

Winter 2010

Historical Journal



LITITZ HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

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

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HISTORY OF THE PILGERHAUS BILL OEHME - SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR

George Klein's farm encompassed most of what is now Lititz. Inspired by the Moravian settlements at Bethlehem and Nazareth, and by the preaching of Count Zinzendorf, George Klein offered the Moravian Church his 491-acre farm in 1753 for a settlement in Warwick Township. He was a member of the Lutheran church, but so strongly was he impressed by the preaching of Count Zinzendorf that he at once ceased his antagonism toward Moravian church activities. He ultimately became of the Moravian faith, and finally transferred to that church the whole of the land he owned in Lancaster county.

In 1754, he built a two-story stone house at 127 East Main Street, which became the "Pilgerhaus," or "Pilgrim's House." This was the first house in Lititz. This house was built by Mr. Klein before the transfer of land from him to the Moravian Church. He built it without having any definite purpose in mind for it. This house afterwards gave the direction to the main street of the village, and accounts for the fact that it does not run due East and West. It was used as a dwelling for ministers, congregational meetings, and even as a house for refugees fleeing Indian raids. Bro. George Nixdorf, of Lancaster, was the first occupant. It was in this building that the first settlers of Zinzendorf's Congregation village, three families from Donegal and four from Bethel, found refuge when they fled here to escape Indian raids. A portion of the wall of this first house was left standing when the building was removed in 1866, and now forms part of the rear wall of the present three-story

brick building which stands on its site at 125 to 129 East Main Street.

In August 1754 the legal transfer of the property was completed and in 1756, the village was laid out with streets and lots. The name "Lititz" was given to the new community.

From August 13 to 17, 1754, a Provincial Synod was held in the stone house, with Bishop August Spangenberg presiding. The general superintendent of the Country Congregations had been committed to Bishop Matthew Hehl, and as the new settlement was to be a center for them, it might have been assumed that Hehl should take up his residence here. The question, however, was brought up



Early view of Sunnyside College

and discussed at a Conference of the Elders held the day after the meeting of the Synod on August 18, 1754.

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History of the Pilger Haus con't:

Bishop Spangenberg stated the reasons pro and con for his own appointment, and also the pros and cons for Bishop Peter Boehler's or Hehl's appointment. It was decided the decision should be left to the lot. Four folded slips of paper were provided. On one was written the Latin word "est", meaning "he is the one." The others were left blank. It was possible that none of them would be designated. After fervent prayer, each one took a slip. Bishop Hehl received the one with "est." He was accordingly charged with the organization and guidance of the new settlement, in external as well as spiritual affairs, and also the supervision of the various country churches. On November 9, 1754, he arrived from Bethlehem and took up residence in Klein's stone house, which it was the custom thereafter to call the *Pilgerhaus*.

In 1760, the Congregational Store was located in the *Pilgerhaus*. It remained there until 1764, when it moved across the street to 120 East Main Street, the house built in 1762 by Mathias Schady. John Fenstermacher was the first manager. In 1767, Jasper Payne came to Lititz from Philadelphia to manage the store.

The *Pilgerhaus* was also the very first hotel in Lititz, started by the Moravian Brethren in 1762. The Zum Anker, or "Sign of the Anchor," was originally located in George Klein's stone house. The first innkeeper, who was paid by the Moravians, was the well-liked Brother Andrew Horn, who received his license on February 8, 1762. In 1764, Horn moved the inn to a newly constructed two-story frame building on the southeast corner of Broad and Main Streets and what is today known as the General Sutter Inn.

David Tannenberg moved to Lititz in 1765 because he couldn't take the life style in Bethlehem. He set up his shop in a stone building to the rear of the *Pilgerhaus*. The individual trade shops were behind the residences and opened onto North Lane. Tannenberg was America's first full-time organ builder. He constructed about forty-five instruments. He continued to build organs until falling off scaffolding to his death while installing an instrument for the Lutheran Church in York in 1804.

From December 19, 1777 to August 28, 1778, about 200 sick and wounded soldiers were cared for in a hospital that was established in the Brothers House. Various officers and doctors were quartered in the *Pilgerhaus* during this time.

From 1862 to 1874, 125 to 129 E. Main St. was a school for girls. In 1855, Rev. Julius Theodore Beckler was principal of Linden Hall.

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Early close-up view of Sunnyside College

In 1862, during the Civil War, the enrollment at the school diminished and Beckler was dismissed. After his dismissal, he started Sunnyside College for Girls. It takes the name Sunnyside because the sun shines brightly on the front of the building. The school was greatly objected to by the Provincial Elders Conference, because of its possible injury to Linden Hall. In order to afford better accommodations for the young ladies, the present commodious edifice was erected in 1867, five years after the school opened. He replaced the two-story stone *Pilgerhaus* with the current three-story brick building (except for the rear stone wall).

A third floor was added, as was the wing out the back on the east side. In the back, you can still see the first and second floor made of stone, while the third is made of brick. On the second floor, a door led to an extensive balcony overlooking the main street, accessible to the young ladies at all times during the hours of recess. The principal, the Rev. Julius T. Beckler, lived next door in the Warden House. It was connected to the school by a doorway on the second floor. Theodora Beckler was the lady principal. Julius wanted his building to be taller than Linden Hall, so he added a widow's walk on top. Later, Linden Hall added two widow's walks of their own.

J. W. G. Hershey purchased the building in 1906 as an apartment house. He kept horses in a barn where the garages were located. That was the area where the spring was located. Old Lititz maps show a small stream running from the spring to Lititz Run.

During World War II, the basement was designated an Air Raid Shelter. Abe Hershey was Chief Air Warden and supplies were stored in the basement.

The Lititz Historical Foundation wishes to thank Bill Oehme for submitting this article for publication. The Board of Directors at the Foundation, along with its many members, are very happy to see this historical gem brought back to life.

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.

- Brass plate Social Security card from World War 2; two pewter candle stick holders made by Jay Thomas Stauffer of Lititz; 1834 Bradford rifle with bayonet; two powder horns; 2 aerial views of 515-529 East Main Street, Lititz taken approximately in 1957 and 1986 of William B. Fry's Pontiac dealership. Donated by Gladys Crowl given in memory of Edward C. Crowl Jr.
- 8 early advertising pencils of Lititz businesses no longer in operation. Donated by Robert Bomberger.
- Kline Motors thermometer. Donated by Mr. And Mrs. Daniel Keller.
- 2 hardcover books with information gathered by Chris Butler. One having to do with the Eberly/Beck Family History from 1429-2008; and the other pertaining to Hiram Eberly. (Copies of these books are available for purchase. Please contact Cory Van Brookhoven at 717-625-4598 for details).

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

From the President

The Lititz Historical Foundation has new and innovative ways to keep up with the happenings within the foundation. Last year we introduced our website www.litizhistoricalfoundation.com. and printed new brochures for distribution to visitors as well as residents of our community. This year we have redesigned our "Historical Journal" newsletter and have a Facebook page on the Internet to inform people of our events, Foundation news, and history of our surrounding community.

The Board of Directors hopes these new ideas will bring more attention to the importance of maintaining the history of our community and the surrounding area, along with preserving our heritage for future generations to enjoy and educate visitors and residents of our area.

Please visit the Foundation in May 2010 to see our new rotating displays in the Museum and attend our Winter Lecture Series Presentations that starts January 10th with "The Evolution of Pennsylvania German Folk Art from 1750-1850" by Ronald Pook.

Thank you to all the volunteers, members and contributors of the Lititz Historical Foundation.

Sincerely,
Randy Weit



Pictured at left is a cancelled postcard from 1908. The card was mailed from the now defunct Kissel Hill post office.



Vol. XVII.

LINDEN HALL SEMINARY, LITITZ, PA., WINTER TERM, 1894.

No. 2

LINDEN HALL ECHO - WINTER TERM 1894

Some excerpts from the 1894 Linden Hall Echo, the school newspaper written by students of Linden Hall Seminary, Lititz, PA. 1894 was the 100th anniversary of the founding of the school.

Charlene Van Brookhoven

Linden Hall in this, its one hundredth year, presents so great a contrast in appearance, size and indeed in every way to the tiny one-story house of 1794, that the pupils of that time would fail to recognize the present group of buildings as being at all connected with the one which was the origin of the Seminary. This building now stands in the rear and is consigned to the undisputed possession of trunks and rats.

Around this small beginning has grown another building, one part of which is the Castle which dates back to 1758. The other house, begun in 1769 is connected with the adjoining house. Lastly was added the Chapel, which forms a most beautiful memorial of one of Linden Hall's former pupils, Mary Dixon, a member of the class of 1879. At present the chapel seems almost indispensable as a short service is held there every morning and the Music Room beneath is the scene of many interesting soirees and gay entertainment of every sort.

The best view to be obtained of the entire Seminary settlement is from the rear of the premises, where the tall spire of the chapel shows above the other buildings. Sloping down from them the large shaded pleasure grounds where during the warm weather the girls spend many pleasant, happy hours playing tennis or resting under the cool shadows cast by many tall, old trees.

THE SENIORS TRIP TO LANCASTER

Instead of sending valentines to each other, the girls thought of another way of celebrating the day, and early the evening before, two of the girls went down to Mr. Shultz's office and asked him to go to Lancaster the following day if the sleighing was good. The next day, St. Valentine's, was bright and clear and the sleighing splendid, so at two o'clock two double-seated sleighs appeared at the door, and out stepped eleven happy seniors under the chaperonage of Miss Wolle. After a great deal of tucking of robes and waving of handkerchiefs they started. All along the way the girls enlivened the inhabitants of the Lancaster pike with snatches of "Two Little Girls in Blue" and "Daisy Bell" until their throats were hoarse.

About three o'clock Lancaster came in sight, and the difference in the sleighing was soon felt, for it was the first place that the sleighing was not good. After driving up to Payne's Café, the girls got out and ordered lunch and dispensed in groups of two or three.

At five o'clock the girls started homeward to the merry jingle of the bells, and arrived at school about half-past seven delighted with their trip and with Sheetz's candies.

Continued on page 5

LINDEN HALL ECHO - WINTER TERM 1894 CON'T:**CHRISTMAS VACATION**

Vacation was hailed with pleasure by all the girls, and only three had remained at school to keep house. One of the three, Clara Holahan, wrote the following: One evening we enjoyed a taffy pull where the candy received vigorous treatment at the hands of those present. Christmas Eve we visited several Christmas trees in the vicinity. At Mr. Hepp's we were astonished by a miniature Ferris wheel, a circular railroad and train and a jet fountain; all run by a tiny water wheel. The little stream, ponds and mountain dells made one almost wish to be a pigmy in order to rightly enjoy the exquisite surroundings. Coasting was also a favorite pastime, and the moonlight evenings proved very advantageous for the sport, in more ways than one.

A SCHOOL GIRLS OPINION OF CHEWING GUM

Not many years ago is it that the vulgar habit of chewing gum came to be the fashion, not only among school girls, but among people who were thought to be more refined. Some of the excuses that uphold the habit are that it cleans the teeth after a meal, and that it sweetens the breath. If these reasons be excellent ones, why are they not used like the tooth brush and medicine – in private, and not when in company?

It certainly is far from being pleasant to watch, or have to converse with any one who is trying to do two things at once, chew and talk. My opinion is that gum is more frequently used by the children in private than by the average school girl. One reason why the latter abstain from using it is that they are not allowed to buy it. Though this rule seems a very hard one to some girls, time will show that it is a very good one, and they will appreciate it later in life.

JOTTINGS

One day in the latter part of January the Second Room girls took a sleigh ride. They went to Manheim for the purpose of seeing Mr. Danner's Museum. When they reached their destination, they at once sought out Mr. Danner's rooms and enjoyed exceedingly the things which he showed them, many of which were over a hundred years old. On the way home they were caught in a snowstorm, which only added more to their fun. A few minutes after the horses had brought them to the Hall door, they were seated at the tea table, appeasing the ravenous appetites that had been created by their exercise in the open air.

There have been two entertainments given in the Sunday School Chapel, which several of the girls attended and enjoyed, the peculiar but seemingly popular combination of fried oysters and walnut kisses.

The organ fund has received many additions this term, besides contributions from old pupils, and the money made by selling homemade candy and fruit. Two negro minstrels appeared one Friday night and swelled the fund by their vocal efforts.

Several pieces of old-fashioned furniture, including a spinet and a number of spinning wheels, have lately found their way into different corners of the halls, and carry one back to the days when such pieces were for use and not for ornament, when Linden Hall was a new institution, and form excellent reminders of this fact to the pupils here during the Centennial year.

The entrance to the Springs looks very bleak and bare since several large trees have been cut down.

Did you know that the Lititz Historical Foundation is on Facebook? Become a fan today to read more interesting facts on Historical Lititz and surrounding communities in the Township and Borough. Go to Facebook.com, and then search Lititz Historical Foundation. New items are added several times per week!



PICTURE QUIZ



Can you name the town where this brand of tomatoes was manufactured, and the name of the canning company?

The answer will appear in our next issue!

Answer to last issue's question:

*This photograph was taken most likely from atop the Lititz High School (now Lititz Elementary School).
It overlooks Main Street.*



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