

Field Notes

Volume 3 - Number 3

December 2018

Treasures from the Collection

A Very Special Viewing: Julia Comstock's Wedding Dress

On display one night only, during the *With Ten Thousand Kisses* celebration February 8.

A rare opportunity awaits Field House Museum members and friends who celebrate the unveiling of the book *With Ten Thousand Kisses* at the Museum on February 8! Guests at the celebration will be able to view the dress that Julia wore when she married Eugene more than 145 years ago. Due to the fragility of the garment and its care requirements, this extraordinary dress will be displayed **one night only**, at the celebration party.



Jesse Powell Henry, who served as contact for the Field family members in cataloguing the family's contributions to the Museum's collections, included the following entry in his 1936 catalog, under the heading "The Julia Field Collection":

J17: LINEN DRESS TRIMMED WITH EMBROIDERY, 1872.

This is the dress worn by Julia Field at the time of her marriage to the poet.

Based on the opinion of a clothing conservator engaged by the Field House Museum to review the description of the dress in the catalog, and on her knowledge of the styles of the time, we believe the dress now owned by the Museum to be Julia's actual wedding dress.

Today, many brides expect to wear a white wedding dress – a dress to be used only one time at the actual wedding ceremony and reception. The custom of wearing a white dress is said to have begun with Queen Victoria, who wore a white satin wedding dress trimmed with lace at her marriage to Prince Albert in 1840. The conservator noted, however, that wedding dresses of the 1800s and before were typically not extravagant because it was impractical for women to wear a dress for a single occasion. Most wedding gowns were actually nice dresses that could be worn again. The dresses were not white, because they would become dirty too quickly and be very difficult to launder, especially fabrics such as the linen used in Julia's dress.

Being able to see Julia's wedding dress in person may help you better imagine the wedding of Julia and Eugene itself. The young lovers were married at 8:00 p.m. the evening of Thursday, October 16, 1873, at Christ Episcopal Church in Julia's hometown of St. Joseph, Missouri. The reception that followed their wedding ceremony was reported to be a grand affair at the bride's parents' home, with many guests of all ages. The celebratory refreshments included thirty-four wedding cakes. One of the unique aspects of their reception was an unusual ornamental tree that appeared to be a mass of flowers, but was in fact a tree-shaped wire frame into which many ruffle-trimmed flower nosegays had been inserted. Each lady present was presented with a nosegay from that tree when the evening ended.



Please plan to join us at the very special *With Ten Thousand Kisses* celebration on February 8, and view this beautiful and significant treasure from Julia's own wardrobe! Watch your mail for the invitation to the celebration! - Sally Smith

A New Year with New Programs

In 2018, the Field House Museum implemented a variety of new programs for audiences of all ages. Kids and parents enjoyed working with staff to create creepy monsters, slippery slime, and more at Kids Corner while adults appreciated an after-hours look around the Museum with a selection of beverages and hors d'oeuvres during History Happy Hour. Due to the overwhelming positive response to these bi-monthly events, the

Field House Museum will be hosting Kids Corners monthly in 2019! The Board and staff of the Museum are pleased with the diverse opportunities the Museum expansion has provided and will continue to increase programs with the addition of a Speaker Series and workshops in the new year.

January will begin the new series with a visit from Cheree Berry of Cheree Berry Paper. (Learn more about this upcoming event on page 4.) In February, Harry Weber, sculptor of the Dred and Harriett Scott statue outside the Old Courthouse, will speak about his experiences in sculpting iconic figures, and in September, John Guenther, of John C. Guenther Architect, LLC will make a presentation about the Museum and its architecture. The Museum will host several authors from the St. Louis area throughout the year including NiNi Harris, Dan Killeen, and Suzanne Corbett. In addition, the Field House Museum will host a series of workshops inviting visitors to become involved and expand



their knowledge of artistic techniques of yesteryear and researching family histories.

Workshops for 2019 will begin in March with a two-part session on the lost art of cursive writing. The morning session will

be tailored for adult learners and the afternoon session for children. In today's technology-filled world, many people have forgotten about the art of hand-writing letters when sending a text message is so much faster. However, learning cursive is not only beneficial for writing a greeting card or letter, but also for uncovering stories from our past written in historic documents. Other workshops will focus on the technique of cloth dying by Emily Hemeyer and later in the year, a session on genealogical research. With the new programs, there is truly something for everyone at the Field House Museum and most



of these great events are included with a Museum membership. For more information on any of the events mentioned above, please visit www.fieldhousemuseum.org and start planning your trip.

The Holidays Are Here at the Field House Museum

German feather trees and antique toys once again fill the historic house of the Museum. From dolls and trains to drums and games, there are toys of all styles and ages on display. Come see the Museum, festively decorated for the holidays, now through mid-January.





Join Us as We Explore The Wonderful World of Collecting: Disneyana

The Field House Museum celebrates 90 years of Mickey Mouse by looking back at the early collectibles of the famous cartoon figure. The exhibit, which will be on display in early 2019, will highlight the Zork Collection of Disneyana that includes a plethora of figurines, china toys, and more. From toothbrush holders to lamps, Mickey Mouse is branded everywhere on objects for all ages. Learn the history of Walt Disney Studios and its famous creator, along with this fascinating array of Disneyana.

Upcoming Events at the Museum

January

12 – Kids Corner: 10 am - Noon

26 – Cheree Berry: 11am

31 – History Happy Hour: 5 pm - 7:30 pm

February

8 – *With Ten Thousand Kisses* Celebration: 6 - 9 pm 16

– Kids Corner: 10 am - Noon

23 – Harry Weber: 2 pm

March

9 – Cursive Writing Workshop: Adults 9 am, Kids 2 pm

16 – Kids Corner: 10 am - Noon

28 – History Happy Hour: 5 pm - 7:30 pm

Stay Connected with Us

Please keep abreast of all the latest news and events at the Field House Museum!



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Words to Music at the Sheldon



On Thursday, November 15, 2018, members and friends of the Field House Museum enjoyed an evening of dinner and music at the Sheldon Concert Hall. Guests were enthralled by the vocal talents of Christine Brewer and Scott Kennebeck as they sang Eugene's poetry. The evening celebrated the release of the CD, *Words to Music: Songs of Eugene Field*. The proceeds from the evening and sale of the CD will support educational and cultural programs of the Museum. The Eugene Field House Foundation would like to thank the following for their support:



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Cheree Berry: Snail Mail and the History of Letter Writing

Saturday, January 26, 2019 at 11:00 am

Cheree Berry is an award-winning graphic designer at the helm of her company, Cheree Berry Paper, located in Ladue with clients across the country. Her company has designed hundreds of wedding invitations as well as pieces for private, non-profit and corporate events. Notable clients include the American Museum of Natural History, Massachusetts General Hospital, the Saint Louis Art Museum, and the stationer for Chelsea Clinton's wedding.

Cheree will speak on the history of letter writing and snail mail, both correlating perfectly with the upcoming publication *With Ten Thousand Kisses*, the book of Eugene Field's love letters to his wife Julia.

Please make plans now to attend this special presentation on **Saturday, January 26 at 11:00 am. Free to Museum members;** regular admission fee of \$10 for non-members. Light refreshments. Reservations appreciated.



Thank You for Your Support

The Board and staff of the Field House Museum would like to say thank you! From our dedicated members who have been with us for years, to our newest members who have just joined, we thank you for your generosity and support. Your commitment to the Museum and its mission is propelling the organization into the future, while always highlighting history.

As we prepare to close out 2018, we recognize that your support has created new exhibits, enhanced our children's program through our Kids Corner and stimulated outreach with our History Happy Hour and speaker events. As an institution that does not receive government assistance or tax dollars through the ZMD (Metropolitan Zoological Park and Museum District), your continued support is extremely important to our current programs which elevate our Museum to a higher level as a place of historical significance and cultural excellence. At this time, we ask that you consider a year-end, tax-deductible gift to help us continue this important work. These gifts will ensure that our 2019 programs reach a broader audience within the St. Louis community and beyond.

If you would like to contribute to the Field House Museum, please take a moment to fill out the donation form below and return it with your contribution to *The Field House Museum 634 South Broadway, Saint Louis, MO 63102* or donate online at www.fieldhousemuseum.org.

A Donation for Your Support

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The Board of Trustees and staff of the Field House Museum 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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August - November 2018

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August - November 2018

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August - November 2018

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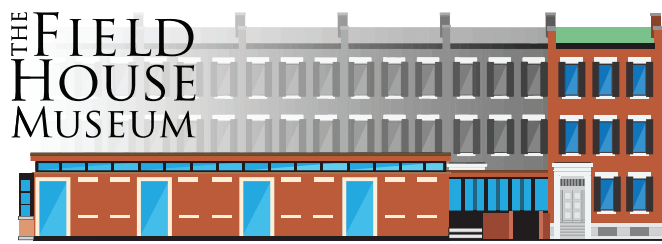
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See the Liberty of London Dolls on Display

With so much news about the British Royal family this year, the Museum has on display the royal figures of the Liberty of London Doll Collection. Stop by to see these magnificent dolls from Henry VIII to Queen Elizabeth II in *Holding Court: The Nobility of the Liberty of London Doll Collection*. You will be amazed at the exquisite detail and hand-crafted elements of over 125 of these beautifully made dolls while exploring the story of their makers, distributors, and Liberty & Co. The dolls are only on display for a short period of time!



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Shop Local at the Field House Museum

Shop online or in our gift shop to find one-of-a-kind gifts for the entire family. Would mom like a China Baroque necklace crafted from antique dishes? Perhaps for dad a Tools & Supplies for Guys embroidered handkerchief, and a windup toy or old-fashioned game for the kids.



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