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## Delaware Students Earn Honors at National History Day Contest

*Delaware Historical Society announces the 2015 National History Day Delaware winners*

Wilmington, DE — After months of intensive research and success at school and state-level competitions, forty-six students from Delaware schools presented their projects at the annual National History Day competition, held at the University of Maryland, College Park Campus from June 14-18, 2015.

There were two Outstanding Entries from Delaware. Elizabeth Imhoff of the Towle Institute received recognition in the Junior Division for her paper, *The Impact of Harriet Beecher Stowe on Attitudes About Slavery*. While Margaret Achenbach of Padua Academy, received recognition in the Senior Division for her Individual Website, *Hitsville, USA: Gordy's Musical Empire*.

In addition to the Outstanding Entries, two students were recognized with Special Awards for their projects.

Elizabeth Imhoff, a student at Towle Institute, received the Civil War History Award (sponsored by The Civil War Trust) for her paper, *The Impact of Harriet Beecher Stowe on Attitudes About Slavery*. Elizabeth received a medal, a certificate and a monetary prize.

Madeline Smith, also a Towle Institute student, was awarded the Salute to Courage Award (sponsored by the National WWII Museum) for her individual website about Ralph L. Minker, a Delawarean who served as a bomber pilot during WWII and whose papers are housed in the Delaware Historical Society's Research Library. Madeline received a medal and an all-expenses-paid trip to New Orleans to participate in the Grand Opening of the National WWII Museum's new pavilion, "The Road to Tokyo," in December.

"I am very proud of all of the Delaware students who conducted months of intensive research in order to participate in such an important and valuable program. Through the National History Day Contest their dedication and hard work is recognized and celebrated," said Rebecca Fay, the National History Day in Delaware State Coordinator and the Delaware Historical Society's Wilmington Campus Education Curator.

Each fall, more than half a million students nationwide begin the year-long National History Day program, competing in a series of history contests in their local districts and states. The top students in each category are selected for participation in the national contest. Participating students choose their own topics of study and research from original sources based on the theme. The 2015 theme was *Leadership & Legacy in History*. Students research historic documents and artifacts, conduct oral histories,

search the Internet for information on their topics, and travel to historic sites. They present their work in a variety of ways, by creating museum-type exhibits, video documentaries, original performances, or traditional research papers.

More than 300 historians and other education professionals evaluate the students' work at the national competition. \$150,000 worth of scholarships are awarded to select students, and approximately 100 students took home cash prizes between \$250 and \$5,000 for superior work in a particular category of judging.

The Delaware Historical Society is proud to sponsor the National History Day program. It is a privilege to offer support, through the use of the Society's Research Library and access to the Collections as well as student and teacher workshops, to the contestants and their sponsoring teachers throughout the NHD Contest season.

Delaware students and teachers can find out how to participate in National History Day by contacting Rebecca Fay, the State Coordinator in Delaware at [rfay@dehistory.org](mailto:rfay@dehistory.org).

**About the Delaware Historical Society:**

The Delaware Historical Society owns and operates the Delaware History Museum; a nationally recognized Research Library; Old Town Hall; Willingtown Square, four 18th-century houses surrounding a picturesque urban courtyard located in Wilmington; as well as 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; and The Center for African American Heritage, which will be included as part of the expansion of the Delaware History Museum, expected to reopen in 2016.

For more information on the Delaware Historical Society, call (302) 655-7161 or visit [dehistory.org](http://dehistory.org). For more information about National History Day, visit [nhd.org](http://nhd.org).

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