

Winter 2011

Historical Journal



LITITZ HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

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

717-627-4636

www.lititzhistoricalfoundation.com

RUDOLPH S. CARPENTER - MASTER OF INLAID WOOD

Board of Directors:

- Randy Weit - President
- Kenneth Martin - Vice President
- Charles Steifvater - Secretary
- Cathy Doremus - Treasurer
- Carl Brubaker - Director
- Cathy Doremus - Director
- Portia Bowman - Director
- Teri Forster - Director
- Jim Garrett - Director
- Beverly Maddox - Director
- Kenneth Martin - Director
- Randy Miller - Director
- Tom Oehme - Director
- Charles Steifvater - Director
- Cory Van Brookhoven - Director
- Randy Weit - Director
- Newsletter Editor:
Cory Van Brookhoven

Find us on Facebook!



Charlene Van Brookhoven

Included in the many priceless Lititz items displayed at The Lititz Historical Foundation are two beautiful, inlaid-wood grandfather clocks made by Lititz native Rudolph S. Carpenter. A stone mason by trade, Mr. Carpenter spent most of his free time in a workshop behind his home at 131 N. Cedar Street. His passion was inlaid wood furniture.

He made clocks, chests and tables using more than twenty different kinds of hard wood. Local oak, chestnut, walnut, holly, cherry and maple were used as well as wood shipped to his workshop from a woodcutter in Germany. His main tool was a simple scroll saw. With his saw he cut as many as 50,000 pieces of wood, in small, intricate, symmetrical shapes to coincide with the finished design he had planned.

His first piece was a 20" x 26" chest which was completed in 1909. It contained approximately 8,000 different pieces of wood. A year later he began making his first grandfather clock using 32,000 different pieces of varied hard wood. He completed the smaller of the two clocks in three years. It is on display at The Lititz Historical Foundation along with a larger clock beautifully crafted with over 50,000 minutely, hand sawed pieces. Carpenter knew where to

place each individual color and grain of wood, which fit perfectly, to form a picture or design. He used the light colored wood from the holly tree to enhance what he was trying to highlight in the finished design.

Some of the wood pieces used in Mr. Carpenter's work are so small that many are not discernable at first glance. The painstaking craftsmanship becomes more evident at closer inspection and in good lighting.



Above: The 1910 clock created by Rudolph Carpenter.

Continued on Page 2

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.

A mantel pendulum clock (from the early 1900's). This clock was a wedding gift to John and Elva Garber who lived at 143 Spruce Street in Lititz who were married in 1929.

Paragon quilt kit. This quilt was created at the Lititz Moravian Church and bound by Elva Garber in the 1950's.

The above items were generously donated by Connie and Kirk Garber, in memory of Elva and John Garber. The Foundation is very thankful for the above generous gifts! Additional donations will be printed in future issues of The Historical Journal.

RUDOLPH S. CARPENTER - MASTER OF INLAID WOOD - CON'T:

On the lower panel of the largest clock is an inlaid scene featuring a living room with windows, curtains, a table with a parlor light, floor coverings, a picture on the wall, and two people enjoying their surroundings. Incredibly, each person has a different color of hair, and each eyelash is separated from the others above the eyes.

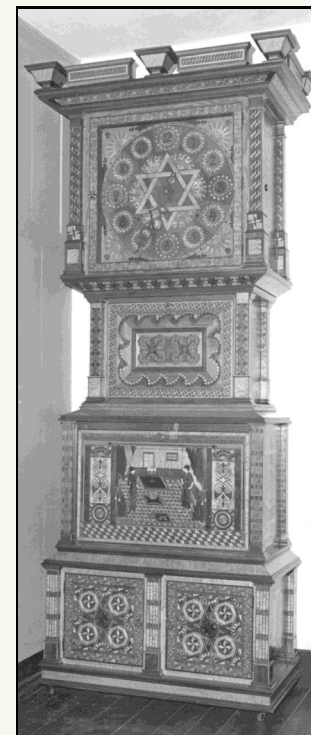
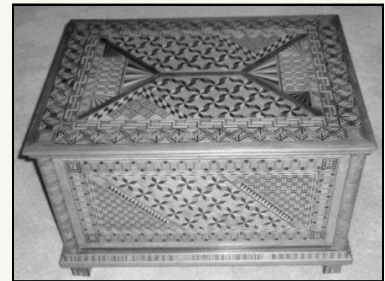
The works of the two clocks, all of wood, also were made by Carpenter. They tick off the time as accurately as any steel-based movement. Each of the wooden cog-wheels is inserted separately to give more strength and durability for long-lasting time keeping. When this large project was completed, Mr. Carpenter said "it will run a century without needing adjustment or repairs".

Rudolph Carpenter was a stone mason by trade, but nothing made him happier than spending time in his workshop in Lititz designing and fitting together intricate pieces of wood "just right". Not only was he a master craftsman but also an artist of wood rarely seen in the days before our modern machinery and technology.

Rudolph Carpenter died in 1929 at the age of 69. The Charles E. Krick family of Lititz donated these two beautiful Carpenter clocks to The Lititz Historical Foundation where they stand proudly representing yet another notable, industrious Lititz native.

Above Top: A 1909 Carpenter chest containing over 8,000 pieces. Right: A Carpenter clock which contains over 50,000 pieces.

Chest picture above courtesy of Jim Bowden.



Naming of Lititz and 13th Century Castle

Ronald Reedy

The “Brethren’s Linden Tree”

One of the leaders of the followers of John Hus was Brother Gregory the Patriarch. It was brought to his attention that on the northeastern border of Bohemia, there lay the village that would serve as a home for him and his followers. In 1457 Gregory and his faithful friends left the Castle and settled in Kunvald where the first congregation “Unitas Fratrum” Unity of the Brethren was established.

In Kunvald the Brethren built a small wooden church which was used for ninety years. Here the foundation stones were laid for the Moravian Church. However, in 1547 the Brethren had to leave their homeland. Before departing for Prussia and Poland they planted three Linden trees, which later grew into one tree, in the center of the village of Kunvald. Those who decided to stay in their homeland decided to keep the Brethren heritage a secret in the privacy of their homes. Eventually some of the Brethren found their way to Herrnhut in Saxony, Germany. Today the tree is known as the “Brethren’s Linden Tree.”



1457 Brethren’s Linden Tree

The Linden tree, the National Tree of the Czech Republic, is also the tree that graces the campus of Linden Hall and Moravian Church Square since 1842. It was then when Rev. Eugene Fruehauf, Headmaster of the Moravian Village Girls’ of Lititz, established in 1746, went to Germany and brought back Linden trees. He then re-named the school Linden Hall Seminary for Girls, known today as Linden Hall.

In 2006, during the 250th Anniversary of the Naming of Lititz the Mayor of Kunvald, Joseph Padour visited Lititz. He took back to Kunvald seeds from a Linden tree at Moravian Church Square that may have been a descendent from the tree that was planted in 1547 by the Unity of the Brethren.

Sister City Proclamation & Viola Children’s Choir

On June 11, 2006, Lititz Mayor Russell Pettyjohn and Kunvald Mayor Josef Padour signed a proclamation establishing Lititz and Kunvald as Sister Cities. The ceremony took place in Lititz Springs Park as part of 250th Anniversary Celebration of the Naming of Lititz Founder’s Day Recognition and Community-Wide Heritage Worship Service program.

Because of the establishment of a Sister City relationship, the Viola Children’s Choir from Zamberk and Kunvald journeyed to Lititz as the guests of the Rotary Club of Lititz from September 15 to 21, 2010. The Choir performed at the Warwick High School Performing Arts Center on September 18. The finale of the concert featured the singing of “Amazing Grace.” The Viola Children’s Choir was accompanied by the Warwick High School Concert Choir and the Linden Hall Chorus.

The Choir’s stay in Lititz was a memorable and inspirational occasion as they shared their ministry of music. On September 21, to show their appreciation to Lititz, the Viola Children’s Choir members planted a Linden Tree on the Campus of Linden Hall. As the tree grows they will grow in their communities of Kunvald and Zamberk, for they are the future generation of their country, the Czech Republic.

Continued on Page 4

Winter 2011

HISTORICAL JOURNAL

Naming of Lititz and 13th Century Castle - con't:

Wood Carving from a Linden Tree

The Linden wood carving, that depicts the castle of "Lidice nad Citadelou," today known as "Litice nad Orlici," surrounded by Linden trees, was presented to George Biemesderfer, representing the Rotary Club of Lititz by Martin Cukor, son of Stanisav and Hanna Ova Cukor, as a thank you for the sponsorship of the Viola Children's Choir Sister City Concert Tour to Lititz.



George Biemesderfer and Martin Cukor

Following is an e-mail and photo sent to George Biemesderfer, Past District Governor of Rotary District 7390, from Stanisav Cukor, Zamberk, Czech Republic, in response to George's e-mail thanking him for the beautiful Linden wood carving.

Hello George,

The first thank you for your nice letter. Excuse me for my poor English- when I was in school, we learn only Russian language. I am teacher, my job is teacher for cabinet makers, and wood carving is only my hobby. The castle-carving I made from very old linden tree from cemetery near Zamberk. The tree must be cut down for old age and it was damaged from wind.

When I made it, I think about people in Lititz. It is very interesting story about found of city and history. I am very happy, that my wife and youngest son visited Lititz an many places in USA. When you or somebody from your city visit Czech Republic, my house is open an ready! I know, that in my letter are many mistakes, bud I don't want use translator – it is no so true. My son Vojta was in Rice Lake one school year, and he speak English very good, and no problem with English. George, I am very happy, that I can see you on a photo. Thank you for all work about the trip, and maybe see in future. I send many greetings for your family, and all good people of Lititz.

Stano Cukor



Stano Cukor creating the carved piece gifted to the Lititz Rotary Club, created out of the Linden tree.

Wording for plaque to be placed beneath the wood carving:

*Wood Carving
from an old Linden tree
in Zamberk, Czech Republic
presented to*

*The Rotary Club of Lititz
by the
Viola Children's Choir, Czech Republic
September 21, 2010*

Concluded on Page 5

Naming of Lititz and 13th Century Castle - con't:

The Lititz Rotary Club was given this wonderful piece, and they have decided to generously donate it to the Lititz Historical Foundation. The Board of Directors is very grateful for this donation, and it will be hung in a prominent place in the museum.

With much happiness and an overwhelming sense of fellowship, we thank Stano Cukor and all of the residents of our sister city Kunvald. On behalf of all of the good people of Lititz, we thank the Viola Children's Choir for their recent wonderful performance and wish them to return to their sister city of Lititz soon.

At right is the completed carving created by Stano Cukor, as a gift of goodwill to the town of Lititz. Please stop into our museum in the near future to see this priceless treasure!



WINTER LECTURE SERIES CONTINUES IN 2011!

Cory Van Brookhoven

A reminder that our Winter lecture series officially kicks off on Sunday January 16th, 2011. We are very pleased to welcome back internationally renowned ghost hunter Rick Fisher who will present a program on UFO's and Strange Creatures of Pennsylvania. Then, on February 20th, we will present Pennsylvania Folk Art expert Karl H. Pass who will lead us through a presentation on Wilhelm Schimmel, who is known as one of the United State's most famous folk art carvers. Our speaker for March is to be announced, so please check an upcoming issue of the Lititz Record Express for information.

All lectures will take place at Linden Hall's Steinman Arts Center which is located next to Mary Dixon Chapel. Presentations begin promptly at 2pm. Please call Cory Van Brookhoven at 717-875-0630 for any questions. We hope to see you there, and please bring family and friends!

PICTURE QUIZ



Where in Lititz was this photograph taken, and can you name the place of business that it is now referred to as?

Answer to last issue's Picture Quiz:

The Kissel Hill Honor Roll was located to the left of Salem Lutheran Church of Kissel Hill. It was dedicated on Sunday December 7th, 1944.



Lititz Historical Foundation's
Historical Journal
 P.O. Box 65 145 E. Main Street, Lititz, PA 17543
 FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.
 U.S Postage
 PAID
 Permit #141
 Lititz PA