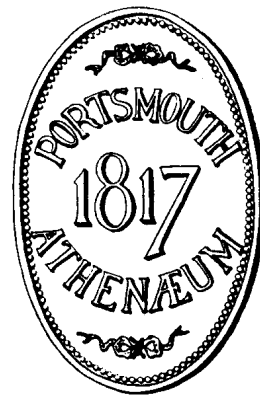


# The Portsmouth Athenæum Newsletter



Winter, 2006

## "Coming Home"

Warner House Exhibit Opens January 28



The Warner House Association's exhibit *Coming Home; Treasures of the Warner House* — the third in our winter series of exhibits that feature local historic house museums — opens in the Randall Gallery on Jan. 28th and celebrates the return of many objects that were originally in the house.

Initial gifts were made in the Association's early years (1930s) when the family removed its belongings, but left as gifts certain items relating to their history. Over the years, more objects were given by descendants or by kind donors who knew their purchased objects had originally come from the house.

Beginning in 1944, a concentrated effort was made to locate and purchase replacements for the many objects seen in early interior photographs, or listed in either Jonathan Warner's inventory of 1814 or the 1930 appraisal of the house and its furnishings for the estate of Thomas Penhallow—the last family member to live in the house. Since 1994, when the museum rededicated its interpretation to the authentic history of both house and family, yet more objects have come home. A family reunion is planned in late April so that the many donors and their descendants can view these treasures.

Exhibit lectures will be held on Feb. 23 (Joyce Volk on the many remaining mysteries of the Warner House), and April 21 (Richard Candee on new discoveries relating to the building's architecture). Both begin at 5:30 p.m.

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January-March, 2006

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The Odd, the Unusual and the Under Appreciated in the Athenæum Collections

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

### **Athenæum in Cyberspace -- the update**

Our new website continues to grow, and now includes a current wish list of recent titles sought by the Library Committee as well as current and past issues of this newsletter (Adobe Acrobat PDF format).

In coming months, look for more and more library features on the site — a new way to be connected to the Athenæum from home or work. Should you prefer to have your newsletter and other notices sent to you in electronic format, please send us an email at [athenæum@gwi.net](mailto:athenæum@gwi.net) to ensure we have your current e-address.

*Events and News for Proprietors, Subscribers, & Friends of the Portsmouth Athenæum*

## FROM THE STACKS

## RECENT ACCESSIONS, GIFTS & ACQUISITIONS

### RECENT ADDITIONS TO SPECIAL COLLECTIONS:

Two tax documents relating to John Smallcorn of Portsmouth (1795 and 1806), gift of the Woodman Institute  
Ten photographs of the Isles of Shoals and Celia Thaxter, gift of the Historical Society of Old Newbury  
Meshach Trundy promissory note (1836), gift of Richard Candee  
Handwritten pamphlet titled: "A Dissertation upon the 'Moral Sense' – Read before the South Parish Mutual Improvement Society" (1834), gift of Mrs. Carl Akerly  
Two photographs, police officer and group of school children (ca. 1910), gift of Elizabeth Feren in memory of Robert O. Galligan  
Collection of documents related to the Court of Common Pleas (ca. 1790s), gift of Dean Jewett  
Letter from Benjamin Penhallow Shillaber to Poole (1859), Special Collections Purchase  
Diary of W. P. Young of Portsmouth (1881), gift of Carole Ressler  
Two photographs of the interior of the Home for Aged Women (Hart Mansion formerly on Daniel Street, now part of The Hill) (ca. 1900), gift of Kinley Gregg  
Letter from William M. Shackford to Enoch G. Parrott and Jacob Wendell (1818), gift of Kinley Gregg  
Collection of Portsmouth ephemera, postcards and pamphlets, including materials related to the Submarine Squalus (ca. 1910-1940), gift of Gregg Whalen  
Photograph of the Portsmouth High School football team, players identified (ca. 1940), gift of Ralph Morang

### NEW BOOK ACCESSIONS FOR DECEMBER:

*The National Cyclopaedia of American Biography: Being the History of the United States*  
Annie Boutelle, *Becoming Bone: Poems on the Life of Celia Thaxter (1835-1894)*  
Jon T. Coleman, *Vicious: Wolves and Men in America*  
Alan A. Granby, *A Yachtman's Eye: The Glen S. Foster Collection of Marine Paintings*  
Morrison H. Heckscher, *John Townsend: Newport Cabinetmaker*  
Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, *The Quilts of Gee's Bend*  
Gertrude M. Pickett, *Portsmouth's Heyday in Shipbuilding*

### GIFTS OF BOOKS:

**American Antiquarian Society:** Portsmouth Mercury – various dates  
**Mark Anderson:** Richard Fortey, *Earth: an Intimate History*  
**Elizabeth Aykroyd:** Elizabeth Aykroyd and Betty Moore, *Hampton and Hampton Beach*  
**Michael Baenen:** George Rawlyk, *Yankees at Louisbourg*; Edmund Roberts (1784-1836) *Two Yankee Diplomats in 1830s Siam*  
**Richard Candee:** Daniel R. Coquillette, ed., *Portrait of a Patriot*  
**Joan Christy:** Richard L. Bushman, *Joseph Smith: Rough Stone Rolling*; also *Women's Letters: America from the Revolutionary War to the Present*  
**Sally Crockett:** Advertising ephemera and pamphlets  
**Patricia DeGrandpre:** Jared Diamond, *Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed*  
**Rose Eppard:** Mike Dater, *George W., The Son King*  
**Estate of Ruth Stimson:** Ruth Stimson, *And Who was There? The People at the Isles of Shoals*; and *Piscataqua Pioneers, New Book Writeups*  
**Tom Hardiman & Anne Alie:** George Smith, *Practical Explanation of the Elements of Architecture*; S. Thompson Viele, *Origins of Modern York*; J. M. Marshall, *A Report of the Proceedings at the Celebration of the Centennial of Buxton (ME)*  
**Patrick McMahon:** various titles  
**Margaret Morrissey:** Daniel Gookin, *Historical Collections of the Indians in New England*; *Currier Gallery of Art Bulletin*; *Life and Speeches of Abraham Lincoln*

**Nancy Mulqueen:** Elizabeth George, *With No One as Witness*

**New Hampshire Historical Society:** B. P. Shillaber (1814-1890), *Life and Sayings of Mrs. Partington and Others of the Family; Partington Patchwork; Knitting-work: a Web of Many Textures; Lines in Pleasant Places: Rhythmic of Many Moods and Quantities, Wise and Otherwise; "Lively Boys! Lively Boys!" Ike Partington; or, the Adventures of a Human Boy and his Friends;* and Benjamin Perley Poore (1820-1887), *The Rise and Fall of Louis Phillipe, Ex-King of the French*

**Otisfield Historical Society:** *Gleason's Pictorial 1853-1855*

**Peter Randall:** Naomi Wiener Cohen, *Jacob H. Schiff: a Study in American Jewish Leadership*

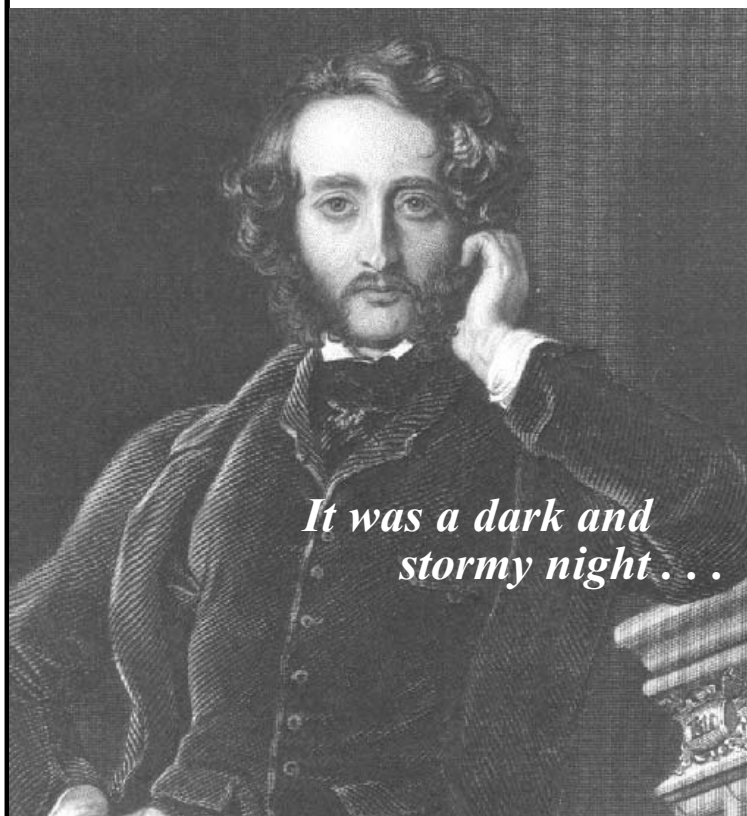
**St. Johnsbury Athenæum:** Margaret Kaufman, *Aunt Sallie's Lament;* Genetta McLean, *In Black and White: Landscape Prints by Claire Van Vliet*

**University of Texas:** photocopy of *Portsmouth Imprint Declaration and Confession of Ruth Blay*

**Carmen Valentino:** Sheet music: *Roosevelt the Peacemaker*

**Gerald & Barbara Ward:** Irvin J. Morgan, *Things I Love: The Collections of William I. Koch*

# quips for the curioso



You know the phrase from the old joke about an aspiring writer penning the opening line to a bad novel, but did you know that it really is the opening phrase to a very old novel? Though barely remembered today, *Paul Clifford* was penned in 1830 by Edward Bulwer Lytton (1803-1873) — one of the 19th century's most popular and prolific writers in English, with 59 published titles in fiction and poetry (compared with Dickens' 34 and Scott's 64). Queen Victoria made him the first Baron Lytton in honor of his work. His fifth novel, *Paul Clifford* was quite controversial for its portrayal of a criminal highwayman as dashing hero and as might be expected, the controversy fueled its popularity. The Athenæum has owned nineteen titles by Lytton and at least three copies of *Paul Clifford*, including a first edition that was listed in the 1833 catalog but is now long lost. Our last copy is an 1835 edition by Harper & Brothers in the non-circulating Woodbury collection. Only three other libraries in the state still hold copies of this once-popular book. You have heard it a thousand times put

up as the exemplar of terrible, self-absorbed prose, but if you are enticed by the opening line: "*It was a dark and stormy night; the rain fell in torrents — except at occasional intervals, when it was checked by a violent gust of wind which swept up the streets (for it is in London that our scene lies), rattling along the house-tops, and fiercely agitating the scanty flame of the lamps that struggled against the darkness*", the book is still in print (Dodo Press, 2005).

[**ed. note:** Our collections are filled with any number of such unusual items. If you have a favorite book, painting, object, or piece of furniture at the Athenæum, we invite you to write about it for future issues.]

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**JANUARY - APRIL, 2006  
FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC  
UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED**

### THROUGH

- JAN. 12 The Tenth Annual Proprietor's Show remains on view in the Randall Gallery.  
Tues., Thurs., and Sat., 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- JAN. 11 The 187th Annual Meeting of the Proprietors of the Portsmouth Athenæum.  
3:00 p.m. in the Research Library, with a small reception to follow in the Old Library.
- JAN. 19 Organist Geoffrey Wieting performs a Memorial Concert dedicated to the memory of  
Proprietors Betty Brighton, Ron Buchan, Elizabeth Delano, and Joan Larson.  
4:00 p.m. at St. John's Church with a reception to follow at the Athenæum.
- JAN. 23 Boston University Prof. Arthur Hulnick, who has worked in the intelligence community for 30+  
years, lectures on "The Role of Intelligence in Policy." Sponsored by the World Affairs Council  
of New Hampshire.  
7:00 p.m. in the Research Library.
- JAN. 28 Opening reception for the exhibit "Coming Home: Treasures of the Warner House."  
4:30 p.m. in the Randall Gallery.
- FEB. 5 Regina Delaney performs a Celtic Harp and vocal recital — traditional Irish music on the harp  
with songs in Irish and English. Regina sings in the sean nos style (ornamented and  
unaccompanied), also accompanying herself on the harp.  
3:00 p.m. in the Sawtelle Reading Room.
- FEB. 9 "Images of Japan: Photographs & Discussion" — a lecture by Peter Randall, who toured  
Japan late last year exploring the legacy of the 1905 Portsmouth Peace Treaty.  
7:00 p.m. in the Research Library.
- FEB. 23 Joyce G. Volk, Curator of the exhibit "Coming Home," discusses recent changes in the  
Warner House based on the large numbers of family artifacts returning to the house,  
and reveals the mysteries and discoveries that are a part of that process.  
5:30 p.m. in the Research Library.
- MARCH 9 "From the Forests to the Fields: Portsmouth's Exports and the Atlantic Slave Economies,  
1770-1775" — a lecture by Historian Eric Kimball exploring Portsmouth merchants of the  
18th century and the West Indies trade.  
7:00 p.m. in the Research Library.
- MARCH 12 Recital by internationally known concert pianist Frederick Moyer, a "Concerts on the Hill"  
performance sponsored jointly by the Athenæum and St. John's Church.  
4:00 p.m. at St. John's Church.
- APRIL 21 Richard Candee lectures on "Anglo-American Merchants Houses of the Early 18th Century —  
a joint program with the Warner House and PDAS.  
5:30 p.m. at the Tyco Visitors' Center at Strawberry Banke.
- APRIL 23 Brass concert performed by talented musicians from UNH: Amanda Allen, trumpet; Gretchen  
Snedeker, horn; Arthur Thovmaian, trombone; and piano accompanist, Professor Arlene Kies.  
4 p.m. at South Church.

**Space for Most Events is Limited; Please Call 431-2538, ext. 2, for Reservations**

# GENEROSITY

## OUR HEARTFELT THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING FOR THEIR GENEROUS GIFTS

### **Annual Appeal:**

Charles DeGrandpre  
Patricia Heard  
Ronda Baker Hill  
Anne S. Howells Charitable Trust  
Jan McCracken  
Eleanor Lamson Pearson  
Robert A. Shaines  
Sharon & Bill Stephan  
Marcy Weeks

### **Arts Athenaeum:**

Stephen Alie  
Alan Ammann  
Richard Candee  
Katherine S. Clark  
Ann Graf  
Rose Eppard  
Frank Graf  
Patricia Heard  
Anne S. Howells Charitable Trust  
Japan America Foundation  
Marcia Jebb  
Elaine Krasker  
John Maher  
John Payzant  
Jane Porter  
Peter Randall  
Eleonore P. Sanderson  
Renee Silverman  
Ursula Wright

### **Book Fund:**

Katherine S. Clark  
James E. Fender  
John Maher  
Barbara Millar  
Christopher Russell  
Richard Snowden  
Roger F. Wood

### **Endowment:**

Richard G. Adams  
Katherine S. Clark  
Mary Decatur  
Barbara Engelbach  
Russell B. Grazier

Tom Hardiman  
John Maher  
Donald Margeson  
Dana Mayo  
Mark McNabb  
Joe Parks  
Jean Sawtelle  
Ira Schwartz  
Susan L. Zuckert

### **Special Collections:**

Richard Candee  
Margaret S. Carter  
Katherine S. Clark  
Carol Cole  
Thomas Coleman  
William Purinton  
Joyce Volk  
Roger F. Wood  
Ursula Wright

### **Unrestricted:**

R. Rhett Austell  
Ferris Bavicchi  
Evangeline Brawn  
Laurence Bussey  
John P. Campbell  
Philip Cavanaugh  
Martha Fuller Clark  
Gloria Costello  
Mike Dater  
Stanley O. Davis  
Armistead Dennett  
David Ellis  
David Ewing  
Elizabeth H. Field  
Lois Fonda  
Steven R. Fowle  
Morris C. Foye III  
Jameson S. French  
Gary Ghigliotti  
Frank Graf  
Neil Graves  
Nancy Grossman  
Robert A. Hall  
Margaret Harrington  
Mary Lou Hodgdon

Daniel M. Hughes  
Michael Kenslea  
Evelyn S. Lamprey  
Elizabeth Larsen  
Peter Loughlin  
Wendy Lull  
A.T. Michael MacDonald  
John Maher  
Garvin McCurdy  
Dennis L. Meadows  
Robert Mennel  
Sally Mirsky  
D. Bruce Montgomery  
Margaret Morrissey  
Kathleen R. Murray  
Howard Oedell  
Karen Pierce  
James Russ  
Howell E. Russell  
Jeffrey Salisbury  
Joan Sanborn  
David Sanderson  
Eléonore Sanderson  
Anthony Sarni  
John Schermerhorn  
Regina Schirmer  
Wayne Semprini  
Andrew Sherburne  
Max Smith  
Robert Snover  
Sally Strazdins  
Barbara K. Sweet  
Eleanor Tracy  
Joyce Volk  
Thomas Watson  
Roger F. Wood  
Rodney Watterson  
Beverly Powell Woodward

### **Gifts to the Festive Holiday Party:**

Cynthia Knapp  
Wendy Lull  
Charles Warner Wendell

### **Jane Porter Fund:**

Wendy Turner

**GENEROSITY****CONTINUED****Adopt-A-Book 2005:**

Lynn Aber  
 Richard Adams  
 Joan Barondes  
 Michael Baenen  
 Richard Candee  
 Common Readers Group  
 Matthew Cote  
 Armistead Dennett  
 Gail Drobnyk  
 James Dunn

Rose Eppard  
 George Friese  
 Ann Graf  
 Tom Hardiman  
 Ronda Baker Hill  
 Cathleen E. Hodson  
 Michael Kenslea  
 Wendy W. Lull  
 Margaret Morrissey  
 Nancy Mulqueen  
 Joseph Mulqueen

Peter Narbonne  
 John Payzant  
 Jane Porter  
 David Sanderson  
 Eleonore Sanderson  
 Jeffrey Smith  
 David Taylor  
 Judith Udaly  
 Joyce Volk  
 Charles Wendell

*Thanks* to the many members and friends who have generously given of their time and talents to enrich and enliven the Athenæum's many endeavors:

**Cynthia Knapp** for her ceaseless efforts in organizing the Gala Holiday Party, despite the foul weather; to **Army Dennett** for printing the invitations; to **Cindy and Deb Richards** for decorating the library; to **Dick Adams** for set-up; to **Joan Sanborn** and the many who brought food; to **Len Thomsen and Dick Adams** for stocking the wine cellar; to **Mike Chubrich, Dave Sanderson,** and **Clint Springer** for tending bar; and special thanks to **Cindy and Jeff Knapp, Joan Sanborn, Mike Chubrich,** and **Bill Wieting** for helping with clean-up!

*Our gratitude* to the following for their help with the most successful Book Sale to date:

**Venue:**

South Church

**Sorters:**

Mary Lou Hodgdon  
 David Sanderson  
 Mararet Morrissey  
 Irene Crosby  
 Joan Lockhart  
 Susan Benedict  
 Judy Nerbonne  
 Joe Frost  
 Michael Baenen & Peter Narbonne

**Transporters:**

Mike Chubrich  
 Ellie & Dave Sanderson  
 Michael Baenen & Peter Narbonne  
 Jim Mills

**Sale workers:**

Joan Lockhart  
 Phil & Mary Lou Hodgdon  
 Felice Fullam  
 Deb Richards  
 Michael Baenen & Peter Narbonne  
 Larry Benedict

Garvin McCurdy  
 Pat & Judy Nerbonne  
 Ellie & Dave Sanderson  
 John Payzant  
 Elaine Tefft  
 Nancy Mulqueen

**Publicity:**

Sherry Wood  
 Michael Baenen & Peter Narbonne

*Thanks to Margaret S. Carter for underwriting the purchase of a rare Portsmouth sailmaker's diary from the 1890s.*

## **CONGRATULATIONS AND WELCOME**

**TO THE FOLLOWING NEW  
PROPRIETORS, MEMBERS,  
AND FRIENDS**

Congratulations to the following new Proprietors we previously introduced in the Newsletter:

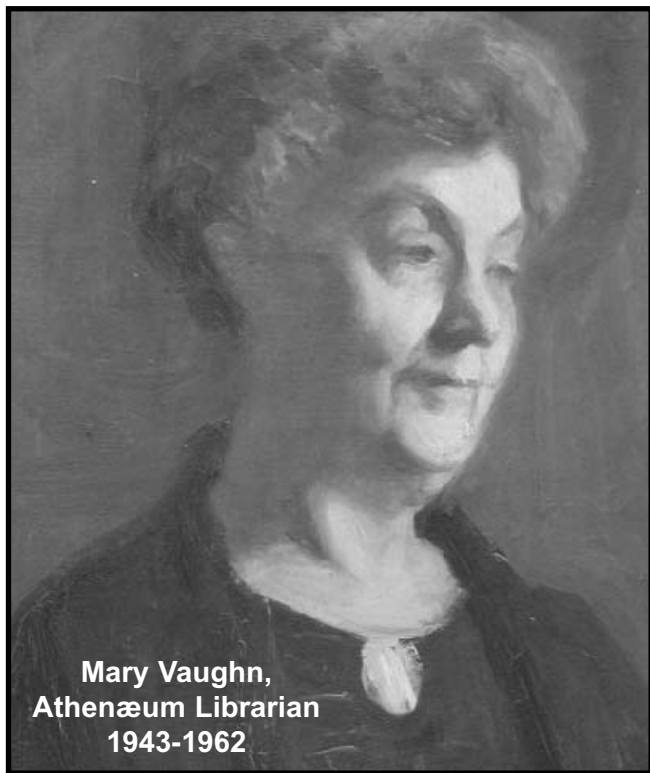
Charles Lassen  
Frances Mallon  
Michael Murray

**Welcome to the following new Subscriber:**

Albert P. Stowe is a CPA who has lived in the Seacoast Region for 30 years and has a deep appreciation for the history of the area. He and his wife, Carol, live in Portsmouth.

**Welcome and Thanks to new and renewed  
Friends of the Athenæum:**

Nicholas Baker  
Janice Galinger  
Elisabeth Garrett  
Filson & Shirley Glanz  
Bill Holly



**Mary Vaughn,  
Athenæum Librarian  
1943-1962**

## **EXTRAORDINARY DONATION OF ARTWORKS**

In an act of tremendous generosity, the New Hampshire Historical Society has transferred to the Athenæum a large collection of artworks and books from the estate of Proprietor Dorothy Vaughan.

The collection includes nearly a hundred paintings, drawings, and sketches by Portsmouth artist Mary A. Harris (b. 1864). The collection also includes this portrait of Miss Vaughan's mother, Mary W. Vaughan (1881 – 1970), who was the Athenæum librarian from 1943 to 1962.

Many thanks to to our friends at the NH Historical Society for this enormous gift.

## LIBRARIAN'S CORNER

### Interested in learning more about the Athenæum's Archival collections?

There are lots of interesting archival projects going on at the Athenæum and we're looking for some interested individuals who'd like to volunteer some help. Projects vary from a one-time commitment of a few hours to longer-term, ongoing work. Some projects are quite simple, requiring little training like data inputting and transcribing; others are more in depth (scanning photographs for a searchable database or processing new collections). Whatever your level of expertise, we'd greatly appreciate your help! Please contact archivist Susan Kindstedt (SJKindstedt@aol.com; or at the Athenæum: 431-2538).

### Library Staff Changes

We are sad to report that after ten years as Librarian/ Archivist, **Lynn Buckley Aber** has left the Athenæum for a position at the Class of 1945 Library at Phillips Exeter Academy. Lynn made many good friends among our Proprietors and patrons, and her experience and expertise will be greatly missed. We wish her well. Assistant Librarian **Robin Silva**, who's been with the Athenæum for nine years and has an excellent knowledge of our collections and systems, will take over the reins as Librarian. Robin. We're currently searching for a new Assistant Librarian.

The Portsmouth Athenæum  
9 Market Square  
Portsmouth, NH 03801

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

#### OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

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TREASURER: *MICHAEL KENSLEA*

SECRETARY: *GAIL DROBNYK*

PAST PRESIDENT: *ELÉONORE P. SANDERSON*

*MICHAEL BAENEN*

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*PETER LAMB*

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*PETER E. RANDALL*

*A. ROBERT THORESEN*

*WILLIAM F. WIETING*

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LIBRARIAN: *ROBIN SILVA*

RESEARCH ASSISTANT: *URSULA WRIGHT*

ARCHIVIST: *SUSAN KINDSTEDT*

OFFICE MANAGER: *NANCY MULQUEEN*

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