

Fall 2021

Historical Journal



LITITZ HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

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

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Grosh Carriage Works

Charlene Van Brookhoven

The Moravian community of Lititz was a self-sustaining town until 1855 when the Moravian Church allowed non-Moravians to live and work within the church square. Every member of the community had a trade or skill which was shared with the townspeople. Charles Augustus Grosh was no exception.

In 1822 at the age of twenty, Charles A. Grosh took over the blacksmith shop at 300 East Main Street from Mr. Weinland. Grosh learned his trade from a gentleman in the Kissel Hill area when he was a young boy.

A few years later, Charles decided to turn the blacksmith shop into a home in preparation of taking a wife and raising a family. In 1826 he decided to ask the Moravian Church for a bride. This would have been accomplished through casting Lots, an early Moravian tradition leaving the decision of marriage up to God. His new wife, Susanna Shober, turned out to be an excellent choice as they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary and raised fourteen children.



Mr. Grosh found it necessary to find a new location for his carriage shop at the corner of West Center Street and Pine Alley in Lititz. In 1857, two of his sons became partners and gave the name Grosh Carriage Works to the growing business. In this year, the partners found it necessary to build a larger shop which included several showrooms to display their carriages. This new building was at the corner of South Broad and West Orange Streets.

Above: An example of a carriage manufactured at Grosh Carriage Works in Lititz. Story continued on page 3.

Here's to 100 Years!

Did you know that our special clock created from 50,000 individual pieces of wood by Rudolph Carpenter of Lititz turns 100 in 2021?

We do, and we're celebrating! Come join us for light refreshments, evening tours, and a drop in party to celebrate this very unique piece of Lititz history on October 8th. We'll be open 5-9pm for evening tours of our 1792 Johannes Mueller House.

We'll also have free postcards (while supplies last) featuring this one of a kind marvel, photo-ops, and more! See you October 8th!



Photos by Donald Reese

Give Extra on November 19th!

This year, the Lititz Historical Foundation is participating in the annual Extraordinary Give—(Lancaster County's Largest Day of giving) And we could use your help this year more than ever! For this 24-hour period, online donations can be made to the Lititz Historical Foundation through a special website. Our goal this year is to raise \$10,000 during this extra special event. With your help, we CAN achieve this goal! On November 20th beginning at 12am, online donations can be made to our special website here: <https://www.extragive.org/organizations/lititz-historical-foundation> ***Online donations for the Extra Give can be made on that day only*** For your convenience, online donations can also be made at our museum that



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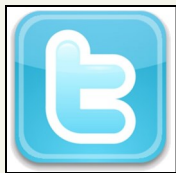
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Grosh Carriage Works Con't:

One son, Samuel E., was a student at The John Beck Academy in Lititz and learned blacksmithing from his father during school breaks. He moved to Allentown for two years and learned the skills of coach making before moving back to Lititz. Another son, Henry Harrison Grosh, joined his brother as a partner to help alleviate their aging father Charles. At the death of Henry in 1892, Samuel conducted the business as S. E. Grosh & Co.

Charles William Grosh, son of Samuel E., was born in 1860 and became the third generation of The Grosh Carriage Works family. C. William joined the firm in 1899 and became an excellent carriage body maker as well as a painter and finisher. The Grosh Carriage Works was included in the Lititz directory in the years 1916-17 but under the name C.W. Grosh Carriage Works.

C. William was the last of the original owners as Samuel passed away in 1902. "Work built to order and fully guaranteed" was his advertising slogan.

Meanwhile, John F. Longenecker, another local wagon maker, saw the future



in automobiles and opened the first auto dealership in Lititz at 64 North Broad Street in 1912. He sold Oldsmobiles and Chevrolets and also serviced and repaired the new "horseless carriages."

The automobile quickly took over the need for production of carriage makers and C. William Grosh found a new trade as a furniture maker. He opened a furniture business in the rear of 137 South Spruce Street and used his superior skills he learned in the production of carriages and coaches in Lititz.

The Grosh Carriage Works, at the corner of Broad and Orange Streets, was demolished to erect a new St. Paul Lutheran Church in 1911.



Top: The business when it was located at the corner of West Center Street and Pine Alley. Above: One of the many examples of their products.

Notice to Members!

After careful review your Board of Directors has revised and updated the By-Laws governing the Lititz Historical Foundation, Inc. The revisions received first approval at the Board meeting of August 19, 2021, by unanimous vote of the Board members present, and it is anticipated that final approval will be given at the Board meeting to be held on September 16, 2021.

All persons who have made a membership contribution for the current calendar year or who are paid-in-full Life Members are voting Members of the corporation. The Annual Members Meeting will be held on a Saturday in November. Because of continuing uncertainties due to the COVID pandemic, exact date, time, and location will not be established until closer to the time. Announcements will be made as soon as that information is available.

In accordance with current practice for Annual Meetings of small non-profit membership corporations, you will receive at the meeting a brief oral report on the activities and financial status of the Foundation. You will also be asked to vote for Board members whose terms are up for renewal, for any new Board members to take a seat effective January 1, 2022, and to confirm election of Board members who were appointed by the Board to fill openings within their ranks which occurred during the past year. The quorum required to hold an election is ten (10) Members in good standing. To assure that a quorum is present, Members will be asked to check in as they enter the meeting room.

Those up for election, re-election, or confirmation at the annual meeting are: For re-election to an additional three-year term upon expiration of their current term on December 31, 2021:

Karen Genevish
Gail Horrocks
Thomas Oehme
Thomas Wentzel

For election to succeed retiring Board members:

Nominee to be selected – one-year term to replace retiring Board member

Members have the right to offer nominations for Board members from the floor of the meeting. If you plan to make such a nomination, please notify the Foundation of your intent, with assurance that the nominee is willing to serve if elected, by November 1, 2021.

Members may view the revised By-Laws by appointment during hours when the Museum is open or by special appointment at other convenient times. Please email lhf@dejazzd.com to schedule an appointment.



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World War II Military Encampment September 18

Join us on Saturday, September 18th for a great day of World War II history!

In our Mary Oehme Gardens, we'll be holding a World War 2 encampment featuring:

- America Homefront: A life-sized room to room display of a 1940s era home
- World War 2 reenactors
- World War 2 items which were once owned, used, or worn by the soldiers who served
- Rosie The Riveter
- Authentic World War era/1940s displays and artifacts

****This event is free and open to the public. Hours will be 11am-5pm****

PLUS- Tours of our 1792 Johannes Mueller House will be available all day for a fee. Come learn the fascinating history of Lititz. Your tour guide will take you through an 18th century home, where you will learn all about early Lititz and Moravian life. Admission charged.

While you're there, be sure to visit the Lititz Museum and Gift Shop!



DID YOU KNOW...?



Thanks to Jan Stone Wacker for submitting this photo! This was snapped at the square in Lititz circa 1912. Jan's grandmother, Rose Houghton, can be seen on the far left.

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