We are stronger!

What a year this has been. COVID-19 has challenged every aspect of our lives. But despite these challenges the Greater Harrington Historical Society has not only survived but we have been able to thrive. We were closed from February of 2020 through June 2020, then we slowly began to reopen. And as of the writing of our newsletter we have been able to return to normal operations.

While we lost Heritage Day 2020 and Memorial Day 2021, we have been busy with other projects. We received over $14,000 from Delaware Humanities in a grant. This money went to projects focusing on our ability to reopen and operating cost. We have also received over $30,000 dollars from the Delaware Relief Grant program. These monies went to covering cost as well as a new air conditioner in the Annex, HVAC in the Caboose, new roof on the annex, and fireproof doors on the annex. With these money, we have fully repaired everything at these buildings.

To date we have also received $20,000 from Longwood Foundation and $10,000 from Welfare Foundation for a new pavilion over the caboose. We are working on bids, which are ranging from $35,000 to $40,000. Once the design is chosen, we will need to finish raising the money so this project can be completed. Our estimates are we may need about another $10,000 at most. We have bids to repair the roof on the tower and paint the inside of the building, about $30,000. The repairs to the caboose are another $70,000, giving us a total of $100,000 of projects yet to be competed to the items in the tower complex. We have applied for several grants for these projects and are awaiting the outcomes.

We have not given up our dream of a large museum expansion. Currently our Capital Bond request to the state is under review. Here is hoping!

We continue to receive wonderful artifacts to add to the museum’s vast holdings. A few are going on display but sadly most go into storage due to our limited space issues.

We have now authored five books, the latest just sent into the publishing company. These books continue to provide a good revenue stream to the museum. We are also receiving a great deal of publicity as a result of these books.

Wreaths Across America was a huge success despite COVID. We helped seven cemeteries place wreaths, over 1600 and raised over one thousand dollars. We are hoping to add more cemeteries this year.