

# The Newport Dancers' Gazette

Newport Vintage Dance Week  
Editor: Katy Bishop, The Commonwealth Vintage Dancers

Volume XIV, Number 3  
Wednesday, 8 August 2007

## SWAP AND SELL Wednesday, Auditorium

The Vintage Swap and Sell will be held Wednesday afternoon in the Auditorium. Everyone is welcome to bring items to sell or trade. You might find what you have always wanted to complete that vintage outfit, or something you never knew you needed, to add to the pile of stuff in your room. Really, you *need* it. Please see Barbara Pugliese if you need table space.

## WEDNESDAY DINNER

Dinner will be served ½ hour early on Wednesday evening to allow more time to prepare for and travel to the Ball at The *Astors' Beechwood*.

## 1890'S BALL AT THE ASTOR'S BEECHWOOD

Wednesday, 580 Bellevue Avenue, Newport

### DIRECTIONS FROM PORTSMOUTH ABBEY :

Turn left onto Cory's Lane, drive to the intersection with route 114, turn right onto 114 and almost immediately, at the first light, turn left onto Hedley Street (there is a sign to Portsmouth Business Park). A little over ½ mi. down Hedley Street there is a stop sign, with a second stop sign almost immediately beyond it. Go straight at the first stop sign and turn right at the second onto route 138 south. Go approximately 4½ miles on Route 138; 138 intersects with 138A (Aquidneck Avenue) at a Dunkin Donuts, turn left onto 138A. Follow Aquidneck Avenue for about 2 miles, it eventually intersects with Memorial Blvd. Turn left onto Memorial Blvd., which bears right and past Newport's First Beach (on left). Follow Memorial Blvd. up the hill to the first major intersection with traffic lights (which is Bellevue Avenue). After turning left onto Bellevue Avenue, go approximately 1½ miles; *Beechwood* is on the left just after *Rosecliff* and just before *Marble House* (watch carefully as the sign can be difficult to spot). If you get to *Marble House*, turn around. As parking is limited, carpooling is encouraged.

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF *BEECHWOOD* AND THE ASTORS

Caroline Schermerhorn married William Backhouse Astor in 1853. She brought long lines of established social background to the Astor fortune and became the undisputed Queen of American Society. Caroline Astor insisted upon being called "The Mrs. Astor" by family and friends. With the help of a southern gentleman, Mr. Ward McAllister, she devised the famous "400," a list of 213 families and individuals whose lineage could be traced back at least three generations.

*Beechwood* was built in 1851 for a southern cotton merchant named Daniel Parrish; the architects were Andrew Jackson Downing and Calvert Vaux. William Backhouse Astor, Jr., purchased the mansion in 1881, and it became the social center for New York Society for twenty-five years of the Gilded Age. William B., as his wife called him, was the grandson of John Jacob Astor, the German immigrant who made himself the richest man in America by investing in fur trading and real estate. Even in 1999, he was listed as the fourth-wealthiest American ever (Microsoft's Bill Gates was fifth)



### COLD COMFORT

AUNT: PHILLIDA. "THE LAST TIME I WENT TO A GROWN-UP FANCY BALL, I WENT AS A WASP. THAT WAS ONLY TEN YEARS AGO." [SIGHS DEEPLY] I DON'T SUPPOSE I SHALL EVER AGAIN GO TO A FANCY BALL AS A WASP!"

MARY. "HARDLY AS A WASP, AUNT PHILLIDA. BUT YOU'D LOOK VERY SPLENDID AS A BUMBLE-BEE!"

Punch, 11 May 1895

The Astors hired architect Richard Morris Hunt to create an atmosphere at *Beechwood* that would be worthy of America's finest citizens. The family invested two million dollars into the renovations. Caroline Astor presided over countless social activities during the eight weeks of each year she visited *Beechwood*. The highlight of every summer season was Mrs. Astor's Summer Ball. Mrs. Astor retired from social life in 1906. She lived quietly until her death in 1908.

After Mrs. Astor's death, her son John Jacob Astor, IV, inherited *Beechwood*. In 1911 he remarried a much younger woman named Madeleine Talmadge Force; their ceremony was held in the ballroom of *Beechwood*. After the service the couple headed to Europe to escape the gossip of their union. Unfortunately, they were returning to New York on the RMS *Titanic*. Madeleine, who was five months pregnant, survived. Her husband, *Titanic*'s most wealthy passenger, did not.

-text courtesy of  
*The Astor's Beechwood Mansion*



**S**HE'S CHOOSING HER Summer Frocks. Have You? Crisp, dainty frocks, in the smartest silhouette, hundreds of new designs that are as distinctive as they are practical—in fact, to be abreast of the times—to get smart styles for yourself and the children for the entire season—get the **BUTTERICK QUARTERLY** for SUMMER

Twenty-five cents, with coupon good for 10 cents in the purchase of any Butterick Pattern.

*The Delineator*, May 1920

## SUMMER GARDEN TEA Wednesday, Manor House Lawn

Come have a snack, play croquet, or relax and chat with other Dance Week participants. Casual dress, modern or vintage, is welcomed.




*Dance without perspiration annoyance!*

Think of the relief of being free from it, even on the hottest summer nights! You can keep your clothing unstained, fresh and dainty, and without dress shields, too.

Two applications a week of Odo-ro-no will give you complete relief from excessive perspiration of the armpits, hands, or feet—keep the parts comfortably and naturally dry and absolutely odorless. Dress shields become unnecessary. Daily baths do not lessen the effect.

Unscented. Harmless. 25c, 50c and \$1. Six times as much for \$1 as for 25c. At all drug and dept. stores, or by mail postpaid. In Canada 35c, 70c, and \$1.40.

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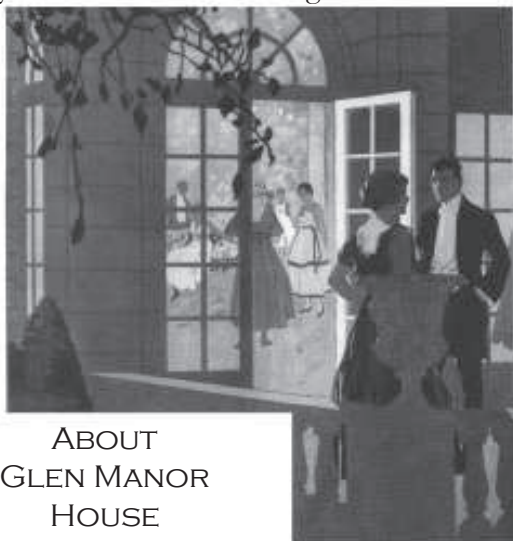


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FORMAL DINNER AND RAGTIME BALL

Thursday, Glen Manor House  
Coelho Drive, Portsmouth

“The Glen,” as it is referred to by locals, is the setting for Thursday’s formal dinner and Ragtime Ball.



ABOUT  
GLEN MANOR  
HOUSE

In 1920 H. A. C. Taylor, a prominent farmer who also owned homes in New York and Newport planned to build a proper home on his farm. He hired architect John Russell Pope, designer of the Jefferson Memorial in Washington, DC. His French style design for the house was based on the Petit Trianon at *Versailles*, and was unique for the area. Although Mr. Taylor died before work began in 1921, his son Moses continued the work.

The Taylors moved into the house in 1923 and lived there for many years. Reginald, Moses’ son, sold it to the sisters of the Sacred Heart, who moved their Elmhurst School to the property in 1961. When the school closed in 1972, the town of Portsmouth purchased the property. Glen Manor House now provides an exquisite setting for special functions.

- excerpts from information provided  
by Glen Manor House



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**VOSE** PLAYER PIANO

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not only has one of the latest, most perfect control methods, but has a patent device that enables you to instantly change the key in which a piece is written to suit your taste or the voice of the singer. This is a most remarkable improvement, without which no player piano is complete. To this is added the sweet tone and supreme quality of the Vose Piano, made for 66 years by the Vose family.

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165 Boylston Street Boston, Mass.

Femina, January 1, 1914



*At the Dance*

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*The Ladies' Home Journal, May 1915*

## NEWPORT 2007 AND 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY PHOTOGRAPH GALLERY

For the last few years many people have submitted discs of their photos for inclusion on our website, creating a wonderful page of memories. Many thanks to Peter Lee for creating the 2006 photo website! We would like to do the same thing for the 2007 week and for the last 20 years of Newport memories, we especially need images and recollections of the first 3 Newports. If you have photos you would like to include please send them along! The address of the page will be given out when the page is uploaded. Please give discs/photos to Katy or Ben Bishop or send them to the address on page 4, attn: Katy Bishop (tell us if you want them returned).

Here are the addresses of existing Newport photo pages:

### NEWPORT PHOTO GALLERIES ARCHIVES

**2006:**

<http://www.ccs.neu.edu/home/kenb/NewportPhotoWeb2006/index.html>

**2005:**

<http://www.vintagedancers.org/newport05/>

**2004:**

<http://www.vintagedancers.org/newport04/>

**2003:**

<http://www.vintagedancers.org/newport03/main.html>

**2002:**

<http://www.vintagedancers.org/newport02/main.html>

**2001:**

<http://www.vintagedancers.org/newport01/main.html>

**2000:**

[http://www.vintagedancers.org/newport/n\\_00\\_pics.html](http://www.vintagedancers.org/newport/n_00_pics.html)

For Further information on the Dance Week or vintage dance please contact:  
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visit CVD on the web at:  
[www.VintageDancers.org](http://www.VintageDancers.org)