

# *Bridgeville Historical Society*

P.O. Box 306      Bridgeville, Delaware 19933

*January 2011*

## ~ January Meeting ~ *Date Changed*

The date for our next general meeting has been changed from Tuesday, January 11, to **Tuesday, January 18, 2011.**

*“The Mason-Dixon Line: The Story Behind the Boundary”* will be the subject of the program presented by Mr. Michael Dixon and sponsored by the Delaware Humanities Forum.

The meeting will be at St. Mary’s Episcopal Church, in the Parish House at 6:30 p.m. Light refreshments will be provided before the program. The public is invited to join us.

The initial date conflicted with the showing of the movie, “Mayor Cupcake,” in Dagsboro which was mostly filmed in Bridgeville in 2009.

## **Apple-Scrapple Festival Activities**



Over 350 people visited our museum and the Davis Building during the 19th Apple-Scrapple Festival last October.

Thanks to the twelve volunteers who supervised the museum and Davis Building and to Phyllis Jones for getting the Delaware Grays SCV Camp to set up in Cahall park.



## **AUCTION-SOCIAL 2010**

The 35<sup>th</sup> annual auction-social was held at the Bridgeville Fire Hall on August 6 and was our best attended fundraiser to date with more than a hundred and fifteen guests in attendance.



*Auctioneer Frank McCraghan entertains the large crowd.*

Chairperson Eleanor Bennett and her committee did an outstanding job and the event was a financial success. All proceeds from the auction continue to support the Society’s museum and park. Save the date for next year’s auction-social. It will be at Heritage Shores on Friday, September 9, 2011.

## **Christmas in Bridgeville**

The weather was quite agreeable and folks seemed to be in a fine shopping spirit for our 34th annual craft fair at Woodbridge High School on December 4.

Chairpersons Mike and Joanne Collison report a profit of almost a \$1000 more than last year.



*Tom and Betty Wimbrow at the BHS booth.*

A special thanks goes to Tom Wimbrow for hand-crafting and donating dozens of wooden banks and toys that netted a profit of \$678 for the Society.

# Introduction to the Nabb Center

St Mary's Parish Hall was the site of another enjoyable meeting of the Bridgeville Historical Society on September 21, 2010. The evening got off to a fine start with a social hour that featured homemade ice cream and a multitude of homemade desserts supplied by various members. To the makers of both the ice cream and the desserts we extend a hearty "thank you."

The guest speaker for the evening was Dr. Ray Thompson, the Director of the Edward H. Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture, located on the campus of Salisbury University. Using a power point presentation, Dr. Thompson shared an overview of the services available at the Nabb Center and shared some of the background that illustrated how the Nabb Center became a reality.



To quote from the Nabb Center brochure, "The Edward H. Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture at Salisbury University, endowed by Cambridge, Maryland, philanthropist, Edward H. Nabb, is a humanities research laboratory for university students which also fulfills the historical resource needs of a variety of community researchers interested in the region. Family and local researchers frequent the Nabb Center for its enormous legacy of information on demographic shifts, family relations, religious choices and social status. Distinctive photograph collections bring the Eastern Shore of the past 150 years to life, offering insight into its traditions, architecture and heritage. Lectures on historical topics, educational seminars and exhibits showcase the Shore's history and culture."

As an aside, Dr. Thompson had the opportunity to tour the Bridgeville Museum and Park, including the Davis House, and expressed his enthusiasm for our work. He also noted in a follow-up note how very much he was impressed by the fellowship and interest in history he sensed at our gathering, also noting that he has found that smaller societies such as ours are where he feels the most enthusiasm for preserving local history.

Anyone wishing to know more about the Nabb Center or to arrange to use its resources can call 1-410-543-6312 or e-mail [rcdhac@salisbury.edu](mailto:rcdhac@salisbury.edu). The website is: <http://nabbhistory.salisbury.edu>

*Thomas D. Wimbrow*

## Why Georgetown?

On Tuesday, November 16, the Society held another covered-dish dinner meeting at St. Mary's Parish Hall. Guest speaker, Ms. Madeline Dunn, Curator of Education for the Delaware Historical and Cultural Affairs spoke on the "Creation of the County Seat- from Lewes to Georgetown, 1786-1791." Members learned the role that residents of western Sussex played in moving the county seat to the geographic center of the county and closer to the more populated part of the county.



## Additions to the Museum Collection

### Ken McIlvaine

Eight photographs of Bridgeville scenes

### Joey Williamson

Handwritten "Last will & testament of BHS class of 1932/Bridgeville booklet"

### George and Jeanne Torbert

Cider press from the Dickerson farm

### Marilee Russell Bradley

Two local adv. plates & BHS class photo

### Lester Willey

CDs and copies of news articles on the Lions Club shows of 1956 and 1957

### Lewis Ray

Four 8 x 10 photos of H.P. Cannon employees receiving "A" awards

### Fred Sylvia

Old note cards of Union United Meth. Church

### Charles Worthy

Antique typewriter, time tables, books and photographs that had belonged to Leon Cannon

### Representative Dave Wilson

Wood-burning stove



*Pres. Howard Hardesty receives stove for the Davis*

## Generous Donation

The Society has received a donation of \$250 from the Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund grant through the generosity and recommendation of the Stephen W. Becker Charitable Gift Fund. Mr. Becker and his wife, Grace Kern Becker, a native of Bridgeville, visited the museum on October 6, 2010.

## A Message from the President...

As we near the end of another busy fiscal year (March 31), I would like to share a few of our accomplishments with you.

Contracts were let for painting, water-proofing, repair and general maintenance on the museum and all structures in the Cahall Park. The final project of replacing the large museum doors should be completed by this May 2011. The total cost of all - \$8000.

At all four of our general meetings we had outstanding and knowledgeable speakers presenting very informative programs. Our members have enjoyed the social time before each meeting whether it was a covered-dish dinner or dessert and coffee.

We took a field trip to visit Ft. Miles at Lewes, DE in May.

The rebinding of the book, **Bridgeville ~A Community History of the Nineteenth Century** was completed at no cost to the Society.

The Oral History Project has been started and a camcorder, microphones and other related materials have been purchased to supplement the project.

Our two major fundraisers, the auction-social and Christmas in Bridgeville raised about \$12000. Great job, Chairmen and committees.

The Tuesday Morning group continued with their work at the museum and some progress has been made with the collection inventory. We will be working on digitalizing that information in the near future. Attendance at the museum has been steadily increasing and all seem to be impressed with our collection displays.

Three members have been attending all-day workshops sponsored by the Delaware Division of Libraries on archiving and collection developments for libraries and small museums.

So much more has to be done and I implore each and every member to become more involved with our efforts to collect and preserve the history of Bridgeville and the Northwest Fork Hundred. Speaking of members, why not invite a neighbor or friend to our next meeting. Guests and new members are always welcomed.

*Howard E. Hardesty, II*

### OFFICERS 2010- 2011

**Howard E. Hardesty** ..... *President*  
**Thomas Wimbrow** ..... *1<sup>st</sup> V. President*  
**Phyllis A. Jones** ..... *2<sup>nd</sup> V. President*  
**Ruth Skala** ..... *Secretary*  
**Pam Slater** ..... *Treasurer*

### DIRECTORS

**John M. Shockley**                      **Eleanor H. Bennett**  
**Michael Collison**                      **Robert Slater**  
**Barbara Cherrix-O'Leary**              **Bill Nennstiehl**

**Michael Ballenger** ..... *Museum Archivist*  
**Kay Sue Hardesty**..... *Editor and Photographer*

## WANTED

Each week it seems new photographs or articles are found that add another "piece of the puzzle" in researching the history of Bridgeville. We are delighted with every new bit of history or new photograph that gets added to the museum's collection, but there are some things that seem to avoid discovery. If you have some information or some photographs of the subjects below, would you please share (or donate) them with the Society.

### WWII Prisoner of War Camp

For several years during the 1940s, a German prisoner of war camp did exist just south of Bridgeville on the east side of Sussex Highway (Route 13.) Camp Road was so named because it passed to the east of that camp. The prisoners worked on local farms and in the town's factories.

### Columbia Hotel

A few photographs do exist that show this building on the south side of Market, but not one shows the entire building.



This portion of a 1936 photo shows a part of the hotel's front.

### Bridgeville in the Civil War

The 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Civil War begins with 2011. The Society would like to have additional information, artifacts, or photographs for programs or displays during the next four years.

*ALSO.....*

**Digital photo frames** have been a popular gift item over the last several years. If you have one that you no longer use or want, please consider donating it to the Society for photo displays.

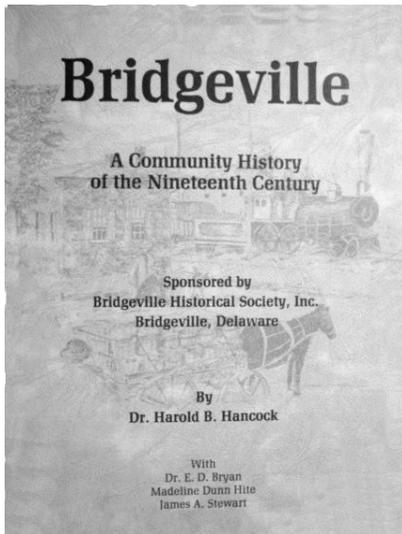
New **laptop or desktop computer** for Christmas?

If your old one is still functional and you do not want it, there could be a use for it at the museum.

### In Memoriam

William Matsinger  
Richard "Bucky" Rowe

# B.H.S. Items for Sale



Reprints of our 1983 book, *Bridgeville- A Community History of the Nineteenth Century* by Dr. Harold B. Hancock are still available.

Cost is **\$35.00** + \$9.00 for shipping/handling Pick up a copy at the Bridgeville Library or call (302)337-8595.



**Small Yard Banners**  
With Bridgeville's Slogan on it.

Each banner sells for **\$10.00** and may be purchased at Layton's Hardware, the Bridgeville Public Library, the BHS museum or by calling (302)337-8595.

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**P. O. Box 306**  
**Bridgeville, DE 19933**

## *Dates to Remember*

### **Jan. 18, 2011 General Meeting**

St. Mary's Parish Hall  
N. William St.

### ***"The Mason-Dixon Line"***

Mr. Michael Dixon  
*Desserts and Coffee*  
6:30 p.m.

### **March 15, 2011 General Meeting**

*(Program to be announced)*  
Election of Officers  
St. Mary's Parish Hall  
N. William Street  
6:30 p.m.

**Volunteer** work and will continue **every Tuesday morning** from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon to work with the collection, oral histories and to continue research.