



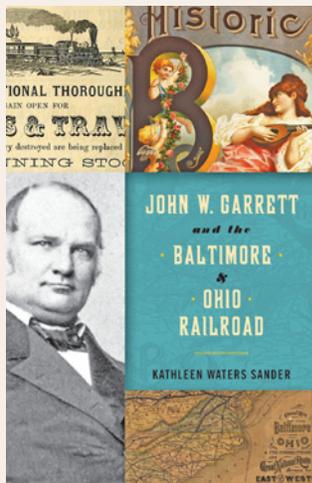
THE HERITAGE

The Czar of Maryland... John Work Garrett

In 1872, John W. Garrett purchased a lavish wedding present for his oldest son Robert Garrett II and Mary Sloan Frick. The newlyweds soon moved into what today is known as the Garrett-Jacobs Mansion on Mount Vernon Place and over the coming years greatly expanded and renovated it to become Baltimore's most fashionable mansion and social hub.

By that year, John W. Garrett could well afford such an extravagant present. Since 1858, he had been president

of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, gaining fame as the "czar of Maryland"—the most influential and one of the wealthiest men in the state. Taking over the B&O presidency just three years before the outbreak of the Civil War, Garrett, proved himself and the railroad he ran loyal to the Union. Although raised as a Southern Democrat and a slave owner living in a slaveholding Southern state, Garrett rightly predicted the North's victory over the Confederacy—although the war



would come at a great cost to the nation, to the B&O and, personally, to Garrett. With tracks running through Confederate Virginia and Union Maryland and as the only supply line into Washington, D.C., President Lincoln and Secretary of War Edwin Stanton depended on the B&O for troop and supply transport to some of the most critical battles. The B&O became the Confederate's first combat objective, attacking the B&O 143 times, often with overwhelming destruction. But Garrett kept the B&O running through the four years of war.

Today, much of the story of Garrett's notable railroad presidency and his colorful, often conflicted, personal life is largely subsumed by the history of the legendary B&O. Seemingly, Garrett and the B&O were destined for each other. Born in 1820 and raised in downtown Baltimore, Garrett, at age 8, more than likely attended the festive inauguration of the country's first chartered railroad in 1828. His father, Robert I, had come to Baltimore in 1801 and had built a successful company

Now a younger audience. . . . The Wurlitzer Organ and Silent Movies



On two separate days in May, the choirs from Eutaw-Marshburn Elementary School and The Wilkes School Chorus at Grace and St. Peter's Church (The Mansion's neighbor) came for a silent film and organ demonstration. Both choirs marveled at the Mansion's architectural splendor and the Engineers Club's hospitality. Michael Britt, the Mansion's Wurlitzer theatre organist stated "The Wilkes School had a GREAT TIME! They loved the space, the organ, and the movie. They even asked for a second film." The EMES Choir, assisted by Michael Britt is comprised of students (grades 2-5). Many of the students are residents at the Pedestal Gardens Housing Project. Like the EMES Choir, the Wilkes students range from grades 2-5. Not confined to the



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MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Garrett-Jacobs Mansion Endowment Fund is to preserve and restore the Mansion as a National Historic Landmark and to share the history, architectural and civic legacy of the Mansion for the benefit and education of the public.

The Czar of Maryland *continued from page 1*

hauling goods by Conestoga wagons over the National Road out to the territories of the rapidly expanding nation. From this humble beginning the Garretts became integral to the nation's commerce and transportation.

By the 1850s, facing increasing competition from up-and-coming railroads and constant financial needs to reach the Ohio River, the B&O neared bankruptcy. Johns Hopkins, a Baltimore financier and B&O director, knew the right man to steer the company through this perilous time: John W. Garrett. Elected in November 1858, 38-year-old Garrett would preside over the B&O for the next 26 years, one of the longest tenures for a railroad president. After the war, Garrett moved to another type of combat, this time fierce rate and expansion competition with railroad and industrial giants. He greatly expanded B&O tracks to get to the lucrative markets of Pittsburgh, Chicago, Cincinnati and St. Louis; initiated parallel lines on either side of the Virginia mountains to tap languishing southern markets; built Locust

Point as Baltimore's main transportation center to jumpstart the city's moribund postwar economy; and opened tourism in the westernmost region of Maryland, named Garrett County in 1872.

The constant strain of the war, followed by ceaseless postwar railroad rivalry, finally took a toll on Garrett. He died in September, 1884 at age 64, at his cottage in the Maryland mountains. Not far away were reminders of the war he and the B&O had helped to win--battle sites and railroad tracks--as well as the prosperous tourism region he had developed.

In appreciation to **Kathleen Waters Sander, PhD**, for this article. Dr. Sander is a former member of the Garrett-Jacobs Mansion Endowment Fund Board of Directors and the author of the newly published *John W. Garrett and the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad* (Johns Hopkins University Press) <https://jhupbooks.press.jhu.edu/content/john-w-garrett-and-baltimore-and-ohio-railroad> ■

The Wurlitzer Organ and Silent Movies *continued from page 1*

Mansion, the students make frequent use of the cultural offerings in the Mt. Vernon neighborhood. Both choirs perform special concerts throughout the year--such talented and upright kids. EMES even sang for a black-tie gala last year attended by many Baltimore dignitaries.

The EMES choir has a busy schedule outside of Eutaw-Marshburn including yearly services at Brown Memorial Park Avenue Presbyterian Church. Michael Britt is the Minister of Music there. The choir is also assisted by members of the Brown Memorial Chancel Choir while other church members

are extremely active at Eutaw-Marshburn on a daily basis.

According to Michael Britt, the theatre, organ, and silent films are introduced to a newer younger audience. Sounds like they'll be coming back for more at the Mansion. ■



Another Success...

The Spring's Tour/Lecture Series

The Garrett-Jacobs Mansion Board of Trustees offered a lecture, docent-tour series this spring to Garrett enthusiasts and visitors. Each lecture was preceded by a tour that introduced Baltimoreans to the treasure that is this Mansion and to the persons responsible for its creation and maintenance. Visitors learned about the stages of renovation and the personalities of those people: the architects, artisans, and stewards who envisioned and then refurbished this urban jewel including owners, Mary Frick and Robert Garrett, Dr. Henry Barton Jacobs, architects, Stanford While and John Russell Pope; and stewards, the Engineering Society of Baltimore and the Garrett-Jacobs Mansion Endowment Fund.

A lecture by a local expert describing some Baltimore feature or Gilded Age pursuit related to the family or the Mansion followed

the docent tours. The first lecture, "The Story of the Garrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Evergreen" was conducted by Dr. Earle Havens. This Library holds about 35,000 books and documents. Dr. Earle spoke about the care and attention that Thomas Harrison Garrett, brother of Robert Garrett devoted to developing a collection. The collection includes documents signed by all the signers of the Declaration of Independence. In the second lecture, Mary Lucinda Kelly described the "Unfolding 19th Century Baltimore: Mount Vernon Place and its Sculpture." She explained how Baltimore led the nation in the field of public art at a time when Baltimore was the fastest growing city in the country. The third lecture by James Dilts described other mansions being built at the time the Garrett-Jacobs Mansion was undergoing renovations. Leland Stanford, President of the Central Pacific Railroad

for instance, was creating his own mansion in Sacramento, California. Dilts described structures and pursuits of an era when each newly-wealthy industrial leader sought to create the most beautiful, most expensive mansion of all.

Thought you'd like to know Garrett-Jacobs Mansion's Library was filled for each of the three fascinating and informative lectures. ■

Appreciation to Bernadette Low, Ph.D. GJMEF Trustee and Docent for this article.

Docent Tour / Organ Concert

Sunday, July 30th

Docent Tour at 1:00.

Make reservations through

Patti at 410-539-6914 or patti@esb.org.

The Organ Concert is at 2:00.

Both are FREE.

The Groundbreaking on June 1... The Vertical Addition



Left to right: Carl Eastwick, Marco Avila, Richard Magnani, Lewis Kimball, Dale Whitehead



View From Peabody Mews

One fine event... The Heritage Dinner

This year's Heritage Dinner held on **Friday May, 19** is believed to be one of the finest fundraising events at the Engineers Club. Approximately **40 guests** attended this black-tie five-course dinner affair that netted a **\$7,000** profit for the Garrett-Jacobs

Mansion Endowment Fund to be used for an undermined restoration project this year. "The food, wine pairings, and venue are excellent and we look forward to attending every year with a few of our friends," stated Douglas Suess, Treasurer of the GJMEF. ■



Progress Report... The Capital Campaign

Thought you'd like to know the Campaign has been supported by four major grants, 24 non-member individuals and firms, five associate societies, and 66 members and firms. We continue to seek additional contributions to help retire the short-term debt as soon as possible to save on interest costs. With your donations, we expect the entire debt to be retired by July 1, 2022. Remember, your donation, big or small, help us achieve our mission. It is a charitable tax deduction for your tax purposes. **A donation form is at the bottom of this back page.**

Construction is moving forward. Kimball Construction has been hired as the general contractor along with M. Nelson Barnes Company to provide mechanical and plumbing. The new structure adds approximately 6,000 square feet by expansion of the building's footprint to include elevator access to all floors; provide well-appointed ADA-compliant restroom facilities replacing two of the four current restrooms; add permanent emergency egress stairs including a new secondary entrance/exit for the building, and additional meeting space. ■



Aerial View of Vertical Addition



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The Garrett Jacobs Mansion Endowment Fund is a 501(c)(3) organization—donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. A copy of our current financial statement is available upon request by contacting the Garrett Jacobs Mansion Endowment Fund at 11 W. Mt. Vernon Place, Baltimore, MD 21201 or by calling the Fund at 410-539-6914. Documents and information submitted to the State of Maryland under the Maryland Charitable Contributions Act are available from the Office of the Secretary of State for the cost of copying and postage.

DONOR RECOGNITION OPPORTUNITIES AMOUNT

(previous and current donations cumulative)

- \$100,000 & UP- Diamond Level—Stanford White Society
- \$50,000 & Up- Platinum Level—John Russell Pope Society
- \$25,000 and above Gold Level—Marble Hall Society
- \$10,000 and above Silver Level—Tiffany Dome Society
- \$2,500 and above Bronze Level—Heritage Society
- \$1,000 and above Mansion Society Honor Roll

Yes, I want to support the 2017 Capital Campaign with a pledge of \$_____ to be paid over 1 2 3 4 5 years. (please circle)
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Please make checks payable to the Garrett Jacobs Mansion Endowment Fund.