ANNUAL REPORT 2022

The Center for Painted Wall Preservation
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**Cover Image:**
Detail from the Kent House in Lyme, New Hampshire. This is one of the few houses where there is evidence of both Rufus Porter and J.D. Poor working together. Participants in the 2022 Talk & Tour had the opportunity to explore this home alongside two others.

**Care for a stroll through the park?**
Stunning pastel colors shine through nearly two centuries since this charming scene was painted in the Hersey-Whitten House in New Hampshire.
A Letter from the President

As we approach a new season, I can’t help but look back at the past transformative year. We continue to find new ways to fulfill our mission-driven work. We reached over 8,800 people through social media as our number of followers continues to grow. We responded to dozens of inquiries from homeowners and connected them with valuable resources and individuals to ensure the preservation of painted plaster walls for future generations. Our Talk & Tour at three Vermont and New Hampshire decorated homes last fall drew nearly 50 attendees interested in this rare and historically significant art form.

Our reach continues to grow thanks to the financial support from our dedicated donors and members.

The Center for Painted Wall Preservation is in the midst of innovative outreach and research projects that will launch the organization into a new chapter this coming year. It’s hard to contain my excitement for what is in store, and I hope you will share in my enthusiasm as you read more about these projects in this report. Our purpose is to protect these vulnerable art forms from destruction and ensure they are preserved for future generations to appreciate and study.

Thank you again for your unwavering support of this organization. Your continued generosity is critical to the fulfillment of our mission.

With gratitude,
Jane E. Radcliffe

Mission

The Center for Painted Wall Preservation (CPWP) is dedicated to the research and preservation of eighteenth and early nineteenth century American paint-decorated plaster walls. Our goal is to survey and document these walls, in situ or in collections; to further the appreciation of this rare and vulnerable art form; and serve as a resource for the preservation of painted plaster walls for future generations.

A Rare Break Together
The CPWP Board of Directors had the chance to meet together in person again last fall at the home of Lynn and Tim Cook, owners of the Moses Kent House. Board members donate their time and expertise to keep our organization moving forward. Cheers to them!
Setting sail into a new year!
This charming detail of a sailboat floats in the stairwell of the Deacon Bailey House in Portland, Maine.
Our Board of Advisors are "cut out" for the job, providing us their expertise and services even when we make stencil puns. Stenciled decoration from the Drury House bedchamber in Epping, New Hampshire.
Digital Archive of Painted Walls

Coming soon to your screen!

Browse Through Never-Before-Seen Homes

We have developed a file of over 450 locations with paint-decorated, plaster walls that have been documented and photographed over the past twenty-five years. This represents over 5,000 individual walls — each one a significant artwork. Documenting these walls is of paramount importance. It creates a record of these vulnerable works of art. Many of these walls have suffered from incomplete, poor or no conservation at all. Others have been lost to severe deterioration or demolition. As an historical record, painted plaster walls reflect the cultural life of the nation. Recognized as America’s first school of landscape painting, they tell a story of the life and times of rural America and their existence is ours to record and tell before they are lost.

Thanks to support from the Leo & Dorothy Rabkin Foundation, CPWP will publish these records as an online archive for the use of conservators, historians and homeowners alike. Entries will be searchable by technique, motif, artist, location, date and other relevant information. As a living database, newly documented walls and updated scholarship will regularly be added, making it an invaluable resource for ongoing research. We will share an update once the site is live. Stay tuned!
Using New Technology to Showcase Early Painted Walls

During the past year the Center for Painted Wall Preservation (CPWP) worked with photographer Michael Wasserman, owner of Virtually Real Solutions, to capture twenty-one paint-decorated interiors using Matterport cameras and software to produce 3D models of buildings and spaces. This technology is perfectly suited to capturing painted-wall decoration in immersive and engaging ways that allow the viewers to move through a virtual environment. The level of detail is astonishing – one can see fine cracks in plaster and texture in painted surfaces. Tags can be added to share information, similar to the way exhibit labels in a traditional museum provide additional information and context to a visitor.

The CPWP has received support from The Decorative Arts Trust (DAT) to create a virtual museum that incorporates these immersive 3D images. The Dean F. Failey Grant from the DAT will be used to fund content creation, website development and initial costs to launch a virtual museum showcasing historic painted interiors. The DAT underwrites grants in support of noteworthy research, exhibition, publication and object-based conservation projects through the Dean F. Failey Fund, named in honor of the Trust’s late Governor.
Ensuring Preservation for Future Generations

CPWP’s Efforts to Support Painted Wall Preservation

Each year, the CPWP fields questions from homeowners stewarding painted walls in their homes. We continue to provide support and resources to homeowners, conservators, art historians and enthusiasts to ensure painted wall preservation for future generations. We have many resources available on our website, including a newly-available Best Practices Document compiled after CPWP’s "Conserving Our Painted Past” Symposium hosted in 2020.

Do you have early paint decorations in your home? Be sure to become a member of our Stewards Circle, a group of homeowners with registered painted walls.

Want to Help?

The Center for Painted Wall Preservation has created the Research & Scholarship Endowment Fund to support painted wall research by offering grants to students or special programs devoted to increasing public knowledge of paint decorated walls. The Fund will support research initiatives aimed at defining, refining and promulgating best practices with respect to conservation, restoration, relocation and interpretation of 19th century decoratively painted plaster walls. The Carl M. Lindberg Family Foundation has generously donated the founding principal for the Fund, but additional funding is needed for the yield growth to provide the first grant.
We Make an IMPACT

Here is a glimpse at how the CPWP reached our audiences and made an impact in 2022

300+ subscribers received our *Plaster Bits* newsletter each month

700+ followed us on social media

40+ homeowner questions were answered by experts

50+ attended the Upper CT Valley Talk & Tour

1,000s of hours were donated by our Board of Directors & Advisors to support our communities

80+ *Plaster Bits* newsletters are available online

 Interested in learning more about the *Plaster Bits Vault*? Members have access to over 80 archived articles of groundbreaking scholarship and research through the CPWP website! [Join or renew today!](#)
Upper Connecticut River Valley
Painted Wall Talk & Tour

September 24, 2022

Over fifty people gathered in September to visit muralled private homes along the Upper Connecticut River Valley. Following an informative introductory talk by Linda Lefko, attendees visited three spectacular examples of homes with muralled walls: the Elwin Chase House, the Meeting House Farm and the Moses Kent House.

It's all about the details

Attendees enjoyed walking through three houses in the Upper Connecticut Valley during the Talk & Tour. Above are close-ups from each home.

Left: Detail from a mural in the Elwin Chase House in Topsham, Vermont
Center: Detail from an overmantel at Meeting House Farm in Norwich, Vermont
Right: Detail from an overmantel at the Moses Kent House in Lyme, New Hampshire
## Your Support Makes All the Difference

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Membership Level</th>
<th>Membership Cost</th>
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<tr>
<td>Young Professional</td>
<td>$15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Individual</td>
<td>$25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stewards Circle</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patron (Most Popular)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sustaining Member</td>
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<td>Benefactor</td>
<td>$500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Champion</td>
<td>$1,000+</td>
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### Members Keep Our Organization Moving Forward

Our members believe in CPWP’s mission to **document and preserve** one of our country’s **most vulnerable artifacts**: historic paint-decorated walls. We rely on the support of our membership and community to advocate for painted walls in the historic preservation, folk art and decorative arts fields. Memberships are tax deductible. Go to our [website](https://www.cpwp.org) for more information and to sign up now!

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**Come Aboard!**

The Norton House murals (originally from East Baldwin, Maine) are now a part of the Rufus Porter Museum of Art & Ingenuity’s collection in Bridgton, Maine.
Thanks to Our Supporters!

**Individual Members**
Marian Crenshaw Austin
Mariel Capanna
David Colglazier
Cynthia DellaPenna
Laura DeWitt
Andrea Fitzgerald
Katie Fitzgerald Grant
Margaret Gaertner
Roy Gedat
Judith Graham
Judith Hull
Patricia Kimber
Barbara Knickerbocker
Laura Lacome
Gregory LeFever
Linda Lefko
Natalie Lounsbury
Peggy McClard
Dennis McFadden
Suzanne Morris
Sarah Peck
Baron Perlman
Eileen Rogers
Faye Snyder
Gail Szafir
Diane Thompson
David Nedwidek

**Stewards Circle**
Timothy Cook
Marshel Roy Cunningham
Ann Marie Gooch
Alan Small
YOU make preservation, documentation, and access to painted walls possible!

**Patrons**
Charles Anthony  
Elizabeth Bedard  
Lucinda Borrone  
Jeffrey & Frances Carl  
Lorraine Casinghino  
Amy Cole-Ives  
Marylou Davis  
Nancy Druckman  
Pamela and Brian Ehrlich  
Emelie Gevalt  
Rick Kershner  
Ron Kley  
Suzanne Korn  
Debra May  
Johanna McBrien  
Stacey Mileti  
Matthew Mosca  
David Ottinger  
Les & Joan Ottinger  
Miranda Peters  
Laura Phillips  
Frederic C. Thompson  
Matt Thurlow  
Elizabeth Warren  
Tracy Whitehead

**Sustaining Members**
Steve Buy  
George G. Hayes

**Benefactor**
Jane E. Radcliffe

**Champions**
The Carl M. Lindberg Family Foundation
2022 Financials

Financial Outlook

Our organization continues to responsibly steward the financial resources provided by members, donors, and funders. The tables below do not reflect the $15,500 Dean F. Failey Grant received through the Decorative Arts Trust for the virtual museum project (funds received in 2023). A majority of CPWP’s assets are through grants and special funding received in support of specific mission-driven projects and programs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Revenue</td>
<td>$24,895.60</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expenses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assets</td>
<td>$88,525.80</td>
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<tr>
<td>Liabilities &amp; Equity</td>
<td>$88,525.80</td>
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Events

Our Board of Directors is hitting the road in 2023! Come out to see us (no horse and carriage required).

April 29-30
Old House Emporium
Portland, Maine

June 5
Massachusetts History Conference
Devens, Massachusetts

November 7
Tour of the Rufus Porter Museum and a private mural collection co-sponsored by the CPWP and RPM for the New England Museum Association Conference
Bridgton, Maine

November 8-10
New England Museum Association Conference
Portland, Maine

Date TBD
Maine Archives & Museums Conference
Location TBD
We want to hear from YOU!

Interested in becoming a member, donating or volunteering? We look forward to connecting!

info@cpwp.org

www.pwpcenter.org
P.O.Box 187
Hallowell, ME 04347

Be a part of our community!
Detail of Rufus Porter’s work from the Andrews House in West Boxford, Massachusetts.