

# Remembering Our Role in the Building of America



*“The Battle of Paoli” by Xavier della Gatta, 1782*

In the winter of 1777-1778, the fate of a fledgling nation was severely tested and then saved in Tredyffrin Township and the Great Valley area. Tredyffrin Township alternately served as British and Colonial encampments during the Philadelphia campaign of the American Revolution, and was the “crown’s” staging area for the “Paoli Massacre.” At Valley Forge, an army of militia transformed into a cohesive force, fully capable of meeting the British challenge. The price, however, was high. Two thousand men succumbed to disease while at camp. Their sacrifice was as noble as that of any of the troops who fell in battle.

Extraordinarily, most surviving sites and structures of the time are now in private hands and not accessible to the public. The Jones Log Barn and Duportail House are notable exceptions. With your help, the proposed **Living History Center** will emerge on the campus that will welcome visitors and provide a glimpse into the stories and experiences of our forebearers.

*Most importantly, the story will be told on historic grounds, lending a unique sense of place for those who visit.*



## Living History Center *at Duportail*

### Campaign Committee

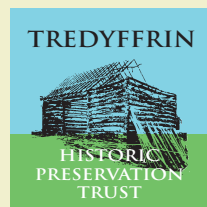
Kevin Mahoney and Ray Nudy, Co-Chairs  
Judy DiFilippo      David Mackey  
John Sacharok      Robert Wise, Jr.

### THPT Board of Directors

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### THPT Mission

*To preserve and protect historic, cultural and environmental resources, principally in Tredyffrin Township, for the benefit of present and future generations, and to educate the public about the preservation and protection of historic and cultural settings.*



P. O. Box 764 • Devon, PA 19333  
610.644.6759  
www.tredyffrinhistory.org

**Capital Campaign Goal: \$300,000**



## Living History Center *at Duportail*



*“Let Us Try”*

**Help Support and Preserve  
Tredyffrin’s Link to  
Its Historic Past**

# The Jones Log Barn Project



The mid-1700s **Jones Log Barn** was part of a farm owned by Griffith John (aka Jones) in the William Penn “Welsh Tract” a portion of which became Tredyffrin Township. This type of barn was once the predominant kind of agricultural structure in Tredyffrin and neighboring townships and was initially built within 10 years of the death of Pennsylvania’s founder, William Penn. It was an excellent example of early Welsh-American architecture being deemed eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places in 1986 and certified as a Chester County Historical Resource in 2004.

Facing an estate-directed demolition order in 2000, the **Tredyffrin Historic Preservation Trust** arranged to have the

structure carefully disassembled. Plans called for the barn to be reconstructed in Wilson Farm Park. The Trust subsequently entered into an agreement with Duportail House, Inc. to relocate the barn on the grounds of the Duportail House, a setting more in keeping with its original and historic location. Placed next to the existing 1792 Federal or Signature Barn, also listed in the National Register, this multi-structure complex strengthens the experience of the proposed **Living History Center at Duportail**.

## The Tredyffrin Historic Preservation Trust *A Decade of Achievement*

The Tredyffrin Historic Preservation Trust began in 2001 to educate the community about the importance of historic preservation. Its initial purpose was to preserve and then re-construct the historic Jones Log Barn. Since then, the Trust has expanded its venues to include highly successful Historic House Tours, “In the Mood” celebrations, and popular ongoing lecture series. This growth in programming has raised funds for the first phase of the Jones Log Barn Project as well as helped instill a broader community appreciation for our historic resources and heritage. Still, the Trust recognizes the need for vigilance and proactive approaches to keep Tredyffrin Township at the forefront of area preservation. The Jones Log Barn is one such example.



## A Unique Sense of Place

The architecturally significant Jones Log Barn witnessed the encampment of British Major General William Howe and the Continental Army’s General Charles Scott during the Philadelphia Campaign of 1777-78. French General Louis Duportail quartered at what is now known as the Duportail House during the Valley Forge encampment. He embodied the hope and great risk taken by foreign military experts in providing technical assistance to General Washington during this crucial time in the revolution. The architect of Valley Forge’s defenses, General Duportail became Washington’s chief engineer during the war and organized the precursor to what we now proudly call the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The **Living History Center at Duportail** will honor their sacrifice and the related history of Tredyffrin and the Great Valley.

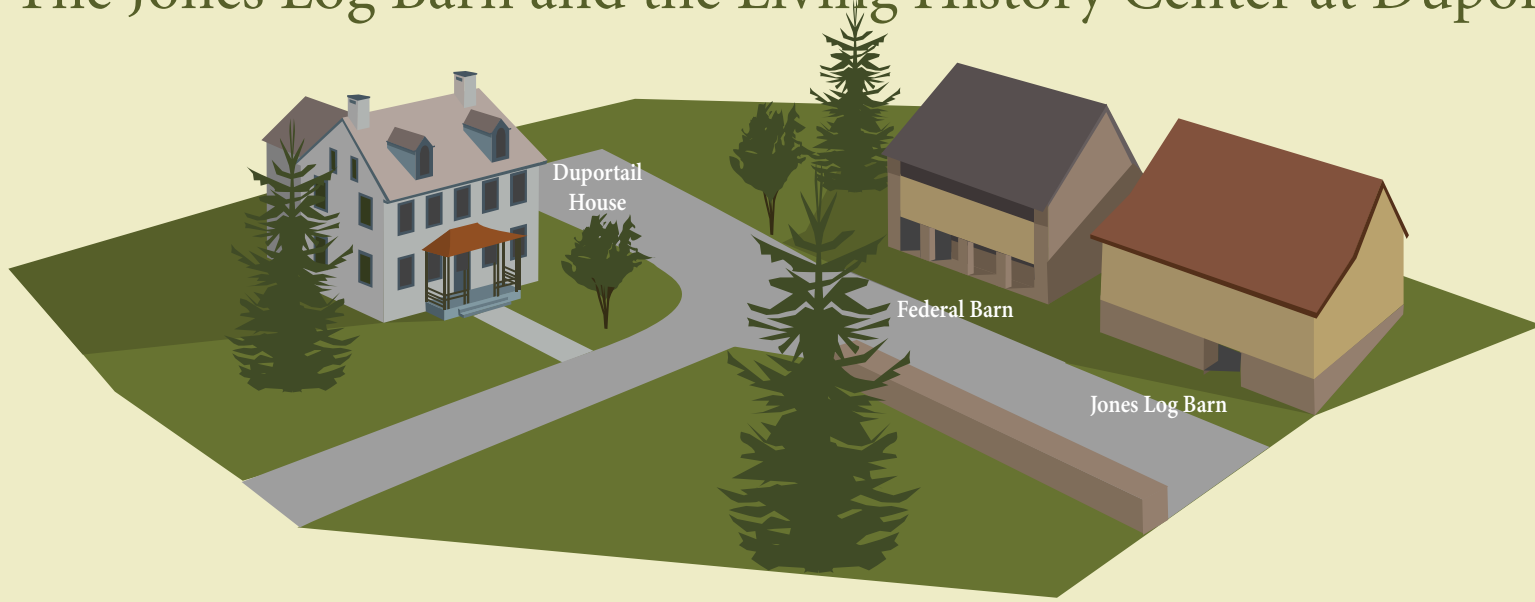


### “Essayons” Let Us Try

*Motto of the famed US Army  
Corps of Engineers  
First Organized by  
General Louis Duportail*

*Essayons*, the time-honored motto chosen by General Duportail, reflects the “can-do” spirit of the Army Corps. Today, it provides inspiration and serves as a rallying cry for those of us who have inherited the legacy of those early days of the republic. If the Jones Log Barn is to become an integral part of the **Living History Center at Duportail** the community must rally to provide support. Your participation is vital in bringing our impressive history to life for current and future generations.

# The Jones Log Barn and the Living History Center at Duportail



## Jones Log Barn - Phase I Completed

Having secured the endorsement of Tredyffrin Township's Board of Supervisors, the Trust also received grants, donations and in-kind gifts totalling \$290,000. Trust event revenue contributed a meaningful amount to this total as well. Phase I of the project is now complete having accomplished the following:

- Expert dismantling of the barn and storage of logs
- Architectural and engineering services
- Site survey and excavation work
- Completion of foundation for the barn's restoration/rebuilding at Duportail
- Foundation stone facade restoration
- Securing the site

## Jones Log Barn - Phase II Remaining Construction Work

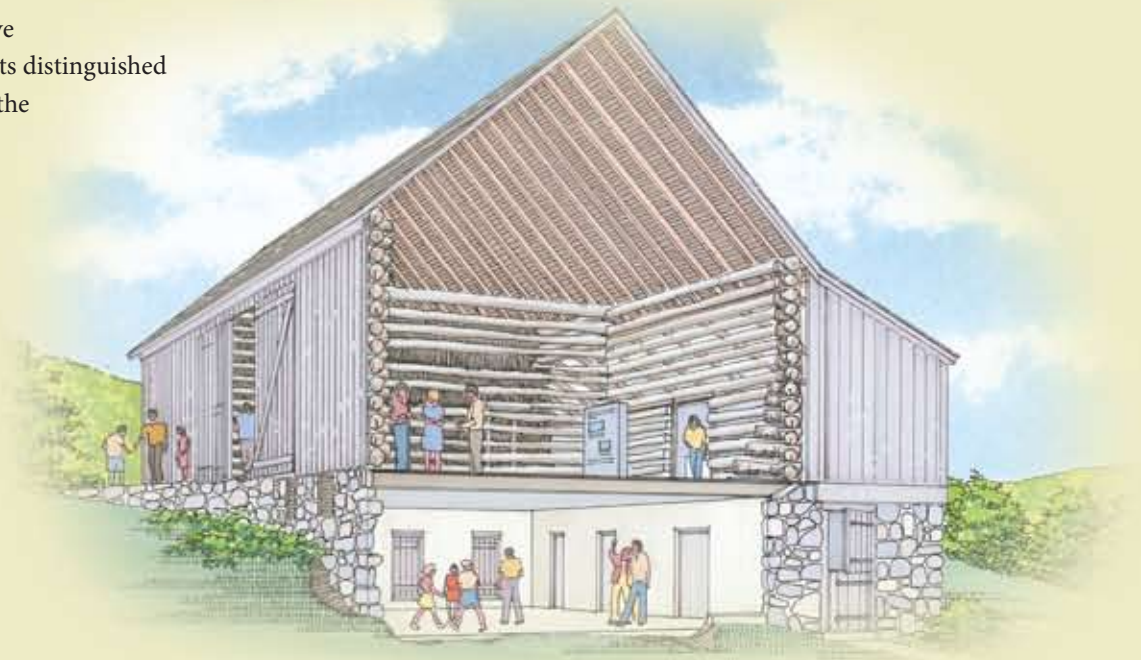
Upon raising \$300,000, the Trust will be able to accomplish the following:

- Log retrieval from storage
- Period structural and frame support
- Painstaking integration of historic logs
- Recreation of logs from new wood
- Window and door installation
- Recreated hardware installation
- Installation of roofing, board and batten and flooring.
- Electricity installation
- Stairways
- Handicap accessible features
- Safety features for public visitation
- Outfitting and exhibits

## The Jones Log Barn - The Main Interpretive Building of the Living History Center at Duportail

Once completed, the Jones Log Barn will become the main interpretive building for the **Living History Center at Duportail**. In addition to its distinguished designation as one of the few surviving log barns in the eastern U.S., the Jones Log Barn will combine with the Duportail House and historic Federal Barn to offer the following:

- Permanent and changing interactive exhibits demonstrating Tredyffrin's role in the American Revolution
- Special focus on the role of General Duportail and other foreign military experts to the cause of liberty
- Living History and Special Programs for School Districts
- The life and times of Tredyffrin and area residents focusing on the Colonial and Revolutionary War period and the growth of its villages
- Popular historic lecture series at Duportail House
- Cooperative programs with nearby Valley Forge and the Patriot's Path Trail (among others)
- Expansion of our popular lecture series



### Sustainability

To ensure sustainability of the **Living History Center at Duportail**, The Board of Directors of the Trust and Duportail House have created a plan that includes:

- Assuring that the site is open to the public regularly on weekends and by appointment
- Designating The Jones Log Barn a "seasonal" facility, eliminating the need for costly climate control mechanicals (at this time)
- Assuring that Duportail House continues to offer events by rental (a primary revenue source)
- Enlisting docents to provide interpretation at the Jones Log Barn, the Federal Barn and the Duportail House.
- Assuring that Trust event income will provide sustaining revenue for maintenance and programs

### Proposed Phase II Campaign Goal

\$260,000	Rebuilding and furnishing of the Jones Log Barn
40,000	Temporary & Permanent Exhibits
<b>\$300,000</b>	<b>Total Phase II Goal</b>

### Gifts Essential to the Success of the Campaign

Size of Gift	Number Needed	Cumulative Total
\$50,000	1	\$ 50,000
\$25,000	2	\$100,000
\$15,000	3	\$145,000
\$10,000	4	\$185,000
\$ 5,000	8	\$225,000
\$ 3,000	10	\$255,000
\$ 1,000	15	\$270,000
\$ 500	25	\$282,500
Under \$500	Multiple	\$300,000

## A Call to Action – How You Can Help

Make a **Direct Gift** by check

Commit to a **Two-Year Pledge** (payable quarterly, semi-annually or annually)

Donate **Appreciated Stock** (call for broker transfer instructions)

Honor a **Loved One** with a Commemorative or Memorial Gift

Use Your **Employer Matching Gift Program** (please check with your employer)

Sponsor a **Particular Area** of the History Center

Contribute **In-Kind Gifts** of Materials or Services

Designate a **Planned Gift** for Construction or a Sustaining Endowment

Contribute through our safe and secure **online donation site** at [www.tredyffrinhistory.org](http://www.tredyffrinhistory.org)

**Make Donations & Checks Payable to: Jones Log Barn Building Fund • PO Box 764 • Devon, PA 19333 • 610.644.6759**