



It's Time to Clean!

By Jana Shafagoj, Morven Park's Director of History & Preservation

At the beginning of each year, Morven Park closes the Davis Mansion and Winmill Carriage Museum for the annual "Deep Clean." The museums will be closed from December 31st through March 1st to allow staff ample time to conduct this task that is essential to the proper care of Morven Park's unparalleled collection.

During the Deep Clean, the Preservation Department team disassembles each room in the mansion. Paintings and tapestries are taken down, cabinets are emptied, and furniture is moved away from the walls. The rugs are removed and the floors are vacuumed and mopped. The rug pads are rotated and vacuumed, and the rugs are vacuumed on both sides before being rotated and put back in place. Because mansion visitors are allowed to walk on the historic rugs during tours, rotating them helps to avoid wear marks and permits opposite sides of the rugs to rest for a year.

Other Deep Clean tasks include dusting paintings and frames, polishing silver, inspecting the 116-year-old animal mounts, and washing the modern sheets on the beds. Every item within the collection and every corner of the mansion is meticulously and carefully cleaned, including every crystal in the gorgeous chandeliers. In the Winmill Carriage Museum, each of the 43 vehicles (carriages, carts, sleighs, and wagons) is gently dusted from top to bottom and all the tack on display is wiped clean.

During the 2019 Deep Clean, we will be highlighting some of our more interesting tasks on Facebook. Be sure to follow Morven Park as we give you a behind-the-scenes look at the tremendous amount of work that goes into keeping the museums, and the artifacts they house, clean and in good condition. We will even share some of our cleaning secrets to help you care for your own family treasures.

The Deep Clean is an enormous effort and we appreciate the extra help we receive from our dedicated volunteers who help to move objects and furniture, polish silver, and complete condition assessments. If you would like to learn more about volunteering in the mansion, in other Morven Park departments, or at our special events, please visit <http://www.morvenpark.org/support/volunteer.html>.