



November 2022

Thank you for your continued support in 2022. The role you play in helping preserve and share Mackinac's Heritage is one that is greatly appreciated. This fall we are seeking support for a very significant addition to the collection.

We are very excited to announce the acquisition of two rare paintings that contribute to the story of Michilimackinac. Through a recent auction in London, Mackinac State Historic Parks was able to acquire original paintings, done pre-1790 of Arent Schuyler DePeyster and his wife, Rebecca Blair DePeyster, that had previously been in a private collection.



DePeyster had a military career spanning 1755 to 1794, and was very significant to the British period in the Straits of Mackinac and in Detroit in the late 1700's. Accompanied by his wife, DePeyster arrived in 1774 to serve as commandant of Michilimackinac, serving until 1779 before transferring to Detroit.

DePeyster was admired by the traders of Michilimackinac for his role in keeping peace among the tribes of the upper Great Lakes to ensure that furs continued to come in and be safely shipped out for sale.



These paintings complement the DePeyster Bowl of Michilimackinac, currently on display in the Visitor's Center at Colonial Michilimackinac. The bowl, a gift from the French Canadian and British traders of Michilimackinac to the post's departing commander, symbolically embodies the crossroads that was Michilimackinac and illustrates the fur trade's global connections. The 1779 bowl is a sentimental testimonial to one individual and serves today as testimony to the life and activity of people who came together at the Straits of Mackinac more than two centuries ago.



To be able to add original paintings of Arent Schuyler DePeyster and his wife Rebecca Blair DePeyster is a treasure. In addition to the historical significance of the individuals displayed, this acquisition allows Mackinac State Historic Parks to expand on its rare and exceptional collection of art representing the history of the Straits of Mackinac housed at The Richard and Jane Manoogian Mackinac Art Museum.

Mackinac State Historic Parks purchased the paintings because of their unique connection to the region and the rare opportunity to purchase such works. While you may not have heard of DePeyster before this letter, the role he played shaped one of the critical periods in the Straits of Mackinac. With your help, we look forward to being able to cover the cost of this purchase on behalf of Mackinac State Historic Parks.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Jeb Burns in cursive script.

Jeb Burns, President  
Mackinac Associates

Handwritten signature of Steven C. Brisson in cursive script.

Steven C. Brisson, Director  
Mackinac State Historic Parks

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