



NORTHERN YORK COUNTY HISTORICAL & PRESERVATION

40th Anniversary Society

December 2024 Newsletter

“A month of lights, snow, coziness, and feasts; time to make amends and tie up loose ends; finish what you started and make your wishes come true.” ~Unknown

It’s that time again...

An excellent collection of returning favorites and new vendors is getting ready to greet you at this year’s Christkindlmarkt at Dills Tavern! This indoor/outdoor market pays homage to German outdoor markets and focuses on hand crafted items that can’t be ordered from a catalog. It has become a premier shopping experience with over 93 pop-up shops and 8 food vendors, all in a beautiful historic setting replete with live music, firepits to warm by, and 18th century living historians demonstrating skills at the forge and hearth. **[For a full list of offerings click here.](#)**

We invite you to stop by the distillery for a sample of glühwein, and are happy to announce that we will have both Cherry Bounce and Old Monaghan available for purchase until supplies run out. (21+ ID required).

New this year, Benjamin Masters, of Crank Therapy, will be upcycling various items using a bicycle powered sewing machine! You can watch Ben at work and shop his creations in front of the outdoor hearth.

Dress for the weather, and wear your walking shoes, as most of this market is located on grass and there is uneven ground. A limited number of handicapped spaces will be available in the parking lot off of Rt 15.



Looking for a service project for your family or organization this holiday season? Join the team to help make Christkindlmarkt happen! There are many opportunities that fit different schedules, and you can sign up for a couple hours or take multiple shifts.

Preparation starts the Sunday after Thanksgiving and wraps up the week after.

Contact knellis@northernYorkHistorical.org if available.

1st
FRIDAY

December Events

December 6th; 7pm-10pm

Theme: Celebration of the Holidays Colonial Style



At First Friday, you can expect loads of fun with live music, snacks, tastings, BYOB (legally procured in PA), and more! This month, we're excited to have **Seasons**, as our musical guest. While the instrumentation of the band remains centered around the Celtic harp and hammered dulcimer, over the years the band has added violin, mandolin, guitar, bodhran, penny whistle, and piano. They will be featuring music from both their Christmas albums, *Eventide Lullabye* and *Joy on High*, as well as some rollicking Irish tunes for a true Celtic Christmas feel. So grab your friends, dress in garb, and prepare for a wonderful evening spent by candlelight at Dills Tavern.

This event is exclusive to the 21+ crowd and advanced ticket sales are not available. Simply pay at the door when you arrive - \$10 for members and \$15 for nonmembers.



This evening's tasting program: "Hot Drinks Roasting On An Open Fire."

Tavern Keeper, Murray Small, will be sharing hot libations in the Eichelberger Distillery for an additional \$10. Sign up for this tasting on-line or at the door.

The tasting includes a complimentary McKenzie glass with the Eichelberger Distillery logo.

[Reserve a spot here!](#)

December Events

Annual Members Meeting and Potluck

December 5th - Maple Shade Barn - 6:00pm



We invite everyone to share in food and fellowship at our annual Membership Potluck. The night's events will include our election for open board seats, a brief update on NYCHAPS happenings, followed by a relaxed meal. We ask that all attendees bring a potluck dish to be shared.

Plates, utensils, and beverages will be provided. Hope to see you there!

Maple Shade Barn: 35 Greenbrier Lane, Dillsburg, PA 17019

Christkindlmarkt at Dills Tavern

December 13th; 4-9 pm

December 14th; 9-4 pm

Christkindlmarkt is a traditional German Christmas Market that takes place in the evening during the Advent season. [Details on our website here!](#)



Colonial Candlelight Christmas Service

Saturday December 21st at 6:00 pm



Have you ever wondered what a church service was like back in colonial times? This service will include music, readings, and candlelight. Following the service, a candlelight procession will lead to Dills Tavern, where light refreshments will be served.

The historic Monaghan Church is located behind the Dillsburg Post Office at 15 E. Church Street, Dillsburg, PA.

December Events; 250 years ago



News in the colonies

The First Continental Congress passed and signed the Continental Association in its Declaration and Resolves, which called for a boycott of British goods

to take effect in December 1774. After Congress signed on October 20, 1774, embracing non exportation they also planned nonimportation of slaves beginning December 1, which would have abolished the slave trade in the United States of America 33 years before it actually ended.

The Capture of Fort William and Mary took place in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, on December 14, 1774, when local Patriots led by John Langdon stormed Fort William and Mary guarding the mouth of the busy seaport. They overcame a six-man caretaker detachment and seized the garrison's powder, which was distributed through several towns in the colony for potential use in the looming struggle against Great Britain. On December 15, 1774, patriots led by John Sullivan again raided the fort, this time seizing numerous cannons, later used in the pivotal Battle of Bunker Hill.

The incident is significant as one of the first overt acts of the American Revolutionary War and the only battle to take place in the state of New Hampshire.

What is America250PA?

The Pennsylvania Commission for the United States Semiquincentennial (America250PA) was established by the legislature and Governor in 2018 to plan, encourage, develop and coordinate the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States, Pennsylvania's integral role in that event, and the impact of its people on the nation's past, present, and future.

America250PA hopes to engage all citizens of the Commonwealth, from all 67 counties, bring the Commonwealth's history into the conversation so Pennsylvanians can better understand the origins and multiple perspectives of issues facing our Commonwealth & nation today, use history to encourage and inspire future leaders, celebrate the contributions of Pennsylvanians to our Commonwealth's history but also to our Nation's history, leave a lasting impact on the next generation and to spark an interest in which will ignite the drive for them to appreciate all the triumphs, trials and tribulations to which contributed to the Commonwealth for which they are now writing their own history.

Looking ahead to January

Pork and Sauerkraut Dinner

January 4th - Maple Shade Barn - 6:00pm



Welcome in the New Year with us in the German tradition. Root forward with our locally sourced pork & sauerkraut dinner for good health and good luck. The full menu includes pork & sauerkraut, mashed potatoes, corn, homemade apple sauce, hog maw, bread, jams, and cider fresh pressed from the apples in the Tavern orchard.

[Read more about it on our website by clicking here!](#)

Maple Shade Barn: 35 Greenbrier Lane, Dillsburg, PA 17019

First Friday

January 3rd; 7-10 pm

at Dills Tavern

This evening will be a Wassail Celebration while enjoying the unique acoustic music of earlier days in America and Ireland, as well as original songs, as performed by Susquehanna Travellers.



[Read more about it on our website by clicking here!](#)

Speaker Series



Maple Shade Barn:
35 Greenbrier Lane,
Dillsburg, PA 17019

Buck Buchanan

“The Helicopter War in Vietnam”

Thursday, January 16th; 6:30-8 pm

at Maple Shade Barn

The presentation will address the types of helicopters used, what life was like for aircrews, and how helicopters were used to move troops and materials around the battlefield, as well as evacuate the wounded.

[Read more about it on our website by clicking here!](#)

Did you know...

The original Dillsburg High School Athletic Field, a memorial to area World War I Veterans.



Thousands of area athletes have honed their skills and competed in games at every level over the last century on the athletic field situated next to Dillsburg Elementary School, and behind the former Dillsburg High School (1914) and Administration building. Most Dillsburg residents may not know that the field was originally to have been dedicated to the area veterans of World War I.

The group of baseball fields that are known today as Wolfe Field, Ryder Field and Gross Field have been essential for Dillsburg Youth Baseball games for decades. That same athletic field also hosted adult league baseball, high school football and soccer, and a variety of other sporting and community events.

The origin of the field dates to the post World War I era. The 'new' Dillsburg High School, constructed after the Great Dillsburg Fire of 1913, had been built by 1914, just as the world was plunged into the 'Great War'. The United States entered the War in 1917 and many local boys enlisted.

When the war ended on November 11, 1918, local citizens were interested in honoring the returning local veterans, and memorializing those who were killed, including William Stouffer, Charles Hess, Monroe Hunter, H. W. Miller and R. P. Miller.

Did you know... (cont.)

The local chapter of the Patriotic Order, Sons of America, Washington Camp 777, drafted a resolution and published it in the Dillsburg Weekly Bulletin on March 7, 1920, to buy a plot of land for sports and recreation to be donated to the Dillsburg School District. This athletic field was to be a memorial to those from Dillsburg who fought and served in WWI.

While the records of the fund raising campaign are lost to history, the project seems to have been put on hold. The school district eventually purchased the land from U. S. G. Logan, a local automobile dealer, in 1928 and made it available for parking during the annual Farmers Day celebration. It was reported to have held 1000 cars. The field was also used for archery classes, taught by Professor Ernest Hartman, and hosted Dillsburg High School's earliest football games from 1930 to 1935.

Although the nation was in the midst of the Great Depression in 1933, a Civil Works Administration Project, under the National Recovery Act, was commissioned to grade and level the field. The CWA hired 110 workers, at 50 cents an hour, to prepare the field, the majority of the work done manually.

A baseball diamond (originally planned as a football gridiron) and two tennis courts were established. C. S. Williams, a local contractor, assisted by Benjamin Knaub, was in charge of the project, completing it in two months!

During the ensuing decades, the field became the home of the Troop 38 Boy Scout Cabin (built in 1942); housed a "Airplane Spotter's Shack" during the early years of World War II, an obstacle course, and was the the home of Dillsburg High School Varsity Soccer team (until 1955), as well as DHS baseball, softball, and field hockey. Local educator, coach, and legend Rev. Arthur T. Kaup also began a rudimentary track team and Dillsburg kids played endless games of Capture the Flag on the field at night! When the school district re-started the soccer program in the mid 1980's, the 'downtown' athletic field once again was used by the teams until a new field was completed in the early 2000's.

Today, the field continues to host hundreds of baseball games, Farmer's Fair exhibits, and events and activities for Dillsburg Elementary School.

So as the sounds of fall baseball games echo and fade across Dillsburg's historic athletic field, remember those young men of World War I to whom the field was dedicated and honor them on November 11.

**Article written by Doug Riley for publication in the
Dillsburg Banner.**



A Celebration - Dr. Mark O. Hagenbuch

On Wednesday afternoon (November 20th), we gathered at the Eichelberger Distillery with friends and colleagues to celebrate the incredible contributions of Dr. Mark O. Hagenbuch. State Representative Dawn Keefer presented Dr. Hagenbuch with a Citation from the PA House of Representatives, recognizing his unwavering dedication to NYCHAPS and the Dillsburg community.



Dr. Hagenbuch has been a driving force in our organization for over 30 years, leading pivotal projects like the renovation of the Maple Shade Barn, the creation of the Heritage Days educational program, and the transformation of Dills Tavern into the treasure it is today. Most recently, his leadership has been instrumental in the planning and construction of the Eichelberger Distillery.

After the presentation, Mark added a historic touch by beginning the filling of the distillery's first barrel of Monaghan Rye—and yes, he gave it a taste for good measure! State Representative Dawn Keefer also stepped in to lend a hand stirring the mash. Please join us in celebrating Dr. Hagenbuch's legacy and dedication to preserving our shared history. **Thank you, Mark, for making an enduring impact on our community.**



Closing Out the Year

NYCHAPS: Celebrating 40 Years



Throughout this year, our 40th Anniversary Giving Challenge presented specific “asks” that would support the work of NYCHAPS as well as provide a way to tangibly connect with our mission and vision.

Our Mission: *To strengthen our community by cultivating an appreciation of the heritage of Northern York County through preservation, education and living history.*

Our Vision: *To offer a unique place where people experience hands-on history in fun and engaging programs that preserve and promote the history and heritage of Northern York County.*

Thanks to your donations, we have accomplished many of our goals this year!
To celebrate, here are a few examples:

- Preservation - The Eichelberger Embroidery restoration and partial funding of the oversize scanner needed for the archives.
- Education - History Camp scholarships and programming supplies, as well as funding to secure Speakers for adult programs.
- Living History - Equipment needed to operate the Eichelberger Distillery and demonstrate historic distilling using 18th century techniques.
- Maintenance - Painting/repairing Dills Tavern fencing and painting the exterior of the west side of Dills Tavern.

Organizations like ours could not exist without the generosity of the community that we serve. Your donation to the Northern York County Historical and Preservation Society strengthens our vision and preserves history for generations.

End of year donations are always welcome here!

NYCHAPS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. EIN 23-2305260

Community Interests



Winter Distillery Hours

While Tavern Tours and Farmers Market have ended for the winter season, the Eichelberger Distillery at Dills Tavern will continue to operate through the winter months.

Tours will be available:

- Mondays thru Fridays by appointment only. This may be arranged by contacting the office at 717-502-1440.
- Wednesdays: distillery is open 3p to 7p
- Saturdays: tours begin on the hour from noon to 3pm
- Sundays: tours begin on the hour from 1pm to 3pm

Please Note: Sat/Sun tours may arranged on-line and are available to walk-ins only as space permits. Online tickets are available [by clicking here](#) until Fridays at 3pm (a small surcharge is added per ticket)

Cost - \$10.00

Quilting News

Quilt raffle tickets have been sold all year and soon we will know the winner of th 2024 Retrofusion Quilt! The drawing for this raffle will be on the Saturday of the Christkindlmarkt event. The winner does not need to be present. In the meantime, tickets will still be available at both the Maple Shade Barn office (see hours below) and during the Christkindlmarkt.



NORTHERN YORK COUNTY
**HISTORICAL &
PRESERVATION**
Society

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Office Hours: Tues-Fri 11am - 3pm