

Lower Salford Christmas House Tour
Sunday, December 11
11 AM - 4:00 PM

What better way to get acquainted with three of Lower Salford's treasures than to see them in their Christmas finery. All three Lower Salford Park historic houses -- Bergey Mill's Barn, Heckler Plains and the Jacob Reiff House, as well as Groff's Mill Farm and Ice House -- will be open for touring and be decorated in their respective periods for the holidays. Christmas was quite different from how we celebrate it today, and we invite you to spend the afternoon in 18th and 19th century Christmas fashion – by visiting friends. Members of the Society will be on hand to provide a history of each property and facts about the families who lived there. Each is a short, five-minute drive from one another.

The cost is \$10 per person; \$20 per family. Maps and directions can be obtained at the Heckler Plains Farmstead.

Bergey Mill Barn, 675 Bergey Mill Road, located on the East Branch of the Perkiomen Creek. The barn, which was reconstructed will be open for touring. Mike Hart moved the MOPAC barn to the site and reconstructed it on a new foundation, and John Yanan, a neighbor, installed the cedar shake roof.

Heckler Plains Farmhouse on Morris and Landis Roads (237 Landis Road) will be set up as a Tavern, the local gathering place of the 18th and 19th centuries, were the news of the day was shared. On display will be a feather tree and the furnished bedroom, a project undertaken by the Oak Lore Questers.

The Reiff Farmhouse, 775 Quarry Road, is a fine example of a transition house, as some parts date to the 18th and 19th Centuries. It is the home of the historic Jacob Reiff homestead and barn situated on 73-acres. The home features a wall cabinet, large cooking fireplace and circular stairs and displays many of the Township's historical artifacts, including the Reiff family bible.

Groff's Mill Farm and Ice House, 581 Groff's Mill Road, in 1726 by Gerhart Clemens built the first grist mill in Salford Township. The ice house you will see was built on the foundation of this two-story mill. The house original steep-roofed Germanic house was expanded and completed in 1786. The house underwent many changes and was fully restored to its present condition by William and Mary Ann Harris.

For information, call Joan at 215-822-7422 or (evenings are best) for details and directions.

