

# Friends of Camp Security



**A Revolutionary War Era Prison Camp**

**(1781-1783)**

## **2017, Edition 6**

This issue is a follow-up to last month's article on the Schultz House history. The last issue focused on the first inhabitants of the Schultz House. In contrast, Ben and Hannah Harvey were the last occupants of the Schultz House before it was sold.

### **Reflections on Living at the Schultz House**

by Benjamin Harvey

I lived a total of about two years in the Schultz House, and my wife (Hannah) lived there for one winter after I had moved to Arkansas. My time there includes many wonderful memories of “roughing” it, of enjoying the house’s beautiful location, and learning about the house’s many quirks! When I first moved into the house, in the fall, I set up my bedroom on the second floor. A friend who helped me with the move decided to spend the night over my first night in the house. We hung out until relatively late in the night, and eventually fell asleep. Sometime in the middle of the night, we heard a loud bump! My friend and I were both awakened, and we looked at each other. After a brief discussion, we decided that neither of us wanted to wander around this old house in the middle of the night looking for whatever made the noise, and like the proverbial ostrich, buried our heads in our pillows instead. The next morning, we found a picture that we had hung on a hook the day before broken and lying on the floor. I think the question I got the most often from people who knew I was living in such an old house, was if the house was haunted. While I don’t believe in ghosts, I always shared that story whenever anyone asked about haunting. Along the general lines of spookiness, I remember the eerie feeling I got during my first summer in the Schultz House. The fields surrounding the house are planted in rotation, and that summer was the year for corn. As the summer wore on, the corn continued to grow, until when it was at its height of about eight feet, I couldn’t see anything surrounding the house. The sense of spookiness, solitude, and also of peacefulness is something that I remember very strongly.



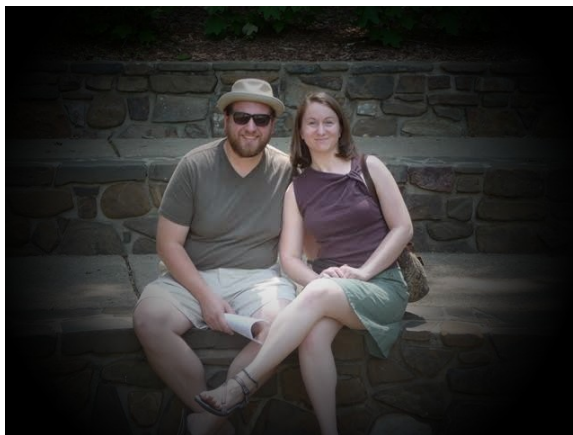
Living at the Schultz House definitely brought out the gardener in me. During the spring of my time there, Hannah and I decided the house needed a garden. We wanted to keep the costs down, so I wandered into the woods surrounding the property, and scavenged small fallen trees and branches for fence posts, and built an approximately 20-foot by 20-foot garden surrounded with chicken wire, and with a gate that I found in the barn. The garden was very plentiful! We were able to grow tomatoes, potatoes, zucchini, cucumbers, peppers, green beans, and wildflowers in the garden. It was the best garden we've ever had, and meant a lot to us for all the labor we put into building, digging, and planting it. I also purchased three chickens while I was living there. I didn't know where to put them, so I started cutting down the bamboo in the old dog cage on the property, and used the dog house as a coop! Whenever I worked out in the yard, or in the garden, I would let the "girls" out to run around, bathe in the dirt, and eat all the bugs they could get their beaks on.



Animals are an important part of my memories of the Schultz House. I of course saw deer out in the fields, and occasionally saw a turkey. I also got to see two baby vultures that were born in the barn. We went into the barn one day, and saw two balls of fluff scoot back into one of the barn's granaries. We followed them, and saw two of the ugliest, frightened birds I think I've ever

seen in my life. Another time animals cropped up were when I suddenly lost the use of the water at the house. I knew there was a spring that fed into the water system, but when the water wouldn't come on one day, I didn't know what to do! After contacting Historic York to see what they could do for me, I realized I needed to have some sort of water to bathe with and for drinking. I picked up bottled water at the store for drinking, and figured I could use some of that water, heated with an electric hot pot, for bathing. But, I was faced with a more dire problem. I couldn't flush the toilet! So, I searched around the summer kitchen, and around the basement of the barn, and I was able to find two five-gallon buckets. Buckets in hand, I headed for the creek! So, for the better part of a week, I ran to the creek at least once a day to bring water back to the house. That really made me feel like I was living in the days of old! Oh, and when they were able to fix my water, it turned out what was stopping up the system were large crawfish that were living in the water pipes between the spring and the house! I always tell everyone that I didn't really get sick while I lived at the Schultz House, and it was because of that crawfish water. There are many additional small memories and stories from my time living in the Schultz House. I am so glad I had the opportunity to live there, and to experience that place that now means so much to me.

### Benjamin and Hannah Harvey



*Ben Harvey is an architectural historian working in Camp Hill, Pennsylvania. He lived at the Schultz House for almost two years, when he had various adventures. He was born in York County, graduated from Red Lion High School and Millersville University, and currently lives in Cumberland County. He enjoys keeping up with current events, cooking, and gardening.*

*Hannah Harvey has just completed her graduate coursework in applied archaeology at Indiana University of Pennsylvania and is working on her*

*thesis about a 20th century plate glass factory. She lived at the Schultz House over one winter, but spent a lot of time visiting Ben there. She was born in Lancaster and also graduated from Millersville with a degree in History and Anthropology. Hannah enjoys digging, hiking, dancing, and reading science fiction and classic literature.*

## **Camp Security Go Fund Me Page!**



**Please consider a contribution to Friends of Camp Security. It costs approximately \$25,000 and 60 volunteers each summer to excavate and search for the details of where and how people lived in this camp. The funds we raise at GoFundMe will be entirely spent on these archaeological digs and will provide funding for summer excavations in 2017 and 2018. Please help us with our goal of preserving, interpreting, and commemorating this important United States historic site.**

<https://www.gofundme.com/finding-camp-security>