Support the Lancaster Longhouse

Support the Lancaster Longhouse at the 1719 Herr House & Museum during this year’s Extraordinary Give. This replica Eastern Woodlands Native American structure is an integral part of the Society’s mission to preserve and interpret the culture and context of Anabaptist faith communities connected to Lancaster County because it allows us to share who the earliest Mennonite settlers would have lived and worked along side. Through our generous supporters, we have been able to educate over six thousand visitors this year.

Look for the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society on www.extragive.org on November 18.

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

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• History Needs You!

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Pennsylvania German Folk-Art Sale and Reception

Fraktur by Lynn Sommers

“What is folk art? It is a term rooted in the tradition of art made for a purpose: a beautiful quilt, a painted wooden chest, or a redware bowl,” says Emily Smucker Beidler, fraktur artist and folk-art committee member. “All of these things have a useful, practical purpose but show a sensitive attention to beauty as well.” The Pennsylvania German Folk-Art Sale showcases modern pieces rooted in this same tradition. The sale begins with an opening reception from 6 to 8:30 PM on Friday, November 18.

During the opening reception, there will be a chance to peruse the traditionally inspired work and meet the artists. Light refreshments will be served, and freshly baked pies will be available for purchase.

Clarke Hess, in his authoritative book Mennonite Arts, notes, “Pennsylvania German arts have long been collected for their vibrant colors, their whimsical forms, and their exceptional craftsmanship.” This will be seen in the broad spectrum of traditional forms on display during the sale, produced by twenty-seven local artists. They include fraktur, a “broken” method of lettering originally developed to illuminate manuscripts; ceramics such as redware, low-fired ceramics made with red clay; and scherenschnitte, intricate patterns and scenes cut from paper and wood. There will also be hand-woven textiles, baskets, hex signs, and more.

Ceramics by Steve Witmer

Pennsylvania German Folk-Art Sale and Reception

Wooden birds by James Murphy

Beidler says, “Our folk arts show builds on this tradition of valuing thrift and creativity. The artists represented at our annual Christmas show demonstrate a rootedness to the notion of crafts that serve utilitarian purposes as well as contemporary approaches to the tools and materials we have available today.”

During the opening reception, there will be demonstrations of fraktur by Emily Smucker Beidler, spinning by Willa Beidler, tufted-wool embroidery by Ann Hermes, and wood graining by Jim King.

The Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society is located at 2215 Millstream Road, Lancaster. The evening is free and open to the public. During the opening reception, there is a twenty percent discount on new books and CDs in the museum store.

The folk-art sale continues through December 31 during normal Society operating hours: Tuesday through Saturday, 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM.

Mennonites, Businesses, and Ethics Instruction

In 1993, the Mennonite Economic Development Agency began ASSETS Lancaster as a pilot domestic economic-development program driven by Mennonite values. Since then it has retained a core of business instruction and mentoring while also branching out to microlending, social enterprise training, and more.

Join ASSETS and the Historical Society at 7 PM on November 7 at Neffsville Mennonite Church for a panel discussion, “The Future Has No Bottom Lines.” Participating will be three ASSETS alumni: Charlie Crystle, CEO of the Lancaster Food Company; Peter Barber, co-owner of Two Dudes Painting Company; and Jennie Groff, co-owner of the Stroopie Company. The panel will be moderated by Jessica King, executive director of ASSETS Lancaster.

The discussion will cover disconnects between nonprofit efforts, social services, and the private sector and concepts such as social enterprises and B-Corps.

Maize & Snitz Festival at the Herr House & Museum

Frick thresher and steam engine

Maize and Snitz Festival is a celebration of early American life—both Native American and later European immigrants. Learn about their lives and cultures on Saturday, October 15, from 10 AM to 3 PM at the 1719 Herr House & Museum, 1849 Hans Herr Drive, Willow Street.

For those with an engineering inclination, there will be a variety of farm equipment running, including multiple hit-and-miss engines. The Frick steam engine and thresher will be on hand, threshing at 11 AM and 1 PM and a baler will run at noon and 2 PM.

Continued on p. 3
Songbooks Featured in November 11 Auction

David Sander

An outstanding collection of old German and English songbooks will be sold at the November 11 book auction. A German hymnbook published by Christopher Saur in 1777 is significant. Two “Ausbunds,” published in 1785 and 1815, with names of Lapp and Miller inscribed, are noteworthy. An 1808 “Unpartheyisches Gesangbuch” is very important. A number of nineteenth-century oblong songbooks are included.

Also of interest is an 1820 German songbook owned by Veronica Gerber with detailed information about Maria Gerber, and another hymnbook owned by Joseph Huber.

Two books by John L. Ruth add special interest, “The Earth Is the Lord’s: A Narrative History of Lancaster Mennonite Conference,” and “Maintaining the Right Fellowship,” the history of Franconia Mennonite Conference.

Other rare books are an 1837 “Martyrs’ Mirror,” a German family Bible with a Fischer-Petersheim family record, “Annals of Lebanon County,” “Diaries of Benjamin Herr, 1937-1938,” and an autograph book of Lizzie Herr. Two four-volume sets of “Mennonite Encyclopedia,” and a 1771 three-volume set of “Encyclopedia Britannica” will be sold.

Theologians will take note of a three-volume set by Philip Schaff on “The Creeds of Christendom.” Historians will be interested in histories of Columbia and Montour Counties.

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

Book Signing Scheduled with Urbane Peachey

Join the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society for a presentation and book signing with Urbane Peachey, author of the new memoir More Than One Thing Is True: Agony and Ecstasy below Cloud 9, at 7 pm on Thursday, November 3, at West Bethany Chapel in Landis Homes, 1001 East Oregon Road, Lititz.

Urbane Peachey’s memoir illuminates themes that rise out of many rich life experiences. He had four different assignments with Mennonite Central Committee, in twenty-six years, 1960-1986. From 1975-1981, he was administrator in Akron for Middle East Programs. From 1986 to 2000, Urbane served as lead pastor at Akron Mennonite Church.

Peachey writes, “This memoir is a way to reexamine, thoughtfully and deliberately, a rich and hurried past which was not possible in the rush of life. It is a way of self-learning as I examine the interrelatedness of elements within given events.” The memoir has three sections: Middle East, Commonality in Islam and Christianity, and Pastoral Life. Urbane writes as a practitioner, not as an academic; but he draws on a good education at Eastern Mennonite University, University of Pittsburgh, Lancaster Theological Seminary, and Princeton Theological Seminary.

Family Bibles Enter the Digital Age

Steve Ness, librarian and archivist

People are often surprised and disappointed to learn that Mennonites have not been particularly good at record keeping. While genealogists and other researchers can access lists of baptisms, marriages, and deaths in the records of Lutheran and Reformed churches in colonial America, most Mennonite churches did not begin to keep congregational records until the twentieth century. Even then, the records can be spotty.

This reality makes other record sources especially important. Even if congregations did not record births, deaths, and marriages, families may have recorded such life events in books that were handed down from generation to generation. Often the book of choice was the Bible, but among Mennonites it also was not unusual for a “Martyrs’ Mirror” or devotional book to be used.

The Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society has in its collection well more than one hundred Bibles or other books that contain family records. Files containing images of most of these books are now available on the Society website—for free! To view the list of files, visit http://www.lmhs.org/research/online-resources/ and click on the link for Family Bible Downloads in the listing of Free Online Resources. Library visitors are welcome to view these books in person. The library is open Tuesday to Saturday, 8:30-4:30. Nonmembers pay $5.00 daily to access or use the collections.
Maize & Snitz Festival, continued

There will also be a wide variety of other demonstrations. Food-related exhibitions will include apple-butter making, native-food cooking, and butchering. Native crafts, such as corn-husk doll making and pine-needle basket making are also displayed. Other European-based industrial demonstrations will also take place, such as paper marbling, bookbinding, and soap making.

Becky Gochnauer, director of the 1719 Herr House & Museum, says, “Maize and Snitz Festival is a great time for families to learn by watching and trying.”

A variety of food will be available during the festival, including the iconic Herr House smoked sausage sandwiches, as well as pulled pork, and chicken corn soup. There will also be assorted desserts, including apple dumplings and snitz pie.

Admission is $10 for adults, $5 for children seven to twelve, and free for those six and under.

History Needs You!

Rolando L. Santiago

At the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society, we want to finish the year in the black by December 31! To do so, we need to raise $70,000 for the annual fund by December 31. We have raised $42,876 so far. Can you help us?

It doesn’t matter whether you are a member who pays an annual membership fee, or you attend an Anabaptist congregation, or you are a friend in the broader community. Your support will show your eagerness to join us in educating others about the history of Anabaptist faith communities determined to build a peaceable, just, and hopeful world!

In the past year, two major themes guided planning of Society events! Let me give examples of these themes.

Theme one: Telling the global Anabaptist story. After the Mennonite World Conference Assembly, four diverse Anabaptist leaders reflected on the topic of “How in the World Have We Changed?” among sixty-three people who gathered in late 2015 at the Lancaster Brethren in Christ Church.

The event helped constituents create a vision of hope for a faith community that embraces people from all nations.

Theme two: Sharing personal histories. Just two weeks ago, 350 people gathered at Landisville Mennonite Church to hear stories that Janet Breneman, former pastor and missionary, and Charles Longenecker, retired biology teacher at Lancaster Mennonite School, told about their lives. Their stories were filled with reminders of how God is present in each of our life journeys, imbuing them with purpose!

We are deeply grateful that many of you can be part of our local programs but are also appreciative of the generous financial contributions you give to the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society.

To donate, please complete the form on this page, and mail it to Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society, 2215 Millstream Road, Lancaster, PA 17602. All funds will go toward the annual fund. Your contribution is fully tax-deductible, and you will receive a receipt for your gift.

Thank you!

Featured Book Auction

David Sander

The Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society will conduct a featured book auction in the fellowship hall of the Groffdale Mennonite Church on Saturday, October 15, 2016. The sale will begin at 9:00 AM and conclude around 2:00 PM. Groffdale Church is located at 168 North Groffdale Road, Leola, Pa.

Exactly 684 lots of books will be sold, including 166 lots from the collection of the late Philip Nolt, who died in December 2015. A lifelong member of Groffdale Mennonite Church, Nolt owned a book collection which included many books of interest to people who live in the area. Food will be available at the sale, and profits from it will be used to help pay hospital bills of community members.

The sale features the two-volume set of “Unser Leit” in new condition, a five-volume set of “Mennonite Encyclopedia,” and Paton Yoder’s “Tradition & Transition.” Other Mennonite history books include Daniel Kolb Cassel’s “History of the Mennonites” and Wilmer J. Eshleman’s “A History of the Reformed Mennonite Church.”

A fine collection of “The New Holland Line” periodical series will be of special interest to local people.

For genealogists, there are the Wenger and Baughman books.

Lovers of literature will take note of “The Works of Thomas Hardy” and eleven books from the pen of Christmas Carol Kauffman, including “Dannie of Cedar Cliffs” and “For One Moment.”

Theological works include ten books from the “Believers Church Bible Commentary” series and Menno Simons’ “A Foundation and Plain Instruction of the Saving Doctrine. . . .”

Also selling is a book about the Johnstown flood, books about trains and railroads, and several about fire engines.

Catalogs can be accessed online at www.lmhs.org. Printed catalogs are available free in the LMHS bookstore. To receive a catalog by mail, please send $5.00 to Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society, 2215 Millstream Road, Lancaster, PA 17602. Mail-in bids are due October 13. No absentee bids under $10 will be accepted. For more information, call 717-393-9745.

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