

Winter 2019

Historical Journal



LITITZ HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

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

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The Zitzman Post Office Comes Home

By Cory Van Brookhoven

When Frederick Zitzman was postmaster of Lititz, little did he know that his post office would travel across the country, much like his countless letters that moved in and out of his office every day.

Recently, through the generosity of an out-of-state donor, Lititz's second post office has made its way back to its place of origin and is on display in the same room where it once stood nearly 190 years ago – inside the 1792 Johannes Mueller House.

In 1806, Christian Hall became the first postmaster of Lititz and ran his small operation inside the Lititz Springs Hotel (now the General Sutter Hotel).

Then, in 1830, Frederick Zitzman (1787-1872) was appointed the second postmaster of Lititz by President Andrew Jackson and used the log structure portion of his home (now The Lititz Historical Foundation's 1792 Johannes Mueller House) for his profession.

Zitzman served as the town postmaster until 1849 and would use the cabinet for organizing and sorting mail for the members of the community.



Back then, there was no mail delivery door to door—residents made trips to Zitzman's home to pick up their mail. It was also a time before postage stamps—once mail was picked up, the amount owed depended upon how far it traveled to arrive to its destination. Eventually, in 1847, postage stamps would be introduced.

Above: The Zitzman Post Office. Story continued on page 3 inside.

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I want to take this time to thank the members of the board, our volunteers, and our tour guides for a tremendous 2019! As of this writing, we have welcomed over 6,700 visitors to our museum from 49 out of fifty states. Additionally, over thirty different countries from all across the world have also visited us this year. In 2019, not only did we add additional staff, but we also

had some of the largest events in our history. From our Beatles tribute band The Cavern Club to our very successful Lititz Spring Into History Festival, in so many unique ways.

And as in previous years, countless individuals from scouts to students, tourists to locals, took a guided tour of our 1792 Johannes Mueller House. And who can forget the about as very special donation—the Zitzman Post Office—which recently came back to Lititz. Read the full story on page one.

THANK YOU!

-Cory Van Brookhoven

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Zitzman Post Office Con't:

A recent visitor to the Lititz Historical Foundation from Colorado had ownership of this piece of Lititz and United States Post Office history for several decades—his father in law had originally purchased it at a public sale in Lititz many years ago and documented the provenance from the original seller.

And recently, he decided to donate the piece to the Lititz Historical Foundation.

The Lititz Historical Foundation is thrilled to receive this very generous donation and is honored to have this item on display to the public.



Above: During Zitzman's time as Lititz postmaster, residents paid the postage due once the mail was picked up. This process is the opposite today. Left: An ad placed by Zitzman in a Lancaster newspaper in 1840.

LIST OF LETTERS remaining in the Post office at Lititz, Lancaster county, Pa., January 1, 1840.

Edward Alexander, John Brubaker, Barbara Burkholder, Daniel Eby 2, David Erb 2, John Graver, Levi Grube, Abraham Hershey, Joseph Habecker 5, Jacob Loose, William Lutz, Abraham Lehman, Jacob Netzly, John Peter, Peter Shoemaker, Peter Stauffer.

F. A. ZITZMAN, P. M.

Jan 7. 49.

All we can say is WOW!

Thanks to every one of you who contributed to us on Nov. 22 as part of the Extraordinary Give!

Through your generosity, we raised a total of \$9,320 during the day through regular donations which is more than double last year's total. We were also fortunate to win a \$500 "Golden ticket" from Highmark. And once the stretch pool is added in to our total, we are poised to earn a grand total of slightly over \$10,000!!

Thank you so much again for making this event a smash success for us!

**THE EXTRATM
ORDINARY
GIVE**



NOVEMBER 22, 2019

Mod Betty is coming to Lititz!

Join us Saturday January 4th at the Lititz Public Library for a very special program and book signing! Beth Lennon aka "Mod Betty" will host the program "Must-See Roadside Attractions of Central PA." She'll also have several of her books available for sale and to sign after the program.

The program, which is free and open to the public (there will be a fee to purchase books) will begin at 1:30pm.

Please call the Lititz Library to reserve your spot at 717-626-2255 beginning December 16th.

Beth Lennon (aka Mod Betty) is the creator of Retro Roadmap, the online resource highlighting what she calls cool vintage places, good eats and retro fun.

Writing and presenting as Mod Betty, she travels the US, visiting mom and pop businesses that have stood the test of time - while retaining their authentic vintage charm - and shares these discoveries with her readers and social followers, inspiring them to go out and visit these places, and the places that are important to them, before they disappear.

Combining a degree in art history and passion for photography, Lennon has documented the disappearing roadside for decades.

She has been featured on the front page of the Boston Globe Sunday Travel Section, the Philadelphia Inquirer, Huffington Post, WHYY-TV, WLVT-TV and interviewed by the BBC, AARP, Hidden City Philadelphia, Inside Jersey and House Beautiful to name a few.



She has written for the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Society for Commercial Archeology and has a regular feature in Vintage Camper Trailers magazine.

Additionally she publishes a series of printed Retro Roadmap Road book travel guides that double as road trip journals. Featuring her favorite vintage and retro destinations in each state, these Road books are packed with historic information, travel tips, with lists to check off and space for readers to add their own memories. When not on the road you can often find her researching her next adventure seated inside her vintage 1964 camper - in the town where they filmed The Blob—Phoenixville, Pennsylvania!

NOTE: Due to popularity, sign-ups will begin on December 16th at the Lititz Public Library and guest must give the name of each person attending. Thank you!

Above Beth Lennon aka Mod Betty

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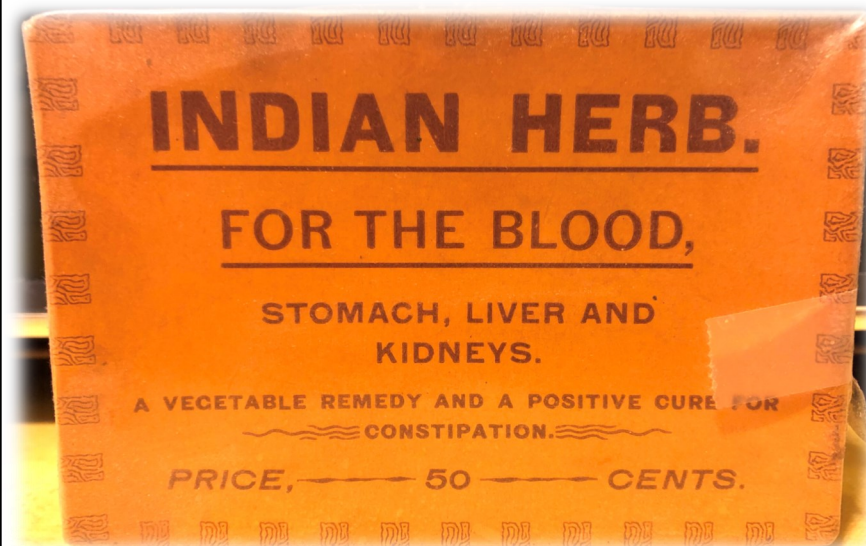
Indian Herb and other remedies from a century ago

Before there were more rigid food regulations, countless companies across the United States touted countless cure-alls, tonics, and “magical” powders which claimed to solve a host of ailments.

“Indian Herb” was one such product, and was manufactured right here in Lititz beginning in the late 1890s. Available at Dr. Brobst’s Drug Store—founded in 1870 and better known as The Inland Chemical Company, and located at 23-25 East Main Street, Lititz. Many local residents swore by the product.



In 1902, one ad stated “Now is the time to brace up your rundown system. It will not cure everything, but it will prove the most effective medicine for the liver and stomach that was ever known.”



In 1898, the company also sold sulphuric acid (which was available to ship wholesale or retail); and by 1900, horse powder, iron bitters, hair tonics, a teaberry elixir, and vegetable compounds.

Despite the countless cure-alls that Brobst sold over the years, when he died in 1915, his obituary stated that “he had been failing in health for over a year, suffering with a complication of ailments.”

Above: The Inland Chemical Company, located at 23-25 East Main Street, Lititz.

Left: Indian Herb—one of the many products sold at The Lititz Drug Store.

DID YOU KNOW...?

Once located at 10 East Front Street, the Lititz Furniture Company was originally opened by Christ Nissley in 1940.



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