

# The Dill's Tavern Chronicle

Sept 2008

[www.dillstavern.org](http://www.dillstavern.org)

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.*

## The Dills Tavern Sign



Last winter the members of the Tavern Board decided that they would like to have some kind of sign in front of the tavern. There is no record that I know of that mentions the tavern as anything except "Dills." It wasn't called the "Sign of the Indian Princess" or the "Sign of the Eagle," just "Dills". This meant we had to come up with a sign that told you it was a tavern and that it was in fact "Dills" tavern. I have a really great book on tavern signs called Lions & Eagles & Bulls. I spent a lot of time looking at the original tavern signs in that book, trying to find a generic sign that we could use. In the middle of the book is a sign for the "David Loomis Inn" described as "a decanter and four wine glasses, silhouetted against white background". The sign came from Westchester, Connecticut and had the date 1811 on it. The numbers used on our sign came from an 18<sup>th</sup> Century date stone in Franklinton. This seemed like a good basic design for our sign. I painted a sample and the board liked it.

Next, we needed a frame to display the sign. I have a book of early drawings done in York in the 1830's. Several of the drawings show taverns and their signs. One of the signs is shown in a frame like the one we settled on. It is constructed of a large pole mortised into a framework of 3 1/2" x 3 1/2" Douglas fir pieces. The whole works is mortise and tennon together, so that it will hold up in the weather. Clair Zeiders did all the carpentry work. The pole holding up the frame was donated by Met-Ed. It is a telephone pole that we cut into a tapered square on Kevin Ricker's band saw mill. We dug a hole four feet deep, stood the sign up in it and I put some concrete around the base to keep it straight.

The iron work that holds the sign, was fashioned for us by John Tyler, a blacksmith from Carlisle and it was painted by Marsha Jones, of "Marsha's De Signs," in Franklinton. The sign is an example of something that looks simple, but took a lot of thought and many different craftsmen to complete. Submitted by Sam McKinney

## Dills Tavern Preservation Workshop Scholarships

With the thought of encouraging young people to learn more about historical trades and other knowledge from the past, the Dills Tavern Preservation Workshops will be offering free classes to persons between the ages of 18 and 25. There will be a limited amount of scholarships for each class, depending on class size and how expensive it is to run each prospective class. Participants must be serious about learning these skills. If not, they will be asked to leave the program. If you wish to know more about this program, contact Sam McKinney at 432-4553 or [traditionalbldr@comcast.net](mailto:traditionalbldr@comcast.net).

An Announcement from the Editor's Desk .....

In the past The Chronicle has been a viable means of relaying the history and restoration progress of The Dills Tavern. Starting out as a mere newsletter to tell of coming events and progress, The Chronicle quickly evolved into a pictorial page of history, restoration, and happenings at the Tavern.

The diligence and hard work of the Tavern Committee, the dedication of Sam McKinney and Kevin Ricker, along with the financial contributions of Charles and Lucille Vogelsong and the community at large kept the restoration moving along at a fast pace.

While there remains much more work to be done to complete the proposed plans for the entire property, such as several out buildings yet to be constructed and an orchard to be planted, the building itself is very near a completed state.

At this time in the journey of the Tavern from a residence to a historical building, Peggie Williams is doing an excellent job with the NYCHAPS Newsletter in keeping you informed of upcoming events plus getting very good coverage for us in The Dillsburg Banner.

So with The Tavern's history fairly well told, in the future The Chronicle will become somewhat of a Quarterly print out with the exception of any important issues or events the committee deems necessary to warrant extra publications.

I consider it a pleasure and a privilege, to both, edit and produce this informative sheet for Tavern friends and the NYCHAP membership.

Tee Slyder Kelley

The Tavern Committee:

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

Web Site [www.northernYorkhistorical.org](http://www.northernYorkhistorical.org)

E-Mail Address [nychaps@northernYorkhistorical.org](mailto:nychaps@northernYorkhistorical.org)