



*THE WHITE HOUSE
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION*

Newly Digitized Collection from Former White House Executive Pastry Chef Largest in The White House History Digital Archives

December 12, 2025 (Washington, D.C.) — The White House Historical Association’s [White House History Digital Archives](#) today released more than 1,000 new images and documents from the private collection of former White House Executive Pastry Chef Roland Mesnier, making them accessible to the public for the first time.

Known for his iconic annual White House gingerbread houses and one-of-a-kind desserts, the new archive collection contains hundreds of images of Mesnier’s edible creations. The collection also features menus and programs from White House events, Mesnier’s sketches of his desserts, and photographs offering a behind-the-scenes look at the working White House.

This is the second personal collection that has been digitized by the Association, the first being former White House Executive Chef Henry Haller. With each new asset, the Association elevates its mission to make White House history more accessible to all. The Association continues to actively digitize collections to grow its archival records.

“This collection’s variety of never-before-seen photographs, documents, and other materials speak not only to Mesnier’s remarkable career, but also further demonstrate the critical role that staff play behind-the-scenes at the White House,” said Chief Education Officer Dr. Matthew Costello. “Together, this collection offers a rare glimpse into the people, processes, and moments that help shape everyday life at the Executive Mansion.”

Roland Mesnier served as the White House Executive Pastry Chef from 1980 to 2004. In 1958 at the age of 14, he began his career as an apprentice at the Patisserie Maurivard in Besançon, France. His career led him to prestigious pastry kitchens across the globe, including the Savoy in London, the Hamilton Princess Hotel & Beach Club in Bermuda, and the Omni Homestead Resort in Hot Springs, Va. In December 1979, he interviewed with First Lady Rosalynn Carter for the pastry chef position at the White House. This began his accomplished White House career that would span twenty-four years and five presidencies.

The full archive collection can be viewed at whitehousehistory.org/mesnier-collection.

To learn more about the White House Historical Association, visit whitehousehistory.org.

For more information, please contact press@whha.org.

About The White House Historical Association

First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy envisioned a restored White House that conveyed a sense of history through its decorative and fine arts. She sought to inspire Americans, especially children, to explore and engage with American history and its presidents. In 1961, the nonprofit, nonpartisan White House Historical Association was established to support her vision to preserve and share the Executive Mansion's legacy for generations to come. Supported entirely by private resources, the Association's mission is to assist in the preservation of the state and public rooms, fund acquisitions for the White House permanent collection, and educate the public on the history of the White House. Since its founding, the Association has given more than \$115 million to the White House in fulfillment of its mission. To learn more about the White House Historical Association, please visit WhiteHouseHistory.org.

###