



Old Morlatton Village Messenger

Spring/Summer 2022

Contact Us!

P.O. Box 245

Douglassville, PA 19518

610-385-4762

info@historicpreservationtrust.org

In This Issue

Upcoming Programs	2
President's Message	2
Volunteering	3
White Horse Rentals	3
Board of Directors	3
Sites & Structures Report	4
Garden Update	5
Matching Donation Opportunity	5
Membership Form	6



2022 Events at a Glance

June 18 – 3rd Saturday Program

July 4 – Summer Open House
& Declaration of
Independence Reading

July 16 – 3rd Saturday Program

Aug. 20 – 3rd Saturday Program

Sept. 17 – Archaeology Site &
Douglass Open House

Jan. 7, 2023 – 12th Night
Revelries

2022 Open Houses at Morlatton Village

Summer Open House & Declaration of Independence Reading Monday, July 4 • 2pm

To celebrate Independence Day, the Trust in cooperation with Amity Township, the Friends of Hopewell Furnace, and the Society of Pennsylvania Archaeology John Shrader Chapter 21 will host an inspirational reading of the Declaration of Independence accompanied with music and traditional patriotic songs. The program features Berks Opera Company's Francine Black and writer, actress, director, and educator Christine Emmert.

The first public reading of the Declaration in Berks County was on July 8, 1776, and it was read publicly in villages throughout the area. The Declaration was officially adopted in Philadelphia at 2pm on July 4, 1776. The reading at the White Horse marks the hour of our nation's 246th birthday.

The Archaeologists will also present their work with a display of artifacts that have been unearthed at the Mouns Jones site and other buildings throughout Morlatton Village will be open for viewing. The reading will be staged on the porch of the eighteenth-century White Horse Tavern and admission is free. To enjoy the event, people are encouraged to bring a blanket or lawn chairs.



Archaeology Site & George Douglass Mansion Open House Saturday, September 17 • 10am-3pm

Join us for the re-dedication of The Shelley-Pendleton Education Center and the reopening of the George Douglass Mansion. Visitors will be welcomed into the Mansion by Mistress Mary Douglass, and Trust volunteers will discuss the restoration of the building. In addition, the Society of Pennsylvania Archaeology, Chapter 21 will also present their latest archaeological findings at the 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, built in 1716, is the oldest standing building in Berks County.

Additional 2022 Upcoming Events

3rd Saturday Programs at Morlatton Village

Our 3rd Saturday Programs will be offered June through September this year. September's will coincide with our open house event. Information regarding June-August's programs can be found below. All programs begin at the White Horse Tavern **at 11am** unless otherwise noted. Suggested donation \$2/person. All proceeds benefit the Trust.

June 18 • "George Douglass Mansion Restoration Preview"

Mistress Douglass will welcome visitors into the Mansion and Trust volunteer Larry Ward will discuss the ongoing restoration project. The White Horse Tavern will also be open for tours.

July 16 • "The French and Indian War in Pennsylvania, 1749-1758"

Join Lynn Otto as he discusses the beginning of "The First World War in Pennsylvania." Many historians consider the French and Indian War to be the First World War because it was truly a global war and not fought just in the colonies. The presentation will feature the early struggles and defeats and finally the Redemption at the Forks of the Ohio. Mr. Otto has been a re-enactor for over 30 years and has served on the Board of Directors for the Friends of Conrad Weiser.

August 20 • "Founding Females – Women of the Revolution"

The Founding Fathers are well-studied, but less well-known are the courageous wives, mothers, daughters, and female friends who are often overlooked in their shadows. Join historian and genealogist Darlene Moyer as she explores these ladies' important contributions to the American Revolution.

2023 Save the Date – 12th Night Revelries *Saturday, January 7 • 1-6pm*

12th Night will be returning in 2023 to the White Horse Tavern. Join us for a lovely afternoon in the festively decorated White Horse Tavern and celebrate the conclusion of the Yuletide season and begin the New Year. The Tavern will come alive with interpreters dressed in eighteenth century clothing and blazing fires in the hearths. The Amity Colonial Dancers will perform at various times throughout the afternoon. There will be cookies, snacks, and cups of mulled cider available for guests to enjoy.



A Message from the President

Over the past two years, many things have changed and adaption has become the norm. The Trust has experienced many of the issues confronting the world at large, but the organization has persevered and advanced in spite of the challenges.

Our members and key sponsors have continued to be very generous with their financial support. Major restoration, maintenance, and acquisition projects have moved forward, and several are nearing completion.

Unfortunately, during the COVID crisis, very popular Trust social and fundraising events such as the Christmas Tea, the Annual Trust Banquet, and the Third Saturday programs had to be canceled. We are endeavoring to reinstate these events and are beginning with the Saturday programs, site open houses, restoration celebrations, and archeological seminars. The Trust is progressing, developing, and fulfilling our mission of restoration, preservation, and education. See what we have to offer. Get involved.

Bradford L. Kissam, Board President

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

Bradford Kissam, President
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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
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Preservation Trust of
Berks County

Sites & Structures Committee Report, Spring 2022



Photos 101 & 109

In September 2021, the Trust completed a major four-year project to restore the 1765 George Douglass House. The work, partially funded by PHMC's historic restoration grant program, proceeded through the worst of the Pandemic under conditions allowing only one craftsman in the building on each workday. Carpentry, joinery, and coordination with other craftsmen were accomplished within time and Pandemic constraints by Tom and Chris Lainhoff.

Major elements of the project included:

A. Flooring repair, stabilization, replacement where necessary with old boards of the same white oak species and range of widths as the originals, restoration of preserved original boards, and joist framing;

B. Installation of original and replicated woodwork in the best and back parlors, including windows, box-frame, casings, door framing, corner cupboards, fireplace surrounds, wainscot paneling, cornices, and painting of woodwork in both parlors with scientifically determined original colors;

C. Re-creation of the board and plaster partitions

between the best and back parlors and between the kitchen and Amity-Store room;

D. Restoration of the original deteriorated plastered cove cornice on the original curved rafter-brackets under the eaves;

E. Re-creation of the shingled and ceiled pent roof across the principal [front] façade, and construction of a gabled hood over the doorway;

F. Restoration of defective or missing plasterwork in first floor front [best] parlor, dining parlor, store room, and kitchen; this work involved extensive repair and structural consolidation of segments of the wood and masonry substrates for re-plastering, and using 19th century sawn lath for new plaster on the partitions; whitewashing was applied over old stable plaster and on repaired areas after adequate curing of the plaster.



Photo 143

PHOTOGRAPHS

##101 and 109: Views of the principal façade before and after restoration of pent roof and plastered cove cornice.

#143: View of the 1760s Amity Store room after restoration of corner cupboard with original colors, structural stabilization of sub-strates, re-plastering, and re-fabrication of kitchen partition [right of cupboard].

##41, 121, and 127: Views of the parlors before and after restoration of plaster and milled and joined woodwork, and re-installation of the partition separating parlors.

16 and 139: Views of kitchen before and after wall and ceiling plaster restoration and floor stabilization.

Larry Ward, Sites and Structures Committee

Photos 41, 121, & 127

Photos 16 & 139





White Horse Tavern Colonial Garden Update & Thank You

As many of you know, The Pennsylvania Heartland Herb Society, the local unit of The Herb Society of America, provides the beautiful, period appropriate plants and the gardeners to maintain the garden at The White Horse Tavern. You will soon see an appropriate sign in the garden beds to denote this donation. The Trust appreciates the enhancements to The White Horse Tavern image that the gardens provide. Thank you, PHHS and the lead gardeners Lori Schaeffer and Winnie Hayik.

Courtney Stevens, Board Member



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 repurposed 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.