

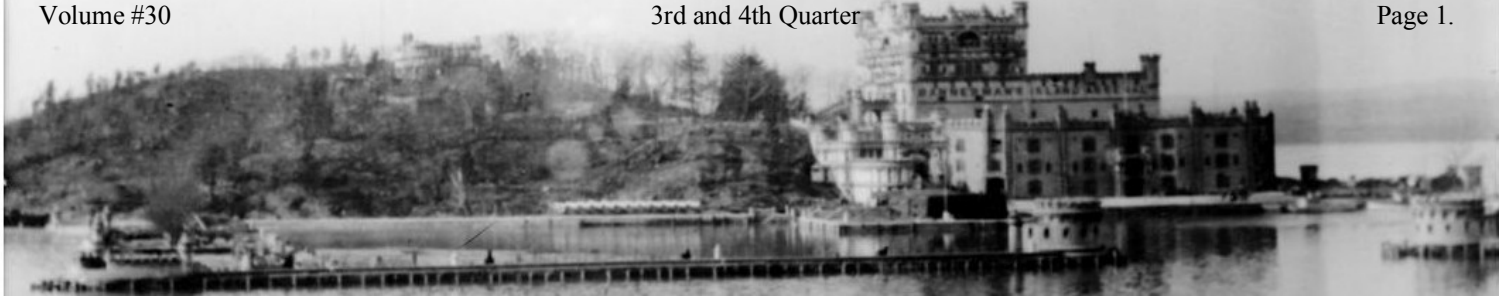
The Banner Newsletter

The Official Newsletter of THE BANNERMAN CASTLE TRUST, INC.

Volume #30

3rd and 4th Quarter

Page 1.



EPF Bannerman Residence Stabilization Phase One Complete!

After five years, The Bannerman Castle Trust, Inc. has completed the long awaited Bannerman Island Residence Stabilization Project, Phase I. This is a huge accomplishment considering the severe deterioration of the structures on Bannerman Island. It proves that with sheer determination, hard work and support through our friends, impossible projects can be accomplished.

The Bannerman Residence Stabilization project was funded in part by a grant from The Environmental Protection Fund, as well as through various foundations and private donations including: The Dutchess County Industrial Development Agency, The Dyson Foundation, The Easter Foundation, and The Ginsburg Foundation among others. A \$50,000 member item from Senator Steve Saland was awarded for the masonry work.

Special thanks to BCT President, Len Warner and Neil Caplan, BCT Executive Director and Founder, along with Jan Hird Pokorny Architects, Ken McShea House Doctor, and NYS Parks and M & T Bank of Beacon, NY, without whom this project would not have been realized.

Now that the residence is initially stabilized, we must move on to preserve the main structures to prevent further deterioration. The BCT has applied for the 2011 EPF Grant for emergency stabilization. The total for the grant is \$800,000.00. There is a 50% match, so we have to raise \$400,000.00 for this phase of stabilization.

Moving On to Save the Main Structures The Need for Emergency Stabilization

By Kurt Hirschberg, Architect, Jan Hird Pokorny Associates

The Arsenal structure at Bannerman's Island as well as the breakwater towers are single handedly the most identifiable elements of Bannerman's complex. Stresses from the heat of the 1969 fire coupled with four decades of constant battering from the harsh winds, snow and ice have taken a serious toll on these elements. The frailty of these structures is evident in the failure that occurred in the winter of 2009/2010 at the Arsenal. Another winter season without the any intervention could ultimately be disastrous to this significant historic artifact.

The remaining elements of the Arsenal consist of large expanses of brick and stucco masonry that were poorly constructed and have been left unbraced as a result the collapses of this past spring. While several walls have been lost, there are still highly decorative and significant elements remaining to the Arsenal.

The team is proposing to perform a preliminary stabilization program to make sure the structure is safe enough to allow the team to go in and perform a more in depth analysis and documentation of the structure for a more long-term stabilization intervention. The preliminary stabilization will tie key building elements together and brace the structure from significant wind damage. The intent is to perform the stabilization work as soon as possible. The breakwater towers suffer

the harshest torture of all the elements on the island. Their location within the river subjects them to a constant battering of ice throughout the winter and the river currents have slowly eroded any mortar that was tying the structure



together. Two towers in particular are in the most critical condition, where any ice accumulation this winter could result in the minimal bearing remaining being damaged beyond repair. The preliminary stabilization program for the towers is to provide a barrier around each tower to protect the fragile bases from the constant battering of ice during the winter allowing the Bannerman Castle Trust time to raise funds necessary for reconstruction of the original bases. *Continued Page 6.*



Photo By Thom Johnson



The Banner

Volume 30 Nov2011

3rd and 4th Quarter

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MISSION

The Bannerman Castle Trust, Inc. is a not-for-profit "Friends" organization of volunteers working with the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. The Trust is dedicated to bringing together resources and funding to stabilize the buildings on Pollepel Island. The Trust aims to raise awareness and educate the public and government organizations on the value and history of the island. The Trust aims to raise funds for repairing the island, creating a master plan and eventually stabilizing the structures. The Trust is working to make the island safe for volunteers and for the public to enjoy the island as an educational, cultural, historical and recreational facility promoting heritage tourism in the Hudson Valley.

Become a "FRIEND" or a Volunteer

The Bannerman Castle Trust, Inc. invites you to become a "Friend of Bannerman Castle".

Help us preserve the castle.

For information call:

Neil Caplan, President (845)-831-6346

www.bannermancastle.org

The Banner is published by the Bannerman Castle Trust, Inc. All opinions expressed by contributors to The Banner do not necessarily reflect the opinions or official policies of The Bannerman Castle Trust, Inc.

2011 Events and Bannerman Island Tours Raise Awareness and Funds for Bannerman Island Preservation

John Morzon

"The 2011 Bannerman Island Touring Season has officially ended - in addition to everyone who made this year spectacular, we'd like to thank the 14 brave people who showed up for the October 29th Saturday tour, which turned out to be the season's last, at the beginning of the snow storm. For anyone who wasn't able to make it to a guided tour this year, we hope to see you all next year - walking tours of the island start in May 2012.

This season was possibly our best so far, with great turn-outs on all our walking tours, kayaking tours, memorable events with Carey Harrison, Danny Quinn, as well as the second annual Hudson Valley Farm Fresh Dinner on the island. We received excellent publicity online, in print, on television (thanks again to Travel Channel's No Limits, as well as news services), and the castle even a brief cameo appearance in one of the summer's highest-grossing films (Transformers 3).

Most importantly, this season we were finally able to begin and complete Phase One of the stabilization of the Bannerman family residence on the island, to preserve it for future generations, but, our work on the island as a whole, has just begun. As many of you are aware, a significant portion of the castle was lost in two collapses during the winter of 2009 / 2010 - it would be unbelievably sad to lose more of this piece of history. Additional warnings have certainly come over the past 3 months alone, in the form of a tremor, a tropical storm, and an untypically early snow storm. Now is the time to stabilize what remains of the castle, before it's too late. To do this, in part, we need public support. In the coming months, we'll be sharing ways that you can help, both by spreading awareness of our efforts, and providing greater ease in making a donation, for those who can make a financial contribution to help save the castle.

Bannerman Island is all of ours to enjoy, and we hope you'll help us preserve history. See you on the island next Spring!

John Morzon is responsible for creating and maintaining The Bannerman Castle Trust Facebook Page with over 2,778 friends. The BCT would like to thank John for doing a terrific job. Well done!



*Scene from the 2011 block buster movie,
"Transformers, Dark of the Moon"
(Notice Transformer on the right side of roof)*



Rebecca Joyner
2010 Dinner
Photo by
Jane Feldman

Bannerman Island Photo Shoots

Bannerman Island photo shoots featured guest photographers, Linda T. Hubbard, Mary Ann Glass and Thom Johnson. Photographers were treated to 4 hours to shoot incredible photos of Bannerman Island and a box lunch from Torches on the Hudson.

Overnight Photo Shoots were organized by Thom Johnson and raised over \$2,800 for Bannerman Island preservation.

Hudson Valley Farm Fresh Chef's Dinner

on September 10th, served up some of the finest gourmet food in the Hudson Valley for the Second Annual Hudson Valley Chefs Dinner on Bannerman Island.

Helen Bannerman's garden, next to the newly stabilized Bannerman residence, was transformed into a five star restaurant complete with linens and plate wear crafted from palm leaves. Flowers were provided courtesy of Mark Adams Greenhouses of Poughkeepsie. This year's event outdid last year's dinner with a succulent menu featuring local ingredients from the Hudson Valley. Chef Noah Sheets prepared the first course of the five course meal, which was a refreshing chilled minted pea soup with pea shoots and Cabot Greek style yogurt. Chef Bob Turner of The Omega Institute, prepared a succulent Quattro's Farm duck confit, braised leeks, crushed local potatoes, truffled Blue Roof Farm honey gastrique, while Chef Liz Beals of Beth's Farm kitchen treated our guests with her heirloom watermelon and tomato salad with Beth's Farm Kitchen cranberry lime chutney vinaigrette. Thirty-year veteran, Chef Jeff Loshinsky presented a local cheese course and Chef Nicole Cagan, Director of "From The Ground Up", dazzled the guests with her Hudson Chatham sherry and Westwind apple tart.

The Hudson Valley Chefs Dinner was so popular that we sold out two sittings and had over 30 people on a waiting list. The second seating ended as the nearly full moon illuminated the island. With the help of candle luminaries, torches and Christmas lights lighting the trails, it was a magical walk back to Hudson River Adventure's vessel, The Pollepel.

A warm thank you to Noah Sheetz, who called Bannerman Castle Trust, Inc. Executive Director, Neil Caplan in 2010, after the disastrous collapse of the iconic tower walls, with the idea to help raise funds for the stabilization of the structures on Bannerman Island by holding a dramatic dinner among the ruins. Noah's vision developed into the creation of the Chefs Consortium which has presented numerous fundraisers for deserving not-for-profits. Noah, we are grateful that you chose Bannerman Castle to start the Chefs Consortium and look forward to next year's event. All of the chefs deserve high praise for creating a unique event.



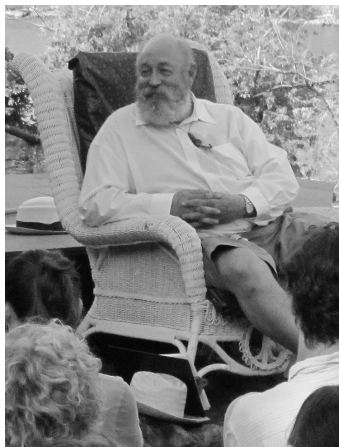
Photo by Nicole Cagan

NYS Taconic Park Commissioner Fred Osborn (Center) Ann Osborn (Left) 2011 Hudson Valley Farm Fresh Chef's Dinner

Last, but not least, the Bannerman Castle Trust, Inc. Board of Directors, Advisory Council and volunteers deserve recognition for their part in prepping Bannerman Island for the event. This year, BCT Board members donated tables that will stay on the island for future events. Melanie Lanc, along with Barbara Gottlock, Donna Blakemore and Michelle Stowe manicured the gardens, while Neil Caplan and John Lanc set up lighting along the trails and at the residence. Tours were organized by Wes Gottlock and tours were led by Barbara Gottlock, Thom Johnson, Basil Aponte, Maria Robson, Mary Sapia, Michael Fatt and Sheldon Stowe. Tiffany Cole did an outstanding job as captain of the Bannerman Island workboat, filling in for Cameron Chuisano who was ill. Don White of White's Marina in New Hamburg donated his time to ferry the chefs and all of their equipment to Bannerman Island. Thank you to everyone who contributed to making the Hudson Valley Chefs Dinner on Bannerman Island

Rex Harrison In Hollywood Performed by Carey Harrison

July 16, 2011 Perched in a wicker wing back chair in a newly renovated garden overlooking the Bannerman Tower Ruins, Carey Harrison delighted a sold out audience with his heart-felt stories of life with his famous father and mother. The son of the movie stars Rex Harrison and Lilli Palmer, grew up in Hollywood and on film sets worldwide. Through his parents he met the great movie actors of the period, from Greta Garbo to Julie Andrews, and from David Niven to Richard Burton. The leading stage actors of this era, John Gielgud, Laurence Olivier, Peter Ustinov and others, were regular dinner guests and vacationers at the Harrisons' Italian Riviera home. In due course, Carey became a playwright and novelist, the author of 16 novels and nearly 200 plays and scripts. With his family, he lives in the Hudson Valley and has been Professor of English at the City University of New York for the past 15 years.



Goldee Green of the Southern Dutchess News said, " 'Rex Harrison in Hollywood' is one big cake of comedy marbled with their deep richness of tragedy. And Carey Harrison generously allows the audience to smell, taste and almost feel the deliciousness of his life. "

Audience member Kathryn Janus of Beacon expressed elation. "It couldn't have been more delightful! I hope they continue this series. To see someone so entertaining and erudite in such a magnificent setting was an un forgettable experience. "

The show was sponsored by Bill Diamond Productions of Cornwall-On-Hudson, New York and The Woodstock Players of Woodstock, NY, for Bannerman Castle Trust, Inc. A warm thank you to Carey Harrison and his wife Claire Lamb. The BCT is hoping to have Mr. Harrison return in 2012.



A sold out audience enjoys Carey Harrison in the garden overlooking the main castle Tower ruins.

Danny Quinn Concert

Irish American Folk Singer, Danny Quinn and Bill Diamond



In August, Danny Quinn, charmed the audience on Bannerman Island with original music and popular American and Irish folk songs. Danny Quinn has been a performer of Irish & American folk music for nearly three decades. He has entertained throughout the U.S., Canada, Ireland and England at concerts, coffee houses, festivals, corporate events and pubs. Since 1979 he has shared the stage with or opened for renowned artists such as the Clancy Brothers, Tom Chapin, Peter Yarrow, Robbie O'Connell, the Makem & Spain Brothers, John Prine, David Mallett, Walt Michael, Eilleen Ivers, The Chieftains and many others. For over twenty years Danny toured nationally with the legendary Tommy Makem.

Danny Quinn's performance was sponsored by Bill Diamond Productions. A special thanks to Danny and Bill from the BCT.

PHOTO MEMORIES FROM THE BANNERMAN FAMILY ALBUM



1. *The Bannerman Island Family Residence*



3. *Francis Bannerman and Sons Store at 501 Broadway in Manhattan, NY.*

2. *The New York Central passes Bannerman Island in the early 1960's.*



DONATE TO STABILIZE THE REMAINING TOWER WALLS ON BANNERMAN ISLAND

With the completion of Bannerman Residence Phase One Stabilization, please help us save what is left of the iconic tower walls that face the west side of the Hudson River.

Make a tax-deductible donation, by going to our website at www.bannermancastle.org, or fill out the application on page seven. If everyone in the Hudson Valley would donate \$10.00 we would have enough to save and preserve these unique Hudson Valley landmarks. For further information on how to help, call **Neil Caplan at 845-234-3204.**

MURALS CREATED FOR THE WINDOW ENCLOSURES ON THE NEWLY STABILIZED BANNERMAN FAMILY RESIDENCE



Frank Bannerman VI
by
Neil Lavey



The Living Room of the Bannerman Residence by *Thom Johnson*



Helen Bannerman
by
Neil Lavey

BCT Advisor Council member, historian, photographer and painter Thom Johnson, along with Hudson Valley artist Neil Lavey, have painted murals to decorate the window enclosures on the Family Residence on the south side of the house. The paintings are representations of Bannerman Island's builder, Frank Bannerman IV, and his wife Helen., along with the interior of the living room from around 1910. The project was coordinated and founded by Thom Johnson. Thanks for a job well done.



*Bannerman Off Season Dock Renovation , Cameron and Arthur Chiusano Contractors
Photos by Cameron Chiusano*

BCT RECEIVES \$3,000.00 GRANT FROM THE DYSON FOUNDATION TO REPAIR DAMAGE TO THE DOCKS FROM HURRICANE IRENE

The Mid Hudson Valley suffered from water damage due to Hurricane Irene's raff. Flooding was extensive throughout the Mid-Hudson. The castle structures and the trails on the island luckily escaped the ravages of the storm, but the off season dock and the main landing platform were damaged by the storm. The water level was so high, that the 60' floating dock almost floated off the pilings.

The Dyson Foundation set up special program for not-for-profits who's properties were damaged by the hurricane. The BCT would like to thank Ceciela Stancel and the Dyson Foundation for giving the BCT a grant for \$3,000.00 to repair and replace in-kind the off-season work dock and the landing platform.

The dock is used during the season by the BCT garden volunteers to pump river water to holding tanks so it can be used to water the extensive Bannerman gardens. The dock is also used during the off season for NYS Park and BCT staff to land on the island.

The work was performed by Cameron Chiusano and Arthur Chiusano, who did an outstanding job on repairing and replacing the dock. The Board of Directors would like to thank everyone who helped with this project.

Bannerman Island Gardens



Newly uncovered garden at the Bannerman Residence. Interpreted by BCT Garden Volunteers. Special thanks to Cameron Chiusano, Tiffani Cole, Donna Blakemore , Karen Scheck, Melenie and John Lanc.

How To Help
Preserve Bannerman Island?
Get Involved!

Take a Private Tour of Bannerman Island!

Become a 'Friend of the Castle'

Include Your Company's
Matching Grant Application
 with Your Donation

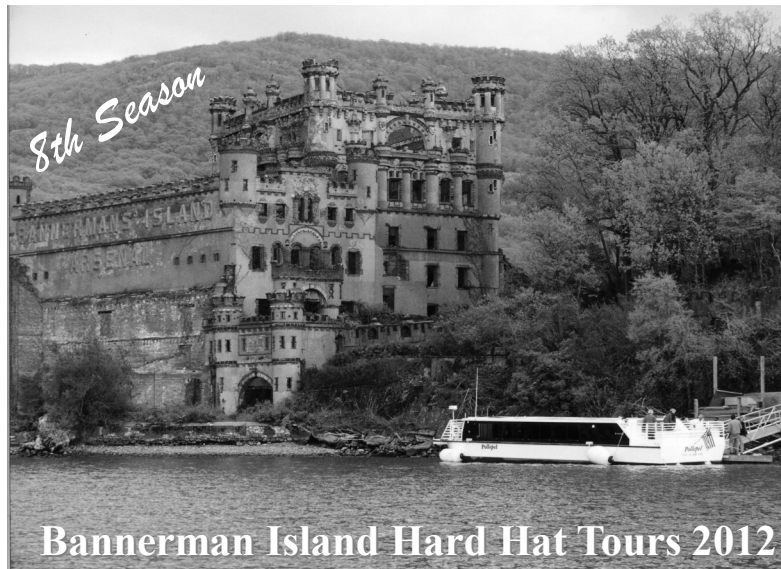
Become a Corporate Sponsor or Donor

Consider a 'Legacy Gift' in Your
 Estate Planning

Have a Milestone Birthday or Anniversary
Fundraising Party
 for the Preservation of Bannerman Island

Want to have a special event? Call us and
 let us know what you have in mind and
 we will be happy to discuss the possibilities
 and how we can help.

For Information Call:
Neil Caplan at 845-234-3204



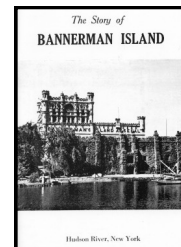
'Discover the Mystery', 'Explore the History' onboard
 Hudson River Adventure's vessel, THE POLLEPEL.
 Your Bannerman Island adventure begins at the Newburg
 Beacon waterfront. Every Saturday and Sunday, May
 through October, the Pollepel departs Torches Landing at
 the Newburgh waterfront at 12:00 noon and from the
 Beacon Ferry dock in Beacon, NY at 1:30 p.m. Book your
 Bannerman Island walking tour directly online by going to:
www.prideofthehudson.com/pollepelschedule.shtml

Call Zerve to book by phone at
1-800-979-3370

BECOME a BCT "FRIEND OF THE CASTLE" or a BCT SPONSOR!

Join The Bannerman Castle Trust, Inc. and receive a complimentary copy of The Story of Bannerman Island,
 by Charles S. Bannerman. You will also receive a subscription to The BCT newsletter, *THE BANNER*, along with a
 friendship card. See member article.

**I WOULD LIKE TO BE PART OF "THE BANNERMAN SUPPORT SYSTEM" and make a
 tax-deductible donation to the Bannerman Castle Trust, Inc.**



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Please make your tax-deductible donation check payable to:

THE BANNERMAN CASTLE TRUST, INC., PO Box 843, Glenham, NY 12508 You can charge your donation
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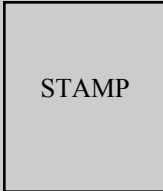


Photo by Nicole Cagan

**Your help is still needed to save
the main castle structures!
Donate online at: www.bannermancastle.org**

**Bannerman Residence Phase I
Stabilization Completed!
Thank You For Your Support!**



Photo by Thom Johnson

BECOME A "FRIEND" OF THE BANNERMAN CASTLE TRUST, INC.

Join Today! Help Preserve a Hudson River Icon!

Please Note: The Bannerman Castle Trust Inc. has acquired a special activity permit from NYSOPRHP for all BCT on-island events.

The island is otherwise closed to the public for safety reasons, and landing is prohibited.

A copy of our latest annual financial report may be obtained by writing to The Bannerman Castle Trust, Inc. or to the Attorney General's Office, Charities Bureau, 120 Broadway, New York, NY 10271.

