

NEWS RELEASE

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**CELEBRATE THE HARVEST SEASON WITH
PENNSYLVANIA'S HISTORICAL SITES**

Harrisburg, PA –History, haunting and harvest activities are plentiful this fall at Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission sites across the state. “This is the perfect time of year to take a lantern-lit stroll through a ghost town or sample freshly pressed cider at one of our historical sites,” said Barbara Franco, PHMC’s executive director. “With events in almost everyone’s backyard, you don’t have to go far to enjoy fall family fun!”

Experience life in the 19th century by spending harvest time at **Old Economy Village**. The site of the former religious community, the Harmony Society, offers guests a first-hand look at food preservation methods of the past at the **Erntefest Harvest Festival, Sept. 27**. Try churning butter, making apple schnitz or pressing apples for cider as traditional craftsmen demonstrate historic crafts and children enjoy special games. For more information, visit www.oldeconomyvillage.org.

Brave the **Lantern Tour of Pithole, Oct. 3-4**, for an old-fashioned ghostly scare. Sponsored by the **Drake Well Museum**, this frightening tour combines learning and entertainment. Follow the streets of the vanished oil boomtown by lamplight and learn more about the 150th anniversary of the oil well being celebrated now through the end of 2009. For more information, visit www.drakewell.org.

Take a fascinating look at autumn customs, traditions and old-fashioned games as **Washington Crossing Historic Park** presents its annual **Harvest Day, Oct 5**. Step back into the 1800s as historic craft demonstrations, music and trade displays of all kinds fill the park. For more information, visit www.ushistory.org/washingtoncrossing.

Savor a tasty treat while saving the past as the **Ephrata Closter** hosts **Apple Dumpling Day, Oct. 11**. Hungry attendees can enjoy warm apples with cinnamon and sugar wrapped in a flaky crust, fondly known as

the apple dumpling. The proceeds from at this event help purchase original Ephrata Cloister artifacts to bring them back to the site for public display and research. For more information, visit www.ephratacloister.org.

Visit **Pennsbury Manor** to see how beer and cider were made in early Pennsylvania at the **Beer Brewing and Cider Making Festival, Oct. 26**. Learn the art of being a brewer as the scent of malted barley and hops fill the air. Taste the freshly pressed cider made just the way William Penn liked it! For more information, visit www.pennsburymanor.org.

Don your favorite costume and head to **The State Museum** for **Halloween Harvest: Treats, Tales and Traditions, Oct. 26**. The event features singing and dancing with a disc jockey, pumpkin decorating, planetarium shows, live animals, refreshments and a children's interactive theater performance of Sleepy Hollow. For more information, visit www.statemuseumpa.org.

The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission is the official history agency of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania. For additional information, visit www.phmc.state.pa.us.