



# Old Morlatton Village Messenger

Spring/Summer 2020

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

## 2020 Featured Event Archaeology Presentation September 19, 2020 • 10am-1pm

Join us for our yearly archaeology celebration at the Mouns Jones House. A continuation of our 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

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### 2020 Events at a Glance

- May 16– 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday Program
- June 20– 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday Program
- July 18 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday Program
- Aug. 15 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday Program
- Sept. 19 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday Program
- TBD – Annual Dinner
- Oct. 17 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday Program
- Dec. 2 – Christmas Tea
- Jan. 9, 2021 – 12<sup>th</sup> Night Revelries

## *Additional Upcoming Events*

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

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 Tavern unless otherwise noted. Suggested donation \$2/person. All proceeds benefit the Trust.

#### *Eighteenth Century Inventories of the Oley Valley, Keim and Other Families*

*May 16, 2020 • 11am*

Join us as we kick off our Spring programs with Jim Lewars. Visitors will have a chance to learn about what property inventories reveal about everyday life in the eighteenth century. Mr. Lewars is a historian and former Site Administrator of Landis Valley Village and Farm Museum.

*TBD*

*June 20, 2020 • 11am*

*TBD*

*July 18, 2020 • 11am*

#### *The 1753 Keim Homestead*

*August 15, 2020 • 11am*

Historian, author, and former Trust board member, Phil Pendleton, will offer an exciting presentation about the Jacob Keim Homestead. Visitors will have the chance to tour this unique property as well. The presentation will take place at the Jacob Keim Homestead in Oley.



#### *Fun and Games for Children in the Eighteenth Century*

*October 17, 2020 • 11am*

Join Trust board member and volunteer Vickie Moyer and enjoy a morning of family fun. Games will be geared towards children ages 7-11.

### *Save the Date for our Fall & Winter Events!*

Annual Gala Dinner  
TBD

Christmas Tea  
Wednesday, December 2, 2020

12<sup>th</sup> Night Revelries  
Saturday, January 9, 2021

**NOTE:** Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, all programming is on hold until further notice.

*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.*

# 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 manor? 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](mailto:info@historicpreservationtrust.org).



## Events Update

### *Happy Recollections: 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual 12<sup>th</sup> Night Revelry at the White Horse Tavern*

Once again, fragrant natural greens, holly and berries, adorned the White Horse tavern, inside and outside. The decorating crew did a wonderful job, and went out of their way to make the old tavern welcoming with holiday beauty and cheer.

All three fireplaces were ready, and had roaring holiday fires going to add light and warmth, along with the candles adorning tables, windowsills, and mantles. The "Yule Log" was burned, with a toast done by Mr. George Douglass (Omar Hottenstein). An array of delectable seasonal period foods and drink were available for all to enjoy.



Perhaps the most joyous was the music and dance! Our good man Dave Kline was available to sing and lead the general merriment along with his merry sidekick Friar Farnsworth. Charlie Adams added to the revelry with his own special brand of entertainment. They "brought the house down" with their jolly fun!

Adding to the music and singing were the Amity Colonial Dancers. Dressed in festive period garb, they danced their way through reels and hornpipes. Perhaps the best dances were the audience participation ones. In honor of Dave, the Amity Dancers presented a version of the dance "Sir Roger DeCoverly," aka, "The Virginia Reel." Dave had dreamed of performing this lively dance, his dream came true that night. Along with happy audience participants, a lively and fun performance of Dave's dream song and dance came true for him. He enjoyed it thoroughly, as did all



the revelers who participated!

We love to see the old tavern come alive on such happy occasions! It is not difficult to imagine similar occasions happening there 250 years ago. The music, dancing, good food and libations, and good fellowship!

*Sue Speros, Events Committee*

**Board of Directors**

- Bradford Kissam, President
- John Hibschan, Vice President
- John Meinhart, 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
- Dr. Courtney Stevens

## 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](mailto: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*

### *Work Progress in George Douglass House, Oct. 2019-March 2020*

During this six month period, interior plastering and woodwork joinery continued at a steady and coordinated pace as weather, planning details, and Pandemic restrictions permitted. Our carpenters Tom & Chris Lainhoff fabricated and installed major paneled elements, built-in corner cabinetry, and molded millwork such as chair rail, cornices, perimeter-architraves, and baseboards. These components were designed and detailed based on surviving fragmentary “templates” found in the house and authenticated during the course of the project. Importantly to all other restoration aspects in each parlor, great care was taken to stabilize and level floor joists to receive original and re-purposed species-matched floor boards in their historic positions in both parlors.



Re-fabricated chimney paneling, new parlor-partition, and leveled floor joists in back parlor

Carpentry and plasterwork progress required sequencing and integration with Bill Smith’s lath application and plasterwork, by installing the permanent and temporary wooden “stops” at the meetings of plaster and woodwork. This alignment on both horizontal and vertical axes requires exacting precision in both crafts, so that the finished work meets 18<sup>th</sup> century artisan quality standards and original design objectives. This task is made exponentially more challenging in a grand “relic” of a manor house whose structural elements are no longer plumb, level, or square.

A new “blind” board partition, without door passage or other opening, was constructed between the front “best” and back “family” or dining parlors. This re-established the historic public and mercantile

privacy in the front parlor and a less formal family preserve in the back.

As spring weather and health regulations allow, the coming restoration season will include:

Reconstruction of the pent roof on the façade; finished plasterwork and woodwork painting in original colors in the parlors; lime-washing of cleaned old plaster as necessary, tinted to match preserved original un-coated plaster; and finish-plastering of the coved cornice above the perimeter walling of the 1765 house-block.



1765 original and new plaster on adjacent chamber walls



Over-mantle paneling in best parlor painted with authentic original colors

*Larry Ward, Sites and Structures Committee*

## **Matching Grant Opportunity!**

The stonework completed in 2019 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**.

## HELP US STABILIZE AND RESTORE THE LANDMARK KEIM WOOD-TURNER'S SHOP



Schematic of framing details, Keim Shop building

Restoration funds are urgently needed to match a grant from a local foundation for the stabilization of the roofing and support structures of the Keim turner's shop building. This "ancillary" building, in conjunction with the contemporary 1753 house, was awarded National Historic Landmark status in December, 2017.

Donations large-and-small will be most welcome and will be doubled by the matching Foundation funds generously awarded to the Trust specifically for this project.



Keim ancillary wood-turner's shop

### *Join Us! Become a Member of the HPTBC!*

*Members receive our 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!***