

# CASTLE CHRONICLES

NEWSLETTER OF THE BUCKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



*The*  
**DOAN GANG**

★ **OUTLAWS** ★  
*of the* **REVOLUTION**



SUMMER 2024



MERCER  
MUSEUM  
& FONTHILL  
CASTLE



Smithsonian  
Affiliate

VOL. 37 NUMBER 1



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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

Collage of images from *The Doan Gang: Outlaws of the Revolution* exhibition at the Mercer Museum.

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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 PRESIDENT & CEO

Henry Chapman Mercer's legacy is woven tightly into the fabric of our community. This legacy inspires the values that resonate deeply with the Bucks County Historical Society's commitment to history and heritage. As we navigate through our journey of growth and development, it's essential to pause and reflect on the values that define our organization as described in our Strategic Plan.

## INTEGRITY

BCHS demonstrates professionalism and intellectual honesty through transparent and careful stewardship of resources including collections, facilities, and investments.

## COMMUNITY AND MEMORY

BCHS is a community gathering space, resource, and catalyst for public engagement that is rooted in Bucks County history. We champion our mission to collect, preserve, and share the community's material culture, memories, and heritage.

## CURIOSITY AND INNOVATION

BCHS invites curiosity and creates space for innovation through inspired and imaginative collaborations between staff and community voices.

## RESPECT

BCHS respects people, communities, and cultures and appreciates the richness offered by inherent differences.

For over 140 years, the Bucks County Historical Society has been enriching the lives of local residents while attracting guests from far and wide to the Mercer Museum & Fonthill Castle. We view ourselves as stewards of Henry Mercer's legacy, responsible for not only caring for the buildings and objects he left behind, but for fulfilling his vision of a place where guests could experience art, architecture, history, and nature. By connecting people to our shared history, we promote our values and uphold our mission.



Kyle McKoy  
President & CEO



# 2024 BLBB CHARITABLE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM AT 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.

This year's interns are with us from June 3 – August 9, 2024, and their work supports our exhibition, archives, education, and community services initiatives at both castles.

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.



Top (L to R):  
Blake Aspinwall, Erin Demczynsyn, and Mackenzie Gregory

Bottom (L to R):  
Connor Mignano, Abigail Walters, and Linda Zuniga

## WELCOME OUR NEWEST FULL-TIME STAFF MEMBERS

At the Bucks County Historical Society, we have been lucky to welcome a number of amazing team members in the past year:

- Becky Brockette**, Manager of Community Programs
- Ann Ciliberto**, Executive Office Manager
- Maurice Grannum**, Facilities Assistant (not pictured)
- Amy Knecht**, Member & Donor Services Manager
- Laurie Martell**, Capital Campaign Manager
- Cheryl Moyer**, Director of Finance
- Chris Quinn**, Community Services Associate
- Nick Siragusa**, Facilities Assistant

Top (L to R): Becky Brockette, Laurie Martell, Chris Quinn, and Nick Siragusa

Bottom (L to R): Amy Knecht, Ann Ciliberto, and Cheryl Moyer



# MERCER'S VISION – FONTHILL'S FUTURE A CAMPAIGN FOR THE FONTHILL CASTLE GROUNDS

Laurie Martell has joined the BCHS staff as the new Capital Campaign Manager for **Mercer's Vision – Fonthill's Future, A Campaign for the Fonthill Castle Grounds**. She will be working closely with executive staff, board members, and the development team to cultivate relationships with new and existing donors in support of fulfilling Henry Mercer's vision – caring for the almost 70-acres of land at Fonthill Castle in order to sustain the region's natural beauty, shelter its native trees and species, and provide a space for education, enjoyment, and access for all who visit. For more information or to support this exciting endeavor, contact Laurie at 215-345-0210, ext. 129 or [lmartell@mercermuseum.org](mailto:lmartell@mercermuseum.org).



## PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION'S KEYSTONE HISTORIC PRESERVATION GRANT

In 2024, Fonthill Castle received a grant through the Keystone Historic Preservation Grant program to comprehensively survey, assess, and evaluate the condition of the stucco finishes and patches on the exterior wall surfaces and cornices of the National Landmark site.

The project, funded by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission's Keystone Historic Preservation Grant program, a program funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, with matching funds provided by the Rapaport Family Charitable Trust, explored the state of the original stucco on the exterior of Fonthill Castle, as well as stucco that was applied as part of patching efforts after the castle's construction.

The project assessed the condition of the finishes on all of the building's vertical surfaces, as well as the condition of its cornices. This project provided an opportunity to evaluate the performance of previous patches and repairs to the castle's walls and cornices. All of this work was conducted by architectural conservators from Heritage Conservation Collective, based in Philadelphia.

Following the survey, test patches or restorations were formulated and applied, and subsequently will be evaluated for appearance and performance. These test restorations will provide the basis for future large scale work on Fonthill Castle's exterior walls, which also may include stabilization, rather than replacement, of existing stucco finishes.



# COLLECTIONS CONNECTION: RESEARCH LIBRARY AND PHOTO SERVICES

Materials from the BCHS collections are regularly requested to support scholarly research and writing, and to serve as illustrations for a variety of journals, books, blogs, and other media. In addition, images from the collections are sometimes sought out for decorative purposes in local businesses and new construction projects. The following are a selection of requests that we have assisted with in the last few months:

- The Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum featured Henry Mercer and his Tile Works in their blog. Their post discusses how Mercer and Gardner worked together to plan the tile floors that still grace the Boston museum today.
- Joyce E. Chaplin, historian and academic, featured images of the Museum's original Franklin Stove (#04519) in a historical monograph and article written for *William and Mary Quarterly*.
- Eastern State Penitentiary used an image from the Library's photography collection of a hand-pumped fire engine for its program, *Up in Smoke: Prisons and Fire*. The engine once operated at Eastern State before serving as a parade vehicle for the Volunteer Firemen's Association of Philadelphia. It became part of the Mercer Museum collection in 1919 (#16263.A-C).
- Scans of architectural drawings from the A. Oscar Martin Collection were added as a permanent installation within the shared spaces of The Martin, a luxury apartment complex, in Doylestown.
- Materials from a variety of archival collections were used in signage, pamphlets, and exhibits for various local organizations, including Solebury Township Parks and Recreation Department, the Michener Art Museum, Haycock Historical Society, and the Wrightstown Township Historical Commission. [258]



**Franklin Stove or Pennsylvania Fireplace**, Warwick or Mount Pleasant Furnace, Chester or Berks Counties, Pennsylvania, c. 1750. Gift of Seth T. Walton, 1910.



**Hand-pumped Fire Engine**, attributed to the shop of Patrick Lyon, Philadelphia, 1806. Engine is pictured on the Mercer Museum grounds shortly after its acquisition. Gift of the Volunteer Firemen's Association of Philadelphia, 1919.

# 2024 BUCKS MONT REGIONAL NATIONAL HISTORY DAY COMPETITION



The Bucks County Historical Society hosted the 2024 Bucks Mont Regional National History Day Competition at Delaware Valley University on Saturday, March 16, 2024. National History Day is an annual academic enrichment program for students in grades 6-12 that encourages thoughtful historical research and project-based learning.

The national theme for 2024 was “Turning Points in History” and students participated as individuals or groups in one of five categories: papers, websites, documentaries, performances, and exhibits.

The Mercer Museum has coordinated the regional contest since 1996, encouraging Bucks and Montgomery County high school and middle school students to take their love of history beyond the classroom. This year, 350 students submitted 233 projects to the competition, and over sixty volunteer judges reviewed the student projects both via Zoom and in person, providing crucial feedback to students and supporting the Mercer Museum staff for this annual event.

From our Regional Contest, 78 students who placed 1st, 2nd, and 3rd in the competition advanced to the State Contest.



# 2024 MERCER WIZARDING ACADEMY SUMMER CAMP

Calling all young witches and wizards! Join Mercer Museum staff for a week-long half-day summer camp filled with magic and excitement. Get sorted into your houses, prepare your wands, and get ready for classes in *Potions*, *Care of Magical Creatures*, *Herbology*, 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 2024. Wizard dress is encouraged. Register today at [mercermuseum.org/wizardingcamp](http://mercermuseum.org/wizardingcamp).



# RECENT ACQUISITIONS

The General Greene Inn, also called Bogart's Tavern, was a historic tavern at the crossroads of the Old York Road (Route 263) and Durham Road (Route 413) in Buckingham, Bucks County. The tavern, known locally for its Revolutionary War history, officially closed in the 1960s. Several objects documenting parts of its history recently made interesting journeys into the Mercer Museum collection.

The building that housed the General Greene Inn has a long history. Henry Jamison established the first tavern in this location in 1763. It later played an important role in the American Revolutionary War, when a Bucks County revolutionary committee met there. Famous visitors included revolutionary General Nathanael Greene, who wrote a letter from the tavern in 1776, though the tavern would not be named for him until the early twentieth century.

In 2023, many of the General Greene Inn's former contents went up for auction, along with two signs that once hung outside the Inn in the early twentieth century. Museum staff attended the auction hoping to acquire the sign commissioned by former owner Harvey Crouthamel that includes a colorful portrait of General Greene on both sides, but lost to a higher bidder. Instead, at the same auction, museum Exhibit Specialist Clint Flack purchased another General Greene Inn sign commissioned by a later owner, George Joos, and donated it to the museum. This sign includes stylistic green lettering on a white background.

But the story didn't end there! Later in the year, a friend of the museum discovered the older Crouthamel sign, with the portrait of General Greene, in the possession of an antiques dealer in southcentral Pennsylvania. He secured the sign and donated it to the museum. The acquisition of both of these signs allows the museum to tell part of the story of the famous tavern and some of the people who owned it in its later years.

The General Greene Inn's history continues in the Mercer Museum Research Library. The Library recently acquired an 1895 drawing of the Inn – then called the Buckingham Hotel – sketched by J.S. Bailey, who helped to remodel the old building for the Richter Family in the 1870s. The drawing, titled "Ye Old Hostelrie 1805," is a view of how the artist imagined the property in the early nineteenth century. The Library collection also includes photographs of the building over the years as well as registers of guests from the early twentieth century.

The fate of the old building remains unresolved, but thanks to the efforts of Mercer Museum staff, some of its history will be preserved for future generations.

Thank you again to the generous donors of these objects and to all of the donors who contributed to our collections!



**General Greene Inn Trade Sign**, commissioned by George and Minnie Joos, c. 1927-1966. Gift of Clint Flack, 2023



**General Greene Inn Trade Sign**, commissioned by Harvey Crouthamel, c. 1913-1927. Gift of David B. Long, 2023

**Below: Drawing of Bogart's Tavern [General Greene Inn]**, J.S. Bailey, 1895. Gift of David B. Long, 2023



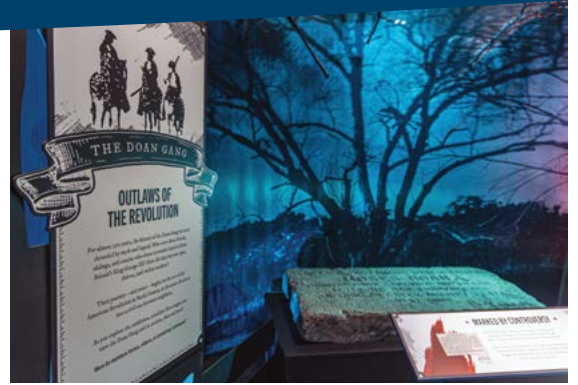
# NEW MAJOR EXHIBITION: THE DOAN GANG: OUTLAWS OF THE REVOLUTION

The most ambitious exhibition ever undertaken by the Bucks County Historical Society's Mercer Museum has been unveiled! The product of more than two years of research and preparation, *The Doan Gang: Outlaws of the Revolution* provides the most extensive and accurate telling of a story that has fascinated Bucks County residents and local historians alike for nearly 250 years. The exhibition presents that story in an immersive environment unlike any that has been staged previously in the Mercer Museum's Warwick and Martin Gallery.

Growing out of a series of planning meetings and public lectures in 2020 and 2021, the exhibition first began to take shape through the efforts of a dedicated curatorial team. Their dogged exploration of original source materials found in the Mercer Museum Research Library, and in numerous other repositories, revealed a much deeper and more complex story of the Doan Gang than had previously been conveyed. Combining both known and recently-discovered artifacts, architectural and archaeological remains, creative graphics, multi-media presentations, and interactive stations, the exhibition paints a rich picture of Bucks County during the Revolutionary Era – and sets the Doans squarely in that complicated historical period.

It was a time of revolution, choosing sides, and neighbors battling neighbors. In the midst of the rebellion, the Doans and their accomplices instead chose to maintain their loyalty to Great Britain, and did all they could to sabotage the cause of American Independence.

Among the “recently-discovered” artifacts featured in the exhibition is a remarkable survival. In the fall of 1781, the Doan Gang pulled off its most sensational heist – the robbery of the Bucks County Treasury in Newtown. After first invading the Treasurer's home, robbing him at gunpoint and gaining his keys, the Gang proceeded to ransack the Treasury building itself, looking for the valuable silver and gold coinage held there. The robbers believed that the valuables had been secured inside a slant-front desk, which they promptly broke open. While they made off with the silver – some 1600 coins – they were unable to locate the gold.



**Slant-front Desk from the Bucks County Treasury on display in *The Doan Gang: Outlaws of the Revolution*, c. 1760-1770. On loan to “The Doan Gang: Outlaws of the Revolution” exhibition by Christine Carleton.**

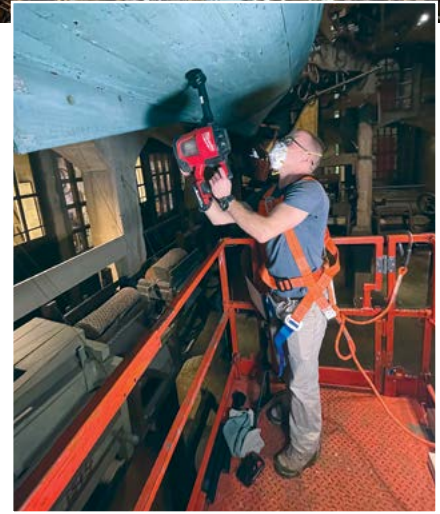
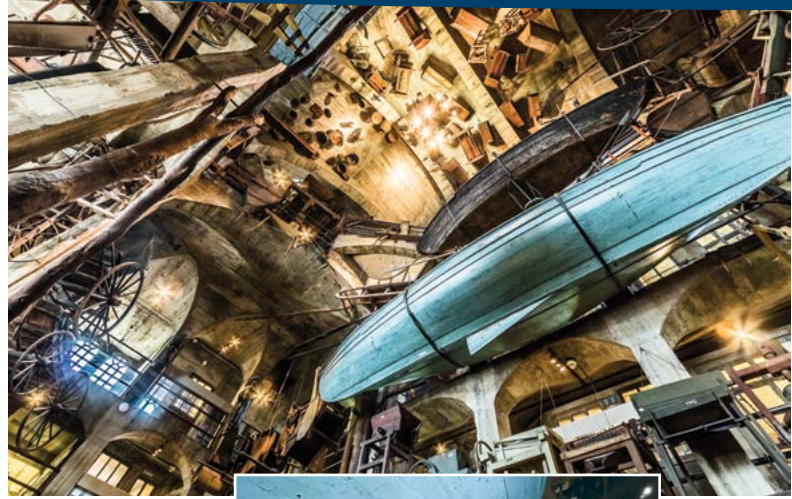
Continued on page 11

# IMLS CENTRAL COURT PROJECT HIGHLIGHT: WHALING COLLECTION

In the course of a major cataloging and research project underway at the Mercer Museum, amazing stories are being discovered every day. This project, supported by a grant from the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS), has enabled us to more fully document and assess the condition of more than 500 objects that stand freely and hang from the ceiling, walls, mezzanines, and railings of the Museum's Central Court.

Until recently, we knew very little about the history behind the iconic whaleboat suspended at eye level on the Museum's fourth floor. In October 1907, Henry Mercer acquired this completely outfitted vessel from the J. & W.R. Wing & Company of New Bedford, Massachusetts. Its history prior to Mercer's acquisition, however, had long been a mystery. Thanks to dogged research performed by Central Court Project Assistant, Peter Glogovsky, it is a mystery no more.

Among the first clues that led to the discovery of the whaleship to which this boat once belonged, are several pieces of equipment that carry the markings "SB" and "BK ART," including two knives and two harpoons. These markings reveal that this was the starboard boat ("SB") used aboard the bark *A.R. Tucker* ("BK ART"), a whaleship which sailed from 1851-1908. The *A.R. Tucker* was a purpose-built whaler constructed at Dartmouth, Massachusetts, in the yard of Alonzo Matthews and John Mashow. The *A.R. Tucker* made a series of voyages during the height of the American whaling industry. In 1861, the J. & W.R. Wing & Company bought the vessel. In all, the ship completed some twenty-four whaling voyages, each of which lasted from a few months to upwards of four years.



**Photograph of the *A.R. Tucker*.** Undated, possibly from her 1901-1903 or 1903-1906 voyage, photograph, Collections of the New Bedford Whaling Museum, New Bedford, MA, 2000.100.488

We now know, too, who built this boat after the project team identified the mark "LEONARD" branded into a board at the stern. This mark confirms that the whaleboat was constructed in the shop of Ebenezer Leonard (1814-1891) in Acushnet, Massachusetts. Leonard's sons, Eben F. and Charles, learned the trade from their father and continued the family business from 1891 to 1907. It was during this later period that our boat was likely constructed.

Another set of markings may confirm the exact voyage during which this boat and its equipment were used. A series of twelve notches cut into a round wooden post near the stern are tangible evidence that the crew of this particular boat completed several successful whale hunts. Conceivably, these notches can be used to link this boat to a specific multi-year voyage aboard the *A.R. Tucker*.

*Continued on next page*

## THE DOAN GANG *Continued from page 9*

John Hart, the Bucks County Treasurer targeted by the Gang, died in 1786. The desk that had been damaged was sold, either immediately after his death or later in the 1790s. It came into the possession of Dr. John Chapman, a physician and Justice of the Peace. When he died in 1800, an “old desk,” likely the Treasury desk, was recorded in his estate inventory. The desk remained in Dr. Chapman’s former office for many years until it was eventually sold to Cyrus Hillborn – ironically the great-grandson of one of the Treasury robbers.



The desk then descended through several generations of the Hillborn Family, extending well into the 20th century. The wife of a Hillborn descendant even presented a paper at a 1923 Bucks County Historical Society meeting that mentioned the desk and its connection to the Treasury Robbery. Its history bubbled up again in the mid-1960s when it was described in an article in the Newtown Enterprise newspaper. By the time Mercer Museum staff began working toward the Doan Gang exhibition, however, knowledge about the ownership and whereabouts of the desk had been lost. But inspired by one of the Museum’s first Doan lectures, the desk’s current owner alerted staff to its existence. Still in the possession of Hillborn descendants, it would become a centerpiece of the show.

The re-surfacing of the desk has enabled its careful examination by museum curators. Aside from its detailed provenance, the desk reveals a story only it can tell. Although its feet, brasses and a portion of a side panel have been replaced, the desk still bears the scars of its encounter with the Doan Gang. Gouges can still be seen along the sides and tops of drawers where the thieves used knives to pry them open. Moreover, when sliding out a center section of the desk’s interior, a hidden compartment is revealed. Set deeply inside of this compartment are three small wooden baskets. It is not difficult to imagine that it was this clever and secretive arrangement that defied the best efforts of the Doans to find the gold on that night in 1781.

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## WHALING COLLECTION *Continued from page 10*

Surviving ship’s logs record the number of whales captured on each voyage. This starboard boat was most likely used during one of the final multi-year journeys of the A.R. Tucker from 1901-03 or 1903-06; after which the ship was withdrawn from the fleet and her equipment sold to various parties, including to Henry Mercer in 1907. The ship was finally broken up in 1908.

Despite its relatively late date, the whaleboat represents technology in use throughout much of the 19th century – which made it a valuable acquisition for Henry Mercer. Both it, and the rest of the whaling collection, offers multiple paths for future interpretation and programming. These include the recovery of historical narratives about the individuals who built the boat, and the industry and its participants that depended upon it for their livelihoods. Museum staff members are already exploring creative ways of telling those stories to new generations of visitors.



**Ebenezer Leonard with his sons Charles and Eben Jr. around 1890**, Photograph, Collections of the New Bedford Whaling Museum, New Bedford, MA, 2000.100.3437

# PLUS ULTRA SOCIETY: “CREATING A LEGACY”

When I am asked why I am a member of the BCHS Plus Ultra Society supporting their Planned Giving initiatives, one distinct word comes to mind: Legacy.

Historical associations and museums are, themselves, about legacy.

When Henry Mercer amassed his admirable collections, he did so strategically, by collecting items and implements he felt demonstrated the incredible shift in humanity from the agrarian to the industrial age. His collection serves both as a chronicle and blueprint for what worked, what didn't, where we flourished and where we failed. And, what was always inherent, is the lesson of ingenuity and forward movement. “See what we have done, now imagine what we can do?”

I like to think that we all want to make a difference, to live, to love, to contribute to this world. It matters that our thoughts and actions counted for something, that we mattered. To know that someone, somewhere, was on the receiving end of what we had to give. I know that I cannot control many things in life, but I can decide how I will give of myself in order to say, “Because I did...they can!”

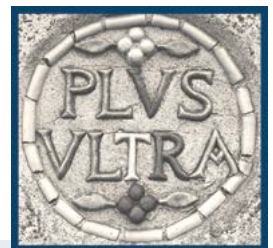
When the time comes, I will leave both ‘things’ and financial assets to my daughter and my grandchildren, the family I will leave behind. However there is much more to me than things. And, I imagine, that you might feel there is more to you as well.

Perhaps you have read of future plans to fulfill another of Henry Mercer's legacies by preserving the Fonthill Woodlands and ensuring a place to rest, walk, and spend time with our neighbors and friends, for future generations. It is perhaps not a coincidence that *Plus Ultra* in Latin translates to “more beyond”. I salute all of my fellow *Plus Ultra* Society members who are leaving behind a legacy for the greater community as part of their estate plans. I invite you to join us. The size of the gift matters not; it is the opportunity to give of oneself to the community that creates a legacy.

Playwright Lin Manuel-Miranda, in his musical *Hamilton*, writes, “Legacy, what is a legacy? It's planting seeds in a garden you never get to see.”

I suggest we join forces and plant those seeds today, because from them, trees will grow and someday, they will provide shade for future generations.

— Linda Butzier Hodgdon, BCHS Board of Trustees Chair



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 us at 215-345-0210 or email [development@mercermuseum.org](mailto:development@mercermuseum.org)

## THE FRIENDS OF THE BUCKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Friends of the Bucks County Historical Society is an auxiliary group of community members with a shared interest in history, culture, and the arts.

The Friends of BCHS provide educational programs four times a year at no charge to the public. Presentations have focused on topics of local and national interest, as well as many visits from first-person interpreters. Beyond programs, the Friends of BCHS have sponsored a variety of fundraising events over the years, including bus trips and family-friendly outdoor activities.



# SPOTLIGHT: COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

## FONTHILL CASTLE SUMMER PROGRAMS

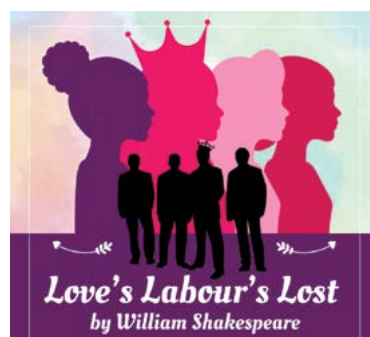
Join us at Fonthill Castle this summer for the return of our beloved summer programs!

**Fonthill Castle Evening Tours**, offered monthly, give guests the opportunity to delight in the splendor of an intimate 45-minute guided historic evening tour of the castle's unique rooms and artifacts.



On Thursday, July 4, 2024 we welcome guests to celebrate on the grounds of the castle at **Fonthill Castle 4<sup>th</sup> of July**, where guests will enjoy an afternoon of fun, food, games, crafts, entertainment, and live music. Highlights of the day will include the children's decorated bike parade, wheelbarrow and sack races, tug-of-war, live musicians, and food trucks.

Returning for the fifth year, the Mercer Museum & Fonthill Castle and the ActorsNET of Bucks County present **Shakespeare at the Castle** on July 12 & 13, 2024, two nights of a special production of a play written by the English language's most famous playwright staged in the spectacular outdoor setting of Fonthill Castle. This summer's show will be the classic comedy "Love's Labour's Lost," the story of a young king and his gentlemen who make a pledge to isolate themselves from the distractions and trivialities of love but find their oaths difficult to keep when a lovely young princess and her ladies arrive for a state visit.



For more information about our programs, visit [mercermuseum.org/events](http://mercermuseum.org/events).

## 2024 MARKETING GRANT FROM VISIT BUCKS COUNTY

The Mercer Museum & Fonthill Castle is thrilled to have received a marketing grant in the amount of \$22,500 that will focus on marketing efforts featuring the *Doan Gang: Outlaws of the Revolution* exhibition in the greater Northeast and mid-Atlantic regions throughout 2024. This grant targets potential travelers in the metro D.C and NY/NJ areas and promotes all that our castles offer year-round, as well as this exciting new exhibition.

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.

**BUCKS COUNTY**  
TOURISM GRANT PROGRAM

Experience Summer at  
**MERCER MUSEUM  
& FONTHILL CASTLE**

**The DOAN GANG  
\*\*\*\*\*  
OUTLAWS  
of the REVOLUTION**

Major Exhibition

MERCER MUSEUM & FONTHILL CASTLE  
DOYLESTOWN, PA  
[mercermuseum.org](http://mercermuseum.org)

## STAFF SPOTLIGHT: KERRIANN RUANE, DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

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

I graduated from Temple University in 2011 with a degree in Elementary and Special Education. I taught middle school science for a few years before deciding to go back to school at Gwynedd Mercy University where I received a BA in 2015. I started my journey in the non-profit sector at NOVA, a non-profit in Bucks County, and from there, transitioned into my professional journey in museums at Pearl S. Buck International, where I was given the opportunity to learn development and events, and I quickly realized it was a true passion of mine.



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

I love getting to meet so many people, especially people who are from Doylestown and share stories of when they first started coming to the Mercer Museum & Fonthill Castle. This museum holds a special place in people's hearts, and I love hearing about that. I also love planning our fundraising events and seeing them come together with so many people from the community in one place to support our two amazing castles in Doylestown.

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

I started with the museum on July 4, 2022, just about a month and a half before Fonthill Castle Beer Fest and a few short months before Cocktails at the Castle. I was able to jump in and help the team get these fundraisers planned and executed quickly and smoothly, and I am proud to say they were both very successful events.

Every year, we host these two fundraising events at the Mercer Museum & Fonthill Castle, and I love watching all of the planning and efforts of so many come together to make a really awesome event.

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

I love Room 7 at the Mercer Museum, which is the Kitchen exhibit. During COVID, my daughter, Harper, and I grew very fond of cooking and baking together. It is so interesting to see all of the tools from the past that serve the same function as the new tools that we used together. I enjoy getting to show her all of the objects when she visits me at work, so she can also appreciate them – and she thinks it is really cool that her mom gets to work in a castle! There is a 19th Century coffee grinder that I think is also really cool. I am a big coffee fan, so seeing how they ground coffee back then is really interesting!



# SAVE THE DATES: 2024 ANNUAL FUNDRAISING EVENTS

## FONTHILL CASTLE BEER FEST SATURDAY, AUGUST 24, 2024

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

Join us for our annual end-of-summer Beer Fest fundraising event on the afternoon of Saturday, August 24, 2024.

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 tickets at [mercermuseum.org/beerfest](http://mercermuseum.org/beerfest).

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



## COCKTAILS AT THE CASTLE SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2024

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 that benefits our year-round education, exhibition, and community initiatives. Cocktails at the Castle is a highlight of the Bucks County social calendar, and features a dizzying array of culinary samplings from area restaurants, caterers, and bakeries, as well as crafted cocktails, live music, and dancing.

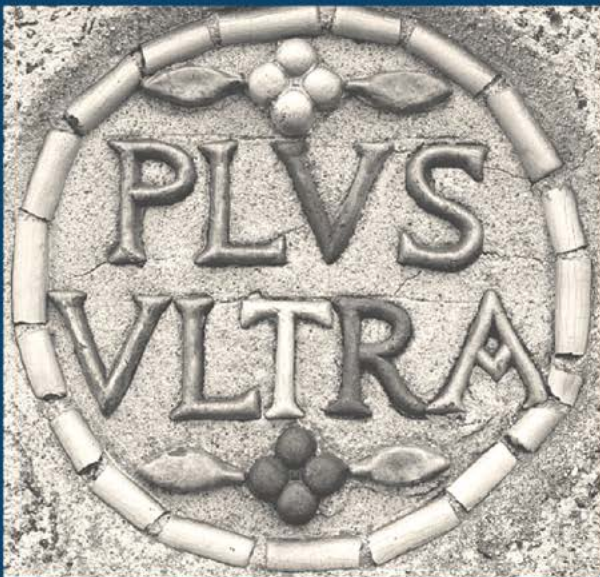
Sponsorship and general information is at [mercermuseum.org/cocktails](http://mercermuseum.org/cocktails).

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





84 South Pine Street, Doylestown, PA 18901



## PLUS ULTRA ... MORE BEYOND

Inspired by Henry Mercer's legacy of the Mercer Museum & Fonthill Castle, members of the *Plus Ultra* Society create their own legacy by making a planned gift to the Bucks County Historical Society.

**With a planned gift, you support our mission and leave a lasting statement for future generations.**

Learn more at [mercermuseum.org/plusultra](http://mercermuseum.org/plusultra)