



Coming up at HSDC:

- Thursday, May 5 — Bus Trip to Lincoln Cottage and Woodrow Wilson House, Washington DC
- Saturday, May 14—Mansion and Library open, 1:00-4:00 pm
- Tuesday, May 17 — Third Tuesday, *Pennsylvania Civil War Battle Flags* with James Wilson, 7:00-8:30pm
- Thursday, May 19—Members Only Night, *Harrisburg—Civil War City*, History Center, 213 Market St., Harrisburg, 5:30 pm-7:30 pm
- Sunday, June 12—Mansion and Library open, 1:00-4:00 pm
- Wed., June 15 — Tea with Mary Todd Lincoln, 2:00 pm
- Monday, July 4 — Reenactments of John Harris, Jr. reading the Declaration of Independence
- Sunday, July 10—Mansion and Library open, 1:00-4:00 pm
- Sunday, August 14—Mansion and Library open, 1:00-4:00 pm
- Saturday, Sept. 10 through Sunday, Sept. 25—Art & Photography Exhibit: *Dauphin County on the Eve of the Civil War*
- Sunday, September 11—Mansion and Library open, 1:00-4:00 pm

Inside This Issue:

Bus Trip	2
Gallery Walk	3
Here's Harrisburg	2
History Center	2
July 4th	3
New Board Members	2
Tea with Mary Lincoln	3
Third Tuesdays	2
Volunteers Needed	3
Volunteer Spotlight	3

From the Whiskey Rebellion to the Great Rebellion

Blast from the Past



The first of the 2011 HSDC annual *Blasts from the Past* celebrated the 217th anniversary of the Whiskey Rebellion in a most appropriate fashion. The historic Mount Hill Tavern hosted a whiskey tasting on March 29th. Scotch whiskey expert Charles Kern and George Reppert, the Southern Wine and Spirits Jameson expert presented the tastings. Bagpiper Kevin M. Brown greeted guests at the door.

HSDC raises a glass to Mount Hill Tavern owners John Tierney and Doug Neidich for closing the tavern for the evening and for their generous support. We also thank Mount Hill Tavern manager Molly Hoffman and Chef Tom Eckert for organizing the event and for the absolutely delicious spread of Irish pub food. John Tierney serves on HSDC's Board of Directors.

Lunch with Mr. Lincoln



Keynote Speaker Howard Holzer

HSDC hosted "Lunch with Mr. Lincoln" in the Mansion on Friday, February 18th. Over 60 attendees heard keynote speaker Howard Holzer, the author of *Lincoln and New York*, discuss Lincoln's road to the White House. There were remarks from James Haney, the nationally known Lincoln presenter, Chairman of the Dauphin County Commissioners Jeff Haste, Harrisburg Mayor Linda D. Thompson, and State Senator Jeff Piccola. The event was part of the Dauphin County sponsored commemoration of the 150th anniversary of Lincoln's visit to Harrisburg during his journey to Washington prior to his inauguration as the sixteenth President of the United States.



Lincoln presenter James Haney



Chairman Jeff Haste, Dauphin County Board of Commissioners



James Haney, HSDC Executive Director Kathryn McCorkle, Howard Holzer

Updated Mansion and Library Hours

The hours of operation for the Harris-Cameron Mansion and the Alexander Family Research Library at the HSDC are Monday through Thursday from 1pm to 4pm. Mansion tours will be offered at 1, 2 or 3 pm. **Beginning in June, the weekend hours change. The Mansion and the Research Library will be open on the second Sunday, rather than the second Saturday, of each month from 1 pm to 4 pm.**

Historical Society of Dauphin County

Mission Statement:

The Mission of The Historical Society of Dauphin County is to collect, preserve, exhibit, publish, and promote interest in the history of Dauphin County for the education, enjoyment and benefit of the public.

Board of Trustees:

Tom Gacki, President

**Tony Meadows,
Vice President**

John Tierney, Treasurer

Edith Walsh, Secretary

Barbara Barksdale

Michael Barton

Rev. David Biser

John H. Enos, III

Erik Fasick

Paul Fisher

Marcia B. Gobrecht

Calobe Jackson, Jr.

Kelley Kaufman

Anne Kearney-Raynor

Jack Krill

Cathy Lotwick

Frank Pinto

John Robinson

Alyce Spector

James Allan Stuart, III

Scott W. Tryon

Philip Walsh

Staff:

Executive Director

Kathryn W. McCorkle

Curator ~ Stephen Bachmann

Special Projects Coordinator

~ Meta Bowman

Archivist ~ Louise S. Owen

Librarian ~ Ken Frew

Office Manager ~ Evelyn James

Maintenance ~ Bill Snead

**And a dedicated and growing
group of Volunteers**

**All staff are part-time. Hours
are arranged so that someone
will answer the phone Monday
thru Thursday, 10 am—4 pm.**

**If the person you need to
speak with is not on duty, he
or she will return your call at
the first opportunity.**

The Oracle is prepared and
edited by Howard Parker

Bus Trip to Washington Featured *A Tale of Two Presidents*

On Thursday, May 5, the HSDC bus trip took participants to the Lincoln Cottage and the Woodrow Wilson House in Washington, DC.

Transportation was by elite 29 passenger bus.

The morning stop was the Lincoln Cottage, where Abraham Lincoln spent one quarter of his presidency. The cottage served as a quiet setting for President Lincoln and his family and offered some respite from the oppressive heat of Washington summers. The bus trip group enjoyed the "Premier" tour, including a special presentation by the Head Curator and a docent led tour of both the cottage and the grounds.

Lunch was a three-course meal in the private dining room of *Scion* on Dupont Circle.

The afternoon stop was the Woodrow Wilson House. Built in 1915, the house is an example of Georgian revival architecture and was the residence of Wilson and his wife Edith during the final three years of his life. The structure and its interior have been carefully preserved to reflect the era of their residence there.

HSDC Welcomes New Board Members

HSDC is pleased to announce the following additions to the Board of Directors for three year terms beginning in 2011:

Barbara Barksdale ~ Community Activist and Historian

Rev. David Biser ~ Pastor, Crosspoint UMC

Erik Fasick ~ Former Exec. Dir. PA German Soc. Now at PLCB

Kelley Kaufman, Esq. ~ McNees Wallace & Nurick

Jack Krill, Esq. ~ K & L Gates

HSDC Board member profiles will appear in upcoming issues.

History Center Presents: *Harrisburg—Civil War City*

HSDC will present the exhibit *Harrisburg—Civil War City* at the History Center, located in the historic Dauphin Deposit Bank building, 213 Market Street, Harrisburg. M&T Bank has again generously provided the use of the building to house the exhibit.

Harrisburg—Civil War City through displays, artifacts and documents tell the story of the state capital from early 1861 through early 1862. Displays, artifacts and documents will show the establishment of Camp Curtin following President Lincoln's call for 75,000 volunteers in the aftermath of the firing on Fort Sumter, the first year of Camp Curtin's operation and the impact that the large number of troops training there had on the city of Harrisburg. Visitors will see a typical camp setting and learn the story of the physician who headed the Camp Curtin hospital in early 1862 and see his medical kit, his letters home and portions of his uniform. Simon Cameron's time as Secretary of War will be featured with documents signed by him and personal items of the period.

The exhibit is part of the commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War.

The exhibit will open to the public on Friday May 20 and run through Saturday June 25. The days and hours are Friday and Saturday, noon until 6:00 pm. The exhibit will be open some Sundays during its run. Admission is \$2.00.

There will be a special preview for HSDC members and invited guests on Thursday May 19 from 5:30-7:30 pm.



HISTORY CENTER

Harrisburg Walking Tours Benefit HSDC

HSDC and historian Sheldon Munn collaborated this spring to provide four walking tours of Harrisburg. Proceeds from the tours benefited the Historical Society of Dauphin County.

Each tour focused on a different area of the city, highlighting the architecture and the people who lived and worked in Shipoke, Midtown, the Capitol District and Market Square.

The tours will be repeated in October. Details will appear in a future issue.

HSDC thanks Sheldon Munn and "Here's Harrisburg" tours for the generous support.

May Third Tuesday Program:

Pennsylvania Civil War Battle Flags

On May 17th, Jason Wilson from the Pennsylvania Capital Preservation Committee will display Pennsylvania Civil War regimental flags and speak about the roles, responsibilities, and honors earned by the bearers. Before the invention of the radio, the flag bearer played a vital and dangerous role on the battlefield.

The program will begin at 7:00 pm in the Harris-Cameron Mansion and is free and open to the public. A reminder that parking is available on-site and in the Pinnacle Health physicians' lot off River Street behind the Mansion. Light refreshments provided by the Friends of the Harris-Cameron Mansion will be served at 6:30 pm prior to the program in the Jean E. Pugh Dining Room.

Take Tea with Mary Todd Lincoln on June 15th

Join us at the Mansion for tea with Mary Todd Lincoln on Wednesday June 15th, featuring recipes from 1860's era gatherings and a presentation by reenactor Melissa Yiaski Rabinsky as Mary Todd Lincoln.

The presentation, told in the first person, will recount the life of Mrs. Lincoln beginning with her youth in Lexington, Kentucky and continue through her move to Springfield, Illinois, her courtships with Stephen Douglas and Abraham Lincoln, her marriage to Lincoln and the deaths of three of their sons, the White House years, the Civil War and the assassination of her husband and the insanity trials at the end of her life.

Ms. Rabinsky has been a historical interpreter for over six years. Her fascination with Mary Todd Lincoln began at a young age and grew during her years as a living historian and Civil War reenactor.

The tea will begin at 2:00 pm.

Admission is \$15.00 for members and \$17.00 for non-members.

For reservations, call 233-3462, email office@dauphincountyhistory.org or visit www.dauphincountyhistory.org.



Melissa Yiaski Rabinsky
as
Mary Todd Lincoln

July 4th Reenactment Planned

The Friends of the Harris-Cameron Mansion will be celebrating the 235th anniversary of our nation's independence with reenactments of the public reading of the Declaration of Independence by John Harris, Jr. from the front porch of the Mansion in 1776 and a special admission rate for Mansion tours of \$4.00 on Monday July 4.

The event will feature reenactor and HSDC Board member Rev. David Biser.

Revolutionary War reenactors will be on the Mansion grounds to portray the daily life of the men who fought for American independence.

Join us to experience the hopes, struggles and excitement associated with the birth of the United States of America.



Rev. David Biser
as John Harris, Jr.

Juried Art and Photography Exhibit Planned

The Historical Society and the Friends of the Harris-Cameron Mansion will present a juried exhibition of photographs, paintings, and works on paper (prints, drawings, pastels, or mixed media on paper) by regional artists. The theme of the exhibition, sponsored by the Greater Harrisburg Arts Council, is *Dauphin County on the Eve of the Civil War*. The exhibition will be held at the Harris-Cameron Mansion and will open on September 10 and run through September 25, 2011. A preview reception will be held on Thursday September 8 from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm. The exhibit is scheduled to coincide with Harrisburg's annual Gallery Walk on September 11, 2011.

Artists are encouraged to submit their works for the exhibition. Applications and entry guidelines are available for download at www.dauphincountyhistory.org.

HSDC Volunteer—Susan Artman

Hello, my name is Susan Artman and I love giving tours at the Harris-Cameron Mansion! This is my fourth year as a tour guide. I am also President of the Friends of the Harris-Cameron Mansion, which is an auxiliary group of volunteers with many different functions. Come join us, there is something fun for everyone in the Friends.

After acquiring my first digital camera three years ago, I have been taking pictures of the Mansion, the grounds, presentations and events, and, of course, people who tour the Mansion with me. I have been honored that the Historical Society has used some of my pictures in their programs and *The Oracle*.

Any history buff can give tours at the Mansion! I have created a new tour guide orientation in which you can learn the basic tour at your own pace. So, come visit the Harris-Cameron Mansion and maybe I will be lucky enough to be your tour guide!

Editor's Note: This is first in a series of articles on HSDC's valued volunteers and their many and diverse contributions to the Society.



HSDC Needs Volunteers

You are invited to join the ranks of HSDC volunteers. There are many ways that you can help the Society:

- Give tours of the Harris-Cameron Mansion
- Work in the library
- Exercise your green thumb in the gardens
- Help out in the office
- Assist with education programs for school groups
- Help maintain the Mansion
- Perform hosting duties at HSDC functions

Whether you can give a little time or a lot, you will be a valued member of our corps of volunteers.

To become a volunteer or for more information, call 233-3462 or contact office@dauphincountyhistory.org.

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DAUPHIN COUNTY

HSDC



219 SOUTH FRONT STREET
HARRISBURG, PA 17104

P: (717) 233-3462

F: (717) 233-6059

www.dauphincountyhistory.org

office@dauphincountyhistory.org

The official registration & financial information of The Historical Society of Dauphin County may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Harrisburg, PA
Permit 67

Your HSDC Membership Pays You Back

As an HSDC member, you receive:

One (1) Mansion Tour—Savings: \$8.00

Unlimited Visits to the Alexander Family Research Library—Savings: \$10.00 per visit

Discounts on purchases and HSDC sponsored activities and programs—Potential savings: unlimited

Free subscription to *The Oracle* and *Susquehanna Heritage* magazine

Family Members receive two (2) tour passes and free library research for all members.

Heritage and above membership levels enjoy additional benefits.

We're always thrilled to add new members to our rolls. Please help the HSDC grow its member base by sharing the form on the right with a friend or neighbor.

We would also like to communicate with our current members more quickly and easily. Please help us do so by providing your email address to office@dauphincountyhistory.org and write "My Email Address" in the subject line. Thank you.

Membership Form—Please Join Today

Check Level Desired:

☐ Individual \$35

☐ Family \$45

☐ Heritage Circle \$50

☐ Haldeman Circle \$100

☐ Cameron Circle \$250

☐ Harris Circle \$500

☐ Penn Circle \$1,000

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

____ Home ____ Work

Email: _____

Payment Method:

☐ Check Amount: \$ _____

☐ American Express

☐ VISA

☐ MasterCard

Card Number

Expiration Date

Signature

Please detach and send
with payment to:

HSDC
219 South Front Street
Harrisburg, PA 17104

**Thank you for
your support!**