EIGHTEENTH CENTURY BARNS
OF LANCASTER COUNTY

Eighth Annual Meeting & Barn Tour
June 12 & 13, 2015

Since 2008, the Historic Barn and Farm Foundation of Pennsylvania has hosted annual barn tours to highlight some of the very best structures across Pennsylvania.

This year, we’ll visit Lancaster County, the apparent birthplace of the most prevalent barn form in all the state — the Pennsylvania forebay barn. The selection of barns this year offers the very best in the county, all of eighteenth century vintage, unique for any barn tour yet given.

This year’s annual meeting is a full two-day affair. The meeting place is at the Landis Valley Village and Farm Museum just northeast of Lancaster City. The museum collects, conserves, exhibits and interprets Pennsylvania German material culture, history and heritage from 1740 through 1940.

THE BARNS: a special chance to visit working farms not open to the general public.

Reist Homestead (Friday’s visit) — possibly the earliest tobacco barn in the county. Also an outstanding collection of early Conestoga wagons, farm implements and rare tools.

Herman Log and Stone Sweitzer — circa 1790 with an early-style German liegender Dachstuhl roof structure.

Breckbil Stone Double Decker — built late 1790s, a truly remarkable structure with unique features such as scissors truss construction, double floor level cruciform plan and rare prominent stone-arched gable end-wall wagon entries.

King Frame and Log Sweitzer — circa 1790, maybe the only eighteenth century partial-frame-constructed log barn in the state. Five bays with alternating mow and wagon areas, and an early German roof structure.

Beiler Stone Sweitzer — dated 1770, another rare five bay structure with alternating mow and wagon bay sections and an early German roof.

Diffenbaugh Stone Sweitzer — built circa 1790 with classic proportions, a medieval-like timbered internal frame and an early-style German roof support.

Plus, possibly, a special drive-by treat

THE SPEAKERS (Friday)

Michael Emery & Jeff Marshall — Welcome

Brian Murphy — “A Timberframer Looks at Anomalies and Details of Bucks County Barns”

Joseph W. Glass — “America’s Garden Spot: Beyond Barns”

Patrick Donmoyer — “Decorated Barns of Lancaster County: A Diversity of Forms”


Gregory D. Huber — “Sweitzer Barns in Lancaster County — A Look at the Possible Place of Origin of the PA Forebay Barn”

For information, contact Greg Huber, Event Coordinator greg@easternbarns.com or phone 610-967-5303