

Fall 2012

# Historical Journal



**LITITZ HISTORICAL FOUNDATION**

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We are now on Twitter!  
[@LititzMuseum](https://twitter.com/LititzMuseum)

## History of Kreider's Mum Farm

*Amy Rhoads*

When I think of Fall, I think of mums on porches. I and as well as most of you reading this have bought mums from the Kreider Mum Farms. Kreider Mum Farms or Pleasant Valley Farm was located two miles north of Lititz, taking a left off of 501 North at Lexington Rd.

Harold and Esther Kreider got their start growing mums from Esther's Aunt Bessie, who lived in Schaefferstown. Harold and Esther brought mums back from a visit with Bessie, and planted them into the ground. Aunt Bessie was sure that the

mums in the ground wouldn't grow, however, the chrysanthemums did grow that year. This happened in 1947. Harold and Esther would then begin to grow mums. The Kreider's bought Pleasant Valley Farm from Esther's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph C. Garman, who owned the farm from 1914 to 1953. In 1953, after Harold and Esther acquired the farm from her parents, their mum business began. It would remain Pleasant Valley Farms until 1981 when it was changed to Kreider Mum Farms.

From April-May, the mums would grow ten to twelve inches high, and then they would cut five inches off of them.



Above: Kreider's Mum Farm, as many local residents remember it. Story Continued on Page 3

## Introducing Our QR Code—and we are now on Twitter!

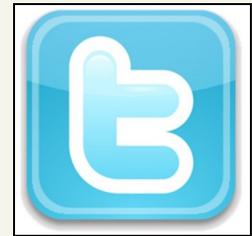


No doubt, you have started to see a similar image to the left on many advertising materials in your travels. It is called a QR code, and it is a state of the art way for businesses and non-profit organizations to get out their message to interested people. With a smart phone in hand the user can scan the image, and it will then take you to that business's website, Facebook page, or special offer online.

We here at the Lititz Historical Foundation are embracing this new technology, and think it's wonderful! If you have a smart phone, go ahead and scan the image. As you will see, it takes you directly to our website!

Going forward, we will be using this technology in many of our advertising materials. Please look for it, and scan the image whenever possible to stay informed of all that is happening at the Lititz Historical Foundation!

We have also joined Twitter! We are very excited about using this technology to inform the public about up to the minute events, announcements, and bits of history!  
Find us at @LititzMuseum.



## Annual Meeting and Upcoming Winter Lecture Series

We have some very exciting news! For our upcoming annual meeting and winter lecture series, we have partnered with the Lititz Public Library! Therefore, all meetings will be moved to their community room. This room is perfectly suited for us, and we are very excited to be in this new location. All lectures will begin at 1:30 p.m. on a Saturday. Our first gathering is our annual meeting on Saturday November 17th, and after a few brief items of business we will introduce our guest speaker Dr. Nikitas Zervanuous who will speak on the history of the Greek community of Lititz. It is a little known fact that this community of persons aided in the construction of the Animal Trap Company of Lititz.

We also have lectures planned for January 19th, February 16th, and March 23rd. On January 19th, our guest speaker will be Daniel Snyder, who will talk on archeology around the Elizabeth Furnace area in Bricker-ville. Our February program will be announced soon, and then in March, we turn the program over to Glen Landis and Martee Xakellis. They are both genealogists, and will conduct a program entitled "Introduction to tracing your family's roots".

Again, all lectures will take place on a Saturday afternoon starting at 1:30 p.m. Save these dates now!

Pre-registration is requested but not required by calling the library at 626-2255 or emailing [register@lititzlibrary.com](mailto:register@lititzlibrary.com)

## Kreider's Mum Farm Continued:

They would keep them in the greenhouse in a flat and would make sure that the mum's roots were kept damp. In June, they would plant 3-4 acres of mums. It would be somewhere around 40,000 to 50,000 plants. When they planted them, they would cut them to five inches from the ground. However, the cuttings would depend on the weather. The chrysanthemum's would have their final cutting in the middle of July, with a final height of ten to twelve inches. They would be cut straight across the top and down the sides.

The Kreider's had thousand's of varieties. They had patented varieties and had a statement of promise written so the customer would not reproduce them. The Kreider's tried many times to grow a blue mum but never could quite get a blue variety.



The bronze, burgundy, and yellow colored mums were the top sellers for the farm. Also, the Bronze Daisy and Ruby Mound varieties were the most popular. The mum selling season began in September and lasted until November. At the end of the season, the mums were mowed over after a hard freeze in order

to make room for the next year.

The Kreider Mum Farm was a big draw for locals and tourists alike. The farm was closed on Sundays, however it was a big event to drive up to the farm to walk around. Many would enjoy walking around gazing at all the varieties of chrysanthemums and viewing the wishing well. People would have to park their cars all along the road and jaunt down to the farm. According to Esther Kreider, hundreds of people would sometimes show up.

An old newspaper clipping from 1966 noted the prices of the plants. At that time they were 75 cents, and the floral arrangements were priced between \$1.25 to \$1.75. The Kreider's sold their mums at Root's Produce House and sent dried flower arrangements to be sold at Yoder's Market. The Kreider's grew so many varieties of chrysanthemums that even Esbenshade's and Stauffer's of Kissel Hill came to them for the cuttings. The farm would also offer quilts, crafts, floral arrangements, corn, hay, sweet potatoes, tobacco, and eggs.

This writer would like to thank Esther Kreider and her family for their contribution to our local area and for sharing her account of the beloved mum farm's history.

*Above: Pleasant Valley Farm. This acreage would later become Kreider Mum Farm.*

*Fall 2012*

*HISTORICAL JOURNAL*

## *HISTORY OF THE OEHME BARBERS IN LITITZ*

*Special Contributor Bill Oehme*

For the sake of preserving pieces of Lititz history and the legacy of my family, I have compiled this short history of the Oehme barbers. Most of the information comes from pieces taken from "Out of the Past", a weekly feature of the Lititz Record. Many of the articles were in condensed form, so I had to delve into old copies of the paper to retrieve the entire story. Most of the wording used is from the language of eras past. Some information was obtained from the obituaries found in the same paper.

Lititz Record, Nov. 26, 1880-Vol. IV, No. 12 "Spruce Street Fire":

Henry Linnaeus Oehme was born July 3, 1852, the fourth born of William Washington and Barbara Conrad Oehme. In 1878, he married Hannah M. E. Shertzer of Churchville, MD. The couple had three children, two which died in infancy. Henry was a house painter by trade, but later carried on a local barber shop.

Shortly after 2:00 on Saturday morning last, our citizens were aroused and startled by an alarm of fire. It resulted in the total destruction of two two-story frame houses on S. Spruce St., owned by Isaac Habecker. The two dwellings stood about eight feet apart and the one was occupied by Mr. Habecker, while the other was occupied on the first floor by Henry L. Oehme, barber, and the second floor by Jacob Palm.

Our citizens turned out en masse and did all in their power to stay the flames, but in vain. The fire gained rapid headway, and in a short time both buildings were one mass of flames. Mr. Habecker's furniture and household utensils were mostly saved, but a number of his most valuable carpenter tools were destroyed.

Henry Oehme estimates his loss at about \$50.00, and Mr. Palm's loss is still greater, as he was unable to get much of his goods down from the second story. The fire started first in Mr. Habecker's kitchen, where a cooking stove was in use, but how it originated is not positively known.



*Left: The Oehme Barber Shop which was located in Lititz.*

*Story to be continued in our Winter 2012 edition...*

## **Carol Sing and Free Candlelight Tour Planned**

The Lititz Historical Foundation and the Lititz Moravian Church Archives Committee invite the public to help celebrate the season by participating in the annual Carol Sing. Family, friends, and neighbors are all invited to take part for FREE! Those interested will gather at Moravian Church Square in Lititz on Thursday December 13<sup>h</sup> at 7 p.m. Once again, the music will be led by the Moravian Trombone Choir. After caroling, light refreshments will be served at Fellowship Hall at the church. For more information, please call the Lititz Historical Foundation at 717-627-4636, or visit their website.

On the next evening of December 14th, get into the holiday spirit even further by attending our candlelight tour of the historic Johannes Mueller House. The home will be open free for the public to tour from 5-9 p.m. as part of the Loving Lititz Every Second Friday holiday event. Our gift shop will also be open for those last minute gifts, and light refreshments will be served inside our museum. Last year's event was a huge success for us, and we look forward to bringing back this popular event this coming holiday season! We hope to see you there—bring friends and family to both events!

## **New Acquisitions**

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. Various handmade tin items. Donated by Ms. Doris Fenton in memory of her husband Robert who created the items.
2. Frank Bentz Brunnerville Iron Foundry door. Donated by Chester Habecker of Lititz.
3. A framed photograph of the 1925 Lititz Fire Company truck. Donated by Clair Strickler of Ephrata, PA.
4. Lititz yearbooks and high school pennants, Moravian church ephemera, Lititz 4th of July programs, Lititz Community Theatre flier and coupon book, various Lititz sports photographs, Lititz high school alumni dinner banquet programs, Lititz high school football pin, and various other old Lititz high school programs and leaflets. Donated by Scott Meyer of Akron, Ohio.
5. Newspaper clippings and black and white photographs concerning Lititz baseball teams, and the Lititz Wrens baseball teams. Donated by Charles Landis of Peoria, Arizona.

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

## PICTURE QUIZ



At left you will see a photograph of Jerry's Adam's gas station. Where was this business once located in Lititz?

*Answer to the Summer's picture Quiz: This was a photo of Simplex Box Company of Lititz. Appalachian Brewing Company now occupies this building, and we welcome them to Lititz!*

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