

Greetings & News

The holidays that herald the end of another year are here and I hope amidst all the excitement and festivities we all take the time to reflect on the year – the good, the bad, and the ugly. Here at Historic Restorations we have had a year of incredible growth, and I am feeling optimistic about the upcoming year. If you were part of our growth in 2012, I am especially grateful for you! I am also excited about the new things we are working on.

At Central PA Preservation Society we are planning our first motor coach tour – an incredible look at the birth of the Underground Railroad right here in Lancaster County. Historian Randy Harris will be the interpretive guide for the tour and I am looking forward to learning about how Lancaster County fueled the abolitionist movement. See our newsletter article on the tour for more information (and a chance to save money on your ticket).

My Father and I also wrote our first book in a series of “Preservation Primers” we’re developing that address common misunderstandings, misconceptions, and mistakes in historic preservation that threaten our built history. Keep an eye out for the upcoming release announcement! For our customers we’ve developed a whole new option in historic preservation of our built history – maintenance plans for historic buildings. Historic buildings aren’t “cookie cutter” buildings and were not built during standardized building practices. Each one is unique and has unique needs so we’ve developed a custom maintenance plan system to help our customers tackle the damage already done to their building and prevent more damage from happening.

But enough about us, you want to get to the Holiday goodness inside this newsletter! December is one of the most festive times of year and with this newsletter we’re giving you a glimpse into Christmas past.

For the Leola Community Christmas we put together a Victorian Christmas tree, something I very much enjoyed making. The learning curve for making the paper snowflakes was a wide one, but I had The Men that Built America on DVR and hardly noticed it took me an entire two-hour episode to make just three snowflakes! (Sometimes when I am in the middle of these projects I wonder what I was thinking, and in the middle of this one I wondered what I would have done if I was making these snowflakes without a TV.) In other articles you’ll learn a little more about the history of the Christmases of the past.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and as always, if you have any questions or suggestions please let us know.
All the best,

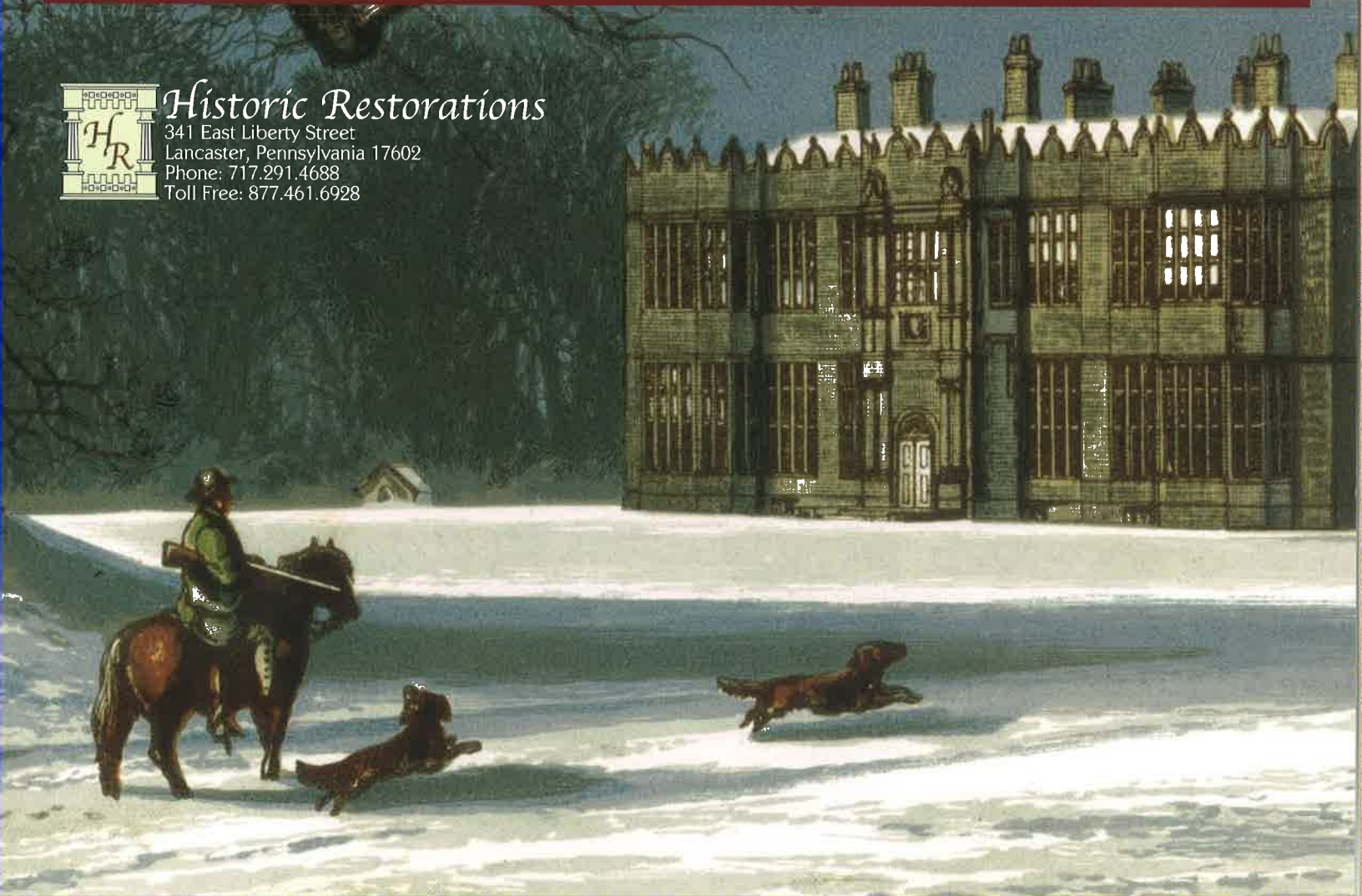


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From all of us at
Historic Restorations
 Happy Holidays

Handwritten signatures and names including: Mike, James, Joe, Joshua, David, Kate, Oliver, Dan, Danielle, Jonathan.



Leola Community Christmas

This year we participated in the Leola Community Christmas, hosted by the Upper Leacock Fire Company and the Keystone Majorette Corps. As a community event, businesses, families, and community groups from the area all decorated a Christmas tree or exhibit for the Christmas display walk-through. We chose a theme of "Christmas in the 1800's" and decorated our tree with traditional and handmade ornaments.

Christmas Trees of the 1800's

- The tradition of a Christmas tree originated in Germany.
- The first recorded Christmas tree in America was for children in the German Moravian Church's settlement in Bethlehem, PA, 1747, but wasn't common outside of German communities.
- In 1841 Prince Albert (who was born in Germany) had a Christmas tree at Windsor Castle and when images of that tree were published a number of years later the tradition took off here in America.
- The first electric Christmas tree lights appeared in the 1880's, but they were costly and most people in the 1800's still lit their Christmas trees with small candles.
- The first Christmas tree in the White House wasn't until 1889 during the Harrison presidency – it was decorated with toy soldiers and glass ornaments.

• Christmas trees in the 1800's were decorated with dried fruits, paper streamers, hard cookies like gingerbread baked in festive shapes, candles, and other ornaments that were lovingly created by the hands of family and friends.

• Glass ornaments for Christmas trees also originated in Germany in the mid-1800's when glass makers around Lauscha, Germany began mass-producing the decorations and shipping them around the world in the late 1800's

Take a Tour of the Underground Railroad in Lancaster County

Central Pennsylvania Preservation Society has put together their first motor coach tour. The tour will journey from the Susquehanna River in Columbia to Christiana along the Underground Railroad in Lancaster County and includes multiple stops to explore some of the sites that were instrumental in the birth of the Underground Railroad here.



Saturday, February 23
 8am-3pm

\$60 Members - \$75 Non-Members

Registration Deadline
 1/23/13

More information and tickets available at
centralpennsylvaniapreservationssociety.org
 or by calling 717-291-4688

Our Gift to You

Return your completed Word Search and get \$10 off your ticket for Central PA Preservation Society's Underground Railroad motor coach tour!

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|-------------|-----------|
| BELLS | JOY |
| CANDY | LIGHTS |
| CANES | MISTLETOE |
| CAROLING | NOEL |
| CHRISTMAS | NORTH |
| COOKIES | POLE |
| EGGNOG | REINDEER |
| ELVES | SANTA |
| FAMILY | SNOW |
| GINGERBREAD | STOCKINGS |
| GOODWILL | TINSEL |
| HOLLY | TREE |
| JINGLE | |

N E G I B L C R V H J K I C E
 X C Y O E E E N O O G D F G N
 E G Z S O E L L Y I D L G S O
 H L N S D D L L N P C N E N R
 Y I G N G Y W G S Z O R O O T
 T J I N N N E I C G O L T W H
 B E E E I R I I L D K S E A N
 R W E C B J S K B L I E L Z Y
 O R I R Y D N A C T E V T S G
 T J E Y L I M A F O S L S T G
 C A R O L I N G H S T E I H A
 D S A N T A N O E L E S M G O
 E C Y R Y M X V V B Q N H I T
 Q E B P A K N V N Q V C A L R
 Q V J E O S A M T S I R H C A

History of the Holidays
Plum Pudding

Plum Pudding, also called Christmas Pudding, as a Christmas tradition was born in Medieval England when families would make their pudding four to five weeks before Christmas Day. This traditional day for making a family's Christmas Pudding was commonly called "Stir Up Sunday", with each family member taking a turn stirring the pudding for good luck. Sometimes trinkets were added to the pudding – coins (for wealth), wishbones (for luck), thimbles (for thriftiness), or anchors (for safe journeys). But surprisingly enough, the Christmas staple "Plum Pudding" doesn't actually have plums in it - before the Victorian period plain, old raisins were commonly called "plums". Historically, the rich, heavy pudding is steamed for a number of hours the day it is made, stored in a cool place and moistened regularly with stout or brandy, and then steamed again for several hours on the day it is served.



Try your hand at making the historical dish with the recipe below, and don't forget to send us some!

- Prep Time:
 • 45 minutes
- Cook Time:
 • 8 hours
- Marinating Time:
 • 12 hours
- Total Time:
 • 20 hours, 45 minutes
- Servings:
 • 8-10

Preparation:

- Lightly butter a 2½ pint pudding basin.
- Place the dried fruits, candied peel, apple, orange and lemon juice into a large mixing bowl. Add the brandy and stir well. Cover the bowl with a clean tea towel and leave to marinate for a couple of hours, preferably overnight.
- Stir together the flour, mixed spice and cinnamon in a very large mixing bowl. Add the suet, sugar, lemon and orange zest, bread crumbs, nuts and stir again until all the ingredients are well mixed. Finally add the marinated dried fruits and stir again.
- Beat the eggs lightly in a small bowl then stir quickly into the dry ingredients. The mixture should have a fairly soft consistency.
- Now is the time to gather the family for Christmas Pudding tradition of taking turns in stirring, making a wish and adding a few coins.
- Spoon the mixture in to the greased pudding basin, gently pressing the mixture down with the back of a spoon. Cover with a double layer of grease-proof paper or baking parchment, then a layer of aluminum foil and tie securely with string.
- Place the pudding in a steamer set over a saucepan of simmering water and steam the pudding for 7 hours. Make sure you check the water level frequently so it never boils dry. The pudding should be a deep brown color when cooked. The pudding is not a light cake but instead is a dark, sticky and dense sponge.
- Remove the pudding from the steamer, cool completely. Remove the paper, prick the pudding with a skewer and pour in a little extra brandy. Cover with fresh grease-proof paper and re-tie with string. Store in a cool dry place until Christmas day.
- On Christmas day reheat the pudding by steaming again for about an hour. Serve with Brandy or Rum Sauce, Brandy Butter or Custard.

Ingredients:

- 1lb dried mixed fruit (use golden raisins/sultanas , raisins, currants)
- 1 oz. mixed candied peel, finely chopped
- 1 small cooking apple, peeled, cored and finely chopped grated zest and juice
- ½ large orange and
- ½ lemon
- 4 tbsp brandy, plus a little extra for soaking at the end
- 2 oz. self-rising flour, sifted
- 1 level tsp ground mixed spice
- 1 1/2 tsp ground cinnamon
- 4 oz. shredded suet, beef or vegetarian
- 4 oz. soft, dark brown sugar
- 4 oz. white fresh bread crumbs
- 1 oz. whole shelled almonds, roughly chopped
- 2 large, fresh eggs

Note: The pudding should not be eaten immediately, it really does need to be stored and rested then reheated on Christmas Day. Eating the pudding immediately after cooking will cause it to collapse and the flavors will not have had time to mature.

Der Belsnickel

When Europeans from the Alps came to America and settled around Lancaster County, they brought with them many traditions - including der Belsnickel.

Der Belsnickel is a dirty, fur-covered, grumpy old man who wanders about town in the weeks before Christmas to interrogate the children to determine if they were naughty or well-behaved. Asking them to recite Bible verses or answer questions designed to determine their character and disposition - der Belsnickel punished those who didn't pass the test with a swat of the wooden stick (or whip) he carried.



Oh, the ways to say
Happy Holidays.

History of the Holidays & Santa Claus

December is here and as the song says: Here comes Santa Claus, Here comes Santa Claus, Right down Santa Claus lane... But where did Santa Claus come from?

It turns out that like the great “melting pot” of America, Santa Claus himself is a melting pot of different cultural traditions – born here in America somewhere around 1774 the Santa Claus we know and love descends from a combination of Christian, Germanic, Dutch, Norse, Scandinavian, and British folklore, traditions, and seasonal figures.

SAINT NICHOLAS

The bearded Saint Nicholas was a 4th Century Greek Christian bishop renowned for his generosity towards the poor, traveling the countryside and often presenting them with gifts. His gift-giving and kindness became legend, so much so that during the Renaissance, St. Nicholas was the most popular saint in Europe.

ODIN

13th Century Norse God Odin was commonly celebrated during the Germanic holiday of Yule (celebrated during December). Also bearded, Odin was said to lead a great hunting party through the sky during Yule while riding an eight-legged horse that could leap great distances. In some areas, children placed boots with carrots, straw, or sugar in them near the chimney for Odin's horse. Odin, pleased with their thoughtfulness, would then fill their boots with gifts or candy.

SINTERKLAAS

In the 16th Century, the Dutch Sinterklaas is depicted as an elderly, serious man with white hair and long beard who wore a long red cape over traditional white garments. Keeping careful track of those who are “naughty” and those who are “nice”, Sinterklaas also distributes presents to children – gifts, chocolate letters, candies, and spice nuts to those who had behaved and spankings for those who had not.

FATHER CHRISTMAS

In the 15th Century, British carols began referencing a sire or lord of Christmas as a personification of the seasonal celebration, though the “jolly” rounded figure of Father Christmas wearing a long, green, fur-lined robe didn't appear until the 17th Century when the somber Puritans were highly critical of Christmas traditions.

Those figures, as well as a number of traditions and celebrations surrounding them, are the foundation of the modern, American Santa Claus. But it wasn't until cartoonist Thomas Nast came along in the mid-1800's that the jolly old man bringing presents to children around the world on a reindeer sleigh became canonized as our very own American icon. Santa Claus.

Joyeuses Fêtes! - French Buone Feste! - Italian
Felices Fiestas! - Spanish Beannachtaí na Féile - Gaelic
Boas Festas! - Portuguese Trevlig Helg! - Swedish
Selamat Hari Raya! - Indonesian Vesele Praznikel - Slovenian