

The Carversvillian

SPRING 2023

Carversville Day
Saturday, May 13th
12-3pm

Carversville Photo Contest

Calling your best photo from Carversville! We are kicking off a new tradition we are calling the 'Carversville Photo Contest'. We know there are so many locations and scenes in our picturesque village. We want to see what you have snapped! **Please submit your best photo no later than May 1st to events@carversville.org.** Please provide your name and date and location of photo in your submission. One submission per member. **If you have not paid your annual membership dues please do so as this is required for entry.** We will let the community vote on their favorite photo at Carversville Day scheduled for Saturday, May 13th. Winner will receive a small prize and be acknowledged and photo shared in our next newsletter!

Please consider donating an item for our Live Auction or Raffle Jar!

Auction items range from artwork, experiences, bikes, wine baskets, etc.

Raffle Jar items are usually gift cards for local restaurants and stores.

All proceeds go towards funding community events in the village, historic preservation activities and to scholarships for service oriented graduating seniors from New Hope – Solebury High school.

Please contact Laura Viehweger at lviehweger@yahoo.com if you are interested in making a donation.

Calling All Volunteers!

Carversville Day certainly takes a village. We need your help! Please scan the QR code to sign up to volunteer for time slots for the following day of activities:



- Event Setup
- Historic Booth
- Cookie and Photo Contest
- Grill
- Raffle Ticket Sales
- Event Break Down

Thank you for your continued support and help. If you have questions regarding volunteering, please email [Marnie Leasure newmanleasure@gmail.com](mailto:Marnie_Leasure_newmanleasure@gmail.com).

Letter from the President

Our HCS By-Laws state several of our objectives: as respects the village of Carversville and its environs, to encourage interest in and preserve its historic character and landmarks; to disseminate, by publication or otherwise, material of historic interest relating thereto; and to encourage the identification of historic sites and landmarks.

In this issue I am excited to highlight the history of five mills along the Paunacussing creek, and announce a special members-only walking tour. And a feature on the Carversville Inn with old photographs and an interview I did with the new owner of the Inn on plans for its next chapter. Please check out our website for more historic information on the village including our map with house histories and recordings of oral history by long time residents. Finally, HCS encourages our members to participate by sharing their favorite images capturing Carversville in a new photo contest.

I look forward to spring in Carversville and to seeing the spirit of HCS members at Carversville Day!

– Lori White

Carversville Day 2023

We are happy to announce that Carversville Day will be held this year on May 13, 2023 from 12:00 to 3:00pm. Our charming village sustained quite a bit of damage from Hurricane Ida that we are still cleaning up from. In addition, the Carversville Inn and General Store are not currently open. Due to these circumstances, we will be doing a toned-down version of Carversville Day.

We will still have the following activities throughout the day:

Cookie Contest! To enter, prepare 4 dozen of the same cookie (all categories welcome!) for the contest and deliver to the Cookie Contest booth by 11:45am. You don't need to limit yourself to one entry! The **Best Cookie** by popular vote wins a coveted prize!

Live Music: David Stier will be performing with a trio of jazz instrumentalists. What a treat for all!

The Prestigious Pet Parade will commence at 12:00pm. Dress up your pet and practice your tricks because you could win cash prizes! Sign up in the square and parade your pet over to the creek area.

Watermelon Eating Contest at 1:00.

Our **Annual Live Auction will commence at 2:00pm.** We will be auctioning some fabulous items this year!

Raffle drawing and Cookie Contest Winners are announced immediately following the live auction. Our raffle will be limited to 2 jars this year (one with cash and another with a big ticket item). You can buy your tickets at Carversville Day.

HCS grill: We will be serving burgers and hot dogs.

The Historic Carversville Society is always eager to share the long history of our village...so stop by the **Historic Society Booth** to see what's new and buy some Village merchandise to show your civic pride. All proceeds support the HCS vision of preservation, providing scholarships and hosting community events.

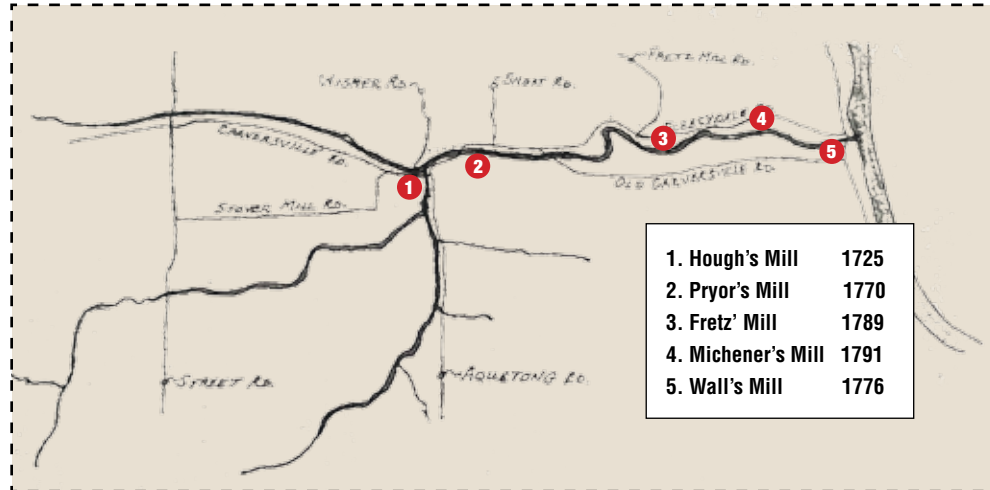
If you are interested in volunteering or have an idea, email us! You can work a couple of hours in the booth or help in other ways. The day is not complete without the whole village getting involved. Email us at events@carversville.com. See you in the square...save the date...!

– Laura Viehweger

Five Mills Along the Paunacussing Creek

Beginning in 1725, five mills were built along the Paunacussing Creek from present day Carversville to Lumberville. The surrounding Paunacussing watershed provided raw materials and demand for milled products. The market grew rapidly as canals and railroads were built and New York and Philadelphia expanded. The mills provided flour, lumber, millwork, plaster, corn meal, carded wool, hulled clover and even guano. The roads developed primarily to serve the mills and were built in chronology with the mills changing over time to reach surrounding farms, towns, and cities. Each of the five mills has been known by several names over the past nearly three hundred years usually named after the families who owned and operated them.

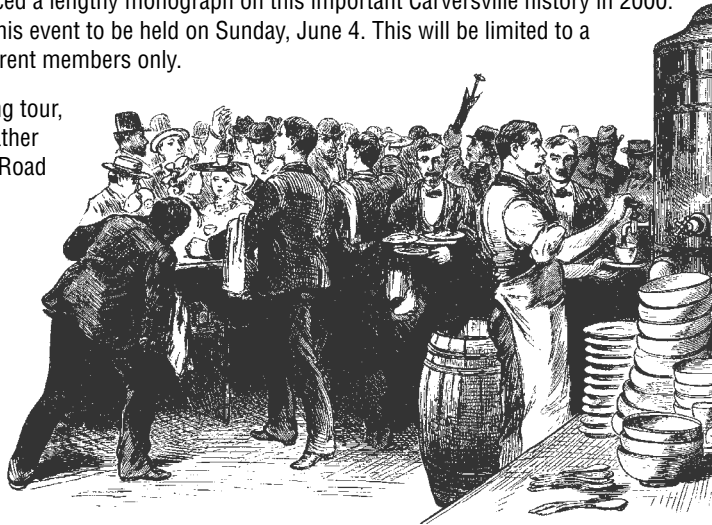
The village was named Milton or "Mill Town" prior to the turn of the nineteenth century. The creek itself was known as Mill Town Creek and later Mill Creek. There was a Native American village for many years at the juncture of the creek called "Paunacussing" believed to be the source of the name of the creek as we know it today.



Kurt Leasure, a life long resident of Carversville and historic architect, has volunteered to lead a walking tour of the five mills along the Paunacussing. His talk will be based on research by Gary Ganzow, a former resident, who produced a lengthy monograph on this important Carversville history in 2000. HCS is pleased to sponsor this event to be held on Sunday, June 4. This will be limited to a group of 40 and open to current members only.

Following the historic walking tour, participants are invited to gather at the 1740 House on River Road for drinks. Cash bar.

Watch for an HCS email to sign up soon.



The Carversville Inn

The building of the Carversville Inn was a significant development in the village in the nineteenth century. Built around 1813-1815 by Isaac Pickering as a two story building with peaked roof, it included a stable nearby. It opened as a tavern for the convenience of residents and travelers. Through the years there have been many owners, each putting their mark on the structure as proprietors. The establishment was variously known as Milton Tavern, Bird-in-Hand, Carversville House, and the Carversville Hotel. When Thomas Carver purchased it in 1830, he owned many properties in the village. Interestingly, Milton was renamed Carversville in 1833 at the time a post office was established.

Isaac Stover offered to buy Carver out in 1854 and paid the sum of \$3,000, including the lot at the side of the square. Stover enlarged the structure in 1859, modifying in the Victorian style with a flat roof and the familiar columned porches, adding a third floor and second floor porch. In 1868, when investors of a subsequent owner called upon the sheriff to liquidate the premises at public sale an advertisement listed the improvements as: "a three story stone tavern house, with five rooms and kitchen on first floor, eight rooms on second, and five rooms on the third floor, cellar underneath, porch the length of the house in front; well of water near the door, with pump thereon; frame barn, stable for fifteen head of horses, wagon house attached; open sheds, ice house, hog pen, chicken house, corn crib, and other outbuildings. This property is well situated in the thriving village of Carversville, and is well worth the attention of buyers."

The building functioned as a hotel until around 1915-1920. The lower level has housed a succession of occupancies including restaurant, general store, hardware store, and others. During prohibition, the tavern served as an ice cream parlor. And with automobiles replacing horses for transportation at a point in time, included a gas station with pumps in front of the building. The two upper floors were converted to apartments later.

Many current local residents knew the Carversville Inn for its restaurant and bar, operated by Will and Denie Mathias for 30 years. Milan Lint and Mitch Berlin purchased the property in 2020.

The Carversville Inn: Next Chapter

Based on a recent interview of owner Milan Lint by Lori White:

Q: What is the current status of the renovation project and when will construction begin?

A: All necessary approvals have been obtained including Solebury HARB, Zoning, Land Planning and Solebury Board of Supervisors, PA HARB and PA DEP. We are in a self-imposed delay as we made the decision to scale back the rear addition to one story. This will include the kitchen and bathrooms but will not include two additional guest suites. There will be three guest suites on the third floor and three on the second floor of the main building, for a total of 6.

Q: Is the opening date still slated for Valentine's Day 2024?

A: We anticipate opening Summer 2024, maybe May.

Q: Who is the final architect and builder?

A: John Wolstenholm (Wolstenholme Associates) is the architect and James Maxwell of JR Maxwell the builder. We have worked with James on several past renovations. James intends to begin the demo and construction late spring, likely in the May time frame.

Q: Will rooms for overnight guests have names based on local history?

A: TBD

Q: Any features unique to original character of the building you intend to highlight?

A: The exterior will look similar to what it does now, brought back to life with repairs, repointing and repainting in new colors. Outdoor dining will wrap around the porch areas with the two brick levels being made into one level, material likely bluestone.

The rear addition will be similar to the existing rear structure, but elevated given the flood plain. The second floor balcony of the main building will be redone and accessible by Inn guests.

Interior will be fully renovated, highlighting the big fireplace. There will be seating for 65, as it was before. The bar will be in area it was previously. We are in the process of determining the allocation of space for dining, drinks, etc.

Q: Have you decided on a chef? What will the menu style be?

A: No, we believe we will be able to find a chef when we get closer to opening.

The menu will be similar to before: American Bistro. There will be approximately six primary entrees, including a beef/steak, burger, fish, chicken, pork chop, vegetarian, and a chef special.

We intend to have Sunday brunch and it may be thematic. More to come on this, but we would also like brunch to include a fund raising/charitable giving element.

Q: Will you and your partner Mitch Berlin be working at the Inn?

A: Yes, either one or both of us will be present.



Remembering Carversvillian Brenda Meredith



Brenda Meredith, a revered resident of Carversville, died in January at the age of 104. As Mark Baum Baicker, Carversville resident and Chair of Solebury Township Board of Supervisors remarked, "[we] lost someone who can only be described as a local institution."

Brenda moved to Carversville five days before Christmas 1966 with her daughter Diana, and sons Rowan and Martin. She always said she ended up in Carversville by accident. Brenda and her children canoed the Delaware River and discovered Carversville on the way home to Willow Grove from a day on the river. Later she decided to send her daughter Diana to Solebury School which led to her search for a house within five miles of the school. Her memory of Carversville landed back in in the Village which she soon called home.

Brenda later worked at the Solebury School in the Library and was a beloved dorm mother for several years. Today many in the community remember her as a devoted weaver, patron of the arts, and an avid walker on Fleecydale and Old Carversville Roads with walking stick in hand and a steady pace.

In 2013 Kathy Stein and Jack McMillian recorded an oral history with Brenda. Scan the QR code to hear Brenda reflect on Carversville, her neighbors over the years, changing residences and businesses, and the floods.

Brenda will forever be remembered. May she rest in eternal peace.



In honor of Brenda, this year's Clean Up Day on April 22, 2023, which includes the byways she traversed and loved, will be dedicated to her memory.



The Carversvillian

HISTORIC CARVERSVILLE SOCIETY, PO BOX 41, CARVERSVILLE, PA 18913



Clean Up Day
Saturday, April 22

Carversville Day
Saturday, May 13

**Five Mills on the Paunacussing
Walking Tour**
Sunday, June 5

**Sips on the Square
Films in the Field**
Monday, June 26

**Sips on the Square
Films in the Field**
Monday, July 31

**Family Night
Films in the Field**
Monday, August 28

FOR RESIDENT OF CARVERSVILLE
CARVERSVILLE, PA 18913



**If you haven't paid dues for 2023,
please send them in the enclosed envelope.**

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The Paunacussing Watershed Association (PWA) was first formed in 1972 by Bill Tinsman, Sr. and Ned Harrington among others, in response to a large development planned for a site along Carversville Road. Since then it has been instrumental in protecting the Paunacussing, one of only five streams in Bucks County to receive a High Quality Stream rating from the PA DEP and since the year 2000 designated by the U.S. Congress as a free-flowing tributary worthy of preservation under the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act due to its outstanding recreational value.

The PWA has been quiet lately, but flooding from Hurricane Ida and other recent storms, ongoing stream bank erosion and development pressure have highlighted the importance of continuing to protect the Paunacussing. In October 2022 Solebury Township was notified that the National Park Service had selected the Paunacussing for technical support to study impacts from Hurricane Ida including erosion and deposition in Paunacussing Creek. Over the next year the National Park Service will provide an initial assessment of the Paunacussing Creek and develop conceptual design solutions to address these concerns that would be consistent with Wild and Scenic River standards.

So, whether you walk, bike, run, drive or live along the creek, if you are interested in learning more and pitching in, please contact Kurt Leasure at kgleasure@gmail.com.



This Old House

Every house – especially those in Carversville – has a story to tell. Discovering that story can be a challenge but an interesting one. Have you ever wondered a homes architectural classification, title record, or historical significance?

Did you know we have an entire page on our website with dedicated information on 38 homes within the historic district. Scan the QR code to read more about our home histories and the stories that make up our community.