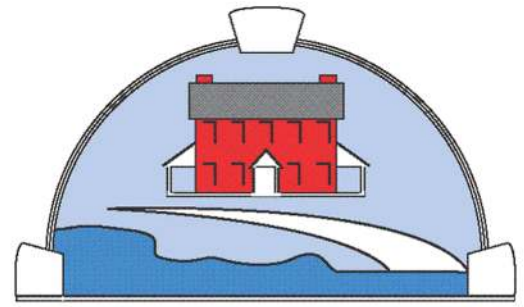


Circa 1794



The Newsletter of Rock Ford Plantation

LATE SUMMER/EARLY FALL 2018

The “Caretakers” Return to Rock Ford in October!

This October, Rock Ford Plantation will host the return of its theatrical presentation of “Tales from the Caretakers: The Haunted History of Rock Ford Plantation.” This one-act play, originally performed at Rock Ford in 2013, promises to provide guests with a memorably mysterious autumn evening.

Cynthia Charles and Evan Lloyd Cooper, familiar to Lancaster County audiences through their work at Theatre of the Seventh Sister, Ephrata Performing Arts Center, Rainbow Dinner Theater and other venues, will be acting in the lead roles of rather eccentric husband and wife caretakers. This couple, Charlie and Clara, are part of a lengthy succession of tenant farmer caretakers at Rock Ford. They are inspired by an actual couple who lived in and cared for Rock Ford during the 1930’s and 1940’s before the house was opened to the public as a museum. This couple would reportedly take visitors through the house for a modest fee in tours that often focused on some of the darker elements of Rock Ford’s long history. In the play, the caretakers will lead visitors on a tour through the dimly lit rooms of the mansion during which they will encounter some of the many legends and supernatural accounts that have haunted Rock Ford and its inhabitants since the early nineteenth century. This unique event will blend theater, history and the supernatural into a witch’s brew of spine-tingling Halloween fun.



Cynthia Charles (left) as Clara and Evan Lloyd Cooper (right) as Charlie will lead guests on a tour through two centuries of mysterious tales connected to Rock Ford.

Performances are scheduled for Thursday, October 4, 11, 18 and 25 at 6:30 pm and 8:00 pm and Friday, October 5, 12, 19 and 26 at 7:00 pm and 8:30 pm. Because each performance will be limited to an audience of 20 adults to avoid crowding and to preserve an appropriately intimate atmosphere within the house, early reservations are encouraged.

Tickets are \$15 per person. All ticket reservations may be made on-line through www.rockford.yapsody.com.

“Tales from the Caretakers” is not handicapped accessible. Guests will be standing during the entire performance (approximately one hour) and following the characters from room to room and up and down stairs. This event is not recommended for children ages 12 and under.

Calendar of Upcoming Special Events

October:

4, 11, 18 and 25:

Tales from the Caretakers, performances at 6:30 pm and 8:00 pm

5, 12, 19 and 26:

Tales from the Caretakers, performances at 7:00 pm and 8:30 pm

31: Final day of 2018 Tour Season

November:

16: Extraordinary Give

December:

26: Yuletide Candlelight Tours, 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm

27: Yuletide Candlelight Tours, 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm

28: Yuletide Daylight Tours, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Rock Ford acknowledges and thanks our 2018 Season Sponsors for their generous support:

Lead Sponsors: Thomas G. Englert, Willis and Elsie Shenk Foundation and the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

Supporting Sponsors: Brubaker Connaughton Goss & Lucarelli, LLC, Clermont Wealth Strategies, Fulton Financial Advisors, and Rhoads Energy Corporation



2017-18 Membership Appeal

The 2017-18 Membership Appeal began on November 1, 2017. We would like to thank the following individuals and organizations who became new members or who renewed their memberships **from November 1, 2017 to September 1, 2018.**

Individual: \$50

Marguerite S.V. Adams
Sarah Alberico
Donna Arment
Jeannette Arment
Stewart Axtell
Thomas Bowen, Jr.
Susan Broomell
Corey Craver
Barbara Douglas
Dr. S. Kendrick Eshleman, III
Andree Goldman
Larry Greenawalt
Lisa Haldy
Vicky Hand
Margaret Jenne
Hope Dankel Kent
George May
Linda Myers
Alicia O'Donel
Sally Patterson
Kenneth Pandozzi
Paul H. Ripple
Harriet Robbins
Gail Rogers
Laura Schramm
Kenneth Shaffer
William P. Snyder
Dr. Samuel Stayer
Margaret Tassia
Ann Taylor
Keith Tussing
Nancy Wiker
Dr. Nikitas Zervanos

Family: \$75

Robert & Mary Anne Aichele
Kathleen Ashworth
Ann Chambers
Peter & Millicent Christie
Rosemary Coverly & Kent Strickler
Kevin & Rebecca Crouse
Richard & Charlotte Drennen
Richard & Sylvia Drennen
William & Judith Geil
John & Barbara Graeter
Francis Harchuska
Susan Hayes
James & Alace Humphreville
Vanessa Johnson
Michael & Barbara Kuntz
Dr. and Mrs. C. Darrell Lane
Richard & Leslie Manix
Jenna Martin
Sheila Martin
Eric Maxwell
Christian & Gladys McMurtrie
Carol Norwood
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur D. Old
Michelle Pieters
Anna & Robert Roschel
Karl & Betty Salmon
David & Lesley Schmidt

Family (cont.,)

Philip & Luann Scribani
Robert & Marylou Simons
Tom & Delight Snyder
Carol Thompson & W. Fred Kinsey
Audrey Trussell
Micke Trussell
Willem & Thea Van Huystee
Ronald & Beverly Walton
Joel & Kristin Young

Business/Photographer: \$85

Kate Aldrich Photography
B. Beers Photography
Steve Bradney Photography
Beth Cardwell Photography
Fannie Lynn Esh
Eye Journey Photographic Art
Lauren Fisher Photography
Fly Away Home Photography
Cindy Frey Photography
Regina Gutierrez Photography
Nicola Herring Photography
Elina Hope Photography
Stephanie Hostetter
Mary Hunt Photography
Angelique Kauffman Photography
Leslie Ann Photography
Lulubelle Photography
Susie Marks Photography
Daryl Musser Photography
Onethirtynine Photography
Orange Slice Photography
Sally Belle Photography
Amanda Souders Photography
Diana Shaffer Photography
Annie Sharp Photography

Patron: \$100

Mary Ellen Bachman
Dr. & Mrs. William Boben
John & Joanne Bowman
Steve & Eva Bradney
Louis & Millie Caccamo
Forrest & Kathryn Collier
Carolyn Cook
Mr. & Mrs. D. Weston Darby, Jr.
Ray & Carol Dennis
Gayle Despard
Hal & Ellen Eager
Bob & Carol Falk
John Frymyer
John & Dolores Gareis
Dan & Lisa Garner
Tom & Cindy Gehr
Douglas & Gail Gibson
Eleanor Gibson
Joseph Chester Gibson, III
Mrs. Hilary Grant
Robert Groff, Jr.
Bill & Jane Hewitt
Horst Insurance
Mark & Glenda Jardel
Don Johnson

Patron (cont.)

Tim & Brenda Kauffman
William & Sharon Kennedy
Frank & Nancy Koch
James & Stephanie Landis
Lindsley Development Consulting
John & Karen Lyter
Charles Maser & Jon Johnson
William D. McCann
Linn & Susan Moedinger
Russell & Lisa Mullen
Joel Marc Mumma
Mr. & Mrs. Holcomb R. Nixon
Bonnie Nolt
Ron & Judy Peters
Joanne & H. Herbert Poole, Jr.
William & Joanne Quain
Wylie Gibson Raab
Eric & Frances Rebert
Ronald A. Ritter
Patti Rottmund
Jay Schroeder, III
Leo & Virginia Shelley
Ellen Simpson
Sarah Slaymaker
Kent & Pat Spotts
Beverly Steinman
Kathryn Thomas
Stephen Trapnell
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Walker

George Ross Society: \$250

Alan & Susan Andersen
Kenneth Berkenstock
Michael & Barbara Brown
Jill Edwards & George Beech
Dennis & Betty Jo Grimm
Stephen & Rochelle Gunzenhauser
Caroline Hill
Nancy Kenneff
Dave & Kathy Parse
Robert & Patricia Pontz
Robert & Deborah Smith
Tim & Cindy Trussell
Donald Walters

Edward Shippen Society: \$500

Kevin Craig
Jane N. Eastman
Edith May
Thomas & Georgina Russo
Samuel & Laura Slaymaker
Daniel & Ellen Strickler
Shannon Walker

Jasper Yeates Society: \$1000

Thomas Englert
David & Linda Schwanger
Donald & Elizabeth Steckler
John & Pamela Stoner

Katharine Hand Society: \$5000

Dorothy M. Smith



Rock Ford Welcomes Members of African American Historical Society of South Central PA

By Debbie Smith and Cynthia Trussell

Eight members of the African American Historical Society of South Central Pennsylvania came for a house tour on Saturday, July 14. The purpose of the tour was to receive feedback from AAHS on our presentation of the stories of the enslaved people who worked for Edward Hand and his family. We also wanted to hear their thoughts about how to present our research concerning the objects in Rock Ford that had a relationship to the Atlantic Slave Trade.

During their tour, our visitors appreciated learning the history that had never been offered to them before—particularly the story of Frank, his bondage to General Hand, and his escape from Rock Ford. They also could see how the American colonists' demand for goods such as sugar from the West Indies and mahogany from Brazil helped to fuel the slave trade.

During the light lunch that we served after the tour, our conversation turned to the ideas of race, identity and perception. It was a heartfelt, open and honest dialogue about some of the issues that remain to be solved in our community and at Rock Ford. In one discussion, the subject arose of some of our docents being hesitant to tell the story of slavery at Rock Ford and in early Lancaster County because they feared "saying the wrong thing." Immediately, several AAHS members offered to come to talk with our docents and help them navigate the language and anxiety that often comes with this type of discussion. One AAHS member advised that it is always better to tell the story of the family's relationship to slavery rather than simply avoiding this difficult subject and thereby missing opportunities to learn and talk about our shared history.

We received feedback that included:

"The stories can be incorporated by revealing the invisible labor that it took to run a house and property like Rock Ford, from building the home to maintaining it, cooking for the family, tending to Mrs. Hand's hair and wardrobe, to maintaining the gardens and orchards."

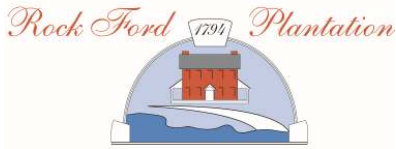
"I also like the story of the man who escaped using another's name. It shows agency. I also like the idea we discussed of having some type of training or informal workshop to make the volunteer guides more comfortable in incorporating these stories."

"I thought all the stories were valuable and significant in their own way. However, I liked the ones that made 'connections' to other people, places, causes – i.e. sugar. Knowing that it was expensive or why it was shaped a certain way was interesting to know, but far more interesting was the connection made to Mrs. Hand's using at least 1c (of sugar) in her recipes, or the desire for mahogany furniture and its impact on the mahogany trade and use of slaves."

We will continue to study and verify, as much as possible, the lives of the people who lived at Rock Ford as we continue our mission to educate the public about the life and times of Edward Hand. We welcome your comments on this endeavor.



Top row (left to right): Steve Hofmann, Betty Hurdle, Barbara Mobarak, Neicy DeSheilds, Kathleen Anderson, Arland Jones
Bottom row (left to right): Debbie Smith, Hillary Aquino, Cindy Trussell, Melissa Kolessar



NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
LANCASTER, PA
PERMIT NO. 191

Address Service Requested

881 Rockford Road
Lancaster, Pennsylvania 17602

717.392.7223
www.rockfordplantation.org
Facebook: Historic Rock Ford Plantation

ROCK FORD PLANTATION STAFF

Office: 717-392-7223

Samuel C. Slaymaker
Executive Director
director@rockfordplantation.org

Sarah Alberico
Curator
curator@rockfordplantation.org

Nancy E. Bradley
Assistant to the Director
office@rockfordplantation.org

George Rhoades
Buildings and Grounds Maintenance

The Rock Ford Foundation is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit tax-exempt corporation incorporated within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on May 22, 1958.

The Foundation is supported by admissions, gifts, grants, earned income from barn rentals, museum memberships, fundraising events, and bequests.

The Bushman Family reunites with their Rock Ford roots

By Samuel C. Slaymaker

On Friday, August 3, 175 descendants of Abraham and Esther Bushman gathered at Rock Ford. In the early years of the 19th century, the Bushman family lived in a tenant house on the Rock Ford property where they worked as tenant farmers. In 1840, the Bushman family left Lancaster and moved West after converting to Mormonism. Today, there are thousands of Bushman descendants living throughout the United States.

As the focal point of their reunion at Rock Ford, a large bronze plaque was dedicated on a hillside overlooking the Conestoga River honoring not only the Bushmans “but also the other tenant farmers and laborers whose names are now forgotten but whose efforts contributed to the history, legacy and beauty of Rock Ford Plantation.”

In an address to the reunion, Rock Ford Board President Pamela Stoner stated, “Like so many of us, the Bushman family has humble roots in Lancaster County, but it is their story and those of other ordinary people that help fully describe who we are as Americans.”



Rock Ford Board of Trustees President Pamela Stoner addresses Bushman descendants during their reunion visit to Rock Ford.