

Summer 2015

Historical Journal



LITITZ HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

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

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www.lititzhistoricalfoundation.com

The Roebuck Fountain—the Rest of the Story

Charlene Van Brookhoven

The Roebuck Fountain has been in the news lately, refurbished by the owner of The General Sutter Inn, and a brand new paint job courtesy of Michael Tait. The fountain sits proudly on the patio of the Sutter with a new coat of paint and water flowing from the third tier of the bronze metal beauty.

The Ground Reserved Forever

In the archives of The Lititz Historical Foundation is the booklet “*The Roebuck Public Fountain Dedication Exercises and Addresses*” presented to the citizens attending the dedication on October 3, 1895. The first paragraph in the booklet reads as follows:

“The plot of ground lying between the Springs Hotel (General Sutter Inn) and the springs grounds (Lititz Springs Park) belongs to the borough; it is a part of the original farm of 600 acres upon which the early settlers established Lititz. It became necessary to secure the right to place a fountain there, and A.F. Hostetter, Esq. of Lancaster, drew up an ordinance which the Town Council adopted August 20, 1895, setting apart this plot of ground for the uses of a public fountain forever.”



The Fountain

“The fountain is of bronze metal and is of most beautiful design. It is surrounded with concrete pavement and curbing, and the base is also of concrete. Triangular plots of grass, enclosed with concrete coping, give a charming effect to it, and three powerful electric lights make it a veritable “thing of beauty”. Two of the lamp posts have spigots from which the water is drawn, and in front of the fountain is a trough for beasts.

Above: The 1895 Roebuck Fountain. The story continues on page 3 inside...

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

ATTENTION MEMBERS!

In an effort to be more environmentally friendly, we are now giving you the option of receiving your quarterly newsletter via email. This not only saves paper and postage, but it also serves as a great way for you to receive the journal in a much faster way. If you would like your newsletter emailed to you going forward, please send an email to Cory Van Brookhoven at cory@lititzhistoricalfoundation.com and he will be happy to add you to the email newsletter list. *Thank You!*

Final Months of our Lititz Area Cigar Display!

Be sure to visit our museum this season to check out our exhibit on Lititz area cigar manufacturing. You find many, many local cigar boxes, as well as tools and early apparatus.

Come explore the main exhibit room in our museum and learn about this very once-popular trade in Lititz!



The Roebuck Fountain—the Rest of the Story Con't:

Hidden within the front of the concrete pavement that surrounds the fountain is a receptacle for ice, a place where a huge lump of ice is placed on top of the water pipes thus offering to all a drink of ice water. Delicious spring water, cooled by ice, and yet not touched by the ice – thus carrying out the highest hygienic principle for drinking water.”

Dr. P. J. Roebuck, residing on N. Broad St., Lititz, generously donated the funds to erect this fountain on the square. It was to be a lasting memorial to Lititz members of The Grand Army of the Republic of which Dr. Roebuck was a member.

The Roebuck fountain was the focal point of Lititz's popular and event filled town square. It had been damaged by a passing truck driver in the 1930's causing the steady erosion of vital points to the concrete base.

In 1950, The Lititz Community Show committee decided that a new, more modern fountain should replace the 1895 Roebuck memorial. McCloud and Scatchard, Landscape Architects in Lititz, designed the new fountain and surrounding stone work as we see it today. The old Roebuck fountain was put into storage until Clyde Hinden, an antique dealer from Soudersburg, purchased it for his shop. It stood along Rt. 30 for some years until Ada M. Leed, a Lititz resident, bought the fountain from Hinden in 1976. “Mr. Hinden not only had the fountain, but the horse trough, drinking fountain, plaque, and an old picture of the fountain. I presented this to The Historical Foundation in memory of Jack. He had been treasurer for the foundation in 1963. Jack and I often talked about the fountain – it should be back in Lititz where it belonged” wrote Ada Leed in her memoir. Jack Leed was a Lititz businessman and partner in Leaman and Leed Grocers at 53 N. Broad St. and Leed's Locker on North Lane; as well as a prominent civic leader. He was the loving husband of Ada, herself a willing volunteer in town activities.

On Sunday, July 22, 1979, the Roebuck Fountain was dedicated at a lawn party in the rear of The Lititz Historical Foundation. It lent itself a thing of beauty in the gardens; but, few people ventured to the back lawn. In 1983, Dick Vetter, owner of the General Sutter Inn, offered to relocate the Roebuck Fountain to the west side lawn of the inn. He promised to supply the funds and labor to restore the fountain and to also make certain the water circulation system was in working order. This location would assure its future maintenance and also have it placed nearer to its original spot on the town square. Dr. Roebuck's memorial to Lititz's GAR members had come full circle.

Thanks to the efforts of Paul Pendyck, current owner of the Sutter, and Ada Leed, the woman who returned it to Lititz, the Roebuck Fountain has found a place of honor on the patio of The General Sutter Inn.



Left: Damages to the fountain in the 1930's were caused by a passing truck.

Summer 2015

HISTORICAL JOURNAL

Our 53rd Annual Antiques Show

Henry Paul

Historic Change for Lititz Show— 53 years strong!

For the second time in its 53-year history, our Antiques Show will be staged at the Warwick Middle School. According to oral history and newspaper accounts, in the late 1980's to early 1990's, for about 7 years, the show was held at that same location. Other show locations have included Lititz Rec Center, and of course 17 consecutive years at Bonfield Elementary School.

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR EFFORTS to raise money for the upkeep of Johannes Mueller House erected in 1792. Please come to the show! There is an admission fee to enter. Donate some time to help take care of running the event smoothly.

We could use your help! Donate baked goods to be sold at the Membership Bake Sale both show days or as long as supplies last. At the very least come and see what's going on with the LHF at our largest yearly fund raiser.

While you are there have a look around at the beautiful, recently renovated Warwick Middle School. If you are a resident of the district, come to see your tax dollars at work! The building has undergone an historic change and does not look like it did the last time the show was here. We hope to see you there.

Show runs June 26, 10-5 and June 27, 9-2.

More info: www.lititzhistoricalfoundation.com

Phone: 717-575-4006 For more information.

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE. Thanks to the countless volunteers that make this show happen each and every year!



2015 

Lititz Historical Foundation
53rd Annual Antiques Show

➤ NEW LOCATION ◀

Warwick Middle School
401 Maple Street
Lititz, PA 17543

— Dates —
Friday June 26th
Saturday June 27th

— Times —
Friday 10 - 5
Saturday 9 - 2




Over 40 Dealers • Primarily Country

Still Time to Renew Your Membership for 2015!

Our 2015 membership drive is still underway! We ask that you renew your membership for next year, and help us continue to preserve the history of Lititz. With various events throughout the year such as the community Carol Sing, the Christmas Candlelight Tour, the Plant Exchange, various winter lectures, and so much more, we give back to our community in so many special ways.

We hope that you will consider renewing your membership, and ask that you to take it one step further this year. Please tell a friend, neighbor, or family member about us. They may also visit our website and click on the "Become a Member" tab to join. Remember that members receive unlimited tours of the Johannes Mueller House, a 10% discount in our gift shop, and this newsletter delivered to their door or email inbox. Best part is, they are doing their part to help us preserve Lititz history. We THANK YOU so much for your continued support!

Our Annual Evening of Music Slated for August 9th!

What could be better than a FREE summer evening concert in our Mary Oehme Gardens?



It is with great pleasure that the Lititz Historical Foundation welcomes "Sentimental Journey" on August 9th to play a FREE show in the Mary Oehme Gardens!

The gardens are located behind the Foundation's museum located at 145 East Main street in Lititz. Plenty of free street parking is available. The concert will begin at 6:30pm.

The band will play Big Band, as well as German Oom Pah selections, to the delight of the community.

Come on, come all, and bring your family, friends, and neighbors! Bring your lawn chairs, and make an evening out of it! The concert is possible thanks to the generosity of Luthercare.

For questions, please call 717-626-5958.

DID YOU KNOW...?



Did You Know...

In 1946, Maureen McEvoy (left) was selected among a total of five county girls to portray "Sue Shard", the Wilbur Suchard Company's spokesperson.

Along with winning a \$25 prize as well as the outfit she is wearing here, Maureen also hosted a Lancaster County history show on WLAN radio!

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