



## Draft Minutes

Delaware Heritage Commission Meeting

Delaware Public Archives - Dover

January 8, 2014

### Members in Attendance:

Richard Carter, Chair  
Janice A. Durham  
Charito Calvachi-Mateyko  
Michael DiPaolo  
Deborah P. Haskell, Ph.D.  
MGen. Francis A. Ianni (Ret.)  
J. Everett Moore, Jr.  
Harvey B. Rubenstein, Esq.  
Bradley Skelcher, Ph.D.  
Sarah B. Williams  
Terrence K. Wright

### Guests:

James Hall - DNREC  
Madeline E. Dunn - DHCA  
Lori Hatch - DPA  
Tom Summers - DPA

Chairman Carter called the Delaware Heritage Commission meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 8, 2014 at the Delaware Public Archives in Dover.

### Business Agenda:

1. **Greetings and Introductions** - Chairman Carter welcomed James Hall from DNREC to the meeting and explained that he would be presenting a proposal for the Commission's consideration later in the agenda.
2. **Approval of Minutes** - Mr. Rubenstein made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 6, 2013 meeting as circulated. The motion was seconded by Mr. Moore and unanimously approved by members.
3. **Financial Report** – Lori Hatch reviewed the financial report as distributed to Commission members. Dr. Skelcher made a motion to approve the financial report. The motion was seconded by Dr. Haskell and unanimously approved by members.
4. **Grant Proposal Presentation:** Jim Hall of the Cultural Resources Unit of Delaware State Parks presented a grant proposal to Commission members. He requested funding to secure the services of a professional audio archivist to preserve oral history recordings collected in the 1970s about travelling, rural minstrel shows. He explained that once recordings were preserved and digitized, Parks would make them and their transcripts available to the public through a searchable software program on their website. Follow-up conversations included the importance of linking available resources with the Delaware Heritage portal housed at the Delaware Library website. Members agreed that this project would enhance public access to traditional and cultural resources. Mr. Hall also noted that this initiative was part of DNREC's

effort to eventually digitize its vast collection of more than 30,000 artifacts and eventually link data with other state websites including the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs. Mr. Rubenstein requested information about the availability of money from DNREC to use as a match for a Heritage Commission grant. Though members received this information enthusiastically, they referred the proposal to the grant committee for final review and consideration.

**5. Delaware Day Fourth Grade Competition:** Mr. Carter asked Madeline Dunn to report on the Secretary of State's 12<sup>th</sup> annual event. She reported that 1,164 students participated in this statewide event and distributed copies of the competition's questions. Ms. Dunn reported that this program, now part of the Delaware Recommended Curriculum for Social Studies, is coordinated with the Department of Education to ensure that questions are grade-level appropriate and complement Delaware's history and civic standards as well as English / Language Arts Common Core Standards. Students are required to create exhibit panels displaying written responses to questions supported by original artwork.

**6. Chairman's Report:**

a. Chairman Carter updated Commission members about sub-committee activities. He announced that Frank Ianni agreed to chair the Commemoration Committee, asked Dr. Haskell to chair the Delaware Author's Day event, and announced the establishment of an Executive Committee to assist with the handling of activities in between meetings. Harvey Rubenstein, Terry Wright, Jonathan Russ, Everett Moore, and Reba Hollingsworth were named to this special committee.

b. Report on the World War II Monument dedication. Frank Ianni reported that the event, held on November 9, 2013, was very successful. He noted that more than 200 people attended the monument dedication at Legislative Hall. He also mentioned that those attending the reception at the Delaware Public Archives received a complimentary copy of the Commission's publication titled Delaware's Role in World War II.

c. Report on Multi-cultural Christmas Observance in Lewes. Ms. Calvacki-Mateyko reported that the bilingual story time, held at the Lewes Public Library on December 20, 2013 was well attended. Chairman Carter attended the event along with Commission members Steve Marz and Ms. Calvacki-Mateyko, who read from her book titled "Navidad Latino Americana/Latin American Christmas." The Commission hosted refreshments.

d. Follow-up on Delaware license plate history and possible publication - Chairman Carter reported that Mike Williams might be interested in writing a book. He also mentioned that a permanent exhibit might be displayed at DMV in the future.

e. Book sale event at Ross Mansion – Chairman Carter reported that attendance was very small at the December 14, 2014 event held by the Seaford Historical Society.

#### **6. Chairman's Report (Cont.):**

f. McKinstry Resolution – Chairman Carter read the resolution. Though a minor change was requested, it was moved by Janice Durham, seconded by Mike DiPaolo, and approved by members that the revised copy be sent to the family on behalf of the Delaware Heritage Commission.

#### **7. Remarks by Ex Officio Members:**

▫ On behalf of Steve Marz, Tom Summers presented a report noting recent additions to the collections at Delaware Public Archives. Recent acquisitions included a series of aerial photographs from the 1960s and an 1871 map of Dover by William Parkhurst. He also mentioned that Archives staff was preparing for the 55+ Expo event at Dover Down scheduled for April 2, 2014 and that this event, sponsored by the Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce, was usually attended by approximately 4,000 people.

#### **8. Report on Special Commemorations -**

Frank Ianni mentioned the following events:

- April 20 – A special event honoring the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary honoring Commodore MacDonough's accomplishments during the War of 1812 will be held at his house located north of Odessa.
- May 8 – Civil War Round Table will host a program about Mrs. Lincoln.
- August – presentations are forthcoming regarding the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of World War I

**9. Delaware Authors Day** – A fall event is being planned. Possible locations include the Presbyterian Church in Lewes.

#### **10. Report on Publications:**

Chairman Carter provided the following information:

- Mr. Carter discussed the status of the proposed joint publishing project with the Delaware Historical Society of the book on Delaware's black religious history. A final decision on the project will be made at the meeting of March 5, 2014.
- Progress is underway regarding the reprinting of Roger Martin's publication titled A History of Delaware Through its Governors.
- Plans to reprint the Caesar Rodney booklet, East of the Mason-Dixon Line, and A History of African-Americans of Delaware and Maryland's Eastern Shore are also underway.
- The Publications Committee is reviewing options for printing the Delaware Historical Society's exhibit catalog for their current exhibit titled "Forging Faith, Building Freedom."

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**11. Other Business:**

Harvey Rubenstein suggested amending grant requirements enabling special waivers to be made at the discretion of the Heritage Commission. He proposed the following: "In the Commission's discretion, matching funds may be waived for grants to state agencies applying for less than \$5000." Members discussed this proposal. Mr. Rubenstein's motion was seconded by Terry Wright and unanimously approved.

In consideration of this amendment, Dr. Haskell moved that \$2,000 be awarded to DNREC to fund their digitization project as previously discussed. Dr. Skelcher seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

**12: Adjournment:**

Chairman Carter adjourned the meeting at 4:30 p.m. and announced that the next meeting would be held at the Delaware Public Archives on Wednesday, March 5, 2014.

Respectfully Submitted,

Madeline E. Dunn

March 5, 2014