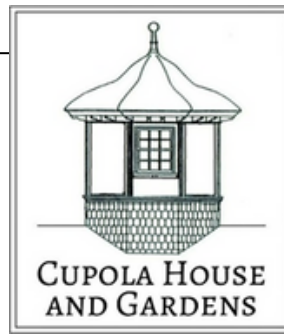


# The Cupola House Newsletter



FALL 2024  
Volume 3, No. 2



## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By: Vonna O'Neill

On February 11, 1918, Miss Tillie Bond, last resident of the Cupola House, welcomed three gentlemen who wanted to see the house and perhaps purchase some of her precious antiques. These guests would trigger a tumultuous few months that would eventually lead to the establishment of the Cupola House Association and its purchase of the Cupola House, beginning the preservation movement for North Carolina.

The gentlemen were Andre Rueff, assistant curator of the Brooklyn Museum, and antique dealers Albert Collings of NYC, and M.T. Howard of Baltimore. After getting approval from the Brooklyn Museum, Mr. Rueff purchased from Mr. Collings all the first-floor woodwork for \$5,117.98. He immediately began preparations for its removal.

Thus began 106 years of yearning to get the original woodwork back to Edenton from the Brooklyn Museum. By late October this year, we expect to have it back to its origins to begin several months of restoration, repair, and discovery. Andrew Ownbey, Wade Rodgers, and Don Jordan under the watchful eye of Robert Leath, will lead the team to bring this dream to reality.

Your Cupola House Association, Inc., Board of Directors formed a Woodwork Task Force earlier this year to streamline the research and approval process to move decisions along expeditiously. As a result, there has been plethora accomplished in the last six months to implement a solid strategy for the future of the site. Accordingly, Board members are working on ways to further enhance the outreach and create awareness of this treasure to a wider audience.

Benbury Wood, Jr., has been diligent in his quest to track down descendants of the Founders of the Cupola House Association. We plan to host and honor them in 2025.

Your membership will allow you to participate in future Members Only special events as we celebrate this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity! Thank you for your support!

Vonna  
O'Neill



## On the Inside

Calendar of  
Events

Hear Ye! Hear  
Ye! Coming  
Soon!

Save the Date!

Giving  
Opportunities

Volunteers  
Needed

Did You Know?



# Relive the Charm of 18th-Century Edenton

Step Back in Time With Our Captivating Tours and Seasonal Events at the Restored Cupola House and Gardens

# COMING SOON

*Stay Tuned*

Be on the lookout for a new website design this fall! We are in the process of updating our look to better serve our membership and visitors! We are adding a Calendar of Events that allows you to individually subscribe so

information is always a click away! We also plan to have an RSVP imbedded in events so that you will no longer be required to use a third party signup method. Purchasing tickets for future events will be streamlined and yes, we will have digital tickets! Want to see merchandise? We will have it available in the store!

Stay tuned! We will publish the new site under the existing [www.cupolahouse.org](http://www.cupolahouse.org) this fall.



## Calendar of Events

### **September 2024:**

- 9/12: CHA Board Mtg
- 9/16: Shepard-Pruden Memorial Library Armchair Traveler Series "Cupola House: Past, Present and Future"
- 9/17: CHA Woodwork Taskforce Mtg
- 9/21: Membership Reception

### **October 2024:**

- 10/10: CHA Board Mtg
- 10/15: Wake Co Colonial Dames Tour\*
- 10/18: DAR National Mtg Tour Groups\*
- 10/20: Regional Furniture Group Tour\*
- 10/26: Colonial Market

# Mark YOUR Calendar

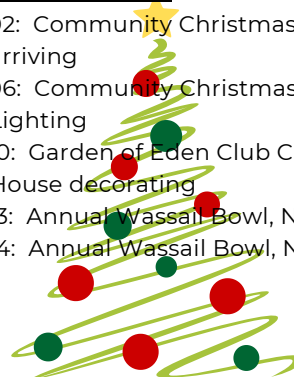
## Calendar of Events

### **November 2024:**

- 11/14: CHA Board Mtg

### **December 2024:**

- 12/02: Community Christmas Trees arriving
- 12/06: Community Christmas Tree Lighting
- 12/10: Garden of Eden Club Cupola House decorating
- 12/13: Annual Wassail Bowl, Noon-4pm
- 12/14: Annual Wassail Bowl, Noon-4pm





# Save The Date

## Colonial Market Day Returns! Gift Shop Items Debut

On Saturday, October 26, the Cupola House Association will host Colonial Market Day 2024.

From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., the Cupola House Gardens will become a colonial marketplace featuring artisans and craftspeople from across eastern North Carolina. Pre-holiday shoppers will find pewter, jewelry, holiday decor, metal and wood crafts, heritage seeds and plants, candles, honey, teas, and so much more!

And for the first time, the Cupola House Association will have a booth selling our new Cupola House inspired gift items.

Bring the whole family for a fun filled day of shopping and free children's activities. Refreshments (Hot apple cider) and baked goods will be available for purchase.

Mark your calendar for Colonial Market Day - Saturday, October 26, from 10 to 4 p.m. in the Cupola House garden.

**Free admission.**

Events Co-Chairpersons  
Elizabeth Corker  
Heidi Nastasi

COLONIAL MARKET  
OCTOBER 26, 2024  
10 A.M. TO 4 P.M.



THE CUPOLA HOUSE  
408 S. BROAD ST  
EDENTON, NC.

FEATURING: COLONIAL CRAFTS, GAMES, REFRESHMENTS  
AND A WONDERFUL ARRAY OF GOODS AND GIFTS!





## New Opportunities Exist to Support the Cupola House Association!

We are excited to announce a new opportunity for you to support the Cupola House Association.

We can now accept stock transfers. By donating appreciated stock, you can maximize your impact while also benefiting from significant tax advantages. This allows you to give generously without incurring capital gains taxes, all while taking a charitable deduction. It's a smart and meaningful way to contribute.

This is your chance to leave a lasting legacy and help preserve this national treasure for future generations.

Donate Today and Make a Difference! For further information contact us at [Development.CupolaHouse@gmail.com](mailto:Development.CupolaHouse@gmail.com)

*Thank you!!*



Christmas is right around the corner and we need your help again for the Annual Wassail Bowl! Visit our SignUpGenius page for volunteer opportunities during the 2 days of the Annual Candlelight Tour December 13-14, 2024. This is an event cherished by the public and without you, our members, we cannot make this happen. Please consider baking cookies, serving wassail or being a docent for 2 hour shifts on either day. Scan the QR code to sign up or click the link below:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080449AA2BA3FC1-51556940-2024>





# DID YOU KNOW?



## EARLY DISEASES AND THE PEST HOUSE BY MARTHA SMITH

WITHOUT VACCINES to prevent and/or medicines to combat them, contagious diseases, such as smallpox (viral disease leaving scarring spread by human contact) and yellow fever ravaged early American towns and cities.

According to pbs.org, yellow fever appeared in the Americas in the late 1600s and continued for the next 2 centuries. A mosquito borne disease, it presented with high fevers, vomiting and jaundice (yellowing of the skin and eye whites, thereby giving it the name). An epidemic from August to November in 1793 killed 5,000 inhabitants of Philadelphia, 10% of the population. Epidemics in the summer of 1798 in Boston, New York City, and Philadelphia saw over 5,000 perish. This resulted in Maritime Quarantine Laws being created. These laws, which were designed to prohibit any sea traveler from entering a city when ill, had been in effect for millennia in the Far East and Europe. In 1663 New York enacted a Maritime Quarantine Law in response to a smallpox epidemic going on in the city at the time. By the early 1700s, all major towns along the eastern seaboard of the United States had enacted Maritime Quarantine Laws.

According to historian William Powell in his "Encyclopedia of North Carolina", the first public health regulation in North Carolina was a Maritime Quarantine Law, enacted in 1712.

In order to prevent ill sea travelers from entering seaports, buildings were created away from the port to house the sick until they recovered or died. These buildings were commonly called "pest" houses.

Local historians, including the late Francis Ingles, felt that Edenton's Pest House was located on what is now called John's Island just adjacent to the waterfront. Shown on the 1769 Sauthier map of Edenton, a fairly large building sits on a rise on the projecting land. The map does not indicate a house nearby. It was situated perfectly for incoming ships to discharge sick seamen prior to entering the port.

The Cupola House papers make several references to ill seamen, the Pest House, epidemics and illnesses.

On 04/28/1792, the Commissioners ordered repayment to Dr. Gabriel Phelps for medications given to "sick semen".

On 08/26/1794, Frederick Rameke was repaid for items purchased, including snake root, cardiac mixture and powdered rhubarb.

On 08/26/1794, a bill was presented to the Commissioners from Dr. John Beasley for "inoculation, attendance and medicines for 6 white people and 7 Negroes."

In a letter written to John Metcalf by Henry Kip in New York on 11/15/1799, Kip discusses the recent outbreak of yellow fever, and the time involved in moving his business away from New York.

On 02/09/1804, Edward Ettings, shipping merchant in New York, wrote to Edenton merchant Edmund Hoskins apologizing for not sending Hoskins' last order timely as he and his family had been "3 months in exile from our city in consequence of the epidemic which prevailed."

On 10/30/1805, Samuel Jackson of New York wrote to Edmund Hoskins that the fevers had abated somewhat in the city and people were beginning to return to town.

On 06/01/1819, Dr. John McFarland presented a bill to town Commissioners for attending Richard Moon at the pest house.

Visits of 2 times a day, then daily, bloodletting, a vial of Laudanum, gargles and eye water were included in the bill.

The Treasurer's Report for the town of Edenton 03/04/1806 through 04/30/1808 included a fine levied against Captain Samuel Little, deceased, for "introducing smallpox into the town."

To combat yellow fever, town Commissioners passed an ordinance on 06/01/1819 that owners of low lying sunken" lots in town had to keep the ditches open (dimensions for the size of the ditches listed) and cleaned out so as to prevent stagnant water from becoming a health hazard during the months of July, August, September and October. On 08/06/1831, a bill was presented to Commissioners from Harry little for attending John Pugh in the pest house, for Little's wife cooking for John Pugh, and for Little's "fumigating and cleaning the pest house" after John Pugh's death. A separate bill was presented by Dick Satterfield "for cleaning of John Pugh's burying clothes." On 11/12/1836 a voucher was issued to pay W.I. Norfleet for 12 week's advertising in the Edenton Gazette for "a notice recommending vaccination to the citizens of Edenton."

On 11/29/1848, Commissioners published an ordinance noting that a case of smallpox had been reported at Samuel T. Bond's hotel (site of the present-day Hinton Hotel). The ordinance stated that the victim was to be removed to the back part of town to Levenia Halsey's house, the streets around the house were to be fenced up, and 2 guards were to be posted to keep visitors away.

In spite of the pest house available for isolating sea travelers, and efforts made by the town to prevent mosquito infested areas, contagious diseases did occasionally make their way into town, although Edenton was spared the worst of the epidemics of the larger cities in the 1700s and 1800s.



**Join Us!**  
... FOR A MEMBERSHIP

**celebration!**

**September 21 at 5:30 P.M.**  
Cupola House Gardens  
408 S. Broad St.  
Edenton, NC 27932

R.S.V.P. by September 19th to  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080449AAAA2BA3FC1-51191991-annual>



You're  
**INVITED**

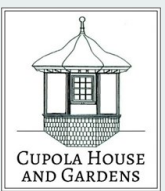


**CUPOLA HOUSE ASSOCIATION, INC.**  
The Cupola House is a historic house museum in Edenton, North Carolina. Built in 1756-1758, it is the second oldest building in Edenton, and the only known surviving example in the American South of a "jutting" or overhanging second floor. It was declared a National Historic Landmark in 1970. [Wikipedia](#)

**Cupola House Association, Inc.**

P.O. Box 311  
Edenton, NC 27932

[www.cupolahouse.org](http://www.cupolahouse.org)



PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

