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The Vanderbilts: Beyond the House

Raleigh, N.C. — Biltmore Estate in Asheville is America’s largest private residence, but it was simply “home” to George and Edith Vanderbilt. Venture beyond the magnificent estate to learn about the private lives of one of North Carolina’s most influential families. Discover more when Ann Ashley, Vice President of The Biltmore Company, presents **Philanthropic Families: The Vanderbilts** on **Tuesday, Sept. 20, at 7 p.m.** at the **N.C. Museum of History** in Raleigh. This is the first talk in the museum’s **Notable North Carolina Lecture Series** that explores the people, places and events that have shaped the Tar Heel State.

The lecture costs \$8 plus tax per person and \$5 plus tax for Associates/museum members. Seats are filling up for the program, so **register** at NCMOH-programs.com. For information, call 919-807-7873.

The Vanderbilt legacy brought more to North Carolina than the iconic grandeur of Biltmore House. Ashley will share how the Vanderbilts’ philanthropy and passion for the state’s land and people have influenced its cultural and physical landscape. The Vanderbilt family history includes a legacy of significant, yet often quiet, philanthropy from arts to education to environmental preservation. Come hear about the Vanderbilts’ contributions and the efforts today made by the Vanderbilt-Cecil family to continue the family mission of preserving this National Historic Landmark.

Following the presentation, signed copies of the book *Lady on the Hill: How Biltmore Estate Became an American Icon* will be available for purchase. The book details William A. V. Cecil’s 35-year effort to turn the Biltmore Estate into one of the world’s most successful privately preserved historic sites. Taste samples from the Biltmore Estate Wine Company.

The series is sponsored, in part, by the *Raleigh News & Observer*, with additional support from the Museum of History Foundation and the Museum of History Associates.

For information about the N.C. Museum of History, a Smithsonian-affiliated museum, call [919-807-7900](tel:919-807-7900) or access ncmuseumofhistory.org or follow on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Google+ or YouTube.

IMAGE Dropbox link, caption and credit

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/r9tyyji24xmu6sc/Biltmore%20Estate.jpg?dl=0>

File Biltmore Estate: Biltmore Estate. Ann Ashley, Vice President of The Biltmore Company, will present **Philanthropic Families: The Vanderbilts** on Tuesday, Sept. 20, at 7 p.m. at the N.C. Museum of History in Raleigh. **Image credit:** The Biltmore Company

About the N.C. Museum of History

The N.C. Museum of History is located at 5 E. Edenton Street in downtown Raleigh. Hours are Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. The museum collects and preserves artifacts of North Carolina history and educates the public on the history of the state and the nation through exhibits and educational programs. Each year more than 300,000 people visit the museum to see some of the 150,000 artifacts in the museum collection. The Museum of History, within the Division of State History Museums, is part of the N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

About the N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources

The N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (NCDNCR) is the state agency with a vision to be the leader in using the state's natural and cultural resources to build the social, cultural, educational and economic future of North Carolina. Led by Secretary Susan Kluttz, NCDNCR's mission is to improve the quality of life in our state by creating opportunities to experience excellence in the arts, history, libraries and nature in North Carolina by stimulating learning, inspiring creativity, preserving the state's history, conserving the state's natural heritage, encouraging recreation and cultural tourism, and promoting economic development.

NCDNCR includes 27 historic sites, seven history museums, two art museums, two science museums, three aquariums and Jennette's Pier, 39 state parks and recreation areas, the N.C. Zoo, the nation's first state-supported Symphony Orchestra, the State Library, the State Archives, the N.C. Arts Council, State Preservation Office and the Office of State Archaeology, along with the Division of Land and Water Stewardship. For more information, please call 919-807-7300 or visit www.ncdcr.gov.

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