

The Pencader Press

Newsletter of the Pencader Heritage Area Association

September 2007

Vol. 1 Issue 3

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



A lot has been happening in Pencader! We had a very busy summer and met our goal of opening the new Pencader Heritage Museum September 29, in conjunction with the seventh annual Pencader Family Fun Day. We're proud of what we've accomplished and feed-back from visitors has been highly complimentary. The museum will be open regularly the first and third Saturdays of the month 10:00 4:00 starting in November

Scores of people visited on opening day. Primary among the exhibits is a large, vivid collection of Native American artifacts donated by Lenni-Lenape tribal member Richard "Chief Quiet Thunder" Gilbert, who was available to tell stories and explain the items. He allowed a large number of items to be handled and played with by children.

Other displays include many old maps, Revolutionary War weapons, artifacts found on the battlefield and on loan to us, photos of "what was in Pencader", a display of M-48 Patton Tank parts made by Chrysler here in Newark, antique household items, Cooch and Slack Family material with photos, a description of the Battle of Cooch's Bridge, and a display by the Welsh Society of Delaware. The tank parts and some household items could be handled so we plan more "Please Touch" displays as these are especially attractive to children. A display on the New Castle-Frenchtown Railroad of the 1830s and exhibits about Dayett Mill are in the building stages for the future.

Pencader Family Fun Day 2007 was the most successful in its seven year history. Hundreds of people enjoyed the day with free pony rides, hay rides, a moon bounce, "rock" wall climbing, the Woodpile and other activities for children. Participants included the band and USAF Jr ROTC from Glasgow High, Boy Scout and Cub Scout Troops 1777, Delaware National Guard, and the Pencader High School, Fife & Drums of the Delaware Militia, cheerleaders from three Greater New Castle County football teams and the Newark New School. Mr. McCann fired a cannon every 30 minutes on the Museum grounds, which drew major attention to the Museum.

Now we can more easily be found. The Pencader Heritage Museum sign has been installed on Rt. 72 (Sunset Lake Rd) and is attracting attention.

Plans are being finalized to make the museum available for rent at a reasonable rate to small groups for meetings, etc. Check the website after November 9 for details.

In addition to Pencader Day and opening the Museum, the summer has included erection of two flag poles in the signage area at Old Baltimore Pike and Dayett Mill Rd. Many thanks are due the Newark VFW which provided installation funds. Plans are underway to install a permanent granite marker with bronze plaque honoring those who died during the Battle of Cooch's Bridge in 1777. We held a brief memorial service remembering those patriots during the September 15 dedication of the flag poles. A highlight of the memorial service was firing of a replica Revolutionary War cannon. That cannon and another smaller one are on loan to the Museum through the generosity of Richard McCann.

Pencader Heritage Area Association was well represented at Newark Community Day. Our display on the history of iron ore mining on Iron Hill always attracts a lot of interest.

Thanks to the Delaware Heritage Commission we now have copies of *The History and Heritage of Pencader Hundred* by Robert Barnes and Judy Pfeiffer for sale. Books may be purchased for \$12.00 by mail or \$10.00 at the Museum. Contact our website www.pencaderheritage.org to arrange for your copy.

It was an honor recently to accept from the Sons of the American Revolution, through Ralph Nelson, a replica of the Delaware Militia Flag. This particular flag has flown over the Revolutionary War Cemetery in Philadelphia, burial site of numerous casualties in our war for freedom. It will be on display in the PHAAMuseum.

The original flag was captured by a British officer, William Dansey, who took it home to England as a war trophy. An old story has said the flag was captured at the Battle Cooch's Bridge, but research has shown it was captured from the home of Colonel William Patterson of Christiana. It remained with the Dansey family until 1927 when the Historical Society of Delaware was able to purchase it at auction. That original captured and returned flag is protected in the Historical Society archives.

We've had great response to our "Ghost Tour of the Cooch's Bridge Battlefield". The first tour sold out quickly with sales for two more dates progressing. Check our website and send us an Email, there may be spaces available.

John Slack led a tour of Pencader Hundred, hosted by the Newark Senior Center. It was so well received that we may establish one as a regular activity by PHAA.

In October we renewed our "**Speaker Series**" with a discussion and a display by Dr. Terry Bryan of Colonial paper money and items relating to the history of the C & D Canal.

Our speaker for November will be Mr Ralph Nelson. His topic: New Castle County - A Magnet for French Gold in 1781 to 1783.

PHAA is entertaining ideas for future speakers on topics of interest. Call Bill Conley, 302-559-5738, with any suggestions you may have. See Coming Events for schedule.

PHAA will host the first in a series of "Student Leadership Seminars" in early December at the Museum. All Pencader area high school student government leaders will be invited. Guest speakers will include Judge Richard Cooch, State Senator Steve Amick and County Councilman Dave Tackett. Call Bill Conley, 302-559-5738, for more details.

Membership renewal is due. Payment now will carry through calendar year 2008



The hay wagon ride was enjoyed by many of our visitors.

*Scenes
from
Pencader
Family
Fun
Day
2007*



Visitors in the Pencader Heritage Museum

Chief Quiet Thunder in the Native American Exhibit at the PHAA Museum



Still to Come in 2007

- Nov 3 & 4 - Pencader Heritage Ghost Hunt, starting at 6:30pm
\$15.00 per person. Reservation required.
PHAA Museum, Rt. 72 and Old Baltimore Pike
- Nov 14 - Speaker Series:
7:00 pm at the Museum
Ralph Nelson will tell us about "*New Castle County - A Magnet for French Gold in 1781 to 1783*"
- Regular Museum Hours
1st and 3rd Saturday of each month.
10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Planned Events for 2008

- ◆ Speaker Series will resume
- ◆ Welsh Heritage Celebration in early spring
- ◆ Flag Retirement Ceremony - 3rd Thursday in May at the Museum
- ◆ 8th Annual Pencader Family Fun Day - last Saturday in September

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? _____