

Summer 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

Monday-Saturday  
10am-4pm

Through October 2nd, 2010

Museum & Gift Shop:

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

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Cory Van Brookhoven

### Early Schools of Warwick and Warwick Township

Martha Xakellis

In June of 1879 the Secondary school room of Lititz was the site of the annual examination of teachers of Warwick Township. The gentleman and ladies who were being tested were seeking appointments to teach in the schools of Warwick Township. The Village of Warwick, north of Locust Street, was not part of Lititz, and was included in the township. The session was opened by the county superintendent of schools, and was attended by "ten gentlemen and two ladies". One of the gentlemen withdrew from the examination before noontime. Perhaps the topics being covered in the examination, physical geography, history, grammar, and the Constitution of the United States, were proving too difficult for him. Or he had not taken advantage of the district institutes that were held yearly for their benefit and training. Qualifications for teaching at that time did not require a higher education, just a good general knowledge of subjects as determined by the school board.

In the Lititz Express article that the above was taken from, one of the questions was where would you be if the North Star was directly below you. One lady's supposition was that you

would be in Heaven, but upon further thought, it was concluded that it would be at the South Pole. All in all, the Superintendent was pleased with the results of the examinations and appointments of teachers were made for the schools of the township.

Eleven persons took the exams and there were thirteen schools that needed teachers. It can be concluded from this that the exams were held for new applicants.

The article that this information came from did not indicate who was new and who previously earned their teaching certificate.



*Above is the Kissel Hill School, taken in the early 40's. This schoolhouse was located at the corner of Owl Hill and Landis Valley Roads. It is now a private residence.*

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*HISTORICAL JOURNAL*

***Early Schools of Warwick and Warwick Township Con't:***

The teachers and the schools to which they were assigned were as follows:

Millport – Abraham Stauter  
 Sunnyside – John Meiley  
 Lower Rothsville – John Ruth  
 Upper Rothsville – Nathan C. Fry  
 Rome – Miss Lou. S. Yetter  
 Warwick – H.N. Biemesderfer  
 Union – Hiram Diehm  
 Lookout – Hiram P. Fry  
 Brunnerville – Miss Emma Habecker  
 Buch's – Isaac Huber  
 Fairview – Miss Sallie Bruckart  
 New Haven – Jerome J. Biemesderfer

Lexington for some reason was not filled.

In checking the 1880 Federal Census taken in June of that year, not all the names of persons who were assigned schools could be found.

Appointed to Millport school was Abraham Stauter, age 31, who was living in the Village of Rothsville. His occupation is listed as a teacher in public schools. He and his wife had three children whose ages were 9 years, 5 years, and 2 months.

Upper Rothsville school was to be taught by Nathan Fry. Nathan Fry was found in Lititz but his occupation was listed as a tobacconist. He is 28 and his wife Annie is 29. They have two sons. The only other Nathan Fry in the area was an elderly farmer. No conclusion can be made.

The Rome school would be taught by Miss Lou. S. Yetter. Miss Yetter is living in Brecknock Township with her parents and two brothers. She is 22, the daughter of Michael & Louisa Yetter who were both born in Wurtemberg. She has two brothers who are both school teachers.

Horace Biemesderfer and Jerome Biemesderfer are brothers and lived in village of New Haven which is now called Kissel Hill. They both live at home with their parents, but only Jerome is listed as a school teacher. Brother Horace is a farm hand. H.N. Biemesderfer was assigned to the Warwick school, and his brother, Jerome, would teach at New Haven.

The Union school would be taught by Hiram Diehm, 21, son of Charles and Ann Mary. He lives in Penn Township with his parents, and is listed as a teacher.

Lookout school or Pine Hill has been assigned to Hiram Fry who lives on Main Street in the town of Lititz. He is age 29 and lives with his wife, Sallie. He is a teacher.

*This story will conclude in our Fall 2010 issue.*

**EVENING OF MUSIC**

Please join us in the Mary Oehme Gardens on Sunday August 8th at 6:30 p.m. as we present an Evening of Music featuring the Dixieland Express. Bring your chairs, and invite friends! This is a FREE concert. We thank Luthercare for sponsoring this year's event.

## 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.

-Small wooden child-sized rocking chair, unpainted. Plank seat. This chair once was used in the Sturgis Pretzel House. Gift of Paul Stauffer.

-Book of Bandbox crafts for learning the technique of making band boxes. Written by local author Edwina Chomeley-Jones. Gift of Edwina Chomeley Jones.

-"Images of America: Lititz" by Kathy Blankenbiller. Published by Arcadia books. Gift of Kathy Blankenbiller.

-A DVD copy of Michael Zimmerman's lecture in March regarding the Buzzard Gang. Donated by Bob Buzzard.

-An old puzzle of the Mueller House. Donated by Joanne Snavelly.

-A recently published booklet on "Privy Bags". Donated by Clarke Hess.

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

### ***ANNUAL ANTIQUE SHOW JUNE 25TH AND JUNE 26TH***

A reminder that our antique show (The only one in Lancaster County) will be held the last weekend in June at John Bonfield Elementary School. Admission will be \$5.00 at the door. 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!

### **RENDEZVOUS AT TWILIGHT SET FOR JULY 17TH**

We hope you'll join us at the Rendezvous at Twilight on Saturday July 17<sup>th</sup> between 7:30 and 10:00 p.m. The delightful and romantic fun-filled gathering will take place in the lush Mary Oehme Gardens located on the Foundation's back lawn. This year's event is especially important since all new garden fencing has just been installed, with each and every wooden piece authentically handcrafted. The Mary Ann Garrett Jazz Ensemble will provide the music for the evening. Members will receive a 10 percent discount off the \$25.00 ticket price.

By purchasing tickets before July 1st, the public can also save 10 percent.

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# THE GRAND MASQUERADE BALL OF 1871

*Cory Van Brookhoven*

On Tuesday September 5th, 1871 the Litiz Springs Hotel hosted a most wondrous and extravagant Masquerade Ball. Dignitaries, prominent businessmen, and members of high society from all over Lancaster County received invitations to this delightful affair. General Richard McCallister of Washington D.C. was the Master of Ceremonies for the evening, and Mr. Harvey Clyde was the Treasurer. These two gentlemen came up with the idea for the Ball, and planned the entire evening of festivities. As guests arrived, they quickly went to designated rooms where they put on their colorful and elaborate garb. A.R. Van Horn, costumer from Philadelphia, supplied guests with a roomful of costumes for the evening, and the dress ranged from the plain Domino, to the most beautiful attire of Prince and Noble. As the guests finally ascended the staircase towards the ballroom, onlookers saw men with contorted faces; distorted forms; long noses; no noses; and broken noses. As for the women, they were dressed as slender shepherdesses; gorgeous fairies; pretty peasant girls; and beautiful queens.

The ballroom was very handsomely decorated on its walls and pillars with evergreens, and a vast amount of flags. This was all the hard work of the female employees and the management of the hotel. In addition, Chinese lanterns were suspended along the hallways, adding to the beauty of the night. At exactly 9:00 p.m., the Ball was officially underway. Keffer's Full Orchestra provided the excellent music for the entire night. A total of 22 different dances were played, including "Les Lanciers Quadrille", "Quadrille Polka", "Redowa and Galop Waltz", and "Quadrille Mazourka" just to name a few.

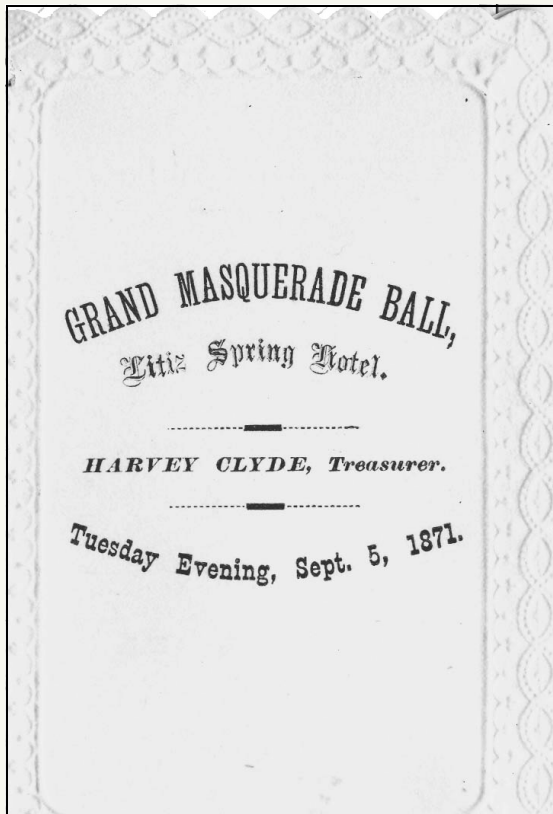
On the ballroom floor, W.T. Snodgrass of Philadelphia was spotted dressed as Louis XIV, with his date dressed as a French Lady. Mr. R.R. Tshudy was dressed as a man wearing full 1821 wedding attire; and his date, Lizzie, was dressed as a Queen of Fairies. A.W. Sumner of Harrisburg was decked out as The Duke of Cambridge, while his date for the night, Fannie, was comically dressed as the Queen of Folly. C.M. Curtis of Philadelphia was seen dressed as Mephistopheles, while his date named Mollie was dressed as a Daughter of the Regiment. In addition, Jacob B. Long and his date Alice, were both dressed in white dominos. Mr. H. E. Slaymaker was wearing the costume of a Druid Priest, while his date for the evening was wearing the outfit of Pocahontas.

Other costumed guests included C.A. Lichtenthaeler of Litiz as Montezuma and Jacob L. Steinmetz as a Druid Priest. Even costumer Van Horn got into the act, dressing as Punchinello. Among the guests who were spectators but not dressed in costume included General John A. Sutter, J.B. Erb, D.G. Eshleman, and John Worley.

The music, merriment, and dancing continued throughout the night, and at exactly midnight, all of the attendees dressed up for the Ball unmasked, and departed to a lower room where they partook in much needed refreshments. The Ball then continued, and at 3:30 a.m. after the last musical selection was played, all guests retired to their rooms or left by carriage to their homes.

A large balance of funds taken in from the Grand Masquerade Ball of 1871 was then managed by Treasurer Harvey Clyde. It was decided that these funds were to be handed over to former school teacher John Beck, who would distribute these monies for charitable purposes of Beck's choosing.

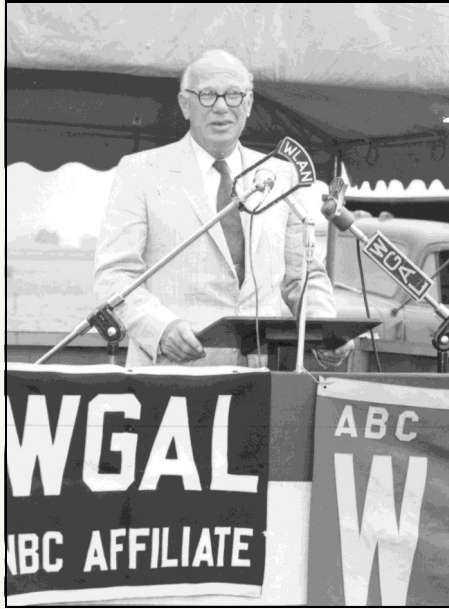
*At left is pictured the ticket/invitation for the Grand Masquerade Ball, held at the Litiz Springs Hotel on September 5th, 1871.*







## PICTURE QUIZ



*Who is this gentleman pictured to the left? Where is the location he is speaking at, and why was that particular day important to Lititz?*

Answer to last issue's Picture Quiz: This was a 1953 photograph taken of the Penn State University's 13th Annual Traffic Training School. Pictured at the top row, third from left, was none other than Lloyd Hoffman, who served as a Lititz police detective several years ago.



Lititz Historical Foundation's  
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