



NORTHERN YORK COUNTY HISTORICAL & PRESERVATION

Society

June / July 2025 Newsletter

“One flag, one land, one heart, one hand, one nation, evermore!”

Oliver Wendell Holmes

Over the last several years, federal, state and local stakeholders began to plan for the celebration of America's semiquincentennial and now we are less than 400 days away. The last few newsletters have also brought to mind events leading up to the American Revolution.

One of the most pivotal battles of the American Revolutionary War occurred in 1777 when the British tried to take control of strategic ground on the Hudson River. The approximately 6,200 soldiers, led by British General John Burgoyne, were surrounded by American troops, who forced them to surrender near Albany, New York, marking a major turning point in the war. Believe it or not, an eponymous quilt pattern was developed as a result of this event and the MSB quilters are ready to take on this project in honor of the semiquincentennial.

More details to follow!



NYCHAPS Members & Friends Picnic at Dills Tavern

Thursday, July 3rd at 6:00 pm



It's time for food, fellowship, and fun! To start, there will be a brief meeting to share news and review happenings. This short meeting will be immediately followed by a potluck picnic.

Hot dogs, condiments, water, soda, and paper products will be provided. Members are encouraged to bring a dish to share (but not required). Please plan on joining us!

June & July Regular Happenings

Saturdays at Dills Tavern



Distillery Tours Every Saturday
Noon to 3 pm on the hour
\$10



June 7th & July 5th - Tavern Tour
10:00 am & 11:00 am

\$5 adult / \$10 immediate family

June 14th & July 12th - Cooking Demo

June 21st & July 19th - Children's Activity



Farmers Market - Every Saturday
8:00 am - noon



June 7th & July 12th - Dillsburg Library
Storytime at the Market with Ms. Sue
10:00 am



Sundays at Dills Tavern



Distillery Tours Every Sunday
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
on the hour
\$10



Spinning Demonstration
June 8th & July 13th
during Tavern tours

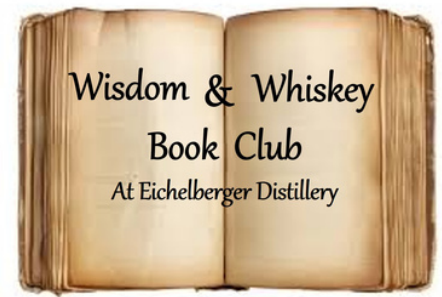


Tavern Tours - Every Sunday
2:00 pm & 3:00 pm
\$5 adult / \$10 immediate family

June & July Special Events

Wisdom & Whiskey Book Club

6:30pm - 8:00 pm at the Eichelberger Distillery



June 4th - Our book discussion will cover:

Ch 7: The Massachusetts Convention II

Ch 8: A Rough Road to Richmond

July 9th - Our book discussion will cover:

Ch 9: The Virginia Convention I

Ch 10: The Virginia Convention II

This event is free and open to the public. You are welcome to bring a snack to share and we will have beverages for purchase.



Hymn Sing at Historic Monaghan Church

Sunday, July 20th at 2:00 pm

13 East Church St. Dillsburg PA



Join your friends at NYCHAPS for the July Hymn Sing! The program is hosted by the Dillsburg Arts Council and coordinated by the Northern York County Historical and Preservation Society. Clair Zeiders, will lead us in Patriotic Hymns - including all 3 songs that have been used as our National Anthem over the years!

This is a free event and open to the public with an ice cream social immediately following.



Women & Whiskey 2: The Temperance Movement

Wednesday, July 23rd from 6:00pm - 8:00 pm

at the Eichelberger Distillery

Ladies gather your girlfriends and spend an evening learning about the temperance movement that impacted the nation. The evening will consist of:

- Discussion of the Temperance Movement
- History of the spotlight drink (Mint Julep)
- Tasting along with snacks/pairings that go with the spotlight drink

Cost: \$20 per person, seating is limited to 24 people. Read more about what's planned for the evening and get your tickets early by

[clicking here!](#)



The Impractical Distillers: Vol 1.6

Men of Legacy

May 2025 marks the 1-year anniversary of the opening of the Eichelberger Distillery. The distillery was completed in 2024 after many years of delays, disappointments, and changes of direction. Finally, dreams became reality as we legally fired-up the handmade copper stills and whiskey began to flow. Unfortunately, not all who were instrumental in bringing the vision to life lived to experience whiskey being made as it was in the 18th century.

The Impractical Distillers navigated the circuitous path to producing authentic 18th century whiskey without compasses or catalogues and few colleagues for collaboration. But they weren't alone. Four men helped set the course, championed the vision and deserve a toast with a hearty pour of Monaghan Rye.



Larry Klase was an indomitable force. He never lost hope. While soliciting donations with a coffee can in front of the tavern he encountered another history lover. Charlie Vogelsong embraced NYCHAPS' vision to preserve and promote local history and provided substantial funding to restore the tavern and relocate an 18th century German barn to the site. Larry served as president of NYCHAPS for several terms. He and his wife Joanne initiated First Fridays at Dills Tavern. His admonition to "Keep Smiling" became lasting advice.

George Platts was a philosopher-blacksmith. George was an enthusiastic representative of Dills Tavern who recruited many of the docents and volunteers who still contribute to NYCHAPS. His knowledge of the French and Indian War, York County's participation in the Revolutionary War, and native culture was unsurpassed. He often showed up barefooted to events.

Many of the plans for the distillery were hatched during fireside chats at the cabin he built in the woods. His metal working skills helped us build the copper stills we use.

The Impractical Distillers cont.

Mark Hagenbuch traveled the world participating in a variety of re-enactments. His portrayals include a Highlander, Civil War soldier from the Stone Wall Brigade, German farmer, and British soldier at Waterloo. Mark was a former multi-term NYCHAPS president and recruited many historical societies and re-enactment groups to visit and utilize Dills Tavern for programs and events. Unmatched as a fundraiser, he acquired donations in excess of \$500,000 to build the distillery. Dr. Hagenbuch retired as an elementary school principal. His passion for kids' programs was equal to his love of a dram by the fire.



Steve Pancoe had an infectious personality. He portrayed Colonel William Clapham, who built forts in Pennsylvania during the French and Indian War. His extensive collection of firearms, accoutrements, books, and period clothing were displayed at many events. Steve was an avid ambassador whose colorful portrayals and personality drew visitors and volunteers to NYCHAPS.

The legacy of these men endures and their faces watch over daily labors in the distillery. Larry, Mark, George, and Steve's vision, commitment, and never-ending belief that a small community historical society can achieve big things lives on. Please visit the Eichelberger Distillery where we share their stories, our whiskey and a passion for history. We raise a glass of Monaghan Rye to these fine gentlemen. May they rest in peace.

The Impractical Distillers:
Sam and Murray



Education in Action

May was an incredibly busy month at Dills Tavern as large groups of 2nd graders came for tours. Each spring, volunteer Viki Wonders, reaches out to schools in the Northern York County District to coordinate field trips. This year we had visits from:

- Dillsburg Elementary
- Wellsville Elementary
- Northern Elementary
- South Mountain Elementary



The visiting 2nd graders learned about the contributions of the Dill and Eichelberger families in establishing their tavern. Students toured the tavern and learned about everyday life in the 18th century. In the barn, the students learned about the process of discovering the past and participated in hands-on archaeology tasks.

NYCHAPS is grateful for the amazing group of volunteers that supported the tours and know that these meaningful experiences would not exist without them!



NYCHAPS History Camp

July 14th - 18th



History Camp at Dills Tavern is a one-week experience open to students entering grades 4-6. Students will have the opportunity to participate in hands-on 18th century activities led by our experienced volunteers. Activities will include: games, fiber arts, metal working, wood working, candle making, colonial clothing, food preparation, and more! **Registration ends July 1st.**

[Enrollment information and registration here!](#)

Speaker Series Celebration

This winter, NYCHAPS hosted a series of interesting and informative speakers, all arranged by volunteer, Noel Collanbine. These speakers gave generously of their time, often driving more than an hour to provide a program at Maple Shade Barn and staying after to answer questions. We are so fortunate to be a place that respects history and welcomes the sharing of stories and experiences with others. Thank you everyone!



January: Richard "Buck" Buchanan
"The Helicopter War in Vietnam."



February: Andre Weltman
"Charcoal Hearths, Collier Huts & Haul Roads: Traces of the Iron Industry on the Michaux State Forest Landscape."



March: Abby Teaford
"The Susquehannock's York County Legacy."



April: Jeff Finegan
"I Knew George Washington."



May: Sarah Schwarz
"Patriotism and the DAR."

Community Interests

August 5th at Logan Park



POLICE • COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

NYCHAPS supports community partnerships and if you have not experienced this fun event, please come join us! It is an opportunity to share information about the great things that are happening at Dills Tavern. We typically set up an information table / displays and provide some hands-on activities for children.

If you would like to be involved, please contact knellis@northernYorkhistorical.org



Explore York: Makers Spirit Event

On June 14th, NYCHAPS will be participating in a celebration of all things crafted here in York County, Pennsylvania. At Dills Tavern there is always so much to showcase and visitors will be able to enjoy a bake oven demonstration as well as visits to the Wheelwright, Cooperage, and Distillery!



Wheels & Whiskey

Sunday, August 3rd at Eichelberger Distillery

10 am - 2 pm

If you love cars, motorcycles, and history, this is the event for you! Join us in a fun filled day that includes live music, delicious food, cars & motorcycles (past and present), games and history all in one place. This is family friendly and free to the public.

[More details are provided on our website by clicking here!](#)



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