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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

I would like to start by welcoming some new volunteers to the Moland crew. Richard Driscoll is our new librarian replacing Debbie Dadey, and for those of you who know Debbie, you will agree that she is going to be hard to replace. Debbie did not run for reelection to the board because she and her husband are retiring to Tennessee. Debbie chaired most of the events, did most of our Facebook postings, kept up with the inventory of furniture and possessions of the Society, worked on the web site, and almost anything else you could imagine. She will be sorely missed but we wish her luck in the next chapter of her life.

Another board member, Cal Uzelmeier, chose not to run for reelection but he will stay on as Chairman of the Landscape Committee. We will miss his sound judgment and experience. On the bright side, we have two new board members in Marijane Meckling who is one of our tour guides and who is going to chair some of the events, and Greg Horn, another tour guide. We welcome them and are sure they will make significant contributions.

Other new volunteers are Ken and Rosemarie Arnold. Ken is taking on the task of putting some order into our files and archives and Rosemarie has been helping with event set up.

Some interesting things are happening at the Moland House. We have an expert open hearth cook, Joan Healy, who volunteers with the society and is also on our furnishings committee. We would like to take advantage of her talents and have her do cooking demonstrations in the hearth in the original kitchen. The problem is that more often than not, the fireplace smokes and nobody can stand to be in the room including Joan. We have been searching for a solution and have had some consultations. Now we think we have a plan. Joan and her husband Dave contacted Williamsburg for some help. Williamsburg responded with the

Please see our website - www.Moland.org and "friend us" on Facebook

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name of Andrew DeGruchy who just happens to be in our area and is a recognized expert. Andy speculates that the chimney may be too short and when we looked at some old photos showing a higher chimney, we think he may be on to something! Andy is going to perform a test for us to see if, indeed, that is the problem. We are thankful to the A.P. Kirby Jr. foundation for providing the funds for this project as they have for many others. We'll keep you informed as we find out more.

Those of you who live in the area are probably very aware of the ongoing work on Rte. 263 which is the eastern boundary of the Moland property. We recently found out that part of the plan is to build an access road through Moland House property to be able to get equipment down to the bridge over the Little Neshaminy creek (*See photo of the area on Page 5). We are very concerned because this is an archaeologically sensitive area and also an area lovingly cared for by our Landscape Committee. Fortunately, Warwick Township has been very cooperative and township manager Gail Weniger recently arranged a meeting with the construction engineer to take a look. I would also like to thank supervisor Ned Thompson for attending and supporting our position. Sybil Johnson, site leader for the archaeology at Moland, and I have both communicated with the Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission and PennDot officials in Harrisburg. We are now trying to explore alternatives and it looks as if we are making some progress. At least PennDot is aware of the issue and we have been

assured that they will work with us as much as possible. I'm not sure what that means, but since they are still 18 months away from that part of the project, we have a little wiggle room.

Don't forget to include the August Reenactment in your plans for the summer. Jo-Anne Mullen has once again managed to find some new crafters to appear thanks in large part to Barbara Harrison a quilting enthusiast who has become involved with the WTHS. In addition to our regulars, we will have an embroiderer and a rug maker who are friends of Barbara.

Best wishes,
Dave

FLAG DAY



On June 14 the annual Flag Day ceremony was held at Moland House. The highlights of the afternoon were a presentation about the History of Flags and the singing of the National Anthem by George Washington (aka Sam Davis).



During the Neshaminy Encampment at the Moland House there were many notable men present. We will be highlighting some of those individuals in our Gazette.



Captain Caleb Gibbs

By Ed Price

Caleb Gibbs was born on February 28, 1748 in Newport, Rhode Island. The third child of Robert and Sarah Gibbs, Caleb was baptized on September 25, 1748, at the Second Congregational Church in Newport. By 1769, he had taken up residence in Marblehead, Massachusetts. He was very much involved with the Sons of Liberty and smuggling supplies into the blockaded City of Boston for John Glover and John Hancock. When the Revolutionary War broke out, he was a Captain in the 14th Massachusetts Regiment from Marblehead and marched to Lexington Concord on that fateful day, April 19, 1775. He and his regiment arrived too late to participate in the battle, but immediately joined the army besieging Boston.

On March 12, 1776, General Washington appointed Captain Gibbs as the commander of the Commander-in-Chief's Guard, with the title of captain commandant. In addition to protecting the person of the Commander-in-Chief, and the headquarters, when the Army was moving, he was responsible for the selection of defensible quarters for General Washington and his staff. When the General was traveling, Major Gibbs usually mounted a guard to accompany him. On several occasions, they encountered the British while on the move, and some serious skirmishes resulted.

Captain Gibbs was in residence at Moland House in August 1777. His men were in camp on the lower south lawn. The Captain was present at the Council of War that was held on the 23rd. During his command of Washington's "*Life Guard*" Gibbs was promoted to the rank of Major on July 29, 1778.

In 1781 at Kings Bridge, New York, a fifty man Guard escort encountered fifteen hundred British Regulars. An impossible rear-guard action was fought, wherein the Guard lost seventeen men, but General Washington was able to escape back to the Continental Line.

In every major engagement fought by General Washington, his elite Guards participated, and in several instances under the direct leadership of Major Gibbs, that participation was decisive. In spite of putting himself in harm's way, Gibbs was wounded but once, at Yorktown, when he was shot in the ankle while assisting Colonel Alexander Hamilton.

When the Guard was disbanded in 1783, Gibbs was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and transferred to the Second Massachusetts Regiment of the Continental Line. He held that post until the Army was disbanded in June of 1784. Few Continental Line officers could claim a longer continuous war record.

After the war, Gibbs returned to the Boston area and married his pre-war sweetheart, Katherine Hall, and had nine children. He maintained a close relationship with General Washington's family, and in particular with Alexander Hamilton who he regularly visited, and named his firstborn son after.

When then President Washington visited Boston in 1789, it was Gibbs who mounted the honor guard for the President; the guard dressed in the same style uniforms that were worn during the Revolutionary War.

Gibbs was appointed to a key civilian post by Washington at the newly established Charlestown Navy Yard and was deeply involved in the building of such ships as the famed U.S.S. Constitution.

Gibbs was very active in the Society of the Cincinnati and served that group of former Army Officers up until his death. He died in his office at the Navy Yard in Charlestown, Massachusetts, on November 6, 1818, while still serving his country. He left his wife and several children behind.

EDITOR NEEDED



Due to scheduling conflicts, the current editor (Sandra Uzelmeier) will be unable to continue to edit the Gazette. If you enjoy reading the Moland Gazette, please consider being our new editor. The publication is sent out quarterly. This is an opportunity to volunteer to help our organization where you can do the work from home. Please contact Dave Mullen (jdmullen2@verizon.net) to help.



ROUTE 263 PROJECT

*As mentioned in the President's Message, "We recently found out that part of the plan is to build an access road through Moland House property to be able to get equipment down to the bridge over the Little Neshaminy creek". This is a photo that shows the natural/treed/meadow/wet area that would be affected if the access road is built on the Moland House side of 263. Our Landscape Team members have worked very hard for many years to improve this portion of the Moland House property.



LANDSCAPE

- We would like to thank John Robinson for building a potting bench for the landscape and garden teams to use.
- Thank you to the Native Garden volunteers, your help is greatly appreciated.
- We have become a victim of our own success. We have heard wonderful things about how great the grounds look. We see people enjoying the picnic table area, and hear about people seeing wildlife along the nature trail. However, the 3 primary members of the Landscape Team are between 74 and 85 years young. It is getting harder each year for these guys; so, unless some people step up to help, this wonderful landscape area could revert to being overgrown & uninviting.
- *Do you see something missing in this picture taken near the creek????? If you say a trash box built by the Landscapers and used by people fishing or walking by the creek, you are right. Over Memorial Day weekend someone(s) blew it up with fireworks!!!! This is the second time the trash box has been destroyed. PLEASE, if you see or hear anything unusual contact the Warwick Police.*



Revolutionary War Reenactment

August 15, 2015 (rain date August 22, 2015)
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Help us get the word out to your families, friends, and work associates to join us for a step back into colonial history. We have many exciting attractions including three puppet shows, the Play-with-Me Puppet Theater and Polly, the musical puppet. Crafters from past years will rejoin us and, in addition, we will have an embroiderer and a rug maker.

We continue to look for additional sponsors for this important fundraiser to continue the work on The Moland House. Don't forget we can always use additional volunteers for the event. Call Jo-Anne Mullen 215-343-1936.



Since this is a fundraiser for the maintenance of the Moland House a nominal admission fee will be charged: Adults \$5.00, Seniors (62+) and members \$4.00, children (5-12) \$2.00, and Family (parents & their children) \$10.00. Cash or check only.



Attractions will include (not a full list):

- Regiment Encampment*
- 18th Century music*
- Wool and flax spinning*
- 18th Century woodworking*
- Blacksmithing*
- Puppet show*
- 18th Century children's toys and games*
- Tours of the Historic Moland House*
- Embroider*
- Rug Maker*



Patron Form – 2015 Reenactment

Patrons will be acknowledged at the following levels:

Executive level – over \$100.00

General -- \$100.00

Colonel--\$50.00

Major -- \$25.00

Captain -- \$15.00

All patrons will be acknowledged in the WTHS newsletter, on our website, www.Moland.org, and in the program for the day.

For \$50 your name or the name of your business will be placed on a star plaque which will be displayed at the event in addition to a listing in the program.

For \$100 your name or your business name will be placed on a George Washington plaque which will be displayed at the event in addition to a listing in the program.

Over \$100 your name or business name will be placed on a Moland House plaque which will be displayed at the event in addition to a listing in the program.



Please fill out the following form and return it by July 25, 2015 to be included in the program.

Name or business name for listing _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Circle patron level. Executive General Colonel Major Captain

Please make all checks payable to WTHS. Send your contribution to: WTHS
PO Box 107, Jamison, PA 18929 attn: Reenactment.



UPCOMING EVENTS --- MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- Open House* 2nd and 4th Sunday 1 – 4 pm: Drop in for a tour. (November & December only the 2nd Sunday)
- Board Meeting --- 2nd Wednesday evening every month 7:30 pm –
- August 15 – Reenactment of the Neshaminy Encampment (August 22 – Reenactment Rain date)
- November 27 to December 5 – Farmhouse Christmas Show
- December 12 – Christmas Dinner

*Open House Special Events:

- **July 4** – Enjoy the use of our Picnic Grove
- **Archaeology**, July 12 & 26, Aug. 9 & 23, Sept. 13 & 27, Oct. 11 & 25
- **September 13** – Colonial Woodworking Demonstration

Would you like a quick link to our website? Do you have a ‘smart’ phone? Just scan this QR code with a phone’s scanning app and you will be taken directly to the Moland House website (www.Moland.org).



Do you have a Facebook account? Please like us on Facebook for the latest information about events and activities. <https://www.facebook.com/molandhouse>

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