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Holiday Enchantment at the Historic Houses of Odessa

*Classic fairytale, **Sleeping Beauty**, will be retold in scenes in the Corbit-Sharp House*



ODESSA, Del. – Oct. 27, 2009 – A world of enchantment awaits those who step through the doors of the Historic Houses of Odessa’s Corbit-Sharp House into the timeless classic, *Sleeping Beauty*, this holiday season. This captivating fairytale will come to life as part of the [Historic Odessa Foundation’s](#) 2009 Christmas Holiday Tours.

This year’s Christmas Holiday Tours, from Nov. 27 through Jan. 3, organized by the nonprofit Historic Odessa Foundation will feature:

- **“Sleeping Beauty,”** Nov. 27, 2009 to Jan. 3, 2010, the classic fairy tale and ballet will be retold in scenes in the Corbit-Sharp House (c. 1772). Costumes will be on display from the First State Ballet Theater’s March 2009 production of *Sleeping Beauty*.
- **“Festive Foods,”** Dec. 12 and 19, experience authentic hustle and bustle of a colonial household preparing foods for guests expected over the holidays in the Collins-Sharp House.
- **“Story Time Saturdays and Sundays,”** Nov. 28, 29; Dec. 12, 13, 19, 20, 26, 27; Jan 2, 3, at 1 p.m. Join in for a reading of one of the books showcased in the Family Trees exhibit
- **“Family Trees Exhibit,”** a display of Christmas trees showcasing books and works of children’s literature in the Wilson-Warner House (c. 1769)
- **“Historic Odessa Foundation Dollhouse Collection,”** a magical collection of dollhouses dating back from 1910 to 1980, on display in the Wilson-Warner House (c. 1769)
- **“Beauty in Hand: Embroidered 18th Century Pocketbooks,”** Oct. 15 to Jan. 3, a display of fashionable 18th Century fold-over wallets. Lecture, Dec. 8, at 7 p.m.
- **“School and Family Holiday Tours,”** include special tours and holiday craft making, reservations required

For the past 20 years, the Historic Houses of Odessa, an enclave of 18th and 19th century structures located in the village of Odessa, Del, has been the setting for interpretive scenes from classic literature every holiday season. Each year the literary theme is different and never repeated and this year’s theme, *Sleeping Beauty*, will see the Corbit-Sharp House or “Castle William” as it was often referred to during William Corbit’s lifetime, be placed under an enchantment.

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2009 Historic Odessa Foundation's Christmas Holiday Tours

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“Enhancing the interpretation of this classic tale will be many beautiful costumes on loan from the First State Ballet Theater’s production of *Sleeping Beauty*, performed in March 2009,” says Brian Miller, HOF’s assistant curator.

The “Castle” will be festooned with pine garland swags decked with fairies, royal throne room, and a dining room complete with a wedding feast and mistletoe. The servant’s room will feature the infamous spinning wheel, which fulfills the evil fairy’s spell and places Aurora into a deep slumber. The large upstairs parlor will be transformed into Aurora’s bedroom complete with her large canopy bed taken over with rose vines, ivy, and cobwebs. The passage of time will be one of the themes of this room with depictions of each of the four seasons.

In addition to *Sleeping Beauty*, the Historic Houses of Odessa will also showcase other events and activities throughout the holiday season including **Festive Foods of the 18th century** where visitors can experience the bustle of hearth cooking for the holidays in the Collins-Sharp House, Dec. 12 and 19. Keeping in the spirit of celebrating literature and a love of reading, the **Family Trees Exhibit**, in the Wilson-Warner House (c. 1769) will showcase up to 40 trees designed and decorated by families and organizations with themes inspired by their favorite children’s book. Families are also invited to take part in **Story-Time Saturdays** which takes place at 1 p.m. on Nov. 28, 29; Dec. 12, 13, 19, 20, 26, 27; and Jan 2, 3.

A special exhibit **Beauty in Hand: Embroidered 18th Century Pocketbooks** will be on display during the holiday season, from Oct. 15 to Jan. 3. Finely embroidered, needlework pocketbooks are featured in a case exhibit in the Odessa Bank along with the types of objects they might have contained and needlework tools used to make them. A lecture will also be presented on Dec. 8 at 7 p.m., by guest curator Deborah Kraak, a specialist in historic textiles, costumes, and period interiors and former associate textiles curator at Winterthur Museum and County Estate.

For information on the Historic Odessa Foundation’s Christmas Holiday Tours call 302-378-4119, or visit www.historicodessa.org. Admission to the Historic Odessa Foundation holiday tours include \$10 for adults; \$8 for groups, seniors and students; HOF members and children under 5 are free.

Open from March through December, Thursday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Sunday 1 to 4 p.m., the Historic Odessa Foundation offers tours to the public, families, groups and schools of its landmark properties that house the foundation’s collection of more than 4000 objects and furnishings that span an interpretive period in regional decorative arts from 1760 through 1850 and provide a backdrop for a variety of educational programs for schools that include 18th Century Cooking, the Apprenticeship System and 18th Century School Days among others.

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The Historic Houses of Odessa is an enclave of 18th and 19th century structures located in the village of Odessa, Del. between the Appoquinimink River and U.S. Route 13. The historic buildings along with a well-documented collection of more than 4000 objects and furnishings are owned and operated by the nonprofit Historic Odessa Foundation, and offer a unique picture of Delaware’s colonial period in a rural village that played a vital part in America’s commercial history. For information on the Historic Houses of Odessa, public tours of the properties, and the foundation’s Living History Education program, call 302-378-4119, or visit www.historicodessa.org