



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**Thursday, April 24, 2024**

## **The Doan Gang is Coming to the Mercer Museum**

**DOYLESTOWN, Pa.** – The Mercer Museum, operated by the Bucks County Historical Society (BCHS), is pleased to announce the opening of its new major exhibition, *The Doan Gang: Outlaws of the Revolution*, in its Martin & Warwick Foundation Galleries. This exhibition opens to the public on Saturday, May 4, 2024, and will run through Thursday, December 31, 2026, with a special Members-Only Preview Day on Friday, May 3, 2024.

*The Doan Gang: Outlaws of the Revolution* explores the history and intrigue of a group of Revolutionary War-era Loyalists whose legend lives on today. Some called them villains; others hailed them as heroes. Guests will discover the untold stories of the Doan Gang and journey through a world of espionage, legendary robberies, and mythical lost treasure in the heart of Revolutionary Bucks County.

*The Doan Gang: Outlaws of the Revolution* investigates the extraordinary tales of the Gang's criminal exploits throughout the region and explores the conflicts that arose among neighbors, friends, and families in Bucks County who were forced to choose sides during a time of great political and social unrest.

*The Doan Gang: Outlaws of the Revolution* offers audiences an opportunity to “step into” historical sets and imagine life in Revolutionary Bucks County. This major exhibition features over 300 artifacts, documents, and images from a variety of private collections and institutions, including the Bucks County Historical Society, the Library of Congress, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Newtown Historic Association, the Plumstead Historical Society, and many others.

“This project is one of the most ambitious, original, and exciting exhibitions ever presented at the Mercer Museum. The story of the Doan Gang has never before been presented with such clarity and accuracy, and placed so firmly within the larger context of the Revolutionary Era,” raves Cory Amsler, BCHS Vice President of Collections & Interpretation.

Never before displayed together, a few legendary highlights of the exhibition include the original desk from the infamous Bucks County Treasury robbery in Newtown in 1781, the flintlock pistol found at the site of the Halsey’s Cabin shoot-out in 1783, and the grave marker of Moses Doan placed by Henry Mercer in Plumstead Township in 1888.

“For almost 250 years, the Doan Gang has captured the imagination of people in both the United States and Canada, but many of the published histories about the Gang are more myth than fact,” says Clint Flack, BCHS Exhibit Specialist/Preparator. “It’s been so exciting to work with Doan descendants and historians to finally tell the true story of Bucks County’s most famous Loyalists.”

In addition to the exhibition, the Mercer Museum will host a wide array of community programs throughout the duration of the exhibition, including special evening and morning behind-the-scenes tours, deep-dive presentations into specific aspects of Doan history, and more.

This exhibition explores the conflicted loyalties of everyday people in Bucks County at the heart of the American Revolution. It coincides with the United States of America Semiquincentennial, the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the United States in 1776. The commemoration is a national, multi-year initiative culminating on July 4, 2026, and officially concluding in 2027.

“We are so thrilled to present this exhibition as we near the 250th anniversary of the United States. Our goal was to separate fact from fiction, and luckily for us, the true story is just as exciting as the lore that’s been circulating!” adds Annie Halliday, BCHS Director of Library and Archives.

*The Doan Gang: Outlaws of the Revolution* is sponsored by Cascade Foundation, Philadelphia Funder Collaborative for the Semiquincentennial, Susan E. Kane, Jim & Kathy Morrison, Connelly Foundation, The Morel Family Foundation, Bucks County Tourism Grant Program, Doan Distillery, The Argus Fund, Penn Color, Janet Schimek, Molly Lowell & Rich Duvall, Brian & Louise McLeod, Bob & Alice Vernon, Bucks County Foundation, The First National Bank & Trust Co. of Newtown, Linda B. Hodgdon, The London Purchase Farm, Dynasty Advisors, and Fulton Bank.

Entrance to this special exhibition is included with general Mercer Museum admission. The Mercer Museum is open Tuesdays – Sundays from 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Schedule, ticket, and program information, along with an exhibition trailer, is available at [doangang.org](http://doangang.org).

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### **About the Mercer Museum & Fonthill Castle**

Located in Doylestown, Bucks County, PA, the Mercer Museum and Fonthill Castle are historic castles celebrating the legacy of Henry Chapman Mercer (1856-1930), American archaeologist, anthropologist, ceramicist and scholar. Both sites are operated by the Bucks County Historical Society (BCHS).

The Mercer Museum, one of Bucks County's premier cultural attractions and a Smithsonian affiliate, features both local and national seasonal exhibits as well as a core museum collection of over 17,000 pre-Industrial tools. This permanent collection offers visitors a unique window into pre-Industrial America through sixty different crafts and trades and is one of the world's most comprehensive portraits of American material culture. The museum also features a research library that is a center for local history related to Bucks County and the surrounding region, with its roots dating back to the founding of the Bucks County Historical Society in 1880.

Fonthill Castle was built between 1908-1912 and was the home of Henry Chapman Mercer. Mercer built Fonthill Castle as his residence and showplace for his collection of tiles and prints. The castle serves as an early example of reinforced concrete and features forty-four rooms, over two hundred windows, and eighteen fireplaces. Fonthill Castle's interior features Mercer's renowned, hand-crafted ceramic tiles designed at the height of the Arts and Crafts movement.

The Mercer Museum is located at 84 South Pine Street, Doylestown, PA, 18901. Fonthill Castle is located at 525 East Court Street in Doylestown, PA, 18901.

The Mercer Museum & Fonthill Castle are open Tuesdays – Sundays from 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. For up-to-date ticket and schedule information, please visit [mercermuseum.org](http://mercermuseum.org).

### **America250PA**

The Bucks County Historical Society is a Nonprofit Affiliate of America250PA. America250PA hopes to engage all citizens of the commonwealth, from all 67 counties, with the goal to educate, preserve, innovate, and celebrate Pennsylvania's rich history, culture and future through various programs, projects, and events. Learn more at [america250pa.org](http://america250pa.org).

For additional information, please contact:

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