

Winter 2013

Historical Journal



LITITZ HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

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

717-627-4636

www.lititzhistoricalfoundation.com

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Spotlight on Louise A. Weitzel

Amy Rhoads

Who was Louise A. Weitzel? Louise A. Weitzel was born in 1862 in Green Bay, Wisconsin. Her family, originally from Lititz, moved back to their hometown while Louise was a small child. She was a member of the Moravian church, and went on to attend Sunnyside College and Linden Hall, graduating from there in 1880.

For forty years after her graduation, she worked for the Lititz Express newspaper as a correspondent and at one time the Associate Editor. During the last fifteen years of her life, she lived in the Moravian nursing home. She passed away on May 6, 1934 from a complication of a bad fall that resulted in her having a broken hip.

While attending Linden Hall, she penned English stories and verse for *The Moravian* and other church periodicals. In 1899, while at work at the Lititz Express,



Louise began to write Pennsylvania German prose articles. When the *PA German* was founded, she began to write poetry for this publication. Nearly a dozen of her poems appeared in that journal between 1901 and 1913.

In 1908, Louise penned a book of poetry called "*A Quiver of Arrows*", which contains one hundred seventy-five poems. The book was published by the Express Printing Company, which was located here in Lititz.

Above: Louise A. Weitzel

Story continued on page 3 inside...



Spotlight on Louise A. Weitzel Con't:

In 1931, twenty-two of Louise's poems were published in a book called "*Shepectahel*". Louise was also interested in the history of Lititz, authoring a number of articles for the Lititz Express in which she interviewed her mother about the history of this wonderful town.

Below is a poem from "*A Quiver of Arrows*":

The Bells of Linden Hall
 Hear the wild, melodious clamors
 Swinging of the iron hammers,
 Till the air is all a quiver,
 And the clambering ivies shiver
 Softly through their clinging tendrils outside on the
 tower wall!
 In the morning's dawning brightness,
 In the twilight's mystic lightness,
 In the noontide's quiet hour
 Bells are swinging in the tower,
 And the mellow brooding cadence holds the village in
 its thrall.
 In the springtide vernal tender,
 In the summer's golden splendor,
 In the autumn's hazy weather
 Hear the bells ring out together.
 In the winter they are muffled by the snowflakes like a
 pall.
 There the yellow sunlight dances,
 There the pallid moonlight glances
 On the clappers quickly gliding
 In and out through shadows hiding
 'Mid the dim and dark recesses of the tower square and
 tall.

As the bells awake from slumber
 Stranger, can you tell their number?
 'Tis a trio, like the Graces,
 Charm is theirs of voice, not faces,
 Yielding to their mild persuasion school girls hasten
 at the call,
 All the liquid notes are blending
 In the web of school life, lending
 Threads of brightness that will linger
 In its history, like a finger
 Pointing out the pleasant places where the lights of
 memory fall.
 Chiming forth the Christmas story,
 Sounding out the Easter glory,
 Sending loud the New Year greeting,
 All these festive scenes repeating
 In the coming years they'll echo, sweet bells sound-
 ing through it all,
 And the old girls, when returning
 To the dear scenes a yearning
 Time itself and all its changes,
 Whereso'er the tired foot ranges,
 Ne'er effaces, listen fondly to the bells of Linden
 Hall.

VOLUNTEER!

We are currently seeking persons to serve as tour guides (a paid position), volunteers to assist us in our gift shop, event planning, and community outreach. If you are interested please email Amy Rhoads at: amy@lititzhistoricalfoundation.com to set up an interview. Thank You!

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HISTORY OF THE OEHME BARBERS IN LITITZ

(Continued from our Fall 2012 newsletter)

Special Contributor Bill Oehme

Lititz Record, Jan. 14, 1881-Vol. IV, No. 19 "A Practical Barber"

After the fire, it seems that Henry moved his shop into the Lititz Springs Hotel.(later General Sutter Inn) The Springs Hotel Hair Dressing Saloon is a strictly first-class place. Cleanliness a specialty. Same prices and like attention to all. For a clean, comfortable, and artistic shave, best hair cutting or shampooing, go to the Springs Hotel Hair Dressing Saloon. Perfumery and toilet articles always on hand at reasonable prices.

Fletcher's celebrated hair tonic, the surest remedy for the prevention of baldness and other diseases of the scalp, is being manufactured and sold by H. L. Oehme, practical barber, at the Lititz Springs Hotel. Fletcher's Hair Tonic is available for 50 cents and \$1.00 per bottle.

Oehme will go to the residences of invalids and aged persons and attend to anything belonging to his business. Prices always reasonable and satisfactory work done.



Above: This building, located at 22 East Main street in Lititz, served as one of the locations of the Oehme Barber Shop.

Lititz Record, June 8, 1888-"Oehme Stand Re-stocked"

Note: (There is some uncertainty as to where this barbershop was. Ron Reedy has notes saying this shop was located across the street from the hotel, where John Keller's Bookstore was located, west of General Sutter's House. This bookstore was torn down in the 1960's or 70's to make way for the Farmer's Bank drive-up window. However, I can find no record of Henry moving from the Lititz Springs Hotel to another location.)

H. L. Oehme, having bought back the old stand where he so long held forth (opposite the Springs Hotel) has taken possession and restocked the place with a fresh supply of tobacco, cigars, and smoker's supplies. He will also have a nice stock of canes in a few days. Shaving, hair-cutting and shampooing in the best manner, give him a trial at the old stand.

Lititz Record, April 27, 1889 "A Thief at Oehme's"

With a crowbar, a thief forced open the front door of Henry L.Oehme's barber shop, opposite the Lititz Spring Hotel, on Tuesday night and stole about thirty razors, twelve having the name of "H.L.Oehme" scratched on the handles with a pin, chewing tobacco, 15 pipes, and about 450 cigars. The money drawer was broken into and about 75 cents in small change was taken.

On Monday, a crowbar disappeared from the cellar being dug for J. L. Stehman's new house and has not been seen since. Probably the one used at Oehme's. Two tramps were seen loitering about town as late as 9:00 Tuesday evening acting suspicious.

Mr. Oehme's loss amounts to \$75.00. The loss is covered by insurance in the Theft Association of Columbia. Dr. Roebuck offered \$10.00 and Oehme \$5.00 as a reward for the recovery of the goods and the arrest and conviction of the thief.

In August of 1894, Henry retired from barbering owing to bad health. He was bedfast for over two months, suffering agonizing pain. He died at 7:00 PM on Thursday, Jan. 17, 1895. An autopsy revealed that his liver was twice the normal size and out of place, the stomach was also out of place, and his intestines strangled.

Lititz Record, Feb. 5, 1892 "No Smoking"

H. L. Oehme will not sell any cigarettes hereafter. This is an example for others to follow. If all would do so, the poisonous things would soon be driven out of the market.

This story will conclude on the Spring 2013 edition of the Journal !

50TH ANNUAL ANTIQUE SHOW REPORT

Henry Paul

The Lititz Historical Foundation is happy to report its Golden Anniversary antique show as gratifyingly successful. Show chairman Ken Martin shared "We had 35 exhibitors at the show from 4 states. Better yet nearly twice as many people (710) came through the gate as last year. We now have a dealer waiting list for the 2013 show. That's something exciting and new. We haven't had this happen in several years." For most exhibitors business was good or very good. Sales were generally strong. Several dealers remarked having a "best ever Lititz Show", while at least 2 dealers exclaimed "best ever show!" The gate was strong both days with reported sales right to the end of day 2.

Some collectors traveled from western Pennsylvania, several hours distant. Others came from Delaware, Virginia, and Maryland. The lion's share of attendees, however, came from south central and south eastern Pennsylvania.

Finally, about a dozen Lititz businesses underwrote a special Golden Anniversary advertising blitz to the tune of nearly \$5,000—a most generous gift which allowed more extensive advertisement of our anniversary show. Moreover, for the 50th time since 1962, the Historical Foundation has maintained its fiscal responsibility to the Johannes Mueller House, the Christian Schropp House and museum as well as Lititz Borough for the preservation of early architectural dwellings, and Moravian and Pennsylvania German material culture. Large thanks to everyone who shares such a vision!

PICTURE QUIZ



To the left is a photo of Sunnyside College.

Where was this institution once located, and what is at the current address?

Answer to the Fall's picture Quiz: Jerry Adam's gas station was located at the point where East Lincoln Avenue and North Center street form a point.

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