

SPRING 2017

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THE BATTERY

NEW GUN, NEW LOGO, NEW EVENTS AT FORT MILES

By Dr. Gary Wray, FMHA President

FMHA has been very busy since our last newsletter. This year, we secured the largest Longwood Foundation grant in the state (\$539,000) and, with support from Crystal Trust (\$50,000), we are designing and planning construction.

Over the next 18 months, the project will create a parking lot behind the Orientation Building, a paved road entrance to the Fort Miles Museum and a venue overlooking the Atlantic Ocean for special-occasion rentals. Mark Chura, FMHA executive director, is leading our effort, working with our Delaware State Parks partners to make it happen. These are exciting times!

We have a new logo for our new Fort Miles Museum. Our state parks partners in Dover designed several suggestions for our logo and our FMHA/Cape Henlopen State Park team selected the final choice. Our museum gift shop team is ordering T-shirts, cups and hats with the logo that will be available soon. (We need volunteers to staff the gift shop. If you are interested, contact me or Frank Ali, our gift shop leader.)

A new gun has been moved to our Fort Miles Artillery Park. Over the past 20 years, we have worked hard to assemble one of the best artillery parks in the nation to include models of all the guns that were at Fort Miles.

After securing the largest (16-inch) in 2012, and moving it outside



FMHA recently acquired a 90mm anti-aircraft gun, similar to those that protected Delaware River and Bay during World War II

our museum in September 2016 (with Delaware Gov. Jack Markell helping us cut the ribbon), we have been on the hunt for the final two guns we need: a 1918 GPF and a 90mm.

I am happy to report that our Fort Miles Historical Association team, working with our state parks partners led by Matt Ritter and Jim Hall, brought a 90mm to Fort Miles on March 30, 2017.

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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



Continued from page 1

The gun was found at the National Electronics Museum in Linthicum, Md. We worked with that museum to move the gun to Fort Miles. Our Bunker Buster team will preserve the gun (all 16 tons of it) and, after a year or so of hard work, we will move it to a gun pad in the artillery park.

The 90mm was the U.S. military equal to the famous German 88mm anti-tank, anti-aircraft, anti-motor torpedo boat gun and a workhorse in World War II. It also became a U.S. tank gun and was very important to our war effort. Combined with the proximity fuse (which was tested at Fort Miles in WWII), it was a truly dangerous weapon and feared by our enemies. It was the smallest of the "big" guns at Fort Miles, firing a 24-pound shell up to 34,000 feet in its AA role.

Big spring event scheduled for Saturday, April 29 at the Fort Miles Historical Complex.

Beginning at 10 a.m., we will have U.S. and German re-enactors and food supplied by our fellow Cape Henlopen State Park Friends group in our mess hall. We will celebrate Victory in Europe day with live music, presentations, the U-858 surrender and museum tours from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Two films/lectures will be presented, one on the Battle of Midway at 11 a.m. and the other on defenses of the Delaware. Tickets will be first-come, first-served and available at the gift shop. At 3 p.m., we will hold a Fort Miles Wall of Honor induction. Join us for this event.

In January 2017, FMHA began holding an open house the fourth Saturday of each month, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., including tours, an opportunity to buy at the gift shop, and a film/lecture at 1 p.m. Over the past three months, hundreds of visitors attended the open houses.

Film/lecture series to continue this spring and into the summer. Lectures start at 1 p.m.

On April 29, we will discuss the Battle of Midway and the establishment of Coastal Air Patrol 2 at Rehoboth Beach, our first responders to the German submarine attack on the East Coast in 1942.

On May 27, the topic will be the U.S. 8th Air Force over Europe featuring a local ball turret gunner. Local artist Paul Rendel will discuss his painting of a B17G ball turret gunner.

On June 24, Joan Lofland from Vinyard Boatyard in Milford will discuss Delaware shipbuilding in WWII.

On July 22, the topic will be German prisoners of war in the United States, including the more than 6,000 POW's in Delaware.

On Aug. 26, we will review D-Day and the events of June 6 1944.

The film/lecture series will be in our Fort Miles Museum theater with free first-come, first-served tickets available at 10 a.m. in the Fort Miles Museum gift shop.

Honoring contributors to FMHA's success

Our over the last 20 years have been supported by many, and several key workers vital to our success have passed since our last newsletter.

Jack Goins, the first Cape Henlopen State Park superintendent, passed recently. He was a board member of our group and a key supporter of our early efforts. Jack was always there with a gentle nudge and a lending hand in the early days when things moved much more slowly than today.

We miss FMHA board member **Dan Lyons**, who worked tirelessly for the fort, particularly with our supporters in Bethany Beach and Fenwick Island. Dan was an enthusiastic Fort Miles representative who enjoyed educating visitors and locals about the fort's history.

Sadly, we also lost **Horace Knowles**, who was with us almost from the beginning and supplied us with his important critical eye as we worked on the Fort Miles barracks area in the early days. Horace was stationed at Fort Miles as a private in the 261st Coast Artillery during WWII. Years ago, Horace lent us his CA badges that we digitized to use as our FMHA logo. Horace's last public appearance with us was during the ribbon-cutting for our Missouri gun display Sept. 2, 2016. Horace's memory will always be with us..

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Dr. Gary Wray

Vice President

Bob Frederick

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Mike Dunkes

Treasurer

Larry Boyer

Assistant Treasurer

Joe Johnson

Board Members

Merlin Beil

Bev Dalecki

Cliff Geisler

Joe Kosaveach

Jim Pierce

John Roberts

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



On Facebook: FortMiles1942

Open house to welcome volunteers

By Mike Dunkes, Secretary



Our museum is a reality. We have been given the official designation as the Fort Miles Museum by Delaware State Parks. That could not have happened without the dedication and support of our volunteers. We must continue to develop into a full-time facility with the proper support that goes with that designation. That will require expanded tour hours and more volunteers.

Your support as a member of FMHA helped us reach this milestone. You can help us reach new goals.

If you are interested in volunteering as a tour guide or in some other role, contact us at one of the email addresses below.

We are planning a get-acquainted open house specifically for potential volunteers who are interested in a broad range of opportunities.

The open house is scheduled from 2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Saturday, May 6. Visit the museum and we will explain our volunteer opportunities. There is no obligation. The expanded tour schedule will include a monthly open house and new tour times throughout the year.

Contact: Mike Dunkes: mdunkes@verzon.net or Will Short: weshort@msn.com

Your support is needed to secure grants

By Larry Boyer, Treasurer



The Fort Miles Museum requires many forms of help from members such as you, volunteers, state partners. Also, one of the most important sources of funds is local grants. We receive an annual grant-in-aid from the state of Delaware. In the past, we have received grants from other sources, such as Crystal Trust and the Longwood Foundation.

To secure substantial grants, we are vetted by the grantor. In addition to providing capital project plans, projected number of visitors, revenue and expense projections, this time we contracted with an independent accounting firm to conduct a summary audit of our accounting processes. We had a

successful audit and will work with the accounting firm as we grow.

We continue to monitor our new automated annual membership subscription service and thank all who have used it. It is completely integrated with our website, which has the ability to accept new memberships and renewals through PayPal. **Use the website for renewals when you receive your notice.** You do not need to be a PayPal member to use it with the credit card of your choice.

One challenge is notifying members for whom we have no email address to tell them their annual membership is about to expire. For those members, we are drafting a renewal letter that we will mail to you in the next few weeks. Please watch for it.

Our members and volunteers continue to be the backbone of our success and we thank you. We encourage you to send us an email at fmhamembers@gmail.com with any questions.

From the Desk of The President

(... Continued from page 2)

And, most recently, **Jack Bolin** of our Bunker Buster team passed away. Jack was not only the tallest Bunker Buster, he was one of the hardest working.

We honored the legacy of one of our co-founders, **Lee Jennings**, at our March 2017 FMHA board meeting on the seventh year of his passing. I shared the speech I gave April 24, 2010, when we celebrated Lee's life and contribution to the Fort Miles vision. On that day, we honored Lee's wishes to load his ashes into one of our 3-inch guns and distribute them over the fort's cantonment area.

All of these wonderful men will be greatly missed for their valuable contributions to the vision and reality of Fort Miles and our new Fort Miles Museum.

We have been very busy with the museum and improving the Fort Miles Historical Area. As always, I would like to thank our FMHA board of directors for its leadership and support. During the past year, our team has volunteered more than 17,000 hours to further the vision of the Fort Miles Museum and help us make it the best WWII museum inside a WWII facility in the country. See you April 29, 2017, at our big spring event. Visit us every fourth Saturday for our open houses.

Delaware State Parks getting in gear for spring, summer

By Sean Carrow, DNREC

Fort Miles Museum and Historic Area is off to a booming start of a great season. Spring began with the arrival of new 90mm gun at Cape Henlopen State Park. This is one of the last guns needed to complete the Fort Miles collection. It will be installed in the fort's new artillery park after Fort Miles Historical Association completes restoration.

As the end of April approaches, we are getting ready for our annual Delaware Goes to War event April 29 at Fort Miles Museum and Historic Area. We will be joined by the 261st volunteer group and others as they portray World War II military routine to bring the historic area to life. The event will include live music from WW Tunes, presentations and the latest chapter of FMHA's film/lecture series.

The day will offer plotting table demonstrations, artillery demonstrations, U-858 surrender ceremony and museum tours. The event begins at 10 a.m. The cost to enter the museum is \$5 a person, good all day.

We are preparing for our spring and summer seasons. We have added tours Tuesday mornings this summer and programs based on the artillery park. We are celebrating the 75th anniversary of initial construction of Battery 519, adding free and paid programs on its history.

Follow us on Facebook at Fort Miles Museum and Historic Area or find us at destateparks.com. Call 302-644-5007 or 302-645-6852 for details about our programs or to register for a program.

**DELAWARE GOES TO WAR:
VICTORY IN EUROPE**

**SATURDAY
APRIL 29 10 A.M. - 4 P.M.**

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS - LIVE MUSIC

PLOTING AND WEAPON DEMONSTRATIONS - U-858 SURRENDER CEREMONY

SCHROEDER ART EXHIBIT AND BATTERY 519 TOURS (\$5)

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 302-645-8852 or 302-644-5007

Delaware State Parks
We're saving a place for you

FORT MILES
MUSEUM

WORK NEVER ENDS FOR THE BUNKER BUSTERS

By John Roberts, FMHA Board Member

It's been a busy year for our intrepid crew. Our ranks have grown in size and skill sets. Here's what we've been up to:

Barracks: We've been very busy rehabilitating T604, which is our mess hall, and working on T603, where the WAACs stay. All the windows have been rebuilt and are period correct. They work very well. We built shutters for the inside to secure the building and we're waiting for warmer weather for paint and installation.

We acquired all the tooling to make doors for all the barracks. They are completed for the mess hall. The tooling cost less than buying one period-correct door. We plan to finish all the doors and windows in the cantonment area. We will be ready for the April 29 event.

Ammunition delivery system in Battery 519: Thanks to Fred Noll and his team, the overhead rail system is complete. The shell hoist can make a complete circuit from the shell room to the gun and back. Also, Fred and others have made 10 wooden 12-inch shell replicas. These were fabricated from the period plans for these shells. We are discussing what it would take to pull a mold from one and make polyurethane foam versions. The wooden shells look amazing. It would be a shame to paint them because the craftsmanship is outstanding.

Battery Smith: Don Hattier and other donors have added to our woodworking equipment. Don got a deal with the Indian River School District to acquire its old shop equipment. Most is in good condition or needs a modicum of tender loving care, but we now have a large planer, a joiner, a nice wood lathe and other tools. Our next step is to determine what to keep and sell or donate to other causes. Yes, we have that much equipment. One of the advantages of Battery Smith is the three-phase power. We don't need to modify or retrofit anything with a three-phase motor.

Delaware State Parks has agreed to do a significant amount of asbestos abatement from storage areas. Fortunately, it isn't present where we're working. This is an expensive and time-consuming endeavor, and we appreciate that DSP is stepping up.

Our new 90mm anti-motor-torpedo boat gun: This has been an involved project. Some time ago, the National Electronic Museum in Linthicum, Md., offered this gun to us in exchange for moving costs and moving a radar dish from an Federal Aviation Administration site to their museum. They wanted the dish, not the gun. We devised a plan. Costs were greater than estimated. We found a much more reasonable rigger, FMHA ponied up about half the cost and we moved forward.

During our mild winter, a Bunker Buster crew went to Linthicum and reconnoitered the move. We returned and reconfigured the gun for transport. We thank Dan Brown for taking the lead on the Bunker Busters' part of this move.

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REMINDER: Please send an email, with your name in the subject line, to fmhamembers@gmail.com. We must confirm the email addresses of all members.

The Bunker Busters (. . . Continued from page 5)

Artillery Park: Our crew expended considerable effort, with the help of two contractors, to get electrical power to all the gun pads. The lighting on the 16-inch gun is amazing. All the pads now can show display lighting.

Security of the other bunkers: We installed our first set of steel doors on Battery Smith's PSR because of the work of Fred, his crew and our DSP partners. At least half of the other doors are assembled, and we will be spending the spring installing these on 519's PSR and the mine casemate. This is another example of multiple organizations pulling together. CDSG and DSP split the cost of the steel, the Bunker Busters are doing the fabrication, and DSP is helping with the installation.

Safety: I am proud to say, over more than eight years, we have no reportable injuries. This is not by accident. We strive very hard to put safety first. Our DSP partners are taking notice and raising their game. We can all be proud of this record.

Visit to a military installation in Oahu

Battery Randolph at Fort Derussy has been converted into a

museum. It looks incredible, but we're better. This battery is a pre-WWI design and had two external 14-inch disappearing guns. The museum in Oahu has a significant number of original shells. We compared notes. They are better funded, but are also a complete museum. They spent a lot more than we will. Hats off to us. It was good to see another museum built into an artillery battery.

We shall miss Jack Bolin

I regret to report one of our more prolific Bunker Busters, Jack Bolin, has passed away. I knew Jack from my days at Rodel and always considered him a top-notch industrial mechanic. Jack had an exceptional mind and was one of the nicest guys you would ever want to meet. His talents and contributions were obvious to anyone who saw him in action, and he has left a mark on our museum that will last for a very long time. He was a very good friend, he loved Fort Miles and was at the fort every chance he had. He is the first one of the Bunker Busters to pass, and his towering presence will be sorely missed by all.

Local artist's family continues to help Fort Miles

By Jim Pierce, FMHA Board Member

Fort Miles Historical Association continues to benefit from the largesse of the Schroeder family.

FMHA will produce prints and note cards of Howard Schroeder's art, featuring his paintings displayed in Battery 519, for sale at the gift shop. The Schroeder family is donating all proceeds from the sale of the prints and note cards to the association. Visit www.fortmiles.org to learn when the items will be available.

Last year, the FMHA and Delaware State Parks opened the Schroeder Art Gallery after volunteers converted an old compressor room in the World War II bunker. Visitors can see a collection of works painted by Schroeder when he was stationed at Fort Miles during the war. Schroeder stayed in the area after his military service and became an accomplished local artist. Local artist Brax Hudson volunteered his time to help establish the Gallery.

FMHA Board to be reviewed

The FMHA Board will begin performance reviews of the entire Board and individual members before the end of the fiscal year June 30. In late 2015, the Board adopted new bylaws and entered into a formal Memorandum of Understanding defining its long-standing partnership with Delaware State Parks.



Howard Schroeder captured many sights and scenes of military life at Fort Miles in WWII, including scenes of his own duties as a Coast Artillery Mine planter.

The new documents affirm the need to measure overall Board performance and the performance of individual Board members.

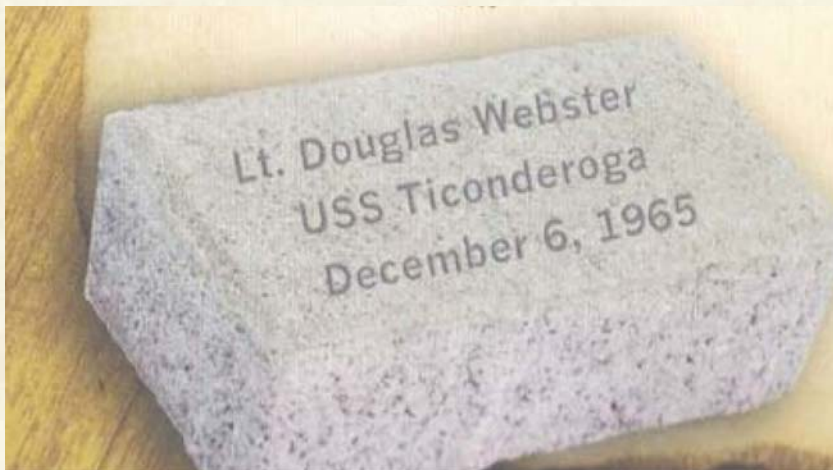
On June 24, the FMHA Board will hold its annual meeting to coincide with the monthly Board of Directors' meeting, beginning at 8:30 a.m. in Battery 519. All FMHA members are invited.

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 displayed in Battery 519, America's first WWII museum at an actual military site. More than 10,000 visitors annually will see your paver. We will send a tribute card to whom you designate, telling them of this special honor.

The tax-deductible cost for each paver is \$200, including delivery and installation in a well-lighted entrance area. This phase of the Wall of Honor will accommodate 500 pavers. Orders are accepted on a first-come basis. Please use the form below to reserve your paver.



Engraving Instructions

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

line 1 _____

line 2 _____

line 3 _____

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 _____ paver/s.

Name

Phone

Street

City

State

Zip

Email

Send orders to:

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



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



JOIN & RENEW ONLINE: IT'S EASY!



FMHA is developing a world-class World War II museum at Fort Miles, in conjunction with Delaware State Parks.

Our membership program and the related fees enable FMHA to make continuing progress toward the expansion and restoration of the Fort Miles Museum comprised of the cantonment buildings, Artillery Park and main museum building, Battery 519.

Please check one:

- General level, (life member) \$1,000
- Colonel level, \$500
- Major level, \$250
- Captain level, \$100
- Sustaining \$20
- Student \$15
- Please check the box to keep your donation private. It will not appear in any FMHA communication.

Make checks payable to:

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

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____, State _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (____) _____

Email: _____

Are you a current member? Please renew your membership online. If you have any questions about membership, send an email to fmhamembers@gmail.com. We would like to handle as many membership renewals as possible via the website.

WWW.FORTMILESHA.ORG/MEMBERSHIP