



## Draft Minutes

Delaware Heritage Commission Meeting

Delaware Public Archives - Dover

December 4, 2019

### Members in Attendance:

Richard Carter - Chair  
Reba Hollingsworth Ph.D. - Vice Chair  
Michael DiPaolo  
Janice Durham  
MGen. Francis Ianni (Ret.)  
Stephen Marz  
Harvey B. Rubenstein, Esq.  
Sylvester Woolford  
Terrence K. Wright

### Support Staff:

Madeline Dunn – HCA/SHPD  
Tom Summers - DPA  
Corey Marshall-Steele - DPA

### Department of State:

Courtney Stewart, Ph.D. - Deputy Secretary of State

Chairman Carter called the Delaware Heritage Commission meeting to order at 2:10 p.m. on Wednesday December 4, 2019 at the Delaware Public Archives.

### **Business Agenda**

1. **Greetings** - Chairman Carter welcomed members and guests: Jeanne Covert and Michael Oates (Berkana Center for Media and Education, Inc. – Purnell Grant applicants)
2. **Approval of the minutes for the October 3, 2019 Meeting:** Michael DiPaolo moved that the minutes be approved as written but asked that notes from previous meeting on the last page be removed. Sylvester Woolford seconded the motion as amended. Motion was unanimously approved.
3. **Purnell Grant Application:** Ms. Jeanne Covert and Mr. Michael Oates (Berkana Center for Media and Education, Inc.) requested funding for an oral history documentary featuring interviews of elderly African Americans talking about growing up in Delaware in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century through the 1960s. Berkana will produce three, four-minute broadcast-ready video segments titled “Voices of Delaware’s Black History” ready for broadcast during Black History Month for PBS, WHYY, and YouTube. These segments will also be available to the Delaware Humanities, Delaware Public Archives, and the Delaware Historical Society to use on their websites, Facebook pages, and social media. Berkana requested a grant of \$3,000 from the Commission and referenced that the \$12,000 project had received \$3,000 from the Delaware Humanities Forum and indicated that \$6,000 was coming as an in-kind match from the Newark Historical Society.

Jonathan Russ requested that written consent be obtained by individuals interviewed authorizing the public sharing of their personal experiences. Harvey Rubenstein requested that Delaware Heritage Commission receive appropriate credit in all written and visual formats. A motion, made by Harvey Rubenstein and seconded by Reba Hollingsworth, awarding a \$3,000 grant was unanimously approved by Commission members.

4. **Financial Report:** The financial report, prepared by Dr. Courtney Stewart - Deputy Secretary of State, was reviewed and filed for audit. Dr. Stewart also reported that the FY 2019 general appropriations were spent.

Chairman Carter reported that \$325 of the \$1,000 grant previously awarded to the Newark Historical Society was to be returned, since the entire funding was not spent. Harvey Rubenstein recommended that a note to returned unused money be placed on all future applications.

5. **Report on Investments and Reinvestment of CDs:** Dr. Stewart mentioned that Del-One dividends looked good.
6. **Report on Gettysburg Video Project and Suggestions for a Related Trip:** Terry Wright reported that the video editing was almost complete and that a premiere was anticipated sometime this spring.

Madelaine Dunn suggested that Commission members visit Gettysburg and view the video while travelling on a charter bus. With the Commission's approval, she volunteered to contact Ken Serfass (aka General Grant) to see if he would be able to conduct a battlefield tour. He resides in Gettysburg and is officially recognized as first-person General/President Grant interpreter, a retired U.S. Marine who works with the National Park Service, makes presentations at West Point, as well as public presentations throughout the United States. Permission was given to Madeline to contact Mr. Serfass, obtain information for a spring event for either a weekday or Saturday. Members responded favorably and was asked to gather information and make a follow-up report to the Commission.

7. **Discussion of Revised Resolution marking the 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Arrival of Enslaved African Americans:** Chairman Carter reviewed the "BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED" clause which was added to the resolution as suggested by Commission members. Harvey Rubenstein moved that the clause be approved, Janice Durham seconded the motion, and Commission members unanimously approved the amended resolution.
8. **Kent County-based children's book "Blue's River" by Kathleen Doyle:** Chairman Carter mentioned that Kathleen Doyle, a retired Delaware educator, wrote an environmental book for students titled Blue's River, a story about a ten-year old and her friend, a 400-year old great blue heron, and their quest to save the St. Jones River. Chairman Carter suggested that the Commission purchase 25 copies, sell them and reimburse the publication account with proceeds from their sale. Members asked Chairman Carter to obtain prices and obtain approval from members.

9. **Reports from Ex Officio members:**

Steve Marz, (DPA – State Archivist) made the following announcements:

The Delaware Public Archives is pleased to present a new exhibit in the Lobby Entrance and a future exhibition in its main Exhibition Gallery:

Honoring Emily Bissell "*The Christmas Seal Story*:

Emily Bissell, Delawarean/Social Activist, founder of the American Christmas Seals to fight Tuberculosis (now benefits the American Lung Association). This exhibit, planned for an official opening on Delaware Day, December 7<sup>th</sup> opening in the DPA Lobby, will showcase documents

**9. Reports from Ex Officio members (cont.):**

related to Ms. Bissell and display varied and colorful ephemera and Christmas Seals; along with her original oil portrait that hung in the now closed Emily Bissell State Hospital.

N.B.: In 1900, Ms. Bissell testified before the U.S. Senate Committee on Woman's Suffrage, arguing that women had no place in politics and should NOT have the right to vote....excellent gateway to the Archives' January 2020 exhibit...

The Centennial of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment: *A Social Battle Won! Woman's Right to Vote*. Planned for opening in January 2020, this exhibit will highlight various documents, pictures and early movie reels regarding the passage and implementation of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment in Delaware. Visual portrayal by selected women will be videoed reading letters, both pro/against women suffrage, that had been sent to Delaware Governors/Elected officials offering public opinion (for and against) regarding a woman's right to vote.

The Archives will retain and continue to promote the American Illustration Collection and USS Delaware Silver Exhibits as long-term exhibits at DPA.

The DOS is supporting the Archives' request for \$50k additional funds for the refurbishment/repair/replacement of Delaware Historical Markers (Pending insert into Governor's Recommended Budget)

Upcoming Delaware Historical Marker Dedication: December 11<sup>th</sup> @ 1:00 Cape Henlopen Lighthouse Replica

**About the Marker:** Marker recognizes the replica Cape Henlopen Lighthouse, which is located in the center of the roundabout on the west end of Rehoboth Avenue. The replica lighthouse was built in 1924 as a real estate office, was purchased by the Village Improvement Association in 1928, and transferred to the City of Rehoboth in 1971. The lighthouse was relocated from the Grove Park, near the intersection of Rehoboth Avenue and Grove Street into a new traffic circle on Rehoboth Avenue in 2004.

The Delaware Public Archives established new career ladder opportunities for staff.

**10. Chairman's Report:**

- Chairman Carter reported that fourth grade student projects on the Women's Suffrage Centennial were on display at Legislative Hall and that these projects were part of the Secretary of State's Annual Delaware Day Fourth Grade Competition. The chairman invited Commission members to attend the 10:00 a.m. awards program at Archives on December 7, 2019.
- Chairman Carter announced that conversations with Governor Minner and Secretary of State Windsor totaled about 16 hours and that they needed to be transcribed. He noted that he had contacted court reporters and made Commission members aware of the possibility that extra money might be needed. Janice Durham made a motion to use Commission funding at the going rate. Michael DiPaolo seconded the motion and members unanimously approved the expenditure. Chairman Carter also indicated if this project became too costly, he would request funding from the General Assembly.

**10. Chairman's Report (cont.):**

- Chairman Carter mentioned that Chuck Fithian was working on a project pertaining to John Dickinson's writing of a militia manual during the American Revolution.
- Chairman Carter noted that the Holocaust book would be completed within the next six months.
- Chairman Carter announced that plans for the USS Delaware commissioning ceremony were being finalized for a Saturday in April 2020. More details were forthcoming.
- Chairman Carter mentioned that the Wilmington Riot book needed to be indexed.
- Chairman Carter noted that he had a discussion with Dr. Sidney Jacobs regarding three sets of taped interviews with Littleton Mitchell, previously conducted for the Commission, and announced that these taped interviews were now on file at the Delaware Public Archives.

**11. Other Business:**

Chairman Carter announced that a collection of Roger Martin's library, approximately 300 – 400 books, be purchased by the Commission and distributed to worthy organizations. A list will be prepared as requested by members prior to a decision being made.

Next Meeting of the Delaware Heritage Commission is scheduled for **2:00 p.m.** in the Delaware Room of the Delaware Public Archives on **February 5, 2020**.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Madeline E. Dunn  
National Register Coordinator  
State Historic Preservation Office