

Winter 2014

Historical Journal



LITITZ HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

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“Lititz: Our Community in Story” A Sell-Out!

Cory Van Brookhoven

Lititz: Our Community In Story” is a new soft cover book that is a joint venture between the Lititz Historical Foundation and the Archives Committee of the Lititz Moravian Congregation.

Of special mention is the fact that it is the very first effort between these two like-minded historical organizations in Lititz.

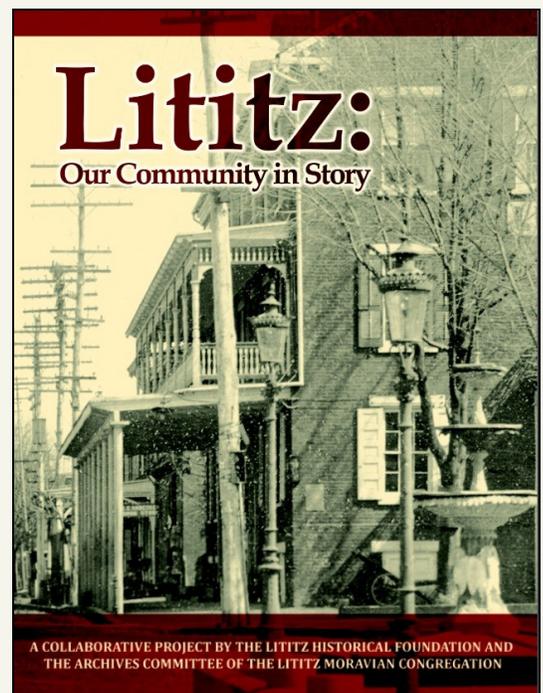
Pulling from over forty years of information, the book contains over 50 stories and over 100 black and white photos from Lititz's vast history. Chapter titles include such topics as Noteworthy People; Lititz Locales; Business and Manufacturing; Events and History; and Traditions and Artifacts, and explores the many subjects, traditions, and people that helped shape this town.

Working since last Spring, a committee of seven members comprising both organizations worked tirelessly compiling stories, choosing photos, and organizing chapters into one exhaustive compendium.

The final product contains over 50 chapters spread over five sections; and boasts over 115 photos and illustrations, many of which have never been published.

The first printing, which was limited to 250 copies, has been SOLD OUT. Due to demand, a second printing which included 175 copies, has also been sold out.

The book committee would like to thank the community of Lititz as well as anyone who purchased a copy or multiples copies for their support!



Above: The cover of “Lititz: Our Community in Story”, designed by Lititz’s own Bill Dussinger from Penny Lane Graphics. Continued on page 2 inside...

“Lititz: Our Community in Story” (Continued from Page 1):

The committee decided to share many of the stories that were published in their past respective newsletters and journals, to bring many forgotten or “off the beaten path” stories back to light. Below is an excerpt from the chapter entitled “Our Early Roadside Rest Stops”, which was originally written by the late Henry T. Muth, and appeared in the Historic Journal (the former name of our publication) in the Fall 2001 edition:

Near the bottom of the Lititz side of Kissel Hill on the east side of the pike at about where “Bicycle World” used to hold forth was the site of the Kissel Hill water trough. Here in the shade of a stand of majestic weeping willow trees, against a carpet of the lavender blooming speedwell reposed the overflowing trough of cool soft water. Placed about twenty feet east and higher than the roadway, the trough was supplied from a nearby well a few feet higher in the gravel of Kissel Hill.

At the upper or head end of the trough was the three-inch pipe from which continuously spilled the water from the well. On a shelf by the pipe were two half coconut shells serving as drinking cups. It is interesting to observe that these cups were used and respected without being affixed in any way. Saturday night squires were known to use the site to wash their buggies on Saturday mornings, for the soft water was easy on their highly varnished rigs and left no water marks.

The whole area was backed by an unusual three-rail fence on which a traveler could sit and rest before continuing his journey. While resting he might see the noisy trolley car turn away to the southwest on its way around the forbidding Kissel Hills.

The trough, about twelve feet long, twenty inches wide and eighteen inches deep, made of wood with reinforcing bands of steel, was suspended on stone pillars at a comfortable height. Being exposed, the water in the trough was warmer than deep well water, possibly sixty degrees or more, and often one would find small fish sporting there amid the moss.....

The rest of the story can be read in “*Lititz: Our Community in Story*”



At left is a photograph of Cameron Weitzel, who stopped along Keller’s Mountain so his horse could be refreshed.

This area at one time had at least one trough located at the bend where a horse could take advantage of fresh water.

What a Year It Has Been!

Cory Van Brookhoven

Since being named “America’s Coolest Town” by Budget Travel magazine in January earlier this year, our wonderful area of Lititz experienced a large up-tick in tourism, and the Lititz Historical Foundation was no exception. Throughout the past few months, former recent attendance numbers at our Johannes Mueller House and at our museum were not just beaten, but shattered. We were also floored by the amount of sales in our gift shop. We thank Donna Olah, who took on the role of Gift Shop Manager last year who has done a tremendous job in selecting many new items, as well as introducing more locally crafted items into our inventory.

At the end of November, we tallied up the numbers, and are happy to report that we welcomed over 4,000 guests to our buildings and grounds from literally around the world. In comparison, our count for 2012 was slightly over 2,000.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our board of directors, our tour guides and volunteers, and the many new faces that we greeted during this past year.

We also partnered in a very rewarding venture with the Lititz Moravian Archives Committee to produce a book which proved to be a sellout. Net monies earned from this effort will be split between both entities.

We are also very active in the community and hosted several public free lectures at the Lititz Public Library. In an effort to be more environmentally conscious, we also have encouraged our members to receive their newsletters via email to cut costs on paper and resources.

2014 will see a brand new subject in our main exhibit room, as well as many other small changes throughout the museum to “freshen” things up a bit. It is our hope that each time a visitor pays us a visit, they will see a new item which will inspire them.

As outstanding as 2013 was, I am very excited for next year, and all of the new rewarding challenges it will bring.

In closing, I’d like to thank each and every one of you for your support of YOUR LOCAL MUSEUM, the Lititz Historical Foundation!

ATTENTION MEMBERS!

In an effort to be more environmentally friendly, we are now giving you the option of receiving your quarterly newsletter via email. This not only saves paper and postage, but it also serves as a great way for you to receive the journal in a much faster way. If you would like your newsletter emailed to you going forward, please send an email to Cory Van Brookhoven at cory@lititzhistoricalfoundation.com and he will be happy to add you to the email newsletter list.

Thank You!

New Accessions

We are pleased to announce many 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 preserved for generations to come!

1. A old photo of the Sharp family. Donated by Brent Smith of Lititz.
2. Hardcover book entitled "*The Peter Pauper Press of Peter and Edna Beilenson 1928-1979*". This book was donated to us by the University of Tampa Press. Images from our John Fass collection were used in this publication.
3. Several copies of "*Lancaster County Postcards: A Window to Our Past - Volume 2*". Donated by the Lancaster County postcard club.
4. A Large framed antique Lancaster County map, showing the names of many long-forgotten towns. Donated by Tom Hackman.
5. An antique Lititz Spring Pretzel tin, which was run by the Kofroth family. Donated by Marlene Didner.
6. E.K. Zartman calendar. Also donated by Marlene Didner.
7. Lititz 4th of July booklets, as well as a very nice assortment of Lititz's 250 celebration mementos. Donated by Marsha Campbell.
8. Various Lititz booklets and memorabilia from the Lititz's 1956 Bicentennial. Donated by Jeff Ruhl.
9. A framed watercolor by Al Taft of Bingeman's Restaurant in Lititz. Donated by Sandi Imboden of Lititz.
10. Several deeds from Lititz. Donated by Lynwood Hyle.

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



**Our Entire Board of Directors
Would Like to Extend To You a Very Merry Christmas
and a Happy, Healthy, and Prosperous
New Year!**

Lititz Historical Foundation to the Rescue!

Recently, a book was published by the University of Tampa Press, focusing on the collection of Peter and Edna Beilenson. A dozen years in the making, rare materials that were needed to make the volume complete were located right here at the Foundation. Read below for the full, fascinating story!

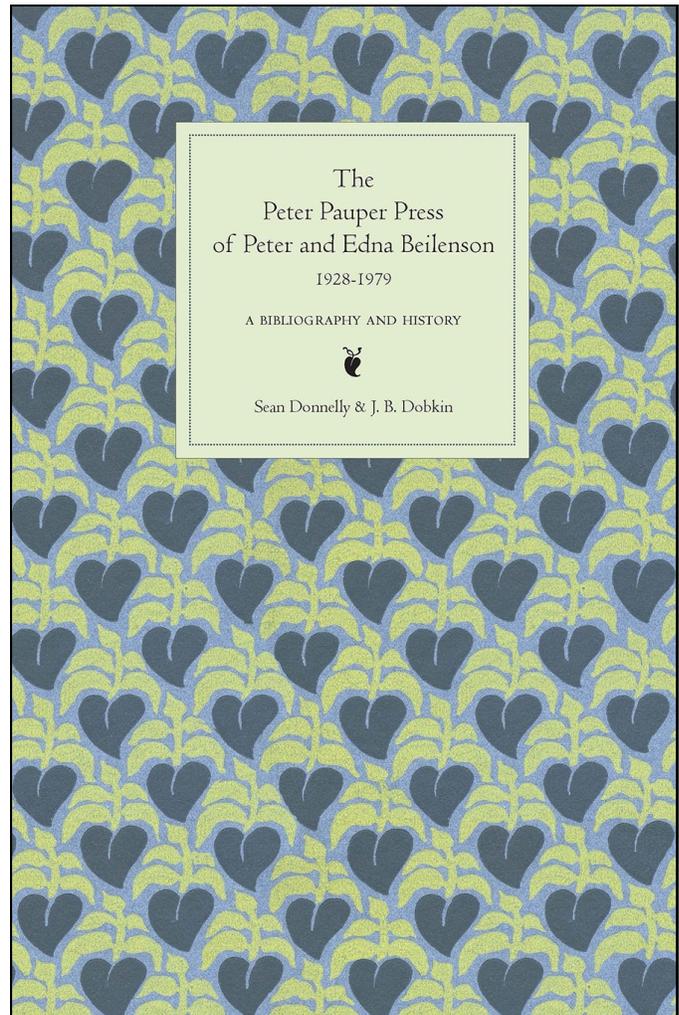
“A reference book like *The Peter Pauper Press of Peter and Edna Beilenson: 1928-1979, A History and Bibliography* is made up of many parts. Each part, no matter how small, is vitally important to making the work as complete as possible” stated Sean Donnelly, Assistant Director at the University of Tampa Press.

“The authors spent more than a dozen years tracking down everything relevant to their subject, but several rare items produced by the Beilenson’s eluded them. The publication date was drawing near when a Google search turned up a catalog of the John Fass papers at the Lititz Historical Foundation. Listed among the papers were some of those rarities that would make the Peter Pauper Press bibliography complete. With the kind and efficient help of the Foundation’s staff, the authors received scans of the items they needed and were able to include them in the book.

The handful of items relevant to the Peter Pauper Press are only a small part of the treasures to be found within the John Fass papers. Fass was himself a fine printer, widely respected by his colleagues who marveled at his precise work, and Lititz is one of the few places in the world where a comprehensive collection of his work can be found. Not only his finished work, but also working papers and proofs. Among his papers are a great variety of works produced by fellow printers, like the Beilensons, and altogether the collection reveals the remarkable quality of the letterpress printing done in the United States during the first half of the 20th century. It is a resource that all scholars of printing history should be familiar with” concluded Donnelly.

We here at the Foundation were very pleased and honored to assist the University of Tampa Press complete their book! As a token of appreciation, they sent us a complimentary copy for our library.

To order a copy of this book, contact the University of Tampa Press at 813-253-3333.



Above: The cover of “*The Peter Pauper Press of Peter and Edna Beilenson 1928-1979*”

PICTURE QUIZ



Above is just one of the many treasures that can be seen in our Johannes Mueller House. Used many years ago, this was an important tool used for chipping or shaving wood or leather. The vice-like device held the article being worked on while the craftsman chipped or shaved it into the desired shape and size. What is the German word for this tool?

Answer to the Fall 2013 Picture Quiz: This was a photo of the serene landscape that can be seen on the campus of Linden Hall.

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