

# The Dill's Tavern Chronicle

March 2006

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.



## Our Sincere Thanks to 2005 Contributors to Dill's Tavern Fund

## May 2006 holds Excitement As indoor Winter Work Continues

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The 1794 tavern parlor is the main focus of Sam McKinney and Kevin Ricker's work this winter. In this photo, you can see, among other things, a partially restored fireplace. The mantle is taking shape and the cupboard doors are the only major element in this view yet to be completed. The room is now being trimmed with chair-rail, window jambs and moulding, and baseboard. The plastering of the overmantle, surround and walls will be done next in several steps. It is a tedious and time-consuming process, but one that Sam knows intimately and performs to perfection.

The flooring has already been completed, the firebox relaid with early "tiles", the hearth rebuilt with early brick and a period door and thumbblatch can be seen as the entry into this space.

The remaining spaces in the 1794 parlor are also quite interesting. The Hall is the area behind the original front

entry (not visible in this view) and will eventually sport a reconstructed winder staircase to the upper rooms. The Hall extends toward the walk-in fireplace where cooking and other domestic chores were performed. Wrapping around that fireplace is an area that was used for meal and drink preparation. Food and drinks were then moved into the parlor via a "pass-through" opening in the wall.

In all of our investigation, we have found no evidence of a cage bar. It appears that the area next to the walk-in fireplace was where meals and drinks were prepared for the patrons. This area would have been off limits to guests as just the family and workers would have dished up the meals,

poured the drinks, taken the money and recorded the transactions.

One of the tasks facing the committee is to find period-correct names for the spaces or rooms. We will then print a floor plan and attempt to correctly show how people would work and move through the spaces.....not an easy job for so small an area.

Sam has given us a list of recommended furnishings for this space and we will be seeking donations of faithfully reproduced items in the near future. We are aiming for a "Grand Opening" of the 1794 tavern first floor for early May. Stay tuned!

## \*\*\* March Field Trip \*\*\*

You are invited to join the Tavern Cmte. on a field trip on Friday, March 10 through Saturday, March 11. We will be carpooling to the Albany, NY area (about 5 hours by car) on Friday morning. We will be visiting an important fully-restored Federal era tavern, very similar to our own tavern. The Eastfield Village Tavern was originally built in the same year as Dill's, 1794, and had its first addition built in 1803, also very similar to our structure. Though it is closer to New England and has some different architectural features, we are told it is quite remarkably similar and depicts a typical tavern extremely well; so well, in fact, that it has been used as a movie set! It is one of the only surviving taverns to be completely restored to its early function and is a great model for our work.

We also will be the guests of Don Carpentier, a well known and respected authority on the period and a craftsman of the first order. Don has been to Dill's Tavern on several occasions and it is safe to say that he is our single most enthusiastic supporter, aside from our own members. He has given Sam considerable assistance in interpretation of our building and has promised us an enjoyable experience. We can learn a lot about how we can accurately depict life around Dill's, from architectural elements to furnishings and the patterns of life of the owners and patrons.

Please consider joining us on this terrific opportunity offered by Don by calling Bob Eichelberger at 432-3224 to express your interest or to ask questions.

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.

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