

## Dover Historical Society

The Dover Historical Society will hold its Annual Meeting on Wednesday, March 21 at 7:30 in the Dover Library, Lower Level Community Room. In addition to the election of officers and directors, featured speaker will be Paul Jankowski, the Raymond Ginger Professor of History at Brandeis University who will discuss the battle of Verdun. The Society's well received exhibit on WWI and its relevance to Dover will reopen the spring season April 7 and close at the end of November following the 100 anniversary of the United States' participation.

Residents may well remember Prof. Jankowski's survey of the war a year ago. This year, he returns to speak about a subject at the very heart of his research of this supposed "war to end all wars": Verdun, a subject both dear to his heart, and one for which he has received great acclaim for his book *Verdun: The Longest Battle of the Great War*. He calls this WWI's "Iconic, Ironic Battle" in an article he wrote for the New York Times Sunday Review on February 19, 2016 – the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of the disastrous, devastating, yet for the French, iconic battle which lasted 300 days and claimed 300,000 French and German lives. This battle became "a symbol of the horrors of protracted industrialized warfare". He has appeared at many national and international conferences, seminars, museum openings and other commemorative events all seeking to find meaning in this iconic and apparently meaningless conflict.



In addition to his writing, Professor Jankowski worked with Director Serge de Sampigny on a documentary film which has aired in both France and Germany. The leading French newspaper *Le Monde* in its review of the documentary said that Professor Jankowski "endeavors to analyze the infernal logic that drives two warring parties to perpetrate confrontation as murderous as it was indecisive."

In April of 1917, the United States officially entered the war. This was a controversial and ultimately decisive action, but the significance and consequences are still being analyzed and argued about today. President Woodrow Wilson told Congress that this would be "the war to end all wars" and would "make the world safe for democracy." Well, in a way yes? And no! This is another great opportunity for Dover residents to hear one of this war's foremost authorities on WWI address these questions.

The public is invited to attend and there is no charge for admission. Refreshments will be served.