

NORTHERN YORK COUNTY
HISTORICAL & PRESERVATION
Society

November 2026 Newsletter

"Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow." ~ Melody Beattie

250 years ago...

In November 1776, the American Revolution was marked by significant military engagements and political developments, including the aftermath of the Battle of Fort Washington, which was a setback for General Washington's forces. This period was crucial as the Continental Congress continued to solidify the new nation's governance and military strategies.

- November 1–5 — Retreat from White Plains: Following the October 28 defeat, Washington withdrew from White Plains. This helped preserve the main Continental Army but effectively ended serious American resistance around New York City.
- November 16 — Fall of Fort Washington: About 8,000 British and Hessian troops captured the last major American position on Manhattan. Approximately 2,837 Americans were taken prisoner—one of the Revolution's worst Patriot defeats.
- November 20 — Evacuation of Fort Lee: British and Hessian troops crossed the Hudson into New Jersey. Washington abandoned Fort Lee, leaving supplies and artillery behind rather than risk another mass surrender.
- Late November — Retreat across New Jersey: Cornwallis pursued Washington's shrinking, demoralized army through New Jersey toward the Delaware River. The British occupied important communities while Patriot support weakened.

Strategic consequence: The American defeats of November 1776 were the final stage of the disastrous New York campaign. Britain secured New York City and began occupying eastern New Jersey, while the Continental Army entered a severe crisis. Nevertheless, Washington kept the army intact, enabling the dramatic counterattack that would come at Trenton on December 26.

November Regular Happenings

Distillery Tours
Every Saturday & Sunday
Noon to 3 pm on the hour
$10

Last month for Farmers Market!

Every Saturday
8:00 am - noon
Last market day is November 21st.

1st FRIDAY

November 6th at Dill's Tavern 7-10 pm
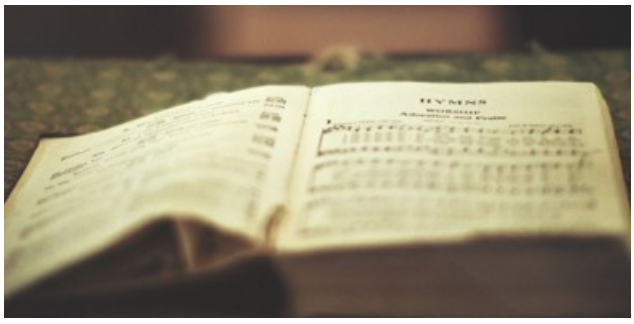


We will welcome Chuck Darwin and the Knuckledraggers performing Americana, Country, bluegrass, blues, and swing: acoustic boot-stomping music, as our musical guests. As always, Murray will have an educational spirits program available for those interested. More information about the evening and tasting tickets may be found on the link below.

Read more about the event here.

November Special Events

Hymn Sing
at Monaghan Church
Sunday November 22nd at 2 pm



Enjoy singing old time hymns led by Clair Zeiders! The program is hosted by the Dillsburg Arts Council and coordinated by the Northern York County Historical and Preservation Society. This is a free event to be enjoyed by everyone!

Read more about the event here.

The historic Monaghan Church is located behind the Dillsburg Post Office at 15 E. Church Street, Dillsburg, PA.



Holiday Decorating at Dills Tavern
Sunday, November 29th from 1-4pm

Calling all holiday lovers! Do the sights and sounds of Christmas bring you joy? Do you look forward to Christmas decorating? Then you are exactly who we're looking for!

Decorating Day is Sunday, November 29th, from 1:00pm – 4:00pm.

We are asking for:

- donations of greenery - this is needed so decor may be created in advance.
- creative individuals to **assemble decor in advance** of decorating day (specific descriptions of projects will be available). This could be done at your own home.
- Volunteers to set up decorations on Decorating Day - this would involve muscle power, creativity, ladder engineers and ground engineers. If you have garden/work gloves, bring them. Working with greens and wire can be hard on the hands. If you have wire cutters and/or pruners bring them. We will have some there but not enough for everyone.

Many hands make light work and this is sure to get you into the Christmas spirit!

Please contact the NYCHAPS office to let someone know how you would like to assist, 717-502-1440 or admin@northernyorkhistorical.org.

Looking Ahead

Annual Members Meeting and Potluck

December 3rd - Maple Shade Barn - 6:00pm



We invite everyone to share in food and fellowship at our annual Membership Potluck. The night's events will provide a brief update on NYCHAPS happenings, followed by a relaxed meal. We ask that all attendees bring a potluck dish to be shared.

Plates, utensils, and beverages will be provided.
Hope to see you there!

Maple Shade Barn: 35 Greenbrier Lane, Dillsburg, PA 17019

December 4th; 7pm-10pm

Theme: Celtic Holiday

1st FRIDAY



This month, we're excited to have **Seasons**, as our musical guest. While the instrumentation of the band remains centered around the Celtic harp and hammered dulcimer, over the years the band has added violin, mandolin, guitar, bodhran, penny whistle, and piano. They will be featuring music from both their Christmas albums, Eventide Lullabye and Joy on High, as well as some rollicking Irish tunes for a true Celtic Christmas feel. So grab your friends and prepare for a wonderful evening spent by candlelight at Dills Tavern.

This event is exclusive to the 21+ crowd and advanced ticket sales are not available. Simply pay at the door when you arrive - $10 for members and $15 for nonmembers.

Interested in experiencing a special spirits tasting? **Read more about it here!**

Looking Ahead

Christkindlmarkt at Dills Tavern

December 11th; 4-9 pm
December 12th; 9-4 pm



Christkindlmarkt is a traditional German Christmas Market that takes place in the evening during the Advent season. Two days of Christmas cheer, ambience, shopping, food, children's activities, music and so much more spread across the tavern's beautiful historic grounds. This event gets bigger and better every year! It consistently draws over 6000 shoppers, and with over 100 vendors and artisans coming, it's easy to see why we are anticipating another successful event for 2026. Don't miss the best small town, big market event of the year! **FAQ's and details on our website here!**

Colonial Candlelight Christmas Service at Monaghan Church

Saturday December 19th at 7:00 pm



Have you ever wondered what a church service was like back in colonial times? This service will include music, readings, and candlelight. Following the service, a candlelight procession will lead to Dills Tavern, where light refreshments will be served.

The historic Monaghan Church is located behind the Dillsburg Post Office at 15 E. Church Street, Dillsburg, PA.

NYCHAPS Revolutionary War Project

Vol 1.10
Patriot Stories

During the American War of Independence, the rural townships of northern York County, Pennsylvania—including Warrington, Monaghan, Washington, Carroll, and Franklin—mobilized their citizens to sustain the struggle for freedom. Men from these communities enlisted in the Pennsylvania Continental Line, stood muster in local county militia battalions, guarded prisoner-of-war camps such as Camp Security, and provided vital supply taxes and logistics to George Washington's army.

Today, dozens of these soldiers and civil patriots lie buried in churchyards, meeting house grounds, and family burial plots scattered throughout the rolling hills of northern York County. From two of our local cemeteries, below are the stories of nine of these patriots.

Dillsburg Cemetery (Carroll Township)

1. **Lieutenant Archibald Campbell (1755–December 4, 1784)**
   - **Military Service**: Lieutenant, Continental Army, 6th Pennsylvania Regiment.
   - **Biography**: Archibald Campbell served as a commissioned Continental officer in the renowned 6th Pennsylvania Regiment. His unit fought in several of the war's most pivotal campaigns, including the Battle of Brandywine, where the regiment was commended for steadfast bravery, and Campbell was reportedly wounded. Dying young in 1784 without issue, he bequeathed his estate to his sister Sarah (wife of Joseph McDowell) and brother John Campbell, appointing his brother Captain Thomas Campbell as executor.

2. **Captain Thomas Campbell (1750 - January 15, 1815)**
   - **Military Service:** Captain, Continental Army (Thompson's Pennsylvania Rifle Battalion/1st Pennsylvania Regiment; later 4th Pennsylvania Regiment).
   - **Biography:** Born near Dillsburg in 1750, Thomas Campbell was among the earliest York County patriots to take up arms. In the summer of 1775, he enlisted as a rifleman in Captain Michael Doudel's company—part of Colonel William Thompson's famed Pennsylvania Rifle Battalion (later designated the 1st Continental Regiment)—which completed an arduous rapid march to Cambridge to join the Siege of Boston. Commissioned an officer in the 4th Pennsylvania Regiment in early 1777, Campbell served across the major engagements of the Philadelphia Campaign, including the battles of Bound Brook (April 1777), Brandywine (September 11, 1777), and the night assault at Paoli (September 19, 1777).

Read the rest of the article here!

From the Garden Shed Vol 1.11

It's Getting Frosty Out!

by Gary A. Reneker, Head Gardener



What is frost? Frost refers to the layer of ice crystals that form when water vapor condenses on plant matter and then freezes.

A light frost occurs when the nighttime temperature at plant level drops to, or just below, 32° F. This can occur even if the air temperature above plants is 36° F. Warm season plants like tomatoes, beans, peppers, zinnias, and basil will be killed off by a light frost.

Cooler season plants like peas, calendula, and nasturtium will not be effected by a light frost. Brassicas are considered cold season plants. They will have a sweeter taste after being hit by frost, because the cold increases their retained sugar levels.

A hard freeze is a period of at least four consecutive hours of air temperatures below 28° F. Not many plants live after a hard freeze. The most noteworthy are kale and Swiss chard, which can be harvested well into November, or even December, in our region. Perennials generally become dormant after a hard freeze. Beets and carrots will not grow anymore, but can remain in the garden if covered with 6" to 8" of straw. When you want fresh beets or carrots during the winter, lift the straw, dig your produce, and replace the straw over the soil.

For flower gardens leave the plant stems and fallen leaves on the ground until spring. In spring, at least two weeks before the last frost, clip the stems to about 1 1/2" above the ground.

For vegetable gardens cut the stems off at ground level in autumn, except for the hollow stems of some plants. Beneficial insects make winter homes inside these hollow stems. Cut them to about 9" above the ground.

Remove all cut stems and debris from the garden. Then cover your vegetable garden areas with 1" to 2" of compost. After your garden has experienced at least three hard freezes cover it with 3" to 5" of straw. The freezing will generally kill harmful insect eggs. After a few nights of freezing the added straw will then protect the soil over the winter. By waiting before adding the straw, mice, voles, and other such critters will have already found homes for the winter rather than thriving under your cozy straw blanket.

Read the rest of the article here!

Community Interests

Thank You to our Volunteers!



October was the last month of public Tavern Tours for the year. We really appreciated the work of our docents and gift shop volunteers. While showing up for Sundays as well as 1st Saturday tours throughout the season, they never failed to share their enthusiasm for the history embedded within the Dills Tavern property and the families that lived there.



We also have appreciated having the spinning group visit once a month on Sundays to demonstrate how they turn fibers into yarn.



Another thank you for all our amazing volunteers who helped make NYCHAPS' Ag Day possible! Your enthusiasm and hard work ensured everything ran smoothly, and we couldn't have done it without you. There were over 800 visitors to our historic site on Saturday and 45 volunteers sharing their talents, crafts, skills, and demonstrations! Again, thank you all.

Another Ag Day celebration goes to our Maple Shade Quilters! This year the group entered 3 quilts in the Hand Quilted category and all 3 won top prizes!



Burgoyne Surrounded
1st Place in Fancy Quilts Category.



Autumn Splendor
1st Place in Pieced Quilt Category.

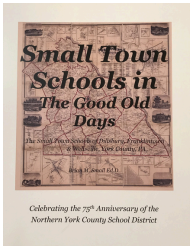


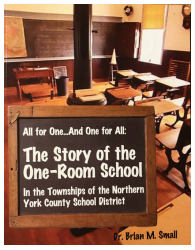
Dresden Fantasy
Hand Quilted Applique
Best in Show

Community Interests

Author Signing







On Sunday, October 25th, Dr. Brian M. Small (former Superintendent of the Northern York County School District from 1995-2009) gave a presentation about his new book. There was a wonderful discussion and memories were shared about school experiences in the "old days." Dr. Small left copies of his new book at Maple Shade Barn for purchase.

The Burgoyne Surrounded Quilt Auction

An America 250 Project by Maple Shade Quilters

- 1 year to design, cut, assemble, and hand quilt
- 3200 pieces of fabric
- 890 hours of work
- Won a 1st Place at Farmers Fair
- Labor/min. wage = $6,452.50



The Burgoyne Surrounded Quilt may be viewed during Farmers Market Saturdays at Dills Tavern. Bids may be placed through November. The starting bid will begin at $1,200. **Please consider acquiring this quilt to commemorate this very special year and support NYCHAPS!** We also would appreciate the sharing of this information with anyone you think might be interested. Contact knellis@northernyorkhistorical.org if you have any questions.

Bids may be placed by clicking here!

NORTHERN YORK COUNTY HISTORICAL & PRESERVATION Society

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