



The Weisenberg/Lowhill Historical Society News

April 2010

Issue 32

A Message from the President

Spring has sprung!

With the beautiful weather, we look forward to the start of another season. The Easter Bunny brought his leftover empty baskets to Werleys Corner where they are rapidly being filled with unbelievable goodies (*not the edible kind*) for your pleasure. Be sure to come to the April 26th social at the Zettlemoyer Auction Center to try your luck at winning one or more of the fantastic offerings.

Join us for all the many seasons' excitements. Be sure to check our activity calendar.

Sincerely,
Don Breininger

Board of Directors

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

Upgraded membership to Life Membership:
Gene and Marianne Allen

Quarterly Meeting

Our quarterly meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 25, 2010, at 7:30 pm in the Weisenberg Township Municipal Building, Seipstown, PA. The evening's program will feature local Weisenberg and Lowhill Township history.

Reynold Reinert has been a member of the committee for the LEHIGH COUNTY LOG CABIN TRAIL and contributed greatly to the local listing of log structures. You will be surprised to discover many log cabins still existing but are not recognized due to their current exterior coverings. There are also interesting log barns. We are fortunate to have him available to share this information.

Mark your calendars! You will want to be there.



Mark Your Calendar!

Tuesday, Aug 24
Quarterly Meeting & Picnic
Willard Snyder's Farm
New Tripoli, PA

Our Activity Calendar

April 26

Basket Social

at Zettlemoyer Auction House

Doors Open 4:00 pm • Drawing 7:00 pm

May 17

Library Open 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm

May 22

Community Yard Sale 8:00 am to 1:00 pm

May 25

Quarterly Meeting

at Seipstown at 7:30 pm

June 21

Library Open 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm

August 24

Quarterly Meeting & Picnic at

Willard Snyder's Farm

September 11 & 12

Spoatyahr Fesht

November 9

Quarterly Meeting & Banquet at

Seipstown Grange

December 11

Grischtdaag

Location is Werley's Corner unless otherwise noted.

Looking Ahead to the Fall Festival.

What a wonderful festival we had in 2009!

As we turn the calendar to 2010, it is now time to start planning and preparing for this year's festival – and we would like to personally invite you to join the planning committee.

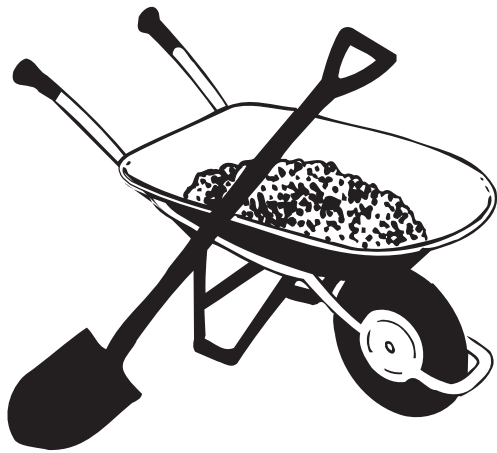
The Fall Festival Committee will start meeting in April. We have a lot of fun and are looking for new members. Please contact Carolee at 610-298-3458 if you would like to join the committee.

Mission Statement

"Promotes the discovery, collection, preservation, archive, display, interpretations, and publication of the history, historical records, culture, landmarks, artifacts, memorabilia, and data of, and relating to Weisenberg and Lowhill Townships and their surrounding areas."

Find us on the web at www.weisenbergtownship.org/WHS/index.htm

DON'T FORGET TO PAY YOUR 2010 MEMBERSHIP DUES ... WE NEED YOU"



Volunteers NEEDED:

The **Property Committee** is looking for volunteers for all kinds of projects. We will also need supervisors. We will be getting some volunteer teenagers to do some work so there are projects available that all you would have to do is supervise the teens. Please contact Bill Beitler at 610-285-2202 or email him at bbeitler@verizon.net if you can help or would like to be on the property committee.

- Lawn Care - help mow grass a few times this summer.

Terry Hausman: 610-285-6873

- Basket Social

Helen Kressley: 610-966-3772,
Norma Breininger: 610-298-2352
Pat Zettlemoyer: 610-285-4020

- Food

Nancy Handwerk: 484-767-2307

- Fall Festival

Carolee Smith: 610-298-3458

- Cataloging/Inventory

Don Campolongo: 610-398-0514

- Yard Sale

Gloria Zimmerman: 610-395-0763

Yard Sale & Bake Sale

Saturday, May 22, 2010 • From 8:00 am to 1:00 pm
Werley's Corner Hotel

Table Space – "Economy Special"

WLTHS Members:

20' by 20' where a vehicle can be kept with your space is free.
Additional spaces are \$8.00
10' by 12' on the blacktop with no vehicle is free.
Additional spaces are \$3.00

Non-WLTHS Members:

20' by 20' where a vehicle can be kept with your space is \$8.
Additional spaces are \$8.00.
10' by 12' on the blacktop with no vehicle is \$3.00.
Additional spaces are \$3.00

Note: There are a limited amount of tables available and they can be rented at \$2.00 per table on a first come, first serve basis.

The WLTHS will once again have a booth to sell your donated (in good condition) items. These items can be brought to the Society on the day of the event. Contact Gloria Zimmerman at 610-395-0763 for rental information and to reserve your spot or if you have any questions about the event.

Many volunteers are also needed with general clean up before and after the event, parking cars, and volunteering for the various areas the day of the event.

We also need baked goods. Please contact Nancy Handwerk at 484-767-2307 if you are able to help with supplying baked goods and/or volunteering time to help in the Food area.

6th Annual Basket Social

Monday, April 26, 2010

Zettlemoyer Auction Center at 820 Nursery Street, Fogelsville, PA

Doors Open at 4:00 pm

Refreshments at 5:00 pm - Drawing starts at 7:00 pm

Tickets \$10.00 Extra Chance Tickets \$5.00

Light refreshments will be served.

We are asking for your help for baked goods, help setting up and serving food. We will be accepting donations of Baskets, Value \$20 to \$25 or monetary donations, on Saturday, April 24 between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon. Please feel free to drop them off at the Historical Society. We strongly recommend that you purchase tickets in advance as this event usually sells out. Contact Co-Chairpersons Helen Kressley at 610-966-3772, Norma Breininger at 610-298-2352 or Pat Zettlemoyer at 610-285-4020 for any questions or donations or if you want to purchase tickets.

A BIG thank you to Co-Chairperson's Helen Kressley, Norma Breininger, and Pat Zettlemoyer and their committee for all their hard work and dedication in making this event a big success. Another thank you to Food Chairperson, Nancy Handwerk and her committee for handling the refreshment needs for the event.

Thanks to Reynold Reinert for locating these two OLD newsworthy items in *The Morning Call*.

May 13, 1907
NEW SMITHVILLE

Charles Fritz, the lumberman and undertaker, who is building a new summer house, was the first to use some of the cement of the Portland Cement Company at Fogelsville.

One of F. H. Werley's sows gave birth to a freak little pig. It had two snouts and three eyes. Otherwise it was perfectly formed. The litter was born dead.

Miss Amanda Kunkel, who is suffering with rheumatism, is slowly improving.

Bart Werley bought a new spring wagon from R. Miller's Son, Kutztown.

The Chimerical Orchestra, of this place, furnished music at the Morganland Church on Thursday evening, May 9.

Edwin Werley, Mr. and Mrs. Francis H. Werley, Mr. and Mrs. Penrose Werley and Mrs. Levi Werley attended the funeral of the former's cousin, John George, of near Lyon Valley. Interment was in the Lowhill Church cemetery.

Willoughby Grim lost a young colt by death.



May 11, 1928
HYNEMANSVILLE

The Weisenberg eighth grade commencement will be held on Saturday evening, June 3 at 7:30 o'clock, in Ziegel's church. A symposium on the word Weisenberg will be presented by the twelve members of the class. Music will be furnished by Wagaman's orchestra, of Kempton. Attorney Henry L. Snyder, Allentown, will deliver the address. Rev. George Lutz, Pennsburg, is expected to be present and address the gathering. The public is cordially invited.

The school directors of Weisenberg township will meet on Saturday evening at 7:30 at the Werley's Corner hotel to appoint teachers for the school term of 1928-1929. It is the wish of the directors that the patrons be present to show their approval or disapproval of those about to be appointed.

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Laubenstein and two children, Carl and Donald, Allentown, and Mrs. D. W. Benedict, of this place spent Saturday and Sunday visiting friends in Ashland, Schuylkill county, the former home of Mr. Laubenstein.

Beatrice Balliet, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Balliet, and Allen and Willard Loch, sons of Mr. and Mrs. Warren Loch, pupils in Bucks school, attended all sessions of the school during the 1927-1928 term. This is the second year that Miss Balliet attended every session.

The funeral of Henry Kistler, a former teacher of the schools, was held on Tuesday at the Lynnville church. Mr. Kistler was a life long resident of Kistler's Valley.

At the former Jefferson Holben mill, the source of the Lyon Creek, changes are being made. Mr. Miller, the present owner, had the mill torn down and is erecting bungalows on the hills and changing what was the dam into a large swimming and boating pool.

Visitors at the home of O. N. Werley on Sunday were Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Reitz and son, Charles, of East Fogelsville, and Ralph Krause, Temple.

NEIGHBORS OF SEIPSTOWN FARMER WHOSE BARN WAS LEVELED BY FIRE PITCH IN AND ERECT NEW STRUCTURE

From the Morning Call June 28, 1941

A barn raising was held yesterday on the farm of Victor Zimmerman near Seipstown is actual proof that the spirit of helpfulness is not extinct and is an object lesson in loyal cooperation that has been the desire in the national defense league.

The bee was arranged so that neighbors who sympathized with Mr. Zimmerman when he had the misfortune of losing his barn by fire on May 20 could offer friendly service in the form of tangible assistance.

The word went out Wednesday that Mr. Zimmerman was prepared to erect the framework of the barn which would meant the setting of long and heavy timbers in their places. The neighbors heard and in true Pennsylvania-Dutch style said little but shortly after sunrise yesterday morning they started to congregate and within a very short time it seemed as though the entire countryside had responded.

34 Men on the Job

When noses were counted it was found that 34 men, healthy and strong and stout of heart, had congregated in the "bee" that would result in the construction of the framework of a barn that is destined to replace the one lost by fire.

Little time was lost in getting started and very shortly beam after beam and upright after upright was set into place and the braces fastened.

Gradually, but almost miraculously, the skeleton of the new barn took shape and the structure began to grow upward almost as though it were a plant and some magic rain was sprinkled upon the seed.

By noon, all of the main timbers had been put into place and all of the beams that were to hold the haymows were carried to the scene and lifted into place. So were the ladders leading to the haymows and the main skeleton was completed with the upper part of the structure well advanced.

By late afternoon, when most of the farmers were compelled to return to their own farms to feed and water cattle and attend to other chores, the entire framework had been completed and the thing actually looked like a barn. The work of the 30 odd men had progressed to the point where all of the heavy work had been completed and the framework was in readiness to receive its coat of weatherboarding and roofing. This work will be done, now, by the contractor who had been engaged to do the carpenter work.

Lumber Prepared

Victor Walbert of Maxatawny is the contractor and he supervised the erection of the framework for which he had the beams and other timbers with the aid of a staff of seven of his employees.

The preparations on the part of the contractor had consisted of sawing the lumber in proper lengths, mitering the ends so they would dovetail and boring holes for the reception of the pegs used instead of nails to hold the pieces together. The pegs, too, had been prepared before hand so that progress would not be impeded.

The neighbors of Mr. Zimmerman, who assisted in raising the framework, marveled at the fit of each piece of lumber. It was as though they had been fitted together beforehand and then laid

aside to be put together like a jig-saw puzzle. There was little to puzzle about, however, and although none of the pieces was numbered or marked in any way one could not mistake just where they belonged. It was more like putting together an erector set on a large scale.

The participants of the "bee" joined in the work with a vim and although they were serious about their work, one could always hear cheerful banter as they chatted and joked the while they continued their labors.

Above the dull chatter one could hear the ever present command of "In de hey," the expression for "up," as the timbers were raised and set in place. The response was a terrific heave on the part of a dozen or more brawny men and a sigh of satisfaction as the beams came to rest snugly at their appointed places.

They were Pennsylvania Dutchmen, every last one of these kindhearted farmers, and all commands and practically all spoken word was in the dialect. One not versed in the vernacular would have wondered what was meant by the call of "Bring moil shticka fier shtoppa," and "Now shlock sie nei" although they were just requests to bring four pegs and to drive them in.

"Geb Mir Naegle"

"Geb mir por lotta" called someone from up above and in less time then it takes to tell about it, someone had handed the man some long strips of wood. Someone else called for "naegle" and another man jocularly remarked he could use his "tzaea naegle" or in plain English, when a call was made for nails to attach temporary braces. he was reminded that he might try using his toenails.

And so, all through the day was heard the banter of men who were attacking their job with cheerfulness and the request of men busily engaged in doing all they could before nightfall.

Only once every few hours was the work interrupted, as Mr. Zimmerman served refreshments in the form of bottles of beer and soda that had been kept cool in his fine springhouse. It was for but a moment each time, and the men went back to the job in the hot sun thoroughly refreshed.

There was one main punctuation of the working program and that came at noon. No "bee" could ever be a success among the Pennsylvania Dutchmen unless a big dinner was served. The dinner and what minor form of refreshment is served at long intervals is all their desire, or would even accept in the form of remuneration for the work they contribute so willingly.

Real Dinner Party

As usual the dinner was something worth talking about. Mrs. Zimmerman seemed to have had a "bee" of her own in the home. Exactly a dozen women gave their services so that the men working on the barn could have a noon time meal.

"Die monsleit missa iera essa hovva" was the word in the kitchen and the men got their food.

All of the 30-odd men sat down together at two immense tables in the Zimmerman home and there never was a Sunday dinner on a farm that was more appetizing than the one served there

yesterday. At the same time, never did men do better justice to a dinner than they did to the one that was served them by the corps of ladies.

There was little wonder the men ate so heartily. There was roast chicken, stuffing and browned potatoes, gravy, home-dried corn, string beans, lettuce, lima beans, creamed cabbage, peas, bread and butter and at least a dozen different jellies, all just seasoned right for the tastes of Lehigh Countians. And that wasn't all. There were tarts and pies of many varieties and there were cakes of the angels food and devils food variety and also other types of white and chocolate cakes, not to mention the crumb and raised cakes.

There was no strike on yesterday's job. The nearest thing to it was a sit-down on the grass just after the big dinner, but it was a rest of only ten minutes - enough to let the dinner start digesting.

Women Assist

The women assisting Mrs. Zimmerman in the preparation and serving of the dinner were Mrs. Ernest O. Krause, Mrs. Miriam Wehr, Mrs. Constant Zimmerman, Mrs. Ed. Trexler, Mrs. Mary Bleiler, Mrs. Allen G. Sassaman, Mrs. Fred Bleiler, Mrs. Paul Werley, Mrs. Andrew Rupp, Mrs. Howard Zimmerman, Mrs. Russell Peters and Luella Zimmerman.

The Barn

The barn, on which these friends of Mr. Zimmerman assisted in erecting the framework, is being built substantially and it will serve as a monument to the loyalty and devotion of Pennsylvania Dutch neighbors. The structure will be 80 by 40 feet in dimensions with stringers a foot square and each 40 feet long running the length of the building. Some the same size have been laid crosswise. Then there are a number of little less in thickness but of corresponding length that serve to aid in strengthening the structure.

In all, about 48,000 feet of lumber is being used in the construction of the barn which is somewhat larger than the 75 by 32 foot barn that burned down last month.

The stalls for several horses and more than a dozen head of dairy cattle are being built into the hillside and form a sort of lower floor of the barn.

The main floor of the barn, built on a level with the road, will include two regular haymows, three threshing compartments, and several granaries. The barn will rise to a height of about 35 feet and will be topped by a sort of French roof covered with slate. The cost of the structure is estimated to approximate \$6,000.

Those at "Bee"

This story would be incomplete if due credit would not be given to the men who participated so loyally in the barn building "bee." They were Clayton Wehr, Edwin Wehr, Ernest DeLong, Andrew Ruch, Ira Rupp, Stanley Zimmerman, Howard Zimmerman, Ernest Krause, Ernest Breining, Clarence Hoffman, C.H. Zimmerman, Daniel Werley, Paul Hoffman, Fred Bleiler, Lloyd Werley, Luther Lohrman, Homer Zimmerman, Roy Werley, William H. Masters, George Epting, Fred Merkle, Lester Buck, Carl Barto, Irvin Seidel, James DeLong, Leanus Heffner, R.W.Fister, Robert Herber, George Buck, William Rupp, George Rupp, Henry Rupp, and of course Victor Walbert and Victor Zimmerman.

From the Editor:

Victor Zimmerman owned 2 farms and both had barns that burned down. Local people think this article refers to the barn at 2500 Boger Stadt Road.

The other barn is at 8935 Wertman Road. On Sunday we took a drive to determine which barn was in the story. It will be easy to find because Pennsylvania Dutch barns do not have French roofs. We started on Boger Stadt Road. My heart jumped with excitement. The first barn had a French roof ... but wrong address. Well, there are three barns with French roofs on that road. Just to be curious, we drove to Wertman Road. You guessed it. That barn has a French roof, too, but it is closer to Seipstown. I'm turning it over to you to decide.

I thought this article from a scrapbook in our library had many interesting thoughts to ponder.

1. How long would it take to build this barn today?

How many township meetings?

How many permits? Without blueprints?

Would the permits cost more than the barn?

Does any neighbor today know how to use a hammer; climb a ladder?

How much liability insurance would Victor Zimmerman need?

2. Ladies, how would you respond to 30 unexpected guests for dinner?

Would you have enough food in the house?

Could you purchase enough with the cost of the barn?

Would you try paper plates?

3. When is the last time you read an article like this in The Morning Call?

Spelling, length, down home neighborly?

4. Do you find history makes you think of the future and appreciate the present?

It is a "present" for me to decide what to give you in each edition of the newsletter. I will gladly show you the original article with pictures of the workers on this project if you come to the library.

Elaine Bogert

The Weisenberg/Lowhill Historical Society News

P.O. Box 91 • New Tripoli, PA 18066

From the Editor:

Don't you just love Spring? The memories of shoveling snow behind and the joy of mowing grass just ahead? The baskets have all been filled, junk is accumulating for the yard sale, and plans are underway for the Fall festival. Why, before you know it, we will be preparing for Santa!

AND...newsletters are always underway. Does anyone want to help me with information on Dr. Thomas Fister from Seipstown? I want to use this in a military article in our next edition. Where did he settle after the war?

Call me, Elaine Bogert at 610-285-6682.

Elaine Bogert, editor

The library will be open May 17th and June 21st from 6:30 until 8:00. I will gladly meet you by appointment at other times. Elaine Bogert.610-285-6682.

People Remind Me of Eggs

Some are like sunny side up... *You only see one side of them.*

Some are like hard boiled... *You can handle them rough and they can take it.*

Some are like scrambled... *They are all mixed up.*

Some are like red beet eggs... *They turn out like the ones they hang around with.*

Some are whole eggs... *No good as long as they stay in their shell.*

Some are cracked eggs... *They look good but after awhile the crack shows.*

Some are like over light eggs... *They may be a little runny.*

Some are like double yolk eggs... *You may be able to enjoy them more than others.*

Some are like unused eggs... *They lay around too long and begin to smell.*

Some come in different sizes... *Just like people- small, medium, and large.*

Some need to be handled with care... *They are easily broken.*

Some are like brown eggs... *They may appear different on the outside,
but inside they are just the same.*

You may be a good egg in the long run... *But who likes long runny eggs?*

From the March 5, 2010 Fish Wrapper