

Summer 2018

# Historical Journal



**LITITZ HISTORICAL FOUNDATION**

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## *New Exhibit Focuses on the History of the Newspaper in Lititz*

By Charlene Van Brookhoven

*Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Long of South Broad Street are visiting friends in the City of Lebanon this week-end.*

The above was taken from a 1930 Lititz Record.

*A card shower was held for Mrs. Fannie Long who celebrated her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday on December 22. She received 90 cards.*

Above was taken from a 1964 Lititz Record Express. These were just two of the many “newsworthy happenings” recorded in the long history of the published words of Lititz newspapers.

1875 – *A family Newspaper-Devoted to Literature, Science, the Arts and General News*

Twenty years after the Moravian community of Lititz opened the town to non-Moravians, the first town newspaper, The Lititz Gazette, was printed. The eight page publication contained local, regional and national news to its readers. It was printed by the Lancaster County Newspaper Alliance. Every Saturday the Gazette was delivered to town folk's door steps for an annual subscription fee of \$2.00.

1877 – *Literature, Education, and General Intelligence*

When the Lititz Gazette ended its distribution, two men, John Zook and E.Z. Ernst, began publishing the Sunbeam. John Zook would become the sole owner in 1879 after Mr. Ernst moved to Kansas. The last issue of the Sunbeam was distributed in 1881. *Continued on page 3 inside...*

**WHAT'S BLACK AND WHITE AND READ ALL OVER?**

**PEACE! THANK GOD**

**BOROUGH'S HISTORY FOLLOWS ANNOUNCEMENT OF PEACE**

**LITITZ RECORD EXPRESS**

**Worse than Pearl Harbor**

**PRAY**

**EXTRA! EXTRA!**  
**The History of the Newspaper in Lititz**

**LITITZ GOES ON FULL-TIME WAR FOOTING; AIRPLANE SPOTTING POST RESUMES 24-HOUR VIGIL; CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS AT FIRE HOUSE TONIGHT**

**LITITZ GIRLS WITNESS EXPLOSION OF HINDERBURG AT LAKEHURST LAST THURSDAY**

*Above: Poster design by Bill Dussinger of Penny Lane Graphics*

## From the President

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### Our 2018 season is off and running!

While our buildings were closed between January and April, we were still busy behind the scenes planning future events, hosting winter lectures, and getting new things ready here for our 2018 season.

As you may have seen while driving by, we had several parts of our two buildings painted including shutters, windows, and dormers. We also had each building carefully power washed and cleaned both inside and out. We are very pleased with the end result—the buildings really “pop”!

We opened for the season May 4th, and it was a very busy weekend! We look forward to seeing you soon. Come check out all that is new inside our museum, Johannes Mueller House, and gift shop! Remember, as a member, you and your guests receive unlimited tours of the Mueller House.

Mark your calendar for our annual Evening of Music (August 12), Ice Cream Social (September 2), and so many other events we have planned this season including Second Fridays. Check our website and Facebook page for all of the latest information!

*-Cory Van Brookhoven*



History of the Newspaper in Lititz, Con't:

1877 - The first weekly newspaper ever printed and published in the rising dual town of Lititz and Warwick John F. Buch debuted The Lititz Record, a weekly publication which contained all the news Lititz residents could ever want for daily happenings in the town. Buch's main competitor for local news came from John Zook who continued to publish The Lititz Express which arose from The Sunbeam. Buch retired in 1917 after 40 years.

1893 - Wholesome words and advice to live by

John Zook, a staunch conservative, published The Prohibitionist, a monthly newspaper featuring party members, local and national advertisements and Bible verses.

1906 - Three newspapers in one town is too many

Edgar Enck began publication of The Lititz Times, printed by The Times Printing Company at 66 N. Broad Street. After only two years Enck realized Lititz did not need another weekly paper.

1934 - A direct competitor to The Lititz Record

The Progressive Weekly was published by John Keehn at Keehn's Printing Company, 8 E. Lemon St., until 1956. For over 20 years, Keehn distributed a popular alternative to the already successful Lititz papers.

1937 - Merging of Newspapers Is Widely Acclaimed Here

June of 1937 The Lititz Record and The Lititz Express combined efforts into one publication, The Lititz Record Express. E.D. Fulweiler and J.R. Johnson were the Editors and Publishers during this merger. "We hope to know more through the consolidation of the Express with the Record and to make that one paper known to and read by everyone in Lititz and vicinity".

The Lititz Museum has a wonderful display of the many aspects of Lititz's newspaper history beginning in 1875. Learn how the town's news publications have grown along with the journey of the people, the community, the churches, and the economy of a once restricted Moravian village to the thriving town we know today.

Top: Thought to be the largest headlines ever to appear in any US newspaper. The date was August 15, 1945. Above: An 1875 copy of the Lititz Gazette.



## *Summer Events*

*Below is just a partial list of all of the summer happenings here at the Lititz Historical Foundation. Visit our website or follow us on Facebook to stay up to date!*

June 29 & 30th— Our 56th Annual Antiques Show at Warwick Middle School (see enclosed card).

July 13th—Colonial Soap Making demo at our museum from 5-9pm

August 12th—Beach party from 6-8pm in our Mary Oehme Gardens featuring Tony Torres and Real Gone

September 2nd—Ice cream social featuring the music of Steel Radiance. 6-8pm in our Mary Oehme Gardens

September 14th— Mary Penry book signing with guest author Scott Paul Gordon 6-8pm in Lititz Moravian's Fellowship Hall. *Our Mueller House will also be open for tours. Please check the events page on our website for full details!*



*Tony Torres and Real Gone will take the stage in our gardens August 12th.*

## Who was “Paja The Great”?

*Cory Van Brookhoven*

Many years ago, hucksters, medicine men, and traveling snake oil salesmen made their rounds throughout the nation, and Lancaster County was no exception.

Often accompanied by their traveling troupe of assistants – many of them serving as plants in the crowds they would draw—they went from town to town, performing “miracles”, and often leaving audience members who gathered around the street corners or tents lighter in the pocket than when they first arrived.

Meet Paja The Great.

In 1928, this “East India Doctor, who made millions think” made an appearance in Lititz. While in town, he brought with him his “big minstrel show, Fifteen Georgia boys, good singing dancing, and lots of comedy.”

He must have been a busy man, because one advertisement from that era stated “Eight hundred and twenty-six patients this doctor has treated since he left Reading.” What exactly all of these residents were treated for remains a mystery.

Was it all just in the name of entertainment?

Perhaps.

However, a few months after the Lititz performance, Paja would open an office several miles away at 301 W. Main St. in nearby Mt. Joy. While there, he would advertise being able to treat all chronic illnesses.

Office hours were 9am-12pm and then 1pm-5pm daily. Seems even East Indian doctors needed a lunch break. Not much was heard of from Paja after that year. Perhaps he moved on to another region of the United States? We may never know.

# Look! Look!

Who's in Your  
Town

Paja  
The  
Great

With His Big  
FREE  
Minstrel Show



Dr. H. P. Paja

Fifteen Georgia Boys. Good Singing, dancing, lots of comedy.  
FREE SHOW EACH NIGHT

CHANGE OF PROGRAM NIGHTLY

Dr H. P. Paja is a graduate doctor, treating all chronic ailments. Examination free of charge and strictly private. Office hours 10 A. M. to 5 P. M. Don't fail to see this East India doctor, who made millions think. Ask your friends in Reading, Shillington, Ephrata, Denver, the good work he has done. Eight hundred and twenty-six patients, this doctor has treated since he left Reading. Don't fail to see this big, free show.

**Orange Street Lititz, Pa.**

*Above: A Paja The Great ad from a 1928 issue of the Lititz Record*

## DID YOU KNOW...?



*Shown here being dismantled is a 1957 photograph of the original Lititz Passenger & Depot Station on North Broad Street. While this original structure is now gone, in 1999, the Lititz Welcome Center, a re-production built to "Disney scale" of the train station was constructed in the same location.*

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