A stroll today through the 5½ acres of Tudor Place reveals a sloping lawn, majestic trees, and discrete garden rooms inspired by English, American, and Asian landscape design. However, this 20th-century landscape is far different from that created by Martha and Thomas Peter, Tudor Place’s builders. Over two centuries, as Georgetown changed, so did Tudor Place.

In the 18th century, Georgetown Heights was a rural area away from Georgetown’s bustling port. As the town grew below, the Heights drew wealthy Georgetown residents building grand country houses or ‘suburban villas’. In 1794, an 8½-acre site, later to become Tudor Place, was purchased by Bladensburg resident Francis Lowndes. Lowndes built seven structures on the property, including two small buildings later incorporated as the mansion’s east and west wings. Unfortunately, at present, little is known about Lowndes’s use of the land, his gardens, or plantings.

In 1805 Martha and Thomas Peter bought the 8½ acres, a complete city block, from Lowndes and commenced shaping an estate that reflected their wealth and lineage. They built a small farmstead that included vegetable beds, fruit trees, and ornamental gardens such as a Dell, Boxwood Ellipse, and Box Knot Garden. Cows and sheep grazed the sloping South Lawn. In addition to their grand mansion, completed in 1816, other buildings dotted the property; these buildings await rediscovery through archaeological investigations.

The design of the Peters’ mansion, one of the largest houses in Georgetown, drew upon Greek and Roman architectural motifs, considered at the time representative of the democratic ideals of the new American Republic. For their landscape design, the Peters turned to England. Perhaps one of the landscape’s most distinguishing features is the grand South Lawn that extends southward from the Temple Portico and south façade of the mansion. The lawn area was influenced by the naturalistic English landscape design in fashion in the United States in the late 18th and early 19th centuries and provided an elegant view toward the mansion from within the town below. The upper third of the South Lawn next to the house was mowed, while the lower two thirds were used for grazing and hay production. In the early 19th century, enslaved workers cut the grass by hand using scythes, several of which remain in the collection. As early as 1830, the horse-drawn rotary mower was patented in England, but it took decades before it became common in the United States. The first mention of its use at Tudor Place appeared in 1907 in...
The lower South Lawn was cut for hay up until the early 20th century. Using scythes, gardeners cut the lawn by hand and later used a horse-drawn mower before the introduction of the modern lawnmower. Circa 1900. Tudor Place Archives.

The Civil War tried Britannia’s resolve to protect her family home. With her young daughter, she took Union officers as boarders in her house and another building on the site. The garden likewise suffered during the war until Britannia hired an escaped enslaved man, John Luckett, who had recently arrived in Georgetown seeking freedom and work. Under his care, the garden revived.

At the conclusion of the war, Britannia was forced to sell additional property on the northern boundary in order to keep the estate. By then, Georgetown’s population had grown tremendously. Building and road construction commenced with vigor, and new markets offered meats, vegetables, fruits, and breads, decreasing the dependency on home-grown vegetables and fruits. As new houses were built on Georgetown Heights, their grounds were used less and less for farming.

When Britannia died in 1911, the estate was in need of major improvement. Her grandson, Armistead Peter, Jr., took full ownership and commenced a major renovation. In addition to focusing on improvements in the house, he was a rigorous gardener who meticulously recorded weather conditions, plantings, concerns about his small vegetable plot, etc. A cow...
still grazed on the South Lawn then, and a small barn remained on the site. By 1960, the year of his death, Georgetown Heights had completely developed around the estate, and the vegetable beds and livestock were gone; of the property’s original productive uses, only a few fruit trees remained.

Inheriting the estate from his father, Armistead Peter 3rd altered the landscape to conform to contemporary 20th-century lifestyles and fashion. Spurning landscape architects but maintaining the historic elements of the garden he inherited, Armistead 3rd designed and built many of the formal garden elements seen today.

Armistead Peter 3rd was fascinated with Japanese culture following his service in the Pacific during World War II. He and his wife Caroline enjoyed traveling to the East, where they came under the influence of Japanese landscape design, as reflected in the Summerhouse and Gate they added in 1963-64 to provide a space for informal lunches.

The Dining Terrace (Thistle Terrace) built just south of the Summerhouse was completed by 1967. It was used for casual dining and hosted the family’s annual garden party. The design of the area incorporated a large pecan tree that provided shade during warmer months. The pecan tree, according to Armistead Peter, Jr.’s diary entry from 1913, grew from a pecan nut given to his grandmother Britannia by the Irish cook, Margaret Carraher (1849-?). Britannia planted the tree close to the house so it would shade the pathway along the south façade during the summer months. However, she did not realize how large the tree would grow and subsequently had it moved to its current location. The pecan has stood there for over 100 years and has been designated by the Casey Tree Foundation the largest pecan tree in Washington, D.C.

Another 20th century addition to the site was the 1977 Mower House to the southwest of the South Lawn. To preserve the view from the lawn, Armistead Peter 3rd planted three crabapple trees to hide the service structure.

To the west of the house and contiguous to the southern section of the property is the service area. It contains one of the property’s earliest existing structures, a Smokehouse. The Smokehouse retains its 18th-century wood frame, but the exterior has been rebuilt over the years. According to family accounts, it originally stood southwest of its current location. In the early 19th century, the Smokehouse was tended by Will Johnson, a Dower slave inherited by Martha Peter upon the death of Martha Washington. Mr. Johnson smoked meats brought down from Oakland, the Peters’ farm in Seneca, Maryland. In the late 19th century and into the 20th, the Smokehouse was used as a dog house and pigeon coop.

Southeast of the Smokehouse are remnants of white lilacs planted in the bed next to an 1876 kitchen addition that, according to Armistead Peter 3rd, “have been here since the house was built.” Another arbor, just south of the lilacs, dates to the mid-19th century. In the western service area stands a garage constructed in 1913 to accommodate a new modern convenience, the car. It replaced a barn that once housed cows and hay.

Armistead Peter 3rd wrote that “…everything I have done has been in light of trying to recreate what might have been produced here by the builders themselves.” He went on to add, “I have tried to strike a happy medium between the very best that could be created with plants, and a restraint where architectural motifs were concerned.” Walking among the flowering shrubs, mature shade trees, and outdoor entertaining areas, most visitors do not fully grasp the changes the landscape has undergone over time. The garden is a generational legacy with each owner building upon and respecting what they inherited while adapting to the changing community. The beautiful landscape seen today has adapted and changed, as has the community in which it exists.

Suzanne Bouchard, Director of Gardens & Grounds, and Leslie Buhler, Executive Director

Join The Legacy Society. Preserve an American Treasure!

We invite you to join The Legacy Society by including Tudor Place in your estate planning. As a Legacy Society member, you will ensure that this historic treasure endures for generations to come.

If you …
• have included Tudor Place as a beneficiary in your will,
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An Intimate Site for a Special Event

Choose Tudor Place for your next family or corporate event! Our charming gardens provide an elegant setting for dinners, lunches, weddings, and picnics. A lovely indoor location is available in case of rain. For pricing and availability, contact the Director of Visitor Services at 202-965-0400 x 115, or email info@tudorplace.org.
Books are shared experiences outlasting their authors, printers, binders, and readers. At Tudor Place, books were passed down through each succeeding generation. The Peter family’s collection of over 5,000 books spans 200 years, shedding light on the political events of their times, the Peters’ interests, the history of printing and retailing books in the United States, and the ebb and flow of popular genres and themes in American literature.

Following the completion of a long-range plan for the archive and book collection by consulting archivist John Fleckner, an inventory project began in 2012 to catalogue and digitize books on the site. Currently working on the collection is intern Zach Newton, who last fall inventoried over 200 hard-cover books exhibited in the children’s room (Figure 1).

Ranging in date from the 1840s to 1946, they cover a wide variety of subjects for a juvenile audience, from poetry to scientific textbooks. Most were published between 1885 and 1915. Some remain literary classics, such as *Gulliver’s Travels*, while others, such as the Aeroplane Boys series (published 1905-1912), fell into obscurity. Overall, the collection is in good physical condition. Marginalia, sketches, and inscriptions found on endpapers, title pages, and in between reveal how frequently a book was used and by whom. Each volume is an invaluable component of the collection and strengthens the association between the printed word and the object collection.

One of the oldest books catalogued during the inventory, “Mrs. Ellis’s” 1842 *Juvenile Scrap-book*, compiles prescriptive stories and poetry illustrated with copperplate engravings (Figure 2). Britannia Peter Kennon (1815-1911), and perhaps her nieces and granddaughter, enjoyed these short works issued annually at the holiday season from 1836 to 1850. Their copy includes accounts like “The Youthful Instructor.”
and “The Idiot,” and contemporary vignettes of resourceful and virtuous young adult women.

Armistead Peter 3rd’s (1896-1983) collection from his studies at The National Cathedral School for Boys likewise reveals his tastes, exhibiting the spirit of a curious and observant young man. He filled the endpapers of his textbooks with meticulous drawings of automobiles, bi-planes, and modern devices like electric light bulbs and tube radios. Overall, the renderings attest to his interest in technology and machinery. For example, the verso of the front flyleaf of one textbook contains a meticulously drawn light bulb, complete with filament and wiring (Figure 3).

Armistead Peter 3rd’s knowledge of this subject perhaps began while reading Edward Stratemayer’s 1903 Bound to Be an Electrician. Decades later, in his privately published Tudor Place monograph, Armistead 3rd alluded to his lifelong affinity for new transportation and communication devices when he described equipping a small radio room in 1913, a pursuit and collection that, he wrote, satisfied his “interest in what was going on in the air.” His sketches also vividly reveal the development of his technical and artistic expertise, complementing the museum’s collection of his later paintings and drawings.

The high value all the Peters placed on books and reading is perhaps seen most clearly in an inscription penned by Armistead Peter, Jr. (1870-1960) in an 1899 translation of Johann David Wyss’s The Swiss Family Robinson (Figure 4). Armistead, Jr., presented this treasured possession to his son on July 8, 1903, during one of the family’s regular visits to their upstate New York farm, and wrote, “This was my favorite book when I was a very small boy. It was read to me time after time by my father.” This inscription speaks to the narrative’s popularity nearly a century after its initial publication in 1812, and the book remains a classic today.

Inscriptions, marginalia, drawings, or ephemera such as these offer a rare glimpse into the lives of both a book and its owners. These human touches securely position the collection in a domestic context and personalize the links forged by multiple generations of readers in the Peter family. Such markings do not destroy the integrity of books; rather, they render them special and unique. For a historic house museum, they strengthen the entire collection by adding insight into the property and personality of the Peter Family.

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**SPRING 2013**

**Education Programs**

Advanced reservations and payment required for all programs. Register online at www.tudorplace.org or by phone, 202.965.0400 ext. 110 while spaces are available.

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**In Art and the Everyday, the Japanese Eye for Beauty**

**TUESDAY, MARCH 21**

6 P.M.-8 P.M.

In Japan, beauty is found in objects from the most refined to the most humble. Come celebrate the Yoshino cherry blossoms’ return to the Tudor Place gardens and in the historic mansion enjoy a close look at select objects from our Asian art collection—from the everyday to the priceless. After, enjoy an Asian-themed menu of savories and cherry treats, accompanied by our spin on a historic cocktail “Cherry, Japanese Cobbler.”

**AGES 21 +**

**MEMBERS: COMPLIMENTARY**

**NONMEMBERS: $25.00**

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**Tea with the Easter Bunny**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 23**

1:00 P.M.

Enjoy a festive spring tea with the Easter Bunny! Families will sample spring tea blends, sandwiches, petite desserts, and scones, while visiting with the Easter Bunny. After tea, families will partake in a scavenger hunt through Tudor Place’s 5.5 acres of gardens in search of the Easter Bunny’s favorite flowers and animal friends.

**MEMBER CHILDREN: $15**

**NONMEMBER CHILDREN: $20**

**MEMBER ADULTS: $20**

**NONMEMBER ADULTS: $25**

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**Spring Tea and Chocolate Workshop for Children**

**MARCH 26, MARCH 27, OR APRIL 3**

1:00 P.M.-2:30 P.M.

Tea and chocolate have long entranced our palates, but what do we really know about them? Children will learn the basics of chocolate making and tea etiquette at this festive spring program conducted by a costumed interpreter. What’s more, they will create their own 3-D chocolate eggs to take home.

**MEMBER CHILDREN: $20**

**NONMEMBER CHILDREN: $25**

**ADULTS: $10**

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**Fifth Annual Eggstravaganza**

**FRIDAY, MARCH 29**

10:00 A.M.-12:00 P.M.

Rolling green lawns, bobbing spring blooms and the elegant mansion on a hill serve as backdrop for this festive annual attraction. Join the Easter Bunny, as children of all ages enjoy an Egg Hunt (at 10:30 a.m.) and thrilling Egg Roll Contest (at 10:45) down the grand South Lawn. Other activities include decorating festive eggs and playing games from the past. Bring your camera!

Self-guided tours of Tudor Place’s 5½ acres of glorious gardens are also available. Bring your own basket, spoon, and one hard-boiled egg per child.

**MEMBER CHILDREN: $7**

**NONMEMBER CHILDREN: $10**

**ADULT CHAPERONES: $5**

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**Cherry Blossom Tea and Tour**

**FRIDAY, APRIL 12 OR SATURDAY, APRIL 13**

1:00 P.M.-3:00 P.M.

**LOCATION: MEET AT ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 1670 31ST STREET**

Celebrate the blooming of the Tudor Place cherry blossoms with a traditional English tea ceremony, complete with tea sandwiches, scones, delicious desserts and Japanese blends. After the tea, tour the historic house in a docent-guided tour.

**MEMBERS: $25**

**NONMEMBERS: $30**

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**Traces of the Trade—Commemorating D.C. Emancipation Day**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 16**

1:00 P.M.-3:00 P.M.

1 R.M. FILM SCREENING, FOLLOWED BY A Q&A WITH FILM DIRECTOR/PRODUCER KATRINA BROWNE

In this Emmy-nominated, award-winning documentary, filmmaker Katrina Browne discovers that her New England ancestors were the largest slave-trading family in U.S. history. She and nine relatives retrace the Triangle Trade, uncovering the vast extent of Northern complicity in slavery and gaining new perspectives on the racial divide. In the 150 years since Emancipation, and 50 years since the March on Washington, most white people have foresworn overt racism. But what remains as the unfinished business of Civil War and civil rights? Premiered at the Sundance Film Festival, and aired on PBS nationwide.

**MEMBERS: $10**

**NONMEMBERS: $12**

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**Family Celebration of Earth Day**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 21**

1:00 P.M.-3:00 P.M.

**LOCATION: GARDENS & GARAGE CLASSROOM**

Bring your family together to celebrate our earth in one of Washington's greenest spots. The afternoon's activities include games, a scavenger hunt, and painting flower pots and planting them with seeds from the historic garden. Eco-friendly refreshments will be served.

**MEMBER CHILDREN: $5**

**NONMEMBER CHILDREN: $8**

**ADULTS: $5**
From Obedient Wives To Fierce Furies: Changes In Women's Lives In The Early Republic

THURSDAY, APRIL 25
6:30 P.M.
Talk of the “rights of man” during and after the American Revolution led some to wonder about the rights—if any—of woman. Although women didn’t achieve political power during this period, they did gain greater access to education and, as a result, began to assert their independence in a variety of ways. Author and historian Natalie Wexler will discuss how these changes are reflected in the four women whose lives formed the basis of her novel, A More Obedient Wife, and another work of historical fiction that is in progress. **LANDMARK SOCIETY MEMBERS FREE**
**MEMBERS (OTHER THAN LANDMARK SOCIETY): $15**
**NONMEMBERS: $20**

Mother’s Day Tea

SUNDAY, MAY 12
10:30-12:00 OR 2:30 PM-4:00 PM.
AGES 5+
Celebrate Mother’s Day together, sampling period teas, finger sandwiches, and delicious deserts while exploring tea etiquette with the guidance of a costumed interpreter. After the tea, guests will create a special period craft to take home for the moms in their lives. **MEMBERS: $25**
**NONMEMBERS: $30**
**CHILDREN: $15**

A Special Tour

Georgetown Garden Treasures: Tudor Place and Dumbarton Oaks

SUNDAY, MAY 19
11:30 A.M.-1:30 P.M.
**LOCATION: MEET AT THE TUDOR PLACE VISITOR CENTER**
Tour two of Washington, D.C.’s, most celebrated landscapes with the people who know them best: Gail Griffin, Director of Gardens & Grounds at Dumbarton Oaks, and Suzanne Bouchard, Director of Gardens & Grounds at Tudor Place. From roses to hay bales to tea houses, learn how these storied landscapes at Dumbarton Oaks and Tudor Place have evolved aesthetically and functionally since the 1800s and the challenges surrounding their preservation today. **TUDOR PLACE MEMBERS: $10**
**NONMEMBERS: $15**

Fairy Tea and Treats

SATURDAY, JUNE 8
1:00-2:30PM
Bring your favorite Tinkerbell to dress up in magical fairy costumes, complete with tutus, wands, and wings. Children select their outfits from the fairy wardrobe provided, and then assemble (with accompanying grown-ups) for tea and desserts served by a costumed interpreter who will show and tell all about the favored drink of early America. Next, tour Tudor Place’s enchanting gardens in search of fairy traces and hiding places before making a special period craft to take home. **MEMBER CHILDREN: $20**
**NONMEMBER CHILDREN: $25**
**ADULTS: $10**

Celebrate Father’s Day with our Country’s Founding Dad!

SATURDAY, JUNE 15
10:00 A.M.-12:00 P.M.
**LOCATION: MEET AT MAIN HOUSE**
Bring your favorite father figure to a home associated with our country’s “founding dad.” Outside Mt. Vernon, Tudor Place is the nation’s largest repository of George Washington artifacts. Enjoy an interactive tour through the historic mansion to uncover treasures from the first President. After the tour, families will enjoy period games and ice cream, and make a special craft for dad. Bring cameras for pictures in the gardens! **MEMBER CHILDREN: $7**
**NONMEMBER CHILDREN: $10**
**ADULTS: $3**

Independence Day Tea

SUNDAY, JUNE 30
1:00 PM-3:00 PM.
**LOCATION: MEET AT ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 1670 31ST STREET**
Where better to celebrate the nation’s birthday than at the home of early patriots? Get close to our first family by enjoying a delicious tea with scones, sandwiches, and sweets. After the tea, visitors will join docents for a Washington Collection highlight tour of the historic mansion. **MEMBER: $25**
**NONMEMBER: $30**

Enchanting Garden Explorations: Girl Scouts in Georgetown Day

SATURDAY, APRIL 27
**DAISIES AND BROWNS: 10:00 A.M.-11:30 A.M.**
**JUNIORS: 1:00 PM-2:30 PM.**
Scouts become nature detectives during interactive tours and hands-on activities at one of Georgetown’s most celebrated houses.
Georgetown Summer History Weeks at Tudor Place and Dumbarton House

**DUMBARTON HOUSE:**
July 22-26 or August 5-9; 9 a.m.-12 p.m. (half day camp); Ages 4-10

**TUDOR PLACE:**
July 29-August 2 or August 12-16; 9 a.m.-12 p.m. (half day camp); Ages 4-10

**FEE:**
$175 Members, $190 Nonmembers; $10 discount if registering for 2 weeks; $10 discount if registering more than 1 child; $10 if registering before April 1, 2013.

Children learn by feeling, tasting, touching and seeing history every day at Georgetown's Summer History Weeks. A variety of indoor and outdoor activities carefully selected by our education staff bring to life 175 years of American history and teach about the natural environment. Participants will cook and sample snacks and drinks of times past, try on period clothing, explore the historic garden, plant their own gardens, play historic games, paint watercolor landscapes, go on an archaeological expedition, and more. The week ends with an early American “parlor party” they will host for parents and friends!

**SNACK PROVIDED.**

**BEFORE AND AFTER CARE AVAILABLE.**

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