

# The Dill's Tavern Chronicle

February 2005

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.

## A 1757 British Coin is found at the Tavern



This photo from a world coin book shows features as they would appear on the Coin found at the Tavern.

Evidence of early commerce presents itself with the exciting find at the Tavern of a British coin dated 1757. In size it is slightly larger than a quarter, and quite dark and worn. Intense study was made to distinguish the features on it. The date is definitely discernible. With a nose here and some letters there that can be deciphered, a world coin book helped identify features on George II and Britannia.

This coin indicates that the Tavern may have been visited by travelers from the old world as early as the late 1750's.

Its origin in Europe and travel to the US and eventual loss in our town would be a story to hear from the coin itself. Finds such as this coin supports the architectural evidence of the early new world settlement in our area.

Apparently, a patron dropped this coin and failed to retrieve it. It laid undiscovered just beneath our feet for the past 250 years. Though not worth more than a few dollars in the collectors market, this coin is invaluable to us as a relic of our past.

Artifacts are being processed by volunteers every Tuesday at 1:00 pm at Maple Shade Barn.

If you have an interest in antiquity and would like to join in on these exciting finds, you may lend your services to this group of volunteers by contacting Joanne Klase at 432-4021 or by dropping by Maple Shade Barn on a Tuesday afternoon.

## Construction Update for the New Year:

As foreseen this has been a busy winter of work at the Tavern. The Committee has been busy overseeing construction and dealing with new issues that arise, changes of plans that need to be addressed, and making decisions about the future of the structure and our uses for it.

Sam McKinney and Kevin Ricker, our primary contractors, are making the visible progress by dealing with the physical struggles and joy of working on an 18<sup>th</sup>. Century structure. We continue to be amazed at their skill and appreciation for the work. Mild weather early in January has allowed the masonry work necessary around the windows to progress with great speed. Sam has used a skillful eye to select only the best stone for adding to the walls, and in fact, often thinks he has found the very stone that was removed earlier when the windows were replaced. We are SURE after seeing those stones in place!

The window frames and sash will all soon be in place and only need a coat of paint when milder weather comes. The framing is of durable wood of the same type as the remaining originals which are over 200 years old and we plan for ours to have a similar life. Old glass is used throughout and has the wavy appearance so typical of that period. There is a subtle difference, through, in some of the windows. Can you pick it out? We will share that with you after you have had a chance to discover it for yourself.



## Other Masonry Work Continues

The opening on the north wall behind the old porch is being closed with provision for a door and window. It was originally planned to be two windows, but after finding the original door frame in the basement, we

Masonry Work continued:

have changed one opening to accommodate a door for that frame. The kitchen hearth is rebuilt below grade and ready for the floor level portion of the hearth to be installed.

Next on our construction agenda is repairing or replacing the 6 exterior door frames and doors. This will not be completed for several months due to fabrication delays. In the meantime, we hope to repair the remaining crumbled sections of stone walls. We have decided to add some structural members to the roof system to compensate for damage that occurred previously and to add strength to a section that was marginal. Once this exterior work is completed, we will begin making plans for changing the roof to cedar shingle and re-pointing the stone next summer. The work will move to the interior of the tavern room in hopes of having one interior room ready for use as soon as possible. Spring will see more archaeology work including underneath the old floors!

### Your Tavern Committee hard a Work

We have had contact with several outside experts for help with the plans for construction and use. Besides the original planning that involved an architect, we found it necessary to speak with an architect with experience in 18<sup>th</sup>. Century buildings. **Milner Associates** of West Chester were onsite for one day in December and, among other things, gave us opinions on dating elements of the building and suggestions for investigating the tavern room to discover its original layout. On their suggestion, we also contacted **Keast and Hood**, structural engineers who work regularly with historic structures. They visited one day early in January and gave advice on structural issues like the stability of walls and the strength of flooring as well as recommendations for preserving the building. Over the next several months your committee will be evaluating these matters and making decisions about the work to be done and the uses of the structure that will follow. These opinions and recommendations come at a price, but ensure that we will do all the right things in preserving Dill's Tavern for generations.

### The Tavern Committee:

Bob Eichelberger-Chairman, Mervin Ice, Larry Klase, Joanne Klase, Connie Trostle, and Greg Wonders

### 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:*

*Friends* \$10 - \$ 99 \_\_\_\_\_

*Logan Circle* \$100 - \$ 499 \_\_\_\_\_

*Coover Circle* \$500 - \$999 \_\_\_\_\_

*Welty Circle* \$1000 - \$4999 \_\_\_\_\_

*Eichelberger Circle* \$5000 - \$9999 \_\_\_\_\_

*Dill Circle* \$10,000 - \_\_\_\_\_

Place this name on my certificate for \$100 or more: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please print clearly.)

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

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City: \_\_\_\_\_ St. \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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