



THE BATTERY

SPRING 2010



The Fort Miles Historical Association is a nonprofit group that has its mission to preserve, protect, and defend all aspects of Fort Miles working with community and state stakeholders and other interested parties. The FMHA also has its goal to work as an active partner with the State of Delaware to develop the historical potential of Fort Miles.



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was so successful our FMHA Board has decided that this event will take the place of our annual event in December, so more information will follow in the Fall 2010 Newsletter.

further in a minute.

To make these three things happen, our FMHA Board of Directors decided on a path forward at our February meeting. The first part of the plan is our Paver Campaign, needed to raise the money to mount our Fort Miles Fundraising Campaign 2010-2011. You can see a sample of the concrete paver in this edition. These pavers will sell for \$200 each and will be placed inside the bunker lobby in July, 2010 in a Wall of Honor for all to view as they enter the Museum. We are hoping to sell at least 100 pavers which will go to finance our

General Fundraising Campaign beginning in the Fall of 2010. The paver can be personally inscribed with the name of a family member or friend who served in the defense of our country, to pay honor to a friend or colleague, recognize a family member, or to pay tribute



generally to a spouse, friend or children. In the next month the over 300 members of FMHA will be sent a brochure announcing

After six years of hard work and effort by many hundreds of folks, and thousands of hours of labor, I am pleased that FMHA is now at the place where we can start the campaign to raise the necessary money to make our Museum a reality. So, I am happy to announce that we will be kicking off a Fort Miles Fundraising Campaign that will last through 2011 to raise the funds for three things to happen: 1) to create the best WWII Museum inside a WWII facility in the United States; 2) to enhance and expand the Cantonment (Barracks) area to make it a destination for overnight and weekend stay; and 3) to restore Tower 3 at Dewey Beach and make it open to the public. I will discuss each of these initiatives

From the Desk of the President

By Dr. Gary Wray

Welcome to the Spring 2010 Edition of The Battery. It has been a very busy winter for FMHA. We had a wonderful Open House in November, attended by over 500 folks, inside Battery 519. It was the weekend after one of the worst storms in history but underground 30' it didn't matter. Thanks to the efforts of our local legislator, Ruth Briggs King, FMHA was honored for our work in preserving WW II history in Delaware and our efforts to make Battery 519 into the best WWII museum inside a WWII facility in the US. The Proclamation was presented to FMHA inside the South Gun Block in front of a hundred supporters. Thanks to FMHA Director John Roberts and his hardy crew of workers, the Battery was in wonderful shape. Thanks also to Etta Kosaveach and others for preparing wonderful food for the event. The Open House

the selling of the pavers and our membership will have the first opportunity to buy a paver. After July 1, 2010, the selling of Wall of Honor pavers will be opened to the general community. I informed the Board that I intend to purchase four pavers; one for myself, one for my family, and one each to honor the service to our country of my father, an aerial engineer on a B-26 Marauder in WWII and my grandfather, a sergeant on the Western Front in WWI. It is my hope that others purchase several pavers to honor family members and loved ones (of course, the cost is tax deductible). The first Wall of Honor will be recognized on July 4, 2010 inside the Battery.

The Fort Miles Fundraising Campaign will kick off in the fall of 2010. We will need \$2 million to complete our ambitious plans. The first part of our plan is to establish our state of the art WWII museum inside Battery 519. In the Museum we will need a complete HV system, room designs and development, facilities improvements, lighting, handicapped facilities, security and a host of other improvements. We

put the cost at \$1.5 million. The second part of the plan is to improve the Cantonment area to make it an overnight destination with fencing, security, bath and lavatory facilities, "chow" hall, barracks improvements, HV system for the Fort Miles Orientation Building, and other improvements. We put that cost at \$500,000.

The third part of the Fort Miles Fundraising Plan is restoring Tower 3, the southern most of the two towers at Dewey Beach. The goal is to make this tower accessible to the public working with our partner, Delaware Seashore Preservation Friends Group. We have been on this effort on Tower 3 for a couple of years and have raised some money but we are no where near what we need to complete rehabilitation of the Tower. Our goal, ultimately, is to have two towers available to the public and all the other remaining towers have signage around them telling of their history and how they were the "eyes" of the Fort, tying them in with our new museum.

So, that is our plan. Yes, it is ambitious. Yes, it is also, with your

support and the support of our community, achievable. You will be receiving more information in the near future concerning the Paver Wall of Honor campaign. I am also happy to announce that Mike Rawl, of Lewes, will be spearheading our Fort Miles Fundraising Campaign. In the near future we will be forming a fundraising committee to help us with this major effort. Once we are completed with this project, Fort Miles will truly be a destination in Delaware and a fitting tribute to those who served our country in its first effort at Homeland Security.

Finally, I would like to take a minute to thank the Board of Directors of FMHA for giving of their time and money to help make this dream a reality. And a big vote of thanks to all the hundreds of others who have labored day (and some nights) to bring us to this point where we can make the Fort Miles Museum and Cantonment a reality.

News From the Publicity Committee

By Bob Fellows



The FMHA publicity committee has been working on the "Upcoming Events" poster for 2010. Fort Miles battery 519 tours are scheduled for Saturday, March 13 and Saturday, April 10, 2010 at 2PM. A tour

by lantern light is scheduled for March 20, 2010 at 7pm. Preregistration required: call (302)645-6852.

Fort Miles is gearing up for "The War Years", a special annual presentation of what life was like during World War II. This event is slated to take place from 10AM to 4PM Saturday, April 24, 2010 at the Fort Miles Historic Area in Cape Henlopen State Park. There will be 3-inch gun drill demonstrations with re-enactors in

WWII-era uniforms who will bring this mighty coastal fortification back to life. Battery 519 tours will be conducted hourly.

Members of the 261st Coastal Artillery and the 42nd Detachment(RCAT) AAA, who were stationed at Fort Miles from 1941-1960, will be holding a reunion during The War Years event, April 24, 2010. Please contact Merlin Beil, (302) 645-7759 or mbeil5@comcast.net for further information.

"Bits" From the Bunker Busters

By John Roberts and Joe Kosaveach

Since the last newsletter, much has happened inside of Battery 519.

More demolition, as our intrepid crew removed the old wooden and I beam floor of the generator room. This is in preparation of a new concrete floor, and eventually this area will be the orientation and presentation area for Battery 519.

In preparation of our November Open House, we have begun to paint the interior of the bunker, and essentially completed the cosmetic work on the latrines, which were available to the public.

We also have been painting the corridor, check out the before and after photos at the end of the article. What a difference! Clean, dry, and well lit. And the paint eliminates that abandoned building appearance.

And finally, we had a crew of fraternity brothers and sorority sisters from the University of Delaware show up on February 20th to help us paint the north rooms.

Thanks to Art, Jason, and others, we now have a full set of original telephones in the South Gun room. More importantly, we can now communicate between the gun room and Building T601 in the cantonment area. We've already made the first inaugural phone calls.

We also spent a day preparing the generator shed outside for

demolition by Americorps NCCC. The foundation slab will be used for our paver wall!

And, as you can see, we are a lot dryer now, thanks to getting



the construction dust out of our dehumidifiers;

There are a few more regular volunteers showing up these days as well. In addition to Fred, Tom and myself, we also have Steve, Jack and Harry. These folks are a very welcome addition. Jobs that would take several days are now being completed in a day or less. Welcome aboard! Joe Kosaveach has been diligently working off site on our 20MM Flak 38, which is coming right along.

We are also adding more circuits, and rerouting all the wiring under the floor, having it follow the original WWII pathways. This is not only a lot closer to original, but being out of sight, we can conserve our period correct cabling and fixtures to just the areas visible to the public. This is important, as period correct electrical hardware is quite expensive.

To do some of this, we had to rent a jack hammer to bust up the

floor in two places to complete our conduit runs. There are stories that the concrete used at Fort Miles was substandard. I can tell you, first hand, this is not the case. Most ordinary concrete is rated at 3000 PSI compressive strength. According to one concrete engineer, ours is more like 12,000 PSI. It is very strong, very hard, and very difficult to demolish. It took two days to open up an area just 3 feet by 8 feet, and not very deep. Apparently this is what you use to make artillery batteries. Furthermore, the estimate is there's about 10,000 TONS of reinforcing steel in Battery 519. This is a very strong building.

We had a minor setback in February, when the snow storm claimed one of the power poles feeding Battery 519. Thanks to the



rapid action of the park and the city of Lewes, we had power back on within two days. Not bad, given the widespread outages in Sussex County.

We are in the process of preparing the Battery as well as the site for installation of a four zone geothermal heating, air conditioning, and dehumidification system. The quotes as they sit are running well over \$100,000, and we are working with contractors to make this as reasonable as possible. Right now, this is well beyond our fiscal capacity, so we need any and all aid!

Latrines: Before and After



Corridor: Before and After

Entrance



4 phones in the South Gun Room

Goodbye Lee

Dr. Gary Wray

It is with a heavy heart that I write this testimony to my friend, Lee Jennings. I never thought that when I asked Lee to get his column in for publication for this edition of The Battery that I would end up writing it for him on the day of his death.

Lee was a special guy and we had a very interesting relationship. Two guys who didn't have a lot in common, but who had one big love together, Delaware history, and a passion to work on Fort Miles and make it a destination for the state of Delaware and, at the same time, establish the best World War II museum inside a World War II facility in the country. On almost every historical issue we saw eye to eye. On most other issues, including political, that was not the case! But love of Delaware history and Fort Miles trumped all!

I first met Lee years ago when I gave a Fort Miles presentation at the Rehoboth Beach Convention Center and Lee attended along with several Park officials. We struck up a quick relationship after the talk and immediately hit it off as two historians who had a common interest would. In 2003 we both were contacted by Bob Frederick and David Main, two Dewey Beach residents, who were thinking about establishing a historical association to focus really on the two towers at Dewey Beach. So, from that, was born the Fort Miles Historical Association, which had its coming out party in August, 2003, with five



members, including Lee's boss in Parks, Jim O'Neill.

From the beginning Lee and I saw that the real treasure was Fort Miles in Lewes and the game plan should focus on establishing a museum inside one of the bunkers. With Lee's steady hand guiding the effort from Dover he was able to marshal the resources to begin work in the Cantonment (barracks) area. With our little FMHA group growing, we became the Friends group of the effort, supplying much of the manpower at the beginning and talking the effort up in the downstate Delaware community. In 2004 Lee and I decided to work together to write a book on Fort Miles, which after much research in National Archives and the State archives, was published in 2005. Lee and I really came together in writing the book and formed a fast friendship that only two can do when thrown together on a project. I can truly say that in the time that I have worked and known Lee, never a cross word passed between us and he became a close friend of both me and my family.

As FMHA grew to over 300 members, the project grew in scope. Lee put together a museum plan with the help of FMHA and that plan became the center of our efforts, or the "prize" as we call it. Lee got Dover to buy into it and the effort started to clean out Battery 519. Under Lee's careful eye, progress was made over the years, which is where we find ourselves today. At the February, 2010 FMHA Board meeting, after much debate and discussion, we decided to launch the ambitious fundraising campaign I mentioned in my article. Lee's role in this campaign was, as

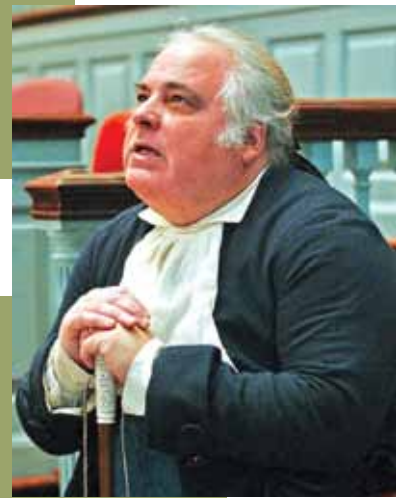


always, critical to its success so we now find ourselves looking to see where we go from here without him. There is no doubt that the Museum is where Lee's heart was so, in my view as his friend, we must continue the work that he so loved. The day before he died, for example, he was working in the bunker full steam ahead, even though he could have worked in his office in Dover pushing papers rather than bringing down block walls. No, the work must go on, as the World War II Museum in Battery 519 is Lee's legacy and those of us who knew and loved him will make sure that it comes to pass. Lee, we miss you, but the work goes on and we will make you proud of the final result. Thanks for being my friend.

Lee's wife, Linda, has asked that donations be made to the FMHA, in lieu of flowers. If anyone would like to make a contribution in Lee's memory, please go to the FMHA's website, www.fortmiles.org. There is a "Donate" link on the homepage, where you can make a donation through PayPal. There will be a comment box, where you can leave a message to state that it's in his memory. If you would rather send a check, you can mail it to:

Fort Miles Historical Association
Dr. Gary Wray, President
120 E. Wild Rabbit Run
Lewes, DE 19958

The many faces of Lee Jennings throughout Delaware State Parks



History wasn't just a job for him... it was his life.

The War Years
 By Mike Rogers
 Fort Miles, DE State Parks

Cape Henlopen State Park is beginning to bustle with activity as the weather breaks and we kick off Spring 2010. Visitors are coming out of hibernation from a seemingly endless and brutal winter, maintenance crews are opening buildings and prepping grounds, and the Fort Miles Historic Site is being readied for its annual re-enactment event scheduled for April 24th called "The War Years." Everyone on the Fort Miles team plays a pivotal role in making sure that the post is ready for our big event... but this year is different.

In early March the Fort Miles team suffered a loss so great that we are still searching for ways to bridge the chasm. The State Parks director of cultural resources, Lee Jennings, tragically passed away due to a massive heart attack. This untimely death has left a void in not only the project, but the hearts

of those who loved him and shared his passion each and every day as Fort Miles moved further from distant goal to tangible reality. It was his vision, his leadership and his inexhaustible energy that not only launched, but sustained this project day by day. I was privileged to not only call him my supervisor, but my mentor and my dear friend. My life changed the day we crossed paths... and it changed again the day he stepped off of that path. For the 4 short years that I knew him he affected a lifetime in me, and for that I am forever grateful. For a man who lived in the past he passed far before his time.

The April 24th special event, "The War Years" will feature a special tribute to the man who brought life to the Fort Miles project. At 1500 hours, a special ceremony saluting Lee will be held at the 3 inch gun pad featuring re-enactors from the 261st Coast Artillery at Fort Miles and the Civil War from Fort Delaware - the two forts that he brought from "what if" to reality. Following the ceremony we will

have a reception in the orientation building. We hope that you will join us for the day's events and stay to share your thoughts and pay tribute to him.

From 1000 to 1500 the Fort Miles re-enactors will bring the fort to life with barracks displays and demonstrations on the functional artillery. Battery 519 will be open for guided tours throughout the day at a cost of \$3.00 per person. For those who have not visited Battery 519 in a while, the progress of the restoration effort is staggering. A schedule of events for the day appears below.

Parking for this event will be at the beach bath house and shuttles will provide transportation to and from the event site. Food and refreshments will be provided by the Fort Miles Historical Association. Mark your calendar for April 24th and see history come to life at Fort Miles!

<p>For more information:</p> <p>www.fortmiles.org www.fortmiles.org</p> <p>Fort Miles office:</p> <p>302.644.5007</p> <p>Email:</p> <p>michael.rogers@state.de.us</p>	<p>The Days Events:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Time</th> <th>Event</th> <th>Location</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>10:15a</td> <td>Tour of Battery 519</td> <td>Orientation Building</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10:30a</td> <td>Artillery Demonstration</td> <td>3in Gun Pad</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10:45a</td> <td>Tour of Battery 519</td> <td>Orientation Building</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11:30a</td> <td>Tour of Battery 519</td> <td>Orientation Building</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12:00p</td> <td>Artillery Demonstration</td> <td>3in Gun Pad</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12:15p</td> <td>Tour of Battery 519</td> <td>Orientation Building</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12:45p</td> <td>Tour of Battery 519</td> <td>Orientation Building</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1:15p</td> <td>Tour of Battery 519</td> <td>Orientation Building</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1:30p</td> <td>Artillery Demonstration</td> <td>3in Gun Pad</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2:00p</td> <td>Tour of Battery 519</td> <td>Orientation Building</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3:00p</td> <td>Memorial for Leland Jennings Jr.</td> <td>3in Gun Pad</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4:00p</td> <td>Reception</td> <td>Orientation Building</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Time	Event	Location	10:15a	Tour of Battery 519	Orientation Building	10:30a	Artillery Demonstration	3in Gun Pad	10:45a	Tour of Battery 519	Orientation Building	11:30a	Tour of Battery 519	Orientation Building	12:00p	Artillery Demonstration	3in Gun Pad	12:15p	Tour of Battery 519	Orientation Building	12:45p	Tour of Battery 519	Orientation Building	1:15p	Tour of Battery 519	Orientation Building	1:30p	Artillery Demonstration	3in Gun Pad	2:00p	Tour of Battery 519	Orientation Building	3:00p	Memorial for Leland Jennings Jr.	3in Gun Pad	4:00p	Reception	Orientation Building
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Also...

We're still looking for volunteers to lead battery tours and assist with running our 1942 Sperry Searchlight. If anyone is interested in either of those, there is a small form to fill out at the end of the newsletter. We will be happy to make sure you have all the training and materials you need to feel comfortable before getting out in front of the public. This is a great way to have fun and spend time at the Fort!

Help us preserve, restore and protect this remarkable site--become a member of the Fort Miles Historical Association simply by filling out the form below and mailing it with your check to the address listed below.

.....

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____, State _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (____) _____

Email: _____

Please check one:

- General 261st Coast Artillery (life member) \$1,000.
- Colonel , 261st Coast Artillery \$500.
- Major, 261st Coast Artillery \$250.
- Captain, 261st Coast Artillery \$100.
- Small Business \$75.
- Dual/Family \$20.
- Individual \$15.
- Student \$10.

Enclosed is my check in the amount of: \$_____

Make Checks payable to:

Fort Miles Historical Association
Dr. Gary Wray, President
120 E. Wild Rabbit Run
Lewes, DE 19958

Cut along this line if only mailing one application

NEW!!

We are also seeking volunteers to learn how to give battery tours, and/or run our Sperry searchlight. Our goal is to have a substantial group of members that can assist the Fort Miles staff with tours and other related programs. Volunteers will receive all the training and informative materials needed. So, if you've taken a battery tour and feel it might be something you would like to help with, fill out this bottom form, and mail it to Dr. Gary Wray at the address just above. If you would like further information, please call Dr. Wray at 302-645-0753.

Yes, I would like to become a volunteer!

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____



Fort Miles Historic Association
120 East Wild Rabbit Run
Lewes, DE 19958

