



NORTHERN YORK COUNTY HISTORICAL & PRESERVATION

Society

December 2023 Newsletter

“May the Spirit of the Holidays be with you throughout the New Year.” ~ Unknown

It's hard to imagine a local holiday tradition that is more festive than the Christkindlmarkt at Dills Tavern. Our market's early history had its origins with what came to be known as the Maple Shade Barn Quilters. Prior to 2014, these crafters met at the old Dillsburg Library located at 17 South Baltimore Street. When they moved their meetings to Maple Shade Barn in 2014, the first NYCHAPS holiday market was born.

Winni Flynn recalls the market began the Saturday after Farmers Market ended and opened each Saturday morning until just before Christmas. Crafters, artists, and food purveyors took over the ground floor of the historic Maple Shade Barn, offering Christmas shoppers some unique items for both adults and children. Mr. and Mrs. Pickle and Lil' Dill were by the Christmas tree for photo opportunities. Coffee, a light breakfast, and soup were offered.



NYCHAPS Christmas Market at Maple Shade Barn
Photos by Curt Werner - Dillsburg Banner
November 27, 2014



In 2018, the market was moved to the Dills Tavern property and became a single weekend event in December. Taking on the characteristics of a European Christkindlmarkt, Lisa Horton recalls that there was a continued focus on “makers” in regard to vendors. Use of the tavern property provided more space and allowed for demonstrations related to fiber arts, woodworking, and blacksmithing. There were approximately 18-20 vendors. Food was available for purchase and Tavern Keeper, Murray Small served a hot mulled wine, called Glühwein; a traditional beverage served at Christmas markets across Germany and Austria to keep people warm as they shop and socialize.



Murray Small

Photo by Mary Lou Bytof

Dillsburg Banner - December 20, 2018



Murray was first introduced to Glühwein when he was in Stuttgart, Germany in 2002. He sampled Glühwein (meaning “glow wine”) and recalled being advised to not breathe in with the first sip due to its potent mix of ingredients. Murray created his own recipe for Glühwein for the holiday market and it has become part of our own tradition since then.

By 2019, the Christkindlmarkt at Dills Tavern had grown to 40 vendors with 500+ visitors (The Dillsburg Banner, December 19, 2019). While there was no holiday market in 2020 due to COVID restrictions, it resumed in 2021 with more vendors and close to 4000 visitors across the two days.

This year, the Christkindlmarkt at Dills Tavern will host 90+ vendors, food trucks, music performances, historical demonstrations, and not to be forgotten, tastes of Glühwein.

We are looking forward to hosting our community with a great weekend of festivities. Please plan on joining us!

December's Special Events

Christkindlmarkt at Dill's Tavern



December 8th; 4-9 pm

December 9th; 9-4 pm

Please join us for a Christmas Market at Dills Tavern! Christkindlmarkt is a traditional evening German Christmas Market held during the Advent Season. The two-day event will host over 90 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 wonderful opportunity to find unique gifts for

everyone on your shopping list... and yourself! The Christkindlmarkt is a rain, shine, or snow event. Please dress for the weather and come out to support our local artists! We hope to make this event a place of holiday cheer for all!

Vendors

Locally handcrafted gifts of all kinds:

- fiber art
- home decor
- jewelry
- woodcrafts/metal/leather
- books & paper
- pottery/glass
- paintings/photography
- clothing
- bath & body
- beverages/food products
- wreaths & greenery

Refreshments

Food trucks, hot beverages, and holiday treats

Friday Music

Jeff & Julia performing in the Commons area from 4:00-6:00pm

Angela Schlessman (violinist) performing in the Commons area from 8:00-9:00pm

Saturday Music

Dillsburg Brass Quintet in the Orchard from 9:00-10:00am

Northern High School Acapella Choir on the tavern balcony from 10:00-11:00am

Abijah & Nick (violins) in the Commons area from 9:00-10:00am

Egerlander Quintet on the tavern balcony from 12:00-3:00pm

Harmony Violin Studio in the Orchard from 3:00-4:00pm

[Vendor List may be found here!](#)

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 **Kent Courtney and band**. 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.

Kent is not only known for his musical talents... [Read more about Kent here!](#)

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 16 at 7:00 pm



This annual service held in the historic Monaghan Church includes music, readings, and candlelight. **Following the service, a candlelight 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.

Looking ahead to January

First Friday, January 5th from 7-10 pm.

Dill's Tavern



Susquehanna Travellers perform traditional folk music. The band plays music of the American Civil War, Old Time, Irish and Regency music, as well as original tunes. Susquehanna Travellers has been performing throughout the Mid-Atlantic States for more than two decades, and in that time the band has earned a reputation for excellent musicianship and a unique acoustic sound.

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.

New Year's Pork and Sauerkraut Dinner

Saturday, January 6th at the Maple Shade Barn

Enjoy a traditional Pennsylvania Dutch New Year's Pork and Sauerkraut Dinner at the **Maple Shade Barn (35 Greenbriar Lane, Dillsburg)**. This delicious meal is being lovingly prepared by Mark and Brenda Baumgardner of Filey's Pride. The menu includes an array of locally sourced foods including all the classics, including Herb Bomberger's famous potatoes and hog maw. Hog maw is also known as pig stomach or Dutch Goose, filled with diced potatoes, sausage, onions and herbs (similar to haggis). As a beverage, we will be serving cider pressed from apples that grew in the **Gayman Heritage Orchard at Dills Tavern**. Last but not least, plan on having a dessert too!

For dining in, tickets are \$15 for a single serving or \$20 for all you can eat in advance or at the door beginning at 6:00 pm.

Carry out orders (single serve only) are \$15 a plate and must be preordered and picked up between 5:30 and 6:00.

[Advance tickets may be found here!](#)



At Dills Tavern: The Gayman Heritage Apple Orchard

Dillsburg's Famous Mumper-Vandevere Apple



The story of John Mumper and the Mumper-Vandevere apples dates back over 160 years and is missing significant chapters. John Mumper, born July 24, 1781, was the son of Michael Mumper and Ann Burkholder.

John grew up in a period of increasing prosperity for the Mumper family. He was nine years old when his father helped his grandfather build a sturdy stone house on Mountain Road, a few

miles west of Dillsburg, York Co., Pa.; prior to that the family would have lived in a log house. Whereas his father had probably attended school at the Franklin Lutheran and Reformed Church where he learned to read and write in German, almost certainly John and his siblings went to a local school where they learned to read and write in the English language

The area had the enviable reputation for the cultivation of fine fruit in great abundance. Small orchards were planted early in the area's history, and early inhabitants noted that the fruit culture became prominent in local industry.

In his adult life John became a noted horticulturist and raised new varieties/strains of apples on his property at the intersection of the Dills Road (Route 74) and Campground Road. His house and barn still stand today and one can only imagine the rows of young apple trees in the orchard behind his house. His most important accomplishment, though, was the growth of a new variety of apple, named the Mumper-Vandevere apple.

The afternoon of July 1, 1863, changed the fate of the Mumper farm and its new strain of apple. The civil war raged across Southern Pennsylvania and during the Gettysburg campaign three regiments of JEB Stuart's Confederate Cavalry made their way towards Carlisle on what is today's Route 74. One of the regiments, led by Wade Hampton (and lagging behind), was ordered to encamp on John Mumper's farm. As the story is told, the regiment destroyed John Mumper's orchard, picking all of the semi-ripe apples, and using the orchard trees for firewood. In the few hours that the regiment camped on the Mumper farm, the orchard was ruined.

At midnight, the regiment received orders to move towards Gettysburg and the infamous battle that changed the course of the Civil War. Hampton's troops left the Mumper orchard in ruins. John Mumper never fully recovered from his loss and died a month later, August 7, 1863, at the age of 82.

As you read over the attached US Department of Agriculture Bulletin from the beginning of the 1900's, you'll note that scions of John Mumper's trees (young shoots or twigs of a plant, especially ones cut for grafting or rooting) made their way to Illinois, perhaps from earlier trade or expositions. The historical thread disappears,

Dillsburg's Famous Mumper-Vandevere Apple continued...

but the Mumper-Vandevere apple is recognized in the mid 1800's as being grown by S. G. Minkler in Illinois. The apple was re-named the Minkler apple in publications and the Mumper-Vandevere name became an aside.

The scions of the Mumper-Vandevere apple are evidently still available today, and the "Minkler" is available in limited quantities in some apple growing states.

Article written by Doug Riley

US Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Plant Industry – Bulletin No 275
Wm. A Taylor, Chief of Bureaus

APLES AND PEACHES IN THE OZARK REGION 1913

Minkler (Mumper Vandevere) Apple

The original tree of this variety appears to have stood in a seedling orchard near Dillsburg, York County, PA, which was planted and owned by one John Mumper. This tree is referred to as having been of large size more than 60 years ago (1853). It was apparently introduced into Illinois in the form of scions as early as the middle of the last century (19th century). The Illinois State Horticultural Society recommended it "for further trial" in 1860 and possibly an earlier date.

In Pennsylvania it was known at an early day as Mumper Vandevere, though it now appears the name was not published until 1876. In Illinois it was tentatively named Minkler, because it was grown by a man of that name (S. G. Minkler), evidently with the expectation that it at sometime be identified as a variety previously named and described. Because of being the first published, the name Minkler is approved in accordance with the code of nomenclature of the American Pomological Society, even though another name was applied at an earlier date.

This variety is quite widely distributed throughout the region, though it has not been planted extensively. The tree makes a fine, vigorous, healthy growth – one of the best of any varieties grown in this region; the fruit attains good size and color and keeps well; but it has produced such very light crops, with almost no exception, that it is practically without value as a commercial sort in the Ozarks.

MINKLER APPLE (aka Brandywine, Logan's Northern Pippin, Mumper Vandevere)

As described in Beach's Apples of New York (1905), Minkler was recognized as a popular apple in Illinois around 1865 where its cultivation was confined to this region and adjoining states. The history of the apple is very confusing but it is known it was first exhibited before the Illinois Horticultural Society around this period by Mr. S.G. Minkler. The apple is medium-sized and uniform in shape. The thin, slightly tough skin is smooth, glossy, greenish-yellow changing to pale yellow and overspread with a pinkish-red blush and splashes of dark carmine. The yellow to greenish flesh is very firm and coarse, slightly aromatic and very crisp and juicy. Ripens late October to early November.

[Gayman Heritage Orchard Map here!](#)

End of the Year Celebrations



Farmers Market

November was the last market month; the ending of a very successful year! Thank you to all the vendors who came rain or shine and nourished us with their produce and products. NYCHAPS values our partnership with you and is looking forward to having you back next May!

Dill's Tavern Tours

November was also the last month of Sunday Tours for 2023! Our volunteer docents not only warmly welcomed each and every visitor but also did an amazing job of sharing the history of our Dill's Tavern property. We were also happy to welcome our newest docent, Nathan Z. to our group. Thank you everyone!



Ron Kelley



A note of appreciation for Ron Kelley, who has been mowing NYCHAPS' properties (Dills Tavern and Maple Shade Barn) since 2005. Thanks so much for your dedicated service, Ron!

We appreciate the donation of a trash receptacle for use during the Dills Tavern Christkindlmarkt. Thank you, Penn Waste!



Explore York Grant



Congratulations to NYCHAPS for the \$20,000 grant from Explore York allocated for future marketing campaigns that will promote The Eichelberger Distillery in 2024. This grant focuses on increasing tourism to York County and NYCHAPS has partnered with Monarch Media Solutions to develop our marketing strategies.



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www.northernYorkHistorical.org
admin@northernYorkHistorical.org
Maple Shade Barn Office 717-502-1440
35 Greenbrier Lane Dillsburg, PA 17019
Office Hours: Tues-Fri 11am - 3pm