

Yuletide Family Day

Schedule of Events

WORKSHOPS

All workshops are free and open to the public. Reservations are not required, but please note that supplies for some workshops are limited and are offered on a first-come, first-serve basis. Pair your free, kid-friendly workshops with a Yuletide tour of Wheatland for a great day of family fun!

- **10:30am: Holiday Storytime (recommended for ages 4-12)**
LancasterHistory staff will read aloud “Cobweb Christmas: The Tradition of Tinsel” by Shirley Climo and children will learn about the origin of tinsel on Christmas trees.
 - Location: Ryder Hall, LancasterHistory
- ***SPECIAL* 11am - 12pm: Visit from Belsnickel (all ages)**
Belsnickel is a crotchety, fur-clad Christmas gift-bringer figure in the folklore of the Palatinate region of southwestern Germany. Children will hear Belsnickel talk about his history and German Christmas traditions. Children and families will have an opportunity to interact with Belsnickel and take pictures in front of a Christmas tree.
 - Location: Ware Commons, LancasterHistory
- **12:30: Decorating Sand Tarts (recommended for ages 2-12)**
The tradition of baking Sand Tarts came to Lancaster County from Germany and is now a beloved holiday tradition of many Pennsylvania Dutch families. Come decorate – and eat – your own Pennsylvania Dutch Sand Tarts! While supplies last. (**Please note:** Sand Tarts may contain traces of nuts or other allergens.)
 - Location: Ryder Hall, LancasterHistory
- ***SPECIAL* 1:30 - 2:30pm: Visit from Historic Santa Claus (all ages)**
We are delighted to host Santa Claus, dressed in a Victorian costume in the style of Thomas Nast’s beloved Santa Claus. Merry Old St. Nick will talk to children about historic Christmas traditions. Children and families will have an opportunity to interact with Santa Claus and take pictures in front of a Christmas tree.
 - Location: Ware Commons, LancasterHistory
- **2:30pm: Making pomanders (recommended for ages 4-12)**
Pomanders are fresh oranges that are pierced with cloves to create pretty holiday decorations. They smell wonderful and last a long time, since the cloves help to preserve the fruit. In the Victorian era, they were often hung in bunches from ceiling beams. Join LancasterHistory staff to make your own pomander to take home. While supplies last.
 - Location: Ryder Hall, LancasterHistory

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

From 10am to 3pm, LancasterHistory staff will also offer activities in Ware Commons in-between structured workshops including:

- Find the Belsnickel activity
- Historic holiday book reading station
- Make your own St. Nicholas shoe (while supplies last)
- Make your own snowflakes (while supplies last)