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

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Pies in the Mennonite Tradition
Saturday, January 23, 6:30 to 8:30 PM
Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society

Multigenerational Anabaptist Businesses
Monday, February 1, 7 PM
Stumptown Mennonite Church

Annual Music Night
Saturday, February 6, 7 PM
Neffsville Mennonite Church
A recent library acquisition has shed light on a little-known connection between Mennonites and the American Declaration of Independence. The booklet, titled *Binding*, was published in conjunction with an exhibition commemorating Dutch Mennonite papermakers from the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. By that time, Mennonites had become well integrated into the economic life of the Netherlands, prospering in numerous industries, including paper manufacturing. As the production and trade of Dutch paper grew, so did the reputation of the Dutch Mennonite papermakers.

The first copy of the American Declaration of Independence was written on parchment in 1776. Almost immediately the text was reprinted as a broadside by the Philadelphia printer John Dunlap. Many copies of the “Dunlap Broadside” have not survived, and those that have are extremely valuable. Of those that are known to exist, more than half were printed on “Zaanse” paper made by Mennonite papermakers D. & C. Blauw, Jacob Honig & Zoonen, and Adriaan Rogge.

*Binding* was published in 2009 by the Stichting Internationaal Menno Simons Centrum. The text is written in both Dutch and English. It is in the library’s Vertical File and can be viewed during regular Society hours.

Mennonites and the American Declaration of Independence

Steve Ness, librarian

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Annual Music Night Showcases Mennonite Diversity

Enjoy the diversity of Anabaptist music during Annual Music Night, February 6, beginning at 7 p.m. at Neffsville Mennonite Church. Tickets cost $20 and are available at lmhs.org or by calling (717) 393-9745.

Returning this year are the stunning multi-instrumentalist Kravetz family.

Opening Doors for the Ladies in Your Ancestry

One of the main challenges to family historians is finding the identity of an obscure ancestral lineage in which the woman has an unknown surname. If found, a whole new branch can be added to a tree, but until then we are left in the dark. These challenges and many more involving the undocumented ladies in ancestry is the focus of this year’s Lancaster Family History Conference.

For this year’s conference, a special focus is placed on historical and genealogical records that pertain to women. Jane E. Wilcox, keynote speaker, will address these issues in her aptly titled opening lecture, “Forget Me Not: Opening the Doors for the Ladies in Your Ancestry.”

Other lectures will also slant towards discovering the women of family histories. Presentations will cover such topics as obituaries, estate records and taxes, archival research, deciphering German script, and DNA as well as the practical methodology needed to write and publish a family history.

In a special Friday afternoon session, Anne Schmidt-Lange will present new findings on the European genealogical background of prominent Lancaster County colonial families. If you wish to keep up with the latest research connecting local Mennonite families with their namesake seventeenth-century counterparts documented in Swiss archives, please attend her “Beware of the Phantom Mennonites of 1671” seminar on Friday afternoon.

Register online at lmhs.org for the conference and special classes or call (717) 393-9745.

Please join us Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, April 14, 15, and 16, 2015, for our thirty-seventh year!
Eighteenth Century German Books at Auction

David Sander

An unusual German book by Jacob Denner highlights the January book auction. Jacob Denner's Christlich und erbauliche Betrachtungen is two books bound together. There is no title page for the first part, but it was probably published in 1751. The second part was published in Altona in 1739.


There are several 19th-century German books: an 1821 Neue Testament published in Basel; an 1834 Ausbund published in Lancaster; a German Bible published in Halle in 1816; and a German Neue Testament, belonging to Isaac Hertzler, published in Philadelphia in 1843.

The sale also includes John Ruth's The Earth Is the Lord's; Frank Epp's threecolumn volume of Mennonites in Canada; a four-volume set of Mennonite Encyclopedia; an 1837 English Martyr's Mirror, published in Lampeter, Pa.; and a reprint of the Froschauer Bible.

Seven books in the Studies in Anabaptist and Mennonite History Series are up for bidding: Mennonites of the Ohio and Eastern Conference, South Central Frontiers, Gospel Versus Gospel, American Mennonites and Protestant Movements, Apart and Together, Mennonites in Oregon, Tradition and Transition, and Dancing with the Kobzar.

Other notable books are Swiss and German Pioneers, Biographical Annals of Lebanon County, and Rupp's History of Lancaster County.

The entire sale catalog can be accessed at lmhs.org or by calling (717) 393-9745. Mail-in bids are accepted through 4 pm, Thursday, January 7. No absentee bids under $10 will be accepted.

Winter Folk Art Classes at the Society

Looking for something to do as cold weather sets in? Escape winter doldrums with a folk-art class at the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society. This year, five different classes will be taught by local artists.

The classes start with a tasty turn on January 23 with a drop-in evening on “Pies in the Mennonite Tradition” from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Pie bakers, including Valerie Baer, author of Baking with Whole Grains, will be on hand to demonstrate the art. Learn more about life for Mennonite women of Lancaster County through special displays focusing on the early to mid-1900s. Making a debut at this annual event will be a limited-edition gift-card set featuring photos of Mennonite women from the early to mid-1900s. During this evening event, all cookbooks will be twenty-percent off. Tickets cost $10; children under 12 are free. Registration is due January 16.

From 9 am to 12 pm on Saturday, January 26, take the first step towards learning about fraktur with “A Taste of Fraktur,” taught by Emily Smucker Beidler. This class includes a presentation on fraktur, with a special emphasis on its role in Mennonite culture. The hands-on portion of the class focuses on the use of ink and watercolor to create the unique imagery of fraktur, rather than the calligraphy. This class costs $70 for Society members; $80 for nonmembers. Registration is due January 24.

The next week from 9 am to 12 pm, join Jim King, author of False Graining Techniques: How to Add the Rich Look of Wood to Your Next Project, to learn false graining methods. This process was traditionally used to add a richer look to simple pieces. This class costs $50 for members, and $60 for nonmembers. Registration is due January 23.

Come back for more fraktur on February 13, when Emily Smucker Beidler returns from 9 am to 12 pm to teach “The Illuminated Letter,” focusing on lettering and calligraphy in the context of fraktur. Participants will learn to use a nib pen and India ink as well as discuss modern adaptations of fraktur calligraphy. You do not need to have taken “A Taste of Fraktur” to participate. This class costs $70 for members and $80 for nonmembers. Registration is due February 6.

The final folk-art class at the Society is a redware sgraffito-plate workshop on February 27 from 9 am to 1 pm. This class, taught by Denise Wilz, focuses on the sgraffito technique used by area 18th- and 19th-century Pennsylvania German potters to make artistic designs on their folk art pottery. Participants will draw and scratch a design of their choosing on a prepared redware plate. After the workshop, the plates will be glazed, fired and returned to the workshop site for participants to pick up in three to four weeks or shipped to participants for an additional cost.

Learn more, and register for any of these classes by using the form below, calling the Society at (717) 393-9745, or online at lmhs.org.

Folk Art Class Registration

A Taste of Fraktur, Jan. 16, $70 members, $80 nonmembers; Register by January 24.

Pies in the Mennonite Tradition, January 23, $15, children 12 and under free; Register by January 16.

Grain Painting, January 30, $50 members, $60 nonmembers; Register by January 23.

The Illuminated Letter, February 6, $70 members, $80 nonmembers; Register by February 6.

Redware Sgraffito Plate, February 27, $45 members, $50 nonmembers; Register by February 20.

Please charge my:  Visa  MasterCard  Discover

Card Number _______________________________________
Expiration date__/___ Security Code______________________
Name__________________________________________
Address________________________________________
City____________________________ State__________________ ZIP___________
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Please return to LMHS, 2215 Millstream Road, Lancaster, PA 17602-1499.
On Earth Peace—Historical Perspectives

Rolando L. Santiago, executive director

Advent is one of the most important seasons that Christians around the world celebrate. In the story of Jesus’ birth, the angels proclaimed: “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests” (Luke 2:14, NIV).

Horrific incidents of violence around the world in Paris, Beirut, and Nigeria or close to home in Sandy Hook, Charleston, or Nickel Mines make us feel unsafe. We question the power of God to bring about peace. How do we confront insecurity? Let me share some thoughts.

Courage to resist violence must be grounded in a God-given faith in peace deep enough to define our spiritual core and wide enough to be binding across all human communities. The mandate that Jesus gave to Christians two millennia ago was to love enemies. Jesus also promised the Holy Spirit, who would remind his disciples of everything Jesus said to them (John 14:26). The Holy Spirit reminds us to love our enemies.

Throughout church history, there have been examples of Christian communities that repudiate violence from communities in the early church, to Anabaptists of the sixteenth century, to historic peace churches coming together in the 1930s, and to today’s growing number of members in Christian denominations that are embracing the way of peace.

Often the perception is that peacemakers are passive. Not so. Contemporary peacebuilders such as Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr. have demonstrated the power of large-scale nonviolent methods. Peacebuilding experts such as John Paul Lederach, Howard Zehr, and Gene Sharp have demonstrated the effectiveness of tools for resolving all kinds of violent conflicts, including international ones.

In a 2013 article, Deborah L. Trent claimed that “increasingly, governments recognize the value of peacebuilding as a national security function—a pragmatic, efficient way to reduce conflict with limited resources.” What would the world look like if funding for peacebuilding efforts, rather than military ones, were a major portion of governmental budgets to build true security?

During Advent, I encourage us to reflect on the peace that the angels proclaimed—an active and effective peace that transforms our spiritual lives and our human communities.

### Generous Support

With your support, you can help us reach our goal. Will you help?

Let me suggest three more reasons you should support Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society.

**First, to claim a tradition of peace.** The Society organizes programs and publishes articles that help the larger community embrace the contributions of Christian peace traditions to world societies throughout history, and in recent times.

**Second, to explore our family roots.** Genealogical resources at the Society have helped me discover the rich ethnic strands I carry from my ancestors. They are amazingly diverse from African to Taíno to Irish, and even to the Germanic Suebi tribe. Each of your ethnic traditions is as varied as mine. The Society provides resources to discover such diversity.

**Third, to value the histories of global Anabaptist faith communities.** Over the last fifty years, the Anabaptist community has grown exponentially in African, Asian, and Latin American members. The Society organizes programs that celebrate the history of these churches, especially those among us in Lancaster County.

Some of you have given already. We are profoundly grateful! If you haven’t given yet or would like to make another donation, please complete the form on this page, and mail it with your donation. Your contributions will go toward reaching the Annual Fund goal. They are fully tax-deductible.

With your support, you can participate in fulfilling the Society’s vision to be a gathering place where people can explore stories, ideas, and legacy—for themselves and with each other. On behalf of the staff, board, and volunteers, we thank you for your generous support!