

The Dill's Tavern Chronicle

July, 2007

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.

'Rock in the 1700's' Fundraiser a Big Success **Spectacular- Superb Weather- Sam outdid himself- Kevin's band is really good!** **Comments from the 1700's Gala**



These photos are from the well attended "Rock in the 1700's" Party at Dill's on June 16. With several styles of music presented, the event was designed to have a rocking good time. We were pleased to encounter quite a few new interested contacts attending as the goal was to enjoy the fruits of our labors these last few years, raise awareness of how great a facility we have and raise some funds at the same time. This was the first of a series of events to be held to raise funds for expansion of the educational and civic programs at Dill's.



Sam Mckinney hung the permanent newly painted Tavern sign on the Balcony for a preview of the party goes. As with everything about our tavern, the design is historically accurate in detail. While this photo is only of the mock-up the permanent sign has been painted by Marsha's DeSigns of Dillsburg. A post has been secured and it and a frame will be constructed by Kevin Kicker. The sign can be vaguely seen to the right in the middle photo above.

Proceeds are deposited in a special fund of NYCHAPS to be used for purchase and erection of a period structure. We found one that meets our needs for use as a woodworking shop and it's location can be found on the Site Plan of the previous Chronicle. The shop will be used for demonstrations, training, and for maintenance purposes. In a prior issue, a ballot was included asking for interest in future workshops. Some workshops envisioned are carpentry and woodworking training events of all types. Obviously, there are many demands for woodworking skills on a property such as ours. We also had requests for classes in working with period tools and techniques.

The NYCHAPS Board of Directors has been working hard recently trying to identify sources of income to support the ongoing operation of both the Maple Shade Barn and Dill's Tavern. There are currently 4 main sources of revenue that the Society has historically depended upon. They are membership dues, gift shop sales, special fundraising events and donations. Donations have allowed the major restoration work to progress as rapidly as it has. For that, the Society and the community as a whole are extremely grateful.

Recently, the Society has added additional fundraising events as a way to boost revenues for restoration work. As the facilities expand, our operational expenses increase and we are planning ahead to support all the expenses we expect.

One additional revenue source that appears necessary to adopt is a nominal admission charge for access to our facilities. With allowances for annual donors and youth groups, the implementation should occur in the near future. While the Board has agreed in principal, the exact amounts have yet to be decided.

The other future we envision is one in which all of our facilities and collections are free and open to the public. This can be accomplished with a permanent fund as a final source of revenue. Long term, the Board has discussed an endeavor that would fund a modest endowment. Once in place, this fund would provide the income to pay nominal expenses of the buildings and allow us to open our doors to everyone with an interest in Northern York County's history.

Masonry Workshop:

During May, the first ever Dill's Tavern workshop was held. With a full house of 10 attendees, the 2-day event was a resounding success. Not only did the folks get to spend 2 full days and a night in the Tavern itself, they took home some of Sam's incredible wealth of knowledge of period masonry. They worked long and hard in very hot weather to build a foundation wall for our soon to be built bakeoven. Next time you see Ted Pesano, ask him how hot it was! When complete, we can not only enjoy warm hearth baked bread ourselves, but others can learn baking right here at Dill's.

A Busy and Rewarding Spring at the Tavern:

This Spring was filled with visitors to Dill's Tavern. The building was rented for several private events. Tours brought youth, social, and historical organizations. All made contributions to fund restoration work or to purchase furnishings. Our members were the guides who told the history of the Tavern while Sam and Kevin related the details of historic restoration.

For the third year the Woman's Club of Dillsburg came to see the progress of the work and to make a gift from their dessert auction. A mystery tour meeting brought the Dillsburg Lions Club, many of whom had never been inside the building.

Craig Kennedy, retired from teaching at NMS, led a caravan of members of his mother's Sunday School Class. So the Happy Helpers of Newville journeyed to Dillsburg.

It was a season of firsts for our building. Barney and Linda Kimmel brought Williams Excavating for a banquet, catered by Windy Ridge Farm, guests gathered food from a buffet set in the 1800's bedroom. They dined in the ballroom and entertained with pop and country songs, preformed by a very talented musician.

Early on an April morning, 42 travelers arrived on a Rohrer bus. Our first bus tour was a group organized by the Cumberland County Historical Society visiting several small sites and museums. Our guides each took a small group through the building sharing the projects and works of our Society. Having a history-minded group visiting kept the guides on their toes answering questions about this area.

The first bridal shower made a unique surprise for the bride to be. The ballroom was turned into an enchanted place through the lovely decorations of the shower planner, Yvette Banks.

We welcomed fellow history buffs from two neighboring Historical Societies who brought their members to spend time with us. The small group from West Manchester and a gathering of friends from East Berlin filled the courtyard with their members. It was an exciting introduction to ways the Tavern can be put to use as the restoration nears completion. We are grateful to all of these visitors for making contributions to the Tavern Fund.

Can you dig faster than a Second Grader:



Anticipation and childish voices filled the air on two days in May when the second grade classes left Dillsburg Elementary School for the trek down Baltimore St. to the Dill's Tavern. Last fall, teacher Vicki Wonders arranged for Joanne Klase to take finds from the Tavern digs to share with the students as they were being introduced to archaeology skills. The children did an incredible job of locating finds. After 2 days and 4 classes of second graders, the dirt pile was gone. Twenty trays were filled with shards of pearlware, mocha, china, redware pottery, shells, metal pieces and some "interesting" bones.

The Tavern Committee:

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