

the Mirror

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What Are Your Family Traditions?

“Family” and “traditions” are two words that we often link closely together. Immediate families have their own special traditions, but one important tradition that allows descendants of the same lineage to connect is a family reunion. At family reunions, people who share a common ancestor come together to share stories about the past and today. In some cultural groups family reunions entail matching custom-made tee shirts and exuberant celebrations! Other family reunion traditions might include a particular game everyone plays or an “auction” where family members bring small items they offer for others to purchase as an aunt or uncle serves as auctioneer.

What if you want to capture or learn more about that history so readily shared during family reunion conversations? What if you want to pass on those stories to future generations?

If you are interested in preserving your family history or genealogy, you might consider doing more research. With a sizable genealogical card file, personal papers of genealogy researchers, and genealogy books, Mennonite Life’s archives and library can help you start your journey into the past. Records of family reunions and family associations might inform you on your family history or inspire you to think more about how best to preserve your own records.

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Approximately 300 people, below, attended the Brubaker-Hershey Reunion September 13, 1919 at the Old Brubaker Homestead near Lititz, PA. From John K. Newcomer Papers, Mennonite Life Archives. Sometimes families dress alike, right, to show their connection during family reunions.

Upcoming Mennonite Life Events

Bookworm Frolic Used Books

Sale, Sept. 17 & 18, 9 am–7 pm,
Sept. 19, 9 am–4 pm @ Mennonite
Life Collections Building

Medicine Bag Workshop, Sept. 24,
9 am @ 1719 Museum

Maize & Snitz Market Fair, Oct.
7 & 8, 10 am–3 pm @ 1719 Museum

**Underground Railroad Learning
Tour**, Oct. 23, 2 pm @ Columbia
Crossing River Trails Center

Collections Feature: Fraktur,
Oct. 27, 7 pm @ Mennonite Life
Community Room

Rare & Used Book Auction,
Nov. 11, 6:30 pm @ Mennonite Life
Community Room

More info at mennonitelife.org



FEATURED ARTIST

Lynn Sommer, Fraktur Artist

Fraktur art, created by Pennsylvania Germans in the 18th through mid-19th centuries, features calligraphic text decorated with colorful birds, hearts, and flowers.

Lynn Sommer, a Lancaster-based fraktur artist and author, says, "I've come to understand that traditional fraktur folk art of the Swiss Mennonites and PA Germans is a form of storytelling. I continue this tradition with ink and watercolor."



"Many of my frakturs incorporate a hymn or melody inspired by a person. Others are inspired by a unique historical tradition. As I paint, the music and art come together in a spiritual way."



Purchase framed artwork in our Collections building museum store, or buy Sommer's greeting cards in any of our retail stores, including online.

Family Traditions

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Maybe you will decide that the best way to capture family stories, traditions, and lineage is to enshrine them in a book. The genealogy and family history books available in Mennonite Life's library can offer helpful examples of how to best present your heritage. We have resource books on how to write and compile family genealogy, and you can begin to capture your family history with an interview at our Life Story Lab.

You might decide that your family association's records need an appropriate place for safekeeping. Whether the end result is a book or boxes of archival records, Archivist and Librarian Julia Wiker would be happy to help you figure out if the archives and library at Mennonite Life might be the best place to preserve your family history. ■

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Wäber/Weber/ Weaver Family Homestead Print for Sale

Now available for Christmas giving or your own display: a limited edition print of a watercolor of the c. 1724 Wäber/Weber/Weaver family homestead in Lampeter, Lancaster County, PA.

The Wäber/Weber/Weaver family migrated from Switzerland to Germantown, PA, between 1711 and 1717, then moved to the "Conestogo"/Pequea settlement, in the area now known as Lampeter in Lancaster County. Hans and Maria Margarethe Wäber purchased a 255-acre property there between present-day Rockvale Road and Pioneer Road.

The stone house, depicted in the watercolor by artist and educator Marita Hines, was built in a Swiss-German style about 1724, after the family had lived in a log house. The homestead was dubbed "Weizenthal," (Wisenthal). Of the family's four sons, Johannes remained at Weizenthal, while Georg, Heinrich, and Jakob moved on to the Weaverland Valley about eighteen miles away in East Earl Township, Lancaster County.



Print of original watercolor by Marita Hines showing the Wäber/Weber/Weaver homestead. Print measuring 17 1/8" x 14 1/8" available online at bit.ly/WeaverWeber and in-store, \$42.

Maize & Snitz Market Fair, Fun Fall Event

Enjoy demonstrations of historical skills such as wood working, lace-making, hearth cooking, and more.

At the 1719 Museum's Maize & Snitz Market Fair, October 7 and 8, from 10 am–3 pm, we offer visitors historically accurate interpretation that focuses on the lifeways of both European immigrants and Indigenous people of the early 18th century.

Experts in their respective areas of history will be demonstrating trades and skills of the period such as wood-working, sewing, lace-making, hearth cooking, baking, finger weaving, pine needle basket making, and more. And of course, Aaron Smucker and family will be making their famous apple butter!

On Saturday Mark Turdo, cider-ist, will share his knowledge of 18th century cider making, the occupation of Christian Herr. He will share new research about cider frolics in the 18th century, and he'll give an update on the batch of cider he made last year with apples from the Herr orchard.

To tell the stories of Indigenous peoples who occupied Pennsylvania before the Herr Family, Henry Spadt will be presenting his well-researched and engaging Lenape interpretation. In addition, Barry Lee, of Circle Legacy Center, will be discussing the significance of wampum and how it was used in the 18th century.

We are grateful for the excellent turnout and support from visitors last year, and we look forward to seeing you in October. If you are a teacher and would like to bring your class on Friday, October 7, please call Tiffany at 717.484.4438 for details. ■



Experience early American life October 7 & 8 at the Maize & Snitz Market Fair, 1719 Museum.

Countryside Tours Hold International Appeal

What do families in the Netherlands do when they want to learn about Mennonites and Amish in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania? Two Dutch families learned from a neighbor on their street that the Mennonite Life Visitors Center is a good place to contact for a Countryside Tour of Mennonite and Amish country. They reached out the first weekend in August, and several email messages later, we scheduled the tour. On a Wednesday in August all ten arrived in two cars, and experienced guides, Joanne and Fay, joined them to share a multi-hour tour. Our Dutch guests returned to

the Visitors Center delighted by the people they had met and the beautiful Lancaster County farms and communities they got to see and experience.

Do you know folks travelling to Lancaster this fall? Or do you live in the area and have guests coming from out of town for a visit and need an engaging activity? Call the Visitors Center (717.299.0954) and ask for Guang. She will help you reserve a date and time for guests to experience Lancaster County in a most unusual and enjoyable way: with an experienced Mennonite guide riding along in your vehicle and leading a custom tour. ■

*We are shifting publication from quarterly to three times a year.
The next issue of The Mirror will be February 2023.*

Collections Feature: **Fraktur**

Join us **Thursday, October 27 in the Community Room at 7 pm** for an event featuring eleven fraktur pieces in the Mennonite Life collection not currently on display. Hear David Johnson, local historian and author of the book *Christian Streng's Fraktur*, discuss the pieces, their provenance, and any known stories related to the artists and the works. Following this one-hour event, enjoy a light reception and an opportunity to start on your holiday shopping in our museum store.



This piece, created by a Leacock Township, Pennsylvania artist, is one of the features at the October 27 event.

Mennonite Life (USPS 882-020)
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