



# Dingmans Ferry – Delaware Township Historical Society Newsletter

## Spring, 2024

Website: [dingmansferryhistoricalsociety.org](http://dingmansferryhistoricalsociety.org)

Email: [dfhistorical1735@gmail.com](mailto:dfhistorical1735@gmail.com)

### President’s Corner, *Tim Singleton*

Well, here we are at the beginning of another year and what an exciting year is being planned! Our presentation topics and event scheduling are well underway. The annual Museum enhancement has begun and our new Board is working on the administrative aspects of the Society.

Several new members were elected to the Board this year. I will again be serving another term as your President, Patrice will continue as Recording Secretary, Bob Gibbons remains our Corresponding Secretary and is the Chair of the Photography/Video committee. Our new Vice President is Skip Meyerhoff and our new Treasurer is Diane Meyerhoff, both great assets to the organization and Board.

Regarding upcoming presentations, we will be visited by President Abraham Lincoln, portrayed by Lou Del Bianco and Kyle Jenks portraying a Continental Soldier. Jonathan Kruk will once again join us relating tales of Colonial Pennsylvania. We are also excited that Bill Streeter is returning with ‘Close Encounters of Birds of Prey.’ We also plan a follow-up of “We the People Then and Now” that was presented by both me and Sandy Hull last year, discussing Tocks Island and the proposed National Park. Lastly, we are planning a major event for this fall but we are keeping its content under wraps until finalized.

We hope to have the exterior of the Museum and deck painted this year. We continue work on improving our museum displays that include the addition of many new artifacts. Work is continuing on our Public Research Room. The Museum season will begin in April; it will be opened twice a month, free of charge. See page 2 for dates. These are also on the website.

I wish to thank everyone who has sent in their 2024 dues and forms. If you haven’t, we hope you will join or renew your membership. Membership forms should accompany payments and are available on our website. Additionally, if you wish to serve on a committee, the descriptions are attached to the membership form.

Thank you for your continued support and assistance and hope to see you all at our first presentation this coming April! *Tim Singleton*

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#### New Email Address:



We have a new email address. Be sure to add this to your address book so our emails to you won’t be marked as spam:

[dfhistorical1735@gmail.com](mailto:dfhistorical1735@gmail.com)



## Dingmans Ferry Historical Society Museum at Akenac

- Reopens in April!
- Free with 8 rooms of over 3,000 artifacts
- Open from 11am-3pm on 4/13, 4/28, 5/11, 5/26, 6/8, 6/23, 7/13, 7/28, 8/10, 8/25, 9/14, 9/22, 10/12, 10/27 11/9 and 11/24.
- Self-guided tour with Audio Recording
- Featured in the Fall issue of the Journal (formally called Milford Journal.) on pages 20-22.
- [https://issuu.com/publisher-milfordjournal/docs/the\\_journal\\_early\\_fall\\_2023\\_issue](https://issuu.com/publisher-milfordjournal/docs/the_journal_early_fall_2023_issue)



Our appreciation and thanks go to the Delaware Township for providing meeting space, \$2,500 funding, as well as electric, heat and ground maintenance for the museum. Their support enables us to continue to grow and meet our mission.

### ***April 14 at 2pm: Lincoln - Rail Splitter to President***



In this interactive dramatic program, actor-storyteller Lou Del Bianco portrays Lincoln as Civil War President, frontiersman and storyteller. Lincoln's values... honesty, love of family, thirst for education, sense of justice and perseverance shine through this dynamic new presentation. Audiences will learn about

Lincoln's struggles as President, from his suspension of the writ of Habeas Corpus to his stand on Slavery. New light is also shed on his personal struggles as well. Authentic historical quotations are used throughout.

A question and answer period follows the program. This show was endorsed by the Lincoln Bicentennial Commission.

## 2024 Programs

- **April 14 at 2pm: *Lincoln - Rail Splitter to President.*** Lou Del Bianco, Actor and Storyteller
- **May 19 at 2pm: *Quakers, Dutchers & Dingman's Choice - Tales Of Colonial PA.*** Jonathan Kruk, Master Storyteller
- **June 9 at 2pm: *We the People Part 2 -Then and Now: Tocks Island & National Park.*** Sandy Hull, Tim Singleton
- **July 18 at 7pm: *Colonial Revolutionary Soldier.*** Kyle Jenks, Historical Interpreter
- **August 11 at 2pm: *Close Encounters with Birds of Prey.*** Delaware Valley Raptor Center
- **September 15 at 2pm: *Topic to be Determined***
- **October 13 at 2pm: *Topic to be Determined***

## Executive Board

- President: Tim Singleton
- Vice Pres: Skip Meyerhoff
- Treasurer: Diane Meyerhoff
- Recording Secretary: Patrice Singleton
- Corresponding Sec: Robert Gibbons

## Board Meetings

Board meetings are held monthly. Join us the **first Saturday** of each month at **10am** at the museum. These meeting are open to all and we encourage your feedback and participation.



It is with great sorrow that we say goodbye to JoAnn Parsell, JoAnn was a charter member and one of the first presidents of the Dingmans Ferry-Delaware Township Historical



Society; and also one of the original founders of Friends of Marie Zimmerman. It must be said that JoAnn, and other founding members, were the Society. Her leadership and hard work, along with her husband Ted and others, formed this organization and was the foundation of what we have today. She was always there to help with any project and was instrumental in aiding Tim as current President.

JoAnn will be greatly missed and never forgotten and will always remain a member of this Society! The family requests any memorials be sent to the Dingmans Ferry-Delaware Township Historical Society.

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## The Battle of Conashaugh, Delaware Township

During the Revolutionary War, many Indians aligned with the British forces against the Colonials who were fighting for the independence of America. The following is an account of a local battle of record, taken in part, from the report of John VanCampen of Walpack, N.J. 4/24/1790.

The Revolutionary War fighting ended approximately 1781, however the actual peace treaty was not enacted until two years later. On approximately April 17, 1780, word came to Major Samuel Westbrook and Captain Peter Westbrook of the Militia at their New Jersey Fort, that Indians were seen at the house of Manual Gunsaleyes by the sons of James McCarty who had gone to tend their cattle on the Pennsylvania side of the river. After learning of the situation, The Major and Captain gathered their best men and crossed the river. About sunrise the next day, the Indians were located and the battle began. The enemy appeared to consist of approximately fourteen Indian men. The Major's forces suffered no initial wounded and the Indians retreated to the woods. The Major was reinforced by Captain Johannes VanEtten, with three of his sons and his son-in-law. The force pursued the Indians by following a blood trail left by their injured and after about two miles, came upon them. Fierce fighting ensued but Capt. VanEtten held his ground.

The Indians ran into the woods while the Major and VanEtten secured the retreat of the enemy. Of the enemy killed, one was a white British officer. Found in his pocket was his Journal stating that 390 had marched from Niagara and had divided into separate parties. Of the Militia killed were Captain Peter Westbrook, Lt. Benjamin Ennis, son-in-law to Capt. VanEtten, and Pvt. Richard Rosencrance. Wounded were Lt. Helms and James VanEtten. This battle was considered by some to be the last battle of the Revolutionary War.

The site of the conflict was the McCarty farm, two miles below Milford. Capt. VanEtten lived in Delaware Township, one mile below the McCarty farm. The VanEtten property was originally owned by William Allen before being acquired by the VanEttens and later was sold, in part, to John Zimmerman in 1882.



## Call for Volunteers:

We need your support and involvement to allow the Dingmans Ferry - Delaware Township Historical Society to continue to grow and flourish. We cannot do this without **YOU!**

Can you help with:

- Programs and Membership
- Museum and Maintenance
- Advisory Board Nominations
- Anything??

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## 2024 Membership:

Membership begins annually **each January** and is \$10 for an individual and \$20 for family membership. Be a supporter of local history and join. The Membership form is on our website and on last page of this newsletter.

Your member benefits include:

- Member only presentations
- Annual meeting & luncheon
- Private tours of our Museum

## Our Mission:

The Dingmans Ferry -Delaware Township Historical Society, Inc. was founded in 1994 to preserve the rich history of our area.

The Historical Society is dedicated to preservation of the records of the early settlers, and to the commemoration and preservation of artifacts, institutions and landmarks that constitute the history of our area.

The repository for the artifacts, books and files is in the Society's Headquarters and Museum located at Akenac Park, Route 739 in Dingmans Ferry, PA.



**Recent Donations:** Thanks to the Lenape Nation for their donations to our Native American Room, some of which are shown below:



*Leather Moccasin*



*Beadwork*



*Turkey Wing Fan*

## What's This Artifact?

If you are a craftsman, you will appreciate the many tools our ancestors used to build houses and furniture and work on the farm. Check out the Tool display area to see the antique implements.



Thanks to Black Bear Print Studios, Milford PA for offering a discounted rate to print this newsletter! Black Bear Print Studios offers a wide range of printing services to meet your business needs and is a new business in town.

# 2024 Membership Application



Website: [dingmansferryhistoricalsociety.org](http://dingmansferryhistoricalsociety.org)

Email: [dfhistorical1735@gmail.com](mailto:dfhistorical1735@gmail.com)

<b>Date:</b>	
<b>Category</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> New Member(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Renewing Member(s)
<b>Membership Type</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual - \$10 <input type="checkbox"/> Family - \$20 <input type="checkbox"/> Business/Org - \$25
<b>Name(s)</b>	
<b>Street:</b>	
<b>City, ST ZIP</b>	
<b>Email</b>	
<b>Phone</b>	
<b>Please select your Committee Interest(s) and we will follow up with more information on how you can help!</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>See reverse side for Committee Descriptions</b></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Program <input type="checkbox"/> Museum <input type="checkbox"/> Maintenance <input type="checkbox"/> Membership <input type="checkbox"/> Library <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity <input type="checkbox"/> Photography <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality <input type="checkbox"/> Ways/Means (Fundraising) <input type="checkbox"/> Historian <input type="checkbox"/> Genealogy <input type="checkbox"/> Appointments as Needed for Audit, Budget, Bylaws and Nominating Committees <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <hr/>
<b>Mail checks to:</b>	Dingmans Ferry-Delaware Township Historical Society 116 Wilson Hill Rd. Dingmans Ferry, PA 18328

Your membership is an **annual membership from January-December**, regardless of when you join.



## *Dingmans Ferry – Delaware Township Historical Society*

### *Committee Descriptions*

1. **Audit**: The Audit Committee of two members, who are not officers, will be appointed by the Executive Committee in October to audit the Treasurer's accounts, and submit a written report at the first Executive meeting of the New Year and the March general meeting.
  2. **Budget**: The Budget Committee will include the President, Treasurer, and Ways and Means Chairperson. The committee will prepare the annual budget to be presented in writing at the first Executive Committee meeting of the New Year. After approval by the Executive Committee, the budget will be voted on by the general membership at the March general meeting.
  3. **Bylaws**: The Bylaws Committee will include the President and 3 other members appointed by the Executive Committee. It shall, periodically review the bylaws and recommend any necessary changes to be voted on by the General Membership.
  4. **Genealogy**: The Genealogy Committee shall trace the ancestry of settlers and pioneers of Dingmans Ferry-Delaware Township and vicinity.
  5. **Historian**: The Historian is the keeper of records and archives connected with the history of Dingmans Ferry-Delaware Township and vicinity.
  6. **Hospitality**: The Hospitality Committee prepares refreshments for various meetings as directed by the Chairperson of Hospitality Committee.
  7. **Library**: The Library Committee shall catalogue, maintain and preserve the books, manuscripts and other printed/literary matter of the Society. It shall record information about donations and confirm acknowledgments to donors of gifts. Loaned objects shall be so marked and recorded with the name of the donor.
  8. **Membership**: The Membership Committee shall include the Vice President as Chairperson, who will keep an accurate record of members including the date of membership, address, phone numbers and email addresses; send dues notices, collect dues and inform delinquent members of their status. Bylaws are posted on the website under Member Only pages. Members create a unique login to access these documents.
  9. **Museum**: The Museum Committee shall be responsible for the museum building, tours and displaying Society items at various locations. The Maintenance team will work with the Museum Committee to maintain and improve the building.
  10. **Nominating**: Every two years at the September general meeting, the President shall appoint a Nominating Committee of three members, including the Immediate Past President. This committee shall nominate candidates for offices to be voted upon at the November Annual General Meeting.
  11. **Photography**: The Photography Committee shall catalogue and maintain and preserve the Society's collection of historic photographs. The costs charged to those wishing duplicate prints shall be periodically reviewed by the Executive Committee.
  12. **Publicity**: The Publicity Committee shall oversee the printing and publication of materials pertaining to the Society, and posting events on local bulletin boards and to weekly and monthly publications.
  13. **Program**: The Program Committee shall arrange for speakers, trips, walking tours and similar programs for the benefit of the Society.
  14. **Ways and Means**: The Ways and Means Committee shall raise revenue for the Society through fundraising, donations and grants.
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