



Notes from the Ford

Fall 2016

What's New

Paranormal Investigation



On September 24, CFHS had its first-ever public paranormal investigation. Delmarva Historic Haunts provided the experts along with tools of the trade. Both sessions (7:30pm and 10:30pm) were sold out, with 80 people in attendance. They explored the John Chads House, Springhouse, Visitors Center (on the footprint of a former barn) and the grounds.

Included in the event was a special lab area where guests could learn about the various equipment involved with ghost hunting as well as see footage from previous investigations.



Several guests claimed to have communicated with ghosts. Using dowel rods in the office, questions were asked about beer, and the ghost turned the dowels to indicate yes it enjoyed beer (as well as gin, but not rum). Some people communicated with former teachers and two school children in the Springhouse, which once served as a schoolhouse. Another person witnessed a young girl ghost in the John Chads House attic answering questions via torches (flashlights). Two torches were across the room from each other, and observers could see the delay as the girl ghost ran between the two to turn them off. Skeptic or believer, everyone had a great time!



Bullock Road Artifacts

Thirty years ago Peter Wells was mowing his lawn along Bullock Road when he discovered two brass items on an old wagon trail through his property. A recent heavy rain had perhaps unearthed the artifacts. Peter placed the items in a drawer where they sat forgotten until his and wife Pat's recent move to a smaller home. While packing up the house, they came across the items and decided to donate them to the Chadds Ford Historical Society.



The first object is believed to be a brass door pull from the 1800s. For reasons unknown it was attached to a piece of porcelain, from which it later broke off. The piece measures 2 inches in length and depicts Rembrandt's painting "The Night Watch."



The second object is heavy. It is about 1/4 inch thick and more than 3 inches long between points. There are numerous recessed images, said to be possibly Christian, including fish, doves and stars. The purpose is not clear. If someone

has seen similar objects and knows more, the Society would love to hear from you. We are very grateful to Peter and Pat Wells for their thoughtful donation!

Did You Know?

S. B. Davis Cattle Co.



Cattle Corral 1948

From 1945 to around 1955, Samuel B. Davis, a cattleman from Amarillo, Texas, operated a cattle company in Chadds Ford. The corral was located just west of the Chadds Ford Elementary School. He maintained 350 head of cattle along with several buffalo on ranges next to Baltimore Pike.



In this 1949 photo, Davis's cowboys stop traffic on Baltimore Pike so cattle can be herded to the corral. Why locate here? According to Davis, Chadds Ford "isn't large enough, but is better land because of the Brandywine. In Chadds Ford it only takes one acre to run a cow, while in Texas it takes 10 to 15 acres."

Davis, pictured right in 1951, had two favorite rides - his horse Oscar and his crème-colored Cadillac. During the May Day celebration at the elementary school, cowboys from the ranch would put on a rodeo for the kids.



Today the corral is just overgrown brush and trees. The house across the highway, once his home and office, remains, though it's now empty. One subsequent owner said that when she had the phone serviced in the 1980s, the repairman commented that he had never seen a house with 50 phone lines before. They were likely left over from Davis's cattle operation.



SAM B. DAVIS, pioneer in eastern cattle raising.

Today the corral is just overgrown brush and trees. The house across the highway,

Reyburn's Tavern

Paul Reyburn, a WW II veteran, opened Reyburn's Tavern in 1937. The business was located on Baltimore Pike and operated until the 1960s, when it had to be torn down to make way for the road's expansion.



Reyburn's Tavern 1937

Next to the tavern was an old schoolhouse built in 1848. When schools consolidated in 1925, the building was sold. Reyburn converted the property into his home and business, moving the



Kitchen Construction 1960s

tavern into the basement and adding a kitchen off the bar. Customers would say they could tell when the tavern was open by whether the neon lights in the basement windows were on.



Reyburn (pictured left in 1997) operated the tavern, which contained several booths, a pool table, jukebox and Formica bar. At the time of his death in 2008, Reyburn was 100 years old and considered the oldest bartender in America.

Since that time, the building has sat vacant. The basement tavern has been damaged by vandals.



Photos courtesy Andy Bell

Upcoming Events

Pumpkin Painting at Pinot's Palette



October 11th from 7 to 9pm
Design your own painted pumpkin while enjoying complimentary wine and light snacks.

Pinot's Palette
100 Ridge Road,
Chadds Ford, PA 19317
Admission: \$35 (ages 21+)
Tickets must be purchased in advance

The Great Pumpkin Carve

Oct. 20 & 21 5pm - 9pm, Oct. 22 3pm - 9pm

\$10 Adults, \$5 ages 7 - 17, under 7 and CFHS Members free
Dogs are not allowed for safety reasons



TAVERN TALKS

is located at the
CFHS' Barns Brinton House
(630 Baltimore Pike, next to Chadds Ford Winery)
www.chaddsfordhistory.org
610-388-7376



Admission:

\$15 / Non-members
\$10 / Members
Tickets must be purchased in advance
over the phone or online
All attendees must be 21+

Candlelight Christmas

December 3rd
1pm - 6pm



**Very Superstitious: Fears,
False Notions and Fables**
Oct. 13th - 7pm to 9pm



All Things Apple
Nov. 10th - 7pm to 9pm



Our Society

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The Chadds Ford Historical Society is dedicated to preserving history, serving the community, and providing education. Its newsletter, "Notes from the Ford," is published quarterly.

Chadds Ford Historical Society

1736 Creek Road
 PO Box 27
 Chadds Ford, PA 19317
 610-388-7376

info@chaddsfordhistory.org
 www.chaddsfordhistory.org

Open to the Public:
 Wed -Fri 10am - 4pm

Become a Volunteer!

We would love to have you join our dedicated team of volunteers! Opportunities exist for office help, education programs and our annual events. If interested, email volunteer@chaddsfordhistory.org or call 610-388-7376.

Thank you to all our volunteers!
 We appreciate your help and dedication!



Visit our Museum Store with a wide variety of merchandise including new Fall items. CFHS Members receive a 10% discount!

