

Summer 2011

# Historical Journal



**LITITZ HISTORICAL FOUNDATION**

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Tours, & Gift Shop Hours:

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## United Zion Home and Cemetery at Pleasant View

*Martee Xakellis*

Henry Firestone married Barbara Kauffman Miller, a widow with five children, in 1877. He was a miller by trade and the family lived in a number of places in Lancaster County until they finally settled at "Pleasant View" where they bought three acres on the hill and built a small house. This property was located on the northwest corner of the junction of Newport Road and Furnace Hills Pike (PA 501) north of Lititz.

Whether it was already known as "Pleasant View" or because the Firestone's named their property this because of the magnificent view, we will most likely never know. The site certainly commands a good view of the valley below.

The Firestones went by horse and wagon to Lancaster market to sell the produce they

raised on their farm and the bread that Barbara baked. The bread was so good and so much was sold that they established the Pleasant View Bakery. It did quite well and soon there was enough business to require four delivery teams on the road.

From the February 5, 1886 edition of the *Lititz Record* comes this report of a "Narrow Escape":

"On Tuesday morning Henry Firestone, the Lexington baker, came near being caught by the cars at Manheim near the depot. He was driving two horses hitched to a bread wagon, and before reaching the railroad stopped to see if cars were approaching.

*Con't on page 3*



*The Firestone farmhouse about 1906 when it became known as "United Zion Home."*

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## Family Fall Fest Slated for September 17th!

Portia Bowman

Mark your calendars now for the Family Fall Fest to be held on Saturday September 17th from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. The rain date is scheduled for one week later, on Saturday September 24th. The Mary Oehme Gardens will be filled with a large variety of craftsmen who will demonstrate as well as sell their crafts. There will also be food, including Lititz resident Jason Leed who will be selling hot dogs and sausage from his cart. His business is called "Leed Dawg" of which the logo is shown below. There will also be music, and 18th century games for the young and young at heart. Bring your family as this is a FREE event!



Above: The beautiful Mary Oehme Gardens.

Our museum and gift shop will be open to purchase gifts, or to explore our exhibits. For a small fee, the historic Mueller House will also be open and available for tours. Plan to spend the day!



## Local Dairy History Book Available

As stated in the Spring 2011 newsletter, a very special local dairy display has been erected in our museum. The exhibit has on display over 50 antique milk bottles. There are also many vintage photographs and advertisements regarding these dairies. Please stop in soon to view it! We also have for sale in our gift shop a 27-page dairy history book which details these dairies in the Lititz and Warwick Township area. Many color and black and white photos can be found inside. The price of this book is \$15.00, with all proceeds benefitting the Foundation. Remember: members save 10%.



## United Zion Home and Cemetery at Pleasant View con't:

All appearing quiet, he drove on, but upon nearing the track he saw a freight train coming from the east at a lively rate. He tried to stop, but the horses pulled forward, the tongue of the pole striking the side of the passing cars, breaking off. The horses were turned around and ran a short distance when they were stopped. It was a very narrow escape from serious consequences, and Mr. Firestone's great presence of mind saved his life."

They sold the bakery to open a restaurant in Lititz, but returned to "Pleasant View"

and began caring for elderly people in their home. The *Lititz Record* of March 7, 1902 in the "Lexington Locals" notes: "Mrs. Albert Sesseman, who is not able to work anything, and who is not able to move about without the aid of an assistant, was taken to Henry Firestone at Pleasant View several weeks ago, and now Mr. Sesseman has decided to make his home there too, and he will therefore have public sale for his household and kitchen furniture on Friday afternoon, March 7, at the home of Henry Firestone." Catherine Schenenberger, John Kissinger, and the Rev. Jacob Firestone were also being cared for by the Firestones at this time.

In 1904 the first steps were taken to establish a home for the "care of the poor, aged, homeless or retired on a non-sectarian basis, but on Christian Principles." The Firestone homestead was purchased with "four acres and 59 perches" of land and the home was chartered June 24, 1905 under the name "Home for Homeless of the United Zion Children Church." In 1906 eighteen additional acres were purchased and in January 1907 a decision was made to enclose part of this land for a cemetery. Henry Firestone was the first to be buried there, in August of that year. In 1923 the charter was amended to rename the facility the "United Zion Home."

There is no fence around the cemetery and no sign to let people know the name of the cemetery. It appears to be sparsely populated, if that can be said for a cemetery.



Thirty four stones have information carved on them for 40 persons; there is one person who has only a funeral home type marker; and 16 are buried there without markers. Ten of the 16 buried without markers are in unknown sites. It can be safely assumed that nine are buried in Row 1 or Row 2, and the tenth is 2 month old Helen Marie Firestone buried in the Firestone plot. In the first two rows there are sites that sag, and sites that have just a stub of a stone that can not be identified, and there is no information as to the occupant of the site, or if there is an occupant.

Curiosity fueled the search for information about the burials in this small country burial ground. Information from reading the tombstones, copies of written pages on the letter head of "Zion Home," obituaries found in the newspapers of Lititz and Lancaster, information from the Federal Census and Veteran information from the Civil War were all used to help satisfy that curiosity.

A complete listing of all the burials and gravestones as well as veteran information and Federal Census Information can be found in a notebook at the Lititz Public Library in the Genealogy Room. Curiosity is all that it takes!



Top: In 1954 the Zion Home celebrated it's 50th Anniversary with Harvest Home service.

Above: The burial stones of Harry Firestone and Barbara Firestone Hoke.

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## Happy 4th of July!



Did you know?:

Dr. Herbert Beck (a native of Lititz) discovered the flag was not flying one night at Fort McHenry due to governmental costs and other issues. He stated that it was one of his biggest disappointments of his life not to see the flag flying - especially in the original location of the Star Spangled Banner. He immediately wrote a letter of complaint to the National Park Service. After much wrangling, it was decided that our Stars and Stripes will from then on be flown both day and night. Thank you Herbert for thinking of our great country! His project to restore our nation's flag to Fort McHenry even made national headlines. It appeared in the February 24th, 1947 edition of Time magazine!

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Keeping with the patriotic theme, at left you will see the front cover of the Lititz Springs Park program from 1949. That year, Doris Kolb, Nancy Landis, Pauline Miley, Marian Shelly, Mary Pelger, Rachael Balmer, Gloria Adams, Nancy Bushong, Nancy Good, Joan Fasnacht, Mary Lou Hershey and Helen Tshudy all competed in the Queen of Candles Pageant.

In addition, Glory Fireworks of Douglassville, PA provided the spectacular fireworks display. The Ira Bowman Orchestra provided music, as did the Lititz High School Band. Additional musical entertainment was provided by Reg Kehoe and his Maramba Band.

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Some of the businesses that advertised in that year's program but are no longer around were Brubaker's Grocery on East Front Street; The Yarn Shop situated at 27 West Lincoln Avenue; Lititz Springs Pretzel Company; and Charlotte's Apparel Shop, located at 26 East Main Street.

We feel so honored that the Lititz 4th of July celebration continues today. This year's celebration is very special. In 1811, the first recorded 4th of July celebration in the park was recorded and held. Thus, 2011 marks the 200th anniversary of this very exciting event.

Here's to at least 200 more years of this very memorable celebration!

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



## THE JOHN FASS COLLECTION

*Editor's note: Recently, a very important and rare collection of ephemera acquired by the Foundation was cataloged. This collection contains hundreds of items owned and collected by Lititz native John Fass. Fass was a 1908 graduate of Lititz High School, who eventually moved to a one-room apartment in the Bronx New York YMCA. While there, Fass became a very sought-after book publisher. Lititz resident Lee Jay Stolfus took the time to catalog each item, and presents his findings below. We thank Lee for his knowledge on the subject of John Fass, and for volunteering his time for meticulously organizing and cataloging each piece. This collection is just one of the many many treasures that are housed in our museum.*

*Lee Jay Stolfus*

The John Fass papers at the Lititz Historical Foundation are an intriguing window into the world of fine-press printing and publishing in Manhattan during the 1920s and 30s. The papers include more than 950 items collected by Lititz native John Fass, who was born here in 1890. Fass returned to Lititz to retire, after a jazzy career in book publishing and advertising in The Big Apple.

John Fass was one of the most respected American book designers of his era. His career in graphic design brought him in close contact with the best fine-press publishers, printers, and graphic artists whose work is well represented in this collection.

The papers include examples of Fass' work as a graphic designer and co-owner of the Harbor Press in Manhattan, which printed and published fine books from 1925 to 1938. Included are Fass's original pencil sketches for title pages, text pages, and bookplates. Also included are proof pages for books from this press.



Previously, from 1923 to 1925, John Fass was employed by the printing house of William Edwin Rudge in New York. Fass' coworker there was Bruce Rogers, who is the most celebrated American book designer of the 20th century. Fass collected Bruce Rogers' work, so the collection includes many items designed by Bruce Rogers, including proofs of his work.

Today John Fass is best known for the little books he printed on a tabletop press in his one-room apartment in the Bronx YMCA, during the 1950s and 1960s. Fass named this press the Hammer Creek Press, for the stream which flows near Lititz. The Fass papers at

the Lititz Historical Foundation include numerous books from the Hammer Creek Press. Also included are photographs of Fass' colleagues and photos of the miniature printing presses Fass created. Plus there is correspondence from Fass' associates.

The collection also includes some original woodcuts and wood engravings collected by John Fass, including works by Howard Cook and Wanda Gag. The John Fass collection is a treasure trove for anyone who enjoys the history of finely-crafted books.

*Above: John Fass admiring the serenity of the Hammer Creek. Photo courtesy of Lee Jay Stolfus.*

## PICTURE QUIZ



Above: Grube's Shoes was just one of the places in Lititz to buy a new pair of shoes. Where was this store located in Lititz, and what business is there now?

Answer to last issue's picture quiz: *The Lititz Post Office opened for business in 1940.*



Lititz Historical Foundation's  
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