

Easton Heritage Days
Easton, Pennsylvania

On Saturday 11 July 2026, AGFA participated in the Easton Heritage Day celebration (<http://heritageday.org/>). Heritage Day celebrates Easton's historic significance in the founding of the United States. At noon on July 8, 1776, Easton was one of three places where the Declaration of Independence had its first public reading. It was read on the steps of the old courthouse in Easton's historic Centre Square by the Chair of the Committee of Safety, Robert Levers. A reenactment of that event, and a festival organized around it, first occurred during the Bicentennial Celebration in 1976. From that year forward Heritage Day has been celebrated as Easton's own Independence Day celebration.

The members of AGFA who participated in the event were Donna Cusano, Paul Cusano, Anne Lutkenhouse, John Uhler, Shawn Welch and our guest Rich Moran.

The educational objective was to provide an interpretation of the Coast Artillery, Medical Corps, Chemical Warfare and Chaplaincy during World War II. Our emphasis was on the Harbor Defenses of Manila and Subic Bay at the opening of WWII.

We were located in front of the London Shop (<https://londonshopofeaston.com/>) which was very much welcome!

Our weather this year was interesting - hot and a couple of solid rain showers - and we were prepared with tarps and coverings and were adept at deploying them!

Below is a photo of the AGFA team. The "big yellow shell" to the right is a fiberglass replica of an Army 2,240 pound 16-inch Armor Piercing anti-ship shell.



Below is an example of "rain protection" that we deployed a few times during the day. PVT Moran and SGT Cusano confer about when to remove the covers.



During the day we saw other AGFA members that were supporting other exhibits. Below are LTC Welch, CPT(CHP) Uhler, TSG Weaver (as a Civil War infantry sergeant) and MSG Cusano.



Vintage telephones are always a hit with our visitors - below two ladies talk to each other over EE-91 fire control telephones.



Below is a view looking towards the town center with CPT(CH) Uhler's jeep.



Below, CPT(CH) Uhler helps a visitor to play his 1943 vintage field organ.



Below is the Field Organ that was used during services for accompaniment.



Additional ecclesiastical items are on display to include photos and field bibles. Note the EE-5 field telephone from the 1918 time period. It is connected to the two EE-91s.



Below, the Jeep, 16-inch shell, with 1LT Lutkenhouse and visitors in left rear.



Below are materials outlining the Harbor Defenses of Manila and Subic Bay. The books contain pictures and drawings of the various defensive works.



Below are weapons, munitions and fortifications electrical lighting materials for our work at Fort Hancock. The book outlines our work at Battery Peck at Fort Hancock, NJ.



The public always enjoys looking through the M1910A1 Azimuth Instrument.



Below is what our visitor is seeing through the instrument - it is about 500 yards distant.



There were many other organizations at Heritage Days. Below members of the 28th Infantry Division (Historic Military Impressions) engage the public.



Below is another view of the 28th ID personnel engaging the public.



All exhibits were fascinating. The one below outlines how surveyors in the 1770s mapped our colonies and emerging territories. A fascinating exhibit!



The two gentlemen below provided a wealth of knowledge on 1770s surveying techniques.



The National Museum of Industrial History (www.nmih.org) had a hands-on exhibit of casting metal objects.



Below, NMIH Historian Mike Piersa shows a "liberty bell" casting.



Other great participants included “Lady Liberty” - a wonderfully done impression on “stilts”! Here she visits the AGFA displays.



Below are more view of Lady Liberty in action with a visitor and 2LT Cusano and MSG Cusano.



Below a pair of Emergency Medical Technicians that just had to get “hands on” with the M1903 Springfield and M1918 Browning Automatic Rifle.



Before we knew it, we hit 1700 hours and time to pack up!



Easton Heritage Days is a very welcoming event with historians from all relevant American time periods of US military history. We can't wait for the 2027 Heritage Days event!