

Spring 2010

# 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)

Museum, Mueller House,  
Tours, & Gift Shop Hours:

Friday & Saturday 10am-4pm  
starting April 30th

Monday-Saturday  
10am-4pm  
beginning May 31st  
Through October 2nd, 2010

Museum & Gift Shop:  
10am-4pm Friday & Saturday  
From Oct. 8th thru Dec. 18th

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## *Moravians – The Easter People*

*Charlene Van Brookhoven*

Throughout the world Moravians are known as “the Easter people”. The tradition of Easter sunrise services within Moravian congregations was begun in Herrnhut, Germany in the year 1732 as a meaningful way to greet Easter dawn and also to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The Lenten season at the Lititz Moravian Church is filled with services and opportunities to worship the death and resurrection of Jesus. The season is a total of 40 days, excluding Sundays, before Easter. Shrove Tuesday, the day before Ash Wednesday, is the day celebrated in preparation for “giving up something for Lent”. In Lititz, as well as other Pa. Dutch communities, it is also known as Fasnacht Day, the day when thousands of fat-laden, no holes doughnuts are consumed. In the Moravian faith there are three features in the observance of Passion

(Holy) week-the week preceding Easter. These are the readings of the Passion Week Manual, the Maundy Thursday Communion, and the Great Sabbath Lovefeast. Since August 13, 1727, when Count Zinzendorf offered a simple meal to the people of Herrnhut as an expression of love for one another, lovefeasts have played a significant part of special celebrations in the church.

The first Easter dawn service in Lititz was held April 14, 1759 in the “old” St. James graveyard on West Center Street ending in “the new graveyard on the hill behind the Moravian Church”. This is God’s Acre, the area of the cemetery reserved for members of the Moravian congregation.

Continued on page 2..



*Trombone Choir playing at an Easter Dawn Service. Photo taken most likely in the late 1950's.*

**FROM THE PRESIDENT**

The Lititz Historical Foundation is starting its 49th year and our first event is the Annual Plant Exchange scheduled for Sunday, May 2nd from 1 to 3pm, rain or shine in the Mary Oehme Gardens. Last year, the Plant Exchange was held in continuous rain with 265 plants exchanged between 35 people. I discovered that gardening and exchanging information about plants is a “rain or shine” happening. Please come and join us this year and bring 1, 2, or 10 perennial plants to exchange. If you have any questions about a plant or gardening, there are several people attending from the Lititz Garden Club to answer your questions. Look for more information in the local newspapers.

The plants must be perennials and each one should be placed in a container for handling. The plants will be placed in one of six categories: sun, shade, exotic, herbs, bulbs and ground cover. Please identify your plants and bring any gardening questions to the event.

I would like to thank the Lititz Garden Club for their help and support of this event.

Sincerely,

Randy Weit

*Moravians—The Easter People continued:*

On Easter morning, 1766, the Moravian community of Lititz was awakened by the sound of trombone music being played by a small group of church men. Five years later, December 4, 1771, the Lititz Moravian Trombone Choir was organized and made its first public appearance at the Christmas Eve Vigil Service. On Easter morning 1772, before the light of day, the trombone choir played hymns announcing the Resurrection to the sleeping villagers.

The tradition continues the same today. The Trombone Choir gathers at 4 a.m. , breaks into small groups, and strolls through town playing beautiful Moravian hymns. At 6 a.m. the Easter Dawn Service begins in the church sanctuary. After readings from the Holy Week Manual, the worshippers silently proceed to the cemetery. Just as the sun comes up over the eastern horizon, the service comes to an end –

*The Lord is Risen! – The Lord is Risen Indeed!*

***WARWICK TOWNSHIP PHOTOS SOUGHT FOR UPCOMING BOOK***

Cory Van Brookhoven is currently at work compiling a book on Warwick Township, and is asking for your help. He is writing a book entitled “Warwick Township”, and is asking members to supply original photographs taken before 1970 for possible publication. Arcadia Publishing, who published Kathy Blankenbiller’s book last year entitled “Lititz” will be publishing the book. He is looking for photos involving Rothsville, Brunnerville, Millway, Millport, Kissel Hill, and Lexington. The pictures must be original, and cannot be postcards (real photo postcards can be accepted), copied from a book, newspaper clippings, or Xeroxed copies. If you can help, please contact him at 717-625-4598. The photos will need to be borrowed, scanned in, and then returned to you as soon as possible. A short caption of a few sentences will also need to accompany any photograph submitted. If your photograph is printed in the book, you will receive photo credit. If you can assist, please call him as soon as possible.

***YOUR HELP IS GREATLY APPRECIATED!***

### Help Needed for Upcoming Bake Sale

For many years the Bake Sale has been a part of the Foundation’s annual Antiques Show. We are in need of two people to serve as chairs. It is important to continue this tradition because it brings the needed revenue through the sale of baked goods and monetary donations. If you are interested in giving some of your time to the Foundation as a co-chair, please contact Gail Ekstrand before April 30<sup>th</sup>. (627-2507)



Pictured above is a 1902 Lititz Springs National Bank of Lititz \$10 bill. This rare bill is signed at the bottom right by D.M. Greybill, who was bank president at the time this bill was issued.

## JOIN US THIS MAY THROUGH SEPTEMBER FOR ARTISAN DAYS IN THE MARY OEHME GARDENS!

Portia Bowman

Join a very special group of people who will be appearing in the Mary Oehme Gardens of the Lititz Historical Foundation during the Summer. These local artisans will share with you their knowledge of a wide range of crafts that we now shop for in the big box stores, but were crafted by hand during the 18th and 19th century. This will not be a craft show. Rather, these talented people will be anxious to “show and tell” how they do their craft and in some cases there may be “make and take” kits. You will be shown how to hook a rug, weave a basket, make a band box, throw a pot or even learn how to carve a bird. Bring your family and friends. It is FREE. Rain or shine. The dates will all be held on a Saturday, and are scheduled for May 22nd; June 12th; July 10th; August 21st; and September 11th.

The first presentation will be in May and will feature Decorative Arts. The presenters will include how to make a band box, what theorem painting is all about, scissors cutting, and more!

Tours of the Museum and Johannes Mueller House will also be available, as well as the Moravian Church archives in Church Square. Call the Foundation at 626-4636 to discover what will be happening on each of the dates.

### ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ 2010 WINTER LECTURE SERIES WAS ANOTHER GREAT SUCCESS! ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Cory Van Brookhoven

We feel so fortunate to have brought you 4 very exciting lecture series programs this past season. In November, we kicked off things at our annual meeting with guests John Long and Sam Nolt. After our meeting, these two gentlemen presented a program on local whiskey memorabilia collecting.

Then in January, we hosted Ronald Pook from Pook and Pook Auction House,

who shared with the crowd a very informative lecture regarding the history of Pennsylvania German Folk Art. Then in February, the Foundation was proud to welcome Rob Weber from the Lancaster County Historical Society, who presented an hour-long program on the history of Lancaster County taverns in the 18th century.

For our March program, we had with us Michael Zimmerman, who was very happy to share with us stories and information relating to the Buzzard Gang, which

were a local band of outlaws and thieves.

We want to thank these speakers once again for taking time out of their day to share these important chapters of Lancaster County history with us. All of the lectures were very well attended, and the public asked many questions after their presentations. The Board of Directors look forward to bringing you many new and exciting subjects next year!

*Spring 2010*

*HISTORICAL JOURNAL*

***ANNUAL ANTIQUE SHOW SLATED FOR JUNE 25TH AND JUNE 26TH***

*Ken Martin*

We are now 48 years old. It is hard to believe that so many years have passed so quickly. Our antique show (The only one in Lancaster County) will be held the last weekend in June at John Bonfield Elementary School. We continue to work hard at having a first class show featuring only the finest in antiques. Admission will be \$4.00 if you present the card enclosed at the door, or \$5.00 at the door. It is so important that we support the show with our attendance. This gives support to our dealers who pay to be in the show. The Warwick cafeteria staff will be in charge of the snack bar. They do such a great job for us, so please stop by and have lunch. There is a wonderful menu offered to us. Your neighbors and friends will again bring their baked goods to the bake sale to be bought and then taken home for enjoyment. We look forward to greeting all of you at the show. Don't miss it!

In closing, we want to pay a tribute to one who over the years gave his expertise and time to the Lititz Historical Foundation. He managed the antique show for many years. Bob Cook was a friend and one that we all learned to respect. Bob, thanks so much for all of your service. Bob passed away in January. You will be greatly missed.

**Dr. William Brown and the Litiz Hospital in 1778**

*Cory Van Brookhoven*

The Lititz Hospital was began by Dr. Samuel Kennedy in December, 1777. He was succeeded by Dr. Henry Latimer in January, 1778 when Dr. Kennedy was sent to Yellow Springs (Chester Springs) where a large building was erected to serve as the medical headquarters of the Valley Forge Encampment. In February, 1778, Dr. William Brown also took up residence at the Lititz Hospital, to care for the 250 sick and wounded soldiers that were being treated under General George Washington's orders at the Lititz Moravian Brethren's House. Born in Scotland, Dr. Brown received his degree of medicine from the University of Edinburgh in 1770. When he arrived to America, he took up residence in Alexandria, VA. When the Revolutionary War began, Brown was made Surgeon of the 2nd Virginia Regiment and was shortly thereafter appointed Surgeon General of the Middle Department. In 1778, he was advanced to be Physician and Director General of all hospitals and it was while holding this rank that he created America's first Pharmacopoeia in Lititz. While Brown stayed in Lititz, he lived with David Tannenberg (organ builder) and his family, whose house was located across the street from the hospital. What dismay Tannenberg must have felt when he discovered that just one week after he installed a new organ in the Single Brethren's House of the Moravian Church of Bethlehem on November 30th, 1776 that this location was ordered to serve as a make-shift military hospital. Now the same thing was happening in Lititz. Just four months before, Tannenberg installed a brand new organ in the Brethren's House of the Litiz Moravian Church!

After leaving the Army in 1780, Brown moved back to Virginia, where he continued to practice medicine. Dr. William Brown died in 1792, and is buried in in the cemetery of Old Pohick Church, Alexandria.

Below is a letter written by Brown in Litiz, which was sent to a Dr. Potts in Bethlehem. The letter below is presented unedited, and exactly as it appeared.

*Dear Sir:*

*Leitiz, March 11th, 1778*

*Before you receive this, Dr. Shippen will have delivered to you a list of Stores and medicines which were of opinion would be wanted for the use of the Hospitals during the present year. The lists were chiefly made out by me, and at a time when my head was very unsteady and confused from the weak state in which the fever has left me.*

*Continued on page 5..*

***MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!***

Our annual Rendezvous at Twilight Garden Party will be held on Saturday, July 17th in the beautiful Mary Oehme Gardens!



## Dr. William Brown and the Litiz Hospital in 1778 con't:

*I have therefore no doubt but I have omitted some necessary articles. I have since recollected some and dare say there are more which I hope (knowing them to be necessary) will add when they occur to you, or present themselves during your search for the rest. At present, you will oblige me by adding to The List.*

3 doz Boxes Small Apothecaries Weights and Scales

3 doz Bolus Knives

3 doz Spathulas

2 doz Large Weights and Scales (the latter may be made of Wood for the use of Commissaries to issue Sugar by weight)

2 doz Marble Morters of One pint and Pestles

2 doz Measures from 1/2 oz. to 1 quart

6 doz Earthern Vessels (deep) with handles from 2 quarts to 2 gall. for boiling Decoctions or 2 doz Copper Do. of one gallon for the purpose

1 doz Bed Pans for the use of very weak Pts. that cannot set up

2 doz Spades or Shovels

2 doz Axes

6 doz Delft Ware Tiles for mixing Boluses as our Hospital is very defective in this article at present & we are often much at a loss what shift to make for want of them. Let me request you to add the above articles to the list immediately when you receive this letter before it falls aside. I am

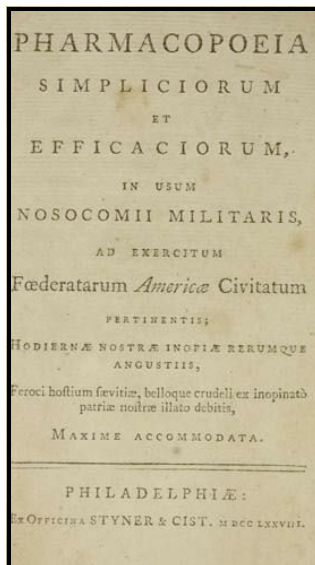
*Your most obed. & hbl servt.*

*W. Browne*

*P.S. I beg to leave to add one thing more, that I do not think we are upon a right plan as to procuring from the Moravian sisters; and as far as I see, those two houses at Bethlehem and this place are the largest and principle sources from whence we may expect supplies of that necessary article which is used in our hospitals in such large quantities. I think if a particular Person at each place was employed and money put into the hands, perhaps 3 or 400 dollars at a time, to receive and pay ready money for the Lint as fast as they can make it, and at the same time to urge them to that business the effect would be great. At present they are careless about it. At this place I believe have entirely left off making any because there is no one to receive and pay for it. I don't know how it is in Bethlehem. If you think proper to adopt this mode, I would recommend Dr. Allison to be employed upon that purpose at this place, whom you will probably see passing through Reading shortly, as he is gone to Burlington to bring his family and Mr. Horsefield, Apothecary of Bethlehem who was formerly employed for the like purpose by Dr. Shippen and collected a large quantity of Lint from the sisters.*

*Yours.*

*W.B.\**

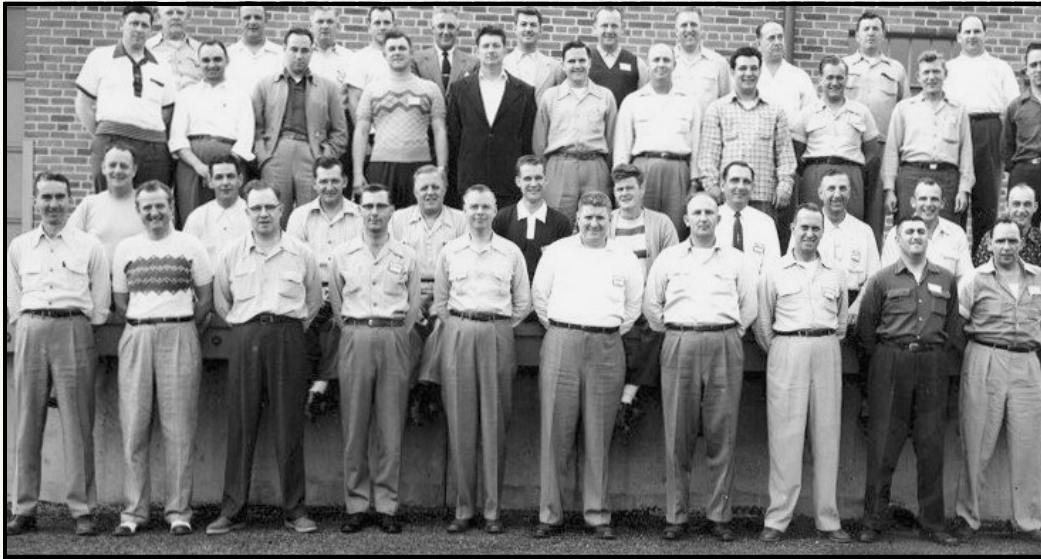


At left is pictured Dr. William Brown's Pharmacopoeia. Published in Philadelphia but written in Litiz, it served as the very first North American medical encyclopedia. Containing only 32 pages, with Latin text, the title translates as:

*"the simplest and most efficacious drugs and prescriptions for use in the military hospitals belonging to the Army of the United States, especially adapted to our present poverty and straightened circumstances due to the ferocious inhumanity of the enemy, and cruel war unexpectedly brought upon our fatherland."*

*\*The above letter was taken from the Lancaster County Historical Society Journal; Volume 52, Number 4, from 1948.*

## PICTURE QUIZ



Above is a photograph taken in 1953 at Penn State University of the 13th Annual Traffic Officers Training School. Can you name and identify a future Lititz Police detective in this photo?

Answer to last issue's picture quiz:

*This was a picture of an Ideal Canning Company tomato can. This business operated from 1904 to 1907 in Rothsville. Aside from tomatoes, they also canned Cuckoo Brand Country Gentleman Corn.*



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