

Summer 2022

# Historical Journal



L I T I T Z   H I S T O R I C A L   F O U N D A T I O N

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[www.lititzhistoricalfoundation.com](http://www.lititzhistoricalfoundation.com)

## LHF Pays Respects To Two Local Historians

*Charlene Van Brookhoven*

LHF is saddened to lose two enthusiastic, native Lititz historians who have willingly shared their first-hand knowledge of Lititz history. Dale E. Shelley and Gladys J. Fry Crowl helped foster our town's history through many years of their love for Lititz.

Dale Shelley was truly an institution in town for all of his 94 years. He gave of himself from his high school days until his death in March of this year. Dale attended the Lititz Moravian Church and knew more about its early and present history than anyone else. He shared this knowledge by writing and producing several "home written productions" referring to the history of Lititz and Lancaster County.

He also wrote the scripts for the Lititz Moravian cemetery tours which became a popular event for seven years bringing early characters of the town back to life through his witty descriptions. Dale was president of Lititz Historical Foundation 1978 thru 1980 and shared his endless knowledge of the Moravian community. He was Lititz's preeminent historian and leaves behind a plethora of knowledge which will be passed down to future scholars of his beloved Lititz.



*Above: The late Dale Shelley (left) and Gladys Crowl (right). Continued on page 3 inside.*

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## ***Book A Historic Walking Tour of Main Street!***

We are excited to announce that we are now offering walking tours of historic Main Street, Lititz!

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What to expect: Your guide will take you on an historical journey across Main Street as they discuss over 25 historical structures as well as the people and interesting stories behind them.

The tour, which lasts 45 minutes, MUST be booked and paid in advance; at least one week in advance.

Admission is \$10 per person. Tours begin the week of May 1st.  
Interested in booking? Email or call the historical foundation at 717-627-4636 or email us at [lhf@dejazzd.com](mailto:lhf@dejazzd.com). Please note that tours are rain or shine.



## ***Annual Antiques Show is June 24-25!***

*Our 59th Year! And we're back at the Warwick Middle School!*

Lancaster County's oldest show of its kind and always a perennial favorite, this fundraiser will be staged in the Warwick Middle School (104 Maple Street) in Lititz June 24th and 25th.

Hours are Friday, 10am-5pm; and Saturday 9am-2pm. Admission: \$10.00

Promoted as an "old time country show" a cast of over 50 dealers will present a wide range of interesting, reasonably priced country wares and dry goods. Shoppers can expect to find farm items, stoneware, kitchen goods, textiles, early lighting, transfer ware, doll items, coin silver, holiday items, Pennsylvania folk art, and more! Hungry shoppers will have an opportunity onsite to purchase hot food for lunch or a snack.

***This is our biggest fundraiser of the year - See you there!***



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**HISTORICAL JOURNAL*****Collectible Maps Now Available!***

These 1887 reproduction maps are currently for sale in our gift shop. \$10 each. Get 'em before they're gone! We are open Monday through Saturday 11 am to 5 pm.

***A Big THANK YOU!***

Recently our staff gathered for our annual appreciation picnic. From the front desk, to the gift shop, to various tours and events, it's these wonderful people (many of whom are volunteers) that are the heart of the Lititz Historical Foundation. Thank you for all that you do!

**LHF Pays Respects To Two Local Historians Con't:**

Gladys J. Fry Crowl was born in the town she called home for 95 years. After graduating from Lititz High School in 1944, she went on to college to pursue a degree in biology and chemistry. It was only fitting that she would become employed at Wilbur Suchard Chocolate Co. where she could pursue her college science studies in the perfection of Lititz's famous Wilbur buds. Gladys's family was well known in town as her father was the proprietor of Wm. B. Fry Pontiac dealership in the east end of town where she became acquainted with many Lititz residents. She was interested in her family genealogy and spent most of her life acquiring details of her Fry/Beck/Engle lineage.

Gladys became an active member of The Lititz Historical Foundation at its inception in the mid 1960's. She became the historian for LHF and kept loose-leaf booklets filled with memorabilia and ephemera pertaining to the foundation's history. Gladys was instrumental, along with Dale Shelley, with names included in the Lititz Wall of Remembrance dedicated in honor of persons who contributed to the growth and development of the town from 1756 until 1999. It is difficult to imagine there will ever be two Lititz residents that acquired and shared so much knowledge of the history of the Moravian community as Dale Shelley and Gladys Crowl.

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## **Lancaster/York County Connection Program July 23**

*When local historians from bordering counties get together, great things happen!*

Join Dominish Miller and Cory Van Brookhoven on Saturday July 23rd at 1:30pm at the Lititz Public Library for a special presentation entitled “The Lancaster and York County Connection.” This program will discuss many of the similarities that both the White Rose and the Red Rose cities have in common including architecture, industry, religion, and much more!

Dominish Marie Miller is the Third Circuit Court of Appeals Librarian for the Middle District of Pennsylvania and the founder of Preserving the History of Newberrytown. She is the author of two cookbooks, Preserving the History of Newberrytown: A Community Cookbook From the Cooks of Newberrytown, Pennsylvania 2021, volumes 1 and 2. Dominish is also a reenactor with the 87th Regiment, PVI. She portrays a private in the 87th PA Co C.

Cory Van Brookhoven is the author of several local history books and serves as the President of the Lititz Historical Foundation. He also runs a Facebook group called “Remember When in Lititz.”  
The address of the library is located at 651 Kissel Hill Road, Lititz, PA, 17543.

This program is free, but seating is limited to 75 people. \*Registration begins July 8th\*. Beginning that day, contact the library at 717-626-2255 to reserve your spot!

## **Meet Captain William Colfax August 12**

In the winter of 1777 - 1778, the Continental Army camped at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. During that winter, thousands of soldiers died of disease, exposure and malnutrition. Possibly a more significant fact was that during this time, two very different officers reported to General Washington at Valley Forge. The first was a foreigner named General ("Baron") Frederick von Steuben. The second was a young officer from Connecticut named William Colfax.

Come join us on Friday, August 12 from 7 to 8pm at our museum to hear Craig Hall (representing William Colfax) who will explain how these two men were instrumental in turning the Continental Army into a force to be reckoned with. He will be joined by Sheryl Williams, representing Hester Schuyler, the wife of William Colfax. You will also learn the true importance of the Valley Forge encampment, as well as some important aspects surrounding the birth of the U.S. Army and the soldiers who fought in the Revolutionary War."

Admission is free, but donations are appreciated! Bring friends, neighbors, and family.



*Above: Craig Hall portraying Colfax*

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## **World War II Military Encampment September 24**

Join us on Saturday, September 24th for a great day of World War II history!

In our Mary Oehme Gardens, we'll be holding our second annual World War 2 encampment featuring:

- America Homefront: A life-sized room to room display of a 1940s era home
- World War 2 reenactors
- World War 2 items which were once owned, used, or worn by the soldiers who served
- Rosie The Riveter
- Authentic World War era/1940s displays and artifacts

**\*\*This event is free and open to the public. Hours will be 11am-5pm\*\***

**PLUS-** Tours of our 1792 Johannes Mueller House will be available all day for a fee. Come learn the fascinating history of Lititz. Your tour guide will take you through an 18th century home, where you will learn all about early Lititz and Moravian life. Admission charged.

While you're there, be sure to visit the Lititz Museum and Gift Shop!



## DID YOU KNOW...?



On Tuesday April 30th 1895, transportation changed for the residents of Lititz forever. For this was the day that the very first trolley on the Lancaster-Lititz "electric railroad" was put into operation.

Seen here is a car traveling the Kissel Hill section, which is just south of downtown Lititz.

Lititz Historical Foundation's  
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