

FORT DELAWARE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

2018

CAROLYN RANISZEWSKI

The Fort Delaware Society and the Polish Brigade (sponsor of a room at the fort since 1973) lost a long time and valuable member when Carolyn Raniszewski passed away on January 27th of this year. As noted in our last newsletter, she had resigned her position on the Board due to failing health. During her 13 years of service, she volunteered in every Victorian KidsFest event and worked in the Sutler Shop on a regular basis. Carolyn chaired the Society's Membership Committee and was always ready to help with our Annual Meeting at the Christiana Hilton.

2018 SPRING GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Please mark your calendar for Sunday, June 3rd from 1—4 PM, the date of our Spring General Membership meeting at our headquarters building. Our Guest Speaker will be Ms. Polly Steenhagen who will offer a most interesting program on the founding and function of the Port Penn Soldiers Aid Society. Here is an excellent chance to learn about a little known fort related activity. She will bring with her a hand-made quilt listing the names of women she has found who served as members of various Ladies Aid Societies during the Civil War. Light refreshments will be available. RSVP is not needed, but will be appreciated.

2018 OUTREACH EVENTS

Now that we no longer operate the Sutler Shop in the Fort, it is even more critical that we make every effort to keep our name in the public's eye by sponsoring activities and events of our own and by participating in local Civil War and other community events. The following are some of the activities scheduled for 2018 that we are involved in, and there will certainly be more as the year progresses.

MAY

27th: Mount Salem Methodist Church Memorial Day Service & Civil War Remembrance
10AM - 4PM
Rockford Park, Wilmington.

JUNE

16th: Victorian KidsFest
Noon - 3PM

JULY

21st: Delaware City Day parade
time to be announced

AUGUST

4th: Camden-Wyoming Peach Festival, Wyoming, DE
10AM - 3PM

18th: Middletown Peach Festival, Middletown, DE
10AM - 4PM

REPLACEMENT CANNON WHEELS

Finally, after months of discussion and deliberation, two new wood cannon wheels have been ordered and should be here in a month or two. The present plan is to use one of them to replace the worst of the existing wheels and setting the other old one aside as a spare.

TIDBITS

The 9 Max Neugas prints in our possession are being cleaned and encapsulated in polypropylene to enable convenient copying.

The Board of Directors is considering the need to repaint 2711 Staff Lane. Written estimates of the cost will be submitted to the Fundraising Committee for project approval.

The annual Victorian KidsFest event continues to grow in popularity, requiring more volunteers. Please call Martha to offer help.

LIBRARIAN NEEDED

Our research library is an invaluable resource that we too often take for granted. The truth is, it takes a considerable amount of work to keep it up to date and functioning. It takes someone with specific interest, organizational skills and dedication to the work. A knowledge of Civil War and American military history is not required. We have plenty of folks on the Board who have that knowledge in abundance and

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Fort Delaware Society 2018 Annual Meeting



President David Price



Guest Speaker Dale Fetzer



Members and Guests



Members and Guests

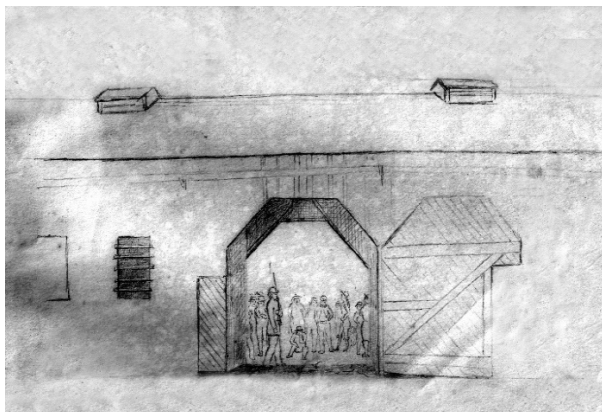


Members and Guests

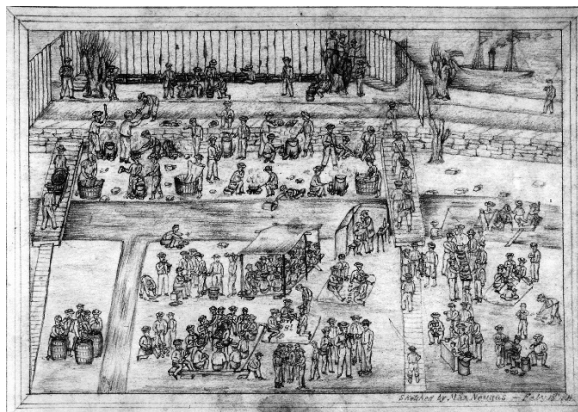


Door Prize Drawing

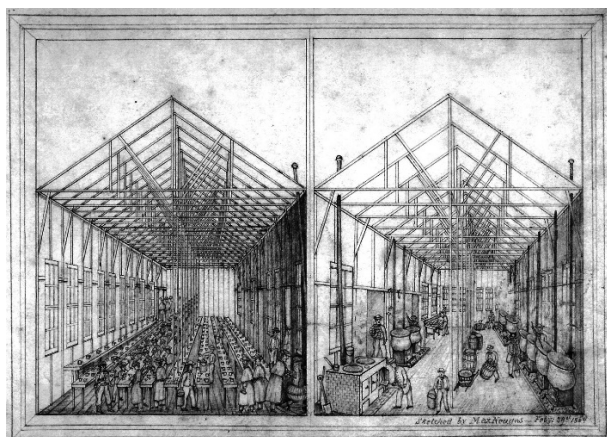
POW Max Neugas' Sketches in the Society Collections



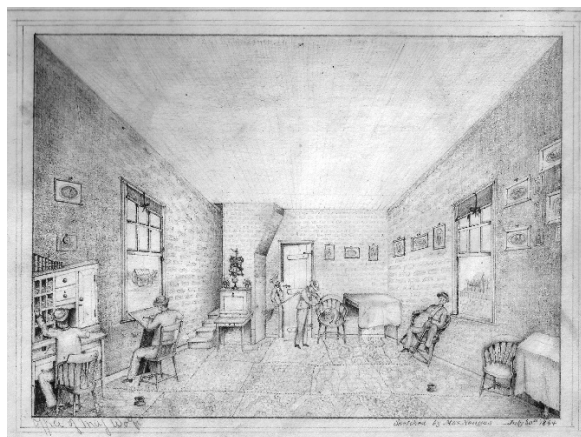
Sally Port to Enlisted POW Barracks



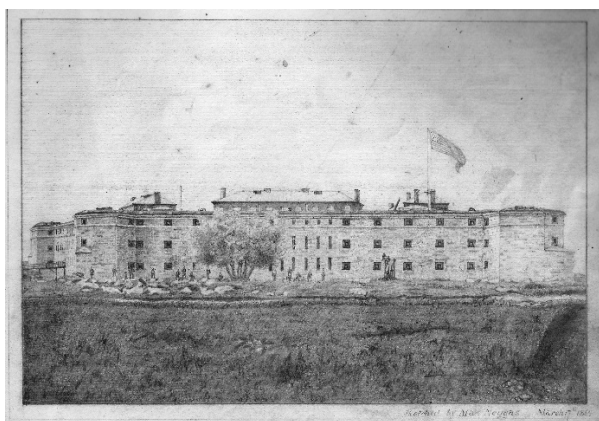
POWs in the Bull Pen



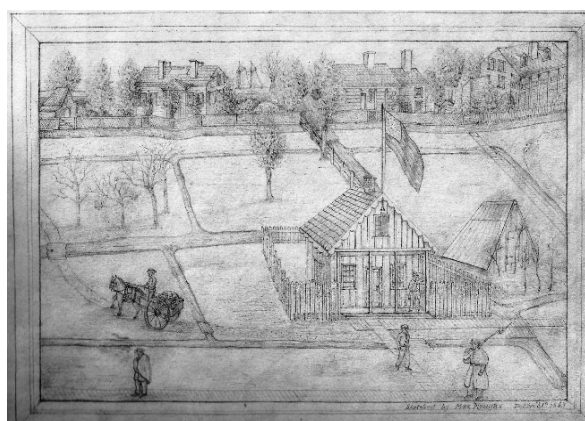
POW Barracks Mess Hall and Kitchen



Lieutenant Wolf's Office



North Face of Fort Delaware



Guard Office & Officer's Residences

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

NAG, NAG, NAG

That's probably the last thing you want to hear from Board Chairman Bill Robelen. But the truth is, we find it necessary to keep reminding you of the importance of giving us your email address. With the cost of first class mail steadily increasing, it is all the more critical for you to do your part in helping your Society reduce costs. Email does exactly that. You probably realize that your own personal correspondence can eat up a sizable portion of your own budget. Imagine the amount we can save with our correspondence to dozens of our members. Not only can we reduce the expense of first class postage, but some correspondence consists of more than one page which adds even more to the cost. It is far easier to send multiple pages via email by pushing a button than it is to make several copies, fold them, address envelopes, stuff them and

take them to the post office. It doesn't take but a few seconds to drop us a line via email. You need to do no more than say hello, if even that. Your return email address will show up automatically and we'll add it to our contact information. Martha will smile at her reduced workload, our resident curmudgeon treasurer Tom Smith will be only too happy to save a few dollars by saving the Society's money, and Board Chairman Bill Robelen will rejoice knowing that our membership is taking an active roll in the Society's business.



LIBRARIAN NEEDED

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who are only too happy to share (and show off) their knowledge. What we need is one person to coordinate everything. We have duplicate volumes that need to be weaned out, books that don't really belong in our collection, irreplaceable books that need to be identified and set aside for safe keeping, and a system whereby visitors can identify specific books that will aid in their personal research. The right person can get a lot more done than a committee and in a fraction of the time. We are asking you to search your hearts to see if you are that person and respond to President David Price or Board Chairman Bill Robelen. In doing so, you will earn the undying gratitude of everyone and can rest assured you will have performed an invaluable service to your society. Now more than ever, we need your help.