

# The Dill's Tavern Chronicle

May 2009

[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.*

## May is Publick Tyme at Dill's



**Dan Eisenhour carves  
horn into useful objects**

Publick Tyme at Dill's brings exhibitors and re-enactors to the Tavern on

**Saturday, May 9, 2009**

The Event on the grounds and within the building is **FREE** to the public.

**Open 9am to 4pm**

Re-enactors portray historic periods from Colonial to modern times. Crafters of baskets, longrifles, stars and chairs are just a few of the demonstrators.



**Patty Erickson demonstrates  
Chair caning**

**Maddie Erickson shows us  
German folded stars**



**Linda Zeigler bakes apple  
pies in the bake oven**

**Blacksmith Ty Zimmerman brings his  
Portable forge.**

**"Turtle" shows us weaving using her  
hands and feet as a loom.**



# Archeological Finds From the 1819 Tavern Kitchen

We have now been working on the tavern restoration for more than three years. We are presently working on the 1819 kitchen room, found in the rear of the tavern ell. The floor in the room was replaced in 1898, when a lot of repairs were made. The 1898 floor was in poor condition by 2009, so we removed it. We were able to purchase antique yellow pine flooring that was taken out of a 1790's tavern in Carlisle. The floor joists were logs hewn flat on one side. The oak log joists were sitting on dirt and termites had eaten into the bottom 1/3 of all of them. The joists were removed and cut up for firewood. Before the new joists could be installed, we wanted to remove some of the dirt, so air could move under the floor.

As the dirt was removed, many interesting items were found. The best find, was shards of a pearlware oval bodied teapot with a brown applied eagle on the side. It would have been made in England and exported to the U.S. probably somewhere between 1795 and 1810. It was quite a fancy piece for the time. Also found were some nicely decorated redware shards, a small pearlware saucer shard with a butterfly in the center, and a wide array of beautiful pearlware shards of many colors and shapes. Some of the metal items were a 1809 1/2 cent (turban head liberty), 5 early brass buttons, a two tine fork with bone handles, a iron handle from a spatula, and a bolt from a large 10 plate stove. Glass items included the bottom of a blown tumbler, and pieces of early bottles.

When we were working on the side of the cooking fireplace, there was a hole in the plaster that seemed to have something packed into it. When that item was extracted it was found to be 3 pieces of paper rolled up. Two pages were from a pamphlet printed in 1818. They described the attempted union of Jefferson College and Washington Academy in western Pennsylvania. (We looked it up, the union never happened.) The third paper was a piece of a Frederick Maryland newspaper from 1818. The dates on these papers seem to reinforce our date written on the upstairs ballroom wall of 1819.

The most recent finds were discovered when we began to repair the chair rail in the kitchen. Behind the chair rail in different places were three small buttons, a pointed iron pin 4" long, a shard of a pearlware cup, and a small brass buckle. You just never know where you are going to find something interesting. The locations of certain things make you wonder if the items were placed there on purpose, so that they might be discovered someday. It is great fun to be the one that is lucky enough to discover such time capsules. We have been fortunate to find so many items over the last three years while working on the tavern. These finds along with the Dill bible, the ledgers, and the writings on the walls upstairs, help us to understand the spirit and personalities of the people that ran the tavern plantation and started Dillsburg.

## PROJECT OUTLINE: CLAIR ZEIDERS

Spring 2009

Rail Fence for Front of Tavern  
- 161 linear ft. to the south  
- 87 linear ft. to the north

Picket Fence for Tavern Garden Area  
- 162 linear feet of fence  
- to be built in 10' sections = (16) sections

Late Winter 2009

Finish construction of Gate for Walkway – requires Pickets  
Construct cabinetry for kitchen - (donation received)  
Fabricate and erect temporary wayside frame & Post

This is one man's commitment to the Tavern's reconstruction needs. Do you have a skill that could be helpful at the Tavern? If not, would you like to add something to your life?

Learn a Colonial Skill by taking a Tavern Workshop, then offer your help in the many projects. The rewards of being of service are innumerable. Fellowship, accomplishment, enjoyment are just a few.

Beginning in May several programs will be offered.:

Introduction to Hearth Cookery  
Bake oven Cooking

Pennsylvania Stonework  
Building a Squirrel Tail Oven

And Timber Framing

For complete information contact Sam McKinney (432-4553) or [www.dillstavern.org](http://www.dillstavern.org)

### The Tavern Committee:

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

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