



# Old Morlatton Village MESSENGER

*The Historic Preservation Trust of Berks County*

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## Mouns Jones Country Fair Saturday, September 27

On Saturday September 27 from 10 am to 4 pm, rain or shine, you can experience a country fair in Mouns Jones' backyard. Living historians will interpret 18th century life in and around the house with spinning, weaving, baking and cooking in the oldest house in Berks County.



Stroll on the green and talk to historic interpreters or visit the craft vendors.

Enjoy a light lunch at the Bridge Keeper's House while adjacent to that area the bake stand will tempt your sweet tooth.

**A new feature** this year will be a Fiddle Fest from 1:00-4:00 with a \$100 cash prize for the winner. Fiddlers and musicians of all ages are invited to perform. Enjoy the lively music as the contestants vie for the prize.

The George Douglas Mansion will be open and docents on hand to explain the history and the on- going restoration of the building.



Desserts, colonial music and dancing will be featured at the White Horse Inn.

A video entitled "Life in New Sweden" will be shown in the tap room of the inn and will acquaint the viewer with the early Swedish community before journeying up the Schuylkill River to settle at Morlatton.

Your help is needed for a successful event. Please volunteer to set up on Friday or on Saturday volunteers are needed to help at the food stand, bake table, selling jams and jellies, and serving desserts at the White Horse Inn. **PLEASE**, don't wait to be contacted. Call the Trust office (610-385-4762) or e-mail [lee@historicpreservationtrust.org](mailto:lee@historicpreservationtrust.org) and indicate where you would be willing to lend a hand.

Dedicated to maintaining and preserving historically and architecturally significant properties

## WORDS FROM THE DIRECTOR

As I complete my second month as executive director of this fine Historic Preservation Trust, I would like to share some of the activities and projects that have been accomplished recently.

### **Free History Bike Tour: "Trails to Tales"**

On August 20, the public was invited to enjoy a special free history bike tour that followed the Schuylkill River Heritage Area's local bike trail ( a section of the Thun Trail) to Old Morlatton Village.

I led a group of approximately fifteen individuals from Tricounty Bike Shop in Pottstown during the 4.5 mile trip to the Mouns Jones House to begin the history tour.

Participants of all ages enjoyed a brief tour of the Mouns Jones House, Bridge Keeper's House, George Douglas Mansion, and the White Horse Inn. I provided all attendees with basic information on the key figures from Morlatton's past, and emphasized the importance of this site as a gateway to Berks County for commerce and trade.

After the tour of our properties, the group returned to Pottstown which concluded the event.



This event was cosponsored by the Historic Preservation Trust of Berks County, the Schuylkill River Heritage Area, and Bike Pottstown which is a community bike sharing program. This experience was a great success that was well publicized in the Pottstown Mercury. I hope to make "Trails to Tales" an annual occurrence and involve more individuals in this ride back in time.

### **Connecting Bike Trail and Interpretive Sign**

Currently the Schuylkill River Heritage Area (SRHA) and the Trust are working on installing a short connecting trail from Old Philadelphia Pike to the Thun Trail. Also planned is an interpretive sign about Old Morlatton Village.

The proposed connecting trail will run near the Douglas Mansion's property line, helping establish an access point to the hiking/biking trail that lies behind the Trust's property. We are hoping to utilize this connecting trail to increase both road and bike traffic to our properties.

With the trail in place and the interpretive sign near the trail head, the village, along with the Trust, will be more visible to individuals who use the popular Thun Trail which runs between Pottstown and Reading. The completion of this project may be accomplished by early September.

As we move into autumn we are leading the Trust into a new era in its exciting history. By adding events and appealing to eco-tourists we are becoming more prominent within the local and regional communities. I invite you to become more involved during this exciting time for the Trust and to attend the Mouns Jones Country Fair on Saturday, September 27.



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### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

Saturday, September 27  
Mouns Jones Country Fair  
10 am –4 pm Rain or Shine

Wednesday, December 3  
Christmas Tea  
at the home of Susan Fetterolf  
and Jeff Gorin, Pike Township

Saturday May 9  
Spring Luncheon  
Stone House, Wyomissing