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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Colin McDermott at CMcDermott@dehistory.org (302) 295-2390

December 20, 2016

Wilmington, DE – December 20, 2016. Now on display at the Delaware Historical Society for a limited time, an exhibition about the development of Delaware's railroads entitled, *Almost As Fast as Birds Can Fly: The History of Railroads in Delaware*. The exhibit chronicles how the railroad influenced the growth of transportation, the movement of goods, and the development of towns and cities in Delaware into the modern era. *Almost as Fast as Birds Can Fly* will be on exhibit in the Poole Gallery on the first floor of Old Town Hall through April 8, 2017.

The exhibition takes its title from an 1831 quote from a gentleman in Newport, Delaware, named Oliver Evans, who wrote, "There will come a time when people will travel in stages moved by steam engines from one city to another, *almost as fast as birds can fly*, 15 or 20 miles an hour..."

The exhibition details how the railroad became the first major transportation system in the country and how it impacted local travel in Delaware. The stories of the many historic local rail car building companies such as Jackson & Sharp, Harlan & Hollingsworth, the Lobdell Car Wheel Company, and the New Castle Manufacturing Company are also featured. Objects from the Delaware Historical Society's collections are on view, including train conductors' ticket punches and tableware from an early first class Pullman rail car.

Visitors also are invited to explore the permanent exhibition, *Delaware: One State, Many Stories*, located in the Delaware History Museum and Jane and Littleton Mitchell Center for African American Heritage.

The Delaware History Museum is open Wednesday-Saturday, 11 am to 4 pm.

Fees

Members: Free

Adults: \$6.00

Seniors (65+ older) / Military / Student (with I.D.'s): \$5.00

Children (3-18): \$4.00 (2 & under Free)

Continued

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About the Delaware Historical Society

The Delaware Historical Society owns and operates the Delaware History Museum; the Jane and Littleton Mitchell Center for African American Heritage; a nationally recognized Research Library; Old Town Hall; Willingtown Square, four 18th - century houses surrounding a picturesque urban courtyard located in downtown Wilmington; and the Read House & Gardens located in historic New Castle, recognized as an “American Treasure” by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the National Park Service.

For more information, call (302) 655-7161, email deinfo@dehistory.org or visit www.dehistory.org.

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