

Delaware ^{★ ★ ★} Making History

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

A.U.M.P. Conference, circa 1942, by Gertrude Howland Balch (1904-1964).
Gift of Mr. Colwyn S. Krussman



Forging Faith, Building Freedom: African American Faith Experiences in Delaware, 1800-1980

Delaware History Museum
September 26 through
Summer 2014

Forging Faith, Building Freedom: African American Faith Experiences in Delaware, 1800-1980, the next exhibition at the Delaware History Museum, will celebrate two important anniversaries. Two hundred years ago, in 1813, Peter Spencer founded the African Union church, the first independent black denomination in the United States. The next year, he started the August Quarterly, the nation's oldest African American festival.

In addition to Peter Spencer, *Forging Faith, Building Freedom* will honor Absalom Jones, the first black Episcopal priest in the US; Richard Allen, founder of the AME denomination; and Samuel Cornish,

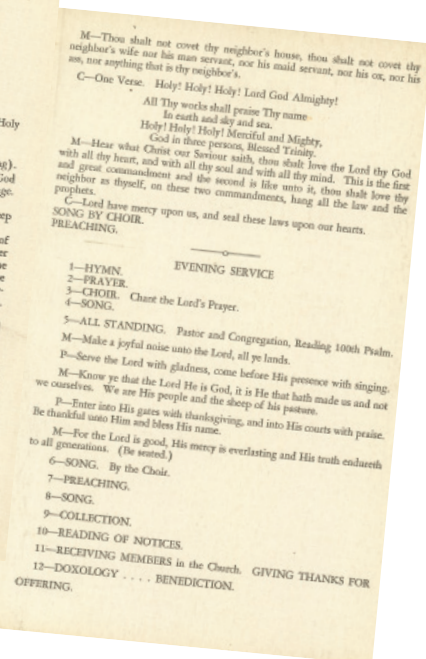
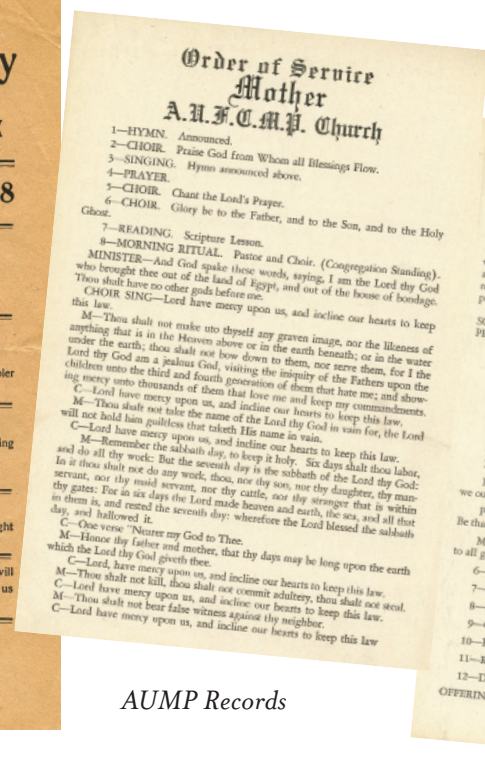
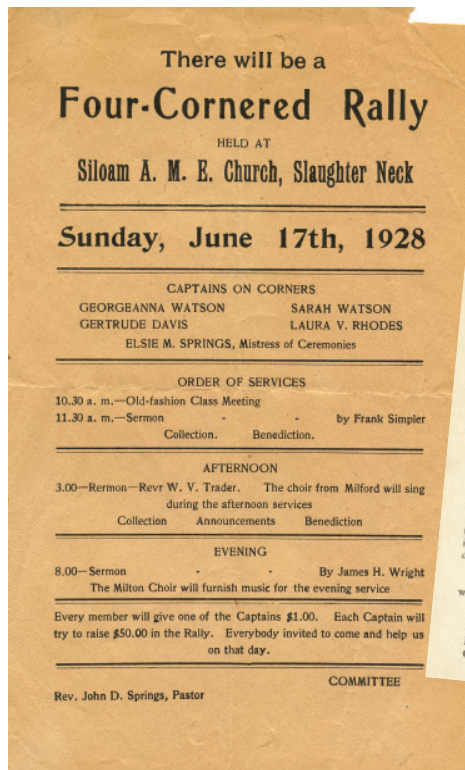


Zebley ME Church near Selbyville, ca. late 1930s-early 1940s. Zebley Collection

founder of the first black Presbyterian church in New York City and an editor of *Freedom's Journal*, the nation's first black newspaper. As developers of independent African American religious institutions, these four remarkable Delawareans asserted their people's right to liberty, autonomy, and equality.

Their actions challenged the United States to live up to the ideals of the Declaration of Independence.

Through objects, documents, and images, the exhibition will explore the diverse faith experiences and institutions that developed from these beginnings. Historically,



AUMP Records

black faith communities have addressed many needs beyond the spiritual. The church has been a key factor in education, community development, and the fight for equality for people who lacked other institutions. In the absence of other avenues for leadership, the black minister assumed many roles in addition to the spiritual. The church also offered opportunities for leadership and participation to laypeople whose talents were not recognized in the mainstream community. The exhibition will introduce Michael Sterling of Wilmington—a modest man in the eyes of the world who lived a rich and useful life through service to Bethel AME Church.

An exhibition as ambitious as this depends on the contributions of

many people and organizations. Delaware Historical Society collections, Delaware churches, private lenders, and other public collections will provide a rich array of documents, objects, and photographs for the exhibition. Dr. Lewis V. Baldwin of Vanderbilt University, a specialist in Peter Spencer and his churches, serves as consultant historian and keynote lecturer. The exhibition is being designed and fabricated by the exhibits staff of the state's Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs, with Edward McWilliams as the lead designer. Financial support for the exhibition comes from the Delaware Humanities Forum.



Keynote Speaker Dr. Lewis V. Baldwin

Forging Faith, Building Freedom: Black Churches and the Circle of Culture in Delaware

September 26, 2013, 5:30 p.m.
Delaware History Museum Galleries
504 N. Market Street

Join us for a special talk followed by the opening reception for our newest exhibition, "Forging Faith, Building Freedom," presented by Dr. Lewis V. Baldwin, professor of Religious Studies at Vanderbilt University and guest historian. He will explore Delaware's black churches and their social, educational and political culture.

A Member Preview and Wine & Cheese reception will follow.
Please R.S.V.P. (302) 655-7161 or deinfo@dehistory.org
Complimentary parking at 6th & Shipley streets

Letter from the CEO



Americans give of themselves, their time, and their resources in extraordinary amounts. We give to all manner of charitable endeavors: educational, religious, athletic, cultural, scientific, and human services. Individuals account for more than seventy-five percent of the contributors to the some 1.3 million US charities.

Some 1.3 million non-profit organizations nationwide is a significant number. That number grows by an astonishing fifty thousand annually. The non-profit sector employs thirteen million people, and an estimated sixty million Americans volunteer their services to charities. These organizations take in over \$1.5 trillion in annual revenues.

These are big numbers, and they beg some questions. How do non-profits gain, and sustain, the trust of supporters and volunteers? What distinguishes seemingly like organizations? How does a non-profit articulate mission fulfillment?

The Delaware Historical Society was founded in 1864 for "the elucidation of history, particularly such portions as may relate to Delaware." The organization is proud of its venerable history and its delivery of programs and services to literally hundreds of thousands of persons in its 149-year existence. Generations of Delawareans have served and supported the Delaware Historical Society.

For nearly fifteen full decades, the mission of the historical society has resonated with Delawareans. The organization is the trusted steward of our state's irreplaceable history. Its collections, education programs, and exhibitions continue to engage people with Delaware's history and heritage. Strong, visionary, exemplary, and humble characterize its legion of leadership.

Humbled by your generosity, guided by servant leadership, and teeming with passion for its unique mission, the Delaware Historical Society nurtures its precious relationship with its friends each day, month, decade, and century.

Scott W. Loehr, CEO

Exhibitions and Programs

The Sampler Archives Projects

Sponsored by the University of Delaware in conjunction with the Winterthur Program in American Culture, the University of Oregon, and the Sampler Consortium Group

Funded by the Delaware Humanities Forum

June 8, 2013, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Delaware History Museum

This project aims to locate and document historic samplers in public and private collections in the US to eventually be put into a publically accessible online database. The project will be holding a public documentation day at a venue in each of the Delaware counties.

Documentation day in New Castle County will be held in the Delaware History Museum and will have 2 parts. On Friday, June 7, the DHS sampler collection will be photographed and documented. On Saturday, June 8, the public is invited to bring in their own family samplers for inclusion in the project from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For more information on the Sampler Archive Project, contact project coordinator Dr. Patricia Keller at 610-932-2425 or Patricia.Keller@berrettstudio.com.



Sampler stitched by Ann Crosby (1809–1857) of Wilmington in 1851. Bequest of Miss Ella C. Cornell.

New Sweden at 375

Now through November 9, 2013

Willingtown Square Gallery

Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

This year marks the 375th anniversary of the founding of New Sweden, the first permanent European settlement in the Delaware River Valley. Now open in the Willingtontown Square Gallery, "New Sweden at 375" tells the story of this unique colony and the extraordinary efforts to keep its history alive. Come explore 17th century Delaware and learn more about our connections across the Atlantic.



Monument at the Rocks



Queen Christina of Sweden

National History Day in Delaware

On April 20, 2013, the Delaware Historical Society and Delaware Technical Community College hosted the National History Day in Delaware competition! Over 275 students competed from schools in New Castle and Kent counties. Delaware will be sending 30 projects and 58 students to the national competition at the University of Maryland in June. Thanks go to Del Tech's security, maintenance, and food services, to everyone who judged, and to the teachers and parents who helped their students along the way. For more information about the day's events, including the award winners list, please visit the National History Day blog at nhddelaware.wordpress.com



Some of the winners from the 2013 National History Day in Delaware competition. Congratulations to all!

Delaware's Tapestry Summer Programming!

Save the dates for these upcoming programs celebrating Delaware's rich and diverse social and cultural history. Please visit our website monthly for full program information: www.dehistory.org.

June 20- New Netherland Research Center director Dr. Charles Gehring and artist Len Tantillo will present a program on the Dutch and Swedish in Delaware. This program will be co-sponsored by the Old Swedes Foundation.

July 20- *Buried Brew: A Tour of Wilmington's Forgotten Beer History.* This special bus and cemetery tour will be led by John Medkeff.

July 25- Lecture and book signing for Justice Randy J. Holland's new book *Delaware's Destiny Determined By Lewes*, published by the Delaware Heritage Commission. This program will be co-sponsored by the Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs.



McElwee Tavern, 5th & Tatnall streets, Wilmington, ca. 1900. DHS Photograph Collection, Hotels, Inns and Restaurants

Doubly Gifted: Art Show & Sale Benefits DHS



Dick and Elisa Poole

What could be better than an opportunity to see rarely shown Delaware artworks and participate in a major fundraising project for DHS? On April 4, the doors of Old Town Hall opened for a special viewing and sale of the work of Delaware artists who produced a remarkable body of work during the first half of the 20th century. The paintings, watercolors and other works on display represented a small portion of the collection of Dick and Elisa Poole, owners of the AerieArt Gallery which was formerly located in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware. Mr. Poole, a trustee and former board chair of the Society, and Mrs. Poole not only shared these works for a 3-day showing, but have donated all of the proceeds from works sold to the Society.

More than 100 guests attended a champagne preview and reception

on April 4 and had opportunities to view the works and talk with the Pooles about Delaware artists who are no longer living but who represent significant chapters in the state's art history. Those attending the monthly Wilmington Art Loop on Friday and DHS visitors on Saturday were also able to view the exhibit and bid on works in the show. Stunning spring floral arrangements, created by board member Beverley Rowland, provided a perfect complement to the exhibition and its Old Town Hall setting. By the end of the weekend, all fundraising goals for the event were surpassed and the works were on their way to new homes throughout Delaware.

Many very happy art patrons join the Delaware Historical Society in thanking Dick and Elisa Poole for their unique and very generous gift.



Mr. Poole installing artwork.



Glen Gray (left) and Scott Loehr (right).



Guests enjoying the evening's events.

History Makers Award Dinner

Fall, 2013

Exciting details to follow!



www.dehistory.org



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Read House & Gardens

Read Family Reunion

June 21-23, 2013



Detail from portrait of George Read by unknown artist after Robert Edge Pine. Gift of Col. George Ross Rede.

From June 21 to June 23, 2013, the Delaware Historical Society will host its first Read family reunion in New Castle, Delaware. The reunion will provide an opportunity for descendants of George Read I and George Read II from near and far to reconnect with their family history

and other relatives. Delaware Historical Society staff will also be able to collect stories, genealogical information, and details about family artifacts passed down through generations, all of which will help to supplement the current interpretation of the Read House and Gardens.

Planned activities include a director's tour of the Read House; a close look at Read family items in the Delaware



Engraving of George Read II by Samuel Sartain



Parlors.

Photograph by Priscilla Smith

Historical Society collections with descendant Eliza Morehead, who wrote her Winterthur graduate thesis about George Read II and his house; and a special Sunday service at Immanuel Episcopal Church, attended by Read and his family. Assistance in planning and hosting the event is being offered by local descendants, and descendant and Delaware Historical Society Trustee Mary Davis is leading the effort. If you are a descendant of George Read I or II and would like to participate, please contact the Read House and Gardens director at 302-295-1002 or manstine@dehistory.org.



Spring has sprung at the Read House & Gardens in historic New Castle and at the Delaware History Museum in Wilmington! The busy school field trip season will end just after the first week of June. The Society's teaching guides will educate thousands of elementary school students from Delaware, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey on their field trips during April and May. Teachers customize their programming at the Read House & Gardens in our History Detectives program in which students use primary sources to discover the story of the people who lived and worked in the Read house over the past 200 years.

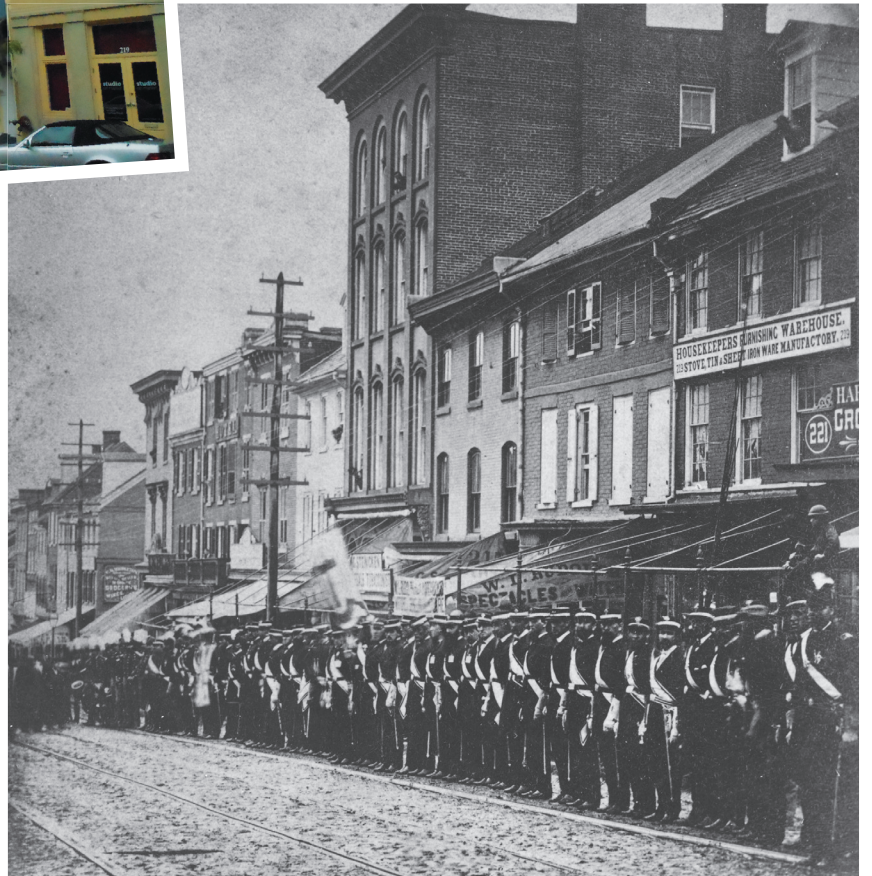
Then and Now... Market Street in Wilmington

Then and now...that's one of the enduring attractions of history. Photographs in particular lend themselves to exploring how things have changed over time. Wilmington's Market Street, probably the most highly documented streetscape in all of Delaware, provides rich opportunities for comparison. Here are just a few examples that juxtapose historic images from our collections with modern photographs of the same location. Use them as an inspiration to investigate the past and present of your own street, neighborhood, or town.



West side of Market Street between Second and Third, ca. 1873

In 1873, 211—the tallest building--was James Morrow's grocery store, with George H. Ash's tailor's shop on the second floor. Moving to the right from 211, 213 was George Bowers, bakery; 215, was George Steinicken, cigars and tobacco; and 217 was Wm. L Rudolph, clocks, watches, and jewelry. Bowers and Steinicken both lived above their businesses, while all of the other proprietors lived within an easy walk of their premises. Today, all of these buildings are part of Ships Tavern Mews in the Lower Market Street redevelopment area with businesses on the first floor and loft apartments above.





Southeast corner of Market and Fourth streets, 1928

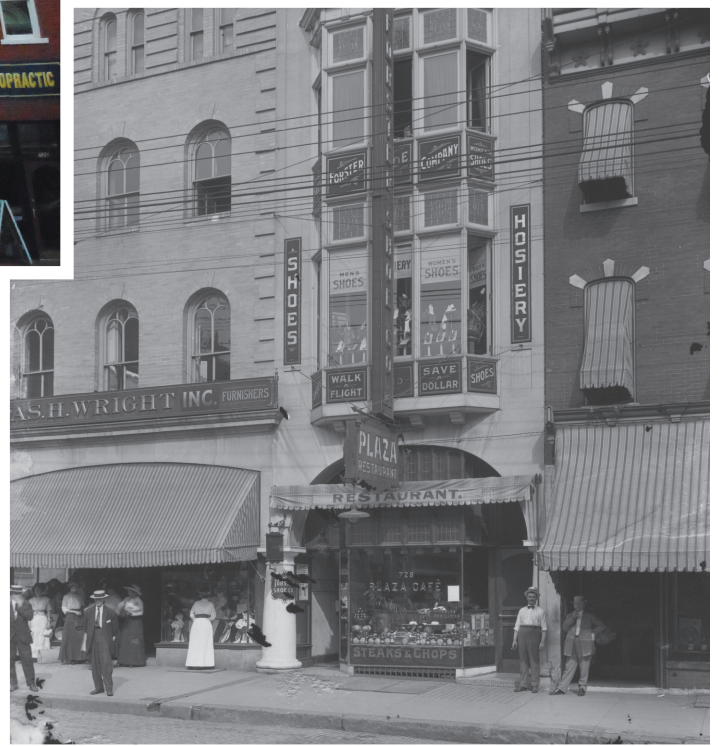
All of the buildings in the 1928 photograph are still standing today. In 1928, 400 (on the right side of the photograph) housed the United Cigar Store and the Smith-Zollinger department store. American Beef and Provision Company, a wholesale butcher, occupied 402-404. Across the street, A. Schulte's cigar store, the Vogue Beauty Parlor, David A. Sprio's jewelry store and Abraham Goberman's dentist office were all at 401 (left side of the image). Streetcars, pedestrians, and awnings complete the busy scene.

Today, all of the buildings have been restored. A Chinese restaurant is in 401, while the buildings on the other side of the street await new tenants.



East side of Market Street between Seventh and Eighth, 1914

All of the buildings in the 1914 image are still standing today. From left to right, in 1914, 730 housed James H. Wright, Inc., a men's clothing store. It is now the new home of the Ninth Street Book Shop. The next building, 728, is the most altered in appearance. In 1914 it was the Plaza Café, while today it houses Wilmington landmark Leo & Jimmy's delicatessen. Sarah E. Legg had a liquor store at 730 in 1914. Today, restored to its historic appearance, the building is a chiropractor's office.



Stories from our Collections

Fashion Fanfare

Fans from the Collection of the Delaware Historical Society

Read House & Gardens

On view through July 31, 2013

Visit www.dehistory.org for days and hours

The Delaware Historical Society's diverse collection has always offered many opportunities for researchers with very particular study interests and this year is turning out to be no exception. In April, the Society hosted the Fan Association of North America (FANA), who visited Wilmington for their annual convention. As part of their schedule of activities, they visited the Read House and Gardens to enjoy

a special tour and exhibit of fans from the Society's collection.

The fans range from the late eighteenth through the twentieth centuries. One of the oldest fans dates to circa 1780 and still has its original box from the period. During this time, fans started to become more of a standard ladies' fashion accessory and less of an exclusive luxury item reserved for the very rich. Fans were often given as wedding gifts and handed down in the

female line as treasured heirlooms.

Our fan has pierced ivory sticks and guards, and a paper leaf that is printed and hand painted with a fashionable classical revival courting scene. This fan belonged to Jane Richardson McKinly (1727-1805), wife of Dr. John McKinly (1721-1796), who served in the Delaware General Assembly and was the first elected president (governor) of Delaware.



Gift of Mrs. Charles Davis





Gift of Margaret D. Lawrence

During the nineteenth century, fans became widely mass produced and available to many consumers. With the opening of Japan to the West during the second half of the century, Japanese items became hugely fashionable and popular. One interesting example from circa 1880-1900 belonged to Martha Cassandra Naudain Denny (1855-1908). She married John W. Denny on May 12, 1875, and they made their home in Middletown. This Japanese Maogi (dance) fan has a dove-colored paper leaf that is painted on one side with foliage designs and a single bird in flight. The arrangement of the bamboo sticks into six groups of three is a distinctive feature of this type of fan.

The first quarter of the twentieth century saw the waning of the fan as an essential fashion accessory but it still found a useful niche as an advertising item. An advertising fan made from woven palm fronds, dating between 1940 and 1950, is printed with an advertisement for the Marshall H. Yeatman Funeral

Home at 819 Washington Street in Wilmington. Marshall H. Yeatman was involved in the funeral business at various addresses in Wilmington as early as 1902. He moved to the Washington Street address in 1923 when he took over the business of John B. Martin. By 1930, he appears as "Mortician and

Funeral Director" and has a separate listing for his business, the Marshall H. Yeatman Funeral Home, at 819 Washington Street. The Yeatman Funeral Home was in business until 1961. This fan belonged to Katherine Houck Russell of 404 N. Broom Street in Wilmington.



Gift of William N. Russell

Supporting the Delaware Historical Society

The DHS Annual Fund – A Year-long Event

The Delaware Historical Society Annual Fund is a giving opportunity that “never sleeps.” While we total things up every December 31, we continue to receive contributions 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.

There are many ways to contribute to the DHS Annual Fund. Check them all out on the website – dehistory.org – or call Wright Horne at the DHS Advancement Office – (302) 295-2393.

Foundations

Borkee-Hagley Foundation
Crystal Trust
Fair Play Foundation
The Kenny Family Foundation
Longwood Foundation
Reynolds Rencourt Foundation

Organizations

Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts
Delaware Humanities Forum
The Delaware Society of the Cincinnati
Delaware Technical Community College
Hagley Museum and Library
Society of Colonial Wars in the State of Delaware
University of Delaware

Corporations and Businesses

Big Sky Bakery
Brandywine Prime
Catherine Rooney's
Colonial Parking
Colourworks
Delaware Today
Glenmede
Qoro
Toscana
Twin Lakes Brewery
World Café Live at the Queen

Governments

The City of Wilmington
The Institute of Museum and Library Services, a Federal agency
The State of Delaware

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Delaware Genealogical Society
Estate of Margaret Stafford

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(as of March 31, 2013)

***New Member (since January)**

****Upgraded Membership (since January)**

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Loyal and enthusiastic members are at the heart of the success of the Delaware Historical Society. They are the audiences, program participants, and volunteers who support all of the exciting activities at the Delaware History Museum, the Research Library, Old Town Hall, and the Read House and Gardens.

The Advancement Department is looking for volunteers who would be interested in assisting with membership communications and processing on an ongoing basis. The position would be perfect for someone who is detail-oriented, enthusiastic, and willing to donate time to help expand this key organizational function. Experience with databases would be a definite plus.

If you are interested in joining the DHS volunteer team, please call Trudy Hansen, Advancement Manager, at 302-295-2392 or e-mail thansen@dehistory.org.

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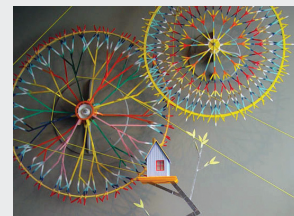
Nemours Mansion and Gardens, the historic home of Alfred I. duPont, continues to dazzle visitors since reopening in 2008 after its extensive restoration. This unique architectural and landscape jewel, with formal gardens, fountains, artwork and sculpture, has been returned to the glory of its turn-of-the-century magnificence. Built in 1910 and modeled after Le Petit Trianon, Versailles, and set amid 222 magnificent acres, it is one of America's grandest homes and the finest formal French garden in North America. Tours available by reservation only.

Fans: Cool in more than one Way



The Delaware Historical Society recently hosted the Fan Association of North America. In honor of their visit, an exhibit of fans ranging from the late 18th through the 20th centuries, from the DHS collection, is on display at the Read House and Gardens through July 31. One of the oldest fans dates to circa 1780 and still has its original box from the period. During the second half of the 19th century, Japanese items became hugely fashionable and popular, and these are included in the collection.

The Taxonomy of Trash



Tim Eads has pulled together a team at the Delaware Center for the Contemporary Arts to analyze the aesthetic potential of trash. The Taxonomy of Trash, on view through July 21, is at once a hybrid form of art, connoisseurship, scientific research, audio-visual documentation, readymade sculpture, and performance. The team has selected objects of visual interest, recorded sounds, and photographed and categorized them in a phylogenetic tree chart, displayed alongside a kinetic sculpture called the "Mobile Trash Lab" and audio-visual recordings.

explore the trail

Delaware

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