



SCHWENKFELDER LIBRARY
& HERITAGE CENTER

HERITAGE HEADLINES

Fall 2026
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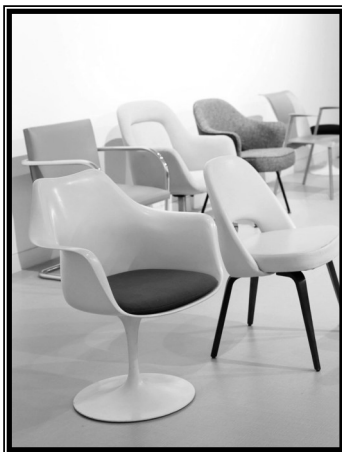
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Modern Furniture, Traditional Values: Knoll in the Upper Perkiomen Valley

What happens when a German immigrant with an entrepreneurial streak and a background in modern design hires a workforce from the traditionally Pennsylvania German population of the Upper Perkiomen Valley?

You get the extraordinary company Knoll—the manufacturer of furniture by twentieth century design luminaries such as Florence Knoll, Harry Bertoia, Eero Saarinen, Richard Schultz, and so many more, with much of the work being done right here in Upper Hanover Township.



This November, thanks to an anonymous donor, we will open a landmark exhibit for the Heritage Center, tracing the history of Knoll using interviews with former employees, photographs and graphics, and of course, examples of Knoll furniture dating from the 1940s to the 1990s. We plan to explore the intersection of our local residents who worked for Knoll with the extraordinary designers who created the iconic furniture that has become part of our cultural landscape.

Join us for an opening reception on Saturday, November 7, featuring a light buffet, refreshments, and entertainment. We certainly hope to see former and present Knoll employees, their families, and all of you who are interested in local history and modern design. Details for this fabulous party will follow.

It's Still The Semiquincentennial

The July 4 weekend has come and gone—and what a weekend it was! We were so happy to spend the days with many of you, our supporters. See page 6 for photos of some of our activities. But the commemoration continues. . .

If you have not been able to make a visit here yet, three of our exhibits for the 250th are still on display. For connoisseurs of historic weapons, though, come quickly. *Southeastern Pennsylvania Longrifles—The Early Years* closes on October 18. *These Truths are Not Self-Evident: Stories of the Revolution from the Perkiomen Valley* will be up through March 2027, and *Revolutionary Fraktur* through April 2027. All exhibits are receiving rave reviews. Look for the logo in this newsletter to find more fascinating programs.



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VIEWS & NEWS

Right: On July 24, we wished Joanne Jalowy good luck as she moved on to a new job. In her 14 years with the Heritage Center as the most able Administrative Assistant, she interacted with many of you, dear readers, as she arranged your mailings, answered your questions, and took your reservations. We all miss her but know that as a birthright Schwenkfelder she will be back to visit often.



Left: Make Music Upper Perk returned on June 21—the first day of summer and the International Day of Music



Above and below: Views of this year's Penn Dry Goods Market May 15 & 16



Above: On Sunday, August 2, we thanked our Annual Fund Donors as we commemorated the 200th birthday of the Seipt Family Barn with a fascinating talk by Patrick Donmoyer of the Kutztown Pennsylvania German Cultural Heritage Center.



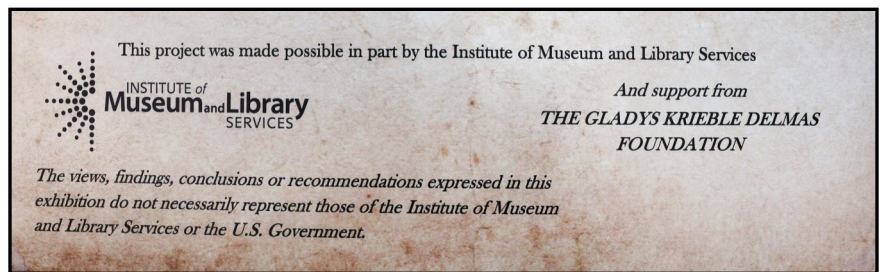
JOY OF GIVING

Building Our Foundation

Donors and supporters power the work of the Heritage Center in many ways. Our Annual Appeal provides flexible funding that we can use for needs as diverse as staff salaries, bookshelves, lightbulbs, and technology subscriptions. Individual donors might support a particular piece of equipment, exhibit, item, or program. Legacy donations and bequests build our endowment. But for larger exhibits and projects, we turn to grants from institutional donors. Here are profiles of three funders who help us bring all of the Heritage Center treasures to visitors in 2026 and 2027.

What better partner for our celebration of America's 250th birthday than America itself? The programming and exhibits related to the Semiquincentennial are brought to life by the federal **Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)**. IMLS advances, supports, and empowers America's museums, libraries, and related organizations. The Heritage Center's grant is through the Inspire! Program for Small Museums program, designed to support small museums of all disciplines and build capacity in programming and collections. The grant made it possible to offer four exhibits and related programming commemorating the Revolutionary period in the region: *Who Lived in the Perkiomen Region in the 1700s?; Revolutionary Fraktur; These Truths are Not-Self Evident; and Southeastern Pennsylvania Longrifles—The Early Years*.

The Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation supported the artwork and maps that you see in *These Truths*. Gladys Krieble Delmas, a Schwenkfelder descendant, established the foundation in 1974. It supports "Promoting the advancement and perpetuation of humanistic inquiry and artistic creativity by encouraging excellence in scholarship and in the performing arts, and by supporting research libraries and other institutions that transmit cultural heritage." One obituary noted that Gladys "often spoke of her family's Schwenkfeldian past" and the Heritage Center is fortunate that her legacy has helped us bring that past alive.



Title panel from These Truths are Not Self-Evident

**The
Pew Center
for Arts
& Heritage**

After the Semiquincentennial exhibits come down, we're excited to open an exhibit showcasing some of our extensive collection of Lenape ancestral items. The **Pew Center for Arts and Heritage** has provided a multi-year grant for a comprehensive collaboration with the Delaware Tribe of Indians in Oklahoma. The grant will support the exhibit, a robust calendar of programming conducted by Lenape tribal members at the Heritage Center, and opportunities for us to learn from each other. This connection is critical to ensuring that the exhibits and programming bring an authentic indigenous perspective and that the ideas they share outlast the grantmaker and are an ongoing initiative. The Pew

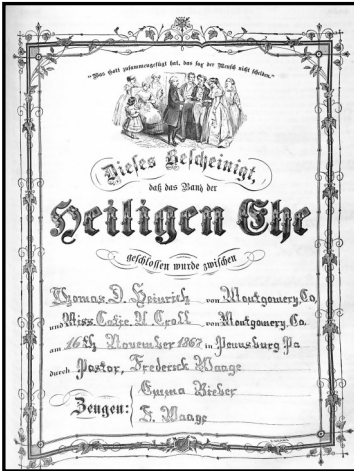
Story continued on page 8

COLLECTION NEWS

New to the Archives

Donated by Richard and Erlinda Heebner:

Biblia, das ist: die gantze Heilige Schrifft, Alten und Neuen Testaments, verteutschet durch Martin Luther. Verlag emanuel Thurneysen, 1798.



Marriage Record of Thomas Heinrich and Catharine Croll, 1867, from Family Bible

Donated by Tom Henry:

- *Neue illustrierte familien Bibel, für häusliche Erbauung und Belehrung; enthaltend das Alte und Neue Testament...nach Dr. Martin Luther's Uebersetzung.* A.J. Holman, 1877. (Heinrich and Croll family Bible page to left)
- Account book: "Record of Fish-Game-Relics taken by Charles E. Erb and Thomas Scott Henry, 1923."

Donated by Byron and David Kriebel:

Portrait photograph of Oscar Schultz Kriebel.

Unknown Donor:

A Poesiealbum (German for "poetry album" or "autograph/friendship book", this item is a small, hardbound book with blank pages. Historically passed around among friends, classmates, and family members, it was used to collect short, rhyming verses

SLHC Purchase:

Black and white postcard of the L.B. Miller cigar factory, Red Hill, PA, date unknown.

New to the Library

Donated and written by Daniel A. Graham:

Colonial and Early Ironworks: Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, 1744–1800. Historical Society of Montgomery County, 2026.

Donated and compiled by Joanna Bossert Morsicato:

My Family Heritage Project: Volume II: Joanna from Lemont, Illinois, 1952—Denver, Colorado, 1980, Including World Travels 2025.

Donated and written by Eef Overgaauw:

Mystik und Spiritualismus: Daniel Sudermanns eigenhändiges Verzeichnis seiner Handschriften. Published in "Zeitschrift für deutsches Altertum und deutsche Literatur." S. Hirzel Verlag, 2026.

Unknown donor:

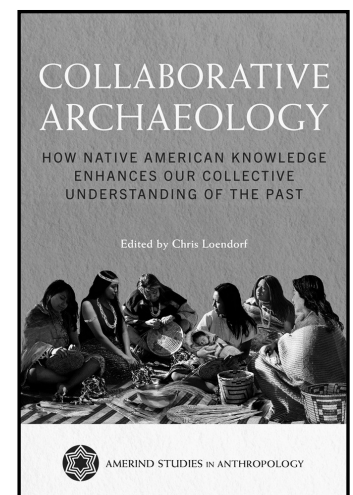
Hundredth Anniversary History: Red Hill, Pennsylvania, August 18-24, 2002. Centennial Committee, 2002.

Unknown donor:

Piety and Tolerance: Pennsylvania German Religion, 1700–1850 by Stephen L. Longenecker. Scarecrow Press, 1994.

SLHC Purchase:

- *Collective Archaeology: How Native American Knowledge Enhances Our Collective Understanding of the Past* edited by Chris Loendorf. University of Arizona Press, 2026.
- *To These Parents: A Compendium of Pennsylvania German Taufscheine. Volume Three, Western Berks County, Pennsylvania.* Pennsylvania German Society, 2025.



New to the Museum Collection

From Rebecca and Chard Kummerer: Two crib quilts, two Staffordshire transferware plates, including one with image of William Penn's treaty with the Lenape; and a transferware teapot.

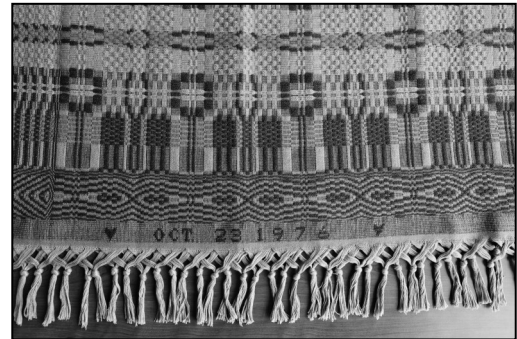
From Philip Moyer: A Jens Risom armchair, manufactured by Knoll; Buddy L wooden train and car.

From Nancy Byron: A whirligig with a carved figure of a woman at a well and the Schwenkfelder Salford Meeting House.

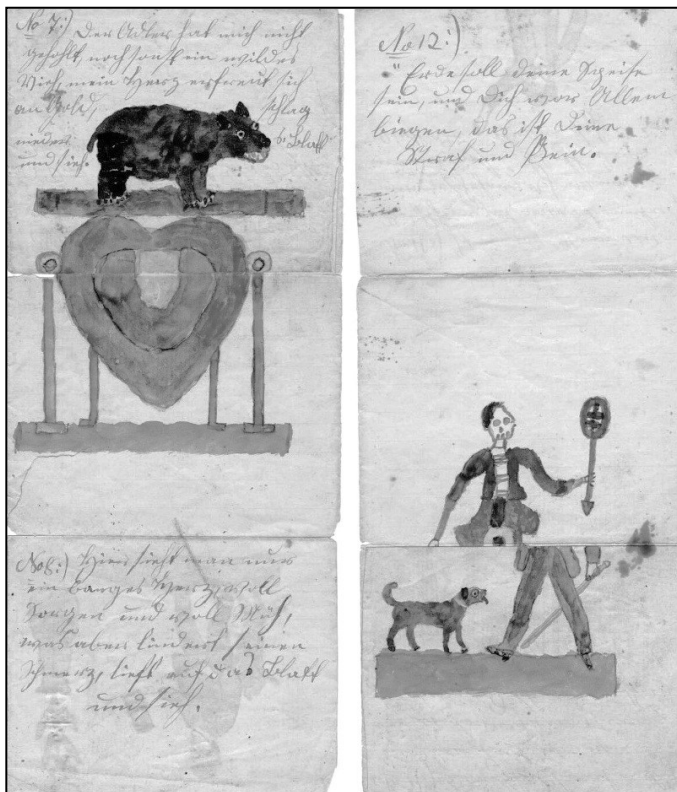
From Barry Miller: Two trivets with Pennsylvania Dutch motifs, manufactured by the Emmaus Foundry, 2013 and 2014.

From Kathy Bieler: A doll, sunbonnet, and linen bed case that formerly belonged to Sara Bieler.

From William A. Leinbach: Coverlet sample patterns and a full-sized coverlet handwoven by the donor.
(Sample below)



Collection Highlight: A Metamorphosis



The word “metamorphosis” is defined as “a complete or radical change in form, structure, or character.” It is also the title of an entertaining children’s booklet from the 1800s that allows the reader to mix up illustrations by folding flaps up or down—and in the process create nonsensical images.

The Heritage Center has two partial examples of these precious little booklets. The example shown here is a hand drawn booklet with German script and thus lives in our Fraktur collection. It dates post-1850 and is similar to a version printed by G. S. Peters of Harrisburg. The drawings of the two are somewhat different (our maker uses a bear instead of a lion), and the text, though not yet translated, appears to be different. The maker of ours was probably a young person. The most intriguing image is the one of the skeleton (shown here with the legs of another image).

The Metamorphosis, like other items in our Fraktur collection, carries moral admonitions for young people. The story G.S. Peters told in his version is death being a great equalizer and that wealth will mean nothing in the end; the imagery in the Heritage Center’s version seems to echo that.

Family & Student Programs

Seasonal Saturdays: Make & Take for all Ages*

10am–2pm

Pre-register to ensure enough supplies at schwenkfelder.org/calendar

*Young children may need adult assistance

September 26	Day of Remembrance Crafts
October 3	America 250 Crafts
November 14	Knoll Craft Day
December 5 & 6	Christmas Market LEGO® Giveaway (for children ages 4–12 while supplies last)

Special Passport to History Weekend September 25–27

The Heritage Center joins its northern partners in the Lehigh Valley region in celebrating a Passport to History Weekend (lvhistory.org/). Besides Seasonal Saturday crafts, great exhibits, and barn tours, there are two special weekend presentations.

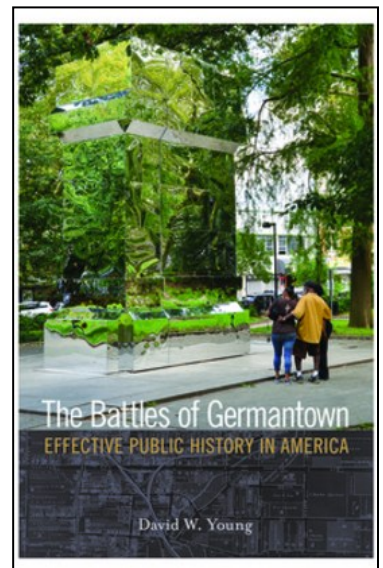
Pennsylvania Dutch Performance Saturday, September 26, 11am



Come hear Blohbariyer perform a selection of original songs, traditional folk songs, and dialect poetry set to original music — sung entirely in Pennsylvania Dutch. Who or what is Blohbariyer? It is Scott Reagan, a Northampton County native and Martin Guitar employee. The name that he uses for his Pennsylvania Dutch performances means “someone who lives by the Blue Mountain.” Reagan will accompany his singing with acoustic guitar and harmonica.

Effective Public History: Opportunities for Connecting Local History to America's 250th Sunday, September 27, 2pm

Known as America’s most historic neighborhood, the Germantown section of Philadelphia (established in 1683) has distinguished itself by using public history initiatives to forge community. Dr. David Young, the author of *The Battles of Germantown*, considers what these efforts can tell us about public history’s practice and purpose in the United States. Young is the Executive Director of the Historical Society of Montgomery County, and this book won the 2020 Klein Prize by the Pennsylvania Historical Association for the book that best illuminates Pennsylvania history.





SCHWENKFELDER
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*Uncover the history of
the Upper Perkiomen*

schwenkfelder.org/250



Above: Design of our billboard displayed on I-276 in June

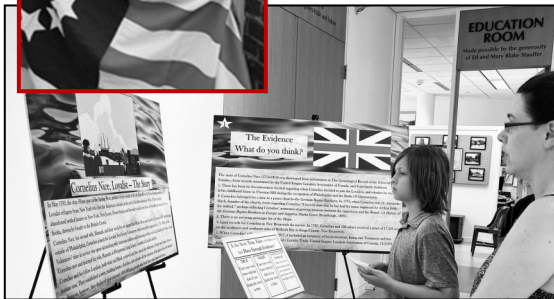
SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL SUMMER



*People enjoyed exhibits,
crafts, and reenactors on
Heritage Day, July 5*



*America250PA brought its mobile unit here for
Flag Day and the exhibit opening of
Revolutionary Fraktur*



*A wonderfully interactive series of stories
—Visitor commenting on These Truths are Not
Self-Evident exhibit*

The Heritage Center hosted a “House of Declaration” for Montgomery County at the Upper Perk Rotary’s July 4 celebration. PA Senator Tracy Pennycuick and other community leaders participated in a moving reading of the Declaration of Independence followed by music from the Brandywine Colonials Fife & Drum Corps.



BROWN BAG LECTURES

The 2nd Wednesday of the month at 12:00 noon

All lectures are free and available in-person or on Zoom.

To register or to receive the link, go to schwenkfelder.org/calendar or call 215-679-3103

September 9 Revolutionary Women



While you may picture white men when you think of General George Washington and the Continental Army, even women were involved in the Revolutionary War—some as spies, some by continuing their husband's professions at home while they were away, and some by actually fighting. Hear Dr Susanne Johnston recount stories of some remarkable women who came to the aid of the Patriots in the Revolutionary War.

October 14 “the famous place Trenton, which I shall never forget”: Hessian Soldiers Before, During, and After the Battle of Trenton



Three Hessian regiments, about 1,000 soldiers, were supposed to spend the winter of 1776–1777 quietly in Trenton, New Jersey, safe from George Washington's army. But less than twenty days after they arrived in December 1776, they were surprised and captured. Jay Domalewski of the Old Barracks Museum will share a look at how the Battle of Trenton was a life-changing experience for those Hessian soldiers, including those who returned to their regiments and Germany and those who stayed in America, melding with Pennsylvania German culture.

November 11 Being German in An English-Speaking Land

The German immigrants to Pennsylvania in 1700s faced many challenges, not the least of which were language barriers. Peter Siebert will explore the range of bilingualism that existed in Pennsylvania from the 1700s through the 1900s and the challenges of doing business and transacting legal matters when English was not your first language

December 9 African American Laborers in the Potts-Run Iron Industry

Researchers at Pottsgrove Manor are diligently working on the “Powering Production Project,” a herculean volunteer effort to gather, transcribe, and analyze Potts business papers, scattered across archives and institutions in multiple states. Site supervisor Justin Clement will share this research that provides insight into the private lives of the Potts family. The same records also have revealed information on the free and enslaved African Americans tied to the Potts family and their various ironworks.



Joy of Giving continued from page 4

Center for Arts & Heritage is a multidisciplinary grantmaker and hub for knowledge-sharing, funded by The Pew Charitable Trusts, and dedicated to fostering a vibrant cultural community in Greater Philadelphia. The Center invests in ambitious, imaginative, and catalytic work that showcases the region's cultural vitality and enhances public life, and engages in an exchange of ideas concerning artistic and interpretive practice with a broad network of cultural practitioners and leaders.

The range of resources and activities at the Heritage Center calls for a range of donors to support them! We are grateful to all our supporters, including the three whose stories are highlighted here.

SPECIAL SEMIQUINCENNTIENAL WEEKEND TALKS

Available in-person or on Zoom (unless noted)
To register or to receive the link,
go to schwenkfelder.org/calendar or call 215-679-3103

Admission is free thanks to the support of the Friends Local History Fund,
the Society of the Descendants of the Schwenkfeldian Exiles,
and the Institute of Museum & Library Services



The Story of Tacy Richardson: Pennsylvania Paul Revere or Imagined Revolution Volunteer?

Sunday, September 20, 2pm

Rev. Homer Royer recounts quasi-famous stories from the 18- and 1900s about his 18th century ancestor Tacy Richardson Vanderslice, and their potential application for the 21st century. But this story also includes stories about *who* told Tacy's stories. Rev. Royer, a retired clergyperson, has collected stories in Southeastern Pennsylvania for fifty years.

Early American Farming Seminar & Museum Tour of Tools

Saturday, October 17, noon–2pm (no Zoom)

Dressed in period wear, Greg Geesaman, co-owner of Heritage Art and Craft Studio, will take you on a journey to experience practices of gardening and farming during the 17- and 1800's. With over 30 antique farming tools on display, he will demonstrate how they were used. Attendees will learn what was grown and harvested for trade, survival, and profit.

The Pennsylvania Germans in the American Revolution with Ed Johnson

Sunday, October 25, 2:30pm (open to public after the 2:00 Exiles Annual Meeting)

In 1775 people of German extraction played vital roles in the Revolutionary War that began that year. From fighting in the battles to manufacturing weapons, from printing broadsides of the Declaration of Independence to baking bread for the army, from nursing the sick and wounded to following their husbands to Valley Forge, these contributions will be Ed Johnson's subject.

For the Trouble of the House

Sunday, November 1, 2pm

In the fall of 1777, George Washington and the Continental Army marched into Montgomery County. Civilian accounts tell us some fascinating details about where he stayed, Washington's expense accounts provide amazing details about the General's room and board paid out to local civilians. These first-person narratives and original accounts will be brought alive by Marc Brier, a former park ranger/historian with the National Park Service.

Dr. Bodo Otto: The Patriot Surgeon of Pennsylvania

Sunday, November 15, 2pm

At the onset of the American Revolution, Dr. Bodo Otto, Sr. already had been serving patients for forty years. Nevertheless, he embraced a new role at the age of 65, volunteering his services as a surgeon to the Continental Army. Join Bradley Smith, Site Administrator at the Historic Ephrata Cloister, for a discussion of Bodo Otto's extraordinary service and learn about the curious array of Dr. Otto's surgical tools and personal effects that survive to this day.

Adult Workshops

Register by September 10 at schwenkfelder.org/calendar (or call 215-679-3103)

Sgraffito Redware Plate

Saturday, September 19, 10am–3:30pm

Workshop fee of \$60 plus material cost of \$38 for a 7" plate or \$50 for a 10" plate.

Denise Wilz focuses on the sgraffito technique used by 18th and 19th century Pennsylvania German potters to make expressive designs in their folk-art pottery. The participants have the option to make sgraffito 7" or 10" redware plates coated with white clay slip; limit of 3 plates as time permits. All the sgraffito tools and books for ideas are provided though you may bring along a bag lunch. No experience required.

Small Market Basket —America's Original Paper Bag

Friday, September 25, 10am–4pm

Workshop fee \$70 plus material cost of \$50 for a total cost \$120 per person.

Baskets were essential in the colonial period for gathering, marketing, and everyday household tasks—an indispensable tool in both town and farm life. Participants in this hands-on workshop taught by Karen Wychock will create a small market basket using traditional techniques. Working over a wooden mold, each basket will be woven from natural reed and finished with sturdy oak handles and pre-bent reed rims. All tools and materials will be supplied by the instructor. Please bring an apron or towel since we work wet!

Special Fall Event: Educator Open House

Tuesday, September 29 and Thursday, October 15, 4–7pm

Registration is required by September 16 and October 7 respectively.

Event is free; please register at schwenkfelder.org/calendar

Are you an educator in the greater Perkiomen area? These free Educator Open Houses are designed to showcase potential resources to support classroom instruction. While teachers may come and go throughout the evening enjoying self-guided access to the galleries and exhibits, at 5:00pm, a brief program with complimentary refreshments will be provided. Teachers can ask staff about our educational programs, learn about research materials in our library, and learn about resources

CHANGING EXHIBIT SCHEDULE

Southeastern Pennsylvania Longrifles—The Early Years—through October 18

Jamee Pemberton's Quilt Exhibit—through November 5

Modern Furniture, Traditional Values: Knoll in the Upper Perkiomen Valley—opens November 8

These Truths are Not Self-Evident: Stories from the Revolution in the Perkiomen Valley—through March 27, 2027

With accompanying *Saved in The Vault* exhibit of related archival materials

Revolutionary Fraktur—through April 25, 2027

FALL 2026 PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

For more details and registration info, visit schwenkfelder.org/calendar

Closed for Thanksgiving Thursday, November 26

- September 9—Brown Bag Lecture: Revolutionary Women
- September 12—Visit us @ Pennsburg & East Greenville Community Day
- September 17—Genealogy Club @ Upper Perk Valley Library
- September 18—Visit us @ Schwenkfelder Central Church Fair
- September 19—Adult Workshop: Sgraffito Redware Plate Workshop
- September 20—Local History Program: The Story of Tacy Richardson
- September 25–27—Passport to History Weekend
 - Friday, the 25th—Adult Workshop: America's Original Paper Bag Crafts
 - Saturday, the 26th—PA Dutch Performance and Seasonal Saturday
 - Sunday, the 27th—Effective Public History Presentation
- September 29—Educator Open House
- October 3—Seasonal Saturday: America 250 Crafts and Longrifle Family Day
- October 10—Visit us @ America250 Celebration in Upper Salford
- October 14—Brown Bag Lecture: "the famous place Trenton, which I shall never forget"
- October 15—Educator Open House
- October 15—Genealogy Club @ Upper Perk Valley Library
- October 17—Early American Farming Seminar
- October 25—Exiles Annual Meeting and Program: The Pennsylvania Germans in the American Revolution
- November 1—Local History Program: For the Trouble of the House
- November 7—Opening party for Knoll Exhibit
- November 11—Brown Bag Lecture: Being German in An English-Speaking Land
- November 14—Seasonal Saturday: Knoll Crafts
- November 15—Local History Program: Dr. Bodo Otto: The Patriot Surgeon of Pennsylvania
- November 19—Genealogy Club @ Upper Perk Valley Library
- December 5 & 6—Christmas Market
- December 9—Brown Bag Lecture: African American Laborers in the Potts-Run Iron Industry
- December 17—Genealogy Club @ Upper Perk Valley Library



Hours

Tuesday–Saturday
10 am–4 pm
Sunday 1–4 pm

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

**CHECK OUT
OUR NEW UPDATED WEBSITE!
STILL AT SCHWENKFELDER.ORG**



Never Too Early To Plan For Christmas



There are only three months between Labor Day and Christmas Market! This year our annual event held in conjunction with Pennsylvania German Christmas will be Saturday and Sunday, December 5 & 6. Come revisit all of your traditional favorites: enticing merchandise in the Heritage Shop, crafts-people, basket raffle, rummage sale of holiday décor (and more), and a LEGO® give-away. Stop in Saturday between 9:30am and 4:00pm and on Sunday between noon and 4pm to find the perfect holiday gift and get into the holiday spirit.

In each of the last two years, we cleared over \$2000 from our Basket Raffles, and in the last few years, we have made almost \$20,000 from your generous donations to rummage sales. Contributing to these activities is an easy way to help us raise funds that allow us to continue to serve the community. You can help by:

- ♦ **Filling a basket to raffle:** We can use your (or your company's) donation of either an entire themed basket or items to be part of a basket (such as a gift card). Contact Meredith Reinhart at 215-679-3103 or meredith@schwenkfelder.org with your donations.
- ♦ **Clearing out your homes:** For our upcoming Christmas market rummage sale, we would be delighted to have your Christmas (and other holiday) décor, home accessories, textiles, and nonfiction books. Whether it be antique, vintage, or gently used or new, we'd be happy to have it! Contact Candace Perry at 215-679-3103 or candace@schwenkfelder.org about dropping off your treasures.