



Coming Events

- Sunday, Dec. 13—
Christmas at the Mansion & Holiday Market, 1:00pm to 6:00pm.
- Tuesday, Dec. 15—*Deck the Halls, 5:30-7:30pm.*

New Winter Hours for January and February

To conserve energy and prepare the Harris-Cameron Mansion for its 250th anniversary next year, tours of the Mansion will not be available in January and February.

The Research Library and Office will remain open

HSDC HOURS

Office

10:00 AM-4:00 PM
Monday-Thursday

Library

1:00 PM-4:00 PM
Monday-Thursday &
2nd Sunday of the
Month

Mansion Tours

1:00, 2:00, & 3:00 PM
Monday-Thursday &
2nd Sunday of the
Month

Other times available
by appointment

The Hall Foundation To Be Honored at *Deck the Halls*

On Tuesday, December 15, from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm, the John Harris-Simon Cameron Mansion will again be the setting for the region's premier holiday celebration and recognition event, the Historical Society of Dauphin County's 21st annual *Deck the Halls*.

This year the Historical Society will present the 2015 John Harris Award to the Hall Foundation for their commitment to our community that will be part of Harrisburg history for generations to come. The Hall Foundation is a private foundation created in 1952 by John N. Hall, a successful local business, civic and cultural leader. The foundation generously contributes to many cultural, religious and civic organizations and supports community activities primarily in the greater Harrisburg/South Central Pennsylvania area.

Deck the Halls is HSDC's major fundraising event. Income from the event is crucial to supporting our educational programs and research archives, and to maintaining the John Harris-Simon Cameron Mansion.

Tickets are \$90, \$125 and \$250 and are partially tax deductible. The evening will include wine and beer from the Vineyard and Brewery at Hershey, heavy hors d'oeuvres, and desserts. Please R.S.V.P. by calling 717-233-3462.



Christmas at the Mansion and Holiday Market

Greens, bows, trees, and ornaments will decorate the mansion on Sunday, December 13 from 1:00 to 6:00 PM for an appearance by Santa Claus and a vintage toy exhibit. Guests can shop for items from our museum store and there will be refreshments for sale.

For the first time Christmas at the Mansion will feature a Holiday Market which will include some of the finest artisans and craftsmen in south Central Pennsylvania. They will offer folk art, watercolors, leather goods, and much more. This year's participants are:

Redware pottery by Robesonia Redware

Hand-painted miniature chests by South Mountain Folk Art

Fine ceramics by Lynn Taylor of Kingston Pottery

Handcrafted collectible Santas by Troutman Originals

Miniature log houses and pressed flower designs by 1860 Wood Company

Fine leather designs by Kari Hultman Leather

Tole painting and tinware by Oxenfords Country Crafts

Watercolors by Andy Smith

Hand-woven textiles by William Leinback, The Itinerant Weaver

Admission is a \$5 suggested donation for adults and free for children 12 and under. Free for Society members and ticketholders for Historic Harrisburg Association's annual Candlelight House Tour.

Historical Society of Dauphin County

Mission Statement:

The Mission of The Historical Society of Dauphin County is to collect, preserve, exhibit, publish, and promote interest in the history of Dauphin County for the education, enjoyment and benefit of the public.

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And a dedicated and growing group of Volunteers

The Oracle is prepared and edited by Howard Parker



A Word from the President

Dear Members and Friends:

The end of the year is drawing near, but there is plenty going on at the Historical Society. Your Board of Trustees is hard at work ensuring that the mission of the society is carried out, and we thank our dedicated staff for their important part in that. We would be happy to have you consider serving on the board or on a committee, so please contact me at the email address below for more information.

Board member Ruthann Hubbert Kemper has skillfully directed the restoration of the mansion exterior, which is still ongoing as long as the weather holds out. Additional work on the house (including interior spaces), gardens, and walkways, will complete the restoration sometime in 2016. All of this work is done in celebration of the 250th Anniversary of the building of the mansion by John Harris, Jr., in 1766. Our thanks to all of the foundations, organizations, and individuals who have contributed to this work thus far. The board is grateful for all your support.

The board is offering for sale a building near the mansion (at 311 S. River Street) which can be used as an office/studio/retail space or may qualify as two apartments. The society has owned the upper story of this former condo for several years, and the lower story and parking lot were donated to the society late last year by trustee Dr. Michael Barton and Dr. Jane Barton. Because we have found that the building does not meet our needs, the board has decided to sell the entire property. You may find a link to the realtor website at www.hsdchappenings.blogspot.com. If you or someone you know is interested in the building, please contact agent Nico Corado of RSR Realtors at (717) 856-6871.

Many thanks to you for a successful 147th year of the Historical Society of Dauphin County.

John K. Robinson
President, Board of Trustees
jkrsmr@comcast.net

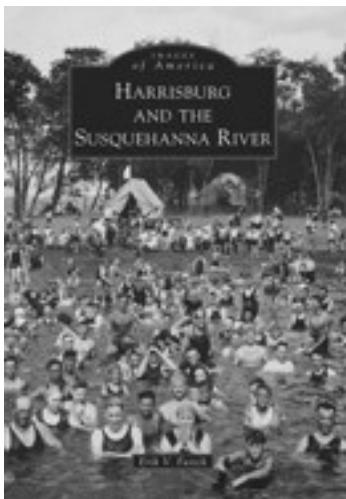
Give the Gift of History This Holiday Season

HSDC can help you find the perfect gift for the history lover on your holiday gift list.

Our museum shop boasts a wide and eclectic selection of books and publications, photographs, art and imagery, and map reproductions. Visit in person during our office hours or on-line any time at our website.

OR

Give the gift that keeps giving throughout the year: a membership in the Historical Society of Dauphin County. Use the form on the last page of The Oracle or online at dauphincountyhistory.org.





Celebrate 250 Years of Dauphin County and American History

2016 will mark the 250th anniversary of the construction of John Harris, Jr.'s fine house overlooking the Susquehanna River.

Preparations are in full swing for special events, programs, and exhibits throughout the year to celebrate the mansion and the contributions made by its owners to the history of Harrisburg, Dauphin County and the United States. Watch for more information in the coming months!

HSDC Wish List



Due to the unusually large number of boys and girls who have been good, Santa and his elves will not have time to fill HSDC's stocking with the gifts that we asked for this year. You can help the Historical Society of Dauphin County (and Santa) by donating one or more of these items:

- ◆ Laptops and External hard drives.
- ◆ Furniture dolly.
- ◆ Power backups.
- ◆ Ice melt.
- ◆ Electric window candles.
- ◆ Copy paper and hanging folders.

Donations can be dropped off at the HSDC office during our regular hours or contact us at office@dauphincountyhistory.org or 233-3462 to make other arrangements.

Parking is FREE at the Mansion!

Free parking is available on-site for all programs and events at the Mansion. Free parking is also available on evenings and weekends in the Pinnacle Health physicians' lot off River Street behind the Mansion property.



On November 14, 1865 the valorous service of the US Colored Troops during the Civil War was honored by a grand reception in the City of Harrisburg. The troops

marched from State and Filbert Streets (currently the site of Soldiers Grove) to the Harris-Cameron Mansion where they were addressed by Simon Cameron.

Commemorative programs have been organized for November 13 through 15 to commemorate the 150th anniversary of this very special moment in Harrisburg's history. For more information, visit 2015GrandReview.com and NationalCivilWarMuseum.org.



HSDC Needs You!

You are invited to join the ranks of HSDC volunteers. There are many ways that you can help the Society:

- ◆ **Program and Event Staffing**
- ◆ **Tour Guide Opportunities**
- ◆ **Archives and Collections Projects**
- ◆ **Office and Marketing Projects**
- ◆ **Gardening and Grounds Care**

Whether you can give a little time or a lot, you will be a valued member of our corps of volunteers. To become a volunteer call 233-3462 or contact office@dauphincountyhistory.org.

Stay up to date on all things HSDC at hsdchappenings.blogspot.com.

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DAUPHIN COUNTY

HSDC



219 SOUTH FRONT STREET
HARRISBURG, PA 17104

P: (717) 233-3462
dauphincountyhistory.org
hsdchappenings.blogspot.com

The official registration & financial information of The Historical Society of Dauphin County may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

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**Your Membership Contribution Benefits:
HSDC and Pays You Back**

As an HSDC member, you receive:

- Unlimited Mansion Tours.
- Unlimited Visits to the Alexander Family Research Library.
- Free admission to general programs.
- Discounts on purchases and HSDC sponsored activities and programs.
- Free subscription to *The Oracle*.
- Advance notice and discounts on special programs and events.
- 10% discount in the Museum Shop.
- Free tour of Ft. Hunter Mansion with your membership card.
- Discount membership to the Pennsylvania Heritage Foundation.

Heritage and above membership levels enjoy additional benefits.

We're always thrilled to add new members to our rolls. Please help the HSDC grow its member base by sharing the form on the right with a friend or neighbor.

We would also like to communicate with our current members more quickly and easily. Please help us do so by providing your email address to office@dauphincountyhistory.org and write "My Email Address" in the subject line. Thank you.

Membership Form—Please Join Today

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

 __ Home __ Work

Email: _____

Check Level Desired:

- Individual \$35
- Full-time Student \$10
- Family \$45
- Heritage Circle \$55
- Haldeman Circle \$100
- Cameron Circle \$250

Payment Method:

- Check Amount: \$ _____
- American Express
- VISA
- MasterCard

Card Number _____

Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

Please detach and send with payment to:
HSDC, 219 South Front Street
Harrisburg, PA 17104