

## THE BATTERY

# FALL 2014

### FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

**P2** It is an exciting time for the Fort Miles Historical Association, and we have many people to thank.

### FMHA DECLARES "OPERATION SUCCESS" FOR SUMMER TOURS

**P3** We have wrapped up another successful summer at Cape Henlopen State Park and Fort Miles, and there are many things to reflect upon.

### GUN PARTS HAVE ARRIVED

**P5** Four mega-ton gun parts for a 16-inch barrel from the USS Missouri were unloaded Oct. 23.

### RESTORATION TEAM MAKES HEADWAY

**P8** Our team has been showing up every week, and every week we move farther ahead!

### WORK PRAISED BY OFFICIALS AND MEDIA

#### George Ward



The media have heavily supported our efforts to raise awareness about the many events at Fort Miles. Among the headlines: April's Delaware Goes to War celebration; the Fort's wish list; the October open house; and

efforts to bring the gun parts for the 16-inch static display. And of course, on June 18, 2014, Delaware Gov. Jack Markell visited Fort Miles. He was very pleased and surprised by what he saw. He praised the work done by FMHA volunteers and pledged to help increase awareness of all that Fort Miles has to offer. Photos and a release reporting his visit received considerable ink.

Working with Shawn Heacock, Ann Ward and Kae Johnson, we opened a small gift shop in the Orientation Building to coincide with the Battery 519 tours. With the help of volunteers, we have raised money for restoration efforts and recruited visitors to sign up for tours. But we need more members to help with the gift shop or conduct 519 tours. To help, please contact me at 302-329-9777 or [wardgeorge@comcast.net](mailto:wardgeorge@comcast.net).



**"YOU HAVE DONE AN UNBELIEVABLE JOB, THIS IS AMAZING."  
— GOV. JACK MARKELL**

# 3 WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

1

BE AN ACTIVE MEMBER AND VOLUNTEER

2

GIVE A DONATION TO SUPPORT OUR RESTORATION WORK

3

REMEMBER A HERO ON THE WALL OF HONOR



## FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT — DR. GARY WRAY

### New Board Members Commit to Serve FMHA

Welcome to the new FMHA Newsletter! We would like to thank Patricia Rivera of Hook PR Group for our new setup! Much has happened with FMHA since our last newsletter, including new members who have been added to our Board of Directors. Larry Boyer is now our new Treasurer, and we welcome him aboard. We would like to thank Harry Winn for doing such a sterling job in that position. Joe Johnson, long-time board member, has taken on the job of Assistant Treasurer from Merlin Beil, who we would also like to thank for his years of service as both Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer. Cliff Geisler has also been welcomed as a new FMHA Board member. Several new leaders have come on board, and we look forward to their valuable contributions.

### Final 16-Inch Gun Parts Arrive at FMHA

We are excited about the recent arrival in October of the 16-inch gun parts. These are the last of the available parts from the Dahlgren “boneyard,” which are needed to assemble a static display of a 16-inch gun. Ours will be the last one done on a girder, as there are no more 50-ton girders available!

Our FMHA “bunker busters,” led by John Roberts, will be working on the parts over the next year or so, getting them ready for display on the new gun pad. We will be working on them outside the entrance to the Museum, overlooking the entrance to Delaware Bay and the Atlantic Ocean. It is going to be one spectacular 300-ton display when we’re done!

### Committees, Volunteers Drive FMHA’s Mission

We have several important FMHA committees working on projects, so if you would like to serve on one, please let me know. FMHA Vice President Bob Frederick is chairing the important Foundation Committee, which organizes all our “meet and greet” events during the year. Frank Ali is chairing the Annual Banquet Committee of which he will talk about in his article in this newsletter. Frank is also chairing the important Fundraising Committee, charged with raising our part of the necessary funds over the next several years to build our WWII Museum inside Battery 519. Again, if you would like to contribute some time to FMHA contact either me or one of the Chairmen to volunteer to serve. You can reach me at 302-645-0753 or [gdwray@hotmail.com](mailto:gdwray@hotmail.com).

### Thanks to the Many Individuals Who Made It All Happen

We have been extremely busy over the summer giving tours and attending lots of craft and antique shows in the area. We have also hosted several local chambers of commerce meetings inside our museum, along with several other groups. Our October 18th event was well attended, as were the many tours over the summer. Lots of thanks to our docents for giving their time during Open House to explain to our visitors each of our museum displays. A big thanks to FMHA Secretary Mike Dunkes for organizing the docents. If you would like to become a docent, contact me or Mike, and we can set you up for a training session.

As always, we would like to thank our Delaware State Parks partners, led by Ray Bivens, for working with us in making Fort Miles a Mid-Atlantic WWII destination. We are excited about the path we are on and the progress that we have made over these last 14 years, but there is much more to do as we strive for our final goal of creating the best World War II museum inside a World War II facility in the country. Through the combined efforts of our state parks partners, FMHA membership, and the strong support of the Delaware Legislature, including our local delegation, we are much further along now on our journey.

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**President**  
Dr. Gary Wray

**Vice President**  
Bob Frederick

**Secretary**  
Mike Dunkes

**Treasurer**  
Larry Boyer

**Assistant Treasurer**  
Joe Johnson

**Board Members**  
Frank Ali  
Bev Dalecki  
Cliff Geisler  
Joe Kosaveach  
Dan Lyons  
John Roberts  
George Ward

## **MISSION**

**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.**

**To learn more, visit  
[www.fortmiles.org](http://www.fortmiles.org)**

## **NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY — MIKE DUNKES**

### **Continued Support Keeps Group Motivated**



We completed our semi-annual membership renewal campaign. You should have received your membership card. This is a first for FMHA. The card allows you to attend state-run tours of the Fort at no charge. Please bring family and friends to see and experience our little hidden monument to the men and women who helped protect our land during that horrific time in our history. Thank you for your support. Tell friends and family that we need their support as well.

### **Wall of Honor Features Richard Mootz**

The Fort Miles Historical Association "Wall of Honor," featuring commemorative pavers, represents a permanent reminder of your support. Just this past month we were fortunate to include Mr. Richard Mootz, a Delaware resident who was a participant in the Monuments Men recovery of stolen treasures at the end of World War II.

Contribute to memories of your loved ones and support our efforts to restore Fort Miles. Contact Mike Dunkes for additional information, [mdunkes@verizon.net](mailto:mdunkes@verizon.net).

### **Volunteers Serve as Backbone**

During the time that I have been involved with FMHA, I am constantly humbled by the amount of commitment provided by the association's volunteers. The Bunker Busters show up each Thursday and Friday to work on whatever projects are on John Robert's "to do" list. The volunteers provide the backbone for our efforts to expand our presence at community events as well as their support of State Parks Tours and events at Cape Henlopen State Park. To say the least we are very fortunate to have access to their talents.

A planned project this coming year will be to train interested volunteers to become qualified docents. This effort will enable the Parks Staff to expand the number of tours offered. In addition there will be opportunities for anyone that wishes to help. We have new construction projects on tap as well as plans to expand activities at the Park. Let us know. Drop me an email. [mdunkes@verizon.net](mailto:mdunkes@verizon.net). Mark the subject of your email "Fort Miles."

# FMHA DECLARES “OPERATION SUCCESS” FOR SUMMER TOURS

Shawn Heacock



Battery 519 was a reinforced concrete 12-inch coastal gun battery. A view from the Observation Tower. Photo by John Stanton

We have wrapped up another successful summer at Cape Henlopen State Park and Fort Miles and there are many things to reflect upon. We received some extra help in the Orientation Building and expanded tours. The Fort Miles Historical Association really helped to make the summer a success.

During the summer, we were able to keep the Orientation Building open during tours to better serve the public.

This was made possible with the help of FMHA volunteers who manned the desk (and the gift shop) while park staff was off doing the tour. Next summer, I hope to expand on this program and push to have the Orientation Building open seven days a week. I also hope to tackle some of the exhibits this winter to better show what life at Fort Miles was like.

Speaking of tours, we expanded those this year. We were able to offer three tours per week (amongst other Fort Miles programs). With the help of the FMHA volunteers who pushed out press releases and advertising, our tours averaged 22 attendees all summer long, a good number that reflects summer’s success. Next year I would like to expand the tour program even more, which brings up two points: upcoming tour changes and the need for volunteers.

Over the course of this winter, I am re-writing the standard Battery 519 Tour to reflect the events and attitudes here in 1941. I want to focus on the perceived threat and why Fort Miles was constructed how it was.

To differentiate, I will also be changing the Lantern Tour to reflect the 1943 events and attitudes. The new tour will highlight the reaction to the threat that materialized from the German Navy and what Fort Miles was witnessing. I want visitors to be able to attend both tours and learn something different. Or, if they haven’t been here for a few years, I want them to learn something new.

With the expansion of the tour program and learning new

material, we are going to need volunteers to help with tours. I know that not everybody is comfortable talking in front of a crowd, but many times a second person to tag along and help keep the crowd together is very helpful. I hope that working with FMHA, we can make an expanded tour program happen and continue to have successful tour seasons.

*The new tour will highlight the reaction to the threat that materialized from the German Navy and what Fort Miles was witnessing.*



# FINALLY, THE USS MISSOURI GUN PARTS HAVE ARRIVED

**Ann Sagi Ward**

Four mega-ton gun parts for a 16-inch barrel from the USS Missouri were unloaded Oct. 23 after a 250-mile truck trip to Fort Miles from an outdoor naval boneyard in Virginia, the next step toward creating a permanent display of the big gun.

Lockwood Brothers Inc. of Hampton, Va., hauled the 90,000-pound girder, or base; a 70,000-pound slide; a 38,500-pound yoke and other parts from the Naval Surface Warfare Center, Dahlgren Division, in Virginia via Interstate 95, the Baltimore Beltway and Route 1 in Delaware to the fort in Cape Henlopen State Park.

At the fort, employees of Lockwood and Geo. W. Plummer & Sons Inc. Crane Rental of Lewes placed the huge parts near the Missouri barrel, which was brought to the fort by barge and rail in April 2012.

The operation Oct. 16 took four hours in rain and wind as the Plummer and Lockwood workers carefully lowered the weather-beaten, rusty parts onto railroad-tie bases where they will be refurbished by Fort Miles volunteers.

Gary D. Wray, president of Fort Miles Historical Association, watched the parts' placement and said his group's hard work to relocate the barrel and parts has paid off. "We saved the barrel from being cut into scrap, and now we have the parts to make a static display of a 16-inch gun," he said. "We're very grateful to everyone who donated money, time and effort to make this happen."

The 16-inch gun barrel was on board the battleship Missouri when the Japanese surrendered to end World War II Sept. 2, 1945. The barrel was days from being scrapped when FMHA saved it, and bears the orange paint stripes that marked where welders were to cut.

Fort Miles housed two 16-inch guns, two 12-inch guns and smaller weapons to defend Delaware's coast and essential industry in Philadelphia during World War II from enemy surface ships. The Army destroyed the fort's guns after the war.

Wray said association volunteers will clean and paint the parts, then assemble them and the barrel into a display facing New Jersey, near the entrance to a planned World War II museum at Fort Miles.

Donations toward the restoration are also needed and can be made by becoming a member of FMHA, purchasing a memorial paver or making a tax-deductible contribution.



*The 35-ton parts are maneuvered off a truck at Fort Miles.  
Photos by George Ward*

# FMHA KICK STARTS 2014/2015 FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

## Frank Ali



The 2014/2015 Fundraising Campaign has begun with our request to the Longwood Foundation for a grant of \$235,000. The grant would allow FMHA to move forward with our plan to construct

restrooms and accommodations for eating and resting for museum visitors.

This funding will also allow us to complete the installation of the museum's internal HVAC system and to finalize plans for the mounting and display of the historic cannon from the USS Missouri at the entrance to the museum.

Several smaller but equally important grants have also been written and submitted for consideration to the State of Delaware and to private sources.

The Fundraising Committee has met with Michael Rawl of Horizon Philanthropic Services to outline our 2015 campaign goals and to provide FMHA with the tools and methods for successful fundraising. Horizon will assist us in establishing our mission and our goals through a list of dedicated results-oriented Campaign Leaders.

These Campaign Leaders will help establish our Case for Support Document and assist in finding a dedicated working Chair Person, as well as additional leaders and workers. FMHA is working on creating a Marketing and Business Plan to support our efforts. We have already begun to establish our Vision for the Museum through the Becker Morgan Group and Dan Murphy with the PRD Group.

FMHA has been fortunate in maintaining a constituency that believes in our project and our vision of creating the finest WW II museum within an actual WW II artifact. We must continue to build on this excitement with leaders who are able and willing to work to open new doors and avenues of support for FMHA. These leaders and workers must be passionate in their belief in our museum project.

There is so much more to our 2015 Fundraising Campaign than just printing literature and asking for donations. We are establishing a long-term plan that needs leadership, administration and coordination of efforts, training and strong initial execution by driven dedicated people. If you feel that you want to be part of our 2015 Fundraising Campaign, please contact our President, Dr. Gary Wray, at 302-645-0753.

## Inaugural Awards Dinner Honors Those Who Serve

The first annual Awards Dinner of the Fort Miles Historical Association will take place on Friday December 12 at 5:30 p.m. in the upstairs banquet room at Irish Eyes restaurant in Lewes. The Gala is both an awards dinner honoring members of our association who have donated their time and effort in supporting our vision of the authentic restoration of Battery 519, as well as a sincere Thank You to our active Board Members and hardworking Bunker Busters and committee members.

The men and women who set up our displays at local community events and sell our Fort Miles logo apparel contribute hundreds of volunteer hours each month. The volunteer hours recorded by our Bunker Busters spent on research, committee and educational meetings and the actual labor of restoration exceeds ten thousand hours annually.

The Bunker Busters who show up to work every Thursday and Friday in Battery 519 do so out of a passionate sense

of being part of a special effort to preserve the history and legacy of Fort Miles during WW II. The Gala event is an opportunity for us to unite as one to share in the spirit of Fort Miles.

There will be a first time showing of a newly compiled DVD of Fort Miles and Battery 519 that is both a retrospective view of what we have accomplished over the years as well as a visionary look into the future of Fort Miles. We will be honoring several invited guests as well as members and bunker busters for their dedication to the upgrading and construction of various aspects of the Battery. In addition we will award the inaugural Fort Miles Historical Association's Lee Jennings Leadership Award. This prestigious award will be presented annually to the person who represents outstanding leadership, dedication and unending loyalty to FMHA. This is a very special event in the history of the Fort Miles Historical Association and we hope for an overwhelming response to our RSVP invitation list.

# MEMORABLE FORT MILES MOMENTS



Pictures from left to right: The gift shop items being sold at the DE Goes to War event; a reenactment of German soldiers surrendering also at the same event; re-enactors demonstrating the plotting table; Gov. Markell's visit to Fort Miles; the gun parts at Dahlgren awaiting movement to Fort Miles. **Photos by George Ward.**

# RESTORATION TEAM AT FORT MILES MAKES HEADWAY

## John Roberts



It's been a busy year here at Fort Miles. Our team has been showing up every week, and every week we move farther ahead!

I just want to say that our team has made safety its #1 priority. Given the heavy equipment, potentially dangerous environment and the fact that the median age is in the mid- to-late 70s, no one has been hurt. Our safety record is still flawless.

That being said, this is when we are at the greatest risk. We drive home the safety message relentlessly, and complacency hasn't been a problem.

We are quite proud of this, and I am hoping we continue to keep a pristine track record. We're going to work extra hard to make sure we remain accident-free.



### Ammunition Service System on Track

Our plan is to be able to deliver shells and powder from the respective origins within Battery 519 and provide a real-world experience of loading the 12-inch gun. There are several components to this process, described below.

**Shot Cart:** Thanks to Fred Noll for his excellent skills and Parks for getting us the original drawings, we now have a shot cart. This will allow us to transport shells from the rail system to the breech of our 12-inch gun.



**Rail System:** We are reconstructing the original rail system, which runs from the shell room to the gun. Thanks to the efforts of several, we have been accumulating a variety of components to accomplish this. Dover Air Force Base has been generous to us, using their latest automated machining apparatus to make for us the rail brackets and the replacement hardware to go into the ceiling. Things may appear to be stalled, but our pile of parts says otherwise. We hope to make substantial progress on the installation of this system over the winter.



**Shells:** Our plan is to make medium-density polyurethane foam replicas, based on our wooden mock up. These will be painted to look real. However, at less than 30 pounds apiece, these will be much easier to handle.

**Powder system:** We are still figuring out what was installed in Battery 519. Did we have a power rammer, or did the men load this gun in the same manner as the batteries at Fort Saulsbury? We will probably use a manual rammer, unless we learn otherwise. We have two powder stretchers, but we will need more bags when the time comes. Since 12-inch guns fell out of favor immediately after WWII, all known canisters have been scrapped. We do have a 16-inch canister, but it is somewhat different in design. These still exist because only recently have 16-inch guns been removed from active status on the naval registers.





## (...continued) Restoration Team Makes Headway

### New Millennium Communications Capabilities Come to FMHA!

We have prepared all the WWII entries into Battery 519 for high-speed internet access. These were originally for the phone and timing bell system. All the sand and water have been removed and the covers rebuilt so we're now ready to enter the 21st century!

### Restoration Team Gets New, Roomier Shop

As we've been working throughout the summer, it has become clear we are in conflict with our work in Battery 519 and the tours. We have to shut down our project often for this reason.

The solution we came up with is to move about ¼ of a mile down the road to Battery Smith. This is the only other underground building at Fort Miles that has not been abandoned. It meets our power needs as well.

We have obtained a milling machine and a lathe, thanks to a generous donation from one of my friends, Steve Naugler. This is more of a permanent loan, but we'll have these tools for quite some time.

We are in the process of installing a heat pump in the north gun block. We've already stabilized the environment in a process similar to our early work in Battery 519.

The Park is also going to have a new rear door installed, allowing us to better seal the building, but also to be able to drive vehicles into the north gun room.

In addition, the north powder room in Smith is our artifacts storage room. These changes will give us more space to work and isolate our projects from the tours.

### Landing sites for 16-inch gun parts ready

We have prepared landing sites in the cantonment area for the arrival of the girder, yoke and slide for the 16-inch gun display. We have also brought one of the ammunition igloos back to life to store the smaller pieces for this display. These will be arriving in a 40-foot cargo container. Our job will be to unload this container, including the 5300-pound breech block, and store these pieces in the igloo and other places.



### Security doors installed on Fort Miles

**structures.** We were requested by Parks to secure the unused Fort Miles structures. Eric Dawson and Shawn Heacock procured some steel and our crew welded it onto all the openings except one, where we have a lockable, secure door for authorized access. And none too soon! Some unknown people have started to remove some of the historic fixtures in this building.

This work is part of securing all the underground buildings at Fort Miles. Over the years, the entrances were buried with sand, which, unfortunately, stopped no one. Our goal is to dig out all the entrances, and on a case by case basis, come up with a barrier to stop unauthorized access, while still having a lockable door for historical purposes. This will also stop the infiltration of the famous Delaware humidity, which presently makes it rain inside these buildings in the summer.

In addition to the bunkers, we are also addressing security and accessibility for all the ammunition igloos and finally, all the fire control towers. Our responsibilities cover all Fort Miles structures in the state of Delaware.

### We're growing and our numbers show it!

We continue to attract highly skilled volunteers with a range of skills. In addition to substantial engineering resources, we have a communications expert, three mechanics and other talents. We work very well together, and as we've said before, this is a WE effort, not a ME effort.

Thank you to all who have participated! Our ability to attract and retain these skilled people is a hallmark of our effort. Clearly, a WE effort and never a ME effort.





## JOIN THE FORT MILES HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

**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.

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_, State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

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

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**

**PLEASE CHECK ONE**

General level, (life member) \$1,000.

Colonel level, \$500.

Major level, \$250.

Captain level, \$100.

Small Business \$75.

Dual/Family \$20.

Individual \$15.

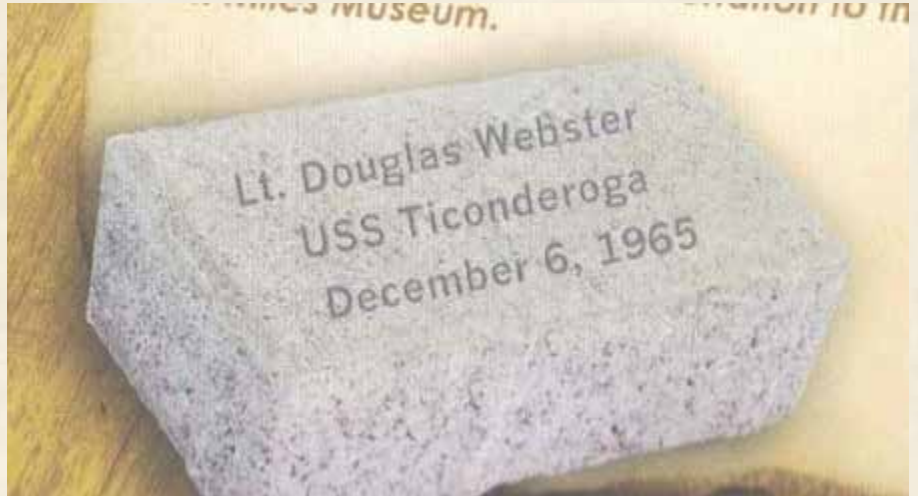
Student \$10.



# ORDER YOUR ENGRAVED PAVER

## for the Wall of Honor at the Fort Miles Museum

Now you can support the new Fort Miles Museum, receive a tax deduction and see your name or that of a loved one honored on a handsome brick paver. Each engraved paver will be prominently displayed in Battery 519, America's first WWII museum at an actual military site. More than 10,000 visitors each year will see your paver, and we will send a tribute card to whoever you designate, telling them of this special honor. The tax-deductible cost for each paver is just \$200, including delivery and installation in a well-lighted entrance area. This first phase of the "Wall of Honor" will accommodate just 500 pavers and orders are being accepted on a first-come basis. Be sure to reserve your paver now by returning the form below.



### Engraving Instructions

*LIMIT 3 LINES OF 16 CHARACTERS PER LINE spaces, punctuation & symbols count as characters*

**1** line 1 \_\_\_\_\_  
line 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
line 3 \_\_\_\_\_

**2** line 1 \_\_\_\_\_  
line 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
line 3 \_\_\_\_\_

**YES**, I want to purchase a paver at the Fort Miles Museum. All donations are tax deductible. Enclosed is my check made payable to The Fort Miles Historical Association.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ pavership

name \_\_\_\_\_ phone \_\_\_\_\_

street \_\_\_\_\_ city \_\_\_\_\_

state \_\_\_\_\_ zip \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

Send orders to:  
FMHA Wall of Honor  
C/O Horizon Philanthropic Services  
PO BOX 802  
Lewes, DE 19958  
Questions? Call 302.644.0107



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## **BATTERY SMITH 16" GUN**

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

