



The Pencader Press

Pencader Heritage Area Association Newsletter

June, 2016

Volume 10, Number 2

As spring gave way to summer, Pencader continued to be active and growing. First and foremost was the installation of redesigned frames for our educational signs at the Flag Plaza, replacing those originally installed in 2008 which had completely deteriorated. Landscaping is still being planned. The project, funded by a New Castle County grant received through the efforts of Councilman Dave Tackett, was totally done by PHAA board members.



We cooperated with W3R, L'Alliance Francaise and Delaware Saengerbund to sponsor an appearance by Dr. Robert Selig detailing the little-known fact that

elements of the German army joined Gen. Rochambeau's French troops in aiding our cause during the American Revolution. It was German mercenaries who were



with the British. After Dr. Selig's seminar, the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route (W3R) organization presented PHAA with a drawing of the Rochambeau mansion in France, donated by descendants of Gen.

Rochambeau.



Delaware State Senator, Bethany Hall-Long presented a special tribute to retired News Journal reporter, Robin Brown. The award acknowledged her many years of dedicated reporting which helped preserve Delaware's history.



Our annual military re-enactors' encampment was the largest we have yet had, with Vietnam Veterans and WW II vehicles adding much interest to the exhibition. Check our May 20th Facebook page for photographs.

We have received an award from the University of Delaware's Department of Languages, Literatures and Culture-French Section, as "French Advocate of the Year" for working to preserve French history and heritage in Delaware.



Our Research Center was enhanced recently by a substantial donation of Pencader Presbyterian Church historical information. Included was some reference material on Pencader Methodist Church which at one time stood next door to the Presbyterian. Our files contain extensive resources on life in Pencader Hundred such as marriage, death, land and census records.

Our collection of books about the American Revolution had totally outgrown its space, so those donated some years ago by Mrs. Carla Stone were passed on, with her approval, to the Delaware Military Heritage & Educational Foundation. We still have an extensive research library on the Revolution and the Civil War.

A recently mounted display pays tribute to the nursing profession. It features a WWI student nurse's uniform, a WWII nurse's duty-uniform and a WWII Red Cross uniform. Each item includes its provenance.

Vintage nursing photographs show how far nursing has come. Our visitors ask “How did they ever work in those starched uniforms?” Come in and tell us your nursing stories. Ask for Linda, she loves to hear them! This exhibit is in addition to our display of old medical, dental tools and medicines.



Unfortunately, our efforts to have Lt. Col. David R. Eastburn inducted into the Delaware Aviation Hall of Fame were to no avail. Col. Eastburn and his contributions to aerial photography in WW II were highlighted in the last edition of Pencader Press. His work is still on display at the museum.

Ionic, No. 31 Masonic Lodge visited the museum in a special opening. PHAA volunteers are always ready to welcome any group with a special opening. Just contact the website for information. Remember, too, our lovely, shaded picnic grove is available for rent.

Keith Jackson, a volunteer who has shown great (and regular) dedication to our efforts, has been invited to join our board of directors. Keith is as handy at carpentry as he is in talking to visitors plus being knowledgeable about historic buildings and local history.

Mr. Mark Fretz, who goes to great effort showing his marvelous collection of WW II artifacts during our annual re-enactors' weekends, has agreed to join our Advisory Board. We welcome Mark and his expertise.

We are always on the lookout for more volunteers with an interest in history, so please consider us when looking for a place to donate your time and talents.

Our Facebook page was visited often this spring. We shared photos and stories of some delightful barn swallows attempting to nest over the museum's door, as well as, a lovely nest of mockingbirds. We also featured the May reenactment; our refurbished Cooch family display; original art work by a 19th Century NYC police officer as he commemorated Memorial Day in 1876; the rebuilding of the educational sign plaza along with our latest display of memorabilia from the 1876 Centennial Exhibition.

It is the 140th anniversary of the 1876 Centennial Exhibition which was celebrated in Philadelphia. It was the first world's fair held in America. The city put on quite a show. Fairmount Park was transformed into a showcase for America's industrial power and cultural distinction. A special case in our museum displays three, rare patriotic banners from the Centennial. Stop in to see them and other Centennial memorabilia. Also watch the special Power Point presentation of the exhibition's history. Delaware played a part in the Centennial festivities.



The response to our offering of Life Memberships (at \$100.00) has been beyond expectations. Regular annual memberships (\$10.00) and donations go to operating expenses. The Life membership income has enabled us to complete projects which would otherwise not have been possible, as well as plan for the future.

See the form at the end of the Press for your membership contribution. We are a 501c (3) organization. All donations are tax-deductible.

PHAA maintains two geo-caching sites and has established a Treasure Hunt. Go to the website for details and co-ordinates. Complete the Treasure Hunt and win a book about Delaware history. Visit our website @ www.pencaderheritage.org



- PHAA volunteers gave approximately 1200 hours during the 2nd quarter.

DATES TO REMEMBER

September 3, 10:00 AM, Annual Memorial Service as we honor those who fell during the Battle of Cooch's Bridge, exactly 239 years to the day after the battle.

December 10, 10:00 AM, Annual Wreaths Across America program, honoring the fallen in all wars.

Follow us on Facebook @ www.facebook.com/PencaderHeritageMuseum/

Don't forget our membership form on the following page!

PENCADER MEMBERSHIP

2016

New ____

Renewal ____

\$10.00 per person ____

\$25.00 per family _____

\$100.00 Lifetime membership ____

Name _____

Phone _____

Address: _____

e-mail _____

Contact our website with any questions: www.pencaderheritage.org