

Like

Tweet

**DM | DANBURY
MUSEUM**



Spring is springing up in the Danbury Museum gardens!

Hello Friends!

Spring is springing up throughout the Danbury Museum gardens! Our thanks as always to the [Danbury Garden Club](#) Civic Committee, we cannot wait to see what colorful blooms await us this summer.

We are preparing for our busiest season, spring into summer.

From school visits and tours to an increase in family history travelers and genealogists, we look forward to welcoming everyone.

On Saturday, April 6, there is a "Sell Your Old Gold" Fundraiser from 10-4 to benefit the Friends of the Danbury Museum. This is the rare fundraiser where you leave your checkbook at home and leave the museum with a check for your old, broken, or unused gold and silver.

On Sunday, April 7, we are very much looking forward to hosting the first concert of the Richter Arts Spring Performing Arts series. All performances will be on Sundays at 3pm here at the Danbury Museum, with full schedule and listing of performers available on the [Richter Arts website](#). These performances are FREE and open to all.

Every year we host programs or events to commemorate the anniversary of the British Raid on Danbury during the Revolutionary War. This year, we're bringing in author Jack Kelly to speak on his new book, *God Bless Benedict Arnold* on the 247th anniversary of the raid, Friday, April 26. We'll have refreshments (sponsored by [Synergy Home Care of Danbury](#)) and a rousing good evening--and we hope many of you will join us for this special event.

On Saturday May 11, at 3 pm, we are excited to announce that we are partnering with the [Danbury Music Centre](#) and the Danbury Community Band for a special outdoor concert at the Charles Ives Birthplace. More details to come soon, but mark your calendars and plan to bring lawn chairs, snacks, and friends.

Our new exhibit, *The Art of Quilting*, opens to the public on Saturday, May 18, and runs through December 21. The quilts will be changed out twice during the tenure of the exhibit, so you'll

want to plan to visit more than once. We are also seeking sponsors for the exhibit to help us defray the costs. If you're interested, the flyer with all the details is below!

Joining us this month with a very special story about their parents, Robert and Marion Noce, are Roberta Struski and Christina Noce. We think their beautiful adventure will inspire you.

John O'Donnell is with us again this month writing about the big dreams and dedication of George Buckman Dorr and the beginnings of Acadia National Park. Thank you to John, Roberta, and Christina for sharing their essays with us!

We'll look forward to seeing you in a month--and we very much hope to see you at one of our upcoming events!



We had the opportunity to give a very early sneak preview of our

Art of Quilting exhibit to members of the [Womens Business Council](#) last week as we celebrated Women's History Month. Our special thanks to the [Greater Danbury Chamber of Commerce](#), the Womens Business Council, [Girl Scouts of Connecticut](#), and [Cotton Candy Fabrics](#). The pairings of Girl Scout cookies and wine were so much fun and Cotton Candy Fabrics provided fabric squares and markers to create hopeful messages that will be sewn on to the comfort quilts made by Fabric Friends of the Danbury Museum for Nuvance Hospital.

And a huge congratulations to Joretta Kilcourse and the Fabric Friends for reaching the milestone of 1000 comfort quilts (1005, to be exact!) donated in the past 10 years.



DM | DANBURY
MUSEUM
43 Main Street, Danbury CT 06810



God Bless Benedict Arnold A Revolutionary Evening

Friday, April 26, 5:30-7 @ The Danbury Museum

Join us for a truly revolutionary evening on the 247th anniversary of British Raid on Danbury.

Historian Jack Kelly will speak and then read from his new book, *God Bless Benedict Arnold*.

Enjoy light refreshments and a rousing introduction by Danbury City Historian, Brigid Guertin.

This event is FREE and open to all, but free will donations gladly accepted.

Very special thanks to our refreshment sponsor:



DanburyMuseum.org

We're excited to welcome author Jack Kelly to the Danbury Museum on April 26, 2024, the 247th anniversary of the British Raid on Danbury. It'll be a truly *revolutionary* evening and we hope to see you for a night of historic fun on Friday, April 26th! We are most grateful to our refreshment sponsor, [Synergy Home Care!](#)

This event is FREE and open to all, but donations are always appreciated.



George Buckman Door on Beachcroft Path at Huguenot Head.

Acadia National Park: One Man's Lifetime Dream

by John O'Donnell

History is replete with instances of heroic people dedicating their lives to realizing dreams which sometimes can result in a lifetime commitment of everything that is available to them to fulfill their projects. A great example from the intellectual world is Robert Caro. Caro is probably the master biographer of the 20th century. He started his career with an incredible biography of Robert Moses titled *The Power Broker* (1974). After this he embarked on a multivolume biography, *The Years of Lyndon Johnson*, which currently stands at four massive volumes and he is at work on the fifth and final volume. He is 88 years old but is determined to finish the work. He has written 600 pages of it so far and is still following his dictum: "Turn every page," which has driven his remarkable and comprehensive research skills and his dedication

to the project. Today we shall look at another man with tenacious dedication to his dream and willing to expend every means at his disposal to realize this dream.

One of the best family vacations that we ever took was a two-week tour of the Canadian Maritime provinces. When we crossed the border to return to the United States we had reservations to camp in Acadia National Park in Maine. We had a great visit to the park, which is unforgettable. Recently I decided to research the beginnings of the park and I encountered the name of George B. Dorr who is commonly referred to as the "Father of Acadia National Park." It is the story of a man who was willing to dedicate every fiber of his being to realize his dream.

George Buckman Dorr (1853-1944) was an American preservationist and was indispensable in presiding over the park's formation and expansion. He was the son of wealthy parents whose textile fortune he inherited. Dorr first visited and fell in love with Mount Desert Island as a fifteen-year-old in 1868 while on a family vacation with his parents. They decided to buy property at Compass Harbor, just outside Bar Harbor. They constructed a Victorian Queen Anne style mansion there called Old Farm in 1878. The landscape architect Charles Elliot is credited with the initial idea for the park. But the practical work of fleshing out this idea was primarily the work of Dorr both through donations of land and through advocacy at the state and federal levels. The park contains the tallest mountain on the Atlantic Coast of the United States (Cadillac Mountain), exposed granite domes, glacial erratics, U-shaped valleys, cobble beaches, and ocean vistas.

President Woodrow Wilson first established the federal status as Sieur de Monts National Monument on July 8, 1916. It was the first national park created from private land gifted to the public. Dorr rejoiced in the creation and wrote about it: "No one who had not made the study of it can realize how various and truly

wonderful the opportunities are which the creation of this Park now opens, alike in wildlife ways and splendid scenery.” Congress re-designated the national monument as Lafayette National Park on February 26, 1919, the first American National Park east of the Mississippi River and the only one in the Northeastern United States. The name of the park was changed to Acadia National Park on January 19, 1929, in honor of the former French colony of Acadia (which in Ancient Greek means idyllic place), which once included Maine. Dorr served as its first superintendent from its foundation until his death in 1944.

Sadly Dorr’s dedication to Acadia did not prevent him from suffering several personal reverses which compromised his ability to do as much for Acadia as he wanted to do. Dorr initially believed that his personal fortune could support purchasing more land for the park forever, but this proved impossible. He had declined a personal salary as superintendent until 1929 when he started accepting a regular paycheck. He had income from his highly successful Mt. Desert Nurseries, but his inheritance was severely depleted in the decade before President Franklin D. Roosevelt was inaugurated. He gradually became impoverished and had to move out of the Old Farm Mansion and live in the much smaller Storm Beach Cottage.

One of the great pleasures that Dorr enjoyed was swimming in a saltwater pond near his cottage. He swam there most days of his life, sometimes having to chip away ice to do so. In 1934 he suffered a heart attack while swimming in the frigid waters. Doctors told him that he had only six months to live. In typical New England fashion, he lived another ten years. Chronic vision problems plagued him most of his life and he became completely blind in his last years and was unable to see the gorgeous national park that he had devoted his whole life and resources to. His blindness never interfered with his daily swim. He would walk down to the water everyday with help from his caretaker.

Concerned about the future existence of his Old Farm Mansion, he offered it to FDR as a summer retreat, but the President declined. The Mansion was later demolished in 1951. On August 5, 1944, while down at the water he fell. He died at the place he loved the best at the age of ninety.

During his long association with Acadia National Park, Dorr committed all his personal, social, and financial resources to its development. Dorr's vision of Acadia still offered "one great element of wildness –contact with the ocean and the sight from mountainous heights of its great plain of waters stretching boundlessly away till hidden by the curvature of the earth." He would not have thought the price of his vision and lifelong commitment too high!

(Editor's note: The National Park Service offers a wonderful video tour of Old Farm [here](#).)

John O'Donnell first became a history devotee while in elementary school. He was raised in Brooklyn and frequently went to Prospect Park which has a Revolutionary War monument. He was hooked!



Old Farm Mansion (NPS photo.)

**"Sell Your
Old Gold"
Fundraiser**



**FOR THIS FUNDRAISER,
YOUR CHECKBOOK STAYS HOME...
AND THIS TIME, YOU GO HOME
WITH A CHECK IN YOUR POCKET !!!**

Please take a moment to look through your jewelry boxes at home for:

- BROKEN GOLD CHAINS AND BRACELETS
- SINGLE EARRINGS (HALF PAIRS)
- OLD SCHOOL RINGS
- RINGS WITH MISSING STONES
- OLD BOYFRIEND/GIRLFRIEND GIFTS
- JEWELRY YOU NEVER WEAR
- GOLD NON-WORKING WATCHES
- YES, EVEN DENTAL GOLD
- STERLING SILVER JEWELRY, FLATWARE, HOLLOWWARE
- PLATINUM AND PALLADIUM

THEN BRING IT WITH YOU TO:

**THE DANBURY MUSEUM
43 MAIN STREET
DANBURY, CT**

203.743.5200

Saturday April 6th 10 AM to 4 PM

There, our good friend, Bob the gold man, will buy your "old gold" and hand you a check. Then, after the refining process, over 70% of the profits will be donated, in your name, to the FRIENDS OF THE DANBURY MUSEUM !!!

Any questions, please email: bob@libertygoldct.com



Robert and Marion Noce

A Shoe Box Journey: The story of a green shoe box bound together with a man's necktie.

by Roberta Struski and Christina Noce
Daughters of Robert and Marion Noce

The year is 1942. The US is deeply embroiled in WWII. A young man is drafted into the Army and stationed at Camp Gordon, a base in Augusta, GA. Since he has a degree from Fordham University, he is quickly promoted from private to technical sergeant and assigned to work in the Finance Department.

Reluctantly, he leaves behind his sweetheart whom he has known since childhood. They originally met at church in Manhattan. Years later, they fall in love--but with a war raging on, their romance would have to wait.

Through daily letters between the two they keep in touch, sharing

news of family and friends, and the latest of their favorite movies and songs. In the course of these letters, their plans to marry are revealed. Since time is precious, they decide to wed in New York at their church on Christmas Eve, providing he could come home on leave. He wasn't sure until last minute if he could make it back for the wedding.

As the daughters of this couple, we were told never to open the green shoe box. It was private. Years later, after our parents pass away and we are cleaning out the house, we decide to open it. We discover letters and photographs of a special time and place in our parents' lives before we were born. There is also information as to where they lived and a peek at what life was like for them.

Curiosity gets the best of us and letters are opened that once were kept secret.

We decide since we had the addresses, photos, and other information at hand, why not make a trip to discover this part of their lives. After all, they spent three years there and always mentioned it with great fondness.

Back to the story--They do get married in New York on Christmas Eve. He can only stay two days and must go back to Augusta. He promises he will send for her once he saves enough money to afford an apartment. Only married servicemen could live off the base at that time. After a few months, he finds a cozy furnished rental that cost \$65.00 a month. He gets her a job on the base selling war bonds. She arrives in April and before they know it, she is riding around on the back of an open jeep selling war bonds--her flaming red hair really boosting sales!

Fast forward to our family trip to Augusta. Camp Gordon is now Fort Eisenhower. To our surprise and delight, we get clearance to

enter this expansive base. We are allowed to drive and walk around, giving us a glimpse of past and present. Today the former camp is now an active base for the U.S. Army Signal Corps. Augusta too has grown by leaps and bounds. And yet we were able to find the brick house they lived in and match it to the photos and addresses found in that “forbidden” box. Seeing the same sights that they did and walking in their footsteps so many years later was earth shaking.

And to think this step back in time and family history was only discovered through that green shoe box bound together with a man’s necktie.

So perhaps one day if you encounter your own green shoe box, our advice is...unbind the man’s necktie and open it. You never know where the journey might lead you!



Robert Noce

Cursive Camp!

The Danbury Museum's Cursive Camp returns this summer and is FREE!

The ability to read and write in cursive is an important skill set—whether for reading old family letters or simply mastering the mechanics—and our weeklong camp is the perfect place to start!

Session I: July 8-12 Session II: July 15-19 Session III: July 22-26

DanburyMuseum.org

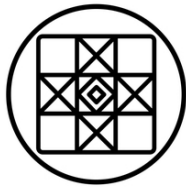
DM | DANBURY
MUSEUM

203.743.5200

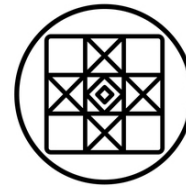
We are excited about our 2024 Cursive Camp and know that you and your child will be, too! Cursive Camp is one FREE week of camp thanks to a Youth Services Prevention Initiative Grant secured by Representative Farley Santos, Speaker Matt Ritter, and Majority Leader Jason Rojas.

There are three, one-week sessions (each with the same curriculum) and you must register your child for one of the sessions. Please note you cannot register your child for more than one session. Session I is July 8-12, Session II is July 15-19, and Session III is July 22-26. Grade 3-8 is the recommended age group for camp.

Forms and full details are available on our website's [Cursive Camp](#) page.



**DM | DANBURY
MUSEUM**
43 Main Street, Danbury CT 06810
DanburyMuseum.org



The Art of Quilting

May 10 - December 21, 2024

The Danbury Museum's 2024 exhibit will explore the art of quilting via the museum's extensive quilt collection. Not only do the quilts represent an important part of American culture, they are works of art created by skilled hands.

\$3500 Presenting Sponsor:

Your business logo/graphic on all exhibit and promotional materials (indoors and outdoors, posters, postcards, social media posts, etc.) prominent placement on museum's website page dedicated to the exhibit from May through December 2024. Opportunity to host a small gathering with private, behind the scenes exhibit discussion.

\$1000 Advertising Sponsor

Your business logo/graphic featured with other advertisers on the Art of Quilting webpage for the the exhibit and featured on some social throughout the exhibit tenure. (The museum website receives 4500-7000 visitors per month.)

\$500 Friend of the Exhibit Sponsor

Your business name featured on signage in the exhibit hall throughout the seven month exhibit tenure.

For all sponsorship opportunities and questions please contact Michele Lee Amundsen at m.amundsen@danbury-ct.gov.

Follow Danbury Museum & Historical Society on Facebook

Follow @DanburyMuseum on X

Follow @DanburyMuseum on Instagram



©2024 The Danbury Museum & Historical Society | 43 Main Street, Danbury, Connecticut 06810, United States

[Web Version](#)

[Forward](#)

[Unsubscribe](#)

Powered by
GoDaddy Email Marketing®