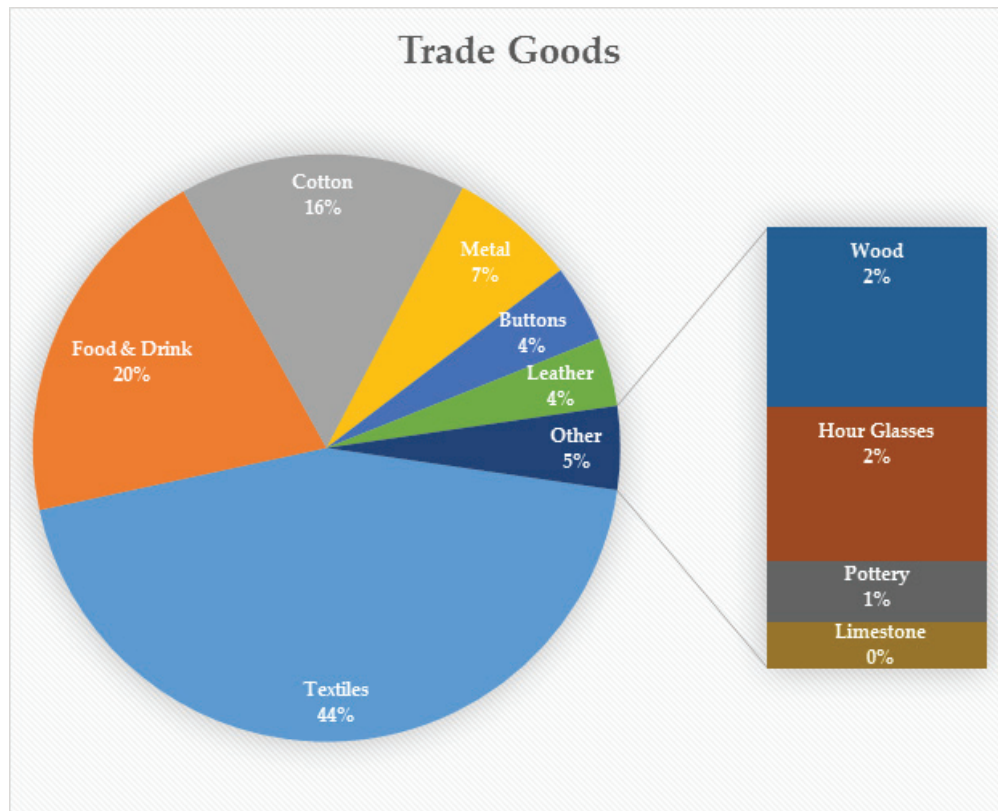
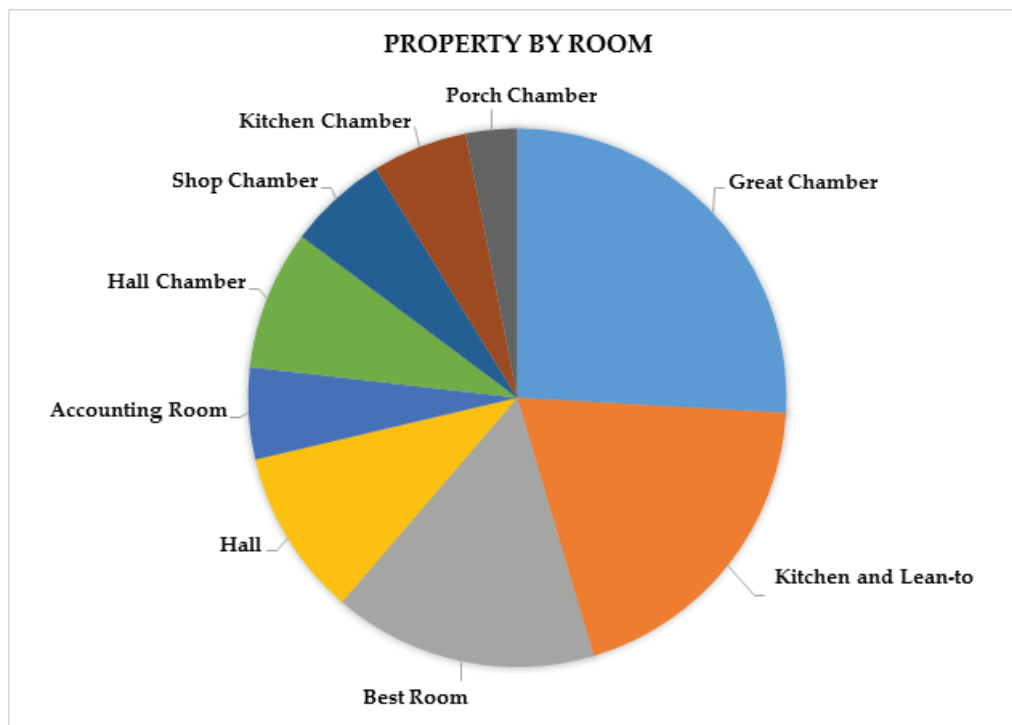
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By looking at his warehouses, it becomes clear that he traded in a wide variety of goods. There are textiles, ranging from silk to oznabriggs to kersey, foodstuffs including salt, Virginia pork, and fish (hake, haddock, cod), and alcoholic drinks like cider and wine, as well as a molasses house for distilling rum. Sails (likely made of canvas, linen, or hemp) made up a further 1% of his inventory. Other goods included metals, wood, limestone, and several minute and hour glasses.

There are several caveats to these studies. First, updating the values of the possessions depends on several factors and I am not yet confident with my work in that regard to publish it. Second, there are several mathematical errors in the text, such as values for items in a subcategory not matching the value given. For example, 3 saucers at 3 s. and a pink mug at 2 s. add up to 11 shillings or £0.55, but are marked on the probate as £5. Overall, the total of values presented adds up to £2,000 more than the given total for the estate.

Lastly, there are several words which are illegible or difficult to define. It's hard not to be both impressed and intimidated with the multitude of John Turner's II wealth, and hopefully after further examination I'll be able to better present the totality of the document.





**The House of the Seven Gables Presents
Community Conversations on the Topic of Immigration**

Starting in March 2015, The Gables will hold a series of community conversations on the topic of immigration and immigration reform. Community partners planning to contribute to this initiative include Historic New England, The Salem Award Foundation, Catholic Charities of the North Shore, and the North Shore Community Development Corporation.

Conversations are free and begin at 6PM. Speakers and topics include:

May 13th - *How Immigration Became Illegal*
with Professor of History Aviva Chomsky

May 28th - *Trauma of Immigration and Its Impact on Children*
with Elsabel Rincón, Independent Community Consultant

June 3rd - *Local Immigration -- Current Immigration Trends*
with Dawn C. Slaven, Community Relations Officer, USCIS

June 24th - *Immigrants as Assets*
with Denzil Mohammed, Assistant Director, The Immigrant Learning Center

September 23rd - *How Did We Get Here?*
Community dialogue after book talk of Julia Álvarez's book,
In the Time of the Butterflies

September 30th - *Where Do We Go From Here?*
Community Roundtable Discussion with Professor Westy Egmont, Boston
College School of Social Work

October 8th - *Unaccompanied Children at our Borders*
with Sarah Pharaon, Programs Director, International Sites of Conscience
Coalition

Seven Lecture at Seven Gables Series 2015 (lectures begin at 6:00 p. m. in the Seamans' Visitor Center. For more information please visit our website 7gables.org)

March 18, 2015

Alison Hawthorne Deming, *Zoologies: On Animals and the Human Spirit*

To kick off our 2015 lecture series, Seven Lectures at Seven Gables, The House of the Seven Gables is pleased to announce award-winning author, and University of Arizona professor, Alison Hawthorne Deming who will be discussing her most recent book, *Zoologies: On Animals and the Human Spirit*. The great-great-granddaughter of Nathaniel Hawthorne, Deming has written a beautiful new book that explores connections between humanity and the animal kingdom through natural history and firsthand accounts. The critically acclaimed *Zoologies*, reveals Deming's distinguished poetic background and masterful writing style.

Prior to the lecture, from 5:00PM-5:45PM, there will be a members-only meet-and-greet with the author.

April 7, 2015

Emerson "Tad" Baker, *A Storm of Witchcraft: The Salem Trials and the American Experience*

The House of the Seven Gables will be hosting Professor Emerson "Tad" Baker for a lecture about his new book. The author will discuss his recent work which sets the Salem Witch Trials in the broader context of American history from the seventeenth century to the present, and examines their enduring legacy.

May 20, 2015

Robert Patton, *Hell before Breakfast*

Historian and author Robert Patton visits The House of the Seven Gables to give a lecture on his new book, *Hell Before Breakfast*, which highlights America's earliest war correspondents. A thrilling and evocative account of forgotten heroes of the 19th and 20th centuries, this book explores the accounts of war correspondents that would make headlines during a period of rapid progress and tremendous conflict.

June 17, 2015

Megan Marshall, *Margaret Fuller, a New American Life*

Distinguished author and scholar Megan Marshall will be visiting The House of the Seven Gables to discuss her Pulitzer Prize winning biography, *Margaret Fuller: A New American Life*. A compelling account of the life of one of the most influential and important journalists and women's rights activists in American history, *Margaret Fuller* is sure to captivate the audience. Join us for this stirring lecture and discussion.

August 19, 2015

Michael W. Judd and Elizabeth E. Judd, *Hawthorne's Stories for Children*

Join the Gables' own tour guide Michael W. Judd and his wife Elizabeth for an evening of storytelling from Nathaniel Hawthorne's classic children's stories. Known for his romantic novels, Hawthorne wrote numerous short stories and fantastic works for children. The Judds will use Hawthorne's children's stories to create a charming and engaging experience for the whole family.

September 23, 2015

Book Talk & Community Conversation, *In the Time of the Butterflies* / *En el Tiempo de las Mariposas* by Julia Alvarez

Renowned author and poet Julia Alvarez's influential book, *In the Time of the Butterflies*, will be the topic of a bilingual book discussion at The House of the Seven Gables. Join the community, as the backdrop of life in the Dominican Republic during the Trujillo Era becomes the theme of dynamic discussion amongst writers, book lovers and anyone interested in this fascinating subject. This event is just one in a series about the work of Julia Alvarez throughout the month of September around the area, hosted by the Peabody Institute Library.

November 18, 2015

Brunonia Barry, *The Map of True Places*

The House of the Seven Gables welcomes back New York Times bestselling author, Brunonia Barry, for a lecture on her book, *The Map of True Places*. Set in Boston and Salem, this well-crafted novel is immersive and beautifully written. Finding one's true place in the world is a theme explored in this new book by the author of *The Lace Reader*.





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