

December 2012

Marcus Hook Preservation Society Newsletter

Special Interest Articles:

- W3R-
Washington/
Rochambeau
National Historic
Trail
Celebration
- Family Night
Spaghetti
Dinner
- Pirate Festival



ABOUT MHPS

OUR MISSION

To care for and preserve the Plank House and interpret for the public its legendary connection with pirates on the Delaware River

Celebrate the significant historical features of Marcus Hook's social and cultural life from the 17th century to the present

Offer tours and public educational programs designed to celebrate and preserve the history of the Plank House and the community of Marcus Hook



W3R- WASHINGTON/ROCHAMBEAU NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL CELEBRATION

Marcus Hook Preservation Society Presented it's 4th Annual W3R Celebration on Saturday, September 1, 2012. The day began at 12:30 with a brief tour and discussion of the historic 18th century Plank House which the Marcus Hook Preservation Society is raising funds to restore. At 1:00PM a brief ceremony was held introducing Mrs. Charles deBarcza, president of the National W3R. The SAR (Sons of the American Revolution) Color Guard led the procession of guests to St. Martin's Cemetery whereby the Borough Manager, Mr. Bruce Dorbian presented those names of the soldiers buried in the cemetery from the Revolutionary War. This year's honoree was Captain Thomas Moore who served from October 16, 1775 to August 17, 1778. He was captain of the Galley "Hancock" under Commodore Seymour. The Galley Hancock was one of thirteen Pennsylvania Navy galleys commissioned during the summer of 1775. It operated in the Delaware River as part of the defenses of Philadelphia.

Following the ceremony at the cemetery, Mr. Joe Becton presented a lecture on the role of the black soldiers during the Revolutionary War. Mr. Becton is the founder and director of Becton Tours and Historical Services. He is also the founder of the First Rhode Island regiment Revolutionary War re-enactors. Mr. Becton worked as a Park Ranger Supervisor at Independence National Historic Park from 2001-2009 and was also the Director of Visitor Services at Historic Fort Mifflin from 1989 to 1992. He holds membership in the Association for the Study of African-American Life and History and in the Pennsylvania Historical Society.

Each year, on the Saturday closest to September 5, the Marcus Hook Preservation Society holds its annual commemoration of the encampment of the Continental Army and our French allies at Marcus Hook. The Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route (W3R) was designated as a National Historic Trail in 2009. It marks a 680 mile route of encampments by the Continental Army under George Washington and allied French troops under Jean-Baptiste de Rochambeau during the march from Providence, Rhode Island to Yorktown, Virginia in 1781.

We use this annual event as an opportunity not only to commemorate the W3R encampment, but to also provide the community with information regarding the importance of Marcus Hook during the Revolutionary War and to honor the patriots of the Revolutionary War buried in St. Martin's Churchyard. Each year we single out one patriot in particular for recognition.

FAMILY NIGHT SPAGHETTI DINNER



Friday, September 14, 2012 was our famous Family Night Spaghetti Dinner, cooked by Blackbeard himself (aka Michael Manerchia, president of the Marcus Hook Preservation Society). With special thanks to the board members and volunteers we served over 135 dinners, including take out. MHPS would like to thank Chester Water Authority, Wawa, Giant Food Stores, Giovancci’s Family Meat Market, Marcus Hook Deli and the Ingram Family for their generous donations of food and drinks for our dinner. A special thanks to Pirates for Sail for providing the musical entertainment for the evening. A fun time was had by all.

A special thanks to our many volunteers who helped cook, serve and clean up. We greatly appreciate your dedication!

We would also like to give a special notice of thanks to Marie Horn, Brian Mercandante and the Star Bar & Hotel for their guidance, patience, support and dedication. Huzzah

4TH ANNUAL PIRATE FESTIVAL

This year’s 2012 festival attracted over 3500 visitors which is a 63% increase compared to past years. As hosts we provided ample parking, more advertisements, more food vendors, crafters and piratical activities. The new food vendors included with our 10 local food vendors attracting many customers were: Chick Fil-A, Maximillian’s Tavern, and the Cupcake Twins LLC to name a few. We had over 30 merchandise vendors and crafters. We were also the first time sponsors of the “Ye Old Beer Garden” area which proved to be very successful.

Visiting pirate crews, Valhallas, Arch Angel, Sons of the Waves, Bloody Historical and Recreating History set up their encampments with period tents, performed skits throughout the day, displayed their wares and performed many demonstrations of their period artifacts. Cannon fire and live arms fire could be heard throughout the day. Live music was performed by the Brigands, Pirates for Sail and the Sea Dogs.

This year’s event partnered with our own Marcus Hook Library and through the assistance of a Wal-Mart Grant sponsored a Pirate Book Reading Celebration two weeks prior to the Festival. The Librarians retrieved, organized and displayed appropriate Pirate story books for our local students in grades K-2. Students were then invited to dress as their pirate story book character and participate as roving “Singing Pee Wee Pirates” during the festival day.

PARANORMAL

Paranormal investigators have been attracted to the Plank House for the past several years and many studies have been done. While there is no “concrete” proof – the information gathered has provided programs of interest to the community. If you are interested in booking the Plank House for a study or you would like to join us for a private investigation, please go to our website www.marcushookps.org for dates, times and cost.

First Family Night Spaghetti Dinner, held the night before the Pirate Festival



Look closely at this photograph – can you see the face? This picture is copyrighted and sole property of the Marcus Hook Preservation Society



TREASURE

COMING TO YOU 2013

Now that Awen Films have reached their funding goals to complete the work that they have begun in Marcus Hook, the Marcus Hook Preservation Society would like to ask for your support with the on-going restoration project... of the historic Plank House. This one-of-a-kind, hand sawn plank house is featured in the film and presents itself as one of the many LED lights all coming together to form one great town – Marcus Hook. Please help us in our continuing efforts to preserve our past by

donating now!

To view our trailer
<http://awenfilms.net/productions/treasure-2013/>



Marcus Hook Plank House
c. 1720's



Marcus Hook Plank House as it looked in the 1970's with side addition added.



Peco Energy inspects new electrical work at plank house



Artifact Library delivered September 17, 2011



Just a few of our many artifacts collected at the plank house.



BRICK FUNDRAISER:

You can help support the Marcus Hook Plank House and honor a family member, friend or loved one at the same time by purchasing a commemorative Brick.

The "Plank House Walk," will be a prominent feature located in Marcus Hook's Historic River Front area. Guest visiting the Plank House Museum will be greeted by the Memorial Brick Walkway as they approach the front porch area.

The donation cost of each brick is \$35.00. You can personalize your 4"x8" brick with an engraved name, using 3 lines of lettering with 15 characters per line.

Thank you for supporting the Marcus Hook Preservation Society and its efforts to restore the Marcus Hook Plank House, located at 221 Market St. Marcus Hook, PA 19061. The MHPS is a 501c3 non-profit organization. Commemorative brick orders are classified as charitable donations by the IRS and are deductible during the calendar year in which they were purchased. Your canceled check will serve as your receipt.

Each spring, bricks purchased from the prior year are installed. To date we have over 80 bricks. This fundraiser is ongoing and all funds are used to help with the upkeep of the historic plank house. Please join us in our efforts in preserving our past for the future!

PLANK HOUSE ARTIFACTS

From washing artifacts to sifting to actually taking trowel in hand and digging - we have found everything from pottery to bottles to jewelry to buttons. There are also lots of oyster shells and bones of animals that past residents of the Plank House ate for their supper. Every dig brings many surprises. Summertime archaeological excavations at the Plank House are sponsored by the Marcus Hook Preservation Society and are overseen through the guidance and direction of Professional volunteer archaeologists.

One of our first stories to tell - we (Patty & I) were in the kitchen when we first got started digging {still in the "Prove It Stage"}. We had the shaker screen set up inside, in the kitchen we were finding a lot of small rocks, nails, pins, etc. Paula, my sister, picked up a rock and said "this is a weird color" and she started tossing it in the trash pile. I asked to look at it because from where I was it kind of looked like jade, only it looked melted. So she said to put it in the special bag which we did. Neither of us thought twice about it until Paula took the special shoe box to a party at someone's house. We did this a lot when we first started, to help gain interest in the house. From what she tells me, many people looked at the items in the box - people just passing over this - as we did. One man asked for a magnifying glass and told her that this wasn't a funny looking stone but a Cameo. Could this be Blackbeard's mistress? We don't know but we were told it was probably made in the 1600 or 1700's more than likely from Venice, Italy. The picture doesn't do it justice. The Bic pen gives you an idea of how big it is. So you never know what lies beneath the ground!

Contributed By: Michael Manerchia

GHOST WALK:

New this year was our first Ghostwalk with Blackbeard featuring Author, Laurie Hull. Laurie is a documented medium as well as author and teacher of paranormal investigations. She has written "Brandywine Valley Ghosts", Philly's Main Line Haunts" and Cape May Haunts". It was a beautiful October evening as folks gathered at the Community Center for the walk. Unfortunately Blackbeard was called away but board member and "pirate" Anna Glisson's character "Jean de Clisson, filled in for Blackbeard. 'Spirit-filled' and historical facts of Marcus Hook were shared with the group as they traveled from the Community Center to St. Martin's Cemetery, Market Square and to the Plank House where Beth Ingram shared stories of the happenings and sightings at this historical site. The evening ended back at the Community Center for light refreshments and door prizes. Thank you to our many helpers, volunteers and supporters – Kirkwood Fitness, and Dr. , Chiropractor.



Aurther Laurie Hull

Each May we hold a "clean up" day the Plank House which includes yard work, painting, sweeping, windows (yes windows) and general light maintenance. We are looking for groups, such as boy scouts, girl scouts, high school community projects etc. to help us. If you are interested, please send us an email at mhps1@hotmail.com so that your group can be scheduled to help. Pizza, soda and water will be provided.

however you may bring your own brown bag lunch if you prefer. A tour of the house will be provided and you will be given a certificate of completion for your volunteer efforts.

We also need:
 *Landscapers for mulching
 *tree trimming and general yard maintenance on a regular basis.

Work alongside historians and professional archaeologists on projects including archaeological site excavation, exploration and restoration, ground survey, archival research, and muc, much more. [Click here to see what we have found](#) If interested, please contact us at: mhps1@hotmail.com Or call 610 459 4183



Interested in VOLUNTEERING for:

- *Archeology (artifacts cleaning)
- *Grant writing
- *Historic research
- *Any of Next years Events (Tag Day, Spaghetti dinner, Pirate Festival, W3R. and Ghost Walk.)

I think we should put sponsor logos here. Just a thought.

We would like to thank the following for their generosity and support:

Radio Communications Service Inc., Giant Food Stores, Wawa, Walmart, Marcus Hook Deli, Ingram Family, Giovancci's Family Market, The Borough of Marcus Hook and our many volunteers.

E-mail MHPS1@hotmail.com to help volunteer.

ABOUT OUR ORGANIZATION...

Marcus Hook Preservation Society

P.O. Box 703
221 Market St.
Marcus Hook, PA 19061

PHONE:
(610) 587-7409

FAX:
(708) 555-0102

E-MAIL:
Mhps1@hotmail.com

Help Us Restore

The Plank House.

All Donations are

Tax Deductible

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.marcushookps.org

The Marcus Hook Preservation Society is a 501c3 organization. It was formed in 2004 to preserve the rich history of the Borough of Marcus Hook through educational programming, events, and community involvement.

The Society owns the Marcus Hook Plank House, and is in the process of renovating it, and at the same time, sponsors an active archaeological dig on its grounds. The Marcus Hook Preservation Society

meets once a month on the second Monday at 7 pm at the Marcus Hook Community Center, 7 West Delaware Ave. Marcus Hook, Pa. 19061.

Meetings are open to the public and guests are welcome to attend. Please e-mail Annamaria Glisson, mhps1@hotmail.com with questions.

*Board of Directors:
Officers:
Michael Manerchia,
President
Paula Manerchia,
VP, Education
Annamaria Glisson,
Treasurer, Secretary*

*Committee Chairs:
Plank House: Laurie Hull
Beth Ingram*

*W3R:
Paranormal: Laurie Hull
Events Coordinator:
Ginny Hughes*

*Plankhouse Pirate Crew:
Michael Manerchia*

*Archaeology: Dr. David Orr
Archaeological Consultants:
Dr. David Orr
Katherine (Katie) Caballo
Joe Blondino
Keith Doms
Matt Grubel
Dr. Jeff Cohen
Lou Farrell
Dr. Cathy Spohn*

Dates to Watch for in 2013

Clean up Day – May 5
Tag Day – May 9, 10, 11
W3R – September 7
Family Night Spaghetti Dinner
September 20
Pirate Festival – September 21
Ghostwalk – October 26