

THE EASTFIELD RECORD



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WINTER 2019

A WONDERFUL CELEBRATION

✿ VISITORS THROGGED THE VILLAGE ON FOUNDER'S DAY ✿

Mud Pond Road hadn't seen this much traffic in quite a while. On a sunny September 22, 2018, nearly 350 people from around the region and as far away as Oregon drove down the gravel byway to attend the village's annual Founder's Day to celebrate the life and legacy of Eastfield's creator, Don Carpentier. Evocative shape note singing, laughter from a raucous Punch & Judy puppet show, rattling militia musketry, the rap of a tinsmith's hammer, and the unique thump of a printing press were just some of the wonderful sounds competing in the crisp air, not to mention the site of a paper hot-air balloon that came to a grievous rest in a tree to the delight of numerous children.

Nearly every building in the village was alive with activity, and the Briggs Tavern was especially thronged with attendees enjoying a satisfying ploughman's lunch prepared and served by Historic Eastfield Foundation (HEF) Vice President Neil De Marino and his hardworking volunteers.

Numerous vendors, many set up in the meetinghouse, offered distinctive handmade gifts for sale, including personable dolls, sparkling tin ornaments, and delicate scherenschnitte. There was so much to see and do, as the accompanying images attest, it's hard to mention it all here.

Don loved it when the village was full of people and activity, and many attendees mentioned they could feel his spirit infusing the day with positive energy. Founder's Day is held on the Saturday in September that is the closest to Don's birthday on the 22nd. The event is one of HEF's primary fundraisers, and it's not too early to mark Saturday, September 21, on your calendars. You don't want to miss it!



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE, SCENES FROM 2018'S FOUNDER'S DAY. MILITIAMEN HEAD TO THE FIRING RANGE, PAMELA DALTON CAREFULLY CUTS OUT SCHERENSCHNITTE; WILLIAM McMILLEN'S GLEAMING TINWARE; AND BOB OLSON'S PAPER BALLOON ABOUT TO TAKE FLIGHT



EASTFIELD'S BRIGHT FUTURE

*Welcome to the first issue
of the Eastfield Record!*

Whether emphatically describing the architecture of his beloved Eastfield Village or critically examining the quality of his latest batch of ceramic tableware hot from the kiln, Don Carpentier's incredible skills and vast store of knowledge were something to behold and cherish.

When Don died in late August 2014, we felt like the air had been let out of our tires. How could Eastfield Village possibly move forward without him? How could we proceed without Don's relentless energy and genius? But it was Don's foresight that would help us navigate this difficult period.



In 1990, he gathered a few of us to form the Historic Eastfield Foundation. Since then the foundation has worked both in front and behind the scenes to promote the vision of the Eastfield experience. Thus, when Don

passed away we had the means to pump up the tires and get moving. And that is what we have done over the past four years.

Don's splendid long-running series of workshops and seminars on early American trades and historic preservation has continued to educate and inspire new waves of enthusiasts. By leasing the village from Don's partner, Scott Penpraze, we have been able to carry on much needed maintenance and repairs to the buildings and grounds. In addition we have held various programs and activities dedicated to early American material culture.

To help convey the continued success of Carpentier's vision, the Historic Eastfield Foundation is re-launching the *Eastfield Record* as a bi-annual newsletter to keep all our friends, old and new, abreast of the wonderful happenings in the village, and to whet the appetite for people to take classes and embrace the Eastfield experience. Come see us in 2019!

*Peter R. W. Schaaphok
President, Historic Eastfield Foundation*

Saws, Brooms, and Sweat



Spearheaded by HEF board member William "Billy" McMillen in 2018, avid board members and volunteers spent 24 workdays at the village from May 2 through October 27. Board member Greg Joly, a regular attendee at the workdays, estimates that an average of three people attended each six-hour workday, and that the volunteers put in about 432 hours of enthusiastic labor on Eastfield's cherished buildings and grounds. In addition to the extensive Briggs Tavern work discussed on the next page, this list testifies to their productive work accomplishments on Eastfield's structures, large and small.

BLACKSMITH'S SHOP Volunteer and workshop instructor Olof Jansson cleaned and organized the shop and restored the forge.

MEETINGHOUSE Moss cleared from stone foundation sill; Foundation prepared for next year's water table installation.

CARPENTER'S SHOP (pictured above) Cleaned and organized; Tools cleaned, sharpened, and oiled.

YELLOW TAVERN Front of gambrel roof reshingled.

ALL BUILDINGS Woodboxes cleaned and restocked.

PAINT SHED Sorted, cleaned, and reorganized.



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BUILDING PROFILE

Briggs Tavern Restoration



The western gable of the 13-room, 72-foot-long Briggs Tavern greets you as you enter Eastfield Village, and the impressive building, built between 1793 and 1803, originally served travelers along the road to Hoosick, N.Y. When Eastfield founder Don Carpentier spotted the tavern, it was a derelict home to livestock, and the oil from farm machinery stored in the entry hall still stains the floor. He obtained it, dismantled and moved it to the village in 1984, and it stands today as one of the village's anchors, a grand structure that still welcomes travelers to sit, rest, and enjoy a candlelit game of dominoes after a fulfilling day of learning.

This summer, hardworking foundation board members and volunteers focused their efforts on the back rooms of the Briggs Tavern, and the smell of freshly planed northeastern white pine still greets you as you enter. Stand in the kitchen and face the hearth, to the right a porch and a small, finished room with an exterior entry are nearly complete. The room might have originally been a pantry or firewood storage

room, but after its current restoration is completed, it will serve as a bedroom or the home for the foundation's reference books so they can be removed from the back room of the doctor's office.

To the left of the kitchen, an enclosed porch and two back pantries have been resurrected from hodgepodge storage areas. During the tavern's operating years, these two back rooms might have been private dining or sleeping rooms, similar to the two rooms off the east end of the barroom. The far left room was fitted with shelving and unobtrusive electrical service to nicely hide a modern fridge, microwave, and coffeemaker that will be a help during tavern dinners and other special Eastfield events.

In those rooms, and in other areas of the tavern, new interior doors with original rimlocks have been hung, and the volunteers installed shelving, new beadboard walls, and ceiling boards. Hand planes smoothed the rough wall boards and cut pleasing, rounded beads on each plank.

That attention to detail will ensure the new work blends seamlessly into the

BRIGGS TAVERN 2018 REPAIRS AT A GLANCE

- 3 doors hung with hardware and box locks restored so that the proper oval knobs could be mounted.
- Back porch room door framed and beaded pine board wall completed.
- Middle pantry shelving installed.
- Back room ceiling completed.
- Kitchen pantry door reversed, new shelves installed and trim painted.
- Brush cleared behind the tavern to open up majestic view of pond.

original fabric. At this summer's molding plane workshop attendees will learn how to make complex moldings, some of which will be used in the Briggs Tavern. Those candlelit nights in the tavern are only going to get better.



LEFT, SMOKY, SAVORY AROMAS LINGER IN THE AIR OF THE BRIGGS TAVERN KITCHEN, EVOKING MEMORIES OF HAPPY, TASTEFUL TAVERN MEALS. ABOVE, THIS NEWLY RESTORED ROOM ON THE TAVERN'S BACK PORCH MAY BECOME HOME TO THE FOUNDATION'S LIBRARY.





ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL SLATE OF WORKSHOPS

SCORES OF PEOPLE ATTENDED 2018's workshops and learned, among other skills, how to blacksmith and tinsmith, cook meals on the hearth, and make window sash and shoes. The workshops and seminars offered each summer are at the core of the HEF's mission, and for 2019, another exciting slate of classes will be offered.

In addition to our foundational blacksmith, tinsmith, and hearth-cooking classes, other workshops and seminars are planned on plastering, early American currency, tavern life, and more! In addition, Dish Camp will return this June. Keep an eye out for the workshop brochure around February.



ABOVE, AN UPCOMING WORKSHOP WILL TEACH STUDENTS HOW TO PLANE MOLDINGS LIKE THESE ON A BRIGGS TAVERN MANTLE. RIGHT, EASTFIELD'S IMPRESSIVE 1836 FIRST UNIVERSALIST CHURCH IS CLEANED AND READY TO HOST 2019 CLASSES. GET READY TO LEARN!



THE MISSION OF THE HISTORIC EASTFIELD FOUNDATION



- 1.** TO TRAIN MEN AND WOMEN IN A RANGE OF EARLY AMERICAN TRADES AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION SKILLS.
- 2.** TO ENCOURAGE CRAFTSPERSONS AND PRESERVATIONISTS IN THEIR EFFORTS TO SAVE THE TECHNOLOGY OF THE PAST.
- 3.** TO PRODUCE PUBLICATIONS, SPECIFICALLY A PERIODICAL AND SINGLE-SUBJECT PUBLICATIONS, AND PRESCRIPTIVE AUDIO-VIDEO MATERIALS, AND SYMPOSIA FOR BOTH THE GENERAL PUBLIC AND A PROFESSIONAL AUDIENCE.
- 4.** TO DEVELOP A COLLECTION AND LIBRARY APPROPRIATE TO EARLY ARTS AND TRADES AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION.
- 5.** TO DEVELOP A LONG-TERM PLAN FOR CONTINUING THE GOALS AND PURPOSES OF THE FOUNDATION.
- 6.** TO MAINTAIN FACILITIES NECESSARY TO FURTHER THE FOUNDATION'S EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES.

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