

# SAM BELL MAXEY HOUSE

*state historic site*

## ACTIVITY GUIDE



### INTRODUCTION

Samuel Bell Maxey lived from 1825 to 1895 and had many jobs during his life. He was a lawyer, an Army officer, a Confederate General during the **Civil War** and a United States **senator**. He was a devoted husband to his wife, Marilda. He was a loving father to their adopted daughter, Dora Rowell Maxey, and their great-nephew, Sam Long.

Mr. Maxey served as a U.S. senator from 1874 to 1886 and lived part of each year in Washington D.C. He missed his family while he was away. He wrote many letters to them about life at the **Capitol**. They wrote to him about things happening at home. Letters were the main method of **communication** before the invention of the telephone, email and texting.

The Maxey House is an example of the **High Victorian Italianate** style of **architecture**, or building design. It was a popular style for homes over 100 years ago. It has very tall windows, a front porch with fancy columns and many other decorations on the outside of the building. Mr. Maxey, Mrs. Maxey and Dora moved into their new home in December 1868. Sam Long spent a lot of time at the Maxey House as a little boy and lived there permanently after his mother died in 1883. Many **extended family** members, like nieces and grandchildren, also lived with the Maxeys at different times over the years.

## VOCABULARY WORDS

Look at the words and their definitions below. They are also written in bold letters in the Introduction.

**architecture**—the art and science of designing buildings.

**Capitol**—the building where the Congress of the United States meets.

**Civil War**—the war fought in the United States from 1861 to 1865 between northern (Union) and southern (Confederate) states. The Confederate states wanted to become a separate nation.

**communication**—sharing thoughts or information by speech, signals, writing or actions.

**extended family**—a family group made up of more than parents and children; it can include grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins.

**High Victorian Italianate**—a style of home that looks like an Italian palace. These buildings are usually tall and symmetrical. They have tall, thin windows and double doors topped with arches. They can also have other decorations like columns and brackets.

**Senator**—a member of the upper house of the United States Congress. Two members are elected from each state for a six-year term.

## WORD FIND

Find the words in the list below. (Hint: Words can also be written backwards.)

Capitol  
letters

Civil War  
Marilda

Dora  
Maxey

family  
Sam

general  
Sallie Lee

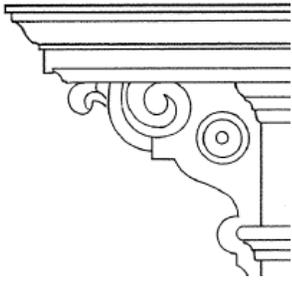
home  
senator

lawyer

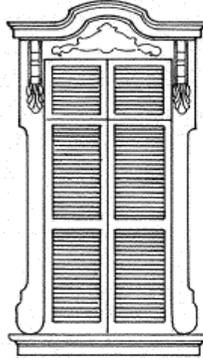
o a s s i w l y g  
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r a w l i v i c l  
o m r i w r p l e  
t i m e e o a e t  
a l a l n w c m t  
n y m e y e o o e  
e a h e l y g h r  
s d r m a x e y s

## TAKE A CLOSER LOOK

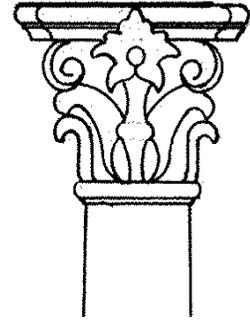
Look at these drawings of different details from the Maxey House. Can you find them on the building?



Bracket



Window



Column

What other decorations do you see on the outside of the house? Draw your favorite in the space below.



## IN YOUR OWN WORDS

Fill in the blanks below with your thoughts and feelings about your family.

My family includes: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

These are activities we like to do together: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

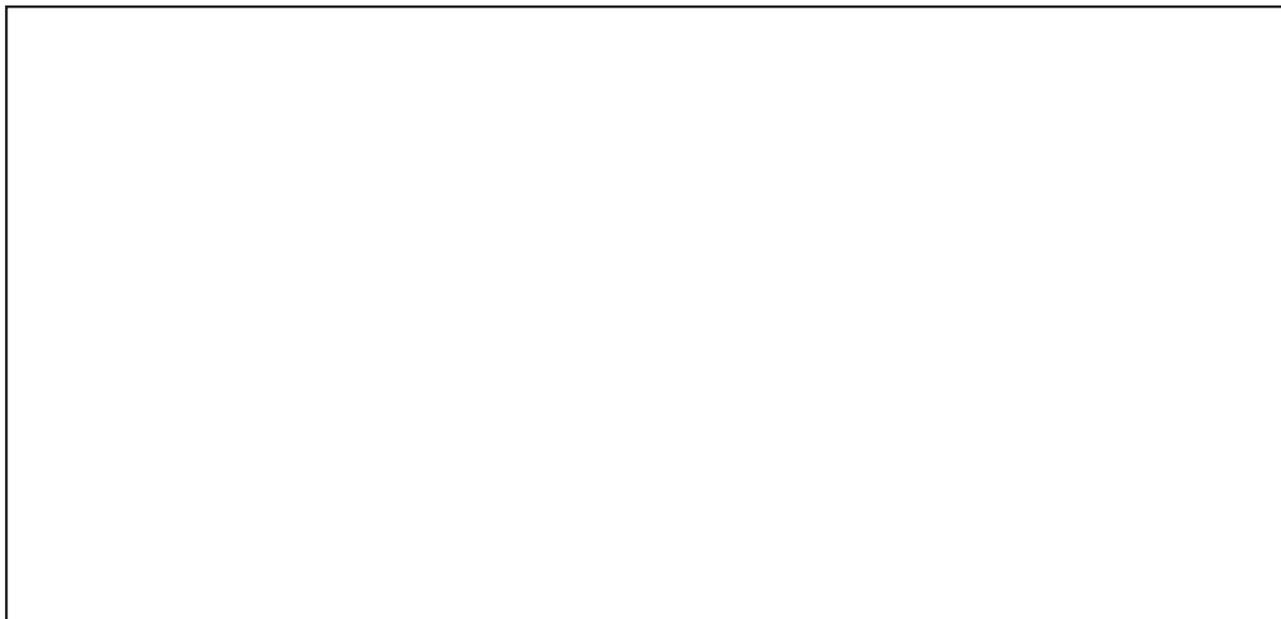
Our family celebrations include: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## SENDING A LETTER HOME

Writing was the most important form of communication for the Maxey family. They could send long letters, short notes or postcards to share important events and news with others.

Imagine that you are sending someone a postcard about your visit to the Sam Bell Maxey House. Draw a picture of something that you want to remember about the house on the front of your postcard.



Write a short note to a friend or relative about what you have seen in the space below. Remember to address your postcard, too!

<p>Dear _____,</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<div data-bbox="1295 1199 1414 1289" style="border: 1px solid black; width: 73px; height: 43px; margin: 0 auto;"></div> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
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