



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Wednesday, November 1, 2023

Tales of the Revolutionary War and the Doan Gang Outlaws In Bucks County's Taverns

DOYLESTOWN, PA – The Mercer Museum is pleased to present a new presentation entitled *Toasting the Tories: The Doan Gang and Bucks County Taverns* on Saturday, November 4, 2023 from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

This program features an afternoon of true tales about the notorious Doan Gang, a group of British loyalists in Bucks County at the time of the American Revolution. The Doan Gang plotted, schemed, and plundered their way through a divided world in the earliest days of a budding American nation. The Doan Gang's most infamous crime was the daring 1781 robbery of the Bucks County Treasury in Newtown, PA.

Attendees will learn about the Gang's visits to colonial taverns throughout Bucks County, and the role of taverns as unofficial "town halls" of their day. Taverns in the colonies served as destinations for weary travelers as well as public places to conduct business, and hold elections or government meetings.

This presentation offers exclusive access to never-before-displayed artifacts, documents, and historic Bucks County tavern signs, presented by Bucks County Historical Society Director of Library and Archives Annie Halliday and Exhibit Specialist Clint Flack.

This program is part of a series of offerings leading to the Mercer Museum's major exhibition, *The Doan Gang: Outlaws of the Revolution*, opening in May 2024, on the cusp of the 250th anniversary of the United States.

This upcoming exhibition will explore the myths and legends of the Doan Gang, and will highlight their deep passions and commitment to the King of England, as well as their criminal activities.

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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 17,000 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 of Henry Chapman Mercer. Mercer built Fonthill Castle as his residence and 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.

For additional information, please contact:

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