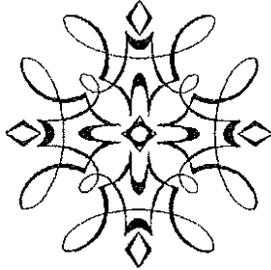

Tudor Rozette

From Glensheen's Volunteer Office

November 1999

Holiday Happenings



CHRISTMAS DECORATING is nearing completion under the competent supervision of Joy Fon and Michelle Rutt, the Christmas elves. Several volunteers helped, including Pearl E. Johnson (Red room), Megan Gritzmacher (3rd floor guest room, Walter's room, servant's area), Sarah Erickson (3rd floor guest room, Infirmary), Tabitha Czeck and Sarah Armstrong (3rd floor lounge). Also, Brenda Gratz, our Assistant Volunteer Coordinator, helped decorate the Infirmary. Look for their creations next time you come. Christmas decorations will stay up through the end of January.

THE CHRISTMAS CITY OF THE NORTH PARADE will be finished by the time you receive this newsletter. So, did you see the Glensheen float? It was decorated by the same volunteers who rode in the parade: Kristina Smith, Katie Groves, Megan Gritzmacher, Lon Hanson, Shanna Netland, Mary Benjamin, Amy Roseth, Rachael Kopel-Anderson, Tabitha Czeck, Donna Fortroy, Sarah Erickson, Annmarie Battaglia, and Toni Jucki.

A STAMP CANCELLATION EVENT will mark the opening of our Christmas season for the public on Saturday, November 27. We are looking for Living History volunteers who are willing to be part of a special Christmas Carol singing group activity. Call us to sign up. The more the merrier!



THE HOLIDAY PREMIERE comes up on Monday, November 29, from 4-7 pm. This is your opportunity to be a guest at Glensheen and let us treat you to a relaxing evening of holiday cheer. RSVP by November 24.



BRING AN ORNAMENT, if you wish, to help decorate the tabletop tree in the Volunteer Office. If you bring one, you can exchange it for one of the old-fashioned ornaments we have on the tree now. Please put your name on the ornament you bring for an all volunteer tree!

HOLIDAY BRUNCHES start in December. We currently have a Volunteer Hostess for each of the 10 brunches, but we are still looking for Living History volunteers to sign up. Living History volunteers are needed to wear their 1915 costumes and visit informally with guests as they walk through on their self-guided tours. The dates for brunches are December 4, 5, 7, 9, 11, 12, 14, 16, 18, and 19. The hours are 9:30-11:00 am. Please call to sign up!

DOCENTS ARE NEEDED for the two weeks in December that we are open every day for tours. Starting December 20, we will be open again on weekdays, with tours scheduled every half hour from 11am to 2pm. We will be closed December 24 and 25. If you can help with a tour or 2, please let us know as soon as possible. We will be calling everyone, so please say yes.

HELP A NEEDY FAMILY this Christmas! In the spirit of giving that goes back a hundred years in the Congdon family, we have contacted Chester and Clara Congdon's church, the First United Methodist Church, to see how Glensheen Volunteers could carry on this family tradition. Pastor Cooper Wiggins, who spoke at our 20th Anniversary event in July, suggested the following idea:

He says they have a struggling family in their congregation made up of a single parent and two children, a 4th grade girl and a 5th grade boy. This family is very proud and wishes to keep their anonymity. If we wish to help them this Christmas, any gifts of food, clothing or toys would be most welcome. Please bring an unwrapped new item for this family to place under the Christmas tree in the Volunteer Office. We will ask Pastor Wiggins about wrapping and delivering them in time for Christmas.





Sew, What's New?

Maripat Higgins continues to keep busy with sewing projects. After finishing sewing new curtains for Walter's and Edward's rooms, she made several new maid's uniforms for our Living History program.

The new maid's dresses are the same pattern and style as last year's grey cotton outfits, but with a major improvement. These are made of part cotton and part polyester fabric which irons much easier.

Thank You

Last year's maid's dresses of 100% cotton took Tabitha and me about 20 to 30 minutes each to iron, not to mention the time it took to wash outfits each day. Two security assistants wore maid's uniforms every day. That was a considerable investment of our time to wash and iron those outfits.

Now, we have more maid's dresses to have in reserve, and the ironing time is greatly reduced. Thanks, Maripat!

For her next project, Maripat is sewing slipcovers for the sofa and chairs in the Volunteer Office.

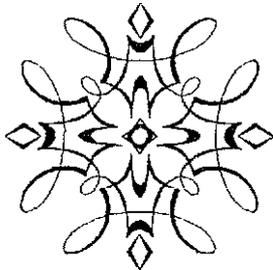
DVC Plans for 2000

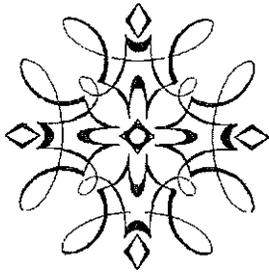
The Docent Volunteer Council plans to start out the year 2000 by planning to host a Potluck Supper for the Junior League at Glensheen. The date is Tuesday, April 18, 2000, from 5:30 to 7pm.

The purpose of this event is to strengthen the ties between the 2 organizations, and hopefully to recruit some new volunteers.

The Junior League was responsible for starting the Volunteer Program at Glensheen in 1979. They were interested in Glensheen because all the Congdon daughters were members of the Junior League, and Elisabeth Congdon was president.

The DVC will notify all volunteers to come and bring something for the supper.





Rachael Recruits

In order to recruit new volunteers, I put together a slide show based on Geva Lou Severson's Volunteer Recruitment Script. So far I have shown this program at the Optimists Club, the Golden Arrow Travel Club, and the Gitchee Gummi Kiwanis, reaching 178 people.

Next I am scheduled to show the slide program for the American Business Women's Association and the Top Notchers.

So far I haven't had one new person sign up to volunteer, but I have been getting the word out about Glensheen. If just one person from each group would volunteer, that would be a great help to us.

If you know of a group of potential volunteers who would welcome a 15 minute program on Glensheen, please call me at 726-8918.

Choice Volunteers

Since September, we have been fortunate enough to have 4 new volunteers from the non-profit organization Choice, Unlimited: Kevin O'Donnell, Ken Forseth, Jamie Jansick, and their supervisor, Lynn Johanneson.

Choice Unlimited is dedicated to finding employment opportunities for persons with disabilities; believes that every individual, regardless of his or her disability, can be a productive member of the community; values each person's right to participate in his/her future planning.

Kevin, Ken, Jamie and Lynn volunteer every Wednesday morning, proving their ability to be productive volunteers. They moved files into our new filing cabinet, bundled all our new Volunteer brochures, polished brass in the recreation room, dusted the bannisters up 3 flights of stairs, helped with a bulk mailing, cleaned the carriage house, totally cleaned the Volunteer office, vacuumed the corners and closet, washed the sofa and chairs with bleach, and put up our Christmas tree! Whew! A lot of work.



Educational Insert

This page is a new feature to provide educational information about Glensheen to improve Docent's tours, and make all the Volunteers more knowledgeable about what we relate to visitors.

FAINTING COUCH vs REST COUCH

If you look in your Volunteer Manual for the Female Guests' Gold Room, you will see the Rest Couch in the alcove described. It is very important that all Docents, whether Volunteers or Security Assistants, remain consistent about the information we present to visitors. We are all expected to use the information in the Volunteer Manual and call this piece of furniture a Rest Couch.

Sometimes Docents call this a fainting couch. It is not a fainting couch. Fainting couches were used during the Victorian era, which ended in 1901 when Queen Victoria died. Fainting couches were used for women who wore the tight Victorian corsets, which made them faint when they took them off.

Fainting couches have a sloping, reclining back, so you could practically lie down. An example is on the left.

Rest couches have a straight back, so a person could sit up and read a book. Another name for a rest couch is chaise lounge. This term comes from the French (*chaise longue*), meaning "long chair". Think of the rest couch in the gold room as a long chair. It really looks like one!

CORSETS

Sometimes Docents talk about women's corsets in connection with fainting or being unable to walk up a flight of stairs at Glensheen, causing them to rest on the window seat on the landing. This would not be appropriate for the Glensheen time period.

Corsets during the time period that the Congdon family lived at Glensheen were not the restrictive corsets of the Victorian era. Many people remember the scene from

Victorian
Fainting Couch





"Gone With the Wind", of Scarlett O'Hara having her maid tie her corset so she could have an 18 inch waist. That movie depicted life in the 1860's.

By the 1880's bustles were in, and by 1905 the goodbody look or s-curve was popular. By 1915, women's corsets were not so restrictive. The bust was made of very loose material, and the waist was made of elastic or fabric with flexible steel stays. Gone were the whalebone stays of the Victorian era.

So, by the end of the Victorian era, ladies were no longer fainting because of their corsets. They had undergarments so women could play golf and comfortably participate in all out of doors sports.

Although the corset stories are true of the Victorian era, they should not be part of our 1915 interpretation of Glensheen. If we all stick to the information in the Volunteer Manual, we can be assured we are presenting accurate and consistent information to the public

CONGDON FAMILY

Volunteers and visitors alike have requested more information on the Congdon family.

The following information is from the Duluth News Tribune on June 20, 1968 obituary of Harry Chittenden Dudley, the husband of Marjorie Congdon.

Dudley, international mining figure, died at his home at 3600 London Road (now the mansion Bed & Breakfast) in June 1968. He was 90 years old, since he was born in 1878 in Guilford, Connecticut.

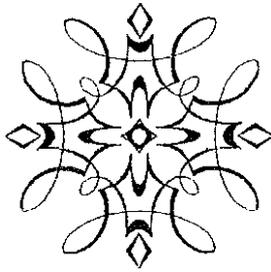
He graduated from Harvard as a mining engineer. In 1911 Chester Congdon hired him and sent him to Brazil to look at iron ore deposits.

He served in WWI and married Marjorie Congdon on Dec 31, 1917. He carried out mining operations in the US, Mexico, South America and Canada.

The Dudleys had two sons: James born in 1921 and David born in 1926. David died in 1942. James married Elizabeth Claypool and had four children: David in 1950, Sarah in 1952, Jane in 1954, and Henry in 1957.

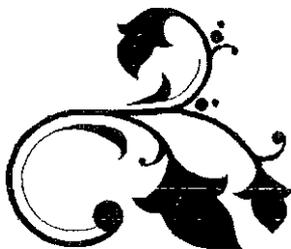


HARRY C. DUDLEY



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Written and edited
by Raehael Martin



Brenda's Column

Hello there to all of you that I've meet or will be meeting sometime in the future. I've so much enjoyed working here meeting and visiting with all the neat people we have here on the Glensheen team. If I haven't met you yet or if I have forgotten your name, please introduce yourself again and I will try my best to remember for next time. It's fun working here with the Holiday Season approaching soon and helping out with the decorations and festivities occurring at Glensheen. Thank you to so many of you that have made me feel welcome.

What's New At the Museum Shop?

We want to take this time to thank Mary Prettyman and Georgia Raun for working and volunteering so hard in the Museum Shop. They are both very good about coming in at the last minute and having regular hours.

We have some neat Christmas ideas in the shop as well. If you're looking for stocking stuffers for the kids or a gift for an adult, there is lots to choose from. We have dolls, miniature cars, disappearing coins that were popular at the turn of the century and informational books on Glensheen for those on your Christmas list that enjoy reading.

Remember for the Holiday Premiere on November 29th from 4-7 the Museum Shop is giving a 20% discount to those who want to do some shopping. Hope to see you at the premiere and call the volunteer office to sign up for Museum Shop hours.

Calendar of Events

Nov 25 - Thanksgiving, Glensheen Closed
Nov 27 - Stamp Cancellation Event
Nov 29 - Holiday Premiere, 4:00 - 7:00 pm
Dec 4 - Brunch, 9:30 - 11:00 am
Dec 5 - Brunch, 9:30 - 11:00 am
Dec 7 - Brunch, 9:30 - 11:00 am
Dec 9 - Brunch, 9:30 - 11:00 am
Dec 11 - Brunch, 9:30 - 11:00 am
Dec 12 - Brunch, 9:30 - 11:00 am
Dec 14 - Brunch, 9:30 - 11:00 am
Dec 16 - Brunch, 9:30 - 11:00 am
Dec 18 - Brunch, 9:30 - 11:00 am
Dec 19 - Brunch, 9:30 - 11:00 am
Dec 20 - Daily Tours resume for 2 weeks, 11 - 2:00 pm

Glensheen
Volunteer Office
3300 London Road
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