

**SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:**

- Micheal Fulp's House is Re-Dedicated
- From the President
- George Douglass House Masonry Restoration
- Hottenstein 2010 Annual Report
- Archaeological Dig at Mouns Jones House

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Michael Fulp's House is Re-Dedicated

Members and friends of the Trust gathered at Morlatton on May 14 to re-dedicate the newly-restored Michael Fulp House. Following remarks by Trust President Matt Barnhart and Larry Ward, who was part of the team that coordinated the project, attendees were given a tour of the building.

As described in the Spring newsletter, extensive masonry stabilization and restoration were undertaken last year to repair years of flood damage and minimize such damage in the future. The re-dedication celebrated not only the completion of the restoration but also the renaming of the house after Michael Fulp, the Revolutionary War veteran who built it.



Research undertaken as part of the restoration revealed new information about the history of the building, which had traditionally been known as the Bridge Keeper's House. Researchers discovered that the house had been at the site many years before the bridge was built. Michael Fulp, a laborer and "yeoman farmer," built the sturdy stone structure in 1783.

In keeping with the Trust's tradition of naming its buildings after those who built them, the house is now known as the Michael Fulp House, a fitting tribute to one of the area's earliest settlers.



From the President



Matt Barnhart,
Trust President

**“...There
is a lot
you can
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the trust
as a
member.”**

At the annual membership meeting June 15th, those who were able to attend were treated to an informative “slide” show given by Larry Ward, technical support by Tom Keim. Larry and others on the Sites & Structures committee have been overseeing our restoration efforts at the DeTurk and Fulp houses. In addition to watching over the work being done, Larry has been documenting the conditions as found, he has presented questions and proposed options to the Board, and he has kept an extensive photo record of the process and the solutions.

The Fulp House was so named in the Spring and featured in local media. Volunteers (and board members) Phil Pendleton and Sue Speros (and the omnipresent LW) researched the history of Michael Fulp and we have added more color to the story of the village. Fulp’s story is indicative of the workaday lives of the early community. We are pleased to be able to convey the sense of the life of a modest resident of Morlaten and are grateful to those who gathered the info.

At the meeting, we also expressed our gratitude to a number of folks who have been helpful in advancing the goals of the Trust and who have left their board positions. Phoebe Hopkins term expired and she has chosen not to be renamed but she has agreed to continue to work with us to secure grants and develop and implement plans.

Scott Stepp of the aforementioned S’s & S’s committee has also left the board, but he has indicated he will continue to support the Trust and his interest in our restoration efforts has not waned. He initiated the upcoming 300th celebration of Mouns Jones (1716-2016) and the 300th anniversary of Amity

Township, 2019 if I recall correctly. Perhaps five years hence, Scott will chair those events???

John Bieber, too, has left the board. He and his family organized a wonderful event at the Keim Homestead. We trust, and he has so indicated, that they will still be a part of our efforts there. Margie Yocum, while in costume, told me she will continue to work our events.

And speaking of events, Anne Coldren, served as VP for several years and planned a number of successful events. She contributed to our fund raising efforts and focused our attention on the “corporate identity” of the Trust, our literature, mission and public perception. It is our fervent hope she will continue to be part of events which utilize our buildings, our sites and structures.

If you sense a theme to the above, you are correct: there is a lot you can do to advance the Trust as a member. Our committees are outlined in your membership renewal. The meeting dates will be on the home page of www.historicpreservationtrust.org. We have some immediate needs and countless long term opportunities.

I have several urgent requests. First, we need a newsletter editor. Matt Bieber has assumed additional responsibilities and cannot continue in that capacity. He has templated things and will assist whoever assumes the task. Secondly, our Fall event has changed somewhat. This year we will be doing a tour of ALL of our sites and structures instead of the Country Faire. This is in celebration of the work done on Fulp and especially DeTurk, which has never had an open house. It should be a little simpler, but we still need folks to plan things.

We also hope to have the 2nd annual “History’s Saving Race”

through the village and along the Greenways Trail. In both cases, those who have been part of these events in the past will be there to assist.

Thirdly, most of you know Doug Eisenheim by now. He came to the the Trust several days before the flood in 2006. In exchange for a small apartment (and free run of the White Horse when not being used by the Trust) he agreed to tend the grounds. Because he is so interested in what we do, he has been more than a mower operator. Doug has been an integral part of countless events, he has contributed great ideas at meetings, he has participated in various planning sessions, and he has been watchful and attentive. He will be leaving in the Fall, returning to his ol’ stomping grounds around State College. I doubt we will be so fortunate to find some as conscientious as Doug, but if you know anyone who would be interested in the position, please let us know.

Finally, the S & S committee would like to have a painting party, we hope before the Fall event. Would someone be interested in working on the door frame at WH, new door at DTH kitchen, new shutters and window frame parts at Fulp? How about building basic shelving in the smaller addition at Douglass, to store material off the floor and better utilize the volume of space available?

Please give some thought to how you can be part of what we are doing. Let us know what you’d like to do (and what you think we should be doing) at matt@historicpreservationtrust.org. Thanks in advance.

Schuykill Sojourners Return to Morlatton

Luncheon by candlelight.

That’s what the Schuykill River Sojourners have come to expect and they weren’t disappointed when they arrived for their annual stop at Morlatton Village on June 7.

As in past years, Trust member Martha Coyle served a delicious meal with help from volunteers Dick Coyle, John Batchelor, and Sharon Templin. Over 80 sojourners enjoyed a lunch which included fried chicken and homemade pasta salad, topped off with Rita’s mango-flavored Water Ice for dessert.

But it’s not just about the food. As always, the annual

repast was served amid silver candlesticks, while classical music played in the background. A silver bowl with flowers completed the setting, not to mention clear skies and a beautiful spring day. Many said this has become one of their favorite stops on the Sojourn.

After filling their plates, the visitors gathered near the Mouns Jones House to enjoy their meal while Trust board member Sue Speros spoke about the history of the house and the settlers who first lived there. An environmental program was then presented by a representative from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Re-

sources.

Paddlers then returned to their colorful kayaks to continue their journey down the Schuykill.

It’s a colorful scene as the Sojourners depart.



But it’s just not about the food.



Volunteers (from left) John Batchelor, Sharon Templin, Dick Coyle, & Martha Coyle are ready to serve lunch.

Archaeological Dig at Mouns Jones House

On May 28, the John Shrader Chapter 21 of the Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology (SPA) began a systematic dig along the west (river-side) wall of the Mouns Jones House. Volunteers with the chapter, which covers southeast Pennsylvania, will be working at the site on the second and fourth Wednesday and Saturday of each month. The project is being conducted using standard archaeological procedures. As a result, members of Chapter 21 will be excavating and mapping the profiles of each five-foot-square “unit,” seeking artifacts and structures related to the building and its former occupants, and searching for evidence pointing to the location of an earlier house in addition to possible pathways and other facilities associated with the existing building.

Chapter 21 has considerable experience with projects throughout southeastern Pennsylvania. They have participated in archaeological digs and special events at Joanna Furnace for more than 25 years, led a field school in archaeology for students at Cedar Crest College, and conducted digs for the Mill at Anselma and the Marcus Hook Plank Log House.

There are a number of ways to learn more about Chapter 21, the SPA, and the project at Morlatton. Visit the site during one of the scheduled work days, contact chapter 21 by e-mailing Vice President Rich Nearhood at richnear@hotmail.com, go to the Facebook page for SPA John Shrader Chapter, or visit the SPA web site at www.pennsylvaniaarchaeology.com. Chapter 21’s monthly meetings occur at 7:00 pm on the first Wednesday of the month at Joanna Furnace.

Here’s hoping Chapter 21 uncovers some real treasures and helps the Trust answer some important questions! To learn more about archaeology in Morlatton visit our Online Archive and search keyword “archaeology.” You may be surprised at what you find.



Hottenstein Mansion

Annual Report for 2010

by Dr. Robert Reynolds, Resident Curator

NOTE: As you may know, The Historic Preservation Trust of Berks County has established an arrangement at the Hottenstein House similar to that employed by a number of states to use, preserve, restore and protect historic structures. Rob Reynolds and his family have undertaken the stewardship of the property. The Trust, the Hottenstein family and the Reynolds' welcome input from our members as to how to promote the Hottenstein legacy."

This year the main focus of my labor was to begin the exterior restoration of the the Doctor's Office. This has turned out to be a project that will continue into 2011. The Doctor's Office is a remarkable building. While it is not stone, it is an extremely rare building type. When I photographed over 27,000 buildings in Bucks County I saw only two Doctor's offices. Period replacement window sashes with mostly wavy glass were installed because squirrels chewed the muntins of the original sash beyond repair. The original sashes have been retained and are now in storage in the garage loft.

Last fall the scope of work included scraping, sanding, consolidating rot, and replacing missing or rotten siding, wood epoxy repairs to broken siding, caulking, more priming, and finish painting of the siding with two coats of acrylic latex Duration

paint over oil primer. There were at least four entry points in the siding chewed by squirrels. Approximately 90% of the extant paint required removal with a carbide scraper. Many siding pieces were decayed at the ends but were saved with consolidating and epoxy. This work consumed five weeks of full time work. From the records available on the Trust website, some repairs were made about 30 years ago to the siding of the Doctor's Office. Where pine was used the repairs failed, where older salvaged and matching siding was used the repairs were decayed but repairable.

The Hottenstein Office has had a hard life. It was originally located about 100 feet forward of the current location right on 222 next to the house. While no documentation exists about its move onto a new foundation in the 1960s, I suspect that it was moved because 222 was raised up. At the same time the earth was raised in front of the house requiring concrete wells to be constructed around four basement windows that are now below grade. When the building was moved it appears that the siding was removed along the bottom four feet of the building on all sides to aid jacking. After the relocation these areas and the entire façade were repaired with German siding that had been removed from the east gable of the house during David Fulmer

Hottenstein's restoration. The remainder of the building is clad with original white oak clapboards cut on an up and down saw making the widths random. You may be interested to know that a W. Hottenstein scribed his initials on a rear clapboard with the date July 23, 1867. It appears reasonable that the building was under construction at that date.

The non-matching replacement siding on the Doctor's Office was left in place. The replaced siding along the sides tells of the jacking for moving and the replacement of the front with an alternative style material reveals the thrift of David Fulmer Hottenstein in salvaging materials during a 1960s restoration to use on other projects – a longstanding tradition. This approach is also in sync with the summer kitchen that burned where I did not allow the contractor to replace the rafters to make the roof easier to install. The original burned rafters survive and the 1940s replacements are up there as well. All of the 1940s millwork remains in place as well in the summer kitchen.

The interior of the office was set up as a study with bookcases, a desk, and much of the medical objects left in place. The building now serves as my office and library, an adaptive reuse making it a doctor's office again.

Improvements to the land-



"The interior of the office was set up as a study with bookcases, a desk, and much of the medical objects left in place."

