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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Colin McDermott at CMcDermott@dehistory.org (302) 295-2390
January 20, 2017

Wilmington, DE – Celebrate Valentine’s Day weekend at the Read House & Gardens with a special program, *Courtship, Letters & Love* on Sunday February 12. Visitors will tour select rooms of the Read House and see letters and objects from the Delaware Historical Society’s collections that tell the story of love and courtship from the 19th-century to the present day. Highlights from the collection include romantic poems written by George Read III and Caesar A. Rodney to their wives Louisa and Susan, respectively, marriage certificates from 19th-century Delawareans, and vintage Valentines.

Tours will be at 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. Light snacks and beverages will be provided. Limited space available. To make a reservation, please call (302) 655-7161. Fees are \$7 for members and \$10 for non-members.

About the National Historic Landmark Read House & Gardens and the Delaware Historical Society

Located in the heart of Old New Castle facing the Delaware River, the twenty-two room Read House dominates the streetscape with a monumental simplicity and distinctive Philadelphia architectural style. Designed for George Read II, son of a Delaware signer of both the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, the house combines innovative Federal period design and advanced technological systems to create comfort and refinement. Formal gardens installed in 1848 provided enjoyment for the late nineteenth and early twentieth-century residents and continue to delight visitors today. Beneath the soil the layered history of Delaware's earliest inhabitants and settlers survives. Their story unfolds through ongoing archaeology on the property. The Read House was recently named a National Historic Landmark.

The Delaware Historical Society owns and operates the Delaware History Museum; the Jane and Littleton Mitchell Center for African American Heritage; a nationally recognized Research Library; Old Town Hall; Willingtown Square, four 18th-century houses surrounding a picturesque urban courtyard located in downtown Wilmington; and the Read House & Gardens located in historic New Castle, a National Historic Landmark. For more information, call (302) 655-7161, email deinfo@dehistory.org, or visit www.dehistory.org.

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