



The Pencader Press

Pencader Heritage Area Association

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A special ceremony took place at Pencader in early September. We were able to return a Union Jack which once flew over HMS Sheffield, a British guided missile destroyer that sank during the 1982 Falklands War. Through a series of circumstances the flag had been in the hands of Bill Brierley, former Newark Chief of Police who asked Pencader's help in returning it to the British people.



Our curator conserved and repaired the flag. Pencader's events coordinator, Bill Conley, contacted the British Embassy in Washington, D.C. Mr. Conley also contacted a former student of his from Glasgow High School, U.S. Marine Major Justin Bellman who took part and officially handed off the flag to Commander Richard McHugh, the Assistant British Naval Attache from Washington, D.C. Brierley spoke at the ceremony and recounted the story of how he came to have the

flag. Commander McHugh said there is an unbreakable bond between the U.S. and British Navies.

The editor of the *Newark Post*, Josh Shannon, reported the story which appeared in the online edition of the *Post* received over 7000 page views and most website visitors were from Britain, Canada, Australia and other overseas countries.



Gabe Neville's ancestor fought at the Battle of Cooch's Bridge.

speaker was historian Gabe Neville of Springfield, Va. Mr. Neville's seven-times great grandfather, Jonathan Grant, was a member of the 8th Virginia Regiment that fought at Cooch's Bridge.

On September 3, 1777 British and Colonial troops met at Cooch's Bridge. Two-hundred and forty years later Pencader marked the event with our annual Memorial Service honoring the fallen who died fighting to make America an independent nation. As more and more records are uncovered it becomes clear this was more than the skirmish as so many people have thought in the past. Descriptions of the battle uncovered in pension records call the battle "severe", "sharp" or "bloody." This year a special

Pencader has been cooperating with New Castle County Parks & Recreation to hold History/Quiztory at the Glasgow Park bank barn. Events this season have included "an evening with Edgar Allen Poe" by Mary Torbey (associated with Newark Historical Society), and a lecture on Benjamin LaTrobe who was an engineer for the C & D Canal, by James Stone from Pencader. In keeping with October's "claim to fame", Linda Duffy and Keith Jackson of Pencader spoke about Halloween's customs, costumes, and The Ghost of Cooch's Bridge. Rounding out the season on **November 16th at 6:30 p.m.** will be a discussion on the New Castle/Frenchtown Railroad and the C & D Canal, also courtesy of Pencader.

RARE BOOKS

Did you have ancestors from Pencader Hundred? If so, we can probably help you find more information.

We have births, deaths, marriages, land records; wills, and census listings. Also some files on specific families in the area. Please stop in any first or third Saturday and we'll find references for your research. Or do you have an artifact that needs identifying? Bring it in, maybe we can help.

Our research library also contains a wide selection of books on general Delaware history and families. Some of the books are quite rare and may not be easily available elsewhere. One of the fun books is Delaware Place Names, a listing of old named places that don't show up on today's maps. Do you want to know where Skunk Hill Ditch is? How about Midnight Thicket? Fun aside, this book can be a help identifying areas mentioned in old deeds.



In an effort to acquaint our readers with Pencader's board members we would like to present E. Lowell Jacobs. He has been involved with Pencader for 12 years and is truly a man for all seasons.

Lowell is a retired professional civil engineer and one of the original founders of the local consulting firm Landmark Engineering. He has been a woodcarver since pre-teen years in southern Illinois in the Shawnee National Forest and presently shows his work at the Pencader Museum

monthly, talking about frontier self-sufficiency, whittling (teaching it on request) and maybe playing a little tune on his self-made old-timey banjo. Lowell has hand-

built hundreds of banjos which are distributed world-wide. A major woodworking project of Lowell's was carving life size figures for St. Thomas More Oratory.



Lowell can be found whittling, at the museum, on the third Saturday of each month. Board member James Stone is seen here hand-sewing an accurate reproduction of an 18th Century garment, for his reenacting activities.



Red poppies, worn by the Allies, are a lasting memorial to those who died in World War I and later conflicts.

On Friday, November 10th the U.S. will celebrate Veterans Day. It is particularly significant this year since its roots began at the end of World War I. On April 6, 1917 America declared war on Germany.

The Allies had been fighting the Germans since July 28, 1914. The war claimed the lives of 10 million military personnel and almost 7 million civilians.

The Armistice of November 11, 1918 ended the hostilities. The British Royal Family began a tradition of honoring the dead the following year. The Allies followed suit when the United States, Australia, New Zealand and Canada began honoring those soldiers and sailors who didn't come home. In 1954, President Eisenhower changed the name to Veterans Day, so it would include all those who served the country during war and in peacetime.

Buddy Poppies are assembled by disabled and needy veterans in VA Hospitals. According to the Veterans of Foreign Wars any funds realized from the sale of poppies, "provides compensation to the veterans who assemble the poppies, provides financial assistance in maintaining state and national veterans' rehabilitation and service programs and partially supports the VFW National Home For Children.



Never pass up the chance to buy a poppy!



This year, Veterans Day falls on Saturday the 11th of November so Friday, the 10th of November is considered a federal holiday.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Thursday, **November 16th** at 6:30 p.m., History/Quiztory at Glasgow bank barn.

New Castle/Frenchtown Railroad and C & D Canal.

Saturday, **December 16th** at 10:00 a.m., Annual Wreaths Across America program at the Museum.

Please consider supporting Pencader by becoming a member. A membership form is at the end of the newsletter. Memberships and donations are our main source of income and go toward operating expenses. Thank you.

A word of warning if you are heading to the museum: The State Highway Department is still working at the intersection of Old Baltimore Pike and Rt. 72. There are periodic lane closures on the Pike, but Rt. 72 will remain open.

PENCADER HERITAGE AREA ASSOCIATION

Membership Application

New _____

Renewal _____

Date: _____

Names(s): _____

Address: _____

Telephone: (____) _____ e-mail: _____

Regular Annual Membership \$ 10.00 _____

Family Annual Membership \$ 25.00 _____

Life Membership \$ 100.00 _____

Donation: _____

Total enclosed: _____

Please send your check and this form to:

Pencader Heritage Area Association
273 S. Dillwyn Road
Newark DE 19711-5549

For further information:

Please call: 302-737-5792

www.PencaderHeritage.org

