TREDYFFRIN HISTORIC PRESERVATION TRUST

TRUST NEWS

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 1 SPRING/SUMMER 2009

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

I write this letter with both good news and sad news. First the sad news.

In January, Neil McAloon passed away. Neil was a long time board member of both the Trust and Open Land Conservancy. Neil and his family lived at the former headquarters of British General Howe, which is also, where the Jones Log Barn once stood. Living next to the Barn, he probably knew more about it than anyone. Neil was instrumental in helping us preserve the logs and was "caretaker" of sorts for the logs currently stockpiled nearby. Neil served on the Trust's Building Committee and opened his house up for our 2nd Annual Historic House Tour. Neil conducted tours of his property for a Chester County Historic Preservation Network picnic function in 2006. Neil was a Marine, a Viet Nam Veteran, and active in veterans' activities in the Township. He will be sorely missed.

We will also miss Bob O'Leary, who recently stepped off the Board. Bob also served on our Building Committee, and like Neil, served on the Board from nearly the beginning. Bob was very generous to the Trust and, given his ongoing service as a member of the Planning Commission, was an important liaison between the Trust and the township. Thank you Bob for all of your service to the Trust, we will miss you, too.

But we have good – very good - news as well. While our Building Committee has been depleted, under John Sacharok's leadership it has also been extremely busy. Recently the Trust and the recently revamped DuPortail House Inc. signed an agreement that, among other things, will allow the Jones Log Barn to be constructed on the DuPortail House grounds. This is terrific news. History and details of this new location of the Jones Log Barn are found elsewhere in this newsletter.

The Building Committee is finalizing site and construction engineering for the DuPortail site. It is obtaining estimates for the reconstruction so the overall building cost will make it manageable from a fund raising and future programming perspective.

Finally, speaking of fund raising, the Trust's Capital Campaign, headed by yours truly, will kick into high gear this spring. To that end we are always looking for people to help (please call me at 484-202-8187 anytime).

This spring the Trust is excited to announce our second "annual" *In the Mood* fundraising event on June 20th and our Spring Lecture Series that is part of our commitment to continue educational programming. With the support of the owners of Stonehouse Antiques & Design in Strafford, the Trust will present *Celebrate Spring*, an after-hours fundraising event at the store in Strafford..

So there you have it. As always, we invite you to participate anyway you can. Sometimes its hard work, other times it's a lot of fun. But it's always rewarding. Thank you and have a great 2009.

Bob Wise
Chairman

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IN THE MOOD - *BLUEGRASS, BLUE JEANS AND BAR-B-QUE*

Pattye Benson and Judy DiFilippo announce their latest pairing to fundraise for the Trust. Co-chairing the 2nd annual ***In the Mood***, they are excited about this year's theme - ***Bluegrass, Blue Jeans and Bar-B-Que!*** Mark your calendar now for **Saturday, June 20, 2009.** In light of the economic times, the Trust has lowered the costs of the event. By so doing, the event sponsor levels and ticket prices have also been reduced to encourage the community to support this worthwhile cause.

ENJOY A FUN EVENING OF BLUEGRASS, FOOD, DRINKS, FUN & LAUGHTER!

Saturday, June 20, 2009
7:00 PM
Barn at Sycamore Hill
Malvern, PA

Ticket information and Sponsorship Opportunities: 610.644.6759

Purchase Online at: www.tredyffrinhistory.org

Tickets: $60

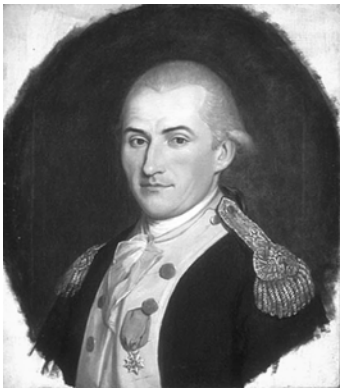
LOCAL HISTORY NOTES....

THE HISTORIC DUPORTAIL HOUSE IN CHESTERBROOK AND ITS NAMESAKE

The original section of the DuPortail House was built in 1740 by John Harvard, Jr., a Welsh farmer, on a tract of land given to him by his father. The house was used as quarters by General Louis Lebeque DuPortail chief engineer of the Continental Army, during the encampment at Valley Forge in 1777-78.

The original map of which General DuPortail planned the fortification at Valley Forge was found in the attic of the rafters nearly a century and a half later. This map served as the basis for Valley Forge National Historic Park as it is today. From 1969 on, the planned community of Chesterbrook gradually grew around the DuPortail House. In 1972, the house was designated a historic site and placed on the National Historic Register. The Federal Barn was also named to the National Historic Register. Restoration work on this historic house was completed in 1985. DuPortail House is a nonprofit organization and governed by a group of dedicated volunteers who serve on the Board of Directors.

LOUIS LEBEQUE DUPORTAIL



Louis Lebèque Duportail (1743–1802) was born near Orleans, France. After graduation from the prestigious military academy in Mezieres, he joined the French government's program of covert aid to the American war effort. Promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in the Royal Corps of Engineers, Duportail was secretly sent to America in March 1777 to serve in Washington's Continental Army under an agreement between Benjamin Franklin and the government of King Louis XVI of France. He was appointed colonel and commander of all engineers in the Continental Army, July 1777; brigadier general, November 17, 1777; commander, Corps of Engineers, May 1779 and major general (Brevet), November 16, 1781.

He began rebuilding forts on the Delaware River and organized the Valley Forge encampment. He fought at Monmouth and on the Hudson, and improved the defenses at Philadelphia and West Point. In 1779, Duportail became the commandant of the Corps of Engineers and Sappers (underground fortifications). He was captured during the siege of Charleston, and later fought at Yorktown. After a leave of absence in France, Duportail resumed his American command, not resigning until the end of the war in 1783.

The French Revolution cut short his return to French military service. Duportail spent two years in hiding before returning to America. He settled near Philadelphia for a few years, but died in 1802 at sea during a voyage back to France.

A NEW HOME FOR THE JONES LOG BARN

- Judy DiFilippo

In 2004, the Trust entered into a formal agreement with the Board of Supervisors to place the re-constructed Jones Log Barn at the Anthony Wayne Drive entrance of Wilson Farm Park rather than at the park's Lee Road entrance as part of a proposed entrance building. A sign was erected at the new location to alert park visitors. The Trust engaged the services of Frens and Frens to design the structure and complete construction documents. The Trust has continued to raise funds to finance the project through fundraising events and through grants. The goal is to get those historic logs moved and put back together to re-create the log barn as it was built centuries ago.

The Township has provided space at its compost site along Cassatt Road for some of the logs and a barn in Valley Forge National Historical Park has provided a home to the rest. The lease with VFNHP expires at the end of 2009.

While Trust members were grateful to the Township for providing a location at Wilson Farm Park, when the opportunity arose for the log barn to be reconstructed on the foundation of another historic barn located near the home of another Revolutionary War General, it needed to be considered. In collaboration with the Board of the DuPortail House in Chesterbrook, the Trust has decided to reconstruct the Jones Log Barn upon the stone foundation of a barn that had been an addition to the Federal Barn located on that property. That portion of the Federal Barn was lost in a fire in 1985 and the foundation remains.

DuPortail House and the Federal Barn are National Historic Register properties. General Louis Lebeque DuPortail was General Washington's field engineer and quartered at this home during the Valley Forge encampment. DuPortail House may become one of the destinations along the new Patriot Path being designed to connect VFNHP to Malvern. The reconstructed Jones Log Barn will have a much greater historic context at this location.

The Township supports the decision of the Trust to rebuild the Jones Log Barn on the DuPortail property. That choice and their new relationship with DuPortail House represent the creation of an exciting future for these special historic resources in our Township.

JONES LOG BARN - A COMMUNITY INVITATION

Members of the Trust and the DuPortail House Boards invite the residents of Green Hills Community (the future neighbors of Jones Log Barn) and the entire community to view the barn plans and tour the proposed Jones Log Barn site. Board members will be available to answer your questions.

DuPortail House • Sunday, March 29, 2009 • 4-5 PM

Saturday, April 4, 2009
Tickets: $25 5 - 7 PM
Light Refreshments

Stonehouse Antiques & Design
625 W. Lancaster Avenue
Strafford, PA

The owners of Stonehouse Antiques & Design graciously offer their elegant store for an after-hours fundraiser for the Tredyffrin Historic Preservation Trust. The Trust is in the final year of fundraising to rebuild the historic 18th c Jones Log Barn as a living history museum for the community.

Come celebrate spring . . . enjoy a glass of wine, nibble on hors d'oeuvres, view beautiful antique furnishings and show your support of historic preservation.

Please visit website, www.tredyffrinhistory.org for ticket information.

FROM THE TREASURER . . .

We are excited about the Jones Log Barn going to DuPortail! These are difficult economic times for small organizations like the Trust so working closely with another small non-profit with a similar historic preservation focus makes sense.

Raising a barn has traditionally been a community effort. We appreciate all of the support we have received from all of you. We still need your help. We hope you will continue your support as we move into the "home stretch" with our fundraising. Please keep in mind the opportunities available with membership, Adopt-a-Log, our Tredyffrin 300 DVD's, lectures and special events. All of these opportunities no matter how big or small contribute to our reaching our goal.

TREDYFFRIN HISTORY BITES FOR SUMMER PARKS & RECREATION CAMPERS

In our continuing effort to help the children of Tredyffrin Township appreciate what makes our township special, the Trust will bring Tredyffrin Tidbits, *true stories about our history*, to the Tredyffrin Parks and Recreation summer camps again this summer. A story teller will relate these true tales on several occasions to the children. Sign up, have fun and learn! Check the Trust website in late spring for further details.

SPRING 2009 LECTURE SERIES

"Then and Now"
Pamela C. Powell
Lecturer • Author
Chester County
Historical Society

Thursday, April 16
Refreshments: 7:00 PM
Lecture: 7:30 PM
Tickets: $10

"Do You Have a Sears, Roebuck Catalog House in Your Neighborhood?"
Jane Davidson &
Bruce Knapp
Historians • Lecturers

Wednesday, May 6
Refreshments: 7:00 PM
Lecture: 7:30 PM
Tickets: $10

The Trust Board is pleased to announce our collaboration with DuPortail House in Chesterbrook. Over the last few years we have held many of our lectures at this wonderful historic home and now we have made it 'official'. All future Trust lectures will be at the historic DuPortail House, 297 Adams Drive, Chesterbrook, PA.

Ad from Sears Roebuck Catalogue House for modern home no. 115, $725 for all building materials and you build it. For $1100, Sears will build, paint and complete the house, ready for occupancy.

To reserve a seat for the lectures, or if you have questions, please call Polly Hagan, 610.687.2722. Further details on the lectures and ticket purchase options is available on the Trust website: www.tredyffrinhistory.org

COLONIAL BREAD

2 c. buttermilk
1 ¾ c. whole-wheat flour
1 c. white flour
½ c. brown sugar
2 tsp. baking soda
½ tsp. salt

Preheat oven at 350 degrees.

Combine all ingredients and mix well with wooden spoon.

Pour into greased 9 x 5 x 3 inch loaf pan. Bake 45-50 min.

Serve warm with real butter.

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TREDYFFRIN HISTORIC PRESERVATION TRUST

www.tredyffrinhistory.org

TREDYFFRIN...THE FIRST 300 YEARS

There are copies of the historical documentary, *Tredyffrin...The First 300 Years* available for purchase at $20/copy on our website, www.tredyffrinhistory.org. Trust Board members, Pattye Benson and Judy DiFilippo served as Executive and Associate Producers respectively, on this 2-yr. project. The showing of the documentary makes a wonderful addition to monthly meetings for nonprofit organizations, school groups, senior groups, clubs, etc. Pattye and Judy would welcome the opportunity to attend a showing of the documentary and talk about their experience of the 'making of the documentary' to your audience. They could also bring extra copies of the DVD for purchase. Please call Pattye Benson, 610.644.6759 if you are interested.

The Trust Board members wish to acknowledge the recent loss of a very staunch and faithful supporter, of the Trust, Robert J. Wise, Sr. Mr. Wise was the father of our Chairman, Bob Wise, Jr. We will truly miss him.

Save the Date!

5TH ANNUAL
HISTORIC HOUSE TOUR

Saturday, September 19, 2009

The Trust is excited to announce our 5th Annual Historic House Tour will be held on Saturday, September 19, 2009. The selection process is underway for choosing special historic homes to showcase on this years' tour. We are still looking for a *"few good houses"* . The House Tour has become an extremely popular event for the Trust and we are looking forward to another successful year!

If you would consider having your house on our 5th Annual Historic House Tour or would like more information, please call Trust President Pattye Benson 610.644.6759