

*Chesapeake
Cancer Alliance
Presents ...*



Blenheim Mansion at Bulle Rock

**Inaugural
*Decorator
Show House***

History of the Blenheim Mansion

Submitted by Barbara Osborn Kreamer, Esq.

Henry Amos Osborn purchased 220 acres and a decayed Federal era dwelling in 1875 and augmented the acreage over a lifetime. When sold in the late 20th century the farm contained 550 acres.

Mr. Osborn operated a canning house on the west side of the B&O Railroad. The Post Road, authorized in the early nineteenth century by the Maryland legislature, also bordered the farm on the east. Well situated to ship cases of produce, he became one of the most successful canners of sweet corn.

Mr. Osborn commissioned noted Harford County architect Jacob Bull to design an exceptional frame mansion. Blenheim was the second mansion on the estate originally deeded to Thomas Smith, a relative of Sarah Churchill, First Duchess of Marlborough, who named his estate Blenheim, after the Churchill estate Blenheim in Oxfordshire. Several years ago Disney studios featured Blenheim as the home of the ingénue in “Tuck Everlasting”.

For almost a century the true “ladies of the house” at Blenheim were Elizabeth and Inez Osborn. Miss Elizabeth and Miss Inez were cultured and industrious women. They maintained the formidable and ornate Victorian manor house, which county tax assessors enumerate at 20 rooms. Their brother, an attorney, died before the age of thirty, and the sisters succeeded to operating the farm both by hiring farmhands and by renting out ground to other farmers.

The sisters opened the Haunted Bridge Tea Room after U.S. Route 40 was constructed in the 1930's. It is unknown who haunted the bridge, a small stile over Gashey's Creek that flowed through Blenheim Farm, but a family cemetery is set far back in the property.

The two maiden sisters held the estate for decades. Their father's monument to the Osborn family, the canning industry, Harford County's fabulous soil and fortunate location has been vacant for years. The color, the style and the creativity that the Chesapeake Cancer Alliance's Inaugural Decorator Show House brings to Blenheim is a fitting tribute to the Osborn sisters and a worthy sponsor of funds for cancer initiatives.

Program for the Evening

Blenheim Mansion House Tour

6:00 ~ 7:00 pm

Welcome Greetings and Presentation

7:00 pm

Preview Party @ Mount Pleasant

7:00 ~ 9:00 pm

Hot & Cold Hors d'oeuvres Carving Stations, Dessert, Coffee, & Tea

7:00 ~ 9:00 pm

Open Bar

7:00 ~ 10:00 pm

Music for the Evening

The Maryland Conservatory
of Music Jazz Ensemble

Special Thanks

Honorary Chairs

Clark Turner

Richard Alter

Contributing Sponsors

Upper Chesapeake Health Foundation Marketing

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We Salute the Blenheim Decorators

Monica Burke

Jan Christensen

Pat Fair

Linda Ferracci

Stephanie Gamble

Richard Greene &

HCC Future Interior Designers

Julia Hentz

Rebecca Johnson

Laura Kimball

Jim Kotula

Marcie Kotula

Amanda McFadden

Andi Miller

Gina Navarro

Mary Poughkeepsie

Betty Reeves

Jim Ryan

Mary Jo Roth

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