



NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Greg Langel
Media and Marketing Manager
412-371-0600 ext. 524
GLangel@TheFrickPittsburgh.org

For Immediate Release

FRICK ART & HISTORICAL CENTER ANNOUNCES

Mourning Customs in the Victorian Era

SPECIAL CLAYTON TOUR OFFERED THROUGH OCTOBER 31, 2010

Clayton Tour: *Mourning Customs in the Victorian Era*

Dates: Tuesday–Sunday, September 1 – October 31, 2010

Reservations: Strongly recommended. Call 412-371-0600

Admission: Members free; general admission \$12; seniors, students and military \$10; children 16 and under \$6

PITTSBURGH, PA, September 1, 2010—The Frick Art & Historical Center announces a new thematic tour of Clayton, the restored late-19th-century home of the Henry Clay Frick family, to be offered during the months of September and October. *Mourning Customs in the Victorian Era* is the second in a series of four new tours designed to provide visitors multiple ways to connect to Pittsburgh history and to find personal meaning in the stories that are told.

ABOUT THE TOUR

Loss of friends and loved ones was an all-too-common occurrence during the Victorian era. Appropriate social behavior was highly prized, and rules for behavior were written about extensively in etiquette books. Social cues given through one's dress, black or white wreaths on front doors, black borders on calling cards, and many other ways were an important part of the process for those in mourning and those paying their respects. The tour, *Mourning Customs in the Victorian Era*, will include information about the Fricks and life at Clayton, and will put mourning practices in the context of the era in which they lived.

—more—

ABOUT THEMATIC TOURS OF CLAYTON

Since its opening to the public as a historic house museum in 1990, tours of Clayton have focused almost entirely on historical aspects of the mansion as the Frick family home. The majority of Clayton's furnishings are original, and the archival and photo documentation that exists for Clayton is rare in the world of historic houses. Public tours reflect this richness of information. Since 2007, Frick curatorial staff has begun to find new ways to use that documentation—supplemented with additional research—to delve more deeply into other aspects of life during the Gilded Age.

All thematic tours present basic information about Clayton and the Frick family, however docents tailor the content to each particular topic. Each tour is its own unique experience, as Clayton docents do not work from a script. For visitors, this provides the opportunity for spontaneity and plenty of question-and-answer time with docents about the topics covered.

Thematic tours give visitors multiple ways to connect to Pittsburgh history and to find personal meaning in the stories that are told. And while Clayton docents have a tremendous amount of information to share, some of the best moments on a tour happen when visitors talk together about something they are seeing or hearing, and share their own personal experiences. Numerous objects from the Frick's collection that illustrate the theme of the tour are displayed, and copies of archival materials are incorporated to engage visitors. These may include copies of various Frick family papers and receipts, period magazines such as *Ladies' Home Journal* and *Delineator* or cookbooks and etiquette books that were popular in the late 1800s. These items are used as resources as tours are developed and are often incorporated into the tours for all to see. Tours also feature a variety of touchable objects, purchased from reputable antique sellers, that visitors can handle; for example, a soap saver in the kitchen, a calling card case in the reception room or a period corset or bustle upstairs.

A schedule of future Clayton thematic tours follows:

A Gilded Age Christmas

November 19, 2010 – January 2, 2011

Christmas is always a special time at the Frick and particularly at Clayton, where holiday decorations and artifacts on display evoke the traditions and celebrations of the late 19th century. Live poinsettias will grace the hearths, fresh greens will lend the scent of pine to the air and a freshly-cut, decorated tree will be placed on the enclosed porch. In the dining room, visitors will see the table set with fine china, gilded glassware and silver for an elaborate holiday dinner. The kitchen will evoke domestic staff at work with a display of a holiday meal in preparation, complete with candy-making and festive Christmas touches. As in the past, the breakfast room will be decorated for a whimsical children's party inspired by images from period magazines. Visitors will also see personal gifts the Frick family gave one another, and archival holiday and winter photographs will enhance the story of Christmas at Clayton.

All the Ladies of the House

March 1 – May 1, 2011

To coincide with women's history month in March, this tour will look at Clayton through the eyes of the women who lived and worked there. It will focus on Adelaide Frick, Helen Frick, and the many servant women who worked for them. Each home has its own story but Clayton is also representative of households across the country, particularly at a time when even middle-class families had domestic help. Issues of immigration in Pittsburgh will be part of the discussion, as the ethnicity of Clayton's domestic staff in many ways reflected national trends. Archival materials will be included, and installations in the rooms will evoke the universal experiences of any woman who has ever taken care of a home.

Historic Tour of Clayton

Offered year-round

Clayton is an example of both the home of a wealthy Pittsburgh family and of late Victorian architecture and interior design. Visitors on the historic tour have the unique experience of learning about the Frick family, local history and Victorian social customs in the family's home, where more than 90% of the furniture and artifacts on display are original.

GENERAL INFORMATION REGARDING CLAYTON TOURS

Hours: Clayton tours are offered Tuesday through Sunday, 10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Reservations: Strongly recommended. The public may call 412-371-0600 Monday–Sunday between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. for reservations and information.

Admission: Members free; general admission \$12; seniors, students and military \$10; children 16 and under \$6.

Group Tours of Clayton: Group tour rates are available for 12 or more people. All large groups are divided into smaller groups of 8-10, which depart at ten-minute intervals to begin the tour. When groups are not touring Clayton, they may visit the Car and Carriage Museum, The Frick Art Museum, Greenhouse, or Museum Shop. Group tours are available year-round. Reservations are required.

ABOUT THE FRICK ART & HISTORICAL CENTER

The Frick Art & Historical Center is the legacy of Helen Clay Frick, daughter of 19th-century industrialist and art collector Henry Clay Frick. Having established The Frick Art Museum in 1969, Miss Frick desired that her family home, Clayton, and the surrounding estate be preserved for, and opened to, the people of Pittsburgh after her death. Her vision was realized in 1990.

Today, the Frick Art & Historical Center houses a galaxy of collections—including fine arts, decorative arts, automobiles and carriages, and historic artifacts— in multiple galleries and venues, many of which are historic objects in and of themselves. These collections, and the programs that interpret them, illuminate the era during which Pittsburgh became one of the nation's most important cities and also make meaningful connections to contemporary times.

Although still a relatively young institution, the Frick ranks among Pittsburgh's most important cultural and educational assets.

The Frick Art & Historical Center is located at 7227 Reynolds Street in Pittsburgh's Point Breeze neighborhood. Free parking is available in the Frick's off-street lot or along adjacent streets. The Frick is open 10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Tuesday–Sunday and closed Mondays and major holidays. Admission to The Frick Art Museum, Car and Carriage Museum, Greenhouse, and Playhouse is free. The public should call 412-371-0600 for information, or visit the Frick online at TheFrickPittsburgh.org.

For additional information or images, please contact Greg Langel, Media and Marketing Manager, at 412-371-0600 ext. 524 or GLangel@TheFrickPittsburgh.org.

#

The Frick Art & Historical Center, a museum, historic site and cultural center, serves the public through preservation, presentation, and interpretation of the fine and decorative arts and historically significant artifacts for all residents of and visitors to Western Pennsylvania.