

# Earn Your Badge at Home

[education@tudrplace.org](mailto:education@tudrplace.org) | [tudorplace.org/education](http://tudorplace.org/education)



## Playing the Past

### Junior Girl Scouts: It's Your Story Tell It

Girl Scouts will be able to complete all activities needed for the badge

#### READ

Read about people who lived over 100 years ago and what life was like in 1911

#### CHOOSE

Choose a character you want to recreate in a play set in 1911

#### CREATE

Create a costume to represent the important pieces of your character

#### BUILD

Build a set or props to bring your play to life

#### PLAY

Play the role in a movie scene, give a speech, write a diary entry, or play 20 questions

#### EMAIL

Email us to show that you completed the badge. We will mail you a patch!



Juniors



Playing the Past



Tudor Place Patch



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Tudor Place is a National Historic Landmark in Georgetown, Washington, DC. The site includes a mansion, completed in 1816, and 5½ acres of gardens. Dr. William Thornton, designer of the first U.S. Capitol, designed the house, and included a full-round temple portico unique in American residential architecture.

From 1805 to 1983, the Peter family stewarded the estate, witnessing and participating in American history. The first owners, Thomas Peter and Martha Parke Custis Peter, came from prominent local families. Thomas was the son of one of the first mayors of Georgetown, and Martha was the granddaughter of Martha Washington. In 1814, Martha Peter watched from her bedroom window as British troops burned the U.S. Capitol. Britannia Peter Kennon, her youngest daughter and the second owner of Tudor Place, operated the mansion as a boarding house for Union officers during the Civil War. The third owner, Britannia's grandson Armistead Peter, Jr., modernized the house in 1914. His son, Armistead Peter 3rd, and daughter-in-law Caroline created a foundation to preserve the site and educate the public about American history.

Prior to the Civil War, the Peters owned and inherited an extensive number of enslaved men, women, and children, who served the family, tended the household, farmed, and cultivated the garden. Records reveal some of their names and duties. For example, Will Johnson, an enslaved coachman, also tended the smokehouse that still stands on the property. Patty Allen, enslaved as a cook, "lived out," or made her home offsite, in Georgetown with her free husband and their children. During the Civil War, John Lockett escaped slavery in Virginia and gained paid employment at Tudor Place as gardener. Free African Americans and European immigrants operated the estate in the late 19th and 20th centuries.

During 178 years of ownership, the Peters amassed a collection of American, European, and Asian objects dating from the 18th to 20th centuries. Today, the museum holds more than 15,000 objects, from fine decorative arts to everyday household items, as well as an architectural and archaeological collection. The museum has over 200 objects that belonged to Martha and George Washington. An extensive archive holds one of three surviving letters from George to Martha, written in June 1775.

Over the last 200 years, and six generations in one family, Tudor Place has stood witness to the American story. We look forward to connecting you to this historic home.

- The Education Department

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## READ



(Tudor Place Drawing room with view to Saloon, 1911)

The year is 1911. The home at Tudor Place is filled with family members and domestic servants who work in the home. Britannia Kennon lives in the house with her grandson, Armistead Peter, Jr. and her great grandson, Armistead Peter 3rd.

Maggie Carraher is cooking in the kitchen, not far from the bedroom where she sleeps. Maggie has worked for the Peter family for fourteen years. She is thinking about retiring. Armistead 3rd loves the bread she bakes. He would miss Maggie and her bread if she left.

The Tudor Place mansion is lit by gas lights – there is no electric lighting yet. In fact, flushable toilets, gas-lit stove tops, and running water will not arrive in the house for another three years. There is an indoor water pump, though. It dispenses water from a cistern in the ground. A cistern is a tank that collects rainwater. Domestic servants fill tubs of water for cooking or bathing. Gas lines run throughout the house. The gas lines hook up to light fixtures. Each gas light fixture, or gasolier, has a knob to turn on the gas supply. A domestic servant uses an open flame to light the gas.

Britannia, Armistead, Jr., Armistead 3rd, and Maggie gather in the garden. Britannia is in a wheelchair. Britannia was born at Tudor Place before there were even gas lights in the house. She is 96 years old! Her grandson, Armistead, Jr., is practicing his photography skills with a new camera. He takes pictures of Armistead 3rd, Britannia, and Maggie in the garden. He is capturing three generations of Tudor Place history in just a few family photos.

**We know this true story about Tudor Place because of primary documents.**

**What was going on in other parts of the country?**

Visit the Library of Congress, Chronicling America, to read real newspapers from 1911: <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>

**CHRONICLING AMERICA**  
Historic American Newspapers





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## CHOOSE



Maggie Carraher

Hello, I'm Maggie Carraher. I was born in Ireland in 1849. I immigrated to the United States in 1868. I was just 19 years old. I joined many other unmarried Irish women looking for work. Because I spoke English and had light skin, it was easier for me to find a job as a domestic servant than it was for other people. I worked at Tudor Place as a cook from 1880 to 1888 and again from 1905 to 1911. I retired in 1911 when this photo was taken. I was 62.



Britannia Peter Kennon

Hello, I'm Britannia Kennon. I am the great granddaughter of Martha Washington. I was born at Tudor Place in 1815. I lived through the Civil War at Tudor Place! I care very deeply about the house and the historical artifacts in it. I had one daughter and five grandchildren. I have even lived to meet my great grandson, Armistead 3rd! Here he is in the picture with me in 1911. I am 96 years old in this photo. 1911 was the year that I died.



Armistead Peter 3rd

Hello, I'm Armistead 3rd. My dad and my grandfather are also named Armistead. I was born at Tudor Place in 1896. Here is a picture of me playing sports when I was younger. I am turning 15 in 1911. My great grandmother Britannia likes to tell me stories about what Tudor Place was like when she was my age. She would have been 15 in 1830! My dad writes down all her memories. I think he is writing a book.



Create your own character!  
Who else can you imagine living in 1911?

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## CHOOSE

High waisted, floor length skirts for women. Suits and collared shirts for men. Hats for everyone! A wealthy individual in 1911 may have worn the styles below. Working class men and women would have worn similar styles but with much simpler details and fabric.



(From the collection of the Victoria and Albert Museum)

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## It's time to play the past!

### BUILD YOUR SET & PROPS



### PLAY YOUR ROLE



### EMAIL

Email the education department at Tudor Place.  
Show us what you learned and the role you created.  
We will mail you a Tudor Place patch!

