

The cover features a rich, dark brown background with a repeating pattern of embossed or stamped floral and scrollwork designs. The pattern consists of stylized flowers with multiple petals, interspersed with swirling acanthus-like leaves and scrolls. This decorative border frames a central rectangular area of a slightly different, smoother brown texture.

Steaming Ahead

Steamboat Era Museum
2014 Annual Report

The Steamboat Era Museum collects and preserves artifacts of the Steamboat Era on the Chesapeake Bay. Through the design of dynamic exhibits and educational programs, the Museum illustrates and interprets the important economic and lifestyle changes steamboats brought to Virginia and Maryland communities on the Bay from 1813-1937.

Greetings Shipmates!

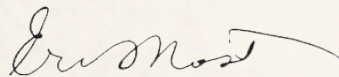
It was a very busy 2014. We once again began steaming ahead. After a few economically challenging years, the tide appears to be rising for a brighter future. Our visitor count was up, our events were well attended and a newly painted museum and redesigned exhibits delighted our members and visitors.

Our Third Annual Irvington Crab Festival, the museum's largest fund raising event of the year, was a rousing success. It was joined by a Holiday Marketplace which was visited by over 500 holiday shoppers. The highlight of the Marketplace was the introduction of two museum published books, *We Are Who We Are Because Steamboats Were* by Anne Long McClintock and *Dining on the Chesapeake Bay* by a team of collaborators led by Sallie Dashiell.

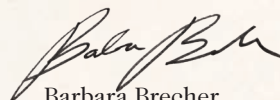
Last year, at this time, we made the announcement of plans to restore the pilothouse of the steamer Potomac and bring it into the museum as a permanent exhibit by 2017. This will not be an easy task, and, as we draw up plans, we hope our members and the community will take part in this endeavor. The completed exhibit will stimulate tourism, encourage stronger economic activity and open educational opportunities for local school children and visitors.

None of this would be possible without our team of enthusiastic volunteers, who are the backbone of the museum. Thank you.

We look forward to *Steaming Ahead* in 2015.



Eric Nost
President,
Board of Directors



Barbara Brecher
Executive Director



Ships Log 2014



The Board of Directors made a commitment to restore the steamer Potomac's pilothouse and install it in the museum by the 2017 season.



2014 started with refreshing and reorganizing the museum space to give visitors a better first impression of the facility and a better educational experience.



In March, prior to the official May public opening, a Community Open House hosted more than 200 visitors, many of whom had never seen the museum.



The museum hosted group tours and participated in the "History on the Go" program with volunteers with other local museums.



We received \$10,000 in grants for our Oral History Project from the Catherine B. Chilton Endowment of the River Counties Community Foundation and the Nettie Lokey Wiley and Charles L. Wiley Foundation.



Fundraising events in 2014 included both old and new special events.



❧

An invigorated retail shop was filled with many quality items related to the museum.

❧

Three books were published by the museum, and each is available exclusively at our shop. *The Houses of Irvington* by Steven Reiss and *We Are Who We Are Because Steamboats Were* by Anne Long McClintock. The third book, *Dining on the Chesapeake Bay*, grew out of a volunteer Thank You Coffee in 2013.

❧

In May the Steamboat Era Museum was voted one of the “Best of Virginia” in the Historic Museum, Eastern Virginia category.

❧

This year there was an aggressive print and radio advertising campaign. Public relations efforts included stories in local newspapers and a new logo which helped tie together all our efforts from outside recognition to products in the museum store. We also redesigned and updated the web site.

❧

The number of volunteers increased significantly this past year, including support as historic guides, front desk managers, mail processors and event planning workers.

❧

No organization such as the museum can survive without membership support. This year we changed membership levels and benefits to make it even more appealing to join. There were also two member events in 2014.



2014 Fresh Ideas...

The year began by painting the interior of the museum. This much needed refreshing was made possible by the final part of the Burgess Carrington bequest. All the exhibits were removed from the walls and we started the year with a clean canvas.

To make space for a new steamboat building diorama the Cannery exhibit was moved next to the Wharf, the Wharf was shortened, and the Wharton Grove Tent was moved next to the Country Store. This was no small feat and we thank our dedicated board members and friends for making it happen.

Museum volunteers Mary Ellen Tetrick and Karen Feuerman, along with the museum's Executive Director, Barbara Brecher, took on the task of putting the museum back together. They reviewed all the existing exhibits and, with much of the research and information already available, they began redesigning the exhibits and signage, as well as moving museum models and artifacts to improve the visitor experience. In addition, they discussed new exhibits such as a map showing not only the Steamboat Ports in the Chesapeake Bay but, with a series of lights, showing a typical steamboat route. A new Steamboat Era timeline, an exhibit about Steamboat President Warfield, new panels for the James Adams Floating Theater, new signage and exhibits in the Lancaster Room, and new lobby signage were also on the wish list. Great ideas but how to pay for them?



New Support

A light bulb went off and the three were soon running around the museum placing pieces of kraft paper on the walls with information about what was needed to take the museum to the next level. For example, on the wall where a new steamboat port map now hangs, there was a drawing of a map with a description and cost of a 4 foot by 8 foot map of Steamboat Ports with lights to indicate a typical steamboat route.

After the walls were covered and caution tape was placed around platforms, the museum held an Open House for the community in March. More than 200 visitors were asked to comment on the proposed exhibits and vote for their favorite. Before long they were pledging financial support for signs, exhibits, a timeline, the steamboat map and even mannequins. In four hours the community donated almost \$7,000 for the museum's new exhibits. Thank you to the donors who made it possible to create new exhibits and signage.

OPEN HOUSE DONORS

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 Ms. Kylie Bransford
 Mrs. Alice Cottrell
 Ms. Barbara Deitz & Mr. Richard Kantor
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 Ms. Margaret Hallet
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 Ms. June Higgins
 Dr. & Mrs. Gregory Lockhart
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 Ms. Kay Somers
 Mr. & Mrs. William Spicuzza
 Mr. & Mrs. Norman Tadlock
 Village Improvement Association
 Mr. William Wright

It was a rush to make the May 1 opening date, but with a few minor exceptions, all was ready for the 2014 season.



From words on kraft paper to reality. Thank You!



A large ship building diorama, built by Col. William Wright, George Frayne and the late Robert Butler, is one of our most popular exhibits!



A new time line introduces our visitors to important dates and information about the history of Steamboats on the Chesapeake Bay.



Our amazing models are front and forward in the main exhibit hall.



New mannequins add interest to the Wharf and Cannery exhibits!



A refreshed shop with museum related items was popular with our visitors.



In addition to new panels, interesting objects of the times were added to the James F. Adams Floating Theater exhibit.

Our Commitment

In 2014 the Museum's Board of Directors announced plans to restore the pilothouse of the steamboat *Potomac* and bring it into the museum's main exhibit hall by the 2017 season. The pilothouse is the only known surviving intact section of a Chesapeake Bay steamboat. The *Potomac* was built in 1894 in Philadelphia for the Maryland & Virginia Steamboat Company. It measured 176 feet in length and included 37 staterooms with a crew of 36. The *Potomac* served 42 years in freight and passenger service.

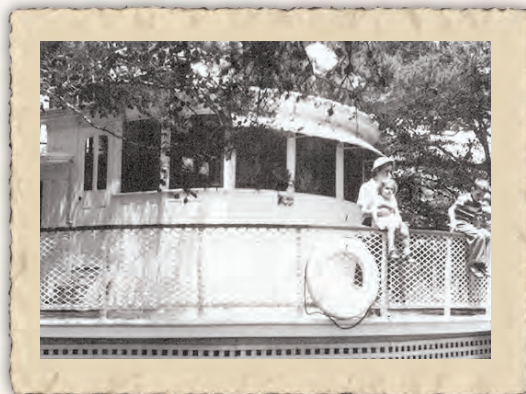
After it was retired as a passenger vessel and during its conversion into a barge, Captain Ben Colona preserved the pilothouse and the adjoining officer's quarters. He had it barged to White Stone Beach for use as his personal summer cottage.

In 2000, the museum acquired the pilothouse and brought it to Irvington where it was on display next to the museum for several years. Today, the pilothouse sits covered in shrink-wrap at the White Stone boatyard of Capt. Meredith Robbins.

The restoration is a major financial undertaking for the museum. The Board of Directors will unveil a fundraising campaign in the near future.



The Steamboat Potomac on the Rappahannock River.



The Pilothouse as a summer cottage.



The Pilothouse under wraps and waiting to be restored.

Increasing the “Buzz”

The museum hosted group tours from various organizations including a group of home-schooled children. JoAnne Pheris, a longtime museum volunteer took part in the “History on the Go” program, where she joined volunteers from other local museums in a visit to a Middlesex elementary school

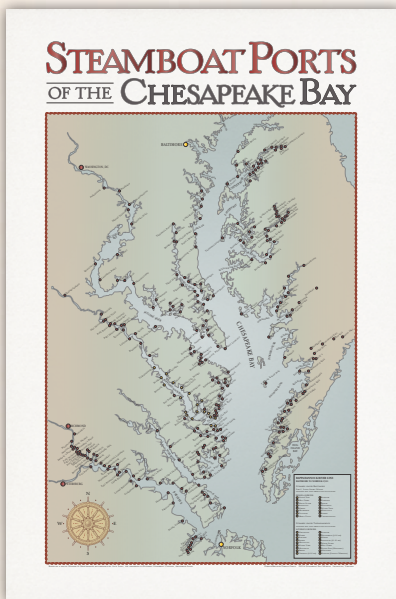
The 2014 season began a new direction for the museum shop. Museum related items such as mugs, t-shirts, posters, puzzles, coasters and other items with the Museum logo became available for sale. The two biggest sellers were the

Cannery Labels of the Northern Neck and *Steamboat Ports of the Chesapeake Bay* posters! Other items offered in the shop included American made crafts, home goods and books.

In 2014 the Museum published three books. All are available exclusively at the museum shop.

The Houses of Irvington, by architect Steven Reiss, was originally published by the Village Improvement Association in 2013. In 2014 a larger format soft cover edition was published by the museum.

We Are Who We Are Because Steamboats Were by Anne Long McClintock was published in November. This book tells stories about the people who rode and worked on steamboats as well as information about the boats. Anne’s grandfather was a steamboat captain and many of her stories come from personal experiences. It is currently in its sixth printing!



Steamboat Dining on the Chesapeake



A Selection of Fine Recipes from Steamboat Menus & the Steamboat Era

At the Volunteer Thank you Coffee in 2013, volunteers served desserts from the Steamboat Era. Many of the recipes were handed down from grandmothers, mothers and aunts. Soon a book, *Dining on the Chesapeake Bay*, was in the works. Sallie Dashiell spent months

collecting recipes from local residents. In addition, she collected recipes to recreate all the food from two authentic steamboat menus. Heather Reitze's beautiful design makes this book a treasure to own.

There was a buzz in the community about the Steamboat Era Museum and much of that was because of the extensive public relations and advertising efforts put forth in 2014.

It started in May when we learned the museum was voted as one of the "Best of Virginia" in the Historic Museum, Eastern Virginia category. For the first time, the museum purchased a full page ad in Virginia Living Magazine's "Best of Virginia" issue. This was followed by paid advertising in the Lancaster Chamber of Commerce magazine, the Local Scoop, The Rappahannock Record and South Side Sentinel, and the Northern Neck Tourism Map.

Three months of paid advertising and PSAs on 101.7 Bay FM/104.9 WIGO Country added to the buzz.


The museum had numerous stories in the Rappahannock Record and Southside Sentinel throughout the year, and we thank the editors and staff for supporting our efforts.

Our new logo began appearing on all of our communication pieces as well as on mugs and t-shirts and other museum-oriented materials. With the help of Carter Bonner, of Molehill Designs, the museum's website was redesigned and updated.

**"STEAMBOATS A COMIN'!"
AND SO SHOULD YOU.**

Visit the Steamboat Era Museum and experience one of America's greatest untold stories.

See how steam power changed the lives of people and the fortunes of communities on the Chesapeake Bay.



EXPERIENCE STEAMIN' ON THE BAY!

Open May 1-November 29, 2014 • Thursday-Saturday 10am-4pm
Admission \$5. Children under 12 and active military are free.
156 King Carter Drive • Irvington, Virginia 22480
804.438.6888 • steamboatmuseum.org



STEAMBOAT ERA MUSEUM
EXPERIENCE STEAMIN' ON THE BAY!

Buy Your Tickets Today!

Third Annual IRVINGTON Crab Festival August 9, 2014
Click here for more details

Who knew you could find a Southernmost quality museum in such a small town...

Steamboat Era Museum 156 King Carter Drive • Irvington, Virginia 22480 • 804.438.6888
Thursday - Saturday 10am-4pm • Adult: \$5, Children 12 and under and active military free



HOLIDAY MARKETPLACE
AT THE
STEAMBOAT ERA MUSEUM

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 28-29
TEN-AM-FOUR-PM**

**FRESH GREENERY
HOLIDAY GIFTS
STEAMBOAT MEMORABILIA
BOOK SIGNINGS • CRAFTS & MORE**

HOLIDAY GIFT SHOP HOURS
Saturday December 6, 13 & 20 • 10 am-4 pm
438-6888 • 156 King Carter Drive • Irvington, Virginia

Making It All Possible

The Third Annual Irvington Crab Festival was once again a rousing success. The sold out event, with over 750 participants, raised \$25,000 for the museum. A silent auction and a mini museum shop added to the fun and revenues.



A big thank you to Frank Tetrick and his amazing committee for making the festival the best "crab picking party" on the Northern Neck. Once again Jumbo Lump Daddy and the Backfin Boys provided the lively music.

We could not have had such a successful event without the support of businesses and individuals in the community. We are grateful to our sponsors and hope you will thank them by supporting their businesses.

It was a beautiful night for eating crabs!

LUMP BACK FIN
Chesapeake Bank

BIG CLAW
Bank of Lancaster

JIMMIE
Northern Neck
Insurance Company
Town of Irvington

SOFT SHELL
A. DeRose & Sons
Ann Meekins Real Estate
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OLD BAY
Brecher Design Group
C&F Investments
Jim Dan Dee
and the Crab King
Jimmy & Sook
Rappahannock Record
Rappahannock Rentals
Sherry Germaine of
Davenport & Co.
Steven Hollberg, CPA, PC
The Dandelion
Tri-Star

*And to the following supporters
of the Steamboat Era Museum.*

MUSIC
Jumbo Lump Daddy
& the Backfin Boys

EXTRA THANKS
Irvington Village
Improvement Association
Jill & Larry, LLC
Irvington Baptist Church



Serving the crabs!

The beer line!

The annual holiday Home Tour was replaced in 2014 by a Holiday Marketplace. It was held the Friday and Saturday after Thanksgiving. Over 500 people came to the museum to purchase holiday gifts. The main exhibit hall and the Lancaster Room were filled with crafts from local artists. Local authors signed their books. *We Are Who We Are Because Steamboats Were* by Anne McClintock, *The Houses of Irvington* by Steve Reiss, *Rivah Friends* by Barbara Brecher, *'tis the Season* by Polly Ward, *Chippiepierre's Magic Paintbrush Tail* by Barbara Deitz and *Dining on the Chesapeake Bay* were all big sellers.

In addition, the sale of fresh greenery and flower arrangements, Steamboat Memorabilia donated by the family of Jerry Nault, a limited print edition of a poster entitled, *The Northern Neck* and holiday gift items contributed to a very successful event. The museum raised almost \$10,000 from this event. We would like to thank our vendors and authors, all of whom donated a share of their profits, for making the Marketplace a big success.

Barbara Brecher
Jennifer Britt
Carolyn Carpin
Barbara Deitz
Jack Eley
Barney Harris
Alfred Harris
Teresa Howard
Richard Kantor

Anne McClintock
Rick Nesossis
Andrew Pitts
Lori Roberts
Cheryl-Sadler Pugh
CarolAnne Taylor
Ron Taylor
Polly Ward

In addition...

The museum held two Mahjong events in 2014. Both were well attended and, while helping raise funds for the museum, the participants enjoyed lunch from Willaby's followed by spirited competition.

In September, the museum once again took part in the River Counties Community Foundation's *Amazing Raise*. For the second year in a row we raised over \$1,700. Thank you to everyone who took part in this "virtual" fundraising event.

Our last fund raising event of the year was the Annual Challenge Grant. Because of our generous supporters we were able to match the \$10,000 grant and raised \$22,000 at the end of the year. Thank you.



Anne McClintock's book sold out the first day!



Our Volunteers

Led by Barbara Baxter and Fran Kelly, the number of volunteers significantly increased in 2014. The roles these volunteers played in the life of the museum were historic guides, managers of the front desk, mail processors and event planners/workers.

At the top of the list of volunteers, we must recognize Nancy Newlin for being amazingly faithful and willing. She never hesitated, when called upon, to step up and take responsibility. Nancy has moved to Virginia Beach but we trust she will be with us for special occasions.

For strong support when needed, we thank Karen Feuerman and Mary Ellen Tetrick. During the winter of 2014 they gave countless hours working on the new design of the museum. All the volunteers appreciated their wonderfully simple, easy system for the front desk.

Special thanks to Anne McClintock for her outstanding floral arrangements to enhance our events.

One of the most thankless jobs in any organization is keeping track of the membership rolls. We are so lucky to have Susan Judd Ellis, who has shown grace and humor while diligently working on membership lists and making sure renewal and thank you letters were on time and all questions were responded to quickly.



2014 volunteer orientation luncheon...Learning the ins and outs of the reception desk.

Listed below are the volunteers who participated in the museum this past year
as a Historic Guide or a Manager of the Front Desk or both

Becky Anderson
Kathy Applegate
Barbara Baxter
Donna Berger
Jennifer Britt
Virginia Lee Brown
Jackie Burrell
Mary Anne Campbell
Bill Croner
Sallie Dashiell
Mary Lu Dorsey
Lynne Engstrom
Karen Feuerman
Suzanne Gallagher
Carolyn Graham
Randy Graham
Ann Harris
Lisa Headley
Jane Higgins
Jane Hopwood
Debby Hoyt
Jayne Jackson
Marion James
Sally Johnson
Fran Kelly
Barry Kennedy
Margaret Kennedy
Anne McClintock
Mary Ann McKay
Kathy Meyer
Nancy Newlin
Eric Nost
Fran Nunnally
Anne Papparella
Joanne Pheris
Mary Pipkin

Julia Putney-Brandt
Brandon Rohr
Lin Ross
Carolyn Sanders
Helen Slatford
Kay Somers
Mary Ellen Tetrick
Alice Walker
Jean Ward
Jim Ward
Doris Willett
Dick Wilson
Allan Young
Carolyn Young

Barbara Baxter was a strong leader
in managing our events and mailings.
We recognize all those who skillfully
helped with these projects . . .
but we did wonder why they were
always laughing. Could it be that it
is just simply fun to volunteer at the
Steamboat Era Museum?

Barbara Baxter
Mary Barany
Nancy Newlin
Fran Kelly
Virginia Fleet
Jean Hess
Jayne Jackson
Anne McClintock
Kay Micklin
Cathy Polhamus
Doris Willett

Our Members

No organization like the museum can survive without the support of its membership. Without this support we would not be able to continue our mission preserving and interpreting the importance of the Steamboat Era to the Northern Neck.

2014 saw a change in membership levels and benefits. For the first time benefits for some levels included tickets to the Irvington Crab Festival, free admission to the museum and a Steamboat Era Museum car decal.

The museum held two member events in 2014. The members Annual Meeting was held in April. In addition to electing board members and taking care of other official business, members enjoyed drinks and refreshments while exploring the newly designed museum and exhibits.

In December the members were invited to a Holiday Party. No speeches here, just holiday cheer with refreshments and special member discounts in the Holiday Marketplace!

COMMODORE

Mr. & Mrs. Randolph Graham
Mr. & Mrs. Leland James
Mr. & Mrs. Eric Nost
Mr. & Mrs. Julien G. Patterson
Mr. & Mrs. Stuart Polhamus
Mr. & Mrs. Richard T. Wilson, III

PILOT HOUSE

Mr. Henry Rankin

CAPTAIN

Mr. & Mrs. H. Walton Anderson
Mr. & Mrs. Marshall Orr
Mr. & Mrs. Cary M. Schneider
Ms. Kay L. Somers
Mr. & Mrs. Ken Sparks

STATEROOM

Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Arnold
Mr. & Mrs. William H. Berger
Mr. & Mrs. T. H. Birdsong, III
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Burrell
Mr. Stanford Crockett
Mrs. A. R. Douglas
Mr. Ammon G. Dunton
Mr. Paul Ferguson
Mr. William B. Graham, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Hallet
Mr. & Mrs. H. Hiter Harris, III
Mrs. Jane Higgins
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmie Jackson
Mr. & Mrs. William B. McCloskey
Mr. & Mrs. Robert McKay
Col. & Mrs. Robert C. Morrison
Mrs. Cheryl Sadler Pugh
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Tetrick
Mr. & Mrs. George E. Thomas, Jr.
Mr. William J. Turenne
Mr. & Mrs. R. Taylor Waller, Jr.
Col. Mowton Waring, Jr.

CABIN

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Mr. Jay Alga
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Barany
Ms. Barbara A. Baxter
Ms. Suzanne Bellows
Mr. & Mrs. Lester Brent
Ms. Katherine Brooks
Ms. Mary Ann Campbell
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Mr. & Mrs. Wallace Carter
Mr. & Mrs. William Chapman
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Mr. & Mrs. Theodore Cook
Mr. Gerald Courtney
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Mr. Randall Kipp
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McClintock
Mr. & Mrs. Albert C. Pollard
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Mr. & Mrs. E. A. Stephens, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Lee Stephens
Mr. & Mrs. Travis Tomlinson
Mr. & Mrs. Carroll W. Whay
Mr. Robert H. Whay

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Mr. George Frayne
Mr. & Mrs. Steven Harris
Col. William Wright

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Ms. Nancy Hubbard Clark
Mr. Norman Farley
Mr. George Frayne
Mr. Wendell Haynie
Mr. Porter Kier
Mr. Gordon Nelson
Mr. William Otley
Mr. Philip Thaxton
Col. William Wright

Our Donors

*I*t would be impossible to thank our donors enough for the support they show the museum. We are very grateful. Thank You!

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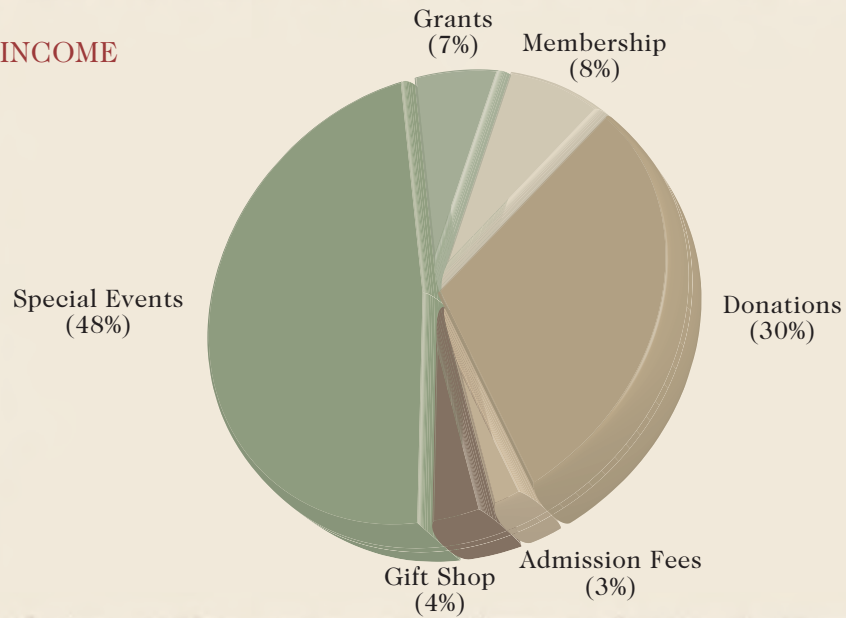
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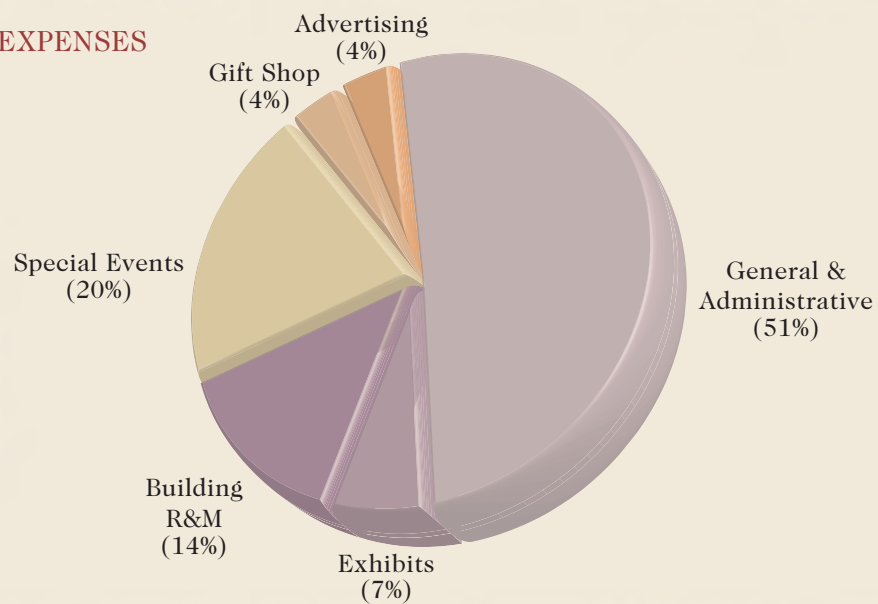
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