HGAC’s Investing in Youth Initiative Hits the Ground Running

In November, HGAC volunteers teamed up once again with the 12th Grade Building Trades Class at the Adams County Tech Prep for a hands-on workshop on traditional timber frame construction.

The event capped a successful launch to HGAC’s Investing in Youth Initiative, which seeks to engage young people and educators through programs that increase appreciation and understanding of historic architecture. Further, the Initiative will assist in the continued development of a local workforce of skilled tradespeople – an essential component of the physical preservation of our County’s historic legacy.

Earlier in the fall, the Seniors joined a survey team from HGAC’s Barn Preservation Project to complete the 350th addition to the Adams County Barn Registry. The George Chronister Barn – a stunning manifestation of the 1840’s agricultural economy – was a perfect real-world classroom for introducing students to barn design and function; timber frame construction; and techniques for the documentation and restoration of these architectural icons that grace the Adams County landscape.

In the follow-up workshop at the Tech Prep, local timber framers Peter Bugler and Lee Sornson joined HGAC Barn Preservation Specialist David Maclay to get the sawdust flying. After a presentation on timber frame design and joinery, the students split into teams, each cutting the necessary joinery for the construction of a seven foot “bent”, the basic structural cross-section of a timber frame structure.

“I was really impressed with the students’ existing skill set and their enthusiasm for the workshop,” commented Bugler. “They were really into it.”

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"BRITE and FAIR"

I have been reading ..... or rather, I am being read to. Lately my evenings end each night, sharing a few pages of a favorite book. This time his ..... next time, mine. This particular book is called "The Real Diary of a Real Boy" written by Henry A. Shute in 1902. It is the writings in a diary of a young boy and his everyday boyhood life in the later 1800's. Often he begins his daily writing with a report of the weather. My favorite is "Brite and Fair". It strikes me every time and brings almost a sense of comfort as it is read. So, as this year begins anew for HGAC. I am looking forward to our year being "Brite and Fair".

By the time this Newsletter arrives in your mailbox, the Board of Directors for HGAC will have already gathered for our 2020 Planning Board Retreat at the Refectory of the United Lutheran Seminary. Plans for new projects and progress in the New Year have been discussed, mulled over and decided upon. As you delve into this Newsletter, it will become evident that HGAC has moved forward this year in a very big way. We are breaking new ground and expanding our horizons, with our new educational outreach initiative called "Investing in Youth". Our Barn Preservation Program is reaching throughout the State of Pennsylvania and has been met with great enthusiasm and our Grant Program is building continuously. HGAC also has hopes to unveil a new Website which will make our ongoing programs shine in the years to come.

Before we go forward, sometimes we need to reflect on how and why we are where we are today. I personally have been a member of HGAC's Executive Board for the past five years, with one more to go. In those years, HGAC Members have astounded me with their generosity, kindness and care for the future of our mission. I thank each and every one of you for the outstanding work that has been accomplished on our behalf and the generosity you have shown.

In 2019, HGAC kicked off our "Adopt a Window Program" to renovate the windows of the G.A.R. Hall and install storm windows to keep them protected for years to come. The project is just drawing to an end with the installation of the storm windows. Each of our windows and doors were adopted very quickly, and our storm windows were a gift from the Eighth N.J. (a reenacting group that uses our Hall every year for Remembrance Day.)

Our South Mountain Partnership Grant is drawing to a close and I am looking forward to seeing the completed results in the very near future. Through the work done on behalf of this Grant, HGAC and its mission has been brought to the attention of the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office and we are working on a new data-sharing method to incorporate into their Cultural Resources Geographic Information System Database.

In our 2019 Planning Board Meeting, the need to bring youth into our midst was a strong and enthusiastic point of discussion. A committee was formed, headed up by Bonnie Braun and HGAC's Youth Initiative was born. This year's ACCF Giving Spree garnered over $8,000.00 in support of this initiative, adding to our already existing base of $5,000.00. This is where we begin to break new ground for the future of HGAC.

The future is bright for HGAC and I am looking forward to guiding us into our 45th year of existence.

Anne S. Zabawa
HGAC President

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“Nothing like putting a razor-sharp chisel and roaring circular saw into a kid’s hands to get their attention,” Maclay chuckled.

Sornson continued, saying of the Tech Prep program, “I wish we could have had this kind of opportunity when we were younger – what a great facility, and such a valuable head start for these young people.”

Shawn Eckenrode, Director of Career and Technical Education – above the din of power tools in the background as students plugged away – spoke of the importance of incorporating traditional building skills into the students’ experience. Beyond the Statewide curriculum mandates, he pointed out that “living in Adams County, with such an especially rich history and so many historic structures – many in need of restoration – this addition to our program is extremely valuable, and we look forward to collaboration with HGAC in the years ahead.”

And most importantly, the students’ feedback on the experience was overwhelmingly positive.

As Senior Dru Hartman reflected, “it was a great experience, I learned a lot – it’s amazing to see how these barns were constructed and how so many are still standing after all these years. And then to be able to implement these old techniques, to actually understand what’s going on and build it yourself, was great.”

Student Robert Bennett commented after the HGAC engagement that “driving by these old barns, I see them in a different way, and it’s great to see that people still do this kind of work. I would definitely consider exploring this further.”

Vanessa Munchow enthusiastically added that “the assembly was especially interesting – after cutting the joinery on all the different parts, to take the big mallet and pound in the pegs, was very satisfying.”

And Damian Merkson, set to complete the Tech Prep Program this year, commented on the new experience: “I’ve never done anything like that before, and not a lot of people have. All the joinery, the whole thing held together with pegs, stronger than anything else out there – pretty cool.”

Bonnie Braun, Chair of the Investing in Youth Initiative, summarized her own passion for the new project: “This sort of engagement with young people has been a long time coming. When we’re gone, who will ensure the preservation of these historic resources for future generations? It’s these young folks we’re engaged with today.”

For more information on the **HGAC Investing in Youth Initiative**, please contact Bonnie Braun at bonnie.braun.927@gmail.com or 301-335-4335.

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**HGAC Members Invest in Youth**

With gifts of slightly over $13,000, HGAC members and other supporters, helped launch the new HGAC Investing in Youth Initiative. Most of the funds came through the Adams County Community Foundation Giving Spree. The generosity of each donor will help HGAC build on the initial educational activities reported on page 1 of this newsletter.

In 2020, we will be formalizing our programming for youths and adults working with youths; aggressively pursuing career preparation internships and apprenticeships; establishing new partners; and seeking additional funds. Watch this newsletter for updates.

Your gifts are a significant indicator that the Investing in Youth Initiative is timely and needed. Thank you.

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“**Special Thanks**” for the beautiful plaque of the Gettysburg Address presented to President Anne Zabawa by the 8th New Jersey on Remembrance Day weekend.
HGAC 2020 Educational Speaker Program

Starting the new year in March, these free evening programs are open to the public on the third Tuesday of the month in the Historic G.A.R. Hall at 53 E. Middle, Gettysburg. Doors open at 7 pm and the presentation will start at 7:30 pm. No reservations needed.
FMI: www.HGAConline.org or Regina Hollar, 717-334-8312.

MARCH 17th: "Presidents Visiting Gettysburg"
When we think of Presidents and Gettysburg, what comes to mind is Abraham Lincoln and Dwight Eisenhower. But there have been at least 26 Presidents who have either visited, spoken, or sent letters to be read to commemorate the Gettysburg battle or Lincoln's "Gettysburg Address." Dr. Richard Goedkoop, licensed Battlefield Guide since 2000, through a power point presentation, will recount some of the important elements of these connections and illustrate them with photos of those visits and speeches.

APRIL 21st: "It is All My Fault" Robert E. Lee's Gettysburg Legacy
Although he was only at Gettysburg for the better part of four days in July 1863, Robert E. Lee's presence in Adams County has lingered in United States military history and memory. Gettysburg was the site of perhaps Lee's most costly defeat, and yet few soldiers have been so celebrated at a particular site as the Confederacy's most influential general. Join Codie Eash, Visitors Services Coordinator at Seminary Ridge Museum, Gettysburg for an analysis of the monuments, speeches, soldiers' recollections, art, film, and public interpretation that have influenced our collective thinking on the stories and controversies surrounding Lee's legacy at America's most famous battlefield.

HGAC Architectural Salvage Warehouse

At the Historic Daniel Lady Farm

Starting April 4th
Every first and third Saturdays,
April through October
10 AM to 2 PM

For an Inventory List: http://hgaconline.org/id30.html

All purchases support
HGAC's ongoing preservation efforts!

2019 Homespun Christmas!

Colleen Lingle, Homespun Chairperson

Another great year for our Homespun Christmas! The Homespun Committee and volunteers worked very hard to make it a huge success. Under the guidance of board member, Colleen Lingle and her "elves" ... The talents of the homespun team transformed the historic G.A.R. Hall into a magical Christmas wonderland! Our event which was held in conjunction with Gettysburg's Christmas Festival ... turned out to be beneficial for HGAC, yielding two days of constant shoppers.

Mamie Eisenhower, portrayed by HGAC member Ruthmary McIlhenny, was there to greet our shoppers and share her amazing fudge. We were grateful to have the talents of various artists, such as Paulette Brabender, of Cedar Ridge Art Studio, and Dawn Harvey.

Special THANKS go out to all who supported us through their generous donations of fresh greens, homemade bakery items and fudge, and beautiful items to sell.

Special Thanks go to Alex Hayes, editor of the Gettysburg Times, for his outstanding support of our event!

As we reflect on the success of 2019 Homespun, plans are underway to present "the best of the past" while incorporating some new and different crafts and talents in 2020.

Ruthmary McIlhenny as "Mamie"
The Year 2019 was a very good one for the preservation of historic barns within Adams County, Pennsylvania, with owners of six historic barns receiving a total of $12,000 from the Historic Gettysburg – Adams County Barn Preservation Grant Program. This money was matched by an additional $35,000 provided by the barn owners themselves to pay for repairs and preservation projects that ranged from foundation work to framing repair to roof replacement.

Curt Musselman, Executive Director of the HGAC Barn Preservation Project, said that this is the largest amount of grants and work done to preserve barns on the HGAC Barn Register since grants were first provided by the HGAC project in 2013. Since that time, seventeen barn owners from across the county, have received a total of $26,585 in grants that were part of over $100,000 of total investments in saving the historic barns of Adams County. The money that HGAC is able to provide to the owners of historic barns for barn repairs comes from a variety of donors who value the contribution that these iconic structures make to our historic and largely rural communities. Many of these solidly built barns continue to serve the agriculture industry even though they may be fulfilling a different role than they were originally intended to carry out. Historic barns no longer used in agriculture still help to preserve the agricultural settings and historic landscapes that are so important to the tourism industry and to preserving the rural character of Adams County.

Anne Zabawa, HGAC President, noted that HGAC is thankful to the many persons who have made generous contributions to the Barn Preservation Project since its inception in 2005. This year’s record setting grants were possible thanks to donations received from the Knouse Foods Corporation, the Rice Fruit Company, ACNB Bank, FutureStake, Inc., Gettysburg Times, Beech Springs Farm, Destination Gettysburg, Jay Mackie and Monica Oss, Ken and Connie Farabaugh, John and Joyce MacKay, John and Mary Horner, Mary Dolliver, David and Cynthia Salisbury, David Rice and Dora Townsend, the South Mountain Partnership, PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy and Sherwin Williams.

Barn Preservation Grant applications are now being accepted for 2020

For the eighth year, HGAC will be providing money to barn owners to help them preserve their historic barns that are within Adams County and that are listed on the HGAC Barn Register. In order to receive a grant, barn owners must make a one to one match of the grant award with their own money or labor. Since 2013, HGAC has been providing matching grant funds of up to $2,500 per barn for repairs, maintenance and restoration. At the present time, the Register includes over 350 barns, which is about 24 percent of the historic barns in the county. Barns are added to the Register by HGAC, at the request of the barn owners. Inclusion in the Register provides recognition of the barn and the opportunity to participate in the HGAC grant program, but inclusion does not legally bind the owner in any way whatsoever.

To be eligible for the grant, barns must be at least 50 years old and in need of some repairs while still retaining a significant degree of historic character and materials. The kind of work which a grant can be used for includes but is not limited to repairs and replacement of roofs, foundations, sills, walls, siding, flooring, structural framework, windows and doors. HGAC would like to help all of the applicants by providing grant funds, but the applications are judged based upon ten criteria which include the visibility of the barn to the general public, the historical significance of the barn, the age of the barn (with preference to pre-Civil War barns) and the need for immediate repairs. It is expected that the grant money to be disbursed by HGAC in 2020 will help with the stabilization and repair of six more historic barns. Once again this year, additional funds are available to HGAC to be specifically awarded to barns in the Adams County Fruit Belt. Three of the six barns receiving grant awards in 2019 were from within that region of the county.

There is no application fee to apply for the grant if the barn owner is an HGAC member. If an applicant is not an HGAC member for the year 2020, their application must include a check for $25 to become a member of HGAC for the year. Application guidelines and the application itself are available on-line at www.hgaconline.org. Click on the words “Barn Grants” in the left sidebar in order to examine the guidelines and application. Scroll down to find the link for downloading both the grant guidelines and the grant application. Applications are due no later than 3rd of March 2020 and the announcement of the grant award will be made in May of 2020. If you have questions about the grant program after having examined the materials on the HGAC website, please call Curt Musselman, the HGAC Barn Preservation Project Executive Director at 717-659-8827 or send an email to shinbone605@comcast.net.

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2020 Membership ... You’ve just received your copy of our WINTER Preserve, please note your mailing label. We are in the process of updating our records and really would appreciate your help. Please check that everything is correct ... Do you have any email / phone number changes?

And ... if you are a recipient of one of our House Awards over the years, or your barn is on our Barn Survey list ... would you please add that info to the attached 2020 Membership renewal form that is included? Our Membership runs from January 1st, 2020 to December 31st, 2020.

As you will note ... the HGAC Board, Members, and Volunteers have been very busy throughout this past year! Because of all their hard work, our Membership roster hit an all-time high of 325 Members!! The support of community members like yourselves ensures that the nonprofit Historic Preservation Society of Gettysburg-Adams County remains the leading historic preservation society in the region.

Please think about attending one of our upcoming events or maybe you would like to help volunteer with one of our many projects. For more information and dates and times: www.HGAConline.org

Thank you again for your support! We trust you will continue to find HGAC worthy of your continued involvement in the future.

Yours in preservation,

Laurie Harding
2020 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Membership in Historic Gettysburg-Adams County helps to preserve our heritage.

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