

Historical and Cultural Affairs

The historic preservation and museums newsletter of the Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs.

Dec. 22, 2017 * Volume 10, Issue 12

News

Division receives \$190,000 grant for its partner sites in the First State National Historical Park

Grant to fund capital improvements and programmatic activities at the New Castle Green, New Castle Court House, John Dickinson Plantation and Fort Christina National Historic Landmark.

[Read more ...](#)



U.S. Sen. Tom Carper shakes hands with historic-site interpreter Barbara Carrow during his visit to the John Dickinson Plantation on Nov. 17, 2017. Historic-site interpreter Melissa Fitzgerald looks on. The museum is one of four sites that recently received a grant from the First State National Historical Park.

Division museums closed on Dec. 24, 25 and 31, 2017; and Jan. 1, 2018

Museums closed Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day.

[Read more ...](#)

Division to sponsor eight special events during January 2018

Highlights include activities celebrating Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, and programs on E.R. Johnson's yacht the Caroline and buccaneers in the Delaware Bay.

[Read more ...](#)

Johnson Victrola Museum celebrates 50th anniversary

Museum celebrates E.R. Johnson and his contributions to the sound-recording industry.

[Read more ...](#)

Division welcomes three new staff members

New employees include two members of the Horticulture Team and an addition to the staff of the Buena Vista conference/event center.

[Read more ...](#)

Division employees and volunteers recognized at end-of-year meeting

Event celebrated the agency's 2017 achievements.

[Read more ...](#)

[Go here for more news items ...](#)

Help Save Delaware History

Archaeological discovery writes new chapter in Delaware's early colonial history

Findings shed light on 11 burials dating to the late 1600s including three people of African descent.

[Read more ...](#)

Federal credits for historic preservation retained in new tax law

Tax credits help preserve historic properties across the nation.

[Read more ...](#)

Grants for historic preservation

African-American Cultural Heritage Action Fund grants now available.

[Read more ...](#)

"Preserving Our Past for a Better Future: Delaware's Historic Preservation Plan, 2013–2017"

Document provides a roadmap for focusing on the broad goals and needs of Delaware's preservation community.

[Read more ...](#)

Media Roundup

The following Delaware history-related articles have recently appeared in the media:

[World War I exhibit gleams at Delaware Public Archives](#)

Delaware State News, Dover, Del.—Dec. 14, 2017

Exhibit includes several items loaned from the collections of the State of Delaware.

[History Matters: Celebrating the "Penman of the Revolution"](#)

Delaware Public Media, Dover, Del.—Dec. 1, 2017

Article and video explore the 250th anniversary of John Dickinson's "Letters From a Farmer in Pennsylvania."

[Improvements set for John Dickinson Plantation](#)

Washington Times, D.C.—Nov. 26, 2017

Museum to receive \$45,000 as part of a \$190,000 federal grant to the division's partner sites in the First State National Historical Park.

Articles on Delaware's place as the first state to ratify the U.S. Constitution

State unanimously ratified the nation's founding document on Dec. 7, 1787.

[Everything You Always Wanted to Know About The First Ratification Of The U.S. Constitution* \(*But Were Afraid to Ask\)](#)

The Daily Caller, Washington, D.C.—Dec. 11, 2017

[Delaware becomes first state to ratify Constitution, Dec. 7, 1787](#)

Politico, Arlington, Va.—Dec. 7, 2017

Reports on analysis of human remains found at 17th century archaeological site

More than a dozen media reports have been published about Avery's Rest, a site west of Rehoboth Beach that has provided valuable information on early European settlement in Sussex County. To read the reports, go to the end of the following [blog](#).

Events

Saturday, Dec. 23

[Handmade for the Holidays](#) – John Dickinson Plantation

Sunday, Dec. 24

[Christmas Eve](#) – All museums of the State of Delaware closed

Monday, Dec. 25

[Christmas Day](#) – All museums of the State of Delaware closed

Sunday, Dec. 31

[New Year's Eve](#) – All museums of the State of Delaware closed

Monday, Jan. 1, 2018

[New Year's Day](#) – All museums of the State of Delaware closed

Saturday, Jan. 6

[The Caroline](#) – Johnson Victrola Museum

[Our Delegates](#) – The Old State House

Friday, Jan. 12

[Concert by Sol Knopf](#) – The Old State House

Saturday, Jan. 13

[Stories of African-American History From St. Jones Neck](#) – John Dickinson Plantation

[Buccaneers in the Bay](#) – Zwaanendael Museum

Monday, Jan. 15

[Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day](#) – Johnson Victrola Museum and The Old State House open. John Dickinson Plantation, New Castle Court House Museum and Zwaanendael Museum closed

[Courage and Freedom](#) – The Old State House

[The Struggle](#) – Johnson Victrola Museum

Wednesday, Jan. 17

[Delaware State Review Board for Historic Preservation Meeting](#) – Delaware Public Archives

For a comprehensive, long-term calendar of division-sponsored events, [go here](#).

Exhibits and Displays

Ongoing

[Discovering Delaware's Maritime Past](#) – Zwaanendael Museum

[Drawing America to Victory: The Persuasive Power of the Arts in World War I](#) – Online

[Five Stories](#) – John Dickinson Plantation

[Letters From a Farmer in Pennsylvania](#) – Online

[New Castle: Three Forts, One Community](#) – New Castle Court House Museum

[The Old State House: A True Restoration 1976-2016](#) – The Old State House

[Rose Color to Gold to Glowing Red: Orville and Ethel Peets in Paris 1913-1914](#) – Zwaanendael Museum

[Sculpture by Charles Parks](#) – New Castle Court House Museum

[A Seaborne Citizenry: The DeBraak and Its Atlantic World](#) – Zwaanendael Museum

[Simple Machines](#) – John Dickinson Plantation



Historical and Cultural Affairs

The historic-preservation and museums newsletter of the Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs.

Historical and Cultural Affairs is designed to stimulate public interest in the division's museums, programs and services, and to increase awareness of the value that history and historic preservation bring to the lives of Delaware's citizens and visitors. The newsletter is distributed during the last week of each month, via e-mail, to division staff members, Delaware's historical- and preservation-related communities and friends. Please submit relevant articles, news items and suggestions to Jim Yurasek, newsletter editor, at jim.yurasek@delaware.gov.

[Non-Discrimination Statement and Acknowledgement of Support](#)

If you would like to be added to, or removed from, the e-newsletter mailing list, please e-mail the editor.

Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs

21 The Green

Dover, DE 19901

Telephone: 302-736-7400

Fax: (302) 739-5660

Web: <http://history.delaware.gov>