

Native-American heritage to be spotlighted at the museums of the State of Delaware during September 2017

(DOVER, Del.–Aug. 23, 2017)–The [Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs](#) will be sponsoring 23 special events during the month of September 2017 at the museums of the State of Delaware. Eight of the programs will explore the First State’s rich Native-American heritage and culture. A full schedule is included below. Except where noted, admission is free and open to the public.



Lenape fancy dancer.
The Lenape Indian Tribe of Delaware will be celebrating its heritage with drums, songs and dancing in The Old State House on Sept. 2, 2017.

According to Nena Todd, site supervisor for the state’s downtown Dover museums, “September is a time for Native-American people to gather in their homelands. Traditionally, the coming of cooler weather provided a signal for native peoples to transition from a summer of hunting and fishing to more secure winter lodgings.” This tradition of seasonal gathering continues in today’s Native-American communities with September serving as a time when families come together to honor their heritage with events such as the “First People of the First State: 12,000 Years, 300 Years and One Year” that will be held in The Old State House and on the Dover Green on

Sept. 2, 2017.

Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs special events, September 2017

Saturday, Sept. 2, 2017

“First People of the First State: 12,000 Years, 300 Years and One Year.” Seventh annual event featuring the [Lenape Indian Tribe of Delaware](#) as they celebrate their heritage and the first anniversary of their formal recognition as a tribe by the State of Delaware. Programs feature singing, drumming, dancing and demonstrations. [First Saturday in the First State](#) program. [The Old State House](#), 25 The Green, Dover. Grand entry at Noon. Programs 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Museum open 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Free admission. 302-744-5054. **NOTE: Due to inclement weather, the event venue has been moved from the Dover Green to The Old State House.**

Saturday, Sept 2 and Monday, Sept. 4, 2017

“Johnson Victrola Museum’s 50th Anniversary Celebration: A Dog’s Tale.” Guided tours, entitled “Man’s Best Friend,” explore one of the most celebrated canines in the world—Nipper, the dog who adorns the Victor trademark, “His Masters Voice.” Programs will be accompanied by 78-rpm records played on authentic Victor Talking Machines. Part of a [series of programs](#) celebrating the museum’s creation in 1967. [Johnson Victrola Museum](#), 375 S. New St., Dover. 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-739-3262.



Display of “Nipper” salt and pepper shakers at the Johnson Victrola Museum. The dog who adorned the Victor Talking Machine Company’s “His

Master's Voice"
trademark will be
featured in
programs on Sept. 2
and 4, 2017.

Monday, Sept. 4, 2017

Labor Day. All museums of the State of Delaware will be open: The [Johnson Victrola Museum](#) and [The Old State House](#), open 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m.; the [John Dickinson Plantation](#), [New Castle Court House Museum](#) and the [Zwaanendael Museum](#), open 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-744-5054.

Monday, Sept. 4, 2017

"A Test of Time: What Does State Recognition Mean?" Elected Chief Dennis Coker will discuss the long process that led to the [Lenape Indian Tribe of Delaware's](#) official status as a state-recognized Indian community. [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.

Wednesdays, Sept. 6, 13, 20 and 27, 2017

"[Lost Off Lewes: The British Warship DeBraak](#)." Special tour explores the 18th-century history, artifacts and the surviving hull section of this shipwreck. [Zwaanendael Museum](#), 102 Kings Highway, Lewes. 9 a.m. Limited seating. Admission \$10 (cash or check only). For reservations, e-mail hca_zmevents@delaware.gov or call 302-645-1148.

Saturday, Sept. 9, 2017

"[New Castle: Three Forts, One Community](#)." Opening of a new exhibit that examines the 17th-century struggle for control of New Castle by the Dutch, Swedes and English, and the strongholds that they built to maintain their power. All-day activities include Dutch and Swedish re-enactors and encampments; museum and exhibit tours; Swedish craft-activities for children; a walking tour of the site of [Fort Casimir](#); on-board tours of the [Kalmar Nyckel](#), a replica of

one of the ships that brought the first Swedish settlers to what is now Delaware; and Dutch-, Swedish- and English-style refreshments. [New Castle Court House Museum](#), 211 Delaware St., New Castle. 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Free except \$5 for Kalmar Nyckel tours. 302-323-4453.



The Kalmar Nyckel will be docked in New Castle for on-board tours on Sept. 9, 2017 as part of the festivities surrounding the opening of the exhibit, “New Castle: Three Forts, One Community.”

Saturday, Sept. 9, 2017

“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. On The Green and in [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. 9, 2017

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.–4:30 p.m. 302-739-3277.

Saturday, Sept. 9, 2017

“Hunting for Hudson: A Quest to Understand the Explorer and his Connection to the Delaware Bay.” Lecture by historic-site interpreter Kaitlyn Dykes. Part one of “Global to Local: International Events and the First State,” a six-part lecture series exploring the international events that shaped the First State. [Zwaanendael Museum](#), 102 Kings Highway, Lewes. Program at 2 p.m. on the museum’s 2nd floor (entry via staircase; no elevator). Museum open 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Free admission but, due to space restrictions, reservations for the lecture are required by calling 302-645-1148 no later than Sept. 8, 2017.

Saturdays, Sept. 16, 23 and 30, 2017

“Johnson Victrola Museum’s 50th Anniversary Celebration.” Guided tours explore the museum and its collections during the [golden anniversary](#) of its creation in 1967, accompanied by 78-rpm records 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. 16, 2017

[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 11:30 a.m.–5 p.m. at the [New Castle Court House Museum](#) and The Green in New Castle will feature food and craft beer; music; children’s games, amusements and crafts; face painting; hay rides; and merchant and craft vendors. Free shuttle between towns. 302-323-4453.

Saturday, Sept. 16, 2017

“Reflections From a Tribal Chief.” Tribal member and former Elected Chief Dick “Quiet Thunder” Gilbert speaks about his life, his community and his challenges growing up as a Lenape. [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.



Dick "Quiet
Thunder" Gilbert
will speak at The
Old State House on
Sept. 16, 2017.

Saturday, Sept. 23, 2017

"The Lenape Indian Tribe Today." In an open forum, Lenape community members discuss contemporary issues facing Indian communities today and how that impacts other Delaware communities. [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. 23, 2017

"Nanticoke." Lecture by Sterling Street, coordinator for the Nanticoke Indian Museum in Millsboro, Del. [Zwaanendael Museum](#), 102 Kings Highway, Lewes. Program at 2 p.m. on the museum's 2nd floor (entry via staircase; no elevator). Museum open 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Free admission but, due to space restrictions, reservations for the lecture are required by calling 302-645-1148 no later than Sept. 22, 2017.

Saturday, Sept. 30, 2017

"Native Ways." Demonstrations and activities, presented by archeologists, modern practitioners and other experts, showcase ancient technologies and lifeways from Delaware spanning over 14,000 years. On The Green in front of [The Old State House](#), Dover. 10 a.m.–3 p.m. 302-744-5054.

Saturday, Sept. 30, 2017

"How Do You Know if You're Indian?: Expressing Indian Identity." Presentation by archeologist and ethnographer Dr. Cara Blume focuses on the use of archival and other research techniques to identify American Indian heritage. [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. 30, 2017

“A Dead Whale or a Stove Boat: The Early-American Whaling Industry.” Lecture by historic-site interpreter Andrew Lyter. Part two of “Global to Local: International Events and the First State,” a six-part lecture series exploring the international events that shaped the First State. Held in conjunction with Lewes’ annual [Boast the Coast](#) festival, the event will also feature a day-long slate of historical games and maritime-history activities. [Zwaanendael Museum](#), 102 Kings Highway, Lewes. Program at 2 p.m. on the museum’s 2nd floor (entry via staircase; no elevator). Museum open 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Free admission but, due to space restrictions, reservations for the lecture are required by calling 302-645-1148 no later than Sept. 29, 2017.

Saturday, Sept. 30, 2017

[National Estuaries Day](#) Campfire Program. Presented in partnership with the [St. Jones Reserve](#). [John Dickinson Plantation](#), 340 Kitts Hummock Road, Dover. 6–8 p.m. Admission free but reservations required by calling the St. Jones Reserve at 302-739-6377.



Autumnal scene at the John Dickinson Plantation which will host the National Estuaries Day Campfire Program on Sept. 30, 2017.

Exhibits and displays, September 2017

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

Opening Sept. 9, 2017

[“New Castle: Three Forts, One Community.”](#) Exhibit examines the 17th-century struggle for control of New Castle by the

Dutch, Swedes and English, and the strongholds that they built to maintain their power. [New Castle Court House Museum](#), 211 Delaware St., New Castle. Tue.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Sun., 1:30 p.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-323-4453.

Thru Dec. 31, 2017

[“Rose Color to Gold to Glowing Red: Orville and Ethel Peets in Paris 1913-1914.”](#) Exhibit featuring paintings and painting materials used by the noted Delaware artists Orville Houghton Peets and Ethel Canby Peets. [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

[“Drawing America to Victory: The Persuasive Power of the Arts in World War I.”](#) Online exhibit revolves around 27 World War I posters from the collections of the State of Delaware.

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. 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

[“Five Stories.”](#) Display explores the varied lives of people who lived on the plantation including Dickinson family members, tenant farmers, tradesmen, free blacks, indentured servants and enslaved individuals. [John Dickinson Plantation Welcome Center](#), 340 Kitts Hummock Road, Dover. April 1–Sept. 30: Tue.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.; Sun., 1:30–4:30 p.m. Oct. 1–March 31: Tue.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-739-3277.

Ongoing

["The Old State House: A True Restoration 1976-2016."](#) Display explores preservation work that has been conducted since Delaware's first state capitol building was restored to its original appearance in 1976. 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

["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.



Artistic rendition of the capsizing of the DeBraak by Peggy Kane, 1990. Tours and exhibits at the Zwaanendael Museum explore the fate of this British warship that sank off Cape Henlopen in 1798.

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. Tue.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Sun., 1:30 p.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-323-4453.

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. April 1–Sept. 30: Tue.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.; Sun., 1:30–4:30 p.m. Oct. 1–March 31: Tue.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-739-3277.

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 tours, exhibits, school programs and hands-on activities, the museums shine a spotlight on Delaware’s unique history and the diverse people who came to live there. The museums are [accredited by the American Alliance of Museums](#). The New Castle Court House Museum and the John Dickinson Plantation are partner sites of the [First State National Historical Park](#). The Old State House is located on the Dover Green, another partner site of the park.

Go to the following for a [comprehensive, long-term calendar of division-sponsored events](#).



-End-

Contact:

Jim Yurasek

Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs

Phone: 302-736-7413

E-mail: Jim.Yurasek@delaware.gov

Web: <http://history.delaware.gov>