Pennsylvania German Dialect Classes Offered

Featuring Keith ("Butch") Reigart of Columbia, Pennsylvania, as instructor, the Historical Society's popular ten-week, spring Pennsylvania German dialect classes will again convene on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, March through May, at Society headquarters. Cost for the classes is $100 per Society member and $115 for nonmembers, including instructional materials in multiple media.

Open to the public, the Beginner Class will meet on Tuesday evenings, March 16-May 18, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. While no one textbook will be required for this level, the Society bookstore offers numerous texts, dictionaries, CD's, and cassettes for aid in reading and listening to supplement classroom aids. The instructor strongly recommends the purchase of C. Richard Beam's Revised Pennsylvania German Dictionary (2002) for class, and as an additional workbook for home use, Elizabeth Wengerd's Introduction to Pennsylvania German (2006) and CD's.

The Intermediate Class will gather on Thursday evenings, March 18 to May 20, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. The instructor strongly recommends Eugene S. Stine's Pennsylvania German Dictionary (2008) and J. William Frey's Simple Grammar of Pennsylvania Dutch (2009) as supplements to the class.

According to Reigart, these classes are two of very few in southeastern Pennsylvania that offer dialect instruction at multiple levels. As students become more advanced, they become more orally conversant while the introductory level emphasizes understanding of the cultural background and written structure of the language with minimal conversation.

He notes that the variety of people interested in these classes is "nothing short of amazing each year." Students have included medical doctors, chiropractors, PennDot engineers, feature and news reporters, neighbors and drivers of the Amish, people whose parents told "secrets" in the dialect, persons...

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Pennsylvania German Dialect Class Registration Form

Please register me for the Pennsylvania German dialect class as follows:

**Beginner Class**, March 16 to May 18
- $100 per member $ __________
- $115 per nonmember $ __________

**Intermediate Class**, March 18 to May 20
- $100 per member $ __________
- $115 per nonmember $ __________

Name(s) __________________________
Address __________________________
City __________________________ State ________ Zip ________
Phone __________________________ E-mail __________________________

Send check payable to: Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society 2215 Millstream Road, Lancaster, PA 17602 Phone: (717) 393-9745
Well-known community leader Ted Darcus (left), who presented the African American “Historical Moment” at the “Festival of Roots and Music,” joins the congregation in singing “Precious Lord, Take My Hand,” along with narrators Kim Lemon, TV anchor, and Rev. Scott Fischer, Lancaster Council of Churches leader, and song leader Merle Good.

Many Voices, Yet One Voice: Program of Music and Drama Sunday, April 25, 3:00 p.m., donation basis
Theater of the Seventh Sister will perform scenes from its Lancaster historical drama, “Seed of a Nation,” which incorporates stories of Native Americans, Mennonites, Quakers, African Americans, and Scots-Irish. Drama will be interspersed with musical selections by Lancaster Mennonite School’s Campus Chorale.

Field Trip: The 1710 Immigrant Route from Port to Paradise Thursday, May 6
Tour begins and ends at the 1719 Herr House, following immigrant routes to and from Philadelphia, with guided narration and stops at several eighteenth-century sites enroute; includes a walking tour and Colonial lunch at a historic tavern in “Old Town” Philadelphia. This field trip repeats on Saturday, October 2.

Field Trip: Native Americans in the Lower Susquehanna Valley Friday, May 7
Expertly guided tour of significant local Indian sites; includes lunch at a historic inn. This field trip repeats on Saturday, September 25.

Field Trip: Original 1710 Lancaster Settlement Tour Friday, May 7
This half-day tour, between Strasburg and Willow Street, Pennsylvania, explores the earliest homesteads and meetinghouses of the first permanent European settlers in Lancaster.

Annual Lancaster Family History Conference Saturday, May 8, 8:30 a.m.—4:15 p.m., at Willow Valley Resort.
Theme of this year’s annual family history conference is “Back to Our Roots: Celebrating Three Hundred Years of Lancaster County History.” Keynote speakers are author Jack Brubaker (a.k.a. “The Scribbler” of Lancaster New Era newspaper) and historian Steven M. Nolt.

Celebration of the Martyrs Mirror and Its Importance to Lancaster’s First Settlers Monday, June 7, 7:00 p.m.
Free public meeting at Christian Aid Ministries relief center in Ephrata, Pa. The year 2010 marks the 350th anniversary of publication of the Martyrs Mirror, an influential Dutch book of Anabaptist martyr stories. This meeting, cosponsored with the Swiss Pioneer Preservation Associates, will look at the book’s significance to Amish and Mennonites through the years.

Lancaster County Food Festival Saturday, June 12, 4:00–7:00 p.m., at the 1719 Herr House
Featuring diverse cuisine from the many different food traditions of Lancaster County, this event is a fundraiser for recreating a Native American longhouse on the grounds of the 1719 Herr House.

First-Families Homecoming Saturday, July 17, 3:00-8:00 p.m.; $15 admission
Reunion on the grounds of the 1719 Herr House for all relatives of Lancaster’s first families: Bauman, Franciscus, Funk, Graf, Herr, Kendig, Miller, Mylin, Oberholtzer, and Native Americans. Tickets include catered buffet meal, live music, Colonial crafts, games, photos of attendees in antique clothing, genealogy, and family stories.

Wuppertaler-Kurrende German Boys’ Choir Concert Sunday, August 15, 4:00 p.m., at Mellinger Mennonite Church
This renowned, sixty-voice boys’ choir from Germany visits Lancaster on another United States tour.

Heritage Trail Bike Ride and Walk Saturday, August 28
Bike from the eastern edge of Lancaster County to Willow Street, or walk the length of the original Pequea settlement (from Strasburg to Willow Street). Enjoy refreshments at journey’s end at the 1719 Herr House. This event is a fundraiser for recreating a Native American longhouse on the grounds of the Herr House.

The “Festival of Roots and Music” began with an outstanding bagpipe rendition of “Amazing Grace” by Thomas Miller. The Scots-Irish were some of the first settlers to arrive in Lancaster County after the Mennonites three hundred years ago.
Snitz Fest and Heritage Day
Saturday, September 18, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., at the 1719 Herr House
This Pennsylvania German community celebration features costumed interpreters demonstrating Colonial-era arts, crafts, and farming; includes hands-on activities and traditional foods. This year’s free event is underwritten by Willow Street Mennonite Church.

Pennsylvania German Cooking Traditions
Monday, September 27, 7:00 p.m., free public meeting at Trinity Lutheran Church, Lancaster, Pa. Phyllis Pllaman Good will discuss Amish foods and foodways. Another recognized expert on early Pennsylvania German foods and cooking will also speak.

Public Acknowledgement and Commemoration of Native American Legacy
Saturday, October 9, 10:00 a.m.
Event in downtown Lancaster followed by lunch; 2:00 p.m. dedication of Native American longhouse site and celebration at the 1719 Herr House.

Historic West Lampeter Township Driving Tour
Saturday, October 16, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Self-guided driving tour to historic sites in the vicinity of the 1719 Herr House with interpretive guides at each stop. $8.00 per person; children half price.

Native Americans of Lancaster County
Monday, November 1, 7:00 p.m., free public meeting at Lititz Moravian Church
A panel of experts will discuss the history of Native Americans in and around Lancaster three hundred years ago.

Opening reception, Second Annual Show of Pennsylvania German Folk Art
Friday, November 19, at Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society, 6:00-9:00 p.m.; free.
Show of quality reproduction folk art runs November 19-December 31.

Christmas Candlelight Tours at the 1719 Hans Herr House
Friday, December 3, 6:00-8:30 p.m.; Saturday, December 4, 5:00-8:30 p.m.
Theme: “Three Hundred Years of Christmas Traditions.”

Overflow Crowd Attends Festival of Roots and Music
By Merle Good

The main auditorium of the church filled an hour before the service began on Sunday afternoon, January 31. Chairs were set up in the large foyer and were soon filled as well. On the road, cars lined up twenty to thirty deep, waiting to park in a nearby field after the church parking lot and cemetery driveways had no more room. Soon hundreds of chairs in the basement were filled. Even small chairs from the young children’s Sunday school class were used.

Well-known local soloists Jeryl Metzler and Amy Yovanovich graced the “Festival of Roots and Music” with several numbers. Here they sing a duet together.

In the end, about a thousand persons jammed into Strasburg Mennonite Church. Then hundreds more were turned away. The historic Strasburg Church was chosen for the location because it sits on part of the original ten thousand acres deeded by William Penn to the early Mennonite families, the first permanent European settlers in what would later become Lancaster County.

The Festival of Roots and Music was sponsored by the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society and by the 1719 Herr House. The event was cosponsored by the Lancaster County Council of Churches and the Parish Resource Center.

Merle Good, chair of the Steering Committee for “Lancaster Roots 300,” planned and coordinated the festival. “We thought a good many persons might come,” he said, “but nothing like this.”

Four choirs highlighted the music. The Ephrata Cloister Chorus shared several numbers from the religious communities that served as the center of the towns of Ephrata and Lititz in the 1700s. An Old Order River Brethren ensemble sang two hymns in their traditionally slow rhythm. VIVE, a worship team from the Spanish United Methodist Church in Lancaster, shared a moving number with band and vocals. Finally, the choir from the Vietnamese Alliance Church in Landisville shared a beautiful hymn.

Soloists Amy Yovanovich and Jeryl Metzler sang a variety of pieces—from Handel’s “He Shall Feed His Flock” to the spiritual “Deep River,” as well as “Bless This House” and “Lead Me, Lord.” “We said we wanted this to be a service of thanksgiving for three hundred years of God’s mercies,” Good said. “It really felt that way.”

“Historical Moments” were scattered throughout the service. Rebecca S. Gochnauer spoke about the early Mennonite settlers arriving three hundred years ago. “Grandfather Daryle,” a full-blooded Navajo and Apache Native American, shared about the experiences of the Native Americans in the early 1700s.

Monsignor Thomas Smith of Saint Joseph’s Church, discussed his Catholic and Mennonite background (his grandmother grew up near Hanover, Pennsylvania), African American community leader Ted Darcus shared his memories of discrimination and his hope for the future.

The narration, which tied all of the elements together, was read by Kim Lemon, local TV news anchor, and Scott Fischer, executive director of Lancaster County Council of Churches. Two bagpipe numbers were performed elegantly by Thomas Miller, including “Amazing Grace.” Sarah Schrock was pianist, and Merle Good led the congregational singing.

The final three “Historical Moments” were led off by Father Alexander Veronis of the Greek Orthodox Church, which he has pastored since 1961. Luis Torres shared about his love of Lancaster. Born and reared in Lancaster, Torres smiled as he said, “This is my home.” The last “Moment” was shared by artist Suk Shuglie, who told the audience that she started painting as a way to deal with her homesickness for her native South Korea.

The musical groups and soloists combined for a final heartwarming version of “Be Still, My Soul.” Dr. David Loughery closed the program with a poignant prayer.

This “Festival of Roots and Music” was the first event of more than two dozen planned for this tricentennial year. Additional details are available at www.LancasterRoots300.org.
Celebration of Church Life Features Roth

As part of the “Lancaster Roots 300” series of events, the afternoon worship service at the annual Lancaster Mennonite Conference Celebration of Church Life on Sunday, March 21, at 3:30 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center of Lancaster Mennonite School will feature John D. Roth of Goshen, Indiana, as speaker. Storytelling, the premiere of a new DVD, and musical selections by the Mennonite Children’s Choir will also round out the event.

Roth will speak on “Celebrating Our Spiritual Heritage: 300 Years of God’s Faithfulness.” He is professor of history at Goshen College, Goshen, Indiana, where he serves as director of the Mennonite Historical Library and as editor of Mennonite Quarterly Review. He and his wife, Ruth, are the parents of four daughters and are active members in the Berkey Avenue Mennonite Fellowship.

He has written and edited numerous books, including Engaging Anabaptism: Conversations with a Radical Tradition; Beliefs: Mennonite Faith and Practice; Choosing against War: A Christian View; and Stories: How Mennonites Came to Be. In addition, he and historians Henry G. Benner of Ronks and Kenneth L. Sensenig of Akron, will tell stories from the past three hundred years. Both are active in the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society and, as previous Mennonite History Day speakers, will present several storytelling segments.

A new six-minute DVD, “Come Walk with Us,” a historical overview produced cooperatively by the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society and Lancaster Mennonite Conference, will premiere as well.

Finally, the Mennonite Children’s Choir, consisting of sixty singers in grades two to eight, directed by Darlene Hein, will present several numbers.

Longenecker Appointed
- Continued from page 1

ty years of experience at Landis Homes, stated that over the years his work “changed from a more hands-on administrator to one who learned to delegate.” He describes himself as a “respecter of all persons.” He and his wife, Rhoda (Mast) Longenecker, enjoy long bicycle trips. Currently they are returning home from Arizona, where they served as volunteers with Service Opportunities for Older People, which cooperatively places short-term volunteers in many locations in the United States and Canada. They are members of Lititz Mennonite Church.

Graybill served as director of the Society from August 2006 to February 2010. She was the first director to have responsibility for overseeing both the headquarters site and the 1719 Herr House Museum. During her tenure, online services increased, the Web site was redesigned, and equipment was updated. She also gave leadership to the planning of this year’s “Lancaster Roots 300” tricentennial initiative, 1710-2010. One of her primary concerns was to render prompt and good customer service to the membership and to others who requested Society services. The Society wishes her well in her future endeavors.

Cost for the dinner is $19.50. Reservations must be made no later than April 5 on the form below or by calling Dorothy Siegrist at Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society, (717) 393-9745, or e-mail at dsiegrist@lmhs.org.

Annual Meeting/Banquet Reservation Form

Please reserve ______ places @ $19.50 per person for:

Name ____________________________
Address __________________________
Phone ____________________________

Send form with check, payable to Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society, to Dorothy Siegrist, 2215 Millstream Road, Lancaster, PA 17602-1499. Phone: (717) 393-9745

Stories from Three Hundred Years

Lancaster County native Steven M. Nolt—professor of history at Goshen College, Goshen, Indiana—will entertain attendees at the Society’s annual meeting and banquet with “Stories from 300 Years of Lancaster Mennonite History” on Saturday evening, April 10. In addition, the Lancaster-based Reunion Harmony Quartet, a reunited group of male voices, will sing selections of gospel songs that many persons remember.

The program will begin promptly at 6:15 p.m. at Yoder’s Restaurant, New Holland, Pennsylvania. Also, a book table will provide opportunity for browsers to purchase titles that have recently appeared.

During a sabbatical from teaching, Nolt is temporarily living in the Lancaster, Pennsylvania, area for research, writing, and other personal projects. He holds degrees in history and church history from three Indiana schools: University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Ph.D.; Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart, M.A.T.S.; and Goshen College, B.A. For the Mennonite Historical Society at Goshen, Indiana, he serves as series editor of Studies in Anabaptist and Mennonite History and is book review editor for Mennonite Quarterly Review.

He authored A History of the Anish, rev. ed. (2003), and Foreigners in Their Own Land: Pennsylvania Germans in the Early Republic (2002). In addition, with Donald B. Kraybill, he coauthored Amish Enterprise: From Plows to Profits (1995); and with Harry Loewen, Carol Duerksen, and Elwood Yoder, Through Fire and Water: An Overview of Mennonite History (1996). He is married to Rachel (Miller), and they have two daughters. They attend Eighth Street Mennonite Church in Goshen, Indiana.

The menu for the evening includes assorted dinner rolls with apple butter and jelly; fruit cup; chicken breast stuffed with rice, broccoli, and cheese; chow chow; green peas and carrots; seasoned and roasted red potatoes; wet-bottom shoofly pie or apple-crumble pie; ice cream; and assorted hot and cold drinks.
WHAT’S GOING ON

The 31st annual Lancaster Family History Conference, May 6-8, at Willow Valley Conference Center near Willow Street, Pennsylvania, presents “Back to Our Roots,” celebrating three hundred years of Lancaster County history with a keynote address by Steven M. Nolt, professor of history at Goshen College, Goshen, Indiana.

Jack Brubaker, the Lancaster newspaper’s “Scribbler,” will also give a luncheon address. Twenty-plus genealogical workshops by respected research authorities will round out the day’s events. Dozens of vendors and exhibitors will be present to sell their wares, and guided motor coach tours of early Colonial settlements and Native American sites of Lancaster County will be offered. Detailed programs and further information are available from Peggy Erb at phone: (717) 393-9745; e-mail: perb@lmhs.org.

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According to Peggy Erb, a limited number of seats are still available for the Historical Society’s May 7 and September 25 Native Americans field trips. The May 7 trip seats are being reserved for Family History Conference attendees with others going on the waiting list. The May 6, May 7 (waiting list only), and October 2 Port to Paradise trips are already full. The 1710 Lancaster Settlement trip for the morning of May 7 is filled, but a few openings still remain for the duplicate afternoon trip. Family History Conference attendees will receive first choice for the afternoon, and all other persons will remain on a waiting list.

+ + +

The Historical Society sponsors five regular auctions per year of consigned or donated rare, out-of-print, and used books, usually on the second Friday evening of March, June, September, and December, plus an extra spring sale. Books for the March 12 auction, 6:30-9:30 p.m., are on display and may be browsed at the Society until the sale. The catalog appears free on the Society’s Web site, www.lmhs.org, and is also available in hardcopy format for a small fee. Online bids and credit cards are accepted. Phone: (717) 393-9745; e-mail: usedbooks@lmhs.org.

Bookstore Specials: March Discount Offer

As part of the “Lancaster Roots 300” features during 2010, the Society bookstore will offer members a twenty-percent discount on the following two books during the month of March:

The Amish Quilt by Eve Wheatcroft Granick. Intercourse, Pa.: Good Books, 1989, 192 pp. Paperback. $24.95. Amish beginnings, Amish-quilts beginnings, textile changes from 1750 to 1950, dyeing, textile sources for Amish communities, distinctive quilts from various communities, quilt-making as part of Amish women’s lives, general characteristics of Amish quilts in different time periods, conversations with Amish women, fabric glossary; full-color illustrations, endnotes, bibliography, index.


Of Red Beets and Real People

Genealogical research often produces very important lists: people’s names, birth and death dates, where they lived, and possibly their vocations. One might think of these lists as skeletons of sorts. They give a person or family a basic outline, but without stories to fill in the empty spaces, the skeleton will not breathe or move, much less dance.

“I like, when I’m peeling red beets and they’re warm, to take a piece of beet and pop it into my mouth,” says Miriam offhandedly as part of an oral history interview discussing her life. This kind of everyday detail does not often make the history books. But it is precisely in the everyday that people become “real” to each other, whether in a thriving friendship or in attempting to learn about someone already gone.

At the Historical Society, Jean Kilheffer Hess will conduct a three-hour workshop on April 17 at 9:00 a.m., introducing oral history interviewing and providing tips and best practices for the do-it-yourself historian. Jean’s StoryShare approach offers oral history interviewing services to individuals, businesses, and institutions. Cost for the workshop is $45 per nonmember and $40 per member.

How alive the past could become if one had an interview with a great-grandmother and great-grandfather talking about their lives. It might be surprising to find that the habitual family reference to a make-believe housekeeper has been eliciting laughs for generations. Their stories may create space for compassion that had not existed before. Oral history interviews enliven the bare bones of genealogy.

Good intentions of capturing a loved one’s stories often remain simply that—intentions. While oral history interviewing is a process accessible to the average person, preparing for, conducting, recording, and transcribing the interview requires much time, some basic skills, and a steady attention span.

Oral History Workshop Reservation Form

Please reserve ____ places for the April 17 oral history workshop:

  ____ $45 per nonmember
  ____ $40 per member

Name ___________________________
Address _______________________
Phone _________________________

Send form with check, payable to Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society, to Peggy Erb, 2215 Millstream Road, Lancaster, PA 17602-1499. Phone: (717) 393-9745; e-mail: perb@lmhs.org.
Dialect Classes Offered
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interested in their cultural and linguistic heritage, and others.
Reigart’s ties to the Pennsylvania German dialect go back to his early years growing up in York County, Pennsylvania, with dialect-speaking grandparents in his household. He was employed for more than thirty-five years as a foreign language specialist for the United States government. His formal education includes a B.A. in German from State University of New York and an M.A. in Russian from Middlebury College, Vermont. This linguistic background gives him a good grasp of the language-learning process.

Since returning home in 2006, his primary focus has been on the preservation and processing of a unique collection of Pennsylvania German audio-recordings for use by students of the dialect, in addition to teaching dialect classes in Lancaster and York Counties. He has many dialect-speaking friends, including Old Order Mennonites and Amish, in Lancaster and Berks Counties.

Stitches in Time: Decorative Arts Exhibits

Two spring decorative arts exhibits will run concurrently at Historical Society headquarters and the 1719 Herr House from March 22 to 27. The Society exhibit will feature numerous antique quilts and cotton coverlets, mostly of Mennonite and Amish vintage, from the southeastern Pennsylvania area during the mid-1800s to early 1900s. The Herr House exhibit will focus on Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, hand-woven wool coverlets of the mid-to-late 1800s. In addition, on Friday evening the Society will sponsor an open house from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Admission to the exhibits separately is $5.00 per person; both exhibits, $8.00; and American Quilters’ Society cardholders, $6.00 for both. The shows will run parallel to the American Quilters’ Society convention in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, during the same week. Show hours at both sites will be 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday.

The Society show will feature a 1902 Pennsylvania-map quilt made by Harriet (Miller) Carpenter, a Susanna Gehman farm-scene quilt from about 1915, an unusual appliqué quilt of probable Lebanon County origin, a crazy-patch of silks, velvets, satins, and cottons associated with the Rohrer family (ca. 1870-1889), and a paper-cut friendship quilt from 1856.

The Amish quilts on display at the Society will include a multiple patch-in-bars quilt made by Emma Fisher, who later married John T. Byler (ca. 1895), a center-diamond quilt by an unknown maker (early 1900s), and a wool fan-pattern quilt by an unknown maker (early 1900s).

Throughout the 1719 Herr House will hang numerous fringed, wool, hand-woven coverlets in multiple colors and varied geometric patterns, some with dated corner blocks indicating maker and owner.

Basketmaking Class

As part of this year’s Pennsylvania German culture and folk art classes, Cindy Seaton will serve as instructor for a course in basketmaking on May 15 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the 1719 Herr House and Museum at Willow Street, Pennsylvania. She will teach students about different kinds of traditional baskets and help each student to make a muffin basket to take home. Cost for the class is $45 per person ($40 for members) with a materials fee of $15. Registration forms are available from Rebecca S. Kochnauer. Phone: (717) 464-4438; e-mail: director@hansherr.org.

For Sale

National Geographic Magazines
1951-1999, bound (each year has two volumes)
The Genealogical Helper
1967-1999, bound (each year has two volumes)
$3.00 per volume plus shipping and handling;
$1.50 for ten or more volumes
Interested individuals or institutions may make an offer to purchase all volumes.
Contact Peggy Erb at (717) 393-9745; e-mail: perb@lmhs.org.