

# The Barracks News

## *There's Always Something Going On At The Smyrna Museum*

Duck Creek Historical Society Newsletter

PO Box 335, Smyrna, DE 19977 – DuckCreekHistoricalSociety.org 302-653-1320

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### 2021-2022 DCHS Board of Directors

President:	Brooks Keen
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice-President:	Missy Vaughn
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice-President:	Gia Turpin
Secretary:	Jim Wolfe
Treasurer:	Peg Snow
Director:	Skipper Carrow
Director:	Melinda Gregory
Director:	Michael Keen
Director:	Ken McVicker
Director:	Jim Mood
President Emeritus:	Bob Keen
President Emeritus:	Sam Mace



### President's Message

We're saying "Good Bye" to winter and "Hello" to spring!

There's a lot going on at the museum and details are contained in the Newsletter.

May starts the First Friday Night events in the town of Smyrna. The museum and plank house will be open for tours so stop in and say hello!

Join us for the annual DCHS membership meeting on Thursday, June 9<sup>th</sup>. We'll have guest speakers, including Jordan Irazabal and others who collects photos of Delaware's lowest vehicle license plates – he just 26 plates away from capturing all 3,000 plates! Bring your Delaware plates out for a valuation of worth!

Can you believe it's been two years since we've gotten together? Come out and join us!

June 18<sup>th</sup> is the Smyrna Night Out event – we're looking for volunteers to help with some things so give us call and let us know how you can serve as a member!

Looking forward to seeing everyone on June 9<sup>th</sup>!

Brooks

You're Cordially Invited to the Annual  
Duck Creek Historical Society  
Membership Meeting  
**On Thursday, June 9, 2022**  
**Annual Meeting at 6pm**  
**Program at 7pm**

Join Us at the Painted Stave,  
106 W. Commerce Street, Smyrna (Parking is available in  
the lot next to the building and along the street)

**Guest Speakers:** Jordan Irazabal – of the Delaware 3,000 Project, collector of photographing all 3,000 of Delaware's lowest vehicle license plates. Jordan will talk about the plates and his pursuit of the plates and will have others with him to talk about the plates. There will be several Delaware tags on display!

**You can bring any unique tags you may have and they can give you an idea on what a tag may be valued!**

**Dinner Details:** The Society will not be providing dinner, but you can purchase items from the food truck, Taco Jardin, serving various soft tacos, homemade chips, salsa, and queso. The Society will provide beverages.

Masks are not required but you may wear a mask if you feel more comfortable doing so! We hope to see everyone there!



## Board of Directors Elections

### ***2021-2022 Officers and Directors***

President	Brooks Keen	*
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Missy Vaughn	*
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice-President	Gia Turpin	*
Secretary	Jim Wolfe	*
Treasurer	Peg Snow	*
Director	Skipper Carrow	*
Director	Melinda Gregory	*
Director	Jim Mood	*
Director	Michael Keen	
Director	Ken McVicker	
Director	Open	
President Emeritus	Bob Keen	
President Emeritus	Sam Mace	

\*DENOTES TERM IS UP FOR RE-ELECTION FOR 2022 FOR A 2 YEAR TERM

***We are looking for new, exciting and history loving individuals to join our team. Please email us if you are interested in joining the board. Nominations will also be taken from the floor at our annual meeting.***

# There's Always Something Going On At The Smyrna Museum!

Melinda and Michael chaired the museum event and coordinated with the Smyrna Police Department's Christmas event on December 12<sup>th</sup>, and we had an Open House at the museum with vendors, refreshments, and a warm fire glowing at the plank house. A big Thank You goes out to the Duck Creek Garden Club for decorating the museum and plank house and a big Thank You goes out to Sam Mace and Jim Wolfe for cutting and supplying the fresh greenery used to decorate. We'd also like to thank Homestead Gardens for providing the fresh Christmas tree for the living room, which was decorated with Victorian décor.

Everyone had fun and we look forward to next year's event!



Michael & Melinda and the Victorian tree



Bonnie and Cheryl from Snappin' Jewelry



Lynn Ortiz and husband from Duck Creek Soaps



First State Symphonic Band Holiday Ensemble



We had sprigs of Mistletoe hung in the museum and plank house – pucker up!



Bob sold items from the store



The Caley Christmas ornament collection tree



Congratulations to Ruth Omole, she was happy to be the winner of the basket raffle



# There's Always Something Going On At The Smyrna Museum!

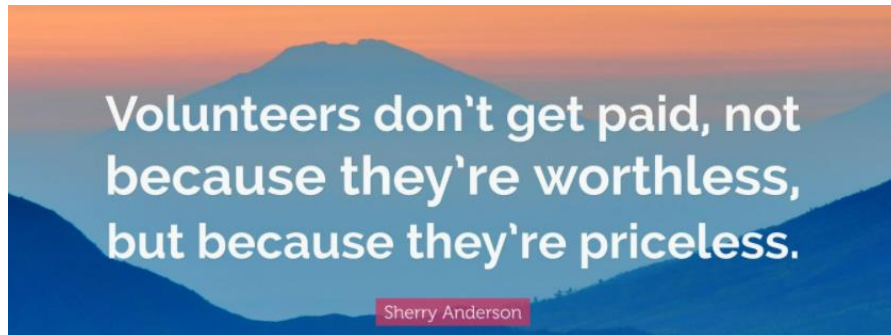
**The DCHS has been busy and we've got a lot of things going on!**

**"The best time to repair the roof is when the sun is shining" (J.F. Kennedy)**

**We couldn't agree more!**

- DCHS sold the lot on North Main Street to the Town of Smyrna.
- DCHS has filed for several Grants to help pay for operational expenses. We desperately need to replace the roof on the plank house and have some other maintenance needed, such as leak fixes, painting, etc.
- Microfilm of the Sun-Times newspaper (from March 1854 to June 1961) and Smyrna Town Minutes (from March 1845 to Sept 4, 1990) was professionally scanned into PDF files that can be read and searched electronically by computer. This allows capability to search the files for research purposes.
- DCHS, through Grant funding, will be making improvements at the Quaker Cemetery.
- DCHS will be partnering with the Smyrna Police Department on Smyrna Night Out and First Friday Night Out events. The First Friday Night Out events will be from May to September and the events are planned to be on Main Street, designed to bring interest to the downtown area. **The museum will be open. If you're interested in volunteering on the Friday nights – give us a call and leave a message and event coordinators will contact you (302-653-1320).**
  - **The Smyrna Night Out will be Saturday, June 18<sup>th</sup>** and will bring excited bands and music acts to Main Street, as well as food and drinks. We're looking for volunteers to help check ID's and dispense beverages in tents that will be at certain locations. **We need help with these events!! If you're interested in volunteering and helping with this event please give us a call and leave a message and event coordinators will contact you (302-653-1320). Those who work the event will receive a freshly designed DCHS museum complex t-shirt and a ticket to the VIP tent with food and drinks! Give us a call and get signed up today!**

## APRIL IS NATIONAL VOLUNTEER MONTH



**DCHS Volunteers logged almost 1,350 work hours during 2021**

Volunteers perform many functions at the museum complex and we couldn't keep the organization going without the extra hands. Docents greet and educate guests. We change the décor inside of the museum, change out exhibits, document and track museum assets, perform research, answer questions about the local area, painting, keep things clean, maintain the buildings and grounds, pull weeds, plant flowers, plan and execute events, and the list goes on.

Are you looking for opportunities to fill a few hours, learn something new, and give back to your community?

Maybe you know someone who would like to join and can help with tasks and events?

Reach out to the museum and let us know how you'd like to volunteer, and the Committee Representative will get in touch with you. Call the museum at 302-653-1320 and leave a message or email us at [dchs302@gmail.com](mailto:dchs302@gmail.com)

**Stop by and learn about volunteer opportunities!**

**A big Thank You goes out to those who volunteer their time and efforts!**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Bringing events to Main Street!



Starting May 6, 2022, Smyrna will be hosting a series of “First Fridays” on the first Friday of each month from May to September. There will be with live music, food, and drinks starting at 6pm – all held on Main Street! The Museum will be open and we’re looking for volunteers to help with quick and easy tours for the public. If interested, give us a call (302-653-1320) and leave a message and someone will get back to you.



SMYRNA’S NIGHT OUT will be held on Saturday, June 18<sup>th</sup>, starting 10am to 9:30pm and will feature live entertainment on the hour, food vendors and beer sales. All of the events will be held on Main Street!

The Museum has the opportunity to work the tent locations (and receive a donation) that will be set up to check identification for verifying legal age for alcohol and the tents for serving beer. We’re looking for volunteers to help out – maybe someone in the family wants to help? Come on out and join in the fun!



## Historical Fun Facts: Did You Know?



### The 1906 “Minutemen” Calendar

This interesting large 1906 calendar card is part of the museum’s Revolutionary War room display.

The Perry Mason Company in Boston, MA, published a weekly children’s newspaper, the *Youth’s Companion*, from 1827 to 1929. At first the newspaper targeted children and articles centered on religion. In later years the focus changed to children and adults and the articles featured famous writers such as Harriet Beecher Stowe and Mark Twain. Calendars were a subscription bonus, issued with the “New Year’s greeting”. The 1906 calendar card was billed as “a souvenir for 1906 is something wholly out of the ordinary”. The three-paneled illustration is framed in gold leaf and the card is described as representing the “March of the Minutemen” and both “distinctive and patriotic”.

On September 8, 1892, the *Youth’s Companion* published the first copy of the Pledge of Allegiance, written by the Perry Mason Company staff member, Francis Bellamy.

Eric S. Gardner as a child was very fond of the magazine. When he embarked on his own writing career, Gardner borrowed the name Perry Mason for his famous fictional attorney-detective character.

Who knew?

Visit the museum to see this unique item.

# SPRING IS IN THE AIR!

Now we just need some warmer temperatures so that it really feels like spring!

The propagated Camelia gave another spectacular show of colorful red and pink blooms a few weeks ago.

You can see red blooms towards the bottom of the shrub and then the blooms come out in pink as well.

This is most likely the winter blooming variety, adding color to a winter landscape. This shrub is known to get as tall as 10 feet and blooms in the northern area January to March.

There are six types of Camelia blooms, and this one looks similar to the "*Rose Form Double*".

Whatever it may be, we think she's simply lovely!



**Membership Renewal Time! Membership Dues run from June 1<sup>st</sup> to June 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. If you have questions about your membership status – please give us a call or send us an email so we can help!**

### **Updating Our Membership Files**

We need everyone to fill out this form and send it into the museum so that we can update the membership roster. Even if you've been a long-term member, please fill out the form and send it back to us so that we can update our records.

**Dues Campaign** – Please send in your 2022 membership dues: \$15 Individual membership, Family is \$25, and Lifetime is \$100. Please send your 2022 dues to the Duck Creek Historical Society, PO Box 335, Smyrna, DE 19977 **or renew them fast and easy with a credit card through the secured DCHS website, see the Members page.**

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**Membership Payment Type:** \_\_\_\_ Individual (\$15) \_\_\_\_ Family (\$25)

**Lifetime Member (\$100)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Checks should always be made out to the Duck Creek Historical Society.**

**PLEASE PRINT**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Cell Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**We always need help and there is always something going on at the museum!**

**I'd be interested in helping with or have the following skills to offer:**

**Putting Exhibit Together** \_\_\_\_

**Organizing an Event** \_\_\_\_

**Inventory of Assets** \_\_\_\_

**Cleaning on Quarterly Basis** \_\_\_\_

**Holiday Decorating** \_\_\_\_

**Advertising Committee** \_\_\_\_