



The Quaker Hill Quill



Quaker Hill Historic Preservation Foundation
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Burdick Leads Delaware's Preservation50 Celebration

*An Interview with Kim Burdick:
Folklorist, Historian, Curator,
Advocate for the Past
by Terence Maguire*

Gwen Davis of the State Historic Preservation Office presents Burdick with a Certificate of Appreciation from the state of Delaware. Photo by Carolyn Roland



Growing up in what she refers to as the “boondocks” of Chenango County, New York—an area where there are, still today, only 19 people per square mile-- Kim Burdick, the curator of the historic Hale-Byrnes House and chairman of Preservation 50-Delaware's ad-hoc committee, became a folklorist and historian almost by the time she was four years old. When her family moved from Binghamton to the country, there were no other children to play with. Kim became the pet of her elderly neighbors when she began to ask them about their own childhoods.

From there it was an easy step to the SUNY Cooperstown Graduate Programs in American Folk Culture and Museum Studies. “They used to dump us out in the country, north of Cooperstown. And they said, ‘OK, go knock on some doors and interview people and see what happens.’ The local people were receptive. Retired people who were at home during the day, looked forward to the museum school kids’ visits. I loved doing that!”

When Kim and her husband, an intern at Riverside Hospital, moved to Delaware, it “seemed like everybody was from somewhere else.” She jokes that the first native Delawarean they met was their son, Robert, who was born here. One of Kim's earliest local contacts was Judy Just, then a program associate at the Delaware Humanities Forum, and an early member of the Delaware Press Women. Judy told Kim that

the National Endowments for the Arts and National Endowment for the Humanities wanted to establish a folklorist in every state. She wondered if Kim could “carry the water on that project.”

Judy then introduced Kim to people in each of Delaware's three counties. Soon a statewide network of friends, colleagues and tradition-bearers was created. Members of the Delaware Folklife Project (1980-1991), began interviewing tradition-bearers ranging from macaroni-makers in Wilmington's Little Italy to quilters, wood carvers, muskrat trappers, duck-blind makers, fishermen and crabbers. As a self-proclaimed “country girl,” with Delaware being, she says, “about the size of a 4-H district,” Burdick felt at home.

In 1983, Cleveland Morris, founder of the Delaware Theater Company, approached the Delaware Humanities Forum. *continued to page 2.*

Also in this issue:.

- 1849 Kidnapping Attempt--Peter Dalleo
- Local Preservation 50 Celebrations --Ashley Cloud
- View from the Hill--Ashley Cloud

“Burdick,” continued from p. 1

ties Forum. Cleveland wanted to create a dramatic presentation to keep DTC “in front of the public” while the new theater was being built. As part of this effort, Kim was hired to collect ghost stories from around the state. The most frequently-told stories were then turned into a one-act musical play. The characters of the story were played by a small team of actors—Nancy Bartoshesky-Lynch, Dave Cassling, Bob Barto and Charlie Conway. As the Humanities scholar for the production, Burdick traveled with them to forty-two locations around the state. “Older people enjoyed seeing familiar tales acted out, and children became excited about Delaware’s history and folk culture.”

As she traveled around the state, Burdick grew to love Delaware’s historic sites and buildings. In 1991, architect Eldon Homsey asked her to be on the Board of Advisors of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Along with Don, Kim served three terms of three years each—the maximum allowed. Together with colleague Sidney Craven, Homsey and Burdick founded Preservation Delaware, incorporated in 1993. PDI’s mission was “education and advocacy.” Kim had already rotated off the Preservation Delaware Board when Gibraltar became an issue, and as resident curator of the historic Hale Byrnes House near Stanton, began focusing on reading and writing about Delaware’s role in the American Revolution.

When Preservation50—the 50th anniversary celebration of the 1966 signing by President Lyndon B. Johnson of the National Historic Preservation Act—came along, Preservation Delaware seemed to have vanished. Burdick started an ad hoc committee to

have “a series of conversations about preservation.” The first conversation was in January, 2015, at the Hale-Byrnes House. The Ad Hoc Committee began growing by leaps and bounds, meeting next in Lewes, Delaware, and then every month in every other county, including such sites as the Milford Museum, the John Dickinson plantation,

Historic Odessa, Auburn Heights, Camden Friends Meeting, the Wilmington Friends Meeting—10 places in all during a little less than two years. “Every place we went, we asked people, ‘What do you need from a new preservation organization?’” They took notes and pictures, met old friends and new friends, and thought hard about making “a new Delaware cultural heritage organization.” The Ad Hoc Committee also held summer Science Cafes at Stoney’s on Route 202 featuring the “science of historic preservation,” and added a Sunday Series called “This Place Matters” to the program offerings at the Hale Byrnes House. People spoke of reviving Preservation Delaware.

In July, 2016, the Delaware House of Representative passed Senate Joint Resolution 11 praising the 1966 National Historic Preservation Act. Kim Burdick was the primary force behind this piece of legislation. In turn, the state celebrated Burdick on October 7 of this year in Smyrna, in a renovated theatre which is now the home of the Painted Stave Distillery—a good example of re-using and preserving old structures. Kim was given a certificate of appreciation from the State of Delaware, presented by Gwen Davis of the State Historic Preservation Office.

Kim Burdick has come a long way from the front porches of elderly neighbors in the boondocks of Upstate New York. With a quiet voice and calm manner, she has become a original and powerful force in matters of Revolutionary War history and historical and cultural preservation. And on November 21 of this year, her book on Delaware in the Revolutionary War will be published. And yes, Preservation Delaware may actually come back to life.



Quaker Hill HPF Holds Leadership Conference, Tours to Help Celebrate Preservation50 Efforts in Wilmington Area

by Ashley Cloud

On Friday October 28th the Quaker Hill Historic Preservation Foundation proudly hosted leaders representing St. Peter's Cathedral, St. Paul's Catholic Church, congregation Adas Kodesh Shel Emeth, Christ Church Christiana, Chichester Meeting House, and Concord Quarterly Meeting for our Sacred Places Conference & Brunch in anticipation of our Historic Sacred Places Tour on Sunday October 30th. Attendees also included American Revolution scholar and Hale-Byrnes House director Kim Burdick, representing our sponsoring partner Preservation50, a Delaware State University student, city planner and UGRR Coalition of Delaware leader Debbie Martin, and QHHPF president Bayard Marin.

Attendees enjoyed a delicious brunch of bagels, muffins, pastries and hot coffee before an introductory presentation from historian Bev Laing, representing the office of Historic and Cultural Affairs for the State of Delaware. Laing gave an overview of the programs and successes initiated by the grassroots Preservation50 effort, spearheaded by Kim Burdick. This endeavor was initiated by a simple meeting that lead to a year's worth of celebratory and educational programming across the state, demonstrating the pride and drive of individuals and groups whose goal was to honor the 50th Anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act. Laing concluded her presentation with an open invitation for the public to offer ideas for the State's next historic preservation program, scheduled to begin in 2018.

This warm-up was an excellent segue to our keynote speaker: Josh Costano from Partners for Sacred Places, based in Philadelphia. This non-denominational, non-profit organization specializes in working with historic sacred spaces on a variety of fronts from raising funds for restoration to creatively leveraging their historic spaces to connect with community and remain vibrant and sustaining. Given the current arts movement in Wilmington, Costano focused on success stories of historic churches that have collaborated with artists by providing spaces for them to practice and even perform for the public. These types of creative collaborations create mutually beneficial partnerships that engage the community and help create potential

revenue streams.

Costano's presentation was an excellent introduction to our group "field trip" to St. Peter's Cathedral. Father Leonard Klein graciously gave a brief history of the church and its role in the historic Quaker Hill neighborhood. Afterwards, surrounded by the sumptuous sanctuary, our group was regaled by brief arias sung by Wilmington Concert Opera founders Marisa Robinson and Kirsten Kunkle. Their performance not only provided us with an amazingly talented preview of their upcoming performance of Puccini's one-act opera *Suor Angelica* but also highlighted the creative collaboration, fostered by QHHPF, between professional performers and an historic sacred place. The concert the following weekend yielded a wonderful turn-out and truly underscored the need for these types of programs in our city.

The ensuing Historic Sacred Places Tours which followed on Sunday were met with enthusiasm from the public and the participating congregations. Wilmington Friends Meeting House, St. Peter's Cathedral, Grace United Methodist Church, St. Paul's Catholic Church, Hanover Presbyterian Church, congregation Adas Kodesh Shel Emeth (*see below*), and Friends Centre Meeting opened their individual doors to the public that afternoon from 1pm-3pm for educational historic tours. From all accounts, each location enjoyed upwards of 25 visitors who enthusiastically rediscovered these beautiful and historic edifices in our city and region. The general consensus is that we had a modest success and certainly highlighted the public's interest in learning more about the history in its proverbial backyard. We hope to pursue some incarnation of this event in the future!



A View from the Hill--Ashley Cloud, Executive Director, Quaker Hill Historic Preservation Foundation

As we celebrate Thanksgiving and look forward to a holiday season that includes Christmas, Hanukah and other reasons to spend time with family and friends, as we count our blessings and reflect on 2016...the Quaker Hill Historic Preservation Foundation also has much to look back on and be thankful. 2016 was a year of honoring tradition but also of innovating. We successfully held our long-standing programs: the Dickinson Memorial Wreath Laying, our Underground Railroad Workshops, our 2nd Annual Festival of the Arts, and a speaking engagement with researcher and scholar Dr. Peter Dalleo.

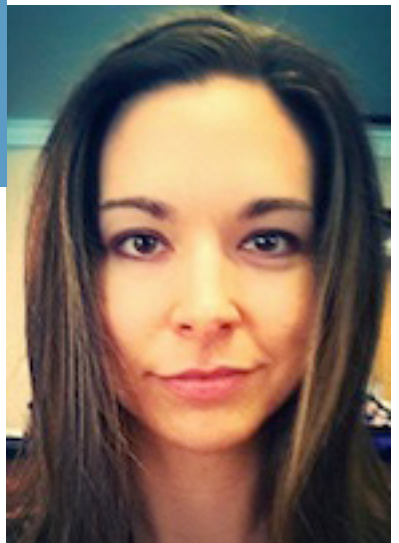
So what was different? We actively reached out to more organizations in the City for support and partnerships. We found allies in groups such as Downtown Visions, which was invaluable in assisting us to promote our programs throughout Wilmington. Our

tary schools that allows their classes to spend 90 minutes with DHS and 90 minutes with QHHPF at the Meeting House, (*below left*) learning about local history and the Underground Railroad in interactive, fun ways.

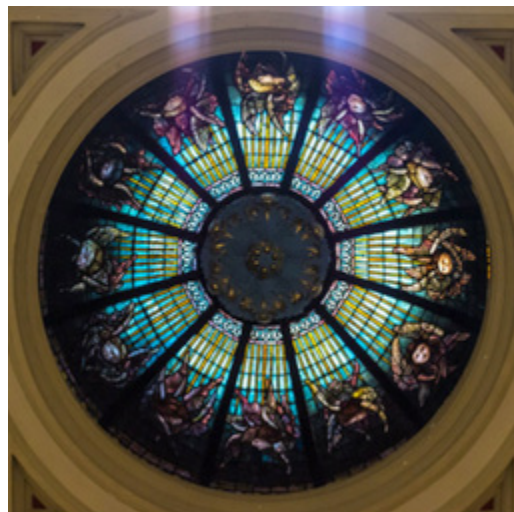
Our Underground Railroad Workshops gained a wider audience and will be expanding in 2017 to include a new workshop in March with the addition of another wonderful history teacher to our team of experts. QHHPF's involvement with Kim Burdick and Preservation50 led to us organize an Historic Sacred Places Conference and Tour during the last weekend of October, which brought together leaders of several historic Wilmington congregations who graciously opened their doors for tours to an enthusiastic public thirsty to learn more about their beauty and history.

The Quaker Hill Historic Preservation Foundation will continue to raise its profile, expand its programming, and actively seek out more collaborations and partnerships in 2017. Changes continue within the City, and we are actively in the middle of things! It is no small accomplishment to host our new mayor for a tour, to be mentioned in one of his early speeches, and to have two members of our distinguished Board of

Directors on the transition committees for the new administration. The view from the hill is one of hope, gratitude and continued hard work!



Arts Festival grew as we changed the venue to historic St. Peter's Cathedral (*see right*) and collaborated with the Meeting House's Annual Berry Festival to create a joint, family-friendly, community-engaging event that included beautiful art, art workshops for children, food, music and games. Reaching out to the Delaware Historical Society yielded a wildly successful joint Underground Railroad program that burst with so many individuals enrolling that we had to stop accepting requests after 80+ people! We split them into two groups who spent time at Old Town Hall with DHS and then joined me at Grace Methodist Church's Fellowship Hall for an interactive presentation. This event has led to a partnership in 2017 whereby we will be offering a joint field trip package to area elemen-



The Attempted Kidnapping of Ann Brown of Wilmington, 1849: Two Accounts from Abolitionist Papers

--edited by Dr. Peter Dalleo and Terence Maguire

*In Peter Dalleo's research on the abolitionist newspaper, **Blue Hen's Chicken**, which has been featured in the **Quill** in recent issues, Dr. Dalleo found numerous incidents that demonstrate the ongoing struggles of life as a free African-American in antebellum Delaware. The particular instance focused on here illustrates four facets of that strife, most negative but some positive.*

- *First, we see how vulnerable even free blacks were in mid-19th C. Delaware when a woman who had been granted freedom by a one-time master was subject to unsubstantiated claims.*
- *Ann Brown's kidnap attempt shows the organization possessed by slave-catching or kidnapping gangs; but also the degree to which these were resisted by the black community.*
- *Third, obviously at least some duly-authorized law enforcement officials were quite willing to abet the claims and efforts of kidnappers without going through due process.*
- *Last, the fact that she was aided by prompt, effective work of Wilmington's abolitionist community, in particular a United States Senator, shows the strength and dedication of that group. Thomas Garrett's was by no means the only voice in this unfolding conflict.*

From *The Pennsylvania Freeman*, September 26, 1849

ANOTHER ATTEMPT AT KIDNAPPING.—By a letter from our esteemed friend Thomas Garrett, of Wilmington, we learn that an atrocious and daring attempt was made on Saturday last, to kidnap a free colored woman, by the name of Ann Brown, and carry her into slavery. The kidnappers were Marcy Fountain, a negro trader of Baltimore, and Isaac Clarke, a constable in Wilmington, assisted by Charles Lowman, a shoemaker, of Wilmington, who was probably the informer in the case.

Fountain held power of Attorney from Elijah E. Massey, of Kent Co., MD., who lays claim to Ann Brown as his slave, and employed Clarke and Lowman to aid him in his infamous business. At 9 or 10 o'clock on Saturday morning, having supplied them-

selves with handcuffs and with carriages, one of which was hired at Porter's livery stable, the ruffians repaired to the house of Joseph Hiland, just outside the city, where Ann (Hiland's sister) resided; they went through the house, Clarke leading the way, seized Ann in the yard, and attempted to drag her to the carriage. This they doubtless would have done, but for the intrepidity of Hiland, who rushed to her defense against the armed man-thieves.

Lowman struck Hiland with his pistol, but the latter drew an axe, and told them they might take his sister before a magistrate, but his life or theirs would be sacrificed before they should put her into the carriage. Clarke then proposed to take them both in the carriage to a magistrate, but he refused, saying she should walk if she went at all. The slave-catchers finding the resolute spirit they had to deal with, yielded and took her on foot before the Mayor. After the constable, with Ann and her brother had left, Fountain, to satisfy those who had witnessed their high-handed proceedings, exhibited a watch, and told them they had arrested her for stealing it. Before Mayor Huffington, P. S. Johnson, Esq., appeared as counsel for the defense. Here the ruffians said not a word of the charge of theft, and after a few hours spent in investigating the case, an adjournment was had till two o'clock, in order to obtain further evidence. At 2 P. M., the case was called up in the presence of a large number of most respectable citizens, when it was found that the Mayor had ordered her commitment to prison during the adjournment, and that before the case was fully heard. Application was immediately made to Judge Milligan, who granted a habeas corpus to have the woman brought before him, on Wednesday, the 26th, at 109 o'clock. We have not learned the conclusion of the case. Our friend Garrett remarks: "Those best versed in law here, who have seen the commitment of the Mayor, think he has quite transcended his duty in this case." We hope to be able to prove the freedom of Ann, and teach some of the prominent actors in the detestable transaction, a lesson they will not soon forget. When the case is concluded, I will give you the result.

Continued on p. 6

Continued fr p. 5

Blue Hen's Chicken, Sept. 28, 1849—p. 2

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE

Outrageous attempt to kidnap a supposed free woman, in Wilmington.

On Saturday morning last, Isaac Clark, a city constable, Marcy Fountain, a reputed negro trader from Baltimore, Md., Elijah E. Massey, said to be a wealthy slave holder from Kent or Queen Anne, Maryland, Thomas McCreary, the notorious slave hound, or slave catcher, from Elkton, Maryland, Charles Lowman, a shoemaker who is said to live by his wits in this City, went to a house where Ann Brown, a supposed free negro, of about 45 to 48 years of age, resided with two carriages without a warrant to carry her off. But her brother, a free black man of about 65 years of age, Joseph Hyland, as honest, noble a specimen as can be found under a black or white skin, resisted them, knocking down the notorious McCreary, and putting the whole posse at defiance, until ultimately he agreed that she should come and have a hearing before the Mayor.—It is said that a Colored man gave information to Constable Clark, and that he gave information to either Fountain or McCreary.—But it seemed that Isaac Clark had been the instrument in this affair, although he has pretended heretofore to be opposed to negro catching, blaming Constable Moody with it.—The facts of the case seems, as far as we can learn them to be briefly these:—a certain Joshua Massey, of Kent or Queen Anne's counties, Md., owned "Fan," the mother of Ann Brown, and set her at liberty about the year 1800, but as she did not wish to leave the State, and fearing negro catchers might give her or her children trouble, he did not manumit them until 1811, when the manumission emancipated her and all her children, while she was at liberty, (of whom the said Ann Brown was one), and the said Ann was never in the family, or the charge of the said Joshua Massey, or in any way looked after, until she was grown up, and until after the death of the said Joshua Massey—and she is without any doubt free. But the story of her kidnappers is this: --That the said Elijah E. Massey, by the authority of his father, sold the said Ann Brown to his brother Ebin Massey, from whom the said Marcy Fountain holds what purports to be a power of Attorney to arrest her, and bring her to him. An attempt was made in Philadelphia some years ago to take the said Ann, which failed.

It is reported, but as to the truth of the report we know nothing, that the said Ebin owes his brother, the said Elijah—and that the said Elijah, a witness of behalf of Ebin, is to receive the proceeds of Ann, if recovered and sold, in part payment of his debt. Another report is that Marcy Fountain has purchased Ann running, and though he represents himself the agent, is the real owner. We give them as we hear them. But certain it is that all those officers and citizens engaged in arresting the woman without a warrant, except the owner or his legal representative, if there are such, are liable to prosecution at law, and public opinion might point the finger of scorn and contempt at all those who hire themselves as bloodhounds to hunt human beings in order to reduce them to slavery. As to McCreary, he got what he richly deserved, and if all such were to be served likewise, there would less negro hunting. The woman was carried before Mayor Huffington on Saturday morning—the hearing was adjourned until 2 o'clock P.M. the same day. No positive proof of her being enslaved being produced, it was thought she ought to have been set at liberty. However, the mayor committed her to further hearing, and she was brought before Judge Milligan on habeas corpus on Wednesday last, and the case again postponed to this day (Friday) at 10 o'clock A.M.—There is no reasonable doubt of her release.—The town is excited at such a bold attempt, and many, heretofore indifferent, are denouncing such unjust as well as inhumane transactions. P. S. Johnson, Esq., District Attorney, ably defended the poor negro, and Honorable John Wales, U.S. Senator, also assisted in the defence [see above].



Some of our most prominent and respectable citizens have undertaken to see the woman [get?] fair play. Joseph Hyland says that Fountain struck him with his pistol, for which he may be arrested. Even negro catchers ought to have the law fairly administered, but let them come peaceably, not with force and violence.

***Wilmington Friends Meeting
Presents:
Quaker Industrialists***

**Join us for a very special presentation
from the Wilmington Friends Meeting
House.**

**Quaker-owned businesses and industry
formed the core of Wilmington's 19th
Century industrial growth.**

**In addition, their religious beliefs resulted
in philanthropy such as parks and muse-
ums and an interest in their worker's condi-
tion. That enduring Quaker legacy shaped
Wilmington and lives on in names and
places of the city today.**

When: November 29, 2016

Time: 5:30pm-7:30pm

**Where: Wilmington Public Library, P.S.
duPont Meeting Room**

**Register: <http://tinyurl.com/QuakerNov29>
or visit our webpage [www.wilmington.lib.
de.us](http://www.wilmington.lib.de.us)**

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Harlan & Hollingsworth plant on the Christina River in the 19th C



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Make a donation—send a check made out to QHHPF to
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Girls playing in the Meeting House yard across from Friends' School at
Fourth and West, 1910.



Learn about Quaker Hill from
Images of America: Quaker Hill

127 pages brimming with pictures and illustrations of the Quaker Hill area, (such as the one above) from its earliest days to the present. Assembled and written by QHHPF and published by Arcadia Publishing.

Available from Quaker Hill Historic Preservation Foundation

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