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Century Farm Portrait Exhibition Coming to Wilmington

The Delaware Historical Society to host portrait exhibition that honors Delaware's rich agricultural history.

Wilmington, DE — The Delaware Historical Society will host the **Delaware Century Farm Portrait exhibition** from November 5 - December 18. The exhibition, which consists of ten oil paintings by Delaware artist Mark S. Reeve and celebrates Delaware's oldest Century Farms, will be installed in the newly restored Old Town Hall, which is located on Market St. in Wilmington. The restoration of Old Town Hall is just part of the dramatic changes taking place on the Delaware Historical Society's Wilmington campus, which will culminate in the reopening of the Delaware History Museum in early 2016.

The Delaware Century Farm Project features portraits of the First State's oldest Century Farms and seeks to preserve and promote Delaware's rich agricultural heritage. The Century Farm series was developed by Milford artist Mark Reeve, who worked with the Department of Agriculture to identify the oldest Century Farms in each of Delaware's three counties. Reeve researched the farms, conducted interviews, and the resulting oil paintings highlight both the farms and the families who sustained them. Century Farms are agricultural properties that have been owned by the same family and farmed continuously for more than one hundred years. There are over 129 Century Farms in Delaware.

The series highlights some of Delaware's oldest family farms, among them the Miller Farm in Frederica, which has been farmed for over 325 years, making it the oldest Century Farm in Delaware; the Woodside Creamery Farm, which is owned by the Mitchell Family in Hockessin; and the Cooch's Bridge Farm in Newark, which was the site of Delaware's only Revolutionary War skirmish.

The exhibition will be open to the public on Thursdays and Fridays from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. starting November 5 and through December 18, excluding November 26 and 27, when the Delaware Historical Society will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday.

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Guided tours of the Century Farms exhibition and other selected spaces of Old Town Hall and the Delaware History Museum will be given every hour from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. Entrance to the exhibit and the guided tour is by suggested donation.

The Century Farms Portraits Project is coordinated with the Delaware Department of Agriculture, and is generously funded by M&T Bank, Growmark FS, Farm Family Insurance, Delaware Farm Bureau, Iris McKenney & Alanna Hill, and Lorraine Dion.

The Delaware Historical Society owns and operates the Delaware History Museum; a nationally recognized Research Library; Old Town Hall; Willingtown Square, four 18th-century houses surrounding a picturesque urban courtyard located in Wilmington; as well as the Read House & Gardens located in historic New Castle, recognized as an “American Treasure” by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the National Park Service; and the Center for African American Heritage, which will be included as part of the expansion of the Delaware History Museum, expected to reopen in 2016.

For more information, call (302) 655-7161 or visit www.dehistory.org.

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