



# Old Morlatton Village Messenger

Volume XXIV Number 1

Summer 2016

Contact Us!

P.O. Box 245  
Douglassville, PA 19518  
610-385-4762

info@historicpreservationtrust.org

*In This Issue*

Upcoming Events	2
2015 Christmas Tea	3
Volunteering	3
Site Hours & Rentals	4
Board of Directors	4
Antiques in the Valley	4
President's Report	5
Sites & Structures Report	6
Matching Grant	7
Phoebe Hopkins	7
Lords & Ladies Celebration	8



*Upcoming Events at a Glance*

Aug. 20 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday Program

Sept. 17 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday Program

Oct. 1 – Keim Music Fest

Oct. 14 – Mouns Jones 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala Dinner

Oct. 15 – Mouns Jones 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Living History Festival

Dec. 7 – Christmas Tea

## *Mouns Jones 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration!*

We are excited to announce two events celebrating the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Mouns Jones House, built in 1716. The details are still being worked out for both events, but in the meantime, mark your calendars. More information will be in the upcoming Fall Newsletter.

*Mouns Jones 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala Dinner  
October 14, 2016*

*Mouns Jones 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Living History Festival at Morlatton Village  
October 15, 2016*

The living history festival will feature a variety of historic demonstrations and activities, including fun things for kids! The Amity Colonial Dancers will also perform.

*Sponsorship opportunities are available – please contact us for details!*



## More Upcoming Events

### *3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday Programs at Morlatton Village*

In addition to the 300<sup>th</sup> Mouns Jones events, we are happy to announce a new series of programs: The 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday Program at Morlatton Village. These programs will fall on the third Saturday of the month – April-October, beginning in August 2016. These site-wide programs will include various formats and topics including exhibits, demonstrations, interactive sessions, and oral and graphic presentations.

*Aug. 20*

*Sept. 17*

*Oct. 15 (This is the 300<sup>th</sup> Living History Event)*

### *Keim Music Fest at the Keim Homestead*

*October 1, 2016 • 11am-5pm*

*A benefit for the restoration of the Keim Homestead*



Tickets available day of event - \$10 donation, under 10 free

2 Music Stages Including a Kid & Family Stage

Activities for Children

Food available for purchase

Bring instruments, lawn chairs, blankets

More info at [www.keimfest.com](http://www.keimfest.com)



### *Christmas Tea at the Bern Farm*

*December 7, 2016*



The Annual Christmas Tea is held on a Wednesday in early December. Every year the Tea is held at a different historic home in Berks County, featuring exquisite architecture and decorating. Bern Farm is located just off of Route 183, at 1160 Old Bernville Road, Reading, PA 19605.

*For more information about our events, and to stay up-to-date on all Trust happenings, please check our website and Facebook page.*

## 2015 Christmas Tea Report

The 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Christmas Tea of the Historic Preservation Trust of Berks County was held on Wednesday, December 2, 2015 at Walnut Spring Farm, the Marion Township home of Fred and Carol Krott. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped bake cookies and make over 2,000 tea sandwiches for the event. Thank you also to the men who helped with parking the cars for the over 200 members and friends who attended the event in three shifts.

In spite of rainy weather, all enjoyed seeing the beautifully decorated stone manor house from the late eighteenth century and its log addition from 2012. Proceeds from admissions, donations, and sales of food items are used by the Trust in its restoration of our properties.



Photo courtesy of the Reading Eagle

*Committee Chair, Eleanor Shaner*

## 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 are still especially in need of volunteers for our 300<sup>th</sup> Living History Festival and to help with archaeology at the Mouns Jones House. Several people are needed **this summer** (Wednesday and/or Saturday mornings) to help the archaeologists excavate the Mouns Jones House root cellar-NO tools or experience necessary- just clothing that can get dirty!

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 at one of our events 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](mailto:info@historicpreservationtrust.org).



 Follow us on Facebook at  
Historic Preservation Trust of  
Berks County

**Board of Directors**

John Hibschan, President  
 Bradford Kissam, Vice  
 President  
 Richard Almquist,  
 Treasurer  
 Lauren Archibald,  
 Recording Secretary  
 John Meinhart, Financial  
 Secretary  
 Peter Hammond  
 Vicky Heffner  
 Thomas Keim  
 Jessica Kerns  
 Jim Lewars  
 Zachary Long  
 Michelle Lynch  
 Amanda Machik  
 Vickie Moyer  
 Phil Pendleton  
 Sue Miller Speros

**New Summer Hours for Morlatton Village**

Friday 1-4pm

Saturday 9am-12pm

We may be expanding our hours so stay tuned!

Feel free to stop by and look around as well as visiting 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](mailto:info@historicpreservationtrust.org).

***Antiques in the Valley Report***

The Historic Preservation Trust participated in the Antiques in the Valley Show on June 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> at the Oley Valley Middle School, Friedensburg Road, Oley, PA. Thank you to all the volunteers who manned our table! Literature about the Trust was distributed to those attending the show. Sales of jelly, a redware plate, and other Trust items sold \$76.00.

*Eleanor Shaner*

## *From the President*

I am pleased with the Trust's continued progress, as described elsewhere in this Newsletter. The Trust's Board and numerous volunteers have made substantial progress in the pursuit of the Trust's preservation and education mission.

The Trust's annual meeting of members was held on June 15, 2016, at the White Horse Inn. The meeting was well attended, the food was excellent, and Larry Ward made an interesting presentation about the Mouns Jones restoration project, which is described more fully elsewhere in this Newsletter. The Sites & Structures Committee and Larry Ward extensively researched the architecture and construction methods, materials and procedures used in the Mouns Jones house and the life and background of Mouns Jones, himself. Similar levels of research have supported the restoration of the other Trust properties in recent years, and our fund of knowledge has been greatly enhanced.

This year marks the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Mouns Jones House. We are planning a dinner and events at Morlatton in recognition of the house and Mouns Jones himself. Did you know that Mouns Jones was one of the relatively few holders of a license to engage in the fur trade with the Indians in the Manatawny region? The fur trade was a huge enterprise in the area drained by the Schuylkill and Susquehanna Rivers in the early part of the eighteenth century. Mouns Jones was far more than a farmer who struck out to what was then the wilderness. He was a predecessor to Conrad Weiser and played a principal role in the commercial and cultural interaction between indigenous Americans and the European settlers.

Although the Trust has not yet received official notification, all indications are that the Keim Farm has been awarded National Historic Landmark status by the National Park Service of the Department of the Interior. This is a singular honor, there being as of early this spring only 99 properties in Pennsylvania outside of Philadelphia with such status (Keim is not yet included on the list) and a little over 2500 nationally. National Historic Landmark status recognizes the uniqueness of the Keim as a Germanic "Flurkuchenhaus" (i.e., entry-kitchen house) type building and also the careful preservation work performed by the Trust and its predecessors over the years. This recognition should facilitate grants for further work on the Keim and also engender more visitation to the Keim. Although numerous members of the Trust's membership and board are responsible for the care of this property and the grant of landmark status, we must give special recognition to Phil Pendleton for the excellent nomination he prepared and presented to the National Park Service. The community provided to the National Register of Historic Places and National Historic Landmarks office numerous letters supporting the nomination of the Keim for landmark status. We greatly appreciate the community support we received.

The Trust, in conjunction with Keim neighbors, is planning the 2016 Keim Music Fest scheduled for October 1. Last year's music fest was a fun event, and I assume that this year's will also be great. The Keim property is the perfect location for such an event.

Have you noticed the grey paint on the steps of the White Horse Inn? The steps desperately needed painting, but we are not certain of the proper historic color. In the interim the steps have been painted neutral grey to protect them while we research the original color of the paint. So goes the process of historic restoration. Nothing moves quickly. The members of the Sites and Structures Committee often interpret the available evidence differently with resulting debate. The process is absolutely fascinating. Much work, research, thought and often debate goes into each step of each project.

I am sorry to report that Brian Boyer left the Board when his term expired in June and also resigned as Finance Secretary. I will very much miss him, but work pressures from his successful and growing engineering practice have made continued participation impossible. John Meinhart and Jessica Kerns have been elected to the Board and John to the position of Finance Secretary. I welcome both of them.



*President, John Hibschan*

# *Sites & Structures Update – Mouns Jones House Restoration Project*

The Mouns and Ingebo Jones House was constructed and first occupied by 1716, as is confirmed by its date-stone. According to official correspondence, Mouns had been residing at the site since 1704, presumably in a log or hewn-timber structure. Mouns and his family, including six children, lived on and farmed the narrow tract that fronted on the Schuylkill River and extended more than three miles northward to the present-day Amity-Earl Township line.

The surviving stone house [see photo], displays a partitioned Hall-Parlor interior floor plan similar to many houses built by or for English Quakers in the expanding Philadelphia region.

After nearly three centuries, numerous floods, and the natural decline in weathered masonry integrity, it became obvious from careful inspection and precise measurements that the central segment of the masonry wall facing the Schuylkill River had “bulged” by as much as 6 inches over an area of about 325 square feet. The unstable wall ranges had moved several inches away from the floor-boards since the 1965-70 reconstruction.

The current restoration, begun in 2014, will structurally stabilize and re-align the displaced wall, and return the door-window arrangement to its original symmetrical appearance, with the doorway on the river-side re-centered under the date-stone, on-axis with the doorway through the opposite wall.

The existing (non-original) second floor will be re-constructed with boards donated by the late Dr. and Mrs. Donald Shelley from their collection of early building materials. The original floor pattern is unknown. However, the restored 2d floor will feature staggered end-joints. The replacement joists will be sawn, planed, and molded to the 5” x 8” beaded dimensions recorded in the HABS documentation from the 1950s.



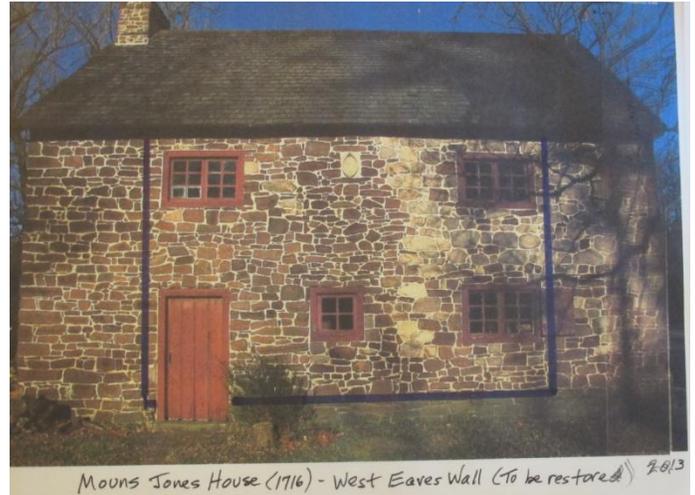
The project work phases compose the following sequence:

1. **COMPLETED:** Design and construct a joined timber structure [see photo] which serves several functions:
  - (a) scaffolding and a set of safe work-decks for the craftsmen engaged in the project;
  - (b) shoring to support the roof during the wall restoration; and
  - (c) staging for temporary storage of the stones to be integrated into the restored wall.
2. **COMPLETED:** Removal of the displaced wall segment and the window and door framing within the defined project area [see photo below];
3. **COMPLETED:** Expose, Inspect, and consolidate compromised foundation elements.
4. **IN PROGRESS:** Locate and install the door and window sills and masonry openings in their original sites, with dimensions shown in the masonry evidence;
5. **IN PROGRESS:** Re-lay wall piers and spans in the roughly-coursed pattern exhibited in undisturbed wall sections, using unadulterated high-calcium lime mortar typical of 18<sup>th</sup> century masonry and found throughout undisturbed sectors of the 1716 walling;
6. **IN-PLANNING:** Install re-purposed joists in the original dimensions, and replacement floor boards;

*Sites & Structures Update cont.*

7. **IN-PLANNING:** Fabricate and install casement windows appropriate to the early period and designed consistently with the evidence derived from the structure and available historic documentation;
8. **FUTURE:** Completion of the upper walling in plumb alignment with and supporting the roof loads imposed on the laminated two-board rafter plate.

*Committee Chair, Laurence Ward*



## 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 foundation 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.**

## *A Lifetime of Preservation: In Memory of Phoebe Bertolet Hopkins*



The Historic Preservation Trust of Berks County conveys our condolences to the family of the late Phoebe Bertolet Hopkins. Phoebe served on our Board of Directors for many years, serving as secretary of the board in the late 1960s and early 1970s. She also chaired the DeTurk House Council in the late 1960s, organizing several fundraisers to benefit our restoration work on the Johan DeTurk Cabin in Oley.

In more recent years, Phoebe wrote many grant applications for funds to be used in our restoration work on the buildings and signs in Morlatton Village, Douglassville. Her efforts for historic preservation in Berks County were an inspiration to many.

*Eleanor Shaner*

## *Lords & Ladies 'A Preservation Celebration' Report*



On May 18, Trust members gathered with the community at the Lords and Ladies Salon in Sinking Spring to celebrate the adaptive reuse of the Haan House. Honorees were recognized including Terry and Lori Derr, owners of Lords and Ladies, and various volunteers who helped rescue this beautiful structure. A light continental breakfast was served and attendees partook in complimentary salon services including hair styling, make-up, manicures, and skin care consultations. A big thank you to all the stylists for happily providing these services for our event! A \$10 donation was suggested for attendees and about 40 people attended.

This adaptive reuse project began four years ago when the Trust and the YMCA began a collaboration to find a way to save the massive, early stone house on 422 just west of Sinking Spring. The boards of both organizations committed to developing plans, finding a user or users and recruiting volunteers to help make the property more impressive than it already was.

The building had been broken into, vandalized and woodwork damaged or stolen. Members of both boards of directors joined a number of others concerned for the fate of the building to clean up the interior and grounds. Mitch Boyer rallied his neighbors and his scout troop. He then did research on the history and compiled a thorough dossier. David Schaeffer, his brother & sister-in-law Brian and Tracey and their daughters were quite helpful. Ben Stoltzfus of Stoltzfus Tree Service felled overgrown trees, Kai Pederson of South Mountain Physical Therapy and Darryl Steffey of Residential Mortgage and the South Heidelberg Heritage Society cut up what had been cut down.

This is a great example of the kind of preservation advocacy work the Trust can do within the community! Many thanks to all.

*Committee Chairs, Matt Barnhart & Amanda Machik*



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.

Historic Preservation Trust of Berks County

P.O. Box 245

Douglasville, PA 19518

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Reading, PA  
Permit No. 730

## Boscov's Friends Helping Friends Fundraiser

The Trust is selling \$5 shopping passes, entitling the bearer to 25% off your purchase at Boscovs on October 18 (some restrictions apply). You can contact the Trust to purchase one. We will also have them available at our events & programs in the coming months. Proceeds benefit the Trust's events and programs and the preservation and restoration of our historic buildings.