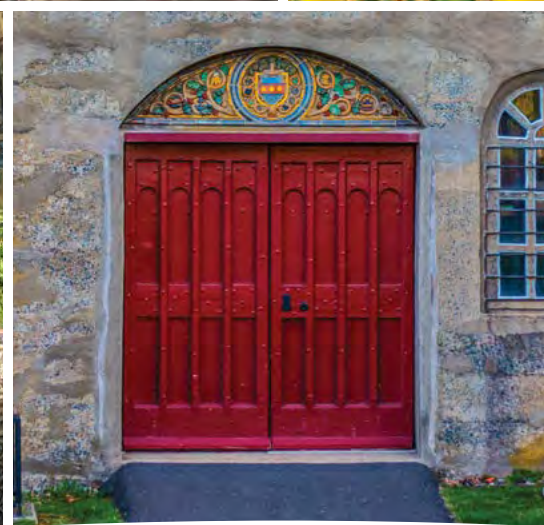


# CASTLE CHRONICLES

NEWSLETTER OF THE BUCKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



SPRING 2023



MERCER  
MUSEUM  
& FONTHILL  
CASTLE



Smithsonian  
Affiliate

VOL. 36 NUMBER 1





MERCER  
MUSEUM  
& FONTHILL  
CASTLE



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## GENERAL INFORMATION

### MERCER MUSEUM

84 South Pine Street, Doylestown, PA 18901  
(215) 345-0210  
Tuesdays – Sundays, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
Closed Mondays

### MERCER MUSEUM RESEARCH LIBRARY

Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
Thursdays – Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
Closed Sundays & Mondays

### FONTHILL CASTLE

525 East Court Street, Doylestown, PA 18901  
(215) 348-9461  
Tuesdays – Sundays, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
Closed Mondays

Mercer Museum & Fonthill Castle are operated by the  
Bucks County Historical Society.  
Schedule and programs are subject to change.  
Visit [mercermuseum.org](http://mercermuseum.org) for the latest information.

## ON THE COVER

Selection of photos by Kevin Crawford

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## OUR MISSION...

*To educate and engage our many audiences in appreciating the past and to help people find stories and meanings relevant to their lives – both today and in the future.*



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

***“Someone is sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago.”***

—Warren Buffett

What more important investment is there than that of building a legacy for future generations?

Legacy encompasses respecting the past, living in the present, and building for the future.

Henry Chapman Mercer valued this ideal and summed it up in a speech he gave at the 1916 dedication of the Mercer Museum – his legacy gift to the community:

“Here is something that is unique, an educational institution that no other town possesses and if our citizens are not proud of it today, their children and their grandchildren will be.”

Our mission at the Mercer Museum & Fonthill Castle, operated by the Bucks County Historical Society (BCHS), is to educate and engage our many audiences in appreciating the past, and to help people find stories and meanings relevant to their lives – both today and in the future.

Today, we are still carrying on Henry Mercer’s legacy in the buildings and on the grounds of the Mercer Museum and Fonthill Castle. We are excited to explore new plans to conserve and enhance the open space surrounding Fonthill Castle, land that is owned by BCHS and enjoyed by the greater community year-round.

We hope to realize Henry Mercer’s vision to foster education and enjoyment of both the arts and nature. With the help of OLIN, an internationally recognized landscape architecture design firm, we are developing a Fonthill Castle master plan for future site improvements to the historic property and the surrounding sixty-nine acres of woodlands, with the goal of amplifying Henry Mercer’s long-lasting legacy in Bucks County.

This legacy allows us to focus on community, ecology, and wellness, as Mercer valued places that were in harmony with their environments. Moving forward, we are excited to bring this legacy to life, and imagine a site that serves as both an educational venue and an environmentally-enhanced space for diverse habitats.

As we embrace all of the bright opportunities before us with patience and collaboration, Mercer’s legacy holds our hearts in the past, our heads in the present, and our spirits in the future, creating a place in the shade for future generations to come.

Kyle McKoy

Chief Executive Officer

# 2023 BLBB CHARITABLE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM AT THE MERCER MUSEUM & FONTHILL CASTLE

The *BLBB Charitable Internship Program* at the Mercer Museum & Fonthill Castle allows a dynamic group of students with varied interests, strengths, and goals to immerse themselves in an outstanding educational and professional environment. Interns learn and work directly with museum professionals in a team-based, collaborative environment that offers experiential learning, mentoring benefits, and leadership-building skills. An integral part of the internship is the weekly Enrichment Program, where interns spend time with museum colleagues from across departments as well as community professionals, and learn about museum careers, experiences and responsibilities.



This year's interns are with us from June 5 – August 11, 2023, and their work supports exhibits, archives, education, and community services initiatives.

The Mercer Museum & Fonthill Castle's internship program is sponsored by BLBB Charitable. BLBB Charitable supports initiatives that help people discover their true and full potential through educational and leadership opportunities.



## 2023 MARKETING GRANT FROM VISIT BUCKS COUNTY



The Mercer Museum & Fonthill Castle is thrilled to have received a marketing grant in the amount of \$32,000 that will focus on targeted marketing efforts in the greater Northeast and mid-Atlantic regions in 2023. We will focus this marketing initiative on seasonal advertising to engage potential travelers with all that our castles offer year-round.

Visit Bucks County is the official tourism promotion agency for the County of Bucks and is funded by the occupancy tax paid by overnight visitors to Bucks County. They work with partners like us to generate economic impact by promoting travel to Bucks County.





# THE DOANS ARE COMING!

The Doan outlaws were a group of British loyalists and bandits, the most notorious of whom included five brothers and a cousin from the Doan family of Plumstead Township. The gang was composed fully of some thirty members who were accused of crimes ranging from robbery and horse stealing, to treason, espionage and murder. True to their loyalist sympathies, they were also known for helping redcoat prisoners of war – captured by American revolutionary forces – return to British lines. Among the Doans' targets were tax collectors, and their most infamous crime was the robbery of the Bucks County treasury in 1781.

Over 250 years, the story of the Doans has taken on mythic proportions. The Mercer Museum is committed to teasing the truth from legend. Research has taken us to sources in Canada and the United Kingdom, has uncovered more about the Doans, their activities and motivations. It also allows the museum to present the Doan story against the broader context of Revolutionary-era Bucks County – a time when political discord and social conflict were fracturing local communities and families, turning neighbor against neighbor.

Since 2021, the Mercer Museum has presented a multi-part lecture series entitled "Royal Refugees, or the Doan Gang of Bucks County" to audiences both at the museum, and at neighboring historical societies. With the popularity of the lecture series, and the notoriety of the Doan gang, the Mercer Museum is excited to develop a full-scale exhibit to tell this complex story to modern audiences.

*The Doan Gang: Outlaws of the Revolution* exhibit will debut at the Mercer Museum in 2024, and will showcase newly discovered artifacts and the most up-to-date and ground-breaking research on the topic. The exhibit will feature evocative, historical settings designed to immerse guests fully into the time and place of the Doan gang.

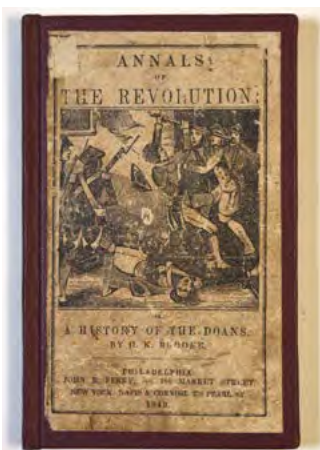
Follow this developing project in the coming months, and stay tuned for more information about the exhibit and its related programming.

## *The* DOAN GANG



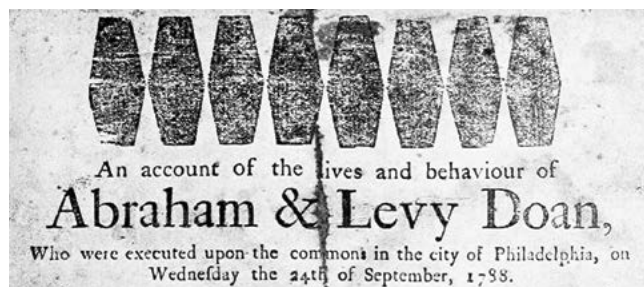
★OUTLAWS★  
*of the REVOLUTION*

Right:  
*Annals of the  
Revolution:  
A History of  
the Doans* by  
H.K. Brooke



Abraham and Levy (written here as Levi) Doan gravestones, outside cemetery wall of Plumstead Friends Meeting House in 1987

Right: Powder  
horn of Moses  
Doan, 1771



Left: 1788 broadside documenting the hanging of Abraham and Levy Doan in Philadelphia (Courtesy of the Library of Congress, Carson collection)



Spanish and French 18th century coins similar to those stolen by the Doan gang

# COLLECTIONS CONNECTION: RESEARCH LIBRARY AND PHOTO SERVICES

The Mercer Museum Research Library contains thousands of resources for academic researchers, local organizations, journalists, and at-home hobbyists to find the materials for their publications and other projects. The library and archives include books, letters, postcards, photographs, broadsides, and seemingly endless other ephemera for all curious minds.

The Mercer Museum Research Library continues to offer new and exciting enhancements, including subscriptions to three databases; Ancestry, Fold3, and Newspapers.com.

Any onsite researchers utilizing the library's internet can access these databases for their genealogical, property, or historical research without the need for login credentials.

The Ancestry Library Edition database includes tax records, census records, death certificates, Quaker Meeting minutes, immigration records and more. Newspapers.com World Edition lets you keyword search in newspapers from across the world from 1690 to 2021. Fold3 provides access to military records including stories, photos, and personal documents of people who have served in the military.

The Mercer Museum Research Library's Digitization Lab is available to the family historian or collector who wants to digitize their archival collection. One of our library staff can photograph or scan your personal history items such as documents, photographs, negatives, scrapbooks, and oversized archival items. The library also offers consultations on preservation concerns. Our staff can help you decide how best to store your collection to protect it from humidity, dust, or light damage.

Here are just a few of the requests and projects the Mercer Museum Research Library has been able to assist with recently:

- Collection images related to Nelson's Barbershop in Doylestown, Pennsylvania were used to illustrate an article in the National History Day Theme Book.
- The Library's Digitization Lab developed a process to digitize oversized items. The first materials to be photographed in this ongoing project were the Hughes Farm Maps of various Bucks County Townships dated between 1850 and 1870. Some of these maps are extremely rare and have already been accessed by several researchers.
- Geschichtsverein Aschau in Aschau im Chiemgau, Germany reached out for any materials related to Elizabeth "Lela" von Isarborn, Henry Mercer's sister. This museum highlights local history including the stories of Lela and her husband, Hubert. The Mercer Museum Research Library was able to share photos, letters, and other documents related to the von Isaborns making the family's history available in another country.
- The History Channel used a broadside from the archives for a documentary series about President Lincoln which aired in February 2022. The broadside is a call for volunteers for Colonel W. W. H. Davis's Regiment.

The Mercer Museum Research Library is currently open to the public from Tuesday to Saturday. Access to the Research Library is included with Mercer Museum admission or by membership to the Bucks County Historical Society.



**Broadside; call  
for volunteers for  
Colonel W.W.H.  
Davis's Regiment**



**Left: "Lela" von  
Isarborn and  
her husband,  
Hubert**

**Below: Harry  
Nelson outside  
of Nelson's  
Barbershop in  
Doylestown,  
PA**





# AWAKEN \_\_\_\_\_: AN EXPERIMENTAL EXHIBIT

In 2019, the Mercer Museum received a \$230,000 grant from The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage to support a major initiative over a period of two and a half years entitled, "Plus Ultra: Awakening the Mercer Museum Core."

Inspired by the Latin motto Plus Ultra, or "more beyond", a phrase greatly revered by Henry Chapman Mercer, this experimental project is the first of its kind for the organization and allows the museum to prototype and transform various empty rooms in the original historic core of the Mercer Museum castle into intimate spaces designed for meaningful experiences through the power of objects.

The final experimental prototype of this series at the museum is entitled *Crossroads: Doylestown*. In creating this prototype exhibit, we worked with local residents to identify some places in the heart of Doylestown that hold particular meaning for them. These are places where they've experienced happiness, sadness, inspiration, worry, regret, pain, anger and pride. Some of the stories they tell reflect long-ago memories. Others describe events from the more recent past.

While these stories and memories are local, we hope that our out-of-town visitors will identify with the universal emotions and experiences they express.

*Awaken \_\_\_\_\_: An Experimental Exhibit* has been supported by The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage.



## WELCOME OUR NEWEST FULL-TIME STAFF MEMBERS

**Candace Clarke**, Director of Development  
**Alexandra DeAngelis**, Head Librarian and Archivist  
**Matt Dobrosky**, Community Services Associate  
**Emma Falcon**, Assistant Collections Manager & Digital Services  
**George Fernandez**, Facilities Assistant  
**Joe Fite**, Education & Community Services Associate (not pictured)  
**Peter Glogovsky**, Project Assistant  
**Allison Hauser**, PR & Marketing Manager  
**Mary Ann McLean**, Operations Assistant  
**Katy Pownall**, Education Coordinator  
**Kerriann Ruane**, Fundraising Special Events Manager  
**Thomas Schmitz**, Manager of Community Services  
**Christian Worman**, Facilities Assistant (not pictured)  
**Maria Wuerker**, Member & Donor Services Manager



Top (L to R): Maria Wuerker, Alexandra DeAngelis, Candace Clarke, and Kerriann Ruane  
Middle (L to R): Katy Pownall, Emma Falcon, Mary Ann McLean, and Allison Hauser  
Bottom (L to R): George Fernandez, Thomas Schmitz, Peter Glogovsky, and Matt Dobrosky

# 2023 EXHIBIT HIGHLIGHT: EVERYDAY RHYTHMS: MUSIC AT THE MERCER

Do you love history and music? Visit the Mercer Museum's major exhibit *Everyday Rhythms: Music at the Mercer* now through December 31, 2023 in the Martin & Warwick Foundation Galleries.

Throughout history, people have chosen to organize seemingly random sounds into something more meaningful and expressive – music!

*Everyday Rhythms: Music at the Mercer* explores many common uses of music and musical instruments. Acquired by museum founder Henry Mercer during his collecting in the 1920s, these instruments hail from European-American origins, as well as areas of Africa and Asia. From African drums to Asian bells, to Pennsylvania-German zithers, the instruments on view were once a part of the acoustic landscape, or soundscape, of everyday life throughout the world.

In addition to expressing ourselves, and entertaining each other, we've created, played and adapted instruments to send signals, tell stories, convey power, accompany rituals, organize work, sustain tradition, and give order to community life. These purposes are shared across many regions, peoples and cultures.

This exhibit focuses on the versatility of instruments, from their use in the military, for timekeeping and signaling, as accompaniment for religious or secular rituals, and in telling and passing on stories. For many of us, certain forms of music also have deeply personal meanings – as revealed in a portion of the exhibit featuring Henry Mercer's own love of Irish dance music. The exhibit also features instruments crafted in Bucks County and nearby regions, as well as nine interactive audio stations, where guests listen to the sounds of the various instruments on view.

Henry Mercer was especially intrigued by the history of certain instruments. These include the Pennsylvania-German zither, or *Scheitholt*, an instrument adapted eventually into the Appalachian dulcimer. Mercer also acquired a number of banjos, and may have been attuned to the instrument's African and Afro-Caribbean origins. The exhibit touches on the migration and evolution of both of these traditional "folk" instruments.

Although most of the instruments in the exhibit relate to Henry Mercer's early collecting, others were acquired more recently – including several with local histories. In all, nearly 150 instruments and related artifacts will be on view, along with numerous photographs and artwork. Although most of the objects are drawn from the Museum's own holdings, a number are also on loan from local and regional private collections.





## 2023 EXHIBIT SPOTLIGHT: HEARING WHAT HENRY HEARD!

Musical tastes often differ. One person's music may be another's noise or distraction. Confronted with so many choices today, we tend to seek out music that best expresses our own identities, moods, beliefs or passions. Music may help us relax or rebel, unite with others or set us apart, deepen our mood or alter it.

In his era, Henry Mercer delighted in Irish dance music. Its romance and gaiety offered relief from stress, a diversion from ill health, and a retreat from modernity. Though not considering himself a talented musician, Mercer did play the "fiddle" in his younger days, and later enjoyed whistling Irish tunes "by ear."

Mercer's "discovery" of Irish music occurred in 1885, when he encountered Irish-born piper Patrick ("Patsy") Touhey and fellow musician John Eagan passing through Doylestown. At the time, the pair was on tour in the Eastern United States. It was their playing that initially captured Mercer's fancy (he even invited Touhey and Egan back to his family's home, Aldie), and eventually launched his lifelong interest in Irish dance music.

Later, Mercer sought out books on Irish music for his library at Fonthill Castle, and managed to secure a traditional Irish instrument for his museum collection – a set of uilleann pipes made by William Taylor in Philadelphia. He also encouraged his housekeeper, Laura Swain, to play Irish tunes on the piano, so that he could evaluate their quality, and make comments in a notebook. Despite Mercer's reluctance to embrace much of modern technology, he nonetheless acquired the latest in audio equipment – a Victor "talking machine," or phonograph – and listened to 78 rpm recordings of Irish music.

In a 1920 letter, Henry Mercer referred to his use of this phonograph, noting that he had listened to the tune "Geese in the Bog" played "on the Victor machine record 18193A by a Mr. John J. Kimmel. With much difficulty, Mercer continued, I bought up all the records as published by Victor, the Columbia and Emmerson [sic] Companies and played by Kimmel."

What did these recordings sound like to Mercer? Was he satisfied with them? We don't know the answer to the second question, but thanks to the Friends of the BCHS, we can now hear what Mercer may have heard. This winter the Friends provided funding enabling the Mercer Museum Research Library to acquire a device to play and digitize Henry's 78 rpm records (as well as other albums). While digital versions of these tunes do exist elsewhere, the idea of actually hearing the very recordings that Mercer listened to more than a century ago was exciting. In fact, two of Mercer's favorite tracks, including "Geese in the Bog," are now available for listening by our visitors at one of the audio stations in the new exhibit, *Everyday Rhythms: Music at the Mercer*. Stop by the Mercer Museum for a listen!



**Phonograph (Model VV-VI-A), Victor Talking Machine Company, Camden, New Jersey, ca. 1915.**  
Fonthill Collection, Bequest of Henry C. Mercer, 1930



**Henry Mercer's Violin or Fiddle. Johann Haslwanter (1824-1884), Munich, Germany, ca. 1880.**  
Fonthill Collection, Bequest of Henry Mercer, 1930



**78 RPM Recording: Medley of Jigs. Victor Talking Machine Company, ca. 1920.** Fonthill Collection, Bequest of Henry Mercer, 1930

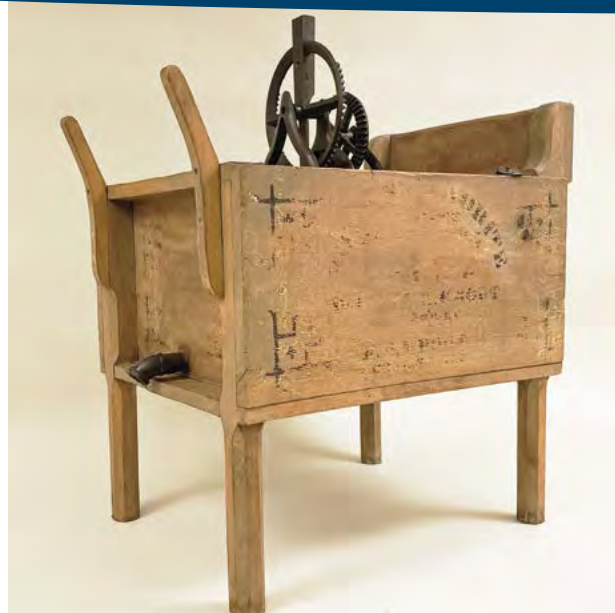
## RECENT ACQUISITIONS

What's in that old barn? One of our new acquisitions shows that you just never know!

Mercer Museum staff were invited to an old barn packed with antiques and permitted by the owner, local resident Scott Rubel, to select items useful for the collection. As BCHS Exhibit Specialist Clint Flack explored the barn, he discovered a nineteenth-century hand-crank washing machine. The machine was dirty and in poor condition. Remnants of stenciling on the outside, however, identified it as a "Woman's Choice" washing machine made here in Bucks County by C.P. Krout – one of the only known surviving examples of this model. Now cleaned and fully restored, the washing machine is currently on temporary display in the historic core of the museum alongside its patent drawings.

But the story doesn't end there. Several months later, the museum was able to acquire a miniature version of the same washing machine. This salesman's sample was used by merchants in the nineteenth century to demonstrate the machine for customers. The model is identical to the full-size model in almost every way. Unlike the full-size model, however, it is painted green and does not include a drain – not surprising since, as a demonstration piece, it never held water. The salesman's sample was donated to the museum and is on temporary display in the Mercer Museum Core next to the full-size model.

These objects are only a sampling of this past year's acquisitions. Other gifts include Civil War artifacts of Anthony Goldsmith (museum purchase, with funds provided by the Cascade Foundation and the Argus Fund), a Brewster fighter plane canopy (gift of Clint Flack), two rotary dial telephones (gift of Jeanne Slaw), a portrait by Jonathan K. Trego (gift of David B. Long in Memory of Christopher T. Rebollo), a telephone pole shovel, tamper, and collection of equine dental tools (gift of Daniel Burmeister), COVID-19 vaccine vials and other materials (gift of the Doylestown Hospital), a "Mask Up Doylestown" sign (gift of Ron Strouse), two side chairs (gift of Frank G. Ryan), a miniature doll settee and dolls (gift of Diane Rutherford Burkhart in Memory of Cora V. Rutherford), an oil painting by Franklin Fluck (gift of Jessica Raymond), a flour box and matchbook (gift of Charles Yeske), a Burpee wall clock and Fordhook Farms matchbook (gift of Maureen S. Thompson), a World War II Auxiliary Police Force badge (gift of Daniel Burmeister), a board game (gift of Rayna Polsky), violin of Newtown resident Frank G. Smith and two cigar boxes (gift of David B. Long in honor of Donna Humphrey), a Gross Gourmet Foods trade sign (gift of Dan Gross), a Feather Christmas tree (gift of the Kirsch and Vile Family), a collection of agricultural tools (gift of the Rubel Family in Memory of Walter L. Rubel), a collection of local political signs (gift of George Wozar), a coverlet from Newtown, c. 1840 (gift of the Fischer Family in Honor of Viola Histan Moyer Fischer), and a cigar sign and gathering basket (gift of Marilyn Vantosh and Robert Thompson).



**"Woman's Favorite" Washing Machine.** Gift of the Rubel Family in Memory of Walter L. Rubel



**Washing Machine Salesman's Sample.** Gift of Clint Flack



**Right: W. Atlee Burpee Centennial Wall Clock, c. 1976.** Gift of Maureen S. Thompson



# IMLS GRANT



The Mercer Museum has received a grant to improve the care, management, and cataloging of 500 artifacts installed in its 1916 historic Central Court.

In 2022, the museum was the recipient of a \$111,907.00 matching grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), a federal agency, as part of IMLS' *Museums for America* grant program which will support the Mercer Museum's aim of preserving and providing access to the collections entrusted to its care.

The grant allows the museum to fully inventory, clean, catalog, and assess the condition of objects that are free-standing and suspended from the ceilings and mezzanines of the Mercer Museum's historic Central Court. Since November 2022, a hydraulic lift has been used to survey the artifacts hanging in the core of the Mercer Museum – unreachable otherwise from the ground. The survey is anticipated to be completed in 2024.

During this time, the grant project team will photograph these artifacts and collections, assess lighting conditions, and conduct historical and contextual research to inform future museum planning and enhancing the knowledge of museum staff and guests. In the future, data about the Central Court artifacts could enhance visitor engagement through an online catalog, as well as in person at the museum.

Henry Mercer's unusual presentation of artifacts "wowed" visitors in 1916 when the museum opened, and Mercer's vision continues to evoke surprise, awe, and curiosity among modern visitors. By thoroughly documenting and assembling historical information on the nearly 500 artifacts in the museum's core, this project works toward satisfying this curiosity and addressing any gaps in knowledge regarding the artifacts.

The Bucks County Historical Society's Vice President of Collections and Interpretation Cory Amsler notes, "This project will enable the museum to more fully document the Central Court collections, perform comprehensive up-close photography, and point us towards new and creative methods for delivering this content to future guests."

Project Assistant Peter Glogovsky adds, "You need to have a sense of humor and a degree of perspective for a project like this. I thoroughly enjoy the process of discovery, of learning through research, and the adventure that comes with working on objects that are displayed in such a unique manner. I consider myself lucky to have been given the opportunity to contribute to the project and to be part of this amazing team."

The Mercer Museum project was one of 120 projects nationwide funded through IMLS' *Museums for America* grant program in 2022. Of these 120 grants, only eight were for projects in Pennsylvania. The matching portion of the Mercer Museum grant, \$112,504.00, is being supported by community contributions and the museum's operating funds.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's libraries and museums. They advance, support, and empower America's museums, libraries, and related organizations through grantmaking, research, and policy development. Their vision is a nation where museums and libraries work together to transform the lives of individuals and communities.

This project was made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.



# PLUS ULTRA SOCIETY: LEGACY FOR THE FUTURE

The Bucks County Historical Society's *Plus Ultra* Society recognizes individuals who include BCHS in their wills and planned giving.

In mid-2020, I decided to update my will. Naturally, my attorney gave me a checklist of items to consider, including bequests or gifts to charitable organizations and institutions. This exercise got me thinking about my community and how much I love and appreciate living here. Community-level giving has always been a high priority for me. So I needed to evaluate what factors were important to me.

Bucks County has brought such joy to my family, friends and life. Its beautiful art and music, wonderful intellectual stimulation and education, great community events, charming historic towns and the sheer joy provided by the gorgeous landscape waterways and architecture.

My answer became clear when I remembered a passage that James Michener wrote in his book *Fires of Spring*. The book is a partially autobiographical story about David Harper, an orphan, growing up in Doylestown.

He wrote "'You and I were pretty lucky', he finally began. 'We grew up in the only town I ever heard of around here that has a real castle, and our town has two of them. I guess it was foolish to waste money building castles but did you ever see them....? I guess I saw them in every light and every way there is. When I came to school in the morning I used to look at the red one where the museum is, but the other one was even more...well, it was particularly mine. I never told another person...but whenever we had a tough game or an important examination, I used to walk out and take a look at that...,' then he said, 'I got back to Doylestown just about dawn and I thought I'd seen that castle in about every possible way, but that morning was like nothing I've ever seen before. Believe me that was something to see!'"

I believe that many of us feel like Michener's character David, that the Bucks County Historical Society, Mercer Museum, and Fonthill Castle are "particularly" ours! To us, these castles are an inseparable part of our Bucks County landscape, much like our beautiful hills, valleys and beautiful towns.

It became crystal clear to me that Bucks County Historical Society satisfied the desired factors important to me with respect to community-level giving. So I made the decision to include BCHS in my will. I feel honored to support the *Plus Ultra* Society's goal to insure that future families and friends continue to enjoy and be inspired by the many wonderful gifts that BCHS continues to give us.

— Michelle Pedersen



To learn more about joining the BCHS *Plus Ultra* Society, or to notify us if you have already included the Bucks County Historical Society in your plans, please contact Candace Clarke, Director of Development, at 215-345-0210, ext. 129.



## STAFF SPOTLIGHT: EMMA FALCON, ASSISTANT COLLECTIONS MANAGER & DIGITAL SERVICES



### **How did you come to join the team at the Mercer Museum & Fonthill Castle?**

I graduated from Indiana University in 2019 with my Master's Degree in Museum Studies with a focus in Collections Management and Object Care. I spent some time working in museums in Indianapolis before moving to Bucks County in late 2020. Having had a lot of experience with the care of decorative art objects, I reached out to the Bucks County Historical Society looking for volunteer opportunities. My inquiry happened to align with a job opening within the Curatorial Department, so I was able to interview for a part-time Images Services position. Over time, I utilized skills I learned from past museum jobs and took on more responsibilities until my position grew into what it is today.

### **What do you enjoy most about your position?**

I really love that within this position I am able to wear so many hats. My responsibilities include anything needed in the care and cataloging of the museum collection and archives. Somedays this may look like entering information into our online catalogs, Argus and ArchivEra, and other days I can be found within an exhibit measuring and photographing objects. This position also allows me to work with the public and researchers through the library's Digitization Services or the museum's Collections Access Visits. I even get to bake recipes found within the Research Library collection to share via social media.

### **What have been some of your most meaningful experiences to date?**

Anytime I am able to make the collection more accessible to people, I am thrilled! The museum offers Collections Access Visits in which people can schedule a time to closely examine an item of interest. I have worked with researchers writing a paper, reenactors wanting to recreate an accurate accessory for their outfit, and general hobbyists wanting to look at a specific tool.

In 2022, I developed a program for Scout groups all about book forms and book making. It was great getting to work with the Scouts and teach them all about styles of books using materials from the archive collection. The program ended with leading them through the creation of two different book styles allowing them to complete the requirements for their badge.

### **What is your favorite artifact in Henry Mercer's collection and why?**

My favorite artifact has to be the Flatbed Printing Press (06748) in room 10 in the Mercer Museum historic core. This gigantic machine is the oldest printing press in Bucks County and helped in the production of several local papers.

This object makes me especially nostalgic because, prior to my MA, I studied and earned my Bachelor's in Printmaking and Book Forms where I often used old iron presses like this one. I have always been amazed how there are so many different styles of presses and how they each work to accomplish their jobs. While many would say computers made these machines obsolete, there is something so wonderful about graphics or text printed on an actual press.



## SPOTLIGHT: COMMUNITY PROGRAMS MOVIES AT THE MERCER MUSEUM

Back by popular demand, the Mercer Museum & Fonthill Castle has partnered with the County Theater and The Moving Picture Cinema for *Movies at the Mercer Museum* in 2023, a beloved film series with outdoor screenings on the Green of the Mercer Museum.

Every third Thursday from May through October, we feature a movie where guests can bring blankets and chairs to enjoy a family-friendly evening outdoors. The line-up will be sure to include feel-good classics, cult favorites and more!

For more information about Movies at the Mercer, visit [mercermuseum.org/moviesatthemerger](https://mercermuseum.org/moviesatthemerger).

Movies at the Mercer Museum is sponsored by:



## MERCER'S WIZARDING ACADEMY: SUMMER CAMP 2023

Calling all witches and wizards! Join the Mercer Museum education team for a week-long, half-day summer camp filled with magic and excitement! There is still time to register for 2023!

Get sorted into your houses, prepare your wands, and get ready for classes in Potions, Defense Against the Dark Arts, Care of Magical Creatures, Herbology, Quidditch, and more. This indoor-outdoor summer camp experience connects history, science, literature, and magic in a one-of-a-kind setting inside of the Mercer Museum and on its grounds.

This camp is for campers ages 7-12. Campers will be divided into four separate groups, or houses, each week. For our returning campers, the Wizarding "Sorting Hat" will re-sort all campers into new houses for 2023. Wizard dress is highly encouraged. Register today at [mercermuseum.org/wizardingcamp](https://mercermuseum.org/wizardingcamp).





# 2023 FUNDRAISERS – SAVE THE DATES

## FONTHILL CASTLE BEER FEST SATURDAY, AUGUST 26, 2023

Fonthill Castle – 525 E. Court Street, Doylestown, PA

Fonthill Castle is hosting our annual end-of-summer Beer Fest fundraising event on the afternoon of Saturday, August 26, 2023.

Enjoy local craft beers, wonderful music, delicious food, and so much more in our one-of-a-kind setting. This fundraising event supports our education, preservation and community programs at Fonthill Castle, a National Historic Landmark operated by the Bucks County Historical Society.

Sponsorship and general information is at [mercermuseum.org/beerfest](https://mercermuseum.org/beerfest).

*All attendees must show valid ID of 21+ years of age for entry.*



## COCKTAILS AT THE CASTLE SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2023

Mercer Museum – 84 S. Pine Street, Doylestown, PA

Enjoy an unforgettable evening of culinary delights and tantalizing cocktails at the Mercer Museum's major annual fundraiser to benefit our year-round education, exhibition and community initiatives.

Sample offerings from area restaurants, caterers, and bakeries while sipping crafted cocktails and dancing the night away.

Sponsorship and general information is at [mercermuseum.org/cocktails](https://mercermuseum.org/cocktails).

*All attendees must show valid ID of 21+ years of age for entry.*







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