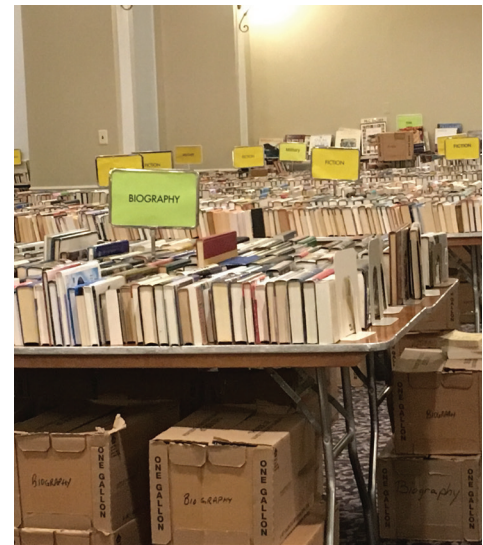


Another Great Book Sale!

We did it again! Thanks to our many dedicated volunteers, the Friends of the Hockessin Library held its annual Used Book Sale on January 24-27. No snow meant a good turnout, generating over \$42,000 in sales. All profits from the sale will go to support the Hockessin Library, financing projects and items that the County and the State are unable to fund.

Some of my personal highlights of the sale were:

- Seeing numerous children spread out on the floor reading books in our relocated and redesigned Children's Section.
- Working in the Storage Pen Thursday night – a well-run madhouse for storing and counting thousands of books purchased by our members.
- Meeting Caroline Todd, the maternal member of the mother-son NYT Bestselling author team "Charles Todd," who comes to the sale annually to purchase books used for research for future historical mysteries.
- Working with first-time volunteers who "got hooked" and came back to volunteer extra days.
- Helping customers find what they were looking for.
- Getting book suggestions from customers and discovering a new favorite author.
- Working with Committee members who have been involved with the sale for a long time, knew what had to be done and did it!



Looking ahead to next year, we are looking to make some changes to the Thursday Night Members' Sale, to make the shopping experience even more enjoyable for our members. We are already collecting books for next year's sale. Books in good condition can be dropped off at the shed in the gravel parking lot behind the Fire Hall on Old Lancaster Pike on the second Saturday of the month between 9:00 and noon. Please, no encyclopedias, text books or technical manuals.

We always need new volunteers. Please contact me at Indlauria@aol.com if you would be interested in volunteering next year.
Linda Lauria, Book Sale Chair

When the Revolutionary War Came to Hockessin Valley

I think most historians and researchers are naturally curious and enjoy solving a good riddle. My first project was unravelling the family genealogy, back when research meant going to the archives and historical societies to dig the information out of the original records. It was hard work but it was rewarding, and it taught me to focus on primary sources. Information written in 1888, or on the Internet in 1988, was limited and frequently wrong.

I've lived near Hockessin for over thirty years. Then about 10 years ago I read books on the Philadelphia Campaign, when the British army marched from Elk Neck and took Philadelphia in 1777. Their march from Pencader to Kennett Square could have taken them past my house; there was even an encampment nearby. But our contemporary historians had no clear description of that march. The key to the mystery was locating the Nichols House, headquarters of General Sir William Howe on September 8th and 9th, 1777. That location had been lost to memory for a long time.

So in my surprise and annoyance, I set out on a casual search for the Nichols property. It ballooned into a challenging task, requiring about 2,000 hours of deed research beginning with the first land grants in Mill Creek Hundred (1676) and working forward in time. I started with the published deed abstracts and compiled them into a searchable spreadsheet, all the time copying deeds from the state archives and sketching out metes and bounds late into the night. (It didn't help that seven of the first 25 deed books are missing, lost in 1777.) Records of patents, warrants, surveys, wills, and court actions all came into play. Ultimately, properties could be fit together as an overlay on Google Earth satellite imagery. It took several years to place the farm of Daniel Nichols, a Quaker who lived along the Limestone road near today's Lantana Square.

At the same time, I tried to immerse myself in the Revolutionary War records. I read as much background as I could and collected every period map, primary account, and family history that I could get my hands on. The most valuable is probably the diagram of the local encampment by Capt. John Andre, which when combined with the location of Nichols' house shows that the British and Hessian troops were spread down the Limestone road from Southwood to Carousel Farms. (Strangely, the diagram had been ignored for many years.) Almost all of the primary accounts now jive and make sense, and British movements into and out of our Hundred can be understood more clearly.

I kept the land research going, far enough to have a reasonably good property map of Mill Creek Hundred for 1777. That helped define the network of roads and trails, indicated the Quaker and non-Quaker farms, showed where depredations occurred, and even showed farms of soldiers in the local militia and the Delaware Regiment. Numerous events and curious stories from earlier in the 18th century also surfaced during the research.

It has been fun presenting the story over the last couple years, especially in 2017 for the 240th anniversary of the Battle of Brandywine. There has been collaboration with the folks in Chester County, and with the support of Joe Lake, we placed a state historical marker where the Nichols' property was. A first version of the story has been posted as several articles on academia.edu. I've recently gone through the Quaker records at Swarthmore College and have been trying to access the Hessian records at Morristown National Park Library via inter-library loan, with the goal of consolidating and re-writing my research into a single document.

As a final note, I'd like to thank the librarians, archivists, and supporters that help organize, preserve, and make available the records and documents needed to look back at our past. Historical research should always be an ongoing endeavor, and we should never be afraid to re-write our stories when new evidence is available. Our little corner of Delaware has a rich past if we take the time to look and learn.

Walt Chiquoine

Editor's Note: Walt Chiquoine created an exhibit for the Hockessin Library foyer display case entitled "When the Revolutionary War Came to Hockessin Valley".

Friends of the Hockessin Library Board Meetings

Board meetings are held at 7:30 pm in the Library's Community Room on the second Monday of the month from September through May. If the library is closed due to a holiday, the meeting will be held in the Lamborn Library building at 1041 Valley Road. Open to the public.

Among Friends

As Linda Lauria has detailed, the 2019 Used Book Sale was extremely successful. We are, indeed, grateful to donors, volunteers and patrons who made that possible.

We are also grateful to Gateway Garden Center in Hockessin for donating a whimsical garden sculpture for the Reading Garden. As the weather warms up, please be sure to visit this delightful rabbit sitting atop his book collection.

This winter the Board's Hospitality Committee has been busy serving refreshments at two concerts and an art exhibit reception.

Since mid-November funding has also been provided for a replacement AWE Early Literacy Station in the Children's Department, annual Hockessin Business Association dues for the library, subscriptions to *Book Page* and *World Journal* (in Chinese), Reading Garden refurbishment, incentives for this summer's adult and children's reading programs and new magazine shelving units which should be installed shortly.

The "When the Revolutionary War Came to Hockessin Valley" exhibit in the foyer display case created by Walt Chiquoine should not be missed. It represents an extraordinary amount of historical research. We sincerely appreciate Walt sharing his enthusiasm for Hockessin history.

And we appreciate all of our members' enthusiasm for and support of the Hockessin Library.

Happy Spring!
Cathe Lawrence, President

Director's Desk

Happy Spring, everyone! The temperatures are at last warming, the sun is shining for longer each day, and soon summer will follow!

Here at your library, we are celebrating spring in all kinds of ways. Some program highlights: on April 22 and 23, we hosted programs on seeds and flowers for kids as part of the Longwood Community Reads cooperation. (We hosted the Longwood programs for adults in March.) We celebrated Shakespeare's birthday with a talk about his life and works on April 23. Most of our kids' book clubs will be reading Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library in April and then trying to escape our library in a special after-hours program on Friday, May 3. Make sure you register in advance for that program especially! And finally, we'll host a couple programs to really make you think: an intergenerational seminar on social media on May 4 and a history of what it was like to immigrate on a ship to the US in the 17th century will be offered on May 18. Please check out our website, the *Happenings Guide* and our Kids and Information Desks for more information.

As always, we have a lot going on in the summer for all ages. I'll let Terri and Shelley tell you more about those offerings in their columns!

Beth Borene, Library Manager

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Get Ready for this Year's Summer Reading Challenge at the Library

This year's Summer Reading Program for Adults runs from June 1 - August 17, 2019. The theme for all age groups is "A Universe of Stories." For the third year in a row all New Castle County Libraries will be offering a coordinated program, using the Beanstack online platform. Last year Hockessin Library participants made the successful technological transition as most adults switched from print and used computer devices to track their summer reading. A few relied on staff for registration and online participation. All are encouraged to participate! Although this year's program is still being developed at this time, I look forward to challenging the Hockessin community to increase the number of registrants, participants, books read, and reviews. Note: Last summer Hockessin Library had the highest number of participants, books read, completions, and reviews for adult readers across New Castle County.

I thank the Friends of the Hockessin Library for their generous, unwavering support of this year's program, making the purchase of promotional materials and Grand Prize drawings possible,
Shelley Stein, Adult Services Librarian

The weather is warming up. The flowers are starting to bloom. It is staying lighter longer. I think spring has finally arrived. And if spring is here that means summer is right around the corner and that means Summer With the Library! This year our theme is Universe of Stories and we will be exploring all things space to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the moon landing. Online registration begins on May 1st at nccde.beanstack.org. You can officially start logging your time spent reading on June 1st. All of our amazing programs are loaded on our online calendar and print calendars should be available the end of April/ beginning of May. I can't wait to see you among the stars!

Terri Jones, Youth Services Librarian



Friends Focus is published by the Friends of the Hockessin Library, Inc.

**Please send comments or questions to:
P.O. Box 55 Hockessin, DE 19707**

Main Library Phone: 302.239.5160

Officers

Cathe Lawrence.....President

Susan Foster.....Vice President

Sirena Manista.....Treasurer

Linda Lauria.....Secretary

Library Hours of Operation

Monday-Wednesday: 10am-9pm

Thursday: Closed

Friday/ Saturday: 10am-5pm

Sunday: 1pm- 5pm



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