

Fall 2016

Historical Journal



LITITZ HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

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

717-627-4636

www.lititzhistoricalfoundation.com

John G. Zook - Lititz Publisher

Charlene Van Brookhoven

"The Lititz Express. A model country weekly newspaper of eight pages that should be read by every family in Northern Lancaster County"

This was one of the advertising slogans used to draw attention to John G. Zook's small Lititz publication.

Zook was born in Manheim Township in 1853 and was a graduate of Millersville Normal School, class of 1875. After spending six terms teaching, he began publishing a literary monthly named the "Sunbeam" in Lititz in 1877. The name of the paper was changed in 1881 to "The Express" with C.N. Derr as a partner. Derr stayed with Zook in the printing business until 1896 when Zook incorporated The Express Printing Company. Being a Prohibitionist, he supported the cause with his paper "The Express", which promoted independent thinking.



John G. Zook, along with Lititz businessman W.H. Muth, was instrumental in organizing The Board of Trade, a local Civic body in 1901. These two men were the main influence in bringing Ideal Cocoa and Chocolate to Lititz and also overseeing the merger of The J.M. Mast Company to The Animal Trap Company of Abington, Illinois in 1905.

The Express Printing Company, owned solely by Zook, became quite

prolific in printing all types of books, publications, pamphlets and postcards all related to Lititz and surrounding areas.

Pictured above is John Zook standing in front of his shop. This photo was taken on July 4th, 1938.

Story continued on page 3 inside...

Recent Acquisitions

Board of Directors:
Cory Van Brookhoven
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Directors:
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Teri Forster

Jerry McDonald

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Tom Oehme

Henry Paul

Donna Olah

Newsletter Editor:
Cory Van Brookhoven



Recently, the following items have been donated to the foundation. THANK YOU so much to each and every one of you for thinking of us when deciding where to donate your items.

1. Class photos, postcards, newspaper articles, photos, Bicentennial photos. Given in memory of Catherine (Kitty) Martin Brown by Brad Anderson.
2. Barbara Kling Angelo memorabilia including photos and memorabilia from her youth in Lititz. Donated by Claudia Penn.
3. Original photo of the General Sutter Hotel, a broadside advertising property from 1935, a 1956 Bicentennial Lititz Record Express newspaper, and the "History of the Moravian Church" hardcover book. Donated by Margaret Thorn.

THE 2016 EXTRA GIVE TAKES PLACE NOVEMBER 18TH, 2016!

Again this year, we are participating in the 2016 Extraordinary Give, Lancaster County's largest day of giving! To donate to the Lititz Historical Foundation, click on the link below:

<https://extragive.org/designee/lititz-historical-foundation>

On November 18th, be sure to visit this link to donate. Also, PLEASE share this link with friends and family so they too may donate. Remember, every dollar counts. THANK YOU for your support!

**MARK
YOUR
CALENDARS!**

**NOVEMBER
18TH!**

**THE EXTRATM
ORDINARY
GIVE**



John G. Zook - Lititz Publisher Con't:

Researchers and historians seeking information and photos of early 1900's Lititz are indebted to Zook for his publication *"Historical and Pictorial Lititz"*. Lancaster County historians are also grateful for *"Seeing Lancaster County from a Trolley Window"*, printed for The Conestoga Traction Company in 1910. Within its pages are photos and histories of Lancaster County towns as seen while riding in the comfort of the trolley lines.

Zook took advantage of the many people arriving in town to enjoy the peaceful serenity of the Lititz Springs. Visitors flocked here, especially during the summer months, when the R&C railroad sponsored trips from outlying areas. His Express Printing Company printed thousands of black and white postcards which were available for two cents each and bought by tourists visiting Lititz. These postcards are now encased in albums by collectors of Lititz ephemera and are prized for the early scenes of the town. Later, color was added to some of the cards.

Zook also printed Lititz/Warwick directories which included every resident of Lititz, the town of Warwick and surrounding rural delivery routes, their name, address, number of children and occupation. These small booklets are also invaluable to Lititz historians and researchers of family genealogies.

The Express Printing Company was located at 22 East Main Street (Rear) a brick building located between East Main and Juniper Lane. The business was large enough to accommodate printing presses, typesetting machines, cartons of various qualities of paper, and an elevator to the second floor. The building is located at the end of Zum Anker Alley, and is the current home of Think Silk.



John Zook was also the owner of 22 E. Main Street which was the home of John G. Zook Books and Stationery, simply later renamed "Books and Stationary". Zook also had a bicycle shop at the same address. "Lititz Bicycles are the best" touted Zook in the publication *"Yours Truly"*, a free, 10-page booklet given quarterly to subscribers of the Express.

Continued on page 4...

John G. Zook - Lititz Publisher Con't:

"These books are worth 5 cents apiece, but they are given free by John G. Zook, 22 East Main Street, Lititz."

Zook was surely a renaissance man in the economic development of our town. He had the foresight and entrepreneurial skills to develop a printing business that is still successful today. The Lititz Record Express, a weekly newspaper reporting on news mainly for and about Lititz, is highly anticipated by folks who have ties to this beloved community.



"Are you one of those who sometimes calls at 22 Main St., Lititz? If you are we don't need to tell you anything, but if you have never been there you should let no grass grow under your feet before you get there. You will find the proprietor, John G. Zook, ready to talk bicycles, books, newspapers, politics, philosophy or Labor Exchange with equal ease."

Fun Fact:

To commemorate his 50th anniversary as an editor, Ripley ran an article on John Zook in his "Believe It Or Not" column. While his printing business no longer exists in Lititz, there is a small plaque affixed to the outside of this current building located at 22 East Main street shown above. It states "1877 John Zook Bookstore." 1877 was the first year that Zook published The Sunbeam, which would become Lititz's very first newspaper.

Historical Happenings



A (new) Grand Old Flag!

A big THANK YOU to the Lititz VFW for the donation of a brand new American flag which will proudly fly in front of our 1792 Johannes Mueller House. Shown here is (left) Derek Hummer, Adjutant of Lititz Springs VFW Post #1463 and Bob Turgeon (right), who serves as one of our tour guides.



From Lititz to Sacramento!

Lauren Ellis of Lititz recently wrote:
Homeschool!

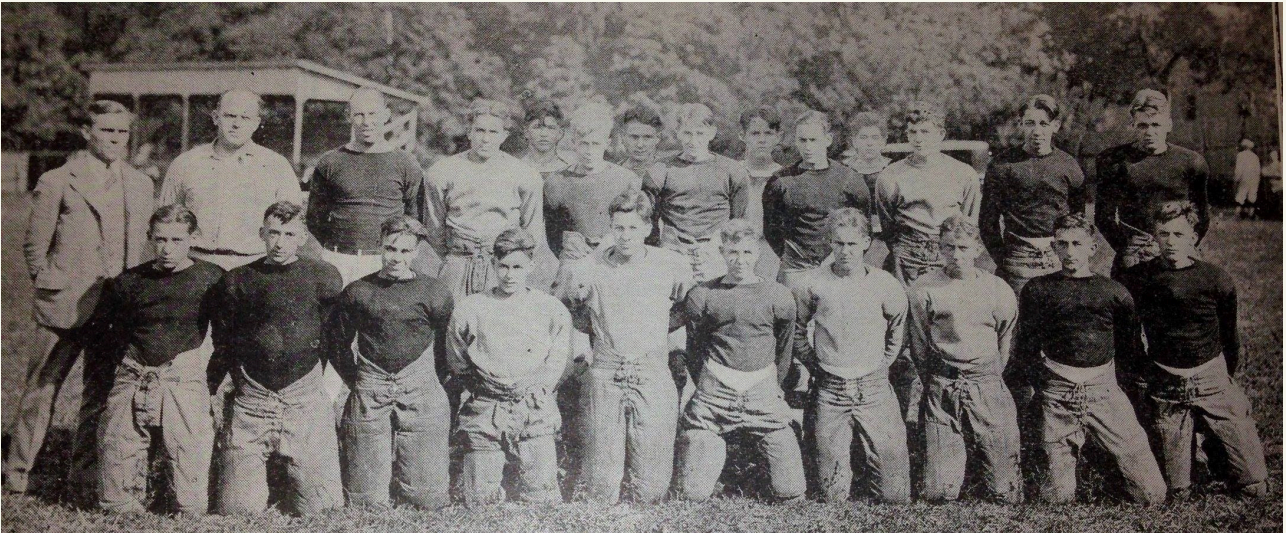
Knowing that we live in the final resting place of General Sutter, and that we were traveling to the town where he built a Fort, as well as a nearby mill, kicking off the Gold Rush and essentially founding Sacramento, we decided to get dorky with history. We reached out to the Lititz Historical Foundation, and they put together a collection of Lititz memorabilia, information, and Moravian Star ornaments. We added small bags of Sturgis Pretzels and a few Wilbur Buds to complete the gift of friendship from Lititz to Sacramento. One gift was delivered to the Fort itself where we met Amber Sprock, Interpreter of the American Indian Museum and Sutter's Fort.

Then off we went to Old Town Sacramento where due to scheduling conflicts we left the gift at the front desk for Kristina Swanson, Chief Operations Officer Sacramento History Museum. As it turns out, Kristina grew up in Bucks County and went to Millersville University and has a sister who resides in Lancaster! What a small world!"



Editor's Note: Shown to the left is Lauren's daughter Abby, who acted as goodwill ambassador between Lititz and Sacramento. The historical items that were presented to Sacramento were much appreciated, and will be filed in their holdings.

DID YOU KNOW...?



2016 Warwick High School football games are underway! Shown here is the Lititz High School football team of 1926. Top Row (left to right): Coach Herr; Head Coach Peacock; Coach McMullin; Players: Reist; Peifer; Mummuert; Minnich; Steffy; Pfautz; Seaber; Huber; Girvin; Burkhart; Longenecker. Bottom Row (left to right): Badorf; Hertzler; Getz; Gochenaur; Moore; Foltz; Kauffman; Hackman; Gibble; Dissinger.

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