

Press Release

For immediate release

November 14, 2014

47TH ANNIVERSARY OF TREES OF CHRISTMAS

The Meridian Restoration Foundation invites you to tour the 2014 Trees of Christmas at Merrehope/F. W. Williams historic homes. Merrehope is a twenty room antebellum mansion and F. W. Williams is a fantastic example of Victorian architecture. This time honored event gives a great opportunity for a quality, easily accessible, affordable, educational event and is just the best way to entertain children and out of town guests during the holidays. Each year there is a new and exciting theme which makes yearly visits to the event a must.

For 46 years the volunteers of the Foundation have presented holiday displays featuring a wide variety of stimulating and educational themes displayed with beautiful decorations and creative designs. This event is the major fundraiser for the Foundation and provides funds for the restoration and maintenance of the homes.

Over twenty theme decorated trees and displays will take visitors on an educational and entertaining tour through the moments in our lives worth remembering.

Visitors will view Literary Legacy from the Fortnightly Club, A Garden Remembered from the Friendship Garden Club, First Day of School from Lamar School, Wildcat Spirit from Meridian High School, Peppermint Pops from Meridian Symphony League, Arts Around Town from Meridian Council for the Arts, A Visit with Santa from The Round Table Club, a Wedding Tree, A Civil War Tree in the historic cottage, Special Olympics from the Special Needs Class and Military Homecomings sponsored by the Naval Air Station Marine and Navy Spouses Club. These and many others will treat you to an opportunity to reflect on special times in your life and the lives of others.

The Trees of Christmas Tours are open daily Monday-Saturday and continues through December 30th. Hours of operation are 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. The last tour each day will begin at 4:00 p.m. Admission for tours is \$10 for both houses for adults, \$5 for one house for adults, \$9 and \$4 for seniors, \$5 for students for two houses, \$3 for students for one house, children under six are admitted free. Group reservations offering group rates are available by making arrangements in

advance. The event will be closed on Sundays, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day.

A special feature is the exquisite doll collection received as a donation from a prominent pioneer Meridian family. The Ann Wright Williamson Doll Collection was donated to The Meridian Restorations Foundation by the children of Ann Wright Williamson and Judge Lester Williamson, Sr.

Another item of interest on display this year is a 300 pound miniature replica of Merrehope designed by John Baucum of Hickory, Mississippi as a birdhouse for the birds of Merrehope. Children as well as adults are amazed at the beautiful creation. It is on the front porch of Merrehope for all visitors to enjoy.

The perfect place to get the Christmas spirit is at Merrehope and F.W. Williams home all decked out for Christmas with trees meticulously decorated to display the theme which reminds us all of special moments in our lives and the life of our community. Of course, the beautiful and memorable Merrehope Tree is on display for everyone to enjoy. There is also the traditional Victorian Tree in the Williams Home and a Silver Anniversary tree, decorated mantels and tables and the

Merrehope gift shop provides an opportunity to shop for special cookbooks, ornaments and other creations and that special Christmas “happy” for someone special or maybe for yourself.

It is not too late to “Get your Merry on at Merrehope”!