

Working Together: Recent Collaborative Activities with DHSCF

John O. Senior

Since 2010 the Society has been actively involved in an ongoing cooperative endeavor with the Devon Horse Show and Country Fair (DHSCF) to preserve, organize, and share its rich and extensive history. Beginning with an effort to protect historic photographs that were at risk of damage or loss, former Society president Roger Thorne led the mission to locate and carefully digitize these irreplaceable images, and in some cases provided substitute prints for display so that the originals could be properly archived. As part of the cooperative arrangement, the Society has provided archive space and appropriate conservation efforts for the involved DHSCF historic assets.

More recently, in preparation for the 2013 Show, the Society collaborated with DHSCF in the redecoration of the second floor of the newly dedicated Leonard A. King Committee Stand building located at the north end of the Dixon Oval where the Committee, Presenter, and Sponsor viewing areas are located, along with the press and announcer booths. Society president Michael Morrison and vice president John O. Senior met with DHSCF volunteer project coordinator Rosemary Wilson who had selected a group of ten historic photos from the image collection to be displayed in the large central Sponsor Suite. In addition, several additional images were selected for display in the adjacent Presenters' Suite.

John prepared the digital images with captions for high resolution printing on glossy photo paper and worked with Rosemary and Michael on the final design and layout for the display.

Since the rooms are both open on the south side facing the ring, it was important that the prints would not be adversely affected by wind or sunlight. Michael worked with generous supporter Nancy Schwab of the Artful Framer in Paoli to have the printed photos mounted on specially prepared medium density fiberboard (MDF) and laminated with a protective anti-glare film. Just before the opening of the show in May, Michael and John carefully hung the resulting sturdy and very attractive photographic prints, along with a smaller print in each room briefly describing the project and the partnership. The project was a great success and many positive comments were received from staff, volunteers, and visitors.



Top: The redecorated Committee Stand. **Middle:** Two views of the newly mounted photos in the Sponsor Suite. **Lower:** (L-R) Fran Jacobs (DHSCF), Michael Morrison, Roger Thorne (TEHS), and Meg Wiederseim (DHSCF) in front of the new photo display in the Presenters' Suite. *Photos courtesy of John O. Senior (2013). Inset: One of the photos displayed (c. 1916) Courtesy of Devon Horse Show and Country Fair*



Presenting the Single/Pair Pony Pleasure Turnout first place award at Devon on 27 May 2013. (From right) Fran Jacobs, (DHSCF Trophy Committee), Nancy Kimmons (TEHS), and John O. Senior (TEHS) with winning whip Tara Miliziano-Crowley, attended by her groom in full livery, and ringmaster Bob Drennan. Photo © 2013 Bob Moseder



Award presentation for High Performance Working Hunter Over Fences at Devon 27 May 2013. (From right) Patrick Johnson (DHSCF Trophy Committee), J. Michael Morrison (TEHS), and Becky Graham (DHSCF Trophy Committee intern), with trainer Larry Glefke, the winner "Taken," and ringmaster Bob Drennan. Photo © 2013 The Book LLC

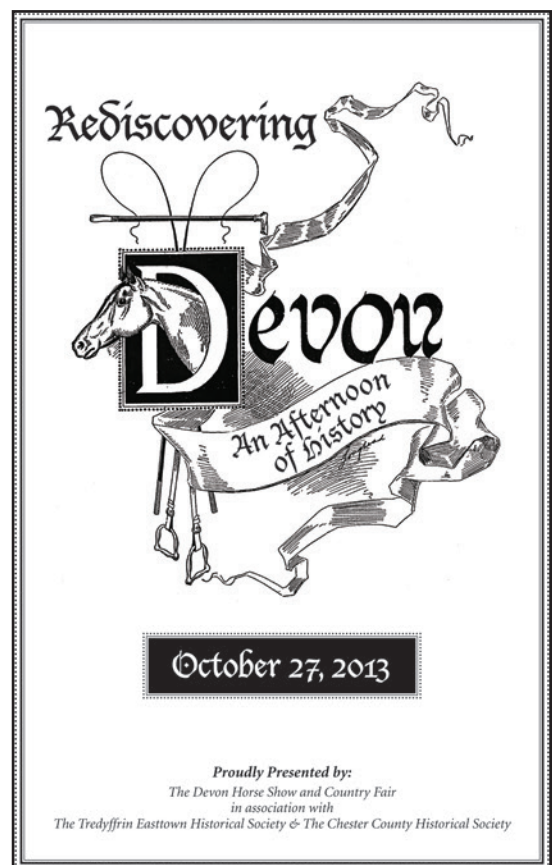
In recognition of their contributions to the project, and on behalf of the Society, Michael and John were both invited to present awards at the Show on Memorial Day, a honor that both appreciated and enjoyed.

Another aspect of the collaboration was the formation of a joint committee comprising members of the TEHS, DHSCE, and Chester County Historical Society (CCHS) organizations for the purpose of coordinating special events to support the Devon history initiative. The first event "Rediscovering Devon: An Afternoon of History" is scheduled for Sunday 27 October 2013 at CCHS in West Chester, PA and will coincide with a two-week exhibit of Devon historical artifacts, documents, and images (including the mounted prints prepared for the Committee Stand project) in the CCHS gallery area. It is the hope of the committee that this will be the exciting first step of many more to come.

A Note from Michael Morrison

There is an opportunity for you to become a part of this effort to curate, interpret, and collect pieces of our rich local history, and protect them for future generations to enjoy. Our preservation efforts include the collection of artifacts and books, in addition to documents and photographs, which will also be digitally scanned. We are also very interested in recording personal memories of the Devon Horse Show and Country Fair because the story is incomplete, and you may well be able to help us fill in the blanks with your recollections. Each remembrance adds a valuable piece to the puzzle, so please let us hear your stories. If you have something to contribute or have questions, we can be reached via email at dhsce@tehistory.org, or call the DHSCE office at 610-964-0550.

Please remember that in most cases you need not ever part with your treasures as we do our own scanning, and we can even come to you with our portable equipment. This is your chance to not only take part in this initiative, but to be recognized for helping to maintain the still unfolding story that is the Devon Horse Show and Country Fair.



Program cover for jointly sponsored event. Graphic design courtesy of Sondra Zalewski/designz