



Summer 2020

Dear Fellow Delawarean,

The Lewes Historical Society hopes that this letter finds you safe and healthy during these uncertain times. We are reaching out to you, with optimism and hope that you will help us with an urgent need.

As the custodian of the Ryves Holt House, circa 1665, the oldest surviving structure on its original foundation in the state of Delaware, we are responsible for its preservation. This historic house and First State National Park property is in dire need of extensive repairs and restoration. The house is in immediate need of a roof replacement, masonry repair and replacement, asbestos remediation, cedar shake siding replacement, among other concerns.

Estimates to repair and restore the house, preventing it from further deterioration are in the hundreds of thousands of dollars. We have been promised a generous grant from a Delaware foundation, but we need to match the amount in full, by mid-November 2020, or be ineligible to receive the actual \$100,000 award.

Won't you please join us in preserving this American treasure, so that future generations can learn of our region's history firsthand? No gift is too small, and every dollar is 100% tax deductible.

Your generosity will be used directly to save this regional and national treasure. We invite you to visit the Ryves Holt House in Lewes today, open Wednesday through Sunday, from 12 to 3 pm. While you are there, please consider donating in person, or return your contribution in the enclosed envelope, donate online at historiclewes.org, or call the Lewes Historical Society at 302.645.7670.

Thank you for partnering with us to maintain and restore this icon of the First State and our great nation. We look forward to seeing you on your next visit to our historic campus and museums.

With appreciation, I am,

James Archer Abbott
Executive Director, Lewes Historical Society

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