Visit the Library

This library/archives is a research center for Pennsylvania Mennonite and Amish history, genealogy, and theology. It also holds a significant collection of historical/genealogical materials pertaining to southeastern Pennsylvania with a special focus on Lancaster County. Most genealogies and local histories are shelved in the reading room, where researchers have access to open shelves. Wi-Fi and public computers with Internet access, including Ancestry.com, are available in the reading room. Microform readers, a reader-printer, and photocopier/printer are available for use.

Nonmembers of the Society pay a $5 per day fee to use the library, but students, pastors, and congregational historians may use the facilities free of charge. The library is also free for those who wish to make use of the space but not any of the resources.

For more information, contact Steve Ness at library@lmhs.org or call (717) 393-9745.

Inside:
- Field trips explore 300 Years of History
- Online Resources Updated
- Ausbunds Featured in Book Auction

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

Partners
CCAB Insurance & Benefits, Inc.

Employment Opportunities

Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society is hiring an accountant-bookkeeper at twenty-four hours per week. See job description and application at www.lmhs.org.

Submit résumé and application to Dorothy Siegrist at manager@lmhs.org by Thursday, August 31, 2017.
Annual Storytelling Night

“Stories touch us deeply. Listening to someone else’s stories reminds us powerfully that we are not alone,” says Phyllis Pellman Good, moderator of LMHS’s annual Storytelling Night. “Telling stories, and hearing stories from other people’s lives is one of the great human experiences.”

On Monday evening, September 11, Marcella Hostetler and Leonard Dow will share the stage at Stumptown Mennonite Church. Beginning at 7 pm, Hostetler and Dow will each tell seven three- or four-minute-long stories from their lives, alternating throughout the evening.

Hostetler spent the first nine years of her life in Brazil and most of the rest of her childhood in Scottdale, Pennsylvania. After college she lived a year in Germany. She led MCC’s first Youth Discovery Team to Africa. A 1984 graduate of Goshen College, she later completed her master’s in choral conducting and music education at Westminster Choir College in Princeton, New Jersey, where she graduated with honors in 2004.

She is beginning her tenth year in the LMS music department and has taught music for twenty-seven years. Her passion for music from different cultures has motivated her to travel to South Africa and Brazil with her auditioned choir, Campus Chorale. The favorite part of her job is connecting with students and finding songs that they love.

Dow was reared in Philadelphia and first encountered Mennonites at Christopher Dock Mennonite High School, where he was one of thirty black students recruited to integrate the student body. He later went on to attend Eastern Mennonite University, where he still holds basketball records. He also met his wife, Rosalie Rolón, there.

Dow served as pastor at Oxford Circle Mennonite Church for nineteen years and also served as bishop of the Philadelphia district of Lancaster Mennonite Conference. He currently works for Evreence Financial in Philadelphia as a stewardship and development specialist. He sees his call as using that role for the benefit of urban churches nationwide.

“Surprising energies often emerge between the two storytellers and what they choose to share with us as the evening unfolds,” says Good. “It’s an event you don’t want to miss!”

David Schrock Hired as Director of 1719 Herr House & Museum

David Schrock has agreed to serve as the new director of the 1719 Herr House & Museum. David will begin his duties on September 11, 2017. He had been serving as interim director since June 5, 2017.

“We are deeply grateful to David for accepting this new challenge. He is well known and respected among all staff and volunteers who have worked with him over the last few years as a volunteer tour guide at the Herr House,” said Rolando Santiago, executive director of the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society.

David served as teacher and director of student life at Ephrata Mennonite School for the last ten years. He has a Master of Science in Psychology from Millersville University. He and his wife Lindsay attend Erb Mennonite Church. On August 3, their first child, Joseph David, was born.
Online Resources

Updated

Steve Ness, librarian and archivist

We recently updated three resources with the goal of continuing to improve access to information through the LMHS website.

1. The obituary indexes now include indexed names from 2016 as well as additions/corrections to names from earlier years. These indexes are freely available online to anyone.

2. Miscellaneous Scrapbook 7 can now be viewed online. This collection includes the obituaries of many Lancaster County Amish from the 1940s to the 1970s. Access to the online obituaries is restricted to members of the Historical Society.

3. Of the three genealogical databases available online, the LMHS Database is the one that is actively being updated. This database now contains more than 115,000 names, with new data being added primarily from articles published in Pennsylvania Mennonite Heritage. Access to the databases is restricted to members of the Historical Society.

All of the LMHS online resources are accessible through our website at www.lmhs.org/research/online-resources. If you have questions about our resources (online or otherwise), please call us at (717) 393-9745 or send an e-mail to library@lmhs.org.

Some resources are only available for Society members. For more information on membership, stop by our building on Millstream Road, or give us a call at (717) 393-9745.

Religion/Theology


Martin, Chester S. God's guiding eye. [Publisher not identified], 2004 (BR1725. M47 A3 2004)


Biography


LeMAN, Robert. The times of our lives: Naomi and Paul on the move. [Publisher not identified], 2005 (BX8143.L44 A3 2005)


Recent Acquisitions


History


Shearer, Tobin Miller. Two weeks every summer; fresh air children and the problem of race in America. Cornell University Press, 2017 (HV934 .S54 2017)


Miscellaneous


Seitz, Blair. Turn the world around: a photojournalist discovers paths to peace traveling a war-torn planet. RB Books, 2013 (PN4874.S45 A3 2013)

Field Trips Explore 300 Years of History

They began to worship together, and then built a meetinghouse, a congregation that is today called Mellinger Mennonite Church. Hear stories from early settlers and prominent members of the congregation during half-day field trips on Saturday, October 21, from 9 AM to 12 PM and 1 to 4 PM.

The tour will visit numerous locations including the house of Martin Mellinger, the prominent deacon who gave the congregation its name.

To register, visit www.lmhs.org or call (717) 393-9745. Tickets cost $50 for Society members, $65 for nonmembers. Registration is due September 21; seats available on a first-come, first-served basis.

This tour begins and ends at Mellinger Mennonite Church, 1916 Lincoln Highway East, Lancaster, Pennsylvania.
Do Public History and Faith Belong Together?
Rolando Santiago, director

How appropriate is it for the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society (LMHS) to organize public history events through the lens of faith? I believe it is appropriate.

Public history events represent “a broad range of activities undertaken by people with some training in the discipline of history who are generally working outside specialized academic settings. Public history practice is deeply rooted in the areas of historic preservation, archival science, oral history, museum curatorship, and other related fields” (from Wikipedia). For years, LMHS has been a leader in sponsoring public history activities for south central Pennsylvania and beyond. These events are often designed for people of faith or of no faith.

Faith-based organizations like LMHS have an intentional faith bias. Our bias is Anabaptist Christian. This bias also comes from LMHS’s mission to “preserve and interpret the culture and context of Anabaptist-related faith communities connected to Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.”

You may ask, does this faith bias compromise LMHS’s integrity when it interprets history in its activities? My answer is no. Any public history organization has its biases. They are stated in the organization’s values.

Like LMHS, most public history organizations also define their geographic scope and the population groups whose history they tell. Most importantly, when staff, board members, and volunteers plan events at LMHS, they seek to promote historical thinking. Historical thinking generates “topographies of historical memory, rough maps of how ordinary people think about the past and use it to understand the present” (from Sam Wineburg, educational psychologist, Stanford University).

Let me illustrate how historical thinking works in events that LMHS sponsors. In October of 2012, at the height of the presidential election, LMHS organized an event called “The Election of 1800.” David L. Holmes, professor emeritus of religious studies at the College of William and Mary, discussed the infamous election where incumbent John Adams battled challenger Thomas Jefferson. Jefferson was attacked as being un-Christian and carelessly populist. Jefferson swept the election. Dick Thomas, former moderator of Mennonite Church USA, followed David Holmes with a prayer that suggested an Anabaptist way of thinking about the 2012 presidential election.

LMHS continues to lead efforts to promote public history through historical thinking relevant to everyone!

Ausbunds Featured in September Book Auction

The September book auction includes valuable books from the collection of the late historian James O. Lehman that were consigned by his wife, Dorothy Lehman. Two Ausbunds in good condition, one published in Basel, 1809, and the other, eighteenth century, undated, and very likely Basel, 1809, and the other, eighteenth century, undated, and very likely very likely published in Europe; and a German New Testament published in Frankfurt, will be sold. All three of the above books are autographed.

Also selling from this collection is a five-volume set of Mennonite Encyclopedia, as well as The Earth Is the Lord’s.

The sale also includes a German prayer book published in Germantown, 1806, Menno Simons’ Ein Fundament, 1835, and several Unpartheyisches Gesangbueh, published in 1804, 1808, 1880, and 1887. Another German hymnbook, an 1848 Harfe der Kinder Zions, will be sold, and The Philharmonia, an English/German songbook, 1875. Added to these hymnbooks is a 1763 edition of Lobwasser’s Psalmen Davids.

Persons looking for old Bibles will be interested in the 1794 Bible, translated from the Latin Vulgate, published in Dublin.

Other items of special interest are a 1798 German book which includes a folded sheet of the Wengerd family birth record, Daniel Cassel’s History of the Mennonites, and eight series of the Pennsylvania Archives.

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Thank you for your support.

Maize & Snitz Fest

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 7, from 10 AM to 3 PM at the 1719 Herr House & Museum, 1849 Hans Herr Drive, Willow Street, Pa. There will be demonstrations of farm equipment, food demonstrations, native craft demonstrations, and industrial demonstrations. Food will be available throughout, including Herr House smoked sausage.