

Winter 2012

Historical Journal



LITITZ HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

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

717-627-4636

www.lititzhistoricalfoundation.com

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MR. GEORGE BEW, THE TIN-TYPE MAN

Charlene Van Brookhoven

In the September 3, 1953 edition of the Lititz Record Express, Ethel Holtzhouse Kauffman wrote a short article to the editor regarding summer time in the Lititz Springs Park at the end of the 19th century. Ethel would have had a bird's eye view of the comings and goings in the park since she was the daughter of Hiram Holtzhouse, proprietor of the Park View Hotel at 25 N. Broad St.

Ethel Holtzhouse was born in 1891 *“directly opposite the entrance to the Springs (we never used the word park.) During all of my young life, the picnics were a part of our summer living. We couldn't escape them if we wanted to; their arrival and departure took place at our front door – the open trolley cars from Lancaster, the long excursion trains from Columbia and Reading”.*

“There was some standard equipment that went with all these gala days. Mr. Bew, the tin-type man, was a very prominent part of it. When I saw him come along the station sidewalk and enter the park about nine o'clock in the morning, I knew there was going to be a picnic that day, and I set my sights accordingly”.



Mr. George Bew was a photographer who owned a studio in what is now a vacant lot on the north side of The Park View Hotel. He advertised “Art Studio of Geo. Bew, Lititz Pa. Sittings by the Instantaneous Process”. From 1890 until 1896, Mr. Bew's business was known as “Broad Street Gallery in Lititz” located on the same site.

Left: Ethel Holtzhouse Kauffman and her sisters seated in front of the Round House in the Lititz Springs Park.

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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.

- 1. Chocolate metal mold from Wilbur Chocolate Factory; Unmarked approx. 1 ounce bar mold approx. 1946; leaf design mold; W.S.C. (Wilbur Suchard Company) bar mold; Unmarked bar mold manufactured by the American Chocolate mold Company; Wilbur disc mold manufactured by the American Chocolate mold company, Inc. Items donated by Amos Miller.
- 2. Rothsville Mills ledger from 1920's; I.G. Bushong Proprietor. Hardcover; The Brunnerville Store Financial statements from 1947 to 1949. Warren Bushong Proprietor. Ledgers from 1916 through 1950 - Warren Bushong. Donated by Beth Bushong Abel in memory of Warren Miller Bushong and Geraldine "Jerry" Love Bushong.
- 3. Book entitled "Shakespeare Art Edition" copyright 1889. Containing artwork and sketches. Donated by Ken Martin.
- 4. Book - "The Moravians and Their Faith". Copyright 1927, Bethlehem, PA. Booklet of Instruction of candidates for Confirmation and Church Membership. Copyright 1940. Book - "Rules, Ordinances, and Charter of the Moravian Congregation at Lititz, PA". Copyright 1906. Book - "Lititz Bicentennial". Copyright 1956. Donated by Ruth Herr.
- 5. Original photo of "Boss" Clarence Kreider. Framed. Given by Phyllis Wagner.
- 6. Childs desk, child's table, child's cupboard and chair, Baby couch, four fans, and a photograph from 1935 of the Moravian Sunday School. Donated by Bill and Ruth Spacht.

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

Left: An advertising ink blotter from the J.H. Reitz and Son Company. Located in Millway, Warwick Township.

MR. GEORGE BEW, THE TIN-TYPE MAN CON'T:

Charlene Van Brookhoven

George Bew was a tin-type photographer. He carried his heavy, portable equipment in a large wicker



basket. The basket included many paper-thin sheets of tin on which an image was transferred rather than the usual paper or glass. This was an inexpensive, low quality process of photography used mainly by itinerant photographers. As an early version of "instant photography", tin-types became popular at local fairs and for beach bathers who wanted a lasting memory of their days in the sun. Tin-type photographs of Civil War soldiers are very collectable today.

"He conducted his business from a tiny little house quite close to the round house. I have dozens of tin types and other pictures which he took of me and my sisters, all for free, on days when the picnic groups were small and business was slow. I'm sure children did not annoy him, or he never would have arranged us on his bench so often and sent us home with a new picture. Mr. Bew left us watch him trim the tin with his great big shears and then slip the finished piece into its little pink folder" wrote Holtzhouse.

Ethel Holtzhouse Kauffman concluded her 1953 article to the Lititz Record Express as follows:

"Concerning some of our modern upheavals we'd like to cry out at times that progress is a bold, masked robber, a thug who needs to be put behind bars for a while. But, we could never say it about photography. The magnificent records made of our fast-moving times."

Editor's note: Along with tin-type images of people, George Bew was also known for capturing various images of the Lititz Springs Park and death memorial cards. Above is an example that was taken looking at the head-end of the Park. Right: additional tin types taken of children by George Bew.

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VOLUNTEER!

We are always in need of volunteers to help coordinate the various events we hold throughout the year. Whether it is making a donation, working as a tour guide (a paid position), or working at our front counter, your help is greatly needed and appreciated. It is a wonderful and fulfilling way to “give back” to this great community of ours. If you are interested in volunteering, please call the Foundation. Thank You! Also, please consider giving the gift of a membership to the Lititz Historical Foundation. It’s a great way to give back to the preservation of the Lititz community. Best of all, your membership goes directly to help fund our programs, newsletters, and various other costs that accrue during the year.

MR. GEORGE BEW, THE TIN-TYPE MAN CON’T:



Upon examining old photos of the Lititz Springs Park, the above image was discovered. Although it is very hard to read, attached to the tree on the top right is an advertisement for George Bew’s photography business. The image has been enlarged to the left.

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



Bus Trip Excursions!

Please join us on Thursday June 21st 2012 when we journey to the delightful historic town of Odessa, Delaware! Well known in the 18th century for the vital role it played in the commercial life along the Delaware river as a busy grain shipping port. Today, tourists can stroll along the tree-lined streets and admire 18th and 19th century architecture. We will be touring five properties that make up the historic houses of Odessa. Lunch will be included at the historic Cantwell's Tavern. Cost for the general public is \$75.00. As a member in good standing, you will save 10% on the fee, making the cost only \$67.50.

Then on Friday, September 14th 2012 after an enjoyable summer, we again leave Lititz for a short trip to Columbia, PA to make time at the National Watch and Clock Museum. The Museum maintains the largest collection of mechanical time pieces in the United States. It's horological library is second only to that of the Library of Congress. Please join our group to nearby Columbia for the study of time. After an included buffet lunch at Golden Stories, we will tour the 1738 Wrights Ferry Mansion The mansion houses a wonderful collection of furniture, ceramics, needlework, and metal and glass all made prior to 1750. Cost of this trip will be \$60.00 for non-members; or \$54.00 for members. Again, members save 10% on the fee!

Both motor coach tours leave from the Lititz Moravian Church parking lot. Please call Marcia Spohn at 717-626-8468 for more information or to obtain a detailed itinerary. Please make checks payable to Marcia Spohn, 114 West Orange Street, Lititz, PA 17543. Please indicate how many reservations you need. Deadline for the Odessa trip is May 21st, 2012; and the deadline for the Columbia, PA trip is August 14th, 2012.

Itinerary for June 21st:

8:15-8:30 am - Leave Lititz Moravian Church parking lot
 10:00 am - Travel to Odessa, DE
 10:00 am - Arrive at Odessa's visitor's center (use rest rooms)
 10:15-11:30 - Guided tour of 2 historic homes
 11:30-1:00 pm Noon meal - Cantwell's Tavern (included)
 109 Main street, Odessa, DE
 1:00-3:15 - guided tour of 3 historic homes
 3:15pm - Leave Odessa and travel to Lititz
 5:00 pm - Return to Lititz.

Cost per person: \$75.00 (\$67.50 for members)

Cost includes: Deluxe motor coach Transportation, noon meal, and attractions listed above

Itinerary for September 14th:

9:15-9:30 am - Leave Lititz Moravian Church parking lot.
 10:00-12:00 noon - Tour National Watch and Clock Museum
 12:15-1:15 pm - Buffet lunch at Golden Stories (Included). Located at 237 Locust street, Columbia, PA
 1:30 -2:30 pm - Tour Wright's Ferry Mansion located at 38 S. Second street, Columbia, PA
 3:00 pm - Return to Lititz Moravian Church
 Cost per person: \$60.00 (\$54.00 for members)
 Cost Includes: Deluxe motor coach transportation, noon meal, and attractions listed above.

PICTURE QUIZ



Above is pictured an older photo of a church located somewhere in the Lititz or Warwick Township area. Can you name the church, the location, and what the building is currently being used for?

Answer to last issue's picture quiz: John Heisey was the gentleman pictured who ran the reels at the Lititz Community Theatre



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