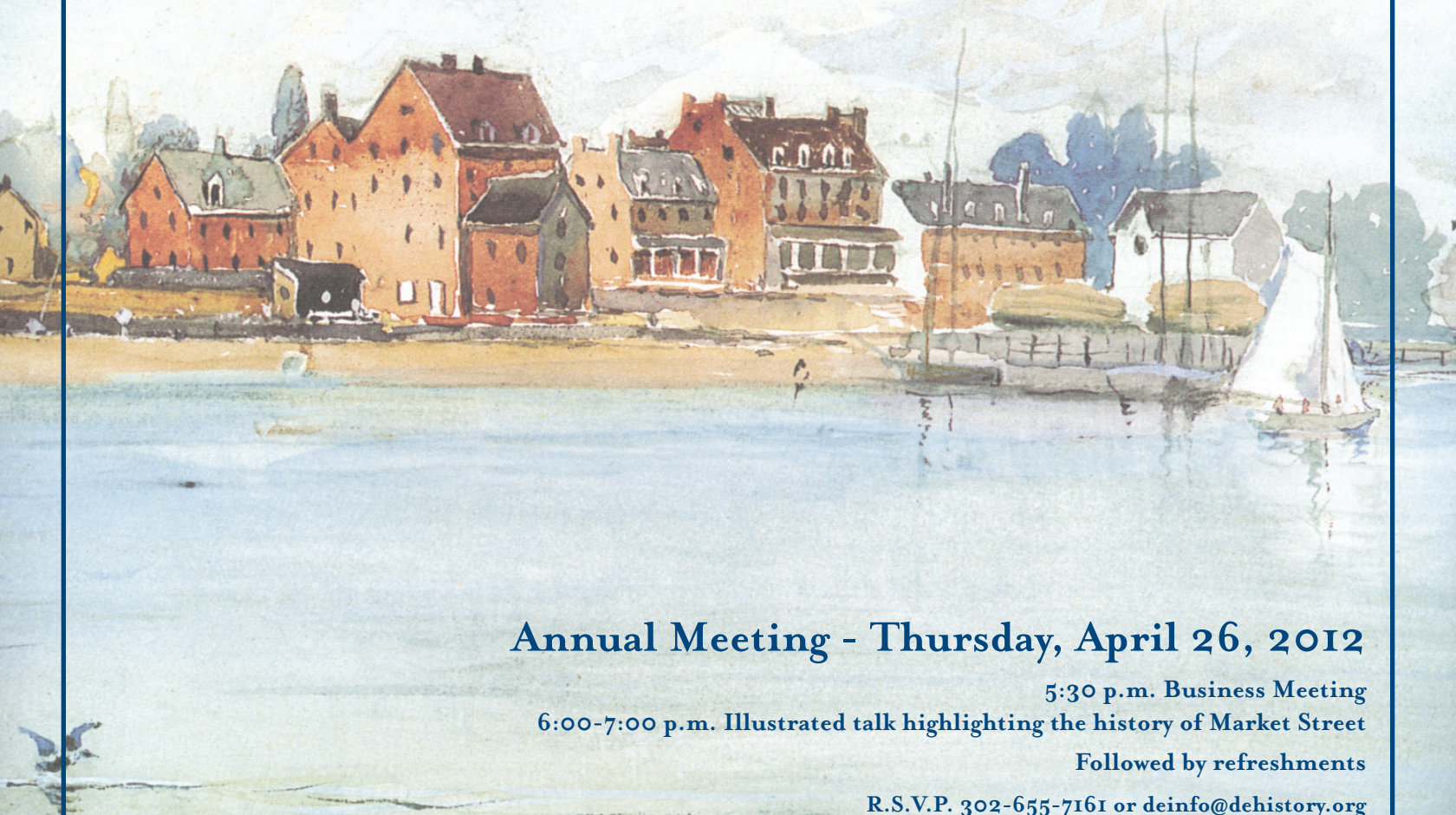


VOLUME 5, ISSUE 1 SPRING 2012

Delaware
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Making History

NEWSLETTER



Annual Meeting - Thursday, April 26, 2012

5:30 p.m. Business Meeting

6:00-7:00 p.m. Illustrated talk highlighting the history of Market Street

Followed by refreshments

R.S.V.P. 302-655-7161 or deinfo@dehistory.org

New Castle Waterfront by Robert Shaw

Read House and Gardens: One Site, Many Stories



We are pleased to announce the premiere of
Read House & Gardens: One Site, Many Stories,
 a new souvenir book
 highlighting over 200 years of history
 associated with the site written by
 DHS Assistant CEO, Michele Anstine

Please join us on
Thursday, May 10, 2012
6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
 for a special open house & book signing
 in the Read House gardens
 followed by a champagne and dessert reception.

Visit the newest exhibition celebrating the architecture
 of the Read House created by University of Delaware
 graduate students in the
 Read House Gallery

Please R.S.V.P. by May 8, 2012
 at (302) 655-7161 or deinfo@dehistory.org

Everyone who visits the Read House and Gardens knows that the site has many stories to tell. A new souvenir book debuting this spring will allow visitors to take some of those stories home with them to enjoy again and again. The evening also celebrates the unique architecture of the Read House with the opening of a craftsmanship exhibit created by University of Delaware graduate students under the direction of Winterthur Program in American Material Culture director J. Ritchie Garrison.

The book includes artistic photographs of the house and gardens by professional photographer and University of Delaware professor, Priscilla Smith. Her images emphasize details and angles that are easily overlooked as well as aspects that are not seen on a public tour. Historic documents and photographs supplement photography of the restored house and old garden specimens to tell stories of how the site changed or remained the same for the three families who lived there. The book is the first of two to be published about the site through the generous support of the Crystal Trust.

Please RSVP for the May 10 book premiere at 302.655.7161 or deinfo@dehistory.org.

Letter from the CEO



The “whos” and “whens” of history are much clearer than the “whats” and certainly the “whys.” Making sense of the consequences of human behavior and decisions is far from an exact science. The historical record includes the highest achievements, the lowest deeds, the deserving and the dastardly, humanity at its finest, and acts beyond human comprehension.

In 1864, the Delaware Historical Society was founded to collect, preserve, and interpret the history of the First State. The organization has made good on that pledge to be the steward of the state’s history for 147 years. The Historical Society has saved significant buildings and countless stories, collected literally millions of objects and items, and has mounted exhibitions, sponsored lectures, and published scholarly research over those fifteen decades, enabling generations past, present, and future to better understand our state and ourselves.

Do gaps exist in the historical record? Of course. Can the Delaware Historical Society, or any organization for that matter,

improve? Yes. History is full of opportunities - those missed and those fully embraced.

The Center for African American Heritage at the Delaware Historical Society is one such opportunity which provides lifetimes of benefits for present and future Delawareans. With its experience, know-how in collections and museum development, physical resources, and financial acumen, and by engaging African Americans across Delaware in the Center’s development and sustainability, the Delaware Historical Society is moving forward to establish this multi-million-dollar resource to showcase the history and contributions of Delaware’s African Americans. By doing so, the historical record becomes richer, and all of us are enriched. The Center for African American Heritage will become a place where everyone can understand, converse about, and appreciate what it means to be a Delawarean.

Our state is changing. The Delaware Historical Society has been chronicling this change over the course of three centuries. The Center for African American Heritage simply acknowledges these facts. Together, let us continue to fully embrace both the Delaware Historical Society’s mission and this opportunity.

Scott W. Loehr, CEO

DHS Awarded Two Grants for Center for African American Heritage

Citing its mission of exploring, preserving, sharing, and promoting Delaware history, heritage, and culture to strengthen our community, the Delaware Historical Society recently was informed by James M. Baker, mayor of Wilmington, that the organization will receive a \$1 million grant to establish the Center for African American Heritage. Though located in Wilmington, the Center will have a statewide scope in its presentation of the myriad contributions of Delaware’s African Americans to the state’s historical record.

Space in the Delaware History Museum and Old Town Hall will support permanent and rotating exhibitions, education programs, lectures, and the anticipated expansion of collections to support more comprehensive presentations of Delaware history. The Center’s capital costs are estimated at \$3.5 million.

Within a few short weeks of Mayor Baker’s announcement, the Historical Society received an anonymous \$50,000 gift for the Center for African American Heritage. The unrestricted grant will enable the Historical Society to support a staff position for the Center as well as to begin offering programs in support of the center’s purpose. The Center for African American Heritage enables the Delaware Historical Society to continue its tradition of comprehensive presentations of our state’s diverse history and heritage.

www.dehistory.org

Exhibitions and Programs

Between the Rivers: A Walk Along Wilmington's Market Street

★ Get involved
★ with DHS
★ walking tour
initiative!

The Historical Society needs help to share the story of Wilmington's growth along Market Street.

You can be part of the DHS walking tour initiative by volunteering as a walking tour guide (we'll provide training and coordinate tour requests with your availability) or by reserving a guided tour for your group.

Call Barbara Jobe at 302-295-2383 to learn more about becoming a volunteer walking tour guide or to schedule a guided walking tour for your group. ★ ★



It's a great story!...how the city of Wilmington grew, crawling, marching, or skipping up the hill from the calm flat Christina River to the falling waters of the Brandywine. The three-century saga is illustrated with fascinating survivals embedded within the 21st century cityscape: street and place names from years gone by; lot sizes and shapes set within an 18th century grid pattern; historic markers and monuments that share stories and reflect community values; date stones, architectural elements, and preserved buildings that delight the senses or pique curiosity.

The Delaware Humanities Forum and the Delaware Historical Society are finding new ways to share the stories reflected in Wilmington's built environment. The Humanities Forum has supported the development of a downloadable audio tour of Market Street for individuals, which will be available through their website (www.dhf.org) this spring. The Historical Society has opted for a face-to-face approach, offering group walking tours of Market Street between the rivers. The tours will explore Wilmington's odyssey from port to shipbuilding and industrial center to home for large corporations.

- How can a vacant lot be a clue to the past?
- What is the oldest surviving building on Market Street?
- How do buildings reflect a family feud?
- Where can we walk in the footsteps of founding fathers or freedom seekers?
- How did the 1837 advent of the railroad revolutionize Wilmington's commercial and residential growth?
- Why are there so many bank buildings?

Walkers will learn the answers to these questions while enjoying a 21st century city that preserves its heritage, grapples with change, and plans for the future.



Members' Trip to Antietam National Battlefield



We are pleased to announce that the Delaware Historical Society and Hagley Museum and Library have teamed up for an exclusive members' trip to visit Antietam National Battlefield in Maryland on Saturday, June 2, 2012. The trip, led by member and Civil War historian Justin Carisio, will include an in-depth personal tour of the battlefield highlighting the experiences of members of Delaware's three volunteer regiments who fought and died there. This will be a moving experience that promises to illuminate your understanding of the Civil War.

The West Woods and the Sunken Road are quiet, iconic sites at Antietam today but on a September day in 1862 they were scenes of hotly contested battles and bitter fighting between Americans. Three Delaware volunteer regiments were there that day for the fight, and suffered some of Delaware's greatest losses during the entire war. In fact, that day

near Sharpsburg, Maryland, remains the bloodiest single day in American history. Delawareans played a major role in the outcome of the day, and that day played a major role in the outcome of the war. Join us as we explore a critical story in American history on the hallowed ground on which it played out.

The trip will depart from Hagley promptly at 9:00 a.m. on June 2 and returns at approximately 8:30 p.m. that evening. Use the Buck Road entrance to Hagley where free, ample parking is available. The trip includes round trip transportation, refreshments and a film on the bus, lunch at the Bavarian Inn near Sharpsburg, admission to the park, taxes and gratuities for lunch, and a donation to the National Battlefield Foundation. We will stop for dinner (Dutch treat) on the way home. The fee for the trip is \$95 for

members and \$120 for guests of members.

This trip is limited to members of Delaware Historical Society and Hagley Museum and Library and their guests. Reservations are required with payment by May 2, 2012. To reserve your spot visit <http://www.hagley.org/travel.html> or call the Hagley membership office: 658-2400, ext 235.



Stories from our Collections

Robert J. Tiews Photograph Collection

With the current craze on television for sleek and stylish businessmen of the 1960s, this is a good time to highlight the Robert J. Tiews photograph collection. Starting in the late 1950s, DuPont began to expand its operations worldwide, and Robert Tiews was part of that expansion. From 1957 to 1976, he worked in DuPont offices in England, Northern Ireland, Japan, and Brazil. This photograph collection features scenes of business and pleasure from the time that Tiews and his wife were posted at DuPont's offices in Japan.

Numbering about a hundred images, this collection will serve as a revealing primary source for scholars of business history and local history aficionados alike. Snapshots of American businessmen and famous DuPont executives such as Henry Belin du Pont, Jr. (1898-1970) show the role that Delawareans played in the post-war development of international business. Mixed in with serious affairs like factory tours and formal business meetings is plenty of evidence that the life was not "all work and no play." DuPont's Japanese hosts regularly entertained American businessmen and their families with events ranging from elaborate tea ceremonies to informal parties in the homes of presidents of major Japanese manufacturing firms.

Despite all of the polite formality,



glamour, and merry-making, doing business in Japan in the 1960s had major historical and cultural implications. Barely two decades had passed since the end of conflict between the United States and Japan during World War II. Very few people would have imagined that in such a short span of time American and Japanese businessmen and their wives would be pleasantly talking over drinks and dinner, or strolling through picturesque Fuji-

Hakone-Izu National Park on group outings. But the proof lies in the pictures: two nations, once enemies, could overcome the pain of conflict and tension and work together to rebuild a country devastated by the economic, material, and emotional tolls of war.



Making Cars in Delaware

For over 50 years, Delaware's Chrysler and General Motors assembly plants employed thousands and produced vehicles that travel all over the country. But until recently, our collections held very little relating to this important Delaware story.

Thanks to Andy McKay, a member of our board of trustees and longtime Chrysler employee, we have begun to acquire materials relating to the company's Newark plant. The most important item is the original charter for UAW Local 1212, Chrysler Corporation Delaware Tank Plant, Office and Technical Workers, granted in 1952. Walter Reuther and Leonard Woodcock, among others, signed the document. It also lists the charter members of the local. This

key document of Delaware's modern labor history was donated by Richard Lewis on behalf of Local 1212.

This gift has led to others from several donors. They include Local 1212 newsletters and product brochures for vehicles made at Newark, donated by Andy McKay. Minutes of retirees' meetings have been given by Thomas Richter. A jacket for the launch of the 1998 Dodge Durango came from Sharon Cristiano, who worked in the Body Shop at the time. Fred Grimm has donated a clock awarded for perfect attendance in 1989.

Our documentation of Delaware's automobile industry is far from complete, and we would welcome additional materials.

It Seems Like Only Yesterday... But It's History



Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, 1971

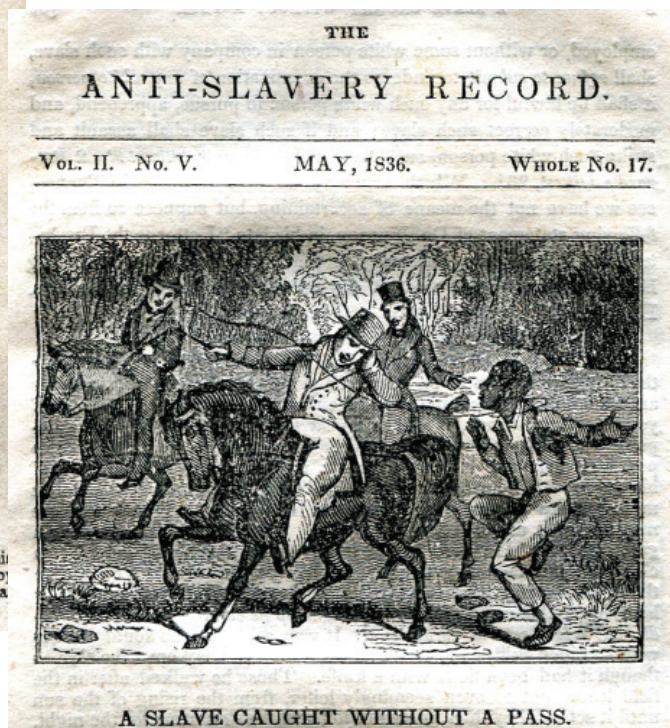
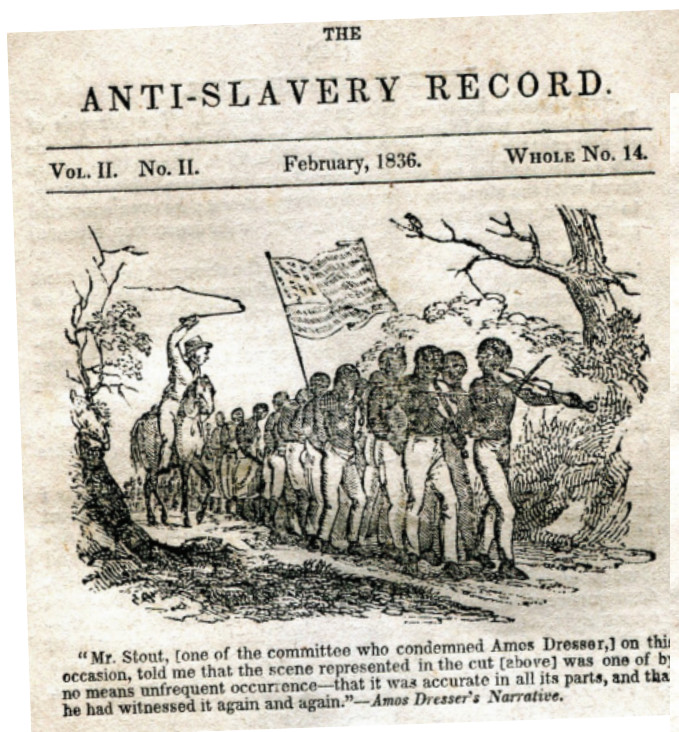
The past half century, 1962-2012, doesn't seem so long ago for many of us, but it's history. The period will be featured in the next exhibition in the Delaware History Museum, presented in partnership with Delaware Today magazine. We're looking for objects, images, and documents from the period to add to our collections, and possibly include in the exhibition. If you have anything you would like to share with us, please contact Chief Curator Connie Cooper (302.295.2385, ccooper@dehistory.org) for library materials or Jennifer Potts (302.295.2389, jpotts@dehistory.org), Curator of Objects, for museum materials. Our collections grow through the greatly appreciated generosity of our members and friends.



Left to right, Andy McKay, Chief Curator Connie Cooper, and Richard Lewis, presenting the Chrysler Local 1212 charter to the Delaware Historical Society.

Stories from our Collections cont'd

Fighting Slavery in Delaware



"Give me liberty, or give me death!" Patrick Henry famously cried in 1775. His declaration is an example of how the ideals of the Enlightenment—liberty, equality, and inalienable rights—strongly influenced the American colonists' struggle to achieve freedom from the British. After the Revolution, many people in Delaware and across the nation began to examine slavery in this light and worked by a range of means to end it. The Delaware Historical Society has a large collection of anti-slavery documents that help tell the story of what happened in the years between the American Revolution and the Civil War. This article features some highlights from those materials.

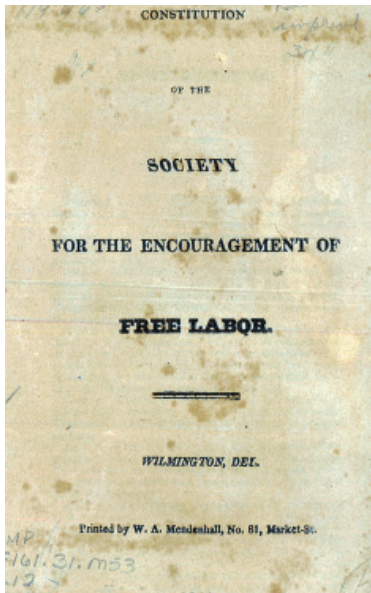
One of the earliest anti-slavery documents that we hold is a 1785 Quaker memorial and petition to the General Assembly of Delaware.

Signed by over a hundred men, the document condemns slavery, arguing that it "withholds from [Africans] their just and natural right of personal freedom," and that the institution is "contrary to every Christian and moral obligation." Delaware anti-slavery advocates gained some ground in 1787, when the legislature passed a law regulating the interstate slave trade.

By the early 19th century, the Underground Railroad brought together an intricate network of people, both black and white, who worked to transport freedom seekers to safety. Helen S. Garrett's scrapbook sheds some light on the early history of the Underground Railroad. She was the granddaughter of Thomas Garrett (1789-1871), a prominent abolitionist. The book has two parts.

First, it contains the minutes of the Acting Committee of the Abolition Society of Delaware. The Society was founded in Wilmington in 1800, and its Acting Committee provided legal assistance to slaves and participated in escape operations. The second part of the book includes clippings and other items concerning Thomas Garrett. He operated the last stop on the Underground Railroad in Delaware and is believed to have helped nearly 2,000 slaves to freedom.

Our early periodicals provide insight into what anti-slavery advocates were reading in the 1820s and 1830s. Thomas Garrett's personal copies of *The Genius of Universal Emancipation*, published by abolitionist Benjamin Lundy, denounce the system as



“odious” and assert that “the violent contest between the planters of the south and people of the middle and northern States” is “wholly attributable to the influence of the system of slavery.” *The Anti-Slavery Record*, published by the American Anti-Slavery Society, printed personal narratives, essays, and news stories related to slavery and abolition. James Forten (1766-1842), a wealthy African American abolitionist from Philadelphia, helped establish the society.

With a weaker economic reliance on slavery, northerners had more

reason to fight against the practice. Therefore, in 1826, a group in Wilmington founded the Society for the Encouragement of Free Labor. The Society’s mission was to “encourage the cultivation of such articles by Freemen as are now produced by the labor of slaves.” Many prominent local men were involved, including W.A. Mendenhall, Lea Pusey, Charles Canby, and Samuel Grubb.

First-hand accounts are without a doubt the strongest connection we have to this history. The library houses several dozen books on the Underground Railroad, a number of which share rich personal stories. Perhaps the most well-known of these works is *The Underground Rail Road* (1872), written by William Still, a free African American from Philadelphia who collected over six hundred escape narratives from former slaves. In addition to its historical value, this volume helped individuals find family members in the years after the Civil War, as people often could not escape together. Primary accounts such as these weren’t published until the 1870s, reflecting the danger in documenting the escapes, and the immense bravery of those who journeyed to freedom.

2012 National History Day

This year the National History Day theme is Reaction, Revolution, and Reform in History. Students across the state are putting the finishing touches on their entries in preparation for the state contest which will take place at the Stanton Campus of Delaware Technical and Community College on April 21, 2012. The contest will include a few schools new to the competition and it looks to be a good sampling of some of the finest young minds in the state.

If you are a history teacher, retired teacher, or public historian with a desire to spend part of a day speaking with young scholars, please think about volunteering for the contest. We would love to include you as one of our distinguished judges! For more information, contact Kathryn Peterson at kpeterson@dehistory.org or Ellen Rendle at erendle@dehistory.org or visit the website at <http://delawarehistoryday.org/default.aspx>. Some of the students’ work will be on display in the Copeland Room after the contest and for the Society’s upcoming Annual Meeting.



Members of the Society
for the Encouragement
of Free Labor

Upcoming Events and Openings

April:

- 1: Read House re-opens
- 14: Garden Clean-up Saturday at Read House & Gardens
- 17: Delaware Genealogical Society Meeting
- 19: *House on Haunted Hill* Showing at World Cafe Live at the Queen
- 21: History Day Competition Research Library open
- 26: Delaware Historical Society Annual Meeting
- 28: P.S. du Pont Middle School History Club

May:

- 1: Wine and Weed at Read House & Gardens
- 3: History Makers Award
- 10: Read House & Gardens book premiere and open house
- 12: Research Library open
- 15: Wine and Weed at Read House & Gardens
- 19: A Day in Old New Castle P.S. du Pont Middle School History Club
- 29: Wine and Weed at Read House & Gardens

June:

- 2: Antietam National Battlefield Members Bus Tour
- 10-14: National History Day
- 12: Wine and Weed at Read House & Gardens
- 16: Girl Scout exhibit closes Research Library open
- 26: Wine and Weed at Read House & Gardens

Calendar Note:

Girl Scout Wednesdays!
Every 2nd Wednesday of the month, April 11, May 9, and June 13 at the Delaware History Museum

Girl Scout Saturdays!
March 31, April 14, May 12 and June 9

Visit www.dehistory.org for details and reservations!

Mr. Szymanski, Sr. (& The Delaware Historical Society) Goes to Washington

A collection of photographs from the Delaware Historical Society's special exhibit, *Wilmington in the 1930s: Focus on the East Side*, is on display at Vice President Joe Biden's residence in Washington, D.C.

On February 27, Vice President Biden and Dr. Biden hosted their third annual Black History Month reception at the Naval Observatory. More than 140 guests were in attendance, including Attorney General Eric Holder, U.S. Trade Representative Ron Kirk, and EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson, as well as members of the Congressional Black Caucus, the National Black Caucus of State Legislators, the National Conference of Black Mayors, and the National Organization of Black County Officials.

In addition to hearing from Vice President Biden, Dr. Biden, and civil rights leader, Congressman John Lewis, guests had the opportunity to see a collection of photos from the Delaware Historical Society's special exhibit, *Wilmington in the 1930s: Focus on the East Side*. Henry Szymanski Sr.'s collection provides a rare Depression-era glimpse into the daily lives of people living in the city's East Side community.



A Circle of Friendships United by Ideals, celebrating the 100th anniversary of Girl Scouts in the United States and the 50th anniversary of Girl Scouts of the Chesapeake Bay is on view in the Delaware History Museum now through June 16, 2012.



Letter from the Chair

Scott Loehr, our CEO, has been on board for one year, and what a year it has been! The Board adopted a 5-Year Strategic Plan as well as a Master Plan for our Wilmington Campus. With great help from Board members Taube Carpenter, Donna Fischer, and Gary Wray, we launched our initiative to become a truly statewide organization sharing, preserving, and exploring Delaware's history for the benefit of all Delawareans. Most recently, Mayor James Baker's selection of the Historical Society to establish an African American Heritage Center has kept us busy and in the press. In spite of what you may have read, the response from many quarters has been very positive and we are in contact with people eager to work with the DHS on this initiative, building on our programs as well as our collections.

Our program of activities is listed on page 12. Be sure to visit our new exhibit celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Girl Scouts of the Chesapeake Bay Council and check out the new resources accessible on our website. Some key dates to keep in mind are April 26, our Annual Meeting, held in the History Museum, and May 3 for this year's History Makers Award dinner honoring Tubby Raymond, a legendary Delawarean.

I look forward to seeing you at these events.

Anne P. Canby



The year is 1959.
The place?
Downtown Wilmington,
Delaware, Market Street.

It's the evening of April 19 and Vincent Price is on the big screen as the horror film *House on Haunted Hill* premieres in a movie house on 5th and Market, the historic Queen Theatre. Little did the audience know this would be the last film the theater would ever show before its doors were shut for fifty-two years.

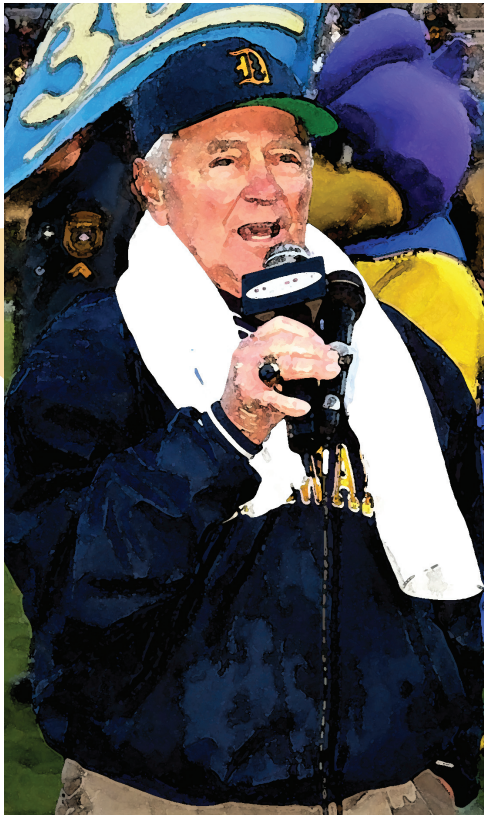
On April 19, 2012, World Cafe Live at the Queen is celebrating its one-year anniversary by screening the

classic motion picture in its very own Copeland Theater. We invite you to join us for a night of fancy cocktails, free popcorn and historic magic while supporting a good cause.

With a suggested donation of \$19.59, the evening's proceeds will benefit the Light up the Queen Foundation and the Delaware Historical Society.

Tickets available through:
<http://gmail.com.ticketleap.com/house-on-haunted-hill-first-annual-screein/>

Celebrate with Tubby Raymond!



In just a few weeks Society members will receive their special invitation to a gala reception and dinner honoring legendary University of Delaware football coach, Tubby Raymond, when he receives the 2012 Delaware History Makers Award on Thursday, May 3, 2012. By the time he retired in 2002, Coach Raymond had amassed an amazing 300-119-3 record and three national championships in 36 years as head coach. Tickets are \$150 per person, and we've added a special price for members under 40 years old – just \$100!

For more information about the event as well as VIP sponsorship opportunities call (302) 295-2393 or go to our website:
http://www.dehistory.org/HistoryMakers_2012.htm

www.dehistory.org


Delaware
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Discover. Explore. Share.
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