



# Quaker Hill Quill

Quaker Hill Historic Preservation Foundation  
521 N. West Street  
Wilmington DE 19801

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(302) 655-2500  
[www.quakerhillhistoric.org](http://www.quakerhillhistoric.org)

## Delaware's Forgotten, But Accomplished Governor

by Earl M. White, M.A., M.S.W

Did you know, there are two Delaware governors interred at the burial grounds of Wilmington Friends Meeting on Quaker Hill? It is well known that the gravesite of John Dickinson is there, attested by the historic marker and headstones for him and his wife, Mary Dickinson. Lesser known, however, is the gravesite of **Caleb Prew Bennett**, Delaware's 29th Governor, who, at the age of 74, remains to this day the State's oldest Governor at the time of inauguration.

Born in Chester County, Pennsylvania, as a boy he and his family moved to Delaware, which was his home state until he was deceased in 1836. He served as Governor from 1833-36, following 32 years as state treasurer.

Prior to his years with state government, Bennett served admirably in two wars – the Revolutionary War in the 1st Delaware. In 1775 at the age of tender age of seventeen, he enlisted in the 1st Delaware Regiment of the Continental Army; muster rolls list him as

*continued on page 2*



## Upcoming Quaker Hill Event

May 1-2, 2015 Friends of the Arts

A Festival of Creativity on Quaker Hill

To kick off Quaker Hill's role in Wilmington's new Creative Arts District, the Quaker Hill Historic Preservation Foundation, with the help of several partner organizations, is holding **Friends of the Arts: A Festival of Creativity on Quaker Hill** on May 1 and 2, 2015. The first part of the event, an art auction on the Wilmington Art on the Town Loop featuring more than a dozen local artists, will be held at 521 N. West Street, Wilmington, DE 19801 from 6:00 to 9:00 P.M. on May 1, continuing Saturday the 2nd from 10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. Most of the art works on display will be available for bid in a silent auction. Come bid on your favorite artists' work or discover new ones!

On Saturday, May 2nd an Arts/Crafts Market & Creative Festival will be held from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. on the grounds of the Wilmington Friends Meeting at 401 N. West Street in Wilmington, a block south of the exhibit/auction. The festival will feature music, children's activities, an arts & crafts market; a presentation on "The African-American Experience in Music" by former Mayor James Baker, with musical accompaniment by Raye Jones Avery, Dennis Fortune & Gerald Chavis, a bagpipe performance by Sgt. Walter Ferris, Wilmington Police Dept.; architectural tour by Dr. David Ames; and a host of children's activities, including face-painting, make-and-take-home arts and crafts, and wild animals from the DuPont Environmental Education Center; not to mention tasty food from Fat Rick's Barbecue!

**Bring your whole family and join the fun!**

**See page 8-9 for more info on this exciting event!**

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# Caleb Bennett

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ensign April 16, 1778 in Major Joseph Vaughn's Company, August 16, 1778 as 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant recruiting in Delaware with Company 7, January 30, 1780 as 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant heading Company 5. Throughout the campaign, Bennett fought in several major battles in this region including at Valley Forge, Brandywine, Germantown, Monmouth, N.J., Staten Is., N.Y. and finally at what proved to be a catastrophic defeat for the Continentals at Camden, S.C.; wounded three times during these campaigns, he was sent back to Delaware for a year to enlist new recruits before rejoining his regiment in 1781 during the Siege of Yorktown, VA and surrender there of British troops.

"We remained at our post at Christeen (Cristiana), performing the duties required, until the French Army from Rhode Island, and other detachments of the army, with the commander-in-chief at their head, arrived at our rendezvous in the month of August, when we received orders from General Washington to prepare to follow on to Virginia. In a few days we took up our line of march for Baltimore; we remained in that city for some days, when small craft was prepared for our reception to proceed to Annapolis, where the French transports were waiting for the French army to embark."

During the War of 1812 (our second independence war) after promotion to Captain's rank, Bennett led the Delaware regiment competently. One unfortunate incident did occur under his

watch, however - Bennett received a courts martial by an officer and political rival for allegedly his troops doing marching drills at parades ground against his superiors' orders. The charge was not proved, and Bennett was acquitted. At wars end, Bennett was honorably discharged to civilian life.

As Governor, Bennett was an active member of the Delaware Democratic Party, newly formed in 1828 by proponents of (Andrew) Jacksonian policies. Under Delaware's new Constitution of 1831, he was the state's first governor elected to a four year term, 1832-36. In office he advocated for several laws and policies that reflected much on his Quaker background - challenging a recalcitrant General Assembly to reform Delaware's penal system, in

1835 to abolish imprisonment for debt and the use of pillory, and advocating for the federal tariff in favor of Union among the several states.

In our National Archives is a letter dated July 1, 1801, from Bennett addressed to then President Thomas Jefferson referring to

his valor during the Revolution and requesting his backing for statewide civilian service.

Governor Bennett served three years of his four year term, dying in office in 1836, likely resulting from wounds during the Revolution. Buried at the Meeting House with him are his wife, Catherine Britton Bennett, and one of their daughters, Elizabeth Bennett.

*Earl White is a member of QHHPF's Advisory Board. He has an MSW & a Masters degree in African-American Studies.*

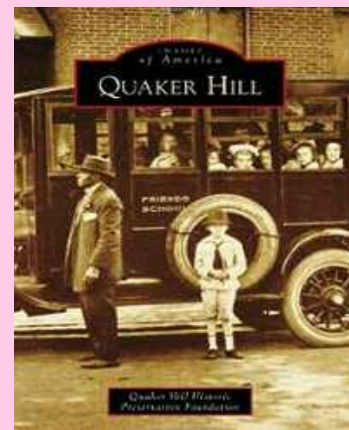


*Caleb Bennett, Governor of Delaware from 1833 - 1836, mostly forgotten by history, is laid to rest on Quaker Hill.*

*Photo by Earl M. White*

## LEARN ABOUT QUAKER HILL IMAGES OF AMERICA: QUAKER HILL

127 pages brimming with pictures and illustrations of Quaker Hill, from its earliest days to the present. Assembled and written by QHHPF, published by Arcadia Publishing. Available from QHHPF  
Quaker Hill Historic Preservation Foundation  
521 N. West Street  
Wilmington, DE 19801





# J. Morton Poole: Innovator, Industrialist

by Debra Campagnari Martin

The J. Morton Poole Company pattern storehouse, a boarded, three-story, brick, gable-roofed building on the Christina Riverfront, was erected in 1874 as part of a large and successful machining complex that had been expanding in that location on Thorn Street since 1847. Originally, the building included a slate roof, 13-inch thick walls, galvanized iron gutters, wood floors, steam heat and gas lights. A harness room was built within the northwest corner of the storehouse. Also in this corner but attached to the outside were a two-story brick stable and hayloft, as well as a two-story brick carriage house. At its peak, company buildings covered two blocks south of Water Street; presently, only two remain. Without a plan to repurpose the storehouse, it faces a grim future. Its proud past, however, as part of a dynamic Quaker family business that grew to national and international acclaim is well worth reflection, regardless of what the future holds.

In 1839, J. Morton Poole started a general machine business along the Brandywine River, in the basement of the Rockford cotton mills (later known as "Kentmere") belonging to his brother-in-law, Joseph Bancroft. His early specialty was milling machinery. With both enterprises needing more space, Poole relocated to the foot of Orange Street, buying a lot, shop and wharf property from carriage maker, John Merrick. Poole provided all manner of machine work in his new location.

Though Poole later did specialize, over his career his products and services included jobbing repairs, the manufacture of steam boilers and seven iron lighthouses for the U.S. government.

The 1850 Census of Manufactures described Poole as a machinist employing 30 men. A steam engine using 200 tons of coal powered Poole's manufacture of

machinery worth \$25,000. Poole brought William T. Porter, his former apprentice, into the firm as a partner in 1853 (where Porter would remain until his death in 1901). An elongated, one-story machine shop was built east of Thorn Street in 1854, only to be completely destroyed by fire in October of 1855. The company was undaunted by this catastrophe, however, and built a larger structure in its place.

Poole & Co. began manufacturing chilled iron rollers in 1867, a transition that proved extremely lucrative and came to define the company in the European market. Also known as calender rolls, this chilled iron machinery was used for flour and paper milling, textile and sheet rubber production and other purposes that required a thin and mathematically uniform product to be made under extreme pressure. It took Poole two years to produce the first set of rolls, spending most of that time perfecting the fine tuning lathe and emery wheel assemblies. Having accomplished the task, the second set took only two days. This tuning method was new to the industry, and was quickly acclaimed. Poole received a patent in 1870, and his invention was the standard over the next 40 years. Poole displayed chilled rollers for paper at the Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia in 1876, for which he received a commendation. The company also received an award of distinction at the Paris Exhibition in 1878. Among the firm's clients were European and Australian paper mills.

## Life of J. Morton Poole

John Morton Poole was born in Brandywine Village into a society of intellectual mechanics and public servants on July 10, 1812, the youngest child of William and Sarah Sharpless Poole. William Poole built and operated a mill on the southwest bank of the Brandywine and counted among his friends and colleagues prominent machinist and miller John Morton, miller and steam engineer Oliver Evans, and machinist Jacob Alrichs. The elder Poole, a Quaker, was an active abolitionist, serving as the clerk of the Abolition Society of Wilmington at the turn of the 19th century. William also was a Wilmington bridge commissioner, a turnpike organizer and the secretary of the Delaware and Chesapeake Canal group, which petitioned the legislature to fund that public work. J. Morton Poole attended Westtown Academy in Chester County, Pennsylvania. He served an apprenticeship in machining in Mattawan, New York, and subsequently pursued his interests in science and drawing at the



A photo from the 1876 Centennial Exhibition Digital Collection, showing J. Morton Poole's exhibit of calender rolls in Machinery Hall.

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## J. Morton Poole

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Franklin Institute in Philadelphia. Poole spent the next few years in partnership with Edward Bancroft, a relation by marriage, making machines in Providence, Rhode Island. Poole later learned the emerging mechanics of locomotives at Coleman Sellers & Sons Locomotive Works in Philadelphia (Scharf 1888).

Poole's elder sister, Elizabeth, was married to John Sellers, a relation of Coleman Sellers. The Sellers family excelled in mechanics, engineering and large scale projects throughout the region throughout the 19th and 20th centuries. While delivering a new locomotive from the Works to the recently organized B&O Railroad, the engine derailed and caused J. Morton to break his leg. This injury left him slightly lame for the rest of his life. The same year that Poole opened his shop at Joseph Bancroft's mill, Poole married Anne Suplee on his 27th birthday. The Pooles had seven children, four of whom survived to adulthood. Thomas, Alfred and J. Morton Poole, Jr. each took varying degrees of interest in the machining business, while Annie became the wife of artist Howard Pyle.

As J. Morton Poole's early years had been intellectually and practically stimulating, his business years influenced a new generation of learned individuals. One of his first apprentices, William Porter, became his business partner, president of the company at Poole's death and mentor to Poole's sons. Both Poole and Porter were devoted civil servants and served appointed and elected offices. Another apprentice, Poole's nephew, William Sellers, left Poole's firm in 1845 to establish a renowned career as a machinist, iron fabricator and public servant. His name became synonymous with the Edgemoor Iron Company, and he served as director of the PW&B Railroad. By 1888 Sellers had received 70 patents. A particular incident would demonstrate that Poole's mentoring was part of his nature. Poole sold a calendar grinding assembly to Francis X. Black, a paper mill machinist from Cincinnati, in 1872. Black, who had been sent by his colleagues of the valley to find a solution to the long wait and expensive freight involved in the retooling of their rolls (probably purchased of Poole) in the east, was informed by Poole that he had to first become proficient in the use of the lathe and emery wheel assembly before Poole would release it. Poole paid Black as an apprentice until his skill was judged to be adequate, at which time Black returned to Cincinnati with his equipment.

Historian Thomas Scharf clearly thought the world of Poole. He wrote, in his "History of Delaware" (1888):

*He was ever endeavoring to perfect, -- to give such wares as went from his hand or works the highest possible excellence, and to accomplish that result by the best and most economic methods. His energies in business were directed alike to the practical or mechanical and the financial departments, and he was in each alike successful. It was by no sudden rise that he gained success, but by a patient, plodding application of his knowledge and skill, and by the exercise of an uncompromising honesty which commanded confidence. Perhaps no business man of the city was more universally respected than J. Morton Poole.*

In 1911, a contributor to the trade journal, *American Machinist* gave tribute quite simply: "J. Morton Poole made good and cheap paper a possibility" (something to think about as you print your copy of *The Quill*...).

### The Company After Poole

J. Morton Poole died in 1879, leaving long-time partner William T. Porter to become president of the company. Two of Poole's sons, Thomas Suplee Poole and Alfred Dupont Poole remained as officers. Thomas died in 1880, and J. Morton Poole, Jr. became vice president. The 1880 Census of Manufactures continued to describe the firm as engine and boiler machinists although chilled calendar rolls remained the primary product, accounting for most of the firm's \$90,000 worth of manufactures. The firm diversified by adding brass casting by 1886. By 1888 the company had grown to employ 125 men and had an annual product output of approximately value \$1.5 million. In the Wilmington industrial economy, the J. Morton Poole Company was a small- to moderately-sized machine firm, eclipsed by its longtime competitor, Lobdell Car Wheel. Historian J. Thomas Scharf expounded, however, upon the qualities of the firm that went beyond its size:

*This greatness consists not in immensity of plant*



*The former J. Morton Poole Company pattern storehouse on the Christina Riverfront, as it looked in 2003.*



*or in the employment of a host of men, but in the pre-eminence attained in an exceedingly baffling line of manufactures and of the wide-spread acknowledgement of that pre-eminence through patronage, for the whole country and almost every quarter of the globe pay this practical tribute to the establishment...*

The firm continued to operate for more than 35 years following the death of its founder, but by 1914 it was clearly in distress and no longer competitive. At the time of its sale in 1916, the principals were Alfred Dupont Poole and his son, William Porter Poole. Alfred went on to become the second vice president of Artisans Savings Bank.

During the mid 20th century, the complex served as a slaughterhouse and warehouse. In the 1970s the Grubb Lumber Co. stored lumber and building materials at the complex, and built on to the pattern storehouse so extensively that it disappeared for years. The deteriorated additions were demolished in the early 1990s, and the pattern storehouse re-emerged.

**Author's afterword:** For readers interested, the full "Significance" section (numbering eight pages) of the National Register nomination draft, from which this article is taken, is available.

Debbie Martin is a Preservation Planner for the City of Wilmington.



## Of William Poole Bancroft, Parks & Woodlawn

by Richenda Davison

William Poole Bancroft was born in 1835, the son of Joseph Bancroft, who founded a cotton cloth mill known as Joseph Bancroft and Sons. By the age of 14 young William was working full-time in the mill - 70-hour work weeks with time off for meals plus three hours a week on Thursdays to attend Quaker Meeting.

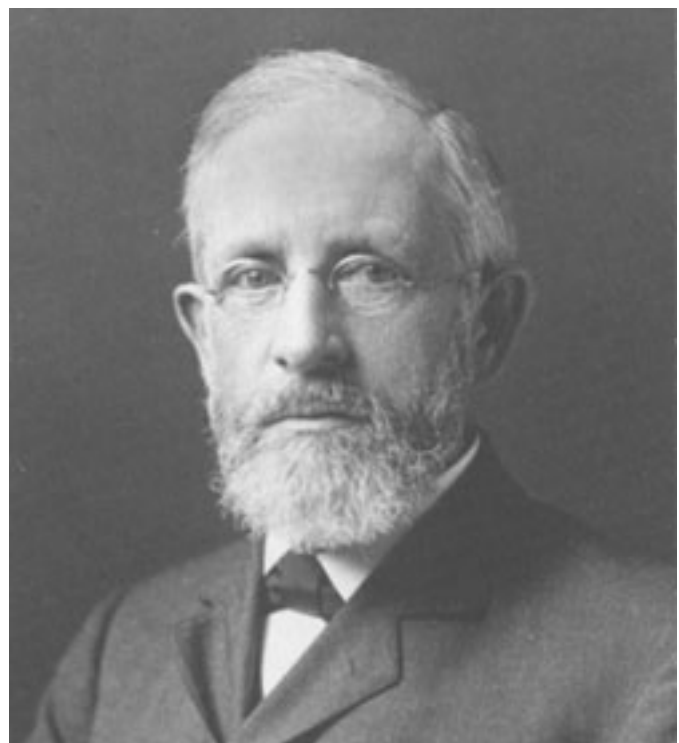
He was deeply religious and everything he did was grounded in his faith. He seldom spoke of his religious beliefs, but it undergirded all his actions and convictions. He spoke often of being a steward:

"How thankful we ought to be that ...we can be so comfortable. Let us try to do well. Everything that we have, - accumulation of means and strength in any way, - has been given to us to use unselfishly, as stewards."

He was keenly aware that he had been made rich from the mill, and by the time he was forty he was looking for ways he could give back to his community, "the people of Wilmington and its vicinity." His special concern was for constructive city planning for the growing town: providing parks and parkways, well-planned residential developments, and housing for people of modest means. Bancroft loved to walk and drive throughout the countryside. He was intimately familiar with Wilmington, especially the country north of the city, the farms and properties, how the land lay, where the good views and vistas were. He could envision what land was suitable for development or farming, what land needed to be preserved as open space for the enjoyment of all, and what pres-

ures would come to bear on Wilmington and its surroundings. He was able to anticipate the pressures on the countryside from development and need for housing, knowing that his vision was unlikely to be realized for a hundred years or more.

He was instrumental in the formation of Wilmington Board of Park Commissioners, established in 1883, and as president from 1904 until 1923, and he was influential in the creation of the Wilmington Park System. When he saw a property that he needed for his objectives, he was tenacious



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William Poole Bancroft (photo courtesy Delaware Historical Society)

## Edited Transcription of Bayard Marin's Oral History (Part 1)

*The following edited transcription is from the oral history interview conducted with Bayard S. Marin, conducted at his law office at 521 N West Street in Wilmington, Delaware. Mary Starkweather-White oversaw the interview process, Jim Bierbaum was the videographer, Terence Maguire was the interviewer, Michelle Rana was the transcriptionist.*

**Bayard Marin:** I was born in Newark, Delaware, when there was a hospital there called the Flower Hospital. When I talk about about historic preservation, Flower Hospital is an example of an historic preservation failure! Flower Hospital was torn down—not because I was born there—but because it became part of the University of Delaware, which had a need to build big new buildings all over the place. After the Flower Hospital became the victim of expansion there wasn't a hospital near Newark from around 1950 until the early 80's, when Christiana Hospital was built. The Christiana Hospital site is of historic interest to me because formerly there was a farm there, The Reading Farm, where I attended 4-H club meetings. The historic farmhouse and barn became victims of "progress".

When I was a boy, Wilmington had about 110,000 people. It was a very prosperous, beautiful, a relatively crime-free city. Most of the buildings of the 18th, 19th, and early 20th century were very much intact. Market Street was a bustling street with six or seven theaters, restaurants, and shops, many open until late in the evening. It was the business center of Delaware and the surrounding area up to Philadelphia. It was the big city for us country folk.

When I was growing up, rural New Castle County, was very much like our state song dictates. Hills, smiling vales in between, corn all in tassel, and green meadowlands. My mother and father owned a country store. Our surroundings were very bucolic. Our "orchard" constructed of two apple trees, a peach tree, a cherry tree, a grapevine, and a mulberry tree. We grew chickens and I had a substantial vegetable garden. Not a farm, but certainly enough actively to quantify me as 4-H club



member. We had a very prolific grapevine and cherry tree from which my mother made endless amounts of jellies and jams. Most of our neighbors had substantial gardens and some had horses and cows.

It was a different kind of world. Nobody locked their doors at night. Everybody knew everybody. We lived outside of Newark. If I was walking home from school almost inevitably a neighbor would stop, pick me up and take me home. There was never any fear.

Since my childhood, the rural New Castle County life has all but disappeared. At the same time flight from the City caused areas of Wilmington to become very stressed. Unfortunately in the country and in the city there was not much interest in preservation. Not until the mid- 1970s did historic preservation gain importance locally. By the late '70s Quaker Hill became the beneficiary of nationwide interest in preservation.

*Bayard Marin, J.D., Ph.D. is President of the QHHPF Board.*



### SUPPORT QUAKER HILL SUPPORT QHHPF

**Become A Member**—As a Member of QHHPF you will receive many benefits, including invitations to lectures, workshops, and social events, and the satisfaction of knowing you are helping QHHPF be a strong voice for preservation as a means to enhance the economic and cultural health of the city. For more information, go to [www.quakerhillhistoric.org](http://www.quakerhillhistoric.org) & click on "become a member."

**Make a Donation**—Send a check made out QHHPF to:

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Wilmington, DE 19801

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Historic Preservation Foundation**

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**Mary Starkweather-White, Executive Editor**  
**Jim Bierbaum, Editor**

## A View From the Hill

*from the Editor*

Wow, what a couple of months! It seems like just yesterday we were standing out in the heavy snow to honor Delaware patriot and founding father John Dickinson. But in just a few days from now, we will be on that same spot enjoying the spring air, art and live music at the Friends of the Arts Creative Festival. There is plenty of information about that event in this issue, so I will just take this opportunity to give my boundless gratitude to the members of the Creative Festival Committee, who have been putting in countless hours to plan and put on this festival. In addition to **Bayard Marin** and **Mary Starkweather-White**, my sincere thanks to **Evelyn Brownlee**, **William Slowik**, **William McCool** and **Jim Baker**. To the extent this event is a success, it is due to their hard work, generosity and, yes, creativity. *-j.b.*

*Jim Bierbaum is Editor of The Quill, a member of the QHHPF Board and Chair of the Creative Festival Committee*



### Recent Quaker Hill Event John Dickinson Wreath-Laying Ceremony Carries on in Snowstorm



*(Photo by Jim Bierbaum)*

Blizzard conditions did not stop representatives of QHHPF and Friends of the John Dickinson Mansion from paying tribute to Delaware founding father John Dickinson on February 21, 2015, the 207th anniversary of his death, with the reading of a eulogy and laying of a wreath upon his grave. Prior to the laying of the wreath, inside the Wilmington Friends Meeting House QHHPF President Bayard Marin read a eulogy composed by leading Dickinson scholar Jane Calvert of the University of Kentucky. A driving snow and strong winds did not stop the assembled from proceeding to Dickinson's resting place in the Friends graveyard. Afterward, the group warmed with hot coffee and tea and delicious baked goods prepared by Sonia Marin. The event was covered by the Wilmington News Journal's Robin Brown. *Link:* <http://www.delawareonline.com/story/news/local/2015/02/22/snow-delay-dickinson-tribute/23856421/>





# Friends of the Arts

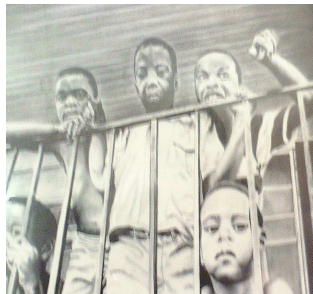
## A Festival of Creativity on Quaker Hill

**Friday, May 1, 2015 6 - 9 PM**  
**Wilmington Art on the Town Loop**  
**Law Office of Bayard Marin**  
**521 N. West Street, Wilmington**

Exhibition of works by a select group of diverse local artists, celebrating the coming **Wilmington Creative District**.

Artists include:

Larry Anderson  
Riva Brown  
Gerald Collins,  
Patricia Edwards Dawson,  
Whitey Johnson  
Eunice LaFate,  
W. James McGlynn,  
James McGlone,  
Harold R. "Tubby" Raymond  
Ken Segal,  
William Slowik,  
Roldan West



"Five Dover Boys" by Gerald Collins

Most of the works on display will be up for bid  
via silent auction Friday evening & 10AM-3PM Saturday

**QHHPF gives special thanks for the support of:**

Wilmington Friends Meeting, and  
Christina Cultural Arts Center  
Creative Vision Factory  
Delaware Center for the Contemporary Arts  
Delaware College of Art & Design  
DuPont Environmental Education Center  
Hardcastle Galleries  
United Cerebral Palsy Delaware  
City of Wilmington  
Wilmington Police Department  
Wilmington Renaissance Corporation

to learn more about the proposed  
Wilmington Downtown Creative District, visit:  
<http://www.bigideaswilmington.com/WRC#current-projects>

The Quaker Hill Historic Preservation Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the culture, history and architecture of the 270 year-old area of Wilmington, Delaware known as Quaker Hill.

**Saturday, May 2, 2015 10 AM - 4 PM**  
**Arts/Crafts Market & Creative Festival**  
**Wilmington Friends Meeting House**  
**4th & West Streets, Wilmington**

**Arts & Crafts Market** -- open air market of artworks, crafts, jewelry, apparel and other handmade products, made by local artists, artisans & craftspersons.

**"The African-American Experience in Music"**

presentation by **Hon. James M.**

**Baker** (author of The Genuine American Music) with musical accompaniment by **Raye Jones Avery, Dennis Fortune & Gerald Chavis** of **Christina Cultural Arts Center**.



"Clifford Brown" by Roldan West

**Music** -- Performances by a variety of local musicians in various styles. (check [www.quakerhillhistoric.org](http://www.quakerhillhistoric.org) for updated details)

Special **Bagpipes** performance by **Sgt. Walter Ferris**, Wilmington Police Dept.

**Architectural Walking Tour of Quaker Hill Historic District** led by **Dr. David L. Ames, Ph.D.** former Director of the University of Delaware Center for Historic Architecture and Design.

**Children's Activities** -- Face painting, make-and-take-home arts & crafts, "Touching Nature in the City" (live animals from Russell Peterson Wildlife Refuge), and lots more!

**Delicious Food** -- vendors will include **Fat Rick's Barbecue**

For more information, contact Mary Starkweather-White at 302-299-5600 or [mwhite6898@aol.com](mailto:mwhite6898@aol.com) or visit [www.quakerhillhistoric.org](http://www.quakerhillhistoric.org)

Brochure designed by Jim Bierbaum / Mondegreen Media



# Quaker Hill Historic Preservation Foundation would like to THANK all of those who have helped to make this event possible

In addition to those listed on the previous-page, there are many people who are helping us to put on what we hope will be a memorable event and a fitting kickoff for the Wilmington Downtown Creative District

## *Friends of the Arts*

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David Raymond  
Tia Santana  
Barry Schlecker

For help organizing children's activities, thanks go to **New Wilmington Arts Association, Marge Kafader & Emilia Poprawa.**

For assistance organizing musical entertainment, thanks to **John Gallagher & Gable Music Ventures' Gayle Dillman & Jeremy Hebbel**

For promotional assistance, **Delaware Pacem in Terris' Medard Gabel, New London Coffeehouse's Robin Bidwell, WDEL's Rick Jensen, News-Journal's Robin Brown, the Greater Wilmington Visitor & Convention Bureau, Wilmington City Council's John Rago & WITN**

### What is the Creative District all about?

A project of the Wilmington Renaissance Corporation and a steering committee of community leaders and experts, the goal of Wilmington's Creative District is to transform the area bounded by 4th, 9th, Market and Washington streets into the city's Creative Center focused on both Creative Production and Consumption, where local creative entrepreneurs (artists, musicians, designers, makers, manufacturers) and residents thrive and locally-designed goods and original works are made and sold.

Over the last three years, WRC has been working with partners (City of Wilmington, Interfaith Community Housing of Delaware, Christina Cultural Arts Center, Wilmington Housing Partnership, Quaker Hill Neighborhood Association, United Way of Delaware and others) to develop a Creative District in the Downtown/Quaker Hill/West Center City neighborhood.

The vision is a community of artist-owned properties with living spaces above galleries, studios and performance spaces. It will include beautification and artistic projects to engage the current residents and community members.

Modeled after Paducah, KY's renowned artist relocation program, Wilmington's Creative District will have a major impact on the whole city. Building on vacant lots and land, the Creative District will create homeownership opportunities for artists in an area with greater than 80% rental rates, thereby helping to stabilize a highly transient neighborhood. The program will target artists (& their families) who qualify as low- or moderate-income, providing ownership and entrepreneurial opportunities that might otherwise not exist for them.

Additional artists in the Art Loop Exhibit/ Auction who were not confirmed at the time our flyer was finalized include:

Paul Andreas  
Ken Carley  
Jason Rice  
Geraldo

Additional children's activities that were not confirmed at the time our flyer was finalized include:

Wilmington Police Dept.'s Book 'Em books for kids  
Henna Tattoos by NWAA

**Eclectic music** in a variety of styles, with acts including **Raye Avery, Dennis Fortune & Gerald Chavis (jazz)** and **Sgt Walter Ferris** (bagpipes), plus folk duo **Fishcastle** (below left), who combine guitar & vocals with trumpet, recorder & more and singer/songwriter-guitarist/harpist **Kristin Rebecca** (right).



# William Poole Bancroft

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about finding ways to acquire it, always for the “benefit of the people of Wilmington.” He frequently bought and held land he considered valuable until the Mayor and Council could be persuaded to acquire it, and he often accepted payment for less than the cost of his original purchase. It is estimated that he gave outright over 220 acres of land to the city parks, exclusive of Bancroft Parkway.

At the age of 66, William Bancroft felt the need to organize a corporation that would continue his interests beyond his lifetime. In 1901, he established Woodlawn Company, known today as Woodlawn Trustees, Incorporated, a not-for-profit, tax-paying company. It is dedicated to carefully planned development in order

to generate the funds needed to provide quality rental housing for people of modest means, and to the preservation of open space. William Bancroft was humble when speaking about what he was doing with Woodlawn, referring to it as his hobby. He was also forthright in expressing himself, while seeking out the advice of others (Frederick Law Olmsted, city planners, landscape architects, to name a few). He traveled to a number of cities in order to study what they were doing or had accomplished. And he always referred to what he was doing as stewardship: returning to the people of Wilmington and its vicinity some benefits in return for having made it possible for him to accumulate wealth.

*Richenda Davison is the great-granddaughter of William Bancroft and a member of Wilmington Friends Meeting.*



## Quaker Hill

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