Folk Art Tour and Dinner
April 12, 5-9 PM
Leave from the Historical Society

Preparing the Earth
May 3, 12-2 PM
Lancaster Longhouse

Hispanic Mennonites of Lancaster County, August 23, 8 AM-4 PM
Leave from the Historical Society

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

Inside:
• Lancaster Family History Conference
• HERRing around Lancaster County
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For thirty-five years, the Lancaster Family History Conference has brought genealogists of all stages together. “We try to have something for everyone,” says organizer Peggy Erb, “from the beginner to the advanced researcher.” This year is no exception, bringing researchers and resources together for sessions, seminars, and field trips.

The keynote speech, “Say Cheese! Family History and Photography,” will be delivered by Maureen Taylor. She will discuss the stories captured in photographs and what clues they might contain to reveal stories about the past. Taylor is an internationally recognized expert on the intersection of photography, genealogy, and history. Her primary work is focused on helping people solve photo-related mysteries.

DNA and its uses for family research will also be discussed. There will be workshops on which tests are best suited for delving into family history and health implications that can arise from DNA testing, as well as a roundtable discussion for those who have already undertaken DNA tests to discuss what they have learned.

On the Thursday and Friday before the conference, there are several field trips and seminars available for participants. Four field trips are offered to Baltimore, Philadelphia, Lancaster County Archives, and Native American sites. There are also three seminars: the roundtable on DNA, genealogical case studies, and special research project assistance.

The conference runs April 24-26, with the keynote and workshops on Saturday, April 26, at the Lancaster Host Resort and Conference Center, 2300 Lincoln Hwy. E. (Route 30), Lancaster Pa. Registration is available online at www.lmhs.org or by calling Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society at (717) 393-9745. Registration for field trips and seminars is done separately from the conference, but priority seating will be given to conference attendees.

Lancaster Family History Conference
Lancaster Host
Registration due April 15, 2014

Pacifists in Chains

In the summer of 1918, as the final offense maneuvers of the First World War were underway, four Hutterite young men from South Dakota were drafted and subsequently jailed for refusing to line up and drill alongside other recruits. Two returned from imprisonment in Alcatraz and Fort Leavenworth in caskets.

Duane C. S. Stoltzfus will speak on the Hutterite experience in World War I on Monday, May 19, at 7:00 p.m. in a program cosponsored with Lancaster Interchurch Peace Witness at Forest Hills Mennonite Church. His recent book, “Pacifists in Chains: The Persecution of Hutterites during the Great War,” explores this modern story of nonresistance.

Stoltzfus is a professor of communication at Goshen College and the copy editor of the “Mennonite Quarterly Review.” He is a graduate of Lancaster Mennonite High School and Goshen College. Before joining the faculty at Goshen, he worked for several newspapers, most recently at the “New York Times.”

This event is free and open to the public. Forest Hills Mennonite Church is located at 100 Quarry Road, Leola, Pa. Copies of “Pacifists in Chains” will be available for purchase and signing.

Duane C. Stoltzfus, professor of communications at Goshen College
Stutzman to Speak at Annual Banquet

“Can the quiet in the land keep their peace?” This is the question Ervin R. Stutzman will be asking at the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society’s annual banquet. As he answers, Stutzman will speak about the historic vision for Christ’s peace that has motivated Anabaptist believers for centuries and how that vision has taken concrete shape in several different contexts in the United States, from the first Amish colony to the current debates about gun control. The banquet will be held on Saturday, April 5, starting at 6 pm, at Yoder’s Restaurant in New Holland.

Stutzman is executive director for Mennonite Church USA. He previously served as a professor and dean at Eastern Mennonite Seminary. He also served the Mennonite Church in the roles of pastor, district overseer, missions administrator, Lancaster Mennonite Conference moderator, and moderator for Mennonite Church USA. Stutzman is a preacher, a teacher, and a writer. He has written two books about his Amish parents—“Tobias of the Amish,” and “Emma, A Widow Among the Amish.” His most recent books are “From Nonresistance to Justice,” a book that examines a century of change in peacemaking in the Mennonite church; “Discerning God’s Will Together,” a study about communal discernment; and “Jacob’s Choice,” a historical novel about an Amish ancestor. Copies of Stutzman’s works will be available for purchase and signing.

The Society will also honor longtime board member Clarke Hess at the banquet. Hess is an accomplished historian of Lancaster County who has made many great contributions to local history, both research and preservation, as well as provided significant insight into the county’s material culture.

Tickets cost $25 and can be purchased online at lmhs.org or by calling (717) 393-9745 prior to March 28.

Annual Banquet
Saturday, April 5, 6 pm
Yoder’s Restaurant

“HERRing” around Lancaster County

Herrs have been living in Lancaster since pre-county. The family has been a prominent part of the Lancaster community for over three hundred years and the local phone book lists more than three hundred Herrs—including more than a dozen businesses with the Herr name.

Dive into Herr history with a field trip on Saturday, May 3. Participants will meander through central Lancaster County, stopping at sites including the home of Amos Herr, the lyricist for the iconic hymn “I Owe the Lord a Morning Song” and the 1719 Hans Herr House.

The field trip leaves from the Society headquarters, 2215 Millstream Road, Lancaster, Pa. at 8 am and will return at 5 pm. Tickets cost $70 for members and $75 for nonmembers and can be purchased by calling (717) 393-9745 or registering online at lmhs.org. Lunch is included in the trip.

Field Trip Registration

“HERRing” around Lancaster County, May 3, $70 members, $75 nonmembers; includes one meal. Registration due April 17.

Please charge my: □ Visa □ MasterCard □ Discover

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Please return to LMHS, 2215 Millstream Road, Lancaster, PA 17602-1499.
Meaningfulness of Your History Project

What history project are you working on? Is it a book of memories about your childhood, an assignment for your social studies class on Lancaster County history, an online collection of photos of your congregation’s history, the story of an ancestor whose life touched your heart?

Whichever project you are planning, consider the following tips that can make your project meaningful for you and your audience.

First, define a key historical question that you want to address through your project. Then develop an argument that answers your question. Make sure your argument is based on actual evidence, not just hearsay or opinion.

Second, build chronological reasoning into your project. What was the cause and effect of the events you are describing? Which aspects of your history continued and which ones changed over time?

Third, compare and contextualize. Compare historical events that occurred within and across individuals, families, congregations, or societies you are describing. In what ways did the events connect to a specific time and place and to broader regional, national, or global happenings?

Fourth, interpret and synthesize. What are different ways to interpret the historical events, artifacts, and evidence you described? Then, what are some meaningful, persuasive and relevant understandings you want to offer? How will you fuse disparate and contradictory evidence and interpretations?

I adapted these tips from the historical thinking skills that the College Board promotes for teaching the Advanced Placement course in World History, but they certainly can apply to any historical project you and I may be engaged in.

In one of my side projects at the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society, I am writing a brief history of Mennonites in Puerto Rico. The tips will be helpful. First of all, my key question might be: To what extent did the faith-driven peace conviction of Civilian Public Service workers in the 1940s impact over time the Mennonite witness in Puerto Rico? Secondly, I will write on the degree to which the witness continued or changed in both its spiritual and social dimensions. Thirdly, I will compare how the Puerto Rican Mennonite, North American, and non-Mennonite interpretations of the history may be similar or different from each other, and why. Finally, my hope is to synthesize many perspectives on the history and develop an interpretation that will be meaningful and relevant for all.

How will you apply the tips for historical thinking to your own historical project?

Ephrata Martyrs Mirror at April 11 Auction

A fine collection of old German books will be sold including a 1748 Ephrata Martyr’s Mirror, in good condition. Book buyers will also be interested in a favorite Mennonite author, Christmas Carol Kauffman. Original editions of “Rosanna of the Amish,” and “Rosanna’s Boys” add special interest to the sale.

The sale also includes many books of Mennonite church history, including “Mennonites of the Ohio and Eastern Conference” by Grant Stoltzfus. Also, histories of Mennonites in Lancaster, Franconia, Illinois, Kansas, Canada, Russia, and Europe are all listed in the auction catalog. There are seven books by a favorite Mennonite author, Christmas Carol Kauffman. Original editions of “Rosanna of the Amish,” and “Rosanna’s Boys” add special interest to the sale.

The entire sale catalog can be accessed at lmhs.org. Information can also be obtained by calling (717) 393-9745. Mail-in bids are accepted through 4 p.m., Thursday, April 10. Please bid in even dollar amounts. No absentee bids under $10 will be accepted.

Recent Library Acquisitions

Religion/Church History

Auker, Kenneth. Keeping the truth: issues surrounding the formation of the Eastern Pennsylvania Mennonite Church. (BX8129.E1 A95 2013)


Biography/Genecology


Fritsch, Peter V. The Centennial Hill Shoemakers of Longswamp Twp. [sic], Berks Co., Pa.. (CS71.S5594 2011)


Kennel, Edna M. From Switzerland to Oregon: a Kennel family history. (CT274.K46 K46 2013)

Lear, John W. Lear : Löhr, Loehr, Leer, Lehr and Lear . . . (CS71.L438 2013)


Yoder, James L. Jacob and Fannie Yoder. (CS71.Y5483 2013)

Literature/Arts/Miscellaneous

Gundy, Jeffrey Gene. Songs from an empty cage: poetry, mystery, Anabaptism, and peace. (PN1077 .G86 2013)


Post, Robert C. Who owns America’s past?: the Smithsonian and the problem of history. (Q11.S8 P67 2013)

Smucker, Judith Rempel. Home. (HQ734 .S68 2013)