



NORTHERN YORK COUNTY HISTORICAL & PRESERVATION

Society

September 2025 Newsletter

**“The way to secure our rights is to know them well
and defend them vigorously.” ~ Ethan Allen**

250 years ago...

In September 1775, many Americans, including members of Congress, still continued to hope for a peaceful resolution to hostilities. However, the war was escalating in Canada at Fort St. John and Montreal, while the British Navy harassed towns on the coast. Meanwhile, Patriot forces clashed with Loyalists in Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina. At the end of the month, rumors spread that Britain was hiring European mercenaries to send to America.

Of note:

- **September 2nd**, General George Washington commissions Nicholson Broughton as master of the Hannah. This modest fishing schooner was transformed into an armed vessel, becoming the first war ship of what came to be known as “Washington’s Navy”.
- **On September 7th**, the Hannah seized the transport HMS Unity, marking the first time a British ship was captured. The Hannah’s supply of gunpowder and arms was sent to American forces outside Boston. This marked the beginning of organized naval resistance and set the stage for future naval operations.
- **September 25th**, American patriot, Ethan Allen, is captured by the British during his unsuccessful attack on Montreal and is taken to England as a prisoner of war. He escapes and returns to America before his execution could be carried out.
- **September 26th**, American and Indian delegates held a peace conference in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. In attendance were leaders from various Ohio Valley tribes, Congress, and the British Indian Department. The Indians agreed to remain neutral, and Congress recognized the Ohio River as the boundary between the American Colonies and the Western Frontier.



September Special Events



Balderdash

**Saturday, September 6th
at Dills Tavern &
Eichelberger Distillery
1 pm - 5 pm**



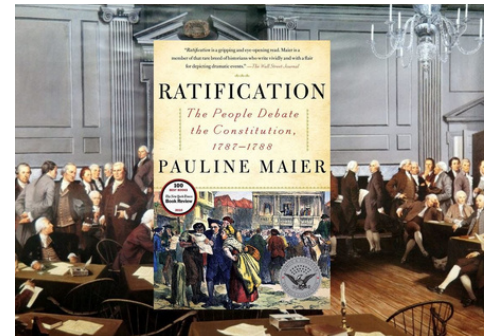
This year's Balderdash is a return of the traditional homebrew festival combined with our annual Cherry Bounce Festival. This merger, though muddled, provides the visitor with an entertaining opportunity to sample homebrews created by amateur and aspiring brewers and unique variations of historic cherry bounce created by local cherry bounce fans. One single \$20 ticket allows guests to sample and vote for Best Homebrew and Best Cherry Bounce. [Tickets may be bought in advance on our website here.](#) This event is for 21+ only.

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



Final Wisdom & Whiskey Book Club

It is time to tackle the remaining 3 chapters of Pauline Maier's book, [Ratification; The People Debate the Constitution, 1787-1788.](#)



**We will meet on September 10th from 6:30pm - 8:00 pm
at the Eichelberger Distillery**

Our book discussion will cover the following:

Ch 13: The New York Convention II

Ch 14: Some Final Twists

Epilogue - "Playing the After Game"

This event is free and open to the public. You are welcome to bring a snack to share and we will have beverages.

September Regular Happenings

Saturdays at Dills Tavern



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



September 6th - Cooking Demo
pretzels

September 20th - Children's Activity



Farmers Market - Every Saturday
8:00 am - noon



September 6th - Dillsburg Library
Storytime at the Market with Ms. Sue
10:00 - 11:00 am



Sundays at Dills Tavern



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



Spinning Demonstration
September 14th
during Tavern tours



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

Looking ahead to October...

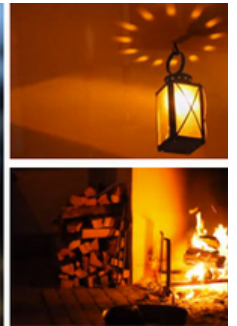
**1st
FRIDAY**

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 gathering is for adults 21 years and older. Snacks will be provided and BYOB is permitted.

Admission is \$10/members and \$15/non-members.

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



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!](#)



Volunteer Spotlight: Barbara Gertzen

My living history experiences...

Ironically enough, I would say I had little background in living history... until the point when I decided to restore my childhood home after my Mom passed away in 2012. With Sam McKinney's help, I learned the house was actually a log house built around 1840!

My sister and I never heard our parents mention that the house was a log house (though log joists in the basement did offer a clue). Although I thought that I might totally update the house, my heart led me to try and restore the house to period as much as possible to honor the memory of my parents who provided me such a precious legacy and to preserve another keepsake of the area's heritage.

How I came to know NYCHAPS and Dills Tavern...

In 2014, I was looking for a contractor to help me restore my house, and a prospective contractor asked if I had visited Dills Tavern. I admitted I had not, but I contacted Sam McKinney (I do not recall who gave me Sam's information) and arranged to tour the Tavern. As is often said: the rest is history, as Sam led me on an inclusive tour of Dills Tavern and the Wheelwright's Shop (all that was present on the site at that time). I was fascinated... and hooked!

In time, Sam visited my house to determine the general era of its construction, and he later managed (through an incredible feat of dexterity and determination!) to cut off a piece of what appears to be a former fireplace lintel in the basement. The sample was sent to Cornell University for dendrodating, which revealed that the number of rings in the log indicated the house was built around 1840.

In what ways have you been involved at Dills Tavern...

I attended a few First Fridays at the Tavern and stayed in contact with Sam, and he eventually invited me to join the Tavern Committee, which began my association with NYCHAPS. After becoming a member of the Tavern Committee, I was asked if I would coordinate a Tavern Cleaning Crew, and since that time (in 2015 or 2016), I have organized monthly cleaning days following First Fridays — or First Saturdays, as we call them — to straighten up and tidy the Tavern for "her public."

My favorite thing about living history...

On a personal level, as I undertake the next phase of my home's restoration project (over a decade after I started), I have to admit that living in an old house is not necessarily satisfying to everyone, but it grounds me, providing a sense of stability and security — and of history!

Volunteer Spotlight: Barbara Gertzen continued

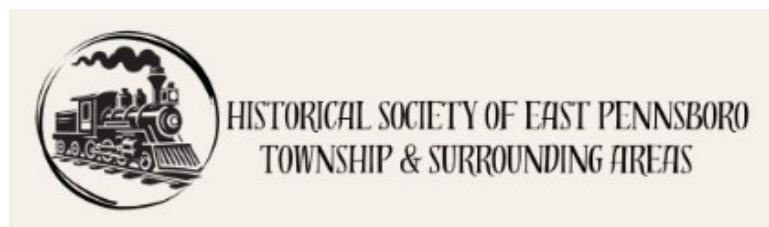
My favorite thing about living history... (continued from previous page)

I researched the trail of past owners of my house at the Cumberland County Historical Society Library, and I often find myself musing about what their days may have been like before the house had electricity, running water, indoor plumbing, or a furnace! The layers of past renovations and "upgrades" that I removed from the house confirm that former occupants definitely had their own taste in home decor! Friends tell me they believe my parents would be proud of what I am doing to the house, and I treasure that thought.

What else would you like members to know about you...

I am a member of the Board of Directors of the Historical Society of East Pennsboro (HSEP), and I did extensive research on the historic Enola Miller House (EMH) where the namesake of the village of Enola was born. This two-story, mountain-stone farmhouse was built by Enola Miller's great-grandfather Henry Longsdorf in 1841. Though it stood on its original site for close to 200 years, plans to develop the 50-acre parcel surrounding the EMH placed the house in peril as developers finalized their plans.

As work began in earnest in 2018, I submitted an application to the Cumberland County Historical Society that ultimately earned the EMH placement on the Cumberland County Register of Historic Places, a designation that saved the house from potential demolition. The developer eventually agreed to relocate the EMH to a one-acre parcel elsewhere on the property, and the EMH today has renewed purpose and life. Located in front of the HSEP's newly constructed administrative center, the EMH is fully restored and acts as an Interpretive Learning Center for the Society's members and visitors.



Historic Trades

The Mule Ear Chair by Clair Zeiders



The Woody family started making handcrafted "mule-ear" chairs in Mitchell County, NC in the early 1800's. The chairs got that name because of the way the back posts stick up like the ears of a mule. Back in the day when most everything was handcrafted, most everything was bartered as well. Arthur Woody took his

chairs on an ox-drawn cart to Marion and Forest City to exchange for things he could not produce at home, such as coffee and sugar. During the craft revival, a period when mountain crafts came to the attention of northern markets, Arthur Woody shipped chairs by Railway Express to cities like Boston.

Later, grandson Arvel Woody and his brother Walter entered the chair making business after World War II. Arvel summed up chair making with, "We get the tree in the forest, and when we finish it up, it's in the living room". With his workers, they harvested trees from the forest, cut them on his own sawmill, and shaped them into heirloom chairs.

The Woody family uses local hardwoods. These are fashioned into chairs using the greenwood method, in which no metal fasteners or glue are used. Chair posts air dry, then are driven together tightly while the wood is still green (uncured). As the posts dry, they shrink around the stretchers, clamping them tight.

Woody's Chairs have found their way into national collections. Their work is part of the American Craft Collection of the Smithsonian. They have been featured in National Geographic. Arvel Woody was named a North Carolina Living Treasure in 1995. These chairs are know by several names such as a "country" chair, a "mule ear" chair, a "mountain" chair, a "post and rung" chair, and even a "rabbit ear" chair, depending upon the specific region of Appalachia. This chair has arms which makes it somewhat unusual. Evidently, these chairs are well known in the Appalachian regions of our country.

This chair came to us through a donation from a dealer. After the first examination, we addressed the issue of powder post beetles. After that, the chair was thoroughly cleaned and the wood was then given a period correct application of a combination of 50/50 boiled linseed oil and turpentine. The remains of the original seat were removed and the chair went to Lebanon County for a new "ash splint" seat. When it returned, it received more of the linseed oil/turpentine mixture. We hope that people get to see and enjoy this new "friend" from the south.





Maple Shade Quilters & Fiber Arts Update



If you haven't been to the Dills Tavern Farmers Market on Saturdays this season, you have missed out on wonderful items being sold by the Maple Shade Quilters/Fiber Arts. Everything sold benefits NYCHAPS. First and foremost, raffle tickets for our 2025 Lavender Among the Greens Raffle Quilt (an over-sized Queen) are available each Saturday.

Current merchandise includes:

- vintage cross stitched tied comforter, hand knit infant blanket, crib size quilt, nine patch scrappy quilt, pillows, pillowcase, fleece doll/infant blanket, hand knit doll caps, crochet infant blanket, quilt racks
- placemats, napkins, microwave potato bags, microwave cozy bowls, potholder/hot pads, bib aprons, candle mats made from vintage quilt blocks
- thread catcher bowls, quilted scissors case, bookmarks, eyeglass case, small sewing basket fabric lined for child (includes wool needle book, bag with beeswax, and a shell pin cushion), hand made wood thread spool holder
- shoe cover bags for luggage or closet, mesh laundry/market bag, storage bag for plastic grocery bags. wine/cherry bounce totes, repurposed blue jean lined tote bags, clothes peg/clothespin bags, clothes garment covers (compresses jackets keeps dust off till season), wicker market basket

There is also a Singer Model 66 in Cabinet; serial G3294101; decals in great condition, machine needs rewiring, servicing. If you are interested in the sewing machine, please come to the Maple Shade Barn on Sun or Tues 1-3 pm. If a member has the skill and desires to take on the rewiring, it is welcomed and appreciated.

Additional farm/agriculture themed merchandise awaits Ag Fair/Farmers Fair on October 18.

Additional Christmas merchandise awaits Christkindlmarkt on December 12 and 13.

If you sew and wish to assist the MSQ in sewing fiber merchandise, come take a peek on Sat mornings at the Farmers Market.





What's New!

Sidewalk Replacement at Dills Tavern

NYCHAPS appreciates the very generous donation/s, to fund the replacement of a large portion of the sidewalk along Baltimore St. We thank Durable Creations Concrete for getting the job done so efficiently and beautifully. What a difference it makes!



Community Interests



Good to Know!

We've recently seen an increase in fake accounts and scammers pretending to be affiliated with NYCHAPS. These accounts often comment on our posts or send private messages trying to sell fake tickets or collect personal information. Please be aware that NYCHAPS will never ask for your credit card details, personal info, or payment through social media or messaging platforms.

For events that do require tickets, our only official ticketing platform is TicketTailor. If you're ever unsure about the legitimacy of a ticket or message, we encourage you to call us directly at 717-502-1440. Some of our events are free and don't require tickets at all, so if you see someone claiming otherwise, it's likely a scam.

We're committed to keeping our community safe and informed. If you spot suspicious activity, please let us know and help spread the word to others. Thank you for your continued support and for helping protect the integrity of our events.



Mark Baumgardner

Mark will be serving on NYCHAPS' Board of Directors. We appreciate his willingness to step up for this role and know he will bring fresh insights to our discussions!

NYCHAPS Welcomes...



Avary Falck

Avary will begin her high school internship with NYCHAPS in September. She intends to pursue public history (with a living history approach), We are excited to have her join us and can't wait to show her what NYCHAPS has to offer!



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