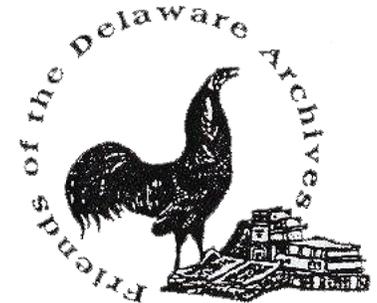


Friends of the Delaware Archives

Volume 18, Issue 3. November 2014.



Dear Friends,

It promises to be another great year for the Friends of the Delaware Archives, and I invite all those reading this to get more involved in our endeavors. The board has organized itself around several committees, and you will be hearing more from them instead of me in future newsletters. These committees are set up so that other members of the Friends, and not just those that sit on the board, are welcome to help with the planning and organizing of our events.

We have several committees that are in full swing now. We have a Long Range Planning Committee that looks 6-9 months ahead to decide how we are going to support the Archives, and we have an Events Committee that handles more of the specifics of the events as they draw closer, such as organizing members to assist at the Archives' First Saturday events. We also have an active Newsletter Committee that brings what you have in your hands (or are reading on your computer screen) to you. Our Membership Committee seeks to increase our reach (such as by our new Facebook presence) and to build on our 10% increase in membership last year. Your help, in any of these areas, would be greatly appreciated.

In the long term, we continue to work on developing our Volume VI of the Revolutionary War Index. We still plan on publishing this important work, but we are first going to have it reviewed, which will take a bit of time... but we hope to publish (probably electronically) sometime before next summer. We also want to help the Archives spread the word - look for us at Daughters of the American Revolution State Conference in Milford, as well as the Newark Family History Center Fair as we go on our first Road Show in several years. Stop by and say "Hi"... and maybe sign up to help in one of our areas.

Larry Josefowski

President, Friends of the Delaware Archives

FODA EXECUTIVE BOARD

Larry Josefowski, *President*

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Trip Wilkinson (*SC*)

Diann Sherwin (*SC*)

Upcoming Events at the Delaware Public Archives

These programs are free to the public and no reservations are required unless otherwise noted. For more information contact Tom Summers at (302) 744 - 5047 or e-mail thomas.summers@state.de.us.

November 8, 2014. 9:30 a.m.

Genealogy Help at the Archives

Have you ever wondered about your family history but didn't know where to start? Are you a genealogist or a researcher that has hit a wall with your research? The Delaware Public Archives is pleased to announce that volunteers from local genealogical societies will be on site to help you with your research on Saturday, November 8th from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Our volunteers will be available to answer your questions, show you what resources DPA has available and explain how you can use them. Don't miss this opportunity to discover more about your family tree. Pre-registration for this opportunity is required. Please call Dawn Mitchell at 302-744-5000 by 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 6th to reserve a spot.

December 13, 2014. 2:00 p.m.

Meeting of the Downstate Delaware Genealogical Society

Presenter: Leah Youse

The December meeting of the Downstate Delaware Genealogical Society will take place on Saturday, December 13, 2:00 p.m. A non-profit organization for people who have an interest in genealogy, this group meets every other month at the Delaware Public Archives beginning in October and ending in June. The public is welcome to all meetings and guests are encouraged. Each meeting generally includes a guest speaker and time for sharing genealogical information. The speaker for the December meeting will be Leah Youse, MLIS, librarian with the Elkton Central Library in Cecil County, Maryland. Her presentation is titled "How to Find Books in the Public Domain (no longer covered by copyright) and Using Them for Genealogical Research."

January 3, 2015. 10:30 a.m.

Delaware in the War of 1812: A "Most Distressing War"

Presenter: Charles (Chuck) Fithian

The year 1814 would see the War of 1812 enter into its second year. The previous year had witnessed the imposition of a seaborne blockade and active naval campaigning across the Chesapeake Bay and Delaware Valley region. Delawareans were active participants in these events and beyond, and directly experienced the effects of naval irregular warfare. In 1814, they would continue to aid in the national defense, and would respond to new threats brought about by this destructive war. This presentation will examine the period of 1814 through to the peace of 1815.

February 7, 2015. 10:30 a.m.

Reconstructing African American Lives: Antebellum to Reconstruction

Presenter: Shamele Jordon

Nineteenth Century research is particularly difficult for African American researchers. Using a variety of sources this presentation will provide strategies for locating ancestors using federal, county, and organizational records from reconstruction back to the slavery time period. Records include Freedmen's Bureau, Freedman's Bank, probate records and more.

Annual Meeting at Roma Italian Restaurant

A summary of key highlights from the 2014 Annual Meeting.

On Tuesday, May 13, 2014, our annual meeting and luncheon was held at Roma Italian Restaurant in Dover. During the business meeting we held an election and welcomed new board members, Diann Sherwin (Sussex County) and George Locke (Kent County). President, Larry Josefowski discussed FODA's plans for this past year – Visibility (increase presence at the Archives), Vitality (email, outreach), and Value (purchasing photo collection, working on transcription project for Volume VI of military records). He reported that we have reached our goal of a 10% increase in membership.

The program this year was historian, Will Parkhurst who spoke on his research of downtown Dover's Victorian homes. In the past six years, he has been digging deeper at the Delaware Public Archives to discover more of Dover's post-Civil War history. He is also working on a booklet to share the information and history of this era.

Spotlight on a Friend

Trip Wilkinson, pictured below.

FODA Board Member, Trip Wilkinson serves as one of our Sussex County representatives. Although not a lifelong resident, she first came to Delaware as a visitor to Rehoboth Beach in August 1941 when her family bought a beach house in Indian Beach, just south of Dewey Beach. At that time, she was living in Baltimore, MD and after WWII, she moved to Lexington KY, but still visited the beach each summer. She later graduated from the University of Kentucky with a teaching degree, and decided to stay in Rehoboth, teaching 2nd grade in Lewes for five years, and then married.

In 1958 she left teaching to begin her 2nd career - motherhood. Trip has two children, who still live in the Rehoboth area with their children. In 1964, she began her 3rd career in real estate, working for DFD who built many houses, condos, and townhouses in Rehoboth by the Sea, & the Bethany Beach areas. Later she was an agent with Mae Hall McCabe Realty, Sea Colony and Wilgus Associates, where she worked for 25 years, finally retiring in 2005.

Trip is now in her 4th career - volunteering! She is active with The Rehoboth Beach Library, The Rehoboth Art League (where she serves on the Docent Council for the Homestead, built in 1743), The All Saints' Thrift Shop, The Rehoboth Museum, as well as serving on the FODA Board.

Her other community activities include participating as an active member of the Colonel David Hall Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, the VIA, several Republican organizations, and All Saints Church. She enjoys travel, especially cruises and has been to Canada, Alaska, Hawaii, Bermuda, the Caribbean and the Mediterranean. She enjoys most types of music, reading, and meeting interesting people.



The First Quaker Antislavery Petition to the Delaware General Assembly

By Michael R. McDowell

In the Legislative Papers Collection, among the wealth of documents kept at the Delaware Public Archives, is what may be the first antislavery petition presented to the General Assembly of Delaware. As such it served to influence the state's early response to the problem of slavery. On January 9, 1786, a deputation of seven Delaware Quakers presented the petition from 204 Quaker men to the House, which they were allowed to read themselves. In their petition the Delaware Friends, noting that their society had "been long affected with the oppression exercised over the black people," cited natural rights in their request that the general assembly apply a legislative remedy "for removing the reproachful evil" of slavery. In the petition, the Quakers also noted that they were encouraged that the legislatures of several other states had authorized the abolition of slavery and that they believed some members of the House did regard "enslaving our fellow men to be contrary to every Christian and moral obligation."

The encouragement the Friends referred to was the passage of gradual abolition laws or judicial interpretations of revolutionary era state constitutions putting slavery on the road to extinction in the North. At the time of the petition these states were Pennsylvania, Massachusetts (including what is now the state of Maine), New Hampshire, Connecticut, and Rhode Island. Also, the Vermont Republic banned slavery in its 1777 constitution. The Delaware Quaker petition decried the inhumanity of the slave trade with the suffering and oppression it created in both Africa and America. Observing that persons of different religious denominations had been led to manumit individuals they held in slavery, the Quakers objected to the 60£ security requirement, "which being thought unreasonable is therefore seldom complied with." The costly and possibly prohibitive 60£ security requirement from a colonial era law was intended to indemnify the county in case of the manumitted "Negro or Mulatto's being sick, or otherwise rendered incapable to support himself or herself." The Quaker's petition objected to this requirement because, it noted, "healthy Negroes set at liberty in the Prime of Life are mostly subject to immediate Taxation, by which contributing to the common charges of the Community..." In addition, they complained that although Negroes contributed to the community, they had been denied open free trials, and had been convicted on unequal laws.

The events that led up to this Delaware Quaker antislavery petition, the first of several, are related in the journal of Hugh Judge, and the minutes of the respective meetings. Judge was a Wilmington Friend who traveled widely in the ministry, and served on the committee which prepared the petition. On December 14, 1785, after attending Wilmington Monthly Meeting, Judge wrote that a concern was laid before them by the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's Meeting for Sufferings which represented the dealings of Yearly Meeting with society at large between annual sessions. He wrote that this was "a concern which Friends had felt for the black people in this government, as also for the two monthly meetings of Friends, as nothing had ever been done by them in laying before the men in power the grievances of this long injured people." The two monthly meetings, organized to conduct business, in Delaware at the time were Wilmington and Duck Creek (which is now Smyrna).

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The First Quaker Antislavery Petition to the Delaware General Assembly, cont.

By Michael R. McDowell

Continued from page 4

Both Delaware monthly meetings formed committees to address the concern; however, the Wilmington committee learned that Duck Creek had already composed a petition which had been approved by the Meeting for Sufferings after being revised. Four of the Wilmington committee attended Duck Creek monthly meeting and after several readings and some small alterations the petition was approved and the committees united in presenting the petition to the General Assembly.

Although an emancipation act introduced in 1786 was deferred for later consideration and then tabled, in 1787 a new act passed which addressed at least one of the Quaker's concerns. The 1787 Act to Prevent the Exportation of Slaves, and for Other Purposes, did away with the 60£ security for manumissions of healthy Negroes or Mulattos from 18 to 35 years of age. The act also banned the importation and exportation of the enslaved in Delaware. Although the Quaker petition failed to result in legislation to abolish slavery, it helped pave the way for the 1787 act which greatly facilitated private voluntary manumissions in the state. Changes in Delaware agriculture, combined with religious and moral objections to slavery, meant that by the first Federal census in 1790 Delaware had the highest percentage of free blacks in the black population of any state, over 30%, and by 1810 it had reached over 75%. Sadly, despite the clear indications that slavery was a dying institution in the state, Delaware never found the political will to pass an abolition law.

***About the Author:** Michael McDowell has published articles and given presentations on Delaware History and the history of Delaware Valley Quakers. He is currently working on a biography of the Delaware Quaker abolitionist Warner Mifflin.*

FODA Is On Facebook!

www.facebook.com/FriendsoftheDelawareArchives

The Friends of the Delaware Archives now has a Facebook Page! We will be posting information on events at the Archives as well as our own events, volunteer opportunities, and collections found at DPA that FODA purchased or donated. Please help us grow our presence by “liking” our page:



www.facebook.com/FriendsoftheDelawareArchives

Horsey Family Donates Large Collection to the Delaware Public Archives

By Thomas Summers



On August 19, 2014 the Archives staff gathered in the Mabel Lloyd Ridgely Research Center to accept a generous donation of 20 cubic feet of documents and other materials from the Horsey family. State Archivist and Delaware Public Archives Director Stephen M. Marz, CA, accepted the donation on behalf of the Archives from retired State Supreme Court Justice Henry Horsey in a brief ceremony. The materials date back to 1708 and include correspondence, accounts, legal documents, court opinions and personal family papers representing local and worldwide connections as well as past discussion notes and briefings on a host of legal matters undertaken by Justice Horsey. The collection has already been processed by retired Archives staff member Joanne Mattern.

Left: State Archivist Stephen M. Marz stands with Justice Horsey following the donation ceremony.

New at the Delaware Public Archives!

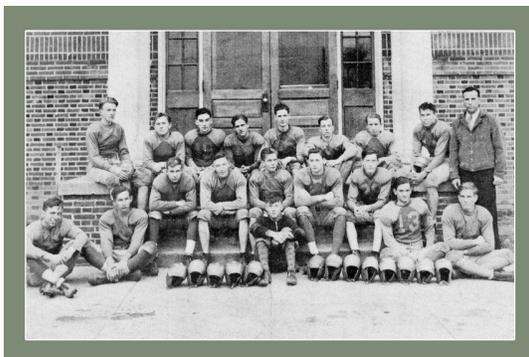
Newly digitized collections and recent acquisitions.

Check out the following photograph collections that were recently added to the Digital Archives section of the Archives' website: www.archives.delaware.gov

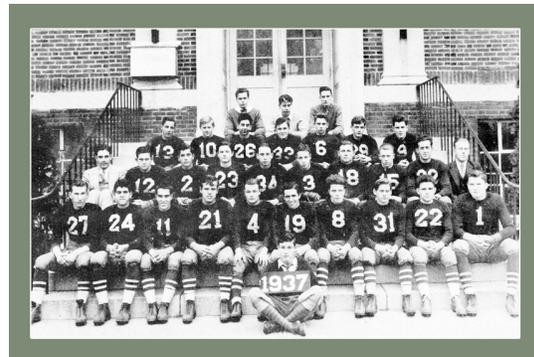
The Meyer Keilson Collection
Project Delaware
Woodside Glass Negative Collection

The photographs below come from a 1937 program that was recently donated by FODA member and newsletter editor, Margaret David.

Football teams from the "Annual Thanksgiving Day Football Game, 1937"
Dover High School vs. Caesar Rodney High School.



CAESAR RODNEY HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM



DOVER HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

Brushing Up On My Dover History!

By Jan Crumpley

I've been doing research in the Archives the past few years because of my interest in Dover history. I'm not originally of Delaware, but from out West where architecture of the Victorian age are the oldest buildings. I have been painting the local historic district for the past few years, which is why I opened my businesses on the Green in November of 2013. Having the honor of leasing space in the most historic location in Dover, on the site of the Golden Fleece, knowing the significance of historic details is a must. Here, we are not just tour guides geographically but also historically! In the Archives, I've used the newspaper films of the Delawarean, a weekly Dover newspaper, sequentially from September 1880 with a goal to get to about 1910 to cover events around downtown and I have discovered more than I suspected!

I am very interested in the changes that happened to Dover as it grew from being mainly around the Green in the early 19th century to the era when Loockerman was pushed through to the East to meet up with the new Route 13. The 1890-1934 era was an important time for downtown commerce, and as modern downtown merchant, I think this is all very interesting, indeed. The more I research, the more I see I still need to learn!

FODA Membership Renewal & New Member Application

Dues to this non-profit 501(c)3 organization are tax-deductible!

Complete the fields below and indicate category of membership. Checks should be made payable to "FODA".

Mail Your Payment To: **FODA. PO Box 1934. Dover, DE 19903**

Name _____

Address (line 1) _____

Address (line 2) _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Membership Annual Dues:

new renewal

Individual (\$20.00) Family (\$25.00)

Sustaining (\$100.00) Life (\$250.00)

Organization Annual Dues:

new renewal

Non-Profit (\$50.00) Corporation (\$500.00)
