



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
Wednesday, October 6, 2021**

***Royal Refugees: The Doan Gang of Bucks County*  
New Program Series from the Bucks County Historical Society**

**DOYLESTOWN, PA** – The Bucks County Historical Society (BCHS) is pleased to announce a new program series exploring the history of the notorious Doan Gang of Bucks County, PA, offered throughout October and November 2021. The series consists of three virtual programs and one in-person program that highlight artifacts and archives related to the gang and their history.

At the time of the American Revolution, the Doan Gang was a group of British loyalists in Bucks County, PA. The gang was composed of around 30 members, the most notorious being five brothers and one cousin from the Doan family of Plumstead, Bucks County. Among these members were accused murderers, traitors, horse thieves, and those who ferried prisoners of war across British lines. The Doan Gang was also guilty of robbing tax collectors, their most famous crime being the theft of the Bucks County Treasury on October 22, 1781.

Just in time for the 240<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Bucks County Treasury robbery, the Doan Gang program series focuses on separating historical fact from fiction and dispelling the many myths surrounding this infamous group. The research for this series is founded on archival records, including court documents, eyewitness accounts, newspaper appearances, maps, and depositions, many of which come from BCHS archives. This research was also supplemented by records from the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, the Library and Archives of Canada, and the Newtown Historic Association.

These programs are designed to be enjoyed as a complete series, as they tell the story of the Doan Gang chronologically, although guests can register for just one or all. Tickets for each presentation are sold separately.

## **Virtual Lectures:**

### ***Royal Refugees: Join or Die!* – Virtual Lecture #1**

Zoom Lecture

Wednesday, October 20, 2021, 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

*\$10 Virtual Connection per household/ \$5 Member Virtual Connection per household*

*Royal Refugees: Join or Die!* focuses on the formation of the Doan Gang, and highlights early biographical information and stories of the Doan family of Plumstead, PA.

### ***Royal Refugees: By Force and Arms!* – Virtual Lecture #2**

Zoom Lecture

Wednesday, October 27, 2021, 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

*\$10 Virtual Connection per household/ \$5 Member Virtual Connection per household*

*Royal Refugees: By Force and Arms!* tells the story of the infamous Bucks County Treasury robbery on the week of its 240<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

### ***Royal Refugees: Giants of Villainy!* – Virtual Lecture #3**

Zoom Lecture

Wednesday, November 3, 2021, 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

*\$10 Virtual Connection per household/ \$5 Member Virtual Connection per household*

*Royal Refugees: Giants of Villainy!* explores the aftermath of the Bucks County Treasury robbery and includes tales of court proceedings, executions, and exile. Discover how the crimes and subsequent punishment of the Doan gang set precedents in Pennsylvania law that exist even today.

## **In-Person Presentation:**

### ***Royal Refugees: The 240<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Bucks County Treasury Robbery***

Elkins Gallery at the Mercer Museum – 84 S. Pine St. Doylestown, PA

Friday, October 22, 2021, 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Doors Open at 5:30 p.m.

*\$20 General Admission/ \$15 Member General Admission*

Join us on the 240<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Bucks County Treasury robbery in Newtown, PA, by the members of the notorious Doan Gang. This behind-the-scenes in-person program at the Mercer Museum showcases prominent artifacts and documents pertaining to the Doan Gang and the robbery.

This presentation begins with a 15-minute overview of the robbery and gang members, followed by an interactive Q&A with Bucks County Historical Society library and curatorial staff. After the program, guests will have plenty of time to browse through never-before-seen collections items from the vaults of the Bucks County Historical Society, some of which were owned by the gang members.

**Tickets for *Royal Refugees: The Doan Gang of Bucks County* are available at [mercermuseum.org/doangang](http://mercermuseum.org/doangang).**

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### **About the Mercer Museum & Fonthill Castle**

Located in Doylestown, Bucks County, PA, the Mercer Museum and Fonthill Castle are historic castles celebrating the legacy of Henry Chapman Mercer (1856-1930), American archaeologist, anthropologist, ceramicist and scholar. Both sites are operated by the Bucks County Historical Society (BCHS).

The Mercer Museum, one of Bucks County's premier cultural attractions and a Smithsonian affiliate, features both local and national seasonal exhibits as well as a core museum collection of over 50,000 pre-Industrial tools. This permanent collection offers visitors a unique window into pre-Industrial America through sixty different crafts and trades, and is one of the world's most comprehensive portraits of American material culture. The museum also features a research library that is a center for local history related to Bucks County and the surrounding region, with its roots dating back to the founding of the Bucks County Historical Society in 1880.

Fonthill Castle was built between 1908-1912, and was the home to Henry Chapman Mercer. Mercer built Fonthill Castle as his home and as a showplace for his collection of tiles and prints. The castle serves as an early example of reinforced concrete and features forty-four rooms, over two hundred windows, and eighteen fireplaces. Fonthill Castle's interior features Mercer's renowned, hand crafted ceramic tiles designed at the height of the Arts and Crafts movement.

The Mercer Museum is located at 84 South Pine Street, Doylestown, PA, 18901. Fonthill Castle is located at 525 East Court Street in Doylestown, PA, 18901.

The Mercer Museum & Fonthill Castle are open Tuesdays – Sundays from 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. For up-to-date ticket and schedule information, please visit [mercermuseum.org](http://mercermuseum.org).

**For additional information, please contact:**

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