



# GHHS Gazette

Winter 2024

## Winter Brings New Projects!!

### Message from our President

Hope you are keeping warm and cozy during this cold winter weather. I'm happy to update you on a few new initiatives we have undertaken and some hopeful plans for the near future.

Since we are all about history and culture, we hosted guest speakers at two of our meetings this year. David Tabler joined us to speak on "Small Wonders-10 Facts From Delaware History That Might Surprise You". In October we enjoyed a presentation by Todd Harra on historic American funeral practices, highlighting The Resurrectionists and the Advent of the Burial Vault.

To provide more information about our collections at the Museum, we have included a segment at the beginning of most of our meetings entitled A Museum Minute. Various members volunteer to research and share information about a select artifact, collection or business displayed in the Museum. December was very busy, especially engaging in the Wreaths Across America activities. We were especially honored to host the convoy on its way to Arlington Cemetery with a very patriotic, heartwarming ceremony at the Harrington Fire House

Santa was present at the Caboose on Tuesday and Thursday evenings throughout December and, to top off the month, we had a Holiday Potluck Dinner before our monthly meeting where we also exchanged grab bag gifts.



### Special Black History Month Reception featuring Voices of Harrington African American Community

On February 17, 2024, the Greater Harrington Historical Society hosted a reception in honor of Black History Month, highlighting the voices of our local African Americans. Several of our local families shared their first-hand accounts and stories. As a special treat several of them prepared "family favorite" food dish, which were amazing! It was a great day and we met so many people from our community. The committee wants to thank everyone for their hard work and dedication in the preparation of the display and working extra hours to ensure our community enjoyed the history and the food!

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# CRYSTAL TRUST DOES IT AGAIN!

## **\$100,000 AGAIN!**

Santa came a little early to the Greater Harrington Historical Society but boy what a gift! Crystal Trust is a non-profit organization that gifts funding for grant projects throughout Delaware, specifically dealing with community projects and historic preservation. This group previously funded the repairs to the Railroad Complex with a generous \$100,000 grant in 2021. For 2023, GHHS received a grant award for, drum roll,



These funds were awarded to restore the former St. Stephens Episcopal Church, which today serves as one of our three museums locations. The restorations and repairs will include WOOD repairs to the exterior of the building and repainting of the entire structure. Installing the cross back on top of the steeple. Necessary repairs to the bell cradle so the bell can ring again! And the most exciting thing of all, the windows will have stained glass reinstalled! The project will begin in the early spring with an anticipated completion date of June 2024. A special rededication of the church will occur during Harrington Heritage Day, set for August 24, 2024.

DELAWARE

HUMANITIES

## Delaware Humanities is the Best!

In case you have not heard, WE LOVE DELAWARE HUMANITIES!!!!

Not one but two grants were bestowed to GHHS. The first grant was to digitize over 50 cassette tapes that contained oral histories from citizens of Harrington. The process was performed by 302 Stories, Inc from Wilmington, DE. These interviews will serve at the backbone of our Black History Month Exhibit in 2024. So be sure to stop in and take a listen! We will also be posting these recordings on our website, [www.ghhsociety.org](http://www.ghhsociety.org)



The second grant will literally rock your socks off! Blue Hen Recording Studios called Harrington home during the mid to late 1950's. Owned by Mr. Sam Short, the company recorded, sold, and marketed "Rockabilly" music from Sam's store on Center St. The grant will fund a 23-minute documentary on this history of Blue Hen Records and the pivotal role the company played in starting the Rock & Roll scene in Delaware. 302 Stories, Inc. of Wilmington, Delaware will produce the documentary. Then, if all goes to plan, in early May 2024, we will be hosting a special screening of the documentary along with oldies from the jukebox, the pinball machine and much more! Be sure to watch our Facebook page and website for all the details!





**Wreaths Across America Fundraising Golf Tournament** – Date & Location TBA

**Blue Hen Records Documentary Event** – Saturday, May 10, 2024, 6 pm till 10 pm Location TBA

**Memorial Day Parade** – Monday, May 27, 2024, beginning at 10 am

**Kids Day at the Caboose** – Saturday, June 8, 2024, 10 am till 2pm

**46<sup>th</sup> Annual Harrington Heritage Day** – Saturday, August 24, 2024

**Santa at the Caboose**, nights in December, to be announced.

**Wreaths Across America, Wreath Day 2024** – Saturday, December 14, 2024, 12 pm



## Ever wanted to learn more?!

The Greater Harrington Historical Society is always looking for members! Dues are \$20.00 annually.

As you all know, the GHHS functions solely on grants, donations, and dues. If you haven't already done so, please renew your 2023 dues. We are a non-profit organization and, as such, all dues and donations are tax free contributions.

And about finances, we are trying to be more engaged in effective fund-raising endeavors. We are hoping to do a Purse Bingo later in the year and we still want to present an Antiques Roadshow, with numerous appraisers available, sometime this Spring.

All these things depend on one thing...YOU! Please, come to the meetings, volunteer to help at our scheduled activities, get oriented and trained as a docent and lead tours of the Museum. And invite others to join.

So, what are you waiting for? Join today! Applications can be found on our website,

[www.ghhsociety.org](http://www.ghhsociety.org) or at the museum.