

About the Author ~



Judy Anderson worked with the Jeremiah Lee Mansion for 16 years ~ the last nine as the Lee Mansion Curator, for as long as the position existed (2001-2009). She considers it a privilege to have worked with the house.

She began her 16-year tenure at the Marblehead Museum & Historical Society in 1993 as the organization's first full-time year-round staff-person, then administrative director, with an advisory role to the long-standing volunteer committees for the Lee Mansion structure, maintenance, interiors, and collections; as the society staff and operations grew through the 1990s, her focus was on the house and its historical interpretation, and public relations outreach.

She was named Lee Mansion Curator in 2001, the year the position was created. In that capacity, she wrote nearly 20 successful grant funding proposals for and coordinated several major conservation and preservation projects, including a Save America's Treasures grant that was matched by the Getty Foundation for the second of three phases of painted wallpaper conservation (1986-89 & 2005-6; the third not yet begun), and a smaller grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation for paint analysis in the mansion's two front parlors, prior to a Centennial project to reproduce one of the printed wallpapers (planned but not begun). Other grants were for chimney conservation, and conservation of the mansion's rare original window sash.

A social, architectural, and cultural historian, Anderson came to Marblehead in 1992 because of its significant historic heritage and rare early architecture ~ nearly 300 houses pre-dating 1775.

She moved to the east coast after a decade in the museum field in Los Angeles; half of that time was in the American decorative arts department of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. After completing graduate work in art history and museum studies at the University of Southern California (USC), she spent a year in the education department of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston before beginning work at Marblehead's historical society and Jeremiah Lee Mansion.

She has taught a popular community architecture course in Marblehead for over a decade, and has lectured about the Lee Mansion, Marblehead architecture, and early American furniture and decorative arts around the Boston area and elsewhere, including in Salem MA, Newport RI, Charleston SC, and New York City, as well as at Colonial Williamsburg Antiques Forums in 2010 & 2000, and at a 2001 wallpaper history symposium at the Victoria & Albert Museum in London.

Anderson periodically gives walking tours about the town's significant architecture and intriguing social history, and a website for Marblehead architecture preservation and education is in development.

She lives in Marblehead with her husband Tom, in a house first built in 1719 toward the end of the Marblehead peninsula, in the town's earliest area of settlement.



Her two grown sons live in California. One is a social worker, the other a civil engineer who is doing volunteer engineering design work in developing countries, particularly water projects.