

Museums of the state of Delaware to feature 10 free programs in October 2014

During the month of October 2014, the Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs will be offering 10 special programs at the state of Delaware's museums. A full schedule of events is included below. All programs listed are free and open to the public. For additional information, call 302-744-5055.



Cast of "The Trial of William Penn." The historical-theatre production will be presented at the New Castle Court House Museum on Oct. 25, 2014.

On Saturday, Oct. 25, between 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m., the [New Castle Court House Museum](#), located at 211 Delaware St. in New Castle, will present "William Penn Day," a day-long series of activities commemorating Penn's Oct. 27, 1682 disembarkment at New Castle, his first landing in the New World. Activities will include a re-enactment of the Livery of Seizen ritual in which Penn received possession of New Castle and a 12-mile circle of land surrounding it; "Tea With Mrs. Penn"; a performance by De Blokfluiters recorder/flute ensemble; "The Trial of William Penn," a historical play exploring Penn's trial on religious freedom and the rights of English subjects under the law; and an evening concert of Baroque music by the Immanuel Bach Consort.

On Saturday, Oct. 4 at 2:30 p.m., the [Johnson Victrola Museum](#),

located at 375 S. New St. in Dover, will present "Pioneers in the Music Industry: Emile Berliner," a program featuring Oliver Berliner, grandson of inventor Emile Berliner, who will discuss his grandfather's life, his inventions (including the gramophone) and his major contributions to society.



Emile Berliner, inventor of the disk-record gramophone. Oliver Berliner will be speaking about his grandfather at the Johnson Victrola Museum on Oct. 4, 2014.

Finally, on Saturday, Oct. 11, between 10 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., the [John Dickinson Plantation](#), located at 340 Kitts Hummock Road in Dover, will be alive with music, food, hands-on activities and entertainment during the program "A Day in the Life of the John Dickinson Plantation." Featured performers will be the Swordmasters who will be demonstrating Colonial muskets and rifles, and giving fencing presentations.



Hearth cooking and other Colonial-era activities will be explored in the "Day in the Life of the John Dickinson Plantation" program on Oct. 11, 2014.

Administered by the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs, the [six museums of the State of Delaware](#)—the New Castle Court House Museum, the John Dickinson Plantation, the First State Heritage Park Welcome Center and Galleries, The Old State House, the Johnson Victrola Museum and the

Zwaanendael Museum—tell the story of the First State’s contributions to the history and culture of the United States. Through displays, exhibits and special programs, the museums explore how the state’s distinctive physical environment, in combination with the people who came to live there, gave Delaware an identity that is different from any other place.

Special events, October 2014

Note: Recent program changes are highlighted in brown.

Saturday, Oct. 4 2014

“The Declaration of Independence.” Guided tours focus on the document in which the newly born United States declared its independence from Great Britain, and the Delaware signers who made this one of the most important documents in American history. [First Saturday in the First State](#) program. [The Old State House](#), 25 The Green, Dover. 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-744-5055.

Saturday, Oct. 4, 2014

“An Illegal Activity.” Utilizing the exhibit [“An Illegal Activity: The Underground Railroad in Delaware”](#) as a backdrop, guided tours will explore Delaware’s crucial role in the Underground Railroad and on two Delaware leaders who aided in this “freedom enterprise.” [First Saturday in the First State](#) program. [First State Heritage Park Welcome Center and Galleries](#), Delaware Public Archives building, 121 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Dover. Tours at 10 a.m., Noon and **2 3:30 p.m.** Museum open 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-744-5055.
Note change in program time.

Saturday, Oct. 4, 2014

[River Towns Ride and Festival](#). Festivals in historic New Castle and Delaware City frame a bicycling event between the two cities. Family-oriented festival held from Noon–5 p.m. at the [New Castle Court House Museum](#) and The Green in New Castle will feature music, rides, attractions, games, tours, vendors, craft beers, food and drink. 302-323-4453.

Saturday, Oct. 4, 2014

"His Majesty's Sloop of War DeBraak." Held in conjunction with Lewes' annual [Boast the Coast](#) festival, the event will feature a day-long slate of maritime-history and -archaeology activities including block-and-tackle demonstrations and a 2 p.m. presentation on the DeBraak shipwreck. [Zwaanendael Museum](#), 102 Kings Highway, Lewes. Museum open 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-645-1148.

Saturday, Oct. 4, 2014

"Pioneers in the Music Industry: Emile Berliner." ~~Guided tours explore the first pioneers in the music industry including the inventors of talking machines as well as early recording artists.~~ Oliver Berliner, grandson of inventor Emile Berliner, will discuss his grandfather's life, his inventions (including the gramophone) and his major contributions to society. [First Saturday in the First State](#) program. [Johnson Victrola Museum](#), 375 S. New St., Dover. Program at 2:30 p.m. Museum open 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-744-5055. **Note change in program description and time.**

Saturday, Oct. 11, 2014

"A Day in the Life of the John Dickinson Plantation." Visitors of all ages will enjoy a day of music, food, entertainment and hands-on activities from Colonial trades to hearth cooking in the 18th-century setting of the home of the "Penman of the Revolution." ~~The featured performers will be the Swordmasters demonstrating Colonial muskets and rifles, and giving fencing presentations.~~ [John Dickinson Plantation](#), 340 Kitts Hummock Road, Dover. 10 a.m.–3:30 p.m. 302-739-3277. **Note program addition.**

Friday, Oct. 24, 2014

"Lantern Tours of the Plantation." Programs explore the parties, games, dances and entertainment that would have abounded at the plantation during the nighttime in the 18th century. Activities will also include wagon-ride guided-tours conducted by staff of the [St. Jones Reserve](#) exploring

the nocturnal life of the estuary. [John Dickinson Plantation](#), 340 Kitts Hummock Road, Dover. Programs 6–7 p.m. and 7:30–8:30 p.m. Free admission but, due to space restrictions, reservations are required by calling 302-739-3277.

Saturday, Oct. 25, 2014

William Penn Day. Series of programs commemorating the 332nd anniversary of Penn’s disembarkment at New Castle, his first landing in the New World. Activities at the New Castle Court House and The Green include a re-enactment of the Livery of Seizen ritual in which Penn received possession of New Castle and a 12-mile circle of land surrounding it; “Tea With Mrs. Penn”; a performance by De Blokfluiters recorder/flute ensemble; “The Trial of William Penn,” a historical play exploring Penn’s trial on religious freedom and the rights of English subjects under the law; ~~and an evening concert of Baroque music by the Immanuel Bach Consort. and an evening concert by the University of Delaware Baroque Chamber Ensemble.~~ [New Castle Court House Museum](#), 211 Delaware St., New Castle. 10 a.m.–6:30 p.m. Free admission. 302-323-4453. **Note programming change.**

Saturday, Oct. 25, 2014

“An 18th-Century Sweet Tooth.” Hands-on workshop in which visitors can learn how to create 18th-century sweets and goodies. [John Dickinson Plantation](#), 340 Kitts Hummock Road, Dover. Program 11 a.m.–2 p.m. Museum open 10 a.m.–3:30 p.m. 302-739-3277.

Saturday, Oct. 25, 2014

“Mysteries of History.” Walking tour explores the unusual tombstones of St. Peter’s cemetery in Lewes. [Zwaanendael Museum](#), 102 Kings Highway, Lewes. Tour leaves from the museum at 2 p.m. Museum open 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-645-1148.

Exhibits and displays, October 2014

In addition to special programming, the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs is presenting the following exhibits and displays:

Thru Dec. 7, 2014 Thru ~~July 31, 2014~~

[“An Illegal Activity: The Underground Railroad in Delaware.”](#)

Exhibit explores the First State’s role in the Underground Railroad by showcasing Thomas Garrett and Samuel D. Burris and the actions they took in following their consciences rather than the law. Presented in partnership with the Underground Railroad Coalition of Delaware. [First State Heritage Park Welcome Center and Galleries](#), Delaware Public Archives building, 121 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Dover. Mon.–Fri., 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Sat., 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Sun., 1:30-4:30 p.m. 302-744-5055. **Note changes in closing date.**

Ongoing

[“Delaware and the War of 1812.”](#)Exhibit examines the service and sacrifice of Delawareans of 1812 to 1815, and the important role that the state played in a conflict that helped shaped the development of the United States.[Zwaanendael Museum](#), 102 Kings Highway, Lewes. Tue.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.; Sun., 1:30–4:30 p.m. from April 1–Oct. 31. Wed.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. from Nov. 1–March 31. 302-645-1148.

Ongoing

[“Emeline Hawkins: Her Journey From Slavery to Freedom on the Underground Railroad.”](#) Exhibit chronicles the compelling story of Emeline Hawkins and her family and their 1845 odyssey on the Underground Railroad from slavery in Maryland, through Delaware to freedom in Pennsylvania. [New Castle Court House Museum](#), 211 Delaware St., New Castle. Wed.–Sat., 10 a.m.–3:30 p.m. Sun., 1:30 p.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-323-4453.

Ongoing

[“A Seaborne Citizenry: The DeBraak and Its Atlantic World.”](#)

Exhibit utilizes artifacts recovered from His Majesty's Sloop of War DeBraak, a British warship that sank off the Delaware coast on May 25, 1798 to tell the story of the vessel, its crew and the historical context within which it operated in the Atlantic World of the late 18th century. [Zwaanendael Museum](#), 102 Kings Highway, Lewes. Tue.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.; Sun., 1:30–4:30 p.m. from April 1–Oct. 31. Wed.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. from Nov. 1–March 31. 302-645-1148.

Ongoing

[“Simple Machines.”](#) Exhibit demonstrating the six “simple machines”—incline ramp, screw, wedge, pulley, lever and wheel—that constitute the elementary building blocks of which many more-complicated machines are composed. [John Dickinson Plantation](#), 340 Kitts Hummock Road, Dover. Wed.–Sat., 10 a.m.–3:30 p.m. 302-739-3277.

Ongoing

“Simple Pleasures: Picnic, Play and Dance.” Display of original Edwardian and roaring 20s fashions that reflect the spirit of the liberated “modern” woman as depicted in the Downton Abbey television series. From the collections of the state of Delaware. [The Old State House](#), 25 The Green, Dover. Mon.–Sat., 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Sun., 1:30–4:30 p.m. 302-744-5055.