

The Pencader Press

Newsletter of the Pencader Heritage Area Association

July 2007
Vol. 1 Issue 2

Who are we?

Volunteers interested in promoting the Pencader Heritage through active participation.



How do we do that?

- *Outreach Programs*
- *Pencader Family Fun Day*
- *Educational Sign Program*
- *Video Library*
- *Local Oral Histories*
- *Preservation of Pencader History*



Want more information ?

302-737-5792 or

*Visit our web site:
www.*

PencaderHeritage.Org



PHAA is making progress toward furnishing our museum. Equipment and some display items have been donated and are being organized. Among the donations are:

- ♦ Exquisite Native American artifacts contributed by Chief Quiet Thunder of the Lenni Lenape tribe. Included are items he made in the traditional way and others that are antiques.
- ♦ The Delaware Heritage Commission has donated 20 sequential photos taken during a Cooch's Bridge battle re-enactment, giving a sense of what the battleground may have been like in 1777.
- ♦ Four American flags, depicting various early designs that lead to our current 50 star flag, have been loaned by the Delaware National Guard. These flags are protected in display cases and have been hung in the reception area of the museum.
- ♦ We tend to think "colonial" when speaking of Pencader, but more recent history has a place here too. Chrysler Daimler has donated 15 photos of the production of the M48 Main Battle Tank in 1951. We plan to also display photos of the history of the plant from the days when only military tanks were made there through current auto production.
- ♦ We have received some original parts off a M48 Tank including a dashboard, optical sights with lenses and a phone, that was located on the outside of the tank to communicate with the men inside. These items will be set up in a "Please Touch" corner for a hands-on look.
- ♦ We are accepting donations of artifacts and documents relative to Pencader Hundred. If you have anything to donate, or just loan, contact us on the website or 302-737-5792.

Our first public opening of the PHAA Museum is scheduled for
Pencader Heritage Family Fun Day on September 29, 10:00 - 2:00PM

The PHAA website has several new features. We continue to develop new areas of interest and update existing sections to keep the site fresh and current. A Calendar of Events lists upcoming dates and times for PHAA events. Be sure to see what is on our agenda!

Also, from the "About Us" screen you can select two new buttons.

In the News contains articles as seen in various local publications, highlighting PHAA events or accomplishments. They were reprinted with permission, or contain links to web pages containing the article.

Bulletin Board is a new interactive space for public questions or comments. If you have a question about the history of the Pencader Hundred, or an old building, landmark or artifact, a member of the PHAA will respond or try to find someone with the answer. If you have an interesting story to tell about earlier times in Pencader, we encourage you to share it on line. You may have experiences that would be interesting to current residents. The PHAA also maintains an oral history library, so if anyone is willing to share a memory of earlier times in Pencader, we would like to hear from you. If you or your organization is considering an oral history project, we have a presentation that can be made to your group. Leave us a message on the website or call 302-737-5792 and we will contact you.

Cub Pack 1777 continues to thrive and has been joined by Boy Scout Troop 97 soon to be rechartered as Troop 1777. The older boys chose the new number designation 1777 to honor the history of Cooch's Bridge. The scouts are planning camping trips to make use of the large supply of camping equipment, complete with trailer, donated by former Scout Troop 251 through Milt & Donna Draper.

A moving and impressive Flag Retirement Ceremony was held by Pack/Troop 1777 on May 17th. Thirty nine flags were collected and retired according to the Flag Code burning ceremony. A firing squad from Newark VFW Post 475, as well as Glasgow High School's USAF Junior ROTC detachment, greatly added to the atmosphere of the occasion. The program was covered by Christine Neff of the Newark Post, which published an article and photos.

Two flag poles have been purchased for installation alongside our informational signs on Dayett Mill Rd, near the junction of Old Baltimore Pike and southbound Rt. 72 (Purgatory Swamp Rd). At the same site we also hope to place a stone memorial to those soldiers who lost their lives at the Battle of Cooch's Bridge in 1777.

People always ask, "Are there any ghosts around the Cooch's Bridge Battlefield?"

Well, we're going **ghost hunting** on Oct 19, at 6:30 PM. Meet at the PHAA Museum. Wear non-skid shoes. Bring your camera and a flashlight. Cost: \$10.00 per person. Space is limited. Make your reservations early at - www.PencaderHeritage.Org or 302-737-5792.

Has your family, or any other you know, been in Pencader for several generations? We hope to compile histories and collect photos of the old families. Contact us with any leads, please, on the website or 302-737-5792.

Vice-President Bill Conley attended the Small Museum Conference in Ocean City, MD and came away with numerous suggestions and ideas to enhance PHAA's outreach program and management of our museum. Chief among these was a seminar on grant-writing, as this is a major need at this time.

We hope to hold a history teacher in-service day during the 2007-2008 school year to present Pencader Hundred & Cooch's Bridge Battle as a valuable addition to their history curriculum.

PHAA participated in Newark Night on June 2. Our table and display of the ore mining process on Iron Hill commanded the attention of a steady stream of passers-by. We sold a number of our book, *A Guide to the History and Heritage of Pencader Hundred*, and collected e-mail addresses to add to our newsletter mailing list. We distributed a great many of our flyers and encouraged visitors to access the website for more information. Parents of school-age children were particularly interested to know there are several interactive **teaching tools** of interest to young folks on our website pages.

Pencader Heritage Family Fun Day September 29 (hours 10-2) has an added focus this year. The new Pencader Heritage Museum will be open to the public for the first time, in addition to a wide assortment of exhibits and entertainment including: the DE Army National Guard Recruiting Command, the DE National Guard 160th Engineer Company from Middletown, Glasgow High USAF Jr ROTC Drill Team, NCC Competition Cheer Leaders Squad, Glasgow High marching band, and Fifes & Drums of the Delaware Militia. Children's interests, aided by The Newark New School Student Government Games Committee, include pony rides, hay rides, moon bounce, and Landmark Engineering's famous wood pile activity. Once again food will be available thanks to the Brookside Lions Club.



Visitors at a past Pencader Family Fun Day

2007 Calendar of Events

- Sept. 15 - Memorial Service for fallen soldiers in the Cooch's Bridge battle
Cooch-Dayett Mills Complex, Rt. 72 & Old Baltimore Pike
Starting at 6:00pm
- Sept 16 - PHAA will be at Newark Community Days (Rain date Sept. 23)
- Sept 29 - Pencader Family Fun Day, (No Rain Date)
Cooch-Dayett Mills Complex, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
The PHAA Museum will be open rain or shine
- Oct 19 - Pencader Heritage Ghost Hunt, starting at 6:30pm
\$10.00 per person. Reservation required.
PHAA Museum, Rt. 72 and Old Baltimore Pike

Date to be announced: Dr Terry Bryan will be the lead-off for a new edition of our Guest Speaker series which is FREE and open to the public. His topic: Coinage of the C-D Canal and Early America. If you're on our e-mail list, you'll get an announcement of the date.

To continue the vigorous program we envision for PHAA, major fundraising is of prime importance. We are looking for increased private memberships, corporate donations, grants, and public funding. Contact us: www.pencaderheritage.org or (302) 737-5792

PHAA is a non-profit organization. Contributions are tax deductible

To contribute: PHAA, 248 East Chestnut Hill Rd. Newark, DE 19713

Individual / family membership \$10.00 _____ Other donation _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone: (optional) _____

E-mail: _____ for newsletter and coming events, ONLY.

Can we interest you in volunteering with PHAA to help during some of our activities? _____