Clarke Hess (1954-2018)

On November 7, Clarke E. Hess passed away peacefully, having lived with ALS for more than six years. He had served on the LMHS board from 1981 until 2011.

As a recipient of God’s love, Clarke reflected this love to others through unselfish sharing of his artifacts and their beauty. For him, artifacts served as symbols beyond themselves of a larger reality of time, place, and context. They also connected him with an extended Mennonite family and faith tradition—a heritage past, present, and future.

Inside:
- Antique Quilt Turning
- Everyday Surprises
- Winter Folk Art Classes

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

Piecing Together Traditions—On November 3, Seventy-five people gathered to learn about Amish, Mennonite, and African American quilting traditions from Kyra Hicks and Janneken Smucker, as well as share their own quilt stories. Smucker reflects, “We had an embarrassment of riches, with dozens of participants bringing quilts—both ones they made and ones passed down from previous generations—and sharing brief stories. This event proved that every quilt has a story.” On the left, Carol Spigner shares a quilt she brought, on the right, attendees fellowship after a meal.
Annual Music Night

The popular Annual Music Night, organized by the Historical Society each year, is slated for Saturday, January 26, 2019, 7 pm, at Neffsville Mennonite Church. This year’s Music Night continues the tradition of involving a variety of excellent Mennonite groups and individuals.

Aspire Chamber Choir, composed of Anabaptist singers from Lancaster and Lebanon, seeks to glorify God through the art of choral singing. They perform classic and contemporary choral works. Having received a rich musical heritage, they desire to share the beauty of God’s creation of music. They are organized by the well-known Kravets family, and directed by Lee Weaver.

Sopa Sol, the combined group of the singer-songwriters Daryl Snider and Frances Crowhill Miller, will also perform. Their music is organic, soulful, and shaped by worldwide influences. Both view their music as more than entertainment and draw on their experiences in other countries and cultures to explore transformative music.

Joshua Good and Rosemary Eberly Lebold will perform a collection of classical, theatrical, and Gospel selections. Good studied vocal performance at Liberty University and has performed semi-professionally in both opera and musical theater. He has performed as a soloist for choirs including the Mennonite Choral Singers, the Altar of Praise Chorale, and the Lancaster Meistersingers. Lebold, soprano, graduated from West Chester University with a Bachelor’s Degree in Music in Vocal Performance (2013).

Mercy Good will lead lively congregational singing.

Tickets for Annual Music Night can be purchased online at lmhs.org. They can also be ordered by calling (717) 393-9745. Tickets are $25, with complimentary admission for children under 12.

This event is a fundraiser for Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society to support the many services it offers through public programs, library and archives, publications, online services, and ministries of engaging the past as an insight into the present and future.

No Person Shall Gallop Horses in the Streets

Legal records take center stage during the 2019 Lancaster Family History Conference. Such records are one of the best resources for understanding the details of our ancestors’ lives. Pennsylvania has a collection of records starting as early as three hundred years ago. Join us March 28-30, 2019, for the fortieth annual conference, with a keynote, “No Person Shall . . . Gallop Horses in the Streets: Using Court Records to Tell the Stories of Our Ancestors’ Lives,” by Judy G. Russell.

Russell is a genealogist with a law degree. She has worked as a reporter, writer, legal investigator, defense attorney, federal prosecutor, law editor, and as an adjunct faculty member at Rutgers Law School.

Darvin Martin will give a special session on Friday, March 29 looking at “The New DNA Reality—Forging the Path Between Discovery and Privacy.” Martin will explain the types of DNA used to connect families, and how that DNA can also be used by law enforcement. The week of the conference, March 26-30, registrants may make use of the LMHS library and archives free of charge.

Events Tuesday through Friday will take place at LMHS. Saturday sessions will take place at the Farm and Home Center, 1383 Arcadia Road, Lancaster.

Registration is available online at lmhs.org or by calling (717) 393-9745. Field trip and seminar registration is separate from the conference, but priority seating will be available.

Roof Replacement

It recently became clear that our roof requires full replacement. It carries a $54,750 price tag.

If you would like to contribute toward this need, specify “Facilities Needs” on your check to LMHS or online gift. Thank you, in advance, for helping us safely keep and generously share community treasures.

Per board policy, designated gifts are distributed 80% to the designation and 20% to the General Fund. Should gifts outpace roof replacement costs, funds will be applied to other facilities needs.
Antique Quilt Turning

Local quilt historian, Barbara Garrett, will facilitate a two-hour antique Pennsylvania German quilt turning at the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society on Tuesday, March 26, 2019.

This event affords a unique opportunity to view and study twenty-two quilts from the Society’s collection, most of which have never before been exhibited to the public. Participants will also learn about the makers and their world, fabrics, styles, and patterns unique to the quilts in this region.

Session 1 will run from 10 AM to 12 PM, and session 2, from 1:30 to 3:30 PM, with the same quilts shown at each session. Registration costs $25 for members, $30 for nonmembers and also includes admission to the Society’s museum exhibit, “Decorated and Plain: An Amish and Mennonite Sampler.” Advance registration is required on a first-come basis at 717-393-9745, shop@lmhs.org, or www.lmhs.org.

Barbara Garrett has been involved in quilt-documentation projects since the 1980s, including ones in Berks, Bucks, Chester, Montgomery, and Delaware Counties in Pennsylvania, and served as a consultant for projects in Schuylkill, Franklin, Cumberland, and York Counties. She is a volunteer with the Delaware State Quilt Documentation Project and was the consultant for the Delaware State Quilt Documentation Project. She is one of the authors of the York County documentation book, Quilts: The Fabric of Friendship (Schiffer Books, 2001).

Winter Bookfest

Thursday, February 14, 3 to 8 PM
Friday, February 15, 9 AM to 8 PM
Saturday, February 14, 9 AM to 6 PM

Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society

Why We Build: A Roundtable Discussion

Tuesday, February 19, 7 PM
East Chestnut Street Mennonite Church

2019 Winter Folk Art Classes

Fraktur Introduction
February 2, 9 AM to 12 PM
Class taught by Emily Smucker Beidler
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.
$75 member, $85 nonmembers
Registration due January 25

The Illuminated Letter
March 16, 9 AM to 12 PM
Class taught by Emily Smucker Beidler
Learn lettering and calligraphy within the context and history of fraktur. Participants will learn to use a nib pen and India ink. A materials kit is included. There will also be pens and bottled ink for participants to use during the workshop.
$75 member, $85 nonmembers
Registration due February 15

Folk Art Class Registration

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<th>Class</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<th>Registration Due</th>
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<tr>
<td>Fraktur Introduction</td>
<td>February 2, 9-12pm</td>
<td>$75</td>
<td>January 25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advanced Fraktur Workshop</td>
<td>February 2, 9am</td>
<td>$40</td>
<td>January 25</td>
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<td>False Graining</td>
<td>March 16, 9-12pm</td>
<td>$75</td>
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<td>The Illuminated Letter</td>
<td>March 16, 9-12pm</td>
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My check is payable to Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society.

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Please return to LMHS, 2215 Millstream Road, Lancaster, PA 17602-1499.

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Parkesburg Mennonite School Quilts Donated

In 1954, students at Parkesburg Mennonite School (1949-1979) presented their teachers with a quilt at Christmas—one for Eunice Hurst, who taught grades one through four, and another for Helen Mosteller, who taught grades five to eight. Each student’s name was embroidered along the edge of a square.

Years later, Mosteller’s quilt ended up in the Morgantown ReUzit Shop, on the desk of Barbara Garrett who volunteers there. As a quilt historian whose research career extends over forty years, Garrett found the fact that it named a school and date intriguing—so intriguing that she purchased it herself. As part of her investigation into the quilt, she came to the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society to consult with Carolyn Wenger about Parkesburg Mennonite School. While they were discussing it, a volunteer, Mary Ellen Ness, overheard them speaking and chimed in, “Oh, I went to that school.”

That was the major breakthrough. Mary Ellen involved others connected to the school: Kathy Hershey as well as Anna and Leonard Groff. Together, they researched the Mosteller quilt; connected with Eunice Hurst, who donated her quilt; and produced a booklet about the quilts and the Parkesburg school.

The quilts will be exhibited in the library in January. The booklet compiling the research is available in the archives.

Everyday Surprises

Jean Kilheffer Hess

About 1,500 people come through the Historical Society doors each month. Surprised? You may also be surprised that web users view more than 17,000 pages of our online resources monthly, many pursuing research in our unique collections.

Our staff and volunteers regularly interact with elementary school students, teens, and adults at many life stages. Some might call themselves “history buffs,” and some certainly do not. All value learning about others’ lives, whether that’s through a good story or by examining an item or document.

Recently I joined a stream of young people entering the Mennonite Information Center. This must be a school group, I guessed. To my surprise and delight they organized into two rows and began singing! It turned out they were the Limburg, Germany cathedral boys choir. As they were discussing it, a volunteer, Mary Ellen Ness, overheard them speaking and chimed in, “Oh, I went to that school.”

That was the major breakthrough. Mary Ellen involved others connected to the school: Kathy Hershey as well as Anna and Leonard Groff. Together, they researched the Mosteller quilt; connected with Eunice Hurst, who donated her quilt; and produced a booklet about the quilts and the Parkesburg school.

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A Meyer Family Bible

Steve Ness, Librarian and Archivist

With the passing of Clarke E. Hess we have lost a local treasure. In the months and years ahead, I am certain that many questions will arise that we would like to ask Clarke, including questions about Mennonite arts, genealogy, and architecture. The sting of his loss is lessened a little in knowing that he made copious and meticulous notes about his collection, published multiple books and articles, and very generously shared parts of his collection with the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society and other historical repositories.

One of Clarke’s gifts that we received toward the end of 2017 is a scarce printing of the “Froschauer Bible” (Die gantze Bibel, das ist alle Bücher alts vnd neüws Testaments . . . Zürych: Christoffel Froschouer, 1560). What sets this book apart from other copies is its provenance and physical characteristics.

Inscriptions indicate that the book was bought in 1729 by Daniel Drachsler (Draichler, Drachler), son of Andreas. It was later sold to John Lemon, then again in 1741 to Hans Meyer (ca. 1700-1760), whose son Jacob (1720-1793) received it and recorded his family in it. It remained with Meyer/Myer descendants of Manheim Township for a number of generations, therefore we refer to it as the Meyer Family Bible.

In its original leather binding with brass corners and center plate, some of the corner bosses (studs) were added at the Ephrata Cloister, ca. 1745, according to Clarke’s notes. Remarkably, all of the several hundred woodcut illustrations are hand-colored. This is a feature that I have not seen in any other Froschauer Bibles.

If you would like to view this treasure, please contact me to make an appointment (library@lmhs.org; (717) 393-9745).