

# Zwaanendael Maritime Celebration: “A Sailor’s Life for Me” in Lewes, Del. over the 2018 Memorial Day weekend



Historical interpreters at the 2017 Zwaanendael maritime celebration. Interpreters will again be performing at this year’s event that will take place from May 25 to 27, 2018.

(DOVER, Del.–May 10, 2018)–Adults and children alike will have an opportunity to experience seafaring lives of adventure, romance, excitement and hardships, and to honor mariners who made the ultimate sacrifice, during the Zwaanendael Museum’s seventh annual maritime celebration, “A Sailor’s Life for Me,” that will take place at a variety of downtown Lewes, Del. locations from Friday to Sunday, May 25 to 27, 2018. A complete schedule of events is included below. Except where indicated, admission is free and open to the public. For additional information, call 302-645-1148

## 2018 Zwaanendael Maritime Celebration: “A Sailor’s Life for Me”

**Friday, May 25, 2018**

- **Cape Henlopen cruise, 4:30–6 p.m.**

On the 220th anniversary of the sinking of [His Majesty’s Sloop DeBraak](#), enjoy a cruise of the waters off Cape Henlopen conducted by the [Cape Water Taxi](#). Admission \$24 for adults, \$23 for seniors and \$17 for children age 11 or younger. For reservations, go to <https://bit.ly/2Has95K>

**Saturday, May 26, 2018**

**Zwaanendael Museum, 102 Kings Highway, Lewes**

- **Displays and demonstrations on local maritime history, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.**

Presented by the [Delaware River and Bay Lighthouse Foundation](#); [Lightship Overfalls/Overfalls Foundation](#) and the [Marine Education, Research and Rehabilitation Institute](#) (MERR)

**Canal Front Park, 211 Front St., Lewes**

- **Living-history encampment, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.**

Historical re-enactors will portray sailors and mariners from throughout history. Activities include displays, demonstrations and military drills

- **Kayak rentals through [Quest Adventures](#), 9 a.m.–Noon**

Special Zwaanendael Maritime Celebration rates

**Lewes Life-Saving Station, 2 Shipcarpenter St., Lewes**

- **Tours of the station, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.**

Conducted by interpreters from the Lewes Historical Society

- **“A Sailor’s Life for Me” lecture series**

–“Unsung Heroes and Heroines of the U.S. Life-Saving Service,” 11 a.m.

Presented by the Lewes Historical Society

–“Lightship History,” 1 p.m.

Presented by Wayne Kirklin of the Overfalls Foundation

–“Delaware’s Maritime Heroes,” 3 p.m.

Presented by Bill Manthorpe



Lewes Life-Saving Station  
Boathouse

**Lightship Overfalls, 219 Pilottown Road, Lewes (next to Canal Front Park)**

- **Tours and sound-pipe demonstrations, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.**

Tour this National Historic Landmark that was the last lightship built by the United States Lighthouse Service and hear demonstrations on the use of sound pipes which were used by the Overfalls to produce distinct and powerfully audible warnings during the presence of thick fog or mist. Last tour at 3:30 p.m. Admission \$5 for adults and children over 14 years of age



**Lightship Overfalls**

**Ryves Holt House, 218, Second St., Lewes**

- **Lewes walking tours, Noon and 2 p.m.**

Tour the First Town in the First State with an interpreter from the Lewes Historical Society. Purchase tickets and begin tour at Ryves Holt House. Tickets \$10 per person

**Sunday, May 27, 2018**

**Zwaanendael Museum, 102 Kings Highway, Lewes**

- **Hull tour of His Majesty's Sloop DeBraak, Noon**

Participants will meet at the Zwaanendael Museum where they will board a van that will transport them to an offsite conservation facility for a guided tour of the surviving hull section of the DeBraak which sank off the Delaware coast on May 25, 1798. Admission is free, but due to limited seating, reservations are required by calling 302-645-1148 no later than Friday, May 18, 2018. Tour limited to the first 12 people with reservations. Museum open 1:30–4:30 p.m.



Artistic rendition of the  
capsizing of the DeBraak by  
Peggy Kane, 1990

- **Wreath-laying ceremony honoring crew members of the DeBraak, apx. 3 p.m.**

Accompanied by a bagpiper, the ceremony will take place at the DeBraak Memorial located on the museum grounds. The site is believed to contain the remains of several crew members who lost their lives in the sinking of the DeBraak

### **Canal Front Park, 211 Front St., Lewes**

- **Living-history encampment, 9 a.m.–1 p.m.**

Historical re-enactors will portray sailors and mariners from throughout history. Activities include displays and demonstrations

### **Saint Peter's Episcopal Church cemetery, 211 Mulberry St., Lewes**

- **Wreath-laying ceremony at the tomb of James Drew, captain of the DeBraak, 2:30 p.m.**

Accompanied by a bagpiper, participants will lay a wreath on Capt. Drew's grave, followed by a walk to the Zwaanendael Museum for a wreath-laying ceremony honoring other crew members of the DeBraak

### **Lightship Overfalls, 219 Pilottown Road, Lewes (next to Canal Front Park)**

- **Tours and sound-pipe demonstrations, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.**

Tour this National Historic Landmark that was the last lightship built by the United States Lighthouse Service and hear demonstrations on the use of sound pipes which were used by the Overfalls to produce distinct and powerfully audible warnings during the presence of thick fog or mist. Last tour at 3:30 p.m. Admission \$5 for

adults and children over 14 years of age

The Zwaanendael Museum was built in 1931 to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the state's first European colony, Swanendael, established by the Dutch along Hoorn Kill (present-day Lewes-Rehoboth Canal) in 1631. Designed by E. William Martin (architect of Legislative Hall and the Hall of Records in Dover), the museum is modeled after the town hall in Hoorn, the Netherlands, and features a stepped facade gable with carved stonework and decorated shutters. The museum's exhibits and presentations provide a showcase for Lewes-area maritime, military and social history.



### Zwaanendael Museum

*The Zwaanendael Museum is administered by the [Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs](#), an agency of the State of Delaware. The division enhances Delaware's quality of life by preserving the state's unique historical heritage, fostering community stability and economic vitality and providing educational programs and assistance to the general public on Delaware history and heritage. The division's diverse array of services includes operation of five museums which are [accredited by the American Alliance of Museums](#), administration of the State Historic Preservation Office, conservation of the state's archaeological and historic-objects collections, operation of a conference center and management of historic properties across the state. Primary funding for division programs and services is provided by annual appropriations from the Delaware General Assembly and grants from the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, a federal agency. However, the contents and opinions expressed in the division's programs and services do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the Department of the Interior.*



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