

The Pencader Press

Newsletter of the Pencader Heritage Area Association

September 2008
Vol. 2 Issue 3

Who are we?

Volunteers interested in promoting the Pencader Heritage through active participation.

How do we do that?

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



PHAA Museum

2029 Sunset Lake Rd.
Newark, DE
Open: 1st & 3rd Sat.
10:00am to 4:00pm



Want more information?

302-737-5792 or
Visit our web site:
www.PencaderHeritage.Org



Unfortunately September's Pencader Heritage Day was rained out, but the museum was open and we had a good number of visitors. There was no scheduled rain date. Pencader Heritage Day will move, starting in 2009, to the second Saturday in May with a rain date the next week. This will spread out our activities instead of having two big events in September. The annual Battlefield Memorial Ceremony will continue to be in early September, near the date of the Cooch's Bridge Revolutionary War battle.

Our 2nd annual Battlefield Memorial Ceremony was an outstanding success. The highlight of the ceremony was the unveiling of a new memorial to the Americans who fell at Cooch's Bridge. The memorial was built by Hodgson Vocational-Technical High School senior Chris Kanich, a student in the masonry work curriculum, as his senior project. Chris is the grandson of PHAA board member Jim Lee. Speakers included Judge Richard Cooch, NCC Executive Chris Coons and County Councilman Dave Tackett. The 17th century Belgian blocks comprising the memorial were donated by Guardian Construction and Bill Brierly, retired Newark Chief of Police. The crowd was estimated at over 200.

In addition to the new memorial, the Delaware Dept of Historical & Cultural Affairs erected two historic markers for the memorial site at the intersection of Old Baltimore Pike and Dayett Mills Rd. The markers give details of the Philadelphia Campaign and the American Position during the Revolutionary War. Flag poles, interpretative signs and landscaping have been placed there previously by PHAA volunteers, basically with no budget. Volunteers and donations have enabled the site. This is a highly educational and interesting place which draws in visitors from the passing traffic. There is safe parking and it is worthy of a visit. Another historic plaque marking the British position has been installed on Eggert's Lane.

The Dayett Room is now open at the Pencader Heritage Museum. Currently it contains a new and extensive display about Everett C. Johnson who established the Press of Kells and the Newark Post. Johnson was a visionary who in his short life made a big contribution to life in Delaware and Newark. He was instrumental in getting women admitted to Delaware College, as it was called then, and which later became the University of Delaware. He was Pencader's state representative in Dover and later was Delaware's Secretary of State during WW I in the administration of Gov. John Townsend. The

(Continued)

Press of Kells building and Mr. Johnson's home, though somewhat modified, still stand at the corner of S. College Avenue and W. Park Place. A biography of Mr. Johnson, written by our museum curator, Bob Barnes and Judith Pfeiffer is for sale at the museum.

We continue to receive and show new items. In addition to the Johnson/Kells display, we have on exhibit an 1871 wedding gown from the Cooch Family and new additions to our military area. A good possibility exists that we will be able to borrow a display about the Underground Railroad from the Historical Society of Delaware in 2009 for the Dayett Room. Recent donations of books have expanded our research area on local history. Family researchers are finding us a good source of information.

An amazing number of hours are donated to Pencader Heritage Museum by just a small handful of volunteers. For the third quarter 1107 hours were given to enhance the museum. During this period we had 210+ who signed the guest book, plus those who attended the Memorial Service, but didn't come into the museum.

The name of Pencader Museum is getting out as a good place to hold small meetings. We have recently hosted several groups. Contact www.PencaderHeritage.Org or 302-737-5792 for details for your group meetings. We will ask for a donation to cover utilities.

The Pencader Speakers Bureau is up and running. We have speakers available on a variety of subjects who will come to your site or host your group at the museum. A small honorarium is requested for traveling to your site and donations to cover utilities are requested for events at the museum. Contact information as above.

Our monthly (2nd Wednesday, 7 PM) speaker series at the museum continues. Interesting speakers and good turnouts have marked the new season. See calendar of events at the end of newsletter for upcoming meetings.

Pencader Heritage is building a large video/CD library of our events and other subjects of interest. If you missed a speaker or event, please come into the museum and watch a "rerun".

Attention: family historians and genealogists. We're quickly amassing a wide selection of research material on local families. More details in the next newsletter or stop by and see what we have.

EVENTS

All events are Free and held at the Museum

The Museum is open every 1st and 3rd Saturday 10 - 4, Look for the OPEN flag on the sign. Special or private tours can be arranged.

Wednesday, November 12, 7:00 PM - Speakers Series: Maj. Gen. (ret.) Francis Ianni, former Adjutant General of the Delaware National Guard will speak on the history of Bellanca Airfield in New Castle.

Wednesday, December 10, 7:00 PM Speakers Series: Ken Baumgart of the Christiana Historical Society will speak on the history of the town of Christiana.

Wednesday, January 14, 2009 7:00 PM Paul Baurenschmidt will speak on the preservation efforts for the Curtis Paper Mill site and historical Newark buildings.

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

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

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