

A Publication of the Nicholas Stoltzfus House Preservation Committee

*The Penna Dutch Sanger Choir.*

Bring and Buy Auction

Come to the Saturday Benefit Auction May 10

All are welcome to the bring and buy auction. Come Saturday, May 10 and bring and check in your donated items for the auction. Enjoy a hearty breakfast at 8 AM. Then enter the House to hear the story from Jack Parmer, or a family story from Chris P. Stoltzfus. Watch Carol Kissinger cook dumplings in the fireplace, or take time to

inspect the quilts and sale items. You are welcome to hear the Sanger Choir (who are Pennsylvania Dutch from Berks County) and The Uncles (sons of Christian Kurtz who have done so much for our story). Finally, join the ground breaking for an old-looking barn, and participate in the highlight of the day...the auction.

Alberta Stoltzfus Brinkman

Alberta, who lives in Kansas, came back to the Stoltzfus House many times—one time she and her husband brought Abner Beiler. Last October she brought her son and daughter-in-law. They are supporters of the preservation, and anticipate the barn.

Alberta's great-great-grandparents, Christian and Susanna Lantz Stoltzfus, settled in Buffalo Valley near Lewisburg, then many of the next generation latched onto a failed opportunity in Kansas. While many returned east, Alberta's grandfather opened meat markets near where the railroads crossed.

Her son this winter invited her to Homer, Alaska, where he would go fishing. He surprised her by arranging a meeting with the Mahlon and Hilda Mast Stoltzfus family

members of that area. Meeting descendants in strange places?!!

*Phillip, Alberta, and Candy.*

Stories . . . Calvin

Calvin is hoping to organize a museum committee that will guide the process of collecting artifacts and collecting family stories. The Stoltzfus ancestors, as well as

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Quilts

As always, there will be a great variety of quilts at the auction—all Amish/Mennonite made. Quilts often tell a story and give people a sense of the times in which they were made. Today's quilts offer beautiful color combinations and patterns to compliment our modern homes, yet being made by loving hands, reminds us of our heritage and of simpler times. Come and celebrate the art of quilting and what it means for us in the past, present, and future.

Vision toward Mission

While many family and friends gave generously in past years toward the restoration of the Nicholas Stoltzfus House, I did not as much as take the time to attend the auction. Yes, I'm a busy person and historical restoration and genealogy feels temporal and is not a high priority.

One day Paul Kurtz stopped by to visit. Only those who know Paul Kurtz can appreciate that Paul has someone who whispers in his ear. The ideas he hears often result in the kind of visit that I experienced. But the message whispered that day was misdirecting because Paul was seeking my involvement as a builder for the barn. My brother, Dave, is the building side of Stoltzfus Enterprises and I often run interference for him to guard his time. I was not interested and could speak for my brother as well.

My visit with Paul was good but my response was short and crisp. "What is the mission of the Nicholas Stoltzfus House Preservation Committee? Our lives are too short to be restoring historic buildings or pumping up our Stoltzfus name. Tell me your mission has roots in eternity and I may be interested." I don't recall that Paul ever mentioned a return visit. At least I was not expecting one.

It was months later that Paul visited again with a Mission Statement from the NSH Preservation Committee.

The closing sentence of that statement contains the eternal root that has drawn me into this process. With a mission to, "remember the example of lives lived with a humble attitude of obedience, forgiveness and willingness to share and help others in need; all to the glory and honor of our Lord Jesus Christ", the lure was great and the experience has been exhilarating; not to mention the consumption of time.

Our Vision to build a barn is focused fully on this Mission. Reconstructing this barn on the Nicholas Stoltzfus House property is significant toward honoring our parents, remembering the lives and faith of our heritage, and establishing a dynamic teaching tool for our children and their children. It is right and good for us to preserve history if that process and reflection points our minds and hearts upward toward the faith of our fathers. We don't look back except to look up.

It has been an encouraging experience to meet and work with so many of my extended family, whom after all these generations, enjoy the continued grace of God found in the faith of our fathers. It is the goal of the Advancement Committee to fulfill the vision of the barn toward the mission of the Nicholas Stoltzfus House Committee. If you identify with the mission, join us in fulfilling the vision of building this barn in 2008!

—Merle Stoltzfus

(Stories . . . Calvin, continued from page 1)

many descendants, have loyally served the Lord in unique ways. In addition to items of interest, these stories will be recorded. Among these are the witness of the Amish in the Nickel Mines event and the Stoltzfus twins in Hebron where they directed and taught in a school for orphans.

If you are interested in helping to plan the museum part of the barn, contact Calvin at 610-286-9574.

This newsletter is written and compiled by Paul Kurtz. Questions and concerns should be addressed to him at psku@aol.com or 717-367-3906. Layout and production by Masthof Press. Photos by Carl Good.

The furrows of thy life . . .

Gordonville Print Shop

What better way to understand Nicholas than to see a book published by the Gordonville Print Shop, *School Day Favorites: Over 200 Favorite German and English Parochial School Songs*.

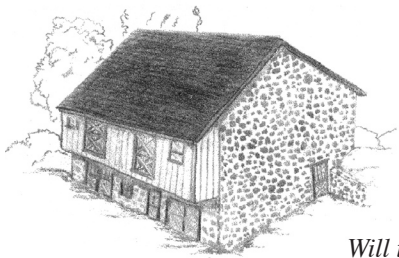
First printed in 1980, the 6th printing was done in 1991. The first song, Scatter Seed, opens like this:



*In the furrows
of thy life, scatter
seed . . . Small may
be thy spirit field, but
a goodly crop 'twill
yield . . . sow the*

*kindlyword and deed, scatter
seed.*

Twelfth generation descendants have been walking to nearby one-room schoolhouses and singing these songs, songs that carry the refrain which doubtless would have been music to Nicholas' ear. These songs bind hearts to a common theme, home-like devotion.



Will the barn look like this?

Steps to the barn—

The Nicholas Stoltzfus House needs a barn

Recently the Preservation Committee announced it will be erecting a historically accurate barn on the same property as the House. The groundbreaking is scheduled for May 10, 2008. The barn will be erected where the property's original barn foundation had been as uncovered and identified by Chris P. Stoltzfus. The barn will house additional artifacts from the Nicholas Stoltzfus descendants, which number nearly 1,000,000 living today. The structure will also contain public restrooms, an apartment for a couple to watch over the House, and storage space.

Family Connections

“We don’t want anyone to say, after the barn is built, ‘I wish I had known.’” With these words Merle Stoltzfus sets the goal; to connect families as we plan to build the barn to match the Stoltzfus House. Merle

can trace back to Immigrant Nicholas seven different ways. He was asked by Mose Smucker, chairman of the Preservation Committee, who traces back eleven ways, to lead the barn building effort.

Who can imagine the number of family groups. For example, there is Rebecca Stoltzfus, one of many great-grand-daughters of Nicholas. She could have over 20,000 descendants living today! There were about 90 other great-grandchildren of Nicholas. If each of these had/have such descendants, the number of Stoltzfus descendants living today would exceed one million.

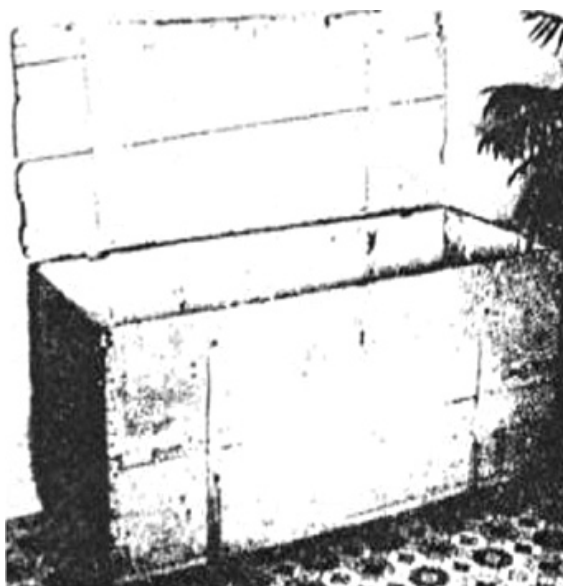
Only a small number of living descendants can be contacted by the effort—unless each one spreads the word: “There is a place where the future generations can learn of the sojourn and faith of these ancestors.”

Call Merle (610-286-5115) or Paul (717-367-3906) to obtain brochures, or request a presentation.



The Christian Beiler and Rebecca Stoltzfus Family.

If sufficient cash donations for the barn have been made before May 10 the excavation will proceed at that time. David Esh and Ephraim Riehl, the contractors, are prepared to begin then.



Gideon Fisher bought the chest

Samuel King made an interesting observation. His wife’s uncle Gideon (he and Amos were the ones who did the Fisher Book) took a lot of criticism for successfully bidding to acquire the Nicholas Stoltzfus chest which is now in the Pequea Bruderschaft Library and is brought to the auction for the day. Gideon said if everyone drop in a dollar who sees the chest it will be worth it. “Just to look with our children into the box and realize how little they had compared to what we have today makes it all worthwhile.” And to know why they came!

The Chest (Right).

Did You Make Reservations for 2009?

It is time to plan a day at the Stoltzfus House for the summer of 2009.

This will be an ideal place for a reunion, day out, or other gathering.

In the past groups have left sufficient donations to keep the place going.

A charge will not be made as long as donations cover costs.

A typical day would be

- 9:00 tour the house*
- 11:00 see the Gruber wagon works nearby*
- 12:00 lunch on the grounds*
- 1:00 volley ball, riding and hiking trails etc.*



To reserve a ride on the bus call Roy Smoker, 717-629-8834. To arrange to have donations picked up call Moses Smucker, 717-445-5956.

Benefit & Quilt Auction
10am, May 10th, 2008

*The Nicholas Stoltzfus House
Preservation Committee
1700 Tulpehocken Road
Wyomissing, PA 19610*