



NORTHERN YORK COUNTY HISTORICAL & PRESERVATION

40th Anniversary Society

April 2024 Newsletter

“Spring is the time of plans and projects.” ~ Leo Tolstoy

This year NYCHAPS is celebrating our 40th anniversary as a society. From our beginning, folks have been donating items to the society and it wasn't until we were gifted the Maple Shade Barn (MSB) that we had a permanent home for all those treasures which had previously been “kept” by the President or another trusted individual to house. With the development of our MSB headquarters, we finally had a safe and secure home for everything. You may read the story of the **Maple Shade Barn** [using this link](#) and will find an introduction to the historic collections housed there on page 6.

While this month is our last First Friday, we will launch right into one of our biggest events, **Celtic Fest (page 3)**. We have many exciting plans “in the works” to enhance visitors' opportunities to engage with living history each Saturday during the Farmers Market as well as offer additional times to tour the Tavern and Distillery.

It's going to be an amazing year!

Spring Speaker Series

Local Author, James Rada Jr.

April 18th; 6:30pm at Maple Shade Barn

Members free / Non-members \$5



Our speaker will be local author, James Rada Jr. from Gettysburg who writes both historical fiction and non-fiction history. James specializes in Exploring Forgotten History and he will speak on the topic of *Battlefield Angels: Daughters of Charity Work as Civil War Nurses* from his book with the same title. There will be time at the end to peruse his many books.

All are welcome! No tickets; simply pay at the door when you arrive - free for members and \$5 for nonmembers. Maple Shade Barn is located at 35 Greenbriar Lane, Dillsburg PA 17019.

April Special Events



First Friday at Dills Tavern April 5th; from 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm with Stone House Breakdown

Arrr, shiver me timbers! Everyone had so much fun at last year's Pirate Night that we couldn't let our First Friday season end with out hosting another one. Come dressed as your favorite pirate and join the fun.

- \$10 members/\$15 non-members
- adults 21+
- BYOB with provision of light refreshments, tunes, and lots of friendly faces!

Summer Camp Registration is Open!

This year, NYCHAPS is sponsoring 2 summer camps!

- NYCHAPS History Camp is for children entering 4th - 6th grade and will be held at the Dills Tavern property.
- The Archaeology Camp is for children entering 6th - 8th grades and well be held at another location.

Please visit our website by [clicking here](#) for more information and registration!



Our knowledgeable docents enjoy sharing the history of Dills Tavern and can't wait to get started with our tour season! [Use this link for more information about visiting.](#)

Sunday Tours Resume!

At 2:00pm & 3:00pm. Beginning April 21st

\$5 for individuals

\$10 per family (immediate family only); Children under 12 are free.

Tours are a great opportunity to delve into local history to learn about :

- the tavern and its restoration.
- the families who worked and lived on the property.
- what life was like in the late 18th century - early 19th century.
- the additional historic structures on the Dills Tavern site (Wheelwright Shop, Log Barn, Colonial Garden, Squirrel Tail Bake Oven, etc).
- the Eichelberger Distillery



April Special Events

Celtic Festival at Dill's Tavern

April 12th; 4:30 pm - 9:00 pm

April 13th; 10:00 am - 6:30 pm

Over 275 years ago, Scots-Irish settlers like the Dill family established homes, farms and businesses in areas west of the Susquehanna River as part of a new American Dream. The community of Dillsburg grew from those humble beginnings when Northern York County was still the frontier. This legacy is celebrated annually with a 2 day, rain or shine event held at historic Dills Tavern to highlight Celtic history and heritage. Celtic crafters, artisans, vendors of traditional Celtic foods and beverages, musicians, and more will be a part of the festival along with family-friendly activities throughout the weekend.

Tickets are available for purchase online and at the gate for each day for \$15.00 and two-day tickets are available for \$25.00. Children ages 12 and under are free. Ticket pre-sales end 48 hours before the event.

[On-line Tickets here](#)

Volunteers are still needed at Celtic Fest!

Contact Doug Riley at 717-343-1274 or Sheri Snyder at sheri@northernryorkhistorical.org

[Entertainment Schedule Here](#)

Special Raffle at Celtic Fest!

Below, NYCHAPS craftsmen, Clair Zeiders (left) and Jason Metzger (right), showcase the handmade miniature blanket chest that will be raffled off at the Dills Celtic Festival on April 13. Tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00 and may be bought on site.



The chest was beautifully painted by another talented NYCHAPS member and volunteer, Karen Phillippi.



Looking ahead to May...

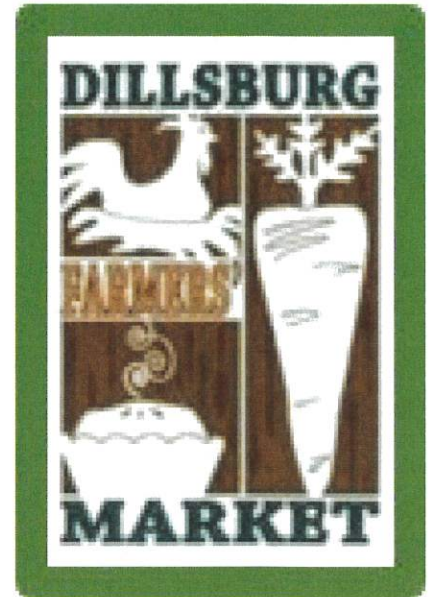
Farmers Market Resumes!

Saturdays; 8:00 am - noon

Beginning May 4th

Located at historic Dills Tavern

227 N. Baltimore St., Dillsburg, PA 17019



The benefits of Farmers Markets are many:

- Preserve America's rural livelihoods and farmland.
- Stimulate local economies.
- Increase access to fresh, nutritious food.
- Support healthy communities.
- Promote sustainability.

[Read more about Farmers Markets here.](#)

[Vendor List here](#)

Dills Tavern; Publick Tyme

Saturday, May 11th from 8:00 am - 3:00 pm

Publick Tyme at Dills Tavern takes place in conjunction with the Dillsburg Pickle Fest. During the day, interact with living history reenactors covering Colonial America all the way up to the modern era throughout the Tavern grounds. See a real blacksmith hammer wares hot from the forge or check out our colonial woodworkers in the Wheelwright Shop. In addition, quilts and quilt making will be on display all day at the Maple Shade Barn along with



a chance to buy raffle tickets to win your very own handcrafted quilt.

This event is rain or shine, free and open to the public.

[Check our website using this link for updates.](#)

Hope to see you there!

Volunteer Spotlight - Gary Reneker



Background...

I have been a member a little over 1 year, but I've been attending events for nearly 20 years. I have actively participated in Colonial and Early American lifestyles since 1978, focusing on American Indian and frontier cultures. Since childhood I was involved in gardening with my father. Later in life, after the military and

college, I became a certified Master Gardener, and began studying vegetable and herb gardening in depth. My wife (deceased, also a Master Gardener) and I have taught many classes on gardening and using herbs at high schools and garden centers around South-Central PA. I have surrendered my MG certification, but I kept my knowledge, and enjoy adding to that knowledge and putting it to use.

My involvement with NYCHAPS...

Currently I have become involved in taking the Colonial Garden at Dills Tavern back to nothing but heirloom plants that would have been grown here from 1780-1820. Though it would be nice, and more efficient, to use some modern features, we are planting and maintaining the gardens as they would have done during that time period. As it is with most other activities at Dills Tavern, our focus is on educating the public. However, we don't just want to teach what they grew and how they grew food in "olden days". We also want our visitors and volunteers to learn how they can find benefits in their lives through gardening, regardless of the amount of space they have to invest.

Advice for members who are thinking of becoming more involved...

NYCHAPS is in need of volunteers at the Colonial Garden. They don't have to be Master Gardeners; only to have the willingness to work, and a desire to keep learning. Of course, if they are good gardeners, the more the better. The more volunteers we have, the less anyone would actually have to work.

Ways to get in touch...

If you are interested in finding out more about the garden and volunteering, you may reach me at gareneker@gmail.com. You could also reach out through our website volunteer page by [clicking on this link!](#)

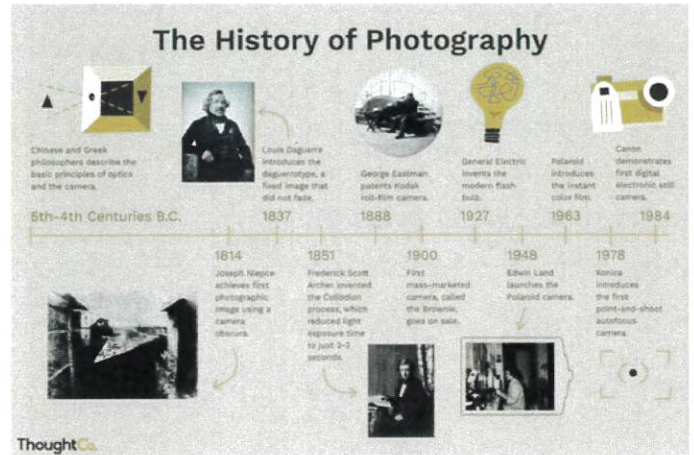


NYCHAPS: A Focus on Collections

Part One - Photo Archives

Maple Shade Barn holds NYCHAPS collection of artifacts, documents, and genealogical materials in our museum and archives. NYCHAPS currently has over 6,000 historical photos or digital images from the Northern York County area in the collection. These range from Daguerreotypes and stereotypes to digital images.

Daguerreotypes were developed in the late 1830's but by the 1850's they were going out of style being replaced by Ambrotypes and tintypes. We have local examples of all of these in our collection. These early processes were replaced by wet plate negatives then dry gelatin process, which was highly inflammable, to cellulose acetate and finally something most people can identify with



Kodachrome film in 1935. Due to the nature of Daguerreotypes and Ambrotypes, they were usually presented in protective hinged cases. Tintypes as the name implies were produced on a thin tin plate, were cheaper and more durable than the earlier processes. Wet plate photographs were usually glued to dark hardboard and came in a myriad of sizes. All these images were produced by professional photographers. In the 1880's the Kodak No 1 camera became commercially available, and the era of the amateur photographer came into being. Many homes in the early 20th century had a Brownie camera and later in the century Instamatic cameras for snapshots or slides and Polaroid cameras were popular. Today most photography is by digital cameras or the ubiquitous cell phone.

While we are not able to allow open research in the archives, we are pleased to offer access to our collection of historical documents through the **NYCHAPS Archival Research Service**. Please contact the office to schedule an appointment.

Maple Shade Barn
35 Greenbriar Lane
Dillsburg PA 17019
Open Tuesday - Friday
11:00am - 3:00pm
717-502-1440



admin@northernryorkhistorical.org

Do you have interesting photographs or slides of important events in our area? We are always on the lookout to expand our collections and have the ability to convert your slides and most common negative sizes into digital form. Please contact us.



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 | 58% funded | \$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 | | \$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 | | \$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 | | \$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 | | \$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) | | \$1050 |
| 5. Distillery Storage racks | | \$500 |
| 6. Distillery Lab Equipment for Proofing/gauging | DONE! | \$1000 |
| 7. Bottle Filler | | \$375 |
| 8. Distillery scale | | \$1500 |
| 9. Distillery hydrometer | DONE! | \$500 |
| 10. Brix Reader (mash) | DONE! | \$400 |
| 11. Stainless taps | DONE! | \$200 |
| 12. Distillery Laptop | | \$500 |
| 13. Mini Digital Projector/Bluetooth speakers for distillery | | \$700 |
| 14. Distillery Handheld Alcohol Gas Detector | | \$500 |

Community Interests

Volunteers Needed...

If you love the activities that NYCHAPS offers and would like to help make them happen, please go to the website/volunteer tab and let us know by using clicking on this link [Northern York County Historical and Preservation Society - Volunteer \(northernYorkHistorical.org\)](http://northernYorkHistorical.org). If there is a certain event in which you would like to participate, please make note of that. All sorts of hands are needed to make our events a success. For example, Christkindlmarkt depends on volunteers to decorate, set up, tear down, greet visitors, and many more. Seasonal property and grounds maintenance are also needs that would benefit from your assistance. If any of these areas appeal to you, please contact us!



NORTHERN YORK COUNTY
**HISTORICAL &
PRESERVATION**
Society

Where History & Community Meet



Dills Tavern



Eichelberger Distillery
AT DILL'S TAVERN



Maple Shade Barn

Interested in NYCHAPS membership?

By joining our community, you would support us in cultivating an appreciation of the heritage of Northern York County through preservation, education and living history.

Use this link for more information!



NORTHERN YORK COUNTY
**HISTORICAL &
PRESERVATION**
Society

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