

Seven programs on Native-American heritage among 20 events at the museums of the state of Delaware during September 2015

(DOVER, Del.—Aug. 12, 2015)—The [Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs](#) will be sponsoring 20 special events during the month of September 2015 at the museums of the state of Delaware. Seven of the events will explore the First State's rich Native-American heritage and culture. A full schedule is included below. With the exception of DeBraak tours, all programs are free and open to the public.



Elected Chief Dennis Coker of the Lenape Indian Tribe of Delaware will be speaking at The Old State House on Sept. 7 and 26, 2015.

According to Nena Todd, site supervisor for the state's downtown Dover museums, September is a time for Native-American people to return to their homelands. Traditionally, the coming of cooler weather provided a signal for native peoples to transition from their summer hunting and fishing grounds to more secure winter lodging. This tradition of seasonal travel continues in today's Native-American communities with September serving as a time when families come together and celebrate their heritage. One of Delaware's best known Native-American celebrations is the annual

[Nanticoke Indian Pow-Wow](#) that will take place this year on Sept. 12 and 13.



Students posing in front of the Harmon School near Millsboro, Del. which served children from the Nanticoke Indian Tribe. Native American education will be explored in the program “Lost and Found: Native American Identity in Delaware’s Public Schools” on Sept. 19, 2015.

Administered by the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs, the [five museums of the state of Delaware](#)—the John Dickinson Plantation, the Johnson Victrola Museum, the New Castle Court House Museum, The Old State House 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. Go to the following for a [comprehensive, long-term calendar of division-sponsored events](#).

Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs special events, September 2015

Thursdays, Sept. 3, 10, 17 and 24, 2015

“Taper Thursdays.” Learn to make your own candle and help the plantation dip 200 candles that John Dickinson would have required from his tenants as part of their leases. [John Dickinson Plantation](#), 340 Kitts Hummock Road, Dover. Program 11 a.m.–2:30 p.m. Museum open 10 a.m.–3:30 p.m. 302-739-3277.

Saturday, Sept. 5 and Monday, Sept. 7, 2015

“Drums, Drums, Drums.” Guided tours explore Victor Talking Machine Company founder E.R. Johnson’s role in making music a fundamental subject in public education and in helping children to become familiar with the most popular musical instruments. In this program, visitors will learn about the significance of drums as both a means of communication and as entertainment, featuring original recordings played on authentic Victor Talking Machines. [Johnson Victrola Museum](#), 375 S. New St., Dover. 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-739-3262.

Saturday, Sept. 5, 2015

“The First People of the First State: A Celebration of Heritage.” Fourth annual celebration featuring the [Lenape Indian Tribe of Delaware](#) as they honor mother earth and Native-American culture with dancing and demonstrations. [The Old State House](#), 25 The Green, Dover. Celebration 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Museum open 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-744-5054.

Monday, Sept. 7, 2015

“Preserving a Delaware Community: The Lenape Indian Tribe of Delaware.” Elected Chief Dennis Coker discusses the past, present and future of central Delaware’s Lenape Indian community including its relationships with the royal family of Sweden, the state of Delaware, and surrounding cultural communities over time. [The Old State House](#), 25 The Green, Dover. Program at 1 p.m. Museum open 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-744-5054.

Wednesday, Sept. 9, 2015

“Marquis de Lafayette.” Historian Gene Pisasale presents a program on the French general who fought in the American Revolution and his participation in the Battle of Brandywine. [New Castle Court House Museum](#), 211 Delaware St., New Castle. 7 p.m. 302-323-4453.

Saturday, Sept. 12, 2015

“The First People of the First State: A Celebration of

Heritage.” Participatory program in which visitors will learn how to play traditional Native American children’s games. [The Old State House](#), 25 The Green, Dover. Games 9 a.m.–Noon. Museum open 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-744-5054.

Saturday, Sept. 12, 2015

“Delaware State Parks: Time Travelers.” Archaeologist John McCarthy will discuss Delaware State Parks’ “Time Travelers” program which provides young people with the hands-on experience of an archaeological excavation. In celebration of the “The First People of the First State,” McCarthy will also discuss some of the significant Native American archaeological sites found within Delaware’s parks. [The Old State House](#), 25 The Green, Dover. Program at 1 p.m. Museum open 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-744-5054.

Saturday, Sept. 12, 2015

Demonstrations by the Thistledown Fiber Arts Guild. Program explores spinning, weaving, knitting and other fabric arts. [John Dickinson Plantation](#), 340 Kitts Hummock Road, Dover. Program 1–3 p.m. Museum open 10 a.m.–3:30 p.m. 302-739-3277.

Mondays, Sept. 14, 21 and 28, 2015

[Lecture/tour of His Majesty’s Sloop DeBraak](#). Explore the history of the DeBraak which was capsized and lost off the Delaware coast on May 25, 1798. Program includes a trip to the hull facility in nearby Cape Henlopen State Park for a tour of the surviving section of the ship’s hull. [Zwaanendael Museum](#), 102 Kings Highway, Lewes. Programs at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Limited seating. Admission \$10 by reservation only through the Shop Delaware website (go to <http://shop.delaware.gov> and click the “Tours” link). For additional information, call 302-645-1148.

Saturday, Sept. 19, 2015

“Lost and Found: Native American Identity in Delaware’s Public Schools.” Panel discussion examines the challenges that Delaware’s Native-American students faced during

segregation and the subsequent integration of the public schools. [The Old State House](#), 25 The Green, Dover. Program at 1 p.m. Museum open 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-744-5054.

Saturday, Sept. 26, 2015

[“Arts in the Estuary.”](#) Experience the St. Jones Estuary through art and history and celebrate National Estuaries Week with local artisans and special hands-on demonstrations. Partnership with the St. Jones Reserve. 10 a.m.–2 p.m. [John Dickinson Plantation](#), 340 Kitts Hummock Road and [St. Jones Reserve](#), 818 Kitts Hummock Road, Dover. 302-739-3277.

Saturday, Sept. 26, 2015

“Smoked, Pickled and Salted for Survival.” Learn how smoked, pickled and salted meats helped stretch food reserves in the winter, and participate in pickling meats with brine and smoking meats in the plantation’s smokehouse. [John Dickinson Plantation](#), 340 Kitts Hummock Road, Dover. Program 11 a.m.–2:30 p.m. Museum open 10 a.m.–3:30 p.m. 302-739-3277.

Saturday, Sept. 26, 2015

“The Lenape Indian Tribe of Delaware.” At 1 p.m., Elected Chief Dennis Coker discusses the progress made by the central Delaware Lenape Indian community. Highlights include overcoming adversity, tribal survival and passing on the cultural legacy to the next generation. At 2 p.m., Dr. Cara Blume will discuss her decades-long research on the Lenape community. [The Old State House](#), 25 The Green, Dover. Museum open 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-744-5054.

Saturday, Sept. 26, 2015

“The Nanticoke.” Lecture by William H. Daisey, chief of the [Nanticoke Indian Tribe](#). [Zwaanendael Museum](#), 102 Kings Highway, Lewes. Program at 2 p.m. Museum open 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Free admission but, due to space restrictions, reservations are required by calling 302-645-1148 no later than Sept. 25, 2015.



Chief William H. Daisey will present the program, "The Nanticoke" on Sept. 26, 2015.

Exhibits and displays, September 2015

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

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. April 1–Oct. 31: Tue.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.; Sun., 1:30–4:30 p.m. Nov. 1–March 31: Wed.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-645-1148.

Ongoing

["Delaware Mourns Lincoln: A Demonstration of Love and Sorrow."](#) Utilizing graphics, clothing and memorabilia, the display explores how Delawareans expressed their deep sorrow upon the death of President Abraham Lincoln on April 15, 1865. 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. 302-744-5054.

Ongoing

["Discovering Delaware's Maritime Past."](#) Display explores the DeBraak, a shipwrecked 18th-century British warship including a photo of the hull recovery, reproductions of items aboard ship, and a model of the vessel. [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

[Sculpture by Charles Parks](#). Display of works by the noted Wilmington artist featuring historical and political figures including a Minute Man, and presidents Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford and George W. Bush. [New Castle Court House Museum](#), 211 Delaware St., New Castle. Mon.–Sat., 10 a.m.–3:30 p.m. Sun., 1:30 p.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-323-4453.



Bust of Richard Nixon by Charles Parks. The work is currently on display at the New Castle Court House Museum.

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. April 1–Oct. 31: Tue.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.; Sun., 1:30–4:30 p.m. Nov. 1–March 31: Wed.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 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

"World War II Through the Lens of William D. Willis." Designed by the Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs, the display features photographs taken in Western Europe from 1943-45. From the collections of the state of Delaware. [Legislative Hall](#), 411 Legislative Ave., Dover. Limited visitation hours; call 302-739-9194 before planning a visit.

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