

Are You Being Served?

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE HEARTH HOUSE MUSEUM'S VICTORIAN DINNER EVENT



BY STEVEN CHAN | PHOTOGRAPHY BY LUCKI SCHOTZ

The mood was decorous for 1921, and the celebration was in honor of Benjamin and Gladys Chase, who recently completed their month-long honeymoon aboard the White Star Line, ship *Megantic*. The great vessel had escorted the couple from New York to the West Indies, the Panama Canal, and South America—as it has many others of the affluent class.

The Roaring 20's, seems to have caused a raucous in most metropolitan areas, yet it hasn't made its way to the country where the Hearthside is located; the home is gracious, but a working farm, a place which continues to follow the customs and protocol of proper Victorian life.

In welcoming the newlyweds back to Rhode Island, 20-odd guests gathered at the mansion on Great Road, in Lincoln, Rhode Island, and began the enchanted evening with a champagne toast while enjoying a platter of assorted cheese and crackers. Dressed in formal attire, guests wandered and explored



memorabilia from the White Star Line, including photos, films, and accessories of the period.

In due time dinner was called and the group advanced to the dining room which was set by custom; all courtesies were paid to guests by an attentive staff, who worked tirelessly throughout the evening.

Once seated at designated assignments, the shutters closed, and the candelabras illuminated the room in concert with

bountiful flower arrangements—adding brilliant color and elegance to the table. Servers hastily brought bottles of choice wines to the celebrants for pairing with select dishes and the evening's main event began.

The five-course dinner menu included: Consommé Madrilene, Filet of Sole Stuffed with Scallop Mousse and Tomato Crème, Salade White Star, Châteaubriand with Sauce Madeira, served with Bouquetiere de Legumes, and Pommes Duchess, and finished with a dessert course of Tarte aux Fruits.

The delicious meal was prepared by Executive Chef, John Scanlon, with the assistance of Chefs Bruce Tillinghast, Deb Norman, and Chief Justice (retired) Frank J. Williams. Service was provided by a house full of volunteers who enhanced the pleasure of the evening by instilling an authentic genre to the dinner party, and who could not have been more accommodating.

A cordial and genial event, accompanied by a remarkably delicious banquet, made it a most memorable experience, and one highly recommended. ★