



Quaker Hill Quill

Quaker Hill Historic Preservation Foundation
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Wilmington DE 19801

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Putting the Old to Work for the New

Dear friend of Quaker Hill,

We are proud to introduce a new version of our Quaker Hill Quill. Over the past several years we have worked toward using our rich history and splendid architecture to advantage in creating a great community in which to live, work, or visit. Two recent renovations exemplify our theme of putting the old to work for the new. On November 21, 2011 the Ministry of Caring celebrated the opening of the Josephine Bakhita House which will house Cap Corps volunteers to work in the community. This fine home at Fourth and Washington Streets is one of the great architectural treasures of Quaker Hill. It has been renovated with exceptional attention to detail and restores not only a great piece of our architectural heritage, but will provide needed services in building our community.

Another fine example of putting the old to work for the new is the restoration of the Elwood Garrett House at 609 Washington Street. This former home of Elwood Garrett, son of the famed abolitionist, had been derelict for several years. United Cerebral Palsy has restored the home and it will provide living apartments for people afflicted with cerebral palsy. Again, a very historic property has been saved with a very thoughtful restoration for a great new use.

While noting these accomplishments on the ground, the Quaker Hill Historic Preservation



*Bayard Marin
President, QHHPF*

Foundation continues to provide programs to enrich our cultural history. Recent events included a talk on the history of Salesianum School in Quaker Hill by Salesianum's Father Beretta. In October Dr. Jane Calvert, Associate Professor of History at the University of Kentucky, and perhaps the leading authority on John Dickinson in the United States, gave a talk on how John Dickinson worked to bring Quaker ideas to bear on the creation of the American Republic (we are pleased to include an article by Dr. Calvert in this issue).

Future events will include a free presentation on the Revolutionary War in Delaware by Kim Burdick on Saturday April 14, 2012 from 2pm-3pm. A second talk by Evelyn Swenson will be a first person interpretation on the life of Mary Norris Dickinson, the wife of John Dickinson from 3pm-4pm. Of course, we will continue our Freedom seekers program, which is a series of Underground Railroad workshops for children at the Friends Meeting in February 2012.

We hope you will enjoy this issue of the Quill and participate in our events throughout the year.

Yours sincerely,

Bayard Marin,

President

In this issue:

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by Robert Seeley
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by Jane Calvert, Ph.D.
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A Meeting With President Lincoln

Thomas Garrett's ardent anti-slavery views took him outside the mainstream of thought in the Society of Friends and he joined with a group of like-minded Quakers and others of conscience to establish the Longwood Progressive Friends Meeting in 1853 while he remained a member of

Wilmington Friends Meeting. The membership in this meeting included many individuals who were later documented to be participants in the Underground Railroad. This provided an expanded network of connections into Chester County, PA and beyond for Thomas Garrett to direct those following the North Star to freedom.

On June 20, 1862, Longwood sent a delegation to meet with President Lincoln to petition him to abolish slavery without delay. The six were Thomas Garrett, Alice Eliza Hambleton, Dinah Mendenhall, Oliver Johnson, Eliza Agnew, and William Barnard. The Longwood Friends said they saw the evils of the war as "vials of Divine retribution which are now poured out upon the whole land, for its grievous and unrelenting oppression of a guiltless and inoffensive race." President Abraham Lincoln drafted what he termed his "Preliminary Proclamation." He read his initial draft of the Emancipation Proclamation to Secretaries William H. Seward and Gideon Welles on July 13, 1862. His Cabinet meeting on September 22, 1862, resulted in the refinement of



Robert E. Seeley

the July draft, and on January 1, 1863, Lincoln composed the final Emancipation Proclamation. The Longwood Progressive Friends meeting with President Abraham Lincoln, I believe, influenced the decision of President Lincoln to, in their words, act now, without delay.

Robert E. Seeley is a descendant of Thomas Garrett



Thomas Garrett is standing in door with black hat. Rachel is third from left front row with white shawl. The year of picture was about 1866.

Dickinson continued from page

hopes, open up a new field of Dickinson studies. As the only Founding Father deeply influenced by Quakerism, Dickinson's writings have a lot to teach Americans about civil discourse, peaceful dissent, and promoting the welfare of all members of our society. As we, dissatisfied with our political system and our leaders, look to the Founding Fathers for solutions to our toughest problems, Dickinson can be as much an inspiration now as he was then. To learn more about the Project and to make your tax-deductible donation, go to the Project Webpage:

<http://www.uky.edu/DickinsonWritingsProject/>
Dr. Calvert is an Associate Professor of History at the University of Kentucky and Director/Editor of The John Dickinson Writings Project



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Upcoming Events

**FREE PRESENTATION: AMERICAN
REVOLUTION IN DELAWARE**

The Quaker Hill Historic Preservation Foundation , in conjunction with the Delaware Humanities Forum, is presenting a free showing of two talks about Delaware Quakers from the era of the American Revolution at the Wilmington Friends Meeting House, 401 North West Street, Wilmington, DE 19801 on Saturday, April 14, 2012, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The first talk, by Kim Burdick, is *Seized in September: Revolutionary War Comes to Delaware*. Have you ever wondered what happened in Delaware during the Revolutionary War? How did the British get from the Head of the Elk River to Chadds Ford for the Battle of the Brandywine? Our speaker is a specialist in Delaware history and folk culture, and audiences of all ages will be amazed to hear letters and writings by colonial Delawareans describing the arrival of the British army and the social upheaval it brought to our colony.

The second talk, by Evelyn Swensson, is a first-person interpretation of the life of Mary Norris Dickinson. Wife of John Dickinson, signer of the U.S. Constitution and governor of Delaware and Pennsylvania, Mary Norris Dickinson was the mother of 5 who escaped capture by the British. This presentation is a monologue describing the times in which this famous woman lived and includes singing and playing of music she loved. The talk is thoroughly researched to capture the personality of this historic woman. The portrayal is presented in authentic period costume.

**FREE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD
WORKSHOPS FOR CHILDREN**

The Quaker Hill Historic Preservation Foundation is pleased to announce three Underground Railroad workshops for children ages 6-14 at the Wilmington Friends Meeting House, 401 North West Street, Wilmington, DE 19801 on Saturday mornings (1/28/12, 2/4/12 and 2/11/12), from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

The first workshop features a film about a real-life family that escaped on the Underground Railroad, arts and crafts, music and a brief talk about local heroes, culminating in a visit to the grave of Underground Railroad Hero Thomas Garrett. The second workshop will feature the making of Underground Railroad food and clothing, arts and crafts, a talk about Underground Railroad heroes, culminating in a tour of Thomas Garrett's grave. The third workshop will feature a story about one of Harriet Tubman's real-life escapes, culminating in the children acting out an escape.

Light refreshments will be served following each program. Each program is free and open to the public. For more information, call Mary Starkweather-White at 302-299-5600.

The John Dickinson Writings Project

Founding Father and Delaware son John Dickinson was not just one of America's greatest statesmen; he was a great Quaker politician. Though not a formal member of the Society of Friends, during the American founding, Dickinson represented many Quaker interests devotedly and eloquently. When he was helping form the new American republic as a member of



Jane E. Calvert, Ph.D.

Congress, president of Pennsylvania and Delaware, president of the Annapolis Convention, member of the Constitutional Convention (as well as many other positions), he promoted Quaker concerns such as peace in domestic and international relations, religious liberty, abolitionism, prison reform, education, and care of the poor. Over the course of his career, Dickinson wrote almost 400 documents, more than any other Founder, including essays, treatises, newspaper articles, constitutions, bills, proclamations, petitions, and even America's first patriotic song. Yet these documents have never been collected and published in a modern edition. Most of them have been all but lost in the nation's archives. Until now, that is.

The John Dickinson Writings Project is working to

make his writings on public affairs accessible for the first time to both scholars and the public in a print and open-access digital edition. Project Director Dr. Jane E. Calvert, author of *Quaker Constitutionalism and the Political Thought of John Dickinson* (Cambridge University Press, 2009), has identified and collected the documents, and her small team is now in the process of transcribing, proofreading, and marking up the transcriptions in digital language. Work on this phase of the Project has been funded by a two-year Scholarly Editions Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) in the amount of \$200,000. Other support has come from the Friends of the John Dickinson Mansion, the Library Company of Philadelphia, and the American Philosophical Society. Anticipating another three to five years before the edition is complete, the Project is seeking continued federal funding to work on the next phase: researching and annotating the documents and preparing the print and digital editions for publication. The Project has applied again to the NEH, but even if it is lucky enough to receive a grant at the previous level, it will have to find additional funding to afford staff with the qualifications necessary for work on the digital edition. Dr. Calvert hopes that the people of Delaware will help.

The Complete Writings of John Dickinson will change the face of Founding-era scholarship and, Dr. Calvert

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FIRST ISSUE of the New Quaker Hill Quill!

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