



# Old Morlatton Village MESSENGER

*The Historic Preservation Trust of Berks County*

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## SUMMER AT MORLATTON

Phoebe Hopkins



This summer the Historic Preservation Trust is trying something exciting. We would like to open Morlatton Village every Saturday afternoon for events and programs for our members, partners and the general public. We want to use our wonderful historic site not as a restoration challenge and maintenance concern, but as a place to learn about the past and have fun in a historic setting. To do this we will partner with the Schuylkill River Heritage Area, Union Township United, and our neighbors in Amity and Douglass Townships. There will be three types of programs and activities that you are invited to join. These are: Living History, Interpretive Studies and Trail Walks.



### LIVING HISTORY

These programs will be led by two of our own Living Historians, Peggy Gingrich and Susan Yoder. Saturday afternoon programs will be planned, and if there is sufficient enrollment, the enthusiastic group is eager to teach others the techniques of Colonial Living:

- Open Hearth Cooking- Learn to prepare a meal over an open fire in an eighteenth century walk-in fireplace using utensils and cookware of cast iron, tin and pottery.
- Baking in a Beehive Oven- Learn the old way of baking bread
- Gardening- Plan and plant a fenced in herb garden
- Candle Dipping- Learn to make candles using beeswax and braided wick material
- Basket Weaving- Weave baskets using reed, and discuss historic uses of baskets
- Textiles- Learn about common household textiles of the eighteenth century and make your own Colonial costume
- Become a volunteer Living Historian



### INTERPRETIVE STUDIES

Another aspect of Summer at Morlatton is to develop Interpretive Guides that explore the history of the settlement and village along both sides of the Schuylkill River in Amity, Union, and Douglass townships. We hope to hire College Interns over the summer to assist in pulling together all the information that has been collected in the past, conduct additional historical research, and to use this information to develop interpretive plans for the Morlatton region. Interpretive programs may be proposed for each of the buildings, and for several periods through history from initial settlement to the later village expansion into Douglassville to the railroad era and to the Thun Trail.



Dedicated to maintaining and preserving historically and architecturally significant properties

The Trust's building are one part of the story. The 1716 Mouns Jones House represents the first generation of Swedish settlers who lived among the Lenni Lenape and used the resources of the Schuylkill River and surrounding forests until land could be cleared and seeds could be planted. After a wagon road was built connecting Berks County with Philadelphia, the White Horse Inn became an early tavern and meeting place. It had rooms for travelers, stabling for horses, and hearty food and drink. When tavern keeper and merchant, George Douglass, bought the White Horse he constructed his important Georgian mansion near-by as he depended on the Old Philadelphia Pike for his shipping enterprises that supplied Philadelphia with goods from Berks County. Other historic sites in Douglass, Amity and Union portray a larger community, one that has not been explored by the Trust, but that needs to be a part of the story of Morlatton.

### THUN TRAIL

This summer the Schuylkill River Heritage Area will open a Trail Head at Morlatton near the George Douglass Mansion, and the section of trail from Morlatton to Pottstown will be completed. This will bring many people to Morlatton Village. A number of events and programs are currently being planned:

- May 20 –"Volksmarch" along the Thun Trails in Union and Amity Townships
- June 2- Pottstown Garden Club at the White Horse Tavern
- June 6- Schuylkill River Sojourn lunch stop at Morlatton
- July 12 - Pottstown Historical Society meeting at White Horse Tavern
- July 26- PA Greenways Sojourn, a bike hike will stop at Morlatton for a Trail Head ceremony

Does this sound exciting to you? Please join us. We need participants, we need volunteers, and of course we need funding for this ambitious program. Our Morlatton Committee will coordinate events and activities. We want your input and ideas. You can contact us by email at: [Morlatton\\_Village@aol.com](mailto:Morlatton_Village@aol.com).

### OPPORTUNITY DRAWING

Opportunity drawing tickets are still available from Board members or by contacting Priscilla Walsky (610-372-3807) but the drawing time is coming soon. The winning tickets will be chosen on the Saturday of the Antiques in the Valley show June 16 and 17 at the Oley Valley High School. Tickets can be purchased there and also on Saturday, June 3rd at Renningers Farmers Market on Noble Street in Kutztown.



There are two items offered, a quilt and a stained glass piece. The quilt is in the Stepping Stones pattern and was pieced and sewn by the members of the Monday Fun Bunch of the Hearth and Home Quilters Guild. The Women's Guild of Salem United Church of Christ, Oley did the quilting. The quilt is multicolored and is 91x110 inches in size. The black and white picture doesn't do it justice.

The stained glass offering will be designed to your personal taste and colors by Barry Torrente, stained glass artist from Pennside, and can be either a free standing piece or installed. It has a value of \$500. Barry is currently completing a large project in Skippack; a copy of an Edwardian hotel where he has designed and produced reproductions of 19th century gas lighting and has installed two suspended stained glass ceilings.

Opportunity drawing tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Please support the Trust in this fund raising project.

Did you know? Måns Jonasson was born in 1663, the fourth son of Jonas Nilsson and Gertrude Gunnarsson. He married Ingeborg Lycon circa 1690. After building a stone house at Aronameck (the core of the present Bartram's Gardens mansion) they moved in 1704 to Manatawny in Amity Township. He had six known children and died in 1727.

From an article by Dr. Peter Stebbins Craig in the Swedish Colonial News vol.1 no. 7 Spring 1993

The Historic Preservation Trust sincerely thanks those members who have renewed their membership as of March 31. This organization can not exist without the help of loyal members such as yourselves. The task of maintenance and restoration is very expensive and as concerned citizens we can not afford to let our history crumble. Exciting and ambitious programs are being planned but they can not come to fruition without your aid. Again we thank all of you for your continued support and if your name does not appear below we would like to add it.

Mabel Adams	Beulah B. Fehr	Lisa Kopik	Laura Schmale
Calvin Adams	Robert A. Fisher	Barbara Kreiser	Trudy Schultz
Kay L Bachkai	Patricia H. Follweiler	Carrie J. Kuhn	Melvin R. Schurr
Rita Banning	Joanne M. Franklin	Joyce B. Legrande	Fred M. Serfass
Matt Barnhart	Jean Gail Freymoyer	Columbia Leh	Eleanor Shaner
Linda Beasley	Elizabeth B. Gaul	Cynthia Leisau	John Smith
Vivian Bellairs	Peggy Gingrich	Ruth E. Levan	Kristina Smith
C. Wendell Berggren	Heather Gron	Jane LeVan	Jane B. Spangler
Harvey Bomberger	Barry Gross	James A. Lewars	John Stamm
Harold Boyer	Irene M. Hallowell	Evelyn M. Ludy	Ruth G. Stauffer
Nancy Lang Boyer	Robert Harmon	Sydney Malick	Priscilla E. Steger
Isabelle Bradley	Mary Ellen Heckman	William D. May	June Stobenau
Evelyn M. Bredder	Raymond Heffner	Kimberly McGrath	James R. Stoudt
Dorothy R. Brown	Angela Dives Heizmann	Robert Merritt	Fay Strickler
Marsha Chappell	Nancy M. Hemmerich	Erma H. Miller	Howard Stuart
Larry D. Clauser	John S. Hibschman	Jeanne D. Miller	Brenda Thren
Curtis Clifford	June S. Hill	Sandra Brumley Morris	Mary Thren
Virginia D. Close	Sally Frazier Hill	Cheryl Moyer	Mary L. Tobias
Mary Collini	Andree S. Hoeman	Jane Masters Nase	James Trout
Martha Coyle	David H. Hoffman	E. Kenneth Nyce	Brain K. Trupp
Peter Craig	Lloyd Hopkins	Pat Oxenford	Charlotte N. Valuska
Marjorie Darrah	Betty H. Hottenstein	Mauro Paolini	Matthew Vardjan
Theora Denaro	Lee Hummel	John D. Purcell	Priscilla Walsky
Guy D. Diana	Daniel Huyett	Russell Rader	Lillian S. Walter
Joseph G. Dickinson	Patricia Ihlenfeld	Mary K. Rearick	Ann Walz
Karen Dietrich	Marcia B. Jefferis	Leslie A. Rebmann	Betsy Ward
Darlene Dillon	Cynthia Jimenez	Marcia Reed	Virginia Weidman
Jeanne M. Dodson	Tex Johnson	Susan Rey	Kenneth Weidner
Marlane Druckenmiller	Frances S. Jones	Gloria Rhoads	George W. Wolfe
Polly Allison DuPont	Mary J. Kaderabek	Shirley C. Roland	James Yocum
Louise E. Eaken	Thomas Keim	Barbara G. Ross	Charles Yoder
Michael Ehlerman	Kyle B. Kemp	Elizabeth B. Rothermel	Diane Yoh
James Elliott	Deborah Kirlin	John J. Ruffing	Mary H. Yuhasz
Mary Elliott	Elizabeth W. Klein	Leslie Sacks	John J. Zmrocek
Michael B. Emery	Roberta F. Koch	Richard Sassaman	
Kathryn H. Eyrich	Ruth Kohlberger	Joseph B. Schaefer	

**Consider Remembering  
The Historic Preservation Trust of Berks County  
in Your Will**

A thoughtfully prepared will can minimize the impact of estate taxes and provide more funds for your family and other special individuals as well as provide an enduring expression of your charitable wishes. A bequest made through your will can provide vital financial support to continue the mission of The Historic Preservation Trust of Berks County. Consult your attorney on the details.

## NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK NOMINATION

Phoebe Hopkins

The Historic Preservation Trust of Berks County has been invited to join a select group of owners of outstanding 18th century properties in pursuing a thematic National Historic designation. *National Historic Landmarks* are nationally significant historic places designated by the Secretary of the Interior because they possess exceptional value or quality in illustrating or interpreting the heritage of the United States. Today, fewer than 2,500 historic places bear this national distinction.

National Historic Landmarks are preferably identified through theme studies. Theme studies are the most effective way of identifying and nominating properties because they provide a comparative analysis of properties associated with a specific area of American history, such as the fur trade, earliest Americans, women's history, or Greek Revival architecture. Theme studies provide a national historic context for specific topics in American history or prehistory. In order to make a case for national significance, a theme study must provide that national historic context so that national significance may be judged for a number of related properties.

The theme of our joint nomination is *Elite Houses of the Pennsylvania Germans*. Tim Noble of Noble Preservation Services, Inc. has taken the leadership in this enterprise, and will write the historic context

illustrating Pennsylvania German domestic architecture. Places to be included are: Charming Forge Mansion, Hottenstein Mansion, Jacob Keim



Keim Homestead  
from the back

Homestead, and David Kauffman Homestead, of Berks County; Alexander Schaeffer House, Issac Meier House, and Miller's House at Millbach, in Lebanon County; and the Henry Antes House in Montgomery County. Assisting in writing nominations for the Hottenstein, Keim and Kauffman properties are Rob Reynolds, Philip Pendleton, and Phoebe Hopkins.. This is a very exciting long term project. Stay tuned.



Hottenstein  
Mansion

### VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED

The Trust depends on volunteers to make our events and activities a success. There are several areas in the near future where you can help.

- ⇒ **May 20, Saturday** - "Volksmarch" sell opportunity drawing tickets at Morlatton
- ⇒ **June 3, Saturday** - Sell opportunity drawing tickets at Renningers Farmers Market, Noble Street, Kutztown. Two hour shifts from 8 am to 4 pm. Call either Eleanor Shaner (619-683-9257) or Priscilla Walsky (610-372-3807)
- ⇒ **June 6, Tuesday** - Schuylkill River Sojourn sell opportunity drawing tickets at Morlatton
- ⇒ **June 10, Saturday** - Sell opportunity drawing tickets at Pleasantville Covered Bridge Fest from 10 am to 4 pm. Call either

Eleanor or Priscilla.

- ⇒ **Any Saturday afternoon in the summer** for the opening of the Morlatton Village buildings. Training and information will be available.
- ⇒ **September 23 and 24** - 41st annual Mouns Jones Fair. A multitude of choices are available and it is not too soon to start thinking about it.
- ⇒ **Living Historians** are always looking for people who are interested in learning and teaching the techniques of 18th century living.

PLEASE, DON'T WAIT TO BE ASKED. CALL EITHER ELEANOR OR PRISCILLA OR THE TRUST OFFICE (610-385-4267). WE **NEED** YOUR HELP.

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# **“VOLKSMARCH”**

## **2006**

**The March of the People!**  
**May 20<sup>th</sup>, Saturday, 10AM**

*Sponsored by:*

*The Historic Preservation Trust of Berks  
County & Morlatton Village*

*Join your friends and neighbors for*

*The 1st Annual BERKS VOLKSMARCH “hike”  
along the Thun Trail. Begin @ Morlatton Village,  
Hike a far as you wish, and return to Morlatton.*

*Hiking distance: (one way)*

*Monocacy: 2.5 mi.*

*Donation:: \$2 per person*

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*A little history on VOLKSMARCHING!!!*

*A family - community - non-competitive event.*

*May we suggest using the grounds of  
Morlatton as a Picnic Area following this event.*

*Food, Beverages and Rest room facilities will be available.*

*The Mouns Jones will be open for touring.*

**Questions:**

**MorlattonVillage@aol.com**