

Fall 2023

# Historical Journal



**LITITZ HISTORICAL FOUNDATION**

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

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[www.lititzhistoricalfoundation.com](http://www.lititzhistoricalfoundation.com)

## *Another Lititz Pretzel*

*Charlene Van Brookhoven*

Julius Sturgis Pretzel Bakery at 219 E. Main Street in Lititz is one of the main tourist destinations in town. Travelers from all over the world come to Lititz to experience the “first commercial pretzel bakery in America” and to try their hand at twisting the perfect pretiola, which is the Italian word for pretzel.

A lesser-known pretzel manufacturer was carrying on hand twisting pretzels at The Lititz Springs Pretzel Co. at the edge of the stream in the Lititz Springs Park since 1890. The bakery was built by P. B. Bucher and Samuel Erb and later operated by James J. Huebner. In 1905, at the age of 17, Lewis A. Haines, a graduate of Lititz High School, began working for Huebner.

He worked fifteen years learning how to produce a better pretzel dough and formed a partnership with Homer Sturgis. Together they purchased the factory and pretzel business. Fifteen expert and dedicated employees worked day and night and shipped the popular pretzels to every state in the union. A daily output was estimated at eleven or twelve hundred pounds using the best state of the art equipment.



The pretzel business was so productive that the two owners decided to expand with a new recipe and new method of pretzel baking. During the 1930's pretzels and beer became a popular pub partnership. At this time Otto's Pennsylvania Old Dutch Beer Pretzels was established by Haines and Sturgis. All the equipment needed to make pretzels was moved into the second floor of the American Legion at 109 N. Broad Street.

*Above: James Huebner (left) and Lewis Haines (right) working at the Lititz Springs Pretzel Co. factory.  
Story continued on page 3 inside.*

## Save The Date!

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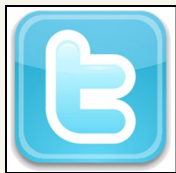
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This year the Lititz Historical Foundation is participating in the annual Extraordinary Give—(Lancaster County's Largest Day of giving) and we could use your help this year!

For a 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 17th 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!**





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## *Another Lititz Pretzel Con't:*

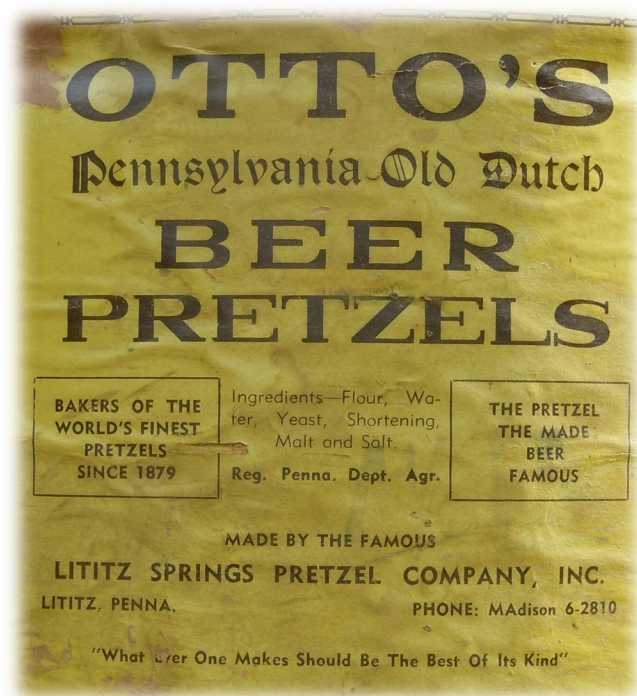
In 1924 it was written that Mr. Haines and Mr. Sturgis were two of the most energetic and progressive citizens in Lititz. The 1988 Library of Congress book *Documenting America* contains a photo taken in 1942 of Mr. Haines and his son Robert packing pretzels into their famous orange tin cans for shipment.

It was always a treat for Lititz kids to make a stop at the Lititz Springs Pretzel Co. and receive a free bag of pretzel "brokers" on the walk home through the park after a hard day at school!

In 1953 Lewis Haines passed away and the bakery was sold to a group of local investors. The Lititz Springs Pretzel Bakery fell out of successful production and in 1959 the owners filed for bankruptcy. The next year the bakery was torn down to make room for the new I. Walton Bobst Recreation Center.



LITITZ SPRINGS PRETZEL CO. BAKERY



*Above: A Lititz Springs Pretzel Company Tin. Above right: Otto's PA Dutch Beer Pretzel label*



## **Annual Christmas Candlelight Tour is Dec. 8th and 9**

Two big nights!

Our popular Annual Christmas Candlelight Tour is back, and this time, will take place over two nights! What better way to get into the holiday spirit than to visit Lititz, Pennsylvania. Admission is \$8 per person.

On December 8th and 9th, the Lititz Historical Foundation will hold its Annual Christmas Candlelight Tour. Guests will receive a 40-minute guided tour of the 1792 Johannes Mueller House and will learn the story of Mueller and his family, as well as history and customs of the early Moravian community of Lititz during the 18th century. Tours depart every 15 minutes and run from 5-8pm each night.

While you're there, visit the Lititz Museum for holiday refreshments and shop our gift shop for a tremendous selection of items! For ticket holders, we'll also be offering a 10% discount in our gift shop on both evenings. Tickets are \$8 per person, and are on sale now. Scan the QR code below to access the ticket website, or send us an email to [info@lititzhistoricalfoundation.com](mailto:info@lititzhistoricalfoundation.com) and we'll send you the safe and secure link!



### **Our Annual Meeting is November 11th, 2023**

Members of LHF as well as the public are invited to our Annual Meeting which will take place Saturday, November 11th at 1:30pm at the Lititz Public Library. After a brief meeting, our guest speaker will be local historian Brett Snyder will be speak on the prolific and interesting life of H. Clifton Thorbahn. Registration begins October 27th at 9am. To attend, contact the library any time after October 27th at 9am at 717-626-2255. We hope to see you there!

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## Annual World War 2 Day is September 23rd

Join us Saturday, September 23rd for a great day of World War 2 history! In our Mary Oehme Gardens, we'll be holding a World War 2 event featuring:

- Over 20 World War 2 reenactors
  - American Home Front: A full-sized, room by room walk through of a typical home during the 1940s.
  - Historical 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.
- The Lititz Museum and Gift Shop will also be open for business.

This event is donation based. All proceeds benefit the Lititz Historical Foundation.

**\*\*Operating hours are 11am-5pm\*\***



The Lititz Historical Foundation is located at 137 East Main Street, Lititz, PA 17543. The gardens are located right behind the museum buildings.

## Annual Christmas Carol Sing is Dec. 7th

Join the Lititz Historical Foundation in conjunction with the Lititz Moravian Archives for their annual Community Christmas Carol Sing Thursday, December 7th at 7pm.

This is a FREE event but donations are always appreciated! The event will take place at Moravian 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.



Afterwards, 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. See you there!



## DID YOU KNOW...?



In 1885, Daniel Habecker built a half-mile long track in Rothsville behind what is now the White Swan Hotel. Races would be run on “Whit Monday,” or the Monday after Pentecost, typically in late May or early June. Back then, the day was considered a holiday with children not having to go to school, and adults not having to work.

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