MERCER MUSEUM & FONTHILL CASTLE

Smithsonian Affiliate



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER – DECEMBER 2026

OUR CASTLES DOYLESTOWN, PA

MERCER MUSEUM



Mercer Museum by Kevin Crawford

Located in Doylestown, Bucks County, PA, the Mercer Museum & Fonthill Castle are two National Historic Landmark sites celebrating the legacy of Henry Chapman Mercer (1856-1930), American archaeologist, anthropologist, tilemaker, collector and scholar. Our properties are one mile apart and operated by the Bucks County Historical Society (BCHS).

We are proud Smithsonian affiliates and two of Bucks County's premier cultural attractions.

Mercer Museum

84 South Pine Street
Doylestown, PA 18901
215-345-0210



The Mercer Museum is a six-story reinforced concrete castle designed by Henry Mercer and built between 1913 and 1916.

The museum complex features special exhibitions, as well as a core museum collection of over 17,000 artifacts. 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 pre-Industrial Americana. The museum also features a research library that is a center for Bucks County history, with its roots dating back to the founding of the Bucks County Historical Society in 1880.

The Mercer Museum is self-guided and advanced online tickets are recommended.

FONTHILL CASTLE



Fonthill Castle by Kevin Crawford

Fonthill Castle

525 East Court Street
Doylestown, PA 18901
215-348-9461



Fonthill Castle, built between 1908 and 1912, was the home of Henry Mercer and served as a showplace for his collection of tiles and prints. The castle features forty-four rooms, over two hundred windows and eighteen fireplaces. Fonthill Castle's interior features Mercer's renowned, handcrafted ceramic tiles designed at the height of the Arts and Crafts movement. This historic site is an eclectic mix of Medieval, Gothic, and Byzantine architectural styles, and is significant as an early example of poured reinforced concrete.

Fonthill Castle is open for guided 60-minute tours only (unless otherwise noted on special dates). Advanced online tickets are highly recommended, as tickets do sell out.

Mercer Museum & Fonthill Castle are open daily Tuesday – Sunday, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

The ground floor of the Mercer Museum features a modern wing that is fully accessible and climate-controlled with a changing exhibit gallery, lecture space, museum shop, and restrooms. The historic castle portion of the Mercer Museum has an elevator and offers partial accessibility due to narrow passageways. It is not climate-controlled and may experience fluctuations in temperature and humidity, depending on external weather conditions.

Fonthill Castle is a unique historic site. It offers limited accessibility with steep stairs and narrow, uneven passages throughout the interior of the site. Fonthill Castle is not recommended for those with limited mobility, issues with stairs, those who cannot stand for long periods of time, or those with concerns about small spaces/claustrophobia.

Tickets and up-to-date schedule information available at mercermuseum.org.

Mercer Museum Major Exhibition

Mercer Museum Major Exhibition

The Doan Gang: Outlaws of the Revolution

Open Now – December 31, 2027

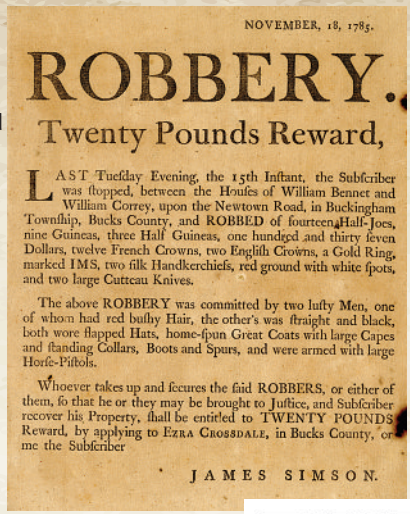
Included with Museum Admission

The Mercer Museum presents an exciting major exhibition, *The Doan Gang: Outlaws of the Revolution*, that explores the history and intrigue of a group of Revolutionary War-era Loyalists whose legend lives on today. Some called them villains; others hailed them as heroes.

Discover the untold stories of the Doan Gang and journey through a world of espionage, legendary robberies, and mythical lost treasure in the heart of Revolutionary Bucks County.



Learn how these local outlaws plotted, schemed, and plundered their way through a divided world in the earliest days of a budding American nation, and why their deep loyalty to British rule in the colonies made them enemies of the Founding Fathers.


NOVEMBER, 18, 1785.

ROBBERY.

Twenty Pounds Reward,

LAST Tuefday Evening, the 15th Inftant, the Subfcriber was ftopped, between the Houfes of William Bennet and William Correy, upon the Newtown Road, in Buckingham Township, Bucks County, and ROBBED of fourteen Half-Joes, nine Guineas, three Half Guineas, one hundred and thirty feven Dollars, twelve French Crowns, two Englifh Crowns, a Gold Ring, marked IMS, two filk Handkerchiefs, red ground with white fpots, and two large Cutteau Knives.

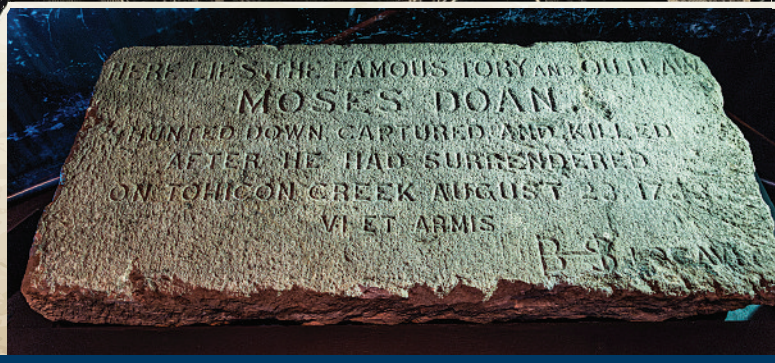
The above ROBBERY was committed by two luſty Men, one of whom had red buſhy Hair, the other's was ſtraight and black, both wore flapped Hats, home-fpun Great Coats with large Capes and ſtanding Collars, Boots and Spurs, and were armed with large Horſe-Piſtols.

Whoever takes up and ſecures the ſaid ROBBERS, or either of them, ſo that he or they may be brought to Juſtice, and Subſcriber recover his Property, ſhall be entitled to TWENTY POUNDS Reward, by applying to EZRA CROSSDALE, in Bucks County, or me the Subſcriber

JAMES SIMSON.

The Doan Gang: Outlaws of the Revolution investigates the extraordinary tales of the Gang's criminal exploits throughout the region and explores the conflicts that arose among neighbors, friends, and families in Bucks County who were forced to choose sides during a time of great political and social unrest.





Tickets at mercermuseum.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS SEPTEMBER – DECEMBER 2026

Mercer Museum Special Exhibition Programs

Exclusive Guided Tour of Doan Exhibition



Various dates Fall/Winter 2026
5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
$20 General Admission/$15 BCHS Members

Join Mercer Museum gallery guides for an exclusive 60-minute guided tour of our major exhibition *The Doan Gang: Outlaws of the Revolution* and journey through a world of espionage, robberies, and lost treasures in Revolutionary Bucks County.

Coffee and Doan-uts



September 25 & December 11, 2026
9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. (doors open at 8:30 a.m.)
$20 General Admission/$15 BCHS Member

Join us at the Mercer Museum for morning coffee, donuts, and an exclusive early-bird guided tour of our major exhibition *The Doan Gang: Outlaws of the Revolution*.

Meet the Curator Tours: *The Doan Gang: Outlaws of the Revolution*



October 21 & November 19, 2026
6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. (doors open at 5:30 p.m.)
$25 General Admission/$20 BCHS Member

Experience an intimate after-hours tour of *The Doan Gang: Outlaws of the Revolution* and learn more about the people, places and artifacts showcased in this major exhibition.

Spill the Tea! The Making of the Doan Exhibition

Wednesday, October 28, 2026
6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. (doors open at 5:30 p.m.)
$25 General Admission/$20 BCHS Member



Our curators tell all in this 90-minute behind-the-scenes tour of *The Doan Gang: Outlaws of the Revolution*. Hear the incredible tales of how these artifacts and stories came together through the eyes of our curators, and delve into the making of this extraordinary exhibition. Tea and light bites will be served courtesy of Wallace & Davis Enchanted English Tea Room.

WALLACE & DAVIS TEA ROOM
WWW.WALLACEANDDAVISTEAROOM.COM
SCAN ME

Mercer Museum Programs

Meditation at the Mercer



Friday, September 25, 2026
9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.
Historic Log House Quad – Outside of the Mercer Museum
Free

Discover the benefits of meditation with Menlha Kadampa Meditation Center from Lambertville, NJ and join this free outdoor session with practical tips for cultivating peace, clarity, and resilience. No experience necessary. Advanced online registration recommended.

Library 101: Exploring the Mercer Museum Research Library Open House



Wednesday, September 30 & December 9, 2026
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Mercer Museum
Free

If you are interested in learning more about the wonderful resources that the Mercer Museum Research Library has to offer, join our library and archives staff at this free "Research Library 101" Open House drop-in program!

The Craftery Market at the Mercer Museum

Saturday, October 17, 2026
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. • Mercer Museum
Free

This modern and unique market on the Green outside of the Mercer Museum features over 50 vendors, including carefully-curated artisan, handmade items, antique & vintage finds, original art and more! Enjoy food and live music while you shop.



Tickets at mercermuseum.org



Gather Place presents *Remember the Ladies 2026!*

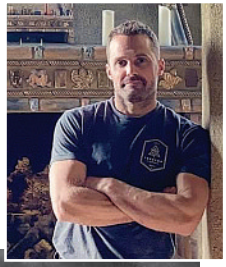
Saturday, October 24, 2026
2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
(Doors open at 1:30 p.m.)
Mercer Museum
$15 General Admission / $10 BCHS Member

As America celebrates its 250th Anniversary, *Remember the Ladies 2026!* portrays five extraordinary historical figures whose courage, leadership, and determination shaped our nation. Presented in collaboration with Gather Place, a museum housed in the historic 1877 built African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church of Yardley, PA.

GATHERPLACE.ORG

The Doan Gang and Washington's Crossing: A Revolutionary Tale

Sunday, November 15, 2026
2:00 – 3:00 p.m. (doors open 1:30 p.m.)
Mercer Museum
$15 General Admission / $10 BCHS Member



Uncover the truth about the Doan Gang's association with George Washington's epic crossing of the Delaware River and discover the gang's connection to this pivotal moment in American history.



Gingerbread in the Log House

Friday, November 27, 2026
11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Historic Log House Quad – Outside of the Mercer Museum
Free

Join food historian Susan Plaisted in the Mercer Museum's Log House and learn how gingerbread evolved from a mixture of ginger and breadcrumbs to its present-day form at this drop-in program.



Mercer Museum Programs

Holiday Open House

Tuesday, December 1, 2026
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Mercer Museum and Historic Log House Quad
Free

Delight in the sounds, scents, and scenes of the holidays, featuring local musical performances, crafts and activities, and a visit with Santa in the Log House!







Crossing Washington: The Untold Story of the Bucks Countians who Carried the Continental Army Across the Delaware, December 25-26, 1776

Sunday, December 6, 2026
Mercer Museum
$15 General Admission
$10 BCHS Member



George Washington's crossing of the Delaware before the Battle of Trenton was a crucial moment in American history. Join historian Matt White and hear the untold stories of the Bucks Countians who made the crossing possible – a significant portion of whom were enslaved.

Holiday Market at the Mercer Museum

Saturday, December 12, 2026
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Historic Log House Quad – Outside of the Mercer Museum
Free

This modern twist on an outdoor holiday market in the charming historic quad of the Mercer Museum brings over 40 vendors featuring curated handmade items, original art, and plenty of great gift ideas! Enjoy food and live music while you shop for the holidays.

Tickets at mercermuseum.org

Fonthill Castle Programs



Behind the Scenes Tours: Fonthill Castle from Tower to Crypt

Various dates September – November 2026

$50 Adult / $25 Youth (14-17)

Looking for both adventure and history? Join *a Behind the Scenes Tour* of Henry Mercer's Fonthill Castle and explore the site's tall towers, hidden passageways and "secret rooms" for an unforgettable and immersive historical experience.

This intimate 90-minute special-access tour goes beyond the daily tour route and offers deeper insights into Fonthill Castle's unique architecture and the lives of its inhabitants.

Fonthill Castle Meander Days

September 5, 6, & 12

October 10, 17, & 18, 2026

$20 Adult / $17 Senior / $15 Student
$10 Youth (6-17) / Free Child (5 and under)
BCHS Members – Free

Have you ever wished you could visit Fonthill Castle at your own pace? This castle experience features a special tour route and is perfect for families with kids or anyone who wants to visit at their own speed. Our knowledgeable tour guides are stationed throughout the home to make this a time to remember.



Fonthill Castle Programs

Yoga at Fonthill Castle

Sunday, October 11 & 25, 2026
5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Fonthill Castle Front Lawn
$20/Adult

Join local yoga instructor Matilda Ennis of Matilda Moves for an inspiring yoga sculpt session on the spectacular grounds of Fonthill Castle. This 45-minute class is accessible for all fitness levels and will leave you feeling strong and refreshed.



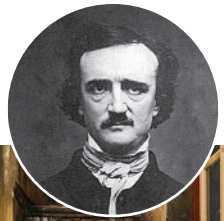
It Was a Dark and Stormy Night: Gothic Literature, Fonthill Castle, and Henry Mercer

September 11 & 18, 2026

October 2, 4, 9, 23, 24, 25, & 30, 2026

$30 Adult / $15 Youth (14-17)
Tour times vary

This 90-minute autumnal tour combines Henry Mercer's love of Gothic literature with the spellbinding architecture of Fonthill Castle. Guests explore the castle's passageways while learning about the books that Henry Mercer loved to collect!





Good Grief: Mourning Rituals and the Rise of Spiritualism During Henry Mercer's Lifetime

September 11 & 18, 2026

October 2, 4, 9, 23, 24, 25, & 30, 2026

$30 Adult / $15 Youth (14-17)
Tour times vary

This 90-minute special tour highlights rituals for grieving and mourning etiquette as well as the rise of Spiritualism during Henry Mercer's lifetime which spanned the years of the Civil War, the Victorian Era, the Gilded Age, the Edwardian Era, WW1, and the Roaring Twenties.







MERCER MUSEUM & FONTHILL CASTLE

Holidays at Fonthill Castle

Fonthill Castle Programs





'Tis the season at Fonthill Castle!

Join us for this beloved Bucks County holiday tradition and enjoy Henry Mercer's home decked out for the holidays. During Holidays at Fonthill Castle, see our historic property transformed into a winter wonderland with festive Christmas trees that will delight the whole family, with new themes every year.

Presenting Sponsor

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Fonthill Castle Holiday Daily Tours

November 14 – December 22, 2026

Tour times and tickets at mercermuseum.org/holidays

$20 Adult / $17 Senior /
$15 Student / $10 Youth (6-17)
Free Child (5 and under)
BCHS Members – Free

This festive season, our daily guided tours of historic Fonthill Castle showcase Henry Mercer's home decorated for the holidays, and feature personal stories about Mercer and this unique property. Tours are 60 minutes and guided.





Tickets at mercermuseum.org

Fonthill Castle Programs



Holiday Evening Tours at Fonthill Castle

November 18, 19, 20, 21, 25, 27, & 28
December 4, 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, & 23, 2026
Tour times and tickets at mercermuseum.org/holidays
$35 Adult / $25 BCHS Member Adult
$10 Youth (6-17) / $5 Child (5 and under)

Nothing is as magical as discovering Fonthill Castle decorated for the holidays on one of our guided evening tours. Bask in the beauty of Mercer's renowned ceramic tiles and holiday trees glowing in the candlelight during these intimate 45-minute historic tours.

Fonthill Castle Holiday Lights Meander

November 27 & November 28, December 5 & 6, December 12 & 13, December 19 & 20
December 23, 24, 26, 27, 29, 30, & 31, 2026
Timed entry tickets at mercermuseum.org/holidays
$20 Adult / $17 Senior / $10 Youth (6-17) / $5 Child (5 and under) / BCHS Members – Free

These special days allow you to explore the rooms and trees on the 2026 Holiday Lights Meander tour route at your own pace. Our knowledgeable tour guides are available along the holiday route to answer questions and make this a seasonal experience to remember for the whole family.













Tickets at mercermuseum.org

MERCER MUSEUM & FONTHILL CASTLE

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84 South Pine Street, Doylestown, PA 18901