

# Delaware Making History

HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Front and back covers: A New and Exact Map of the Dominions of the King of Great Britain on the Continent of North America by Herman Moll, London, ca. 1738  
Gift of G. Stewart Hoagland



# History Lives! ... in Odessa

*Experience our state's history as the Delaware Historical Society invites you to the Historic Houses of Odessa*



Spring has arrived! Mark your calendar and join the historical society and friends for *History Lives in Odessa!* on Sunday, May 18. A unique afternoon has been planned for you.

If you have not visited Odessa recently, or if you have never explored the historic sites and collections that form a well-documented and significant chapter in Delaware's rich history, May 18 is a perfect opportunity. A special late afternoon program will provide unique perspectives of the site and garden and include special talks, demonstrations, and performances that expand far beyond a typical house tour.

The houses will be staffed by docents sharing historical

information ranging from the extraordinary furniture collections to the families that lived in the beautifully restored properties. A hearth cooking program with a central Delaware focus has been planned and will reveal fascinating details of 18th- and 19th-century life.

The Dover English Country Dancers will educate and engage us with colonial dances, and a colonial artist will create silhouette portraits. Butler and Cooke Antiques on Main Street will extend its hours to welcome you.

The houses and outbuildings are well known for the important role the site played in the Underground Railroad, leading to its designation as a stop on the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom. Few sites in Delaware can present such an all-encompassing picture of two centuries of Delaware history.

After exploring the secrets and treasures of one of Delaware's premier historic sites, guests will gather at the Wilson-Warner Stone Barn for a short talk by the Historic Houses of Odessa Executive Director, Deborah Buckson. For those wishing to extend their afternoon in historic Odessa, a reception will be held from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. at the Historic Odessa Bank. Food and drink (including traditional British punch) will make a perfect ending to the afternoon.



## *Experience Historic Odessa*



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

This fee includes admission to the site and house tours, special programs, talks, and period demonstrations (3-6 p.m.).

Evening Reception is \$45 per person for DHS members / \$50 per person for non-members (these fees are inclusive of the fees for the program listed above).

Space is limited. Reservations are required. Please contact Maggie Meyers at 302-295-2381 or Trudy Hansen at 302-295-2392 or visit [dehistory.org](http://dehistory.org).

Please start your day on May 18 at the Wilson-Warner Stone Barn behind the Wilson-Warner House on Main Street in the heart of Odessa. For a map of the site, visit [historicodessa.org](http://historicodessa.org).

### Letter from the CEO



There is no denying that we live in an era of unprecedented volumes of and access to information. However, previous generations heard similar refrains with the invention of the telegraph, telephone, radio, and television. What's next?

For me, presently it is less about asking what is next and more about determining which of the many means of information delivery today best suits the needs of the Delaware Historical Society. I must confess to a certain dislike for social media platforms. This bias until recently may have colored my position on their effectiveness in disseminating historical society program information to the organization's audiences.

When it comes to marketing and general awareness, social media has benefitted the Delaware Historical Society. The data do not lie. Reviewing the evaluation forms for two recent historical society lectures has me convinced of the effectiveness of electronic/social media to get the word out. Attendees at the two standing-room-only programs most often cited electronic/social media as the means of program awareness (and subsequent registration). Remember, the historical society's core audiences predate the social media phenomenon.

Thank goodness open-minded, tech-savvy individuals are employed by the Delaware Historical Society, for they have developed a comprehensive, compelling electronic package of information associated with the organization's sesquicentennial year. Please visit the historical society's ([dehistory.org](http://dehistory.org)) Facebook page, blog posts, and other electronic platforms to discover more about your Delaware Historical Society, its 150th anniversary programs, and First State history.

What's next for me? A Facebook page perhaps.

Scott W. Loehr, CEO



# 150th Celebration at a Glance

## MAY

History Lives Lecture Series  
Lee & Grant in 1864

May 8, 2014

6:30 p.m.

Dr. Joseph T. Glatthaar, professor at  
University of North Carolina at

Chapel Hill

Delaware History Museum

History Lives ... in Odessa

May 18, 2014

3 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

A gathering with a colonial theme  
featuring tours of the Historic Houses  
of Odessa, followed by a reception in  
the Old Bank Building.

Saturday Family Program:  
Time Capsules!

May 31, 2014

10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Learn how to make your own time  
capsule.

Historical Society Research Library

## JUNE

History Lives ....at Fort Delaware

June 14, 2014

10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

A family-oriented day. Take the ferry  
to Pea Patch Island and participate in  
Civil War period activities.

Reservations requested for all events.

Please call 302-655-7161 or email [deinfo@dehistory.org](mailto:deinfo@dehistory.org)

Visit [dehistory.org](http://dehistory.org) for updated details.

## JULY

Saturday Family Program:  
Shopping the Sears Catalog  
at the Beach

July 19, 2014

5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Join us for a look at how families  
spent their summers 100 years ago.

Rehoboth Beach Historical Museum

## AUGUST

History Lives ....  
at the Delaware Coast

August 23, 2014

10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

A day in Lewes focused on

Delaware's maritime history.

Choose from a trip on the Cape

May-Lewes ferry, tours of the

Kalmar Nyckel, Overfalls Lightship,  
and historic Lewes. Followed by a  
seafood dinner.

## SEPTEMBER

Saturday Family Program:  
Coming to America: Our  
Delaware Immigration Story

September 20, 2014

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Bring your family and your  
immigration story for a fun day of  
exploration.

Historical Society Research Library

## OCTOBER

Recounting & Documenting the  
Delaware Civil Rights Movement  
Symposium with Delaware State  
University

October 2 and 3, 2014

Delaware State University Campus

History Lives Lecture Series  
James A. Bayard in 1864

October 16, 2014

6:30 p.m.

Dr. Jonathan S. Russ, professor at  
the University of Delaware  
Delaware History Museum

## DECEMBER


History Lives .... in Kent County

December 7, 2014

1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Celebrate Delaware Day in Dover.

Tour the Dickinson Mansion, walk  
the Green to visit several significant  
buildings, and conclude at the  
Governor's Mansion.

  
 DELAWARE  
 HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
 SESQUICENTENNIAL  
 where history lives 1864-2014



# Upcoming Highlights

## Family Saturdays

Please call to reserve your tour time:

302-655-7161 or email [deinfo@dehistory.org](mailto:deinfo@dehistory.org)

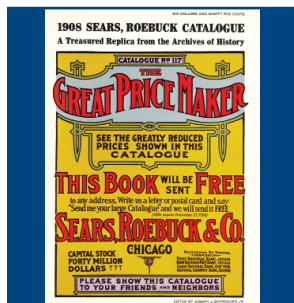


### Time Capsules!

May 31, 2014, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Historical Society Research Library

For 150 years the Delaware Historical Society has collected and preserved Delaware objects, manuscripts, and images! Join us to learn how to create a time capsule and properly store items in it. Collections tours offered on the hour to provide you and your family (ages 8 and up) the unique opportunity to peek into our immense time capsule housed in the basement of the Research Library. Do not miss out; this only happens once every 150 years!



### Shopping the Sears Catalog at the Beach

July 19, 2014, 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Rehoboth Beach History Museum

Join us at the Rehoboth Beach History Museum for a look at how families spent their summer 100 years ago! Children will handle artifacts sold in the Sears Roebuck Catalog from 1908, try on replica bathing suits from the early 1900s, and play games that have entertained children for centuries! Pizza and soda will be provided.



### Coming to America: Our Delaware Immigration Story

September 20, 2014, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Historical Society Research Library

Bring your family immigration story to Willingtown Square and the Delaware Historical Society Library for a fun day of exploration! Activities include packing a bag for a voyage to America and an Ellis Island experience. Old World traditions are re-created with activities, games, and dances brought to Delaware from far off places. Family trees from our collections will be on view!



# History Lives!

## ...Lecture Series

May 8, 2014, 6:30 p.m.



The third installment in the History Lives! Lecture Series will be held in the Delaware History Museum. Dr. Joseph T. Glatthaar, Stephenson Distinguished Professor of History at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, will examine the 1864 agendas of opposing Civil War generals, Ulysses S. Grant and Robert E. Lee. Professor Glatthaar is the author of several acclaimed Civil War books, including *Partners in Command* and *General Lee's Army: From Victory to Collapse*.

The History Lives! Lecture Series is made possible in part by a grant from the Delaware Humanities Forum. Reservations are required.

Call (302) 655-7161 or visit [dehistory.org](http://dehistory.org).

## ...at Fort Delaware

June 14, 2014, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.



Pack a picnic and join us at Fort Delaware, on Pea Patch Island, to celebrate the the Society's sesquicentennial birthday and journey back to 1864! Children will experience soldier inspection, enlistment, outfit, and drill. See live presentations of blacksmithing, cooking, firing of the cannon, drilling soldiers. There will also be scholarly talks and museum theatre.

\$20 members | \$25 non-members | \$10 children 2-12 years | under 2 years free, includes your ticket to the island. Spaces are limited, reservations required.

Call 302-655-7161 or visit [dehistory.org](http://dehistory.org).

## ...at the Delaware Coast

August 23, 2014, 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.



A day in Lewes focused on Delaware's maritime history. Choose from a trip on the Cape May-Lewes ferry and tours of the *Kalmar Nyckel*, *Overfalls Lightship*, historic Lewes, and Fort Miles. Followed by a seafood dinner. Save the date... details and ticket prices to follow!

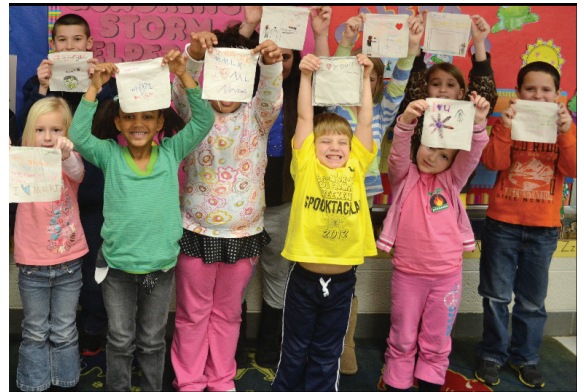


# National History Day in Delaware

On Saturday, April 12, 2014, students from throughout Delaware participated in Delaware's National History Day competition, a major educational program of the Delaware Historical Society. The contest is an exciting way for students in grades 6 through 12 to study and learn about history. Following this year's theme, "Rights and Responsibilities," students researched related topics in local, national, and world history and presented their findings in papers, exhibits, performances, websites, and documentaries. Winning projects will advance to the national competition in College Park, Maryland in June.



## *Delaware Historical Society Dream Quilts Displayed at the Vice President's Residence*



In 2013, the fiftieth anniversary of the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, the Delaware Historical Society visited local community centers, churches, and schools throughout Delaware to discuss Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and show his "I Have a Dream" speech. We invited children and adults to design quilt squares that symbolize what Dr. King's legacy means to them. A Stitch in Time Quilting Guild of Dover and friends volunteered to create six quilts, incorporating over 200 quilt squares designed by individuals in each of Delaware's three counties.

On February 25, 2014 members of the Delaware Historical Society's Education and Inspiration team attended a reception celebrating Black History Month at the Vice President's residence in Washington D.C. Three of the Society's Dream Quilts were on display for the reception and throughout the month of February.



# Stories from our Collections

## Little Italy, Big Festival On view through June 2014



*Seven unidentified Italian men pose on DuPont Street near St. Anthony's Church. c. 1930. Sanborn Collection*

"Little Italy, Big Festival," the current exhibit in the Willingtown Square Gallery, highlights Wilmington's Little Italy, one of the city's many ethnic enclaves. The exhibit features a wide range of images, objects, and stories from the Society's collections and community members that tell the rich story of this vibrant part of the city's life.

In 1880 only 43 Italians lived in Delaware. This figure nearly doubled all at once in 1883 with the arrival in Wilmington of 30 Italians who built the new Baltimore and Ohio railroad line a few blocks west of Union Street. As immigration continued, eight identifiable pockets of Italian settlement developed in northern Delaware in the early 20th century. They all gradually assimilated into broader American society except for the largest, today's Little Italy.

One of the Italians who arrived in 1883 was Nicola Fianza, a carpenter and railroad foreman. When railroad construction was completed in 1886, he opened a bakery and grocery

store at Seventh and Scott streets and began a massive campaign of land purchases and home construction. He then leased those homes, many of which still stand, to his countrymen. During the early 1900s, hundreds of Italian families settled in the blocks surrounding his residence at Sixth and Scott streets. Most importantly, he donated the land where St. Anthony's Church and School were built at Ninth and DuPont streets. Fianza's generosity, industry, and vision have earned him the title "The Pioneer" of Little Italy.

A few decades later, another tireless builder and community advocate, Ernesto Di Sabatino, arrived. Like Fianza, Di Sabatino built many residences and structures still standing today, one of which was Saint Anthony's Church. He and his company, known today as EDiS



*Americanization class for Italian immigrants, c. 1915. Children listen as immigrant mothers are taught English and reading skills. The presence of plates and cups suggests this class was held in a private home. Delaware Historical Society Collection*



Company, also reconstructed the West End Neighborhood House in the mid 1930s, which was originally built by Fidanza.

Di Sabatino and Fidanza were cornerstones of Little Italy's early history, but many others in the immigrant generation contributed to the development of the Italian American community in Delaware. Carmine Di Mare, a policeman and civic leader, provided crucial interpretation and advocacy services. John Cicero of "the Valley" enclave operated a successful macaroni factory. Michael Gallo, the first Italian in Montchanin, oversaw the construction of most of the bridges for the Wilmington and Northern Railroad. Pasquale Del Campo founded a major bakery on the east side of Wilmington. Ernesto Delle Donne launched a grocery store. Anthony Corleto, founded a funeral home. The first Italian in New Castle, Carlo Marcozzi, was a riverboat captain. Antonio Consiglio published *Il Fuoco*, the Italian-language newspaper.

Little Italy was strengthened by the selfless service of priests who served the parish of Saint Anthony's. Chief among them were Father Francis Tucker, who guided the parish for 25 years, his assistant Father Fournier, and more recently the much beloved Father Roberto Balducelli, who passed away last year. Father Roberto was responsible for the founding of Padua Academy, Saint Anthony's



*Saint Anthony's Church Cornerstore, 9th and DuPont streets, c. June 1935.  
Sanborn Collection*

in the Hills Family Center, and the development of the modern Italian Festival, among other things.

The first Saint Anthony's Italian Festival in its current form took place in June 1975, combining earlier, smaller festivals. By 1936, three summer celebrations had developed in Little Italy following the opening of Saint Anthony's Church: the Feast of St. Anthony on June 13; Our Lady of Mount Carmel on the Sunday following July 16; and the Feast St. Rocco on August 16. These celebrations helped raise money for

the parish and reflected community pride, but they required extensive planning and effort. Eventually, they were merged into one large festival and Little Italy's modern Italian Festival was born.

For questions about the exhibit, please contact Ed Richi, Curator of Printed Materials, [erichi@dehistory.org](mailto:erichi@dehistory.org) or 302.295.2387.

## Political Campaigning, 170 Years Ago



The Society has started 2014 off with a bang with the recent donation of a rare and outstanding piece of Delaware political memorabilia. This item, an 1844 campaign flag, is a gift from Robin and Julie Powell, formerly of Villanova, Pennsylvania. Made from printed and stenciled cotton, the flag contains a portrait of 1844 Whig presidential candidate Henry Clay in the canton area. Several of the white stripes include the names of prominent Whig Party candidates Clay, Frelinghuysen, Stockton, and Huston.

This flag promoted not only the candidacy of Henry Clay for president and Theodore Frelinghuysen for vice president (they lost to Democrat, James K. Polk), but also that of Thomas Stockton, successful Whig candidate for governor of Delaware, and John Wallace Houston, successful Delaware Whig candidate for Congress. The addition of these last two names onto what is essentially a presidential campaign flag is why this type of flag is often called a coattail flag. These last two Delaware names are also what make this flag such a wonderful catch for us. This new flag joins another,

slightly different, 1844 campaign flag already in our collection that also promotes the Clay /Frelinghuysen ticket, but the coattail portion refers instead to the campaign of Joseph Markle, the unsuccessful Whig candidate for governor of Pennsylvania.

The presidential campaign of 1844 was a close race that turned upon the issue of territorial expansion (often referred to as Manifest Destiny). James K. Polk and the Democrats wholeheartedly supported aggressive expansionist policies, which included the annexation of Texas and control of the Oregon Territory, while Clay and Whigs opposed them, in part because they feared those politics would raise the already highly contentious issue of the extension of slavery into the new territories. Although Clay won Delaware, it was ultimately this opposition to expansion that cost him the election.

The coattail candidates on this flag fared much better. Thomas Stockton (1781-1846) of New Castle, a veteran of the War of 1812, had served as New Castle County Register in Chancery from 1832 until 1835. In 1844, he defeated Democrat William Tharp to become the thirty-third governor of Delaware. Stockton took office on

January 21, 1845, and served until his death in office on March 2, 1846. John Wallace Houston (1814-1896) of Concord and Georgetown had served as Secretary of State for Delaware from 1841 until 1844, when he defeated Democrat George Riddle to become U.S Representative for Delaware. He was reelected in 1846 and 1848. Houston was later appointed Associate Judge for the Delaware Supreme Court from 1855-1893 and was also a member of the Peace Conference of 1861, which was an unsuccessful attempt to defuse the impending Civil War.

This new flag is a wonderful slice of Delaware's political history as well as an important relic of the golden age of the American Whig Party. By the 1850s, the party had lost all of its traction when the issue of the expansion of slavery began to reach a breaking point; southern (pro-slavery) Whigs abandoned the party altogether and many northern Whigs (including Abraham Lincoln) allied themselves with the new Republican Party. Although the Whig Party effectively ceased to exist after 1856, this flag is a reminder of Delaware's once-strong commitment to its ideals during the 1830s and 1840s.



# Read House & Gardens

## The Read House Greets Spring with a Fresh Face

When the Read House reopened to the public on April 23 this year its basement reception area looked very different. The space has been renovated to accentuate its original features and to accommodate two classrooms and a meeting space for small groups. Restrooms in the basement have been renovated as well, and a first floor restroom meeting ADA standards has been created. These renovations will help the Delaware Historical Society staff and the Read House to better accommodate school groups and visitors with disabilities. They are the first phase of a recently completed master plan for the site. Both master plan and this phase of renovations were generously funded by Crystal Trust.

Select restoration work was also completed as part of the construction project. Repairs were made to floorboards on all levels of the house and the delicate Federal handrail of the main staircase was reinforced with specially-crafted brackets. In addition, this year when the Read House participates in A Day in Old New Castle on May 17, visitors will enter and tour select first floor rooms through a new front door. The former front door, believed to be a nineteenth-century replacement, was not holding up well to extreme weather conditions. It has been archived for study, and a new front door, made of mahogany under the faux graining instead of pine, hangs in its place.





# *Sesquicentennial Soiree....*

Trustees, members, friends and guests of the Delaware Historical Society gathered on February 1 at the Historic Courthouse on Rodney Square (current home of Young Conaway Stargatt & Taylor) to kick off a year of programs, lectures, events, and other special activities commemorating 150 years of fulfilling the Society's mission to explore, preserve, share, and promote Delaware history to strengthen our community.





# *Happy 150th Delaware Historical Society*



## Supporting the Delaware Historical Society

The Delaware Historical Society thanks the many supporters of the organization. Contributions to the Society come in many forms and from many sources: foundations, corporations, members, Annual Fund contributors, special event sponsors, those making unrestricted gifts, those making in-kind gifts, governments, and many more. The Society is honored to have a wide and strong circle of supporters who help the Society fulfill its mission to explore, preserve, share, and promote Delaware History, heritage, and culture to strengthen our community through exhibitions, educational programs, publications, research resources, and outreach activities.

Again, we thank you one and all!

First State Stewards who entered through the membership process are included here. First State Stewards can also enter through the 2013 Annual Fund, and those extraordinary supporters are recognized in this listing.

Every effort has been taken regarding the accuracy of names. The Historical Society regrets any errors or omissions: please contact Trudy Hansen at 302-295-2392 or [thansen@dehistory.org](mailto:thansen@dehistory.org) so that we can correct your record.

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The roles of the 2014 Sesquicentennial Society, a special giving circle formed to support the dynamic schedule of 150th anniversary year programs and activities, continue to grow. You are invited to join this exclusive group of supporters today and enjoy benefits that include:

- Permanent recognition as a Sesquicentennial Society member in a public space at the Wilmington Campus of the Delaware Historical Society
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- 2 tickets to the Delaware History Makers Award Dinner on October 9, 2014 (for those who enroll after February 1, 2014 – a minimum \$250 value)

Your contribution to join the 2014 Sesquicentennial Society is \$1,500. Please consider this important giving opportunity for a milestone year for the Historical Society.

For more information, please call Trudy Hansen,  
 Advancement Officer at 302-295-2392 or  
[thansen@dehistory.org](mailto:thansen@dehistory.org). Thank you!

## Message from the Outgoing Chair

I hope all of you are enjoying all the marvelous events surrounding the Delaware Historical Society's 150th anniversary. All the events to this point have been truly spectacular; I'm sure those scheduled for the remainder of the year will be just as wonderful.

It has been an honor and privilege for me to have served as board chair over these past two years. I can't thank enough my fellow board members, our CEO Scott Loehr, and all the staff for all their expertise and hard work. The DHS is poised to move forward into our next 150 years financially sound with a Master Plan and Capital Campaign underway that will invigorate the programs we offer and the facilities we own and maintain, and open doors to new communities for us to serve and embrace.

Please continue to support and enjoy all the DHS has to offer!!

Sincerely,  
 Glen Gray



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# Celebrate our Sesquicentennial Online!

This year, our curators are taking to the web to bring you stories of our unique history and collections. The blog campaign, 150 Years in 150 Days, recounts the growth and change of the Delaware Historical Society since 1864. This Week in Delaware History brings you the headlines from our fantastic newspaper collection. On Facebook, we share historic photographs from across the state for Throwback Thursday. And now you can catch Our Favorite Things, a series of short videos in which our curators highlight some of

their favorite collections pieces. Each item will also be on exhibit at the Delaware History Museum during the month it is featured.

The map on the cover and on the right is commonly known as the Beaver Map for the inset showing busy beavers building a dam. It will be featured as Our Favorite Thing in May at the Delaware History Museum and online.

You can access all of these great features and more by visiting our website at [dehistory.org](http://dehistory.org).



## Delaware

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