



News Journal, The - December 23, 2008

For local history buffs, a wealth of new offerings

News Journal, The (Wilmington, DE) - Tuesday, December 23, 2008

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By MOLLY MURRAY and DAN SHORTRIDGE

The News Journal

A collection of new books that focus on Delmarva people and places are out just in time for holiday gift-giving.

... "Fenwick Island, A Brief History" by **Mary Pat Kyle**

Kyle's book about Fenwick Island started as a master's dissertation when Kyle was attending the University of Delaware.

The book was originally published in 1995, Kyle said.

But last year, Kyle said, she was contacted by The History Press and asked to update and revise the book.

Kyle "introduces readers to the legendary sea bandit Captain Kidd, the elusive beach-dwelling widow Zippy Lewis and other storied characters that have populated this quiet beach community and shaped its history throughout the centuries," is the description provided by The History Press.

The soft-cover book is updated with pictures of recent beach replenishment projects, Kyle said.

It is available at local book stores and Amazon.com...

... "Images of America" books

There are several books available this year in the "Images of America" series, the popular local history books featuring photos from days gone by.

New are books on the Delaware Air National Guard, the Wilmington and Western Railroad, the Forty Acres neighborhood in Wilmington, and Delaware agriculture.

All the books were written by authors with intimate knowledge of their subjects.

The Air National Guard book was written by Kennard R. Wiggins Jr., a retired brigadier general in the Delaware Guard, who now heads the Delaware Military Heritage and Education Foundation. The Delaware Farming book was written by **Ed Kee**, a fifth-generation Delawarean who worked for years as a crop specialist with the University of Delaware.

"Man and Nature in Delaware"

Also out this year is the final volume from the late **William H. Williams**, a noted Delaware historian who taught at the University of Delaware's Parallel Program in Georgetown for many years.

Williams died in April 2007, shortly after completing the manuscript for the book, "Man and Nature in Delaware: An Environmental History of the First State, 1631-2000."

Published by the Delaware Heritage Commission, the book focuses on the changes since the first European settlement in 1631. It includes a study of the evolution of agriculture, the impact of urbanization and Gov. Russell Peterson's environmental legacy.

Richard B. Carter, chair of the heritage commission, said Williams knew he was dying of cancer while writing the book, and gave it to the commission to publish.

"We see this book as both the summing up of his thoughts on Delaware and his last gift to the people of his adopted state, whom he'd come to know and love so well," Carter said.

Williams is also the author of books on Delaware Methodism, slavery and the Delmarva poultry industry.

The book may be purchased online at shop.delaware.gov.

Copies are also being sold at the Georgetown Public Library as a fundraiser for its new building.

"I think this is what Bill would want," said his widow, Helen Williams.

Edition: Final

Section: LIFE

Page: E1, E6

Dateline: Delaware

Record Number: wil33055027

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