



The Weisenberg/Lowhill Historical Society News

October 2011

Issue 38

A Message from the President

Just last year we were saying "it's been an unusually dry summer"; this year has again been unusual, but on the other extreme. Unfortunately our Spootyahr Fesht had to be rescheduled and even then the weather was cool, windy and damp. Although we did not have our normal huge crowds, the events were still very successful, thanks to all of you and all your help and cooperation. You are a wonderful group of people.

The yard sale had to be cancelled completely due to the saturated grounds. We all are looking forward to holding this event in the spring.

Let's all hope this unusual summer and fall weather does not extend into the winter months. We now look forward to our annual banquet and the forthcoming holiday events. We are looking for all of you.

Sincerely,

Don Breininger

Board of Directors

President - Donald Breininger
Vice-President - Donald Campolongo
Secretary - Alida Phillips
Treasurer - Carolee Smith
William Beitler
Elaine Bogert
Keith Breininger
Linda Gorgas
Terry Hausman
Sterling Raber
Sterling Reinert
Eugene Weiner
Sterling Werley
Vernon Wink
Ralph Zettlemoyer
Gloria Zimmerman

QUARTERLY MEETING & BANQUET

Tuesday, November 8, 2011
at 6:30 p.m.

Seipstown Grange, 8501 Claussville
Road, Fogelsville, PA

Don Breininger has been invited to Belgium and Germany to speak at several German/Pennsylvania affairs and at the Bolanden Germany Festival in October. He will be sharing his experience at our banquet.

Family Style Dinner with 2 meats
and all the trimmings.

Reservations:

\$16.00 for adults

\$8.00 for children 6-12

\$3.00 under 6.

For the number of reservations desired, send your check by October 31, 2011, payable to "WLTHS", to Bill Beitler at 2370 Seipstown Road, Fogelsville, PA 18051. Call 610-285-6694 with any questions.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS NEWS

To aid in fulfilling our Historical Society's objectives and support of our projects, we have added several members to the Board of Directors staff. We welcome Elaine Bogert, Keith Breininger and Sterling Reinert to our board. As we undertake new projects, additional direction is needed. Anyone interested in becoming a board member, please speak to Don Breininger at 610-298-2352.

We thank you for your consideration.

Welcome to the following new member:
Randy Spaide

Our Activity Calendar

November 8

Quarterly Meeting & Banquet
at Seipstown Grange • 6:30pm

December 10

Grischtdaag at Werley's Corner
8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Grischtdaag (Christmas) Event

December 10th

8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Werley's Corner Hotel/WLTHS
Headquarters, 4590 Werley's Corner
Road, New Tripoli, Pa. 18066

- **Cookie Sale**

- **Quarts of soup** will be sold on a first come first serve basis with no pre-orders.

- **Historical Society store is open**
Many WLTHS items have been reduced and would make great Christmas gifts.

- **Wreaths and Swags** by Lyon Creek Farm Market

- **Food:** Hot dogs, lemonade, hot chocolate, and coffee will be available for sale.

10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

- **Santa Claus** will make his usual appearance for pictures

Pets are always welcome.

- **Children's holiday crafts** and ornament making

Volunteers are needed for Grischtdaag at Werley's Corner

- to staff the store, contact Gloria Zimmerman at 610-395-0763.

- in making soup, to bake cookies or Christmas specialty food items as well as help at the event, contact Nancy Handwerk at 484-767-2307.

Drop off your items at the Historical Society Friday, December 9th between 6:00 p.m. and 8:30 p.m., or Saturday morning after 7:00 a.m.

WLTHS 2011 Fall Festival was a hit!

On September 17th & 18th, the village of Werley's Corner was buzzing with activity of people attending our annual Fall Festival despite the postponement of our event due to the hurricane which made our grounds unsafe.

On Saturday, "Big Valley Bluegrass Band" entertained the crowd under the shade tree. On Sunday, "The Majestics" filled the air with music. Both musical groups have been local favorites here at Werley's Corner.

As is customary, the food court continued its tradition of serving delicious food. Our bake sale area was busy with fine items baked and donated by our many members. Our various display buildings and Hotel/headquarters were open to the public, and lots of folks came out and supported our endeavors.

Some of the highlights from the Festival were:

Watermelon Eating Contest - The crowd always enjoys watching this event! Special thanks to Forrest Laudenslager for donating the watermelons.

Children Activities - Pumpkin painting (Thanks to Forrest Laudenslager for donating the many pumpkins), basket making, scarecrow making, fishing pond and various games. Special thanks to Deb Zvanut and Diane Hemerly for making this busy area another big success for the kids.

Homemade Corn Relish - Thanks to Katharine Hoch for leading this effort! Her canning gang included Anna Jean Henry, Dorothy Sechler, and Debbie Zvanut. Special thanks to Jimmy Bachman for donating the corn and Donald Breininger for the onions.

Hausman Coverlet Display - generated a lot of comments.

Animal Displays - Special thanks to the following members who brought their animals to the festival:

Donald Breininger: Ponies, Sheep, and Chicken with baby chicks

Harold and Kenneth Gehringer: Steers

Roy Martin: Miniature Horses and gave Buggy Rides.

Special thanks to everyone who came out and displayed their collection/hobby:

Jeff Donat - Gristmill and Grains

David and Judy Terwilliger - Broom maker and Spinning

Lu Dotterer - Autographs



Evelyn Wessner - Chair Canning

Neil Kressley - Wooden Cut-outs.

Ontelaunee Antique Car Club as well as various WLTHS members brought their antique cars.

Ben Sonan - Farm Equipment

Elaine Bogert - Cross Collection

Katharine Hoch - Bird Place Collection

As usual, the Refreshment Stand was a popular place. Thanks to everyone who brought their appetite! Special thanks to Nancy Handwerk, Food Committee Chair, and her Committee members (Norma Breininger, Helen Donmoyer, Jennie Esterly, Terry Hausman, Katharine Hoch, Helen Kressley, Mary Ellen McDonald, Elaine Miller, Susan Morrison, Meryl

Person, Pat Shaw and Gloria Zimmerman) and for all of their hard work and preparation. The food was great.

Thanks to everyone, both Historical Society members and non-members, friends and neighbors that volunteered, made items for the bake sale, hosted a room in the hotel, clerked in the store, supported us by purchasing food, helped clean the grounds and hotel, and helped to set up, break down, and clean-up after the event. It takes a lot of volunteers to make the Festival a success and many stepped up to the task.

We would also like to thank this year's Festival committee - who had been working on planning this event since May. This Festival would not have happened without all of their hard work and efforts: Claudia Allan, Elaine Bogert, Donald Breininger, Terry Hausman, Diane Hemerly, Katharine Hoch, Pat Shaw, Carolee Smith, Ann Wertman, Gloria Zimmerman, and Deb Zvanut. I would also like to recognize the efforts of Helen Kressley, who once again, did a fantastic job of advertising our event in the local papers, and Joe Zeller, who once again did an excellent job of putting up our new fall festival signage and taking them down after the event.

Also, special thanks to the "Hotel Cleaning Crew" for making the hotel sparkle for the event! Crew included: Claudia Allan, Elaine Bogert, Norma Breininger, Diane Hemerly, Helen Kressley, Meryl Person, and Pat Shaw.

If you would like to help plan next year's Festival, please let us know. We can always use fresh and new ideas along with extra hands. Again, a BIG THANK YOU to everyone who helped make this a successful event for your Historical Society.

The Hausman Coverlets

The Hausman family became one of the leading weavers of coverlets in America. Jacob and his wife Maria arrived in Philadelphia on the ship Loyal Judith on September 2, 1743. They first settled in Berks County. Their son Jacob married Christina Kistler and took out a warrant for 25 acres in Heidelberg Township. They had eleven children. Among the 11 children of their second son Johan Jacob would be Jacob, Solomon, Michael and Elizabeth. Michael was said to be the largest producer of coverlets in 1850. He employed two weavers on his two looms producing 300 covers a year. Elizabeth would marry John Seibert of Lowhill. Their two sons continued as weavers. That a family would continue a trade in this length of time is remarkable. What is just as remarkable is that the family history can be traced through Neffs, Heidelberg, Lowhill, and Ziegels Church records.

The weaving of blankets was greatly increased with the invention by Joseph-Marie Jacquard in the 1800's. A series of punch cards made it possible to repeat the patterns endlessly. This also increased the width of the loom, as previously, strips had to be sewed together to form a piece large enough for a bed. Covers were usually made of cotton and wool, although an occasional one of linen is found. The colors were predominately red and blue with some yellow. Dyes were natural, using herbs and nuts and grasses. After the Civil War, artificial dyes were invented. The patterns were geometric, floral, and often historical. Eagles, trains, buildings were found on the borders. On a corner of many coverlets will be found the name of the weaver, the place of the work, the date, and who it was made for. The industry

flourished until 1876 when power looms were invented.

The display at the Weisenberg-Lowhill Township Historical Society Fall Festival was inspiring. Over the two days coverlets kept coming and going. Proud owners showed their treasures and told their stories. Many of them were relatives of the Hausman's. When I was able to see the display on Sunday, there were 12 or 13 coverlets displayed. A red and blue one had the date 1852. There were 4 red and white ones, a blue and white, 2 were green and red, one had yellow, red, and green. Some were geometric, some had flowers, some had eagles, some were combinations. All were beautiful. They tempted me to just grab one and snuggle up. They belonged to Bill and Nancy Beitler, Katherine Hoch, Richard and Cheryl Hausman, Denise Drabick, and Norma and Donald Breininger. Lillian Rupp had one woven by a Peters. As I was leaving, the Marshall Mangolds brought in a coverlet in a special glass case. As I said they came and went. If I understood correctly, one was from Texas.

Donald compiled a booklet of the Hausman weavers. It will be available through our store or you can see it in our library. Also in the library is the booklet "American Jacquard Coverlets" by Ronald Dotterer and Catherine Hawthorne. It features pictures and history of the coverlet collection in the Gallery at Fulton Hall, Salisbury State University, Maryland. Dr. Dotterer's grandmother was a Hausman. It's worth making an appointment just to see the pretty craftsmanship of OUR ancestors.

It takes a Village of people, doesn't it?

Have you seen how beautiful and well taken care of the grounds at our Historical Society looked this past year? Well, it was thru the hard work and efforts of the following people who organized their volunteers, made up the schedule of what needed to be done and when, and just plain got the job done with the help of many members, neighbors, and friends. Terry Hausman took the lead on the lawn mowing crew, Renae Mullin took the lead on the flower beds crew, and Bill Beitler took the lead on general maintenance crew/projects.

A BIG THANK YOU goes out to the following people for their hard work and efforts:

Claudia Allen, Pam Ansell, Bill Beitler, Donald and Norma Breininger, Justin Cappuccino, Drew Eichelberger, Steve Frey, Terry Hausman, Steve and Diane Hemerly, Danny Hunsberger, Jesse Hunsberger, Mark Khalil, Joe

Meckes, Jim Mullin and Renae Mullin, Meryl Person, Mason Schuler, Charlie Shaw, Kyle Sorensen, Sterling Werley, Tony Werley, and Al Werner. When you see these people, thank them for their hard work on behalf of the Historical Society.

As winter approaches, we also have to be concerned about snow and plowing needs around our buildings/headquarters. Once again, Terry Hausman steps up and handles those duties. We thank him for that task as well. *(Let's hope for less snow this year, Terry!)*

So you see, it does take a Village of people to maintain our beautiful headquarters all year long. We always have need for more people as the more the merrier and it makes everyone's job easier. Call Terry Hausman (610-285-6873), Bill Beitler (610-285-6694), and Renae Mullin (610-285-4027) if you have some time to help doing these various tasks.



THE LYON VALLEY GARAGE

Arthur Hausman traveled by train, boat, and car to the McSweeney Auto Tractor and Electrical School in Cleveland, Ohio. Upon his graduation on August 8, 1925 he returned home and opened for business.

He started in an old blacksmith shop on the right at the bottom of the Lyon Valley hill. He mostly did welding, charged batteries for the home electrical systems of the time, and worked on Model T's.

In 1927 the family pooled its resources to build the garage on Route 100. Although they sold Gulf gas from the beginning, they remained an independent station. Their contract lasted for more than 55 years. The garage became known as a full service station but it also had a mechanic on duty at all times. It was the place for overhauling your truck or car engine or even a transmission. Those were the days when you took your bottle to be refilled with oil or you purchased your kerosene for heating. They had another commodity seldom available today - free air.

While you waited for your inspection, you could enjoy candy, soda, ice cream, etc. Mom, Mildred, handled appointments between pumping gas. Their 4 children, Lorraine, wife of Paul Krause, resides in Slatington, Richard and his wife Cheryl Meinschein of Claussville, Carl married to Ruth Serfass lives in Walnutport, and Ruth married to John Depper lives in Arkansas, grew up in the house their parents had built next door to the garage. Like all good children, they helped out where ever they could. All knew how to pump gas. During high school Richard began working weekends changing tires, etc. In time he helped with inspections, changing brake linings, and general maintenance, but his father was always the one rebuilding engines. Carl entered the military after high school. Richard remembers gas being 24 cents a gallon and the long lines during the oil embargo. He also remembers how many things had to be carried inside every day at closing time.

The garage closed in 1982 when Arthur was 76. The equipment was sold at auction by Ralph Zettlemoyer. Highlights were a 1946 Chevrolet truck; a license plate collection dating from 1908 to 1917. The garage was rented to a body shop, then someone build trykes, then... the sign today says "Motorsport" but the building appears un-occupied. The house was sold after Mildred died in 2000 to Richard and Linda Bear.

Thank you to Richard Hausman for this history.

PETER'S AUTOMOTIVE SERVICES CORP

Warren Peter's began his garage around 1944 on Valley Road on McClellan's farm. It was a hobby of body work and fine painting and detailing. As a young man he began working at Macks. After serving in the army in Germany, he worked full time at Bethlehem Steel and later as a crane operator at Portland Cement. He was promoted into the laboratory and worked there for 28 years until they closed. Still he had spare time for the small auto shop. One of the memories of his children was the "None Such" a truck he made from an old wooden station wagon.

In 1958 he and Marian decided to build the garage on Golden Key Road. Two years later they would build their house next door. Today the facilities are greatly expanded. He specialized in body work and painting. Over the years he fit in home study, one of which was the performance and fine tuning of diesels. In time the garage became a full service station with several employees.

Sons Ray and Donald became partners in 1978. Then in 1986 they took over as their father went on to Social Security, but they couldn't keep him out of the garage. He kept "helping" as long as he was able. This was a very busy man! Did you know that he played the violin, the piano, and the accordion? He fiddled regularly for square dancing and was the entertainment at many family gatherings. His favorite song, "Orange Blossom Special" was played at his funeral in honor of his love of music. Warren had brought a violin along home from Germany after the war. As a pilot he landed his Piper Cub in the field across the street. He outfitted that plane with skis. With his Cessna he joined the Civil Air Patrol in many searches. He and Richard Snyder went to Iran for earthquake disaster relief. He had many stories of the flood from hurricane Diane in 1956. This man was a community activist at home and away.

For most of us neighbors, however, this family is remembered for its loyalty to our schools. Marian served our kids lunch at Weisenberg for many years. The men drove bus. Ray drove for 40 years before his untimely death this year. Warren also drove for Carl Bieber. Local Scouts remember that. Today you will see many buses parked behind the garage. With the enlargement of the Weisenberg school building, the bus garage is gone and buses had to be stored at the facility in New Tripoli. By keeping them at Peters, the district is saving many gallons of gas and mileage on those buses. (THANK YOU!)

Donald manages the garage today with 8 full time employees. It is still a family business. Like their father's original dream, they still do complete collision repairs with auto and truck refinishing. They also have a full mechanical service, with electronic diagnostics. They will complete the emissions inspection as they do the state inspection. They also have the equipment for wheel alignment. A man's hobby has turned in to an important industry in our community.

Thank you to Rosanne Peters Shaner and Donald Peters for this history

Thanks to Reynold Reinert for locating the following articles in old issues of *The Morning Call*:

Thursday September 5, 1901

LYON VALLEY IS ATTRACTING MANY PEOPLE THIS SEASON

– How to get there

The Lyon Valley Hotel is situated in one of the most picturesque parts of Lehigh County, making it a delightful trip for parties of all kinds. The hotel is open for summer boarders from the latter part of June until the latter part of September. Parties, large or small, will be received any day of the week on short notice.

It has an abundance of shade from pine and willow trees. Pure rock water, refreshing air and beautiful scenery. Baths, beautiful lawns, Shetland pony team, library, piano, fishing and rowing. The bill of fare will be most liberally furnished. All delicacies in season.

The shortest way to Lyon Valley is out Tenth street to Albright's, Guth's Station, Guthsville, Leather Corner Post, Lyon Valley, distance, 12 miles. Guide boards at all off roads. Parties desiring to spend the day there will be met at Schnecksville, Gross Hotel, if so desired and transferred at fifty cents for the round trip. Regular boarders will be transferred free of charge. If you desire to go, write to Dr. F. J. Holben a few days in advance.

Tuesday, October 9, 1928

HYNEMANSVILLE

On Saturday, Oct. 13, an antitoxin clinic will be held at the Seipstown school house from 1-4 p. m.. Dr. Brunner and a nurse will be in attendance.

The schools of Weisenberg will be closed this week because the teachers are attending the county institute in Allentown.

The first meeting of the Weisenberg teachers' association was held on Friday evening at the New Smithville school house.

George Grim purchased the Elmer Werley farm, his son-in-law and daughter will become the tenants.

The meeting of the board of township supervisors was held at Seipstown. Routine business was transacted.

There were no bidders present for the farm that was put up for sale by Chester J. Grim.

Frank Berkemeyer and his pals from Temple spent Saturday evening here.

George Balliet held a very successful cattle sale at the farm of John Kemp on Saturday. Cows sold for as high as \$233.00.

The school directors of this township met on Friday evening at the New Smithville Hotel and paid the teachers for their first month's teaching.

Eugene Young is busy cooking apple butter at Victor Gruber's place

Want to improve your knowledge of Pennsylvania German?

Take a look at John Birmelin's (1873-1950) poem

Wann manache wissde,
Was annere gsene;
Wann manache gengde,
Wu annere gehne;
Wann manache deede,
Was annere duhne;
Dann waer die Welt besser
Fer drin tzu wuhne.

If many knew,
What others have seen;
If many would go
Where others have gone;
If many would do,
What others have done;
Then the world would be better
To live in.

Sally was in the kitchen
When she heard the telephone.
She run right quick to answer
'Cause no one else was home.
"Honey? Bring the checkbook,
"And Honey, don't be mad:
"I got the hiccups at the auction
"And bought every cow they had!"

Country magazine

The Weisenberg/Lowhill Historical Society News

P.O. Box 91 • New Tripoli, PA 18066

From the editor:

We learned once again, we can't do anything about the weather. We can only control ourselves. We can't do anything about past history either; we can only leave a wonderful legacy for our grandchildren. It was so good to see so many people working (*and visiting*) at the festival to keep our story alive. Many stopped at the library to check genealogy or to play with the stereo-opticon. If you want to use the library, please, call me at 610-285-6682. It will be open when Santa comes.

Do you have any stories for the newsletter?

Elaine Bogert

The September 24th Yard and Bake Sale was cancelled due to the inclement weather. (*Weather hasn't been on our side this year!*)

Riddle



What is greater than God ?
What is more evil than the devil ?
The poor have it.
The rich need it.
If you eat it you will die.
Answer: *Nothing*



Aluminum Cans ... we continue to recycle them and earn money for these efforts. Continue to bring them in a closed bag and place them on the pallet at the barn forebay.

Membership Dues ...

If you have any questions concerning your dues, contact Gloria Zimmerman at 610-395-0763 or gfzimm@ptd.net.

Membership Categories are:

\$10.00 Student (*in school*)

\$20.00 Individual \$25.00 Family

\$300.00 Individual Life (*one time only payment*)

\$375.00 Family Life (*one time only payment*)

Mail payment to:

Post Office Box 91, New Tripoli, Pa. 18066

Don't forget: If you have an address change, phone number change, and/or email address change, please let us know so that we can update our records. We want to ensure that you get your newsletter and for those with an email address, correspondence about upcoming events, etc. Your contact person is Gloria (610-395-0763) and gfzimm@ptd.net. *Thank You.*