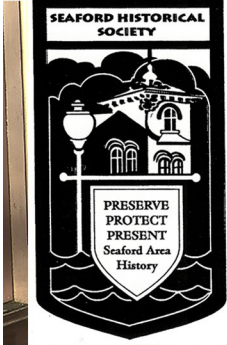


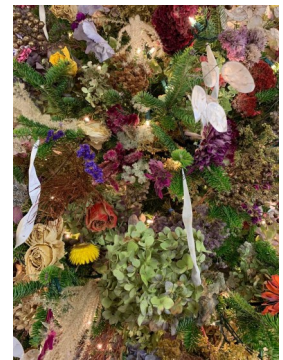
# Seaford Historical Society Newsletter



Vol. 27 No. 2 **Victorian Christmas** Winter 2023

## We're Celebrating Differently This Year

The Ross Mansion is temporarily closed for much needed interior maintenance and renovation. Because of this we've had to modify our Victorian Christmas activities. Sadly, we were unable to hold our annual Victorian Tea. Having the tea somewhere other than the Mansion just wouldn't have been the same. However, we were able to use the Museum and Ross Station for other activities. We moved our "Children's Day" activities to the Seaford Museum. There was a positive response for folks to come to the Museum to see the Train Exhibit and participate in activities that hosted by our Education Department. We also hosted our concert of the Capitol Ringers in Ross Station. This event was well attended. We couldn't do without a beautiful Christmas tree decorated by The Spade and Trowel Garden Club in Ross Station. We have put some pictures from these activities on Page 8.



2023 Christmas Tree decorated with real dried flowers. How Beautiful!

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

It's better to look back on life and say: "I can't believe I did that." than to look back and say "I wish I had done that."

It was December of 2019. I was a trustee on the Board. Clarke White was the chairperson on the Nominations Committee. We needed a new President. The meeting ended without a person for the ballot. I sat for a moment. Then I knew what I needed to do. I walked up to Clark and said, 'I will do it!' I will never forget the look on his face! I began a journey that I will never regret. Being President doesn't mean you get to make all the decisions, but you do get to sit at the head of the table!

During these 4 years, the Seaford Historical Society has continued to preserve, protect and present the history of our town. The Mansion is being painted, papered and new period furnishings are being added.

The Museum has a new HVAC system. These projects were made possible by bond money from the state and additional grant monies. The Ross Station continues to showcase the beauty of the property through weddings and other events. Did I do this? NO! The members of our Board are AWESOME! I am so blessed to be a part of this group.

We should all be blessed to live on this little piece of earth called Seaford!  
Teresa

### From the Desk of the Executive Director David Grantz

Something Interesting:

According to Rittenhousevillages.com, regular visits to museums helps with brain stimulation by providing opportunities to "learn something new while exercising critical thinking skills." It goes on to say that museums help with social interaction, giving visitors new and interesting topics of conversation both during and after the visit. Visiting the local museum can even be part of treatment for dementia.

The statistics in the article intrigued me. "Researchers found that older adults who visited one exhibition at the museum a year faced a 14% lower risk of early death. Those who visited exhibitions on a regular basis benefited from a 31% lower risk of early mortality." Now, the old math teacher in me would note that there is a difference between correlation and causation, but there is a certain logic to their argument that visiting museums has positive health benefits! Fortunately, we have two museum's right here in Seaford! Be sure to visit us at least once a year...you might live longer!

Something (s) Important:

This has been a big year for infrastructure improvement at the Seaford Historical Society, especially at Ross Mansion. The Honeymoon Cottage and Slave Quarter received much-needed repairs; all of the outbuildings got fresh coats of paint, and most now have new metal roofing. While this was happening, we started the interior restoration and formal garden installation at the mansion. By the time we get to the New Year, we should be wrapping up this phase of the project and starting to plan a "Grand Re-Opening" in the spring. "If you've seen Ross Mansion, you haven't seen Ross Mansion."

We also completed the HVAC work at the Seaford Museum just in time for the Holiday Train Exhibit to open! More than just replacing what was there; the new system provides climate control in our basement storage rooms. Humidity control throughout the building will allow us better preserve our artifacts for generations to come!

Since 2021, we have made almost a half-million dollars' worth of improvements to our facilities, almost all of it overseen by our Vice-President, Bill Collison. For three years, he has been on-sight daily to attend meetings, solve problems, and lend a hand with multiple projects all at once. Others have provided significant help, including Chris Black and Dan Parsons, but these projects would not have happened without Bill's dedication.

**From the Desk of the Museum Curator  
Jim Blackwell**

We were able to get the Train display up and running in record time following the work in the ceiling. The Train Exhibit has now begun and is being well attended. Luckily, the Star newspaper has continued to give us free advertisement in their paper. They are charging most (as in almost all) clients for the ads that they are providing weekly to us due to our providing such a low cost Christmas happening for the community to enjoy. If you see someone from the paper, please thank them for their service. As well as the Guide. They are providing free advertisements for the train exhibit as well. **AND WE NEED SEVERAL MORE VOLUNTEERS TO FILL IN FOR THE WEEKENDS AROUND THE HOLIDAYS.** These are the dates where we need help: Saturdays - December 16, 23, and 30 and then January 6th. 2: We are going to need help getting the train exhibit down, packed up, and all taken down to the basement after the last day of the exhibit. We will need some young bodies to help us out – especially going up and down the stairs... My body complained every time I did that setting them up. Getting them down the stairs will take many more trips.

**Education Department  
From the Desk of Pat Davidson**

The group has been busy working with the youth volunteers. We have an energetic group of students that are very interested in working on projects and learning more. We have been meeting at the museum. We had the students help us for the Fall Festival in October and in November we learned how to warp a lap loom and weave. The students used different layers of yarn and paper strips to complete the project. In December the students helped with the Victorian Christmas for Children at the museum acting as guides to the activities, helping with crafts, pointing out the different features of the train display and refreshments. The youth will be meeting in January and February doing a craft.

We are very fortunate to have such nice students to work with.

Victorian Christmas at the Museum was a great success! We had many more people attend and tour the facility. We had over 50 people attend and take part in the activities for the children. We had a craft, reading time, shopping for the families by the children, train display and refreshments. The children discovered the mice hidden in the museum and had a hunt to find them all. Fun was had by all.

Our first school tour is scheduled for May. We will have a lot of planning to do with all the changes in the mansion. A team will have to help rewrite the script for the inside of the mansion with information about the new furniture pieces. If you are willing to help with school tours let us know. We have sitting jobs and standing jobs. We need a lot of people to do all these tours. We raised over \$2000 dollars donated to SHS last year!

# Proposed Changes to Seaford Historical Society By-laws

*The full text of the bylaws is available upon request.*

For the consideration of active members present at the January 15 meetin

New language is underlined.

Removed language is ~~crossed out~~.

## **ARTICLE V The Governing Board**

Section A –The Governing Board shall include an Executive Board and at least nine Trustees. The Executive Board is composed of the President, Executive Vice President, Two Vice Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer, and Past President.

Remainder of Section A, concerning honorary board members, curator, and City of Seaford representative is unchanged.

Section B – The terms of the Executive Officers shall be for one year commencing upon their election at the annual membership meeting in January of each year. ~~A person may not serve as President or Vice President for more than three consecutive one-year terms. Persons may serve as Secretary, Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer for an unlimited number of consecutive terms. There is no limit to the number of terms served by an Executive Officer.~~

*The remainder of Article V, regarding board meetings and board member duties, is unchanged.*

## **ARTICLE VI Duties Of The Executive Officers**

Section B – The Executive Vice President shall perform the duties of the President in his/her absence, and in case of resignation or other contingencies shall become the President for the remainder of that term ~~and serve as President for the next term.~~ The Executive Vice President and the two Vice Presidents will each have over-site responsibility for one of the following facilities: the Governor Ross Mansion, the Seaford Museum, and the Ross Station Event Center.

At the discretion of the President, Vice Presidents shall be appointed to oversee the facilities, including personnel management. The Executive Director shall report to the President.

The Executive Vice President and the Vice Presidents shall be responsible for other duties as assigned by the President, including committees.

*The remainder of Article VI, regarding the duties of other officers, is unchanged.*

## **Proposed New SHS Board Members for 2024**

President – Gigi Hastings

Executive Vice-President – Bill Collison (Ross Station)

Vice President – Teresa Wilson – (Ross Mansion)

Vice President – Chris Black – (Museum)

Secretary – Aileen Watkins

Treasurer – Donny Dickerson

Past President – Teresa Wilson

Curator – Jim Blackwell

Trustees –

Spencer Coulbourn (2 Year Term)

Lori Wescott (2 Year Term)

Maria Brooke (3 Year Term)

Mike Mulvaney (3 Year Term)

Dan Parsons (3 Year Term)

Continuing Trustees–

Kathi Adams

Pat Davidson

Pat Sigler

Clark White



# Mansion Undergoes Major Maintenance and Renovations

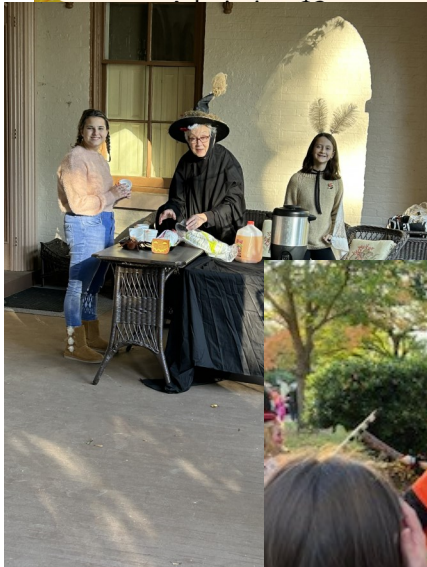




# SEAFORD COMMUNITY FALL FESTIVAL

Gov. Ross Mansion  
Sunday, October 22  
4:00—6:00

**Trunk-r-Treat • Games  
Wagon Rides • Petting Zoo  
Food • Face Painting • Craft  
Bring Carved Pumpkin for Contest**





# Bringing Back an Old Tradition

Let down your hair, uncurl your tail, and join us for a hog wild time!



**1st Annual  
Roast & Toast**

At the Ross Station  
Hosted By:  
Seaford Historical Society

**\$35 per ticket\***  
Hors d'oeuvres  
Live Auction  
Cash Bar  
50 / 50 Raffle  
(\$500 Ross Station Rental)

NOV.  
18th  
6-9 p.m.

\*Tickets can be purchased online, from any committee member, and at the Seaford Museum





Victorian Christmas  
**Children's Day**  
 at the  
**Seaford Museum**  
**Kids-Only Holiday Shop**  
**Story Time • Crafts**  
**Toy Train Display**  
**Saturday, December 9**  
 10 AM - Noon **It's FREE!**  
 203 High Street, Seaford  
 SeafordHistoricalSociety.com

Children must be accompanied by responsible adult



3:43 PM Tue Dec 12 www.seafordhistoricalsociety.com 100%

**CAPITAL RINGERS PRESENTS**  
**12 DAYS**  
 OF  
**CHRISTMAS**

SPONSORED BY SEAFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
**4 PM SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10**  
**ROSS STATION EVENT CENTER**  
**585 N. MARKET ST. EXT., SEAFORD**

**TICKETS \$10**  
**CHILDREN FREE\***  
 \* KIDS 1+ ONLINE





## Webb Room Exhibits



The Seaford Historical Society is proud to be the exclusive host of **Eastern Shore League: 1922-1949**, coming to the Seaford Museum in March 2024. Baseball historian and author Mike Lambert has agreed to curate his collection of local professional baseball memorabilia for this first-and-only public display. Visitors will see baseballs, bats, scorecards, tickets and much more. Mike is excited to put this exhibit together, saying, “It is time to show a large portion of the collection together. I have never shown this much at one time and it will be the first time that I will be displaying many of the items.” The exhibit is open to the public from March 1 through May 31 2024 with a special “Opening Day” event planned for Saturday, March 2. As a benefit for members only, the Seaford Historical Society will host a preview of the exhibit on February 29. Visit [SeafordHistoricalSociety.com](http://SeafordHistoricalSociety.com) for information about open dates and special promotions.

# Upcoming Events 2024

January 15: Membership Dinner  
February 29: Eastern Shore League exhibit Members-Only Reception  
March 23: Seaford Historical Society Annual GALA!  
May 22: Seaford Historical Society Annual Picnic  
October 20: Seaford Community Fall Festival

Dates to be Announced: Governor Ross Mansion Reopening Celebration events



Katy Werner  
Mary Niles Dayton  
Morgan Pace  
Gary and Leslie Progar  
Edward and Ruth Ragin  
Charles Schretzenmaire  
Jenny Conner  
Katherine Brown  
Katherine Mades and Kim Makowski



Sharlana Edgell 7/11  
Mary Ann Torkelson 8/29  
Richard Tull 9/19  
Janet Jones 10/25

## Seaford Museum Gets a New HVAC System



## SHS Has a New Librarian



After many years of dedicated service in keeping information for the Society organized, Millie Beauchamp has decided to retire from her position as Librarian. Peggy Boyd has volunteered to take over this arduous task. Thank you Peggy we appreciate you stepping up and taking this on!





# Seaford Historical Society Membership Application

Individual: \$30.00  
Family: \$50.00  
Nonprofit: \$150.00  
Business: \$200.00

New Member  Renewing Member

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse/Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Family Membership includes Children under age 18 years old.*

Business/Nonprofit (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_  Please send Newsletter by US Mail

### To become a VOLUNTEER, check all that apply.

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising      | <input type="checkbox"/> Buildings/Grounds Maint.    | <input type="checkbox"/> Mansion Tour Guide |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Events           | <input type="checkbox"/> Education Outreach Programs | <input type="checkbox"/> Museum Tour Guide  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Teas and Dinners | <input type="checkbox"/> Mailings                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Accessions         |

*The Seaford Historical Society is a 501c3 nonprofit. Membership dues are a tax-deductible donation that supports our mission. Thank you for supporting us, your community and your local history.*

### Business Memberships



(302) 628 1601  
The Bath Shop at  
Two Cats in the  
Yard  
Exquisitely Fine Soaps - Lotions and Toiletries



www.brokerpost.com



Lank, Johnson & Tull, CPAs  
delawarecpas.org



Gallery 107  
ARTS COUNCIL



Wm.M.  
**CHAMBERS & SON**  
TOWING & RECOVERY • HAULING • TRUCK REPAIR

Water Works Plumbing

Michael Mulvaney  
302-875-0491

### SEAFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

|  |   |               |            |             |              |               |               |             |            |             |  |
|--|---|---------------|------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|------------|-------------|--|
| <p><b>Officers:</b><br/> <b>President</b> - Teresa Wilson<br/> <b>Vice President</b> - Bill Collison<br/> <b>Treasurer</b> - Donald Dickerson<br/> <b>Secretary</b> - Aileen Watkins<br/> <b>Past President</b> - Bev Hutton<br/> <b>Curator</b> - Jim Blackwell<br/> <b>Honorary Trustee</b> - George Beauchamp</p> | <p><b>Trustees:</b></p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td>Chris Black</td> <td>Matt Cohee</td> <td>Dan Parsons</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pat Davidson</td> <td>Lori Westcott</td> <td>Gigi Hastings</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Amy Pearson</td> <td>Pat Sigler</td> <td>Kathi Adams</td> </tr> </table> | Chris Black   | Matt Cohee | Dan Parsons | Pat Davidson | Lori Westcott | Gigi Hastings | Amy Pearson | Pat Sigler | Kathi Adams | <p><b>Special Consultant</b> - Claudia Leister<br/> <b>Executive Director</b> - David Grantz<br/> <b>Mansion Manager</b> - Margaret Alexander<br/> <b>Librarian</b> - Peggy Boyd<br/> <b>Genealogy</b> - Rudy Wilson<br/> <b>Events Manager</b> - Crystal Swift<br/> <b>Seaford Representative</b> - Trisha Newcomer</p> |
| Chris Black  | Matt Cohee  | Dan Parsons   |            |             |              |               |               |             |            |             |  |
| Pat Davidson   | Lori Westcott   | Gigi Hastings |            |             |              |               |               |             |            |             |  |
| Amy Pearson  | Pat Sigler  | Kathi Adams   |            |             |              |               |               |             |            |             |  |

*Seaford Historical Society*  
*203 High Street*  
*Seaford, DE 19973*

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U. S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO. 571  
GEORGETOWN, DE

**OR CURRENT RESIDENT**

**-CONTACT INFORMATION-**

Seaford Historical Society and Seaford Museum – 203 High Street, Seaford, DE 19973 302-628-9828

Governor Ross Mansion - 23369 Ross Station Road, Seaford, DE 19973 302-628-9500

Ross Station, 585 No. Market St., Ext., Seaford, DE 19973 302-628-9828

**Email:** [admin@seafordhistoricalsociety.com](mailto:admin@seafordhistoricalsociety.com) **Website:** [www.seafordhistoricalsociety.com](http://www.seafordhistoricalsociety.com)

**Facebook:** [Seaford Historical Society](#) and [Ross Station Event Center](#)

Wedding/Event Rentals: [rentals@seafordhistoricalsociety.com](mailto:rentals@seafordhistoricalsociety.com)

Seaford Museum - Fridays, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. and 1st & 2nd Saturday 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Governor Ross Mansion – Saturdays and Sundays, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. (Last tour starts at 3:30 p.m.)

Ross Station—Tours by Appointment Only

Administrative Office Hours: Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Admission: \$7.00 Adult, Children 12 and under Free Combination ticket \$12.00 Members Free