

AUGUST

FORT DELAWARE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

2016

2016 ANNUAL LUNCHEON

In a slight departure from previous years, our Annual Luncheon was held January 31 rather than in February. Election of Officers and Directors was held as usual with the following elected to serve in 2016.

OFFICERS

President: David Price

Vice President: Edith Mahoney

Treasurer: Tom Smith

Secretary: Roberta Wilkins

Chairman: William Robelen

DIRECTORS

Dan Cashin, Leroy Hathcock, Brendan Mackie, Carolyn Raniszewski, Hugh Simmons, Barbara Walters, Ruth and Tracy Walters.

After the business part of the meeting was over, President David Price thanked the Officers and Directors for their unselfish service to the Society. At that point in the afternoon, those present were treated to a delightful program presented by the very talented Charlie Zahm, who kept the audience amused and entertained with his rich baritone singing of Civil War music self-accompanied on the guitar plus recitation of period poetry. At the conclusion of his program, Charlie offered copies of his CDs for sale to those who wanted a second helping of his music.

5TH ST. BRIDGE TO CLOSE

Effective September 6, 2016, (the day after Labor Day), the 5th Street Bridge over the Branch Canal (Route 9) in Delaware City will be closed to all traffic, both pedestrian and vehicular until the end of January 2017. For folks like our Office Manager (who lives in Delaware City) and anyone coming from the south, the trip detour will have to add extra time as well as miles. Ambulance and fire service will be affected as well as school tour busses. It's no secret that a lot of adjustments will be necessary, including the Society's Fall General Membership Meeting. We'll keep you informed on this one. Several suggestions have been offered on various ways to inform our members of alternate routes to get to our office from the south or to the ferry dock to catch the boat to Pea Patch Island. NOTE Since the fort closes for the season in September, the problem for those visitors will be over by then.

We'll try our best to help our visitors through the puzzle, with the knowledge that a few months from now everything will be back to normal to normal. Have faith!

SPRING MEMBERSHIP MEETING

On Sunday, May 15th, Society member Steve Conrad made a presentation on the *Defenses of the Delaware River*. Steve is currently a Social Studies Teacher at Council Rock High School (North), Montgomery County, PA and a Ph. D candidate at Temple University. He is writing a book to be titled "*American Seacoast Defense and the Delaware*" several chapters of which have appeared in past issues of the *Coast Defense Journal* published by the Coast Defense Study Group.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

It's that time again, folks. Many of you have already done so, but for those of you for whom the time has passed too quickly, Membership Dues for 2016 are due. Please send in your check without delay, because the cost of postage to remind you again only adds to Society's expenses. This is one way you can help keep our costs down. Thanks!

2016 KIDS FEST

The 2016 Kids Fest event at the Fort is set for Saturday, June 11 from 12 noon to 3 pm. Once again it's a day full of fun and games for kids of all ages. Period costumes plus face painting make for great photo ops.

Society Activities in 2016



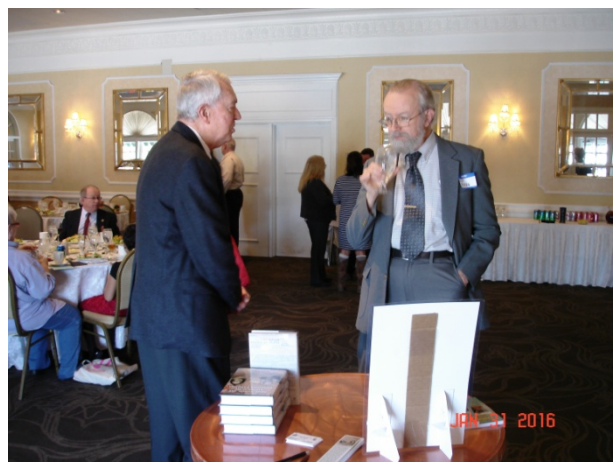
Annual Meeting



Charlie Zahm



Laura, Brendan and Carly



Tom Ryan and Jeff Canning



The Louisiana Tigers at Neshaminy



Society Outreach at Neshaminy

Society Activities in 2016



Stephen E. Conrad



Spring Membership Meeting



Confederate Monument at Finns Point



Union Monument at Finns Point



Kidsfest



Kidsfest

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

FALL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The announced closing of the 5th Street Bridge in Delaware City has necessitated some adjustments in our operating schedule. The first thing to be affected is our Fall General Membership Meeting scheduled for Sunday, October 9, beginning at 2:00 p.m. and over by 4 p.m. As usual, light refreshments will be available. Because of the difficulty in getting to our headquarters at 33 Staff Lane, we have made arrangements with the Delaware City Library, which has graciously allowed us to hold our meeting there. It's easily accessible, located on the left side of Route 9 as you enter Delaware City in what used to be the elementary school, just a couple of

blocks beyond the traffic light at Clinton Street. Our guest presenter will be Mr. Joe Wilson, who has written and produced a new documentary film, "*Civil War Prisons—An American Tragedy*". (see next column). It is guaranteed to be an interesting and informative afternoon. Mark your calendars now. Society President David Price will update you on the status of our restoration projects and answer your questions about our current knowledge of the plans to make over Fort DuPont State Park. This mammoth project is sure to spark your interest and generate lots of questions. This is probably the most dynamic project to have ever affected us. Don't miss it!

PREVIEW DOCUMENTARY SCREENING

Our Fall General Membership Meeting will feature a 15 minute trailer of Joe Wilson's 45 minute documentary about Civil War prisons which boldly exposes the underbelly of the Civil War that remains to this day one of the greatest and least covered tragedies in American history. Here's your chance to meet the writer and producer of this remarkable film and see for yourselves how well over 56,000 abandoned prisoners perished needlessly due to exposure, starvation, and neglect. Mr. Wilson will be available for Q & A at the conclusion of the program. This is an excellent example of your Society at work.