



# The Historian

*A Man's Life – A Nation's History*  
*A Newsletter for Friends of the Sanderson*  
*March 2023 Issue 30*

## NEWS FROM THE MUSEUM

Hello, Friends! We are excited to begin the 2023 season here at The Sanderson Museum. We will be open on Saturdays and Sundays from 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM beginning Saturday March 4.

We also can open by appointment for those visiting our area during the week. To schedule an appointment, please call 610-329-7884.

## Training is Complete – We're ready for you!

Sally Denk Hoey

Early Saturday morning on February 18, the Sanderson guides got together at the Museum for the annual pre-season training session and warm breakfast catered by Ariana's in West Chester.



*Volunteers Gary Sharp and Linda Banks attend our Thank You and Training Breakfast.*

Museum Curator Chuck Ulmann led the session of nine volunteers along with Administrative Manager Makenzie McGonigle in updated procedures.



*Makenzie McGonigle and Chuck Ulmann lead training.*

Board and Steering Committee member Jim Christ updated us on the new Zettle © credit card machine.

After the museum gets shined up by our cleaning crew, we're looking forward to opening for the 2023 season on Saturday March 4.

We'd love you to join our volunteer guides and meet great visitors from across the United States. Our list of our long-time, dedicated volunteers can always be longer!



*Jim Christ gives hands-on training using our credit card machine.*

## Mysteries at the Sanderson Museum

The Assassination of Abraham Lincoln  
Gene Pisasale, volunteer

On the morning of April 14, 1865- Good Friday- Abraham Lincoln was in a good mood. Confederate General Robert E. Lee surrendered to Union General Ulysses S. Grant the week before. He had saved the Union. The bitterly fought four-year long

conflict was over, but not in the mind of John Wilkes Booth. Lincoln experienced an eerie premonition just a few days before. He told his friend Ward Hill Lamon about a frightening dream he'd had regarding events in the White House: "I kept on until I arrived at the East Room, which I entered. There I met with a sickening surprise. Before me was a catafalque, on which rested a corpse wrapped in funeral vestments. Around it were stationed soldiers who were acting as guards; and there was a throng of people, gazing mournfully... 'Who is dead in the White House?' I demanded of one of the soldiers. 'The President; he was killed by an assassin.'"



John Wilkes Booth shoots President Abraham Lincoln at Ford's Theatre

Lincoln and his wife Mary went to see the play "Our American Cousin" at Ford's Theater that night.

Lincoln's guard was off duty that

night, so police officer John Frederick Parker was assigned to guard the President. At intermission, Parker left the theater and went drinking in a nearby saloon. He had not returned when the play resumed, leaving the President unguarded. Booth was at the theater. He saw his chance - and took it.

Around 10:25 p.m., Booth walked up the steps toward Lincoln's box, handed his well-known business card to a nearby usher and asked to see the President. Entering the box, Booth stepped forward, pointed a small Derringer toward the back of Lincoln's head, and pulled the trigger.

Young Army surgeon Charles Leale was the first doctor on the scene. He made his way up to the Presidential box, as did another doctor, Charles Sabin Taft, who was lifted up from the stage to

help. After examining the President, Dr. Leale knew almost immediately that the wound would be fatal.

Inside the Battlefield Room at the Sanderson Museum stands a cabinet with dozens of Civil War artifacts. One of them is a three-part display showing what has been reported to be a piece of the bandage wrapped around Lincoln's head. The bandage is alleged to have been owned by Dr. Jonathan Rose. Here lies the mystery: no Jonathan Rose has been reported in any of the official accounts as having attended to Lincoln after the shooting. So - who was Dr. Rose and how did he get this artifact supposedly tied to Lincoln's assassination? The only document corroborating the artifact was written more than a century later. In 1984, Marjorie Z. Orcutt (aged 92) wrote a letter briefly describing her version of what occurred that evening. "When the President was shot, Dr. Rose applied the bandage which I saw as a child in his office. I knew that he had given a piece of it to Christian Sanderson which I understood was on display in his Museum." As Mrs. Orcutt is no longer on the scene, we have only her comments regarding Dr. Rose for authenticity.

The bandage does appear to be stained, but no DNA analysis has been conducted; the procedure would likely destroy the artifact. Mrs. Orcutt's paternal grandmother was the best friend of Jennie Wilson, who was dating and later married Jonathan Rose, stated as a captain in the Union Army. There was a Jonathan Rose who served in the Union Army- in fact, there were **at least five** of them, one in the 25<sup>th</sup> Indiana, 10<sup>th</sup> Kansas, 17<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin, 38<sup>th</sup> New Jersey and 22<sup>nd</sup> Ohio regiments. We just don't know which one, if any of them, might have been near Lincoln that fateful evening. Could Dr. Rose be one of the unsung heroes from our past, never receiving recognition for his efforts trying to save the President? We may never know...

## HANNA'S WISHING WELL

We are always in need of items that don't relate directly to collection preservation. These items often come out of our own pockets. To donate any of the following, e-mail [executivedirector@sandersonmuseum.org](mailto:executivedirector@sandersonmuseum.org).

**We appreciate your kindness!**

- Personal size water bottles
- Trash bags (black, large)
- Trash bags (13 gallon)
- Forever stamps
- Hand soap (pump bottles)
- Printer paper (20 lb. acid free – white, some blue and yellow)
- Paper towel rolls
- Facial tissue
- Toilet paper
- Air sanitizer (unscented)
- 3x5 ft. 13 star American flag
- 3x3 ft. Battle of Brandywine flag
- Sponsorships for small receptions
- Volunteers of all talents!

## SUPPORT THE MUSEUM

The Sanderson Museum is a private, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization founded in 1967. Please consider making a contribution to keep this unique museum open for the enjoyment of future generations.

You can mail your tax-deductible donation to:  
Sanderson Museum, P.O. Box 153  
Chadds Ford, PA 19317.

Donations can also be made online at [sandersonmuseum.org](http://sandersonmuseum.org).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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Hollie Gorman, Private Client Advisor

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## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Sanderson Museum is run by volunteers just like you! We are people who are interested in history, delight in talking to other people, have a bit of the "pack rat" in them, and want to touch a moment in time.

**If you are interested in volunteering your time and/or talents, email Makenzie McGonigle at [executivedirector@sandersonmuseum.org](mailto:executivedirector@sandersonmuseum.org) or call 610-388-6545 or to join our volunteer family.**

Christian C. Sanderson Museum  
P.O. Box 153  
Chadds Ford, PA 19317



*Go Green and receive The Historian via email. Send your email address to [executivedirector@sandersonmuseum.org](mailto:executivedirector@sandersonmuseum.org). Thank you!*



The Christian C. Sanderson Museum - A Man's Life, A Nation's History. An eclectic array of art, military memorabilia, presidential artifacts, local history and collectibles. History like you've never seen it before! Open Saturday & Sunday, 12pm-4pm, March through November.

Sanderson Museum  
1755 Creek Road  
Chadds Ford, PA 19317

Mailing Address:  
P.O. Box 153  
Chadds Ford, PA 19317

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610-388-6545

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