Save the Date: Field Trips in 2018

Lancaster City Bike Tour, May 5
Learn about the unique historic neighborhood identities of different “wards” from long-term residents on a relaxed bike tour that circles the city of Lancaster.

William Penn’s Holy Experiment: Early Cultural Groups Settling in Berks County, Pennsylvania, May 19
Tour various sites in the Oley Valley which illustrate Penn’s invitation for numerous cultural groups to join his “holy experiment.” Led by Jim Lewars.

Mills of Lancaster County, June 9
Mills were an important part of the agricultural economy in Lancaster County during the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries. Visit the last two operable water-powered grist mills in the county, along with other mills. Visits to the mills require the use of stairs to see all the floors.

Mennonites and African Americans in Lancaster County, July 21
Learn how local Mennonites interacted with their African American neighbors on this family-friendly tour led by Stuart Metzler and Darlene Colón.

Franklin County: Early Anabaptist Sites in Southcentral Pennsylvania, October 6
Edsel Burdge Jr., research associate at the Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies, will showcase significant Anabaptist sites in Franklin County, Pennsylvania.

Underground Railroad Tour, September 8
Follow the trail of freedom seekers across Lancaster County, farm to farm, to Christiana. Hear conductor stories, and see entrances to tunnels and trapdoors.

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Inside:
- Swiss Genealogy Resources
- January 2018 Book Auction Gems
- Winter Bookfest
2018 Folk Art Classes

A Taste for Fraktur
February 3, 9 AM to 12 PM
Class taught by Emily Smucker Beidler

Fraktur is a distinctly American folk art dating back to the mid-1700s and was an important part of Pennsylvania German culture. This class includes a presentation on fraktur, with special emphasis on its role in Mennonite culture and demonstration of use of the ink and watercolor. Students will spend time creating their own small fraktur piece. The class will focus on the imagery of fraktur, rather than calligraphy. A starter kit is included in the tuition fee. No previous experience is required.
$70 member, $80 nonmembers
Registration due January 26

The Illuminated Letter
March 3, 9 AM to 12 PM
Class taught by Emily Smucker Beidler

This class will focus on learning lettering and calligraphy within the context and history of fraktur. Participants will learn to use a nib pen and India ink. Beidler will also discuss modern adaptations of fraktur calligraphy. A materials kit is included. There will also be pens and bottled ink for participants to use during the workshop.
$70 member, $80 nonmembers
Registration due February 23

Advanced Fraktur Workshop
February 3 and March 3, 8 AM to 12 PM
Get another opportunity to continue creating fraktur available only to those who have taken both Fraktur I and II classes. Bring along your supplies. You will be provided with a new piece of Bristol Board, tracing paper, and access to all of Emily’s visual resources. Receive one-on-one help from 8 to 9 AM and continue working throughout the morning while Emily teaches the Fraktur I or II workshop.
$35 per session
Registration due January 26 or February 23

Continued on p. 2
Resources for Swiss Genealogical Research

Steve Ness, librarian and archivist

The library recently bolstered its resources for Swiss historical and genealogical research. The first book is *A Companion to the Swiss Reformation*, edited by Amy Nelson Burnett and Emidio Campi (published by Brill in 2016). “Its essays examine the successes and as well as the failures of the Reformation movement, considering not only the institutional churches but also the spread of Anabaptism. The volume highlights the different form that the Reformation took among the members of the Confederation and its allied territories, and it describes the political, social and cultural consequences of the Reformation for the Confederation as a whole”—Publisher. Because of the cost of the book, it may be used only in the library.

The second resource is a series of books aimed at guiding genealogists to the appropriate record repository to conduct their Swiss family research. Generally the researcher must identify which church parish was responsible for recording births, marriages, and deaths for the area in which their ancestors were living. The series, “Map Guide to Swiss Parish Registers,” by Kevan M. Hansen, provides information about both Catholic and Protestant parishes, what types of records are available, and contact information. The library has the volumes covering Bern, Zürich, Fribourg, Aargau, St. Gallen, and Appenzell. It also holds some of Hansen's earlier guides to German parish registers. These volumes may be used only in the library.

Winter Bookfest to Feature Popular Topics

Looking for some new reading material to shake off the winter doldrums? Come to the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society's Winter Bookfest. The sale of used books will take place on Thursday, February 16, from 3 PM to 8 PM; Friday, February 17, from 9 AM to 8 PM; and Saturday, February 18, from 9 AM to 4:30 PM.

The Winter Bookfest features the ten most popular categories of books from the Bookworm Frolic. These include history, religion, children's, fiction, biography, music, Mennonite, and more.

Hardcover books will be sold for $3; paperbacks and children's small hardbacks will sell for $1.50. New books will be put out each day.

The Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society is located at 2215 Millstream Road, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, next to Tanger Outlets on Lincoln Highway East. Parking is available in the Society parking lot. The Winter Bookfest will take place snow or shine.

2018 Folk-art Classes (Continued)

Grain Painting

February 10, 9 AM to 12 PM
Class taught by Jim King

Learn how to add the rich look of wood to your next project with false graining techniques in this folk art class taught by Jim King. Students will paint a small box with ball feet.

$70 member, $80 nonmembers
Registration due February 2

Weaving

March 24, 9 AM to 4:30 PM
Class taught by Susan Weaver

Students explore the colonial history of handwoven tape and the three styles of tape looms. On ready-to-weave looms, they learn to weave a variety of traditional patterns such as 'check' and 'rib.' Examples of contemporary tape will give students ideas for functional and holiday tape.

$90 member, $100 nonmembers
Registration due March 16

Folk Art Class Registration

Take all four classes (marked with an *) and save $10 per class.

___ * A Taste of Fraktur, February 3, $70 members, $80 nonmembers; register by January 26.
___ Advanced Fraktur Workshop, February 3, $35; register by January 26
___ * Grain Painting, February 10, $70 members, $80 nonmembers; register by February 2.
___ * The Illuminated Letter, March 3, $70 members, $80 nonmembers; register by February 23.
___ Advanced Fraktur Workshop, March 3, $35; register by February 23.
___ * Weaving, March 24, $90 members, $100 nonmembers; register by March 16.

My check is payable to Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society.

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With Gratitude and a Blessing

Rolando L. Santiago, director

This month I will complete seven years of service as executive director of Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society. Early in my tenure, on January 1 of 2011, the board of directors held a strategic planning retreat to set direction for the Society. The board mandated: “Expand public outreach!”

Over the last seven years, we did this.

The Society, jointly with the 1719 Herr House & Longhouse Museum, planned numerous Lancaster Roots events. We invited people from many different religious and cultural heritages to tell stories. These stories transformed our traditional notions about the history of Anabaptist communities connected to Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.

We told stories about the history of Swiss-German Anabaptist communities. But we didn’t stop there. We invited Native Americans to tell stories about Algonquin and Haudenosauwe tribes that inhabited the Lancaster region when the first European Mennonists arrived in 1710.

We asked for stories, music, and food from immigrant Anabaptist communities present in today’s Lancaster County such as Latin Americans from Puerto Rico, Mexico, Honduras, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Colombia, Venezuela, Dominican Republic, and more; Asians from Thailand, Myanmar, Bhutan, Indonesia, Taiwan, and India; Africans from Kenya, Tanzania, Congo, Zimbabwe, Zambia, and Uganda; and Slavs from the Ukraine.

We expanded collaboration across different Anabaptist church communities that included the modern Lancaster Mennonite Conference, Groffdale Mennonite Conference, and River Brethren, so that audiences could appreciate the contributions that each group made to the history of American Anabaptism.

As I leave, I bless the Society to continue to:

- Build its public history activities through educational events, publications, archival and library resources, field trips, folk art and language classes, oral histories, museum exhibits, films, and others;
- Increase financial sustainability by enhancing its revenue streams, including its membership drive, annual fund appeals, retail sales, business support, congregational offerings, and grants;
- Expand its current scope from collection, preservation, interpretation, and dissemination to also include research so that it fully utilizes a wealth of material culture and archival resources;
- Build bridges across a plethora of Anabaptist faith communities connected to Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, that are diverse in cultural heritage and theological perspectives;
- Create partnerships with non-Anabaptist faith communities with similar histories over the last three hundred years in southeastern Pennsylvania;
- Cultivate relationships with Native Americans in a spirit of confession for the injustices committed against them in the past so that the history of Anabaptist faith communities may elevate God’s restoring love for the oppressed.

I am grateful to the board of directors, staff, members, and constituents who encouraged me to exercise my leadership skills with meaning and joy! I did so!

Best-ever Support for Extraordinary Give

Thank you to 54 ExtraOrdinary Give participants who gave $6,995 in support of Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society. This was the best giving year ever through the ExtraOrdinary Give! If you would like to continue your support of the Society or learn about its exciting historical and educational activities, please visit https://www.lmhs.org.

Some Gems on the January Book Auction

Jon Weaver-Kreider


Many valuable hymnals from the collection of Wilmer Swope will be on sale, including 1854 and 1923 editions of the Harmonia Sacra. Early European volumes include the 1763 Vollständiges Marburger Gesangbuch, an 1812 Württembergisches Gesangbuch, a 1755 Die Uebung der Gottsdieth in allerley geistlichen Liedern, a prayer book by Johannes Zollikoffer, published in Basel, and an unidentified 1703 German religious volume that includes a portion written by Heinrich Müller.

Other rare items include Kurzer Auszug von Menno Simons Schriften, verfassend unterschiedliche merkwürdige Verhandlungen und wörtliche Auszüge aus seinen Wercken published in Büdingen, Germany, in 1758; two 1849 Martyrs Mirrors, published by Shem Zook, including one belonging to Peter Imhoff; the 1844 He Pasa Ekklesia: An Original History of the Religious Denominations at Present Existing in the United States by I. Daniel Rupp; and Neueingerichtetes Gesang-Buch, published in Philadelphia by Conrad Zentler in 1813.

Two five-volume sets of the Mennonite Encyclopedia are on sale as well as a 1982 framed painting of half-timbered buildings in the Weierhof, Germany, by Helmut B. Deubein.

The entire sale catalog can be accessed at www.lmhs.org, and paper copies are available for $5. Bids are accepted via e-mail, mail, or phone until 4 pm, Thursday, January 11. No absentee bids under $10 are accepted. We also invite interested persons to attend the auction on January 12 at 6:30 pm at the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society.