

News&Views

from the

Columbus Chapel & Boal Mansion Museum

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New Exhibits and Art Appreciation Tours Enhance the Museum's New Season!

Three new exhibit spaces and art tours at the Boal Museum will greatly enhance the opportunities for visitors this summer, opening May 1:

1. The **Columbus Exhibit** will become part of the regular Mansion and Chapel tour, available **Tuesday through Sunday** from 1:30 to 5:00 pm. Housed in an adjunct building between the Chapel and Visitor Center, the Columbus Exhibit includes a climate-controlled, fire-resistant vault containing the 150,000 pages of the Columbus family papers, dating from 1450, which were previously stored in the confessionals in the Chapel, where they were unprotected from temperature variations and mice. Now they are secured from both and available for study by Columbus scholars. A changing selection of documents is displayed for visitors.



Also in the Columbus Exhibit, appropriately, are the 1/12th-scale model of the Santa Maria, the Explorer's desk that presumably was carried on that ship, an Explorer's Cross from the same period, maps, and a variety of other items explaining the story of the first visit from Spain to the New World in 1492. Together, the Chapel and Exhibit contain the largest collection of Christopher Columbus artifacts in North America.

Volunteers help Museum Director Bob Cameron set up the Columbus Exhibit in March.

Photo by Mark McLaren, 2018

2. The [Transportation Exhibit](#) showcases the Museum's extensive collection of nine carriages, coaches, and surreys, some of which were built in Boalsburg. Historically, Main Street in Boalsburg was known as "The King's Highway" and was a main transportation hub. In the 1790s, the original Boal family opened the first general store and tavern (the Boal Tavern) on Main Street in the growing village. In addition to the carriages, the exhibit also houses the Museum's extensive collection of saddles, tack, and early Americana items, including an early sales ledger from the Boal Tavern. Guided tours of this Exhibit are offered on [Saturdays](#) at 1:30 pm, starting at the Visitor Center.
3. The [Second Floor Mansion Exhibit](#) showcases the Museum's extensive collection of vintage clothing and accessories, as well as the newly refurbished Armory collection. Tours of this Exhibit are offered [Sundays](#) at 1:30 pm, starting at the Visitor Center.

Clothing in the exhibit ranges from 500 years old to 19th-century Parisian fashions and includes military uniforms worn by Boal family members. The more than 30 historic trunks that held these fashions include three Louis Vuitton trunks from the early 1900s. In addition, antique furniture and paintings are displayed in these rooms used by the original Boal family members.

The Armory collection is now in a secure, conditioned exhibit space on the second floor of the Mansion. The diverse array of weapons and armor on display, ranging from Medieval through WWI, has been professionally curated. In addition to weapons,



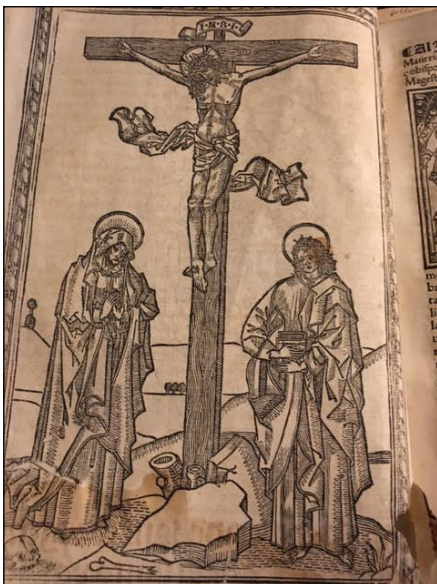
Photo by Art Pentz, 2018

the Museum's military exhibit includes original photos, posters, flags, and Boal family medals received for service by Colonel Theodore Davis Boal and his son Ambassador Pierre Boal.

4. Art Director Lori Savage will offer weekly [Art Appreciation Tours](#) on [Tuesdays](#) from 1:30 to 2:30 pm, beginning May 1 and focusing on the wide-ranging original works of art in the Museum's collections. These include paintings as well as three-dimensional items. To date, over 300 pieces of art have been inventoried. Paintings range from Renaissance works to more modern and less well known artists, often studied by art students at local and international universities. Historic three-dimensional art includes pieces from King Tutankamen's grandparents' tomb, as well as Roman, Chinese, and early American items. Collections of antique jewelry, fans, chinaware, glassware, children's toys, and rare books are among some of the other collections at the Museum.



Photos by Art Pentz (below), Cindy Shaler (left), and Bob Cameron (lower left), 2017



Volunteers Are Fun, Interesting, Creative People!

Museum volunteers are the best! They give their time and energy for the good of the community and the Museum's visitors—and also, of course, to indulge their own pleasures and hobbies! It's an ideal combination.

Volunteering at the Columbus Chapel & Boal Mansion Museum means sharing your time and talents with other enthusiastic people in the local community—Boalsburg, Oak Hall, Centre Hall, State College, elsewhere in Centre County—and beyond. But getting to know your fellow volunteers is only half the fun.

Learning is another aspect of being a volunteer: those who are interested can spend time doing research on the Boal and related families, on art and artifacts, even on how buggies were made! And that knowledge is put to use, too. We update our tours with new information, write booklets and brochures, create family timelines for displays, and teach art courses at the Museum, among other things.

And, of course, all the wonderful antiques in the Museum's collections must be carefully curated, periodically cleaned and inventoried, and displayed for the public to enjoy. That work, too, needs volunteers.

What Would You Like to Do?

Here are some projects that may interest you:

- » Be a museum docent (tour guide) to share the history of this Museum with visitors, either for the standard tour or for the [new exhibit tours](#).
- » Refurbish antique carriages and buggies.
- » Clean and care for delicate artifacts under the watchful eye of an experienced “antique-caregiver.”
- » Use your gardening skills: a wide variety of gardens need loving care.
- » Maintain the structures: carpentry, glazing, plumbing, and other skills are always needed for these old buildings.

These and more are waiting for extra hands during [all seasons](#). Call Museum Director Bob Cameron at 814-876-0129 and tell him your area of interest. Whether you want to give a half day a week, four days a month, or more, we'd love to have your help! Welcome to the growing group of Boal Museum volunteers!

Regular and Special Events Through July 2018

The Museum is open Tuesday through Sunday, 1:30 to 5:00 pm for drop-in tours. We also take reservations for bus tours from in and out of state, both on and off season. These Special Events are planned for May through July:

Sat, May 5

Central PA Native Plant Festival and Sale: Learn about native plants at free seminars; peruse vendors' booths

Sat, May 26*

Civil War Ball: A family affair! Dress up in your favorite Civil-War-era gown, reenactors' uniform, or just something fun to dance in.

Mon, May 28

Memorial Day: As part of Boalsburg's annual Village-wide celebration, the Museum offers live music, Civil War reenactors, living-history demos, great food, craft vendors, and special Museum tours.

Fri, Sat, & Sun, July 13, 14 & 15

Annual Antique Faire & Berry Festival:

This annual antique show and sale showcases vendors from near and far on our 200-year-old estate. And it's fresh local berry season—a great time to try fresh blueberry milkshakes, berry muffins, and the winners in the Best Berry Pie Contest!



Photos by Mary Smolko, 2017

* Starred events require reservations. To reserve, or for more information: 814-876-0129 or www.boalmuseum.com.

Memberships and Donations

We welcome new and returning members, and of course welcome large or small donations at any time, for either specific or general purposes. The Museum is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.

Your 1-year membership (Oct. 1 through Sept. 30) comes with great benefits:

- » Free admission for the Museum and Chapel regular tour for you and your immediate family, as often as you like
- » Reduced admission to select Special Events (ask at the Visitor Center)
- » A 10% discount at the Museum Gift Shop in the Visitor Center
- » Opportunities for training, service, and organizational development
- » Opportunities for interpretation and preservation of our historic past
- » Your membership card

Membership levels are:

- » Individual (\$30)
- » Student (\$15)
- » Family (\$50)
- » Patron (\$100)
- » Sponsor (\$250 or more)
- » Benefactor (\$500 or more)
- » Explorer's Circle (\$1,000 or more)

Send your membership or donation check to the address at the end of this newsletter, made out to Columbus Chapel & Boal Mansion Museum, with "2018 Membership" or "Donation for [purpose]" in the Memo line.

Join us!

You can participate in the growth and development at the Museum in many ways: as a volunteer, a Museum member, a sponsor for special events, a donor, or simply by visiting with your friends and family. Use the walking trails around the Museum grounds at any time, schedule a wedding or reunion on the grounds, or just admire all the new gardens. Please keep in touch: call Director Bob Cameron at 814-876-0129 or leave a message on the office phone, 814-466-6210.

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