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NEWS RELEASE

Victorians & Spiritualism Exhibit open at Rockwood Museum throughout the summer

County Executive Thomas P. Gordon invites New Castle County residents and visitors alike to the fascinating Victorians & Spiritualism Exhibit being held at Rockwood Park & Museum throughout the summer and into autumn.

"Victorian culture is part of the ambiance at beautiful Rockwood, and museum Director Philip Nord is right on the mark with this exhibit," Gordon said. "With this exhibit, you can learn how the belief in Spiritualism deeply influenced Victorian traditions."

Followers of Spiritualism, a religious practice, believe in the ability to communicate with the spirits of the dead through mediums. Spiritualism rose to popularity among wealthy well-educated Victorians in the mid-19th Century and greatly influenced the modern traditions of mourning, funerals, wakes and burials.

"I always like to do something interesting," Nord said. "I did a lot of research trying to find something that was popular during the Victorian period, and Spiritualism was a hot number."

Rockwood's exhibit explores the various techniques used to summon spirits from the afterlife. And highlights the role Spiritualism played during the mid-19th Century. Tours are given on the hour 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday, and 12-3 p.m. Sunday.

Nord and his exhibit were recently featured on NCCTV's <u>Spotlight on New Castle County</u> with host Melody Kitchen. Kitchen was impressed.

"I love shooting on location at Rockwood, and the Victorians & Spiritualism Exhibit is definitely something original," she said. "If people are looking for something different to do this summer, I encourage them to visit Rockwood."

The Spotlight on Spiritualism episode is now playing on Comcast Channel 22, Verizon Channel 29, and www.nccde.org/NCCTV. For publicity stills posted to Facebook, please click here.