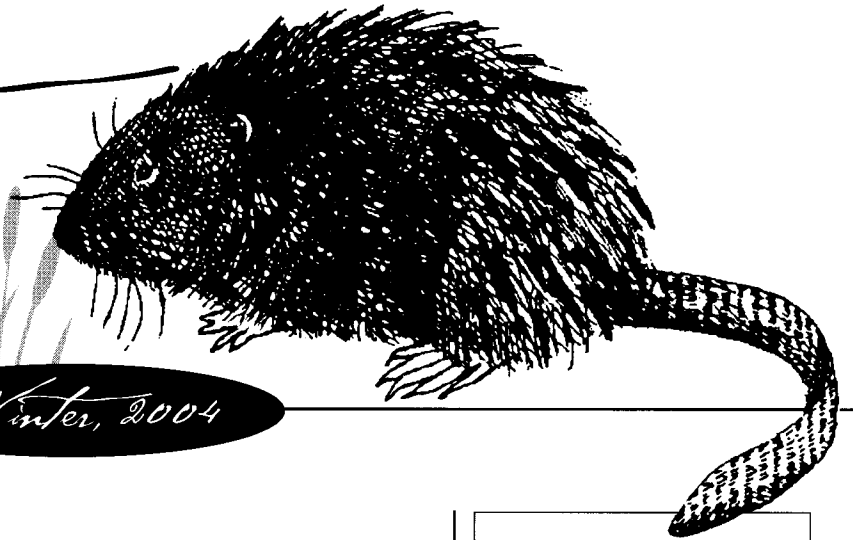


## Port Pennings



### From the President

by Bill Balascio

This year has again been a productive one for our society. The highlights are a series of continuing successes, some of long-standing and some of more recent duration.

In the long-standing variety the Marshland Dinner was again well attended and well received. In recent years we have invited people to the dinner who have played significant roles in the Society's activities during the previous year. This past year, our guests were John Carr and Kristen Cardi of Carr Conservation who were central to the restoration of the Dr. David Stewart Cemetery.

Our most significant recent successes involve that restoration effort. Through the efforts of many volunteers on many different occasions, weeds and groundhogs have been evicted, headstones restored and raised to appropriate heights, and ivy and trees have been planted. I again want to thank the hardworking people who have been involved in the numerous work crews assembled throughout this project, and the Craven family whose generous contribution made a complete and professional restoration possible. As a society we marked the success of this project with a ceremony at the cemetery on Sunday, September 28th, to which all our members were invited.

The Society is involved in another possibly significant development for the village of Port Penn. After what amounts to several years of planning and involvement by Port Penn Area Historic Society members in the development of a streetscape design, the Delaware Department of Transportation (DELDOT) is considering implementing the project. We and other community organizations have been asked to help prioritize the different elements of that design. If DELDOT proceeds with the project, you may be seeing brick sidewalks and traffic calming designs in the village in the near future.

We continue to experiment with the format of our regular meetings in an effort to make the gatherings more fun and to increase attendance. As always, we would love to hear from you, your suggestions and comments.

### Two Port Penn Boys Attend Heritage Day Camp

By Carlene Lewandowski

Ryan O'Neill and Nathan Goldsmith, both age 13, of Port Penn attended the Delaware Heritage Commission's Hands-On Heritage Day Camp in August, 2003. Both boys were sponsored by the Port Penn Historical Society. During the week-long day camp youngsters, ages 11 to 13, visited a different site (or two) each day to learn about various aspects of Delaware history.

Ryan and Nathan especially enjoyed meeting some of the characters who lived at Fort Delaware on Pea Patch Island during the Civil War. They were particularly interested in the enormous guns (which were never fired during the Civil War) and the huge walk-in ovens where all the daily baking needs were done for the thousands of prisoners and all the officers and their families who lived on the island.

The Historical Society is going again sponsor two young people for the summer of 2004. For information, call Carlene Lewandowski at 302-834-3669.

### Port Penn Area Dates to Remember

#### The Leap into Spring Fling

Featuring Wine, Punch,  
Hor d'oeuvres and Music  
&

#### Historical Society Semi-annual Update

Sunday, February 29, 2004  
Port Penn Interpretive Center  
1:00-3:30 pm  
Call (302) 325-2080 for information

#### Annual Marshland Dinner

Saturday, May 8, 2004  
Port Penn Fire Hall  
Seatings, 5:00 pm & 7:00 pm  
Call (302) 834-7525 for information

#### Historical Society Semi-annual Update

Sunday, September 19, 2004  
Port Penn Interpretive Center  
1:00 pm  
Refreshments will be served

Open to the public.  
PLEASE JOIN US.



# Stewart Cemetery Conservation

by John Carr and Kristin Cardi

This nineteenth century cemetery, consisting primarily of marble headstones and footstones, stands in a picturesque setting surrounded by farmland. A concrete wall encloses the cemetery with little vegetation remaining around the grave markers with the exception of a large walnut tree. Generally, the grave markers in the Stewart Cemetery were in fair condition prior to their conservation and did not exhibit conditions that are common to stones of this era including delamination and disaggregation of the outer surface of the stone, a phenomenon connected to harsh atmospheric pollution. This means that almost all of the inscriptions are still legible as are many of the decorative carvings on the stones. In addition, a few markers also bear the name and locale of the monument maker.

The conservation of the Stewart Cemetery began in November 2002 with a survey of the fifty-five extant grave markers. Carr Conservation, Inc., a conservation firm based in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and headed by John Carr, completed the assessment. The firm specializes in stone conservation, particularly grave stone treatment and repair. Three conservators assessed the condition of each marker using visual and tactile



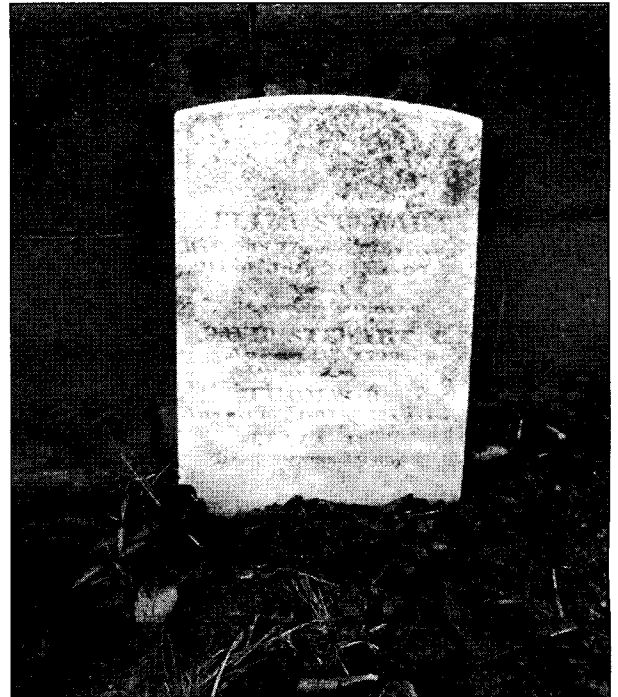
Grave marker of Ann Stewart prior to conservation, November 2002

Photograph by Carr Conservation, Inc.

methods, completed a survey form for each marker, and took a digital photograph of each stone. The survey forms included the name and inscription on each stone, the grave marker's dimensions, stone type, alignment, current condition, as well as treatment recommendations. Conditions assessment surveys aid in the evaluation of each individual marker as well as the overall site, and also serve as permanent pre-treatment documentation.

The conditions assessment yielded three priority levels for this site, which are used to prioritize the order in which the markers should be treated. The markers designated Priority 1 were most in need of repair and were typically broken markers with fragments still on site. The most severe case was the stone of Ann Stewart, which was broken into 33 fragments all of which remained on site. The broken grave markers appear to have been caused by fallen tree limbs. Priority 2 markers were typically misaligned, tilted or sunken putting them at risk for further damage.

The settling of soil over the years usually causes the change in alignment of a stone, and in this case the presence of ground hogs and their burrows also caused some stones to tilt and sink. Finally, Priority 3 markers required less treatment, and generally suffered only from biological growth and/or light environmental surface deposits. The biological growth and surface deposits are the cause of the discoloration of the stones, which were originally a white marble. Of the fifty-five grave markers surveyed, seventeen markers fell into the Priority 1 and Priority 2 categories.



Photograph by Carr Conservation, Inc.

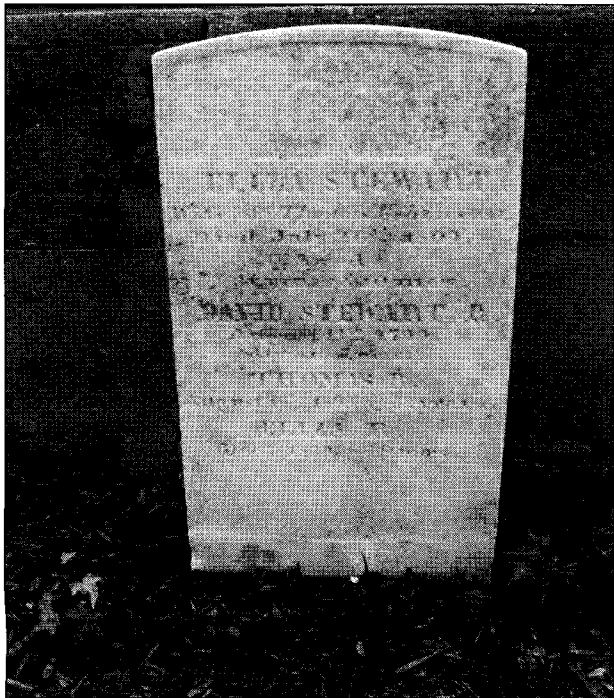
Grave marker of Eliza Stewart before conservation, November 2002. This marker had broken from its base and was found resting against the cemetery wall heavily soiled with biological growth.

In conjunction with the conservation of the grave markers, additional factors were also considered that affect the cemetery including the grade of the landscape. It was determined that the current grade should be adjusted slightly to allow for better drainage and also to explore the possibility that additional grave markers may exist. Linda Beck and Sidney Craven coordinated volunteers from the Port Penn Historical Society in conjunction with Carr Conservation to accomplish altering the landscape grade. The workday was well attended with approximately fifteen volunteers who removed tree stumps and leveled the slope of the grade. The drainage holes located around the perimeter of the concrete wall were cleared, fitted with new wire mesh to deter intruders (i.e. groundhogs) and filled with gravel to permit proper drainage. A ground covering was needed to prevent soil erosion—appropriate plantings for a cemetery of this era include periwinkle, common snowdrop, strawberry, and bleeding heart. Although conservators probed for additional grave markers, none were found.

Once the assessment was completed and the grade of the cemetery adjusted, the actual conservation and treatment of the markers began with the removal of the five most severely damaged stones. Materials and techniques were carefully selected to achieve maximum results with minimal intervention to the grave markers. In addition, the treatment can be undone or retreated should future conservation require it.

In the case of the Stewart family cemetery all fifty-five grave

markers underwent some form of conservation treatment. Basically four treatments were used. The first involved pinning larger fragments of stone back together using nylon pins that are inserted into holes drilled in the center of the stone and secured with a two-part epoxy resin. This technique of "blind" pinning allows larger stones to be reconstructed with the only visible part of the repair being the joint where the stone was first broken. This joint is then pointed with a lime-based mortar that is compatible with the marble marker. The second treatment

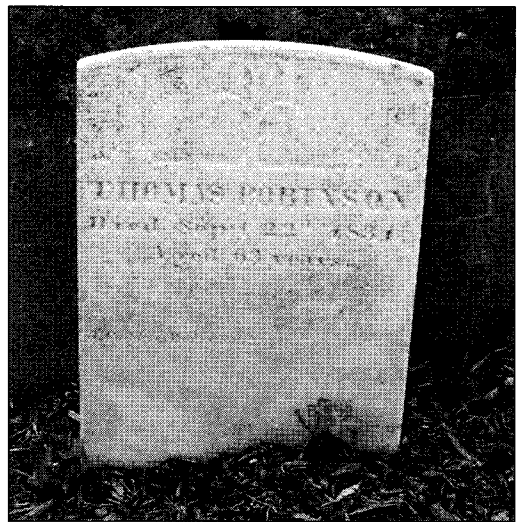


Photograph by Carr Conservation, Inc.

Grave marker of Eliza Stewart after conservation, June 2003. The marker's base was located and the two fragments were pinned together and the seam pointed. The stone was thoroughly cleaned to remove and inhibit further biological growth.

involved attaching small fragments with just the two-part epoxy resin. This epoxy is strong enough to hold small pieces in place and the joints of the fragment are then pointed with the same lime-based mortar. These two treatments were required for all of the Priority 1 markers.

The third treatment used in the cemetery consisted of resetting markers that were tilted, misaligned, or sunken. One stone, the marker of Dorothy Stewart Kingsland, was righted with the assistance of volunteers from the Port Penn Historical Society.



Photograph by Carr Conservation, Inc.

Grave marker of Thomas Robinson after treatment, decorative carvings include obelisks flanking a willow tree.

Generally, enough soil was removed from around the marker to allow it to be straightened, and then the area was then filled with gravel and filled again with soil. Finally, each grave marker in the cemetery was cleaned with D2, a biocide that safely and effectively removes biological growth for up to five years. The markers were first dampened with water, sprayed with a fifty percent solution of D2 and scrubbed, followed by a thorough rinse with water.

With periodic inspections, landscaping maintenance, and minimal conservation intervention, the cemetery will continue to be enjoyed for generations to come. Thank you to the Port Penn Historical Society for including us in this exciting project.

*John Carr is currently the Executive Director of the Fairmount Park Historic Preservation Trust in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania as well as acting as principal and senior architectural conservator at his consulting firm, Carr Conservation, Inc.. Mr. Carr received a master's degree in Historic Preservation from the University of Pennsylvania and earned an advanced certificate in Architectural Conservation.*

*Kristin Cardi has been working as an architectural conservator since completing the University of Pennsylvania's Historic Preservation Program in 1997. Carr Conservation has worked on several significant Delaware sites including Old Swedes Churchyard in Wilmington and the du Pont de Nemours Cemetery in Greenville.*



**Port Penn Area Historical Society  
P.O. Box 120  
Port Penn, Delaware 19731**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Categories: Individual \$10.00  Joint (Husband and Wife) \$15.00  Family \$20.00  Life \$200.00

I/We would like to volunteer help with Port Penn Activities.

The Port Penn Area Historical Society Newsletter is interested in your comments and ideas. Please write or call. Please return this form with your remittance to the above address. For information call: (302) 325-2080.

## Port Penn Historic Site Restored

On Sunday, September 28, 2003, about 50 Port Penn residents and Historical Society members gathered to celebrate the restoration of the Dr. David Stewart cemetery. Dr. David Orr, Historical Society Board Member, was the master of ceremonies. Participating in the ceremony were Rev. Jeffrey Dandoy, Holger H. Harvey, Executive Director of Delaware Wild Lands and John Carr, Conservator for Carr Conservation. Refreshments were served following the ceremony at the Port Penn Interpretive Center. Dr. David Stewart founded Port Penn in 1763. According to Dr. Bernard Herman in "Everyday Architecture of the Mid-Atlantic", Stewart envisioned an urban grid like Philadelphia's, a city he hoped Port Penn might some day rival. "The expansion of the town—to the west was intended to incorporate other Stewart family properties, including the family cemetery into the town plan."

The restoration of the historic Stewart family cemetery, undertaken by the Port Penn Historical Society in 2002 and 2003, is the culmination of the efforts of many people. The Historical Society especially wants to acknowledge and thank those individuals who supported and encouraged this restoration.

A special thank you to the Craven family, Mrs. David Craven, Sidney and Anne Craven and Sydney Spruance, for providing the major portion of funding for this project. Thank you to Rusty and Kathy Harvey and Delaware Wild Lands who provided the initial major land clearing of the cemetery and surrounding land. This was a herculean task removing trees, roots, vines and underbrush. Thank you to the Division of Parks and Recreation who provided money from the Bob Beck Folklife Fund to help lay the stone road to the cemetery.

Our gratitude goes to Bob Rosenberg and his family for providing and planting the trees outside the cemetery walls. A special thank you to Tom Huber from Huber's Nurseries and Garden Center for his suggestions for drought resistant groundcovers and providing all plant material and wood chips at his cost.

Conservators John Carr and Kristin Cardi completed the restoration of the 55 grave markers. The treatments included reattaching broken markers, resetting misaligned and

sunken stone, and cleaning each stone. We thank them for their excellent job and we also thank Sydney Spruance for recommending them.

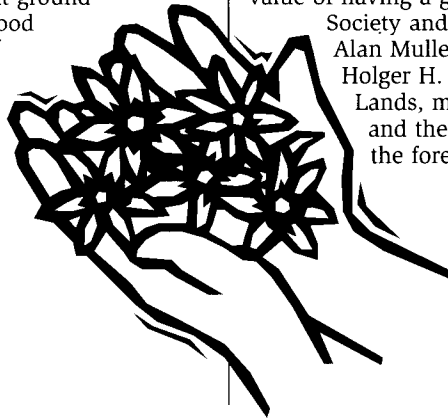
Many people have volunteered their time and were part of work committees formed throughout this year. Among the tasks were weeding, grading and drainage of the site, installation of landscaping fabric, planting and watering ivy, applying mulch, groundhog removal, etc. It's been a true collaboration and much gratitude goes to all who "rolled up their sleeves" and contributed many hours.

*William Balascio  
Linda Beck  
Tracy Beck  
Anne Craven  
Sidney Craven  
Joshua Dougherty  
Guy Harrington  
Julie Harrington  
Holger H. Harvey*

*Kathy Harvey  
Paul Lanouette  
Carlene Lewandowski  
Joseph Lewandowski  
David Orr  
Linda Orr  
Clyde Roberts  
Ruth Ann Roberts  
Robert Streets*

A special thank you is due to William Marshall for being an early advocate for this project.

The cemetery is located on a farm previously owned by the late Harvey Moore of Washington, DC. It was through the efforts of Alan Muller and Sidney Craven that initial contacts were made with Harvey Moore and discussions ensued for the preservation of the farm. Mr. Moore, an archeologist, understood the historical and cultural significance of his farm to the community and the value of having a green buffer around the village. The Historical Society and the residents of Port Penn are indebted to Alan Muller, Sidney Craven, the late Harvey Moore, Holger H. Harvey, Executive Director of Delaware Wild Lands, members of the Delaware Open Space Council, and the Division of Parks and Recreation for providing the foresight and the means to purchase this farm.



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**P.O. Box 120**  
**Port Penn, Delaware 19731**

*Address Correction Requested*