

Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs to sponsor 11 special events during June 2018

(DOVER, Del.–May 23, 2018)–During the month of June 2018, the Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs will be sponsoring 11 special programs at sites across the state. A full schedule is included below. Except where noted, all programs are free and open to the public.



Thomas Sully's portraits of commodores Jacob Jones (left) and Thomas McDonough, two Delaware heroes of the War of 1812, on display in The Old State House. On June 2, 2018, the museum will present "Change of Command," a historical-theater production exploring the true story of the transfer of command of the USS Constitution (Old Ironsides) from Jones to McDonough. On June 9, Sully's paintings, as well as the museum's portrait of George Washington by Denis A. Volozan, will be explored in the program, "Artists at The Old State House."

Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs special events, June 2018

Saturday, June 2, 2018

"Change of Command." Historical-theater production set at the time when command of the USS Constitution (Old Ironsides) was transferred between two Delaware heroes of the War of 1812—from Commodore Jacob Jones to Commodore Thomas McDonough. [First Saturday in the First State](#) program.

[The Old State House](#), 25 The Green, Dover. Performance at 1 p.m. Museum open 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Free admission but, due to space restrictions, reservations are required by calling 302-744-5054.

Saturday, June 2, 2018

“Turn of the Century Inventors.” Guided tours will explore late-19th- and early-20th-century inventors who revolutionized American society including Edison, Ford, Tesla, Alexander Graham Bell, E.R. Johnson and Emile Berliner. [First Saturday in the First State](#) program. [Johnson Victrola Museum](#), 375 S. New St., Dover. 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-739-3262.

Friday and Saturday, June 8 and 9, 2018

[Separation Day](#). Celebration marking the 241st anniversary of Delaware’s separation from Great Britain and Pennsylvania and the formation of the Delaware State. Event includes free activities at the [New Castle Court House Museum](#). Admission charge at other venues. Downtown New Castle. Friday, 6–9:30 p.m. Saturday, 11 a.m.–10 p.m. 302-323-4453 or 302-322-9801.

Saturday, June 9, 2018

“Artists at the Old State House.” Presentation by historic-site interpreter Valerie Kauffman explores oil paintings by Denis Alexandre Volozan and Thomas Sully that are exhibited in The Old State House and the historical context in which they were created. [The Old State House](#), 25 The Green, Dover. Programs at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Museum open 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-744-5054.

Saturday, June 9, 2018

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.

Thursdays, June 14, 21 and 28, 2018

[“Lost Off Lewes: The British Warship DeBraak.”](#) Special tour explores the history, artifacts and surviving hull section of this 18th-century 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, June 16, 2018

“Dickinson Dyes.” Program showcases how copper pots, fire and 18th-century techniques were used to dye fabric at the estate of the “Penman of the Revolution.” [John Dickinson Plantation](#), 340 Kitts Hummock Road, Dover. Program 11 a.m.–3 p.m. Museum open 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-739-3277.



Dyeing wool at the
John Dickinson
Plantation.

Eighteenth-century
techniques used to
dye fabric will be
explored at the
museum on June 16,
2018.

Saturday, June 30, 2018

[“Lost Off Lewes: The British Warship DeBraak.”](#) Special tour explores the history, artifacts and surviving hull section of this 18th-century shipwreck. [Zwaanendael Museum](#), 102 Kings Highway, Lewes. 5 p.m. Limited seating. Admission \$10 (cash or check only). For reservations, e-mail hca_zmevents@delaware.gov or call 302-645-1148.

Exhibits and displays, June 2018

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

displays. Admission is free and open to the public:

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

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

Ongoing

[“Letters From a Farmer in Pennsylvania.”](#) Online exhibit explores the life of Founding Father John Dickinson on the 250th anniversary of the publication of his essays that described Colonial American grievances with the British government.

Ongoing

[“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.



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

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

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

[“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. Nov. 1–March 31: Wed.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. April 1–Oct. 31: Tue.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.; Sun., 1:30–4:30 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. Oct. 1–March 31: Tue.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. April 1–Sept. 30: Tue.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.; Sun., 1:30–4:30 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](#).



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