

Fall 2011

# Historical Journal



**LITITZ HISTORICAL FOUNDATION**

P.O. Box 65 145 E. Main Street, Lititz, PA 17543

717-627-4636

[www.lititzhistoricalfoundation.com](http://www.lititzhistoricalfoundation.com)

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## Nathan E. Reist - Warwick Educator

*Charlene Van Brookhoven*

Education for the children in the early settlement of Lititz was begun before the town was laid out into lots. In 1748 Rev. Leonard Schnell held classes for seven children in the newly built Gemeinhaus in Warwick. John Beck, the most recognizable name associated with education in the Moravian community, began as a teacher in the village school for boys in 1815. The girls were being educated at Linden Hall. After his retirement in 1865 Beck's son, Abraham Reinke Beck, chose to follow in his father's footsteps and made plans to start a school of his own. This school was discontinued in 1895.

During the years of the Beck schools, a young boy in the town of Warwick, Nathan E. Reist, was gaining knowledge at The Huber School on North Cedar Street. His early interests in nature, Indian lore, stamps, coins, and photography led him on a path of becoming an educator. His first assignment was at the Fairview School followed by Warwick No. 1 and the Brunnerville School - all three located in the vicinity of Lititz.

First and foremost "Dad" Reist, as he affectionately had become known, always maintained a personal interest in his pupils not only during school hours but all of the time. He instilled that "living a truly useful life" was the most important lesson to be learned.

When Dad Reist became a school teacher, he decided to establish a library which included many books on the subjects of nature, Indian lore and adventure stories written by well-known authors of that era. He loaned his collection of over 2,500 books not only to his school children but also to interested readers from miles around.



*Above: One of Reist's classrooms*

*Con't on page 2....*

## Nathan E. Reist - Warwick Educator Con't:

*Charlene Van Brookhoven*

No charges or late fees were used in his library. Dad Reist was only concerned that the borrowers, especially young children, would gain knowledge from reading books. He decided that books which were instructive as well as entertaining would be included in his massive collection. When the number of available books reached nearly 8,000, he decided he must charge \$.01 per day to cover his expenses of purchasing new books and also repairing the favorites which were read over and over again.

Plants, especially native ferns, was another obsession of Dad Reist. He would search the Furnace Hills north of Lititz and the hills along the Susquehanna River looking for native plants to add to his collection. He passed along his love of "anything green and growing" to his students. When a number of his pupils moved to other areas of the country, they would send native plant specimens from the states they moved to knowing that their beloved teacher would enjoy watching these plants grow. In turn, Dad Reist would exchange many of the plants with collectors from all over the world.

Nathan E. Reist believed in visual teaching as well as book learning which was not a common teaching method in the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. He went on camping trips along the Conestoga Creek and the Susquehanna River pointing out interesting things in the landscape and searching for Indian relics. He introduced simple furniture making using packing crates as material. He also had extensive butterfly, beetle, and mineral collections which he willingly shared with anyone who was interested.

*January 21, 1940 – "Nathan E. "Dad" Reist, eighty-five, retired school teacher, and friend of youth, died at 1:30 p.m. yesterday at his home, on North Cedar Street, Lititz after seven week's illness. Nearly seventy years of his life were spent in accumulating collections of minerals, Indian lore, curios, plants, stamps and other objects, and in using these to inspire a love of the outdoors and an intelligent interest in other activities, among boys of the neighborhood.*

*He taught school in Warwick and vicinity for 39 years and after his retirement he would entertain young persons nightly in a three-story "library and museum" in the rear of his home."*

The above obituary appeared in the Lititz Record Express.

After his death, many of Nathan Reist's collections of butterflies, Indian relics and beetles were donated to Franklin & Marshall College and are still exhibited in The North Museum. At his estate sale framed examples of insects were purchased and donated to the Boy Scout room on the third floor of the Spacht Recreation Center. It was here that many of Lititz's young boys and girls could enjoy viewing the beauty of not only insects but also butterflies. His life-time collection of bird nests with accompanying eggs are on permanent display in the visitor's center at Middle Creek Wildlife Refuge.



*Above: Several of Reist's students planting a tree on Arbor Day at the Brunnerville School.*

## *Christmas is Approaching!*

Join us at the Moravian Church Square on Thursday, December 15th at 7 p.m. for our annual Carol Sing. Share in the holiday spirit as you and your friends, family, and neighbors help to spread the joyous music which will be lead by the Moravian Trombone Choir. Hymnals will be handed out at no charge. Afterwards, please join us in Fellowship Hall for light refreshments. We hope to see you there!

### **Recent Acquisitions**

The museum has recently acquired the below generous donations and/or historical items. Please take a moment while visiting the library or museum to view these wonderful treasures. If you have a Lititz item that you wish to donate, please contact Randy Weit. Your gift is tax-deductible, and will ensure that your item will be preserved and cherished for generations to come.

-An original framed water color painting by Al Taft of the Moravian Star and Seal. Donated by Diane Dickson, in memory of her father Al Taft.

-A Lititz jigsaw puzzle. Donated by Mr. Kenneth Conrad.

- Numerous black and white photographs and negatives picturing early views of the Lititz Springs Park, and the Moravian Church. Donated by Fern and Tom McCloud.

-"Warwick Township: Lancaster County". Paperback book on the history of Warwick Township by Arcadia Publishing. Donated by board member Cory Van Brookhoven.

*The Foundation is very thankful for the above generous gifts! Additional donations will be printed in future issues of the Historical Journal.*

## **VOLUNTEER!**

We are always in need of volunteers to help coordinate the various events we hold throughout the year. Whether it is making a donation, working as a tour guide (a paid position), or working at our front counter, your help is greatly needed and appreciated. It is a wonderful and fulfilling way to "give back" to this great community of ours. If you are interested in volunteering, please call the Foundation. Thank You!

Also, please consider giving the gift of a membership to the Lititz Historical Foundation this holiday season. It's a great way to give back to the preservation of the Lititz community. Best of all, your membership goes directly to help fund our programs, newsletters, and various other costs that accrue during the year. Please consider giving a membership today!

## Fall 2011

## HISTORICAL JOURNAL

The below photos were sent to us from Jim Bowden of Lititz. His grandfather, Charles E. Krick, owned Krick's Service Station; Krick's Electric and Appliance Store selling Maytag and GE (what is now 35 & 37 South Broad Street); and a photo of his great grandfather's barber shop. Pictured in it was Charles H. Krick, his great grandfather. The picture of the barber shop would have been taken sometime between 1910 and 1915.

*We thank Jim for allowing us to publish these photos here for our members to enjoy!*

*Right: Krick's Service Station. This stood on Lincoln Avenue, where Bonnie's Hair Affair now stands. The barber shop was located where Metro Pizza now stands, on north Broad street.*

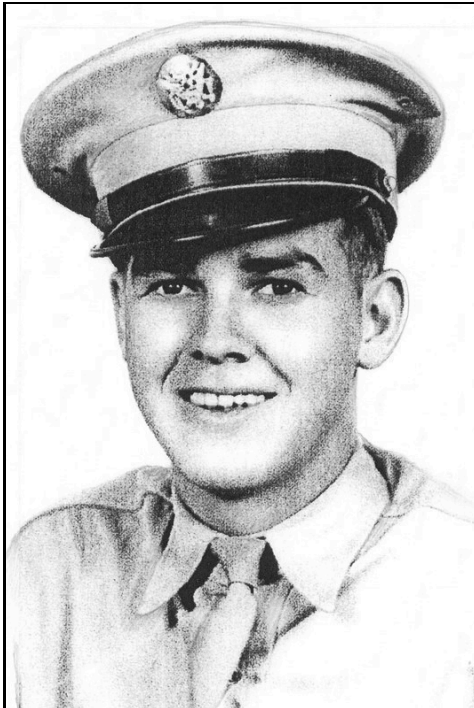


To view many old photos, and keep up with the latest news,  
**FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!**



## Annual Meeting Set for Sunday November 13th

*Cory Van Brookhoven*



*Above: World War 2 era photograph of Malmedy Massacre survivor Harold Billow.*

We are very excited to announce that Harold Billow of Mount Joy, PA will be our featured speaker for our annual meeting on Sunday November 13th. Harold is a retired soldier, who fought bravely in the Battle of the Bulge and was a survivor of the Malmedy Massacre. He will present a very moving and informative program on serving in World War 2 and surviving the horrible massacre. Many first-hand stories will be shared with the audience, followed by a question and answer session with those in attendance. This meeting will be held at Linden Hall's Steinman Arts Center, located at 212 East Main street in Lititz.

For a small fee, he will also have on hand photographs which he will happily sign. 100% of the proceeds from signing autographs will go directly to him.

Harold is retired, and served as a Corporal in the United States Army's B-Battery 285th FAOB. He has spoken all around Pennsylvania, and re-

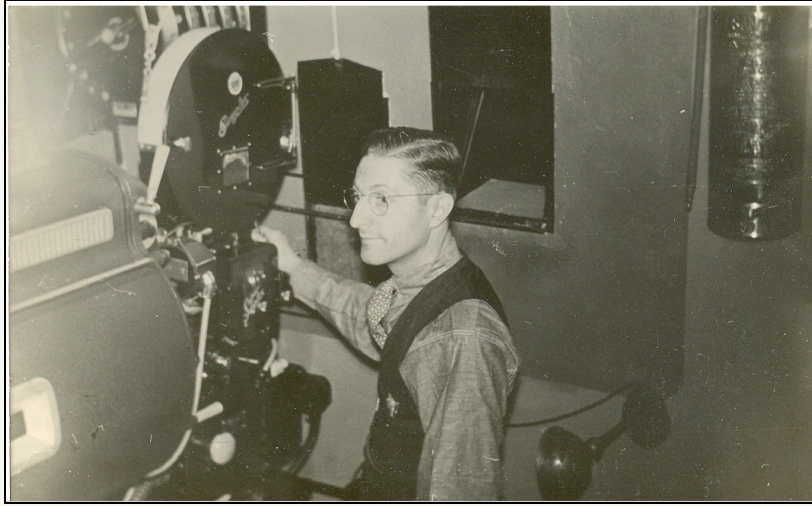


cently was a guest of honor at the Mid Atlantic Air Museum's gathering in Reading, Pennsylvania. He is considered a TRUE American hero and survivor.

*Do not miss this very special afternoon. We are very fortunate that Harold has agreed to spend time with us, and it is sure to be a very popular program!*

Additional programs in our winter lecture series are in the process of being finalized. Dates for these lectures will take place in January, February, and March. Please call Cory Van Brookhoven at 717-875-0630 for more information, or please keep an eye on the Lititz Record Express. All programs start at 2 p.m. on a Sunday

## PICTURE QUIZ



Above is pictured the projectionist for the Lititz movie theatre who “ran the reels” for many many years. Can you name him?

Answer to last issue’s picture quiz: Grube’s Shoes was located at 35 East Main Street - currently the home of the Sassy Tassel.



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