

# Dill's Tavern Chronicle



April 2004

Northern York County Historical and Preservation Society, 35 Greenbrier Lane, Dillsburg, PA 17019 Ph. 717- 502-1440

*Purpose: To promote and encourage the study, collection, and preservation of the historical heritage of the Northern York County area.*

## Matching Grant Funds Are Raised More Are Needed



### Committee Works with Architect

The Tavern Committee is working with architects McKissick Associates, to prepare specifications and drawings for presentation to contractors on restoration projects for the Tavern.

They are investigating the architecture and making decisions about the restored appearance of the Tavern. Once final plans are prepared, the grant monies which are for the purpose of "refacing" the Tavern, including new windows, doors, and masonry work will go into effect.

Our Capitol Campaign must raise more funds to meet the matching Keystone Historic Preservation Grant awarded by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

Dillsburg should be honored to have the Tavern receive approval as a **National Historic Site**. It is imperative that we see to it's restoration.

The committee has been working tirelessly in recent weeks attending to the architectural details and are stimulated with new resolve.

*Interesting information follows of the Tavern and York County Volunteers*

### Our Sincere Thanks to 2004 Contributors to Dill's Tavern Fund

#### The Contributors:

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Bill Eichelberger / ECI

The Tavern Committee: Bob Eichelberger ~ Chairman, Marvin Ice, Larry Klase, Joanne Klase, Connie Trostle, and Greg Wonders

## During The Revolution:

In 1775, the news of events at Lexington and Concord reached the Continental Congress in Philadelphia. The Congress approved raising 8 companies of trained riflemen from PA. Recruiting took place at several places in York County and one of them was Dill's Tavern in "Monoghan Settlement." So many men reported to enlist that only those who could hit a chalk mark with a flintlock from a distance of 150 yards were considered for duty.



John Dill was commissioned 2<sup>nd</sup>. Lieutenant and the march began in York on July 1, 1775. After a farewell church service given appropriately in the German dialect, they marched off at 1 PM from the square going East on Market Street and crossed the Susquehanna at Wright's Ferry.

Arriving in MA on July 25<sup>th</sup>. they were the first to do so from outside of New England and thus were recognized for their speed. They had marched 414 miles in 25 days, an average of 16 miles a day! They were given immediate duty as support on the perimeter of the Continental Army.

The York County company again distinguished themselves as they fought alongside regulars in the siege of Boston, numerous actions in NY, the retreat through NJ, and the battles of Trenton and Princeton before wintering at Morristown in January 1777.

The women were left to tend the farms, taverns, mills, and markets while the riflemen marched to Cambridge, Massachusetts to join the troops gathered there with George Washington.

## Farm Operations at Dill's Tavern:

Though Dill's Tavern was a large part of the complex operations that started here, it was only a part. The original land grant was for 504 acres and it became a very large farm. It was referred to as a plantation, as many large farms were, and required an unknown number of workers, both free, slave, and indentured as well as animals to support it. Besides conventional crops, orchards were planted and bore fruit that were equally valuable to the frontier people. A large spring provided water and was, in fact, the reason why that location was chosen for the "dwelling" (later becoming the Tavern) to be built where it is. Sometime prior to 1815, a well was dug near the front door to better accommodate the heavy water use. Not only did people and animals need water, but also during this time period, it was not uncommon for large farms to build and maintain distilleries. In fact, George Washington kept a complete journal of his distilling operations. There was a distillery on this "plantation" also and it consumed huge quantities of water. Much of the grain produced on both the Dill/Eichelberger farm and from surrounding farms that sprang up over the intervening years were converted to cash in this manner. This, of course, well benefited the Tavern operation. Nary a traveler went dry for lack of libation.

## Join a Circle to Preserve Dill's Tavern and Its History

The Northern York County Historical and Preservation Society was gifted the funds to purchase the Dill Tavern on N. Baltimore Street. Now we must raise \$500,000 for the restoration of the property. Your donation is TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

*If/We would like to help by joining the:*

<i>Friends</i>	\$10 - \$ 99 _____	<i>Wetty Circle</i>	\$1000 - \$4999 _____
<i>Logan Circle</i>	\$100 - \$ 499 _____	<i>Eichelberger Circle</i>	\$5000 - \$9999 _____
<i>Coover Circle</i>	\$500 - \$999 _____	<i>Dill Circle</i>	\$10,000 - _____

Place this name on the certificate: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please print clearly.)

Donor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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Make out your check to NYCHAPS, designate, Dill's Tavern Fund, and mail to:  
The Northern York County Historical and Preservation Society, 35 Greenbrier Lane, Dillsburg, PA 17019