

Fall 2020

# Historical Journal



**LITITZ HISTORICAL FOUNDATION**

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## Moravian Dolls

*By Charlene Van Brookhoven*

In the mid-sixties, a group of ladies from The Lititz Historical Foundation decided to take on a project to raise funds for the restoration of the Johannes Mueller House, headquarters of the society. Judy Light, an active member, gathered together thirty five ladies whom she knew were capable of taking on such a project.

This was to become known as the Zinzendorf doll project in honor of the founder of the Moravian Church.

The first step was to determine what garb women of the Lititz community would have worn during the 18<sup>th</sup> Century.

After researching examples of early Moravian clothing at Bethlehem Moravian Archives, Betty Mearig designed the templates for a typical Lititz woman. The female costume included seven items which were handstitched.

Each layer of the apparel was assigned to one of the committee members. The head covering, or haube, was perfectly fitted to the “modern plastic doll” to look as authentic as possible.

The color of the haube strings as well as the lacings in the jacket front indicated the status of the Moravian sisters:

Cherry red – Little girls

Pink – Confirmed girls and single sisters

Blue – Married Women

White – Widow



*Above: A Moravian Doll (Story continued on Page 4 inside)*

## New in our Gift Shop!

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Do you know your Lititz ABC's? BRAND NEW is Bill Dussinger's 30-page softcover book on the ABC's of Lititz! Lots of great history and information on our wonderful town. Each copy is autographed by Dussinger. \$20.

We are open 11am-5pm Fridays and Saturdays; and 11am-3pm Wednesdays and Thursdays. Come grab your copies in our gift shop before they are completely sold out!

### Zoom meeting November 7 to feature Uncharted Lancaster

Join the Lititz Historical Foundation on November 7 at 1:30 pm via Zoom for a special program featuring Adam Zurn, who is the founder of Uncharted Lancaster!

After a few small items of business, the program will be handed over to Adam Zurn, founder of Uncharted Lancaster. Zurn will be sharing some of his favorite local legends and haunted tales from the River Hill of Lancaster County. If you happen to be looking to add some more adventure into your life, he will also be sharing some seldom seen places you can visit.

This will be a special Zoom meeting, open to the first 100 persons. To register for this event, please visit the website below:

[https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ghost-stories-and-tales-of-adventure-with-uncharted-lancaster-tickets-120245207653?fbclid=IwAR2P6VdfgAMhB4XTirXT8-UgfYIER5RCuZ74MYWJ9zX9hd0HJ\\_kfpvnXCj4](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ghost-stories-and-tales-of-adventure-with-uncharted-lancaster-tickets-120245207653?fbclid=IwAR2P6VdfgAMhB4XTirXT8-UgfYIER5RCuZ74MYWJ9zX9hd0HJ_kfpvnXCj4)





# The Lititz Springs Sanitarium

*By Cory Van Brookhoven*

It was a premiere destination for relaxation, rejuvenation, and a place that helped cure countless ailments.

Situated along South Broad Street in Lititz over a century ago, it was known as the Lititz Springs Sanitarium.

A former school, the property was sold to Dr. James C. Brobst (1844-1915) in 1899, and he began to develop the site into a first class business. Brobst also ran the Inland Chemical Company along Main Street in Lititz at the time, which specialized in pharmaceuticals. His laboratory was located in the rear of this property.

By 1901, after many renovations, as well as the installation of “modern conveniences” of the day like steam heat, electricity, and several telephones, this 18-room facility was ready to be revealed to the public.

Because he wanted to give the best, most intimate care possible, Brobst limited the number of patients to twenty five at any given time. In 1912, an ad in a Lancaster newspaper advertised this location, which boasted a swimming pool, as well as such treatments as Turkish, Russian, Pine, and Juniper Baths. Ailments such as blood and kidney diseases, and well as gout, were also treated there.

Electric baths were also very popular. This form of treatment was the same kind of apparatus that was used on the RMS Titanic during its fateful, single voyage.



The Lava Bath, said to cure rheumatism, was also utilized on a daily basis. This process involved adding several chemicals to blue clay and water which was then formed into a mud. The mixture was then massaged over a person's body which claimed to relax the muscles.

Countless guests from neighboring states as well as residents from larger metropolitan cities in Pennsylvania such as Philadelphia all visited the facility to take advantage of their very special healing processes. One customer spent a total of eight months there, and even a Civil War colonel was once treated there.

Although this business in Lititz closed a few years after opening, at the time it was heralded as only a handful of facilities like it in the entire state of Pennsylvania.

*Above: Inside the Lititz Springs Sanitarium*

## Moravian Dolls Con't:

The white apron was detailed by one of the ladies who was familiar with early hemstitching, a decorative drawn thread- work for embellishing ordinary linens. Small reticules, or handbags, were crocheted and wrapped around the wrist of each doll. Each reticule contained a tiny piece of paper describing a member of the community reflected by the color of the lacing.

A doll with a blue ribbon contained the following:

*“Anna Maria Frederick Mueller, one of the pioneers of early Lititz, was born in Mount Joy Township, Nov. 28, 1760, daughter of Abraham Frederick. She married Johannes Mueller, who came to Lititz, at the request of the church authorities to operate one of the community mills. They lived in the village of Rome, in 1792 they built the house at 139 E. Main St., now the headquarters of the Lititz Historical Foundation.”*

After sewing and selling many Moravian Sister dolls, someone mentioned that Lititz Moravian Brothers should also be represented. It came to the committee's attention that Central Moravian Church in Bethlehem was replicating the Brother dolls.

A perfect pairing of Lititz and Bethlehem churches came together. Many of these dolls are still collected by interested Moravians as well as people familiar with the articulate hand work of the dedicated ladies involved in this project.



## Holiday Events Still Planned for 2020

Although many things are unsure at this time, we do plan to hold two safe holiday events this season. The first is our Annual Christmas Carol Sing, which is scheduled to take place on Thursday, December 10th at 7pm at Lititz Moravian Church Square.

The second event will take place the following night during Second Friday in Lititz. This will be our annual Christmas Candlelight Tour. Because of the recent state of the world, we plan to give socially-distanced, safe tours of our decorated 1792 Johannes Mueller House.

**For the most recent news on both of these events, please follow our Facebook EVENTS page.**

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## *Annual Plant Exchange is October 4*

The Lititz Historical Foundation in conjunction with the Lititz Garden Club will hold its Annual Plant Exchange on Sunday, October 4th at 1:30 PM. The event will be held in the Mary Oehme Gardens, behind the museum buildings at 137-145 East Main Street in Lititz. The event is rain or shine.

Attendees are asked to please wear masks, as well as social distance while on the grounds.

The plants to exchange must be perennials and must have identification tags for each plant. Each plant must be placed in a container for transportation.

Upon arrival, a ticket will be handed out for each plant. The plants must be placed in categories including: Sun, Shade, Exotic, Bulbs, Herbs and Ground Cover. These tickets can be redeemed for another plant after all plants are placed in the categories and the attendees have some time to explore the categories.



## **The Extra Give is November 20th!**

**THE EXTRA  
ORDINARY  
GIVE**



**NOVEMBER 20, 2020**

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 day.**

**Thank you so much for your generosity, and for your support of local history!**



## DID YOU KNOW...?

About 1925, over 100 people gathered together inside the Lititz High School for a dairy convention.

Based on this photograph, it must have been quite a celebration: complete with party hats, good food, and live music.



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