



Drake Well Museum and Park

202 Museum Lane
Titusville, PA 16354
(814) 827-2797 www.drakewell.org

NEWS RELEASE
FOR RELEASE UPON RECEIPT

“Drake Well Museum and Park to Celebrate Pennsylvania’s 337th Birthday”

On Sunday, March 11, Drake Well Museum and Park will offer free admission in celebration of Pennsylvania’s Charter Day. A statewide celebration, Charter Day commemorates the founding of Pennsylvania through the 1681 Charter that King Charles II of Great Britain granted to William Penn.

In celebration of the 337th anniversary of the Penn Charter, Drake Well Museum and Park will host special showings of the documentary film *Lake of Betrayal* at 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. *Lake of Betrayal* explores the history of the Kinzua Dam development and building on the Allegheny River in Pennsylvania and its impact on the Seneca Indian Nation. Completed in 1965 by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the dam was originally proposed to help mitigate flooding in Pittsburgh—200 miles downriver. However, the 27-mile reservoir that formed behind the dam inundated vast tracts of the Seneca Indians’ ancestral lands, forcing their removal in breach of the United States’ oldest treaty, the Treaty of Canandaigua (1794).

Lake of Betrayal examines the Seneca Nation’s fight to protect its sovereignty against the U.S. government’s Indian termination policy and the overwhelming political and economic forces driving the post-World War II economic boom. The film takes a long view of Kinzua Dam and the imposed changes on the Seneca’s way of life that have led to irreplaceable cultural and personal losses, but also major economic benefits for the Seneca.

The museum’s Charter Day event will also mark the official launch of the Oil Region National Heritage Area’s (ORNHA) participation in the NPS Passport to Your National Parks Program. Five sites in the ORNHA will be cancellation stations for the NPS Passport Program. They are: Drake Well Museum and Park, Venango Museum, DeBence Antique Music World, the Pumping Jack Museum and the Oil Region Alliance office in Oil City.

On Charter Day, NPS Passport holders can have their passport stamped twice, once by Drake Well Museum and Park and once by the Oil Region Alliance. Passports will be available for purchase in the museum store. Adult passports are \$9.95 and kids passports are \$6.95.

Located off Route 8 south of Titusville, Drake Well Museum and Park is open year round. Spring hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 5:00 p.m. Drake Well Museum and Park is administered by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission in partnership with Friends of Drake Well, Inc. and is part of the Pennsylvania Trails of History® (www.PATrailsofHistory.com).

For more information about Charter Day or other museum programs, visit www.drakewell.org, call (814) 827-2797, or find us on Facebook at Drake Well Museum and Park.



Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

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Contact: Melissa Mann, (814) 827-2797 or mmann@pa.gov