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## From the Editor

As an all-volunteer organization, the Tredyffrin Easttown Historical Society is dependent upon the efforts of a relatively small number of individuals to support each of our undertakings. Production of the *Quarterly* is no exception. In the case of this issue, the responsible individuals ran into some personal conflicts which have delayed the publication of this, the fourth issue of Volume 48, which is theoretically associated with the 2011 timeframe. As we work to get back on track, we would gladly accept assistance from anyone who would like to join the *Quarterly* editorial staff, or who has an article they would care to contribute. You may contact us via email at [quarterly@tehistory.org](mailto:quarterly@tehistory.org).

We open this issue with a report on some significant progress towards the preservation of the Federal Barn, located on the Duportail House property in Chesterbrook. Built in 1792 by the Havard family, prominent early settlers of Tredyffrin, the barn was saved from demolition in the 1980s when the Chesterbrook community was being developed. The Duportail complex has since been the responsibility of a volunteer board of directors. As you can imagine, maintaining these historic old buildings is a never-ending process. We are fortunate that our area supports local history and historic preservation to the extent that it does.

The panorama of the Duportail complex shown below highlights the new shingles that adorn the three buildings. The roof on the older portion of Duportail House had been replaced a couple of years earlier, and has weathered to a dark brown. Visitors are welcome to stroll the grounds and inspect the new roofs for themselves.

Regular contributor Mike Bertram has documented his research into the claims made by Tredyffrin residents as a result of looting and destruction by members of the British army under General Howe, when they camped here in September 1777. It's fascinating to see what these claimants owned, in addition to the basic livestock and grain that the soldiers plundered. The aforementioned Havard family appears to have been particularly hard hit, with losses that include a beaver hat, a silver-headed whip, and several gallons of rum, on top of oats, wheat, rye and hay that was taken. The list of reparations provides great insight into the lives led by these families, most of whom were farmers who worked the land with fairly primitive implements, at least by today's standards.

The TEHS website includes an interactive map showing the location of each of the properties for which claims were filed. Mike has also posted a digital version of his article, in the 18th Century Tredyffrin section of the website.

Don't forget that we're waiting to hear from all of you aspiring authors and editors. No experience necessary, just a love of local history and the willingness to learn. This is your chance to see your name in print!



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Cover Descriptions

Front Cover: The Federal Barn at Duportail House sports bright new wood shingles as the result of a recently completed renovation project. The inset shows the barn several years back, with the old roof as well as old doors that have now been replaced to more closely match 18th century architecture. *Both photos by Tim Lander.*

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\$10

# TREDYFFRIN EASTTOWN HISTORY QUARTERLY

*~ 75th Anniversary ~*



**A New Roof for an Old Barn**

**Revolutionary Repairs**

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Back Cover: Images of claims filed by Tredyffrin residents Thomas Waters (top left), David Havard (right), and Mary Howel (bottom left). Courtesy of Mike Bertram.

# Reparations

An Act of Justice, Articles taken and carried by the British Army during the Commencement of the Siege belonging to the Fort Mifflin in the Valley when their Head Quarters was at Lancaster about the 17<sup>th</sup> of Sept<sup>r</sup> 1777.

255 in Gold Pistons	£ 85
1 Silver Watch & Chain	12
3 1/2 Gold Rings	5
1 Gold Ring	7 1/2
1/2 doz of Paper Tobacco 361	26 13 6
1 Sph. and Army	23 8 6
2 Waggon Load of Saltmehy	5
1 New Saddle	5
1 New pair of Leather Bridles	3 11
2 Shirts	11
1 Servant 13 Months 10 Silver	4
2 Casks of Sugar from Town	3
2 Casks of Beer	7
All the Cabbage in my garden	13
Many Books	

1773 38

Checked to wit. The above sum is before me given under my Hand the 17<sup>th</sup> Novem<sup>r</sup> 1773.

Benj<sup>r</sup> Benthoms

## 1 Hoghead of whisky

Articles Taken from David Havard Sept<sup>r</sup> 1777 by the British Army (Commanded by Gen<sup>l</sup> Howe) & his Adjutants Tredyffrin Township Chester County

1 Horse & Waggon	£ 30
17 Sheep & Hogs (ready for carrying)	39 0
Waggon	10
	91 10

Taken from David Havard to the amount of £250 in sundry notes 250

Took from Jacob Bangs to the amt of 250

Took from Tho<sup>s</sup> Manning to the amt of 50

I do hereby certify that the above is a true acct from the best Information I have received David Havard

Warrant & Service Received but no sheep goods. Destruction of a boat his Store & the amt of 100

I do hereby certify that the above is a just acct from the best Information I have Recd David Havard

## All the cabbage in my garden

An Act of Justice of Damages sustained by the British Army during the Commencement of the Siege of Fort Mifflin in the Valley when their Head Quarters was at Lancaster about the 17<sup>th</sup> of Sept<sup>r</sup> 1777. & Mary Howel

1 Hoghead of Whisky	£ 35 13
1 Hoghead of Ale	7 1/2
20 Gall of Wine	10
1 Bay Horse	40
1 Gray Horse	30
1 Black Horse	30
16 Head of Round Cattle of all sorts	110
56 Head of Mutton	33
300 Bushels of Wheat 2 1/2 cts	112 1/2
60 Bushels of Rye 2 1/2 cts	18
60 d <sup>l</sup> of Buckwheat 2 1/4 cts	12
100 d <sup>l</sup> of Indian Corn 2 1/2 cts	30
100 d <sup>l</sup> of Peas	18 1/2
10 Tons of Hay	30
1 Waggon and four on each side	40
Out & Churn & Kitchen	15
6000 Gall of Wine	50

1773 39

Checked to wit. The above sum is before me given under my Hand the 17<sup>th</sup> Novem<sup>r</sup> 1773.

Benj<sup>r</sup> Benthoms

## 1 horse & waggon