



NORTHERN YORK COUNTY HISTORICAL & PRESERVATION

Society

November 2023 Newsletter

“Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can.” ~ Arthur Ashe

NYCHAPS' participation in Greystone's Bull and Oyster Festival last month was a new experience for us as well as a successful collaboration. We introduced a lot of Dillsburg people to the "*Little Historical Society That Could*". Where many other communities have only a road sign that says something happened here a long time ago, we have a group of dedicated people that had the foresight to preserve a tavern that had been the center of social interaction in the 18th century, then added other buildings to tell a story of our heritage and culture. Many other communities realize only too late that once a site is gone, it's gone forever. "But we don't have the money to preserve this!" Yes, it's expensive to build and maintain but it's important.

The volunteers, who show up again and again, care about this history and always step up when needed. Smiling, welcoming attitudes, a focus on goals, not taking ourselves too seriously, and refusing to quit are pretty good traits for a volunteer organization. The best of NYCHAPS was on display at the Bull and Oyster Festival.

~ an excerpt from Murray Small's event summary

Save the Date for...

Christkindlmarkt at Dills Tavern

December 8th; 4-9 pm

December 9th; 9-4 pm

The two-day event will host over 80 indoor and outdoor vendors featuring locally handcrafted gifts. There will be delicious food, music, and family friendly activities across the tavern's beautiful historic grounds. This is a rain or shine event.



November's Special Events

First Friday, November 3rd from 7-10 pm.

Dill's Tavern

Come out to Dills Tavern and enjoy some 18th-century tavern music where it was meant to be heard!



Forbes Road Frolic is a colonial-era tavern band offering a well-researched, yet fun and enjoyable, colonial-period musical experience. Chuck Krepley and Gary Smith are dyed-in-the-wool history buffs, performing on instruments representative of the period from the 1750's through the American War of Independence.

First Fridays at Dills Tavern are BYOB and 21+ to attend. Light refreshments, tunes, and lots of friendly faces are provided. This event will be \$10 for members, \$15 for nonmembers at the door.

Dillsburg Farmer's Market

For fresh, local, homegrown and homemade products! Saturdays from 8:00 a.m.- noon, through November 25th.

Tavern Tours

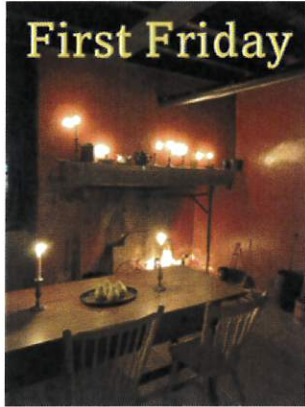
Each Sunday from 2-4 through **November 19th.**
\$5 for individuals and \$10 per family (immediate family only). Children under 12 are free.



Last month for...



December's Special Events



First Friday at Dill's Tavern

December 1st 7-10 pm.

Please join us for our final First Friday of 2023 with fun, friends, music, and more at Dills Tavern featuring featuring *Kent Courtney and Company*. Light refreshments will be available and as always, BYOB. You must be 21+ to join us. This event will be \$10 for members, \$15 for nonmembers at the door.

Annual Members Meeting and Potluck

December 7th - Maple Shade Barn - 6:00pm

We invite everyone to share in food, fellowship and fun 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 717-502-1440

Colonial Candlelight Christmas Service

Saturday December 16th at 7:00 pm



This annual service held in the **historic Monaghan Church** includes music, readings, and candlelight. Following the service, a procession will lead to Dill's 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.

The Happy - Sad Used History Book Store

By Sam McKinney - October 15, 2023



Two months ago, I asked if it would be ok to start a used bookstore on the tavern site during Saturday morning Farmers Market. With permission, we set up in our small former distillery area, attached to the workshop. Gathering up my personal 40-year collection of books was a melancholy affair for me. Hundreds of excellent history books and books on early trades filled shelves all over my house.

I had read most of them and they were like old friends. I am now 70 years old and with my wife's encouragement, I had to realize that no one wanted to deal with my "old friends" upon my departure from this world. So, I very reluctantly began to box up my collection, often stopping to lovingly hold a volume and recall the education and enjoyment it gave me. I lugged box after box of my treasures up from the basement and down the stairs from the second floor. I felt miserable and depressed seeing 40 years of material that had given me so much pleasure, entertainment, and education piled in the back of my truck like cordwood. How could I abandon my old friends this way?

I must admit that once I had the last box in the truck, a sense of relief came over me. I had accomplished something that I knew "had" to be done. Painful as it was, now I could start the process of finding new homes for my friends. Would people buy them? Would I be embarrassed, after all, and end up putting them in the book dumpster at Giant? Well, we would find out soon. I took them over to the workshop and set them up on shelves in a way people could easily look at them. That first Saturday morning, we opened the Used History Book Shop and slowly people dropped in from the Farmers Market. Some people glanced about and abruptly left. Some picked out a book or two and paid the \$2 apiece price on the way out, and some made a pile of books and seemed rather excited to make the purchase. That first day was a small success and I felt that my books were going out into the world and finding new owners to entertain and educate. That is what they should be for, not just sit on a shelf at my house. Now I knew I was doing the right thing.

Saturday mornings came and went. Books began to disappear from the shelves and our money box began to fill up. Other people donated some of their history books to sell. Mark Hagenbuch became the overseer of the bookshop. He donated some of his books and encouraged one of his good friends to donate also. One of the unexpected by products of the bookshop was that we got to meet some very interesting shoppers.

People interested in various historical time periods, people interested in American Indians, college professors, writers, people interested in early trades, historical society people, and other intriguing folks. One guy filled two boxes full of books to purchase. He really made me feel good. One Saturday morning, I asked Murray Small to watch the store for two hours.



He thought the store was a goofy idea, but he accepted the task. A young girl came in and purchased a book on the Constitution. He was surprised that a young person would be interested in such a subject. When he opened the front of the book, he found it was inscribed by the former owner, George Platts. George was a great friend of Dills Tavern and all the tavern volunteers. He loved studying the Constitution. George passed away suddenly, several years ago, and left us deeply saddened by his loss. Murray looked up at the young girl and with great reverence told her the story of George and his love of the Constitution. She listened carefully and paid for the book and left. About a half hour later, the girl returned and told Murray she wanted to give the book to him, because of his great respect for George. Murray was deeply touched and told her nothing would make George happier than to know a young person bought his book and wanted to learn about the Constitution.

Another young girl came in one morning and she spent a half hour making a pile of history books she was interested in. She brought them over to me to pay for them and I asked her how old she was. I thought she was in college. She told me she was in 10th grade. I was so happy to have someone so young interested in history that I gave her the pile. It has been occasions like this that made my adventure into selling my library a truly "happy" experience. We have made almost \$800 dollars to date and the money is going toward the new historic distillery. My books and the books of several others have found new homes and we have raised a decent amount of money. Unexpectedly, we met a lot of wonderful, interesting people along the way. Yes, this has been the right way to part with my old book friends. Upon my passing away, they could have all landed in a dumpster. Instead, they are out in the world accomplishing what books were meant for. If you are like me and have a collection of history books that you



would like to see gain a second life, please consider donating them to our Used History Book Store. It is a great feeling to control what happens to things you care about while you are still able, instead of the possibility of those things being discarded and disrespected. It is not easy to accept our eventual departure

from this world but knowing you have made even a small contribution to the future with your donation is a huge step in the right direction. Hopefully, you will take a sad situation and turn it into a surprisingly happy one.

Farmers Fair News

Congratulations to our MSB Quilters!

The Maple Shade Barn Quilters were recipients of multiple awards at the community exhibit hall during Farmers Fair! When NYCHAPS was asked to provide a group display representing the MSB Quilters, Kimberly Tucker and Mindy Bower put together a depiction of wool to wool cloth / flax to linen cloth. This display won a prize of \$100 as a 2nd place award.



The hand quilted quilt (pictured right) that won "Best in Show" (a \$50 prize) actually had an interesting story. It was the first quilt made by the MSB quilters in 2014. It was originally won in a raffle by Dan Tedesco but had never been used. Dan returned the quilt to NYCHAPS in 2023 and wanted it to be sold to raise money for the distillery project. As the quilt had not been sold, it was entered into the Farmers Fair competition as it had never been entered before. While the overall quilt was hand quilted, the blocks making up this sampler quilt came from the Mennonite Central Committee Relief Center in Ephrata.



Pictured left, another MSB quilt winning a prize, was the 2024 raffle quilt. It received 2nd place in the hand quilted quilts category (a \$30 prize).

In addition to the quilting awards, Doug Riley, Dara Kane, and Kimberly Tucker also sold raffle tickets for the 2023 MSB quilt during Farmers Fair.

Submitted by Kimberly Tucker

Raffle tickets for the 2023 MSB Quilt will continue to be sold during Farmers Market in November as well as, during the upcoming Christkindlmarkt at Dills Tavern in December.

About Maple Shade Barn Quilters...

We meet regularly on Tuesdays and Sundays from 1-3pm at Maple Shade Barn and welcome anyone with an interest in quilting! This invitation includes both experienced quilters, novices, and everyone "in between". We have several projects in the works and could use assistance in working on them. Please contact Winni Flynn at waflynn@yahoo.com or Kimberly Tucker at pandktucker@comcast.net for more information.

Pictured below, Kimberly Tucker with the MSB 2023 Raffle Quilt.



NYCHAPS... in the works

Celebrations

Our organization has been very busy this year; not only working towards completion of the distillery project but to also become more visible to the public.

We have an important place in history and a story to tell!

A new and improved website with dynamic features will be coming soon!



NYCHAPS has been awarded a Grant by Explore York to fund the installation and annual maintenance for two CWT markers. One marker will be located along Baltimore Street on the South side of the property and the other will be located at the Maple Shade Barn. Both of these waysides will tell the unique stories of Dillsburg's role during the days immediately before the Battle of Gettysburg.

NYCHAPS received a proposal from Richard Conley (currently working on documenting historic PA barns) to create a preservation award program to recognize 1 property owner per year for both a pre 1900 house and pre 1900 barn. Details of the nominating and judging process are currently being defined and more information will be available in the coming year.



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