Many Voices, Yet One Voice: Music and Historical Drama Featured

By Lowell Brown

For one performance only — Sunday, May 23, at 3:00 p.m. — Lancaster’s Theater of the Seventh Sister and Lancaster Mennonite High School’s Campus Chorale will join to bring the stories of African American, Mennonite, Native American, Scots-Irish, and Quaker settlers to Sights and Sound’s Living Waters Theatre in Strasburg, Pennsylvania. As long as they last, tickets for the 600-seat event are available from the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society on a donation basis ($20 per person suggested). Phone: (717) 393-9745.

The program, “Many Voices, Yet One Voice,” will include Out of Many, a new, refined presentation of Seventh Sister’s historical-fiction play, Seed of a Nation: Lancaster and Penn’s Holy Experiment, which the company premiered at Franklin & Marshall College, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, in 2008. Lancaster Mennonite’s Campus Chorale will provide musical accompaniment for the script by singing spirituals, early-American tunes, and selections that accent the cultural background of the play’s characters.

Out of Many tells the history of Lancaster County and the United States from 1644 to 1776 through the eyes of five Pennsylvania families. Although most of the characters are fictional, they are based on more than seven years of research by playwright Mary Adams-Smith.

“In rewriting [Lancaster and Penn’s Holy Experiment], I feel I managed to keep the arc of the play,” states director Mary Adams-Smith.

Nolt to Address Family History Sessions

Historian Steven M. Nolt, professor of history at Goshen College, Goshen, Indiana, will deliver the keynote address for “Back to Our Roots: Celebrating Three Hundred Years of Lancaster County History,” the thirty-first annual Lancaster Family History Conference, scheduled for Saturday, May 8, 8:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m., at Willow Valley Conference Center, Willow Street, Pennsylvania.

“I plan to sketch in broad terms the context for European immigration to this area, the context for colonial and Native American politics, and talk about both the unusual amiability among the... mixed multitudes you find here, but also about this region as the setting of political and religious and racial tension,” Nolt indicated.

He noted that the traditional approach for historians has long been to compare Pennsylvania’s colonial history to New England or the Chesapeake Bay, and “Pennsylvania... came off as being this peaceable kingdom.” Although Pennsylvania probably had one of the best records in European-Native relations in 1730, according to Nolt, by 1765 it had one of the worst.

Jack Brubaker, the Lancaster news...
Celebration of the 350th Anniversary of the First Printing of 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., featuring James Lowry with stories of compiler Thieleman van Braght and engraver Jan Luyken. Also, Amos B. Hoover will discuss “I Will Not Refute My Faith,” editions of this monumental work, and selected martyr stories. In addition, the evening will feature singing of the Hans Haslibacher martyr hymn.

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 examine 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.; $15.00 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.

“Lancaster Roots 300” Calendar of Events

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.”

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To March quilt-exhibit visitor Sara Jane Landis, curator Carolyn C. Wenger points out the fine stitching on an Amish quilt, made about 1895 by Mrs. John T. (Emma Fisher) Byler.

To illustrate a point during his lecture to the March sessions of Lancaster Mennonite Conference, historian John D. Roth of Goshen, Indiana, holds a reproduction of the tongue screw found in the ashes of an Anabaptist martyr by her two young children.
What's Going On

Volunteers for the July 17 First-Families Homecoming and September 18 Snitz Fest and Heritage Day 300th-anniversary events at the 1719 Herr House Museum are needed in the following areas:

July 17: Storytellers or persons who would like to submit a first-families story for telling; persons to conduct games; car parkers; quilters for the quilting station.

July 17 and September 18: Team(s) of horses to pull a converted wagon to convey the experience of riding in a Conestoga wagon (wagon is on hand).

Persons who can assist should contact Peggy Erb at (717) 393-9745; e-mail: perb@lmhs.org.

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The Society will sponsor four more field trips in 2010. On August 16 Daniel Ness will lead a group trip to the Schwenkfelder Library and Heritage Center in Pennsburg, Pennsylvania. In addition, participants will also attend the historical Goschenhoppen Folk Festival. Cost is $65 for members and $75 for nonmembers.

On October 16 Henry Benner will host a fall-foliage and historical trip through Juniata and Snyder Counties. Participants will learn about the history of the rivers, their role in logging, canals, and other colonial transportation. The group will visit the restored Joseph Hostetler homestead and grave site as well as a nearby museum of restored John Deere tractors. Also featured will be the restored 1869 Richfield ("Brick") Mennonite meetinghouse and the adjoining Juniata Mennonite Historical Center. Lunch is included in the cost of $85 for members and $95 for nonmembers.

Because of high interest, a fourth July 24 Port to Paradise trip has been added. Cost is $85 for Society members and $95 for nonmembers. Also, a third November 6, 1710, Pequea Settlement tour will cost $40 for Society members and $50 for nonmembers. Interested persons may place reservations for any of the above trips with Peggy Erb at (717) 393-9745; e-mail: perb@lmhs.org.

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Mennonite Central Committee will host a conference marking its ninetieth anniversary, June 13-14, at the MCC Meeting Place, Akron, Pennsylvania. Entitled, "A Table of Sharing," the conference includes presentations by Donald B. Kraybill, Nancy Heisey, Stanley Green, and others. The conference is free and open to the public, but registration is required. More information is available at mcc.org/atableofsharing or by phone: (717) 859-1151.

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Ohio schoolteacher Myrna Grove celebrates the first European settlement in what became Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, in a 1710 immigration story called The Path to America: From Switzerland to Lancaster County. The year 2010 marks the tricentennial anniversary of the early settlers who came seeking religious freedom and economic betterment.

"My goal," Ms. Grove states, "is to bring to life the religious struggles and personal sacrifices that the Swiss Germans experienced, both in Europe and in Pennsylvania." The book is based on the author's research and visits to relevant sites in Switzerland and Germany. She describes the settlers' religious beliefs, living conditions, and reasons for migration. Featured on the cover is P. Buckley Moss's print "Spring at the Hans Herr House." The text is illustrated with thirty pen-and-ink drawings by Peg Knueve, an Ohio art instructor.

Part one, set in Europe, recounts the journey of Jacob Graf (1618-1683). Today, his four centuries-old Swiss homes still exist, and European legal records of him still survive. Part two occurs after the Mennonites' 1710 arrival in America. Seven young families secured ten thousand acres of land in the new colony of Pennsylvania. In 1717 three more shiploads arrived from Europe to expand the colony and provide skilled craftsmen. By 1719 the Herr House served as both a home and meetinghouse. The paperback is available from the Historical Society bookstore for $16.00 plus $4.00 shipping and six percent Pennsylvania sales tax. Phone: (717) 393-9743; e-mail: shop@lmhs.org.

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The Bäretswil Reformed Church Choir, Switzerland, will travel to the United States and Ontario, Canada, in April.

The concert schedule for the Lancaster area includes 7:00 p.m. programs on April 20 at Neffsville Mennonite Church, Lancaster, and April 22, at Weaverland Mennonite Church, New Holland, Pennsylvania.

By their presence and their hymns, the fifty-two Reformed visitors will seek to build relationships with Amish and Mennonites of early Swiss rootage. The four primary communities they will visit include Souderton and Lancaster, Pennsylvania; Walnut Creek, Ohio; and Kitchener, Ontario. By expressing God's grace and faithfulness in hymns reflecting Swiss folk traditions, history, and spiritual treasures, the choir, with eight instrumentalists, hopes to bridge the historic gap and deepen mutual understanding.

After centuries of contempt and indifference, awareness of and appreciation for a common heritage has grown within the Swiss churches in the past decade. In 2003 reconciliation was celebrated in the Bäretswil Reformed Church.

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On Saturday, May 22, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., the Swiss Pioneer Preservation Associates will host an open house for the historic Peter Martin log cabin (1768), reconstructed on the "Spring" Isaac Martin farm, 739 Spruce Road, New Holland, Pennsylvania, close to the cabin's original site near Blue Ball.

Attendees may browse the antique farm tools and equipment in the on-site storage building and listen to Lloyd M. Weiler, who reconstructed the cabin, explain the process. Clair Frey of Ontario, Canada, will tell the story of Peter Martin, who with his wife, Anna Zimmerman, and some children, moved to Ontario in 1819. Daughter Maria remained in Lancaster County and married Christian Zimmerman.

Publications and food will be available for sale, including barbecued chicken, hot dogs, homemade pies, and ice cream made with a hit-and-miss engine. Bread will be baked in the recently constructed outdoor...
bake oven. In the winter of 2009 the roof of the upper barn was repaired and new siding applied to the south- east side of the house. Further details are available from Raymond Zimmerman (717) 354-7139 or (717) 445-0510.

**Director's Reflections**

*By Ed Longenecker*

I am excited to be involved in the life of this organization, especially during an unfolding anniversary year. Lancaster Roots 300 has a full venue of events celebrating three hundred years of Lancaster County history. It offers many opportunities for all of us to learn more about our unique past. While I serve as director during a time of interim leadership, I look forward to serving in this role. I am impressed with the diligent work of those behind the scenes making both the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society and the Hans Herr House programs work on a daily basis. We have an energetic and visionary board with committed staff. Add to that a strong base of supporting volunteers who give their time and energy because they believe in the mission of the organization. Let us not forget the legacy of numerous persons involved with the organization over past years. Their contributions of time and resources have been incredible gifts.

As a new staff member I was given a thorough tour of the Society and Herr House headquarters. I am newly reminded of the wealth of information and resources within the walls of these organizations. Each of us should consider how these resources might be helpful and beneficial. Staff and volunteers are ready to be of assistance.

My wife’s late Uncle A. D. Mast worked for many years helping to design farm machinery for what was then the New Holland Machine Company. He once said that going to work was so much fun that it was like “playing in a sand box.” I have noticed that element among those involved here. They enjoy what they do and are willing to be of help to visitors in the library, archives, museums, and bookstores. Again, don’t forget to check the Roots 300 calendar of events.

**Lowell Brown to Assist with Marketing and Publicity**

In March the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society hired Lowell Brown as a part-time marketing and publicity assistant. He will contribute his writing and photography skills to the Mirror and to Lancaster Roots 300 events. In addition, he will work toward increasing memberships, museum admissions, and retail sales at both the Historical Society and the 1719 Herr House Museum.

For the past year Lowell has promoted the Mennonite Artist Project, a network for people from any creative discipline and with any connection to Mennonite faith and culture. Since launching a Web site, MennoniteArtistProject.com, less than a year ago, the organization has grown to include over five hundred actors, designers, musicians, writers, and visual artists from all corners of Canada and the U.S.

He graduated with an interdisciplinary B.A. in art, theater, and religion from Goshen College, Goshen, Indiana, in 1995. He received a certificate in documentary filmmaking from George Washington University in 2002. Currently he free-lances as a wedding and event photographer.

Lowell joins the staff from New York City, where for seven years he directed Menno House, a residence and hostel founded by conscientious objectors from Lancaster Mennonite Conference. While at Menno House, Lowell oversaw several major building renovations, organized a fiftieth-anniversary celebration, and doubled business for its guest rooms. He moved to Lancaster in October to be closer to his girlfriend, Lisa White, and his parents, Michael and Lena (Horneing) Brown, who live in Denver, Pennsylvania.

Miller Brothers of Bloland, Pennsylvania, will provide entertainment in the Pennsylvania German dialect. The afternoon will include a guided tour and booklet of Macungie and a walking tour of historic Miller Brothers sites. Registration of $25 per PGS member and $30 for non-members may be mailed to Pennsylvania German Society, P.O. Box 244, Kutztown, PA 19530-0244 prior to May 3. Phone: (717) 597-7940.
Recent Acquisitions

By Steven L. Ness

Philosophy/Psychology/Religion


Hymn translations (German to English) from Ausbund and Lieder Buch : plus prayers used in church, marriage and baptismal vows. Aylmer, Ont.: Isaac Stoltzfus, [1997?]. (BV481.A4 S66 1997)


Biography/Genealogy


History


Gallagher, Thomas E. Lancaster County Old Order Amish cemetery records: includes Lancaster County, daughter communities, and extinct settlements. [Gordonville, Pa.]: The Diary, c2008. (F157.L2 G35 2008)


Music/Arts


Language/Fiction


April Bookstore Specials

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


Newcomers, settlers and squatters, expansion, fraud, hunger for land, Braddock's defeat, Pennsylvania goes to war, negotiations, westward journeys, conquest, Indian uprising, rangers. Conestoga Indianantown, Lancaster workhouse, panic in Philadelphia, the Declaration and Remonstrance, a proper spirit of jealousy and revenge, Christian white savages, under the tyrant's foot, killers, mercenaries, revolutionaries; appendix, notes, bibliography, index.


Welcome, an enduring public place, a rare architectural jewel, a vital activity, curbside selling – Lancaster markets at their height, the community of market; illustrations, appendices on resources and timeline, endnotes, index.
Many Voices, Yet One Voice

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story—the same five families and their struggles—but it moves forward much more quickly," said Adams-Smith.

"The play asks, what happens to very deeply held values when they come into conflict in the building of a nation?" said director Gary Smith. One moral crisis is of a young Mennonite man who becomes successful as a gunsmith, then realizes his arms may be used to fight a revolution.

"It's a play that puts everyone in the position of making that choice," Smith said. "That's how history happens. Yes, in 1774 people were making history, but in 2010 we also make history."

Campus Chorale, directed by Marcella Hostetter, is Lancaster Mennonite High School's premier choral group. They return from performing at a Mennonite Schools Council gathering in Kitchener, Ontario.

Theater of the Seventh Sister, founded in 1989, strives to be the most "vibrant, relevant, and diverse" professional theater company in the region. This is the first time the two groups have worked together and the first time either has performed at Living Waters Theatre.

Executive Director Position Open

The Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society seeks an executive director, beginning fall 2010. Position includes fundraising, public relations, financial management, as well as administration of staff.

Qualifications: Active member of Mennonite church, interest in history, and administrative experience; master's or bachelor's degree preferred.

Send requests for further information and/or letter of application, including resumé, to Charles G. Bauman, board chairman, Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society, 2215 Millstream Road, Lancaster, PA 17602-1499, or e-mail: lmhs@lmhs.org. Applications received until June 1, 2010. Phone: (717) 393-9745.

Nolt to Address Sessions

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paper's "Scribbler," will also give an address at the buffet-style luncheon on "How Indians and Early Settlers Used the Susquehanna River."

Twenty-plus genealogical workshops by respected research authorities—Annette K. Burger, James M. Beidler, Kevin Shue, Darvin L. Martin, John T. Humphrey, Peter Seibert, and others—will round out the day's events.

Dozens of vendors and exhibitors will sell their wares, and preconference guided motor coach tours of early Colonial settlements and Native American sites of Lancaster County will be offered. Detailed programs and information are available from Peggy Erb at phone: (717) 393-9745; e-mail: perb@lmhs.org.

During a sabbatical from teaching, Nolt is temporarily living in the Lancaster, Pennsylvania, area for research, writing, and other personal projects.

"I'm impressed by the number of physical signs of the past in Lancaster County—old tombstones, old houses. There are lots of things here that are two hundred years old, which we don't have in Indiana," observed Nolt.

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, Goshen, B.A. Among other books he authored A History of the Amish, rev. ed. (2003), and Foreigners in Their Own Land: Pennsylvania Germans in the Early Republic (2002).

"All of our lives, collectively and individually, are about continuity and change," Nolt said. "We study history to see how others have dealt with this interplay between continuity and change."