Traditional Folk Art Class
Now Online

Are you fascinated with the Pennsylvanian German folk art of fraktur? Have you always wanted to try it for yourself? Attend our online workshop on Saturday, January 23, 12:30 pm-4:30 pm. Paint a fraktur with traditional colors & designs and create a grain painted frame to display your work.

Follow the presentation exclusively online via Zoom. Paint your fraktur in the first half of the class, then prepare your frame and have a finished piece by the end. No experience necessary.

Lynn Janelle Sommer guides the fraktur painting segment. Fraktur is a form of storytelling using watercolor and ink that celebrates life events and usually incorporates treasured spiritual mottos, verses, or poetry. Jim King demonstrates the grain painting process. King learned the process by restoring antique blanket chests using traditional oil or vinegar glazes.

You will receive a Zoom link and a list of recommended supplies to gather before the workshop. We will mail you the design on watercolor paper as well as the frame. Find a comfortable, well-lit space and connect with other participants online. As you paint, relaxing music guides the meditative experience.

Register now at bit.ly/FrakturFrame. Tickets cost $75.

18th Century Gingerbread

Gingerbread is a favorite autumn and winter confection that transcends cultures. First brought to what is now Armenia over 1,000 years ago from Greece, gingerbread was then made with ground almonds and breadcrumbs. Fast forward to the 17th century, and we begin to see recipes using flour. The first Mennonites in what would later become Lancaster County would have enjoyed gingerbread and may even have made recipes similar to the version listed here. Today many other countries have strong gingerbread traditions, including England, Germany, Hungary, Poland, and the United States.

To make Ginger-Bread.

TAKE three Quarts of fine Flour, two Ounces of beaten Ginger, a quarter of an Ounce of Nutmeg, Cloves, and Mace beat fine, but most of the last; mix all together, three quarters of a Pound of fine Sugar, two Pound of Treacle, set it over the Fire, but don’t let it boil; three quarters of a Pound of Butter melted in the Treacle, and some candied Lemon and Orange Peel cut fine, mix all these together well; an Hour will bake it in a quick Oven.

The Art of Cookery, Made Plain and Easy by Hannah Glasse, 1747
New in Museum Stores
The retail team has created new cross stitch kits based on antique pin cushions in our museum collection. The first release is a Four Diamond pattern (below). All kits are suitable for beginners and cost $12. Purchase in our museum stores or online at bit.ly/LMHSMuseumStore.

February Book Auction
The February 2021 Book Auction contains a wealth of interesting books for Mennonite and Amish history buffs. There are four copies of John Ruth’s epic *The Earth is the Lord’s* available. German-language Martyrs’ Mirrors include two 1849 editions and the 1814 Lancaster edition published by Joseph Ehrenfried.

Special items include a 1751 Ausbund published in Germantown that belonged to Michel Nissli, a 1785 Germantown Ausbund, a 1777 Germantown edition of *Das Kleine Davidsische Psalterspiel* owned by Jacob Bauman, and a brass-ornamented 1830 Lancaster *Apokryphische Neue Testament* owned by Jacob King and Barbara Hertzler.

Important Mennonite works include a copy of Jacob Stauffer’s 1855 *Eine Chronik, oder, Geschicht-Büchlein von der sogenannten Mennonisten Gemeinde* and the 1822 Basel edition of the Dutch Mennonite Tielem T. van Sittert’s *Christliches Glaubensbekenntnus*

Family histories in the sale include *The Wenger Book*, an 1896 Hess genealogy, “the Zimmerman Book”, and books on the Hershey, Landis, and Brubacher families. A large collection of *Mennonite Family History* magazines are available.

There are many early hymnals and songbooks including multiple editions of *Die kleine geistliche Harfe der Kinder Zions* and the Unpartheyisches Gesang-Buch. Also available is an 1837 *Eine kleine Lieder-Sammlung* which was the first hymnal of the Reformed Mennonites.

Due to the pandemic, this will be an absentee-bidders-only auction with bids due by Friday, February 12. Beginning in January, the books can be viewed at the Society during our regular business hours, Tuesday through Friday 8:30-4:00. The auction catalog will be available on our website beginning December 19, 2020. Contact Jon Weaver-Kreider for a paper copy of the catalog or with any questions. usedbooks@lmhs.org (717) 393-9745 x 106

Modern Version of Gingerbread Recipe (cut by thirds)

| 4 cups of flour | 1½ tsp of nutmeg, cloves, and mace, using more mace than the nutmeg and cloves. |
| ½ lb sugar | 2–3 drops of lemon or orange extract. |
| ⅜ lb molasses | 4 tsp powdered ginger root | 2. Whisk together the dry ingredients in a large mixing bowl and set aside. |
| ⅛ lb butter | 3. In a medium saucepan, combine the sugar, molasses, on medium heat, do not let this boil. Add the butter and combine until melted and incorporated into the sugar mixture. |
| 2–3 drops of lemon or orange extract. | 4. Remove the sugar mixture from the heat and allow to cool slightly. Carefully add the lemon or orange extract. |

5. Carefully pour the liquid into the flour and carefully combine the ingredients without overworking the dough. On a floured surface, roll out the dough to about ⅛-inch-thick and cut out into your favorite shapes. Hearts were very popular in the 18th century.

6. Place the cut-outs on the lined baking sheets and bake at 300 degrees for 15–20 minutes. The edges should be just starting to crisp. These cookies should be crispy around the edges, but soft in the center. If you are looking for more of a snap. Keep them in the oven for another minute or two.

*The baking instructions in the original recipe are incorrect. A quick oven is very hot (think 375–425 degrees). These cookies would burn if left in for that long. A lower slower bake is better here.*
DIRECTOR’S REFLECTION

Leading with Joy

Did you know that we are the largest and most active Mennonite historical society in the world? We are one among a community of peers remembering and interpreting Mennonite life – for those nestled in Mennonite community and for the broader public. By last year’s count, there are 80+ organized efforts in the U.S. focused on Anabaptist history. Canada and other global neighbors swell that number. We learn from and encourage each other as we serve.

Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society is in the midst of a healthy transformation. We have consistently and rather quietly pursued our mission for over 50 years. Our mission remains central, and you’ll notice a change to the look and feel of how we communicate. An entirely new website is underway. We will begin using a new name that represents what we offer, while communicating warmth and welcome in a way that “society” no longer exactly says.

Membership will remain an important way to participate in and support our history and storytelling work. Among other things, our brand transformation will enable newer generations to “get” what we offer and dive in in ways that connect with them.

We recognize there’s a certain responsibility that comes with the “largest and most active” designation. And there’s a certain strength that comes from our unique combination of featuring the popular and the academic, the everyday and the exceptional. As we update how we meet the world—likely in spring 2021—we enthusiastically lay the foundation for another 50 years of engaging, examining, and celebrating Mennonite life. Come along!

—Jean Kilheffer Hess, Executive Director

Recent Acquisitions

Religion/Theology


Liberating the Politics of Jesus: Renewing Peace Theology Through the Wisdom of Women. Edited by Elizabeth Soto Albrecht and Darryl W. Stephens. T&T Clark, 2020 (BT736.15 .L53 2020)


Biography/History/Genealogy


Art/Literature


Holiday Giving: Curated Gift Boxes from LMHS

Share love this holiday season by sending a curated gift box from Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society. Choose from our five themed gift boxes, and we’ll pack it with care and send it to your recipient. Shop gift boxes at bit.ly/HolGiftBox.
Giving Spirit

It’s a giving time of year. And it’s your giving that enables us to share history and stories. Will you make a gift? Your year-end gift can have a great impact, especially as we face an operating deficit due to COVID.

bit.ly/LMHSDonation

Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society (USPS 882-020)
2215 Millstream Road
Lancaster, PA 17602-1499

Inside:

- Traditional Folk Art Class Now Online
- 18th Century Gingerbread
- February Book Auction
- Director’s Reflection: Leading with Joy

1719 Herr House & Museum Seeks Volunteers

Do you have a passion for history? Become a volunteer! Opportunities in guided tours, maintenance & grounds, or the museum store. Training provided. Contact Tiffany Fisk at museum@lmhs.org or 717-454-4438.

Explore New Content on YouTube


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