



Upcoming Events at the Garrett-Jacobs Mansion

January 6 (Sunday): Everything's New: Baltimore in the Roaring Twenties (2:00 pm to 3:00 pm)

January 15 (Tuesday): Taste & Tour (6:00 pm to 7:00 pm)

January 31 (Thursday): Thirsty Thursdays at the Opera (8:00 pm)

February 15 (Tuesday): Taste & Tour (6:00 pm to 7:00 pm)

February 3 (Sunday): A Hot Time In the Old Town: The Great Baltimore Fire of 1904 (2:00 pm)

March 24 (Sunday): The Ghosts of Johns Hopkins: The Life and Legacy that Shaped an American City with Author Antero Pietila (2:00 pm)

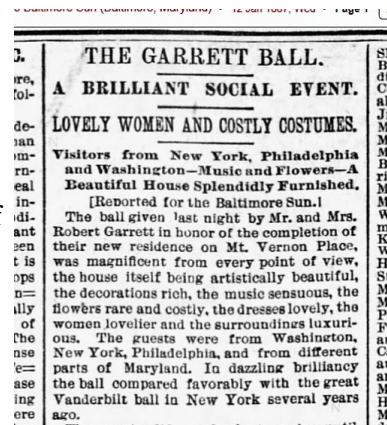
The Garrett Palace

Before her social events, it was Mary Frick Garrett Jacobs' custom to conceal herself behind the wooden screen on her mansion's second floor—it was said, to see if any arriving guests rivaled her elegance. On the evening of January 11, 1887, there would have been hundreds of potential competitors, as the Garretts prepared to welcome 600 of Baltimore, Washington, Philadelphia, and New York's Gilded Age elite to the housewarming of their Mount Vernon Place residence.

She likely found few challengers. Newspapers gushed over her Parisian gown, made of Chantilly lace and adorned with diamonds. "Mrs. Garrett has a house like a Venetian palace, and she herself is an ideal hostess, blonde, and massive, and beautiful as the heroine of Frithioffs Saga," one anonymous New York gossip wrote.

The mansion, dubbed "Mr. Garrett's Palace," by *The New York Times*, was likewise impressive. While their Mount Vernon Place home was not technically new, having been a wedding gift from Robert's father in 1873, the building had been completely remodeled and refurbished, a process that took much back and forth between the perfectionistic Mary Frick and the various builders, craftsmen, and artisans who labored for years on the structure. Designed by Stanford White's firm of McKim, Mead & White (and later updated and expanded by John Russell Pope), the residence at that time encompassed two rowhomes and featured the carved wooden entrance that we see today, with its manorlike fireplace, spiral stairway, and elaborate skylight.

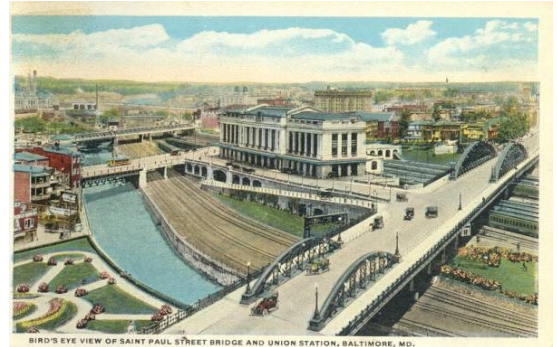
The event had been the talk of the town for weeks. Hours before the party began (fashionably, at 10 p.m.), locals crowded the sidewalks for a peek at the ladies in their finery. Once inside, guests were serenaded by two orchestras, fed a "dainty and elegant supper," and given favors of flowers or fans (for the ladies) and diamond pins (for the gentlemen). The Garretts had, the papers reported, bought up most of the flowers they could find in Baltimore, and then brought more in from Philadelphia and New York. (*Palace, cont.*)



(*Palace, cont.*) “The most brilliant event in a social way that Baltimore has witnessed for many years,” *The New York Times* pronounced on its front page the next day. “No expense was spared to make the event signally magnificent in every detail.” Others were less impressed at the excess. “The seventy-five fan and seventy-five diamond scarf pins which were used as favors could not have cost far from seventy-five hundred dollars,” the *Washington Evening Star* grumbled. “Such a sum of money would lay about a mile of siding and save the necessity of running two railroad trains in opposite directions over the same track.”

Everything's New: Baltimore in the Roaring Twenties

During the 1920s, Baltimore was a boom town. Throughout the decade, life in Baltimore was changing, as its people and commerce adapted themselves to new social trends, new employment opportunities, and exciting new technologies. In almost every year of the decade, a new and significant business opened or expanded. Commerce, industry, and jobs for the city's residents underwent dynamic changes as Baltimoreans listened to Duke Ellington and Louis Armstrong on the radio and danced the fox-trot and the Charleston. Join Baltimore Heritage and the Garrett-Jacobs Mansion on Sunday, January 6, at 2 pm for a talk by historian Jack Burkert as he walks through this fascinating time of change in the city. Purchase your ticket's at baltimoreheritage.org/events.



Velvety Voices & Cozy Cocktails

Baltimore Concert Opera's popular "Thirsty Thursdays at the Opera" returns. Top-flight professional opera singers perform operatic highlights, paired with energetic and informative commentary and fun facts about themselves. Each performance also features beer, wine, or whiskey tastings designed to match the music. Come enjoy a casual, relaxed evening in the mansion's grand ballroom. Your \$29 admission includes a tasting and music. Plus, a cash bar will be open if the drink du jour isn't your thing. Tickets are available at baltimoreconcertopera.com, or call (443) 445-0226.

A Hot Time in the Old Town: The Great Baltimore Fire of 1904



On a cold Sunday in February 1904, a gentleman flicked his cigar butt on the sidewalk in front of Hurst's dry goods store where today's Royal Farms Arena now stands. This everyday act turned catastrophic as one of the glass "eyes" in the sidewalk, meant to bring light into a storage space below, was missing. The still smoldering cigar fell through the open hole and landed on a box of dry goods. The resulting fire burned for more than a day, destroyed over 1,500 buildings, and caused damages in the order of \$100 million (in 1904 dollars). Join Baltimore historian Wayne Schaumburg on February 3 at 2:00 pm as he walks through the great 1904 Baltimore Fire, from the young mayor (35-year old Robert McClane) who found himself tasked with battling the fire

and launching the city's recovery, to how Thomas O'Neill saved his department store, to how Baltimore got a new cathedral out of it. Get your ticket's at baltimoreheritage.org/events.

"Taste & Tour" Returns January 15

A frosty January evening is the ideal time to drop by the Garrett-Jacobs Mansion for a signature cocktail and a lively trip through Baltimore's Gilded Age history with our monthly "Taste & Tour." Learn about mansion architects Stanford White and John Russell Pope, the Garrett family and their ties with the B&O Railroad, the prized book collection of Dr. Henry Barton Jacobs, and the woman who ties it all together, Mary Frick Garrett Jacobs. Join us Tuesday, January 15, at 6:00 pm for a historical stroll, drink in hand. Purchase your tickets at EventBrite.com (search "Garrett Jacobs").

Connect with us!

Keep up with our latest events and activities—and learn more about the history of the mansion and its occupants. Follow us on Facebook (search "Garrett-Jacobs Mansion Endowment Fund) or subscribe to our online E-newsletter at heritage@esb.org.