



# NEWS

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS**  
**COURT HOUSE, NORRISTOWN, PA., BOX 311, 19404-0311**

**Frank X. Custer, Communications Director**

**Jessica Willingham, Communications Assistant**

**PHONE (610) 278-3061 FAX (610) 278-5943**

**COMMISSIONERS: JOSH SHAPIRO, *Chair***

**LESLIE S. RICHARDS, *Vice Chair*, BRUCE L. CASTOR, JR., *Commissioner***



**RELEASE: September 9, 2013**

## **“The Other Guys: The Shays, Whiskey, and Fries Rebels as Founding Fathers” Talk at Peter Wentz Farmstead**

**Worcester, PA (September 9, 2013)** – Tax protests are nothing new in America. In 1798 and 1799 the otherwise quiet Pennsylvania Germans living in Montgomery, Bucks, and Northampton Counties staged a series of protests which led to several arrests and, ultimately, an armed confrontation with Federal authorities in what is known as Fries’s Rebellion. The Fries Rebellion, along with two uprisings, helped shape Americans’ view of government.

On Saturday, September 14, 2013 at 2:00pm at the Peter Wentz Farmstead, Dr. Paul Douglas Newman, Professor of History and Assistant Vice-President for Academic Affairs at Pitt-Johnstown and author of *Fries’s Rebellion: The Enduring Struggle for the American Revolution*, will present “The Other Guys: The Shays, Whiskey, and Fries Rebels as Founding Fathers.” Dr. Newman will discuss how Founders like George Washington, Alexander Hamilton, and John Adams labeled Massachusetts and Pennsylvania farmers as “Rebels” in 1786, 1794, and 1799 when they rose in protest of state and federal taxes, laws, and policies. Those farmers certainly did not see themselves as rebels. Most of the men and women who took part in these “insurrections” believed that their service in the American Revolution earned them a voice in government.

For more information about this program and others, please call the Peter Wentz Farmstead at 610-584-5104 or visit [www.historicsites.montcopa.org](http://www.historicsites.montcopa.org) and click on Peter Wentz Farmstead. The restored 18<sup>th</sup> century Pennsylvania German historic site is owned and operated by the County of Montgomery and receives support from the Peter Wentz Farmstead Society. The site is regularly open Tuesday through Saturday from 10:00am to 4:00pm and Sunday from 1:00pm to 4:00pm with guided tours every forty-five minutes.