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Events

August 12-15: Bookworm Frolic used book sale, Wed - Fri, 9 am - 7 pm, Sat 9 am - 4 pm

Saturday, Sept. 12: field trip: “Dutch Anabaptists in New Amsterdam/New York City, 1620-1820,” 8 am - 9 pm

Thursday, Sept. 10: “Music of the Pennsylvania Germans” quarterly meeting at the Society, with musician Keith Brintzenhoff

Sept. 16-17: Pennsylvania Dutch classes resume

Saturday, Sept. 26: field trip: “Native Americans in the Lower Susquehanna Valley,” 8 am - 4 pm

Saturday, Sept. 26: 1719 Herr House Historic Drive Tour, 10 am - 4 pm

Saturday, Oct. 3: Snitz Fest Apple Festival, 1719 Herr House, 10 am - 4 pm

Saturday, Oct. 17: field trip: “Trail of the Conestoga Family Homesteads en route to Canada,” 8 am - 4 pm

Benuel Blank’s Books To Be Sold October 24

Lay historian and book collector, Benuel S. Blank, 76, of Narvon, who passed away in May, gave a legacy to us. Before his death, Ben agreed to sell his fine book collection via the Society’s consignment book auction.

Recently a group of his sons, sons-in-law, and grandsons delivered 245 boxes of books (pictured at right during unloading), which will be sold in a special auction at the White Horse fire hall in eastern Lancaster County on Saturday, Oct. 24. (The date was chosen after fall communions in the Amish church and before the fall wedding season typically begins.) The list of book lots for this auction will be available a month in advance, and online bids will be accepted until Oct. 22, prior to the sale.

A retired farmer and carpenter, Benuel Blank was the author of two books, The Amazing Story of the Ausbund and From Creation to Resurrection. Ben was a member of the Old Order Amish Church, and was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Annie. He was involved with the Society and a frequent bidder at our book auctions. Benuel is survived by four daughters, four sons, 67 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren. We are most grateful for this consignment.

Society Library Receives Genealogy Donation

O

n Wednesday, June 17, the library was delighted to receive a very unique kinship record of the descendants of Rev. Jacob Neff. The full title of the book is Register of Consanguinity, Containing a Record of Seventy-Five Families, and the Names of Three Hundred and Twenty Descendants of Reverend Jacob Neff, Who Resided at Strasburg, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. Milton B. Eshleman, of Paradise, Pa., compiled the book, completing the work on July 4, 1867.

What makes the book unique is that the title page was printed on a press but the remainder of the book—records and index—was handwritten. While other copies of the book are known to exist, each one is unique. This one contains some additional notations that were added later in another hand.

The donation came to the library from Society member, David R. Ritter, who first learned about the book in the 1990s from his distant cousin, Mary S. Weaver of Richmond, Va., who had inherited it. David and Mary dis-
WHAT’S GOING ON

Sunday, August 16, Maple Grove Mennonite Church Centennial
Participate in a 9:30 am traditional Sunday School, with guest teacher, John Smucker, and a 10:30 am traditional Mennonite worship service, with guest speaker, Linford King; traditional Mennonite attire optional. A noon lunch is followed by an afternoon drama, slideshow, photos and memorabilia displays, testimonials, and recordings of historic sermons. After a 5 pm evening meal, at 6:30 pm Parade of Music will feature music through the decades. A Maple Grove Church history book will be available for purchase. RSVP for meals to 610-593-6658 or mgchurch@netzero.net.

Milk Paint Workshop, Saturday, August 22 at the Mennonite Heritage Center
Learn how to create the look of Milk Paint on 18th Century Pennsylvania German furniture with historically accurate materials and modern distressing techniques in this one day workshop scheduled for Saturday, August 22, 2009 at the Mennonite Heritage Center in Harleysville. The workshop is led by artisan Keith Boyer. Class size is limited and registration is required. For information call 215-256-3020, email info@mhep.org or see www.mhep.org.

Sunday, August 23, Stauffers Mennonite Church Cemetery Walk
Stauffers Mennonite Church Cemetery, 790 Bachmanville Road, Hershey, PA will hold a historic and genealogy walk on August 23, (rain date August 30) at 3 pm. The cemetery dates to the late 1700s with Longenecker and Lehman names the first burials. The four largest surnames buried here are Lehman, Longenecker, Ebersole and Witmer. Other names include Brandt, Erb, Eshelman, Grubb, Hunsberger, Moyer, Shearer and Shenk. The afternoon will include a walk around the cemetery, with short presentations about tombstone styles, gravestones of specific individuals, and family genealogies.

Genealogy Donation - Continued from page 1
Cussed the possibility of donating the book to the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society after a tip about people searching for copies of the book appeared in the April 2002 issue Pennsylvania Mennonite Heritage.

In 2004 Mary sent David a Christmas card, saying that she was “ready to part with the Jacob Neff” book and he agreed to finalize the donation to the Society at some point. Mary S. Weaver died on March 16, 2007, at the age of ninety-one; this donation was given in her memory.

We are grateful for the generosity of Mary S. Weaver and David R. Ritter. We are also thankful for their diligence in preserving this historical artifact for the benefit of the Society, and more importantly for the benefit of researchers and other family members for years to come.

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.

The Alleghany Hymn Sing and National Register Designation
A hymn sing will be held in the 1855 Alleghany Mennonite Meetinghouse, 39 Horning Road near Alleghenyville, PA, which was recently designated as a national historic landmark. (The meetinghouse is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places, at http://www.nps.gov/nr/nrlist.htm on the weekly list for June 12.) This meetinghouse in Berks County is one of the oldest surviving, least-altered and originally-furnished Mennonite meetinghouses in the nation. Its simplicity of architecture and quality workmanship typifies the lifestyle of the Alleghany Mennonites in the mid-1800s.

At the 2 pm hymn sing on Sept. 20, Dwilyn Beiler of Paradise will lead hymns from the 1869 (red) Mennonite Hymnal, limited copies of which will be provided. For more information, call 717-949-3475 or 610-777-3003. The Alleghany - Continued on next page
Classes for adults in Pennsylvania German folk art and crafts are being offered jointly by the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society and the 1719 Hans Herr House & Museum.

These workshop-style classes provide students with the history and significance of each folk art genre as well as hands-on participation in each specific craft. Students will work with master craftsmen and have a project to take home that they completed during the day. With the exception of Basket-making, classes run 9 am – 3 pm and cost $60 for members, $65 for non-members.

August 15 – Blacksmithing (location: 1719 Hans Herr House), limited to 8 participants. Students will make a hook rack with skilled smith and teacher, Matt Holiday. Bring a bag lunch.

September 19 – Hearth Cooking (location: 1719 Hans Herr House), limited to 6-10 participants. Students will learn the art of building a cooking fire and preparing traditional Pennsylvania German foods. Lunch is included.

October 17 – Fraktur (location: Society headquarters), limited to 15 participants. PA German folk artist, Emily Smucker Beidler, will teach the art of fraktur (decorated writing) to students, including a look at some of the fine examples in the Society’s collections. Bring a bag lunch.

November 14 – Baskets (location: Society headquarters), limited to 12 participants, meets 9 am – 12:30 pm only; cost is $30 for members and $35 for non-members, with a $35 materials charge for all. Basket-maker Cindy Seaton will teach students about different kinds of traditional baskets and help each one to make a muffin basket to take home.

Registration forms are available online at www.lmhs.org. Contact 1719 Herr House for info or to register for Blacksmithing and Cooking classes at 717-464-4438 or info@hansherr.org. Contact Peggy at the Society for info or to register for Fraktur and Basketmaking at 717-393-9745, perb@lmhs.org

Thursday, Sept. 10: Music of the Pennsylvania Germans

PA German culture has a rich tradition of secular music, songs and stories. Keith Brintzenhoff, folklorist and musician from Kutztown, will offer a program at Society headquarters on Thursday, Sept. 10, at 7 pm, in which he will give the history of PA Dutch musical traditions that form a lively part of the culture. Brintzenhoff will perform and explain the roles that the guitar, harmonica, mountain dulcimer, banjo and autoharp play in Pennsylvania German music. This program is funded through a special grant form the Commonwealth Speakers Program. Event is free and open to the public. PA German books and music CDs will be available for sale afterward.

Kannst du deitsch schwetze?

The Society announces its Fall 2009 classes in Pennsylvania German taught by renown and beloved teacher, Butch Reigart. Butch is respected by Old Order Amish and Mennonites, and in frequent conversation with these Lancaster native speakers. He draws on this expertise in his classes.

• The Part One Beginners Class (for students with no prior background in the language) meets Thursday evenings, starting Sept. 17.

• The Part Two Beginners/Intermediate Class (for students with familiarity or at least one semester of experience in PA Dutch) meets Wednesday evenings, starting Sept. 16.

Classes meet from 7-9 pm and run for 10 weeks, concluding Nov. 18-19. Classes are held at the Society (2215 Millstream Road, Lancaster, PA).

Cost is $100 for members, $115 for nonmembers.

A native of York County, PA, and fluent Pennsylvania Dutch speaker, Butch was employed for more than 35 years as a foreign language specialist for the U.S. government.

What’s Going On - Continued
Mennonite Historical Association (AMHA) oversees and preserves the Meetinghouse property and develops educational events.

Akron Mennonite Church (AMC) 50th Anniversary, Sept. 26-27
On Saturday at 5 pm, the congregation is hosting a special picnic catered by Hess’s Barbeque. Reserve tickets in advance. A free musical variety show follows at 7 pm with musicians Kristen Sims, the men’s ensemble, Spare Parts, Amy Burkholder, two women’s trios, and Sue Broadus, among others. An ice cream social closes the evening. On Sunday at 9 am, the message will be given by Nancy Heisey, current president of Mennonite World Conference, who was affiliated with the Akron congregation for many years. The theme of the worship service is also the name of the AMC history book published for this event, “Pilgrims on a Journey.” More information and reservations at amc@akronmencn.org or 717-859-1488.

This year we are pleased to have two summer student interns with us. Thomas Neufeld, pictured left, will be entering Gettysburg College this fall. He is a graduate of Manheim Township high school with an interest in history who served on their quiz bowl team; his home congregation is Community Mennonite Church of Lancaster.

Tim Rieste, pictured right, is a sophomore at Grove City College in western Pennsylvania. Tim’s interests include volleyball and community service; he is coordinating our summer Bookworm Frolic. His home congregation is Grace Brethren Church in Lititz. Tim is enjoying connecting with his Mennonite roots through service at the Society.
Like some of you, I recently attended the national Mennonite Church conference whose theme, taken from John 20:21-22, was, “breathe and be filled.” Various speakers in mass sessions encouraged us to pause, breathe out our anxieties, and breathe in the presence of the Spirit. Likewise for all of us during periods of national stress or economic anxiety, this is a helpful reminder.

Amish in northern Indiana, many of whom worked in the RV industry, have been especially hard-hit by unemployment levels this spring near 20 percent. Some Amish breadwinners have even accepted unemployment benefits, formerly taboo. But as one Amish scribe commented on June 25 – noting that despite pay cuts, those with factory jobs are glad to have them – “Things work out best for those who make the best of how things work out.”

Like the Amish, the Society is not immune from the economic downturn. Your contributions, membership support, and book sales are more important now than ever as we struggle to meet budget.

We trust that your connection, through us, to your roots in Mennonite and Pennsylvania German heritage offers you resources to deepen your faith and to slow down and breathe.

**Book Nook**

*by Jonel Herr Ness*

We continue to offer a variety of new titles in our bookstore. The following items are some of our most recent additions:


This is his third book on Mennonite life in the 21st century.


**Dutch Blitz (Es Zwet dritt sich)**, by John Schmid, $15.00. Schmid, a popular guest at a past society quarterly meeting, has released his third CD in the Pennsylvania German language. It is a live concert recording from a gathering in Shipshewana, Indiana.


**Let These Stones Speak: A Genealogical Guide to Lancaster County’s Families Based on Cemetery Research: Volume 8—Drumore Township**, by Darvin L. Martin, Regina Christman Martin, and Marie Malark, 2009, CD, $15.00. The newest CD in a series containing photographs and transcriptions of every tombstone in Drumore Township.

Orders may be placed by mail, phone, email, or internet.

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**30th Anniversary of Brubacher House in Ontario**

The John E. Brubacher House Museum and the Mennonite Historical Society of Ontario Canada celebrated the 30th anniversary of the Museum and its Pennsylvania German cultural heritage in June. The house was built in 1850. The land farmed, like other farms in Waterloo County, was settled by German Mennonite families migrating from Lancaster County, PA. The museum is open Wed. – Sat., 2-5 pm, May 1 - October 31.

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**Trail of the Conestoga**

- **Continued from page 5**

Trace the roots of your family history. Experienced guide, Norma Grace Strawbridge, leads this field trip. Tour leaves from the Society at 8 am and returns by 6:30 pm; last stop is a home-style, buffet supper by Ercks Catering at the former Krieder’s restaurant in Manheim. Bring your own packed lunch for the noon meal. Cost is $60 for members and $70 for non-members.

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**“The Amish Project”**

Playwright and actress Jessica Dickey just finished a five-week run of her play, “The Amish Project,” off-Broadway at the Rattlestick Playwrights Theatre, New York City. The play is loosely based on events of the 2006 Amish school shootings, but names are changed and the characters are fictionalized. The NY Times described the play as “a remarkable piece of writing” and lauded her performance as “extraordinary.”

The play is scheduled to be performed Aug 6-9 and Aug 13-16 at the Todd Mt. Theater Company in the Catskill Mountains. A performance is also scheduled during WaysboroFest, on Monday, Sept 28th, in Waysboro, PA, two hours west of Lancaster; (Dickey is a 1997 graduate of Waysboro Area Senior High School).

About her research for the play, Dickey writes, “On July 28th, 2008, my director and I traveled to Nickel Mines to find the location of the shooting. ... As we drove through the small intersection of farmland that is Nickel Mines, I realized that everyone we saw, gardening or hanging clothes on the line, had likely grieved the loss of a child, or the children of friends. ... It is my private prayer that this play, should they know about it, would not hurt them further, but somehow honor the goodness they forged in the face of such tragedy. In my mind, that is the legacy of the Nickel Mines shooting.”

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In 1609, a ship, captained by Henry Hudson and commissioned by the Dutch, sailed into what is now the New York Harbor. So was born New Amsterdam, which later morphed into New York City. Anabaptists were a presence in the 17th century and are represented in the city today through half a dozen vibrant congregations, some of whose members took this tour last year, to explore the history of Dutch Mennonites who were among the early settlers of New Amsterdam.

This all-day field trip to historic Anabaptist sites in New York City is timed to coincide with city-wide, special Dutch commemorative festivities to celebrate the 400th anniversary of Dutch exploration.

Sat, Sept. 12: TOUR “Dutch Anabaptists in New Amsterdam (New York City), 1620-1820”

We will visit a museum replica of Hudson’s ship, the “Half Moon.” The trip will explore Dutch original settlement in the Bronx. It also includes a two-hour walking tour of sites in the old city, south of Wall Street, the boundary of the original New Amsterdam settlement.

Participants will be treated to an exceptional Dutch-style lunch.

Dan Ness, who leads this tour, has investigated original research, never before compiled. Cost for this ground-breaking tour is $99 for non-members, $89 for Society members, and includes lunch. Supper is on-your-own at a buffet en route home. Bus departs at 8 am and returns by 9 pm. Join us in exploring the traces of early Anabaptist settlement, as we explore the question of what happened to the New Amsterdam Mennonites, a century before the settlement of Lancaster County.

1719 Herr House Historic Driving Tour

Join us on Saturday, Sept. 26, during the hours of 10 am – 4 pm, for a driving tour to seven colonial-era sites in the vicinity of the 1719 Hans Herr House in Southern Lancaster County. Step back in time as a costumed guide at each site talks about its historic significance in early Lancaster life.

 Stops on the tour include the Martin Mylin gun shop, the Abraham Herr double-decker barn, Lime Valley Mill, Walnut Run schoolhouse, the 1734 Tschanz Cemetery, a lime kiln, and the Mann Homestead. Tickets are $8 for adults, $4 for children ages 7-12. As a bonus, admission to the 1719 Herr House is available for driving tour participants at the reduced price of $3/person on Sat. Sept. 26. Come join the fun!

Sat, Oct. 17: TOUR “Trail of the Conestoga: Lancaster Homesteads (Where the Trek Began)”

Join the Society on Saturday, October 17, as we explore the Lancaster County origins of the Mennonites who migrated to Waterloo County, Ontario, 1802-1825, visiting original homesteads, historic mills, churches and cemeteries.

Tour will visit the family homestead and mill of immigrant Theodorus Eby (Eaby/Aebi), thought to have been built circa 1727, as well as the family graveyard, where Theodorus is buried; his grandson, Christian, and family made the trek from Lancaster to Canada, and is described in the book in our library, Trail of the Conestoga (1979, PZ3.D9206).

We will also visit the site of the Peter Martin log cabin, grandson of 1727 immigrant David Martin, who farmed here until the family with 16 children migrated to Ontario in 1819. The cabin is being reconstructed and restored by the Swiss Pioneer Preservation Associates as a priceless image of Mennonite pioneer life.

Other sites will include Weber holdings in the Weaverland area; a historic grist mill in the Bowmansville area; Allegheny Mennonite meetinghouse, and sites related to the Joseph Bowman family; and early Mennonite residences in the Denver area, including the first meeting place for Mennonites in northeast Lancaster County as early as 1740.

Tour will also visit the Ulrich Gingrich homestead, early lands of Eberly and Brubaker families, Indiantown Mennonite church, cemetery and historical marker noting the settlement of Nanticoke Indians and the 1759 Peter Bricker homestead, as well as the Hershey/Hirschi family cemetery.

Recent Library Acquisitions

- Continued from page 6


Recent Library Acquisitions - Steve Ness, Librarian

Philosophy/Psychology/Religion


Hoover, Amos B. Catalog of museum exhibit : Muddy Creek Farm Library / [by Amos B. Hoover and Lloyd M. Weiler ; edited by David Rempel Smucker]. Ephrata, Pa. : Muddy Creek Farm Library, c2009


Biography/Genealogy


Remembering Uncle Charlie and Aunt Katie Grove / Marion Weaver, editor. [Waynesboro, Va. : Marion C. Weaver, 2008?]


History/Social Sciences
Martin, Darvin L. Let these stones speak [electronic resource] : a genealogical guide to Lancaster County’s families based on cemetery research. Vol. 8, Drumore Township. Lancaster, Pa. : Historic Impressions Press, c2002-


Miscellaneous


Kraybill, Ronald S. The little book of cool tools for hot topics : group tools to facilitate meetings when things are - Continued on page 5