

APRIL 2023



# DECK LOG

*Dahlgren Heritage Museum*

## I Love the 80's to Death! Murder Mystery Dinner Theater

We totally can't wait to see you at our Murder Mystery Dinner Theater on April 15th at Estate at White Hall Vineyard. There were only like 5 tickets left on the night we completed this Deck Log. We are in for a tubular good time with the show, a dinner catered by Mission BBQ, and a silent auction featuring some amazing items.

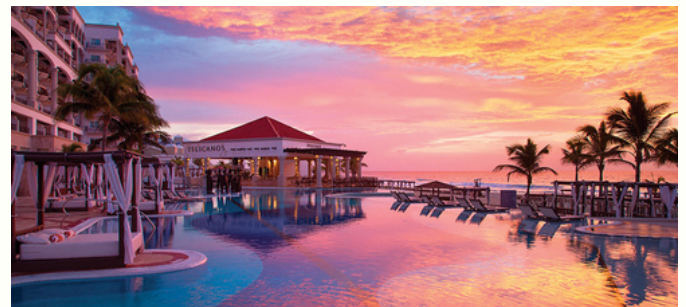
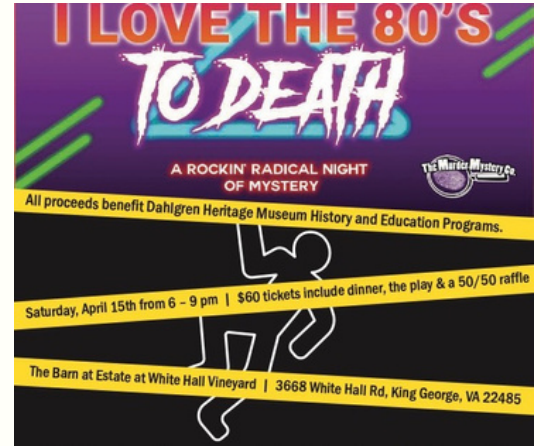
Check out these epic auction items! We've got:

- Star Wars/The Empire Strikes Back/ Return of the Jedi movie poster featuring 8 authentic signatures of original cast members
- Top Gun movie poster signed by 7 members of the original cast
- Autographed sheet music of the Eagles' "Hotel California"
- Autographed Johnny Cash album
- 4 Night Cancun Trip
- 3 Night Nashville Unplugged Trip
- Wine Party Basket for 8 that Includes Wine, a Charcuterie Tray, and Dessert
- Pampered Chef Gift Basket donated by Lori Hillard Wehr
- Professional Portrait Package donated by Lubin Portrait Studio ([www.jefflubin.com](http://www.jefflubin.com))

Our friends at White Hall are awarding a prize for best dressed for the theme of the evening, so wear your favorite 80s outfit!

Tickets are \$60 and are available at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/529665302177>.

Can't wait to see everyone there for a gnarly good time!



## Dahlgren Heritage Foundation Goes on the Road

by Rob Gates

The State Historical Society of Missouri held its 65th annual Missouri Conference on History in Springfield, Missouri, on March 15-17. I was invited to present my paper “The Navy Comes to Dahlgren...or Does It?” as part of their “Congress & Its Constituents” panel. Now there are at least ten more people in Missouri who have heard of Dahlgren!

Harry Black, one of our docents, invited me to speak at the March 8 luncheon of the Be Active Live Longer (B.A.L.L.) group at Oakland Baptist Church. So, I had the opportunity to dry run my presentation. They got the “unabridged” version of the talk, and I learned an important lesson about time management! Since several former Dahlgren employees attended the meeting, there was a lively interchange.

The presentation at the conference in Missouri was limited to 20 minutes and only addressed the first dozen years of Dahlgren history. The paper on which the presentation is based covers Dahlgren history up to the present and was published in the December 2021 issue of the *Northern Neck of Virginia Historical Magazine*.

## We Welcome Opportunities to Provide Group Tours

On Thursday, March 23rd, Dahlgren Foundation President Ed Jones gave a special tour of the museum for a party of eight led by Senior Adult Pastor Hans Murdock of Culpeper Baptist Church.

Would your group be interested in coming in for a private tour or for someone to come to you to give a presentation? You can contact us to make arrangements at [dahlgrenmuseuminfo@gmail.com](mailto:dahlgrenmuseuminfo@gmail.com)



Ed Jones speaks to visitors on a special tour.

Visit us on the web at  
[www.dahlgrenmuseum.org](http://www.dahlgrenmuseum.org)

Look for us on Facebook too!

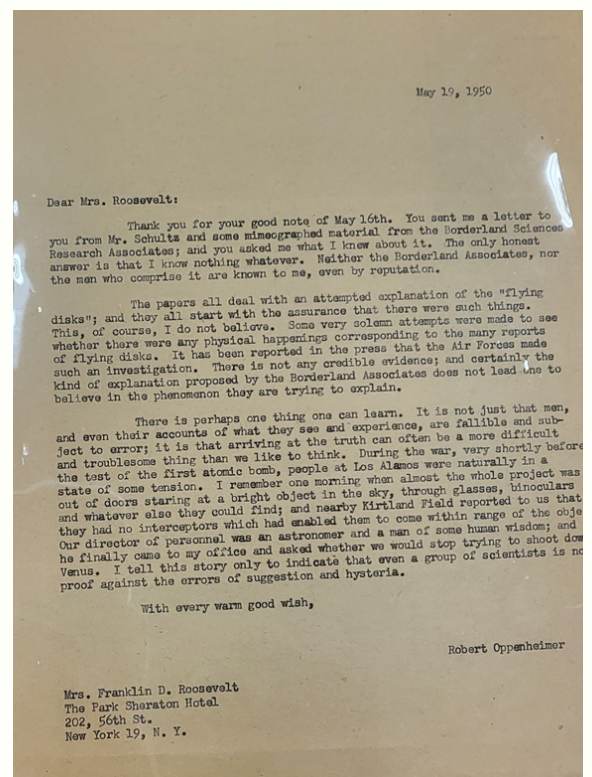
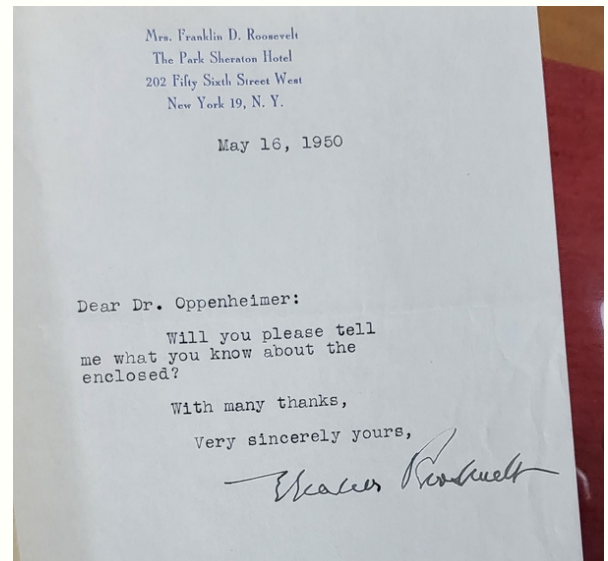


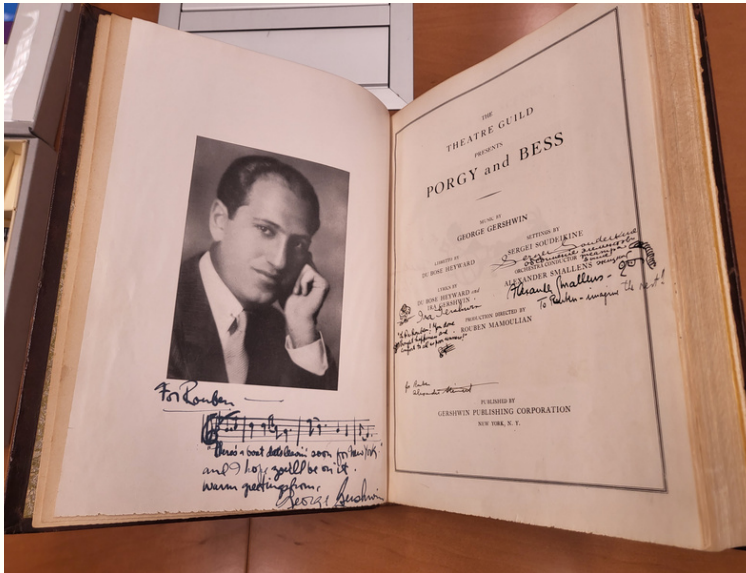
## Dahlgren Heritage Museum Teams with the Library of Congress

by Alan Dean

The exhibit featuring Ira and Dr. Gladys West continues to provide opportunities for the Museum to expand its partnerships. Recent inquiries by the Library of Congress Manuscripts Division ([https://www.loc.gov/rr/mss/mss\\_abt.html](https://www.loc.gov/rr/mss/mss_abt.html)) to the West Family led to a visit in January by Mr. Josh Levy, the Technology Historian for the Library of Congress, Manuscripts Division as reported in last month's Deck Log. On March 3rd, this writer and my granddaughter, Jillian, got to deliver the first box of West material that will be archived at the Library of Congress documenting the extraordinary career of Dr. Gladys West. Josh provided a tour of the Madison Building facility, showing us some of the 70,000,000 items they have in their collections. These items included a lock of Abigail Adams' hair, an original Porgy and Bess director's script signed by George Gershwin and the original cast, a letter from Eleanor Roosevelt to Dr. Oppenheimer asking if UFOs were real, a contract signed by Marie Curie purchasing Radium for \$100,000 and a page from a math cypher document written by Abraham Lincoln. (The way they taught math in Lincoln's time was to show students how to do it in the classroom and, for their final exam, have them turn in a book documenting what they learned called a cypher

book.) Unfortunately, pictures were not allowed in the vault where the Lincoln cypher text was being stored, but you can visit <https://quod.lib.umich.edu/j/jala/2629860.0036.103/--abraham-lincolns-cyphering-book-and-the-abbaco-tradition?rgn=main;view=fulltext>.  
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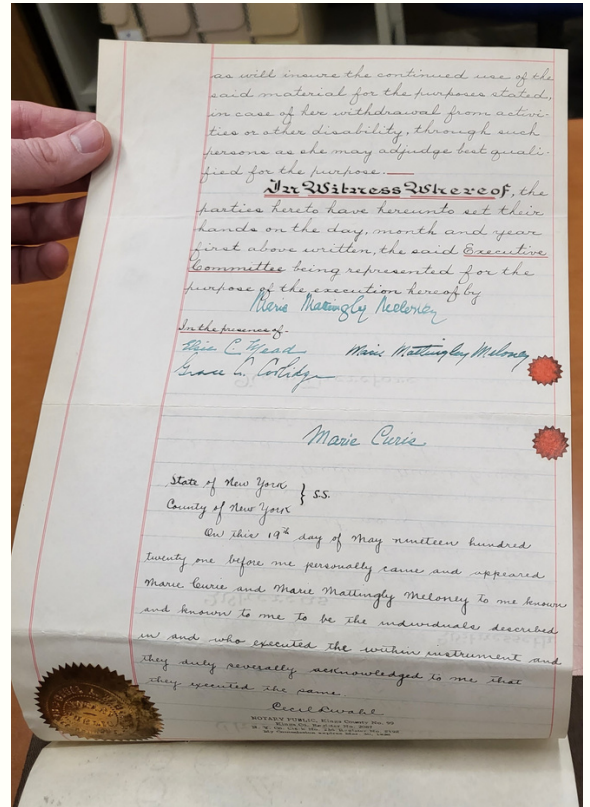




[Library of Congress continued]

The tour also included a walk through the vaults where they keep such things as all the writings of the Presidents from George Washington to Calvin Coolidge (the National Archives took this responsibility over for the rest of the Presidents in the 1930s), the writings of American authors such as Walt Whitman, the writings of scientists such as Alexander Graham Bell, and the writings of Supreme Court Justices like Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Dr. West is in good company.

The tour continued into the Jefferson Building and the famous reading room. My voracious book reading granddaughter declared she needed a Library of Congress library card. The Museum will continue to share more of Dr. West's material as the family provides it. It was a trip that the writer and his granddaughter will never forget.



**Dahlgren Museum is hiring docents! New docents will attend training sessions on the museum's programs and exhibits. There is no requirement that applicants have prior experience with the base or the museum. Most docents will be scheduled for one or two six-hour periods per week. This is a paid position. Resumes and questions can be sent to the museum by email at [dahlgrenmuseuminfo@gmail.com](mailto:dahlgrenmuseuminfo@gmail.com) or mailed to Dahlgren Heritage Museum, PO Box 816, Dahlgren VA 22448.**



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## 2022 - 2023 Membership

Thank you for your support of the Dahlgren Heritage Foundation! With your help we are educating the community on the Dahlgren story, running a museum, and working towards hosting more interesting and exciting events. We wouldn't be able to do any of this without you. We look forward to another great year and we are thankful for your membership! Donate by mailing a check to PO Box 816, Dahlgren, VA 22448 or visit [www.dahlgrenmuseum.org](http://www.dahlgrenmuseum.org) and click Membership.

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I would like to make an additional tax-deductible donation of  
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