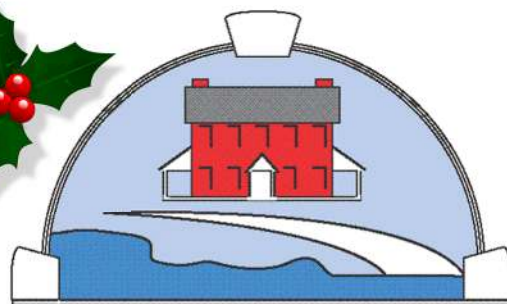


Circa 1794



The Newsletter of Rock Ford Plantation

WINTER 2018

Yuletide to Feature a Collaboration with the Lancaster Marionette Theatre

Rock Ford's annual Yuletide tours offer a journey in time to when Christmas Day was only the beginning of the season. Candlelight, festive music, dancing, and holiday greenery will set the scene for an 18th Century Yuletide at Rock Ford during the week between Christmas and New Year's Day.

During the period when General Hand and his family lived at Rock Ford, Christmas Day was only the beginning of a festive season of 12 days of parties, dinners and dances. Visitors to our Yuletide tours will enjoy learning about 18th Century traditions, watching period dancing by our volunteer dance group (candlelight tours only), listening to traditional holiday music by the musical group Seasons from Harrisburg and watching preparations in the kitchen by members of our Warm Hearth Club. Costumed volunteers will be stationed in various rooms of the mansion offering insight into 18th Century Yuletide traditions.



Rock Ford volunteers in festive 18th Century attire during the 2017 Yuletide Tours (above) and two docents displaying women's fashions in the Master Bedchamber (right).

New this year will be *Marionettes in the Mansion* which will mark the culmination of Yuletide at Rock Ford. A joint production with the Lancaster Marionette Theatre, the approximately one-hour show will be staged in the mansion and will be a festive, whimsical and touching celebration of the life and times of General Edward Hand and his family featuring the talents of "Man of the Theatre" Robert Brock. Performances will be held on December 30 at 4 pm and 6 pm and on December 31 at 4 pm with a New Year's Eve Benefit Gala performance on December 31 at 8 pm. Reservations may be made through rockford.yapsody.com. Proceeds from *Marionettes in the Mansion* will support educational programs at Rock Ford and at the Lancaster Marionette Theatre.

Yuletide Candlelight tours will be held December 26 and 27 from 4 pm to 8 pm. Daylight tours will be held December 28 from 10 am to 3 pm. Yuletide tours have an "Open House" format. Guests may arrive at any time after the tours begin and stay for as long as they would like. However, guests should plan their arrival accordingly to allow ample time to cover all of the rooms. Tours conclude at 8 pm and 3 pm, respectively.

Admission is payable at the door (\$10 for adults; \$8 for seniors 65 and over and for youth ages 6-17. Children age 5 and under are free). However, if guests wish to purchase tickets in advance, they may also be purchased through rockford.yapsody.com.

Calendar of Upcoming Special Events

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

30: Marionettes in the Mansion, Performances at 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm

31: Marionettes in the Mansion, Performances at 4:00 pm and 8:00 pm (New Year's Eve Benefit Gala Performance)

January:

12: Stories in the Barn, 3:30 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 - Final Update

Rock Ford would like to thank the following individuals and organizations who became new members or who renewed their memberships from November 1, 2017 to November 1, 2018. The Spring 2019 Newsletter will contain the list of individuals who have become members during the 2018-19 Membership Appeal.

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
Edgar Grove
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
Ashley Boos
Ann Chambers
Peter & Millicent Christie
Rosemary Coverly & Kent Strickler
Kevin & Rebecca Crouse
Richard & Charlotte Drennen
Richard & Sylvia Drennen
Rollin Ebersole
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
Jessica McAllister
Christian & Gladys McMurtrie
Carol Norwood
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur D. Old
Michelle Pieters
Anna & Robert Roschel
Karl & Betty Salmon
David & Lesley Schmidt
Philip & Luann Scribani
Robert & Marylou Simons
Tom & Delight Snyder
Carol Thompson & W. Fred Kinsey

Family (cont.)

Audrey Trussell
Mickey Trussell
Willem & Thea Van Huystee
Phil & Beth Wade
Ronald & Beverly Walton
Joel & Kristin Young

Business/Photographer: \$85

Kate Aldrich Photography
B. Beers Photography
Steve Bradney Photography
Beth Cardwell Photography
Paula Diem
Melissa Engle 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
Roberta Horst
Hosh Posh Photography
Stephanie Hostetter
Mary Hunt Photography
Angelique Kauffman Photography
Katie King Photography
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Susie Marks Photography
Emily McBride Photography
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Dan Smith Photography
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George Ross Society: \$250

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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

Katharine Hand Society: \$5000

Dorothy M. Smith



Notes from the Curator: The 2018 Winterthur Institute

By Sarah Alberico

Recently, I returned from the 2018 Winterthur Institute and am elated to have received a full scholarship to attend. Since graduating in 2015 with my Master of Arts in Museum Studies from Johns Hopkins, I have endeavored to gain more experience and in-depth study in my field. Attending the two-week seminar at Winterthur was the opportunity of a lifetime!

During the Winterthur Institute, I found myself alongside ten other participants. Our small group met every morning to attend hours of in-depth lectures from Winterthur's senior curators and other professionals in the decorative arts field. My afternoons were filled with hands-on workshops to strengthen our connoisseurship and actively use what we had learned about American material culture scholarship. Among the daily topics covered were Early American furniture, base metals, textiles, glass, printing and inlay.

My favorite topics related to furniture and learning how to identify furniture styles. I also visited all 175 rooms in the mansion. I will also never forget the thrill of holding one of Paul Revere's silver tankards (with gloves on, of course!). I hope to continue forward with similar endeavors as I am always looking to strengthen my career and scholarship to further my work at Rock Ford.



Curator Sarah Alberico in front of the Montmorenci Staircase at Winterthur.



Robert Brock with Rock Ford Director Samuel Slaymaker and Curator Sarah Alberico.

From May Fair to "Marionettes in the Mansion"

By Robert Brock of the Lancaster Marionette Theatre

Little did I think, back in April, when Pam Stoner (Rock Ford Board of Trustees President) contacted me to ask if I would give her a "hand" with the May Fair Puppet Show, that eight months later I'd be performing in the mansion. Rock Ford and the Lancaster Marionette Theatre started a collaboration with a family-friendly puppet show in the barn. During that project, I discovered two elaborate doll houses that were created by Mrs. Daniel Rhoads, an early volunteer of Rock Ford. I began to restore her treasure and one will be on display in the Girls' Bedroom during Yuletide and *Marionettes in the Mansion* which celebrates Edward Hand's birthday on New Year's Eve and the anniversary of the Battle of Trenton and Princeton in which General Hand saved the day and perhaps changed the course of our Independence.

This production was inspired during a meeting in Sam Slaymaker's office, which I call the "toy room." Sam's collection of commemorative miniatures surround the room, with figures from George Washington to Doctor Who. I said, "We should do a reenactment using toy soldiers." As you read this, we are still busy hand painting over 200 miniature British Grenadiers, Hessian, Colonials and General Hand's Pennsylvania riflemen, the brave men who slowed General Cornwallis' march to Assunpink Creek. That same day, Sam showed me a coloring book of drawings by Miss Florence Starr Taylor, a renowned local artist and a special mentor of mine, that she did for Rock Ford in the early 1960s. She depicts Rock Ford with the large Hand family filling the house with noise, playing and daily living. I exclaimed, "I love this! This is Rock Ford to me!" Her coloring book will come to life in a projected animated video in the Unrestored Room

(my favorite room) which has been turned into a theatre, complete with lighting and seating. Marionettes from the Lancaster Marionette Theatre will be performing in this musical review, *Bach to Rock*, along with original videos, projected above the fireplace telling the story of the Hands, the Revolution and the rescue of Rock Ford by those dedicated ladies of Lancaster's Junior League. Certain rooms will be open and lit theatrically. You'll see Rock Ford like you've never seen it before.

Marionettes in the Mansion will have a preview during Yuletide ... just to give you a taste of what you'll see when you celebrate General Hand's New Year's Eve birthday and the anniversary of the battle of Trenton. This event is geared for teens and adults (not appropriate for young children) and will conclude with a New Year's Eve Benefit Gala at 8 pm featuring a cocktail party, swag bags, sweets and savories and a champagne toast.



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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.

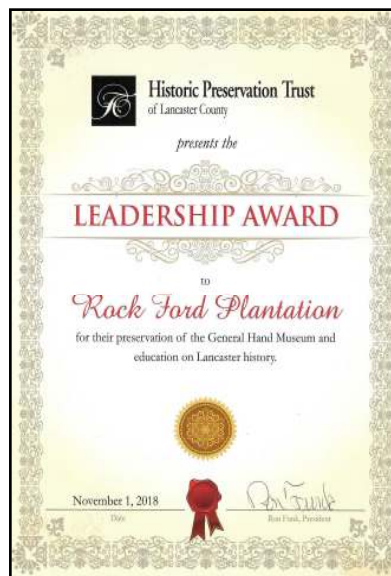
The Foundation is supported by admissions, gifts, grants, earned income from barn rentals, museum memberships, fundraising events, and bequests.

Rock Ford Awarded PHMC Grant

Rock Ford is pleased to announce that it has been awarded a General Operating Support Grant in the amount of \$4,000 from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. These funds will be used to support educational programs and general museum operations.



The PHMC awards General Operating Support grants on a competitive basis to eligible museums and historic sites throughout the Commonwealth on an annual basis.



Historic Preservation Trust honors Rock Ford

At its annual meeting and awards ceremony held in November, the Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County presented Rock Ford Plantation with one of its seven annual C. Emmlen Urban Awards.

Accepting the Leadership Award on behalf of Rock Ford were Board of Trustees President Pamela Stoner, Vice President Deborah Smith and Director Samuel Slaymaker. The Leadership Award was presented to Rock Ford in recognition of its continued preservation of General Edward Hand's home as well as educational programming informing the public of his life and times.