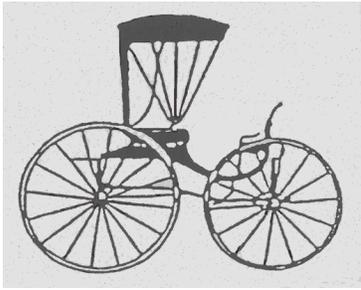


" Remembering Yesterday For The People Of Tomorrow "

Haddon Heights Historical Society



Bulletin

P.O. Box 118 • Haddon Heights, NJ 08035

WWW.HHHISTORICAL.ORG

Volume 44 Number 1

January 2019

We meet on the third Monday of January, April, July, and October - at 7:00pm in the Library

JANUARY 2019 HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING DATE CHANGE— Because the Martin Luther King Holiday falls on our usual meeting day in January, we will be moving out first meeting of 2019, back one week to Monday January 28th at 7:00pm. Please note this change on your calendar! See you on the 28th.....

“POSTCARDS FROM THE EDGE... SENT UP THE RIVER”— Our next speaker, Paul W. Schopp has been a student of history for more than 44 years, working as a professional historian in the Cultural Resource field for 27 years, specializing in regional history, transportation history, and the history of technology. Paul currently holds the position of Assistant Director of the South Jersey Culture & History Center at Stockton University. He is a well known and respected authority in New Jersey historical circles and he served as the executive director of the Camden County Historical Society for four years. In 1994, Mr. Schopp completed the 488-page book, *The Trail of the Blue Comet*, the history of the Central Railroad of New Jersey’s Southern Division, participating in the work as a co-author. A variety of specialty and peer-review journals have published his numerous articles and monographs. Paul has a special affinity for steamboats and particularly those that navigated the Delaware River and its tributaries.



Please join us on Monday evening January 28th for our next program. Using historic images and postcards from his vast collection, Paul has assembled a program that will provide a retrospective on what it was like to cruise the river on excursion steamers like the Columbia and the John A. Warner. The program will begin with a brief history of steamboats on the Delaware River, followed by a virtual trip up the Delaware from Philadelphia with side trips on the Pennsauken and Rancocas creeks. Paul will discuss the boats, some of the captains, the boys that hung around the wharf,

and the recreational facilities that made the excursion trade so lively. Despite the January winter weather, attendees should arrive to the presentation imagining women wearing summer whites and men in their boater straw hats and seersucker jackets.

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE— I would like to wish you a healthy and a Happy New Year!!!!!!!!!!!!!! The Haddon Heights Historical Society Board has been hard at work planning varied and interesting historical programs for you for the upcoming year. I look forward to seeing you at our meetings. Please take advantage of the many historical

venues that surround us. This Fall Peter and I had the opportunity for a unique experience in Yorktown, VA. We both joined in the festivities to commemorate the Siege at Yorktown in 1781 and the Revolutionary victory that paved the way for America and freedom. October 19, Yorktown Day, is always a fantastic day to be in Yorktown. Closer to home, I recommend the Hamilton exhibit at The Museum of the American Revolution. The interactive exhibits are informative and fun. I was able to participate in a simulation of firing a cannon, sit in a replica of the chair George Washington sat in at the Constitutional Convention, and learn about Hamilton!!!! It was quite an interesting afternoon. My favorite exposure to local history though, was having the thrill of wearing an Eagle's Super Bowl Ring for a few minutes!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Elena Hill



REVOLUTIONARY WAR SOLDIERS PREFER MR. SOFTEE 2 : 1 !!!-

Last Fall during the Revolutionary War encampment in the Camden County Park-



Haddon Heights, I got to see what soldier life was like during the revolution, with cooking, uniform and weapon demonstrations. This is always an interesting event and I encourage everyone to come out next year. The event also provided the photographer in me, the opportunity to see a true juxtaposition of history! During the cannon firing, a Mr. Softee driver pulled up to the curb and was disappointed to find out the last shot had been fired. He used the weapons he had at his disposal, to convince the re-enactors to fire off the cannon one more time..... He offered all the soldiers free ice cream if they did. As you can see from the photo, the soldiers got their treat!



They also enjoyed browsing the Haddon Heights Historical Society tent for brochures and sale items!

PEA PATCH ISLAND- PART II- In the last issue of the newsletter, I told you about the origins of Pea Patch Island and Fort Delaware. Now we continue with more history of this gem in the Delaware. The garrison on Pea Patch Island has had many shapes through the years. It has been a "Star Fort", a "Polygonal Fort", and finally, a "Pentagonal Fort"- constructed in a style called Third-System architecture. Because the island's soil was a compressible mud some 40 feet deep, construction of a major structure required driving long "piles" into the soil to provide adequate support. This phase of the project to building began during 1849 and was completed in 1851. Final construction took place through 1860 and was completed before the Civil War, but the Post Engineer did not declare the fort "finished" until 1868.

During the Civil War, Fort Delaware went from protector to prison. A prisoner-of-war camp was established to house captured Confederates, convicted federal soldiers, local political prisoners as well as privateers. The first prisoners were housed inside the fort in sealed off casemates, empty powder magazines as well as two small rooms. In those small rooms, visitors can still see the names of Confederate soldiers carved into the brick. The Philadelphia Inquirer described the prisoners as, "an average population of southern tourists, who came at the urgent invitation of Mr. Lincoln." During the war, in addition to regular Confederate soldiers, about a dozen Confederate Generals also called Fort Delaware home.



In 1862 and 1863, two more phases of construction took place. A barracks for enlisted prisoners of war— known as the Bull Pen, was added. One prisoner estimated those buildings could hold about ten thousand persons. In fact, most of the Confederates captured from the battle of Gettysburg were imprisoned there. An “L” shaped building for Union guard regiments, was also built. The second phase was construction of a hospital facility. In August, 1863, there were more than 11,000 prisoners on the island. By war’s end, Fort Delaware had held almost 33,000 men. Although the conditions were decent, about 2,500 prisoners died on Pea Patch Island. The death rate was 7.6 percent. It is noted that half of the total number of deaths occurred during a smallpox epidemic in 1863.



One notable event at Fort Delaware was the deployment of the “Immortal 600”. On August 20, 1864, 600 Confederate soldiers boarded the *Crescent* bound for Morris Island, S.C.. It is believed that they were sent to the south to be placed under fire from the Confederate batteries in retaliation for an equal number of Federal Officers who had been placed in the city of Charleston and were said to be exposed to the shelling from their own guns. After the Civil War, the fort was operated by a small garrison of the 4th U.S. Artillery. Considerable damage to structures outside the fort was sustained from a hurricane that struck the area in October, 1878.



Before the start of the Spanish-American War, a mine-control casemate was built. It served in conjunction with a one-story torpedo shed and a narrow-gauge rail-road, which all supported water-tight mines that could be placed in the Delaware River as a defensive measure against a possible enemy attack. During the 1890’s, new gun batteries were constructed as part of a program to upgrade artillery positions in what was called Endicott Gun Batteries.

After a period of care-taking status, the fort was garrisoned again for a brief period during World War I. It served as a sub-post along with Fort Mott, directly adjacent on the New Jersey shoreline, and Fort DuPont in Delaware. By the end of the Great War, Fort Saulsbury in Milford, Del. Was near completion, rendering Fort Delaware as a secondary line of defense. In 1919, soldiers began the process of mothballing the old fort, removing everything except items pertaining to the 12-inch guns of Battery Torbert at the site.

In World War II, the fort lost its remaining three 12-inch guns, leaving only smaller armaments. It was garrisoned by a detachment of soldiers from the Coast Guard Artillery Battalion and a unit from the Delaware Army National Guard. The fort was eventually stripped of most of the electrical wiring which was reused at Fort Miles in Lewes, Del. Fort Delaware was declared a surplus site by the federal government at the end of the war.

The state of Delaware acquired the fort from the United States government in 1947 . It is now known as Fort Delaware State Park, and encompasses the entire island. Transportation to the island is provided via ferry boat from both the Delaware and the New Jersey sides of the Delaware River. When visitors land on the island, they are brought to the fort on a jitney. Tours are available to visitors and special programs are scheduled throughout the year. Park staff and volunteers interpret the roles of people who were at the fort during the Civil War.

While in the area, also check out Fort Mott. On the New Jersey side of the Delaware river, your ferry boat leaves from a dock on the grounds of Fort Mott. Where else can you see two forts within a half mile of each other???

2019 Membership Application / Renewal- Haddon Heights Historical Society

Name _____

Address _____

Phone (H) _____ (W) _____ E-Mail _____

Type of Membership: _____ Single- \$10.00 _____ Household- \$15.00

I would like to make a tax deductible donation to Haddon Heights Historical Society, in the amount of \$ _____

Coming Events

January 28, 2019- HHHS General Membership Mtg. 7:00pm in the Haddon Heights Library- Paul Schopp- History through postcards

April 15, 2019- HHHS General Membership Mtg. 7:00pm in the Haddon Heights Library- Antiques Appraisal, like our own "Road Show"

April 6, 2019- league of Historical Societies- NJ meeting: ocean County Hist. Society- Toms River

June 1, 2019- league of Historical Societies- NJ meeting: Dey Farm, Monroe Twp., Middlesex Cty

July 15, 2019- HHHS General Membership Mtg. 7:00pm in the Haddon Heights Library-

MEMBERSHIP DUES- Your "Paid Through YEAR" is printed on your Newsletter label. Your dues help us keep history alive. Only paid-up members will continue to receive the HHHS Newsletter!

Those who provide us an e-mail address, will also receive an electronic full color copy of each edition of the newsletter in advance of the mailing.

HEIGHTS NOTE CARDS- The Society has our note cards featuring the four pre-Revolutionary War homes in town. They are available at the Library. Only \$4.00 for a pack of 8.

The Haddon Heights Historical Society is a 501(c)3 organization. Please keep us in mind as you plan your charitable donations. Make us part of Your Legacy...

2019.... WOW !!! Another year has begun. Please take time to look back at your personal history and share it with those younger ones around you! Every chance I get, I try to include historical/family information as I speak with and teach my grandchildren. My love for history was firmly embedded in me by my grandmother, and I fully intend to have the same impact..... Thanks for listening! Ken Funkhouser, Editor (24 yrs)

2019 Historical Society Board

<u>President-(2018-2020)</u>	Elena Hill
<u>Vice-President-(2018-2020)</u>	Bob Hunter
<u>Past President-</u>	Margaret Westfield
<u>Treasurer-(2018- 2020)</u>	David Somerville
<u>Secretary- (Ends 2020)</u>	Carolyn Finegar
<u>Trustees-(2016-2019)</u>	Ken Funkhouser
	Anne McAdams
	Peter Hill

COMMITTEES / CHAIRS

<u>Newsletter Ed.-</u>	Ken Funkhouser
<u>Membership Chair-</u>	Joan Rossler
<u>Web Master-</u>	Gianna Hill
<u>Nominating Comm.-</u>	Bob Hunter/ Peter Hill
<u>Borough Council Liaison</u>	Vacant
<u>Affairs-</u>	Vacant
<u>Merch/Fund Raising-</u>	Joan Rossler
<u>Programs/Publicity-</u>	Vacant
<u>Programs/Publicity- Asst.</u>	Vacant
<u>Digital Photographer</u>	Vacant

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