



DECEMBER

FORT DELAWARE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

2015

FALL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Our General Membership meetings have been consistently good, but some like the one held this past October really stand out. The title alone, "Many Mules and Horses, Many Roles To Fill" sums it up well. Ray Glick, DVM held the attention of a record crowd of 35 with his fascinating presentation. We are so used to getting things done with the use of gasoline or diesel driven machinery, we forget that as recently as 150 years ago, we depended on the strength of our four legged workers to do almost all the heavy work. Dr. Glick pointed out that keeping them healthy was a lot more than just pulling up to the pump, filling up and checking the oil. Animals require a lot of care and feeding, which is itself a lot of physical work. Dr. Glick's remarks were very well received as evidenced by all the questions and comments from his attentive audience. He did double duty graciously agreeing to draw the name of the winning rifle raffle ticket. The meeting concluded with our usual offering of a variety of delicious refreshments

The Officers and Directors of the Society wish you and your families a safe and a blessed and joyful Christmas. We need all of you.

RIFLE RAFFLE

Thanks to the generosity of our Treasurer, Tom Smith, the Society earned a profit of \$1,440 with the raffling off an 1864 Springfield rifle that was donated by Tom. A total of 96 tickets were sold at \$15 each. The drawing was held at our Fall General Membership meeting. Director Dan Cashin sold the winning ticket to Mr. Andrew Duncan of Conshohocken, PA and delivered the rifle to Andrew personally. The winner's winning ticket was drawn by Dr. Ray Glick, the speaker at the Fall meeting.

ANNUAL LUNCHEON MEETING

In a slight departure from previous years, our Annual Luncheon will be held on January 31 instead of in February. Our guest presenter is Mr. Charlie Zahn, a talented and well known vocalist in the Delaware Valley, offering a program titled "Civil War Music". He will have a supply of his CDs of this and other programs for sale. Also at this time, long time Society member Tom Ryan will have his latest book "Spies, Scouts and Secrets in the Gettysburg Campaign" for sale at a special event price as well as his "Essays on Delaware during the Civil War". Invitations will be mailed late December.

GRAVE MARKER PROJECT

The First Presbyterian Church Cemetery in Delaware City contains some worn and damaged grave markers of Civil War soldiers who served at Fort Delaware. Society Director Brendan Mackie is spearheading an effort to have them repaired and to have foot stones added. The soldiers are: Pvt. James F. Vance, Independent Battery G, Pittsburgh Heavy Artillery, who died at Fort Delaware, October 5, 1862; Pvt. James M. Griffith, Independent Battery G, Pittsburgh Heavy Artillery, who died at the fort, October 9, 1862; Pvt. Edward C. Hamilton, Company B, 157th Ohio Infantry Regiment, who died at the fort July 14, 1864 and Ord. Sgt. James Maxwell, Company I, 2nd U.S. Artillery Regiment who died January 5, 1887 while serving at the Fort. We plan to raise the necessary funds via GoFundMe in 2016 but still need private donations from our members. Replacement of illegible government markers is in line with what the Army does at Arlington National Cemetery. Brendan and President David Price will solicit financial support from the church and hope to complete this project by the end of the summer. Brendan, Dan Cashin and Hugh Simmons are compiling biographies of these soldiers. Secretary Bobbi Steele is working to obtain metallic flag holders commemorating their Civil War service.

Society Activities in 2015



"Two Civil War Soldiers"



Martha Honored for Years of Service



Kids Fest



Manor College Civil War Seminar



Mt. Salem Memorial Day Services



Garrison Weekend at Fort Delaware

Society Activities in 2015



Presentation of Restored Documents



“Many mules & horses, many roles to fill”



Presentation of Civil War Rifle



Donation of Civil War Diary



Newark Community Day



Collections Inventory Project

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

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES VITAL

A key provision of our mission is to promote Fort Delaware and our Society throughout the year in a variety of ways. It is one that our Board takes seriously and partakes of with enthusiasm. Many thanks to the following for their active participation. Hugh Simmons, Tom Smith, Bobbi Steele, Leroy Hathcock, Barbara Walters, Kay Keenan, Dan Cashin, David Price, Edie Mahoney, and John Walters. They may be seen at the many Civil War events in the Delaware Valley, as well as at the Victorian Kids Fest at the Fort each summer, where John is busy in the costume tent helping kids dress up in period costumes for photos. Heartfelt thanks to all of you for your unselfish involvement.

RESTORATION PROJECTS CONTINUE

The Society is indeed fortunate to have in its possession a number of historical and invaluable documents related to the Civil War. Due to lack of funds and in some cases improper restoration attempts in the past, many of them have suffered some damage. Thankfully, it is not so severe that it cannot be repaired. With the guidance and help from Mr. Fred Carspecken, a local restoration professional who did the initial work on three documents that were introduced at our Spring General Membership meeting. They included three Muster Out Documents—two from the 1st Delaware and one from Charles Reed.

RESTORATION DETAILS

The following historical paper documents are slated to be restored due to the damage cited:

Engraving of Samuel DuPont - *foxing; A. Lincoln; The Nation's Martyr - Tear and *foxing; Water color of Ft. Del -water damage; Water color of Ft. Del #2262—deacidification; Oval portrait Lincoln litho; Lincoln family—water damage; Henry R. Walls—Hon. discharge from 3rd regiment Delaware Infantry. *foxing; stain from water or other unidentified exposure
Total cost of restoration is \$4,550. Some funds from the Central Delaware C. W. Roundtable and the Longwood Foundation are already available, but additional monies are sought.