



# Old Morlatton Village MESSENGER

*The Historic Preservation Trust of Berks County*

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## 2007 A YEAR OF OPPORTUNITY



Mouns Jones House 1716



Jacob Keim Farmstead 1753



White Horse Inn circa 1763



George Douglass House 1765



Bridge Keeper's House circa 1780

Three hundred years ago a group of Swedes were given 10,000 acres of land by William Penn to establish a settlement along the Schuylkill River in what is now Amity Township. These families built a collection of small houses and shops which later grew into a village which became a thriving hub of early business and commerce. Several of these buildings have survived and since 1964 have been faithfully restored and maintained by the Historic Preservation Trust.

The year 2006 began with great opportunities and ended with great challenge. The June flood left a coating of polluted river mud wherever it touched. It flooded the Mouns Jones House, the Bridge Keeper's House, the basements of the George Douglass House and the White Horse Inn destroying the mechanicals in both those houses.

Through the incredibly hard work of several Trust volunteers, the properties at Morlatton, for the most part, have been repaired to a condition better than before the flood. The properties have all been cleaned and are reusable once again with the exception of the floor in the Bridge Keeper's house which was completely destroyed.

When one is a caretaker of historic buildings much critical work must be accomplished and it always seems to be an immediate need. The roof of the White Horse is in very bad shape and needs immediate replacement. Extensive work is needed at the Keim Farmstead including roof and porch repairs as well as replacement of tiles on the Keim cabin roof. The final work in the stabilization of the George Douglass House should be accomplished this year and we will, at last, be able to think about restoring the decorative finishes.

We have accomplished much in the past years but our most exciting times are ahead. We welcome your interest and participation and we need your financial support.

Dedicated to maintaining and preserving historically and architecturally significant properties

## MEMBERSHIP ASKED FOR SUPPORT OTHER THAN CASH!

Several members of our board recently attended a workshop in Philadelphia sponsored by the Institute for Conservation Leadership (ICL). The topic was fund raising. The strategy they outlined was new to us and, we believe, can be very effective. The process depends on the involvement of both our board and our members. This process will increase awareness of the Trust, add new members and, most importantly, will raise funds to continue to acquire, maintain, restore and promote Berks County's most important properties.

We have submitted numerous grant applications over the years for specific restoration and planning projects as well as for general operating expenses. While we have been awarded planning grants, we have not been so fortunate with restoration grants. Nevertheless, we have committed to a badly needed roof on the White Horse Inn. At the February meeting the Board of Trustees awarded a contract for nearly \$30,000.

Given the competitive and limited grant opportunities we were pleased to learn at the ICL workshop that, of the \$260 billion dollars given to private nonprofits in 2005, only 16% were grants from foundations and corporations. Over three-quarters (76%) were donations from individuals and families. While we would certainly

appreciate an additional donation to supplement your membership renewal, this is not a request for money.

We are asking, instead, for a commitment of your time and your endorsement of our goals and efforts. Board members have compiled lists of friends, neighbors, business associates, relatives, etc. who they believe would be interested in what we do. We are asking you to do the same.

We will be calling these folks to schedule meetings with representatives of the Trust. We will be giving them information about the Trust, answering their questions and asking for their support. We are simply asking each of you to think of people you know who may find the work we do worthy of their support.

A variation of this effort to raise funds and promote the Trust would be to have a "house party." Invite your friends and colleagues to a gathering at either your house or one of ours. Members of the board will attend to make a presentation. The board has also committed to this strategy and will make the White Horse Inn available even during the re-roofing. If you would like to learn more or to discuss how you can help in this effort, call the Trust office (610-385-4762) and leave a message.

Matt Barnhart

*The Board and friends of the Historic Preservation Trust extend their sincerest sympathy to Janice Wolfe and the Wolfe family on the death of George W. Wolfe, Jr. George was an enthusiastic advocate of the organization. He diligently served on the Property Committee and was Treasurer of the Trust for many years. George deeply believed in the work of the Trust and in addition to his responsibilities on the Board always cheerfully volunteered to help at the Fair and the Christmas Tea. He will be greatly missed.*

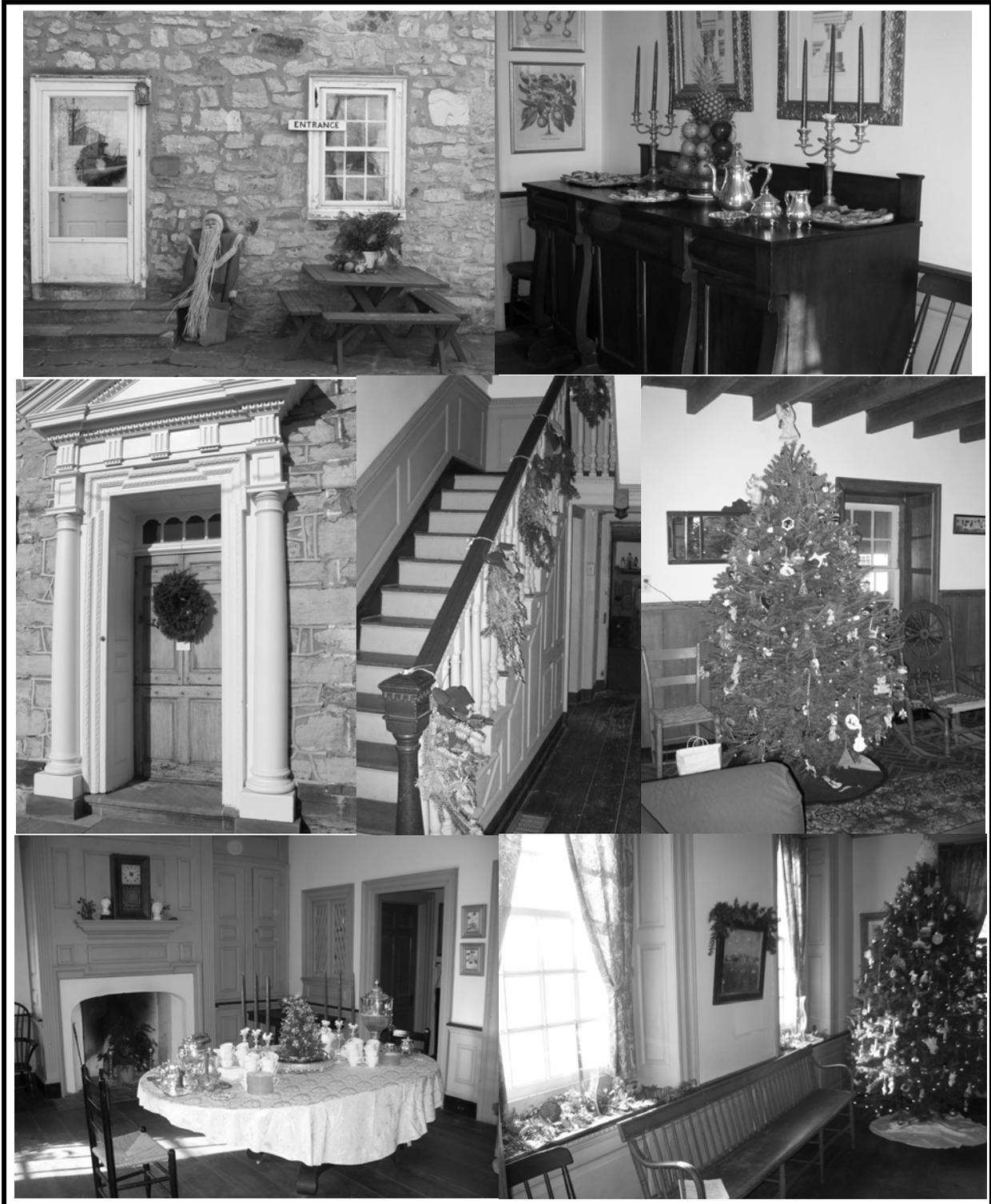
The Board of the Historic Preservation Trust graciously thanks everyone who returned their membership envelopes. We would encourage those of you who have not done so to please send in your dues.

These monies help further the restoration and maintenance of our historic properties.

Your faithful support is very important and greatly appreciated.

With Spring just around the corner it's hard to believe that the Christmas Tea was only three months ago. We were blessed with a lovely day and the atmosphere was festive. Jennette Reynolds and Flitzi Kindig and her committee beautifully decorated the house in a manor befitting this historic home. The tea table was laden with all

varieties of tea sandwiches, cookies and breads carefully prepared by members of the tea committee chaired by Eleanor Shaner. We extend our thanks to our gracious hosts Dr. Robert W. Reynolds and Jennette Reynolds for making this a very special event.



## JANUARY ACTIVITY

Twelfth Day Open House was held January 12th at the White Horse Inn and the Keim Farmstead. Peggy Gingrich, Flitzi Kindig, Stephanie Kindig and Oliver Stokes-Kindig cleaned the house and rid it of a family of 7 flying squirrels that had nested in the huge kitchen fireplace.

Linda Hughes, Eleanor Shaner, Peggy Gingrich, Susan Yoder and caretaker, Doug Eisman, spent hours cleaning the Inn after many months of non use.

Each locale had its own special feature. The Inn had a general store selling jams, jellies, coverlets and hand made candles by Dawn Cisiak. Dr. Helen May played the harpsichord. Cookies and spiced cider were served in both places.

In addition to the food the Keim had the added attraction of Donna Carpenter, a Keim descendant, and her husband Terry to answer questions about the family and its history.

A huge reunion of the Keim family will be held on site in October. There will be more information in the next newsletter issue.

Many thanks to all who helped. It was a great success.

Additional note: A small Colonial dance group has formed. If you are interested in joining, please call the Trust office (610-385-4762) and leave a message.

