

## **The Delaware Bay**

Henry Hudson sailed into the Delaware Bay on August 28, 1609. He did not come ashore on Delaware land, but reported that the area would be a good location for settlement. He named a body of water the *South Bay*. It was a Samuel Argall, who in 1610 named the Delaware Bay, in honor of his employer, the Virginia governor, Lord DeLaWarr (Sir Thomas West.) Lord DeLaWarr never saw the Delaware Bay.

## **Cape Henlopen**

Cape Henlopen was named by the Dutch navigator, Cornelius Jacobsen Mey, in 1620. Historians believe that he named it for a city in the Netherlands called Hindeloopen.

## **Cape Henlopen Lighthouse**

The Cape Henlopen lighthouse was completed in 1765. It served as the chief shipping aid for Cape Henlopen, until erosion changed the shape of the Cape and a beacon was added. The light inside the Cape Henlopen Lighthouse was extinguished in 1924 and the building was boarded up. It was a popular spot for children and their families to picnic and play. Customarily at Easter, children rolled decorated eggs down its steep bank. The lighthouse was finally lost after it tumbled into the sea on April 13, 1926. Many fireplaces in the Lewes and Rehoboth area have been constructed from lighthouse stone which was strewn over the beach.

## **Merman**

A very popular exhibit for children at Zwaanendael Museum is the Merman or Monkey-Fish. Made many years ago as a prank, it was constructed by attaching a monkey head to the body of a fish.

## **Bombardment of Lewes – War of 1812**

Lewes was the site of much excitement in March and April of 1813. The United States declared war against England in 1812. The English response was to create blockades to stop US shipping along the Atlantic coast. A English blockade squadron was anchored off the coast of Lewes, in the Delaware Bay. The commander demanded that Lewes citizens supply them with water, vegetables and 20 live cattle. The Delaware governor refused and the British bombarded the town with 800 shots from cannons for 22 hours. Homes and buildings were damaged and some of the soldiers were injured, but the brave US and Delaware forces stood firm in defense of the town until the British stopped firing and sailed away.