

MUSEUM INITIATES MONTHLY SPEAKERS



Our February speaker was Orlando Camp. He provided a first-person account of **Milford's early effort to integrate public schools in 1954**. Mr. Camp was in the first class of African-American students to enroll at Milford. It set-off a local backlash that delayed integration at Milford until 1963. The first class graduated in 1965. An audience of over 120 people filled the Milford Library for this interesting program



In March members enjoyed hearing Judith Roales, President of the DE River & Bay Lighthouse Foundation share a fascinating program entitled **240 Years of Delaware Lighthouses**

Check out Milford Live and the Milford Chronicle for our announcements about our speakers for the rest of 2012.



Major Everett C. Bennett, Air Force Civil Air Patrol (CAP), addresses the Museum's first Speaker Series for 2012. Maj. Bennett provided a one-hour lecture and slide series covering the history of **Ft. Saulsbury and Coast Artillery** units stationed near Slaughter Beach from 1918-1945.



MILFORD MUSEUM SPRING NEWSLETTER

MUSEUM WELCOMES NEW CHAIRMAN

Dave Kenton & Charles Hammond, outgoing and incoming chairmen for the Milford Museum. Kenton introduced Hammond as his successor during the December 5, 2011, Christmas celebration.



The Milford Museum Commission elected Charles Hammond to serve a two-year term as Chairman for 2012-2013. Charles was born in 1948 and raised in Milford. He was one of the first five African-American students to graduate from Milford High School in 1965 following the 10-year battle over integration of public school. Charles and his wife, Jeannie, returned to Milford in 2008 after the disastrous hurricane Katrina destroyed their home in New Orleans. Charles retired in 1989 as a Major in the Marine Corps after a 20 year career. He has served a three year term as Museum Commissioner from 2009-2011, working on Exhibits & Fundraising committees.

Charles succeeds Dave Kenton, who served as Chairman from 2007-2011. Mr. Kenton offered praise and support for Hammond as the Museum enters its newest phase as a professional museum with an executive director. Hammond plans to help increase membership, complete fundraising for the "Challenge Grant," and expand Museum activities into all phases of the Milford community.

MUSEUM HOURS

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|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Tuesday - Thursday | 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. |
| Friday - Saturday | 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. |
| Sunday | 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. |
| Monday | Closed |
| Closed Major Holidays | |



The Milford Museum is located at 121 S. Walnut Street in downtown Milford between City Hall and PNC Bank.

Find us on the web at:
www.milfordDEmuseum.org

Email us at:
info@milfordDEmuseum.org

Office Phone: (302) 424-1080

A Message from the Executive Director

Dear Members and Friends,

It has now been almost a year since I retired from the State's Museum system and started working for you at the Milford Museum. It's been an enlightening and enjoyable time "learning the ropes" of Museum management. I never realized how many "hats" I would have to wear! Everything from Collections Manager, to Grant and Publicity writer, to Docent, to Janitor, and many things in between.

The Museum began collecting objects in 1983. Accession records include a wide variety of items with a wide variety of descriptions. (i.e. "Teapot" - old/antique?) When I started, I felt that it was important to learn just how many items the Museum owns. Someday I will have the answer for you! Progress is slow but steady. I began entering all of the object and donor names from the Accession Book into a data management computer program called "PastPerfect". This gives me the ability to match up items that may never have had a unique number physically applied to them.

In 2010, the Museum received a Delaware Humanities Grant to digitize all of our photographs. I have currently entered photographs into the computer. This provides the ability to search for a specific location, house, event, etc. and quickly determine if we have a related photograph. It is a great research tool. There are also 2,523 records in the Objects file, 556 in the Library (books & pamphlets), and 277 in the Archives (non-published items). To date, we can account for 5,439 individual items with new "fnds" and donations daily.

I will have to admit that I am having fun. It is great to return to Milford and help to organize the Museum's wonderful collections. Please include a visit to the Museum on your summer list of things to do. We are interested in all items of Milford's history, so remember us when you do your Spring Cleaning!

Claudia Furnish Leister

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2011-2012 - EXHIBIT CHANGES & UPDATES

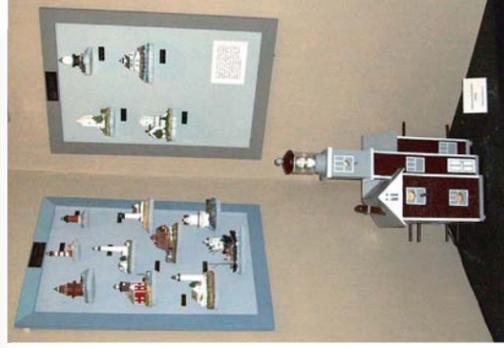


Children of all ages enjoyed Dick & Jan Caldwell's nutcracker collection, plus the teddy bear Christmas tree.

The Museum was awarded **FIRST PLACE** for interior decorations during the annual Holiday Stroll.



The spring **Lighthouse Exhibit** includes a collection of Delaware lighthouses and a birdhouse built in the shape of the Mispillion Lighthouse. Thanks to the Caldwell's for sharing their collection.



Don't miss seeing the additions to the **Civil War Exhibit!**

MUSEUM ACTIVITIES

Parades & Visits



First Place Winner in Halloween Parade! Commissioners (l. to r.) Charles Hammond, Rita and Marvin Schelhouse, and Harry Humes, dressed as historic Milfordians, wave at the crowd from our float.



Sam & Eva Marshall visit the new medical office exhibit opened in 2011. Sam was a founding Museum Commissioner in 1983, and former Chairman.



President Charles Hammond and Claudia Leister thank Rep. Harvey Kenton and Sen. Gary Simpson (absent from picture) for their financial support in getting our parking lot repaired.



Sussex Councilman Sam Wilson, 2nd District, attends the Museum Christmas party with Executive Director Claudia Leister and Dave Kenton. The Museum appreciates the financial support received from Sussex County Council.

BUILDING REPAIRS



PRESIDENT CHARLES HAMMOND watches as workmen from Henderson Mechanical lower a new firebox for our furnace into the basement. Thanks to the State Division of Historical & Cultural Affairs for the upcoming repairs to the Museum.



DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS Harry Humes and Bob Voshell performed repairs and painting in the basement. This area now houses the Iwo Jima and Baseball Exhibits. Be sure to check it out.