

Field Notes

Volume 2 - Number 3

Fall 2017

Holiday Splendor Abounds at the Field House Museum



It is once again that time of year where the historic house is taken over by holiday cheer! Come see the museum in its festive attire, showcasing the historic feather trees and many toys within the Field House Museum's collection. The holiday splendor will be on display through the end of the year; stop by while there's still time!



Illustrating the Words: The Artistry of the Picture Book

A picture is worth a thousand words, but an illustration brings imagination to life. Sparking creativity and creating worlds of wonderment, the picture book brings substance to fiction, all while subtly teaching morals and life lessons to its readers. *Illustrating the Words: The Artistry of the Picture Book* showcases original illustrations of both classic and contemporary children's books. Let boundless curiosity take a hold as you explore over 40 illustrations, on loan from Ed Nickels, that bring stories to life.

Discover *Illustrating the Words: The Artistry of the Picture Book* now through Spring 2018.



This November 25, we want to share Small Business Saturday® with you! It's a holiday shopping tradition that celebrates small businesses like ours. And it wouldn't be a celebration without customers like you joining us.

Mark your calendars for November 25 – the Saturday after Thanksgiving – and get ready to Shop Small® with us. Grab a friend or family member and come by between 10 am - 4 pm on the big day. We look forward to seeing you!

A Field Family Connection in Newfane



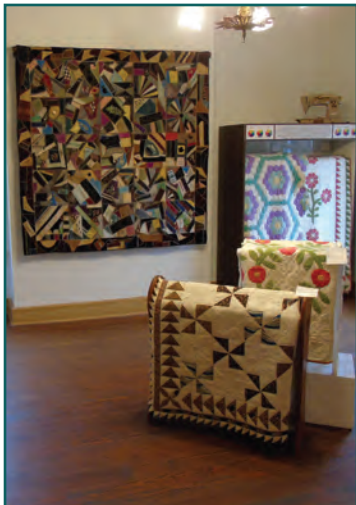
A charming rural village in southern Vermont, Newfane was home to General Martin Field, Roswell's father and Eugene's grandfather. General Field moved from Massachusetts to Newfane in 1800 and practiced law in the Windham County Court House, a beautiful gleaming white building which remains just off the small town square today. Monuments to the Field family dot the town; the Newfane Congregational Church, where the family worshiped, was constructed in 1774 and sits proudly on a slight hill. The family home where Roswell was raised is nearby.

If you find yourself in the northeast as a leaf peeper this fall, a side trip to tiny Newfane may be a pleasant surprise. It is full of history, easy to navigate and lovely in the autumn.



Threads of Society: American Quilts and the Stories They Tell

Quilting has had a long, beloved history in the United States. Many reflect upon quilts as heartwarming reminders of family. Traditionally they were hand-stitched by women, often using whatever scraps of fabric were readily available. These were then passed down as heirlooms or given as gifts. Occasionally these family heirlooms make their way into a museum's collections when families find they no longer have the space or means to properly care for them. *Threads of Society: American Quilts and the Stories They Tell*, highlights several of the quilts from the Field House Museum's collection, focusing on the recognition of quilts as historic and artistic materials.



Dating from the nineteenth century to the early twentieth century, the quilts on display are examples of many styles and patterns. Located on the third-floor of the historic house, this exhibit looks at quilting from the unique perspective of quilts as fine art, while also embracing the history and culture behind the famous bed covers. *Threads of Society: American Quilts and the Stories They Tell* is on exhibit through December 2017. Don't miss out on this great exhibit!



Pop-in for Pop-Ups: A Peek at the Popular Book

Come join us in the Eugene Field Library as we display a variety of fun and whimsical pop-up books from the golden era of pop-ups, generously loaned from the collections of Marianne Gleich and from the collections of Mary Officer. Our newest exhibit, *Pop-In for Pop-Ups: A Peek at the Popular Book* is open and continues through February 2018.

The new exhibit will feature pop-up books for everyone. Children will enjoy the many brightly colored pop-up books designed to inspire imagination. Also on display will be various antique books, including some from the popular series *Jolly Jump-Ups*, which were first produced in the 1940s and 50s. The illustration and engineering of paper has come a long way since the early books for children, as will be exhibited by the books on display.

From the turn of the 20th century to the present day, visitors will be able to see the change in style and motion of paper.

Pop-In for Pop-Ups: A Peek at the Popular Book focuses on the artwork and mechanisms of movable books. On display will be works that are artistic and focus on aesthetics more than the storyline. One artist whose creations will be exhibited is Robert Sabuda. Sabuda's works span colorful books for children to complex artwork for adults, often absent of color. Five different books illustrated by Sabuda, including some duplicates, will be included in the exhibit.

Among the books for children and adults are examples which were produced in Europe. Visitors will be able to see many movable books, both old and new, that were published in French. Many of the books displayed are of stories that most have heard in their childhood including *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* and *Beauty and the Beast*.

A special treat for visitors of all ages will be waiting for you in the library. Joining *Pop-in for Pop-Ups: A Peek at the Popular Book* will be a fun hands-on activity. After seeing the many pop-ups, you will be able to make your own pop-up card. In addition, a touchable recreation of the mid-century French story blocks will be on display as a special part of the exhibit.

Make sure to mark your calendars for *Pop-in for Pop-Ups: A Peek at the Popular Book*, open now through February 2018!



Perspectives On Pop-Up and Movable Books

The first movable device in books dates to the 13th century when Ramon Llull formed moving discs or circles. These were affixed as two or more circles rotating upon each other in order to illustrate Llull's scholarly theories. It was many centuries later, in the 17th century, that movable techniques were used for entertainment in books, especially for children's books.

A London firm, Dean & Son, published the first large quantity of movable books around 1860. These books were constructed to appeal to children. Numerous publishers in New York, London and Munich printed versions of mechanical books. It wasn't until the 1930s that the term "pop-up" was used to describe movable drawings used to illustrate a book. The Blue Ribbon Publishing Company of New York cleverly hit upon the perfect combination with moving Disney characters inside of books. Soon thereafter, *Jolly Jump-Ups* appeared and they also became a commercial success.

Manufacturing pop-up books is a labor-intensive task often employing as many as 60 people to complete the intricate design. Today's pop-ups are produced primarily in Colombia, Mexico, Thailand and Singapore. These books are masterpieces of creativity and engineering, each book holding endless surprises for the reader.



Bye-Bye Teddy Bear: The Teddy Bear Picnic Wraps Up

Summer has drawn to a close and so has the exhibit *Teddy Bear Picnic*, as the bears return to hibernation. The exhibit won over the hearts of our youngest visitors as they marveled at the many teddy bears and enjoyed a playful picnic.



By far the most popular part of *Teddy Bear Picnic* was the play table where children sat and had a picnic with the local museum bears. The play area was the first thing children veered towards within the exhibit, keeping them entertained while parents read the panels within the expansion.



In conjunction with *Teddy Bear Picnic*, the museum hosted a Teddy Bear Picnic on July 15th and 16th. The event was a rousing success, as visitors enjoyed a hot dog lunch



with games and activities for all ages. The storyteller entertained our younger visitors after lunch, but the gypsy face painter was the star entertainer of the picnic. To make the event even more fantastic, a generous donation of teddy bears from the Build-A-Bear Workshop was a wonderful surprise given to children under the age of 15. The Teddy Bear Picnic was enjoyed by guests of all ages and the museum thanks those who helped make the event a success.



Museum Day Live!

On September 23, 2017, the Field House Museum celebrated Museum Day Live! This annual event, hosted by Smithsonian magazine, offers free admission to participating museums in the spirit of boundless curiosity and the pursuit of knowledge. The Field House Museum had 30 visitors who came through on the day of the event. Some visitors came to see the quilts; others came to see the teddy bears; one group had just finished a lesson on Eugene Field's poetry! Overall, it was a pleasant day educating guests about the life of the Field family and their contributions to our nation's history.



~ TREASURES FROM THE COLLECTION ~

Painting in Wood - Artful Marquetry

Furniture, art, sculpture, architectural detailing, and other forms of artistic expression in historic house museums provide the visitor with an opportunity to imagine life in another age, and perhaps even to recall their own long-forgotten memories. Visitors to the Field family home have remarked that upon entering one of the carefully replicated rooms, they have a clearer perspective on the lives of the Field family, and are also able to imagine what their own lives may have been like had they lived in St. Louis more than 160 years ago.

The furniture and collection pieces displayed in the Field family home form beautiful tableaux that serve as a vehicle to spark visitors' imaginations about life in another era, perhaps even to wonder about the effect this environment may have had on young Eugene's creative mind during his boyhood days living in the home.

One of the most beautiful of those furniture pieces in the Field House is an elegantly designed cabinet currently displayed on the second floor. Crafted of wood with contrasting wood inlays, it provides museum visitors an opportunity to see an outstanding example of the historic technique of marquetry. The piece was restored in 2008 by the Eugene Field Chapter of Questers 151. The lower chest portion of the cabinet features four large center drawers with four silverware drawers on either side; a display cabinet sits above the chest, containing three glass shelves for china, photographs or other items. Nearly every section of the cabinet bears finely detailed marquetry inlays in a graceful floral design.

Recognized as one of the most attractive and sophisticated methods of decorating fine furniture, marquetry is the art of creating intricate pictures and designs on furniture by skillfully cutting and fitting together thin pieces of colored wood, horn, metal, shell, and precious materials. Though marquetry traces its roots to ancient times, it was popularized in the eighteenth century in France and today remains centered in Paris. Woods used in marquetry include applewood, ebony, holly, pear, rosewood, satinwood, sycamore, willow, and others.



Over the centuries, marquetry became more elaborate and luxurious with the introduction of semi-precious stones, metals, mother-of-pearl, tortoiseshell, and ivory.

One of the most well-known schools of applied arts, the École Boulle, was founded more than a century ago in Paris to train tradesmen in the design and production of masterfully crafted pieces of furniture, and remains in operation today. The school was named after André-Charles Boulle [1642-1732], a legendary master of the fine art of marquetry, who served as the royal cabinetmaker for Louis XIV.

The art of marquetry has been referred to as "painting in wood." The use of wood as their primary medium requires artists to exercise careful craftsmanship when designing and creating marquetry's intricate geometric motifs, landscapes, pictorial scenes, floral embellishments, and other imagery. For example, to create shading in the motifs or scenes they create, marquetry artists often used heated sand to burn the wood slightly, thereby darkening part of the visual. Clearly, the art of marquetry not only requires creative talent, but technical skill and meticulous attention to detail.

Visit the Museum's second floor soon to see a beautiful example of marquetry in the restored cabinet now on display.

– Sally Smith

Stay Connected with Us

Don't miss out on all the latest news and events at the Field House Museum! Join our social media pages or head to our website to learn about everything from current exhibits to fun facts about the museum's several collections. Connect with the museum on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter.



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Eugene Field: A Traveler's Tale in Denver, Colorado.

By the time Eugene Field arrived in Denver, Colorado in 1881, he and Julia had already been married for eight years. Before moving to Denver, the Field family resided in St. Joseph, St. Louis, and Kansas City, Missouri, each time moving for a new journalism position that Eugene had accepted. The family had also grown by three: daughter Mary French, son Melvin Gray, and son Eugene, Jr. After living in Kansas City for only a year, Eugene accepted the position of managing editor for the *Denver Tribune*. It is assumed he was offered the position because of his friendship with Fred J. V. Skiff, also of the *Tribune*, and after whom Field named his fourth son. During his two years at the *Denver Tribune*, Eugene's column "Odds and Ends" gained national attention.

One of the many joys Eugene found in Denver was the energetic urban atmosphere engendered by the railroad system. In 1881, Denver was the central point for trains traveling between San Francisco and New York. Eugene surrounded himself with actors, actresses, and theater troupes and met many friends and acquaintances while they traveled from city to city for performances.



St. James Hotel, Denver, Colorado
Denver Public Library Digital Collections

However, not all of his friends were in the theatre profession. One was a gentleman by the name of Edgar W. Nye, more commonly known by his pen-

name "Bill Nye." Nye was a fellow humorist whose writings caught Eugene's attention. After he was hired to submit the occasional article to the *Tribune*, Nye made the trip to Denver to introduce himself to the man who had hired him. The two became fast friends and celebrated their new bond over a dinner hosted by Eugene at the St. James Hotel. Afterward, Eugene orchestrated one of his most memorable pranks at Nye's expense. Eugene and several friends purposely kept Nye up late into the night, eventually escorting him to his room at five in the morning. Instead of leaving the hotel, the gentlemen waited in the lobby, giving Nye time to fall asleep

before sending up a calling card requesting his presence back downstairs. Nye, however, responded by sending the bell-boy back with a shotgun and a note explaining that it would speak for him. Their similar senses of humor appealed to Eugene, and the two remained life-long friends.

Eugene's pranks did not always end with life-long friendships. Oscar Wilde and Eugene never quite got along after Eugene impersonated him during a trip to Denver. When Eugene heard that Wilde was scheduled to appear in town for a lecture, he announced in the *Tribune* an early arrival for Wilde. Then Eugene dressed up as Bunthorne, a character rumored to be based on Oscar Wilde, from the popular comedic opera, *Patience*. Finally, he hired one of the nicest carriages in town to drive him from the train station to the *Tribune* offices. Crowds of people cheered as he went by, drawn in by his ruse. Afterward, Wilde reluctantly acknowledged that the prank was great advertisement for his lecture.



Eugene Field Home, Denver, Colorado
Denver Public Library Digital Collections

Eugene filled his time in Colorado with the revelry of social entertainment and an ambition to grow his journalistic career. In 1883, the Field family left their small cottage at 315 West Colfax in Denver, Colorado, when Eugene accepted a job in Chicago, Illinois.

In 1927, the "Unsinkable" Molly Brown purchased the home to memorialize Eugene Field's time in Denver. She later made arrangements to donate the home to the city of Denver, with the agreement that the house would be moved to a city park. In 1930, in accordance with the actress's wishes, the house was relocated to Washington Park and served as a branch library for 40 years. After a new library was constructed, the Parks and Recreation Foundation, Inc., adopted the house as its headquarters.

WELCOME MEMBERS

The Eugene Field House Board of Trustees and the staff would like to thank the following members who have continued to support the mission, preservation, and programming of the foundation with their generous membership donations.

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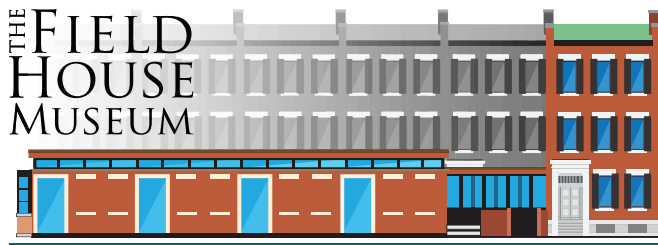
In Memory of Alan & Caroline Field

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*Field House Museum Members and Friends
Mark your calendars for a Night of Sparkle
Friday, December 15, 2017, 5 - 7 p.m.*



WHERE INSPIRATION HAS A HOME
 634 South Broadway, Saint Louis, MO 63102

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Take Home Some Great Goodies From the Field House Museum Gift Shop



Want to take a piece of the Field House Museum home with you? Stop by our gift shop to get some unique and hand-crafted items that are sure to be enjoyed. In anticipation of our new exhibit *Pop-in for Pop-Ups: A Peek at the Popular Book*, we are carrying a new line of pop-up cards in the gift shop! These exceptional cards range in design from birthday cakes, to Ferris wheels, and snowmen. Can't make it into the Field House Museum's gift shop? Visit our online store at shop.fieldhousemuseum.org at your convenience.



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