

Opportunity Leads to Discovery at the Colonial Complex

In the last edition of Chronicle, an article featured the partnership between the Trust and the Northern York County Historical and Preservation Society that will bring a replica squirrel tail bake oven to the Colonial Complex. Led by Sam McKinney, who restored Dill's Tavern in Dillsburg, three preservation workshops, stone masonry, oven construction and timber framing will culminate with a functional bake oven. The original historic location of the bake oven is known to have been located directly behind the General Gates House summer kitchen. Due to the presence of a utility shed that encloses the original space, the initial plan was to reconstruct a working replica elsewhere on the grounds of the Colonial Complex.

However, around the same time that the Trust was planning the bake oven project, another Colonial Complex building, the Colonial Court House, was getting an HVAC upgrade with a conversion to a new geothermal system. In contrast to the original Court House ventilation system, the geothermal unit did not require space in a mechanical building located behind the Court House. Thus, an opportunity presented itself to relocate the tools, equipment and other materials stored in the utility shed behind the Gates House summer kitchen to the now empty mechanical building. With the utility shed now accessible, reconstructing the oven at its original location proved feasible.

The first step was to provide McKinney with a concrete block foundation for the oven. The Kinsley Education Center agreed to send a crew over to dig out the footer, and to then return to lay the blocks. However, their work was cut short because they discovered the original 18th Century stone foundation after only digging a few inches below the brick floor of the shed. This surprising, but nevertheless remarkable, discovery will enable visitors to see and understand the reconstructed bake oven in its authentic historical context.

McKinney's will hold a *Bake Oven Construction* class on June 23, 24, and 25. The *Timber Frame* class will not be needed for the oven due to the presence of the shed; instead, it will be taught on site at Dill's Tavern. Classes are by registration only. All workshop proceeds benefit the Northern York County Historical and Preservation Society.

To register or for more information, please contact Sam McKinney at traditionalbldr@comcast.net. Class details are also available at www.dillstavern.org. If you have always wanted to learn any of these historic trades in a hands-on workshop and enjoy learning about York County's history, do not miss this opportunity to discover your past!



- JUNE**
- 6/5 South Central PA Genealogical Society Meeting, – *Historical Society Museum*
 - 6/11 FREE Second Saturday, "Hurricane Agnes in York and its Aftermath" – *Historical Society Museum*
 - 6/12 Members Only Exhibit Preview Opening for Front Porch to Front Lines: York County Goes to War – *Historical Society Museum*
 - 6/14 Public exhibit opening for Front Porch to Front Lines: York County Goes to War – *Historical Society Museum*
 - 6/15 York Civil War Round Table – *Historical Society Museum*
 - 6/23 Susquehanna Trail Woodworkers Guild – *Agricultural & Industrial Museum*
 - 6/25 14th Annual Microbrew Fest – *Agricultural & Industrial Museum (Registration Required)*
- JULY**
- 7/8 Tannenberg Organ Concert – *Historical Society Museum*
 - 7/9 FREE Second Saturday, "Pennsylvania Civil War Flags" – *Historical Society Museum*
 - 7/10 Mary Skold Lecture Series "Paint, Pattern & People: Furniture of Southeastern Pennsylvania 1725-1850" – *Historical Society Museum*
 - 7/11-7/15 Archaeology Camp – *Codorus State Park*
 - 7/15 Tannenberg Organ Concert – *Historical Society Museum*
 - 7/20 York Civil War Round Table – *Historical Society Museum*
 - 7/22 Night at the Museum – *Historical Society Museum (Registration Required)*
 - Tannenberg Organ Concert – *Historical Society Museum*
 - 7/24 Jewish Paper Cutting Craft Workshop – *Historical Society Museum*
 - 7/28 Susquehanna Trail Woodworkers Guild – *Agricultural & Industrial Museum*
 - 7/29 Tannenberg Organ Concert – *Historical Society Museum*
- AUGUST**
- 8/5 Tannenberg Organ Concert – *Historical Society Museum*
 - 8/8-8/12 Archaeology Camp – *P. Joseph Raab County Park*
 - 8/10 11th Annual Book Blast, Members only day – *Agricultural & Industrial Museum*
 - 8/10-8/13 Summer Shop Sale – *Agricultural & Industrial Museum*
 - 8/11-8/13 11th Annual Book Blast – *Agricultural & Industrial Museum*
 - 8/12 Tannenberg Organ Concert – *Historical Society Museum*
 - 8/13 FREE Second Saturday, "Abraham Lincoln: Legends, Myths and Lies" – *Historical Society Museum*
 - 8/17 York Civil War Roundtable – *Historical Society Museum*
 - 8/19 Tannenberg Organ Concert – *Historical Society Museum*
 - 8/19-8/21 Pennsylvania 150th Civil War Road Show – *Penn Park*
 - 8/23 Susquehanna Trail Wood Workers Guild – *Agricultural & Industrial Museum*
 - 8/25 Junior Curator Exhibit Opening – *Historical Society Museum*
 - 8/26 Tannenberg Organ Concert – *Historical Society Museum*

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