



Old Morlatton Village Messenger

Spring/Summer 2021

Contact Us!

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2021 Events at a Glance

May 15 – Archaeology Site & Morlatton Village Open House

June 19 – 3rd Saturday Program

July 17 – 3rd Saturday Program

Aug. 21 – 3rd Saturday Program

Sept. 18 – 3rd Saturday Program

Jan. 8, 2022 – 12th Night Revelries

2021 Program, Event, and Tour Update

Due to Covid19, all indoor public events, programs, open houses, and building rentals remain suspended until further notice. The grounds of Morlatton Village are open for self-guided tours, and we will continue to offer guided tours of Morlatton Village and the archaeology site by appointment.

We will also begin offering various outdoor programs, including the 3rd Saturday Programs, as weather permits. And beginning the Saturday after Easter, the Society of Pennsylvania Archaeology, Chapter 21 will resume their archaeological excavations on Wednesday and Saturday mornings at the Mouns Jones House in Morlatton Village.

Additional updates can be found on our website and Facebook page as they become available.



Upcoming Events

Archaeology Site & Morlatton Village Open House

Saturday, May 15, 2021 • 10am-3pm

The Historic Preservation Trust of Berks County (HPTBC) invites you to join us in Morlatton Village to learn about the families that called these buildings home.

Additionally, 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. Please note, this program will take place entirely outdoors and there will be no restrooms available on-site.

Upcoming Events Cont.

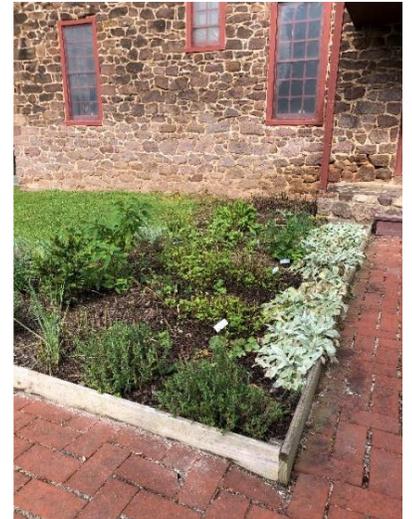
3rd Saturday Programs at Morlatton Village

Our 3rd Saturday Programs are back! We will be offering these site-wide programs June through September. We may add additional programs depending on weather and Covid progress. Program begins at the White Horse Inn unless otherwise noted. Suggested donation \$2/person. All proceeds benefit the Trust. Please note, these programs will all take place outdoors and there will be no restrooms available on-site. They are weather-pending; please check our Facebook page for updates if needed.

A Morning in Mistress Douglass' Garden

June 19, 2021 • 11am

You are invited to join Mistress Mary Piersol Douglass in her garden at the White Horse Tavern for a look at what is growing there this time of year. As mistress of the Douglass House, Mrs. Douglass' gardens supplied medicines as well as food and flavorings for Mr. Douglass' properties. Join us as we look for colonial plants that are still used for a variety of purposes today.



Gunbuilding in the Eighteenth Century

July 17, 2021 • 11am

Trust volunteer Barrie Miller will present an exciting demonstration and program on colonial America gun making, including Berks,

Lancaster, York counties and Shenandoah Valley style rifles. The program will include sample guns and accoutrements and address the progression of the rifle in America. Mr. Miller's presentation will also include Pennsylvania militia activities, musters, marching to drums, and Revolutionary War highlights presented with period flags. Mr. Miller is a colonial America living historian, reenactor, and skilled gun builder.



Keim Farmstead Architectural Walking Tour

August 21, 2021 • 11am

Historian and former Site Administrator of Landis Valley Village and Farm Museum, Jim Lewars, will offer an exciting architectural walking tour of the Keim Farmstead. Mr. Lewars will talk about why this site is an excellent example of eighteenth-century German-influenced architecture. Don't miss this opportunity to learn more about this amazing Berks County National Historic Landmark. This program will take place at the Jacob Keim Farmstead on Boyer Road on Oley.

The Eighteenth-Century Grain Economy in Southeast Pennsylvania

September 18, 2021 • 11am

Join longtime Trust volunteer and board member Susan Speros as she discusses how a grist mill works, focusing on the eighteenth-century grain economy in southeastern Pennsylvania. Hear all about various gristmills in the area and learn more about how they operate. Ms. Speros will also talk about the importance of gristmills during the colonial period and the crucial role they played during the American Revolution.

2022 Save the Date!

Saturday, January 8, 2022 • 1-6pm
12th Night Revelries

V o L u N t E E R !

None of the Trust's great programs 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.



Board of Directors

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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. Please note, rentals are currently on hold.



Follow us on
 Facebook at Historic
 Preservation Trust of
 Berks County

Sites & Structures Update

Douglass House Restoration Work Accomplished and In-Progress, 9/1/20-1/31/21



Image #2

During the last few months of 2020 and early 2021 plasterwork was suspended due to Covid restrictions and cold weather, as carpentry and painting progressed. Work during this period included the following woodwork and installation of original and re-fabricated components:

- The Federal-period corner cupboard, fitted into its original location in the 1760s store room (the southwest quarter of the first floor of the 1765 house), was painted in the medium blue and red-ochre colors determined by Matthew Mosca to be authentic matches to the original hues [Image #1, Photo 1, 12/31/20]. The sample paint scrapings were taken directly from the cupboard surfaces to collect original paint chips underneath the most recent pale yellow color and intermediate coatings.
- Doorway casings were painted with the microscopically-matched original light blue color, between the 1760s store and:
 - A. The center passage (“hallway”), [Image #2, Photo 2, 12/31/20]; and
 - B. The 2-story Federal-era store addition sharing the south gable wall of the 1765 house [Image #3, Photo 4, 12/31/20].



Image #4

blue and pale gray; the blind partition separating the two parlors is fully lathed, prepared for plaster coatings [Image #4, Photo 36, 12/31/20].

- Wainscot paneling, named for its similarity to the board-lining of English farm wagons (“wains”), were painted with original colors in the front [“best”] parlor on exterior stone walls and on the original plank partition along the hallway; chair rail will be installed as a meeting (“stop”) for plaster [Image #5, Photo 34, 12/31/20].
- In addition to the interior joinery and fitting-work described above, Tom and Chris Lainhoff began re-fabrication of the pent roof across



Image #6

the 1765 façade by individually joining cantilevered (“outlooker”) extensions to the cut-off 2d floor joists along the rubble stone range covered by the original “pent”. These white oak joist extensions will support the framing and rafters of the ceiled pent roof [Image #6, photo 3, 1/6/21].



Image #1



Image #3



Image #5

In Memorandum of Richard Shaner

Berks County lost a titan of history recently with the death of Richard Shaner on Sunday, January 10, 2021. Born in Allentown, he was a 1960 graduate of Kutztown State College. He taught history in the Allentown School District, and eventually in the Oley Valley School District, where he became head of the history department of the high school. He married Eleanor (Griesmer) Trout in 1970.

Mr Shaner was very active in the history community of Berks County, and became a major exhibitor at the Kutztown Folk Festival. As a researcher and writer of folklife, he became a published author and recognized authority on the Pennsylvania Dutch. With the advent of the American bi-centennial in the mid 1970s, Mr Shaner founded the Lobachville Folk Festival at the Keim Homestead in 1972, which ran from 1972 to 1979. Proceeds were used to publish the American Folklife Journal.

After retirement from teaching in 1995, Mr Shaner continued to be active with the community folklife festival, and was advisor to Kutztown University on matters concerning Pennsylvania Dutch culture. He and his wife Eleanor were active with the Historic Preservation Trust of Berks County and the county historical society.

Susan Speros, Board of Directors



Matching Donation Opportunity!

MOUNS JONES HOUSE

The stonework on the Mouns Jones House has now been completed. Fortunately, this part of the project was fully funded by prior matching grants and donations. However, completion of the restoration campaign depends on obtaining funds for replacement of the door and leaded-glass windows in the riverside wall, installation of floor boards on the in-place re-purposed oak joists, and re-fabrication of the partition wall between the hall/kitchen and the parlor. Fortunately, old floor boards had been donated by the late Donald and Esther Shelley, saving the Trust a considerable amount, and their foundation has pledged to match 100% of every dollar gifted toward these elements, so critical to the authentic restoration of this early treasure.

Your support for this work, which will cost more than \$10,000, 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

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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.