

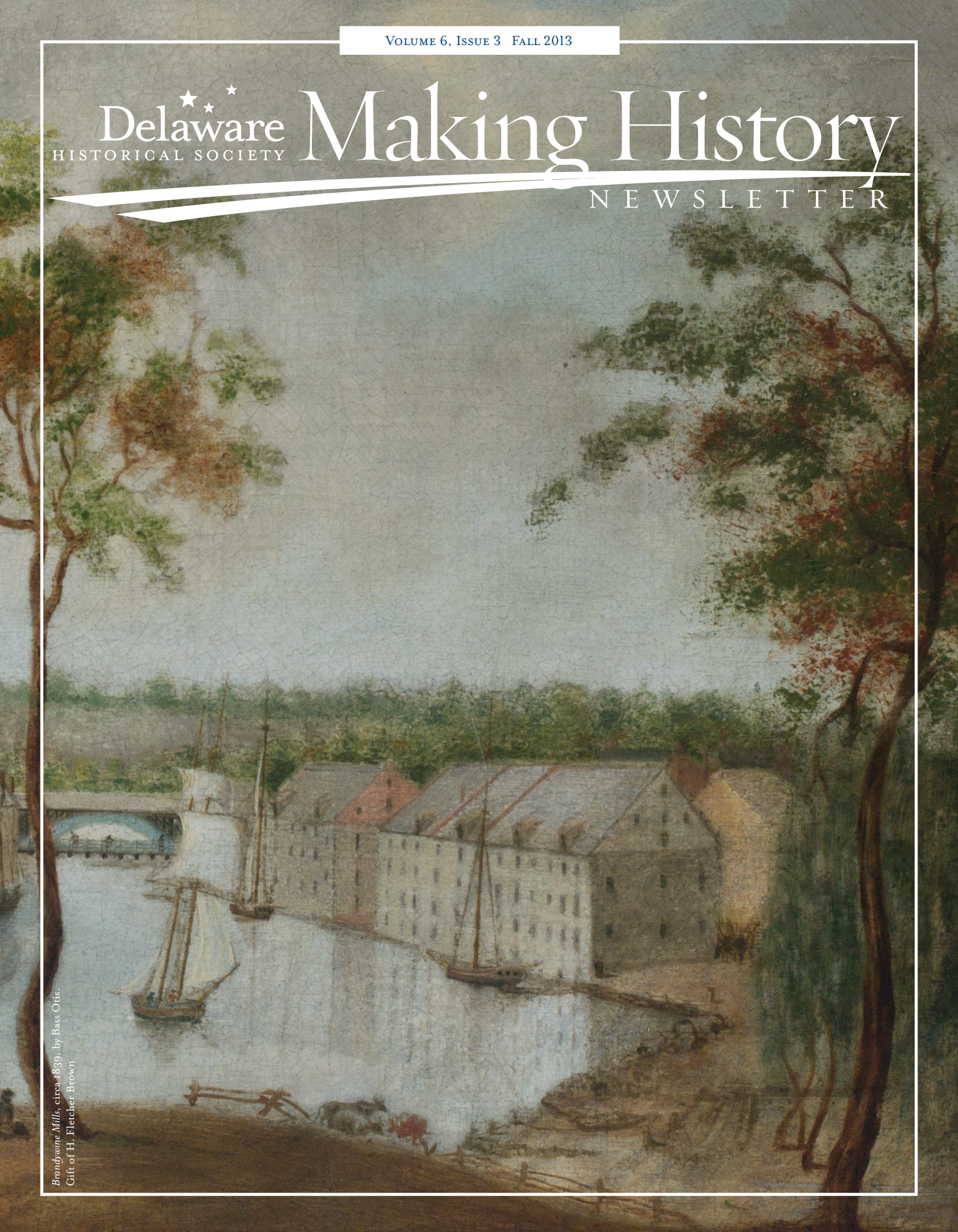
VOLUME 6, ISSUE 3 FALL 2013

Delaware
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Making History

NEWSLETTER

*Brandywine Mills, circa 1839, by Bass Otis.
Gift of H. Fletcher Brown*



2013 History Makers Award Dinner

Chase Center on the Riverfront

Thursday, September 12, 2013

The 7th Annual Delaware History Makers Award Dinner on Thursday, September 12, 2013, will pay tribute to Delawareans who have truly made a difference in the lives of many.

The *History Makers Award* was created in 2007 to recognize living individuals who have made extraordinary and lasting contributions to the quality of life in Delaware, our nation, and the world.

With a 2013 theme of *Achievers in a Diverse Delaware*, this year the Society will honor the achievements and contributions of three remarkable individuals of prodigious accomplishment.

Governor Jack A. Markell will present a keynote speech that addresses the characteristics of achievers and the collective strengths, perspectives, and transformative power of a diverse population.

As planning continues for the long anticipated Center for African American Heritage, it is no accident that the theme of the *History Makers Award* and the mission of the Center for African American Heritage are in harmony. Achievement and diversity are cornerstones of the fulfillment of the American dream, and "diversity" is not a synonym for spotlighting any one group over another, but rather is synonymous with unity.

History Makers Award honorees this year are:

Father Roberto Balducelli – During World War II, Father Balducelli helped save Italian Jews

from Nazi persecution. He arrived at St. Anthony of Padua Church in 1946 as the first Italian priest associated with the church. During his nearly thirty years as pastor of St. Anthony's, both St. Anthony's in the Hills and Padua Academy were established. Father Balducelli served the needs of countless individuals in a lifetime spanning nearly 100 years.

The Reverend Canon Lloyd Casson – Some fifty years of ministry have taken Canon Casson from his hometown of Wilmington to leadership at the Washington National Cathedral, the Cathedral of St. John the Divine (New York City) and Trinity Church (New York City); to social justice activism; to peacemaking work in the former Soviet Union, Africa, India and the Caribbean; to service as Social Justice Officer of the Episcopal Church; and lastly, back to Wilmington to serve the racially integrated parish of Saints Andrew and Matthew.

Dr. Carol E. Hoffecker – Richards Professor of History Emerita at the University of Delaware, and a leading Delaware historian. A widely published author, her books include *Wilmington, Delaware*,

It is with great sadness that the Delaware Historical Society learned of Father Roberto Balducelli's death on August 9, 2013. The Society is continuing its plans for the **History Makers Award Dinner** on September 12. It is the hope of the Trustees of the Society that the evening will serve as a tribute to, and celebration of, the life of Father Balducelli as well as honoring the continuing achievements of Dr. Carol E. Hoffecker and the Reverend Canon Lloyd S. Casson.

Portrait of an Industrial City: 1830 – 1900; Corporate Capital: Wilmington in the 20th Century; the classroom text, The First State; and Beneath Thy Guiding Hand: A History of Women at the University of Delaware.

Past *History Makers Award* honorees have included Ed and Peggy Woolard, Vice President Joe Biden, Toni Young, Governor Pete Du Pont, Ken Burns and Harold R. "Tubby" Raymond.

Proceeds from the event support the Society's award-winning educational programs that occur year-round throughout the state.

For additional event and ticket information, please contact Trudy Hansen in the Advancement Office at 302-295-2392 or thansen@dehistory.org.

If you would like to discuss sponsorship options and benefits in detail, please contact Wright Horne at 302-295-2393 or whorne@dehistory.org.

Thank you!

Delaware

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SESQUICENTENNIAL

where history lives 1864-2014

2014 marks the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Delaware Historical Society. Congratulations and thank you to everyone, past and present, who has contributed to this remarkable organizational milestone. Big plans to commemorate the historical society's Sesquicentennial year are nearing completion. Sesquicentennial

Steering Committee co-chairs Barbara Cooch, Alison Hoagland, and Ellen Semple have been working with their committee members throughout the state to plan twelve months of programs and activities. It promises to be a historic year! Please look for more information soon on the Delaware Historical Society's 150th anniversary.

The Sesquicentennial Society

150 years is a long time for a historical society to remain in existence. In order for Delawareans to mark their support for this organization, the Society is developing a special Honorary Society. Contributors to this will get the following:



Old Town Hall, 1860s

- Special recognition, perhaps on a special donors' wall at the Wilmington campus
- Two tickets to ALL Sesquicentennial events
- Two tickets to the premier event of the DHS season – *the History Makers Award Dinner*
- Recognition in the historical society's publications

Keep logged in to our website to watch how this special opportunity unfolds and for information about how you can become a member of the Sesquicentennial Society!

For additional information, please contact Wright Horne, DHS Chief Advancement Officer, at (302) 295-2393, or whorne@dehistory.org.

Thank you.

Letter from the CEO



The Delaware Historical Society was established in 1864 for the purpose of “the elucidation of history, particularly such portions as may refer to Delaware.” Why the effort to establish the state's historical society at a time when our country was embroiled in a civil war? Perhaps it demonstrates a keen sense of history on the organizers' part. For regardless of the Civil War's outcome, they realized that the history of our state and nation was being altered. To understand that fact, a compass point, a historical bearing, was required.

From its humble beginnings, the Delaware Historical Society has evolved into an invaluable public history organization. Public history is the application of history outside the academy. It's a museum, an archives, a historic house museum, historic preservation, a historic site. Collectively, these historical resources collect and preserve the historical record, giving meaning and context to the present.

These same historical resources are committed to public service. History museums are considered a more trustworthy source of historical information than books. These organizations preserve millions of artifacts. They invest millions of dollars and staff hours annually in education programs, especially those to benefit schoolchildren. History museums and historic sites are leaders in cultural tourism, as a majority of U.S. leisure travelers include history in their itineraries.

The Delaware Historical Society operates the Delaware History Museum and the Read House and Gardens. Both places bring visitors face to face with the First State's history. I encourage you to visit these two historical gems. The historical society's founding leaders, and current leadership, would be pleased.

Scott W. Loehr, CEO

Exhibitions and Programs

Forging Faith, Building Freedom

African American Faith Experiences in Delaware, 1800-1980

September 26, 2013

Delaware History Museum

A special new exhibition in the Delaware History Museum, *Forging Faith, Building Freedom: African American Faith Experiences in Delaware, 1800-1980*, opens on Thursday, September 26! Dr. Lewis V. Baldwin, professor of Religious Studies at Vanderbilt University and consultant historian for the exhibition, will open the program with a lecture entitled *Forging Faith, Building Freedom: Black Churches and the Circle of Culture in Delaware*. An exhibition preview and reception will follow.

The exhibition will be open to the public from September 27 through summer 2014. Reserved group tours for adults or youth are welcome. A special tour especially for youth groups will be available.

On October 5, Margaret Jerrido, archivist at Mother Bethel A.M.E. Church in Philadelphia, will lead an all-day workshop, *Caring for Your Church Collections*. The morning session will introduce best practices in collecting, caring for, and organizing materials. The afternoon will feature two hands-on workshops on various aspects of collections care. The morning session is free of charge, but there is a cost for the afternoon session of \$5 for members and \$10 for non-members. Space is limited in the afternoon, so sign up early!



Dr. Lewis V. Baldwin,
photo by Daniel Dubois

Forging Faith, Building Freedom is
generously supported by the
Delaware Division of Historical and
Cultural Affairs and



Rainbow Club, Bethel A.M.E. Church, Wilmington, Delaware, November 11, 1934, Sanborn Collection

Events at a Glance

September 12, 2013

History Makers Award Dinner

Chase Center on the Riverfront, 5:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Tickets available on-line at www.dehistory.org

September 16, 2013

Grand Central Terminal: 100 Years of a New York Landmark

with author Anthony W. Robins

Winterthur Copeland Auditorium, 6:00 p.m.

An illustrated lecture presented by Friends of The Furness Railroad District, Hagley Museum and Library, Delaware Historical Society, and Winterthur Museum. Visit www.friendsoffurness.org for details.

September 26, 2013 - Members-only Special Event

Talk and opening reception for *Forging Faith, Building Freedom:*

African American Faith Experiences in Delaware, 1800-1980

Delaware History Museum Galleries, 5:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Seating is limited. Reservations required.

September 27

Forging Faith, Building Freedom opens to the public

Delaware History Museum

October 3

Think & Drink: A talk, walk, and beer & food pairing at the Hotel DuPont

Starts in Old Town Hall, 5:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.

\$20/members \$25/non-members

Seating is limited. Reservations required.

October 5

Caring for your Church Collections Workshop

Delaware History Museum, 9:30 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Morning session free; afternoon \$5 members / \$10 non-members

Reservations required.

October 28

A Tremendous Hubbub: The Delaware Anti-Slavery Society, 1844-1856

Delaware History Museum, 6:30 p.m.

Free and open to the public

November 8

Equaling the Celebrated River of the Amazons

followed by the opening reception of the New Sweden 375th anniversary archaeology conference

\$20/members \$25/non-members

Saturday Research Library Hours:

September 21, October 19, and November 16, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

For more information, please visit dehistory.org and click on Calendar

Letter from the Chair

2013 continues to be exciting as we move towards two key events for the Society. First, the annual *History Makers Awards Dinner* is scheduled for September 12 at the Chase Center. The format has changed this year to focus on *Achievement in a Diverse Delaware*. Our awardees will be Father Roberto Balducelli, the Reverend Canon Lloyd Casson, and Dr. Carol E. Hoffecker. I encourage everyone to support this great event.

Planning continues for our Sesquicentennial Anniversary (150th Birthday) starting in January 2014!! Several major events are already scheduled; it will be a very exciting birthday! Look for more information in the near future on all the celebratory events scheduled for next year.

My thanks to all of you for your continued support of the Delaware Historical Society!

Sincerely,
Glen Gray



I Have a Dream Quilt Project

Follow updates on our blog at



Immigration: Historical Perspective on a Hot Topic



The United States is indeed a nation of immigrants, and the Delaware Historical Society explores the topic in two new school programs generously funded by the sons and daughters-in-law of Howard and Rochelle Kristol in honor of their parents. Through a variety of engaging activities these programs challenge students in grades three through five to put human faces on Delaware's and America's immigrants.

Coming to America explores the experience of immigrating and

becoming an American. Students simulate packing a bag for a voyage to America and role-play what it was like to arrive at Ellis Island in the early 1900s. They identify objects of everyday life that will help an immigrant assimilate into American culture and those that will help maintain precious Old World traditions. They also challenge themselves with a sample citizenship test and reenact a naturalization ceremony.

In *A Nation of Immigrants*, students explore human ecology and the immigrant's impact on Delaware and

American life. They use latitude and longitude to locate countries from which immigrants came, tug on ropes to illustrate the push and pull factors that led to surges in American immigration, and study stories of Delaware's immigrants in order to understand some of the challenges and opportunities that they faced. The programs will be offered at the Delaware History Museum and as outreach to schools beginning this fall.

Immigration Wish List

Would you like to contribute to our immigration program for students? We're looking for objects that helped early 20th century immigrants maintain their ethnic or cultural identities while living in America.

- St. Patrick medal or framed picture of a Catholic saint
- Deck of cards for playing tresetta or other Italian card game
- Mezuzah
- Pushka box
- Foreign language newspaper, published in the US

Please contact: Barbara Jobe, 302-295-2383 or bjobe@dehistory.org

www.dehistory.org



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Follow our Blog!

Resources for Teachers

Teachers at all grade levels can find many wonderful resources at the Delaware Historical Society! The Research Library offers thousand upon thousands of books, documents, maps, newspapers, and images on many topics in Delaware history to enrich lesson plans and help meet state standards. A preliminary visit to Ask Caesar (<http://www.dehistory.org/AskCaesar.htm>), the Society's online catalog, can start the search, then contact a curator to take the next steps. Teachers are always welcome to visit the Research Library to explore resources.



The Society will be offering workshops through the Delaware Teacher Center this year. On October 5, a workshop will introduce teachers to the National History Day program, sponsored by the Delaware Historical Society. Teachers can also register for open hearth cooking workshops at the Read House and Gardens on select Saturdays in winter 2014.

The Society's field trips and outreach programs enhance both Core State Content Standards and Delaware State Content Standards in topics ranging from the Civil War to turn-of-the-century immigration. Create Your Own School Time Capsule, an exciting new program in conjunction with the Delaware Historical Society's 150th anniversary, will visit schools throughout the state. Students will create a time capsule for their school that will be entered into a competition. At the end of the program year, a time capsule will be placed in the Society's collections at a special ceremony.

For more information on how the Delaware Historical Society can provide resources to teachers and students, please contact Antoinette Maccari, Chief Education Curator, at 302-295-3284 or amaccari@dehistory.org.

Welcome

Jennifer and Kimberly!

Two graduate students from the History Department at the University of Delaware have joined the Society's staff for the 2013-2014 academic year. They will work part time as graduate assistants on a variety of projects. The assistantships are supported jointly by the University of Delaware and the Delaware Historical Society.

Jennifer Jensen is a second year doctoral student in the University of Delaware's Hagley Graduate Program in History. Her major field of study is twentieth century history with a focus on consumerism and the environment. After student teaching during her first year, she decided to practice her history skills at the Read House and Gardens, first through a summer 2013 Stewart internship. During her graduate assistantship she will work closely with the Society's collections, supporting collections safety, care, and interpretation through small exhibits. She will also assist in managing a new Delaware Historical Society program focused on building connections with descendants of the families who once resided on the Read House property. Her graduate assistantship is funded in part through the donations of several generous descendants of George Read.

Kimberly Nath came to Delaware from Arizona. She earned her B.A. at the University of Arizona and her M.A. at the University of Maryland. She is currently a Ph.D. candidate in American history, working on her dissertation entitled "The British are Coming, Again: Loyalists, Property Confiscation, and Reintegration in the Mid-Atlantic in Revolution and Peace, 1777-1800." Ms. Jensen will join the Collections and Access group and work primarily on adding materials to Ask Caesar, the Society's online catalog. Her previous experience at the National Archives and the Cecil County Public Library makes her an ideal addition to the Collections and Access team.

Stories from our Collections

Dream of the Delaware



Delaware Memorial Bridge construction, 1967, Bungarz Collection

People have long dreamed of crossing the Delaware River safely and efficiently. Native Americans were the first to navigate the expanse in canoes. Later, networks of ferries, steamships, and trains transported people and goods over land and water. By the early 20th century, the mid-Atlantic region emerged as a booming commercial corridor and the old infrastructure no longer worked. Northern Delaware and southern New Jersey, situated between major urban centers, wanted to improve transit through their states by better linking their shores.

Around 1928, George A. Casey, director of the Chamber of Commerce of Delaware, began spreading the idea of building a bridge over the Delaware River near New Castle. Francis V. du Pont, son of T. Coleman du Pont and chairman of the Delaware State Highway department, led the movement to pass legislation for a feasibility study. In 1945, the Delaware General Assembly authorized \$25 million in revenue bonds for construction of a bridge, with an additional \$15 million two years later.

Construction on the four-lane span began in 1949. The governors of both

states agreed to dedicate the bridge to soldiers from Delaware and New Jersey who died in World War II. When the Delaware Memorial Bridge officially opened to traffic on August 16, 1951, it was the largest suspension bridge in the world. Just ten years later, 11.1 million vehicles crossed the Delaware Memorial Bridge, far exceeding engineers' predictions. It was decided soon after that a second span was needed. The newly proposed structure would be built 250 feet north of the first span. Construction began in mid-1964. In December 1969, all eight lanes of the bridge were opened to traffic. Today,

nearly 80,000 vehicles cross the twin spans daily.

While the Delaware Memorial Bridge connected areas to the north, southern Delaware and the New Jersey cape remained isolated. The idea for a ferry linking the 17-mile stretch between the capes of the two states was first conceived in 1953. The Delaware River and Bay Authority was established to operate the ferry. The DRBA purchased four vessels from a Virginia ferry agency, and service on the Cape May-Lewes Ferry began on July 1, 1964.

The Cape May-Lewes Ferry helped forge the last link in the coastal route between the capes of New Jersey and Delaware. The ferry service is also part of US Route 9, a north-south road that runs through New York, New Jersey, and Delaware. The ride on the Cape May-Lewes Ferry, which takes about 80 minutes, provides a practical service while also delighting tourists and beach-goers. In recent years, the ships have been renovated



Cape May-Lewes Ferry crossing the Delaware Bay, 1982, Bungarz Collection

to provide amenities like a restaurant and lounge.

Today, Delawareans and New Jerseyans are linked in a way that our ancestors could only imagine. The Delaware Memorial Bridge and the Cape May-Lewes ferry represent more than just

efficient travel between cities; they have turned what was once an obstacle into a long-lasting bond between two neighboring states.

Next year marks the 50th anniversary of service on the Cape May-Lewes Ferry. The Delaware Historical Society is working closely with WHYY on a documentary to mark this historic occasion. Stay tuned for this exciting project set to air in June 2014!



Delaware Memorial Bridge twin spans at sunset, ca. 1970, Bungarz Collection

Stories from our Collections

New Additions to the Ever-Growing On-line Catalog



*Colichemarde sword of Captain William Robeson.
Gift of Dr. and Mrs. Allen Thompson*

The Delaware Historical Society's rich collections are one of its greatest assets and our on-line catalog, *Ask Caesar*, provides an excellent way to show them off and share them with people everywhere, even when they are not on exhibit. The latest addition to the ever-growing on-line object catalog has been the Society's collection of swords, which contains some wonderful Delaware examples from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

One of the Society's finest eighteenth-century pieces is a colichemarde sword that originally belonged to Captain William Robeson (1743-1815), a shopkeeper and landowner from Newport, Delaware. During the American Revolution, Robeson was a captain in Colonel Thomas Duff's Whig Battalion of the New Castle County Militia. In 1791, he represented New Castle County in the Delaware House of Representatives. In 1800, Robeson retired from shopkeeping, and turned the business over to

his son, Alexander. After William Robeson's death, the sword passed to his daughter Jane and her husband, Dr. Allan Thomson, who then donated it to the Delaware Historical Society during the 1876 Centennial celebrations.

Robeson's sword is a colichemarde, a type of lightweight, rapier-like sword that first appeared around 1680 and remained fashionable in Europe and the United States, primarily as a gentleman's dueling sword, until the later eighteenth century, when it began to go out of fashion. Robeson's sword dates to circa 1775 and is a fine example of its kind. The upper seven inches of the blade are finely engraved with arabesque designs and the silver hilt has an engraved guard. One side is engraved with "Liberty & Property" and the other with "WR Sep. 1, 1775." The delicate silver knuckle guard has a decorative twist at the center and is stamped with "JS" for John Stow, a silversmith active in Philadelphia from 1769 to 1772, before moving to Wilmington to set up shop on Market Street. Stow served as a town clerk of

Wilmington from 1777 to 1780. By 1790, he had moved to Murderkill Hundred, Kent County, where he died in 1802.

Our collection also contains a wonderful War of 1812 congressional presentation sword that was awarded to Midshipman Joseph S. Cannon, for gallant actions during the Battle of Lake Champlain. This sword came into our collections in 1891 as a gift from Dr. J.J. Black and is one of seventy-two swords specially commissioned by the U.S. government and awarded to naval heroes of the War of 1812. The Society's manuscript collection also contains a hand-written commendation to Midshipman Cannon from the U.S. Navy dated May 1, 1817. This sword has a steel blade that has high-quality engraving by John W. Meer, Sr. of Philadelphia. One side bears the inscription: "Joseph S. Cannon Midshipman / Lake Champlain 11 Septem, r 1814" surrounded by oak leaf and acorn motifs and naval imagery. The reverse is engraved with a Latin proverb: "Altius ibunt qui ad / summa nituntur"



Congressional presentation sword awarded to Midshipman Joseph S. Cannon. Gift of Dr. J.J. Black

(They will rise highest, who strive for the highest things), next to which is a small engraved scene of a naval battle. The blade is stamped "I. Rose" for Joseph Rose of William Rose & Sons, Blockley Township, Pennsylvania.

Among the Civil War swords in the collections is one with a particularly special ownership history that belonged to one of Delaware's most famous Civil War generals, Alfred Thomas Archimedes Torbert (1833-1880). The Society received this Model 1850 Infantry Officer's sword in 1895 from the estate of his widow,

Mary Torbert. Born in Georgetown, Delaware, Torbert commanded both infantry and cavalry forces during the Civil War and also has the interesting distinction of being offered commissions in both the Union and Confederate armies. Torbert chose the Union and commanded the First New Jersey Infantry in the campaigns leading to the Battles of Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, and Gettysburg. In 1864, he was given command of the First Division of the Cavalry Corps of the Army of the Potomac and oversaw a successful overland campaign, ending the war

with a brevet promotion to Major General. After the war, Torbert made his home in Milford and held diplomatic posts as U.S. Consul to El Salvador (1869) and U.S. Consul General in Havana (1871) and Paris (1873). He was drowned in the shipwreck of the S.S. *Vera Cruz* while on a business trip from New York to Mexico on August 29, 1880.

The catalog continues to grow, and this is but a small sampling of what is now available online. Feel free to visit *Ask Caesar* to explore the collections in more detail any time.



*Infantry officer's sword of General Torbert.
Gift of the estate of Mrs. A.T.A. Torbert*

Supporting the Delaware Historical Society

The DHS Annual Fund – A Year-long Event

The Delaware Historical Society's Annual Fund is a giving opportunity that "never sleeps." While the gifts are totaled every December 31, contributions arrive throughout the year. Many friends of the Society find it easier to contribute during the spring or summer months when there are fewer calls from charitable organizations. It may also be more convenient for some donors to make a more substantial contribution by waiting until after the end of the year.

This year, the Society has changed its fiscal year to begin on July 1 and end on June 30th annually. For this year, donations made to the Annual Fund between January 1 and June 30, 2013, are listed below. Recognition of Annual Fund donations will now be made in *Making History* in the January issue (a partial list of gifts made between July 1 and December 31 each year) and a full listing in the September issue (all gifts made for the complete July 1 through June 30 fiscal year).

There are many ways to contribute to the Society and help support all aspects of its mission. Check them all out on the website – www.dehistory.org – or call Wright Horne in the Advancement Office at 302-295-2393

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(as of March 31, 2013)

*New Member (since January)

**Upgraded Membership
(since January)

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Crystal Trust
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We are all involved in history, whether we want to be or not. We are history. The everyday happenings that surround our lives are the pages of the history textbooks of the future - assuming that there will be history textbooks in the future!

The historical resources available to future Delawareans will turn on a few simple things that we can control and influence today. Do we care enough about history to provide for its future? Do we believe that history is important enough to carry to generations beyond?

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- Numerous membership types and opportunities
- Our Annual Fund drive, due to begin in a few months
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The Next 150 Years

When you put down the good things you ought to have done, and leave out the bad ones you didn't do well, that's memoirs. Will Rogers

Whether or not we write our memoirs, in the end we are all remembered for our acts-for the lives we touch and by the causes we advance. In that respect, perhaps the most important thing that you could do to create a lasting legacy in our community would be to include a provision in your last will and testament that benefits the Delaware Historical Society.

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