



NORTHERN YORK COUNTY HISTORICAL & PRESERVATION

40th Anniversary Society

July 2024 Newsletter

“The objective of a website is to bring a visitor who brings another visitor.” ~ Amit Kalantri

Websites can be like old friends. You get used to their strengths and weaknesses and find comfort in the familiarity in this ever-changing world. But it is a tool after all, and updates are needed from time to time.

As NYCHAPS has grown, the limitations and the functionality of our website became enough motivation to begin the process of changing it. Anyone who has ever undertaken such a task know it is an investment of both time and money, so we wanted to make certain we engaged the right partners to make the most of what resources we had. Thankfully, we have a wonderful resource as a neighbor. Monarch Media, shepherded us through the process, and connected us to Jump Creative.

Chad Arentz, owner of Jump Creative, spent many hours with us learning our needs, strengths and weaknesses. Then he created a website that NYCHAPS is able to maintain in house - allowing us to keep our community updated about our events. The new website has truly been a blessing from the administrative end, and we hope it has been helpful for you as well.

Recently, Chad informed us that he entered our website design to be considered for a Vega Digital Media Award and, it has been declared a Silver Winner! If you look on the bottom left of our home page, you will notice this symbol on the right:

The Vega Digital Awards highlight excellence in all aspects of digital media: websites, video, mobile, social, animation, marketing & podcasts. The Vega Jury literally spans the globe with the jurors hailing from 23 nations. There are 3 levels of achievement in the Vega Awards: Platinum, Gold and Silver. The judging is based upon 7 criteria: content, creativity, visual design, engagement, execution, functionality and overall experience.





Part of Jump Creative's entry description includes:

"The Northern York County Historical and Preservation Society (NYCHAPS) was formed in 1984 to promote and encourage the study, collection, and preservation of the historical and cultural heritage of the area within the Northern York County School District in Dillsburg, PA which

is located halfway between Harrisburg and Gettysburg. NYCHAPS hosts a wide variety of historical programs and cultural events throughout the year at their main restored properties. To brand and promote these destinations as well as the events that surround them, NYCHAPS hired Jump Creative as the website design and development contractor. We created a responsive website that promoted the historic properties and provided a way for NYCHAPS staff to add events & news We also created several custom forms used for volunteering, donating, email newsletter sign-ups, and membership procurement. All forms are integrated with NYCHAPS' Constant Contact email marketing online application to capture submissions automatically."

Thank you, Monarch Media for connecting us to Jump Creative, and congratulations to Jump Creative for a job well done! [Explore our website here!](#)

Submitted by Dara Kane & Beth Mellott

Don't Forget...

NYCHAPS Members & Friends Picnic at Dills Tavern

Thursday, July 4th at 6:00 pm



It's time for food, fellowship, and fun! To start, there will be a brief meeting to share news and review happenings. This short meeting will be immediately followed by a potluck picnic.

Hot dogs, condiments, water, soda, and paper products will be provided. Member are encouraged to bring a dish to share (but not required). Please plan on joining us!

July Special Events

Hymn Sing at Historic Monaghan Church

Sunday, July 21st at 2:00 pm

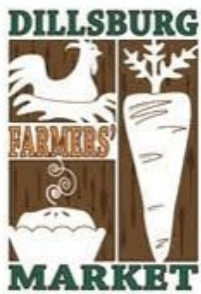
13 East Church St. Dillsburg PA



Join your friends at NYCHAPS for the July Hymn Sing! The program is hosted by the Dillsburg Arts Council and coordinated by the Northern York County Historical and Preservation Society.

This month's program is titled, "Unexpected Stories of Hymns," with Clair Zeiders, Herb Bomberger, and accompanist Becky Speck.

This is a free event, and we welcome you to join us after for an ice cream social.



Saturdays

Farmers Market - Every Saturday
8:00 am - noon

Music

July 6th - Ed Stockton at 10:00 am
July 27th - PapaDuo at 10:00 am



July 13th - Dillsburg Library
Storytime at the Market with Ms. Sue
10:00 am



July 6th - Tavern Tour
10:00 am & 11:00 am
\$5 adult
\$10 immediate family



Distillery Tours
Every Saturday
Beginning on the hour
at 10am, 11am, 12pm,
1pm, 2pm, & 3pm
\$10 per adult

July 13th - Cooking Demo
July 20th - Garden Talk
June 27th - Children's Activity

Sundays



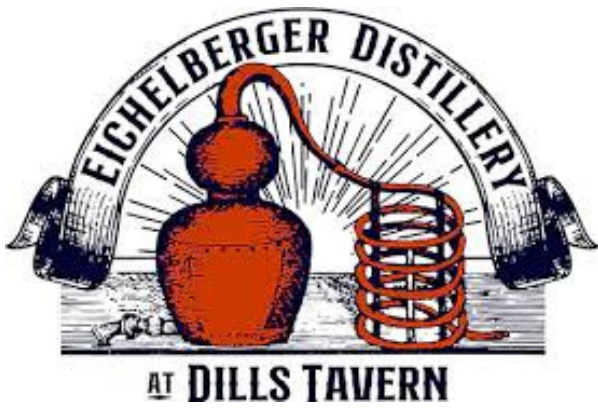
Distillery Tours Every Sunday
afternoon at:
1:00, 2:00, and 3:00 pm
\$10 per adult



Tavern Tours - Every Sunday
2:00 pm & 3:00 pm
\$5 adult / \$10 immediate family



Spinning Demonstration
July 14th during Tavern tours



Ugly Baby?

An Eichelberger Distillery Story by Murray Small

Catherine; our little still ready to run!

We sat like expectant fathers in front of Catherine, our small spirits still. She had been laboring for about two hours to get up to the temperature needed to deliver the spirits we have been trying to bring into the world for nearly 15 years. Finally, a drip, drip followed by a small stream. Sam and I glanced at each other. "Here it comes" he said. We moved forward in our chairs. "Yep, smells like nail polish remover", I exclaimed. "Give her a little time", Sam said as he dipped his finger into the drops of the clear, sparkling, distillate trickling from the worm condenser. "Hmmm, try it", he urged. I put a few drops in a glass and took a long smell, swirled it in the glass and put a little bit on my tongue. "Well, we are definitely in **heads**", I proclaimed. **Heads** are the more volatile alcohols consisting of compounds with a smell like acetone. It is great for removing bird crap from your bumper, but you don't want to make an Old Fashioned with it.



A few minutes of anticipation went by. We repeatedly swiped our fingers through the dripping distillate. I smelled, and took tiny sips, until one of my samplings had a different character. It was becoming sweeter. The harshness dissipated and a softer, more rounded, spirit started to emerge. Soon hints of sweetness replaced the acrid dominated flavor flowing from the worm. Then the grain flavors appeared. Rye produces a spicy, peppery spirit. Tasting at a proof in the high 130's, masks some of the characteristics of the grain flavors.

Sam was smiling. Then he began to laugh. We both took a little pull from the distillate now flowing from the condenser. Years of dreaming and scheming; countless meetings teeming with disappointments and setbacks; critics and skeptics deeming this project impossible; to the point where only the divine would bring this newborn spirit to the world. And here she was. We were in **hearts**!

Ugly Baby? - An Eichelberger Distillery Story continued...

Catherine is a good little still. She gets up to temperature and just keeps running. A surprisingly small amount of wood keeps her producing a steady stream of shimmering spirit. Eventually the flavorful components of alcohol in the still were exhausted. Denser components and fusel oils started to come through. The sweetness was replaced by a watery, funkiness called **tails**. Catherine was finished with this delivery. [Click here for video.](#)



We started the run around 140 proof. Over the next two hours the proof gradually lowered until we stopped collecting hearts around 70 and just let the **tails** run out. We separated out **heart's** jars from **heads** and **tails** jars. I added a little water to proof some of the **hearts** down to 100. We each took a sip. I am not totally thrilled with the nose. A little airing out to remove some of the more volatile compounds will help that. But the taste is softer than expected. With no barrel effects, grain flavors dominate. There is peppery spice expected of rye grain, but also sweetness from the corn and even a fruity character. **Our baby wasn't ugly at all!**



Eichelberger Distillery United Rye on the right and a whiskey that has been aged 4 years. Notice the color differences.

We still have to get a production schedule and navigate the remaining TTB and PLCB labeling and reporting requirements. Even though they drank it unaged during the Dill and Eichelberger era, we want to age some in barrels. The right amount of time in a 15-gallon barrel needs to be determined.

Make a visit to the Eichelberger Distillery. We are open on Saturdays and Sundays and during special events. Here you will learn about the people and operations of a small farm distillery in South Central Pennsylvania as colonial America became a country.

**Save the Date... Grand Opening of Eichelberger Distillery
at Dills Tavern!**

September 7th; 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

[Read all about it on our website "events" page here!](#)



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	DONE	\$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

Camp Highlights



The recent Archaeology Camp offered by NYCHAPS was brought about by the generosity of the Podolsky family, the curiosity of geo-archaeologist, Jeri Jones, and the collaboration of The York County History Center, Scott Mingus, Johnny Johnsson, almost 20 volunteers and NYCHAPS.

[View video here!](#)

The Podolskys purchased a farmhouse on Old York Road a few years ago and have been working hard, turning it into the beautiful Whipwood Gardens – a cut flower business. As they worked the ground to plant their various flowers, they began to discover artifacts such as pottery, utensils, and glass. This fascinated Jillian, a lover of history.

Meanwhile, Jeri Jones had known the history of the house, which dates back to the 1780's and was owned by Abraham Mumper who also owned one of the many area ore mines. Jeri was interested in doing research on the property. When these two "forces" met, an archaeological dig was inevitable.

Make no mistake. This was an official dig – no child's play happening here. Jeri Jones filed for, and was granted, an official dig number by the PA Historical & Museum Commission. All notes and photos will be cataloged with the state under 36 YO 0493. You can see the official number in this picture with an actual find (the trowel is in the picture for size reference):



36 stands for the Commonwealth of PA, YO stands for York County, 0493 is the official dig number (the 493rd dig of 2024), and square 6 is the number of the 4'x4' square in which this relic was found. There were 7 squares excavated in total. Some squares yielded better results than others but, overall, the students got to experience the reality of a true archaeological dig – dirt, sweat and all.

Offered to students entering 6th-8th grades, 12 hardy souls applied. They braved one of the hottest June weeks on record digging, sifting, discovering, cataloging, and recording. Overall, they unearthed nails, hinges, a metal label, pottery, more nails, glass, a metal juice can, pieces of bricks, charcoal and ... you guessed it, more nails.

Archaeology Camp Highlights (continued)

The students learned the proper technique for uncovering artifacts, how to label the layers of soil, how to record and properly document a find. The students were able to explain the archaeological process and share some of the things they found at a presentation they gave on Thursday evening which was open to the public.



And then, after a week of excavating, the students had to put it all back the way they found it. That almost didn't seem fair. To compensate the students and volunteers for their hard work, they were treated to ice cream on Fri afternoon.

NYCHAPS asked the students to fill out a quick survey before they left on Friday afternoon. And while they all had different reasons for attending (from "I thought it would be interesting" to "My mother wanted me to"), they all seemed to enjoy the week with 11 out of the 12 saying they would definitely like to do it again. (The 12th student gave us an honest "maybe" as an answer). [Read one student's testimonial here!](#)

The Podolskys now have their yard back. And the students have memories of an amazing summer adventure. Of course, none of this could have been possible without the many adult volunteers who gave of their time and energy. So, to the Podolskys and all the volunteers, we say a most gracious "Thank You!"

Submitted by Beth Mellott

Last chance to register for NYCHAPS History Camp



NYCHAPS History Camp is for children entering 4th - 6th grade and will be held at the Dills Tavern property.

[Click here for more information.](#)

History Camp

Registration closes July 5th.

Community Interests



Looking Good!

Thank you to the staff of Locals Market and Range End Golf Course for tackling a big job of landscaping at Dills Tavern. We appreciate your support in all things!

Explore York: Makers Spirit Event

The weekend of June 20-22, NYCHAPS participated in a celebration of all things crafted here in York County, Pennsylvania. At Dills Tavern there was much to showcase: work in the Wheelwright Shop and Eichelberger Distillery as well as, baking bread in the squirrel tail oven, churning butter, making strawberry shrub. Visitors (new to the Dills Tavern property) were impressed and promised to return for other happenings!



NORTHERN YORK COUNTY
**HISTORICAL &
PRESERVATION**
Society

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