

FORT DELAWARE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

2018

ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS

At the Annual Meeting in February, the following Society Officers will be nominated to serve for 2018: President-David P. Price; Vice President - Edith K. Mahoney; Secretary—Roberta L. Steele Wilkins; Treasurer—Thomas M. Smith; Board Chairman—William G. Robelen.

The following Directors will be nominated for 2018: Glenn Pussey, R. Hugh Simmons, Ruth Walters and Tracy Walters. Directors Emeritus will be William E. Craven, Jr. and Catherine C. Keenan. We regret losing the services of former Directors Carolyn Raniszewski, Leroy Hathcock and George McDowell. Their contributions have been deeply appreciated.

2018 ANNUAL MEETING

The Fort Delaware Society Annual Meeting is to be held on February 4th in the Chameleon Room at the Christiana Hilton. After you enter the Hotel, turn left. There will be Board members there to greet you. Be prepared for a whole new look. The entire area has been redesigned, and, according to President David Price who has seen it, you are certain to be impressed.

We welcome our Guest Speaker, Mr. Dale Fetzer, a true friend of the Society. As you may recall, Dale was the former Lead Interpreter at the Fort and portrayed General Albin F. Schoepf.

NOTE OUR NEW ADDRESS

No, we haven't moved! In light of ongoing redevelopment construction at Fort DuPont, many street names have been changed. Our postal address is still P. O. Box 553, but our street number has changed. Our new street address is 2711 Staff Lane, Fort DuPont. Until we use up our present supply of stationery, we'll continue to use what we have with the old address.

OFFICE EQUIPMENT PURCHASES

Time was when just the thought of spending money on ourselves was enough to cause serious questions. We hesitated to ask our friends for anything, although they were always supportive when the need arose. Still, nothing lasts forever, and we have to recognize when it is time to replace old and outdated equipment. Both our telephone system and our computer have seen better days, and the time has come to replace them. Thankfully, due to the generosity of our friends, both personal and in the community, we had the funds to purchase both items. The phone service has been replaced by A T & T Internet Service, and the new computer is a product of Dell.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Several years ago, the Board initiated two General Membership meetings each year, one in the Spring and one in the Fall. They were intended to act as a tool to bring our members together both as a social function and also to educate and inform our members on topics related to the Fort and its history. In the beginning, both were well attended and received with enthusiasm. A great deal of effort was made to select and solicit speakers who could hold the interest of our audiences and to enlighten them about the history of the Fort and the people who were a part of its history.

Our Board members work to promote these meetings, provide refreshments and make sure our visitors feel welcome.

Unfortunately, turnout for the Fall meeting held on October 8th was disappointing. Only 14 persons showed up and half of them were Board members. What it boils down to is this: these meetings were designed as a service to you, our members. It is really your choice whether or not to continue them or make changes that will better serve your interests. Are there other topics that you are interested in? Is there a day of the week that better suits your schedule? Remember, we are here to serve you and your interests, and we honestly need your feedback. Please call any of us or leave a message on the office phone.

Fort Delaware Society 2017 Activities



Mt. Salem Church Outreach Display



Marching to DuPont Memorial



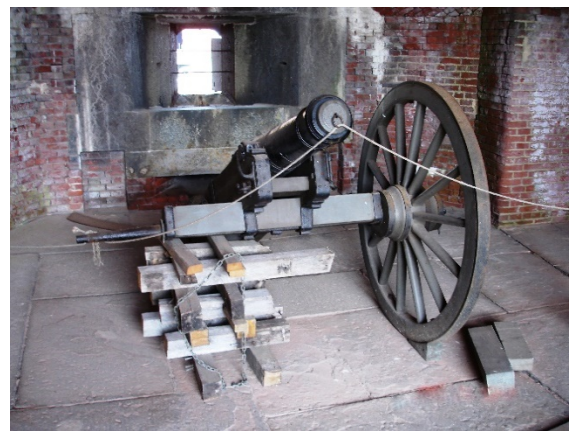
KidsFest 2017



KidsFest 2017



Field Gun No. 1



Field Gun No. 2

Society Displays in Fort Delaware Orientation Room



Cleaning Museum Cases



Replacing Museum Case Cover



Rifles & Swords



Chapel Cross, Door Keys & Hardware



Artillery Shells & Fuses



Heritage Research Display

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

CANNON CARRIAGE WHEELS

During the past several years, visitors to the Fort will recall seeing two 6 pounder field pieces on display. A detailed history of these two guns can be found in an excellent article in the February 2003 edition of *Fort Delaware Notes*. It describes how the two guns became assigned to the Fort Delaware Society and how they have been restored and maintained over the past 57 years. The wheels have been replaced once, but due to weather and the fact that they have been sitting in the same place all this time, they have deteriorated to the point that they must be replaced again. The Board has wrestled with this problem over several months, giving serious consideration to a couple of options, including purchasing new wooden ones vs. aluminum, but the cost difference could not be justified. We are indeed fortunate that due to some recent funding, we have been

able to purchase two new wooden wheels to be delivered in May when the boat is running. We plan to install one this Spring to replace the wheel in the worst condition and keep the remaining one for a spare. Treasurer Tom Smith estimates that the new wood wheels should have a life of between 10 and 15 years. If you question why we have spent so many resources protecting them, it has been established that these are the only two remaining guns like them in the whole world. While the extreme rarity of both tubes makes them invaluable, the carriages themselves serve to provide the physical and authentic means of presenting them to the viewing public. The next time you see them on the island, look at them with a whole new sense of appreciation.

SOCIETY PRESENCE ON THE ISLAND

During the many years we operated the Sutler Shop (Gift Shop) on the island, the Society was well represented to our visitors. It is different now, and it is probable that some of our visitors do not know we exist or are unaware of our history and function throughout the year. The museum display cases in the Orientation Room help to fill the gap, and our participation in the KidsFest event keeps us in front of both children and adults at least once a year. We also maintain a supply of informational printed material on a table next to the scale model of 1864 Pea Patch Island in the Orientation Room.

Whenever you are at the Fort, please introduce yourself and offer to help with directions or points of interest. That simple effort goes a long way in promoting the Society.