



DELAWARE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

From Archives to Artifacts: History you Can Use
Educator Resources from the Delaware Historical Society

About the Delaware Historical Society

A statewide, private nonprofit organization.

Promotes exploring, preserving, and sharing Delaware history to educate, inspire, and empower people and communities.

Nine historic buildings:

- Delaware History Museum & Mitchell Center for African American Heritage
- George Read II House & Gardens in historic New Castle
- Research Library & Archives

Over 3 million collections representing “Every person Delaware”



Delaware History Museum

Discover Delaware



- Thematic look at Delaware history.
- Objects tell stories.
- Delaware is a microcosm of the United States - whatever happened in America, has happened in Delaware in some way.
- Self-guided with Museum Ambassadors available guidance and questions. (8th grade and older)
- Ask me about curated field trip experiences.

Mitchell Center for African American Heritage Journey to Freedom



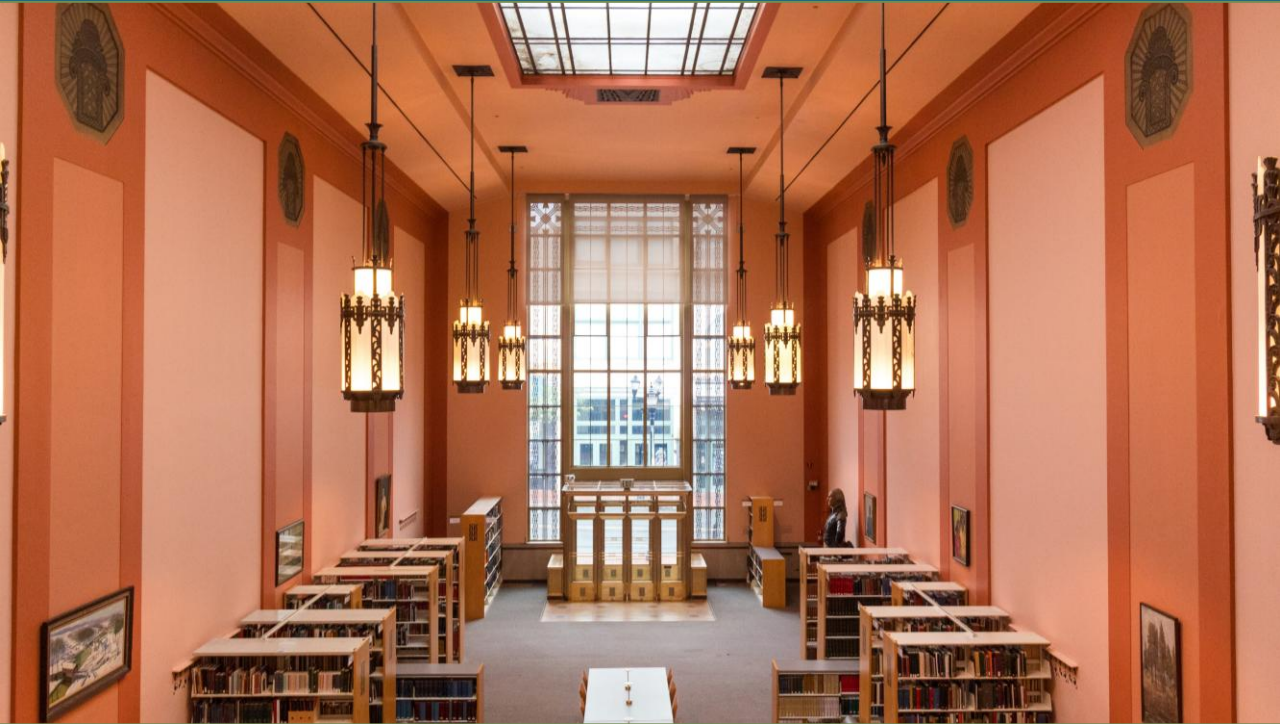
- African American Experience from 1639 to present.
- Chronological.
- Goal is to show both the struggles and achievements of the African American experience in Delaware and to show the contrast between the nation's ideals and the realities of the African American experience.
- Guided tour for 8th grade and older.
- Ask me about curated field trip experiences.

Read House & Gardens



- Unseen labor that enabled extravagant lifestyles.
- Preservation of American values through aesthetics.
- Explore the Read House and use primary sources like architecture, artifacts, and documents to draw conclusions about daily life, a budding new nation, and what we include and leave out of our history.
- Ambassador guided tours.

Research Library & Archives



- Unique manuscript materials, including letters, diaries, family papers, business and organizational records.
- Over half a million images, including rare and early photographs, postcards, prints, and drawings.
- Delaware newspapers dating back to the 1790s.
- Hundreds of maps, atlases, and deeds from the 17th century to the present.
- A growing collection of African Americana.
- Ask me about curated field trip experiences for teachers and students.

Why Teach Local History



- Reveals how societal changes impacted the lives of ordinary people.
- Develops a sense of cultural identity, allowing us to appreciate the traditions, customs, and values that have shaped our community over time.
- Instills a sense of pride in our community's achievements and contributions to society. Fosters a sense of belonging and unity among residents.
- Learning about the struggles, triumphs, and innovations of past generations can inspire individuals to overcome obstacles, pursue their goals, and contribute positively to society.
- May not be reflected in the history books.
- **Using primary sources related to local history supports a deeper understanding of historical topics, enhanced critical thinking, and a more engaging learning experience.**



DELAWARE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Accessing Primary Sources



<https://digital.dehistory.org/>

Accessing Primary Sources Digital Collections



<https://dehistory.org/collections/search-collections/>

Accessing Primary Sources Archives and Library

Search the Delaware Historical Society Archives

Keyword ▼ 🔍 Search

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Found 285 record(s)

1 2 3 4 5 6 →						
TITLE	DATES	CREATOR		RECORD LEVEL	HIERARCHY	
<input type="checkbox"/> Allen McLane Photostats	1775-1821	McLane, Allen, 1743-1829		collection		
<input type="checkbox"/> Ann Thomson Letter	c. 1824	Thomson, Ann, d. 1844		collection		
<input type="checkbox"/> Bill Frank Papers	1800s-late 1900s	Frank, Bill, 1905-1989		collection		
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue Hen's Chicken Collection	1864	Rodney, Thomas M., 1800-1874		collection		
<input type="checkbox"/> Budd Family Papers	1756-1886	Davis, Isaac, 1765-1856		collection		
<input type="checkbox"/> Caesar A. Rodney Letters	1795-1816	Rodney, C. A. (Caesar Augustus)		collection		
<input type="checkbox"/> Caesar Rodney Equestrian Statue Association	1915-1931	Caesar Rodney Equestrian Statue Association		collection		
<input type="checkbox"/> Caesar Rodney Letters	1769-1780	Rodney, Caesar		collection		
<input type="checkbox"/> Caleb P. Bennett Papers	1781-1836	Bennett, Caleb P., 1758-1836		collection		
<input type="checkbox"/> Colonel Allan Thomson Papers	1769-1843	Thomson, Allan, 1788-1883		collection		
<input type="checkbox"/> Colonel Allen McLane Papers	1776-1819	McLane, Allen, 1746-1829		collection		
<input type="checkbox"/> DAR Papers	ca. 1776-1925	Daughters of the American Revolution, Daughters of the American Revolution. Caesar Rodney Chapter (Wilmington, Del.)		collection		
<input type="checkbox"/> DAR, Caesar Rodney Chapter Manuscript Book	1895	Daughters of the American Revolution. Caesar Rodney Chapter (Wilmington, Del.)		collection		
<input type="checkbox"/> Dorman Delawareana	1717-1946	Dorman, Charles G.		collection		
<input type="checkbox"/> George Alfred Townsend Collection	1861-1954	Townsend, George Alfred, 1841-1914		collection		
<input type="checkbox"/> George Washington Correspondence	1777-1794	Washington, George, 1732-1799		collection		

Archives Catalog

manuscripts, personal, organizational, and business records, photographs, and other images

[Clear Results](#)

Limit by Subject

- ☐ American Revolution (33)
- ☐ Revolutionary War (26)
- ☐ American Revolution -- Delaware (6)
- ☐ Biography -- Patriots (4)
- ☐ Biography -- Revolutionary War (4)
- ☐ British Army - American Revolution (4)
- ☐ Founding Fathers (4)
- ☐ Founding Fathers -- Revolutionary War (4)
- ☐ Revolutionary War -- Delaware (4)
- ☐ Battles - Revolutionary War (3)

Limit by Author

- ☐ Burgoyne, Bruce E. (2)
- ☐ Coleman, John M. (2)
- ☐ Hancock, Harold Bell, 1913-1987. (2)
- ☐ Munroe, John A., 1914- (2)
- ☐ Anderson, James Hall (1)
- ☐ Baker, Henry Moore, 1841-1912. (1)
- ☐ Ball, Frances S.T. (1)
- ☐ Banning, Mrs. Henry G. (1)
- ☐ Barnes, Lucy Hazen (1)
- ☐ Barnes, Timothy M. (1)

Limit by Material Type

- ☐ Language material (105)
- ☐ Cartographic material (3)
- ☐ Not Applicable (3)
- ☐ Manuscript language material (2)
- ☐ Manuscript cartographic material (1)

| All | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K | L | M | N | O | P | Q | R | S | T | U | V | W | X | Y | Z |



Print



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Submit Request

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[1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [4](#) [↔](#)

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Abstract of graves of revolutionary patriots
Call Number (LC) CS63 .H36 2007
Publisher MD: Heritage Books
Year 2007 |
| 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Quaker constitutionalism and the political thought of John Dickinson
Call Number (LC) F163.1 .D5 .C16
Publisher Cambridge ; New York : Cambridge University Press
Year 2009 |
| 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Unlikely general : "Mad" Anthony Wayne and the battle for America
Call Number (LC) F158 .W1 .S8
Publisher New Haven : Yale University Press
Year 2018 |
| 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Unlikely general : "Mad" Anthony Wayne and the battle for America
Call Number (LC) F158 .W1 .S8
Publisher New Haven : Yale University Press
Year ©2018 |
| 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> | The American Revolution : written in the style of ancient history : in two volumes.
Call Number RBK HIS(US) .R45
Publisher Philadelphia : Jones, Hoff & Derrick : Jacob Johnson & Co.
Year 1793-1794 |
| 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> | British maps of the American Revolution : a guide to an exhibit in the William L. Clements Library.
Call Number PAM E208.1 .B86
Publisher Ann Arbor, Mich. : William L. Clements Library
Year 1936 |

Library Catalog

books, rare books, serials, newspapers, pamphlets, and maps

Pro Tips:

- Talk to us (as early as possible), and make sure to identify yourself as an educator-we're here to help!
- Find the sweet spot between overly broad topics and those that are too specific.
- Be flexible and creative with keyword searches.
- Don't just focus on one search portal-our research tools are meant to complement one another!
- If you don't find something in our online catalogs, let us know-it may be time for an in-person visit!

Revolutionary War Resource Guide Coming Soon

- Downloadable resource.
- Will detail primary and secondary sources on the Revolutionary War in Delaware available from the historical society.

Accessing Primary Sources

How Else Can the Delaware Historical Society Help You?

TO THE Delaware Pilots.

WE took the Pleasure, some Days since, of kindly admonishing you *to do your Duty*; if perchance you should meet with the (*Tea,*) SHIP POLLY, CAPTAIN AYRES; a THREE DECKER which is hourly expected,

We have now to add, that Matters ripen fast here; and that *much is expected from those Lads who meet with the Tea Ship*.----There is some Talk of A HANDSOME REWARD FOR THE PILOT WHO GIVES THE FIRST GOOD ACCOUNT OF HER.----How that may be, we cannot *for certain* determine; But ALL agree, that TAR and FEATHERS will be his Portion, who pilots her into this Harbour. And we will answer for ourselves, that, whoever is committed to us, as an Offender against the Rights of *America*, will experience the utmost Exertion of our Abilities; as

THE COMMITTEE FOR TARRING AND FEATHERING.

P. S. We expect you will furnish yourselves with Copies of the foregoing and following Letter; which are printed for this Purpose, that the Pilot who meets with Captain *Ayres* may favor him with a Sight of them,

Committee of Tarring and Feathering.

TO
Capt. AYRES,

Of the SHIP POLLY, on a Voyage from London to Philadelphia.



Educator Resources

- Field Trips
- Primary Source/Enrichment Packets
- Lesson Plans
- Videos
- Recorded Teacher Workshops
- Access to Digital Collections
- Delaware History Day
- Primary Source Sets – COMING SOON
- Traveling Trunks – COMING SOON
- Ask me about curated field trip experiences



Field Trips Grades 1 – 12

Onsite

- First People in the First State (1-4)
- Frontier Delaware (3-4)
- **Choosing Independence, Fighting for Freedom (4)**
- Underground Railroad in Delaware (4-8)
- North vs. South in Delaware (8)
- Citizen Activist (7-12)
- Ahoy Matey: Pirates in Delaware (K-3)
- African American Heroes in Delaware (2-3)

Outreach

- First People in the First State (1-4)
- **Revolutionary Espionage (4)**
- **Congressional Chaos (4)**
- Civil War Boot Camp (8)
- Ahoy Matey: Pirates on the Delaware (K-3)

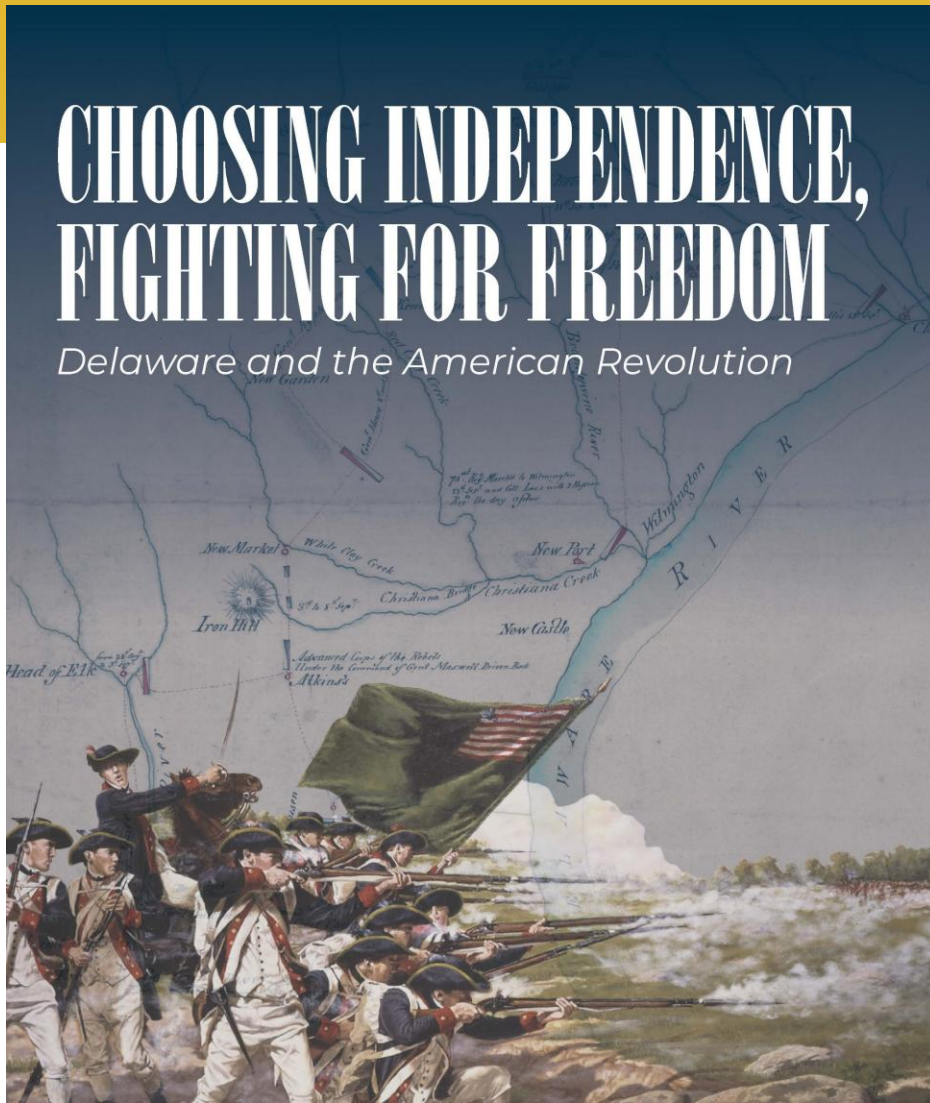
Virtual

- John Tillman's Journey to Freedom (8)
- 100,000 Words: Child Labor in Delaware (9-12)

COMING SOON!

- Topics on the Civil Rights Movement in Delaware (9-12)
- Delawareans & WWI (9-12)

Primary Source Packets



- First Contact
- Ahoy Matey: Pirates in Delaware
- **Choosing Independence, Fighting for Freedom**
- Underground Railroad in Delaware
- North vs. South: The Civil War in Delaware
- World War II in Delaware (under revision)
- Dr. Carothers' Sheer Genius: The History of Nylon
- The Art of Storytelling
- Blueprint for Preservation
- Discover Delaware

Lesson Plans



- By Delaware teachers, for Delaware teachers.
- Utilize Delaware Historical Society primary sources.
- Lessons meet state and common core standards.

Traveling Trunks

A Museum in Your Classroom

Pilot Program

Delaware in the American Revolution (4)

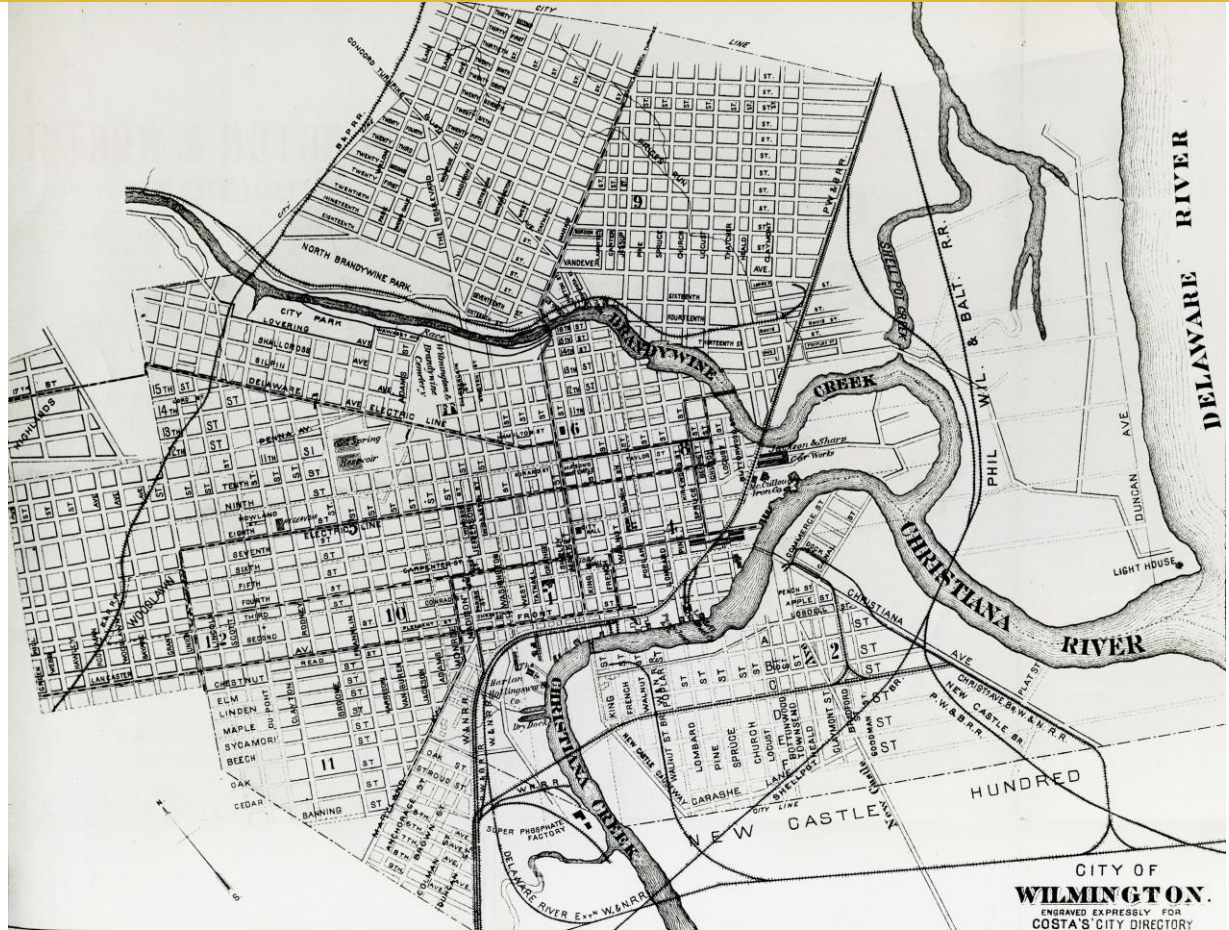
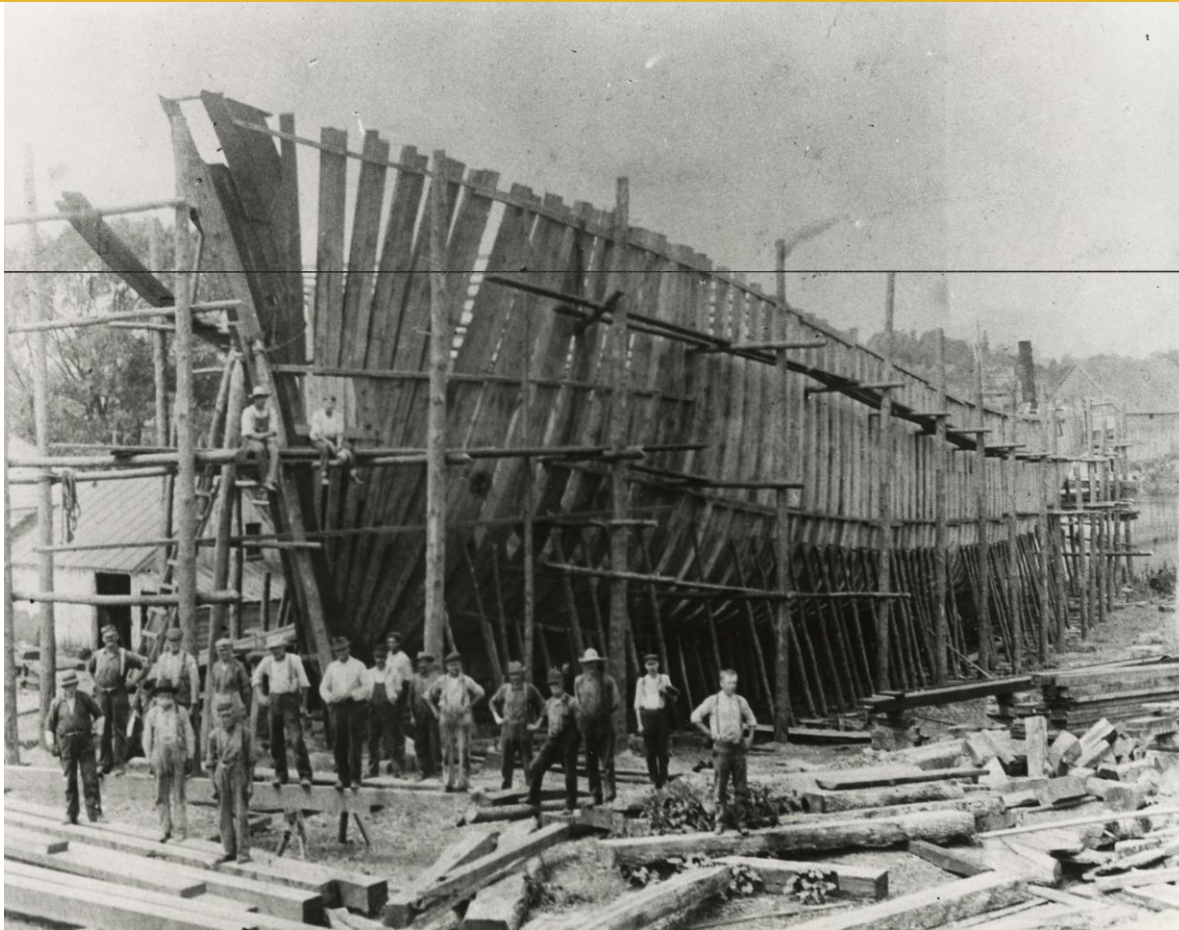
The Civil War in Delaware (8)

Free for teachers in Kent and Sussex County for the 2025-2026 School Year.

Primary Source Sets

Coming Soon

Sample: Shipbuilding in Delaware



National History Day



2025 – 2026 Theme

Revolution, Reaction, Reform in History

- Challenges students in grades 6 through 12 to engage in research, interpretation, and analysis of historical topics related to a theme.
- Meets all four state history standards, as well as writing requirements.
- Students develop important life skills, such as **critical thinking, collaboration, and communication**, through well-researched projects in the form of a dramatic performance, imaginative exhibit, multimedia documentary, research paper, or website.

Thank you!

Chilad. July the 4th 1776

Sir I have inclosed you a summons directed to the Sheriff to ~~call~~ summon the Member for our County to meet in Assembly at Newcastle on the 22^d day of this Instant. which I hope you will have put into his hands as soon as possible after it comes to yours - I arrived in Congress / tho detain'd by Thunder and Rain / time enough to give my Voice in the matter of Independence - It is ~~now~~ determined. by the Thirteen United Colonies. without even one dissenting Colony. We have now

Questions?

Caesar Rodney Letter to his brother Thomas.
July 4, 1776.

Delaware Historical Society

Educator Workshops, Resources, Support
Curated Field Trip Experiences

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Delaware History Museum & Mitchell Center for African American Heritage

Field Trips (onsite, outreach), National History Day
Garrett Hastings
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Virtual Field Trips
Sierra Grocott
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Research Library

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Read House & Gardens

Field Trips and Tours

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Who to Contact

