

The Pencader Press

Newsletter of the Pencader Heritage Area Association

December 2014
Vol. 8 Issue 4

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



As usual in the fourth quarter, our biggest event was Wreaths Across America in December. This event honors the fallen in all wars with wreaths donated by a company in Maine. Pencader joined the two Veterans' Cemeteries as the only sites in Delaware to receive the wreaths and ours were displayed at the museum, lighted at night. We made our annual donation to the company in thanks for their dedication.

We were grateful to have veterans of several wars present. Mr. George Fretz, paratrooper from WW II, was our surprise honoree. His grandson spoke of Mr. Fretz's service in the US Army and later in the US Marines. Maj. Kevin Conley, (Ret.), who was seriously wounded in Afghanistan, gave an impassioned plea that we not forget any veterans and do all we can to see they are cared for.

Several new displays are on view. Did you know that at one time banks and cities were able to issue their own currency? A new display shows examples of Wilmington and Newark money among a host of other currency.

In November we were pleased to welcome a few Cub Scouts who tried their hands at wood carving. For six- and seven-year olds they did quite well. As Cubs don't earn merit badges, this was just an informal activity, perhaps whetting their appetite to try again later. Board member Lowell Jacobs was their instructor. Lowell is at the museum each 3rd Saturday to teach woodcarving and tell about frontier life.

The Finnish Society of Delaware will be making Pencader Museum their official home and holding their meetings here. Finns were among the earliest settlers on Iron Hill.

We are slowly replacing faded educational signs with new ones at all our installations. You can see the signs at Iron Hill Park, Glasgow Regional Park (2 installations), Old Baltimore Pike at Dayett Mill Road and on the grounds of Pencader Museum. A sign teaching about Welsh Tract, the origins of Pencader Hundred, and the earliest Welsh settlers will go to the printers shortly.

We have installed boxes with literature for visitors to take at all the sign locations.

At Pencader one of our goals is to educate children about the history and heritage surrounding us in the area. After many contacts with public schools we can't get them to bring their students. This fall we sent letters with information and invitations to all public schools in New Castle County, but had no response. We do get private school and home school groups.

We are considering organizing a roundtable-type speaker series with a social time afterwards to enjoy dessert and coffee. The series would probably be quarterly and we would ask a donation of \$5.00 per person. Suggestions for topics in the historical area are welcome. Contact our website pencaderheritage.org if you have any ideas.

Congratulations go to board member Sally Miller on being voted Volunteer of the Year by the city of Newark.

Local historian/author Ken Baumgardt will introduce his latest book *Along Delaware's Old Post Road From Claymont to Iron Hill* February 7th 10:00-4:00 at the museum. Copies will be for sale and Ken will be happy to sign your purchases. Snow date is February 21st.

PHAA is excited to announce the planned visit to our museum and battlefield by the General Rochambeau Society of Paris, France in June 2015. This visit by 25 French citizens will be in collaboration with the Cooch Family, the W3R of Delaware, and the Delaware Alliance Francaise de Wilmington. This visit follows the 2014 dedication of our Rochambeau 1781 French Army Memorial. The dedication event was accomplished with great support, again, from our Delaware sister historical groups.

Visitors for the fourth quarter were 156 and volunteer hours were over 900.

Pencader Museum has to be self-supporting and your \$10.00 per year membership will help. You may send it to 203 Hullihen Drive, Newark DE 19711 or better yet, stop by the museum any 1st or 3rd Saturday and drop it off. We'd love to see you and would greatly appreciate any additional donations you could make. We are an approved 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization so donations are deductible.

Check out what is new on our website www.PencaderHeritage.org and Facebook.

Follow the growth of Newark from 1868 on Pencader's website department *Out of the Past*. It's updated weekly with excerpts from old Newark City Council minutes. The date may be more than a hundred years ago, but it seems some of the problems are similar to today. The minutes, in original handwriting, are available for study at the museum.

COMING EVENTS

All events FREE

Each 1st and 3rd Saturday open hours 10:00 - 4:00

Woodcarving workshop and folklore tales each 3rd Saturday

February 7, 2015 - Book signing

June 2015 - French General Rochambeau Society visit