



December 2018
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McFADDIN-WARD HOUSE VIEWPOINTS

Social Change Accepted, Tradition Upheld

By Judith Linsley

During the years 1900-1950, broad social change transformed the art of entertaining in many ways. As leaders in Beaumont society, Ida McFaddin and Mamie McFaddin Ward stayed abreast of trends, incorporating many of them into their entertainment, even while adhering to tradition in other ways.

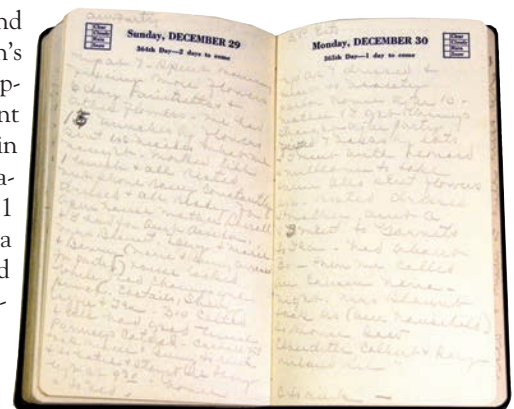
The period between Thanksgiving and New Year's was a lively time for Beaumont hostesses. Early twentieth-century social events were often formal teas, receptions, or balls. This was the era of "conspicuous consumption," where the grand impression was paramount and society reporters augmented grandeur with lavish newspaper descriptions. In 1903 Ida held a "brilliant, beautiful" reception at Beaumont's new Oaks Hotel on Calder. The *Beaumont Journal* raved over the "so successful, so elaborate and so fashionable" event, crediting Ida for "the elegance, happiness and success of the evening" where guests "declared they had enjoyed the happiest time of their lives."

Décor at Ida's parties was always newsworthy. Her granddaughter, Rosine McFaddin Wilson, recalled, "She loved to plan the decorations, often around a theme." In 1911, her New Year's dance for a teenaged Mamie and her friend, Leonora Norvell, inspired the *Beaumont Enterprise* reporter to write that the front porch was "beautifully screened with clinging vines, holly wreaths, tall palms and graceful ferns," the entrance hall "adorned" with poinsettias and evergreens "arched over doorways" and "garlanding the stairway," and "innumerable pot plants" scattered throughout. Narcissus, pink meteor roses, red carnations, and "all manner of fruits" rounded out the display.



Mamie McFaddin was no doubt proud of her holiday parties as seen in this December 1967 Polaroid, above, she took of her dining table. An entry in Mamie Ward's diary in 1940, below, refers to one of her and her mother's many parties. "Sunday, December 29 — spent morning fixing more flowers 6 doz Pointsettas [sic] & other flowers — we had 15 bunches of flowers sent us besides what we bought...dressed & all ready for open house Mother, Carroll & I had for Aunt Ouida, Mrs Blount, Levy & Marie & Benny....house looked lovely had champagne punch, cocktails [sic], Sherry coffee & tea — 300 called & all had good time Penneys [sic] catered"

Ida loved beautiful clothing, and detailed newspaper descriptions of women's outfits were de rigueur. At the 1903 reception, Ida was resplendent in a "magnificent white satin brocaded gown with court train trimmed with point lace and sable with diamond ornaments." Her ensemble at a 1911 holiday party she gave for Mrs. Terry Duff, a new bride, included a "rich rose-colored princess gown of plush brocade with elaborations of crepe meteor."



See PARTIES, page 6

-- Director's Desk --

10 THINGS YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT MWH

1. There is a copper penny welded to the roof! Upon completion of the restoration of the McFaddin-Ward House roof project, the roofers welded a 2002 Lincoln penny to the peak of the widows walk.

2. The McFaddin-Ward House is wider than the Titanic! At 97-feet wide, the museum beats the famous ship by only a bit. The Titanic was 92 feet 6 inches.

3. The McFaddin-Ward House was built in 1906. The address is 1906 McFaddin Avenue. And the last four digits of the phone number are, of course, 1906.

4. Although its name nowadays is the McFaddin-Ward House, the home was actually built by W.P.H. McFaddin's sister and brother-in-law, Di and W.C. Averill.

5. Although the HVAC system runs off of a new electrical system, all of the lights and outlets in the museum still run off of the original 1906 knob-and-tube system. To lower the load required to run hundreds of lightbulbs at the same time, staff has switched out all of the incandescent bulbs to LED.

6. Over its history, the butler's pantry has seen a few transformations. An early expansion connected the room to the breakfast room and the elevator was added years later. In the basement are remains of a pulley system once used for a dumb waiter.

7. Perry McFaddin Jr. was in the very first Boy Scout troop in Beaumont, formed in 1911.

8. There is a time capsule hidden inside one of the balustrades! Only a few of us know where it is. Top secret!

9. One of the McFaddin children used to practice writing the alphabet on the walls! The shiplap walls of the staircase leading up to the attic (not open to tours) have letters scribbled all over them. We just realized this a few years ago when the muslin began coming off of the walls.

10. The McFaddin-Ward House



Workers welded this 2002 penny to the roof of the main house after completing the new roof in 2002.

Museum is the No. 1 attraction in Beaumont, according to Trip Advisor!

There are many other interesting things to discover about the McFaddin-Ward House. Come visit us

and you may find some of your own!

Allen Lea

‘Other Views’

Mamie’s Adventures in Parenthood

By Arlene Christiansen

I’m always on the lookout for little-known pieces of the McFaddin-Ward family puzzle, and the best place to look is in the McFaddin-Ward House Archives. For this issue, I’m drawing from Mamie McFaddin Ward’s diary entries. We have her diaries for many years, among them a five-year diary that she kept from 1920-1924, not long after her marriage to Carroll Ward on May 17, 1919.

The particular story that I’m chronicling took place in 1922-23, when Ida McFaddin’s brother, Dabney Caldwell, was diagnosed with tuberculosis. The doctors sent him to Saranac, New York, for treatment, and his wife Edna went to help care for him. Their sons, Dabney, Jr. (Dab) and Theodore (Ted), about 4-1/2 and 2 years old respectively, went to Texas to stay with their relatives — Mamie and Carroll Ward, Ida and W.P.H. McFaddin.

On September 9, Mamie took the 9:10 p.m. train to West Virginia to bring the two boys back to Beaumont, arriving in Huntington on September 11 about 5:10 p.m. Huntington time. Mamie’s aunt, Ouida Caldwell Watts, Mamie’s half-sister Skipwith and her husband Henry Clay Duncan, and Ida’s brother George Caldwell met the train. Ted was in Huntington, but Dab was still in Ashland, Kentucky, where his mother’s family lived.

Even in Huntington, Mamie began caring for Ted. Her September 13 diary entry reads “Ted’s nurse left — we nursed him all day.” Unlike the

modern meaning of the word, “nursing” here doesn’t refer to medical care, but to general child care — feeding, bathing and dressing.

Mamie’s brother Caldwell McFaddin arrived in Huntington on September 14; on September 16 Ida arrived, having first “stopped off in Charleston to shop”; and on September 19, W.P.H. arrived, as did his grandson, Perry McFaddin Duncan, Skipwith’s son. It became a family reunion; every day was filled with visiting, shopping, going to movies and generally having fun.

On September 19, Ouida, Ida, Mamie, and W.P.H. went to Ashland and brought Dab back to Huntington. Two days later, Ida, W.P.H., Caldwell and Mamie took a side trip to New York without the little boys; there Caldwell left them for Boston and law school. Mamie’s diary is blank from September 23 to October 27, but at some point they returned to Huntington for the boys and headed home by train, arriving on October 28 at 8:30 a.m. at the Beaumont station. There they were met by Carroll and Perry McFaddin, Jr. Shortly afterward, Mamie and Carroll “went to town to get things for kids.”

On October 31 Dabney started Kindergarten. Mamie doesn’t say where, but Caldwell had attended the Misses Cahn’s Kindergarten on Broadway, and it’s the only one listed in the 1920 directory, so it’s probable that’s where Dab went. Because Dab was in school, Ted got to go more places with Mamie and other family members.



Dabney and Teddy Caldwell, Mamie Ward’s young cousins, stand on the balcony of the McFaddin-Ward House in front of Tom Parker Jr., son of Albertine and Tom Parker, ca. 1923.

Mamie and Carroll had no children, so parenting was quite a departure from their normal routine; nevertheless, the diaries show that they took their duties seriously. Mamie writes about washing Dab and Ted’s clothes, buying them suits, getting their hair cut, all the things a mother would do. She was really there for them. She also kept them entertained.

On November 2 the South Texas State Fair opened, and Dab and Ted went several times (Mamie reported they had a “grand time”), once to the children’s parade. They attended at least one children’s birthday party and went “riding” in the car countless times, with or without a specific desti-

See MAMIE, page 7

Hanging Out at the Museum

What's Your Opinion?

By Karen Chapman

Raise your hands if you've heard of Trip Advisor. Now lower them if you've never written a review on the website. I'll bet many of you put your hands back down because most of us simply don't take the time to share our opinions about hotels, restaurants, and tourist spots.

If I asked the same group of you if you've allowed reviews on Trip Advisor to guide you in making decisions about where to go, my guess is I would see more hands back in the air. My theory is we enjoy reading what others think, but writing about it is another matter. I assure you, telling other travelers the good, the bad, and the ugly is important not only to you but to the establishment. An unbiased, almost anonymous barometer helps us make adjustments to and improvements in how we conduct business.

The McFaddin-Ward House has had a listing on Trip Advisor since 2010. In eight years, a mere 123 people have submitted reviews of the museum, and I treasure each one. You should go there sometime and read what they say. Most of the comments are extremely nice, as one would expect. A few are disappointing; one, I even question whether they were at our house or someone else's.

A 642jeanniev from Beaumont, TX wrote:
There really isn't anything spectacular about this place, somewhat run-down. It appears that the property [sic] was not maintained [sic] well. The ushers/attendants are very rude!!! I cannot recommend it to anyone. It's a waste of money and energy!!!!

That one really hit me in the gut, like calling my baby ugly. Do you realize how much money we spend around here to keep the place up? 642Jeanniev is from Beaumont; it's a tough crowd.

Thankfully, most of the reviews are chest-swelling:

It is impossible to express fully the detailed beauty of this museum. The furniture, bedding, artwork, antique rugs, art glass windows, and turn of the century china table settings are only some of the overwhelming amount of wonderful items to see. The guided tour encompassed three floors of the main house, the visitors center, the gardens, and the two story carriage house. This extensive tour was only five dollars for each guest, and included a guide who described all of the rooms, what they were used for, and answered our questions. It is easily the best private collection of antique items I have seen in America. If you have an appreciation for the finer things in life, this tour is a must see.

Raven15 from Houston, Texas

...and this gold nugget:

We found this little gem through Trip Advisor, things to do in Beaumont, and because the group sizes are limited in number I emailed ahead to secure our party of four booking. The maximum group size is 8 I believe, as we were on a tight traveling timescale we couldn't afford to miss the date or tour.

The staff at the magnificent house were [sic] so welcoming and knowledgeable [sic] about the history of the family and the house. We were all enthralled by the local stories and family history and enjoyed every minute of our tour!!

If you have a couple of spare hours and are in the vicinity please visit this magnificent property and lis-



ten to the tales of the family, who are still involved with the house I believe. Highly recommended, and most enjoyable :-)

Lanklass2 from Glasgow, United Kingdom

These last two reviews were from out of towners who chose to come here over anywhere else. They understand beauty and appreciate what we have, something we "Beaumonters" need to do. Are we really that spoiled and discerning? Is the most crowded restaurant parking lot in town really Golden Corral? I challenge you to go to TripAdvisor.com to see the #1 rated restaurant in Beaumont. You won't believe it.

Just so you know, when people search the internet for "Things to do in Beaumont", the McFaddin-Ward House is high on the list. On TripAdvisor.com,

we are a close second right now to Spindletop-Gladys City Boomtown Museum. As happy as I am to share the limelight with that nice place, especially since it has direct historical ties to our story, I still like being No. 1, where we are most of the time.

Lately, I've been hanging out at the Visitor Center asking people where they hail from, why they are here, how they heard about us. Desk manager Laura Assunto does a good job of it too. We hand out small business cards provided to us by Trip Advisor explaining how to give an opinion about our museum. Laura and I are competitive people, and we know we have the best place in the city.

So watch out, Gladys City Boomtown. I may look like I'm just hanging out, but we'll be back at #1 faster than you can say "there she blows".



Ida McFaddin's silver punch bowl, made in America circa 1900 by Reed and Barton, would have been a glorious sight around the holidays when filled with freshly made eggnog.

Eggnog: A recipe for a festive good time

Eggnog was a perennial favorite for entertaining at the McFaddin-Ward home. In 1917, Mamie had a "few young people in for egg-nog" to meet a friend of the family. In 1918, the family served eggnog on Christmas morning when they had Christmas for Mamie's young cousins, Jim and Bob Caldwell. During the holidays especially, preparing treats for friends and family was something Mamie Ward enjoyed doing... even if the process was sometimes tedious. She would note in her diary, as she did in 1919, that she "picked pecans for candy." Surely that candy would have been a delicious payoff for all that slow work of cracking and picking of nuts.

As modern machines made things easier, Mamie and Ida still enjoyed getting in the kitchen during the holidays. Mamie even noted in 1938, when she and her mother made 3 gallons of egg nog, "I used electric beater first time." Ah yes, technology must have been a wondrous thing to cooks in

every household that adopted the new.

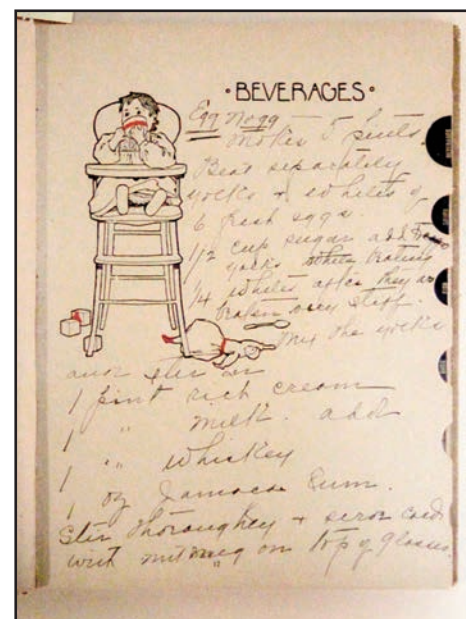
Nowadays, we may be able to order food delivered to our front doors, but if you feel compelled to slow down and make something delicious the old-fashioned way, look no further than the McFaddin-Ward House cookbook, "Perfectly Splendid: One Family's Repasts." Below is the eggnog recipe from the book:

Eggnog

12 egg whites
3 quarts milk
½ cup cream
4 cups sugar
¼ teaspoon salt
2 tablespoons vanilla
1/3 cup rum (optional)

Beat egg whites for three minutes. Gradually pour in the milk and cream. Add sugar, salt and vanilla. Let stand 10 minutes to thoroughly dissolve the sugar. Stir several times. Add rum. Chill.

Yield: 18 portions.



Ida Caldwell McFaddin's original eggnog recipe as seen in her personal recipe book.

Parties

Continued from page 1

World War I, lasting from 1914-1918, brought fewer, more subdued holiday festivities. Thanksgiving 1918, coming just weeks after the Armistice, was celebrated with joy and gratitude throughout the country. Typically, Ida took the lead in Beaumont, hosting a dance at her home for the Guild of St. Mark's Episcopal Church. The *Beaumont Journal* noted that it was the first big event since the armistice "lifted the black weight of war from the hearts of Beaumont people." "The entire first floor of the McFaddin home had been cleared and thrown into one, constituting a spacious ballroom, which was filled with enthusiastic dancers [and] an orchestra stationed behind a bank of palms and ferns...."

After May 21, 1919, Mamie was a young matron and she and Ida often hosted events together. Though the affairs were usually smallish luncheons and bridge parties, they still occasionally held large teas or receptions. They also added a new form of entertainment: the buffet, which had entered the local scene in the decade 1910-1920. (Mamie first mentions attending one in April, 1916.) More casual than sit-down dinners and balls, requiring less preparation and fewer domestic employees, buffets rapidly grew in popularity.

After 1920, Prohibition in the U.S., which outlawed alcoholic beverages, inadvertently created illegal night clubs known as "speakeasies," where patrons downed mixed drinks, or "cocktails." With Prohibition's repeal in 1933, cocktail parties legally became all the rage. Ida and Mamie enjoyed giving cocktail parties before Country Club dances or theater productions or simply serving cocktails before a meal, such as the one Mamie recorded in her diary in 1937: "lovely dinner with cocktails & canapes, wine & liqueur. Didn't leave till 12 so think all had good time...."

Beaumont had no professional caterers in the early twentieth century. For Ida's early parties, what couldn't be bought at the bakery or other specialty store was prepared at home. By the early 1920s, of course, Louis Lemon was cooking for the family. According to Ida's granddaughter Rosine Wilson, everything Louis "cooked was delicious, tender, even dainty." For larger functions, extra employees were brought in to assist.



This December 1967 Polaroid photo shows the butler greeting guests at the door of Mamie McFaddin Ward's home, beautifully decorated for the holidays.

In the late 1930s, Ray and Juanita (Nita) Pinney opened a catering business in Beaumont and soon became the caterers of choice for local society. For one 1942 party at the McFaddin home, the Pinneys provided bacon & olive, cream cheese, and hot mushroom sandwiches, along with cheese puffs, kisses, nuts, candy, martinis, and tomato cocktails.

Each year, Ida and Mamie faithfully decorated their home for the holidays, adding various creative touches to their standard backdrop of greenery, garlands, and poinsettias. Ida enjoyed featuring different flowers in rooms, as she did in 1930 at a huge tea for out-of-town visitors: poinsettias in the entrance hall, pink roses in the parlor and breakfast room, yellow and white chrysanthemums in the library, red roses in the dining room, pink chrysanthemums in the music room, and yellow roses in the sun parlor.

Mamie wasn't afraid to try new Christmas greenery, especially what was available locally, even from her own yard. In December 1939 her diary entry reads, "cut the date fruit in palms & put all over house looks stunning I think — stock & poinsettias on table, white mums around — red [fire] thorn & laurel in sun parlor." In the late 1930s, the two women also modernized by putting Christmas lights on the house exterior.

Even that most traditional of events,

the dance, was updated, as shown by Mamie's diary entry after her dance at the Beaumont Country Club in December, 1937: "Everyone had a good time [dancing the] Big Apple.... Got home at 5 — feet killing me. I danced blood blisters on them." (If you don't know how to dance the Big Apple, Google it. You'll understand the blood blisters.)

In spite of their changes over time, Ida and Mamie were still regarded as keepers of tradition. A newspaper writeup for a 1940 reception at the McFaddin home began with "Harking back to the mauve decade (the 1890s) when the genteel art of hostessing was in the curricula of every well ordered lady's life," and went on to describe the "elaborate affair" in the "old southern home," which evoked the grandeur of a bygone era. By then, society reporters utilized a more journalistic style of writing, and while the floral décor was briefly described, no mention was made of the women's clothing.

Though almost certainly neither Ida nor Mamie thought of herself as an agent of change, over a fifty-year span both women nicely incorporated new elements into their entertainment planning. Every event they hosted, however, no matter how large or small, unfailingly reflected their tried-and-true, traditional standards of manners and hospitality. Time could never change those.

Viewpoints from the Visitor Center

By Becky Fertitta

December is the perfect month to reflect on the accomplishments and successes of the McFaddin-Ward House during the year. Accomplishments for 2018 include completing an extremely successful docent training class — seven new docents added to our roster. And, on a very special note, two of the new volunteers are men. Several junior interpreters took the training course in June and were helpful, along with veteran JIs, with tours and summer camp.

The McFaddin-Ward House hosted seven outstanding public lectures during 2018 with subjects that varied from the explosion of personal DNA testing to the architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright to Southern Women Aging Gracefully, just to mention a few. On several occasions, the volunteer social/hospitality committee planned and served wonderful refreshments afterwards. July's summer camp was well-received and lots of fun for campers, volunteers and staff.

The annual camp is always “all hands on deck!” and 2018 was no different. Along with numerous staff members, eight adult and five junior volunteers assisted with camp.

McFaddin-Ward House volunteers stayed busy despite the post-Harvey doldrums that settled in last year and have yet to dissipate. The fascinating porch project gave all of us a look into the underpinnings of the main house and made us even more awestruck by the skills of Oak Grove Restoration, the company that has completed numerous restoration jobs for the museum. The porch project meant no group tours for about eight months, but we did host approximately 300 Odom 7th graders to tour. Each and every student entered the house through the kitchen door.

Volunteers enjoyed three brown bag discussions during 2018 as well as the quarterly book club, which is still very well attended. The curatorial staff trained docents on new exhibits, and the social/hospitality group served deli-

cious food. The group had a delightful trip to Tomball, Texas, plus a day trip around southeast Texas that highlighted St. Anthony Basilica and the Museum of the Gulf Coast. We had an interesting talk about dolls and doll collecting, and the annual Swap Meet hosted by Volunteer Service Council was a huge success!

When you add it all up, there are many accomplishments and successes to celebrate from 2018. Now, with 2019 right around the corner, it's time to focus on the New Year. The Volunteer Service Council will meet in late January at the annual appreciation banquet, and one item on the agenda will be to elect new officers. The proposed slate of officers for 2019 includes Kim Williams, president; Barbara Smith, vice president; Joyce Gaskin, education committee chair; Kathleen Smith, education committee co-chair; DiAnne Thomas, social/hospitality chair; Sharon Passmore, social/hospitality co-chair; and Catriona Green, member-at-large.

Mamie

Continued from page 3

nation. Frequently Mamie stayed home with them, and most nights she and they went to bed early.

The Wards did get some help; in early November Rebecca Collins, normally the cook at the McFaddin home, was recruited to be the boys' nurse. Albertine Parker, wife of W.P.H.'s chauffeur Tom, took over cooking duties, and one diary entry mentions that Ida was working in the kitchen training Albertine.

The regular household routine couldn't be ignored, of course. Late November and early December was seasonal cleaning time for Ida and Mamie, one room at a time. They also started shopping for Christmas about the middle of December, wrapping and mailing presents, and by December 21 Mamie had all her gifts wrapped.

On December 25 the diary states “Had tree for boys then C & I delivered presents.” Although we have no collections evidence of the family's having a Christmas tree, Ted, in an oral history done for the museum, recalled a tree in the house when he and Dab were there. Edna Caldwell, the children's mother, sent Mamie a very sweet letter, expressing gratitude to Mamie and Ida for all they had done for the boys. She wrote that she knew it was the most wonderful Christmas that the boys had ever had.

Generally, Dab and Ted seemed to do well in Beaumont, though they were occasionally ill. In January 1923, they both became sick, and Ida and Mamie gave Dab Calomel and Ted castor oil. Mamie wrote that Ted ate cow feed! Where could he have gotten cow feed — the carriage house, maybe? The next day they gave Dab castor oil too. Poor Dab! The doctor came to the house and thought Dab had whooping cough, but it was soon seen that it was measles instead. Mamie wrote that he was

“thick” with measles. Of course, Ted caught them from Dab; a few nights later he wasn't feeling well so he slept with Mamie and Carroll and cried most of the night. The next day he broke out with measles rash. While this was going on, Beaumont had its coldest weather in years, with ice everywhere and even a little snow. Both boys eventually recovered, of course.

On Monday, April 30, 1923, Mamie wrote, “Wire from Aunt Ouida to come.” It was time to take the boys home to their parents. Mamie and her cousin, Kydie McKee, and the two boys left for Huntington on Saturday, May 5, arriving on Monday, May 7. The boys had been in Texas for seven months. When their parents met them at the station, Ted later recalled that he “threw a fit” because he didn't want to leave his Mimi-Idi, his name for both of them.

So we see another side of Mamie McFaddin Ward, Mamie as “foster” parent, one that we had little idea even existed.

McFADDIN-WARD HOUSE VIEWPOINTS



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McFaddin-Ward House and others
interested in cultural and
educational aspects of the museum.

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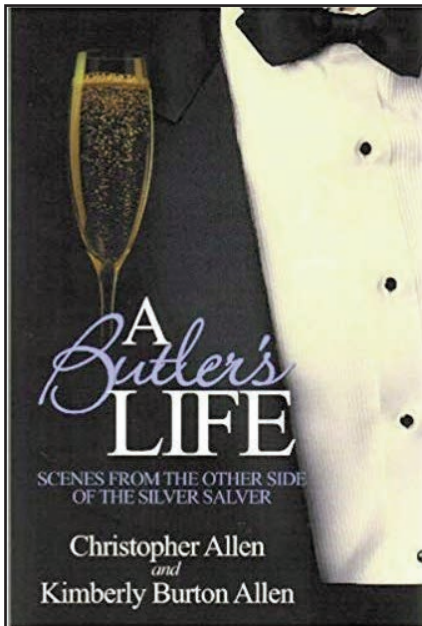
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Events Calendar

Sunday, December 2
Christmas Photo Op
1 p.m.



Thursday, December 13
Eggnog Open House
Visitor Center/ Museum
5 p.m.

Thursday, January 10
Free Lecture:
"Bed, Breakfast, and Beyond:
Twenty Years of Kooky Guests,
Gentle Ghosts, and Horses
in Between"
JoAnn S. Dawson, presenter
Visitor Center
6:30 p.m.

Thursday, February 14
Free Valentine Special Lecture:
"A Butler's Life: Scenes from the
other Side of the Silver Salver"
Christopher Allen and Kimberly
Burton Allen, presenters
Visitor Center
6:30 p.m.

Volunteer Calendar

Saturday, December 29
Junior Interpreter Tour Day
10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Tuesday, January 29
Volunteer Appreciation Banquet
The Laurels
6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, February 5
Etiquette Program
Silsbee Elementary
Time TBA

Monday, February 18
Brown Bag Discussion
Dr. Crimm,
Sam Houston State University
Lecture Hall
Noon

Monday, February 25
MWH Book Club
Lecture Hall
11:30 a.m.