



DECEMBER

FORT DELAWARE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

2010

LATEST PUBLICATION

Director Brendan Mackie and his mother Laura Lee have co-authored a publication that is part of the *Arcadia Images of America* series. Their book is titled "Fort Delaware" and consists of a brief description of the Fort and dozens of archival photographs representing many hours of research of our own collection as well as other sources, which Brendan scanned digitally. He and Laura then composed appropriate descriptive captions for each photograph. The book contains a wealth of information and is well worth the price of \$21.99. Copies are available in the Sutler Shop during the season, or may be ordered via our website or by calling the office. They can be mailed for an addition shipping and handling fee of \$3.25, and if you request, the authors will autograph your copy. This book will make a valuable addition to your own library and can be an excellent gift. Order one now.

WINE TASTING

After a successful event this past May, a second wine tasting fundraiser will be held at Deerfield Wines on Saturday, December 11th. What a great way to make early Christmas gift purchases.

MORE USE OF OUR FACILITIES

A few years ago when we were designing our headquarters at #33 Staff Lane, one of the features we wanted to include was space that could be used by other organizations or individuals as a way of serving the community as well as our membership. Throughout the past year we have been pleased to host meetings of the Military Heritage Foundation Board of Directors as they planned the creation of a Military Museum in Burton Hall, our neighbor to the north. The Foundation also used our large meeting room on June 6th for a lecture seminar. The Delaware Heritage Commission made good use of our facility to hold a planning meeting for the upcoming 150th Anniversary of the start of the Civil War.

In order to make our facilities more useful, our Fundraising Committee is in the process of purchasing an LCD projector. Visitors can bring a lap top with a Power Point presentation and use the projector to make their program easily visible to a large group.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

The Officers and Directors extend to each of you their sincerest best wishes for a joyous Holiday Season and a safe, healthy and Happy New Year for 2011.

SUTLER SHOP VOLUNTEER THANKS

Proceeds from our Sutler Shop sales generate a significant portion of our annual revenue, and without them, the Society would be in serious financial trouble. It's as plain as that. For the past 50 plus years we have been able to operate the Shop with the unselfish help of members of the Society, who donate their time to staff the Shop. Many, many thanks to the following persons who gave their time during the past season.

Carolyn Raniszweski, Edie Mahoney, Don Sholl, Kay Keenan, Barbara Citron, Bob Stark., Ed Fielding, Hugh Simmons, Brendan Mackie Tom Smith, Jennifer Robelen and Bill Robelen.

If you have never tried it, working in the Shop is a delightful experience. It's an excellent chance to interact with our many visitors, and it is easy. Martha Bennett is more than happy to provide a thorough orientation and will stay with you until you are comfortable. Please give this contribution of your time some serious consideration. We need all the help we can get, and you will be playing an important part in the business of the Society. It's also good public relations!

STAFF LANE PAVED

Visitors to our headquarters at 33 Staff Lane as well as State Park employees, Military Heritage Foundation visitors and Governor Bacon employees will no longer have to thread the obstacle course of pot holes that made driving on Staff Lane a challenge. Our sincere thanks to Representative Bruce Ennis who responded to a request from the Society and used part of his Road Repair Fund in the amount of \$14,486 to have the repair work completed late this past summer.

ANNUAL LUNCHEON

Invitations to our 61st Annual Luncheon will be mailed to all members around the first of the year, but it's not too early to mark your calendars for Sunday, February 6, 2011. If you have attended in the past, you know what an exciting event this is. If you have never attended, you will be impressed with the occasion. This time, instead of a single guest speaker, members of the Reedy Point Players of Delaware City will present three short plays about Civil War subjects. It promises to be a different and most enjoyable experience.

Once more for the past 25 years, the event will be held at the Christiana Hilton Inn where Del. Rt. 1 intersects Route 4. We hope to see you there.

DIGITAL RECORD OF ARTIFACTS

Directors Tom Smith and Brendan Mackie have begun taking digital photographs of our collections to supplement our written archival records.

DESCENDENT CERTIFICATE PROGRAM CONTINUES

Our Descendent Certificate Program continues to be a success. Since May we have added five persons to the program, bringing the total-to-date to forty. We attribute this continued response to the page on our web site which promotes it and includes an Application Form which can be downloaded and sent to the Society. For a \$25 donation, participants receive a handsome Certificate confirming the ancestor's name, rank and dates of service or imprisonment at the Fort and a personal letter of thanks from our President. These Certificates make an excellent gift for children as a reminder of their heritage and family history.

FUND RAISING ACTIVITIES

Please note the brief article on Page 1 concerning the wine tasting events that have produced extra income for the Society. The Dairy Queen in Newark, sponsored a Fort Delaware Society day on June 17, during which a percentage of their gross sales went to the Society. Board members Edie Mahoney, David Price and Jayne McCormick worked together with Laura Lee (State Park Staff) and Kim Johnson (Parks office in Dover) to write a grant to the Delaware Community Fund to support a program to underwrite the cost for school children to visit the Fort, who could not otherwise afford the per person fee. The program also includes an educational segment to increase the value of their visit.

OUTREACH EFFORTS CONTINUE

Our outreach program is an important part of our mission to promote Fort Delaware as well as the Society. Through this activity, many new people are contacted and made aware of the Fort's role in history and the research resources the Society offers. Director Dan Cashin presented a series of seminars for the third time at an all-day encampment at Manor College near Jenkintown, PA. He and Director Hugh Simmons staffed an information table, distributing Society handouts at a two-day annual Civil War event at Neshaminy Park in PA. Dan dressed as a rebel POW when he spoke at Marshallton Park. Jayne McCormick, David Price, Sally Kuntz and Rich Hoffman staffed an information table at Newark (DE) Night on June 6th. For the third consecutive year, the Society was represented at Newark Community Day, an all-day event on the campus of the U of D on September 19th. Well over one hundred organizations set up booths, and over 1000 local citizens attended this popular event. Thanks to the generosity of Jayne McCormick, the Society was protected from the sun by a large tent-type shelter. Jayne, Hugh Simmons, David Price and Sally Kuntz spent the day greeting visitors. Edie Mahoney and Bill Robelen participated in a ceremony at Mt. Salem Methodist Church in Rockford Park on May 30th honoring Admiral Samuel Dupont and other Civil War dead from Delaware.

Society Activities May to October 2010



Wine Tasting Fund Raiser



Scout Jamboree at Fort DuPont State Park



Eddie's Food Stand at Kidsfest



Descendant's Behind the Scenes Tour



A Satisfied Sutler Shop Customer



Sutler Shop Close Up Crew

Fort Delaware Society
P.O. Box 553
Delaware City, DE 19706

SUTLER SHOP NEEDS YOUR HELP

Net proceeds from sales in our Sutler Shop are the single largest source of revenue for the Society. It is a major job to staff the shop, but when spread out among lots of volunteers, it does not represent a huge investment of time and effort for any one person. And as any one who has done it will tell you, it is a rather enjoyable experience. First time volunteers will be given a thorough orientation by Shop Manager Martha Bennett, who will not leave you on your own until you are perfectly at ease with the task. You'll meet a lot of interesting people and will do a lot for your Society. Please call Martha to volunteer.

TIDBITS

Director Hugh Simmons is our newest Life Member, bringing the total to 111. *The Military Heritage Foundation held its second Annual Weekend event October 23 & 24. The Society staffed an information table encouraging visitors to tour our headquarters. Over 70 persons responded.* The Society Office continues to be open to visitors the first and third Saturdays of each month. *The State Park staff announced that the Ghost Tours this past season were a phenomenal success. Bottom line is that whatever it takes to bring visitors to the Island is positive.* New pilings have been installed at the floating dock on the Island.

MORE TIDBITS

Thanks to the generosity of our members, the Emerson Wilson Memorial Library continues to expand. *The end of the season was marked by our packing up unsold merchandise in the Shop and returning it to our office to be counted.* As more people hear about the Society, and as more drive by just sight-seeing, the number of visitors to our office increases. Martha is always available and most willing to welcome them. *It is always a challenge to vary the Sutler Shop inventory to create appeal to customers. This past season we added Pop Guns for the kids and handsome State of Delaware brass holiday tree ornaments. Both were a real hit.*