



Old Morlatton Village Messenger

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Spring 2017

Contact Us!

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Upcoming Events at a Glance

April 15 – 3rd Saturday Program

May 13 – Morlatton Village Spring Festival

May 20 – 3rd Saturday Program

June 17 – 3rd Saturday Program

July 15 – Keim Open House

August 19 – 3rd Saturday Program


Morlatton Village Spring Festival Saturday, May 13, 2017 • 10am-4pm

We are excited to announce a new spring event hosted by the Trust.

Join us for a living history festival for the entire family featuring a variety of historic demonstrations, activities for children, craft vendors, and wine tastings. Buildings in the village will be open for tours and food will be available for purchase.

Demonstrations & Activities:
Hearth Cooking & Colonial Dancing
Militia Muster & Gun Building
Archaeology at the Mouns Jones House
Face Painting & Kids' Crafts
And More!



 Follow us on Facebook at
Historic Preservation Trust of
Berks County

Our 2017 Calendar of Events

- April 15** 3rd Saturday Program, 11am, “*Lock, Stock, & Barrel: Gun Building in the Eighteenth Century*”
- May 13** Morlatton Village Spring Festival, 10am-4pm
- May 20** 3rd Saturday Program, 11am, “*Archaeology at the Mouns Jones House*”
- June 17** 3rd Saturday Program, 11am
- July 15** Keim Homestead Open House, 10am-4pm, *Living History Demonstrations & Hands-On Activities*
(At the Jacob Keim Homestead, Oley)
- Aug. 19** 3rd Saturday Program, 11am
- Sept. 16** 3rd Saturday Program, 11am
- Sept. 23** Ghosts along the Schuylkill with Charlie Adams, 6-9pm *
- Sept. 30** Keim Music Fest, 11am-5pm
(At the Jacob Keim Homestead, Oley)
- Oct. 14** Ghosts along the Schuylkill with Charlie Adams, 6-9pm *
- Oct. 21** 3rd Saturday Program, 11am
- Oct. 28** Mayhem at Morlatton, 6-9pm
- Nov. 4** HPTBC Annual Dinner, 6-9pm *
(At the Reading Public Museum Reading)
- Dec. 6** Christmas Tea *
(At Private Residence)
- Dec. 16** A Tavern Christmas, 6-9pm



* Advanced tickets required. Please visit our website for ticket details.

All events & programs begin at the White Horse Tavern in Morlatton Village unless otherwise noted.

Events subject to change.

V o L u N t E e R !

None of these great events would be possible without our dedicated volunteers! The Trust is always in need of help and even if you are not a history buff or interested in historic preservation, we've still got a job for you! We can use help with outdoor clean-up, ticket sales & parking for events, as well as historic demonstrators & tour guides. We can even use help cleaning the buildings and setting up for events. We will especially need volunteers for our spring & summer events –the Morlatton Village Spring Festival & the Keim Open House.

Or, are you, or do you know a Boy Scout or Girl Scout who is looking for community service hours or to do an Eagle Scout project? You can help preserve the local history while earning hours, a badge, or even your Eagle Scout award. This also applies to civil service groups and students who need service hours. Why not learn and help preserve history while having fun?

If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering or if they are interested in working on projects at one of our historic buildings please contact us at (610) 385-4762 or info@historicpreservationtrust.org.

Jacob Keim Homestead Designated National Historic Landmark

The Historic Preservation Trust of Berks County (HPTBC) is thrilled to announce the Jacob Keim Homestead has been designated a National Historic Landmark (NHL) by the National Park Service. Located in Pike Township, the Keim Homestead is one of three NHLs in Berks County, and 168 in Pennsylvania. NHLs are nationally significant historic places designated by the Secretary of the Interior because they possess exceptional value or quality in illustrating or interpreting the heritage of the United States. Today, just over 2,500 historic places bear this national distinction. The National Historic Landmarks Program draws upon the expertise of National Park Service staff who guide the nomination process for new landmarks and provide assistance to existing landmarks.

The National Park Service describes the Keim Farmstead as being "an exceptionally intact example of early German American domestic vernacular architecture. Constructed ca. 1753, the main house and the ancillary building (which served in effect as an extension of the main dwelling under a separate roof), together represent methods of construction, elements of architectural decoration, and patterns of dwelling and domestic outbuilding layout and design that were characteristic of the German American tradition of the mid-eighteenth century." The house has a minimally altered Germanic *kuche-stube-kammer* floor plan and the ancillary building is a rare surviving example of a stove-room plan laid out for pre-Revolution craft-shop use. Evidence of an early wood turner's lathe survives. Both of these buildings were structurally and architecturally restored from 2011 to 2014. The property was gifted to the HPTBC by the Richard Boyer family in 1978.



Our NHL application took over two years to complete and included letters of support from those who could attest to Keims's national importance and significance. We obtained letters from politicians including State Representatives David Maloney and Mark Gillen and County Commissioner Christian Leinbach, and from several museum professionals and preservation specialists including Sime Bertolet, Executive Director, Berks History Center; Gabrielle Lanier, Professor of History, James Madison University; John Larson, Vice President for Restoration, Old Salem; and Sally McMurry, Professor of History, Pennsylvania State University. The Trust currently owns and maintains eight historically significant buildings in Berks County, six of which are on the National Park Service's National Register of Historic Places, a list containing approximately 800,000 historic properties deemed to be significant at the state or local level. The Trust will host an open-house at the Keim Homestead in July 2017 to celebrate this prestigious award. Volunteers will offer tours of the buildings and be on hand to answer questions. Tours can also be scheduled by appointment by calling or emailing the Trust.

Amanda Machik, Administrator

2016 Christmas Tea Recap

On Wednesday, December 7, guests and volunteers gathered at the beautifully decorated home of Jack and Dawn Fry in Robesonia for the Trust's annual Christmas Tea. The Tea Committee would like to thank all the volunteers who helped make this day possible and our wonderful hosts. Dawn was even kind enough to bring in some of her friends to volunteer! The Tea included homemade tea sandwiches and cookies, as well as tea and coffee. About 20 people worked hard to make over 1,900 sandwiches. Volunteers baked cookies in the White Horse Tavern throughout November and donated cookies made from home as well. We would also like to thank the ladies who handled the sale tables which included various craft items and homemade jams, jellies, relishes, and bread. Thank you Rose Ertz, Barbara Kreiser, and Lou Zmroczek.



Eleanor Shaner, Committee Chair and Amanda Machik, Administrator

Board of Directors

John Hibschman, President
 Bradford Kissam, Vice President
 John Meinhart, Treasurer
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 Jessica Kerns
 Jim Lewars
 Zachary Long
 Michelle Lynch
 Amanda Machik
 Vickie Moyer
 Phil Pendleton
 Sue Miller Speros

Spring Hours for Morlatton Village

Wednesday & Saturday 9am-12pm (starting in April)
 Friday 1-4pm

Feel free to stop by and look around as well as visit the other historic buildings in Morlatton during open hours or by appointment for tours or visits. For details and changes please check the Trust's Facebook page or website.

White Horse Rentals

From weddings and birthday parties to small meetings and gatherings, the White Horse Inn is the perfect setting for your special occasion. Located in historic Morlatton Village, Douglassville, the White Horse has a modern kitchen and seating for up to 50 guests. For more information about renting this fully restored eighteenth century building, please contact the Trust's office at 610-385-4762 or info@historicpreservationtrust.org.

Help the Trust 'go green.' If you have an email address and would not mind getting electronic communications from us, please make sure to provide it on your next dues renewal or just send us an email.



President's Report

The Trust has remained active during the past quarter. In December, we hosted our annual Christmas Tea in Robesonia. This was once again a great event, enjoyed by all. We thank Dawn and Jack Fry for opening their house to us. It is a beautiful property located in a gorgeous setting and is a fine specimen of a traditional Pennsylvania German farm. We are again very appreciative of the efforts of Eleanor Shaner and many volunteers in making this event once again happen so successfully.

As stated elsewhere herein, the Keim Homestead has been granted National Historic Landmark status by the National Park Service, and the Trust has begun planning some wonderful events to celebrate this momentous achievement. This award reinforces the special status of Keim and makes its continued preservation even more urgent. Almost as if in response to that, it has come to the Trust's attention that the tile roof of the Keim ancillary building needs major attention and is at risk of caving in. We are pursuing a project involving the stabilization of that roof including structural repairs to the building itself.

Work is proceeding on the restoration of the Mouns Jones House. Larry Ward is in the process of procuring building stones necessary to complete the proper reconstruction of the western wall of the house with stones that match the original. He has also found lumber for use as floor joists in the second story. These will be a substantial portion of the materials necessary to further the project. The search for the stones and the joists was extensive and demonstrates the detail and care that is going into the authentic restoration of the Mouns Jones House.



Unfortunately one of the Trust buildings suffered damage during the February 25 storm. The high winds blew over the outhouse at the Hottenstein House. Consequentially, we also have an outhouse problem. We are in the process of investigating the availability of insurance coverage for that matter.

On February 27, the Trust submitted an application for a Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission Keystone Grant for a project involving preservation and restoration work on the George Douglass House and the development of an education center therein that will be known as the Berks County Historic Preservation Education Center. The Trust has accumulated many artifacts in the course of the preservation of its properties and the support of archaeological studies thereon. The grant and its matching funds would cover the cost of restoring the house sufficiently to open it to the public and facilitating the display of the artifacts.

This is only a partial list of current projects. The Trust is busy with many projects and issues.

John Hibschan, President



Matching Grant Opportunity!

The stonework now underway on the Mouns Jones House is fully funded. However, completion of the restoration campaign depends on obtaining funds for replacement of the door and windows in the riverside wall, and second floor joists with old white-oak timbers, which are rare and expensive. A local donor has pledged to match **100% of every dollar** donated toward these components, which will cost more than \$5,000. Fortunately, old floor boards had been donated by Donald and Esther Shelley, saving the Trust a considerable amount. Your support for this work would be greatly appreciated, and your dedicated donation will be **DOUBLED BY THE MATCHING GRANT.**

Join Us! Become a Member of the HPTBC!

Members receive our quarterly newsletter, free admission to events & programs, & priority ticket purchasing for the Christmas Tea & Annual Dinner.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Email _____

Annual Membership Dues and Contributions

- \$35 Individual
- \$50 Family
- \$75 Sustaining
- \$100 Contributing
- \$250 Patron
- \$500 Corporate
- Other \$ _____

Make checks payable to
 The Historic Preservation Trust of Berks
 County and mail with completed form to
 P.O. Box 245, Douglassville, PA 19518.

Please contact me about ways I can volunteer.

Membership dues and contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. A copy of the official Registration of the Historic Preservation Trust of Berks County may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

Thank you for supporting the Historic Preservation Trust of Berks County!

www.historicpreservationtrust.org

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