



JACOBUS VANDERVEER HOUSE & MUSEUM

Summer 2022

Modeling for Our Future:

With great pride and much excitement, the Friends of the Jacobus Vanderveer House revealed to the public the first known model of The Pluckemin Cantonment during two events in May.

The opening night reveal party on Thursday May 19th, provided the first opportunity for the public to see this spectacular model. The excitement was so great many that attendees arrived promptly at the 6 o'clock start time and rushed to see the model! We were honored to have Georgie Schley, an honorary JVH Trustee, make remarks about the Cantonment and JVH. The Schley family has a strong connection to both JVH and the Cantonment. They once owned the Vanderveer house and a Schley family member, Grant Schley, commissioned Henry Schrabisch, a German archeologist to conduct the first exploration of the Cantonment site in 1916.

Steve Schwab, a professional model maker, envisioned, designed, and created our model using historical references including the Captain John Lillie's line drawing of the Cantonment in Winter, by conducting his own research including discussions with local historians and by utilizing the JVH video that presents an animation of the Cantonment construction. The model he created is not static and tells the story of the Cantonment. Both George Washington and General Henry Knox are present in the model together with the chance to listen to a fife and drum band and hear and see the flash of cannons firing.

The model is interactive with buttons that can be pushed to light up and identify different architectural areas, as well as show where George Washington and General Knox are found on their horses—while hearing the fife and drums play. Another button begins the count to hear the cannon fire.

The detail that Steve put into this model is nothing short of incredible—there are table and chairs in the 'academy' meeting rooms and one of the soldier's barracks was left 'roofless' so that the interior can be viewed. When you visit, be sure to look at the red clay that you may find in your own yards and try to find the wagon with the broken wheel! And note the tree stumps—the surrounding trees were cut down and used to build the Cantonment!

This model of the Pluckimen Cantonment is unique and original, and it truly brings this important part of American History—as well as New Jersey and Bedminster History—to life! It is a tremendous addition to JVH, and we hope that all our members will come to view it—and bring their children and friends!

Although the model was funded through a generous grant from one of our board members, Yolanda Cillo, she wishes to acknowledge that the model maker, Steve Schwab, designed and created this model at a considerable discount of his time for which JVH is extremely grateful. Steve is a local resident, a graduate of Somerville High School and Rutgers University, and traces his roots to pre-revolutionary America having had a relative fight with George Washington in the French and Indian War and another in the American Revolutionary War. His interest in American History was what in part inspired him to create this extraordinary model for us while donating so much of his time and talent including volunteering to discuss the model at both our opening events. The Board of Trustees extends its thanks to Steve for giving this gift to JVH, Bedminster, New Jersey, and America.

[For photos of our new model click here.](#)

Field of Honor®:

As in years past, the JVH Field of Honor® was again a great success as we paid tribute to our Soldiers, Veterans, First Responders, and those who have paid the ultimate price in service of the United States. Flag sponsorships were again available and for those who chose to purchase a flag as part of your donation, please use the JVH website to make contact so that you may receive your flag.

As we did last year, we shared an event on May 21st with the White House Wind Symphony who played with the field of flags as the orchestral backdrop. This year, we also had Lamb's Artillery historical reenactors in attendance, and they fired their cannon! JVH was open for tours providing an opportunity to view the Cantonment model and many event attendees did so.

Although we had planned to have other colonial reenactors on May 21, the unexpected heat wave with the temperature in the mid-nineties, caused them to cancel. Despite the heat, it was a wonderful event!

New Additions:

The Friends of JVH are most excited to announce that we have received a fantastic donation to our collection from the estate of Chip Mills: A cannon ball that was found at the Pluckimen Cantonment! A wonderful addition to JVH particularly since we are the only remaining building associated with the Pluckimen Cantonment and now we have a cannonball from the site! It is currently displayed in the light-colored Kas in the Kitchen.

The Society of Cincinnati, an important historical group that was established in 1783 by officers of the Continental Army, provided us a grant to create new opening videos for use on our website. We are working on developing them now. Please check back on the website over the next few months and then let us know what you think!

Upcoming Events:

We have several events planned for autumn and early winter and hope to see you at them!

On October 8th and 9th we will have a 'Fall Harvest Hoedown' in concert with the Somerset County Weekend Journey. We plan to have reenactors, musical performers, and craft activities. Details will be available on the website as plans are finalized.

On October 12th we are planning to have a school day program with programming to include reenactors and demonstrations to provide education to school children on Colonial and Revolutionary War History. The demonstrations will include one on spinning, one on lacemaking and will also include a demonstration of a musket. Bob Gleason will portray Baron von Steuben, a Prussian officer who helped to bring order and discipline to the Continental Army and his guidance helped it evolve to a professional force. If you know of a school group that may be interested, please contact JVH through our website.

December will bring the return of Colonial Christmas!! A fundraising cocktail hour is planned for December 2nd. On Saturday, December 3, a one day event will be held from 2:30-5:30 which include visits with Santa, Christmas crafts, potentially some vendors. The Colonial Christmas event will conclude with the community tree lighting.

Sponsorships:

The JVH is seeking corporate partners to sponsor our upcoming events. As we strive to create awareness of the importance of the Jacobus Vanderveer House in the victory of the American Revolutionary War, we remind you of the American tradition of generosity, asking for your partnership and support to continue our important work. As a 501c3 charity, the Friends of Jacobus Vanderveer House depends on donations and fundraising to enable us to run our programs, events, or additions to and maintenance of the historic collections within the house. Donations and sponsorships are tax deductible.

If you are interested in becoming a **sponsor**, if you wish to make a **donation** or become a JVH **member**, please go to our website www.jvanderveerhouse.org for more information or email info@jvanderveerhouse.org.

*The Friends of the Jacobus Vanderveer House
received an operating grant from the*

