

LINKS

The Paulsboro Historic Preservation Commission has a wide range of documents and images listed relating to this unique time period including:

- Declaration of Independence
- First Federal Land Purchase Deed Original & Translation
- Fort Billingsport Blockade
- Fort Billingsport Design
- Resolutions and more



Learn more at www.paulsboronj.org or scan the QR code here for these documents and images as well as the full schedule of this event on Sunday, July 5, 2026.



DIRECTIONS

- Take Exit 16A from I-295 and follow the signs to the FREE PARKING AREA.
- SHUTTLE BUSES will transport you from the parking lot to Fort Billingsport Park.
- There is NO PARKING at Fort Billingsport Park, so please park in the designated lot.
- Located just 30 minutes from Philadelphia



General Information

Please check our Facebook page in case of inclement weather.



JOIN US IN 2026

Bring the whole family for a day of history, food, and fun!



Celebrating 250 Years

JULY 5, 2026

The Birthplace of Homeland Security



PAULSBORO. NEW JERSEY

FORT BILLINGSSPORT

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

SUNDAY, JULY 5, 2026

★ Commemoration Program begins at 9:00 am to 10:30 am.
Location is along the Delaware River overlooking Philadelphia and features:

- Invocation including elements of the Church of England and Quaker Faiths
- Public reading of the Declaration of Independence
- Re-Enactment of the Signing of the Deed for the First Federal Land Purchase on July 5, 1776.
- Re-enactors George Clymer and Michael Hillagas, Esqs. — representatives of the Continental Congress meet Margaret Paul and Benjamin Weatherby to re-enact the event.
- Native American Land Blessing

★ BE A PART OF OUR HISTORY! ★

- Sign a copy of the Declaration of Independence to be displayed in Paulsboro public buildings.
- Needlework — Guests may make a stitch or two on commemorative pieces to be displayed in the Paul House.

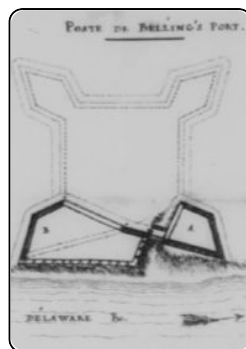
FORT BILLINGSPORT

FAMILY FUN EVENT

★ Educational Programs begin at 10:30 am through 2:00 pm.
Visit various tents to participate in live, hands-on presentations such as:

★ KIDS ACTIVITIES

- Passport to History
- Revolutionary War Musket Drills by the Continental Marines
- Have fun on a playground shaped like Fort Billingsport!



★ FOOD & FACILITIES

- Local food vendors
- Facilities on premises

★ 2:30 PM Conclusion of the Program — Last Shuttle Bus to the Parking Area

★ LIVING HISTORY

- Thadeus Kosciusko, Chevaux-de-Frise Military Engineer
- Revolutionary War Soldier demonstrations: 1st Rhode Island Regiment/African Americans; the Continental Marines
- Artillerist Presentation by Ned Hecktor

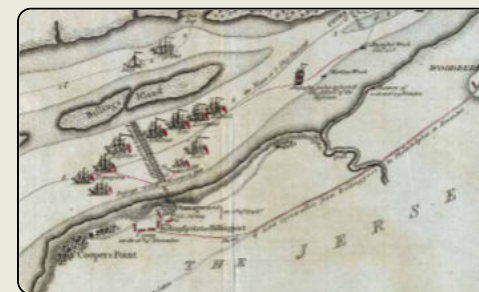
★ EXPLORE HISTORY

- The Meaning of the Declaration of Independence — Why was it necessary to say these things?
- Revolutionary War Era items/ideas: Artifacts, Crafts, Children's Games, Medicine Field Hospital, Religion, & Women's Rights

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

★ July 5, 1776: The Second Continental Congress authorized the Committee of Safety to purchase a 96 acre tract of farm land in Billingsport, New Jersey (a section of Paulsboro) to protect the national capital in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. This was the first land purchase made by the United States of America. As such, it became the “Birthplace of Homeland Security.”

★ During August 1776, Continental Army Colonel Thadeus Kosciusko made plans for a fort at Billingsport to protect a Chevaux-de-Frise river blockade to defend Philadelphia, our capital.



★ A dispatch to General Washington stated “I beg liberty to repeat that Billingsport is of far more Importance than all the Forts and Gallies put together...”

★ General Washington wrote to the commander of the Pennsylvania militia, “The importance of the place you speak of (Billingsport), is obvious; it has engrossed much of my thoughts.”

