


The Friends of the   
John Dickinson Mansion,  
Incorporated



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*A Society for Extension of Public Knowledge about John Dickinson and his Mansion*

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February 15, 2021

Dear Friends,

As we usher in 2021, I'm sure you share my hope for a year filled not only with promise but progress and stability. I wish you and your family the very best for this new year.

First, some welcome good news – the John Dickinson site is now open with more on-site programs in the works. We look forward to welcoming you back to once again experience the John Dickinson mansion and all we have to offer. Some of the current programming includes:

- A repeat performer of the program “Make-A-Splash:” This year will be a series of virtual videos that will be available to schools from the end of March through the end of the year. Subjects of this program range from demonstrations in the smoke house to everyday tasks like washing clothes during the Dickinson era.
- The State Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs (HCA) has also joined an online network called “The International Coalition of Sites of Conscience.” This group will discuss the history of slaves and indentured servants during that same period.

We are pleased to announce that we have three new board members: Eunice Craig (Dover), Susan Eliason (Harrington) and Casey Ewart (Lewes). Although these “new” board members have been on board for several months now, we have not met face to face since our world has gone virtual. I would like to take this opportunity to formally welcome these new members to our Board.

Some of the activities currently playing out at the mansion are as follows:

- The Landscaping Committee has prepared plans for improvements to the formal garden located in the front yard of the Mansion. These improvements to the formal garden include lowering the height of the boxwood to improve sight lines, restoring turf, widening hedge openings and resetting the brick paths. The Garden is a key part of the Master Plan being prepared by the State Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs (HCA).
- HCA is proceeding with archeological research using the technique Ground Penetration Radar GPR in pursuit of finding artifacts leading to more information about the history of the site. There is a particular interest in verifying the existence of a historic, eighteenth century slave graveyard. Members of our Board have participated in the ongoing field studies.
- For those interested in exploring the plantation, the “Glen Area,” located to the northwest of the Mansion, is an interesting new feature. This area includes a pond and is now fully

accessible to visitors since the brush has been cleared and trail loops constructed and paved with wood chips.

We are pleased to notice that our membership has increased - and with that donations. In fact, donations are significantly higher than previous years. The arrangements for Square online payment have apparently made “giving” much easier. Thanks once again for your support!

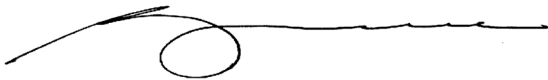
In an effort to raise the profile of John Dickinson and steer viewers to our website, we have retained the services of an artist to create an image that is easily recognizable to all who lay eyes on it. We look forward to seeing this image at various events and publications where history, architecture, landscaping, building restoration etc., are of interest to those in our community.

Copies of the book Delaware’s John Dickinson, The Constant Watchman of Liberty were recently sent to representatives that were interviewed for funding future projects at John Dickinson Plantation. The book prompted interest from several of these representatives in touring the Plantation in the Spring.

The Board of Directors looks forward to continuing our work with the State Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs as they develop plans for improving the public experience while visiting the Mansion and surrounding plantation. Please continue your support in every way you are able: renewing your membership, becoming a donor, encouraging others to join and of course visiting the Mansion.

As always, I thank you for your continued support and engagement with the John Dickinson Mansion. I look forward to hearing from you about any ideas and suggestions and hopefully actually seeing you at the Mansion soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a long horizontal line with a large loop at the beginning and a smaller loop at the end.

Gary W. Gredell  
President