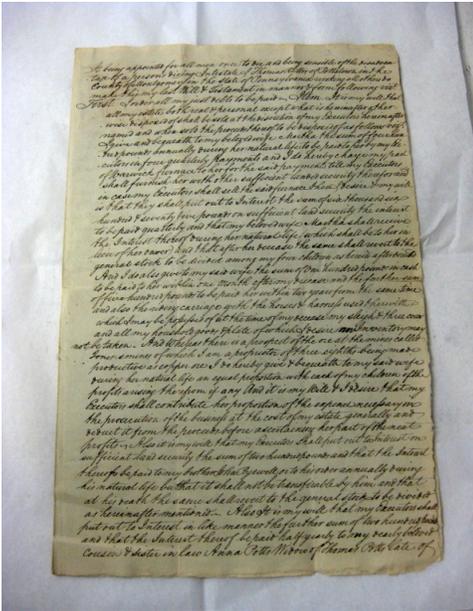


Pottsgrove Manor's Scope of Collections

Pottsgrove Manor's mission is to interpret and preserve the story of eighteenth-century ironmaster and founder of Pottstown, Pennsylvania, John Potts. This story includes the Potts family and household, John's 1752 home, Pottsgrove Manor, the family's business associations, and the time and place in which they lived. This mission is accomplished through guided tours, object collection and interpretation, changing exhibits, special events, research, and publications.



Silver Tankard made by William Grundy of London, c.1761.



Copy of Thomas Rutter III's will, owned by Isabella Potts James, a Potts descendant who wrote a genealogy of the family in the 1870s.

The manor house is furnished with mid-eighteenth century furniture that is representative of the types of pieces that the Potts family likely owned. A probate inventory that was taken when John Potts died in 1768 provides clues to how the house was originally furnished. A few furnishings that belonged to members of the Potts family, such as the tall case clock of John Potts, Jr. and the blanket chest of Anna Potts, are featured in the house and are on loan from the Pottstown Historical Society.

The site also hosts a collection of early cast-iron stove plates and fire backs, including two which remain in their original locations in fireplaces in the manor house.

A highlight of the collection at Pottsgrove Manor is an English silver tankard made by London silversmith William Grundy in 1761, and owned by John and Ruth Potts during the time when they lived at Pottsgrove Manor.

In addition, the site's holdings include a small archival collection of wills, indentures, and marriage certificates of members of the Potts and Rutter families. Two ledgers are also housed in the collection, the Pine Forge ledger of 1741 and the Pottsgrove ledger of 1751-1754.

As well as collecting and displaying original eighteenth-century artifacts, Pottsgrove Manor utilizes many reproduction pieces in our educational and living history programs.



Plate from a five-plate jamb stove, cast at Warwick Furnace in 1764, when John Potts, Jr. ran the ironworks.