



MAY

FORT DELAWARE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

2017

2017 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

The following Society Officers were elected for 2017 at our Annual Meeting: President David P. Price, Vice President Edith K. Mahoney, Secretary Roberta L. Steele-Wilkins, Treasurer Thomas M. Smith, and Board Chairman William G. Robelen, 4th.

Re-elected to serve as Directors for 2017 were Leroy Hathcock, Carolyn Raniszewski, R. Hugh Simmons, Ruth Walters, and Tracy Walters. Elected for the first time to serve as Directors were George K. McDowell and Glenn B. Pusey.

Continuing as Directors Emeritus are William E. Craven, Jr. and Catherine C. Keenan.

NEW 5th STREET BRIDGE A BEAUTY

Was it worth all the added miles and extra fuel expense? You'll have to see for yourself. Certainly, no one will miss all the extra time needed to reach our headquarters via the round-about-detour across the Reedy Point Bridge, particularly with the advent of Daylight Savings Time and early dark hours. But now it's done, and we can all rejoice. The residents of the Port Penn area surely won't miss all the traffic caused by the construction detour from Delaware City.

Thank you DELDOT for a job well done!!

OUTREACH & SPECIAL EVENTS

Spring, summer and fall are busy times for your Society. You are always welcome and encouraged to participate. Contact any Board member to volunteer. We need you!

Vice President Edie Mahoney and Secretary Bobbi Steele wish to remind all Society members of the following important dates and events.

May 28th: Memorial Day Services, 10 AM at Mt. Salem Methodist Church, Rockford Park, Wilmington, DE. Free lunch will be served.

June 4th: Spring General Membership meeting at 2711 Staff Lane, 1 to 4 PM.

June 10th: Kids Fest, Fort Delaware State Park, noon to 3 PM.

July 15th: Delaware City Day

August 5th: Camden-Wyoming Peach Festival

August 19th: Middletown Peach Festival

September TBA: Port Penn Wetlands Festival.

2017 PARK SUMMER SCHEDULE

Fort Delaware State Park will begin summertime operations, Wednesday thru Sunday, on June 14th. The Park will be open from 10 AM to 5 PM. For more details, call the Park Office at 302-834-7941.

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS

It has been said that if you need someone to take on additional responsibilities, choose a person who is already busy. Such is the case with our two new Directors.

George K. McDowell should be a familiar face to those of you who saw him in Dave Price's Civil War play at our Annual Meeting two years ago. In addition to a busy schedule with community and education related activities, George's love of history is evidenced by his volunteer work as past President Wilmington Civil War Roundtable, current member Central Delaware Civil War Roundtable, crew member USS Lehigh Civil War Reenactment and Living History Group, and Senior Vice Commander, Appomattox Camp #2, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

Glenn B. Pusey, BS, CE, UDEL is also a familiar face having attended every Society function for the past three years. A licensed P.E., Glenn retired as Deputy Director of Operations at DELDOT after 36 years of service. He is a founding member and past President of the Pencader Heritage Association, current President of the Delaware City Heritage Association, and a board member of the Hale-Byrnes House. Glenn is a member of the Sons of the American Revolution, the Society of the War of 1812, and the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

Please welcome both of them!

Fort Delaware Society 2017 Annual Meeting



Dr. William T. Campbell



"Fatal Diseases at Fort Delaware"



Christiana Hilton



Members and Guests



Members and Guests



Door Prize Drawing

Society Activities



Fort DuPont Entrance Sign



2711 Staff Lane



Society Flags & Memorial Cards



Oakwood Cemetery, Raleigh, NC



St. George's Cemetery, Bear, DE



Presbyterian Cemetery, Delaware City, DE

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

AN UNCERTAIN FUTURE

In our 67 year history, we have experienced many changes which were recounted in the 2011 issue of the *Fort Delaware Notes*. Many of you have witnessed the physical changes over the past few years including moving our headquarters more than once. However, nothing can come close to the monumental changes we are about to undergo in the next two years.

Jeff Randol, Executive Director, Fort DuPont Redevelopment and Preservation Corporation, presented an overview of these changes at the May Board of Directors meeting. Fort DuPont State Park as we know it will cease to exist. Our current headquarters building on Staff Lane will be surrounded by

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16 single family homes including the 4 remaining original buildings. How this will affect the parking for us and our guests is not known. Our new address is now 2711 Staff Lane. The existing theater will be redesigned and transformed into a Performing Arts Center with associated support structures.

A total of 15 lots will be constructed in what we know as Officer's Row. Eleven non-historical buildings there will be demolished. Remaining structures will be restored as close as possible to original condition based on extensive study of architectural records and using reclaimed items. Planned construction includes a Canal District of 95 residential lots for townhouses and

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single family dwellings averaging 1700 square feet per unit.

A Marina District is planned consisting of retail shops with 2nd floor apartments, a hotel, a pedestrian bridge over the canal to Delaware City and 120 boat slips.

Also contemplated are pedestrian pathways and horse trails throughout the property. For a color rendering of areas to be developed, please refer to the FDRC's website at <http://fortdupont.org>.

The Fort Delaware Society will definitely continue its 67 year mission, even with all the changes.

A special thank you is due to Society Secretary Bobbi Steele for her invaluable help with this article.