



Website: dingmansferryhistoricalsociety.org

Email: dfhistorical1735@gmail.com

Dingmans Ferry – Delaware Township Historical Society Newsletter

Fall, 2025

Editor: Susan Ridyard

President's Message

Well, it's hard to believe that summer is over. This season was filled with great presentations and events, with more to come. On September 21st, Jonathan Kruk will portray Thomas Jefferson's creation of the Declaration of Independence. On November 2nd, Jonathan returns to present **the Legend of Sleepy Hollow**. As you know, Jonathan is a master storyteller and will be dressed for the presentations to add character realization. I am pleased to report that the total attendance for April-July 2025 presentations was 195 attendees, **not** counting the Civil War Event.

Our Civil War Encampment Weekend in August went off with a boom! I mean that literally, the large brass cannon was fired periodically throughout both days and could be heard for miles. The number of reenactors were more than double last year. President Abraham Lincoln was on hand on Saturday and posed for pictures with guests and presented his personal and political life story as well as his Gettysburg Address. Guy Henderson was dressed in uniform playing great period songs on his fiddle all day Saturday. The Society presented an original historic Civil War Memento medal to Sgt. Greg Balcastro of the N.J. 2nd Brigade, Civil War Reenactor Unit to thank him for his hard work arraigning for the Unit to be at our Encampment. The medal was from the eighth reunion of the 2nd New Jersey Brigade, held in Trenton, N.J. on **April 9th, 1895!** Total attendance for both days of the Civil War event was 443. I would like to thank all the Society and Board members who assisted in manning all the many posts during the two-day event. I would especially like to thank our Vice President, Skip Meyerhoff for all his hard work in organizing this year's Encampment. Additionally, I would like to offer sincere thanks to Susan Ridyard, Society member and Chair of our Publicity Committee, who handled all our promotion for this event and who recruited and organized all our volunteer members that assisted in the success of the event!

Our Museum was enhanced with many newly donated artifacts. I sincerely thank those who donated them to the Museum. The existing displays were upgraded for this year, and the new addition of a General Store/ Post Office is a big hit. The Museum has been open April-August for 8 days with 110 visitors to date. In addition, we had 208 visitors tour the Museum during the Civil War Encampment. The Museum will open Sep 13, 27-28 and Oct 11& 26 and Nov 8, 22 from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. (*cont'd page 2*)

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Renew Your Membership!

Membership is yearly, starting in January. Be sure to fill out the Membership form that's on the website and also available at the meetings.

Also be sure to add our email to your address book so our emails to you won't be marked as spam:

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



Dingmans Ferry- Delaware Township Historical Society Museum at Akenac Park

- The upcoming fall dates are: **September 13 and 27-28, October 11 and 26, and November 8 and 23.**
- Open from 11am-3pm, typically on the 2nd Saturday and 4th Sunday of each month.
- Watch out for our banner announcing open days. In addition, we are always open whenever Akenac Park has an event.
- Free with 10 rooms of over 3,000 artifacts
- Self-guided tour with Audio Recordings
- **New Exhibits: General Store/PO and Korean War Display**
- Featured in the Fall 2023 issue of the Journal (formally called Milford Journal) on pages 20-22. Click [here](#) to open the article.

Executive Board

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

Upcoming FREE Programs:

Location: Delaware Township Building – 116 Wilson Hill Rd. Dingmans Ferry, PA 18328

- **September 21 at 2pm. Thomas Jefferson Declares.** The story of the Declaration of Independence portrayed by Master Storyteller, Jonathan Kruk.
- **November 2 at 2pm. The Legend of Sleepy Hollow** by Master Storyteller Jonathan Kruk.
- **November 16 at 1:30pm. Members Only Luncheon and Annual Meeting.** You must have a 2025 membership and RSVP to attend.

Board Meetings

Board meetings are held monthly. Join us on the **first Saturday** of each month at **10am** at the museum.

These meetings are open to all. We encourage your feedback and participation.

President's Message (continued)

As you may know, the Society is financed through dues, donations, grants and Township subsidies. Unfortunately, we did not receive any grant funding this year. Grants normally cover a large part of our operating expenses. Our dues are utilized for the costs of the programs, museum and our annual Members' Luncheon. Without additional funding through Grants in the coming year, membership fees may have to be increased, or programs reduced so that we may cover our financial obligations. Please understand that our only interest is in providing continued service to the community and the maintenance of our local history for future generations. Please keep this in mind when membership comes due next year. Remember, your support allows the continuation of this organization and the education of both local and national history for all. It's not what you get for your dues, rather it's a commitment to support local history.

Lastly, our members' luncheon will be held on **November 16th**. Further information will be forwarded to **2025** members soon. Our election of Board Officers will be conducted at this meeting. All members should plan on attending. Any member in good standing may run for a position on the Board. Please notify us by email of your intent to run for office so that your name can be forwarded to the Nominating Committee to be placed on the ballot.

As always, enjoy the rest of the year and stay safe. *Tim Singleton, President*

Upcoming FREE Programs at Delaware Twn. Bldg.



September 21 at 2pm. Thomas Jefferson Declares. Jonathan Kruk, the Hudson Valley storyteller, portrays Thomas Jefferson giving a dramatic reading of the Declaration of Independence. We see and feel the passion the Founding Fathers had for liberty and independence.



November 2 at 2pm. The Legend of Sleepy Hollow by Master Storyteller Jonathan Kruk. Jonathan returns to tell the spooky legend of Ichnabod Crane and the Headless Horseman!

Photos Wanted: Dingmans Ferry Residents & Homes – Part 1: A-F



We are looking for photos of the following people and homes that were in Dingmans Ferry. As we endeavor to preserve the history of Dingmans Ferry, we are reaching out to everyone for their help. Our ultimate goal would be to have a photo or sketch of every business and home that existed in the town of Dingmans Ferry as well as the

people of the town. It would be fantastic if together we could expand our photo collection to cover all of the old town of Dingmans Ferry.

If you have a photo or know of someone who does, please email a copy to dfhistorical1735@gmail.com, mail the photo copy or stop by when the museum is open and drop one off. In future newsletters, we will list photos of people needed. *Thanks, Brenda Synder*

Paul Appelt	Minerva Cron
Emile Bader	Ferdinando D'Alauro
Louis and Marion Balsamo	Nina Davies
George and Edward Batchelor	Augustine DeTitta
Carl Bensley	Harold Dickison Home owned by Dorothy Walsh
Mabel Bensley/ Alpheus Bensley	William Drexler
Brady Home owned by Susan McKenna	John Edraney
Cabins – George Graef	Maguire Epps
Emerson and Flora Cannon	Ellen & Dr. Fisher
John Christiansen	Jessie Flint
Florence Corcoran	Violet Forstel

Civil War Drum Raffle (Replica)



We are selling raffles for the Civil War Drum (Replica) at the Museum, and also at Presentations and the Members Luncheon. The cost is \$2 for 1 Ticket, \$5 for 7 Tickets and \$10 for 15 Tickets.

This replica is similar to the one carried by drummer, Philip Truswell Judd, who is buried in Delaware Cemetery in Dingmans Ferry. Tim Singleton added the markings to match Judd's drum.

The raffle drawing will be held at the Members Luncheon on November 16.

2025 Membership:

Membership begins annually **each January** and is \$15 for an individual and \$25 for family membership. Be a supporter of local history and join. The 2025 Membership form is on our website and is available at the meetings.

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 the Society's Headquarters and Museum located at Akenac Park, Route 739 in Dingmans Ferry, PA.

Civil Encampment 2025



On August 9-10, we had a wonderful Civil War event. Our sincere gratitude to the 2nd New Jersey Civil War Brigade (7th NJ Infantry) who set up camp at Akenac Park to bring living history to over 400 visitors! Our thanks to Akenac Park Staff, Delaware Township, Lou Del Bianco as President Lincoln and the many wonderful volunteers who made this event happen:

- Andrea Bray, Deborah Clemens, Pat Collins, Cathy Dunn, Evan (Drummer Boy), Mary Foley, Bob Gibbons Jr, Robert Gibbons Sr, Barbara Hartman, John and Marie Hawkins, Guy and John Henderson, Joy Inserra, Joe Kissling, Elaine McCarthy, John Mendez, Paul Menditto
- Diane and Skip Meyerhoff (our amazing chefs!), Darlene Norris, Ted Parsell, Enid Resto (Park Supervisor), Susan Ridyard, Steve Segall, Elisa and Jim Sheridan, Mark Silverstein, Patrice and Tim Singleton, Lorraine Storms, Ida Walker, and Lucille Ward.

