

Fall 2024

Historical Journal



LITITZ HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

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

717-627-4636

www.lititzhistoricalfoundation.com

Thank you, Martee

Charlene Van Brookhoven

On June 20, 2024 Lititz lost one of its most knowledgeable historians who not only willingly shared her love for local history but published numerous publications for future learning and reference. Martha J. Xakellis caught the “history bug” from her mother Eva Myers who compiled a history of Salem Lutheran Church of Kissel Hill. First and foremost Martee was a genealogist who was willing to help people in search of their family roots.

During her investigations “Martee” became acquainted with graveyards and burials in Lititz and Warwick Township. In 1989 she published her first booklet “Gravestone Inscriptions of Old Warwick Township in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.” This was followed by four more volumes of detailed listings of local cemeteries. Volume 5 of Grave Undertakings published in 2002 includes church graveyards in the borough of Lititz. Martee also continued the list of burials in the Lititz Moravian cemetery which was begun in 1905 by archivist Abraham R. Beck. Xakellis was also known as “the person who was able to read tombstones that others had labeled not readable.”

In the summer and fall issues of Lititz Historical Foundation's *Historical Journal*, she wrote a two part article on early schools of Warwick and Warwick Township including the public schools and known teachers. She was also the diligent proofreader for this publication, *Historical Journal*.



Martee will be greatly missed for her contributions to local history; but, thanks to her published works and meticulous note taking and filing, future historians can access her many years of dedicated research.

Above: In 2013, Xakellis was part of the team that helped restore the 1744 St. James Graveyard in Lititz. Photo by Cory Van Brookhoven. An additional tribute of Martee is on page 3 inside.

*Fall 2024**HISTORICAL JOURNAL*

Christmas Candlelight Tours Return Dec. 13 & 14th!

Two very merry nights!

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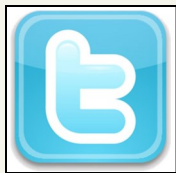
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Our popular Annual Christmas Candlelight Tour is back, and this time, will take place over two nights! What better way to get into the holiday spirit than to visit Lititz, Pennsylvania.

On December 13th and 14th, 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 evening.

While you're there, be sure to visit the Lititz Museum for holiday refreshments and to 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 \$10 per person.

Tickets are now available! Scan the barcode below to be taken to the purchase website, or call us at 717-627-4636 before they are sold out!

Scan this barcode with your smartphone:



A Word of Gratitude

Cory Van Brookhoven

Martee Xakellis was a friend and colleague, as well as a wealth of knowledge when it came to local history and family trees. She was very instrumental in setting up the genealogy room in the Lititz Public Library, and also had an impressive research collection in her home which I visited often. She was my “second set of eyes” when it came to editing my book on Warwick Township, and she also assisted me in reviewing over 50 issues of this quarterly publication, *The Historical Journal*. Thank you, Martee, for always being there when I had a question about Kissel Hill, genealogy, or needed help in identifying a photograph. You will be missed!

Annual Christmas Carol Sing is December 12th!

Join the Lititz Historical Foundation in conjunction with the Lititz Moravian Archives for their annual Community Christmas Carol Sing Thursday, December 12th at 6:30 PM.

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 will 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!



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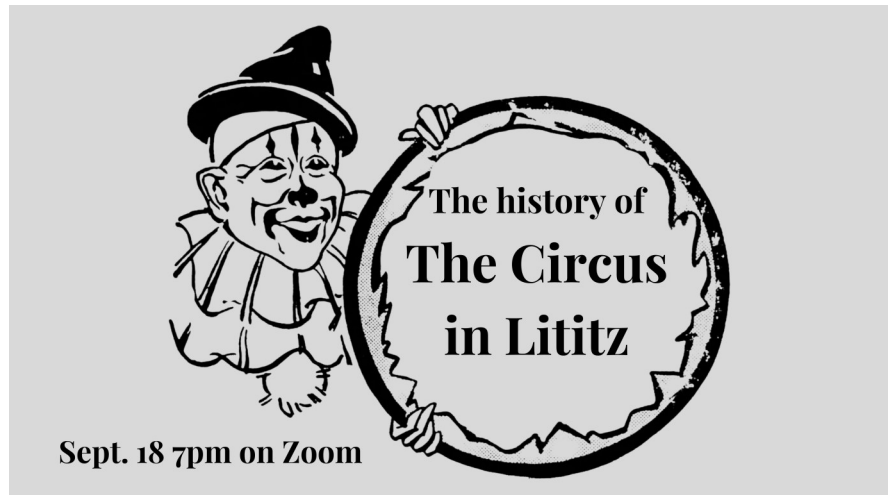
Zoom program to focus on the circus in Lititz

Step right up and join Lititz Historical Foundation President Cory Van Brookhoven on Zoom on Wednesday, September 18th at 7pm for the special program “The History of the Circus in Lititz.”

You’ll learn about many of the traveling companies, performers, animals, clowns, and aerial acrobats who once upon a time set up their big tops right here in Lititz!

This is a donation-based program, and a fundraiser for the Lititz Historical Foundation. Visit the link below, make a donation in any amount, and you will then receive the Zoom link to tune in. Thank you for supporting local history! This program will be recorded and a private link will be emailed out to all donors the next day.

Call us at 717-627-4636 or email us at info@lititzhistoricalfoundation.com to obtain the donation link.



The 2024 Extra Give is November 22nd!

On November 22nd 2024, 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 achieving our goal! On that day, 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:
*****Online donations for the Extra Give can only be made on November 22nd 2024*****



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! To donate on November 22nd, visit www.extragive.org and search for Lititz Historical Foundation.

LHF Annual Meeting is November 9th

Our Annual Meeting is November 9th, 2024 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, we will have a guest speaker to be announced. Registration begins October 26th at 9am. To attend, contact the library any time after October 26th at 9am at 717-626-2255. We hope to see you there!

Evening Ghost Tours now available!

We have heard your feedback, and we listened! Evening ghost tours of Main Street, Lititz are now available at 6pm and 8pm seven nights a week! Visit our website at www.lititzhistoricalfoundation.com to book!

Victorian Era Cards

Charlene Van Brookhoven

During the Victorian era in America (1820-1914), many male or female suitors used a printed card expressing a desire to get to know personally an available love interest.

A newspaper article dated 1871 explains this new method.

“A practice which is becoming more prevalent especially among our boys and girls, especially our girls, is that of flirting.” Small paper cards were a proper means of communication to announce an event, invitation to a social gathering or just by saying ‘thinking of you.’ In the days before paper tissues, handkerchiefs were a part of the daily attire for both ladies and gents. It was more important to have a collection of dainty, hand-stitched handkerchiefs for the ladies and plain white ones for the gentlemen than today’s array of color coordinated socks.

A wonderful idea for a birthday gift for a young lady was to have friends supply her with handkerchiefs to last until her next birthday. “A Handkerchief Surprise” would have definitely eliminated the chore of deciding a gift, and Miss Anna R. Erb would most likely have been grateful for the thoughts.



DID YOU KNOW...?



In 1920, the Lititz Firemen's Parade marched their way downtown. Shown here is part of that event, as members passed the 320 block of East Main Street.

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Historical Journal
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