



Old Morlatton Village MESSENGER

The Historic Preservation Trust of Berks County

Volume XV!

Number 4

November 2008

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TEA December 3, 2008

Limekiln Farm, home of Mr. and Mrs. Gerard Johnson, is the site of the 2008 Christmas Tea.

Distinguished for its unique round smokehouse, the Limekiln Farm property also consists of a main house, tenant house, and two barns. The house itself is noted for its dark cornerstones and pent roof.

The farm originated with a deed dated April 12, 1802 to one Nicholas Knabb. The group of sellers included a Peter Knabb possibly the father of Nicholas. The Knabbs began with brothers Michael, Peter and John who emigrated from Bavaria in 1737. Peter lived for 74 years until 1799 so it was presumably Peter II, his son, who along with other assorted Knabbs, Herbeins and Snyders who sold the



original property to Nicholas.

Several years later, Daniel H. and Eleanor Knabb erected the tenant house whose date stone reads 1827. Daniel and Eleanor also erected the large stone gable barn in 1832. They were the grandparents to Deborah Knabb who married Nathan Sailor. The Sailors sold the property in 1965 to Harold and Dorothy Herbein who, in turn, sold it to the Johnsons in 1989.

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped at the fair: those who came to help set up and take down, those who helped at the various stands, the docents, the living historians, the Amity Colonial Dancers. Particular thanks to Larry Clauser who provided security on Friday night, to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Sharp who carted away the trash and to the following nurseries for their flower and plant donations: Glick's Greenhouse, Hopewell Nursery, Wanner Landscape and Garden Center, and Levengood's Flowers. Thank you all.

Dedicated to maintaining and preserving historically and architecturally significant properties

WORDS FROM THE DIRECTOR



As we look towards the close of one season and the start of another, the Historic Preservation Trust's role in the community continues to diversify. Keeping to our principles of preserving and

restoring the important structures in our keep, we are also bound to be educators and preservation advocates in Berks County and the region. The Trust continues to move forward by offering more opportunities for public interaction. The mysteries of the past and importance of our shared history is rekindled through community involvement.

Since our last newsletter, the Trust held the Mouns Jones Country Fair, seen the return of the original DeTurk Cabin door, and held a public reception to formally introduce the membership and the public to me, your director. The bustle of fall will only pause momentarily as the Trust begins to prepare for the annual Christmas Tea.

Most recently, on October 19, we opened the White Horse Inn in conjunction with Heritage Day at the Daniel Boone Homestead. By connecting to other important local history and cultural organizations the Trust is able to open its doors to a larger audience. As part of those festivities we offered information about the Trust, our buildings, and preservation on-site at the Daniel Boone Homestead. Excitement generated for our shared heritage was as tangible as the stones and mortar we protect.

I hope you had a chance to enjoy these recent events. We look forward to offering more activities to engage the community and our members. It is through the support of caring, thoughtful individuals like yourselves that we are able to protect these important structures and unfold puzzles of our shared past.

NEW SCHUYLKILL RIVER TRAILHEAD INSTALLED AT MORLATTON VILLAGE

A new trailhead connecting the Schuylkill River Trail with Morlatton Village was officially opened on Thursday, November 6. The trailhead includes trail signs and a gravel path linking the trail to the village. Interpretive signs about the village will be installed next year.

The connection is intended to make it easier for trail users to go from the trail to the nearby historic site and back again. It is the result of a collaboration between the Schuylkill River Heritage Area and the Historic Preservation Trust.

When complete, the Schuylkill River Trail will stretch the entire length of the 310 mile Schuylkill River, from Philadelphia to Pottsville.

This newly created link to Morlatton Village is one of many such connections that will eventually be included along the trail. Such links serve to raise awareness of historic sites and other tourism opportunities while providing a destination for trail users and encourage people to hike or bike to such places rather than drive.

HERB SOCIETY LUNCHEON

In September eighteen members of the Pennsylvania Heartland Herb Society participated in a hands-on open hearth luncheon. All the dishes were made from colonial recipes. The menu was: roast pork tenderloin prepared in the reflector oven, cranberry cole slaw, sweet potato apple casserole, turnips au gratin, mush muffins, mulled cider, and apple crisp with whipped cream. Many thanks to Peggy Gingrich for organizing and directing this event.

DETURK DOOR RETURNED



1762 DeTurk Cabin in Oley

The original Dutch door to the DeTurk Cabin found its way back to Berks County through the efforts of Ms. Paula Curran.

In 1953 Mr. Donald D. Donahue, an antiques dealer, purchased the door from an Oley farmer to use in his Fort Washington, Maryland home which was adorned with 200 year old dentil molding and wide plank floors.

Mr. Donahue sold his house in 1970 to Mr. Ken Williams, father of Ms. Curran. Mr. Williams lived there for 31 years before moving to Florida taking the door with him.



Detail of Dutch door hardware

He then moved to Woodbridge, VA bringing the door along where it was stored in his daughter's Woodbridge garage for about three years. In an effort to return the door to its rightful home and realizing its value Ms. Curran Googled "DeTurk Cabin" and found the Trust.

The door has all its original hardware strap hinges, butterfly hinges, locks and pulls. However, it is severely weathered and will probably not go back on the DeTurk Cabin but rather put on display.

The Trust is deeply grateful to Mr. Williams and Ms. Curran for their generosity and determination to bring the door home.

RECEPTION

On October 16, the same day as the return of the DeTurk door, a reception was held at the White Horse Inn to introduce to the community the new executive director of the Trust, Mr. Lee Zelewicz. Refreshments were served and the Amity Colonial Dancers, accompanied by Dr. Helen May on the harpsichord performed. The Douglass Mansion was open for tours as well. Approximately 50-60 people attended.



L to R: Lee Zelewicz, Ken Williams, Paula Curran and Phoebe Hopkins

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DATES TO REMEMBER

Wednesday, December 3
Christmas Tea
at the home of
Mr. and Mrs. Gerard Johnson,
Limekiln Road, Oley

Saturday May 9
Spring Luncheon
Stone House, Wyomissing

**Best Wishes to Matt
Barnhart, Trust
president, for a speedy
recovery from hip
surgery**

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