

The Pencader Press

Newsletter of the Pencader Heritage Area Association

March 2014
Vol. 8 Issue 1

Who are we?

Volunteers interested in promoting the Pencader Heritage through active participation.

How do we do that?

- *Outreach Programs*
- *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
Free Admission !*



Want more information ?

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



Pencader's major accomplishment this winter, despite bad weather, was the installation of a memorial plaque and educational signage honoring General Rochambeau and the French army for their help in our war for independence from Britain. In 1781 Gen. Rochambeau and the French army marched from Rhode Island to Yorktown, VA assisting Gen. Washington's army in forcing the British to surrender. The French camped on the Cooch property going to Virginia in 1781 and returning to Rhode Island in 1782. The route taken by the French is known as the Washington-Rochambeau-Revolutionary Route (W3R). There are only 5 sites left on this route which resemble anything like they were at that time. Four are in Connecticut and Delaware's Cooch site. Therefore it is imperative to protect the site and disseminate information about it so others may learn and appreciate it.

In addition to the plaque, the installation site on Pencader Museum grounds includes four new educational signs developed and installed by Pencader volunteers. Donations from W3R-US, W3R-DE, Sons of the American Revolution, Daughters of the American Revolution, L'Alliance Francaise, W. L. Gore Company and local legislators made both the plaque and signage possible. Landscaping products were donated by Joseph Cunane, Jr.

The plaque and signs will be dedicated at 10:00 AM April 5 in a ceremony with the French Consul General, DAR, SAR, L'Alliance Francaise, a representative of the Rochambeau family, the superintendent of the national W3R trail and local legislators. As always the program is free and open to everyone.

We have received on long-term loan a letter from British Gen. Burgoyne to American Gen. Gates requesting safe passage for the wife of a British officer who was a prisoner-of-war. Further research is being done, but we're 95% sure it is an original. The letter has become part of our ever-growing display of original signatures. See "Awesome Authentic Autographs" on our website, pencaderheritage.org, and click on a name to see the signature. Or better yet, come to the museum and see the original.

Pencader is always alert for educational outreach opportunities and recently VP Bill Conley was able to make a presentation about the Revolution and the Battle of Cooch's Bridge at H. B. duPont School. If your school, public, private or homeschooled, is interested in a presentation contact the website, pencaderheritage.org

The 1st Delaware Militia, Revolutionary War re-enactors, is forming a new Fife and Drum Corp. They practice each week at Pencader and are always looking for new participants. Can't play a fife or drum? They also teach. Contact the website and we'll put you in touch with the group.

Planned for this summer is raising of the official battlefield flag which will be kept spotlighted at all times. This flag will be on museum grounds and seen from the highway as a constant reminder of the sacrifices made by others that we might enjoy freedom.

New PHAA officers elected in January are Barbara White, president; Bill Conley returning as vice-president; Sally Miller as treasurer; Marcia Adams returning as secretary.

Don't forget to see Out of the Past on our website, excerpts from old Newark City Council minutes starting in 1866 show that some things never change. Newark struggled then with a lot of the same problems as today. Handwritten copies are available for study at the museum.

Volunteer hours for the first quarter are approximately 800.

PHAA is a registered non-profit organization, all donations are fully tax-deductible as allowed by law.

Our donations are down for the year and we would appreciate your help.

Our new mailing address
203 Hullihen Drive
Newark DE 19711

You may send memberships, new or renewal, to the same address.

COMING EVENTS

Always Free

April 5, 10:00 AM - Dedication of memorial plaque

May 17, all day - Military re-enactors encampment on grounds of the museum.
61st New York from Civil War
Free French WW2
509th US Army Airborne unit, WW2
404th AAC WW2
German Unit, WW1

Delaware Civil Air Patrol will perform Flag Retirement Ceremony Saturday evening and Retreat Ceremonies. Come early enough and hear reveille Saturday morning. For information on specific times call 559-5738.

September (date to be announced)

Annual memorial service honoring those lost in the Battle of Cooch's Bridge.
Welsh Society of Delaware will honor their heritage with displays.

December (date to be announced)

Annual *Wreaths Across America* program