



Old Morlatton Village Messenger

Spring & Summer 2019

Contact Us!
P.O. Box 5854
Wyomissing, PA 19610
610-385-4762
info@historicpreservationtrust.org

In This Issue

Upcoming Events	2-3
Volunteering	3
Event's Recap	3
Site Hours & Rentals	4
Board of Directors	4
Sites & Structures Report	5
Matching Grant	6
Membership Form	6



2019 Events at a Glance

May 18– 3rd Saturday Program

June 15– 3rd Saturday Program

July 20 – 300th Anniversary of
Amity Township Historic
House Tour

Aug. 17 – 3rd Saturday Program

Sept. 21 – 3rd Saturday Program

Oct. 5 – Annual Dinner

Oct. 19 – 3rd Saturday Program

Dec. 4 – Christmas Tea

Jan. 4, 2020 – 12th Night
Revelries

Featured Summer Event 300th Anniversary of Amity Township Historic House Tour Saturday, July 20, 2019 • 10am-4pm

The Historic Preservation Trust of Berks County (HPTBC) will be celebrating the 300th anniversary of Amity Township with an exciting living history open house. A continuation of our 3rd Saturday programs, this event will consist of various demonstrations and activities and take place throughout Morlatton Village.

Visitors will be able to tour all four eighteenth century buildings that comprise the Village: the White Horse Tavern, the George Douglass House, the Mouns Jones House, and the Michael Fulp House. There will also be archaeological excavations of the 1716 Mouns Jones House and visitors can view an exhibit of the Amity Heritage Society. At the George Douglass House, visitors can see the ongoing restoration of this 1765 mansion. In the White Horse Tavern guests can enjoy dancing demonstrations courtesy of the Amity Colonial Dancers.

Admission is a \$10 suggested donation.
Light refreshments will be provided.



Additional Upcoming Events

3rd Saturday Programs at Morlatton Village

This year's series will celebrate Morlatton Village and the 300th anniversary of Amity Township. These site-wide programs are offered May-October and include various formats and topics such as exhibits, demonstrations, interactive sessions, and oral and graphic presentations. Tours of Morlatton Village will be offered when applicable. Program begins at the White Horse Inn. Suggested donation \$2/person. All proceeds benefit the Trust.

William Penn and the Swede's Tract

May 18, 2019 • 11am

Join us as we kick off our Spring programs with Doug Miller, Director of Pennsbury Manor. Mr. Miller will discuss William Penn's role in establishing Amity Township from the Swede's Tract, and related aspects of early Amity Township.

Mouns Jones Licensed Indian Trader

June 15, 2019 • 11am

Historians Larry Ward and Brad Kissam will discuss the exciting and interesting life of Mouns Jones. Builder of the earliest standing structure in Berks County, Mouns Jones was also a successful Indian Trader and interpreter in the early eighteenth century Manatawny region.

Household Inventories from the Oley Valley

August 17, 2019 • 11am

Historian and former Site Administrator of Landis Valley Village and Farm Museum, Jim Lewars, will offer an exciting program on inventories from the Oley Valley. Visitors will learn what interesting and unexpected things these household and farm inventories can tell us about life in the eighteenth century.

Joint Archaeological Exhibit

September 21, 2019 • 10am-3pm

A continuation of our 3rd Saturday programs, this event will consist of various demonstrations and activities and take place primarily at the Mouns Jones House. The Society of Pennsylvania Archaeology, Chapter 21, along with the HPTBC will present the latest archaeological findings at the 1716 Mouns Jones House. Chapter 21 conducts several archaeological excavations throughout the year at the property and has uncovered numerous artifacts over the years relating to the history of this important structure. The Mouns Jones House is the oldest standing building in Berks County. The Amity Heritage Society will also have an exhibit.

Mistress Douglass and Mr. Douglass at Home

October 19, 2019 • 11am

Join Trust volunteers Courtney McKay Stevens and Omar Hottenstein, dressed in eighteenth century period clothing, as they portray Mr. & Mrs. George Douglass and receive visitors in their 1765 Georgian mansion. Mary Piersall Douglass will speak about her life at home with Mr. Douglass and their family and friends. A man of Scotland, George Douglass prospered as a businessman in the early Manatawny region. Please note, this program will take place at the George Douglass House in Morlatton Village.

Save the Date for our Fall & Winter Events!

Annual Gala Dinner
Saturday, October 5, 2019

Christmas Tea
Wednesday, December 4, 2019

12th Night Revelries
Saturday, January 4, 2020

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

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



V o L u N t E e R !

None of the Trust's 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. Prefer to lend your expertise in a more administrative manner? Join our board and help preserve Berks County's history!

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.



Events Update *1st Annual 12th Night Revelry*

There was more fun to be had at the venerable 1762 White Horse Tavern's 12th Night Festivities in early January 2019 that there had been for the past 250 years! There were traditional songs and music provided by the bard Dave Kline and his lute-guitar, and accompanied by bodhran, bagpipes, and the blended voices of all.

In addition, the sprightly Amity Colonial Dancers presented dances from the British Isles at this very

traditional fest that hails from Great Britain. We had the traditional foods of 12th Night, including a Boar's Head, which was paraded throughout the tavern as the "Boar's Head" song was sung. All was convivial as participants in Colonial garb and visitors heartily enjoyed the fun, merriment, music, dance, and good food and drink. We'll do it again next year! Be ready!



Sue Speros, Events Committee

Board of Directors

Bradford Kissam, President
John Hibschan, Vice President
John Meinhardt, Treasurer
Lauren Archibald, Recording Secretary
Amber Aman
Brent Erb
Peter Hammond
Vicky Heffner
Omar Hottenstein
Thomas Keim
Jessica Kerns
Jim Lewars
Zachary Long
Michelle Lynch
Amanda Machik
Vickie Moyer
Sue Miller Speros

Spring & Summer Hours for Morlatton Village

Wednesday & Saturday 9am-1pm

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.



 Follow us on
Facebook at Historic
Preservation Trust of
Berks County

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.

Sites & Structures Update

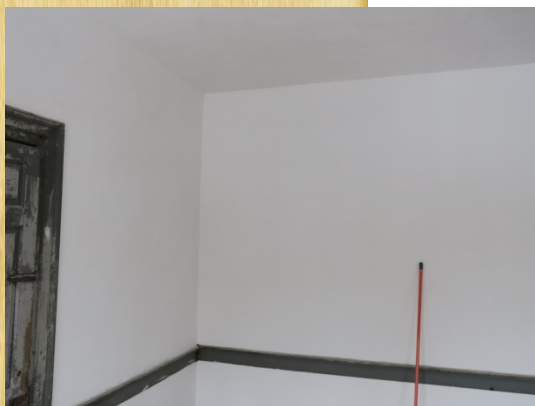
During the 2019 restoration season, the Trust will substantially complete multi-year projects on the Mouns Jones and George Douglass houses, returning them to their respective 1716 and 1765 architectural forms, as documented by extensive evidence carefully and faithfully considered and executed by our committee and its consultants and skilled artisans engaged in the restoration campaigns.

The most remarkable exterior features on the restored principal elevations will include are-created pent roof and a restored plaster cove cornice across the 1765 Douglass façade, and symmetrical arrangement of windows flanking the vertical axis through the 1716 date-stone above the re-centered



doorway in the Mouns Jones house. The doorway and window openings will be spanned for the first time in a century and a half by stone lintels similar to, but proportionately more massive than, the original surviving lintels above the 2d story windows in the opposite wall.

During the winter just ending, our project plasterer, working on his 20th National Register structure, continued the interior work in the George Douglass house, restoring wall integrity in the 2d floor chambers and hallway. Defective or missing lath was replaced or stabilized in-place. Historically authentic lime plaster was employed for the base and finish coatings, reinforced with animal hair as found in the original 1765 plaster composition. Each chamber was warmed to 50 degrees+ throughout the curing period for new plaster.



A doorway between the two Douglass northern chambers was determined to be not original to the pre-Revolution period and was closed up with planking and lath, and plastered over. Chair railing conforming to the surviving 1765 profile was applied across the former doorway opening. “Blind” partitions, lacking passage doorways and providing privacy in the separated spaces, and a division of the domestic and commercial functions within the building, were installed between the two northern chambers on the 2d floor and between the kitchen and front (“store”) room on the first floor. Several hundred square feet of stable and intact plasterwork on chamber walls will be preserved as a demonstration of undisturbed architectural fabric and un-coated original surface.

Larry Ward, Sites and Structures Committee



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, a 10% discount on all items sold by the Trust, & 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

610-385-4762

info@historicpreservationtrust.org