

Spring 2019

Historical Journal



LITITZ HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

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

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The Importance of Gifting to the Lititz Historical Foundation

By Charlene Van Brookhoven

In the early 1960's a group of Lititz men decided the town needed a museum to showcase the historical significance of the 1756 Moravian community. The Johannes Mueller house was purchased at 137 E. Main Street with funds remaining from the 200th anniversary of the town.

A plea was put out for donations of early memorabilia and family possessions noteworthy to display in this new venue. By 1964 a sizable collection of Lititz artifacts had been accumulated to open the museum doors to visitors.

Many local auction items were purchased in the early years of LHF to continue the integrity of the museum's inventory. As the prices of Lancaster County antiques became unaffordable to those other than dealers, board members once again reached out to members for donations of Lititz collectibles. The last fifty five years of gifting from people who are passionate about the preservation of our town's history has made LHF one of the most visited museums in Pennsylvania with 49 states and 40 countries represented.

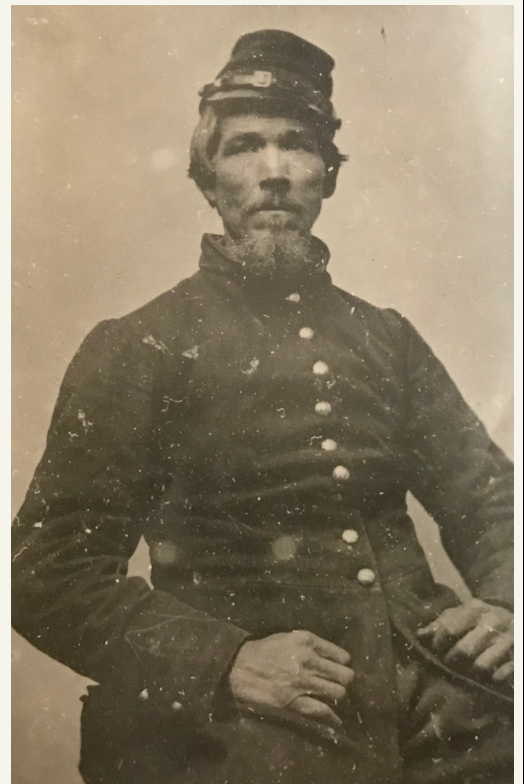
Many many people, some living in Lititz and some who have moved throughout the world, have contributed to this small educational museum with roots stemming from the Moravian Church. Items from the beginning of the town in 1756 thru the war years and up until 2019 are housed not only in the Mueller House but also The Lititz Museum next door.

One recent noteworthy contribution to LHF is a beautiful framed painting of Jacob Mease Fry.

Mr. Fry was Lancaster County's oldest Civil War veteran (recorded in his obituary October 13, 1938) at the age of ninety-nine years. In the 1900 census Jacob and Hettie lived at 18 Front Street with their daughter Katie until they moved to 315 E. Main Street (rear). Jacob and Hettie had three sons and one daughter all living in Warwick Township. Jacob was a cigar maker by trade.

The August 11, 1932 issue of The Lititz Record had this to say about Jacob Fry:

"Hence it is noteworthy when a survivor can be found who can recall the days of conflict and who has descendants who will ever cherish his valor and comfort him in his declining years. Jacob M. Fry, who has his home with Mr. and Mrs. Harry Haldeman of Rothsville, being his granddaughter, was 93 years old on Tuesday.



Story continues on page 4 inside...

Above: Jacob Mease Fry

We Open for the Season May 3rd!

On May 3rd, our doors officially open for the 2019 season!

Board of Directors:
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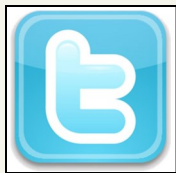
Gail Horrocks

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Come learn about the history of Lititz and early Moravian life by visiting room after room of local exhibits and artifacts. Visit our donation-based museum and then stop by our gift shop where you'll find a great selection of Moravian stars, local books, home décor, and so much more!

Guided tours of the 1792 Johannes Mueller House will be available beginning that day. Come learn all about the early history of Lititz with one of our very knowledgeable guides! Remember, as a member in good standing, tours for you and everyone in your party are free

Our operating hours are Fridays and Saturdays 10am-4pm. Beginning Memorial Day, we will be open Mondays-Saturday 10am-4pm with guided tours of the 1792 Johannes Mueller House.

Interested in booking our gardens for your next event? We're always happy to answer your questions or assist you. Call us at 717-627-4636 to learn more.

Seen below is 220 N. Cedar St. During the era that this photo was taken, it was the home of the Yerger family, who was known for having a popular ice business in Lititz during the early 1900s.



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Lititz Spring Into History Festival is June 1st!

Join us on June 1st for our Lititz Spring Into History Festival!

Free entry! One day only!

The event will take place at the Lititz Historical Foundation on Saturday June 1, 2019, from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Come see how early Lititz settlers lived, worked and played!

This is a rain-or-shine event.

All are welcome to join us!

Artisans scheduled to appear:

-Debbie Houck, natural dyeing and hand-spun yarns

-Marsha Campbell, hand-braiding wool chair pads and rugs

-Laura Koebnick, black ash basketry, Shaker style

-David Carlson, 18th century textiles, spinning, weaving

-More being added!

Keep your eye on our website for more additions as we approach the event!

More than a dozen local and regional artisans dedicated to historic authenticity and quality craftsmanship will be demonstrating antique trades.

A food truck will offer lunch from 11:00am – 2:00pm. Delicious, regional desserts including fruit pie, whoopie pies, shoofly pie, Moravian sugar cake, coffee and mint tea will also be available. Plus, Artisans will offer authentic, handmade items for sale.

The day is generously sponsored by Luther Acres.

Questions? Please send an email to springintohistory@gmail.com



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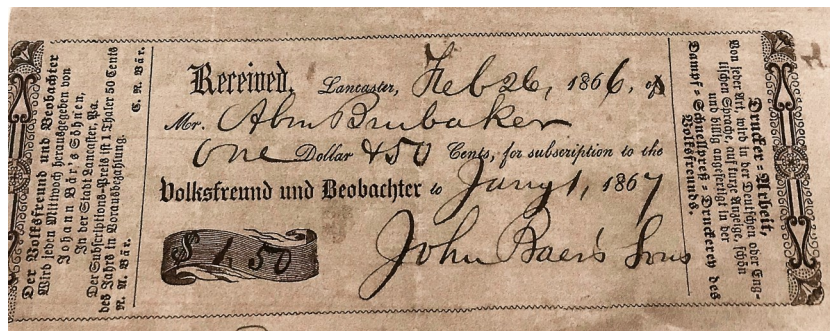
Mr. Fry enlisted for service in the Union armies about a year before its close." He was a cook in the Army and served on picket duty. He is buried at the Millport Cemetery.

Another very interesting donation is a February 26, 1866 receipt in the amount of \$1.50 for a year's subscription to the "The People's Friend and Observer" published each Wednesday by Johann Bar's Sons in the City of Lancaster, Pa. The subscription price is 1 thaler (dollar) 50 cents per year in advance.* (Translated from German script*) is also part of LHF ephemera collection.

Through the generosity of people of all ages and through many years of love for the history of the town, The Lititz Historical Foundation is a plethora of artifacts, furnishings, and ephemera to be shared with visitors from around the world.



An original framed painting of Jacob Fry.



The February, 1866 receipt in the amount of \$1.50 for a year's subscription to the "The People's Friend and Observer."

Our 57th Annual Antiques Show is June 28-29th!

Lancaster County's oldest show of its kind and always a perennial favorite, this fundraiser will be staged in the Warwick Middle School (104 Maple Street) in Lititz June 28th and 29th. Hours are Friday 10am-5pm; and Saturday 9am-2pm.

Visit our BRAND NEW Antiques Show website below!

<https://lititzantiquesshow.org>

Additional information will be coming in our next issue!



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You never know what you might discover in Lititz!

Recently, while doing excavations to their parking lot, members of the Lititz Fire Company got a surprise when they unearthed something other than dirt. It was the foundation and old bricks from the former site of the Keystone Underwear Mills!

Established in January of 1898, at the peak of its existence, the business turned out 109 dozen pieces of men's underwear daily. Organized by Samuel B. Erb, Adam Long, and Israel G. Erb, the operation would be incorporated in 1905. In July of 1918, a new dye house was built. This structure still stands today and lies to the south of the fire company's parking lot. Shown below are photos of the recent discovery.



Annual Plant Exchange is May 5th

The Lititz Historical Foundation in conjunction with the Lititz Garden Club will hold its Annual Plant Exchange on Sunday, May 5th 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. 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.



DID YOU KNOW...?



Did you know?.. In 1952, Democratic Presidential candidate Adlai Stevenson rode the very last passenger train through Lititz.

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