

Historical Journal



LITITZ HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

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

717-627-4636

www.litizhistoricalfoundation.com

History of the Lititz Community Band

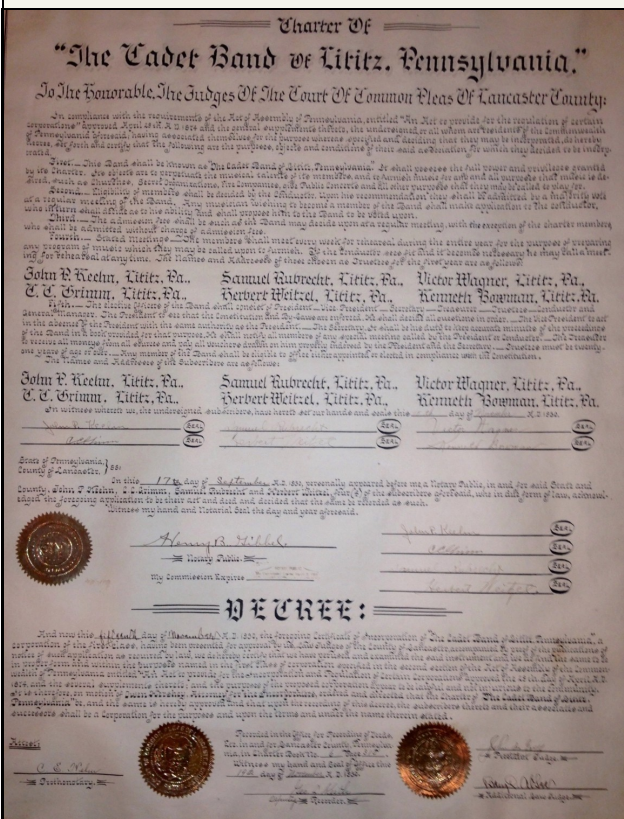
Ron Reedy

From the very beginning, music has always played an important role in the cultural life of Lititz. The first accounts of music beyond the hymnal music in Lititz date back to 1765 when Bernhard Adam Grube organized an orchestra among the young brethren and instituted a Church choir. He was considered the pioneer musician of Lancaster County.

In 1810, the culture life of Lititz was changing when the village's first band was organized. The band as it existed at that time had all of the old-time instruments with the exception of a drum, which the church authorities positively forbade. On July 4, 1811, the band performed in the newly-laid-out park along the "Big Springs." From 1810 to 1930 there were eight organized Lititz Bands, the most famous being the Paul E. Beck Concert Band.

Lititz Cadet Band

In 1930, with a number of musicians graduating from Lititz High School and with many other talented musicians in Lititz seeking an opportunity to play, a meeting was called and plans for the organization of a band were discussed. Although Lititz already had a town band known as the "Lititz Concert Band," practically none of these young musicians were members and after one or two meetings the Cadet Band of Lititz was organized through the efforts of John W. Keehn, a well-known local musician. A Charter was requested and granted by the State of Pennsylvania. The Trustees of the organization were John W. Keehn, C. C. Grimm, Samuel Rubrecht, Herbert Weitzel, Victor Wagner and Kenneth Bowman. Officers were: Conductor and Manger, John W. Keehn; President, C. C. Grimm; Secretary, Kenneth Bowman; and Treasurer, Samuel Rubrecht.



Above: Original charter of the Lititz Cadet Band from 1930 from the LHF archives. Con't on page 3 inside...

Recent Acquisitions

Board of Directors:

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We are pleased to announce many new donations to our ever-growing archives. We thank all of the donors for thinking of us as they decided where these items should go. We encourage you to consider donating any Lititz or Warwick Township related items to our archives where they can be studied, interpreted, and preserved for generations to come!

1. Original 1971 documents, plans, and an original blueprint concerning the renovation of the Lititz Theatre/Sturgis Hotel into apartments. Gift of Rick Watson.

2. Large binder of historical articles pertaining to Lititz and Warwick Township history. Binder also contains postcards, brochures, and older newsletters from the Lititz Historical Foundation. Gift of Lancasterhistory.org

3. An original undated Lititz Borough document containing a proposal by the Borough of Lititz to amend the existing charter to allow the council to borrow money to be used for the erection of the Lititz Water Works. Gift of the Historical Society of the Cocalico Valley.

*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!*

History of the Lititz Community Band Con't:

The new band made its first appearance at the 1930 Fourth of July celebration. The one matter facing the group was that of finance. It was through the aid of W. M. Pfautz that the Band was able to secure funds and purchase uniforms and various instruments. Also, through a series of festivals, card parties, and concerts, the Band was able to raise funds to meet the indebtedness.

Lititz Community Band

In 1941 new uniforms were purchased because the Lititz Cadet Band's name was changed to the Lititz Community Band. For the Fourth of July celebration the Allentown Band was originally scheduled, but because of rain, the celebration was postponed until July 12th. The Lititz Community Band, for the first time under their new name, played in place of the Allentown Band because of their previous scheduled engagement on the 12th.

During the World War II era, John Keehn replaced service-enlisted members of the Band by obtaining other musicians from other area bands. It was the Lititz Community Band that performed at the 1942 Fourth of July celebration's first Queen of the Candles Pageant, commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the first candle illumination in 1843.



For the past 84 years, the Lititz Community Band has provided concerts for the community of Lititz and surrounding area and especially for the Fourth of July celebrations. Today the Lititz Community Band is comprised of 65 members and is directed by Heidi Limbert.

Special thanks so much to Ron Reedy for providing our readers with this article.

Above: The Lititz Community Band throughout the years.

Our 2015 Membership Drive is Underway!

Our 2015 membership drive is now underway! We ask that you will 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!

2015 ANNUAL CAROL SING AND CANDLELIGHT TOUR

It's that time of Year Again!

The Christmas Season is in full swing, and the Lititz Historical Foundation wants to help continue to get you in the holiday spirit with two FREE upcoming holiday events!

First off is our very popular free Community Christmas Carol Sing, held in conjunction with the Lititz Moravian Archives Committee slated for 7pm on Thursday December 11th at Church Square. The Moravian Trombone Choir will be on hand and free song sheets will be handed out as you, your friends, neighbors and family sing holiday classics. Afterward, all are welcome to warm up inside Fellowship Hall where light refreshments will be served. The Putz will also be available for various showings throughout the evening in the church's social hall.



The next evening, Friday December 12th, you will further get into the Christmas spirit by attending our FREE Christmas Candlelight tour of the historic 1792 Johannes Mueller House from 5pm-9pm, during Lititz's very popular Second Friday Christmas event. The house retains its original architectural character and has been carefully restored with hundreds of traditional antiques from the late 1700's and early 1800's. Period costumed docents will lead you through this historic home as you discover what life was like in the closed Moravian town of Lititz. After your tour, take a stroll through our free Lititz Museum next door where additional historical artifacts, antiques and so much more await your curiosity. And for the youngsters, Santa Claus himself will be greeting children in the museum that evening!

2015 Winter Lecture Series

We are proud to continue to offer the community our FREE 2015 Winter Lecture programs. In November, we had a GREAT crowd as Richard Martin provided a program entitled “The Ironmasters of Lancaster County” during our Annual Meeting. Afterwards, Martin kindly signed copies of his book of the same name. If you were not able to attend, copies of this great book are available in our gift shop.

On January 17th, we will have a mystery speaker to enlighten us.

On February 21st, we will host guest speaker Professor Yvonne Milspach, who will lead a lecture on the history and curious topic of Pennsylvania German Pow-Wowing.

For the last in the series (March 21st), we will host historian Fred Eberly, who will discuss the history of blacksmithing. This program promises to be very informative.

All lectures take place on a Saturday on the dates noted above and begin at 1:30pm at the Lititz Public Library’s community room.

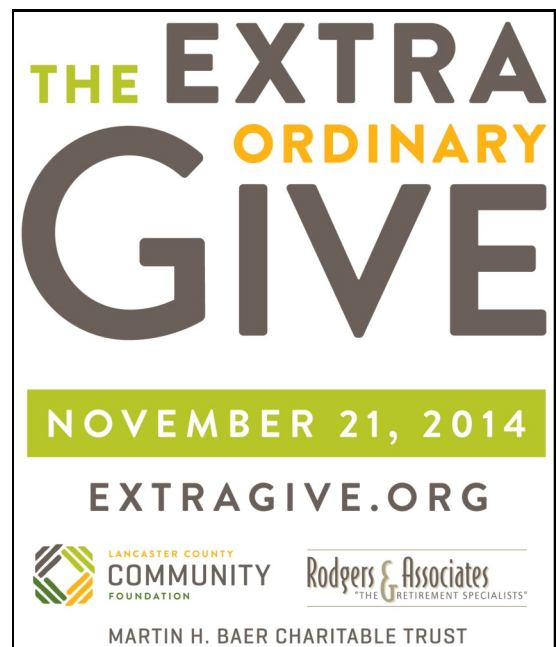
We’d like to take this opportunity to thank the staff at the library, especially Sallie Rihn, for allowing us to continue to hold these lectures on their premises.

We hope to see you at one of the many lectures listed above—Bring a friend!

The 2014 Extraordinary Give

On Friday November 21st, the Lititz Historical Foundation participated in the Extra Give, Lancaster County’s day of giving. Through your generous donations, we were awarded 20 gifts totaling \$1,090!

We THANK YOU so much for giving, and look forward to participating again next year. Additional details will be printed in future issues of the *Historical Journal* as information becomes available next year.



DID YOU KNOW...?



Shown above is a good looking couple. Can you name the couple, what they were famous for, and the connection that one of them had to Lititz?

The answer will appear in our next issue!

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Lititz Historical Foundation's
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