

# Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs to sponsor seven special events during January 2020

(DOVER, Del.–Dec. 18, 2019)–During the month of January 2020, the [Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs](#) will be sponsoring seven special events at the museums of the State of Delaware. A full schedule is included below. All programs are free and open to the public.

## Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs special events, January 2020

### Tuesday, Dec. 31, 2019

**New Year's Eve.** The following museums of the State of Delaware will be open: [The Old State House](#), open 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m.; the [John Dickinson Plantation](#) and [New Castle Court House Museum](#), open 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. The [Johnson Victrola Museum](#) and the [Zwaanendael Museum](#), closed.

### Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2020

**New Year's Day.** All 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](#)) will be closed. 302-744-5054.

### Saturday, Jan. 4, 2020

**“Dreaming of Dover: William Penn and the Creation of Our City.”** Guided tours focus on William Penn’s role in founding the city of Dover dating back to 1683. [First Saturday in the First State](#) program. [The Old State House](#), 25 The Green, Dover. 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-744-5054.



The Dover Green, a public area designated by William Penn in 1683. The history of The Green will be explored as part of the program “Dreaming of Dover: William Penn and the Creation of Our City” on Jan. 4, 2020 at The Old State House.

### **Saturday, Jan. 4, 2020**

**“Dreams of a Victor.”** Guided tours highlight the life and times of Eldridge Reeves Johnson, founder of the Victor Talking Machine Company. Visitors will learn how a humble machinist from Delaware created one of the most successful companies in the 20th century accompanied by 78-rpm records played on authentic Victor Talking Machines. [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, Jan. 10, 2020**

**Concert by CoroAllegro.** [Choral ensemble](#) presented in partnership with the [Delaware Friends of Folk](#) and the [First State Heritage Park](#). [The Old State House](#), 25 The Green, Dover. 7:30 p.m. 302-744-5054.

### **Saturday, Jan. 11, 2020**

**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, Jan. 18, 2020**

**“Black Footprints on White Sands: Historic African American Beaches and Resorts.”** Program on the beaches and resorts that African Americans could visit without the fear of discrimination or violence during the late-19th century. Presented by Chase Jackson, program and grants manager at the [Bayshore Center at Bivalve](#), home of News Jersey’s tall

ship A.J. Meerwald. [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 Jan. 17, 2020.

**Monday, Jan. 20, 2020**

**Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day.** The following 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 following will be closed: The [John Dickinson Plantation](#), the [New Castle Court House Museum](#) and the [Zwaanendael Museum](#)). 302-744-5054.

**Monday, Jan. 20, 2020**

**“Courage and Freedom.”** In commemoration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, guided tours will focus on three compelling stories of courageous Delawareans whose fight for freedom and equality began at The Old State House. [The Old State House](#), 25 The Green, Dover. 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-744-5054.

**Monday, Jan. 20, 2020**

**“The Struggle.”** In commemoration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, guided tours focus on African-American vocalists and Civil Rights activists Marian Anderson and Paul Robeson, accompanied by 78-rpm recordings of those artists played on authentic Victor Talking Machines. [Johnson Victrola Museum](#), 375 S. New St., Dover. 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-739-3262.



The lives and careers of Marian Anderson and Paul Robeson will be explored in the program, “The Struggle,” at the Johnson Victrola Museum on Jan. 20, 2020.

## Exhibits and displays, January 2020

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

#### [“Delaware Railroads: Elegant Travel and Timely Transport.”](#)

Exhibit explores the history of rail travel and transport in the First State emphasizing the New Castle and Frenchtown Railroad (1832), the Delaware Railroad (1852), the Junction and Breakwater Railroad (1857) and the Queen Anne’s Railroad (1896). [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.



Postcard depicting the Lewes, Del. railroad station. From the exhibit “Delaware Railroads: Elegant Travel and Timely Transport”

### 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 and 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 permanent capitol building in Dover 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**

**[“The Path to Freedom: A History of the Underground Railroad in Delaware.”](#)** Exhibit explores Delaware’s role in the clandestine network that transported American slaves to freedom including the true journey of the Hawkins family from bondage in Maryland, through Delaware, to freedom in Pennsylvania. Part II of the display explores some of the challenges faced by Black Delawareans after the Civil War, and showcases Delaware trailblazers who helped break racial and gender barriers. [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. Free admission. 302-323-4453.



Image from The Path to  
Freedom A History of the  
Underground Railroad in  
Delaware

### 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.”](#) Display 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.



Mansion house at the John  
Dickinson Plantation

### Ongoing

[“When Janie Comes Marching Home: Women’s Fight to Serve.”](#) Display explores the participation of women in America’s

armed conflicts from the Revolutionary War to the present, and their fight to be allowed to serve their country during wartime. [Legislative Hall](#), 411 Legislative Ave., Dover. Mon.–Fri., 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Free admission but passage through security checkpoint required. 302-744-4114.

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](#).

*The Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs is 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. 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.*



**-End-**

**Contact:**

Jim Yurasek

Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs

Phone: 302-739-7787

E-mail: [Jim.Yurasek@delaware.gov](mailto:Jim.Yurasek@delaware.gov)

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