



Old Morlatton Village MESSENGER

The Historic Preservation Trust of Berks County

Volume XVII

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Autumn 2009

The Historic Preservation Trust of Berks County presents...

Mouns Jones Country Fair & Harvest Festival

Traditional Crafts, Folk Art, Fall Flowers, Colonial Dancers, Music, Lunch and Baked Goods on the Village Green, Live Auction, Antiques Appraisals and more..

SPECIAL GUEST CHARLIE ADAMS

Saturday, September 26, 2009

10AM – 4PM



\$2 Admission (children under 16 free) • Free onsite parking

***All Proceeds benefit the Historic Preservation Trust of Berks County**

Need Directions? Find them on www.mapquest.com!!!

Historic Preservation Trust of Berks County, 31 Old Philadelphia Pike, Douglassville, PA 19518

For more information, visit

www.historicpreservationtrust.org

SUMMER IS RAPIDLY PASSING and with the coming of Fall, we look forward to the annual country fair. This year, we celebrate the 45th Mouns Jones Country Fair & Harvest Festival. We have added to and modified some of our previous events.

The hotdog stand will be managed by a local boy scout troop and we hope you will support these young men in this endeavor. You can also enjoy a luncheon in the White Horse Inn where homemade soup, bread (with apple butter and cottage cheese if you desire), beverage and a delicious dessert will be served.

Also on the schedule are:

- An auction at 12:30 PM on the Fair stage. Be sure not to miss this very special event. You are certain to find a “must have” item*
- Local radio celebrity, Charlie Adams, in the White Horse Inn. Don't miss hearing him speak at 11:00 AM and again at 2:00 PM. His books will be on sale.
- The Amity Colonial Dancers performing on the stage at 11:00 AM and 2:00 PM.
- Appraisals for antique jewelry, dolls and coins.
- An informative film relating to the original Swedish settlement running in the White Horse Inn

Please come. Enjoy the day and support the Trust.

**All board members are asked to bring an antique or appropriate item to sell at the auction. Our goal is for each item to bring \$25 or better. All donations from members or the public will be greatly appreciated. Please call John Bieber at 484-269-9824 or email him at JBRL6@verizon.net to let him know about your item and arrange for pick-up.*

ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Historic Preservation Trust was held on June 17, 2009. The following officers were elected:

- President: Matthew Barnhart
- Vice President: Anne Coldren
- Treasurer: Betsy Ward
- Secretary: Linda Hughes
- Financial Secretary: to be filled

The short video “Divided” which was filmed at the Mouns Jones House was shown.

Also elected were two new board members, John Bieber and Lauren Archibald.

Lauren Archibald was born in Reading but moved with her family to Rome, Italy where her interest in archaeology and architecture was born. After returning to the United States she received a B.A. in anthropology from Kutztown University, an M.A. in Urban Affairs from the University of Delaware and a PhD in city planning from the University of Pennsylvania. Since the early 1980’s Lauren has worked in the field of cultural resource management as an archeologist and architectural historian. She has lived in the Reading area since 2004.

John Bieber is a direct descendant of Johannes Keim who was also the father of Jacob Keim of the 1753 Farmstead. John is owner of J&B Asset Properties, real estate investment company in Berks county. He and his wife, Barbara, have two daughters, Rachel 18 and Lauren 14. They live in Roscombmanor Township where John is a member of the Oley Valley School Board. Both John and Barbara have a sincere interest in Berks County history, particularly the Oley Valley.

REMEMBER?



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Fans of “ye olde” Saturday Night Live will be able to attribute this line “It’s always sumthin” to Rosanne Rossannadanna. Seems as if Rosanne/Gilda Radner may have owned an old house. The DeTurk project has proven her right. Work on the lower level of the building has meant lowering the lower level, so to speak. There were at least two floors laid on top of the original floor, presumably in an effort to keep their feet dry. Once the excavation to the original door sill and fireplace hearth was done, it was apparent there had been some shifting of the foundation stones. Repositioning them meant removing and replacing the stonework above.

The back of the hewn fireplace lintel (the “fire tree”) had rotted, but the face and end appear as they did the day it was set in place circa 1767. It has been removed and the exposed surfaces will be preserved, the back will be strengthened and the assembly put back in place. That led to the discovery that the summer beam had rotted in the center, so that needs to be removed and remade again, using the original surfaces. All this needed to be accomplished before the work that needed to be done could be done, or as my dad used to day, “It’s one @#&* thing after another!”

On the positive side of the DeTurk project, we have gotten tremendous support from our friends. A modest fundraising effort has raised nearly \$10,000 to date. The township has been helpful, the owner of the property has been co-operative despite the disruption the work has caused.

Our archive project had a slight setback but seems back on track and our business operations should be smoother and more responsive since we have contracted with Jon Hartman as part time administrator/archivist. Hartman will coordinate activities of the trust with assistance of the committee chairs and volunteers, in addition to input of our documentation.

We have combined several committees under the auspices of Communications, headed by Matt Bieber. He and his committee have produced ad copy and brochures for the up coming Country Fair.

The Atlas has been well received and a presentation copy will be furnished to the Northeast Regional office of the National Trust in the near future.

We will oversee an update of the historic resource survey of the Douglassville area and provide the information to the County Planning Commission.

We have scheduled a number of tours of our properties for descendents and historians who have learned of the Trust through our website. Member Richard Groff has volunteered to carve signs for our properties. A grant will be submitted to supplement them with information boards for drive-by visitors.

We also have a new volunteer with vast experience in fundraising and grant writing. Dean Rohrbach began to work on our behalf before we even met, he believes so strongly in what we do. Among the growth programs we plan will be a membership drive, perhaps in concert with like-minded organizations.

To supplement our efforts we would like you as a member to make a list of names and phone numbers of friends, neighbors, business associates, etc. who you believe would be interested in what we do and who may consider membership. We will call these folks, giving them information about the Trust, answering their questions and asking their support.

Another way to recruit new members and promote the Trust would be to have a “house party”. Invite your friends and colleagues to either your house
(continued on back cover)

The Board of the Historic Preservation Trust extends our sincere sympathy to the family of Margie Darrah who passed away in August. Margie was a long time active member of the board happily lending a hand wherever she could. She will be greatly missed by all.

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or one of ours and members of the board will attend to make a brief presentation. The board will make the White Horse Inn available. In fact, there have been several very successful catered affairs at the Inn over the summer, it is a good place for a party. If you would like to learn more or to discuss how you can help in this effort call the Trust offices (610-685-4762) and leave a message.

As mentioned our signature event, the Mouns Jones Fair & Heritage Festival is scheduled for September 26. There are numerous ways you can help...donate items for the auction, help with set up on September 25th from noon on, putter around with the property committee on Saturdays in September to tend to buildings and grounds. Call with any ideas or suggestions.

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