

# HGAC

HISTORIC  
GETTYSBURG  
ADAMS  
COUNTY

PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Membership Newsletter

# PRESERVE

P.O. Box 4611 • Gettysburg, PA 17325

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[www.HGACOnline.org](http://www.HGACOnline.org)

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Winter 2023

## What your donations to HGAC make possible

Your donations help HGAC connect with the next generation of preservationists!

HGAC launched its Investing in Youth Initiative in 2019 to: increase appreciation of historic resources in Adams County; provide learning experiences for both youth and adult educators; and help build a workforce with skills to preserve historic buildings. The generosity of donors in both the 2020 and 2021 Giving Spree fundraisers, sponsored by the Adams County Community Foundation, raised \$23,226 for the Youth Initiative. In 2022, donors contributed \$10,499 for a new endeavor—the replacement of Civil War Hospital signs.

All of these donations help provide students with hands-on programs that promote an appreciation of history:

The Youth Initiative continues to conduct its flagship activity, the “Learning Lab” experience, for the Building Trades students at Adams County Technical Institute. HGAC partners with the Gettysburg Foundation for the use of the George Spangler Barn for these daylong sessions, which are filled with instruction and hands-on experience with local professional timber framers and masons. The students are encouraged to pursue a career in historic preservation and restoration timberframing and masonry.

The 2022 Learning Lab was held on October 11. This year, for the first time, a representative from the National Preservation Training Center in Frederick, Md., addressed the students on different, potential career paths with the National Park Service. In order to build on this new relationship, the Initiative will sponsor a visit for these students to the training center in the spring of 2023.

The Initiative also made a substantive contribution to the Building Trades program just as 2022 was coming to a close. A Big Foot 10-1/4” worm drive beam saw was donated to provide a missing piece in the stable of tools that the students learn to handle safely and competently.

During the Learning Lab, Dave Snyder, the building trades’ instructor, noted students never get to handle such a tool before coming to the Lab, resulting in valuable time spent teaching basic safety and handling. HGAC decided to provide the program with the worm drive beam saw so that students could be certified on operating the saw, and also be ready to delve right into the timberframing instruction at the Lab. In all ways, HGAC’s relationship with the Building Trades program continues to grow and strengthen.

The 2022 Giving Spree donations are earmarked for the Civil War Hospital Sign project, sponsored by both the Youth Initiative and the Preservation Committee. This project undertakes replacing the old worn-out signs that mark the numerous Civil War hospital sites in and around Gettysburg. Students from the Gettysburg Area High School technology education program manufacture the new signs, and HGAC volunteers install them.

The Initiative provided the funds to create the sign prototype and manufacture eight signs, which will be installed in 2023. On January 6, HGAC members kicked off the project for 2023 with the installation of a new sign on the Daniel Lady Farm property.

Many heartfelt thanks to our donors who make these projects possible!



Installation of Hospital Sign



Learning lab students group shot



Worm Saw Presentation

## President's Letter: And what a year it was...

Happy New Year's to all!

Even as we all look forward to 2023, it's time for a quick salute to 2022, the year we were all able to get back on track after two years marred by the COVID pandemic.

HGAC programs resumed in full force in 2022. Last year saw the return of the Educational Speakers Program and the BarnArt Show & Sale. The Architectural Salvage Warehouse opened for a full season at the Daniel Lady Farm and the Civil War Barn Dance returned in October at the Beechwood Springs Farm to an enthusiastic group of dancers, many in full period dress. The Homespun Christmas and Holiday Sale was once again held for two days at its G.A.R. Hall venue as part of Gettysburg's holiday weekend.

The Summer at Spangler barn program and the McAllister Mill Underground Railroad tours, which operated throughout 2021, continued to draw visitors in 2022. The Barn Preservation Grant program helped six barn owners repair their historic buildings in 2022, and applications are now being taken for the 2023 grant program. As you can see from the page one article, our Youth Initiative program continues to inspire an appreciation of historic preservation in area students with instructive hands-on programs.

2022 was a special year in another way – it was the 200th anniversary of HGAC's headquarters, the Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.). Hall. The building began as a Methodist church and HGAC was fortunate to partner with members of Gettysburg's United Methodist Church to mark this special anniversary.

We are all looking forward to another successful year of programs and projects, including the popular 2023 HGAC Barn Tour, slated for Saturday, September 16. Be sure to save the date!

Which brings us to another topic associated with the new year – membership renewals! Now is the time to renew your HGAC membership. There is a form on Page 7 you can fill out and send in with payment, or if you prefer, you can renew online on the HGAC webpage – go to [hgaconline.org](http://hgaconline.org), and click on membership in the top directory to follow the links.

Membership dues are important to continue the many programs that HGAC offers throughout the year. HGAC will be sending out renewal reminders during the year. Please don't let your membership lapse.

We appreciate your continued support, as we could not do all this without our members and volunteers! Looking forward to seeing you in the coming year –

**Keith Schultz**



### Coffee with the President

Beginning this spring, HGAC President Keith Schultz will hold "think tank" meetings with selected HGAC members to take suggestions on future goals and undertakings for our organization. These meetings over coffee are meant to be small, informal brainstorming sessions. Look for your invitation by email – hope to see you soon!



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## HGAC Now Taking Applications for Barn Preservation Grants

**Attention barn owners!** If you own a barn and want to be considered for a barn preservation grant in 2023, applications are now being accepted for consideration until March 1, 2023. Grants are only awarded to historic barns that are within Adams County and that are listed on the HGAC Barn Register.

Since 2013, HGAC's Barn Preservation Project and Grant Program has made grants available to 39 owners of historic barns. Currently the HGAC Barn Register includes 396 barns – more than 25 percent of the historic barns in Adams County. Barns are added to the register by HGAC at the request of the owners. Inclusion in the register provides recognition of the barn and the opportunity to participate in HGAC's grant program, but inclusion does not legally bind the owner in any way.

The barn grant application fee is waived for HGAC members. Non-members must include a \$25 check for a HGAC annual membership with their application. Grant guidelines and the application itself are available online at [hgaconline.org](http://hgaconline.org). Every year since 2013, the HGAC Barn Preservation Project and Grant Program has made grants available to owners of historic barns within Adams County. Curt Musselman, Executive Director of the HGAC Barn Preservation Project, noted, "The generosity of our many supporters is the key to the grant program's success. One thing all our donors have in common is that they value the contribution these iconic structures make to our historic and largely rural communities."

HGAC expects the 2023 grant money will help with the stabilization and repair of at least six more historic barns. Once again, additional HGAC funds will be available this year specifically for barns in the Adams County Fruit Belt area. The maximum grant amount is \$2,500, which must be matched by the owner's labor or a cash outlay of that amount for materials or contract labor. HGAC strives to help fund as many barn preservation projects as possible and to help barn owners by providing technical advice and recommendations. Barn owners often face a host of maintenance and preservation issues, and HGAC's grants encourage owners to take on one project at a time, rather than throw in the towel and demolish the barn.



*An HGAC barn grant helped this Littlestown barn owner with masonry work.*

If you have questions about the grant program, or wish to have your barn added to the HGAC Barn Register, please call Curt Musselman at 717-659-8827 or email [shinbone605@comcast.net](mailto:shinbone605@comcast.net). If you would like to help preserve Adams County's historic barns, please call Bob McIlhenny, the project's Director of Development, at 717-420-6500.



## Celebrating the 200th Anniversary of the G.A.R. Hall

In 1822, a group of Methodist congregants raised \$2,000 to build a church building at what is now 53 East Middle Street in Gettysburg. They gathered in November of that year to consecrate the building and hold their first church service.

Two hundred years later, on November 12, 2022, Gettysburg United Methodist Church members, together with members of HGAC and the Sons of Union Veterans, held a joint celebration of that anniversary. The groups span the 200-year history of the brick building – from Methodist church, to a Civil War hospital after the battle for Gettysburg, to the meeting hall for the Corporal Johnston H. Skelly Post No. 9 of the Grand Army of the Republic and its subsequent group, the Sons of Union Veterans. The building is now the headquarters of Historic Gettysburg Adams County (HGAC).

Members of the United Methodist Church held a re-enactment service that included congregants in period dress and the singing of 19th century Methodist hymns. The congregants used the two doors at the front of the building as was the custom in 1822, with men coming in the west door and women coming in the east door. UMC Pastor Rev. Rick Smith gave a homily that was in character with the anniversary.

After the service, HGAC held an open house at the building for those who wished to tour inside. HGAC member and reenactor Patrick Dunigan portrayed a G.A.R. member and shared an informational display, and several Sons of Union Veterans members were present to guide visitors through their section of the building. There was a surprise visit from Ross Hetrick, president of the Thaddeus Stevens Society, who presented HGAC with a copy of an engraving of the famed abolitionist (and Adams County resident) to add to the G.A.R. Building's portrait gallery.



**UMC Men**

Many thanks to all the volunteers who helped make the anniversary a success, especially Pastor Smith, UMC historian Jean Howard-Green and SUV Post commander Doug McMillin.

A week later, HGAC members and friends marked Gettysburg's Remembrance Day by watching the annual parade pass by the G.A.R. building. All the Union reenactment regiments give the hall a special salute during the parade.



**Ross Hetrick (at left) presents engraving of Thaddeus Stevens to HGAC president Keith Schultz (center) and members of the Sons of Union Veterans.**



**UMC Women**

## Architectural Salvage Warehouse Report for 2022

Amidst a time of both continuity and change, the HGAC Architectural Salvage Warehouse (ASW) enjoyed a highly successful 2022. Building on the years of resourcefulness and guidance from previous Warehouse leaders, the ASW continues to operate out of its Daniel Lady Farm location.

Due to the Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation Association's recent emphasis on regular, on-site themed weekends, the ASW saw more customers this year. Combined with promotional advertising and word-of-mouth endorsements and also via individual appointments, the warehouse enjoyed a new level of success. This success, of course, would not have been possible without our loyal supporters, who donate unique, historic items and other salvage pieces that draw the interest of all our visitors. The ASW returned more than \$7,000 for both HGAC's barn preservation program and G.A.R. Hall upkeep. We look forward to another successful year in 2023.



The past year also witnessed important changes in the leadership of the warehouse. The "Salvage Sisters" are in the house! Kendra Kaufmann assumed responsibility for the warehouse and its operations from long-time chairs, Barry Towers and Regina Hollar. Kendra is joined as co-chair by Andie Donahue, a long-time Licensed Battlefield Guide and salvage recycler extraordinaire. Left unnamed are a number of other HGAC members who are essential contributors to its success. And for that, we thank them. But we always have need for other volunteers to help staff the warehouse. Call the office at 717-334-5158 and leave your contact information and we will get back to you.

As we look forward to 2023, we will continue to build on past success. Aside from the scheduled 1st and 3rd Saturdays from April through October, we are happy to schedule individual appointments. As always, our success depends on our inventory. If you, or someone you know, have any material that may qualify for resale in our warehouse, please contact the office and let us know. We will be happy to come to your location to inspect any items for usefulness and cart them away if usable.



### *In Memory of* **BARRY TOWERS**

*We must sadly note here that HGAC and the warehouse lost our beloved friend and mentor, Barry Towers, in November this past year. A long-time HGAC supporter, Barry stepped up to help guide the warehouse's growth over the past years. He modeled leadership traits that enhanced the volunteers' experience at the warehouse. His calm demeanor yet keen focus on outcomes underpinned the success that the warehouse has become. His guidance and insights were critical to the successful transition in leadership this past year. We will miss his good-humored observations and suggestions.*

*If you wish to donate to HGAC in memory of Barry, you can do so online by visiting [hgaconline.org](http://hgaconline.org) and clicking on "Donate" in the top menu. This will take you to the organization's PayPal donation page – you can donate by credit card or PayPal by clicking the button marked Barry Towers Memorial Fund. Or you can mail your donation to HGAC, P.O. Box 4611, Gettysburg, PA 17325.*



## Homespun Market a success

HGAC's Homespun Christmas and Holiday Market returned to the historic G.A.R. Hall on December 2 and 3 as part of Mainstreet Gettysburg's holiday festival. Special thanks to vendors Dawn Harvey of Bear and Company, Mason Dixon Photography, the Tatters and Kristine Scott of Prestige Jewelry for joining us at the hall.

And many thanks to all the HGAC members and friends who volunteered their time and efforts to make crafts, cut greens, bake, and help with set up and clean up! We could not have done this without you! The \$2,500 raised at the market will go toward renovating the bathroom at the G.A.R. Hall.

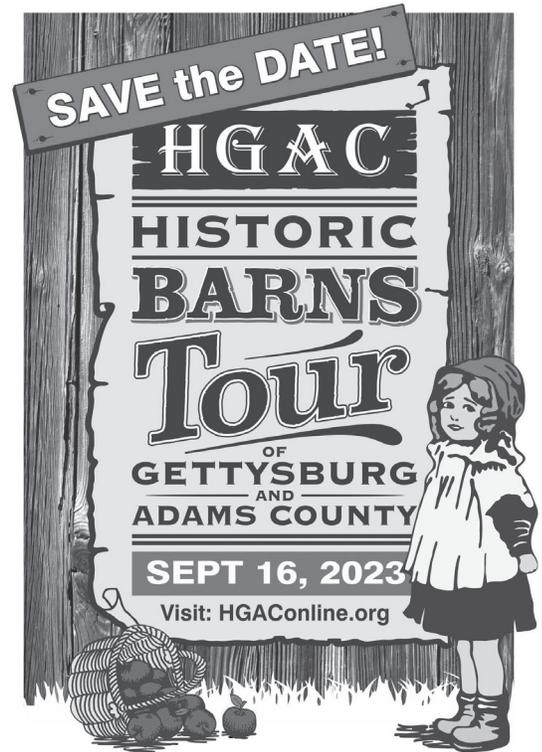
## Have you taken the Barn Quest challenge yet?

"Barn Quest for Youth" is a windshield scavenger hunt for architectural features of historic Pennsylvania barns. The challenge of Barn Quest is to locate, identify, and learn about 12 interesting exterior details of our historic (bank) barns. As part of HGAC's Youth Initiative, Barn Quest encourages all youth to become invested in the preservation of our architectural heritage.

Kids under age 18 who submit their completed Barn Quest forms are entered into a drawing held on October 31 each year. In 2022, eight Barn Quest winners were selected and all received valuable prizes. To get your copy of the Barn Quest form, contact HGAC or try the Barn Quest challenge online by visiting [hgaonline.org](http://hgaonline.org). We encourage adults to go for a drive in the country, and take the Barn Quest challenge with your kids and grandkids!



*An excited Barn Quest winner from Massachusetts, who visited Adams County during the summer of 2022 and started her quest courtesy of the Summer at Spangler program.*



## BARN Tour

HGAC's Historic Barns Tour will be held on Saturday, September 16 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., rain or shine. The tour offers the opportunity to visit six historic barns in the Gettysburg area. All of the barns on the tour will include family-oriented activities.

The event starts at the Historic Round Barn where participants will register and receive a booklet with information about the barns on the tour. Then participants can drive to the barns in any order and stay as long as they like. Admission is \$35 per adult in advance, \$40 day of the tour. Kids under 18 are FREE. Stay tuned for details!



HGAC's 2023 BarnArt Show & Sale will be held on June 9, 10 and 11 at the G.A.R. Hall on 53 East Middle Street in Gettysburg.

The Opening Night Reception will be held on Friday, June 9, from 6 to 8 p.m. and is open to the public. Winners will be announced at 7:30 p.m. The exhibit will then be open to the public on Saturday, June 10, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday, June 11, from noon until 4 p.m.

# 2023 Membership Registration

Please join or renew online or return your completed form and check to:

Historic Gettysburg Adams County

P.O. Box 4611

Gettysburg, PA 17325

[www.hgaonline.org](http://www.hgaonline.org)

*HGAC is an historic preservation society  
with a proud history and an exciting future*

**HGAC is a nonprofit organization that spearheads and coordinates efforts to preserve and restore the historic heritage of Adams County's townships and boroughs.**

In addition to supporting the many preservation projects of HGAC, membership dues include the following benefits:

- Subscription to "PRESERVE," HGAC's quarterly newsletter
- An invitation to the Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet
- Summer Family Picnic
- Advance notice of our projects and events such as the Annual Barn Art Show and Sale, Civil War Barn Dance, Barn Tours, Summer at Spangler, installing and restoring historical markers, our historic barn survey and the Barn Preservation Grant Program.

Thank you for your membership and financial donations, as well as your contributions of time and talent. We have many things yet to be accomplished and our proud heritage will continue with your participation.

Donations and membership dues can be paid at <http://hgaonline.org> through PayPal or by check.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_ Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Is this a renewal of a current membership? Yes \_\_\_ Is this a new membership? Yes \_\_\_**

\$10 Student Level – basic benefits as listed above

\$25 Associate/Individual Level – basic benefits as listed above

\$50 Sponsor/Family Level – basic benefits, plus HGAC *Civil War Hospitals* publication

\$100 Sustainer/Growth Level – basic benefits, plus *G.A.R. Building Murals* publication

\$250 Timber Framer/Business Level Partner -- basic benefits plus business listing in all HGAC publications

\$500 Legacy Level – basic benefits, plus copy of *Gettysburg* by J. Fritz

\$1,500 HGAC Preservation Society Level (annual) – basic benefits, plus J. Fritz 4-volume *Architecture* series

Thank You!



P.O. Box 4611  
Gettysburg, PA 17325

## Time to renew your HGAC membership!

Now that 2023 is here, it's time to renew your HGAC membership! A membership renewal form can be found on page 7 of this newsletter. New members can also join HGAC using this form.

Renew online at [hgaonline.org](http://hgaonline.org) (click on Membership) or mail the form on page 7 to: Historic Gettysburg Adams County, P.O. Box 4611, Gettysburg, PA 17325.

Please be sure to include your address and email so that you can receive notifications of special HGAC events. Thank you for your continued support!



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