

# Bridgeville Historical Society

102 S. William Street, P. O. Box 306, Bridgeville, DE 19933

August 2012



## AUCTION FEVER

Friday, September 14 is the date of our 34th Annual Auction -Social at the Heritage Shores Clubhouse in Bridgeville. Hors d'oeuvres and beverages will be served beginning at 6:00 p.m. and a cash bar will be also be open.

Mr. Frank McCraghan, the auctioneer, promises a lively and entertaining auction that will begin at 7:00 p.m. The cost is \$20.00 per person and that will include a bid card. RSVPs are due by September 3. If you did not receive an invitation or would like to invite friends, call Chairperson, Eleanor Bennett, at 337-3347 and an invitation will be mailed.

Among the items offered for auction will be a 14kt gold and diamond cocktail ring donated by O'Neal's Antiques in Laurel, Delaware. (shown in the inset below)

Early items that have been donated are made by local artists and craftsmen such as the Raggedy Ann doll by Susie Hunsberger and three cross-stitched pictures by Richard L. Ray.



Brud Davis has donated two hand-carved figures and Kay Hunsberger has given one of her hand-painted china plates to sell. A lovely watercolor picture by local artist, Joyce Willon, can be seen in the upper right corner.

There will be pieces of antique furniture, glassware, household items, and a set of china for auction, also. Many other items are being delivered every day.

Do send your reservations in and plan to join us for a fun evening. All proceeds go to the Society and help maintain our museums and park.

## Summer Social

Despite the hot summer weather, about fifty-five members and guests enjoyed a tour of the Sudler House and the out-buildings on the estate on Sunday, July 1.

The event was hosted by owners, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Calhoun, who also provided the light refreshments.



Wayne and Phyllis Sterling, Tom Smith, Gerri Coble, and Schuyler Anderson at the old country store.



Sharon Hawk and Schuyler Anderson enjoyed music by Emma Scott.



Jeanne Torbert, Carol Williamson, Theresa Vickers, Gerri Coble and Howard Hardesty at the refreshment table.

# Museum Matters

Since 1976, the Bridgeville Historical Society has striven to preserve the history and artifacts of Bridgeville and the surrounding areas of the Northwest Fork Hundred. Many significant artifacts have been collected and are now preserved in the Old Fire House Museum and the Davis Building.

For the past five years, members have been coming together on a weekly basis to help reorganize the collections to reflect current museum standards. This core group has evolved to become the "Archives Committee."

In 2011, members of that committee have attended workshops concerning modern museum practices sponsored by the Delaware Division of Libraries



L-R: Judi Richards, Phyllis Sterling, Michael Ballenger, and Bryon Lewis at work on entering data into the Past Perfect software.

One of the areas of great concern is an accurate and standardized receipt of donated items. We are requesting that an item you wish to donate be given to a member of the Archives Committee. This way a standardized receipt can be completed at the time of the donation.

The Archives Committee will then present items that meet the mission statement of the Society to the Board of Directors for their approval in accepting the items for the Society's collections. A Deed of Gift will then be completed and a copy given to the donor.

We are please to inform the membership that a computer and printer have been purchased to enable us to use "Past Perfect" software donated by the Delaware Division of Libraries. A new projector has also been added to our equipment that will allow for slide presentations. When mold on some of the textile items became a problem, the Society purchased a dehumidifier to keep the atmospheric conditions in the museum at a proper level. The old telephone in the museum has been replace by a base unit and two handsets. We no longer have to pay an additional \$10/month for an answering service. **Michael Ballenger**

## ARCHIVES COMMITTEE

Michael Ballenger, <i>Chairman</i>	Byron C. Lewis
Phyllis A. Jones	Phyllis Sterling
Kay Sue Hardesty	Jeanne Torbert
	Thomas Wimbrow

# SPECIAL VISITORS

In May, the cub scouts of Woodbridge Troop #166 visited the museum to make a special donation. Photographs, plaques, ribbons, and other small items that have been a part of the history of Troop #166 were given to the Society



The Cub Scouts with Bryon Lewis who is holding up his old uniform from Troop #166 that was donated last year.

In June, the **Red Hat Society** from Heritage Shore toured the Old Fire House Museum and Davis Building



## Museum Openings

The Old Fire House Museum and the Davis Building are open on the first Sunday of each month from May to November from 11:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Visitors are also welcomed each Tuesday morning from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. The museum will also be open on Saturday of the Apple-Scrapple Festival from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Group visits can be arranged by calling 337-7600

## New BHS item for sale



Delaware Seal License Plates - \$30.00

## Bridgeville Historical Society

### 2012-13 Officers

President . . . . Howard E. Hardesty  
1st V. President . . . . Alice D. Min  
2nd V. President . . Phyllis A. Jones  
Secretary . . . . . Diana Chaney  
Treasurer . . . . . Sharon Hawk

### Directors

*Eleanor Bennett*  
*Michael Collison*  
*Byron C. Lewis*  
*Bill Nennstiehl*  
*Charles Hawk*  
*Gerri Lynn Coble*

## Christmas in Bridgeville

Sat. Dec. 1, 2012

Volunteers needed to be greeters  
and to sell chances at BHS table.

Call Mike Collison at 337- 7784

## Welcome New Members

**Judith Richards**  
**Marie Hitchens**

## Next Meeting

Wednesday, November 14, 2012

St. Mary's Parish House  
N. William St. - 6:30 p.m.

Bring a covered-dish  
(Meat/Beverages provided)

### Guest Speaker:

**Russell**  
**McCabe**



## March 13-Annual Spring Dinner



*Michael Ballenger, Sonny and Betty Hardesty enjoyed dinner before the meeting..*

The annual spring dinner The Annual Spring Dinner meeting signaled the beginning of a new fiscal year and the election of new officers and two directors for the coming year. After a covered-dish dinner and the official election, Michael Ballenger, chairman of the Archives Committee, gave an overview of the activities of the Tuesday Morning group and the Archives Committee during the past year. The Collection Management Policy has been written and approved and the next step was to purchase a computer, printer, and scanner as the members work to create a digital inventory of the Society's collections.

## May 9 - "The Clement Ross House"

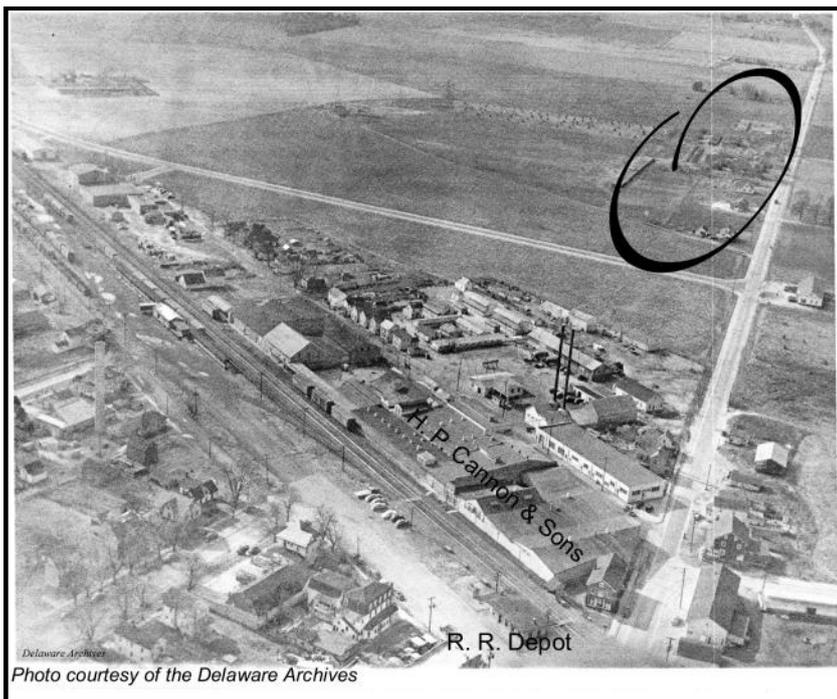
Member Emalu Myer Simpson has done extensive research on the "Eratt House," which is an 18th century brick home located about six miles northwest of Bridgeville. .



In her Power Point presentation Ms. Simpson traced the ownership of that house from its original owner in the 1790s, Clement Ross, to its present owners.

When the building was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1983 it was called the "Eratt House" for the earliest known owner found on the 1868 Pomeroy and Beers **Atlas of the State of Delaware**. Ms. Simpson's research proved that the name "Eratt" was a misspelling of the 1868 owner, Nicholas Fratt. Though in a sad state of disrepair, the structure still contains original architectural elements of the Federal Period.

## Did you know...?



**Feyerabend Town** – West of Bridgeville, just beyond the Wesley Church Road, is a row of houses on the south side of the Federalsburg Road. This group of houses became known as “Feyerabend Town” during the early twentieth century.

Edward Feyerabend and his wife owned a large farm and lived in a farmhouse that sat back from the road. He was a cobbler that walked to work in Georgetown –getting up at 4:00 a.m each day.

His son, Edward Jacob Feyerabend and his wife, Helen Virginia Conaway Geyerabend, built and sold houses on the frontage of the family farm. People later began calling that group of houses, “Feyerabend Town.” After a time someone erected a sign that incorrectly named the area, “Farbentown.”

*[Information from Charlotte Donovan Speicher, daughter of John Henry and Ida Mae (Feyerabend) Donovan and granddaughter of Edward Jacob and Helen Virginia (Conaway) Feyerabend. July 2012]*



### Bridgeville Historical Society

P. O. Box 306

Bridgeville, DE 19933

#### Remember the Date

- Sept. 1** - Museum Open  
11:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- Sept. 3** - RSVPs for Auction due
- Sept. 14** - 34th Auction-Social  
Heritage Shores -6:00p.m.
- Oct. 7** - Museum Open  
11:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- Oct. 13** - Apple-Scrapple Festival  
Museum Open  
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- Nov. 4** - Museum Open  
11:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- Nov. 14** - Gen Membership Mtg.  
Covered-dish - Program.  
St. Mary's P.H. - 6:30 p.m.
- Dec. 1** - Christmas in Bridgeville  
Woodbridge High School  
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.