



NORTHERN YORK COUNTY HISTORICAL & PRESERVATION

40th Anniversary Society

September 2024 Newsletter

“If you can dream it, you can do it.” — Walt Disney

Grand Opening of the Eichelberger Distillery at Dills Tavern on September 7th: 10am - 4pm!

The Grand Opening of the Eichelberger Distillery at Dills Tavern will be a showcase of living history educators demonstrating skills and presenting information on a wide range of topics that relate to the history of distilling and to the Dills Tavern site from mid 18th century to early 19th century. This **free event** is family friendly, with games, food, animals, vendors, and music. [See the full list on our website here.](#)

The Eichelberger Distillery itself is both a commitment to learn how a major component of the economy functioned, and to share what we learn along the way with you. Modern techniques and equipment have created a predictability that serves as a safety net for today's distilling community. For us, using 18th century methods and equipment, it's a bit more of an adventure. Whenever possible, we will have bottles of historically crafted whiskey and beverages for sale, but a visit to the Eichelberger Distillery is about the experience, and history. We welcome you to join us in this adventure, wherever it leads. [Check in with us here to see how things are coming along...](#)

~ Dara Kane

Don't forget...

Also happening at the **Grand Opening Event**: Our 4th Annual People's Choice Cherry Bounce Contest, and special tastings presented by Murray Small and our distillery docents. There are limited spaces available so if you want to save your spot, [you may order tickets on our website here.](#) You must be 21+ and must present a valid ID to participate. \$10/person.



September Events



September 21st; 4pm - 8pm at Greystone Pavilion

NYCHAPS will once again participate in this great fundraiser for the Polar Bear Foundation! We plan to enter the Dessert competition this year and will feature products from the Eichelberger Distillery in the recipe! The Anyone Can Cook event, hosted by the PBF at the pavilion at Greystone Brew House in Dillsburg, is a friendly cooking competition where local chefs compete for first place in one of four food categories: salads and appetizers, soups/stews/chilies, entrees, and desserts. Attendees enjoy food samplings prepared by the chefs, drinks, local craft beer from Hemauer Brewing Co., live music, a best-decorated booth competition, and other fun activities! All food/drinks are while supplies last. Please come out and enjoy a great evening of food! Contact knellis@northernnyorkhistorical.org if interested in helping.



Saturdays

Farmers Market - Every Saturday
8:00 am - noon



September 21st - Dillsburg Library
Storytime at the Market with Ms. Sue
10:00 am



Distillery Tours
Every Saturday
Beginning on the hour
at 10am, 11am, 12pm,
1pm, 2pm, & 3pm
\$10 per adult

September 14th - Cooking Demo
September 21st - Garden Talk
September 28th - Children's Activity

Sundays



Distillery Tours Every Sunday
afternoon at:
1:00, 2:00, and 3:00 pm
\$10 per adult



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



Spinning Demonstration
September 8th during Tavern Tours

A Gift of Eichelberger Portraits

Local artist Scott Meier presented NYCHAPS with the two very special gifts (pictured) at the August regular Board of Directors meeting.

Intrigued by a visit to the new Eichelberger Distillery and a chance encounter with a small printed copy of a



portrait of Frederick Eichelberger (1783-1836), Scott painted full size portraits of both Frederick and his wife, Catharine (1782-1869). These portraits were done in the fashion of the original works of Jacob Eichholtz (1776-1842), a well known artist from Lancaster. Both original portraits were donated to the New York Historical Society by Catharine's great-grandnephew, George Shearer.

Eichholtz captured a number of prominent citizens on canvas and some of his work is displayed in the National Gallery of Art and the Smithsonian Museum of Art. His portrait of Eichelberger accurately depicts the Dillsburg native in his role as a powerful Pennsylvania politician. Frederick was elected to the House of Representatives, serving three different tenures between 1800 and 1817, and to the State Senate from 1819 to 1823. He also served as a Colonel in the Pennsylvania Volunteers in the War of 1812.

Scott Meier's first love is portraiture and his web site captures his motivation, "I find man to be the most interesting animal ever created. Every face has a past and a story. Using traditional painting techniques, and influenced by history and religion, I explore what it means to be human; to exist in an ever changing environment where we fuse our past and our present to create our future."

NYCHAP is incredibly honored and grateful for Scott's generous donations. The two portraits are shown hanging above the desk in the Eichelberger 1800 parlor addition to the Dills Tavern. We hope you can schedule a visit during our regular Sunday tours scheduled at 2 pm & 3 pm.

~ Doug Riley



Intern - Zachary Davinroy



Background...

I have always had an interest in history since I was a child, however until college I never truly considered pursuing it in a professional capacity. I came to Ursinus as an exercise science major and about halfway through my freshman year I switched to a history undergraduate track. As a student, one of the requirements to graduate as a history major is to do an internship that fits within the historical field, and I started

looking at opportunities close to home that would immerse me in said field. I was introduced to NYCHAPS through a family friend of mine, Herb Bomberger, and it's almost like everything fell into place from there, within a month I was attending the Saturday farmer's markets helping out with the organization's activities.

Have you had previous experiences with "living" history?

Outside of college presentations on research topics I was involved with, I had very little experience as a demonstrator, I was always in the role of an observer who was being walked through history. Being able to develop the "teaching-others" aspect of living history has truly been an incredible experience because both the community, and members of NYCHAPS are so willing to be immersed in the history they are shown.

What has been your most important learning experience with NYCHAPS?

My biggest take away was learning the ability to keep people interested in history by helping to "transport them back in time" to be fully immersed in the aspects of day to day life in the 18th century. Through watching several NYCHAPS members and participating in telling the histories myself, I was able to learn a wealth of knowledge on how to create a story rather than a lecture to help people become willing attentive rather than passive listeners.

Do you have any additional areas of interest that you'd like to pursue?

Aside from history, I would love to pursue a career in music, the art has always been a passion of mine and I have been playing instruments since I was in fourth grade. I also greatly enjoy playing collegiate lacrosse at Ursinus and I will most likely pursue a coaching career in some capacity once I am able to. Lastly, though I learned a lot about my passion for history over the summer, I realized that I have an interest in Archeology as well. I mean, who wouldn't want to be Indiana Jones.

Where are you off to next?

I am off to finish my senior year and graduate in May of 2025. Once my undergraduate is all wrapped up I plan to take a gap year before starting graduate school. Afterwords I am planning to pursue a career within a historical research institution as well as being a lacrosse coach wherever I end up.





NYCHAPS 40th Anniversary Giving Challenge

The list below represents **specific “asks”** that will be important in the coming year. Designating where you would like your contribution to go allows you to support NYCHAPS in a way that resonates with you and we want you to be able to tangibly connect to our mission. Donations that are “unspecified” are just as important to our work as the funds support operational expenses. Either way, **we appreciate financial support of any amount... it all adds up!** The list below has progress notes and will be updated each month. Donations may be made using our [website here](#) or mailed to: NYCHAPS, P.O. Box 340, Dillsburg, PA 17019

Below are the opportunities to invest your donation directly to the program you would like to support!

Education / Living History		
1. Student Scholarship(s) for the Children’s History Camp	DONE	\$130/260
2. Supplies to support the Children’s History Camp		\$500
3. Guest speaker(s) fees		\$500
4. Tavern candles		\$200
5. Colonial Garden Supplies	1% funded	\$250
Preservation		
1. Archives room map cabinet	7% funded	\$1500
2. Archives room oversize scanner	60% funded	\$1000
3. Preservation of antique fiber arts objects in archives	Pledged	\$5000
Maintenance		
1. Replacing Maple Shade Barn gutters		\$5000
2. Replace Maple Shade Barn printer	DONE!	\$500
3. Painting the exterior of the Dills Tavern west side	36% funded	\$5500
4. Painting the Dills Tavern soffits and third floor windows		\$6500
5. Painting the Tavern modern kitchen exterior		\$5000
6. Repairing/replacing sections of Baltimore Street sidewalk		\$15000
7. Repainting, replacing, and repairing Dills Tavern Fencing	DONE!	\$3000
8. Adding new electrical to the Dills Tavern property		\$3500
Education / Distillery		
1. Distillery pumps/buckets		\$200
2. Distillery totes	DONE!	\$300
3. Distillery Potable Water hose	DONE!	\$100
4. Fermenting Barrels (3 @ \$350 each)	DONE!	\$1050
5. Distillery Storage racks		\$500
6. Distillery Lab Equipment for Proofing/gauging	DONE!	\$1000
7. Bottle Filler	DONE!	\$375
8. Distillery scale	DONE!	\$1500
9. Distillery hydrometer	DONE!	\$500
10. Brix Reader (mash)	DONE!	\$400
11. Stainless taps	DONE!	\$200
12. Distillery Laptop	DONE!	\$500
13. Mini Digital Projector/Bluetooth speakers for distillery		\$700
14. Distillery Handheld Alcohol Gas Detector		\$500

Community Interests

1927 Frick Steam Tractor “visits” Dills Tavern!

NYCHAPS has partnered with many of our local organizations while promoting and participating in area events and fundraisers. The Society's partnership with the Williams Grove Historic Steam Engine Association has included many educational and special events.



The week of August 15 was no exception, as the Dills Tavern site hosted Barney Kimmel's 1927 Frick Steam Tractor, promoting the Grove's 66th Annual Steam Show at the Williams Grove complex, August 24 through September 1. Averaging just 3 miles per hour, the 97 year old tractor made its way from the ECI construction lot to the Dills Tavern parking lot just in time for the Saturday Market. Pictured above is NYCHAPS' Murray Small with the Frick tractor along side of the Eichelberger Distillery.

Working on our maintenance “to do” list...



The west side of Dills Tavern, dating to 1819, got some much-needed care and attention this week as the painted surfaces were scraped, sanded, primed and given two fresh coats of new paint. Thanks to a generous donor, some of the cost of the project was underwritten.

The contractor, A+ Dale Jr. painting, also painted the second-floor windows of the Tavern two years ago. Future projects will include the painting of the soffits, fascia and underhang of the Tavern roof. The maintenance of the historic property and preservation of this significant building is a NYCHAPS priority. The Dills Tavern is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

If you would like to support us in our preservation and maintenance efforts, check out page 5 of our newsletter to see what's on our list!

Community Interests

Bells Across York County!

You might have wondered why church bells were ringing across the community at noon, Monday, August 19. Traditionally, the ringing of the community's bells signified the call to worship for Dillsburg and most small towns, but bells and bell-ringing were an important part of everyone's life two centuries ago. Bells were indispensable chroniclers of time, calling the community to action for historic announcements and proclamations, warnings of danger, or special occasions.



One can only imagine the bells ringing on August 19, 1749 as the Pennsylvania General Assembly passed the Act establishing York County, Pennsylvania's first County on the west side of the Susquehanna River. NYCHAPS celebrated the 275th anniversary of the founding of York County by participating in the Bells Across York County program, ringing the bell on the Dills Tavern site. Bells from St. Paul's Lutheran Church, the Historic Monaghan Church and Calvary Methodist Church also joined in the celebration. A proclamation was then read announcing the founding of the new County.

As part of the establishment of the York county in 1749, eight Justices were named to enforce Pennsylvania Law, including Dillsburg's founder, Matthew Dill.

Pictured above are Don and Luanne Peroni with Doug Riley ringing the Dills Tavern bell and handbells.

ABC27 News on the Eichelberger Distillery Grand Opening!

[Dill's Tavern Opens a Very New Old Distillery](#)

[Read all about it here!](#)



NORTHERN YORK COUNTY
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PRESERVATION**
Society

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