



# Old Morlatton Village MESSENGER

*The Historic Preservation Trust of Berks County*

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## JUNE FLOODS CANCEL MOUNS JONES FAIR

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Due to the heavy rains and flooding of Old Morlatton Village in June the annual Mouns Jones Country Fair has been cancelled. The Trust suffered uninsured flood losses totaling approximately \$20,000.

Once again we appeal to the generosity of the our members. The Trust desperately needs donations to fund the uninsured costs of the repair of the flood damage and the revenues lost as a result of the fair cancellation.

The Mouns Jones House sustained much damage with floodwaters reaching up to 18 inches in the **second** floor. All the woodwork, walls, windows, and floors were caked with mud. The insurance adjuster's damage estimate approximated \$18,600 for the Mouns Jones House. Taking into consideration depreciation and a policy deductible of \$500 applicable to that building, the insured coverable amount was \$16,100.

The largest uncovered loss in the Mouns Jones House is approximately \$7500 worth of utensils and supplies which were fouled by the water and cannot be re-used, i.e. basket and candle making materials, period cooking and serving utensils, tables and chairs.

The Bridge Keepers House has major damage as well with 6 feet of flood waters in the first floor. Doors were pushed in and warped. The floor boards were literally pushed up and will have to be refit and reinstalled. The insurance adjuster's damage estimate was \$20,000, which, when including depreciation and a \$1000 policy deductible, resulted in an approved claim of \$15,700.

Flood waters at the White Horse Inn came to within eight inches of the first floor but the new paint job was not seriously impacted. However, water got into the furnace, electrical panel and heating ducts. A water heater was torn loose and all the appliances in the back basement were tossed around. The adjuster's damage estimate was \$15,800. After subtracting depreciation and a \$1000 policy deductible, the approved claim is \$13,500. Insurance covers the freezer and washing machine but not the refrigerators. The caretaker, Doug Eiseman, moved what few tools we have to the first floor and got the mower out of the way.

The Douglass House had a basement full of water which reached just to the first floor wetting a few of the rugs. Some of the

floor boards are swollen and have popped up. The hot water heater was torn from its connections and tossed about. Damage estimate was approximately \$15,400. With depreciation and a policy deductible of \$500, the approved claim is \$12,400.

Major repairs, restoration and cleanup are in progress. The amount of work to accomplish is staggering. Because of the nature of some of the damage i.e. heating and electrical systems, replacement will also include much needed upgrades in those areas. The work can not possibly be completed before the Fair.

Please donate funds to help defray these costs. We have greatly appreciated your past support and trust the same will continue for the current crisis.

***If you have not renewed your 2006 Trust membership as yet, please do so as soon as possible. The Trust depends on your generous support now more than ever.***

On August 31 from 10:00 to 10:30 am on Berks County Community Cable TV a program originally promoting the Fair has been changed to feature the restoration and cleanup efforts of the Trust. It will be repeated several times in September.

#### **Annual Meeting Notice**

Due to the flooding conditions the annual meeting usually held in June has been postponed to September 26, 2006. It will be held at 6:00 pm at St. Paul's UCC, Rte. 662 in Amityville.

Please bring your favorite salad, entrée or dessert along with plates and utensils. Thank you



### **HAPPIER DAYS IN JUNE**

Laura Catalano

Schuylkill River Heritage Area

The Eighth Annual Schuylkill River Sojourn brought 75 paddlers to Morlatton Village, on June 6, when the canoeists and kayakers made a lunch stop on their way to Pottstown. The Historic Preservation Trust provided lunch on the lawn and the sojourners took a much needed rest beside the beautiful historic buildings. Afterward, guides in period dress led the paddlers into the buildings and discussed the village's historic significance.

The Schuylkill River Sojourn is a 7-day, 113-mile canoe and kayak journey down the river. It began in Schuylkill Haven, Schuylkill County on June 3 and ended in Philadelphia's historic Bartram's Garden on Friday June 9. Hosted by the non-profit Schuylkill River Heritage Area, the Sojourn aims to help paddlers rediscover the river and its heritage, making stops at cities, towns parks and historic sites along the way. It also invites the public to free evening programs that reflect the heritage of the region.

This is the second year the Sojourn has stopped at Morlatton Village, enabling Sojourners to view first hand one of Berks County's most significant historic resources.

## HOTTENSTEIN HOUSE IN DANGER

Rob Reynolds

Curator of the Hottenstein Mansion

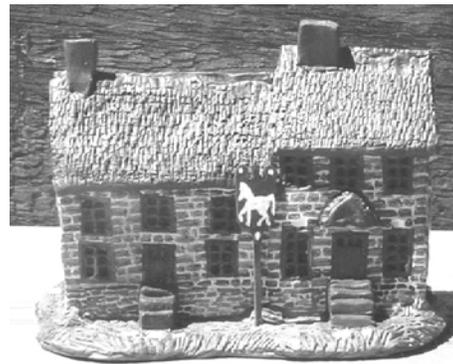
The future of the Hottenstein Mansion and other Hottenstein family built farmhouses and out buildings is very much in question. The light industrial zoning designation has been applied to this area and there is no language addressing historic preservation. The zoning designation must be amended and protections must be put in place to preserve the Hottenstein properties and the small village of Monterey about one mile east of the Hottenstein House.

The main threat posed by the Gambone Development Co. of East Norriton Township is the widening of Rte. 222 to six or eight lanes with the extension of the bypass to within a quarter mile of the Hottenstein Mansion. The alignment of the new roadway past the Hottenstein properties could result in the loss of the mansion. The development proposal offers no preservation of historic structures, serious compromising of wetlands, and the erasure of rolling hills and loss of prime agricultural soils that help define the rural beauty of the area. If all the parcels in the light industrial zone follow Gambone's model there will be nothing of historical value left. My hope is for the supervisors to halt this project, place a moratorium on the light industrial zone, and work out a preservation plan for the affected historical resources in this zoning area before allowing any more development that threatens to destroy the very heritage that defines this area.

My case is currently being put forward. I testified on July 31. On August 7 Tim Noble testified about historic preservation, Dr. Andrew Cole discussed wetlands, an old Mennonite farmer spoke about the impact on his community and we brought up the subject of Native American archeology potential in the area. On September 18 a land planner, Tom Committa, will testify and Russell Hottenstein will speak about his family homestead on behalf of the 600 member reunion organization. In July 2007 the Hottenstein reunion plans to return to the Mansion in Maxatawny Township.

**REDWARE PLATE NUMBER 3-** The White Horse Inn, the third in the series of commemorative plates created by potter Denise Wilz, is ready to order. The price is \$35. There is also a limited quantity of plate #1 Mouns Jones House and plate #2 Bridge Keeper's House.

**NEW THIS YEAR-** Marbie Foster, a crafter of miniature houses, has created three beautiful replicas of our properties: the Mouns Jones House, the Bridge Keeper's House and the White Horse Inn. Please use the order form on the last page to order any of these items. All items will be on display at the annual meeting.



White Horse Inn approximately 5"x4"



Mouns Jones approximately 4½"x3"



Bridge Keeper's approximately 4"x2½"



Looking west from the corner of Britton St. and Old Philadelphia Pike



The lane to the Mouns Jones House

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Looking east from the side entrance to the Inn



Floor at the Bridge Keeper's House

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Self explanatory



Interior of Mouns Jones House



Mouns Jones herb garden after the flood





Mouns Jones herb garden



Looking east toward the White Horse Inn



Kayaking in front of the Inn. Making lemonade out of a lemon!

**ORDER FORM**

Fill out the form below and mail it with your check payable to *Historic Preservation Trust of Berks County* to: Historic Preservation Trust of Berks County, P.O. Box 245, Douglassville, PA 19518.

I would like to order :

- \_\_\_\_\_ Red ware plate #3 The White Horse Inn @\$35 each
- \_\_\_\_\_ Red ware plate #2 The Bridge Keeper's House @\$35 each
- \_\_\_\_\_ Red ware plate #1 The Mouns Jones House @\$35 each
- \_\_\_\_\_ Mouns Jones House miniature @\$35 each
- \_\_\_\_\_ Bridge Keeper's House miniature @\$35 each
- \_\_\_\_\_ White Horse Inn miniature @\$50 each
- \_\_\_\_\_ Enclosed is my check for \_\_\_\_\_

Orders may be picked up at the Christmas Tea or by calling the Trust office (610-385-4762) to make pick up arrangements.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_