



NORTHERN YORK COUNTY HISTORICAL & PRESERVATION

Society

October 2025 Newsletter

“The boisterous sea of liberty is never without a wave.”

~ Thomas Jefferson ~

250 years ago...

October 1775 was a pivotal month in the early stages of the American Revolution. The Continental Congress continued to meet in Philadelphia throughout October 1775. Discussions included organizing the Continental Army, securing supplies, and debating the colonies' next steps. Although independence was not yet officially declared, the Congress's actions increasingly asserted American autonomy and resistance to British authority. This demonstrated the growing resolve and organizational capacity of the American colonies as they moved from protest to open conflict and nation-building.

Of note:

- **October 8th**, Continental Army Officers decide to bar slaves and free blacks from serving in the Continental Army.
- **On October 13th**, The United States Continental Congress orders the establishment of the Continental Navy (later renamed the United States Navy). Colonial privateers and newly-commissioned Continental Navy ships began to harass British supply lines along the American coast.
- **Ongoing**, the Siege of Fort St. Jean (Canada) by American forces and Benedict Arnold's grueling expedition continues their march toward Quebec.
- **On October 26th**, King George III goes before Parliament to declare the American colonies in rebellion, and authorized a military response to quell the American Revolution.
- **October 28th**, a British proclamation forbids residents from leaving Boston.



October Special Events

1st
FRIDAY

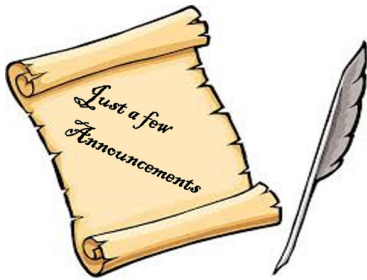
October 3rd
at Dill's Tavern
7-10 pm

Please join us for the start of our 1st Friday season! The evening's musical guests will be **Across the Pond**. This event is exclusive to the 21+ crowd and advanced ticket sales are

not available. Simply pay at the door when you arrive. Admission is \$10/members and \$15 for non-members. You are welcome to BYOB as well as bring your own dinner, snacks, etc.

Tavernkeeper Murray Small will be in the Eichelberger Distillery offering a tasting program for an additional \$10 focusing on **Toasts: origins, elements, etiquette and examples from the Historic Dills Tavern!** It will include four toasts and a cocktail.

Reserve your seat at a tasting [here!](#)



As a 1st Friday reminder...

TAVERN KEEPERS RULES OF COURTESY

1. The property is smoke free. Smoke breaks should be taken on the front sidewalk.
2. Clay pipes and Dills cigars may only be lit after 10 pm in the taproom, or in the wheelwright shop.
3. Fires and candles will only be maintained by the tavern keepers.
4. Guests are invited to use all of the rooms in the tavern and wheelwright shop to socialize, however, the tavern keeper has reserved the ballroom for those wishing to listen to the musicians. As a courtesy to our talented performers, please refrain from loud talking in this room.
5. Drink responsibly, or we will confiscate your horse!!
6. Please treat this historic property gently and leave it tidy at evening's end.
7. We hope you enjoy your time with us!

October Special Events



Farmers Fair Agriculture Day at Dill's Tavern October 18th 10:00am - 3:00pm

NYCHAPS is happy to be part of the Dillsburg community's Farmers Fair each year. Come enjoy activities for the entire family. Farmer's Market will run as usual from 8am to noon. NYCHAPS' activities will include: Sauerkraut Making, Apple Pressing, Corn Shelling, Woodworking, Coopering, Colonial Soup, Tomahawk Throwing, Reenactors and Military Timeline, Antique Tractor Display, Colonial Garden Display, Fiber Arts Display, Sale and Quilt Raffle, Tavern and Distillery Tours, Bombergers Cider for sale, Giftshop, and Antique Book Sale.

[Read more about this event here!](#)



Did someone say “apple cider”...

As the York County apple growing season ends, the ritual of picking the crop and producing some of the finest apple products in the United States begins, including such local favorites as apple butter, apple sauce and, of course, apple cider.

The Gayman Heritage Orchard at Dills Tavern is no different, as the 5 varietals, having avoided the early season frosts, produced another banner crop this year. Some might also say that our Wassail celebration in January protected our crop!

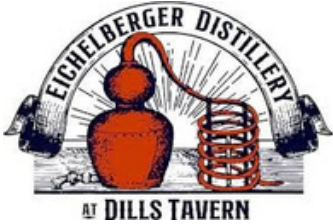
Over the course of the season local farmers Lem Cristophel, owner of Eden Farms, and Herb Bomberger have lovingly cared for the trees with regular preventive spraying, trimming and culling. Christophel and his son, Brian, recently spent a beautiful morning picking the apples, totaling approximately 16 Bushels. These apples will be kept in cold storage until they are pressed for cider at the Eden farm facility or at the public pressing to be held on **Ag Day, October 18** in the Tavern courtyard.



Visitors may be able to taste the wonderful blend of the apple flavors in bottled cider available at the Ag Day demonstrations held in conjunction with Farmers Fair. But, get there early, as supplies are limited!

October Regular Happenings

Saturdays at Dills Tavern

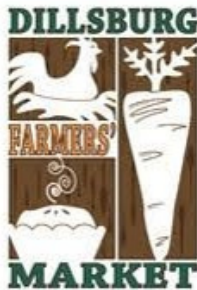


Distillery Tours Every Saturday
Noon to 3 pm on the hour
\$10



October 4th - Tavern Tours at
10 and 11 am

October 18th - bake oven demonstration



Farmers Market - Every Saturday
8:00 am - noon



Sundays at Dills Tavern



Distillery Tours Every Sunday
12:00 pm - 3:00 pm
on the hour
\$10



Spinning Demonstration
October 12th
during Tavern tours



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

November Special Events



1st Friday

November 7th

at Dills Tavern & Eichelberger Distillery

7 pm - 10 pm

At First Fridays, you can expect loads of fun with live music, snacks, BYOB, and more! This month, we're thrilled to have **Charlie Zahm & Tad Marks**, performing Celtic, Maritime & Traditional American music, as our guests. So grab your friends, dress in garb, 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. You are welcome to BYOB as well as bring your own dinner, snacks, etc.

Enjoy a new Tasting Program with Tavernkeeper Murray Small in the Eichelberger Distillery for an additional \$10.

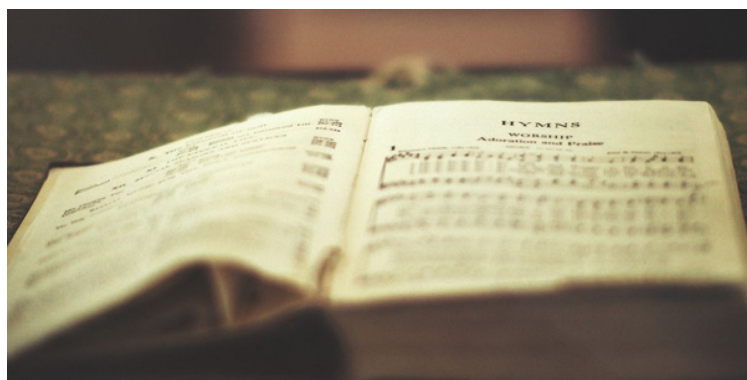
Tasting tickets may be bought in advance here.



Hymn Sing

Sunday, November 23rd

2:00 pm.



Join Clair Zeiders in a hymn sing along. You will enjoy the music as well as learn the stories behind the hymns. This is a free family-friendly event in partnership with the Dillsburg Arts Council at the **historic Monaghan Church** in Dillsburg.

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

Grain was the second most valuable asset in the inventory. The “25 acres in the ground of winter grain” (likely winter wheat or rye) indicated substantial agricultural activity. A typical farmer in 1750 could expect a yield of 13 to 17 bushels of grain per acre which translates to 8 to 10 ½ tons of planted grain to be harvested.

The Impractical Distillers cont.

Grain was produced and harvested by hand, underscoring the labor-intensive nature of their operation. In addition to the grain still in the field, the inventory notes they already had at least twice that amount stored in the barn, valued at 30 pounds.



You can learn more about the agricultural and distilling heritage of Northern York County through hands on experience when visiting The Eichelberger Distillery at Dills Tavern.

The Impractical Distillers: *Sam and Murray*



Distillery Hours...

Plan to make a visit soon. We can't wait to tell you all about historic Pennsylvania distilling!

Tours will be available:

- Monday - closed
- Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday by appointment only. This may be arranged by contacting the office at 717-502-1440.
- Wednesdays: distillery is open 3p to 7pm. A time for stopping by to see what's happening!
- Saturdays: tours begin on the hour from noon to 3pm
- Sundays: tours begin on the hour from 1pm to 3pm

Please Note: Sat/Sun tours may arranged on-line and are available to walk-ins only as space permits. Online tickets are available [by clicking here](#) until Fridays at 3pm (a small surcharge is added per ticket) Cost - \$10.00



What's New!

Celebrating Our Barns

Did you know that NYCHAPS has 2 barns of distinction? Recently we became aware of a project initiative launched by the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Society.

This office is inviting Pennsylvanians to contribute to an ongoing effort to document and celebrate the barns that define our state's rural heritage. The information collected will be used to create a historic record of each barn's story and will be added to the PA Inventory of Historic Places. Greg Wonders, NYCHAPS Archivist, is currently working on the submission of our historic barns for the project.



On the left, this barn was built between 1795-1798 by Abraham Burkholder, a Swiss-German-Mennonite immigrant, on his working farm, about six miles out off Mountain Road. Over the course of 4 years starting in 2012, NYCHAPS purchased, dismantled, and moved it to its present location at Dills Tavern. This style of barn, "grundschiefer", translates to "ground barn" due to its historical German construction.

On the right, Maple Shade Farm ("dwelling, barn and tenement") was built in 1857 by Michael B. Mumper, the grandson of the original Michael Mumper who settled in the area in the early 1800's. It is built in the traditional Sweitzer style with the characteristic overshoot, or forebay, of the second story which shields the front stable wall while providing extra space in the barn's upper story. Located at 35 Greenbrier Lane, it houses the NYCHAPS office, research archives/collections, and a banquet hall.



Community Interests

Thank you to Ms. Sue & Dillsburg Public Library

NYCHAPS and Dillsburg Farmers Market have really appreciated Ms. Sue's summer story times at Dills Tavern. It was so fun to see children gather to be read to and Ms. Sue makes every story engaging! Thanks for sharing your time with us!



Historic Mule Chair Raffle



The story of this chair was highlighted in the September newsletter. Now that it has been painstakingly restored to its former glory, it will be bestowed upon its next owner through a raffle. Raffle tickets will be available during Farmers Market Saturdays and special events. The winning ticket will be drawn during December's Christkindlmarkt.

NYCHAPS 2025 CHAIR RAFFLE		
Early nineteenth century Mule Ear Chair		
Restored by Clair Zeiders in the Dills Wheelwright Shop		
\$1/Ticket		
Proceeds benefit NYCHAPS		
Winning ticket to be drawn at Christkindlmarkt, December 13, 2025		
NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN		
No. 001	<div>Name</div> <div>Phone</div> <div>Email</div>	 No. 001



NORTHERN YORK COUNTY
**HISTORICAL &
PRESERVATION**
Society

www.northernnyorkhistorical.org
admin@northernnyorkhistorical.org
Maple Shade Barn Office 717-502-1440
35 Greenbriar Lane Dillsburg, PA 17019
Office Hours: Tues-Fri 11am - 3pm