



Christmas and Haunted Hill View Manor

By: Melissa Keen

The Christmas season brings to mind all types of festivity. Twinkling lights, brightly wrapped gifts, trimmed Christmas trees, joyful music, beautiful nativity scenes, snow, reindeer, Santa, and so much more. We've been regaled by stories from former staff members and families with loved ones that were residents that Hill View Manor decked the halls...and the rooms...and made Christmas a truly special celebration. There were decorations everywhere, they had all types of seasonal activities for the residents including a Christmas dance in the cafeteria where everyone could celebrate together.

We still maintain this Christmas spirit by decorating and playing Christmas music for our residents. Last year, our staff left a Christmas station playing in One North - one of our most active locations. When we came in for our livestream, the residents were so happy they were practically shouting at us through the spirit box.

But Christmas has a strange connection with Hill View Manor. 3 of our well known residents all have links to Christmas in their own different ways.



Mary Virginia - a favorite at Haunted Hill View Manor - was born with cerebral palsy and was very childlike. She loved dressing up and would wear bracelets up to her elbows and tons of necklaces. Mary is always described as being a sweetheart and an absolute joy. Mary was born on Christmas Eve 1917, and some of her favorite songs are Christmas carols.

Eli Saari is our second resident with a strange connection to Christmas. Eli was the original caretaker in the boiler room when Hill View was the Lawrence County Poor Farm. Eli was an alcoholic and would sneak off to drink as alcohol was not permitted in the facility. He would slip in the back doors and sleep off in the boiler room. One night, he passed out in the snow and his friends brought him inside, but it was too late and Eli died from exposure. Eli passed away on Christmas Eve, 1934.

Amanda Lambright is our third resident with a Christmas connection. Amanda was 103 years old when she was a resident in the '90s. She was sharp as a tack and could argue you to the ground about baseball - especially her beloved Pirates. Amanda was in a wheelchair and was beginning to lose her sight. Her favorite activity was being taken outside to feed the birds. One day, she was returning from feeding the birds when she became disoriented and fell down the stairs. She was found immediately and rushed to the hospital, but Amanda succumbed to her injuries 2 days later. Amanda passed away on Christmas Eve, 1994.

Is it just a coincidence that we have three residents with such strong connections with Christmas? Or is it something more? Is there something special that there are three of them? 3 is a number repeated many times in Christmas lore...3 wise men, 3 ships sailing in on Christmas morning, 3 ghosts visited Ebenezer Scrooge... So far, they don't have any answers for us. But we'll keep trying to find out. Until then, we make sure Christmas is still a special season for these 3, and all our residents and guests at Haunted Hill View Manor.



The History of Hill View

By: Denise Bollinger

When we look back at the history of people, places and things, we often find a very rich heritage of wonder in our hearts and minds. Most of the time we gain some easy answers, grandparents and parents share their stories of recent and not so recent histories of family but when you enter into the unknown history that is when things become quite intriguing. One such historical location that has become most interesting and might I add curious part of history the people of Lawrence County, as well as investigators of the paranormal field have been exploring for many years now, Haunted Hill View Manor.

Originally known as the Lawrence County Poor Farm, alias Poor House. Those names are interchangeable in the historical facts of this now haunted location. At the turn of the century, these places were established by counties or local governments to force poor people and as punishment for drunkards and low-crime individuals to work. Historically the concept was a carryover from the 16th century when the poor were forced to work the land.

Welcome 2022 Upcoming Events

Hill-Con
Psychic Fair
Scare Manor

Our New Website Launches at the beginning of January! Stay Tuned for more updates



Employee Spotlight

By: Dawn Chute

We are starting a new series on Instagram and here in our news letter. The Employee spotlight. Today we are featuring Melissa! To say that Hill View would have a hard time running without her would be an understatement, she makes sure we are running ship shape.

Melissa has been investigating for over 10 years, in fact Hill View was the very first place she ever investigated. Melissa has a paranormal group that she runs as well. She started her third year on staff this past November. Staff often times have favorite places and Melissa is no exception. 1N is one of those places for her. "1N is always active. Just walking through the building you'll see shadows move, hear footsteps and voices, I've even heard my name called many times. And there is just something so special about investigating there on Christmas!" She also loves the third floor, home to two of our more famous residents. She can get them active with just a few words.



We are very lucky to have such a hardworking, dedicated staff member!



What's new you may ask? Evidence Review! We are excited to announce that we have launched our YouTube Channel with a weekly series! Evidence review is where we share great catches by our staff as well as our visitors. We take a look at the evidence, put it together, and then put it out for you all to decide! Watch our YouTube Channel Haunted Hill View Manor, you can also find it on all of our socials!



Francine and Darlene Russo were excited to find Santa at Hill View!

16th century, the old world's way of handling the most severely destitute and mentally ill. Since there were no other welfare organizations to help out the poor families and the indigent of that time period and most were forced to work on these farms to survive. Some had no choice others were sent there as punishment, " everyone had to work."

In the case of this poor farm, widows, disabled, mentally challenged and yes, some court-ordered, (drunkards) were forced to go work off their debts. Officially opening the doors on October 19, 1926, the farm was led by the newly elected Perry Snyder and his wife Mary. The Snyders lived there with their 2 daughters Mina Jeanette and Maude Delight. Mary had a kitchen and laundry staff to assist in the daily chores. Perry was the overseer of the farm and building maintenance staff. They served the county in this position from 1926 until 1944 when there was suspicion of welfare violations and the county retired them with pensions and evicted them from the premises. Legend has it that Mina passed away on the property and is one of the spirits roaming the building. Maude the elder of the 2 daughters had a twin brother, Claude Dewight who passed in 1912 while away at school.

The Snyders were quite strict in their supervision of the people on the poor farm, poor house. They were considered to be strong Christian conservatives and no smoking, alcohol, or drug use of any kind was permitted. Always concerned about the scandal, men and women were never allowed to associate with one another. Women and men were housed on opposite sides of the building, with the only exception being given to married couples. The Snyders even maintained separate eating areas. There was a men's cafeteria and a women's cafeteria. Many suicides had occurred on this site as well as possible murders, who committed those murders remains a source of curiosity and research. Some of the residents who still reside in this beautiful structure have been known to open up to investigators and share some of the things they wish us to know. However, one can only begin to imagine that there were many tortured souls under the roof of this historical building during those days.

As poor farms started to fade away and social programs were created, the building finally entered a period of transformation. No longer were poor farms or poor houses needing to be utilized the building in 1960 became a full-time nursing home. It was renamed the Lawrence County Home for the Poor, or simply the Lawrence County home. At that time the building housed the elderly who needed care and also some mentally, disabled people who had no one to care for them. One additional change would occur later, in 1977 which was then given the title of a skilled nursing facility for the people of Lawrence County, Pa. Hill View Manor was the chosen name and remained the name until the closure in 2004.



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