



Newsletter

Durand-Hedden House And Garden Association

Vol. 22, No. 1

November/December 2003

CALENDAR

Sun., Nov. 16	Durand Family Celebration	1:00-4:00 pm
Sun., Dec. 7	Postcards From the Past	1:00-4:00 pm
Sun., Jan. 18	Maplewood: A Treasury of American Architectural Styles	1:00-4:00 pm

Generations of Creativity: Celebration of the Durand Family Nov. 16, 1-4 p.m.

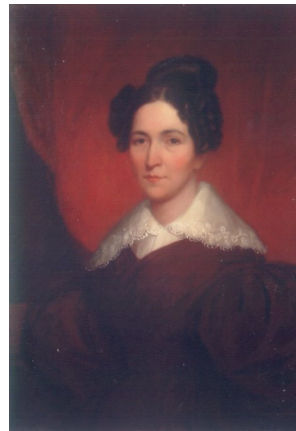
Durand family historian and Academy Award winner Dr. Alvy Ray Smith will be the featured speaker at a celebration of the renowned Durand family at an open house at the Durand-Hedden House on Sunday, November 16.

Dr. Smith, co-founder of Pixar Animation Studios and a two-time Academy Award winner for his computer graphics innovations, has published a history and genealogy of his illustrious ancestors, *Dr. John Durand of Derby, Connecticut and His Family*, with the New England Historic Genealogical Society.



On exhibit at the House for the first time will be items from the **Cyrus Durand Chapman Collection** of letters, artwork, photos, a diary and memorabilia from early Durands who lived in Maplewood and its environs beginning in about 1740. Also

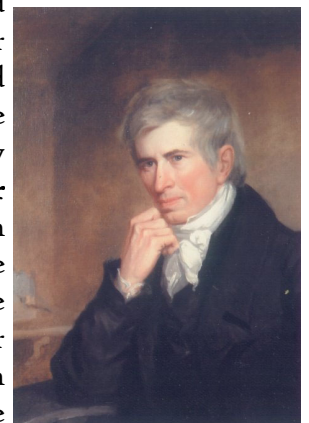
exhibited will be items donated by Durand descendant **Jane Virginia Bauch**.



A number of descendants of the Durand family are expected to attend.

The most famous Durand known today is Asher Brown Durand, one of the founders of the Hudson River School of painting. The

Durand-Hedden House is fortunate to own three of his original works – a field study for one of his nature paintings (given by **John and Fran Apetz**), and portraits of his brother Cyrus Durand and Cyrus' wife, Phoebe Wade Durand (given by **Nadine Gallagher Chapman**), all of which have hung in the Durand-Hedden House parlor since their donation in 1989. In addition, as part of the



Nov. 16 exhibit, the Maplewood Memorial Library will lend us another of Asher's works as well as a painting of the Durands' Maplewood birthplace by Asher's nephew, artist and horticulturalist Elias Wade Durand (1824-1908).

The Fruits of Research

On Nov. 16, Dr. Smith will share stories and insights he gathered in researching his book, a 583-page family genealogy based largely on unpublished research. It contains over 100 black and white and color reproductions of paintings, photographs, and artifacts of the Durand family culled from museum collections, historical societies and other institutions around the country and features 17 paintings by Asher Durand. This book, comprising ten generations of the Durand family, is a significant contribution to American history and American art history, as well as scholarly genealogy. The book will be available for sale at the House and Country Store.

Notes from a Great Aunt

Dr. Smith's research was inspired by notes left by a great aunt. "It was Aunt Arlien's crabbed genealogical notes ... that had first excited me about the mysteries of our family when I was a boy," he writes. Those notes led him on an adventure that introduced him to a fascinating American family, comprising generations of artists and scientists.

"That was the thing that most intrigued me about the family," he says. The family boasts engravers, watchmakers, jewelry makers, and silversmiths; Nelson Crawford Durand, grandson of Henry, was head of Thomas Edison's Dictaphone division.

True to his Durand ancestry, Dr. Smith has had a successful career. He is a noted lecturer and author and won his two technical Academy Awards for "pioneering

inventions" in digital image composition and digital paint systems in 1996 and 1998.

Fascinating information about the Durands abounds – enough to fill several books. Each generation has been blessed with noteworthy and talented people and stories. Some will be touched on in this issue of the newsletter, and other profiles and sidelights will be available at the Open House – and eventually at our website in development, www.durand-hedden.org.

Henry's House and Homestead

The Durand-Hedden House is named for Obadiah and Susannah Hedden, the first owners of the house, built c. 1790, and for Henry Durand, who lived in the house with his wife, Electa, and family from 1812 until his death in 1846. His son James Madison Durand continued to own the house until about 1866. Henry was a concert violinist as well as a clockmaker and inventor, and his son James Madison Durand became a prominent jeweler as the owner of Durand & Co. of Newark. Some of his jewelry is in the collection of the Newark Museum.



Henry (1780-1846) and his nine sisters and brothers, including Asher (1796-1886) and Cyrus (1787-1868), a brilliant inventor, were born in a house near the corner of what is now Durand and Ridgewood Roads, built by

their father, John, in 1774.

Henry's birthplace and the Durand-Hedden House property were part of the original Johnson Plantation, granted by King George II in 1712, so Henry spent his entire life on the plantation. Although the birthplace burned down in 1844, Asher returned to the estate and built a new house on the property in 1869. That house is no longer standing.

Henry's father, John (1745-1813), was a gifted watchmaker, silversmith and engraver. During the Revolutionary War his talents were reportedly put to use in repairing General Washington's spyglass. John was the son of Samuel Durand (1713-1852), who had come to Newark from Derby, Conn., in about 1740. Samuel was the sixth of eight children of Dr. John and Elizabeth Bryan Durand. Dr. John (originally Jean) (1664-1727) was a Huguenot from Toulouse, France who fled religious persecution.

Cyrus Durand Chapman Collection — Tantalizing Touchstones

Cyrus Durand Chapman (1856-1918), an artist, photographer and architect, was the grandson of Cyrus Durand. Family papers, artwork and memorabilia were inherited by



Courtesy of The Newark Museum

Chapman's son, John Holbrook Chapman. The Cyrus Durand Chapman Collection was given to the Durand-Hedden House in 1996. Cyrus Durand Chapman inherited the talents of his ancestors and was notable for a painting called "The Wedding Bonnet," a photo of which will be on display at the Durand-Hedden House. Chapman used his wife and great-aunt as two of the three figures in the painting, and our exhibit will include an 1886 diary of his future bride. The Sunday Call reported that "Mr. Chapman's studio was visited by hundreds of art lovers and everybody was pleased with the large picture..."

The Cyrus Durand Chapman Collection contains many wonderful items, such as a small album of watercolor drawings and sketches, daguerreotypes of Cyrus and Phoebe Durand, a small treasure box belonging to Phoebe, an 1835 land deed, and correspondence. The first postage stamps authorized by Congress in 1847 featured Asher Durand's engravings of earlier portraits of George Washington and Benjamin Franklin.

Bank Notes and Greenbacks

Three sample books of bank notes designed by Asher and Cyrus Durand, donated to the Town of Maplewood by Cyrus's descendent Effie Durand Gray, will be on display. Bank note engraving was an integral part of Cyrus's life and career for half a century.

Cyrus Durand exhibited mechanical and design skills from an early age. According to Alan Siegel's book *Out of Our Past - A History of Irvington, New Jersey*, in 1808, when Cyrus was 19, "he visited a local clockmaker. Intrigued by the notion that a clock's intricate works could be mass produced, he invented a machine that cut clock gears and other parts from brass sheets."

Until the Civil War, bank notes were printed under contract by private engravers. According to Siegel, "Many of America's finest engravers and artists combined talents to create paper currency whose striking beauty has never been equaled." State banks issued their own bank notes and the threat of counterfeiting became significant.

In 1809, engraver Peter Maverick opened a shop in Newark. In 1811, Asher Durand joined as an apprentice and quickly moved up the ranks, becoming Maverick's partner in 1816. Asher's brothers John and Cyrus joined the firm that year, and Siegel writes, "the fine craftsmanship and careful machine work of the Durand brothers made his shop the equal of any of New York's engraving houses."

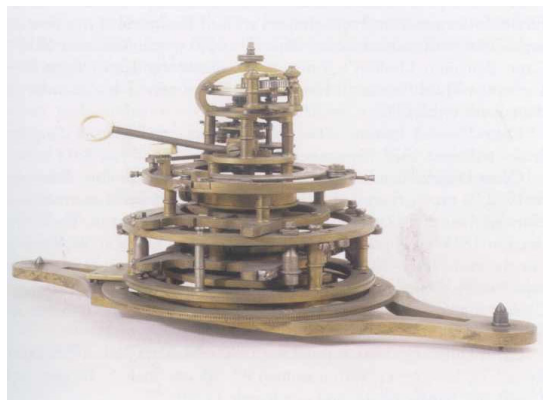
The first geometrical lathes were developed in 1812 to create complicated patterns on bank notes that were too complex to be reproduced and too regular to be copied freehand. According to Siegel, "Nearly every bank note, bond, stock certificate and security in circulation today carries the work of the modern geometric lathe somewhere in its design."



After 1816, Cyrus Durand perfected his own version of the geometrical lathe, with patterns that looked like watered silk. He improved upon his design in 1818 (at which time Maverick's business had so improved that he was made a partner) and again in 1823, adding more gears and wheels to

increase the number of possible variations.

Among the items to be exhibited at the Durand-Hedden House is a letter from the New-York Historical Society thanking Cyrus for donating his geometric lathe and an 1882 bank note from a collection donated by Dr. Barbara Noyes.



The very mechanistic process of the lathe that made bank note engraving important also minimized its artistic nature. Cyrus used his artistic skills for other endeavors, including drawing *a map of Jefferson Village about 1815, which will be exhibited.*

Although Cyrus spent his career in the bank note engraving business, he advises against it in a letter to a relative in 1864:

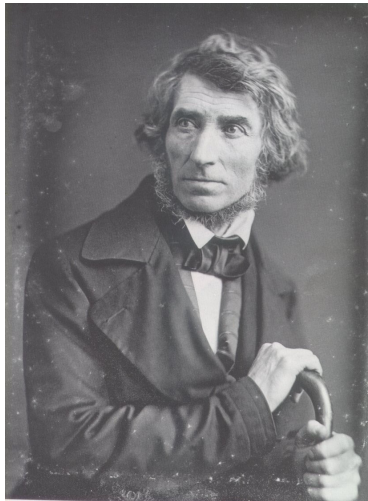
"I could not recommend bank note engraving in any of its branches as government has spoiled it as a future calling."

In about 1820, Asher won a contract from John Trumbull to make an engraving of his famous painting of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. It took him three years to complete.

That engraving was used on the back of the two dollar bill, and a print made from the engraving plate hangs in the parlor of the Durand-Hedden House.

Asher Durand Becomes a Painter

Asher began painting in the 1820s and by 1835



had given up engraving. He painted portraits and began doing oils of American landscapes and historical characters. A close friend of the nature poet William Cullen Bryant, he worked with

Thomas Cole to develop and lead the Hudson River school of art. Painting out in the mountains and woods, Durand's skill with detail was so precise that the exact species of trees and bushes can be identified. He was a founder of the National Academy of Design and served as its president from 1845 to 1861.

Postcards from the Past: Open House December 7



Last year's intriguing exhibit of postcards of Maplewood and South Orange was such a success that John Harvey, owner and collector of many of the cards, spent the past year working with Arcadia publishers on a book about them.

John Harvey will again show and lecture on the postcards, which span the late 19th and early 20th centuries. His newly published Arcadia book will be available for sale at the House.

The Country Store Gets Carded

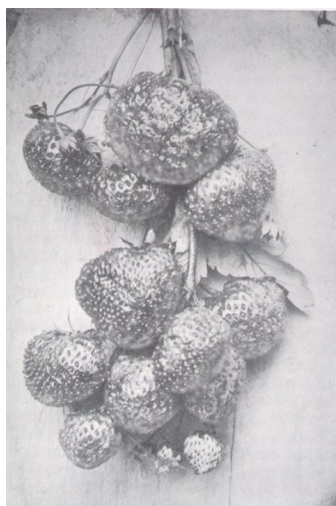
The Post Card collection also inspired the Durand-Hedden House to publish many of the images relevant to our history as postcards. The Country Store will offer postcards of the Durand-Hedden House parlor at Christmas, the Durand birthplace, the portraits of Cyrus and Phoebe Durand, and holiday cards of pen and ink drawings by Cyrus Durand Chapman. **William B. Winburn** took the photographs of the parlor. Maplewood photographer **William Tomlin** provided invaluable assistance in the creation of the postcards.

The Country Store recently received new shipments of handmade redware pottery, tinware, hurricane lamps and lovely holiday decorations.

For the Birds: Bushes on a Hill Echo Elias Durand

Elias Wade Durand, son of Cyrus and Phoebe Wade Durand and nephew of Asher, inherited the family talents in art and engraving, but left the business in about 1857 to move out to the Irvington countryside. He met Seth Boyden, the industrialist and inventor who lived in Hilton (now part of Maplewood). Boyden had been experimenting with hybrid strawberries that would combine size with flavor.

Working closely with Boyden, Elias Wade Durand became an expert horticulturalist, winning a bronze medal at the Philadelphia



Centennial Exhibition in 1876 for the finest display of new seedling strawberries, including the largest ever produced up to that time.

The Durand-Hedden House is carrying on an interest in berries with a twist. On September 21st, a group of trustees and other volunteers, under the direction of landscape designer **Joanne Beckerich**, planted almost a dozen berry-producing shrubs on the slope above the meadow to attract and nourish birds. Bird expert **Joe Zeller** came by as well and talked to visitors about the intriguing variety of birds in residence in Grasmere Park. Thanks also to **Newt Meeker** and the Public Works Department crew for spreading many yards of topsoil and wood chips.



*Special thanks to **Deanne Landress** of **NetNomads Cafe**, who continues to provide invaluable assistance in publishing this newsletter.*

*This newsletter was written and edited by **Gail Safian** and **Susan Newberry***

Membership Application/Renewal

2004 Annual Membership Dues

Life Member	\$250
Organization	\$50
Family	\$25
Individual	\$15
Senior	\$10
Student	\$10
Heritage Circle	\$100-249
Patron	\$250-499
Benefactor	\$500 and up

I want to become involved as a member of the Durand-Hedden House & Garden Association.

Please enroll me/us as a _____ member

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

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