



# Sea Girt Builds a Gun!

Last year the volunteer and professional staff at the National Guard Militia Museum of New Jersey at Sea Girt considered the possibility of mounting one of the two Model 1857 Napoleon 12 pounder cannon barrels in the museum collection on a reproduction carriage. With the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Civil War approaching, an exhibit featuring artillery of the period seemed particularly appropriate. The fact that our barrels were among only 23 Napoleons made by the Ames Manufacturing Company of Chicopee, Massachusetts in 1861 with handles on them made the project all the more interesting.

Formerly on display outside the East Orange armory, our cannon barrels were transferred to the museum when the armory building was sold by the state. Encrusted with years of Essex County pollution, the two tubes lay on pallets in the museum's vehicle bay until we began to carefully clean one in the late summer of 2008. On September

22, 2009, we rolled out that barrel atop a historically accurate artillery carriage built in the museum workshop by our skilled and dedicated volunteers.

In days gone by it was common to name an artillery piece, and in keeping with this tradition, we have named our gun "Arabella," after Arabella Wharton Griffith Barlow, wife of General Francis Barlow, who twice nursed him back to health after he was severely wounded, only to die herself from typhus contracted by tending Union soldiers. Arabella Barlow, born in Somerville and buried there, was a "Jersey Girl" in the finest sense of the word.

This new artillery exhibit, which includes a reproduction limber donated to the museum by Jeff Cohen of the 6<sup>th</sup> New York Battery, sample inert ammunition from our collection or on loan from Dr. David Martin and Don Troiani's artwork, will highlight the role of New Jersey's artillery batteries in the Civil War and will feature **the only mounted**

**Civil War cannon on museum display in the state.** It would not have been possible without the assistance provided by the following organizations and individuals. Their encouragement, financial and material assistance and timely advice were vital to the completion of the project.

The museum is indebted to: The National Guard Militia Museum of New Jersey Board of Trustees, The New Jersey Civil War Heritage Association, The George A. Custer Camp, Sons of Union Veterans, the Phil Kearny Civil War Round Table, Jeffrey Cohen and the 6<sup>th</sup> New York Battery, Jeff Stafford, Charles

Smithgall, C. Peter Jorgensen, Don Troiani, The Essex Troop Association, The 112<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Association, Robert Dennin, COL (ret.) Leonard Luzky, COL. (ret.) Edward Peterson, COL (ret.) John Promulayko and Dr. David Martin.

Last but by no means least, we honor the “the gun crew” whose dedication, skills and hard work actually made it happen: John Allocca, Fred Burns, Larry Castrovinci, Dominick Ianelli, Tom Irving, Bill Paynton, Diana Newman, Bob Silverman and Jerry Travers.

A hearty thank you to all involved!



## The National Guard Militia Museum of New Jersey



The National Guard Militia Museum of New Jersey is located in both Sea Girt and Lawrenceville. This organization has the mission of preserving and explaining the military heritage of New Jersey, enhancing public understanding of how armed conflicts and military institutions have shaped our state and national experience. The Museum is a non-profit organization dedicated to assist in the collection, preservation and display of artifacts and related memorabilia, which has specific historical significance to the Army National Guard, the Air National Guard, and the Naval Militia of New Jersey.

Membership in this organization is open to all who desire to assist its purposes and goals. Members will receive periodic newsletters, a discount of 10% at the Museum Store, access to the Museum Library and the personal satisfaction of being part of our effort to preserve our precious history and heritage.

Annual dues are \$10 for individuals. Lifetime membership is also available for a one time \$250 fee.

Museum headquarters is in Sea Girt, where Curator 1LT Jarrett L. Feldman has his office. The Sea Girt Main Museum presents the role of the New Jersey Militia and National Guard within the context of the larger history of the state, using original and reproduction uniforms, weapons, photographs, artifacts and art from the period of Dutch, Swedish and British colonization through the War for Independence, Civil War and World Wars I and II to the present day, paying particular attention to the diversity of

the New Jersey citizen soldier and his or her experience.

The Artillery Annex to the Militia Museum of New Jersey is located at the Artillery Armory in Lawrenceville. Items on exhibit include weapons, uniforms and other equipment from various periods of service. There are two rooms dedicated to military memorabilia from the Civil War and a "Model Room" with over one hundred small-scale models of military equipment in addition to equipment captured during Operation Iraqi Freedom. In the Drill Hall is the work area for the Cannon Shop with several pieces of military equipment on display. Additionally, about 15 tanks, vehicles and cannon are on display outside. For hours or to request a tour please call the Annex at (609) 530-6802.

