



The Beauregard-Keyes House

SANDY PELPHREY | COLUMNIST



My recent trip to New Orleans for my latest doll convention also stirred up a new exciting find. I just had to write about it hoping you would all find it as fascinating as I did.

Our trip, as I reported to you last time, was educational as well as just fun. I enjoyed "Nawlins" as a tourist and as a doll collector. I tried to give you a few highlights of the trip but wanted to save this particular adventure for a story of its very own.

The Beauregard-Keyes House was recommended by the UFDC as a place a doll collector visiting the city would not want to miss. Our tour there proved this to be very true in my opinion. The Beauregard-Keyes House is located on 1113 Chartres Street in New Orleans and is one of the most romantic and fascinating old houses in the city. Built by Joseph Le Carpentier in 1826, it came into the ownership, seven years later, of John A. Merle, the consul of Switzerland. Old plans show that a formal garden was constructed about that time.

Through the years of its checkered history, the house had many owners and in 1865, when General Pierre Gustave Toutant Beauregard, noted Confederate leader who hailed from Louisiana returned to New Orleans, he lodged there for eighteen months.

The house sank into disrepair and by 1925 changed hands and its owner announced his intention to demolish it and erect a macaroni factory. How sad that would have been.

The fact that General Beauregard had once lived in the house aroused the interest of a group of patriotic ladies who raised funds and saved the house.

In 1944, Frances Parkinson Keyes, well known novelist, came to Louisiana, rented the house and eventually took it over from the ladies group and started restoring it. The formal garden was also reconstructed at this time. Mrs. Keyes made the house her winter home for a quarter of a century and wrote several of her books here, among them *Dinner at Antoine's*, *The Chess Players*, and *Blue Camellia*. Many of the featured pieces in the home today belonged to the General and his family.

As I entered the home and took a step back in time I was in awe of the paintings of many of the family members hanging on the tall serene walls. A very calm, peaceful feeling followed me as I

toured the living room with an original large doll house to gaze into and wondered how many little hands played with the massive toy and what laughter would have come from the room in so many years gone by.

The curator took his time to go into great detail about original furniture, paintings, books, and yes dolls! There are many dolls that belonged to the last owner Frances Parkinson Keyes. She was an avid doll collector and each room had at least a sampling if not shelves full of them. One such doll was a one of a kind Queen of England replica, one a Columbia doll, many brus, and porcelains of all types. A wonderful display of history, an author's past, and dolls that she collected. What a treasure to top off our trip.

As we entered the back of the house and viewed the gorgeous gardens we were able to step into the small library where Mrs. Keyes wrote several of her books. There is a desk set up with some of her original manuscript for you to see. On one side of the room is a warm, inviting fire place surrounded by books galore and on the opposite side were French doors opening onto the gardens with her desk in between. It was enough to give one chills feeling so much history, romance, and art all in one small room. What a great experience, I loved it as did my fellow doll collectors that traveled with me that day.

Finally, for those not too familiar with Frances Parkinson Keyes work I would like to name just a few of her better known books, *The Old Grey Homestead*, *Letters From a Senator's Wife*, *All That Glitters*, *Dinner at Antoine's*, *The Chess Players*, and *The Heritage*, the very last novel Mrs. Keyes completed before her death in 1968.

The Beauregard-Keyes House since Mrs. Keyes' death has been maintained by the Keyes Foundation. I recommend a visit to this beautiful home for visitors of New Orleans an enriching experience for doll collectors and history buffs alike.

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Puppy Tails

MIALIE T. SZYMANSKI | CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

*As the moon goes to bed, the sun comes up
And here we meet a sleepy pup,
Who was walking through G-ville one bright sunny day,
Then saw The Villager and decided to stay.*

The floppy-eared puppy's round nose poked out of the crack made by the slightly open office door, just enough that he could catch a whiff of the wind floating on the other side of that door. But it wasn't the warm wafts that Doodle Dog had been enjoying the past several months – it had quite a bit of a nip to it! Brrrrrr! Doodle Dog immediately poked his nose back into the office, safe and warm from the unexpectedly brisk breeze.

Doodle Dog tucked his nose under his blanket and pretended he was somewhere very warm. But that somewhere he was imagining was right outside. At least it HAD been until...well, today apparently! Within a few moments his nose wasn't all that cold anymore, but that's because the chill had left his nose and worked its way past his ears, over his back, down his toes and up them again, and had now settled in the tip of his tail. He shook it very fast from one side to the next trying to help the frosty feeling keep shaking, right on out the end of his tail.

Summer couldn't be over! It just couldn't! Doodle Dog had kept so busy he must not have noticed that summer had gone right on by. If summer was over and this was now fall that meant winter was right around the corner, and that meant lots of snow and days stuck inside. As much as Doodle Dog loves each season



Notes from the vineyard

AMANDA CONKOL | COLUMNIST

I mentioned last week how much I love Fall and apple season so I really enjoyed researching this week's article – apple desserts paired with wine! I picked out four of my favorite apple desserts, met up with the owners of Ohio's newest winery – Sharon James Cellars in Newbury and started sampling.

The first dessert we tried was an apple fritter. The glaze over the fritter was very sweet which meant we quickly ruled out any dry wines. (As a side note it is very difficult to pair any sweet dessert with a dry wine so keep that in mind in your future pairings). We started with some fruit wines; Cranberry, Raspberry but both seemed to overpower the fritter. We finally sampled our Afterglow, a sweet Concord wine, and found that it wasn't overpowering and added a good balance to the fritter.

Next we moved onto the apple bearclaws. The bearclaws were covered in a sugar to add some sweetness so even though we sampled some dry wines with this dessert we could not come up with a good match. However we moved onto the Defiance, a sweet wine with a crisp overtone, from Sharon James Cellars. The combination of the two was outstanding!

We switched back and forth between the final two desserts – a Dutch apple pie and an apple pudding cake. My favorite non-chocolate dessert is Dutch apple pie so picking a wine that doesn't lose the flavors from the pie is always a challenge for me. While the crust isn't too sweet, the cinnamon filling adds a unique twist to pairing an apple dessert with wine. After much sampling and just as much eating we agreed that a spicy Gewürztraminer brought out a nutty flavor in the pie which was quite a surprise.

Finally we ended the evening with the apple pudding cake. This moist cake with chunks of apple paired well with almost any wine we put against it. We sampled Cranberry, Raspberry, Riesling, Sangiovese and many more. We couldn't seem to find a wine that didn't match with this dessert. So if you are looking for something to bring to a Fall wine tasting, I highly recommend a good apple pudding cake!

Amanda is the Co-Owner of Candlelight Winery located at 11325 Center Road, Garrettsville. For more information on other winery topics, please visit www.candlelightwinery.com



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for its own special reasons, winter's reasons usually meant days curled up in a cozy corner surrounded by books. As much as Doodle Dog loves curling up by his buddies the dust bunnies, and the blankets and the books for each of their own special reasons, he wasn't ready to give up his long, meandering walks just yet. No more adventures outside already? Well that just wouldn't do!

Doodle Dog grabbed his favorite scarf and wrapped the comfy blue fabric around his neck, making sure the fuzzy front part covered his nose. He may not want to accept that the weather is getting colder, but that doesn't change the fact that it very much apparently is. And the floppy-eared puppy wasn't taking any chances! The office door opened again, more than slightly this time, and Doodle Dog poked his nose and then his neck and then the rest of him out into the not-that-warm-anymore outside. It wasn't TOO bad out and Doodle Dog decided to make the best of it and he very much intended to enjoy this meandering walk just as much as the rest.

As Doodle Dog made his way down the street toward his favorite meadow, he heard quite the commotion above him. There, just overhead, were long black wires stringing themselves between all the tall wooden poles around town. Wires went from one pole and then the next pole and then the next, but that's not what was causing the commotion. Balancing on each wire so that it appeared the wires were not wires but actually strings made of tiny creatures, were hundreds of little birds chirping away. Doodle Dog looked up as far as his bundled neck would let him and watched as the birds gathered in their groups and readied to fly away somewhere warmer for the winter. Doodle Dog knew they'd be back in the springtime so he wagged his tail and wished them a safe flight. They seemed very excited for their trip and Doodle Dog could hear them chirping behind him as he continued on to the meadow.

Not too far along his way, the floppy-eared puppy could see the edge of the trees lining the meadow and quickened his steps so he could spend as much time there as possible before it would be time to follow his paw prints back home. Doodle Dog knew many of his woodland friends were already home in the meadow and there, right under one of the trees, were a pair of squirrels chattering away as they busily worked gathering acorns to stow away in their hidey-holes. The floppy-eared puppy gently nudged a few stray acorns in their direction before continuing on to the center of the meadow.

Within a few moments, Doodle Dog had reached his very favorite spot in the meadow, right in the middle of the grassy knoll. From there he could see the flocks of chirping birds flying overhead and the chattering squirrels scurrying to prepare for the time that meant lots of snow and days stuck inside, curled up in a cozy corner of the tree. He could see the edge of the neighbor's garden where a fat little brown bunny munched a leaf of lettuce leftover from the season's harvest, and he could see a tiny little stem of a flower with a beautiful bud sticking straight out of a pile of colorful leaves that had already fallen. The stubborn bloom apparently didn't believe it was fall either. And right there beside him on the grassy knoll, the floppy-eared puppy could see another flower stem with a bright green leaf. He bent down to look closer at the leaf, as close as he could possibly get without puffing it over with his breath, and there, swaying in the wind, was a little ladybug holding on to the leaf, a tiny red spot with even tinier black dots amid all that green. As Doodle Dog watched, the ladybug spread its teeny wings and wafted over on the wind to a comfy cozy corner of the meadow where the sun still shined, a safe place to tuck into for the next season.

If all the other creatures were getting ready for the arriving autumn, he probably should too, so the floppy-eared puppy made his way home to make sure his favorite books and snacks and blankets and cozy corners were right where they should be. And his favorite scarf too. After all, he would need it for his occasional meandering winter walks!

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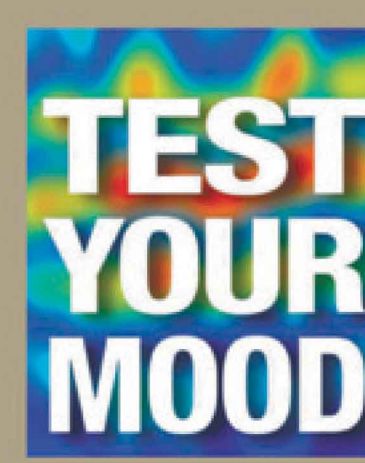
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Community members are welcome at the National Depression Screening Day at Kent State University

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- Free & anonymous; answer a questionnaire and talk with a professional.
- Participate online at www.mentalhealthscreening.org/screening/kent.
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Oct. 7-13 is Mental Illness Awareness Week.
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