

# DUPORTAIL DISPATCH

## HISTORIC DUPORTAIL HOUSE AT VALLEY FORGE

Volume 1, Issue 1

Fall 2012

### A Note from the President

#### *Recalling a Springtime Celebration with Friends*

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

After a very successful 'campaign' last year to raise money for new roofs, we were pleased to recognize and celebrate the donors who shared their gifts so that we could accomplish those Duportail House improvement projects. The roof on the front of the Duportail House has been replaced and the Caretakers Cottage is sporting new shingles as well. I fondly reflect back on that warm spring evening last May, when nearly 100 people, the *Friends of Duportail*, came to tour the grounds and see first-hand where their donations had been spent.

We were pleased to be able to show the re-stabilized Federal Barn as well. Representatives from Highline Construction were there to explain how the reinforcement of the north wall was completed. They pointed to the replacement beams that had been carefully installed to replace the rotted timbers. Though beam repairs on the inside of the upper level are not completed, visitors, one-at-a-time, tried to find the signatures that the builder had inscribed in the plaster on the west wall in 1792.

Some *Friends* shared stories about the property before Chesterbrook was built. They recalled apple tree orchards and wandering cows who seemed to like grazing on the other side of Valley Forge Road better than eating in their own pasture.

There were lots of smiles from guests and from the members of the Board of Directors who sincerely thank everyone for their support of the Historic Duportail House and the Federal Barn. New life has been given to these historic structures, thanks to our *Friends*.

The Board is reaching out to the community again. The objective of this year's 'campaign' is to fund the painting of the Caretaker's Cottage and to make some improvements to the second floor restroom in the Duportail House. You will be able to see the work that your gifts make possible. If you are not already a *Friend*, please consider joining. An envelope is provided for your convenience.

We are also looking for volunteers to be docents for our Sunday afternoon Open Houses, to serve on the Board of Directors, or to help with gardening and seasonal plantings. Please do contact me if you are willing to help in any of these areas.

We are honored to oversee the preservation of these wonderful historic resources. Please help us to continue to improve and maintain two of this community's important historic treasures.

Sincerely,

*Luigi*

Luigi DiFilippo, President

*Friends of Duportail* • 297 Adams Drive • Chesterbrook, PA 19087

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## Meet the 2011 Friends of Duportail

Laurice Albed  
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Albed  
David S. Arvan  
Edward C. Auble  
Evelyn C. Babcock  
June Balukjian  
Josephine Dagit Barnes  
Ann Barth  
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Baum  
Mr. & Mrs. Micah Bertin  
Raymond Bittner  
Gladys Black  
Mr. & Mrs. William Bondinell  
Pam Branco and Larry Liss  
Marla Broughton  
Rosa Maria Caione  
Mr. & Mrs. Taylor Caldwell  
Constance Cekaiti  
Mr. & Mrs. William Cheever  
Mr. & Mrs. Bud Childs  
Pamela Ciccantelli  
Mr. & Mrs. John Cleaver  
Mr. & Mrs. Stan Cole  
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Connolly  
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Davis  
Mr. & Mrs. Luigi DiFilippo  
Nancy Dogan  
Eleanor Carson Donato  
Beverly Dotter  
Robert Downs  
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Drucker  
Tracy Drucker  
Maria Duprez  
Mrs. Carolyn Emswiler  
Mr. & Mrs. Alan Epps  
Ann Ericson  
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Falcone  
Mrs. Severn Falcone  
Mr. & Mrs. Roger Fell  
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Ferris  
Mary Lou Fetchko  
Kevin Finch  
Catherine Fitzpatrick  
Mr. & Mrs. Ed Forde  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Frank  
Lee Gallagher  
Kathryn Gordon  
Mr. & Mrs. Kirk Gorman  
Mr. & Mrs. Rick Guertin  
Mr. & Mrs. David Hanbury  
Bob Hannan  
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Hardy  
Peter Hartigan  
Susan M. Heist  
Cynthia Henderson  
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Herbert  
Beverly L. Hershey, MD  
Antoinette Hoffacker  
Terry Horgan  
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Howard  
Allan Yong Shi and Yatao Hu  
Jeannine Jalbuena  
Mr. & Mrs. John Jamieson  
Georgine J. Johnson  
Diane Jones  
Pamela Kay  
Glenna Keene  
Dennis Kelly  
Marilyn Kelly  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Kichline  
Bruce Kleger & Keesie Spector  
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Klotzbach  
Mr. & Mrs. Matthew J. Kogan  
Mr. & Mrs. Lee Konecke  
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Kostka  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Kurz  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Lamina  
Dr. Marion Lane  
Patricia Lappin  
Keld Larsoe  
Mr. & Mrs. Gregory Lawton  
Doris Lebischak, MD  
Ms. Gail E. Lenuson  
Mr. & Mrs. Gerard Lewis  
Alfred Little  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Locker  
Lynn Mailey  
Mr. & Mrs. David Manion  
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Marchiano  
Howard Markowitz  
Debra Marshall  
Albert P. Massey, Jr.  
Laura May  
Edward F. McAleer  
Carol McFarland  
James McKinley  
Constance McMahan  
Mr. & Mrs. David McSweeney  
Gunta V. Melbardis  
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Miller  
Joann Miller  
National Penn Bank  
Mr. & Mrs. Stefan Neubig  
Mr. & Mrs. Edward O'Connor  
Mrs. James O'Day  
Mr. & Mrs. Bryan Oscarson  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Parisi  
Mr. & Mrs. James Pettia  
David Plastino  
John J. Puk  
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Puzo

## 2011 Friends - *Continued*

Quick Print Center  
 Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Quill  
 Anne M. Quinn  
 Ronald Reichenbach  
 Adele D. Rentschler  
 Sandy Ridgway  
 Mr. & Mrs. William Riggs  
 Samuel Rittenbaugh  
 Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Rubley  
 Jan Stone Rynerson  
 Mr. & Mrs. Peter Schroeder  
 Mr. & Mrs. Charles Scott  
 Mary Selman  
 Mary Semanik

Mr. & Mrs. John Shimrak  
 Mr. & Mrs. Henry Shuman  
 Alison Simcoe  
 Mr. & Mrs. Tadeusz Sliwinski  
 Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Smolenski  
 Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Spangler  
 Deborah Spencer  
 Sharon Stein  
 Mary Strenk  
 Jefferson Strider  
 Robert W. Stuchell  
 Kelly J. Suman  
 Hilda R. Susi  
 Harold Sweetman

Mr. & Mrs. Joe Tartaglio  
 Carol Titzel  
 Mrs. Eleanor Titzel  
 Ms. Susan Tobey  
 Mr. & Mrs. Michael Tornvall  
 Thomas Toscani  
 Mary Ellen Trueblood  
 Ida Mae Wallace  
 Joel Weaver & Carol Taylor  
 Mr. & Mrs. H. Drake Williams, Jr.  
 Tracey Yarborough  
 Sharon Zellis  
 Mr. & Mrs. Jack Zimmerman  
 Sally Zinman

## THE FEDERAL BARN - A SECOND RESTORATION

The former roof on the Federal Barn was installed during a 1982 restoration project supported by funds from the Fox Companies (the developers of Chesterbrook), the Pennsylvania Historic Museum Commission, Chester County, and Tredyffrin Township. After thirty years, it was in dire need of attention. Water damage from the leaking roof was destroying the bankside foundation wall and was rotting the support beams below. If something wasn't done, the loss of a National Historic Register property was imminent.

JME Engineering completed designs for stabilizing the foundation so that a new roof could be installed. Thanks to a donor's generous gift, the Board of Directors was able to move forward with the project during the winter of 2011/2012.

Highline Construction Company was engaged to do the foundation work as



*Above: New barn doors and hinges.*



*Above: Preparing for a new roof on the barn  
 Below: New side doors and window frames*

well as the roof replacement.

The Board of Directors is pleased to have played a part in giving new life to this 1792 Barn. They appreciate the community's interest and support as they complete plans for the needed work on the upper level of this historic Pennsylvania bank barn.

People are still fascinated by barns and this structure represents the agricultural roots of the Great Valley.



**DUPORTAIL HOUSE, INC.**

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Web Site: [www.duportailhouse.com](http://www.duportailhouse.com)



**Duportail House, Inc.  
Board of Directors**

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**Luigi DiFilippo - President**  
**Richard B. 'Tim' Lander - Secretary**  
**Jim Matthews - Treasurer**  
**Karen Pecora**

**Kate Frey - Director of Sales and Marketing**

MAKING HISTORY WHERE HISTORY WAS MADE



*Wes Craven, the PBS History Detectives host who filmed at Duportail House this spring.*

## Duportail House Hosts the *History Detectives*

The *History Detectives* is a popular PBS series now airing its tenth season. On the last day of May, 2012, the *History Detectives* visited Duportail House to investigate a map found in the collections of the Newport Historical Society.

The *History Detectives* were approached by Ruth Taylor, Executive Director of the Newport Historical Society. She had recently discovered a map among their collections with names obviously associated with the Valley Forge encampment. She approached the *History Detectives* and asked them to help her determine its authenticity.

The Duportail Board was asked not reveal the *Detectives'* findings until after the initial air date of this segment. It *can now* be told that the map had indeed been 'docketed' by General Louis Duportail! Imagine, he might have even signed that map in the home where he quartered during this stay at Valley Forge. What an honor to have the news revealed to Ms. Taylor at Duportail House!

Below are links related to the *History Detectives* show which aired October 9th.

<http://video.pbs.org/video/2285050331/>

[www.newporthistorical.org/index.php/found-revolutionary-map/](http://www.newporthistorical.org/index.php/found-revolutionary-map/)

[www.pbs.org/opb/historydetectives/](http://www.pbs.org/opb/historydetectives/)

Duportail House is open to the public on Sundays from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM. The Federal Barn is open some Sundays or by appointment. *Welcome!*