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For Immediate Release

**THE FRICK ART & HISTORICAL CENTER ANNOUNCES**

*All the Ladies of the House*

*New tour of Clayton presents the restored Frick family home  
through the eyes of the women who lived and worked there*

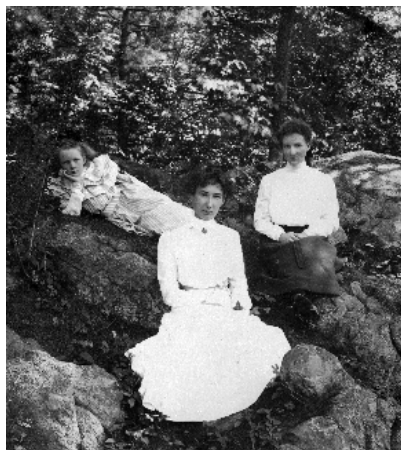
**Special Tour of Clayton:** *All the Ladies of the House*

**Dates:** Tuesday–Sunday, March 1–May 1, 2011

**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, February 23, 2011—The Frick Art & Historical Center announces a new thematic tour of Clayton, the restored late-19<sup>th</sup>-century home of the Henry Clay Frick family, to be offered during the months of March and April 2011. *All the Ladies of the House* is the latest in a series of new tours designed to provide visitors multiple ways to connect to Pittsburgh history and to find personal meaning in the stories that are told.



*Helen Clay Frick takes a break from studying with Governess Marika Ogiz in the foreground and schoolfriend Virginia Frew at right. Photographer unknown. Courtesy of The Frick Collection/Frick Art Reference Library Archives.*

Coinciding with Women’s History Month in March, the Frick’s newest Clayton tour looks at the historic home of the Henry Clay Frick family through the eyes of the women who lived and worked there at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In addition to the new thematic tour, the museum will offer a selection of related programs, details of which follow.

One program offered as part of this special thematic tour provides the public with a rare opportunity to experience Clayton during evening hours. *Clayton by Night: All the Ladies of the House*, offered from 6:30–8:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 7, 2011. After enjoying wine,

–more–

cheese, and a bit of conversation, program participants will experience an in-depth tour of Clayton, focused on the roles of the women who lived and worked there during the Gilded Age.

## **ABOUT THE TOUR: ALL THE LADIES OF THE HOUSE**

Clayton, located at the corner of Penn and South Homewood Avenues in Pittsburgh's East End, served as the Henry Clay Frick family's primary residence from 1882 to 1905. A meticulously restored historic house museum where more than 90% of the furniture and artifacts on display are original, Clayton offers Frick Art & Historical Center visitors a unique opportunity to learn about life during the Gilded Age, the Frick family, local history, and Victorian social customs.

In her memoirs about growing up at Clayton, Helen Clay Frick (1888–1984) wrote, “My mother was a meticulous housekeeper, as were most Pittsburgh ladies of that generation. As a matter of fact, this was necessary as Pittsburgh was not the clean city that it now is, and it required the greatest care in order to have a really clean house.”

Keeping a clean house and running an efficient, comfortable home for one's family were among the highest duties of a wife and mother at the turn of the 20th century, and Adelaide Frick, Helen Clay Frick's mother, was no exception. She was fortunate to have the means to hire and direct a staff of servants at Clayton to help her. 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.

Payroll receipts and household documents, some of which are included on the tour, provide information about some of the women who worked for the Fricks, such as governess Mademoiselle Marika Ogiz, lady's maid Pauline Turon, laundress Marie Johnston, and maids Mollie Hett, Bridget Conroy and Mary Coyne. Together, they helped Mrs. Frick with her elaborate attire, taught Helen Clay Frick in the schoolroom upstairs, set and cleared tables, washed clothes, scrubbed pots, and answered the summons of the family. Other women figure prominently in Clayton's story and are discussed on the tour as well, such as Mrs. Frick's sister Martha—known affectionately as Aunt Attie—and Annie Blumenschein Stephany, neighbor and companion to the Frick children.

Issues of immigration in Pittsburgh will be addressed as part of the tour, 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.

The ladies of Clayton represent a range of economic levels, education levels and ethnic backgrounds, and the rooms of Clayton were the places where the relationships between the women played out. This tour looks at these rooms from the very different perspectives of the women, as places that meant something different to each of them in terms of privilege, responsibility and behavior.

As part of the tour, visitors will see Mrs. Frick's wedding cape and Helen Clay Frick's school notebooks, along with corsets, clothing and a number of displays that evoke daily life. Also

included are period kitchen and clothing touchable items that allow you to feel as well as see the type of objects that were common in a well-to-do household at the turn of the 20th century.

## **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.

## **PROGRAMS RELATED TO ALL THE LADIES OF THE HOUSE TOUR**

### **Coffee and Culture:**

#### ***Dressing the Lady***

Tuesday, March 22 and Tuesday, March 29, 2011

10:00–11:00 a.m.

Lexington Education Center

Amanda Dunyak Gillen, *Assistant Curator of Education and Collections for Clayton*

Of all the elaborate facets of life in the Gilded Age, perhaps none was more personal or more potentially problematic for a woman than her dress. Corsets, bustles, petticoats, and numerous layers often made dressing a challenge and an art. Join us for a close look at the ins and outs of fashion in the late 19th century. This informal talk begins with coffee and pastries and carries on with numerous period objects—corsets, stays, jackets, and more—for you to see and handle. *\$8 members; \$10 non-members and guests. Advance registration and pre-payment required.*

**Act 48 Teacher Workshop:**

***Artifact in Action—Object-Based Learning Theory***

Saturday, March 26, 2011

9:30 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

Clayton and Lexington Education Center

The concept of using objects to unlock another time or culture, or Object-Based Learning Theory, is the focus of this workshop, which encourages play with purpose. Hands-on activities model how close observation of artifacts—in museums as well as in classroom settings—can sharpen higher-level thinking skills that require problem solving, creativity, critical thinking, and communication. *\$12 teacher members; \$16 non-members; includes boxed lunch. Advance registration and pre-payment required. Call 412-205-2022.*

**Women’s History Program:**

***Victorian Vignettes***

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

7:00–9:00 p.m.

The Frick Art Museum

Partnering once again with LUPEC (Ladies United for the Preservation of Endangered Cocktails), the Frick offers an engaging evening of vignettes dedicated to giving fresh voice to the women of the Victorian era. Join Frick staff and members of LUPEC as they present personalities ranging from Virginia Woolf to Annie Londonderry to Queen Victoria herself. Directed by Christina Farrell—Founding Director of the nonprofit Opera Ignite and Pittsburgh’s Gateway to the Arts’ 2007 Hardie Artist of the Year—this not-to-be-missed event includes a signature cocktail by LUPEC and a reception of light hors d’oeuvres. *\$8 members; \$10 non-members and guests. This program fills quickly; advance registration and pre-payment required.*

**Clayton by Night:**

***All the Ladies of the House***

Thursday, April 7, 2011

6:30–8:30 p.m.

Meet at the Visitor Center

Have you ever wanted to experience Clayton after hours, when the rooms of the house take on a special feel in the evening light? Clayton by Night is an opportunity to do just this. Special evening tours, led by Frick education and curatorial staff, delve a little deeper into thematic topics. This time, the tour looks at Clayton through the eyes of the female domestic staff who served them, focusing on Adelaide Frick, her daughter Helen Clay Frick and the women who served on Clayton’s staff. Meet at the Visitor Center for wine and cheese and a little conversation before the tour. *\$10 members; \$18 non-members and guests. Advance registration and pre-payment required.*

**History Travels:*****Women in the Gilded Age Home******Available upon request***

Let the Frick bring history to you with this new program that focuses on the multifaceted roles and extravagant trappings of women during Pittsburgh's Gilded Age. From the wives of wealthy industrialists to their household staff, get an inside look at what daily life was like for women in the late 19th century. Perfect for book clubs, garden clubs, senior centers, and other groups, this lively presentation includes vivid historical images and engaging discussion—as well as numerous touchable objects from the period, including clothing, kitchen tools and other household items. *Cost is \$75 for a one-hour slide lecture and discussion (within Allegheny County); \$100 (outside of Allegheny County). To request a program, call Laura Ainsley, assistant curator of education, adult programs, at 412-371-0600, ext. 540.*

**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](http://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](mailto:GLangel@TheFrickPittsburgh.org).**

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*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.*