

Summer 2013

# Historical Journal



LITITZ HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

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

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## Dr. James C. Brobst - Lititz Medical Pioneer

*Charlene Van Brookhoven*

On February 19, 1915 the Lititz Express reported the following: "Dr. James C. Brobst, the well-known physician, died at his home on Broad Street, this borough, at 10 o'clock, Monday morning, from a complication of diseases." On that date, Lititz lost one of its well-respected, prominent, caring citizens known throughout all of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Brobst was born in Rehrersburg, Pennsylvania in 1844 and became valedictorian of his class from F&M College in the early 1860's. He then spent four years of college at the University of Pennsylvania. During these years, he served in the Union Army as Assistant Surgeon of the 46<sup>th</sup> P.V.I. After a year and a half, he was discharged due to the war coming to a close. He then began a full-time practice in Leesport (Berks County). By 1873, he was now practicing in Lititz where he

replaced the family medical practice of Dr. J.H. Shenk who had been the doctor in Lititz for some years. His medical practice was located at 25 E. Main St. (now Clementine's). The building was the original 1796 Dr. Levi Hull house, the first drug store in Lititz. At this address, Dr. Brobst founded The Inland Chemical Company "manufacturer of proprietary medicines".



In 1895, after the retirement of A.R. Beck, the Headmaster of Beck School for Boys located at 125 S. Broad St., Brobst bought

the Beck school building and established a sanitarium. He continued the name Audubon Villa as Beck had for his school. Audubon Villa Sanitarium combined therapy and rehabilitation through exercise and diet for patients suffering various ailments.

*Above: Postcard view of Audubon Villa.  
Continued on page 4 inside...*



## ***FROM THE PRESIDENT***

Our museum and Johannes Mueller house are both open for the season, and busier than ever!

Just in the past few weeks, the Mary Oehme Gardens provided the gorgeous backdrop for a wedding and a baptism, with several other events confirmed for the Summer. On Monday May 13th, we hosted members of the Pennsylvania Dutch Convention and Visitor's Bureau. Over 120 guests attended, with free snacks and libations provided by many wonderful Lititz businesses. Visitors mixed, mingled, and got complimentary tours of the Mueller House. It also proved to be a great networking event; and most importantly gave us an opportunity to show off our property which we all work very hard at maintaining. Special thanks to board member Amy Rhoads for championing this event!

Our annual Plant Exchange on May 5th was also an extreme success, as we welcomed over 100 green thumbs as they eagerly exchanged plants and traded gardening tips. Thanks to the Lititz Garden Club for being on hand that day to help answer questions.

In March, our last lecture of the season in conjunction with the Lititz Public Library was also well-attended as guests learned how to trace their families roots. Look for a brand new list of winter lectures soon. We thank the Lititz Library, especially Sallie Rihn, for joining forces with our museum to offer these four programs completely free to our community. We look forward to partnering again next season!

June 28th and 29th is our 51st annual Antique Show, and like other years, a great event is planned bringing dealers and fresh stock from across many states to Bonfield Elementary school to take part.

If you are planning on being in Lititz this July 4th for our town's annual Independence Day celebration, please look for us in the park as we will have a stand. Stop over and say hello! On August 11th, our very popular *Evening of Music* takes places in our gardens. "Honey and the Bees" will take center stage which promises to be a great evening of music and fun.

May we look to the future, learn from the past, and continue to help preserve Lititz - America's Coolest Small Town!

Thank you all for your continued support!

Cory Van Brookhoven  
*President*  
Lititz Historical Foundation

## New Accessions

We are pleased to announce new donations to our ever-growing archives. We thank all of the donors for thinking of us as they decided where these items should go. We encourage you to consider donating any Lititz or Warwick Township related items to our archives where they can be studied, interpreted, and taken care of for generations to come!

1. Lititz High School Class of 1940 memorabilia. Donated by class member Alice Snyder.
2. A Lititz 250th nylon street banner. These banners were hung throughout the town on street lights when Lititz celebrated our town's 250th anniversary in 2006. Gift of Marsha Campbell.
3. A box of local newspaper clippings. Donated by Mildred Bucher.

*The Foundation is very thankful for the above generous gifts!  
Additional donations will be printed in future issues of the Historical Journal.*

## LHF Poised to Stage 51st Annual Antique Show

*Henry Paul*

The dealers are signed up! Floor space is fully subscribed, and membership bake sale phone chains are alive as our 51st annual antique show prepares to rock and roll. On Friday, June 28, beginning at 10 a.m. and running until 5 p.m. the doors of Bonfield Elementary School will open to admit patrons to an old fashioned antique show featuring country primitives from the rural life experience. The show runs Saturday, June 29, 10-4, as well.

Won't you join us to celebrate 51 years of continuous stewardship to our beloved 1792 Johannes Mueller House and lovely grounds and gardens? We hope to see you ALL there.

*Thanks for your faithful support.  
We couldn't do it without you!*

*51st Annual*  
**2013 LITITZ ANTIQUE SHOW**  
40 dealers ♦ country decor

**FRIDAY**  
**JUNE 28**  
10 - 5

**SATURDAY**  
**JUNE 29**  
10 - 4

AT

**Bonfield Elementary School**  
**101 N. Oak St., Lititz, PA 17543**

**LITITZ HISTORICAL FOUNDATION**  
Benefit Johannes Mueller House, 1792

## Dr. James Brobst—Continued:

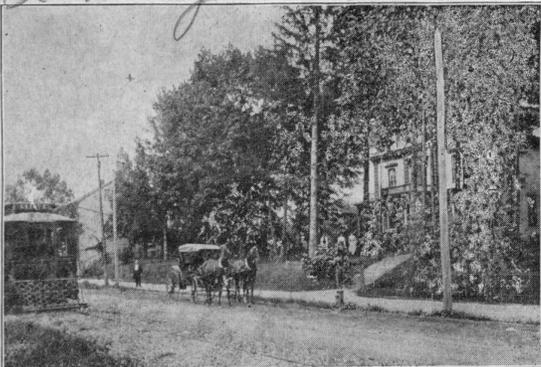
In 1906 Brobst sold his main street drug store to L.N. Moyer and moved into Audubon Villa. This transaction to Mr. Moyer led to a line of Lititz druggists. Moyer eventually moved across the street to a larger building at 40 E. Main Street. He sold this business to Clyde Benner in 1941 who advertised "the only 5 cent cup of coffee in town". Benner sold his business to Walt Popejoy, but the name Benner's Pharmacy remained until Selina Man opened The Chocolate Cafe.

**Dr. J. C. BROBST,**  
**LITITZ DRUG STORE**  
 — SELLS —  
 THE GLOBE OIL CO'S CELEBRATED  
**Diamond Black Leather Oil,**  
 Price \$1.00 per Gallon.  
 LITITZ, - PENNA.

Dr. Brobst was an active member of the Lititz community. He was proprietor of the Springs Hotel, the Park House, and the Brobst building which housed the Lititz Post Office, Dr. Cameron Lane (a town dentist), and Reidenbach Photography Studio. This building was demolished for an addition to the then Farmers National Bank (now Susquehanna). Brobst was the second Burgess of Lititz, President of the Lititz Electric Co., Lititz Water Co., Lititz Lithographing Co., and was a Trustee of Linden Hall Seminary.

Dr. James C. Brobst was one of many Lititz citizens who played a role in what makes our town unique and why visitors enjoy spending time strolling through our friendly Moravian community.

*C. Mearns*



**THIS IS THE PLACE** for those seeking rest and good health. The salubrious air and medicinal water is unsurpassed. Open all the year. Send for Booklet.

Address,  
 JAMES C. BROBST, M. D.,  
**Lititz Springs Sanitarium, Lititz, Pa.**

*Top and above: Two advertising cards issued by Dr. James C. Brobst of Lititz.*

**ATTENTION MEMBERS!**

In an effort to be more environmentally friendly, we are now giving you the option to receive your quarterly newsletter via email. This not only saves paper and postage, but it also serves as a great way for you to receive the journal in a much faster way. If you would like your newsletter emailed to you going forward, please send an email to Cory Van Brookhoven at [cory@lititzhistoricalfoundation.com](mailto:cory@lititzhistoricalfoundation.com) and he will be happy to add you to the email newsletter list. Thank You!

**EVENING OF MUSIC**

Mark your calendars for Sunday evening August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2013 as we will have LIVE music once again in our Mary Oehme Gardens located on the grounds of the Lititz Historical Foundation. This beautiful area will provide a wonderful backdrop for "Honey and the Bees" starting at 6:30 p.m. The Lititz Historical Foundation is located at 145 East Main Street, Lititz. Bring your lawn chairs – this is a FREE event!

We always have a great turnout for our evening of music, and it's a wonderful way to spend a summer evening in Lititz with family and friends. The concert will be sponsored by Luthercare. For more information, please call the Foundation or visit our website.

*Hope to see you there!*



*Speaking of music, we wanted to share with you this photo dated May 12th 1911. As the drum indicates on the right, pictured is the Lititz High School Orchestra.*

## PICTURE QUIZ



*Above is a photo taken somewhere in Lititz.  
Can you guess where, and which building the photograph was taken at?*

*Answer to the Winter's picture Quiz: The name that John Longenecker adopted for his vehicle  
was called the Road-O-Plane.*

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