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## AROUND THE SQUARE

FEBRUARY 2010

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### *Mary... or Margaret?*

The Society is pleased to be one of several organizations loaning collection items to the LaSalle Art Museum's upcoming exhibition, *Charles Willson Peale and His Family at Belfield*. In addition to two land deeds, the portrait to the right will be available for viewing March 1—April 3, 2010 at the LaSalle Art Museum. You can find out more by visiting [www.LaSalle.edu/museum](http://www.LaSalle.edu/museum).



Donated to the Society in 1912 by Grace Paterson Turnbull and identified by her as her g-g-g-grandmother Mary Morris Jones, the unsigned and undated painting was initially believed to be the work of Charles Willson Peale. By the mid 1920s further research suggested James Peale, brother to Charles, is the likely creator.

In the course of preparing for this e-circular, Society curator Elizabeth Solomon and Director Laura E. Beardsley rediscovered an ongoing quest undertaken by various Society staff over the years to positively identify the portrait's lovely sitter. A closer look at the dates involved strongly suggests this is not Mrs. Jones. The painting has been dated to c. 1815 but Mrs. Jones, who was born in 1740, likely died in 1800. While posthumous portraits are not uncommon, the carefully rendered clothing and hair suggest a young, stylish subject active in the period around 1800. Perhaps it is Mrs. Jones' step-daughter in law, Margaret Moore Jones?

In addition to the presumed Mrs. Jones, the Society received three other family portraits from Mrs. Turnbull. They include the presumed family patriarch Colonel Blaithwaite Jones and his son, Captain Gibbs Jones. We hope that through further genealogical research we will finally have an answer to the question: Mary or Margaret? Stay tuned!

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### *What's For Dinner? Food and Cooking in Germantown.*

Our temporary exhibition exploring changes in American food culture over the centuries, with special emphasis on Germantown's unique connection to food and foodways, will continue through March 26, 2010. This exhibit is presented in conjunction with Historic Germantown's "Germantown Works" Project, funded by the Pew Center for Arts and Heritage through the Heritage Philadelphia Program. Visit our website for hours; members admitted free of charge!

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Questions or comments? E-mail us at [info@germantownhistory.org](mailto:info@germantownhistory.org) or call 215-844-1683.