



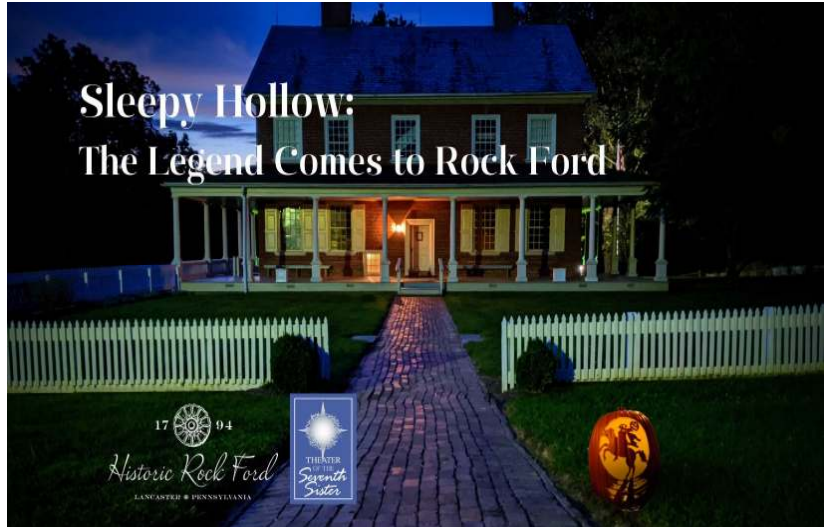
# Circa 1794

*The Newsletter of Historic Rock Ford*

## A Seasonal Favorite Returns to the Hand Mansion this October!

After a slumber of five seasons, Historic Rock Ford is pleased to announce the return of *Sleepy Hollow: The Legend Comes to Rock Ford*. In this original play written by Executive Director Samuel Slaymaker, the candlelit rooms of the first floor of the General Edward Hand Mansion are transformed into the home of the Van Tassel family and the site of their autumn ball in Washington Irving's classic tale *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*. The audience is welcomed as guests at the autumn ball.

*Sleepy Hollow* will be presented at Rock Ford in collaboration with Theater of the Seventh Sister and will be co-directed by Cynthia Charles and Rachel Faust. Faust will also be portraying Katrina Van Tassel. Other cast members include Adam Kissinger (Ichabod Crane), Griffin Yeyna (Brom Bones), Michael Swanson (Squire Baltus Van Tassel), Caitlin Hughes (Elizabeth Trussell) and Thomas G. Englert (Henry Trussell).



We choose to perform this original production at Historic Rock Ford not only because this play has become a perennial Halloween favorite since it was first developed and introduced here in 2008 but also because it connects with our educational mission in several significant ways. The story is set in the Early American Republic, and it contains allusions to the American Revolution: the Headless Horseman is the ghost of a Hessian soldier decapitated by a cannonball during the war, and the male guests sit around Squire Van Tassel's fireside and reminisce about their wartime experiences. A reference is made to the nearby spot, said to be haunted, where Major Andre was captured as a spy (General Hand served on the Board of General Officers that tried Andre and, albeit reluctantly, sentenced him to hang). In short, we present our *Sleepy Hollow* play not merely as a Halloween crowd pleaser but because it engages our visitors with the "life and times of Edward Hand" in a fun and exciting way.

*Sleepy Hollow* was performed at Rock Ford in 2008-10, shelved for five years to make way for new seasonal programming, and returned to Rock Ford in 2015-2017 to sold-out performances, under the direction of Dan Deal who also portrayed schoolmaster Ichabod Crane during all six previous seasons of the production. In 2017, a decision was made to once again retire the play, seemingly permanently, to make way for new programming. However, due to numerous requests from the community to bring the play back, Rock Ford approached Cynthia Charles of Theater of the Seventh Sister, asking if TSS would collaborate with us on presenting this original play once more. Rock Ford has a long history of working with TSS on productions such as *Twelfth Night*, *Julius Caesar*, *Tales from the Caretakers*, and most recently, *Emma*, *The Matchmaker*.

*Sleepy Hollow* is scheduled for October 13, 14, 20, 21, 27 and 28 and November 3 and 4 with performances at 7 PM and 8:30 PM each night for a total of 16 performances. The play contains one act and runs for approximately one hour. During the performance, guests will be standing and will move from room to room on the first floor of the Hand Mansion following the characters as the story progresses.

**To provide a more intimate atmosphere, performances are limited to 15 guests. Tickets are \$20 per person and may be purchased at [rockford.yapsody.com](http://rockford.yapsody.com) after September 1. In the past, this production has sold out quickly so early reservations are strongly recommended.**

**2021-22 Membership Appeal**

Historic Rock Ford would like to thank the following individuals and organizations who became new members or who renewed their memberships **from November 1, 2021 to August 15, 2022**. This list will be updated in future newsletters.

**General Edward Hand Society (\$10000)**

Anne D. Gardner

**Katherine Hand Society (\$5000)**Thomas Hills Cook  
Dorothy Mowery Smith  
Donald & Elizabeth Steckler**Jasper Yeates Society (\$1000)**Peter & Millicent Christie  
Dr. and Mrs. John W. Gareis  
Edith May  
Clark McSparren, Jr.  
Thomas & Georgina Russo  
Samuel & Laura Slaymaker**Edward Shippen Society (\$500)**Alan & Susan Andersen  
Donna Arment  
Jane Eastman  
Robert & Carol Falk  
Dan & Barbara Gillis  
Hilary Grant  
James & Lisa High  
S. Dale & Sadie High  
Caroline Nunan Hill  
Robert & Patricia Pontz  
Robert & Deborah Smith  
Beverly R. Steinman  
Daniel Strickler, Jr. & Ellen Strickler  
Timothy & Cynthia Trussell**George Ross Society (\$250)**Mary Ellen Bachman  
Gary & Nancy Bennett  
Michael & Barbara Brown  
Jill Edwards  
Thomas G. Englert  
Scott & Paulette Goldman  
Dennis & Betty Jo Grimm  
Robert & Linda Groll  
Christina Hausner  
Gary & Debbi Langmuir  
Dana Lewis  
George Mann  
Joel Marc Mumma  
Scott Nestle & Margi Bowers  
Bonnie Nolt  
Jay & Linda Shannon  
Bonnie Sowers  
John & Pamela Stoner  
Stephen Trapnell  
Dave & Micke Trussell**Patron (\$100)**Marguerite S.V. Adams  
Kathleen Ashworth  
Cynthia Biechler  
Ronald & Lori Black  
John & A. Joanne Bowman  
Ellen Brinton  
Susan Broomell**Patron (cont.)**Ann Carter  
Forrest & Kay Collier  
Jim & Darlene Corrigan  
Michael Cusack  
Ray & Carol Dennis  
Gayle Despard  
Wendy Dietrich  
Richard & Charlotte Drennen  
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Harold & Ellen Eager  
John Frymyer & Cara Boring  
Dr. Wendell Funk  
Lisa Garner  
Thomas Gehr  
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Douglas & Gail Gibson  
Joseph & Elizabeth Gibson  
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Leo & Ginger Shelley  
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Arlene Golden Stewart  
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Beth Cardwell Photography  
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Corey Craver & Heather Tennes  
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Sheila Eckman  
William & Judith Geil  
John & Barbara Graeter  
Edward J. Hand  
Robert & Louise Harman  
James & Alace Humphreville  
Les & Juanita Leisch Jensen  
Jon L. Johnson & Charles H. Maser  
JoAnne Kerst  
Connie M. King  
Steve & Mary King  
Penny Kulp  
Richard & Lynda Levengood  
Sheila Martin  
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Karl & Betty Salmon  
Philip & Luann Scribani  
Robert & Marylou Simons  
Patrick & Marcia Stoltz  
Wayne & Carol Strasbaugh  
Philip & Beth Wade  
Leonard & Mary Cae Williams  
Michele Williams  
David Zimmerman**Individual (\$50)**Mary Anne Aichele  
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S. Kendrick Eshleman III, M.D.  
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Margarette Darby  
Cynthia Forry  
Andree Goldman  
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Margaret Perella  
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Laura Schramm  
Ellen Simpson  
Ellen Strock  
Deborah Strubel  
Margaret Tassia  
Nancy Wiker  
Rebecca Williams  
Jeff Wolgemuth



## Students Integrate History, Art and Technology

by Debbie Smith, Chair, School Programs Committee and President, Rock Ford Foundation Board of Trustees

The School Programs Committee is pleased to introduce the newest piece of furniture to “Reconstruct and Deconstruct,” an activity included in our educational offerings to school students. In this activity, students are presented with a large box of wooden parts, a 3-dimensional puzzle. Without formal instructions, they determine what the object is, figure out how the parts work together, and assemble it as efficiently as they can. The goal is to construct a functional piece of furniture, and during the process, learn to appreciate the craftsmanship and materials required.

The chair that local craftsman Alan Andersen made is referred to as a wainscot chair. His reproduction is made of walnut and is a copy of this style of chair built in 1735 in South-Eastern Pennsylvania. In the construction, Alan used only joinery, no nails or glue. The original chair, along with others made in Pennsylvania, were based on examples from the Lancashire and Cheshire counties in England. The chair also shows influence of German and Dutch artistry. The simple paneled seat would have held a thick cushion, also referred to as a squab. The wainscot design comes from the term “wainscot” which in the 17th century referred to the oak, which was the most common wood being used at the time for house and furniture construction. Many house and buildings from northern Europe and England in the 17th and 18th centuries were built of oak “wainscot” and this term eventually morphed into the name of the interior paneling commonly used at that time.



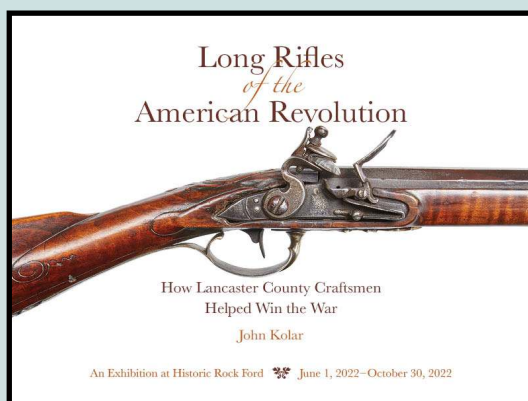
We strive for the students to be inspired by the beauty and exquisite construction of the chair as well as to have fun in completing this challenge. Because Rock Ford is an Educational Improvement Organization, we must also acknowledge the school technology standards that students meet such as working together to solve a problem; demonstrating how, when parts of a system are missing, the object will not function; and, for older students, thinking about how solutions to problems are shaped by economic, political, cultural and environmental factors.

We encourage you to volunteer at school programs such as “Reconstruct and Deconstruct” and consider how your presence benefits eager and enthusiastic students. For information on volunteering, visit our website [HistoricRockFord.org/volunteer](https://HistoricRockFord.org/volunteer).

Alan Andersen is the owner of Andersen & Stauffer Furniture Makers, LLC, who specialize in Custom Period Furniture Reproductions.



**Photos:** Wainscot chair before finish is applied (above right) and woodworker and craftsman Alan Andersen (lower right).



### Long Rifles Hardcover Book Update

The companion book to our special exhibit *Long Rifles of the American Revolution: How Lancaster County Craftsmen Helped Win the War* written by guest curator John Kolar is currently at the printing house. The anticipated availability is mid-September.

This hardcover book will contain approximately 150 pages of text, illustrations and professional full-color photographs. Copies are \$85 each. Books may be purchased at the Museum Shop in the Hand Mansion and in the Snyder Gallery or through our website shop for shipping by USPS Media Mail ([HistoricRockFord.org/shop](https://HistoricRockFord.org/shop)).



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## Rock Ford Welcomes San Juan Bautista Summer Day Camp

*By Debbie Smith, Chair, School Programs Committee and President, Rock Ford Foundation Board of Trustees*

It was a beautiful day in our neighborhood when 50 students from SBJ Day Camp visited Historic Rock Ford. This was their first trip to Rock Ford, and the first group to visit the Snyder Gallery. It made an impression on the campers. Ms. Linda Torres, Camp Director, reported “The children and their counselors enjoyed walking through the house and learning how the family lived. They were in awe of the way food was cooked in the kitchen over the fire with the different pots and how ice cream was made.” She added, “To them, the biggest attraction, literally was the clock and how the gears moved, and they loved working hands-on with the different levels of gears.” As they toured the Gallery during the Long Rifle Exhibit, the older students paid particular attention to the objects and their descriptions associated with the Revolutionary War.

According to Director Torres, it is traditional that the campers walk several miles to and from their church to nearly all their events, as they did with Rock Ford. Other than getting much needed exercise, having walked the route, they can return to Rock Ford with their parents and share what they learned. Rock Ford has always wanted to have a neighbor just like you, San Juan Bautista.

San Juan Bautista Catholic Church is the only Hispanic parish in the Diocese of Harrisburg. Located at 425 South Duke Street in Lancaster, it is dedicated to the spiritual and temporal needs of Hispanics in Lancaster County.



Az'Real Mendez (right) and Isabella Diggs (left) engage in gear board activities.

Additional photos from the SBJ visit will be included in our digital newsletter.

**To view the expanded digital version of our newsletter, please visit [HistoricRockFord.org/in-the-news](http://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.

