

Joel Lane Historical Society Annual Report to Members & Donors 2009



President's Report by Margaret Rolfsen

What a busy, hardworking year we have had at the Joel Lane Museum House! Between special events, the ongoing lecture series, partnerships with educators and children's groups and house maintenance and improvements we have been kept happily on our toes.

So many special events, new and old were held at the house this year. Were you able to attend our 4th of July Celebration? If so, you and over 450 compatriots enjoyed a lovely warm day with hands-on history, music, and, in a nod to the 21st century, Locopops! In September we held our 2nd Annual Lizzie Lane Tea for all ages. At the Tea, over 80 grandmothers, mothers and daughters learned the etiquette of taking a colonial tea as well as learning colonial dances and crafts. Fifteen volunteers were on hand to make sure everything went smoothly, and the party was planned beautifully by Nancy Church.



Margaret Rolfsen

The Tavern Party on October 29th was a resounding success and was chaired by Ann Janvier. Our new neighbor, the Boylan Bridge Brewpub, was a key sponsor, and the owner, Andrew Leager, dressed in colonial garb and served three different locally brewed beers to a thirsty crowd. Olivia Pettifer, our JLMH recording secretary, generously provided the perfect food to match the beer including picked okra, deviled eggs, absolutely elegant pigs in a blanket and meatballs all courtesy of the restaurant, Margaux's, owned by her and her husband Andrew who is also the chef! Irregardless Café completed the meal by donating delectable side dishes. Volunteers taught partygoers colonial dances to the sound of tunes by the Southern String Band, and the participants became more and more enthusiastic as the evening progressed. We had such a good time; we plan on making the Tavern Party an annual event.

In December, the Christmas Open House was fun for all but cold! We had twice as many visitors on Sunday as we did on Saturday, largely due to better weather. Interestingly, our gift shop and bakery sales were approximately the same for each day. The fewer visitors who came on Saturday didn't want to leave and spent more money in the gift shop, which was grand!

Our new lecture series continues to grow both in the number of lectures we can offer and the number of attendees. In October, back by popular demand, was Warren Bingham with a stirring lecture on George Washington's 1791 Southern Tour. Demand was so great for this event that we were fortunate to find larger space in an office building across the street owned by Coleman & Associates to accommodate all those who wanted to attend. In November, we were pleased to have Josh Howard, Research Historian at the Office of Archives and History, speak about Wake County's Participation in the Revolutionary War, 1775-1783 in the Visitors Center. In January we welcomed Gwen Mays, a descendant of Joel Lane's Brother, Jesse, who spoke about the women of Joel Lane's Family. Ms. Mays is the Organizational Records Archivist at the State Archives. Most recently, in February, Earl Ijames, the Curator for African American and Community History at the North Carolina Museum of History, spoke to another capacity crowd of over thirty attendees about Slavery in 18th –Century North Carolina.

This summer we again hosted Camp Flintlock, as well as over 300 children from schools in the Greater Raleigh Area who came to the house to learn for themselves what life was like in the 18th century before there was a Wake County or a Raleigh. Please encourage your family's school to come see us or to arrange for our docents and hands-on history program to visit their school. We have developed and continued relationships with several schools in Wake County including Poe, Conn, and Penny Road Elementary. Since Conn is an elementary school with a high low-income population, our hands-on history program allows them to experience the JLMH and the colonial days in Wake County in their own classroom, thereby maintaining a relationship with the school that we could not otherwise due to budget cuts. Beautiful Broughton High School continues to come every year, and home school groups love to visit. Several classes from the Morehead School for the Blind have recently toured, and the experience was enriching for everyone involved. Ongoing relationships with YMCA Indian Guides and Princesses program and the Girl and Boy Scouts of America are bringing even more children into the house. We are so thankful for our faithful, hardworking docents who arrange their schedules to fit ours and without whom we would simply not be able to educate so many. The loyal Joel Lane volunteers have given more than 400 hours for the calendar year 2009!

Wouldn't it be a point of pride if every student in Wake County knew about the origin of their county and state capital and the very important role Joel Lane played in it?

As always, the house has been carefully looked after this year. The recent discovery of rotten shingles on the porch led to a further discovery of rotten wood underneath the shingles. We contracted with Baker Roofing, which replaced the roof using hand cut shingles and a new breathable underlayment that will extend the life of the shingles, all approved by the NC Department of Archives and History. Most fortunately, we paid for the expense using money already budgeted for repairs in our Annual Budget. We are so grateful to Bland Landscaping, Custom Brick Company, and Wake Stone Corp. for making possible the installation of a new sidewalk and general refurbishment of the grounds that took place in April.

After a successful and quiet Capital Campaign for the new bathroom for the Visitor's Center we were able to begin the project in late January and anticipate completion in March. This new bathroom will allow handicapped access and enable us to host larger groups, two things we are very excited about. Many people worked especially hard to see this bathroom project come to fruition. Our curator, Belle Long, spearheaded and shepherded the project to ensure its completion. Claudia Brown, our Buildings Chair, was invaluable from introducing us to our architect, David Maurer, to procuring the needed permits. Contractor Greg Paul has again provided us with quality work in a timely manner.

Finally and especially, we simply could not have done it without the continued support of our membership. Every dollar you give, whether by renewing or raising your membership level, attending lectures and events or remembering us with year-end gifts helps us to improve the offerings we can make to the community. Please stop by in March to see our new facility, and on behalf of the board of the Joel Lane Museum House, I say thank you, thank you, thank you!

Why Support the Joel Lane Museum House?

The Joel Lane Museum House is an important heritage site of statewide significance. It was the home of Lt. Col. Joel Lane (1739-1795), a Revolutionary War patriot, who sold 1,000 acres of his land to the State of NC in 1792 for the site of the state's first permanent capital city, Raleigh. Built circa 1770, Joel Lane's home is the oldest in Wake County and is a jewel of mid-Atlantic Georgian colonial architecture. It was restored in the 1970s, and is fully furnished. Costumed guides lead visitors on tours that take them back in time to the Carolina backcountry of the colonial and early American periods.

The historic site is owned by the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of NC which leases it to a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation, Joel Lane Museum House, Inc., which is funded entirely by private donations and receives no governmental financial support. The site consists of three buildings and gorgeous colonial revival gardens with period-appropriate herbs, fruit trees, and other plants. The circa 1790 "Kitchen" building is a middle-class dwelling that was moved from northern Wake County in 1979. Tours begin and end in the Visitors Center and Museum Shop which are housed in a circa 1840 school room or office that was added onto Joel Lane's home prior to 1880 and removed during the restoration. Joel Lane Museum House sponsors many educational programs and events throughout the year, including Open Houses on July 4 and the first weekend in December, Lizzie Lane's Colonial Tea in September, a Tavern party in October, and a lecture series from September to April. In addition, school groups from public, private, charter and home schools participate in Hands-On History activities after they tour the site. Y Guides, Girl Scouts, and Boy Scouts all participate in educational programs. Staff and volunteers take the Hands-On activities to off-site events and locations as well.



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joellane_curator@bellsouth.net
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joellane@bellsouth.net
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Belle Long



Kathy Ruse



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Volunteers

There are scores of wonderful volunteers who have contributed over 400 hours to the Joel Lane Museum House. They are crucial to every aspect of this institution's success from helping at Special Events to guiding tours and stuffing envelopes. New volunteers are always welcomed.

Visitation

Visitation in fiscal 2009-2010 is up by 38% over 2008-2009, from 2,837 to 3,776 with one more month to go.

Mission Statement

Joel Lane Museum House, Inc. preserves, interprets, and exhibits Wake County's oldest house, the Joel Lane Museum House, its grounds and dependencies. The organization educates the public about the history, architecture, and culture of 18th-century Wake County and about Colonel Joel Lane, an important Revolutionary War figure and a founding father of Raleigh and Wake County. The Joel Lane Historical Society is a grass-roots organization that supports the mission.

Non-Profit Status

Joel Lane Museum House, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. All donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

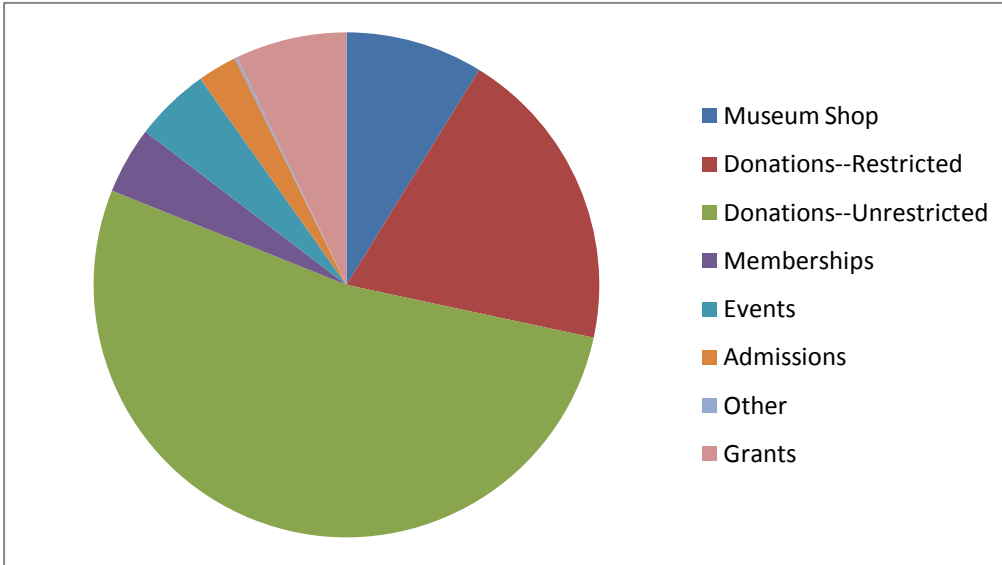
Contact Information

Joel Lane Museum House

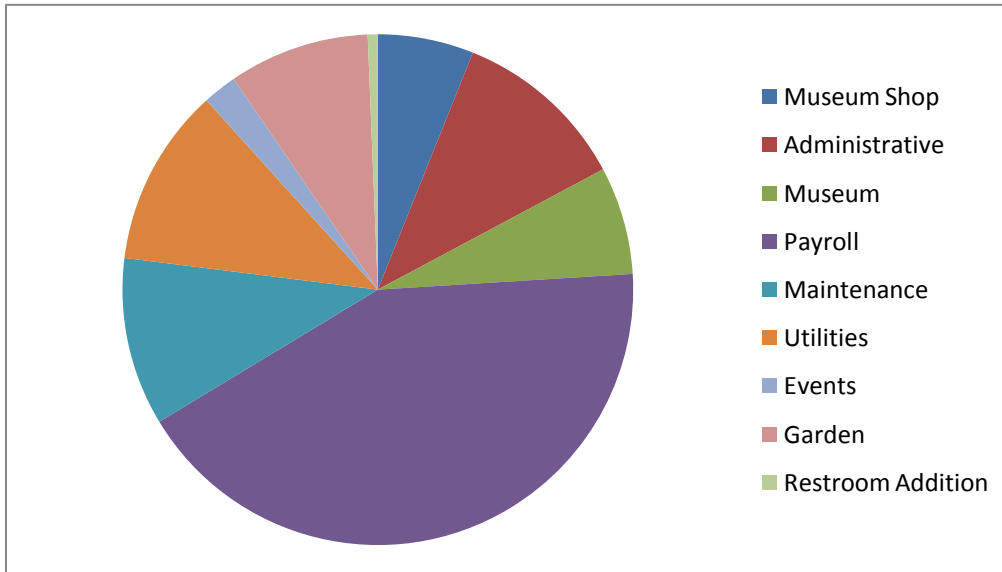
Mailing Address	Visitors Center Location	Museum House Location	Email: joellane@bellsouth.net
PO Box 10884 , Raleigh NC 27605	160 S. Saint Mary's Street	728 W. Hargett Street	Web Site:
919-833-3431 phone	Raleigh NC 27603	Raleigh NC 27603	www.joellane.org
919-833-9431 fax			Find us on Facebook

Financial information about this organization and a copy of its license are available from the State Solicitation Licensing Branch at 888-830-4989. The license is not an endorsement by the State.

Summary of Income and Expenses April to December, 2009



Income \$112,136



Expenses \$78,795

