

Old Morlatton Village Messenger

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Contact Us!

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Mouns Jones 300th Anniversary Celebration Recap!

We had a wonderful, celebratory weekend in October. Board members, volunteers, former board members, founding members of the Trust, and those interested in supporting our organization all joined together for two wonderful events that generated interest and attention for the Trust, as well as raised funds to help support our educational and preservation endeavors.

We would like to thank everyone who helped make these events possible, including our sponsors:

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Russell Bowman | Heffners Farm |
| Mary Klink | Julie Longacre |
| Lords & Ladies Salon & Spa | Ridgewood Winery |
| Dave Schaeffer | Nelson Schweitzer |
| Sly Fox Brewery | |

Check out some of the great photos below!



*Upcoming 2016, 2017
Events at a Glance*

Dec. 7 – Christmas Tea
April 15 – 3rd Saturday

Program

TBD – Morlatton Village
Spring Festival

May 20 – 3rd Saturday
Program

TBD – Keim Music Fest



Upcoming Events

Christmas Tea at the Fry Home, Robesonia Wednesday, December 7, 2016

The Annual Christmas Tea is held on a Wednesday in early December. Every year the Tea is held at a different historic home in Berks County, featuring exquisite architecture and decorating. This year's Christmas Tea will be held at the Fry Home in Robesonia. Invitations have been sent to members and donors. If you wish to attend and didn't receive an invitation, please contact Linda Hughes at la_hughes@verizon.net or 610-779-6554.



Volunteers are needed for this event! If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Eleanor Shaner at 610-683-9257 or email info@historicpreservationtrust.org.

3rd Saturday Programs at Morlatton Village

We are happy to announce a new series of programs: The 3rd Saturday Program at Morlatton Village. These programs will fall on the third Saturday of the month – April-October. These site-wide programs will include various formats and topics including exhibits, demonstrations, interactive sessions, and oral and graphic presentations.

April 15, 2017 – Topic TBD

May 20, 2017 – Topic TBD

Morlatton Village Spring Festival Spring 2017

Join us for a living history event for the entire family featuring a variety of demonstrations and hands-on activities including hearth cooking, colonial dancing, and militia muster. Buildings in the village will be open for tours and food will be available for purchase.



Keim Music Fest at the Keim Homestead

TBD 2017 • 11am-5pm

A benefit for the restoration of the Keim Homestead

Due to inclement weather, this event was postponed until 2017.



Tickets available day of event - \$10 donation, under 10 free
2 Music Stages Including a Kid & Family Stage
Activities for Children
Food available for purchase
Bring instruments, lawn chairs, blankets
More info at www.keimfest.com

For more information about our events, and to stay up-to-date on all Trust happenings, please check our website and Facebook page.

Board of Directors

John Hibschan, President
 Bradford Kissam, Vice
 President
 John Meinhart, Treasurer
 Lauren Archibald,
 Recording Secretary
 Peter Hammond
 Vicky Heffner
 Thomas Keim
 Jessica Kerns
 Jim Lewars
 Zachary Long
 Michelle Lynch
 Amanda Machik
 Vickie Moyer
 Phil Pendleton
 Sue Miller Speros

Winter Hours for Morlatton Village

Friday 1-4pm
(Weather pending)

Feel free to stop by and look around as well as visit the other historic buildings in Morlatton during open hours or by appointment for tours or visits. For details and changes please check the Trust's Facebook page or website.

White Horse Rentals

From weddings and birthday parties to small meetings and gatherings, the White Horse Inn is the perfect setting for your special occasion. Located in historic Morlatton Village, Douglassville, the White Horse has a modern kitchen and seating for up to 50 guests. For more information about renting this fully restored eighteenth century building, please contact the Trust's office at 610-385-4762 or info@historicpreservationtrust.org.



 Follow us on Facebook at
 Historic Preservation Trust of
 Berks County

V o L u N t E e R !

None of these great events would be possible without our dedicated volunteers! The Trust is always in need of help and even if you are not a history buff or interested in historic preservation, we've still got a job for you! We can use help with outdoor clean-up, ticket sales & parking for events, as well as historic demonstrators & tour guides. We can even use help cleaning the buildings and setting up for events. We will especially need volunteers for our spring events – the Keim Music Fest and the Morlatton Village Spring Festival.

Or, are you, or do you know a Boy Scout or Girl Scout who is looking for community service hours or to do an Eagle Scout project? You can help preserve the local history while earning hours, a badge, or even your Eagle Scout award. This also applies to civil service groups and students who need service hours. Why not learn and help preserve history while having fun?

If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering at one of our events or if they are interested in working on projects at one of our historic buildings please contact us at (610) 385-4762 or info@historicpreservationtrust.org.

President's Report

The Trust has continued to be active during the past few months. The 300th anniversary celebration of the Mouns Jones House was highly successful. The 300th anniversary dinner at the Reading Public Museum on October 14th was well attended and enjoyable with eighty-six in attendance, including at least eight descendants of Mouns Jones. The events at Morlatton on October 15 were also well attended and successful. A few additional Mouns Jones descendants attended the open houses and demonstrations on the 15th. We appreciate that Jones descendants take an interest in their most significant heritage.



As can be seen elsewhere in this Newsletter several projects are underway on the Trust's properties. Progress is being made on the restoration of the Mouns Jones House, and, as part of that project, significant additional research has been performed on the house, the settlement and on Mouns Jones himself. We are developing a fuller appreciation of the architecture of the house, the eighteenth century economy of the area encompassing the house and the significant role played by Mouns Jones himself.

The archaeologists have continued their work at the Mouns Jones house. They have made significant progress on the root cellar, including finding a well adjacent to the wall of the

root cellar and what appears to be stone path or drain extending to the north of the root cellar, perhaps to another building about which we at this point can only guess.

A visit to the Keim Homestead is a must. Although still a work in progress, the pent roof at the front of the house (the side facing away from Boyer Road) has been restored and work has started on the restoration of the cove cornice immediately beneath the upper roof of the house. The true beauty of the house as originally built is coming through. Work on the George Douglass House and the White Horse Inn is continuing.

The Trust board and volunteers wish to encourage the visitation of Morlatton, the Keim Homestead and the other buildings cared for by the Trust by descendants of the families who settled there and others in the general public. We make every effort to extend a warm hospitality to such visitors.

The Trust is conducting a significant real estate operation with many irons in the fire. The Trust properties are a unique collection of 18th century buildings that must be maintained, cared for and made available to the public. We need volunteers to help man the many Trust activities and events.



*Thank
You*

John Hibschan, President

Sites & Structures Update

MOUNS JONES HOUSE RESTORATION:

During the late summer and early autumn of this year, the central ranges of the riverside wall of the Mouns Jones house were re-constructed from the first floor level to the 2d. The replaced timber plate (right) will bear the joists supporting the 2d story floor boards donated by the late Dr. Donald and Esther Shelley. This 18 feet long, lap-joined, two-segment plank also serves as the continuous lintel spanning the re-centered doorway and the two restored window openings in the first story wall bays.

We are having difficulty locating old white oak timbers of the appropriate dimensions [5" by 8" x 18 ft.] to serve as joists in replacement of the undersized "ceiling beams" donated for the 1960s restoration. Any leads to possible sources would be greatly appreciated.

The volunteer archaeologists from Chapter 21 of the Pennsylvania Society for Archaeology have uncovered two highly significant features near the northwestern gable wall of the Mouns Jones House:

A. The collapsed remains of a barrel-vaulted "root" or "ground" cellar (left);

B. A buttressed, small-radius, and roughly coursed well, adjacent to the northern end-wall of the root cellar (below). A rounded river-stone

["cobbled"] path leads to the well.

Both of these below-grade structures will be carefully investigated at all accessible levels and the discovered artifacts documented, catalogued, and stored for future analysis.

KEIM HOUSE COVE CORNICE RESTORATION:

An early photograph depicts what appears to be a plastered "cove" cornice on the southern eaves wall of the 1753 Keim House in Pike Township. This ornamental motif derives from 17th century English antecedents and appears on several examples of "Pennsylvania-Georgian" houses constructed in Germantown in the 1740s, which were undoubtedly influenced by appearances of this detail on early 18th century Philadelphia buildings.

Upon removal of the 19th century "box" cornice from this elevation, the original concave-sawn ends of the attic floor joists, with nail holes for the early lath, documented the coved form of the original transition from the bed-mould coping the stone wall to the fascia-board terminus of the roof-rafter framing, describing a shallow arc out to the drip-edge of the roof.

Old hand-split lath was nailed to the long, radially curved joist-ends. The first ["brown"] coat of plaster was applied on November 1st (left). The plaster was incised ["scratched"] to provide better ["keyed"] adherence with the second coat, which will be applied in the Spring of 2017.



Matching Grant Opportunity!

The stonework now underway on the Mouns Jones House is fully funded. However, completion of the restoration campaign depends on obtaining funds for replacement of the door and windows in the riverside wall, and second floor joists with old white-oak timbers, which are rare and expensive. A local donor has pledged to match **100% of every dollar** donated toward these components, which will cost more than \$5,000. Fortunately, old floor boards had been donated by Donald and Esther Shelley, saving the Trust a considerable amount. Your support for this work would be greatly appreciated, and your dedicated donation will be **DOUBLED BY THE MATCHING GRANT.**

Short Note from the Administrator

The Trust had a wonderful fall season and celebrated the 300th anniversary of the Mouns Jones House with two exciting events. On Friday, October 14 we celebrated with a gala dinner at the Reading Public Museum. Over 80 guests were in attendance and enjoyed a delicious meal and a presentation on Mouns Jones. The Trust also made over \$1,000 on our silent auction. The following day, the Trust welcomed about 150 visitors to Morlatton Village where they enjoyed a variety of historic demonstrations and activities. We had several family descendants who joined us for one or both of these events, including some all the way from South Carolina! We would like to thank all the volunteers and sponsors who helped make these events possible – we couldn't have done this without you!



On October 16, the Trust participated in Charlie Adams' Ghosts Along the Schuylkill, where we hosted Charlie and about 20 guests in the White Horse Inn. Visitors enjoyed ghoulish stories and tasty treats in the cozy atmosphere of the Inn. This was a joint event with Ridgewood Winery and the Beidler House.

We are now gearing up for the Christmas Tea, which will be held on December 7, and looking forward to our 2017 events, including a spring festival at Morlatton Village and the rescheduled Keim Music Fest. And we would like to wish you and your family a happy holiday and a spectacular New Year! Hope to see you in the spring.

Help the Trust 'go green.' If you have an email address and would not mind getting electronic communications from us, please make sure to provide it on your next dues renewal or just send us an email.

Amanda Machik, Administrator

