



FMHA

FORT MILES HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
120 WILD RABBIT RUN
LEWES, DE 19958
(302) 645-0753

Fall/Winter 2007/2008 Newsletter

As always, I would like to thank our active Board of Directors for their help during this past year. To remind: Ted George, secretary; Merlin Beil, treasurer; Bev Dalecki; David Main; Bob Frederick; Joe Kosaveach; Joe Johnson; Ray Quillen; Bob Fellows and Brian Lindsay. Without their active and constant help, our FMHA would not be where it is today. We hold our board meetings the third Saturday of the month at Books by the Bay in Lewes behind the P.O. If you would like to attend, please give me a call at 302-645-0753. We know have 370 members in GMHA! Thanks!!!

November 10, 2007 Event: Our next big event at the Fort will be on this date, 10-4 pm. This event will honor our veterans with a full program of WWII events with reenactors, tours of Battery 519, and a dance (7-10pm) at the Officer's Club (not the Fort Miles Historical Bldg.) Call the Nature Center at 645-6852 for tickets. This should be another super day so hopefully many can attend! We will be firing the 3" all during the day! And giving tours so join us!

December 8, 2007 FMHA Winter Meeting: All FMHA members are invited to our annual Winter Meeting at the Biden Center, 10-3 pm, with lunch. We will have two programs during the meeting, one by lee Jennings on the interpretive plan for the museum and the other by Paul Rosenthals on further development of the themes for the museum. Join us for this most interesting meeting. We will also be training Docents for tours during the day, so if you are interested in becoming a Docent, or just attending, please call me at 302-645-0753 asap so I both put you on the list and so I can get a lunch count.

FMHA on CNN, August 14, 2007: Thanks to the efforts of FMHA member Horace Knowles, FMHA was profiled on the CNN Morning Report by co-anchor Kiran Chetry (his grandson's wife) on August 14, 2007 in celebration of VJ Day. The CNN camera team and Kiran visited us at the Fort in July and we spent five hours with them to film the spot. It was a high profile event for both Horace and FMHA. We will be showing the spot at our December 8, 2007 Winter meeting at the Biden Center for those who missed it.

July 28, 2007 Event: Hundreds came out for our recreation of the surrender of the U-858 at this event. Thanks to some "out of the box thinking" we were able to show the audience what happened on May 14, 1945 when the sub appeared at the mine wharf (now fishing pier) to surrender. We had several German sailors and their captain in his white hat and the audience loved it! Visit our website (www.fortmiles.org) to see photos. We are going to do the event again next year (see upcoming events.) During the day we also fired the 3" gun which was also very popular.

Tower #3 Project: FMHA has joined with both the state and the Delaware Seashore Preservation Foundation to work to restore and open to the public Fire Control Tower #3, the southern most of the two towers in Dewey Beach. It is the one directly behind the Bathhouse on Tower Road. FMHA and DSPR have joined forces to work to raise the \$500k required to open the Tower to the public to our folks to the southern part of the Delaware and MD shore. By opening the 69' tower folks will not have to drive to CHSPark to go up to Tower #7, the only tower presently open to the public. We will also be creating a WWII database for those who want to enter the record of their loved one for historical preservation. This is a seven year project that you will be hearing more about in the future. We will discuss this exciting new adventure at our December 8th meeting.

Railroad Gun Project: FMHA is working with DSParks to secure a railcar for our 8" gun in the gun park. The plan is to secure a railcar, lay rail, and put the gun on the railcar as it was during the War. There were eight 8" RR guns at the Fort, in four two gun batteries. It is estimated to get the project completed(and have the railcar located,) it will cost \$50k. This project will also be discussed at our Fall/Winter meeting. As always, tax free donations accepted for the project.

2008 Important Dates: We ask you to place the following important 2008 dates on your calendar: April 26, 2008- our WWII weekend with our usual dance (7-10pm); August 2, 2008-recreation of the surrender of U-858; November 8, 2008- A day to honor the effort, sacrifice and service of our veterans. Again, put these important events on your calendar.

Other FMHA Highlights: 1. Your FMHA team is working to secure a 60" Sperry Searchlight, with a 800M candlepower beam, for the fort. We have located one in Michigan. 2. A group of FMHA members visited Aberdeen proving Ground to see the only existing Army 16" gun. We are starting the discussion as to what it would take to bring a Navy 16" gun to our gun park. 3. We have received as a gift a huge land mine of the type at the Fort. Our board member, Joe Kosaveach, who did such a good job on the other mine, has volunteered his time to make the new mine historically correct.

*See you at the Lewes Craft Fair on Oct. 6, Coast Day, Oct. 7, or the Nov. 10 event and certainly at the Biden Center at our December 8 meeting!

-Gary