

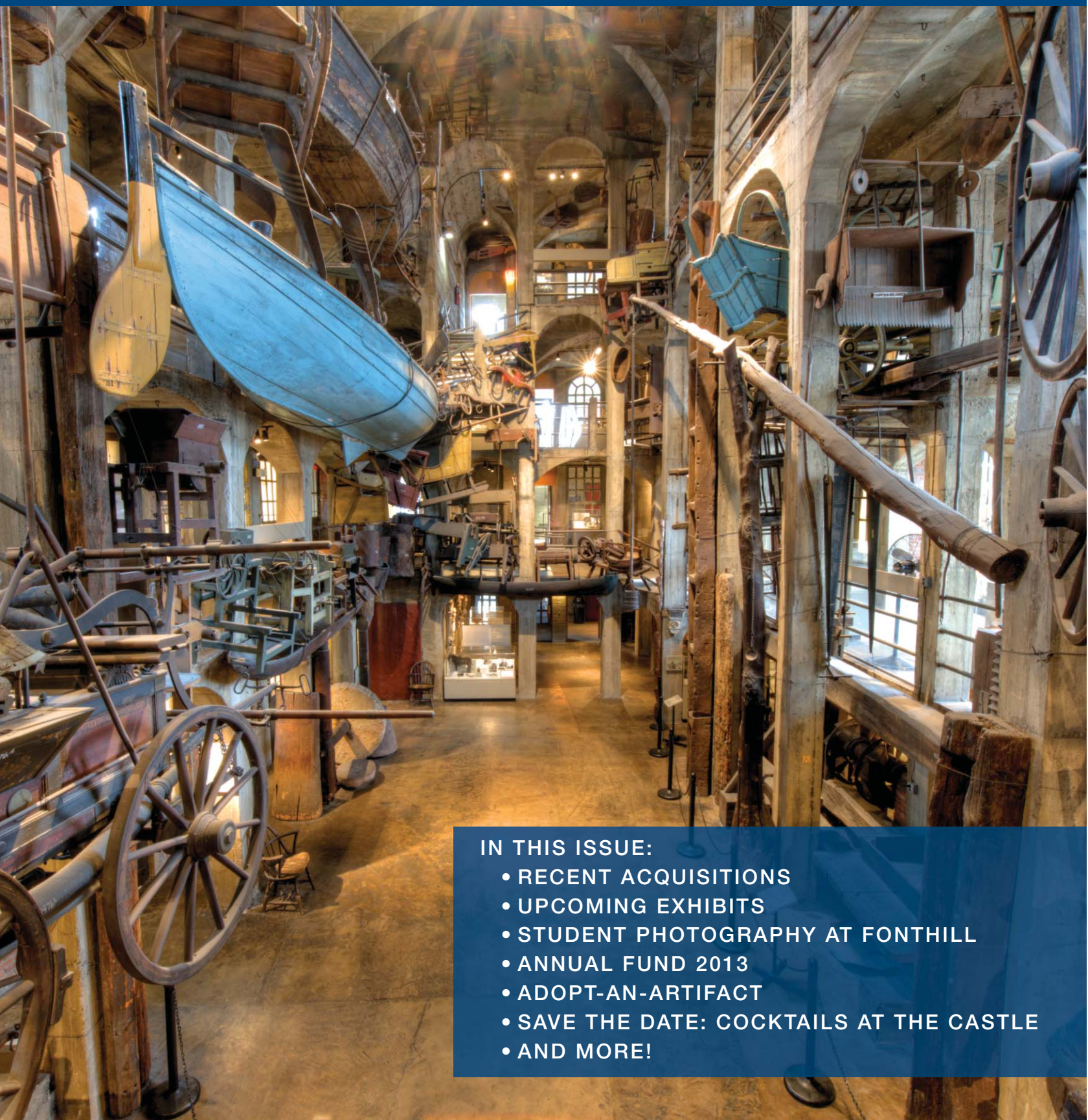


MERCER MUSEUM & FONTHILL CASTLE

Summer-Fall 2014

Newsletter of the Bucks County Historical Society

Vol. 28 Number 2



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- AND MORE!



Members' Reception

Members came out to enjoy the opening of the Mercer Museum's newest exhibit, *America's Road: The Journey of*

Route 66. Guests chowed down on "road food" including sliders, milkshakes and fries.



Tom Schwabe (right) remembers his cousin, Route 66 songwriter, Bobby Troup. With Cory Amsler, Mercer Museum Vice President of Collections & Interpretation.



Exhibit sponsor, Fred Beans Family of Dealerships. From left to right: Barbara Beans, Beth Beans Gilbert and Fred Beans.



Exhibit sponsor, Glenmede, in the Great Hall. From left to right: Matt Cross, Karl Murray, Mike Schiff, Jim Harris and Joe Stole.



Young guests enjoy the "road" food.



Tom Thomas and Yvonne Marlier admire the Oldsmobile "woodie."

Front Cover: Photo of the Mercer Museum's Central Court by amateur photographer, Brian Kutner. Brian uses the process of tone mapping to enhance the detail in a digital image.

And the Mercer Legacy Sweepstakes Winner is...

More than 300 guests gathered at Fonthill Castle on April 27th to enjoy a Cinco de Mayo themed party and await the announcement of the 2014 Mercer Legacy Sweepstakes grand prize winner. Robert Graham was the grand prize winner, selecting the \$20,000. "It was an unbelievable feeling when I heard my name and I had to double check to make sure I won," said Robert. The second prize winner was Tim German, who received a \$1,000 gift card provided



Bill Maeglin, BCHS Board Chair; 2 friends of winner, Robert Graham (red shirt), another friend of winner, Jack Thompson and Dennis Kelly (of Thompson BMW).

by Monument Bank. The third prize, two tickets to the Mercer Museum's popular Cocktails at the Castle event, went to Jennifer Fest. Now in its 29th year, the key to the event's recent high selling totals is the amazing work and dedication of the Mercer Rainmakers Committee. "We believe in the mission and the valuable work these remarkable, National Historic Landmark sites provide for our community," stated Jack Skudris, Committee Chair. "It makes the sale easy when you let folks know the net proceeds support the education programs, conservation projects and community services of the Mercer Museum and Fonthill Castle." Our sponsors included: Thompson BMW and Monument Bank.

New this year, were Mercer Amigos, sponsors who provided valuable support to cover costs associated with the drawing party celebration. Mercer Amigos included:

- A Friend of Mercer Museum and Library & Fonthill Castle
- Bucks Mont Party Rental
- EisnerAmper, LLP
- Memorable Affairs Catering
- Mom's Flower Shoppe
- Port a Bowl of Pipersville

Membership Matters

Our members enable the Mercer Museum and Library & Fonthill Castle to maximize the educational value and public accessibility of our renowned collections. Members support enriching and engaging exhibitions, public programs, education services for schoolchildren, and our important conservation work. In appreciation, members receive expanded access to our outstanding collections, as well as our cultural enrichment events and activities. Our mission relies on the commitment of our members, and we value the special connection we share. Recently, we asked some of our members to tell us why their membership matters...

As a family of four, the membership to the Mercer Museum is invaluable. Coming to the opening reception for new exhibits is one of our favorite outings. It's an exciting way to introduce our children to new culture. With guest passes, we also love bringing family and friends. We enjoy exploring the museum with our children and they love spending time in Henry Mercer's Library. It's a plus that many exhibitions are a hands-on experience.

—The Kelter Family, New Hope, PA, Members since 2011

Making All That We Do Possible



Nancy Andal accepts her Volunteer Service Award from BCHS Executive Director, Doug Dolan.

They provide countless hours of invaluable work. They join because they know it makes a difference. They contribute because they believe in our cause, in what we are doing and in our commitment to history. These extraordinary people are our volunteers, members, donors and sponsors, and everything we achieve is made possible because of their support.

On June 5th, more than 150 BCHS supporters gathered at the Mercer Museum to receive our heartfelt thanks and appreciation for their 2013 philanthropy and volunteerism. Volunteers recognized for their dedicated hours of service included:

INKWELL- 1,000 hours

- Nancy Andal
- Grover Friend

ANTELOPE- 500 hours

- Rich Duvall
- Linda Hodgdon
- Vance Koehler
- William Maeglin
- William Schutt
- Jacquelyn Swallow
- George Wozar

PENN'S TREE- 250 hours

- Lisa Crawford
- Jim Kreuger
- Lisa Payne-Chirico
- Patricia Pepe
- Susan Sciacca
- Alina Wolf

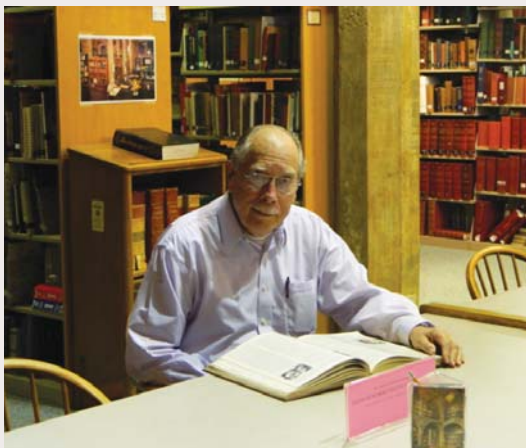
The 2013 donor list was presented, highlighting the generosity of our supporters for a variety of programs, projects and events. The list will be proudly displayed in the Mercer Museum's Great Hall through 2015. To view the donor list, please visit our website www.mercermuseum.org. ■

A Planned Giving Testimonial/ Appreciating the Value of Research

It has been over 45 years now that I have been researching the family lineage of three brothers who arrived in Philadelphia from Germany in 1749 and settled in Bucks County. Throughout these years, the Mercer Library has been the main source, among many others, of information. At first there was little historic information available about individuals, but then, thanks to the many conscientious volunteers and librarians, early church, cemetery, obituary, marriage and other records were documented and published. Today, the Library in the Mercer Museum is a county, if not statewide, treasure of immense value to researchers. Recently, my years of research came together in the publication of my 770-page "Lear Lehr History" book. In this effort, the Library and the support of their staff have been so valuable to me that I sought a way in my estate plans to express my gratitude. Making the library the beneficiary of my IRA fit right in to my estate plans. Of late, the principal is growing faster than my required distributions, so I feel confident that this will be a nice legacy of my appreciation.

John W. Lear
March 31, 2014

John recently joined our *Plus Ultra Society*, which recognizes individuals who plan for the future of the Mercer Museum and Library & Fonthill Castle by including the Bucks County Historical Society (BCHS) in their estate plans. To inform us of a planned gift or to learn more about planned giving opportunities, please contact Laura Biersmith, Vice President of Development at 215-345-0210 ext. 129/ lbiersmith@mercermuseum.org. ■



John W. Lear in the Library.

Save the Date: Cocktails at the Castle

On Friday, October 10, join us as the Mercer Museum hosts our 3rd annual *Cocktails at the Castle: A Savory Exploration to Benefit the Mercer Museum*. Dine on our area's finest cuisine as you explore our six-story castle and experience the museum's collection in a whole new way. You'll enjoy a variety of musical entertainment, while selecting wonderful and unique Silent Auction items to bid on using Bidpal's automated technology. Take part in our special Mission Appeal to support our 2015 Firefighting Exhibition. Save the Date and be a part of this special night...Your attendance makes a tremendous difference and helps to support our education programs, conservation efforts and community services! Look for your invitation this summer. For information, call Eileen Shapiro 215-345-0210, ext. 132.



Plus Ultra Society Members Go Behind the Scenes



How do we prepare our changing exhibitions? How many movable walls are there in the gallery spaces? Is the shipping and receiving area capable of accommodating a car? These are just some of the questions our *Plus Ultra Society* members posed to Cory Amsler, Vice President of Collections and Interpretation, when he led the group on a behind-the-scenes tour. The event, held March 13th, recognized new members to this special group and included a unique look at the Mercer Museum's exhibition spaces. Guests enjoyed hearing about the preparations for the *Playing Together: Games and Step Right Up!* exhibits, which opened in January. A surprise presentation featuring a sideshow performer from the Philadelphia School of Circus Arts added a special touch to the evening.

"*Plus Ultra*," Latin meaning "more beyond," became Henry Mercer's own motto during his lifetime. *Plus Ultra Society* members provide vital support, through their planned giving, to ensure future generations experience the wonder of Mercer's legacy. New *Plus Ultra Society* members recognized at the event included:

- John & Elizabeth Augenblick
- Melissa V. Bond, Attorney
- Doris Hart Carr
- Bill & Christie Maeglin
- Richard B. Millham
- Jim & Kathy Morrison
- Kathleen A. Schea

Needlework Sampler, Toys, Highlight Recent Acquisitions

Newsletter readers who visited our 2012 exhibit, *Stitches in Time*, know that the Mercer Museum holds an extensive collection of needlework samplers – often with Bucks County associations. That collection continues to grow. In April, the museum acquired a sampler worked in 1824 by twelve-year-old Eliza Weldon of Morrisville, Bucks County. Brought to the museum's attention by Historical Society member, David B. Long, the item's purchase was made possible with funds provided by Long and by the Historical Society's Collections Committee.

The Weldon family resided in Morrisville in the 1820s – a fact borne out by tax records from the era. Eliza's father, Hugh Weldon, is listed as a sawyer in the tax lists, living with his family on a half acre lot in Morrisville. In 1820, he was assessed for this lot, his occupation, and two cows. Hugh apparently died in 1833 or 1834, since by the latter year the tax list references only the "Hugh Weldon Estate." The family disappears from the Morrisville tax lists in 1836.

Into her sampler, young Eliza Weldon worked the name of her teacher – "E. Burton" – as well as her own name. It was not uncommon for girls learning the needle arts to credit their instructor in their completed works. Records in the Bucks County Archives further identify Eliza's teacher as Eliza Burton, who filed bills to the county for teaching poor children from 1823 through 1827 in Morrisville. In fact, the Weldon's themselves apparently could not afford to pay tuition for their own children. Appearing on "Miss Burton's" bills are the names of several Weldon children – Eliza's brothers and sisters – in addition to Eliza herself.

Unfortunately, the exact location of the school attended by the Weldon children is not identified in any of these so-called "poor bills." It is referenced simply as "the school of Eliza Burton," a private establishment that would have been supported by families in

the neighborhood and that offered a general curriculum typical of the era. Burton, for example, billed the county for spelling books and English readers – as well as paper for her charges. For those who could afford it, she invoiced each family for tuition (which paid her salary), and for supplies. Those children whose families wished them to attend school, but could not afford the fees, were enrolled and educated at the county's expense. Tuition fees were based typically on the number of days a student actually attended school.

Burton's school accommodated a large number of students. Enumerated on her poor bills are as many as 21 children in each school session, a number which does not include those pupils whose families *could* afford the tuition. Typically, however, children did not attend school every day, so daily attendance was likely smaller. In an era before compulsory, publicly-supported education, children might attend school only a handful of days in each session. Eliza, the maker of the sampler, attended the Burton school for 65 days between January and April of 1824. However, she only saw the inside of the classroom for a total of 34 days between April and September. It's very likely that she was needed at home during the spring and summer months.

Eliza Weldon's name only appears on Burton's bills in 1824, indicating that may have been the only year she attended school – the same year she completed her sampler. Other Weldon children – Roland, Charles, Frances (or Fanny) and Mary – appear on bills in subsequent years.

The execution of a sampler was often evidence of a middle class upbringing – proof that a child's parents possessed the wealth and status to send a daughter to school to learn fancy sewing. In the case of the Weldon needlework, it is interesting that even a "poor" child – or at least a child whose parents could not afford to pay the school tuition – was able to complete a sam-



NEEDLEWORK MARKING SAMPLER. Wrought by Eliza Weldon, Eliza Burton's School, Morrisville, Bucks County, 1824. Museum purchase with funds provided by David B. Long and the Bucks County Historical Society Collections Committee, 2014.



MECHANICAL TOY DRUMMER. Wolverine Supply and Manufacturing Company, Pittsburgh, Pa., c. 1935. Gift of James Wiley, 2014.

pler. We are indebted to "Miss Burton" for providing her twelve-year-old student with the instruction and encouragement necessary to demonstrate her needle skills, and to our contributors who enabled us to acquire the result of Eliza's labor, one hundred and ninety years later.

We also owe a "thank you" to another donor whose gift of objects has enhanced the museum's collection. James Wiley, a long-time toy collector and volunteer in the museum's library and curatorial departments, donated a number of his tin and cast iron toys, mechanical banks, board games and other playthings to the museum during the winter months. Many decades in the making, his "Wiley's

...continued on page 6

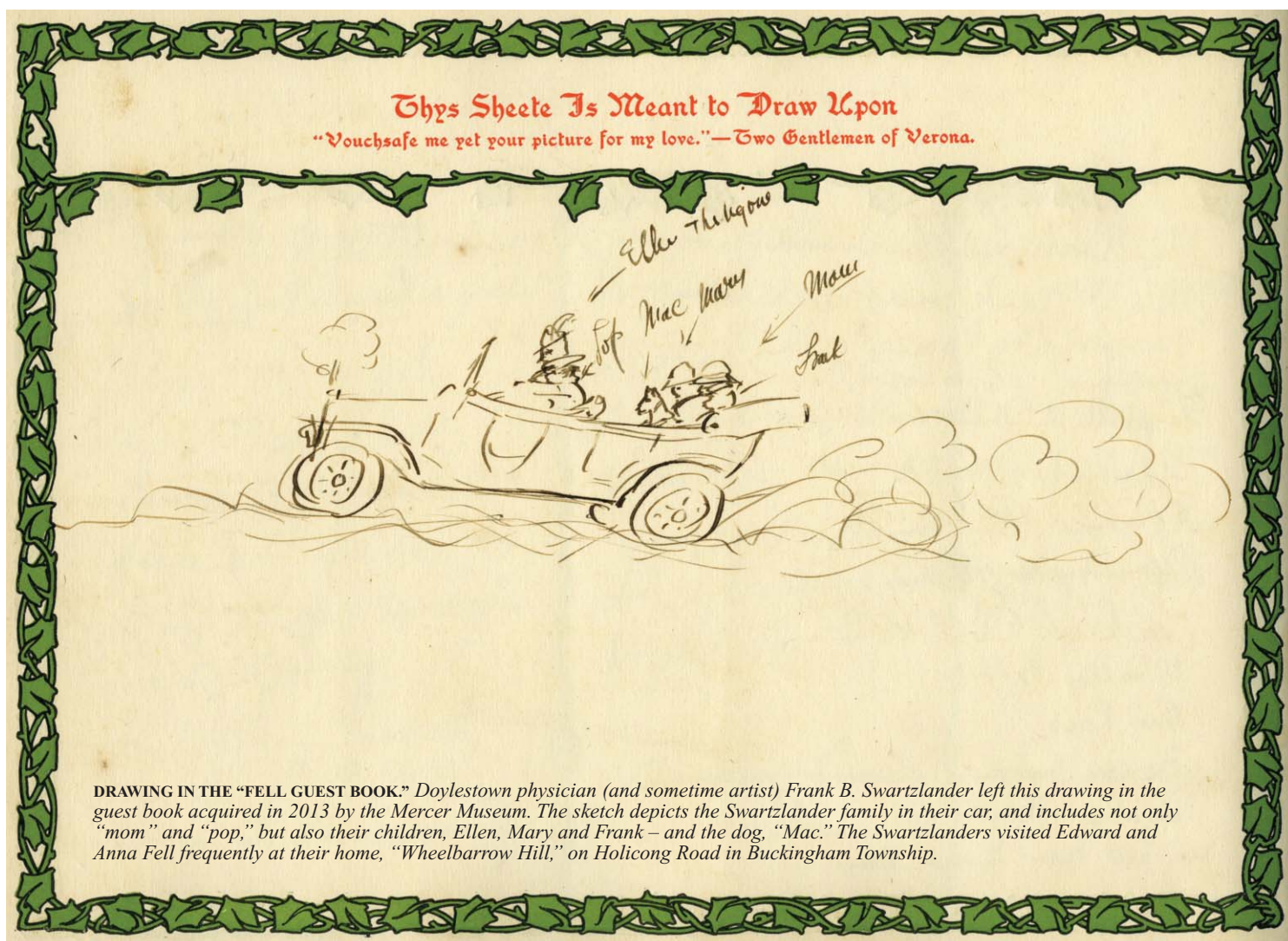
World” collection provided not only a great deal of pleasure for its owner, but also served to illustrate and enhance the many programs he presented to community groups and organizations over the years. Jim’s generous loan of artifacts to the Mercer Museum’s annual *Under the*

Tree exhibit has helped to make that show a “must see” for visitors. Now that Jim is divesting himself of his collection, we are grateful that he has selected a number of items to come to the museum. It will be an honor to care for and preserve this portion of the “Wiley’s World” collection in the

years to come.

In addition to the above, we are also grateful for the donation of items related to the Farmers’ National Bank of Bucks County (gift of Lawrence Kramer), and two tin stencils from the Hart Family of Doylestown (gift of Cory Amsler). ■

The Fell “Guest House”



DRAWING IN THE “FELL GUEST BOOK.” Doylestown physician (and sometime artist) Frank B. Swartzlander left this drawing in the guest book acquired in 2013 by the Mercer Museum. The sketch depicts the Swartzlander family in their car, and includes not only “mom” and “pop,” but also their children, Ellen, Mary and Frank – and the dog, “Mac.” The Swartzlanders visited Edward and Anna Fell frequently at their home, “Wheelbarrow Hill,” on Holicong Road in Buckingham Township.

In our last issue, we highlighted the acquisition of a guest register from the “Fell Guest House” in Holicong, Bucks County. The name of the apparent hostelry derived from the title of an illustration found in the volume, drawn in pen by artist George Sotter. Acquired at a local auction, the book spans the years from 1919 to 1938, and features the signatures and comments of many visitors, including a number of well-known local figures like artist George Sotter and anthropologist Margaret Meade. Unfortunately, limited information made it difficult to establish

much context for the book.

Having read the story in the last issue, however, two BCHS members called to clarify the history of the “guest house.” According to the callers, both related to the original owners of the property, the guest book belonged to Edward Watson Fell and Anna (Fell), whose home, “Wheelbarrow Hill,” was located on Holicong Road in Buckingham Township, Bucks County. Apparently Anna enjoyed entertaining, and hosted card parties and other gatherings at a small house, located just across Holicong Road from their own

home. The little structure, once known as the “Becky Watson house,” did not feature accommodations for overnight guests but was simply a retreat where the Fells could enjoy their company. All of the autographs in the book represent friends and acquaintances of the Fells who enjoyed spending time playing cards and socializing, and who appreciated Anna Fell’s good cooking. Anna and Edward enjoyed a wide social circle, as the names in the volume include some of Bucks County’s leading artists, writers, intellectuals and professionals of the 1920s and ‘30s. ■

“Adopt-an-Artifact” Campaign Update



FIREMAN'S PARADE HAT. *Shiffler Hose Company, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, c. 1850. Gift of the Volunteer Firemen's Association of Philadelphia, 1919.*



FIREMAN'S PARADE HAT. *Shiffler Hose Company No. 1, probably Camden, New Jersey, c. 1850. Gift of the Volunteer Firemen's Association of Philadelphia, 1919.*

These two images illustrate the dramatic transformation possible through proper conservation treatment and cleaning. The first image is of an un-conserved parade hat in the museum's collection. The second photograph shows a similar hat, treated by a professional conservator in 1998. Both hats, and the name of the hose company itself, were inspired by the shooting death of George Shiffler, a nativist agitator killed during anti-immigrant violence in Philadelphia in 1844.

Since our last issue, three objects from the Mercer Museum's firefighting collection have been “adopted” by donors. These objects are currently undergoing conservation treatment in preparation for our summer 2015 exhibition, *To Save Our Fellow Citizens: Firefighting in Nineteenth-Century Philadelphia*. The three objects are among a grouping of about thirty artifacts which the museum hopes to conserve in advance of the exhibit. Most of the Mercer Museum's firefighting artifacts were acquired in 1919, when the Volunteer Firemen's Association of Philadelphia (VFA) was seeking a home for its collection. After the city of Philadelphia phased out its volunteer fire companies in 1871, turning instead to a paid fire department, the surviving volunteers established the VFA. The Association kept the memory of the volunteers' service alive, with its members participating in parades and visiting their counterparts in other cities well into the twentieth century. The VFA even maintained its own headquarters on Buttonwood Street in Philadelphia, filling an old firehouse with memorabilia assembled by its membership.

By 1919, however, with most of the old volunteers having passed away, the VFA chose to divest itself of its collection and dissolve its organization. When no city institutions stepped forward to accept the materials, Henry Mercer made arrangements for the collection to come to Doylestown. Consisting not only of artifacts, but also numerous photographs, manuscript records and other archival items, the collection may be the largest single group of materials acquired during Mercer's lifetime. Its significance lies both in its historical importance as well as in its aesthetics – many of the artifacts are

striking examples of American folk art. Talented Philadelphia artists like John Woodside and David Bustill Bowser often put their talents to work in painting the volunteers' adornments. From painted engine panels and banners to decorated parade hats and fire buckets, the early volunteer companies sought to outdo one another in the quality of their ornamentations.

More than 150 years later, the parade hats, buckets and other decorated objects need care. Dirt, smoke and old varnish coatings have darkened and obscured the vivid painted decoration. Based on prior experience, proper conservation treatment will dramatically transform the artifacts, restoring much of their original luster and aesthetic quality. Such treatments are painstaking and time consuming, requiring the talents of a professional conservator. While we are very pleased that a few generous donors have chosen to sponsor treatments for three objects, many more still require care. Can you help?

A complete listing of firefighting objects to be “adopted” is posted on the Mercer Museum's website. Simply go to: <http://www.mercermuseum.org/join-and-support/adopt-an-artifact/>. Your gift in the amount indicated will entitle the donor to a “certificate of adoption,” plus recognition in museum catalog records and in label copy for the planned 2015 exhibit. Gifts can be made in the name of the donor, on the part of a group or organization, or in memory of a loved one – perhaps themselves a firefighter!

For more information, or to have the list of needy artifacts sent directly to you, please contact the Mercer Museum's V.P. for Collections and Interpretation, Cory Amsler, at 215-345-0210 ext. 127, or at camsler@mercermuseum.org. ■

One Hundred Years of the Mercer Museum, 1914 - 2014

In this issue, we continue to follow the progress of the Mercer Museum's construction, an effort well underway one hundred years ago this year. In the last installment, Henry Mercer had fired one of his workmen who he believed had been intentionally slowing down the project – and possibly sabotaging equipment. After the worker was sent packing in the summer of 1914, Mercer began to make up for lost time.

Mercer's workmen spent most of the autumn of 1914 completing the museum's third floor. This included the library – then just a relatively small room with a mezzanine intended to serve as the research facility for the Bucks County Historical Society. (The library was expanded further in the 1930s shortly after Mercer's death.) To pay homage to Bucks County's history and geography, Mercer planned to install numerous mosaics and other tile embellishments in the library. The result is the most richly-decorated room in the original museum, and reflects Mercer's interest in tile as a story-telling medium.



ORIGINAL MERCER MUSEUM LIBRARY, C. 1916. *One hundred years ago this fall, Henry Mercer's workmen were just finishing construction of this portion of the new museum. This image shows the library room, with several tile installations visible, before books were placed on the shelves.*

In the library's vaulted ceilings, Mercer inset mosaics depicting scenes from local history, including images of Washington crossing the Delaware, the Walking Purchase, and John Fitch's development of the steam boat. In the room's lower columns, Mercer set the names of Bucks County's waterways, while above the mezzanine the columns' capitals displayed the names and emblems of the County's various townships. In the ceiling's "groins" – the lines where the vaults intersect – are emblazoned the names of Bucks County's various boroughs and villages. An entry in Mercer's construction notebook for November 11, 1914 noted that by that date the library's ceiling was fully finished.

Doylestown was experiencing a long drought in the fall of 1914. The dry weather meant that work could continue unabated on the museum building, perhaps making up for time lost the previous summer. However, Mercer also grew

concerned that the water supply in the cistern was dwindling. He expressed relief that forecasters were calling for more rain by the end of November.

Even as his workmen were finishing the third floor and library, Mercer was rapidly drawing sketches and plans for the levels above. On November 8, he noted that the cost of the new museum amounted to \$13,700 in labor and materials to date.

Collections on the Road!

The Mercer Museum's loan program continues to be strong and a great source of pride, traveling to prestigious institutions and educating audiences young and old. Visit our artifacts at the following institution:

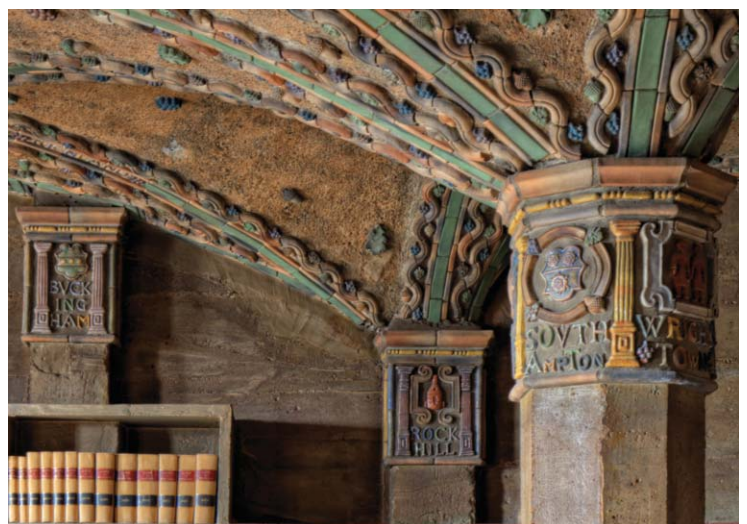
Landis Valley Village and Farm Museum,
Lancaster, Pennsylvania

***Chairs! Chairs! Chairs! –
Handcrafted Traditions from Rural
Pennsylvania, 1750-1875***

March 9 – December 31, 2014

While chairs play a practical role in everyday life, this exhibit explores the men behind these "pieces of art," and takes a closer look at the intricate carving and paint detailing that went into each piece. The Mercer Museum is pleased to lend several woodworking and graining tools used by one of these extraordinary nineteenth century craftsman, Lancastrian George Nees.

For more information on these artifacts, please visit our on-line catalog RolloPAC and keyword search "George Nees." ■



DETAIL OF TILE DECORATION, ORIGINAL MERCER MUSEUM LIBRARY, [2012]. Mercer's tile and mosaics in the original library celebrated Bucks County's history and geography. Image courtesy of Carla Klouda.

As we continue to celebrate the museum's centennial, future issues of this newsletter will chronicle the building's progress through 1915 and 1916. ■

Route 66 Exhibit and Programs Continue at Mercer



WIGWAM MOTELS, LOCATED IN HOLBROOK, AZ (PICTURED) & SAN BERNARDINO, CA. Two of the most recognizable structures along Route 66 are the surviving “Wigwam” motels. Built to resemble tipis, not wigwams, the bungalows were once part of a chain that included motels in several other states across the country. The Wigwams are just some of the roadside architecture featured in the exhibit, *America’s Road: The Journey of Route 66*, now on view at the Mercer. Courtesy of NRG! Exhibits.

Our newest exhibit, *America’s Road: The Journey of Route 66*, opened on May 31 in the museum’s Martin & Warwick Foundation Galleries. The popular show features graphic displays, props, artifacts, and interactive and multi-media experiences that tell the story of the iconic American highway – U.S. Route 66 – from its opening in 1926 up to the present day. A 1965 Ford Mustang, in original and un-restored condition, is also included in this traveling exhibit – a particularly appropriate artifact since 2014-15 marks the 50th anniversary of the Mustang model. *America’s Road* is produced by NRG! Exhibits of Kirkland, Washington. The show will run through August 24.

In addition to the traveling portion of the exhibit, several classic cars are also on view, courtesy of Bucks County collectors. Visitors to the show will discover a 1962 Chevrolet Corvette, 1957 Ford custom police car, 1957 Cadillac Eldorado Brougham, 1941 Oldsmobile “woodie” wagon, 1957 Pontiac “Star Chief” wagon, and a 1969 Mercedes 600 short-wheelbase base limousine once owned by Elvis Presley. The museum is grateful to collectors Bill Crossland, Ken Sylvester and Gene Epstein for the loan of these vehicles. The museum has also added several artifacts and images connected with local automotive culture from its own collections to round out the show.

Programs related to the exhibit are scheduled throughout the summer. Our “America’s Roads.” series features lectures and presentations focused on roadside architecture and the history of roads, highways and raceways in and across the country. Rounding out our *America’s Road* programming are several craft and story activities, and a toy car derby day, for youth and family audiences. Check out the museum’s on-line calendar of events for all of our upcoming programs.

We are grateful to the following sponsors for their support of the Rt. 66 exhibit and its related programming: Fred Beans Family of Dealerships, Glenmede, Law Offices of William L. Goldman and David & Doree Wickman. ■



MCLAUGHLIN’S GARAGE, MAIN STREET, DOYLESTOWN. Home of the Hayman Motor Company, this former Chevrolet dealership and service station is now the site of Doylestown’s Main Street Marketplace. Learn more about its history by joining us for the “Car Culture” walking tour on August 15. Mercer Library Collection.

Doylestown Walking Tour of 2014: “Car Culture”

On August 15, enjoy a step back in time to explore Doylestown’s automotive history. From gas stations and garages to diners and dealerships, this family-friendly evening walking tour makes stops at sites and architectural treasures related to local car culture. The tour begins at the Mercer Museum’s front entrance. Tour times are at 5:30 and 7:15 p.m. Adults: \$11/\$9 members; Children (6-12): \$6/\$4 members. Call 215-348-9461 to register and reserve your space.

We Are Very Grateful to All of Our

The Mercer Museum and Library & Fonthill Castle are grateful for the generous
2013 Annual Fund support provided by the following individuals, businesses, foundations, and organizations.
We are honored to share our commitment to history with these very special contributors and donors.

Henry Chapman Mercer Society - \$10,000+

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Tom & Patti* Thomas

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Your Annual Fund Support Makes History Happen

Our 2013 Annual Fund was a great success, with more than \$115,000 contributed by our remarkable supporters. So how did these funds benefit our mission? Here are a few of the major achievements resulting from your support:

- Four exhibitions including our award winning *Turning Points: Civil War, 1863-1864* and the traveling shows *Linedrives & Lipstick* and *Mystery of the Mayan Medallion*.
- Quality visitor services for the 100,000 guests who toured the Mercer Museum and Library & Fonthill Castle last year.
- Outstanding educational programs for more than 8,000 schoolchildren.
- Incomparable Library services to 2,200 users by providing access to collections information.

We recently launched our 2014 Campaign, with board giving as the first phase. When your 2014 Annual Fund request arrives in the mail in the next few months, please consider supporting our valuable work. Remember, your contributions enable us to present quality programs, changing exhibitions, and enriching activities for visitors of all ages. ■



School program in the Mercer Log House.

Allure West Studios

Coming Soon: Nationally Touring Civil Rights Exhibition

This fall, the Mercer Museum will host the traveling exhibit “For All the World to See: Visual Culture and the Struggle for Civil Rights” (September 6 – October 26, 2014). The exhibit explores how visual culture transformed the struggle for racial equality in America from the late-1940s to the mid-1970s. It is not a history of the Civil Rights Movement, but an exploration of the range of images—both positive and negative—that influenced how Americans perceived race and the struggle for equality.

The exhibit focuses on two forms of visual media: commercial images, seen on popular TV and consumer goods; and images seen in the news. These powerful visuals jolted many Americans, both black and white, out of a state of denial or complacency. As *EBONY* founder John H. Johnson put it, magazines and television “opened new windows in the mind and brought us face to face with the multicolored possibilities of man and woman.”

Images in the exhibit include photographs from *LIFE*, *JET*, and *EBONY* magazines; CBS news footage; and TV clips from *The Ed Sullivan Show*. Also included are historical objects that illustrate a range of negative and positive imagery—from Aunt Jemima syrup dispensers and 1930s produce advertisements, to Jackie Robinson baseball ephemera and 1960s children’s toys with African-American portraiture. The traveling exhibit was curated by Dr. Maurice Berger, research professor at the University of Maryland, Baltimore.

The exhibition has been made possible through NEH on the Road, a special



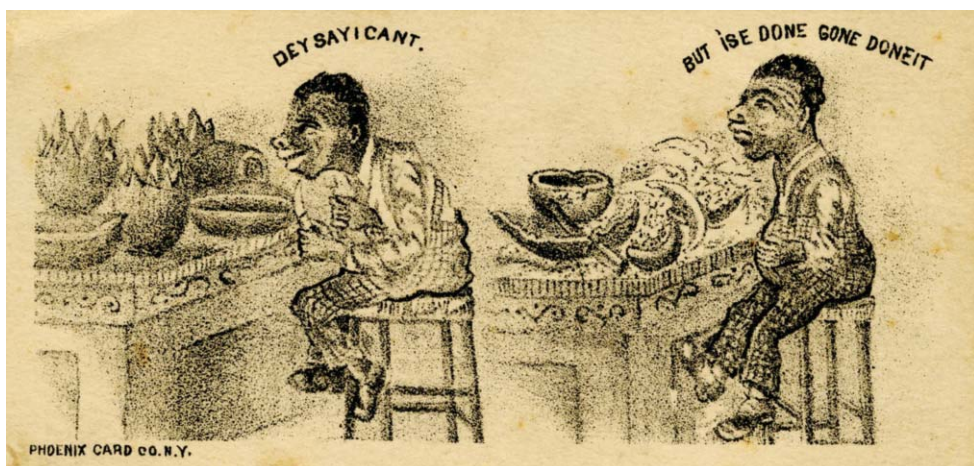
ERNEST C. WITHERS, *Sanitation Workers Assembling for a Solidarity March, Memphis, March 28, 1968*, Gelatin silver print, 8 1/2 x 14 3/4 in., National Museum of African American History and Culture, Smithsonian Institution, Purchase. Featured in the exhibit, *For All the World to See*.



MEDGAR EVERS FUNERAL, *Life Magazine*, June 28, 1963. Photo: E. G. Shempff.



TRADE FIGURE, *Eastern United States*, c. 1875. This caricature image of an African-American minstrel, with exaggerated facial features and proffering a bundle of cigars, was acquired by Henry Mercer in 1907. Such images – typical of the late 19th and early 20th centuries – reinforced popular notions of blacks as clownishly happy and contented, and provided a justification for white superiority. The trade figure will be included in the Mercer Museum’s exhibit, “*Hurtful Things*,” a companion to the traveling display, *For All the World to See: Visual Culture and the Struggle for Civil Rights*, opening this fall.



ADVERTISING TRADE CARD, *Phoenix Card Company*, New York, New York, c. 1880-1900. Such images, while often difficult to view, provide powerful evidence of white attitudes toward African Americans in the 1800s and early 1900s. Mercer Library Collection.

initiative of the National Endowment for the Humanities. It has been adapted and is being toured by Mid-America Arts Alliance. *For All the World to See: Visual Culture and the Struggle for Civil Rights* was organized by The Center for Art, Design, and Visual Culture, University of Maryland, Baltimore County, in

partnership with the National Museum of African-American History and Culture, Smithsonian Institution.

For *All the World to See* is generously sponsored by: Tom & Patti Thomas,* Honorable Clyde W. Waite & Verna Hutchinson and William Penn Foundation. Support for programming provided by: The National Endowment for the Humanities, The Pennsylvania Abolition Society, Melissa V. Bond, Attorney, Ceile E. Hedberg, Norman & Inez Bing, Joyce A. Hadley, and Yvette E. Taylor-Hachoose.

In conjunction with the traveling exhibit, the Mercer Museum will mount a companion display featuring objects from our own and local private collections. The exhibit, tentatively titled “Hurtful Things,” will feature artifacts and images that portray the negative and often intensely

racist stereotypes often found in late nineteenth century and early twentieth century visual culture. These materials will help to augment and localize the content of *For All the World to See*. With materials ranging from nineteenth century trade figures and advertisements to images from twentieth century local minstrel shows, “Hurtful Things” provides powerful evidence of the way racial stereotypes were perpetuated, and suffused throughout American culture.

Programming to accompany *For All the World to See* is still in development. Two programs, however, have already been scheduled. On Saturday, September 20, the Mercer Museum will host a screening of the award-winning documentary, *Standing on My Sister’s Shoulders*, a film about the Civil Rights Movement as seen through the

eyes of women who lived it – and who became grassroots leaders in the struggle. Joining us for the showing will be the film’s producer, Joan Sadoff. Also, on Saturday, October 18, the museum will present an extraordinary musical performance, *We Shall Not Be Moved*, featuring songs and readings expressive of the Civil Rights struggle of the 1950s and 1960s. The concert will feature Philadelphia-area vocalist Keith Spencer, whose resume includes performances at venues ranging from Bristol’s Riverside Theater to Broadway. The concert is presented in collaboration with On Demand! Concerts and Events.

Watch for more information about *For All the World to See*, and all of its accompanying programs, in our fall calendar of events. ■

Student Photography Inspired by Fonthill

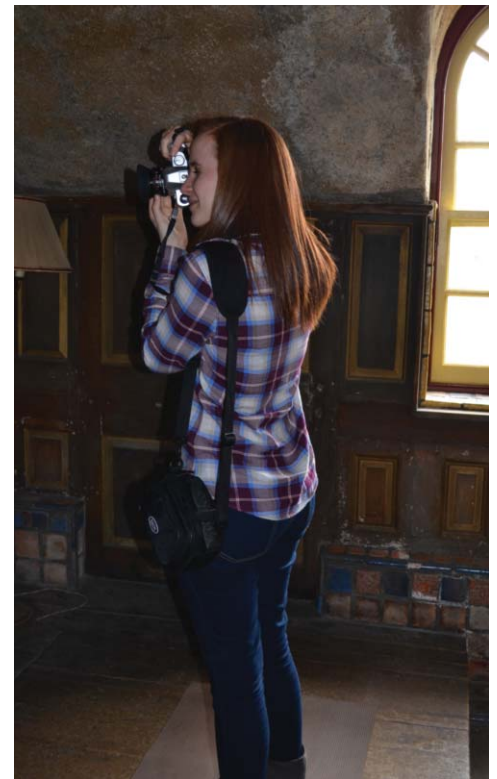


Detail of the Dormer Room. Photo by student, Erin Maguire.

Fonthill Castle is many things to many people. For some, it’s a place of mystery with its stairs, winding passageways and shadows. Other people may see it as an architectural wonder, with its vaulted ceilings and textured concrete walls. And some see Fonthill as a source of artistic inspiration. For many years, the advanced

photography students from Central Bucks School District High Schools have visited Fonthill and used its colors, patterns, angles and objects as the focus of their photography projects.

This past academic year, three groups of students in Stephanie Ferraro’s Central Bucks West High School Photography III



CB West student capturing an unusual perspective in the Breakfast Room of Fonthill.

class visited Fonthill. As with year’s past, the goal of the students was to study the architecture and photograph with film cameras “unusual perspectives” both indoors and out. Once the students were back in the classroom, they printed their most eye-catching photographs.

...continued on page 15

Moses Doan and Robert Gibson, and the Immortality of a Reputation

By Donna Hay

Reputations are fragile. Mere rumors can shatter them, even rumors first espoused a century later. So it was for Patriot Captain, Robert Gibson.

The American Revolution was tumultuous and polarizing, turning friends into mortal enemies. Next-door neighbors Robert Gibson and Moses Doan, similarly aged eldest sons in large Quaker families, were both born leaders. In 1775, their paths diverged – Patriot volunteer Gibson captained the Plumstead militia, while “attainted traitor” Doan led a gang of 32 outlaws.

The Revolution ended in 1781, but the Doan Gang’s crime spree continued. An infamous raid on the Bucks County Treasury in Newtown was followed by many more robberies, culminating in a series of assaults on the evening of July 21, 1783. On that terror-filled night, the gang invaded six homes, including Gibson’s. The Bucks community was petrified as the outlaws continued to elude capture.

Five weeks later, on August 28, 1783, a 14-man militia posse hunted down three Doan outlaws. A shootout ensued, and Robert Gibson fatally shot Moses Doan. *The Pennsylvania Gazette* newspaper reported Doan was resisting arrest when shot. The Pennsylvania Supreme Executive Council authorized lethal force and tripled rewards for apprehension.

Shockingly, Gibson is transformed from Patriot Captain into Tory outlaw, not then but 92 years later, after a family story is published in Bucks County history books.*

In 1875, William Keichline wrote about Revolutionary days at the Piper Tavern in Bedminster. He described how his brave grandmother, Eve Piper, single-handedly assaulted Gibson and Geddis, called “Doan friends and companions.” She broke Geddis’ arm; he sued, but widespread public wrath forced him to drop the lawsuit.



THE DEATH OF MAJOR KENNEDY AND MOSES DOAN. *From the Piratical and Tragical Almanac for 1846. Collection of the Houghton Library, Harvard University (APA.P664A.1846). This fanciful woodcut, published long after the incident, tries to capture the scene in which the outlaw Doan, as well as a member of the militia posse, are killed in a cabin near Tohickon Creek*

Keichline speculated that Gibson killed Doan to avoid implication in gang crimes.

More than unsubstantiated and implausible, this tall tale is provably false. The Pipers bought the tavern in 1784, after the Revolution — and even more salient, after the Doan gang essentially disbanded post-shootout. There is no record of any Geddis or Gibson lawsuit and there is also no Gibson or Geddis on the lists of 32 known gang members.

If militiamen with rifles were afraid to join a 14-man posse to confront three outlaws, surely unarmed Eve Piper would not attack two alone. After Doan robbed Gibson and Gibson killed Doan, surely no one would call them friends and surely no outlaw would initiate a lawsuit, but especially not an outlaw wanted dead-or-alive.

Furthermore, the silence is deafening. In 92 years, no letter, affidavit, newspaper article, or book mentioned Gibson’s gang

membership or Eve Piper’s incredibly daring Doan gang scuffle. In spite of such reputed widespread public wrath, there was never any mention by fellow Patriots, Bucks neighbors, 32 Doan gang outlaws, or even Eve Piper herself or her children.

Perhaps Keichline simply confused names and dates. Eve Piper did assault two in the tavern, but it was Elizabeth Overholt and tavern-owner Joseph Braden, in 1782. A Gibson and a Geddis did visit the Piper tavern together, but it was to ratify the American Constitution in 1788.

Are shattered reputations irreparable? Is Patriot Captain Gibson’s? How can a moment of slander speak louder than a lifetime of actions? ■

*First published by W.W.H. Davis in his 1876 of Bucks County, and subsequently recounted in Bucks histories by Battle (1887), and the Bucks County Historical Society (1904-1920).

References: *Pennsylvania Archives* (Colonial Records v11, v13, v14; Series 1 v9, v12; Series 2 v14; Series 3 v13; Series 4 v3; Series 5 v5; Series 6 v3, v13), land records, wills and estate records, military records, Bucks County Court records (1782 Eve Piper criminal papers #3097), *Pennsylvania Gazette* (3/5/1783, 9/3/1783, 8/9/1786, 9/3/1788), *Chronological tables For Every Day in the Year* (1817 by Shallus), *Historic tales of olden time: concerning the early settlement and progress of Philadelphia and Pennsylvania* (1833 by Watson), *Annals of Philadelphia and Pennsylvania in the olden time* (1842 by Watson), *Annals of the Revolution: A History of the Doans* (1843 by Brooke), *The Piratical and Tragical Almanac, for 1846* (1845 by Perry), letter (1846 by Sam Hart to John McAllister), *Doylestown Watchtower* (1/4/1853-3/1/1853), *Democratic Standard* (11/1/1859-12/20/1859), *The History of the Hart Family* (1867 by Davis), *The Cuttlossa and its Historical, Traditional and Poetical Associations* (1873 by Buck in the *Bucks County Intelligencer*), *The History of Bucks County* (1876, 1892, 1905, 1920, by Davis/BCHS), *The Doane Family and Their Descendants* (1902 by Doane), Robert Gibson genealogy (2013 website by Hay). More details: <http://haygenealogy.com/hay/sources/gibson/doans-spy.html>

Grants Support Exhibits and Projects

Our museums are most appreciative of project support from public and foundation sources which make it possible for us to serve a diverse audience. In spite of a severe reduction in public funds available to museums, our museums continue to be competitive for the funds that are available.

The Pew Charitable Trusts through its Philadelphia Cultural Leadership Program (PCLP) has provided a two year grant of \$120,000 for 2014-2016. The general operations grant provides critical support for the Bucks County Historical Society. These funds represent the final grant through this long standing program in support of excellence in cultural organizations.

Visit Bucks County, through its Tourism Grant Program, through its Tourism Grant Program has provided important funds to market changing exhibitions at the Mercer

Museum to audiences outside Bucks County. A grant of \$30,000 in 2013 provided the means to market the Civil War exhibit from the Mercer's own extensive collections to a wide audience. For 2014 the CVB operating now as Visit Bucks County has provided \$25,000 for a joint marketing initiative of "The Castles of Doylestown". These funds will underwrite cooperative advertising with other Bucks County venues for both the Mercer Museum and Fonthill Castle. Online media and marketing is included in this initiative as well.

The Bucks County Foundation provided generous support in 2013 of \$7,500 toward the engaging Mercer Museum exhibit: Step Right Up! Behind the Scenes of the Circus Big Top, 1890-1965. BCF funds made it possible to mount the exhibit and market it to Bucks County families. The Bucks County

Foundation's mission is to enhance the quality of life of county residents.

The Mercer Museum's education programs have been supported in part by the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency. PCA awarded the Mercer Museum a \$4,861 grant in 2013 through its regional arts funding partnership, Pennsylvania Partners in the Arts (PPA). PPA is administered in this region by the Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance.

Foundations Community Partnership provided a grant of \$10,000 in 2013 to further safeguard the collections of the research library of the Mercer Museum and enhance access to collections. The Norman Raab Foundation provided \$25,000 in audio visual and electronic upgrades to the Mercer's Putman Learning Center. ■

Student Photography Inspired by Fonthill *continued from page 13*

Some of these photographs were of more "traditional" aspects of the castle. These were printed in an 8" x 10" format of architectural details or interesting perspectives seen throughout the building. Other students printed multiple copies of an abstract image, and flipped the negative to create a mirror image. The student photographers then used these photos to form a new design. The result is like looking at Fonthill through a kaleidoscope!

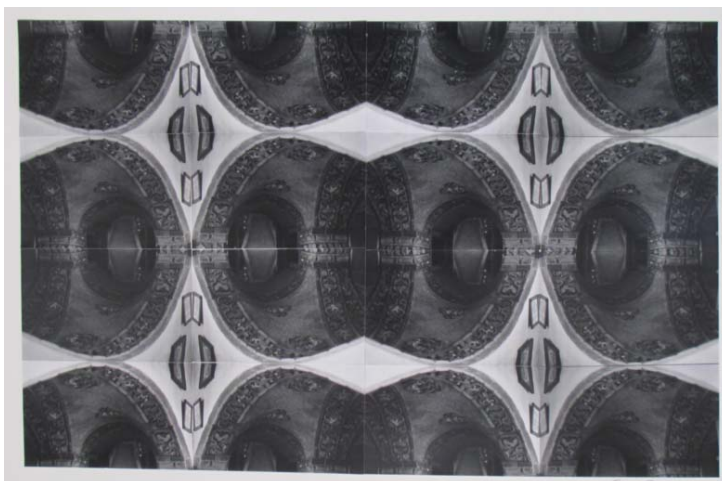
We have been very fortunate that for a number of years, we have been able to share the results of the students' work with our guests. The photographs have been displayed in the Conservatory of Fonthill for several weeks at the end of each school year. In addition, we have been posting digital versions of the photographs on the museum's Facebook

page. This partnership with our local schools is an activity we hope will continue for years to come. If you are a teacher and would like to learn more about how Fonthill and your class could work together, please contact Edward Reidell, Fonthill's Site Administrator. His e-mail address is ereidell@fonthillmuseum.org. ■

The Mercer Museum Receives Award from PA Museums Association



Cory Amsler, The Mercer Museum's Vice President of Collections & Interpretation, holds the "2014 Institutional Achievement" award from the PA Museums Association, in honor of the Mercer's exhibit, Turning Points: Civil War, 1863-1864. The award was presented in April.



*Kaleidoscope image take in the Dormer Room.
Photo by student, Brooke Durkin.*

Making Her Own History

Molly Lowell, Executive Vice President of Operations & Communications for the Bucks County Historical Society, celebrates 25 years of service and as she makes her own history through this milestone achievement, we thought you would enjoy learning a little more about her.

A Q&A with Molly...

1. What first brought you to Bucks County and specifically the Bucks County Historical Society?

I first visited the Mercer Museum and Fonhill in 1987, when I was director of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Museums based in Delaware. With my Master's degree in Folklore, I was drawn to the extraordinary Mercer collections and the vision of Henry Mercer. When the then new position of Associate Director at the Mercer Museum became available in 1989, I jumped at the chance to work here.

2. How have things changed at Mercer and Fonhill in the 25 years since you've been here?

The museum field as a whole has become more complex. The public's interest in history and museums has also changed, leading to challenges to reach out to new audiences. Marketing was



BCBS Vice President, Molly Lowell, standing in the Mercer Museum's Central Court. Photo by Allure West Studios.

incidental twenty years ago. Today, we are vying with all sorts of non-profits doing good work also seeking public attention and financial support. Historically, we relied on the tourist audience; today our strength is in having visitors within the region return for multiple visits. Changing exhibits and experiences are critical to our viability.

3. What is your greatest organizational accomplishment?

Spearheading initial Accreditation by the American Association of Museums, which was first achieved in 1992. That was my first major project with the organization.

4. What do you like about working here?

The behind-the-scenes work at any museum or non-profit is as involved as any business. No two days are alike, and I enjoy the variety of projects, from long-range planning to coordinating a volunteer service project. However, it is all the amazing people I've met over the years—as members, volunteers, donors, staff—that make it all worthwhile. Their enthusiasm and commitment are what makes it possible for the museums and library to flourish as they do.

With the endorsement of Doug Dolan, Executive Director, I've had the opportunity to serve as a museum accreditation and assessment reviewer. Over the years, I've visited museums around the country to learn about their successes and challenges. That information has been extremely valuable to our situation here. ■



Left to right: Emma Najibi and Brooke Spencer, Central Bucks West High School, First Place Winners, Senior Group Exhibit, "We Believe that it Does: Brown v. Board of Education."

Congratulations to History Day Students!

The Regional History Day Competition for Bucks and Montgomery Counties took place at Ursinus College on March 22, 2014.

Congratulations to all student participants! To view a list of this year's winners, please visit <http://www.nhbucksmont.org/>.



Left to right: Ali Tomasevich, Sara Mack, and Rachel Smith, Souderton Area High School, Third Place Winners, Senior Group Performance, "The Evolution of AA."

SAVE THE DATE: The Bucks and Montgomery Counties' Regional Competition will take place on **Saturday, March 28 in 2015!**

Fonthill Questers Support Drapery Reproduction

The Terrace Bedroom at Fonthill Castle will get a bit of a makeover thanks to recent grants from the Fonthill Questers and Pennsylvania State Questers. In April the Fonthill Questers presented checks totaling \$1,800 to support the fabrication of new window coverings, which will replicate the original draperies, comprised of a heavy woven tapestry material, purchased and installed in the Terrace Room by Henry Mercer in 1916.

Although it is impossible to match perfectly the fabric used by Mercer, the new draperies will replicate the look, feel and scenic quality of the original textile. Consulting on the project is Kathleen Appel, a local interior designer and Fonthill weekend guide. Kathy will assist with acquiring an appropriate fabric, and produce the finished drapery.

Over the past several years a number of Fonthill window treatments have been reproduced with the assistance and support of area Questers groups. We are indebted to the Fonthill Questers for their support of this latest project. ■



LOCAL QUESTERS PRESENT CHECKS FOR FONTHILL DRAPERY PROJECT. Fonthill Questers Marcia McCarthy and Ginny Clemens (center left and right), are joined by Cory Amsler, BCHS Vice President for Collections and Interpretation (far right), and Kathy Appel, interior designer and textile consultant (far left) in Fonthill's Terrace Bedroom.

Career Day at Souderton Area High School

The Bucks County Historical Society's Education Department participated in Souderton Area High School's Career Day Program on April 3, 2014. This event was created as a component of the school's Career Pathway Initiative. The goal for this program is to encourage students to think about their post-high school goals. This is accomplished by promoting engaging conversations between the students and many within their community and school to assist them in preparing for the future. Career Day allowed students to ask thought provoking questions to many of the community participants in the areas of Arts & Humanities, Health & Human Services, Industry & Engineering and Business & Communications. For more information on this program please visit <http://sahs.souderton.org/pathways/>.

In the Nook: Lawns and Gardens

Just in time for planting (and growing) season, the Mercer Museum is displaying a selection of historical lawn-and garden-related objects in the Great Hall "nook," through summer 2014. Included: is a planter made by Henry's brother, William Mercer (1862–1939). William was a craftsman who sculpted and cast concrete garden pieces, exhibiting his work in Philadelphia and Europe. Brightening the display are colorful enlargements taken from the pages of 19th- and 20th-century annuals and catalogues from the W. Atlee Burpee Company in the Mercer Library Collection.



COVER OF BURPEE'S SEEDS, 1888 (Mercer Library Collection).

New Beer Event at Fonthill!

For the last five years, local brew fans and breweries have gathered in the shadow of the beautiful Fonthill Castle to celebrate craft beers and local foods during our annual Brewery Night. For 2014, this fundraiser has moved to the afternoon of Saturday, August 23, from 2-5 p.m. to expand and accommodate the growing interest in this event. This change will offer guests the opportunity to sample a larger variety of high quality drafts from around the country, along with the tremendous local and regional breweries and home brewers traditional to this event. Beers will be paired with locally grown and prepared foods and live music from the band, Hot Bijoux. Tickets are \$45/\$40 for members, and can be purchased by calling 215-348-9461. All proceeds go to the education programs at the Mercer Museum and Fonthill Castle. The event is made possible through the generous sponsorship of Origlio Beverage and Senator Chuck McIlhinney.



Sponsorship opportunities are still available. To inquire, call 215-348-9461, ext. 210.

Summer - Fall 2014

Partial Calendar of Events

Camps at the Castles

LEGO™ Robotics Workshop – Basics Trek
Aug. 18-22
12:30-3:30 p.m.
Mercer Museum

LEGO™ Robotics Workshop – Intermediate Quest
Aug. 4-8, 8:30-11:30 a.m.
Mercer Museum

LEGO™ Robotics Workshop – Advanced II - EV3 Expedition
Monday-Friday, Aug. 4-8 • 12:30-3:30 p.m. OR Aug. 18-22, 8:30 - 11:30 a.m.
Mercer Museum

Medieval Camp
July 28 – August 1, 9 a.m. – Noon
Fonthill Castle

Archaeology Camp
August 11-15, 9 a.m. – Noon
Fonthill Castle

Programs at Mercer

America's Roads Program
Series: Off the Beaten Path—Roadside Delights of the '50s & '60s
Sunday, July 27, 2 p.m.

America's Roads Program
Series: Greetings from Bucks County!
Sunday, August 10, 2 p.m.

Doylestown Walking Tour: "Car Culture"

Friday, August 15
5:30 p.m. & 7:15 p.m.
Adults: \$11/\$9 members
Children (6-12): \$6/\$4 members

Matchbox/Hotwheels Derby Day
Saturday, August 16, Noon-3 p.m.

Stories Under the Trees with Darcy Fair
Tuesday, August 5 & Saturday, August 23
Noon – 1 p.m.
Mercer Museum Grounds
Free.

La Citadelle: Layle Lane Civil Rights Pioneer
Saturday, September 13, 2 p.m.

Friends of BCHS Quarterly Meeting: Amish Quilts
Monday, September 15, 12:30 p.m. Free.

Film Showing and Discussion: Standing on My Sisters' Shoulders
Saturday, September 20, 2 p.m.

Distinguished Lecture: "For All the World to See: Photography and Visual Media in Movements for Change"
Saturday, September 27, 2 p.m.
\$12/\$10 members; students \$6 w/ID

Theatrical Concert: We Shall Not Be Moved!
Saturday, October 18, 3 p.m.
\$15/\$12 members

Cocktails at the Castle... A Savory Exploration to Benefit the Mercer Museum
Friday, October 10, 6:30 – 10:30 p.m.
\$150/\$125 members

Mercer by Moonlight Tours
Friday, October 24, 7 p.m. & 8 p.m.
\$12/\$10 members, \$10/\$8 youth under 12

Friends of BCHS Quarterly Meeting: Early Pennsylvania Christmas Trees: The Witte Family Trees at Haupt Mill, Springtown, Pa, c. 1900
Monday, November 17, 12:30 p.m. Free.

Holiday Open House
Tuesday, December 9, 7- 9 p.m.
Free.

Programs at Fonthill Castle

Tower Tour for Families
Saturdays: Aug. 2, Sept. 6, Oct. 4, Nov. 1, Dec. 6
10:30 & 11:45 a.m.

Fonthill Beer Fest
Saturday, August 23, 3 – 5 p.m.

Fiction Writing Workshop
Tuesdays, September 23 – October 28
7 – 8:30 p.m.
\$175 adults/\$125 member adults

Exhibits at the Mercer

America's Road: The Journey of Route 66
Through August 24

For All the World to See: Visual Culture & the Struggle for Civil Rights
September 6 – October 26

Under the Tree: A Century of Holiday Trees and Toys
November 22, 2014 – January 4, 2015

Mercer's Night Tales
Friday October 17
7 – 8:30 p.m.
\$20/\$15 members

Behind the Scenes Tour
Saturday, October 25
& Saturday, November 1
6:30-9 p.m.
\$15/\$12 members

Winter Wonderland: Holiday Decorations at Fonthill
Saturday, November 29 –
Sunday, January 4
Regular Tours

Holiday Festivities for the Family
Sunday, December 7
Noon - 4 p.m.
Fonthill Castle & Moravian Pottery and Tile Works
Free

Fonthill Holiday Lights Meander
Saturday, December 13
6:30-9:30 p.m.
(Arrival Times: 6:30-8:30 p.m.)
\$20 adults/\$10 youth; \$15 member adults/\$5 member youth.

Candlelight Holiday Tours
Saturday, December 27
6:30 – 9 p.m.
\$15/\$12 members

2014 BCHS Board of Trustees

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General Information

Check out our website at
www.mercermuseum.org

Mercer Museum & Museum Shop

84 South Pine Street, Doylestown, PA 18901-4930

PHONE: 215-345-0210 FAX: 215-230-0823

HOURS: Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sunday, noon-5 p.m.

Also at the Mercer Museum: **Research Library**

HOURS: Tuesday-Thursday, 1-5 p.m.
Friday & Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Fonthill Castle

East Court Street & Route 313,
Doylestown, PA 18901-4930

PHONE: 215-348-9461 FAX: 215-348-9462

HOURS: Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sunday, noon-5 p.m.

(Guided tours only; reservations suggested)

Members receive unlimited free admission to
Mercer Museum and Library & Fonthill Castle.

Newsletter

Gayle Shupack, Editor
Molly Lowell, Associate Editor

Newsletter is a benefit of membership.

The Mercer Museum and Library
& Fonthill Castle are
administered by the Bucks County
Historical Society.



Twelve Quester Chapters have contributed to the project to restore Fonthill's Concrete Gates. Pictured from left to right at the North Gate are: Penny Scancelli and some members of Marquis Questers, of Warwick, presenting a check to BCHS Executive Director, Doug Dolan. Nancy Bergere, President of PA Questers stands in the center of the North Street Gate. The North Street Gate will be restored in the Spring of 2015. The Questers will continue to lead the fundraising to restore all of the concrete gates.

Member Appreciation Weeks

Members enjoy an extra 10% discount in the Mercer Shop for a total discount of 20%.

Save these dates; shop for unique gifts:

August 18 – 24
December 1 - 7

That's What the Heck It Is!

continued from Back Page

It's a perfume bottle. Donated to the museum by Mr. and Mrs. Albert Walton, this bottle dates to the first half of the 20th century. It was not uncommon for perfume to be kept in bottles in a variety of interesting shapes and sizes, including shoes, dogs, rabbits and even pigs! ■



Staff Update

Replacing Shana Hawrylchak, who departed the Mercer Museum at the end of last year, is our new Curator of Exhibits, Melissa Clemmer. Melissa possesses a background in exhibit development, interpretive planning, and graphic design.

The Mercer Museum is pleased to welcome Kelsey Ransick as the new Collections Assistant; Kelsey replaces Carol Jones who retired earlier this year. Kelsey is a recent graduate from the University of Delaware, earning her MA in History and a Certificate in Museum Studies. She has an extensive background in collections and archival management, most recently serving as the Curator and Archivist at the Arden Craft Shop Museum (DE) and in the Curatorial Department at Newlin Grist Mill. ■



Left to right: Melissa and Kelsey



84 S. Pine Street
Doylestown, PA 18901

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DOYLESTOWN, PA
PERMIT NO. 274

View online tours of the
castles on our website at
www.mercermuseum.org or
follow us on Facebook & Twitter.

Exhibits at the Mercer



America's Road: The Journey of Route 66

Through August 24

For All the World to See:
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November 22, 2014- January 4, 2015

Members visit Mercer Museum & Fonhill Castle
for FREE all year long!

Plan Your Holiday Party in Our Castles



www.mercermuseum.org/visit-us/facility-use.org

What the Heck Is It?



EEK! It's mouse — who let that into the Mercer Museum? Wait just one second, it's not a real mouse...it's made of glass! And look at his silly nose- there's a cork in it. I wonder what this little fella had in his tummy? Answer on p. 19.