

NEWARK HISTORIC HIKE



Chris J. Mitchell
Troop 255

A Little Newark History

Historians tell us that in the early 1700s a small English, Scots-Irish and Welsh hamlet grew along two old Indian trails and the fall line where the Christina and White Clay Creeks turn sharply eastward toward the Delaware River. In time, the area began to serve travelers on route from the Chesapeake Bay, Virginia and Maryland and colonial Philadelphia. In addition, the streams flowed with sufficient velocity to power the grist and sawmills that soon dotted their banks. Rich soil meant wheat, corn and vegetables were plentiful, and the available ore from nearby Iron Hill fed the forges of a small country iron works. Soon a tannery and brickyard were added to the village. By 1758, the bustling local market and country crossroads received recognition in the form of a Charter from King George II, and Newark was officially born.

While the village's history soon followed the typical late 18th and early 19th century Middle Atlantic region development pattern of agriculturally based trade, coupled with steam and water powered industry, Newark departed from tradition as its primary impetus for future growth came from the evolution of a local private academy into the City's largest landowner -- the University of Delaware.

In 1765, a small preparatory and grammar school had moved from New London, Pennsylvania, to Newark. The school, the Newark Academy, flourished during the years prior to the American Revolution -- Newark was described at the time as "suitable and healthy village, not too rich or luxurious, where real learning might be obtained." During the war, however, the Academy was closed and its funds seized by the British. In 1833, the State of Delaware -- recognizing the need for local higher education -- granted a charter to a new institution in the town, Newark College, later renamed Delaware College. The next year, the College merged with the Academy and shortly thereafter the grammar and preparatory portion of the school was closed. In 1914, the Women's College, physically adjacent and linked administratively to the male school, began operations. The two institutions were not formally combined until 1944. Prior to that, in 1921, the male college received a revised State charter and a new name -- the University of Delaware.

To learn more about Newark's history enjoy the hike and also visit the City of Newark website at:

<http://www.cityofnewarkde.us/index.aspx?nid=56>

and the

Newark Historical Society Inc
429 S. College Avenue
Newark, DE 19711
Phone # (302) 224-2408

Newark Historic Trail

Welcome! The intention of this trail is to give you, the hiker, a small taste of what can be seen and experienced in the wonderful city of Newark, Delaware and to expose you to some of its beauty and varied history.

Please start the trail at the parking lot of the **Newark Reservoir**. It is located on Old Paper Mill Road where, at the time this trail was created, there was no fee to park there. Parking is from Dawn until Dusk only.

**Note: the Newark Historic Trail is a 9 mile round trip that returns you to the starting point. You can easily make this trail 10 plus miles by taking the trail to the top of the Newark Reservoir and circling the perimeter. There is a very nice view of the City of Newark from the top of the reservoir.

Start the trail by exiting the parking lot of the Newark Reservoir and turning Right onto Old Paper Mill Road. Go .2 miles.
Cross and turn Left onto Paper Mill Road.

Immediately to your left was the former site of the Curtis Paper Mill Company. Possibly starting out as the Meeteer Mill as early as 1789, it was bought by the Curtis family in 1848 and became famous for its high quality papers. At its closing in 1997 it was the oldest paper mill in America. The City of Newark purchased the land and at the time of the creation of this trail, was planning a park area with historic plaques to recognize its significance.

Now cross the bridge over beautiful White Clay Creek

**Note: White Clay Creek is stocked every Spring for anglers to fish for Trout. Varieties include Rainbow, Brown, and Palomino.

To the left you will see the **American Vulcanized Fibre Company** building which at the turn of the twentieth century, was the largest vulcanized fibre producer in the world. Vulcanized fibre is a laminated plastic composed of cellulose. It is a tough, resilient, hornlike material that is lighter than aluminum, tougher than leather, and currently used to strengthen wood laminations used in products like skis, skateboards and laminate wood flooring.

< at the time of the creation of this trail - home to Timothy's restaurant >

Continue on Paper Mill Road to E. Cleveland Avenue.

Cross E. Cleveland Avenue to N. Chapel Street.

Continue on N. Chapel Street crossing under the train bridge to New Street.

Turn Right onto New Street. Go 1 block to a roadway entrance to **Newark Methodist Cemetery** across from Choate Street.



Follow the road into Newark Methodist Cemetery and find the grave of Fredrick W. Gehrold, US War Veteran, on the left side of the road. You can see it from the road. War Heroes have a round metal marker at the site.

(?) 1- What year did he die?

Return to New Street. Turn Left.

Return to N. Chapel Street. Turn Right.

Continue on N. Chapel Street toward E. Main Street and stop at the **Chapel Street Playhouse**.



Find the building's cornerstone.

(?) 2- What is the year on the cornerstone?

Continue on N. Chapel Street to E. Main Street. Turn Left and cross N. Chapel Street to **St. John the Baptist Church**.



Continue on N. Chapel Street to E. Main Street. Turn Left and cross N. Chapel Street to **St. John the Baptist Church**.

You have completed the Newark Historic Trail

When Group Leaders are satisfied that the hiking group has met all of the requirements of the Newark Historic Trail, a trail patch can be purchased from DelMarVa Council BSA Nentego Lodge Order of the Arrow. An order form is included with the Newark Historic Trail Information Sheet which can be down loaded at:

<http://www.doubleknot.com/openrosters/vieworgpagelink.asp?orgkey=1516&linkkey=24478>

(?) 37- What was Richard Bennet's rank?

Return to Newark back the way you came:
Follow Church Road .6 miles
Left on Casho Mill Road .1 mile
Right on Nottingham Road/West Main Street 1.0 mile back to Hillside Road
Make a Left on Hillside Road

Follow Hillside Road to **St. John's African Methodist Church**



Find the plaque on the side of the building facing Hillside Road.
(?) 38- On what date was the congregation formally incorporated as "St. John's African Methodist Church"?

Re-cross Hillside Road and cross over New London Road to West Cleveland Avenue
Stop at **Pride of Delaware Lodge #349 IB POEW**



Find a plaque on the front of the building
(?) 39- When was the Lodge issued the #349 Charter?

Follow West Cleveland Avenue to Paper Mill Road
Cross Paper Mill Road and turn Left
Follow Paper Mill Road to Old Paper Mill Road and turn Right
Follow Old Paper Mill Road to return to the parking lot of the Newark Reservoir

Find the plaque on the Chapel Street side of the church courtyard
(?) 3- What happened to the belfry in 1953?

Cross E. Main Street. Turn Right and cross N. Chapel Street. Continue down E. Main Street in the direction of traffic to 105 E. Main Street and the **Newark Academy**.



Find the plaque near the entrance of the building at the top of the stairs
(?) 4- The original grant was under whom?

Visit the War Memorial in the courtyard



(?) 5- Who was the only Newark Native to give his life in the Korean War?

In the corner of the courtyard near E. Main Street and Academy Street
Find the historic plaque for the Newark Academy.
(?) 6- Who chartered the Academy in 1769?

Return to E. Main Street.
Continue to follow Academy Street to E. Main Street.
Turn Left onto E. Main Street and walk to the **Main Street 4 Faced Clock**.



Find a plaque on the clock base.

(?) 7- What is the Rotary's 4 way test - question number 3?

Left of E. Main Street is the **UofD Shops** building that once housed Newark HS. < at the time of the creation of this trail - home to Barnes and Nobles bookstore >



Find the corner Plaque.

(?) 8- According to the plaque, what was this building originally erected as?

Continue the same direction on E. Main Street to **Newark United Methodist Church.**



Find the plaque on the church side facing E. Main Street.

(?) 9- What year was the present site purchased?

Continuing on E. Main Street, the next building is the Odd Fellows Building

Cross the railroad tracks (caution live tracks) and continue on W. Main Street (Rte 273) ½ a block to **R.T. Foard & Jones Inc.** funeral home



(?) 34- In what year was the property sold to Robert T. Jones Sr.?

Cross the street on the crosswalk and continue on W. Main Street
Cross Hillside Road (W. Main becomes Nottingham Road)
Continue 1.1 miles, and cross Casho Mill Road
Turn left onto Casho Mill Road. Go .1 mile.
Turn right onto Church Road. Go .6 miles crossing the street to stay on sidewalks but eventually losing them just before arriving at **Head of Christiana United Presbyterian Church**



Find a plaque for Head of Christiana United Presbyterian Church.

(?) 35- In what year was Head of Christiana United Presbyterian Church listed on the National Register of Historic Places?

On the corner of the graveyard find a plaque for Revolutionary War Patriots in Head of Christiana Cemetery.

(?) 36- How many veterans are buried in the cemetery?

The 5th name on the plaque is Richard Bennet. Follow the wall closest to the church to find his grave. Revolutionary War Heroes have a round metal marker at the site.

Turn left on E. Main Street toward College Avenue. Cross College Avenue (you are now on W. Main Street) to the **George Evan's House**.



Find a plaque near the entrance.
(?) 31- What year was it erected?

Cross W. Main Street to **Raub Hall**



Find a plaque near the entrance.

(?) 32- How many panes of glass are in the window above the door?

Walk 1 block and on W. Main Street to the **Deer Park Tavern**.



Find a plaque on the wall dedicated to the Deer Park Hotel.

(?) 33- In what year was it listed on the National Register of Historic Places?

Find the plaque of **Oriental Lodge # 12 I.O.O.F.**



(?) 10- What year was the Lodge formally established in this country?

Continue the same direction on E. Main Street to S. College Avenue. Cross over and turn Left on South College Avenue.

Follow South College Avenue to the South College Avenue bridge. Go under the bridge and turn Left to the Southbound Amtrak platform. The building at the platform houses the **Newark Historical Society Inc** and their museum. If you have made arrangements in advance, this is a wonderful opportunity for a visit and to see even more of Newark's history.



To continue the Newark Historic Trail, follow the building around to the right to the James F. Hall Trail. There is a trail map at the head.



**Note: The James F. Hall Trail is a 1.76 mile, paved and lighted, walkway that runs along the Amtrak line from Bradford Lane to Delaware Technology Park.

Follow the James F. Hall Trail (with the railroad tracks to your right) .1 miles and turn left on Academy Street.

Follow Academy Street and stop at the **Perkins Student Center** on the right.



Find a plaque on the 2nd column from left.
 (?) 11- What year was the building erected?

Continue to follow Academy Street and stop at **Penny Hall** on the right.



(?) 12- What year was it erected?

Continue to follow Academy Street and turn right on Lovett Avenue.
 Go .2 miles.
 Turn left on Haines Street. Go .2 miles.
 Turn Right on E. Delaware Avenue and find the **New Century Club**.



Find the historical plaque.
 (?) 13- What is the club's motto?

Continue the same direction on E. Delaware Avenue to
Hiram Lodge No. 25

The next building on the Left is **Sharp Laboratory**.



There is a plaque dedicated to Hugh Rodney Sharp but find the dated marble cornerstone near the entrance door.
 (?) 28- What is the date?

Continue on path and re-cross E Delaware Avenue at the crosswalk and continue left on the path.

The next building on left is **Sypherd Hall**



Find a plaque to Wilbur Owen Sypherd.
 (?) 29- What year was Sypherd Residence Hall constructed?

The last building on the Green is **Brown Hall**



Find a plaque dedicated to Harry Fletcher Brown.
 (?) 30- What year was Brown Hall constructed?

Climb the stairs to exit the UD Green and return to E. Main Street.



Find the plaque to the right of the entrance stairs.

(?) 24- What year was it placed on the National Register of Historic Places?

Continuing around the green walkway to the right. The next building on the left is **Hullihen Hall**



Find a plaque on the building face at the top of the stairs.

(?) 25- What year was it renamed Hullihen Hall?

The next building is on the left is **Mitchell Hall**.



Find a plaque on the building face at the top of the stairs.

(?) 26- What is the oldest year on the plaque?

The next building is on the left is **Gore Hall**.



Find a plaque dedicated to Robert W. Gore.

(?) 27- What is the only registered trade mark name on the plaque?



(?) 14- When was the lodge moved to E. Delaware Avenue?

Return to E. Delaware Avenue, crossing Haines Street and walk to Academy Street.

Cross Academy to **East Hall**.



<currently the University Media Services and Academic Technology Services building>

(?) 15- When was it erected?

Cross E. Delaware Avenue and Academy to the **Aetna Hook, Hose, and Ladder Company** (a fire house).



Find a plaque on the front of the building.

(?) 16- What year span was James F. Woods the President of the company?

Cross Academy to another small fire house of **Aetna Hook Hose and Ladder Company**.



(?) 17- To whom is this building dedicated?

Continue the same direction on Academy Street to E. Main Street.
Turn Left on E. Main Street
Follow E. Main Street towards the UD Campus about 2 blocks.
At the 2nd crosswalk turn left, and descend the stairs to the UD Green.
The first building on the left is **Harter Hall**



Find a plaque dedicated to George Abram Harter.
(?) 18- When was Harter Residence Hall constructed?

Continue on UD campus to **Sharp Hall**, the 2nd building on left



Find a plaque dedicated to Hugh Rodney Sharp
(?) 19- When was Sharp Hall constructed?

Use crosswalk to cross E. Delaware Avenue and continue to follow the left hand path. The next building is **Wolf Hall**



Find a plaque dedicated to Prof. Theodore Wolf.
(?) 20- What Year was Wolf Hall completed?

The next building is **Du Pont Hall**



Find a plaque dedicated to Pierre Samuel du Pont.
(?) 21- In what year did Pierre Samuel du Pont donate money for the UD Green?

The next building is **Evans Hall**



Find a plaque dedicated to George Gillespie Evans & Charles Black Evans.
(?) 22- How were they related?

The next building is **Brown Laboratory**.



Find a plaque dedicated to Harry Fletcher Brown
(?) 23- What year did he join the du Pont company?

At the end of the Green stands **Memorial Hall**