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!