



Old Morlatton Village MESSENGER

The Historic Preservation Trust of Berks County

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

My days have been very busy. I have: begun preparing a nomination to Preservation PA for the work we've done at the DeTurk House; called police chiefs in Amity and Douglass Townships to plan for the fair at the end of September; spoken with a contact to arrange for a wine tasting at the fair; sent a couple of emails to arrange for the presentation at the annual dinner; met with our archivist/administrator about the presentation, documents and links to forward to Preservation PA as well as some membership matters; looked at a window surround we need to dismantle in order to move a hive of honey bees; staffed the Trust table at the Oley Antiques Shoe; spoke with the chair of the Antique Dealers Association about the upcoming fair.

As I reflect on those days I am so pleased, amazed and impressed that there are so many folks who have days like I have had. We have volunteers out there planning the fair and the various attractions, lining up sponsors and handling logistics, spending time and energy to make things happen. The Spring Luncheon was a smash because of people literally rolling up their sleeves. We enjoy dancers, music and hearth baked breads all due to the attention and expertise our volunteers invest in our restoration efforts and our business affairs.

Occasionally matters get missed or take a while to get done but things do happen. For so many to believe so fervently in an undertaking that they will assume responsibilities, put up with hassles and invest their time, energy and money to advance the cause is truly magic.

We are our greatest asset, we need more of us. If you think of possible new members or ideas for recruitment, please let us know. I thank you each and every one.

Matt Barnhart

COUNTRY FAIR

We are excited to announce that the Old Morlatton Country Fair will be held Saturday, September 25th from 10 am to 4 pm and Sunday, September 26th from 11 am to 4 pm. There will be several new booths and events this year.

On Saturday luncheon will be served at the White Horse Inn. The food will have been cooked in the open hearth at the Mouns Jones House. Dr. Helen May will play the harpsichord. The Amity Colonial Dancers will perform at 1:00 and 3:00.

Antiques dealers will set up in the George Douglass House. There are still spaces available to reserve. Contact Matt Barnhart (mattbarnhart@hotmail.com)

Crafters will set up in the field. For reservations contact Bev Stevens (bistevens@aol.com)

Other events include:

Children's games	Juice bar
Baked goods	Food
Wine tasting	White Elephant
Flowers	Village tours
Psychic George Withers	Clothes line art show

On Sunday there will be a 5K run starting at the White Horse Inn. To sign up contact Becky Gottschall (beckyjo321@gmail.com).

This is going to be a great fun event. If you would like to volunteer please contact Anne Coldren (astew@dejazzd.com or 610-987-9249).

Dedicated to maintaining and preserving historically and architecturally significant properties

THIRTY-NINE YEARS WITH THE TRUST



In 1967 my friend, Jane Levan, asked me to help at a country fair held at the oldest home in Berks County, the Mouns Jones House in Amity Township. She was on the Board of Directors of the Historic Preservation Trust of Berks County and needed volunteers to help with a Pepsi Hot Dog stand and a used books

stand. Since I was advisor to the Y-teens Club in the Oley Valley School District (where I taught math), she also asked if I would get some of my students to volunteer at the event. I agreed and she made arrangements for the Reading Eagle to take some publicity photos for the event. Thus began my adventure with Trust -one that continues through the present day.

As the Trust continued to restore additional buildings in Morlatton, my duties at the Fall Country Fairs changed. When the Bridge Keepers House was reconstructed, we were able to use it for a soup kitchen and set up a hot dog stand next to it. That meant we needed additional volunteers and so I met Lois Vandervort Marquardt, Bob Schmale, Shorty Kolb and Dick Bauman among others. We also prepared food prior to the event such as beef barbeque, soups, breads, and other baked items. During the early 1970's we had to bring all our water for coffee and dishes as well as the apple cider we sold. The guiding force at that time for the organization was Mrs. John Beard (Theresa).

In early December 1969 I was introduced to another fund raising event, the annual Christmas Tea. This was held at the Oley Ford Mansion newly restored by my soon to be husband, Richard Shaner, Again Reading Eagle took lovely publicity photos for the event. In the Spring of 1971, I was asked to join the Board of Directors along with Larry Ward. Our meetings in those days were luncheons held at the Abraham Lincoln Hotel in Reading.

In the Spring of 1972 the Trust held a Towne Fair in Reading and I met more wonderful volunteers-Teddi Denaro, Tex Johnson and Joan Ward, as we assisted at the stands held in various churches in center city.

A major event occurred in June of 1972 when hurricane Agnes drenched Berks County. The nearby Schuylkill River flooded the area, covering both the Mouns Jones and the Bridge Keepers houses and sending muddy water into the newly purchased White Horse Inn. Many

hours were spent shoveling mud from the buildings and washing furniture, tables and folding chairs that had been stored inside. While restoration on the White Horse Inn began, the women started making table linens and curtains. We purchased unstained ladder back chairs to be used in the Inn; again the women met to do the staining of the chairs. Luncheon fund raisers were held at the White Horse with outside speakers or Trust members presenting a slide show of our restoration work. Often Theresa would arrange for us to go see some local historic property so we could get ideas.

In 1982 I was asked to serve as Secretary of the Board of Directors, which I did for 13 years under presidents Raymond Elliott and Mary Pendleton. During this time I continued to help with many Trust functions including attending meetings of the Berks County Museum Council and appearing on BCTV to publicize our events. In 1994 I began a two year term as president of the organization.

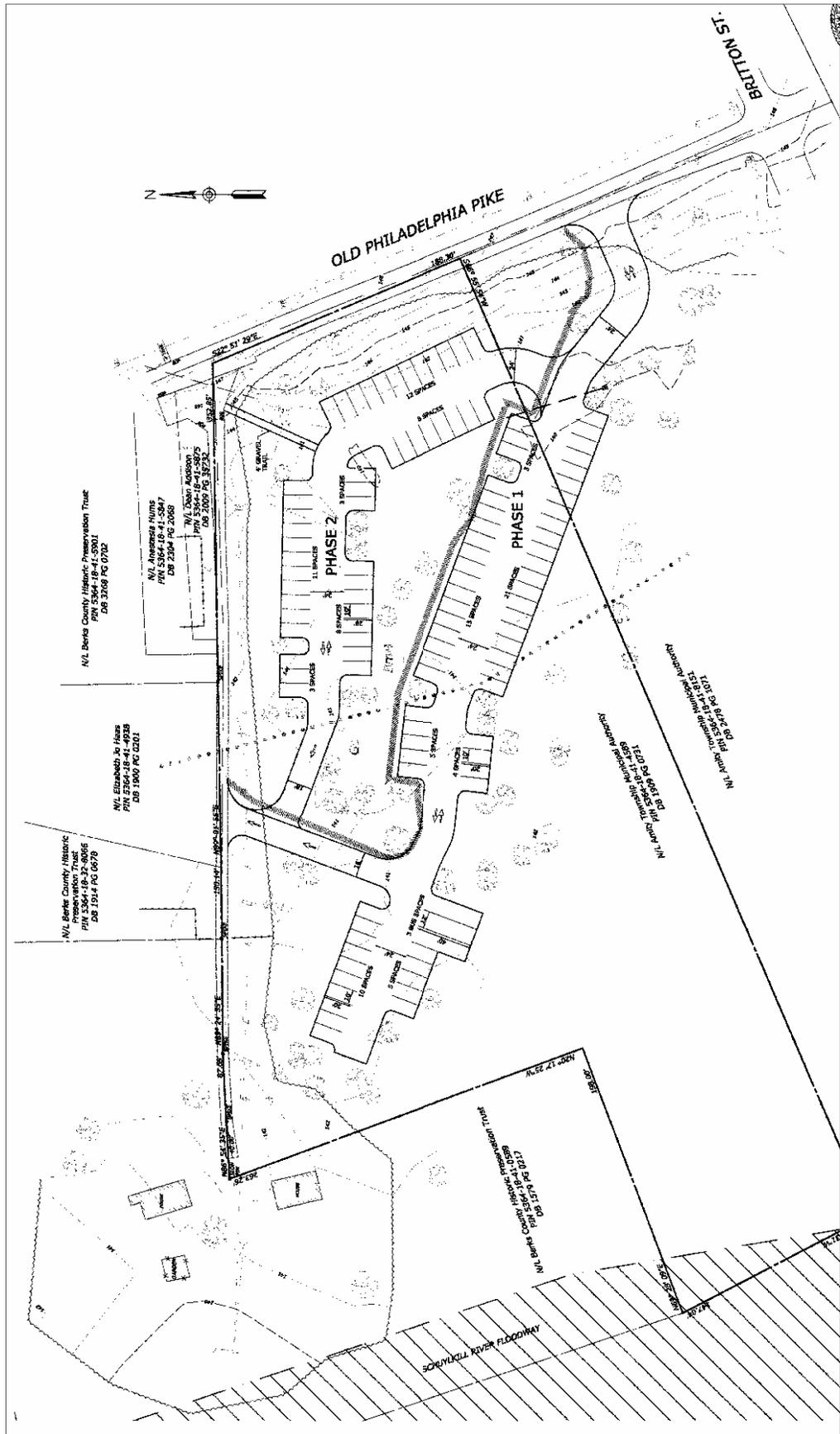
Not all of our events took place in Morlatton. As the Trust acquired the Keim Homestead in Pike Township and the Hottenstein House on Maxatawny Township, events were held at these sites as well. I have worked with the Berks County Historical Society and the Berks County Conservancy to have our buildings open for bus and private tour groups. We have had weddings, receptions, rehearsal dinners, anniversary parties and birthday parties in our buildings. If only those walls could speak and tell us of similar events in the 18th and 19th centuries.

I have made so many friends while working for the Trust. Yes, we have worked many long hours together at fairs and Christmas Teas but we do have good memories and , most important, we know we have helped preserve some valuable buildings in Berks County.

Eleanor Shaner

E-MAIL

Become a better informed member of the Trust by sharing your e-mail address with us. Doing this not only will keep you current on the latest happenings it will also help us reduce our printing and mailing expenses and the pictures will be in color! Every little bit helps. Please send the information to Priscilla Walsky at walskyinvest@verizon.net or call 610-372-3807. Thank you, and thank you to all who



MORLATTON VILLAGE PARKING PLAN

After a year or more of discussions and planning between the Trust and Amity Township, the Morlatton Village Parking Plan has been engineered and approved for construction.

This parking area will open the view shed between the White Horse Inn and the Mouns Jones House which will give greater visibility for the security of the Mouns Jones and Bridge Keepers houses and provide parking for our events.

The lot will allow access for the Thun Trail, Morlatton Village and will be the end point of the Leaf Creek Trail which will be a bike link between the northern end of Amity Township and Morlatton Village.

The parking has been carefully planned around all the large trees on the lot to maintain a grove-like canopy. The surface will be red shale. When complete there will be enough parking for 110 cars.

The engineering was paid for through a grant held by Amity Township. The stone will be donated. The work should start soon and will be done in two phases.

When will it be complete? Hopefully by the fall in time for the fair but we can't promise. The layout will be done on the lot in the next few weeks. Keep watching!

Our thanks to Amity Township for allowing this to happen.

SCHUYLKILL SOJOURNERS ARRIVE AT MORLATTON

On Tuesday, June 8, the Schuylkill River in Douglassville was brightened with the arrival of almost 100 colorful canoes and kayaks at the Village of Morlatton. The Village was a stop on the annual Schuylkill River Sojourn sponsored by the Schuylkill River Heritage Area. The Sojourners enjoyed a picnic lunch served by volunteers on the village green. Following a presentation on the history of Morlatton Village, they toured the Mouns Jones House before continuing their paddle toward Philadelphia.

A special “thank you” to Martha Coyle and her fellow volunteers - Dick Coyle, John Batchelor, and Perry and Sharon Templin - who prepared and served the lunch. They gave generously of their time to make this event a success



← Volunteers serving hungry sojourners

A relaxing lunch on the green →



← Sojourners leaving Morlatton

SPRING LUNCHEON

The luncheon at the White Horse Inn on May 8th was a smashing success. Approximately 75 people attended coming from all over the county. The luncheon was beautiful with fresh flower arrangements on every table and Dr. Helen May playing the harpsichord. There were many new faces including Dave Kessler our state representative. Many of the people had never been to Morlatton Village and thoroughly enjoyed the walking tour.

Special thanks to Scott Stepp, his son Weston Stepp, and Peter Nugent for the open hearth cooking demonstrations at the Mouns Jones house and for supplying the delicious mush muffins and apple pie for the luncheon.

There were many compliments on the food thanks to the hard work and talent of Anne Coldren.

The Plant Sale rounded out the festive atmosphere with potted vegetable gardens, hanging baskets and flower containers gathered and arranged by Bev Stevens and Anne Coldren. Many thanks to the local nurseries for supplying the plants.

Special thanks to docents Phil Pendleton and Matt Barnhart at the George Douglass house.

Thanks also are extended to:

Volunteers: Oliver and Tom Kindig, Betsy Ward, Linda Hughes, Priscilla Walsky, Leslie Rebmann, Dr Susan Munch, Wil Roscher, Zach Snyder, and Doug Eisemann

Donors: Gail Lasko Hoffman, Anne Coldren, Ilse and Ingrid Morning, Ellen Brennan, Elizabeth Rothermel, and Dan Hoffman

Suppliers: Wal-Mart, Kings IGA, Redners, Giant, and Sweet Street



Mouns Jones House pre restoration 1958. See this image and many more by visiting the online archive. A link to the archive can be found on the Trust's website www.historicpreservationtrust.org

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