

Fall 2022

# 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)

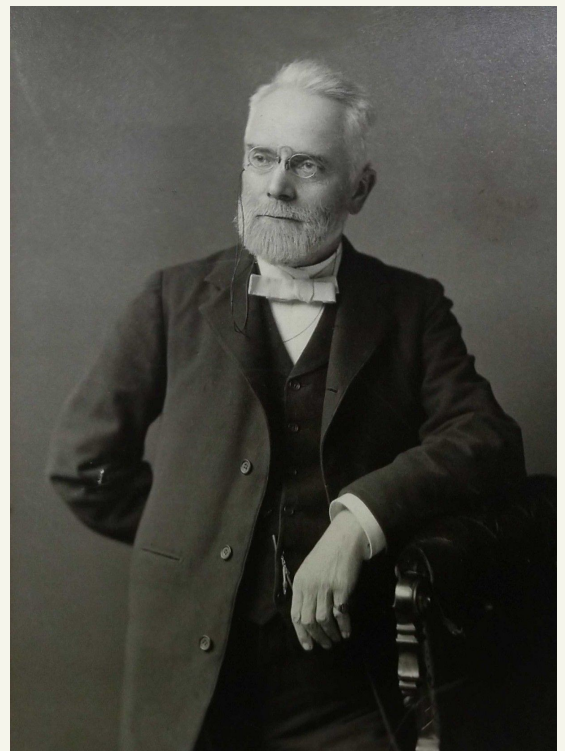
## Man About Town George L. Hepp - The Lititz Jeweler

*Charlene Van Brookhoven*

The Lititz Historical Foundation Museum at 145 E. Main Street contains many interesting artifacts pertaining to people and businesses that aided in the growth of the town. George L. Hepp, Lititz jeweler and church worker, was one of the most noteworthy. As he carried out his public life as a conservative and devout Christian in the Moravian community, he gained the trust of customers at his jewelry store and also residents of the area.

George L. Hepp was the son of George W. Hepp who arrived in Lititz in 1854 from Germany to assist at John Beck's Lititz Academy. When John Beck retired two of his former assistants, Ferdinand Rickert and George W. Hepp, conducted the school until Beck's son Abraham Reinke Beck became the head of the school in 1865. Hepp and Rickert conducted their own school for only a short time at 145 E. Main Street, now the Lititz Historical Foundation Museum. This had been the Hepp family home where George W. and his wife Martha raised three children including George L.

After George graduated from the Lititz Academy with his father as his teacher, he attended jewelers and watch makers school in Philadelphia. He returned to Lititz and opened his business, G. L. Hepp The Lititz Jeweler in 1886. In addition to watchmaking and retail jewelry, Mr. Hepp also sold Kodak cameras and supplies and eyeglasses.



His business was located at 54 E. Main Street, now Roma Pizza. George L. Hepp was born into a very pious and faithful Moravian family and grew up across the street from the church. From a young age, he became involved in the church taking part in all the musical opportunities and in the religious guidance of the young members. Having a gift for music, George joined the Moravian Sunday School Orchestra and played in the trombone choir for many years.

*Above: George L. Hepp. Continued on page 3 inside*

## Donate to us on November 18th During the Extra Give!

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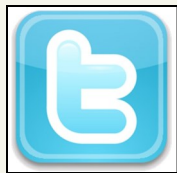
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This year, the Lititz Historical Foundation is participating in the annual Extraordinary Give—(Lancaster County’s Largest Day of giving) And we could use your help this year more than ever! For this 24-hour period, online donations can be made to the Lititz Historical Foundation through a special website.

Our goal this year is to raise \$10,000 during this extra special event. With your help, we CAN achieve this goal!

On November 18th beginning at 12am, online donations can be made to our special website here:

<https://www.extragive.org/organizations/lititz-historical-foundation>

**\*\*\*Online donations for the Extra Give can be made on that day only\*\*\***

For your convenience, online donations can also be made at our museum that day.

Thank you so much for your generosity, and for your support of local history!

**EXTRA™**  
**GIVE**



## George L. Hepp Con't:

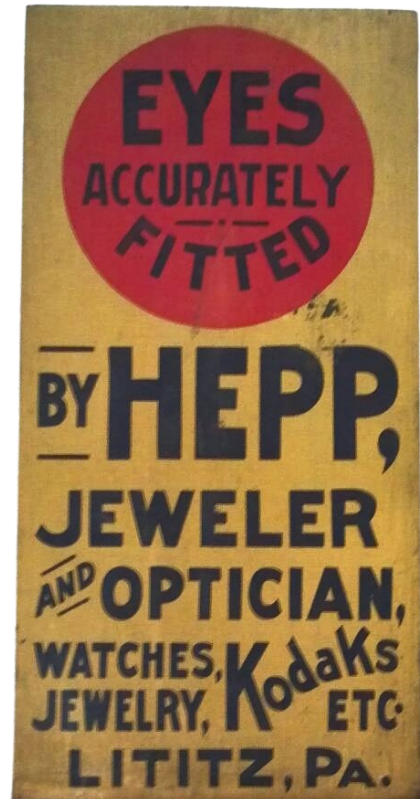
He also was a tenor in the church choir. He was involved with the inner workings of the church and became President of the Trustees for over 20 years.

Being a Moravian and a businessman in Lititz, it was natural for him to become involved with the Lititz Springs Park. His congeniality was relevant in welcoming visitors to the park, especially during July 4<sup>th</sup> events and train excursions into town.

George L. Hepp passed away July 10 1926 and his service, attended by several hundred people, was conducted at his home. A fine businessman and a dedicated native Lititz resident deserves a place among the many people who have helped mold this town into what it represents today.



*Above: The Hepp Jeweler business once located at 54 East Main Street, Lititz. Top right: A Hepp Jeweler advertising clock. Right: A tin sign advertising the Hepp business. See these items and more at the Lititz Museum today!*





## The Holidays are Right Around The Corner!

### CAROL SING IS DECEMBER 8TH

Join the Lititz Historical Foundation in conjunction with the Lititz Moravian Archives for the annual Community Christmas Carol Sing Thursday, December 8th, beginning at 7pm.

This is a **FREE** event--come one, come all!

The event will take place at Moravian Church Square. The Moravian Trombone Choir will be on hand and free song sheets will be handed out as you, your friends, neighbors, and family will join in singing holiday classics.



Afterwards, all are welcome to warm up inside Fellowship Hall where light refreshments will be served.

The Putz will also be available for various showings throughout the evening in the church's social hall. See you there!

### CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT TOUR IS DECEMBER 9TH

On December 9th, the Lititz Historical Foundation will hold its Annual Christmas Candlelight Tour!

Guests will receive a 40-minute guided tour of the 1792 Johannes Mueller House and will learn the story of Mueller and his family, as well as history and customs of the early Moravian community of Lititz during the 18th century.

**\*\*Guests must pre-register, which begin on November 10th!\*\***

The fee is five dollars per person. Groups are limited to eight persons, maximum. Tours will take place every 20 minutes, beginning at 5pm; with the last tour beginning at 8:20pm. Please arrive 10 minutes before your tour timeslot.

Charge by phone beginning November 10th by calling the Lititz Historical Foundation at 717-627-4636 or stop into their museum and gift shop on Fridays or Saturdays, from 11am-5pm.

First come, first served. Paid tickets may be picked up on the evening of the tour. The Lititz Museum and Gift Shop will also be open that day from 11am-9pm. For more information, call 717-627-4636



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## World War II Military Encampment is October 1st

Join us on Saturday, October 1st 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...?



This photo, which was taken circa 1917 in front of 64 North Broad Street in Lititz, shows Lititz automobile salesman John Longenecker behind the wheel of a Marion Handley automobile during a town parade. Check out the cast of unique characters on board!

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