Music in the Orchard
Featuring Joy Ike
June 9, 6 pm
1719 Herr House & Museum

Music in the Orchard
Featuring Vinegar Creek Constituency
June 23, 6 pm
1719 Herr House & Museum

Music in the Orchard
Featuring Rizetta’s Tones
July 7, 6 pm
1719 Herr House & Museum

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

Inside:
• New Director Announced
• Genealogies, Waldensians, and Ausbunds
• Unusual Scrapbook of Fabrics

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2018 Field Trips Feature Mennonite History

Discover the history of Mennonites in southeastern Pennsylvania during a field trip with the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society.

Lancaster City Bike Tour on May 5, 8 AM to 12 PM

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. Groups start at 8 AM and leave on fifteen-minute intervals. With registration, please call to arrange your start time.

Tour begins and ends at James Street Mennonite Church, 323 West James Street, Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Registrations cost $30 regular, $20 students; registration due April 28.

William Penn’s Holy Experiment: Early Cultural Groups Settling in Berks County, Pennsylvania, on May 19, 8 AM to 4 PM

Tour various sites in the Oley Valley that illustrate Penn’s invitation for numerous cultural groups to join his “holy experiment.” Led by Jim Lewars.

Tour begins and ends at the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society. Registration costs $100 members, $115 nonmembers; registration due April 19.

Mills of Lancaster County on June 9, 8 AM to 4 PM

Mills served as an important part of the agricultural economy in Lancaster County during the eighteenth, nineteenth, and twentieth 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 floors.

Tour begins and ends at the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society. Registration costs $70 members, $85 nonmembers; registration due May 9.

Mennonites and African-Americans in Lancaster County, July 21, 9 AM to 2 PM

Learn how local Mennonites interacted with their African-American neighbors.

Doted of Discovery Explored in Performance

Sometimes the only way to have difficult conversations is to laugh. Ted and Co.’s production Discovery: A Comic Lament finds unexpected humor at the intersection of justice and land use, offering comical and challenging glimpses into European settler maltreatment of Native Americans.

Take this opportunity to learn about love, loss, and land at 6 PM on Saturday, April 21, at Forest Hills Mennonite Church. There is no cost for attendance.

“I am new to the Doctrine of Discovery, and it changed my way of thinking about our land, Native people, and Manifest Destiny,” says Todd Gusler, chair of the committee bringing the play to Lancaster and pastor at Rossmere Mennonite Church. “It is an important thing for us to know, acknowledge, and begin working at as people of faith.”

“Discovery” is centered around an exploration of the Doctrine of Discovery, the legal framework dating to the fifteenth century that gave Christian governments rights to invade and seize lands.

“Ted and Co. are able to use humor to be able to get across a point you might miss otherwise,” added Gusler.

The play is written by Alison Brookins and directed by Phil Weaver-Stoesz. It was created in partnership with Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery Coalition.

Discovery: A Comic Lament will be staged at Forest Hills Mennonite Church, 100 Quarry Road, Leola, Pennsylvania. No registration is required.

Call For Papers: What Young Historians Are Thinking

The Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society—in partnership with the Sider Institute for Anabaptist, Pietist, and Wesleyan Studies at Messiah College and with the Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies at Elizabethtown College—welcomes paper proposals for its event “What Young Historians Are Thinking.”

Invited to participate are high school students, undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral students, those who have just started careers in history, as well as those who are “young” in scholarly study of historical topics (no matter what their age). All must be engaged in original research using chiefly primary sources (written and/or oral). All should be a part of a historic peace church (Amish, Brethren in Christ, Church of the Brethren, Mennonite, Religious Society of Friends/Quaker, etc.) or focus on one or more of these traditions.

The Lancaster Amish

A new documentary, exclusively at the Mennonite Information Center
Every hour on the hour, 9 AM to 4 PM
Young Historians, cont.

Those interested should submit a 250-word proposal for a twenty-minute paper to be given at the symposium, along with a brief autobiographical sketch and full contact information. Send these to Joel Nofziger at Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society, 2215 Millstream Road, Lancaster, PA 17602, or to younghistorians@lmhs.org. A limited number of travel scholarships are available. Please note in the proposal whether this will be needed. The symposium will take place on June 2 at the Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies, Elizabethtown College, 400 Campus Road, Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania, at 1:30 PM.

In the symposium, three of the proposals received are accepted for papers to be given in a public event. In addition, the papers may subsequently be published in Pennsylvania Mennonite Heritage.

In the past, papers have included topics such as John E. Funk and the dissemination of information to the scattered churches of America, Quaker Anne Knight and her lifelong efforts for the rights of the disenfranchised, and the peace position of the Brethren in Christ, among others.

Community News

REUNION: The 2018 Schürch (Shirk, Sherk, Sherrick, etc.) Family Association of North America biennial reunion will be held July 27 and 28 at the Best Western Plus Hotel, Lewisburg, Pa. Programming includes tours, seminars, and genealogical research assistance. Discounted hotel rate and space reservations are available until June 13. Additional details and registration are available at www.schurchfamilyassociation.net. Contact Sue Shirk at suesbug@msn.com, or phone 717-381-2772.

Genealogies, Waldensians, and Ausbunds

Jon Weaver-Kreider

The Society’s auctions of used and rare books are a good source for finding genealogy books. The May 11 auction contains many family histories including two copies of Nolt’s Family History, 1771-1969 and two copies of The Hertzler-Hartzler Family History, one of which was presented by Ernst Correll to Albert Gerberich. Other books cover the following surnames: Brenneman, Burkhart, Eby, Eschbach, Gnaegi, Godshalk, Graybill, Herr, Horning, Keller, Landis, Lichtenwalter, Meyer, Retten, Rohrbach, Shirk, Slaymaker, Weber, et cetera.


Also present is an 1814 Lancaster edition of the Martyrs Mirror. An 1811 Lancaster edition of Dietrich Philip’s Eschiridion, owned by Joh. Borgholder, appears as well as the first two volumes of the Mennonitisches Lexikon, published in Germany in the early 1900s.

An 1898 edition of I. Daniel Rupp’s A Collection of Upwards of Thirty Thousand Names of German, Swiss, Dutch, French and Other Immigrants in Pennsylvania is on sale as well as an 1844 edition of his History of Lancaster County. Other interesting items include a Testament und Abschrift der Zwölf Patriarchen, published by Jacob Bailey in Lancaster in 1791; Gespräch im Reich der Toten, published in Lancaster in 1793; and a handwritten 1793 cyphering book belonging to John Brobst.

The entire sale catalog can be accessed at www.lmhs.org, or paper copies are available for $5. Bids are accepted via e-mail, mail, or phone until 4 PM, Thursday, May 10. Interested individuals may attend the auction on May 11 at 6:30 PM.

Mennonite Historical Field Trips, continued

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.
Jean Kilheffer Hess Announced As New Director

Jean Kilheffer Hess, recently Director of Strategic Development for United Zion Retirement Community in Lititz, Pennsylvania, will become the new executive director of the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society. She will assume her role in mid-April, replacing Herman Bontrager, who has served as interim director since December.

“The Board of LMHS is very pleased and excited to have Jean Kilheffer Hess come on board in the role of Executive Director,” says Dan Hess, LMHS board chair. “The professional skills and experiences, along with leadership and personal qualities which she brings, fit very well with the profile we had defined. We have great anticipation for how she will empower our strong staff, and help the whole organization to explore and achieve new developments, for the strengthening of LMHS, and for the benefit of the entire LMHS community.”

In addition to her work with United Zion Retirement Community, Kilheffer Hess also runs Story Share, LLC, an oral history and life story project-management firm. She previously worked as a consultant, coach, and interim executive as well as in various positions for Mennonite Central Committee.

Kilheffer Hess graduated from Messiah College with a Bachelor of Science in Accounting and received her CPA license in 1998. She spent 5 years working as audit staff for Dorwart Andrew and Company in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. In 2004, she graduated from Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary with a Master of Arts in Theological Studies and an emphasis in church history.

Kilheffer Hess is an active member of East Chestnut Street Mennonite Church and active in the broader church as well. She is currently on the board of Nazareth Project, a nonprofit that offers support to Nazareth Hospital and School of Nursing in Nazareth, Israel. In the past she served on the boards of the Mennonite Historical Society, Goshen, Indiana, and Mennonite Women USA.

Unusual Scrapbook of Fabrics Acquired

The Society was recently given a most unusual scrapbook. Where many scrapbooks contain photographs, cards, or clippings, this book is filled with swatches of fabric, most of which are accompanied by some identification such as “Mother’s dresses” or “Grandfather Herr’s wedding vest.” On the front endpaper is written, “Mary L. Herr, Sept. 1888.” Because of all of the relational terms used to associate the various fabrics, identifying this Mary L. Herr was critical.

After much research, it was discovered that the compiler of the fabric book was Mary Elizabeth Herr (1862-1938) who married Martin Henry Musser. The book is full of fabrics and lace trimmings worn by her family, including her mother, Susan (Breneman) Herr, and her father, Amaziah Musser Herr. Of special interest are some swatches from her great-grandmother, Elizabeth (Groff) Herr, who was the wife of Bishop John Herr, founder of the Reformed Mennonite Church, and her great-great-grandmother, Anna (Forrer) Groff, who was born circa 1748!

This scrapbook is a treasure that should be of interest to family historians, Mennonites, and those studying textiles. Persons interested in viewing the fabric book should contact Steve Ness (sness@lmhs.org; 717.393-9745).