Native Beading Class
April 22, 10 AM to 12 PM
1719 Herr House & Museum

Music in the Orchard
Seasons, with Matt Miskie opening
June 10, 6 PM
1719 Herr House & Museum
Bring a picnic and enjoy music at
Lancaster County's oldest home. Adults,
$8; kids, free. Learn more at hansherr.org

Bookworm Frolic
August 16-18, 9 AM to 7 PM; August 19,
9 AM to 4 PM
Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society

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

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• Does The Exodus Story Define Who We Are?
• Take a Field Trip with LMHS
• Periodicals Featured in May 12 Auction

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Sign Up for “New Arrivals in a New Land”

In 1717, seventy Swiss-German Mennonite families settled in what is now Lancaster County, and today their descendants number in the millions. The 2017 Lancaster Family History Conference will commemorate the three hundredth anniversary of this migration. Church historian John Ruth will narrate this story in his keynote speech, “New Arrivals in a New Land.” Ruth will be available for reserved roundtable discussions after his address and throughout the day. He is author of the pivotal work, The Earth Is the Lord’s: A Narrative History of the Lancaster Mennonite Conference. He has also written about the history of Franconia Mennonite Conference.

The Lancaster Family History Conference offers workshops that will help attendees search for their Mennonite roots in “Land Records of 1717 Immigrant Families” and “The Swiss-German Background of 1717 Immigrant Families.” Differences between separate German emigrations in the 1700s and 1800s will be discussed in “German Immigrant Waves: Contrasts and Sources.” The conference also includes general workshops, such as “Essentials of Probate Research” and “Preserving Family Documents.”

Genealogical research has its difficulties. “Would I Lie To You? The Many Ways in Which Our Ancestors Lead Us Astray” focuses on guiding family historians away from records that are inaccurate or misleading. “The Devil is in the Details” will help researchers to extract facts and meaning from historical documents.

Field trips and research seminars will take place on Thursday and Friday before the conference. Attendees who go to LancasterHistory.org will be given a tour and time to conduct their own research. Research seminars include special research assistance, a DNA roundtable discussion, and learning how to decipher German script. Darvin Martin will also present research on the genetic background of Mennonite families in “The DNA of 1717 Mennonite Immigrant Families.”

The conference runs May 18-20, 2017. The Saturday conference will take place at the Farm and Home Center, 1383 Arcadia Road, Lancaster. Registration is available online at www.lmhs.org or by calling Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society at (717) 393-9745. Registration for field trips and seminars is done separately from the conference, but priority seating will be given to conference attendees.

Music in Worship Among Six Anabaptist Groups

Singing in worship is practiced by nearly all Christian denominations, but the types of singing vary greatly. This is also true of Anabaptist denominations, and the upcoming “Music in Worship” program will demonstrate that in an interesting manner. Amish, Church of the Brethren, River Brethren, Groffdale, Weaverland, and Lancaster Conference Mennonites will gather together at the Martindale Mennonite Fellowship Center and sing each other’s favorite hymns on Thursday, May 4, at 7 pm.

“This is an opportunity to worship in song with both familiar and unfamiliar hymns, languages, and singing styles,” says organizer David Sauder.

The opening song of the service will be the “Lobsong,” or in English, “Our Father God Thy Name We Praise,” sung in three different ways. Following that, song leaders from each group, sitting around a traditional singers’ table, will lead two songs from their own denomination’s hymnals. The program will close with “Nun danket alle Gott,” (“Now Thank We All Our God,”) and a closing song that will be familiar to all six denominations.

“This program full of music is not a concert,” stresses Sauder. “It is a hymn sing; the audience is always encouraged to sing along.”

Martindale Mennonite Fellowship Center is located at 352 Martindale Road, Ephrata, Pennsylvania.

The service is co-sponsored by the Lancaster Conference Historical Society and the Swiss Pioneer Preservation Association. An offering will be taken to support both organizations.

Planned Giving

The next time you meet with your financial or legal advisor, ask about ways your estate planning can benefit the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society and its many projects for years to come.

Planned giving can benefit LMHS and save taxes at the same time.

For more information, contact us at PlannedGiving@lmhs.org. Thanks so much.
Take a Field Trip with the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society

Bicycle Tour of Native American Sites on Saturday, May 13, from 8 AM to 12 PM.

Manor Township was home to numerous settlements of Native Americans. Participants will explore these sites on a sixteen-mile bike hike. Bikers will experience this saga through storytellers at fourteen stops along the way. Support will be available if needed. This tour will be an enjoyable and educational experience for families, school groups, or individuals wanting to learn more of native history.

Tour begins and ends at Ann Letort Elementary School. Registration costs $30, regular admission and $20 students, and is due May 6.

Barn Tour on Saturday, June 24, from 8 AM to 4 PM.

Visit and experience the earliest style of Pennsylvania barns: the forebay Sweitzer. This magnificent and medieval-like structure first took hold on the landscape circa 1750 in the Willow Street area and the immediate environs. This trip will cover six of these very old structures dating from the last third of the eighteenth century and the first decade or two of the nineteenth century.

This tour will be led by Greg Huber.

Trip leaves from Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society.

Registration costs $80 for members, $85 for nonmembers, and is due August 30.

Swiss-German 1717 Immigrant Journey to Lancaster, Pennsylvania

Follow the path of early immigrants to Lancaster. Come sail with us through the Christina River on the “Kalmar Nyckel,” a replica of the Swedish boat which brought the first European settlers to the Delaware Valley in 1638. Visit old Philadelphia and Germantown to experience some of the sites from the original settlements.

Tour departs from the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society. Date and details to come.

300 Years of Mellinger Mennonite Church, 1717-2017 on Saturday, October 21, from 9 to 12, AM and 1 to 4 PM.

Two half-day tours will travel by significant homesteads of early members. Highlights include a walk to the early Mellinger farm as well as a log barn along Leaman Road. The tour will be led by Dan Wenger and Ivan Leaman.

The tour begins at Mellinger Mennonite Church.

Registration costs $50 for members, $65 for nonmembers, and is due September 21.

Field Trip Registration

Bicycle Tour of Native American Sites: May 13, $30 regular, $20 students. Registration due May 6.

Barn Tour: June 24, $80 members, $95 nonmembers. Registration due May 24.

Christian Burkholder, Nonresistance, and War: September 30, $70 members, $85 nonmembers. Registration due August 30.

Swiss-German 1717 Immigrant Journey to Lancaster, Pennsylvania: Sign up to receive information when available.

300 Years of Mellinger Mennonite Church: October 21, 9 AM to 12 PM, $50 members, $65 nonmembers. Registration due September 21.

300 Years of Mellinger Mennonite Church: October 21, 1 to 4 PM, $50 members, $65 nonmembers. Registration due September 21.

My check is payable to Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society.

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The Mirror (ISSN 0738-7237) is a bimonthly newsletter published by the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society; Joel Nofziger, editor. Phone: (717) 393-9745; fax: (717) 393-8751; e-mail: mirror@lmhs.org. POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to The Mirror, Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society, 2215 Millstream Road, Lancaster, PA 17602-1499.
Does the Exodus Story Define Who We Are?

Rolando Santiago, director

This past March 22, the local LNP newspaper ran David Brooks’ New York Times article: “Americans Have Lost Their Sense of Shared Purpose.”

His commentary was based on ideas that Philip Gorski, sociologist at Yale University, advanced in his new book “American Covenant: A History of Civil Religion from the Puritans to the Present.”

Brooks underlines a key theme in Gorski’s book: Americans have lost a unifying narrative that gives a sense of purpose and meaning to their history. Across many generations, the Exodus story guided the Puritans, the American revolutionaries, the champions of antislavery, and more recently Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and fellow civil rights advocates.

The Exodus story has six acts: experience of slavery and oppression, revolt from tyranny, hardships during flight into the wilderness, infighting and misbehavior, handing down of a new covenant, arriving at the promised land to build a new Jerusalem. The new covenant, according to the story, is for all people, not just one people.

Is the Exodus story the one that the Society should appropriate? Is there a more adequate one?

I am attracted to the Exodus story; however, its six subplots seem to be fraught with inevitable violence. So, from the perspective of Jesus, the early church, and the Anabaptists to this day, is there a more appropriate story that best describes a nonviolent journey through life fulfilled in the “peaceable kingdom” of the prophets? I welcome your thoughts and ideas at rsantiago@lmhs.org, or at (717) 393-9745.

Periodicals Featured in May 12 Auction

Periodicals and magazines take center stage at the Society’s May 12, 2017, book auction. Over four hundred issues of “Herold der Wahrheit,” 1943-1967 will be sold. A nearly complete set, only one issue missing, of “Mennonite Family History,” is also scheduled to be sold along with a complete set of “Pennsylvania Mennonite Heritage,” the quarterly journal of the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society. Also being sold are seventy issues of “Reggeboge,” and seventy-nine issues of “Mennonite Life.”

Historians will be interested in the “Jonas Martin Era,” “The Earth Is the Lord’s,” and a four volume set of “Mennonite Encyclopedia.” An 1814 “Martyr’s Mirror,” published in Lancaster is included, along with an autographed copy of M. G. Weaver’s “Mennonites of the early Lancaster Conference.”

Lebanon County, Pennsylvania, is featured with “Biographical Annals of Lebanon County” and a reprint edition of “History of the Counties of Dauphin and Lebanon.”

For genealogists there are some rare family histories including a 1903 “History and Descendants of Christian Wenger,” a 1928 “Genealogical Records of the Royer Family,” a 1938 reprint of “The Brenneman History,” and a reprint of the 1940 “Genealogy and History of the Kauffman-Coffman Families.”

Full catalogs are available at www.lmhs.org or by calling (717) 393-9745.

The sale will be held at Society headquarters, starting at 6:30 PM. Absentee bids are accepted until 4:30 PM, Thursday, the day before the auction.

Recent Acquisitions

Religion/Theology


Biography


History/Miscellaneous


Mingus, Scott L. “The ground swallowed them up: slavery and the underground railroad in York County, Pa.” York County History Center, 2016 (E450 .M56 2016)


Nigerian novelist Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie emphasized that the experience of each person throughout life is made up of overlapping stories, not a single one.

Like a personal story with multiple subplots or a country’s story experienced by different groups across generations, the beauty of a quilt resides in stitching together many different colored or shaped pieces into a unified whole.

So, I am wondering whether you who read this column can help define the story that gives meaning and purpose to Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society.

Is the Exodus story the one that the Society should appropriate? Is there a more adequate one?

I am attracted to the Exodus story; however, its six subplots seem to be fraught with inevitable violence.

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