



TODAY'S SUNBEAM

Commemoration of Massacre to focus on role of women

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By **Jaime E. Marine**

jmarine@sjnewsco.com

LOWER ALLOWAYS CREEK TWP. - Colonial women will be the focus of the commemoration of the 232nd anniversary of the Revolutionary War Massacre at the William Hancock House on Saturday.

The anniversary event will feature numerous researchers who have studied the role of females during this time period, according to event organizers. The event, which runs from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., will also feature re-enactors doing drills, open-hearth cooking, wool spinning and military drills for children.

"This is a great opportunity to promote local history," State Park Service history specialist Alicia Bjornson said Thursday, adding the activities have been organized by the Friends of the Hancock House.

She added that this event not only focuses on the massacre, but it also acts as a way to inform people about the individuals that make up the history of Salem County.

"When you do this, you start to expand your audience," Bjornson said.

Jim Schulte, event coordinator, said Thursday that the Hancock House played an important part in the Revolutionary War.

He said the re-enactors, many who are from the mid-Atlantic region, see this event as their opening day.

"We try and take people back so that people understand what was going on during that period," Schulte said.

Some of the keynote speakers at this weekend's event include:

Dolores Pfeuffer-Scherer, who will present "The Political Lives of Colonial Women" at 10:30 a.m. in the Lower Alloways Creek fire hall.

Nancy Webster, who will present at 1:15 p.m. on "The Midwifery of 18th-Century Women."

Lee Anderson, who is the director at Fort Mifflin on the Delaware, will do a presentation entitled "Fort Mercer and the Role of Quaker Women" at 2:15 p.m. The program will detail the history of Fort Mercer and the important role of Quaker women at the fort.

Other highlights of the event include: a 10 a.m. memorial service to those soldiers lost in battle and to past friends who have made the event special; all-day 18th-Century camp life demonstrations; all-day house tours and cooking demos in the cabin; and a "raid" on the Hancock House at 3:25 p.m.

Bjornson said the event is made possible because of a great group of volunteers that came up with the idea many years ago. She added this is their way of kicking off the spring season and reaching out to the community.

Bjornson said that this event is about learning, asking questions, and seeing what life was like during these times.

All events are free, open to the public and are handicap accessible.

For further information, contact the Hancock House at (856) 935-4373, or Schulte at jschultesr@verizon.net.

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