



WINTER 2022

Circa 1794



The Newsletter of Historic Rock Ford

Yuletide Tours Return for 2022!

In 2020, Yuletide at Rock Ford was cancelled due to Covid. In 2021, with the Omicron variant of Covid still lingering, we collaborated with Dr. Barry Atticks and his students from the Music Business Technology Department at Millersville University to creatively adapt to Covid restrictions for a “Voices of Yuletide Past” tour in which limited numbers of masked visitors moved from room to room of the Hand Mansion. The rooms were decorated as if the Hand family, servants and friends were preparing for a Twelfth Night Ball. Recorded voices of actors from the Theater of the Seventh Sister portraying Edward and Katherine Hand as well as their friends and family could be heard in the rooms, as well as sound effects of a household amid preparing for the Ball, to enhance the illusion of the presence of these long-departed individuals.

In 2022, for the first time in three years, Historic Rock Ford is excited to once again present traditional Yuletide tours complete with our own period dance group, the Warm Hearth Committee (shown in photo, lower right) as well as live harpsichord music by Margaret Marsch and Faith Martin with Mercy Martin on violin.

An element from last year’s Yuletide will be retained in that visitors will hear the voice of an actor portraying Edward Hand in his study recounting his memories of Christmas night 1776 when he and his men crossed the Delaware River and launched a surprise attack against the Hessian Garrison at Trenton, New Jersey.

During the era that Edward Hand and his family lived at Rock Ford, the traditional English Christmas was celebrated as “Yuletide,” a period of gatherings, games, ghost stories, dancing and dining with family and friends. Yuletide extended over the twelve-day period from December 25 (which was mostly a day for religious observance) and culminating in “Twelfth Night” on January 6 which was sometime celebrated with a Ball or an elaborate feast highlighted with a special cake. When gifts were exchanged at all, they tended to be small items or tokens of affection and were usually given on New Year’s Day rather than as part of the Christmas celebration.

To fight the post-Christmas blues, we invite you and your family to visit Historic Rock Ford for the celebration of Yuletide—a time when Christmas Day was only the beginning of the season.



Yuletide tours will be held on Tuesday, December 27 and Wednesday, December 28 (4 PM-6 PM and 6 PM-8 PM) and Thursday, December 29 (2 PM-4 PM and 4 PM-6 PM).

Due to limited capacity, advance ticket purchasing is strongly recommended through rockford.yapsody.com. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$13 for seniors (65+), \$12 for youth (6-17), free for children 5 and under, and \$10 for current members of the Rock Ford Foundation.



2022-23 Membership Appeal

Historic Rock Ford would like to thank the following individuals and organizations who became new members or who renewed their memberships **from October 1, 2022 to December 1, 2022**. This list will be updated in future newsletters.

Jasper Yeates Society (\$1000)

Jane Eastman
Thomas G. Englert
Dr. and Mrs. John W. Gareis
Ken & Peggy Shaffer
Samuel & Laura Slaymaker

Edward Shippen Society (\$500)

Dr. & Mrs. John Bowman
Robert & Carol Falk
Lee & Nancy Sheaf
Mary Louise Shenk
Robert & Deborah Smith

George Ross Society (\$250)

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Barbara T. & Michael K. Brown
Thomas Gehr
Scott & Paulette Goldman
Dennis & Betty Jo Grimm
Gary & Debbi Langmuir
Dana Lewis
Joel Marc Mumma
Dave & Micke Trussell
Marjorie Walker

Patron (\$100)

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Mary Ellen Bachman
Mark & Susan Broomell
Ann M. Carter
Forrest & Kay Collier
Richard & Charlotte Drennen

Patron (cont.)

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Hal & Ellen Eager
Wendell L. Funk, MD
Lisa Garner
Marjorie Gerhardt
Douglas & Gail Gibson
John & Barbara Graeter
Beth & Vernon Gunnion
Rev. & Mrs. Harold L. Hand, Jr.
Robert Hershey
Richard & Lynda Levengood
John & Karen Lyter
Russell & Lisa Mullen
Dr. and Mrs. Robert Roschel
Jay N. Schroeder III
Ellen Simpson
John & Mary Stefan
John & Bobbie Streeter
Ken & Deb Strubel
Kathryn Thomas
Timothy & Cynthia Trussell
Douglas & Linda Weidman
Thomas Wentz & James Whalen

Business/Photographer (\$85)

Connolly Accounting Solutions
Lauren Fisher Photography
Bethany Green Photography
Erin Keough Photography
Jessica Lupold
Leslie Ann Photography
Annie Sharp Photography
Amanda Souders Photography
Tanya Stewart Photography

Family (\$75)

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Gene Duncan
Bill & Judy Geil
Edward John Hand
Penny Kulp
Joseph & Linda Myers
Karl & Betty Salmon
Wayne Strasbaugh
Phil & Beth Wade
Leonard & Mary Cae Williams

Individual (\$50)

Mary Ann Aichele
Ken Beard
C. John Bryer
Dr. S. Kendrick Eshleman, III
Larry Greenawalt
Edgar Grove
Pamela Haver
William Henry
Margaret Jenne
Lisa Landis-Blowers
Barbara Lane
Susan Marshall
Eric Munro
Bonnie Nolt
Dorothy Pesarchik
David Price
Ronald Ritter
Mrs. Edward B. Rogers
Elyse Rogers
Christopher Scott
Nancy Wiker

Seasonal Favorite Enjoys Enthusiastic Return to the Hand Mansion

After a rest of five years, our original one-act play “Sleepy Hollow: The Legend Comes to Rock Ford” returned to our special event schedule and was quickly met with sold out performances. Written by Rock Ford executive director Samuel Slaymaker, all performances of the production were sold out within a month of tickets going on sale. This seasonal favorite was presented by Rock Ford in collaboration with Theater of the Seventh Sister and featured 16 total performances. During the production, the rooms on the first floor of the Hand Mansion were transformed into the Van Tassel family home, the scene of their harvest ball in the classic tale by Washington Irving. The play was presented at Rock Ford in 2008-2010 and 2015-2017. It was decided to retire the production after the 2017 season, but we received repeated requests from the public to bring it back to Rock Ford.

PHOTO — The 2022 Cast of “Sleepy Hollow” in ascending order: Griffin Yeyna (Brom Bones), Adam Kissinger (Ichabod Crane), Thomas Englert (Henry Trussell), Caitlin Hughes (Elizabeth Trussell), Rachel Faust (Katrina Van Tassel), and Michael Swanson (Squire Baltus Van Tassel).





Masonry Department from TSCT Instructs Students at Rock Ford

By Debbie Smith, Chair School Programs Committee and President, Board of Trustees

On October 19, 24 and 26, Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology masonry students presented a brick making program as a part of “The House That Hands Built.” Under the guidance of Mike Gardner, masonry students instructed fifth-grade students from Quarryville and Clermont Elementary schools. In different stations children molded bricks, applied mortar, built a small wall in a standard bond pattern and replicated various brick designs based on photographs. Throughout the programs, TSCT masonry students enthusiastically guided the fifth graders to complete the tasks and coached them to use techniques of the trade. I observed and marveled at the interaction between TSCT instructors and students. One Quarryville teacher said about her students “They loved how hands-on it was, especially the brickmaking. It was great that the program was student-driven and interactive. I even had parents telling me how much students enjoyed the field trip and went home excited about it.”

We are able to have this collaboration between Rock Ford and TSCT because of Mike’s vision for both the masonry department and his students. Having the designation as an Educational Improvement Organization from the PA Department of Community and Economic Development allows Rock Ford to seek financial support from local business partners such as UGI and Fulton Forward so we can continue to serve more school students. Our search for more partners is ongoing.

Rock Ford’s Executive Director, Sam Slaymaker and our Board of Trustees and volunteers are grateful for TSCT’s partnership that benefits our community. Please join us and volunteer at Rock Ford. For more information, visit HistoricRockFord.org/volunteer.



A student looks with anticipation as Quinn McCarty demonstrates mortar application.

Winter Blitz 1799 is Coming!

Recently, Historic Rock Ford was delighted to collaborate with the Music Business Technology Program at Millersville University for their annual winter creative project. This year's music video is entitled *Winter Blitz 1799*. We are grateful for the talent and expertise of our friend Dr. Barry Atticks, professor of music industry at MU, who was the director for this music video. A big "thank you" also goes out to the videographer George Winchell. And last but not least, a resounding HUZDAH for all of the students and Rock Ford volunteers that were a part of this phenomenal project.

After the final edits have been completed, a link to the video will be sent out through Rock Ford's Constant Contact email - keep an eye on your inbox!

PHOTOS — (Top) Videographer George Winchell films students in 18th century attire who are acting out a game of Blind Man’s Bluff in the Gold Parlor and (Bottom) Director Barry Atticks positions a boom microphone above two student actors as they say their lines outside the door of the Hand Mansion.





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ExtraGive 2022 Update

The Extraordinary Give was held on November 18. During this 24 hour on-line event, 64 unique donors gave a total of \$6,440.00 to Historic Rock Ford. This year, in keeping with the stated purpose of the ExtraGive, the Rock Ford Foundation Board of Trustees had determined that these donations were extra and apart from memberships and will no longer be credited towards new memberships or renewals.

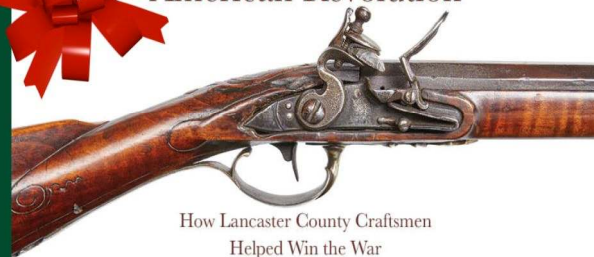
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To view the expanded digital version of our newsletter, please visit HistoricRockFord.org/in-the-news. Due to the space limitations of the print edition, our digital newsletter often contains additional articles and photos.

Historic Rock Ford acknowledges and thanks our 2022 Season Sponsors for their generous support:

Lead Sponsors: Thomas G. Englert and The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

Supporting Sponsor: Rhoads Energy



Historic Rock Ford, an Educational Improvement Organization, sincerely thanks Fulton Forward and UGI for their generous support of our school programming.

