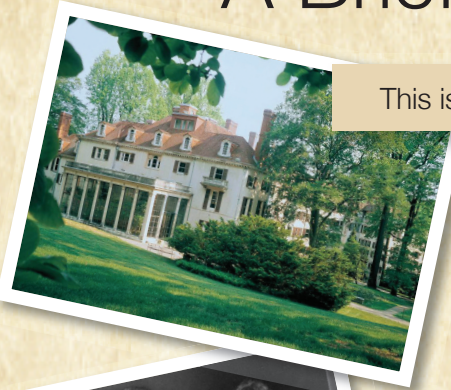# A Brief History of Winterthur

This is Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library. It opened in 1951.

Before Winterthur became a museum, it was the home of this man: Henry Francis du Pont (1880–1969).

He lived here with his wife, Ruth, and their two daughters, Ruth and Pauline.

Henry Francis loved…

Cows:
he had a prize-winning dairy herd.

Gardens:
he planted many different varieties of beautiful trees, shrubs, and flowers.

Antiques:
he collected things that people in early America made or used.

Henry Francis decided to turn his house into a museum because he wanted people to enjoy studying his collections to learn about how people long ago lived. For example…

How did they see at night without electricity?

What did they eat for breakfast?

Why did some people like such fancy chairs?

Today, we carry out his mission through a variety of educational (and fun!) programs for everyone from infants to serious collectors.

We are looking forward to having YOU come and learn with us!