

Summer 2024

# Historical Journal



**LITITZ HISTORICAL FOUNDATION**

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

717-627-4636

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

## Monument to John Augustus Sutter

*Charlene Van Brookhoven*

The most notable non-native of Lititz was General John A. Sutter, an early California pioneer and landowner in the Golden State. He founded Sacramento in 1839 and on his land the Gold Rush of 1849 began with fortune seekers rushing to get rich with newly-discovered nuggets of gold. In 1871 he moved to Lititz with his wife Anna to be close to their grandchildren who were taking advantage of the excellent schools in the town. John Sutter's grandson attended John Beck Academy and granddaughters Carmen and Anna Eliza entered Linden Hall.

“General” Sutter built a beautiful home at 19 East Main Street - the first home in Lititz to have indoor plumbing producing both hot and cold running water. His new home also was located closer to Washington, DC where he traveled yearly in an effort to reclaim some of his lost land expenses during the gold rush.

Sutter died in Washington in 1880 while still trying to persuade Congress for reimbursement of his lost finances. He was brought back to Lititz for burial, and because of his status as a fine gentleman, the Lititz Moravian Congregation honored him with a plot in God's Acre where he and his wife remain.

In 1938, members of The Lititz Chamber of Commerce raised money to have a monument made and sent to the city of Sacramento in honor of Sutter. The inscription reads: John A. Sutter 1803-1880 eminent pioneer of California Who founded Sacramento in 1839 and over whose lands poured the gold rush of 1849 Lived his last nine years in Lititz and is interred in an Honored corner of the nearby Moravian cemetery. Erected by The Lancaster County Historical Society and the Borough of Lititz 1939.



*Above: The 1939 Sutter monument which once stood on the lawn of the General Sutter Hotel. Story continued on page 3 inside.*

## Our 61st Annual Antiques Show is June 28-29th!

Our 61st Year!

Lancaster County's oldest show of its kind and always a perennial favorite, our biggest fundraiser of the year will be staged at the Warwick Middle School (104 Maple Street) in Lititz June 28th and 29th.

Admission is \$10 per person or \$9 in advance by visiting the ticket link below! Hours are Friday 10am-5pm; and Saturday 9am-2pm.

This two-day event is 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. Admission charged. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year - See you there!

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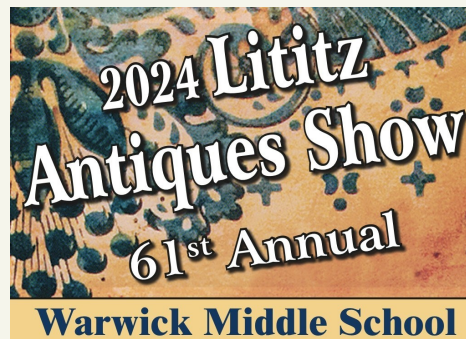
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401 Maple Street  
Lititz, PA 17543

Admission: \$10.00

- Dates -

Friday, June 28<sup>th</sup>  
Saturday, June 29<sup>th</sup>

- Times -

Friday 10am-5pm  
Saturday 9am-2pm





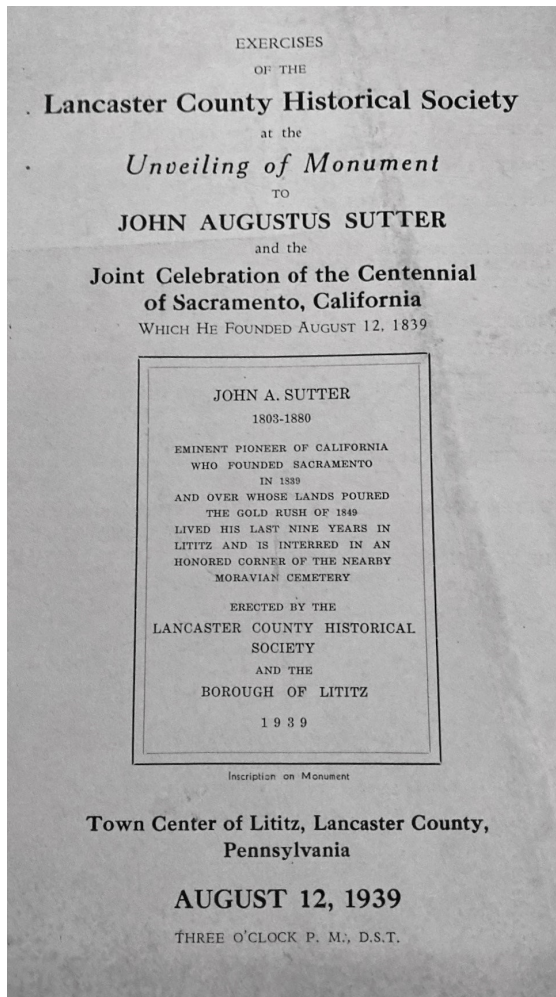
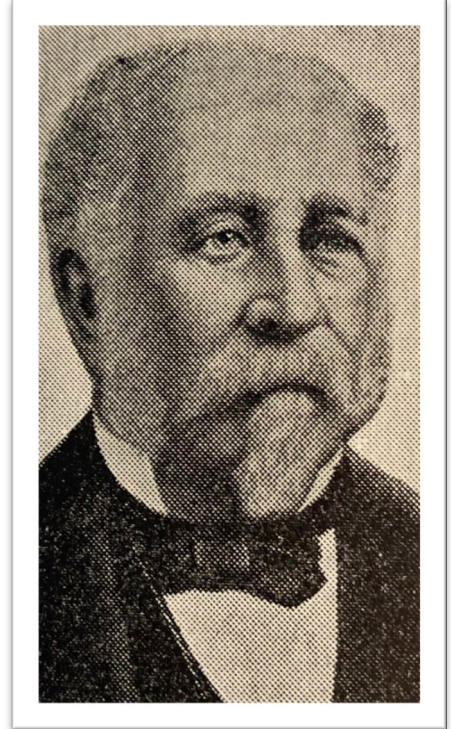
## *Sutter monument Con't:*

On August 12, 1939 at 3:00pm in the afternoon, the great grandson of John Sutter, Howard J. Hull, unveiled the monument which was placed in the front lawn of The General Sutter Hotel on the square. A crowd of dignitaries and local townspeople gathered for the celebration of two periods of Sutter's life.

Unfortunately, the cost of shipping the large monument by train to Sacramento was not budgeted in the Chamber of Commerce's fundraising endeavors so it sat in the front lawn of the hotel.

The owners of the hotel approached members and asked if it could be moved to another location. During remodeling of the General Sutter Hotel, the monument was indeed moved to make a space for the construction of the west side of the building. But one day, it was completely gone. So, what happened to this controversial homage to Sutter?

Months and then years passed but nobody could ascertain the location of the missing monument. Finally in 2019 the mystery was solved. Gladys Fry Crowl, a well-known historian and native of Lititz inquired as to the whereabouts of the missing monument. About 1958, Broad Street was being resurfaced and the old street debris was being buried on part of the Nuss farm along Kissel Hill Road.



A borough employee removed the monument and buried it with the street debris. Fortunately the bronze plaque on the monument was removed and placed on the outside wall of the now Lititz Springs Inn.

In the mid 1960's houses were built along the west side of Kissel Hill Road on the Nuss property. In one of the property's backyards, buried ten feet deep, is the 1939 concrete portion of the monument in honor of General John Sutter. It was made of granite, so many years into the future an archaeologist will discover this piece of prehistoric art and place it in a museum display.

*Above: John Sutter. Left: The dedication booklet for the placement of the monument dedicated to Sutter in 1939.*

## Our Summer Concert Series kicks off June 23rd!

Join us in our Mary Oehme Gardens on Sunday June 23rd for our first 2024 concert which will feature Temple Avenue!

Temple Avenue is a Lancaster-based jazz ensemble that was formed a dozen years ago by pianist Colin Mekeel, then a junior in high school, and his friends enrolled in Temple University's prestigious jazz program. Today the group plays concerts, dances, receptions, church services and other events in southcentral Pennsylvania. The musicians now are 20-somethings and 30-somethings. And true to its roots, many of them are Temple grads.

The show will begin at 6:30pm. The gardens are located behind 145 East Main Street, Lititz, PA 17543

Bring your chairs, blankets, and dancing shoes and invite your friends, family, and neighbors. Plenty of free parking nearby is available.

Refreshments will be available for a small fee. This is a pay what you can event. We will be collecting donations that evening to help preserve our gardens and 18th century structures.

This concert is sponsored by Tiger's Eye of Lititz – Thank You!

*Left: Temple Avenue*



## Whiskey & History Tours continue through October!

Through personal stories and beautiful architecture, Lititz, Pennsylvania's heritage and unique past will come alive as you travel from one end of historic Main Street to the other, learning about over 25 historic structures along the way, many of which date back to the 1700s.

Just some of the many places you will see include: America's first commercial pretzel bakery; Lancaster County's first pharmacy; The location of Lititz's first bank; and A Revolutionary War Hospital. Visitors will then visit Stoll & Wolfe Distillery, where they will enjoy a guided tasting of three local whiskeys. Guests will also learn about the whiskey and distilling history of the Lititz area.

This tour is for ages 21 and over. Tickets are \$25 each. To book, visit our website at [www.lititzhistoricalfoundation.com](http://www.lititzhistoricalfoundation.com) and click the BOOK NOW button at the top right.



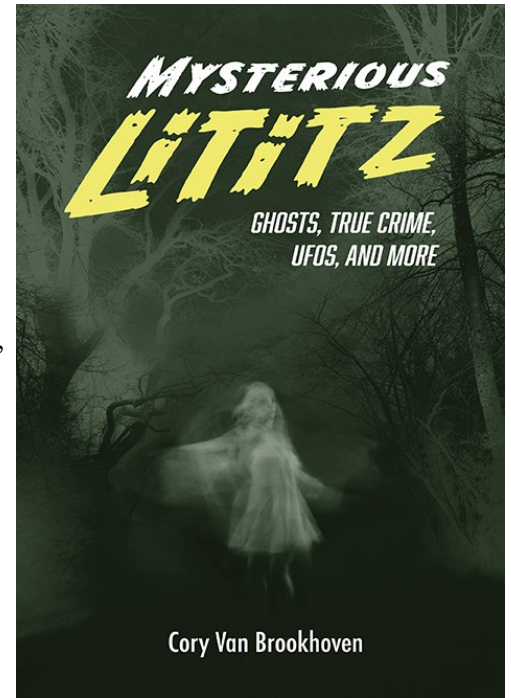
## Mysterious Lititz book now available!

Founded in 1756, Lititz is nestled in beautiful Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. The area boasts a robust heritage, unique architecture, thriving downtown shops and eateries, and beautiful parks.

In *Mysterious Lititz: Ghosts, True Crime, UFOs, and More*, author Cory Van Brookhoven takes readers on a unique journey into the town's lesser-known history.

Tales of the supernatural, murder, strange tombstones, unique places, unexplained phenomena, ghostly activity and much more are all included in this collection.

Copies are \$11.99 each, and available for sale in our gift shop or through Amazon.



## Do You Remember?

Shown here is a photograph of the flooding at Water Street, Lititz, in 1972 due to Hurricane Agnes. The building to the right has since been torn down.

Many might remember it as TNT, a dance club for teens during the 1980s.



## DID YOU KNOW...?



Here's something you don't see everyday. During the early 1900s, student Minnie Eitnier posed for this photograph next to the Brunnerville one room school with her pet owl. Image snapped by her teacher, Nathan "Dad" Reist.

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Lititz Historical Foundation's  
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