

THE ANNUAL APPEAL FOR LOUISA MAY ALCOTT'S ORCHARD HOUSE

399 Lexington Road PO Box 343 Concord, MA 01742 USA www.louisamayalcott.org

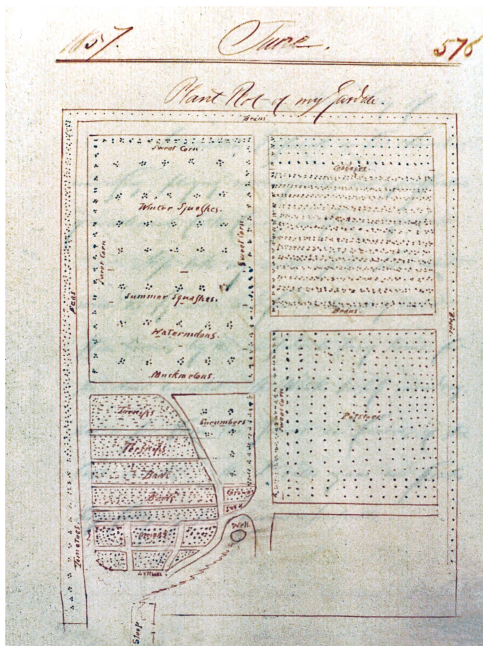
December 2023

Dear Friends:

Each year we send a letter to wonderful, generous people (you!) who share our vision of public education and historic preservation. Many of you have experienced first-hand our passionate Staff giving truly outstanding tours that have made us “**The #1 Thing to Do in Concord**” by Tripadvisor.com. Perhaps you have enjoyed our unique educational offerings for adults and children through the years as well.



Over time, you have literally seen your donation dollars at work as we stabilized the structure of Orchard House (circa 1650) and the Concord School of Philosophy (1880). Year after year, you have been impressed with how we keep pace with seemingly endless interior repairs and restoration projects *without being closed to the public*. Recently, many of you have enthusiastically commented on the wisdom of our new geothermal climate control system, which has enormous benefit for the environment, and, ended our use of costly fossil fuels.



Our efforts to maintain Orchard House to the highest standards of authenticity also extend outward, to our historic landscape — the first impression for each and every visitor. With Mr. Alcott's own journals and receipts as our guide, we re-created the prized apple orchard for which the House was named and installed a lovely accessible serpentine path around it. Visitors, neighbors, and Staff alike who enjoy this tranquil walk likely share Mr. Alcott's belief that, "He who keeps a Garden, still his Eden keeps." And, inspired by Louisa's own recollections as detailed in her beloved novel, our *Little Women Garden* has been a vibrant focal point of our site for two decades.

~continued



This year, we are honored to have become an official “adopted site” of the Massachusetts Master Gardener Association (MMGA). As such, we now benefit from certified horticultural experts who volunteer on a bi-weekly basis throughout the growing season, often partnering with National Charity League (NCL) mothers and their teenaged daughters. These energetic experienced and novice volunteers, together with other volunteer gardeners, continue the labor-intensive work on the grounds that is truly a labor of love.

Now, in preparation for re-creating the Alcotts’ vital Kitchen Garden, we have not only established our own well, which eliminates the need for Town water, but are currently installing a state-of-the-art irrigation system designed to work with the least amount of evaporation possible to provide the greatest efficiency. This system will put an end to hours of manually dragging a drip hose around to each heirloom apple tree and hand-watering our gardens, and enable all of our extensive plantings to thrive. Finally, looking ahead to next year, we will again turn our attention inward — to the restoration of the Parents’ Room and the Nursery.

Your donation to this year’s Annual Appeal is crucial to the work we are doing. We truly thrive because of your support! From the UK visitor who wrote, “Absolutely wonderful how everything is preserved!” to the Canadian visitor who said their visit was “a touching and spiritual experience,” we receive daily affirmation. On their behalf, we thank you in advance for giving as generously as you can.



With gratitude,

Jan Turnquist
Executive Director

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The Annual Appeal for Louisa May Alcott's Orchard House

Please complete and mail this form to: Orchard House Annual Appeal PO Box 343 Concord, MA 01742-0343
or make a donation securely on-line at www.louisamayalcott.org

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This gift is in Honor Memory of: _____

Matching Gift Form enclosed

Name(s) _____

Mailing Address _____

Phone _____ E-Mail (this will make communicating with you easier) _____

Check payable to "Orchard House"

MC/VISA/AMEX/DISCOVER # _____ CVV# _____ Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

Gifts of Appreciated Securities are also welcome -- please phone Executive Director Jan Turnquist at 978.369.4118 x102 for details

Louisa May Alcott's Orchard House, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, Federal Tax ID# 04-2126592.

All donations are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law. Thank you!

Office Use Only: Date Processed _____ Check No. _____