



DECEMBER

FORT DELAWARE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

2008

WINTERTHUR RESTORES BOWL

In May 2007, the Conservation Department at Winterthur Museum returned a Spanish-American War-era stoneware pitcher that they lovingly restored for us. The surfaces had been thoroughly cleaned, missing parts were created, a complete analysis of the pitcher was prepared, and the pitcher put on display in the Society's museum room at 33 Staff Lane. Then they took the matching bowl that completed the set, which was also in pieces and restored it in the same meticulous manner. It was returned to us this past May and resides in a glass display case next to the pitcher. The Fort Delaware Society is indebted to Mr. Bruno Pouliot and his staff for this most generous contribution of their time and expertise.

OMISSION NOTED

The May 2008 issue of this newsletter carried an article recognizing those persons who have been members for 50 years. Mr. Tom Massey called to remind us that he has been a faithful member since 1958. We extend our apologies for this oversight and applaud Tom for his long and dedicated support of our mission.

GRANT-IN-AID APPLICATION SUBMITTED

At the October 28th Board of Directors' meeting, a motion was passed to approve the Grant-In-Aid Application to the Delaware Legislative Joint Finance Committee (JFC) for 2009 (the State's Fiscal Year 2010). We have been most fortunate over the past 12 years to have been the recipient of funds from this source which are used to support the expense of our considerable research activities in replying to requests from descendant's of Union members of the Garrison and Confederate POWs. It is a major portion of our annual income, and we are most grateful to the JFC for its generosity. If any of our members have direct contact with our representatives in Dover, it would be both wise and appropriate to express the gratitude on the part of the Society for this financial assistance. You should be aware that your President sends personal letters of thanks to every JFC member within two days of the date we receive announcement of our award.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

The Officers and Directors of the Society extend their best wishes for the Holiday Season.

SUTLER SHOP ENDS ANOTHER SEASON

Martha Bennett serves in two important capacities for the Society. In her role as Office Manager, she handles the myriad of tasks necessary to keep the work of the Society running smoothly, while at the same time performing valuable research and answering the many requests we receive for information about members of the Union Garrison and Confederate POWs. Her second major responsibility is to manage the Sutler Shop, ordering items to be sold, stocking the shop with items for sale, overseeing the inventory, depositing receipts, recruiting, scheduling and training volunteers to staff the Shop and filling in when no one else is available. Despite fears to the contrary, gross receipts for 2008 matched those of 2007. Martha and the Board of Directors extend their heartfelt appreciation to all those volunteers who helped make it another successful year.

*Barbara Citron Edith Mahoney
Ed Fielding Jayne McCormick
Beverly Hansen Roger Reynolds
Randall Hansen Bill Robelen
Kay Keenan Jennifer Robelen
Brandon Keenan Don Sholl
Hugh Simmons*

Thanks to all of you from all of us. We couldn't have done it without you.

NEWSLETTER VIA E-MAIL

In the May 2008 issue of this newsletter, we noted that our annual postage expense exceeds \$1000, and we made an appeal to our members who have e-mail capability to share their e-mail address with us so that we can send the newsletter to them electronically, thereby saving postage. To date only 14 members have responded, so we encourage you again to help us reduce a part of our operating expense. Just drop us a short note via e-mail to society@fortdelaware.org indicating that you are interested in this more modern method of communication. We'll keep you informed of the progress, and we'll all benefit.

ANNUAL LUNCHEON DATE SET

The Society's 59th Annual Luncheon will be held on Sunday, February 8, 2009 in the Chameleon Room at the Christiana Hilton. Invitations are being printed and will be mailed out by the end of the year. Our featured guest speaker is Mr. Jim Hessler, a licensed battlefield guide at Gettysburg National Military Park who will discuss "Pickett's Charge" and the resulting POWs who were sent to Fort Delaware.

This event is the highlight of our year as those who have attended in the past will attest, and we encourage all members to join us. It is an excellent opportunity to chat with fellow members in a beautiful setting, to enjoy a delicious meal and to participate in the election of Officers for 2009.

DESCENDENT'S CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

Early this year we initiated a program to acknowledge those persons who had ancestors who were either Confederate POWs at Fort Delaware or were members of the Union Garrison during the Civil War. As a way of saying thanks for an unrestricted contribution of \$25, the descendent receives a handsome Certificate suitable for framing with his or her name and the name of the ancestor with the dates he was imprisoned or served at the Fort. A personal letter of thanks from the President of the Society accompanies each certificate. The program is proving to be quite successful. A total of 12 certificates have been sent to date. If you wish to participate, just call the Office or send us a brief request with as much information about your ancestor as possible. We'll do the research and respond immediately. The Certificate could make an excellent, unusual and thoughtful gift for members of your family this Holiday Season.

SUTLER SHOP ATTRACTS WORLD- WIDE VISITORS

During the 2008 season at the Fort, visitors from 17 countries and 46 states plus the District of Columbia signed our Register Book in the Sutler Shop. The only states not represented were Alaska, Rhode Island, North Dakota and South Dakota. Our staffers behind the sales counter use the opportunity to answer questions and to make new friends for the Society.

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES CONTINUE

Members of the Board of Directors continue to promote Fort Delaware and the work of the Society throughout the year by participating in a variety of outreach activities and by serving as speakers at various functions.

We were represented at an annual seminar at Manor College in Pennsylvania featuring the Battle of Gettysburg, a program honoring Confederate Lieutenant Harry Coleman who died at Fort Delaware and was buried in Easton, PA, Newark Community Day on the University of Delaware campus, and the dedication of a painting in the Delaware Archives Building in Dover. Speaking engagements included Newark Senior Center, Central Civil War Roundtable in Dover and the Masonic Home in Wilmington. All these efforts are made to help fulfill our mission to promote Fort Delaware.

UTILITY EXPENSE REDUCTION EFFORTS

In these times of rising energy costs, your Society is making a conscious effort to conserve energy and to reduce expense. By carefully monitoring our programmable thermostat and keeping the office door closed, we have cut our electricity usage by one-third over the past four months. Hopefully, the same efforts will be reflected in our heating oil costs this winter. We also make it a point to replace the HVAC system filter on a regular basis. Every little bit helps.

Society Outreach Efforts to Promote Historic Fort Delaware



April General Membership Meeting



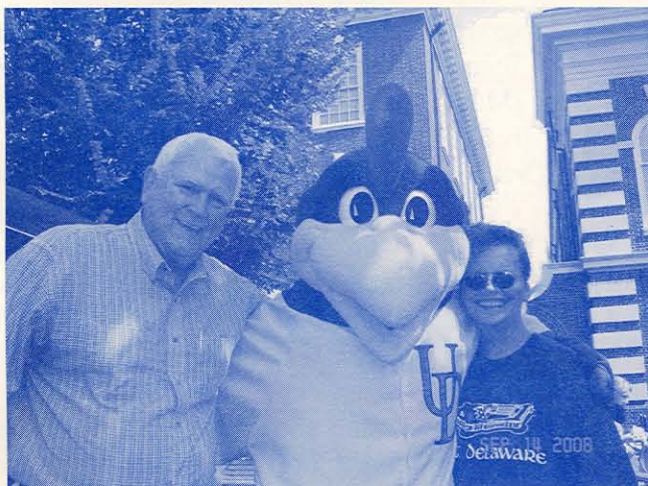
Providence Academy Children's Fair



Manor College Gettysburg Seminar



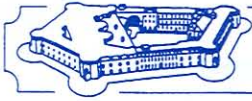
Fort Delaware Dead in Easton, Pennsylvania



Newark Community Day



Lee & Grant Painting in Dover Archives



FORT DELAWARE SOCIETY

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CHILDREN'S DAY AT THE FORT

The 2009 season at the Fort promises to be a busy one—full of new and different activities. Director of Interpretive Programs Laura Lee is already making plans, which include a joint event co-sponsored by the Fort Delaware Society aimed at young children to provide some unusual entertainment as well as informative and educational programs. The date for this special event is Saturday, June 20. The entire Park event will revolve around the children and will include both Civil War period games such as croquet, graces, sack races and baseball as well as more modern ones in a carnival-like atmosphere. Period craft activities will include quilting squares, knitting, making corn

husk or rag dolls, making a plate, a baseball or a ceramic bead necklace. A 19th century exhibition baseball game will be played by the newly-formed Diamond State Baseball Club. An island-wide scavenger hunt is planned along with an introduction to Geo-Caching. Interpretive programs such as *Miss Gible's School House, Hurry Up and Wait* (Mock Civil War Enlistment), *Archaeology Detective, Artillery Drills, a Nature Hike and a Children's Tour of the Fort* are all on Laura's list of planned activities. For the children who participate and for the adults who observe, this special event will be a very busy one. There is enough variety of things to do to satisfy everyone. Obviously, there are many details to be worked out, and they will be made available to

the public as soon as possible. Our May 2009 issue of this Newsletter will feature them. Meanwhile, please begin to consider who you will bring to the Park on June 20. Your guests can include your own children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews plus their friends. If some child has a birthday around that time, just imagine what a unique idea it would be to hold the party on Children's Day at Fort Delaware State Park. Many of the adults who visit the Island today with their families, remember the Fort from their own childhood. What better way to introduce an important part of our nation's history to future adults than to expose them to the Fort and its history in such an interesting, informative and entertaining way as children.

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