Rich Text - Money in a Book

Recently the Society received a cash donation via an unlikely source. In a shipment of used books donated for our summer Bookworm Frolic, sorters discovered two books whose pages were glued together, with center cut-outs where undisclosed amounts of money were stored (see photo). After fruitless attempts to track down the donor, we gratefully accepted the anonymous gift.

According to a recent issue of Ancestry Magazine, the generation who grew up in the Great Depression didn’t trust their hard-earned cash to banks. Through the 20th century, it was not uncommon to hide money in a refrigerator, under the bed, in the walls, buried in the backyard, or, in our case, hidden inside a book. (The trick was to remember where one had hidden it.)

Historically, in Colonial America, trade was preferred over cash payment. Even after national paper currency was issued by the Continental Congress in 1775, such goods as sugar and tobacco were considered more reliable forms of exchange than currency. (This is when the phrase, “not worth a continental” was coined.)

Until the Civil War, many payments were made with foreign coins, checks, or small chits issued by storekeepers and toll bridges. In 1863, Congress created a national banking system, chartering federal banks to issue paper money based on reserves with the federal government. Later the FDIC (Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation) was established in 1933 to protect the first $100,000 of each citizen’s investments.

So if today’s economic situation has you tempted to hide your money in an unlikely place, remember that money in a bank can’t be misplaced; you may not like what is happening to it, but you always know where it is.

Society Announces Fall Field Trips

Share in an adventure of learning and discovery this fall. Join us for any of the following day-long field trips. Travel is aboard comfortable coach buses with knowledgeable guides.

- Dutch Anabaptists in New Amsterdam
- Native Americans in Lower Susquehanna Valley
- Trail of the Conestoga to Canada

Save the Date

Annual Bookworm Frolic
August 12–15
Fall Field Trips Continued from page 1

question: what happened to the Dutch Mennonites who were among the
early settlers of New
Amsterdam, a century before the
settlement of Lancaster County?
Cost is $99 for nonmembers,$89 for Society members, and
includes lunch.

Saturday, September 26:
Native Americans in the Lower
Susquehanna Valley

How did the local Native
American Indians live at the time of
permanent white European settle-
ment in Lancaster County

German sacred vocal music, its
European roots, and its evolution in
Pennsylvania. Learn about the histo-
ry of this music among the “Church”
Germans (Reformed and Lutheran),
as well as among the Mennonites,
Brethren, Schwenkfelders and
Seventh Day German Baptists in 18th
and 19th century Pennsylvania. Fee
charged. More information is avail-
able at (215) 679-3103 or at
www.schwenkfelder.com

June 28, Historic Boehm Chapel
Heritage Sunday
Join in this 28th annual special event at 4 pm with Rev. Joseph DiPaolo,
senior pastor of Wayne United
Methodist Church (UMC) and presi-
dent of the Historical Society of the
Eastern Pennsylvania UMC
Conference. The Mennonite
Children’s Choir of Lancaster, under
the direction of Darlene Hein, will
provide special music. Also includes
Böhm descendant recognition. The
newly commissioned Boehm Chapel
Kohler, will be unveiled, with copies
in two sizes available for purchase.

The Mirror (ISSN 0738-7237) is a
bimonthly newsletter published by
the Lancaster Mennonite Historical
Society, and edited by Beth Graybill
at www.lmhs.org, phone 717.393-
9745, fax 717.393-8751, email
lmhs@lmhs.org.

POSTMASTER please send address
changes to The Mirror, c/o
Lancaster Mennonite Historical
Society, 2215 Millstream Road,
Lancaster, PA 17602-1499.

(215) 699-3940, ruthoberho@aol.com or Grace
Muscarella, gracefreed@aol.com.

18th century Theodorus Eaby homestead

18th century Theodorus Eaby homestead

18th century Theodorus Eaby homestead

18th century Theodorus Eaby homestead

18th century Theodorus Eaby homestead

Annual Banquet

Ervin Stutzman gave a provocative talk on how family history shapes our identity.

Amish author, Linda Byler, greeted readers.

The Lancaster Harmony Quartet provided great music. Pictured left to right, Kenneth Nissley, first tenor; Wesley Mast, second tenor; Edwin A. Moshier, baritone; and J. Henry Erb, bass.

Recently a delegation of Reformed pastors from Switzerland visited our archives. In photo, our librarian, Steve Ness, shows a rare book, Ulrich Zwingli’s “Apologetic,” the earliest book in our collection, which dates to 1522.
Recently I heard a speaker, Jeff Wright, talk about “stretching exercises.” Borrowing an analogy from sports, he noted that athletes understand that if you don’t stretch out your muscles before an active game of play, you will likely get hurt.

Wright encouraged his audience to consider the ways in which we are, or could be, stretching ourselves in order to have the resources to go the distance. Where do we need to be opening ourselves to welcome others, stretching beyond our comfort zones?

Here at the historical society we have been doing a lot of stretching lately. To stay in the game for the long haul we have redesigned our web site, opened an online bookstore, and revamped computer and administrative systems to serve you more efficiently. The economic crisis forces us to sharpen our core mission and consider how we can do more with less.

Through it all we depend on your support. This year we need your help more than ever to meet budget and continue providing the educational resources that you rely on to deepen your Mennonite and PA German identity and connection to your roots. While the number of our supporters remains strong, giving level is down. We encourage you to consider an Annual Fund gift, of any amount. And remember that online book purchases from us, rather than Amazon, is another valuable means of support.

We sponsored a number of important educational ventures this spring: two field trips, an exciting book auction, our spring banquet meeting, and the annual genealogy conference. All of these events illustrated the power of story to understand our history.

A colleague in a secular organization recently remarked that the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society is well-positioned to offer meaningful events to commemorate the 300th anniversary of Lancaster settlement, including those initiatives designed to redress wrongs against local Indian peoples. This vote of confidence from a community leader reminds me of the importance of the work we do in stretching beyond ourselves.

**Book Nook**

These titles, new in the Society bookstore, may be of interest to Mirror readers. Orders may be placed by mail, phone, email or via the Internet bookstore at our web site.


**Music of the Lamplight: The Pilgrimage of Katie King**, by Linda Byler, 2006, 262 pages, $12.99. This Amish novel, along the lines of Beverly Lewis’ romances, is written by the Old Order Amish writer who spoke at our Annual Banquet, and is an engaging, authentic picture of Amish community life, written by an insider.

**Covered Bridges of Lancaster County, PA, 2nd edition**, by Kenneth W. Collins, 2009, 76 pages, $13.95. This coffee-table quality picture book includes color photographs and history of all the covered bridges in Lancaster today. Sized 8.5x11, paperback.

**1899 Illustrated Historical Atlas of Lancaster County**, Fox Chapel Publishing, 2006. The Society owns some of the last copies of this hardcover, illustrated 17x12 picture book. Photographic maps and overviews of each individual Lancaster township. If you have been putting off this purchase, act now before it is completely out of print. $80.

**Marpeck: A Life of Dissent and Conformity**, by Walter Klaassen and Willam Klassen, Herald Press, 2008, 423 pages, $32.99. Read the book written by our June 1 quarterly meeting speaker, the biography of urban Anabaptist, Pilgram Marpeck, an inspiring leader with contemporary relevance.

**Membership Renewals Now On Line**

Keeping forgetting to send in your check? Now, in addition to donating to our Annual Fund online at our web site (use the “Donate Now” button, top right, or the white Donate tab), you can also join or renew membership online. Go to the white Join tab, and follow the links. We hope this makes it easier to keep your membership current.
Recent Library Acquisitions - Continued from page 6


Music/Arts


Language/Fiction


Sold to the Highest Bidder

The room was hushed as bidding opened for the rare 1780 Martyrs Mirror in German (Pirmasens edition) at our April consignment book auction. At one point, five Amish or Mennonite historical societies were bidding on it. Bids climbed ever higher and the crowd began murmuring, as excitement built.

The surprised wife of the consigner, thinking she must have misunderstood the value, asked her daughter-in-law if the bid was $800 or $8,000. In the end, after spirited bidding, it was sold to the Ohio Amish Library for $8,500, to audience applause. The Ohio library was interested in owning this Martyrs Mirror since it contains French Oesch family records, to go with an Oesch Froschauer Bible that they already own. This edition is also valuable for its unique printed etchings, from copper plates that were later lost.

Consigner Clair Umble was pleased with the transaction, whose proceeds (less a 15 percent commission to us) will fund an expected septic-tank expense as he readies their home for sale. This was one of the higher bids for an item at our book auction, though it did not set a record (a 1780 fraktur by Barbara Hostätern sold for $28,000 at the December 2005 sale). While not every book auction has the drama of this one, all are opportunities for good fellowship and great value on used and out-of-print books. Join us June 12 to enjoy both.
Recent Library Acquisitions

Philosophy/Psychology/Religion


Biography/Genealogy


History/Social Sciences


Historic towns & villages of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania / [Lancaster County Planning Commission, co-project manager/editor, Pennsylvania Dutch Convention and Visitors Bureau, co-project manager/editor; Lisa M. - Continued on page 5