

Curious Mysteries...

In recent months, the Society has been rearranging and better organizing our art and artifacts collections. As a result, a number of pieces not on display for several years have been brought back into the spotlight.

One of the oldest and more interesting items now available for museum visitors to view is a Swiss or German-made dower chest probably brought to Germantown by Paul Engle in the 1680s. The large and heavy pine chest is beautifully ornamented with wrought iron hinges and is a lovely document of Germantown's rich cultural history.



However, like so many other treasures in our collection, the chest is associated with the early colonial period as well as the Battle of Germantown a century later. The Engle House, built by Benjamin Engle in 1758 on Germantown Avenue near Haines Street, bore witness to the passage of British troops in October 1777. Family tradition suggests the old chest was used by American spy Harry Davis as a hiding spot during the occupation of Germantown.

Did this happen? There is little evidence to suggest either way, but the history and the beauty of the chest only add to the remarkable variety of stories found in Germantown.



The Society's museum gallery is open by appointment or during regular public hours, Tuesdays 9 am to 1 pm; Thursdays 1 pm to 5 pm and most Sundays. Call 215-844-1683 or email info@germantownhistory.org for more information.

Watch us on PBS's *History Detectives*!

On Monday, August 16th at 9 pm, Germantown and the Germantown Historical Society will be featured in a story investigated by Gwen Wright on the origins of a mysterious face jug dug up in the mid-1950s during construction of Jenks Elementary School. Is the jug the work of African Americans during the Civil War? Did it come to Philadelphia via the Underground Railroad? Watch as Gwen and GHS volunteer Sam Whyte seek answers in the collections of the Historical Society. Can the truth be found? Visit [here](#) to see a photograph of the jug, and tune in on August 16th to learn what happens!