

Chairman's Message

Hello Friends,

Whew! It's hard to believe it is almost fall and it seems like yesterday it was almost spring.

Here is an update of what is happening at the Stoltzfus House Homestead. We borrowed a small amount of money at no interest from a private person with a desire for the project to be finished.

We finished the apartment and Nic Stoltzfus is currently our ambassador and caretaker. We are working hard to pay the loan back as we never borrowed money before! So a big thank you to our contributor for being so generous.

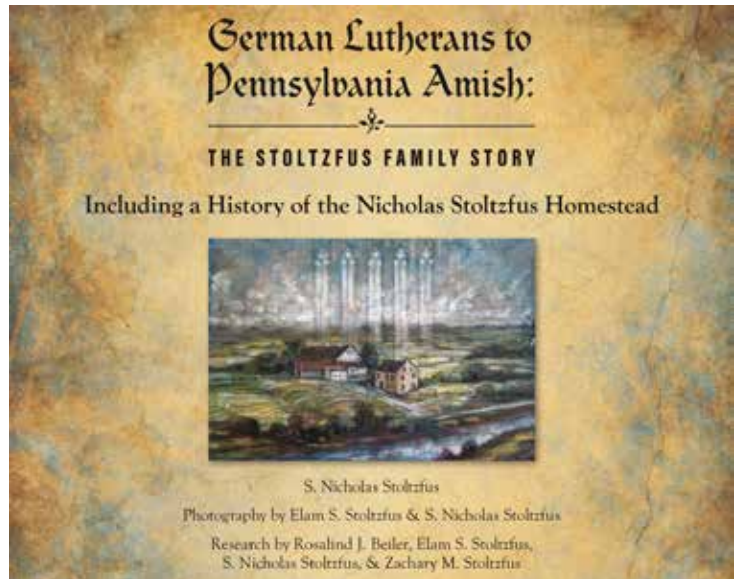
We are working with Mike Leader on building a pavilion on the property as it progresses we will let you know of the progress.

See you at the next auction the first Saturday in May 2020

Sincerely,
May God Bless You

Moses Smucker, Chairman
Nicholas Stoltzfus Homestead
Preservation Committee

Caretaker Completes Stoltzfus Family Book



The caretaker for the homestead, Nic Stoltzfus, has recently finished his book about the Stoltzfus family and the Nicholas Stoltzfus Homestead.

The book is titled ***“German Lutherans to Pennsylvania Amish: The Stoltzfus Family Story”*** and tells the story of six generations of the Stoltzfus family spanning over 200 years from 1624 to 1832 as they find a path forward from one faith to another, through many different countries and cultures, during times of war and peace, and through love and loss.

With over 150 images and original research, the book paints a fuller picture of the Stoltzfus family and how their decisions impacted the lives of their descendants even up to the present day. Also included is a history of the Nicholas Stoltzfus Homestead and how modern-day descendants saved the house from destruction and restored it.

Nic's father Elam Stoltzfus assisted with the photography, and Rose Beiler and Zach Stoltzfus were co-researchers for the project. They are all descendants of Nicholas & Anna Elisabeth (Bachmann) Stoltzfus.

You can order the book from Masthof Press & Bookstore by calling 610-286-0258 or visiting their website at www.masthof.com

First Book Signing, Lecture in October in Lancaster County

How did we discover Nicholas Stoltzfus' wife's name? What was his relationship to the Anabaptists in France? What has been going on at the Nicholas Stoltzfus Homestead this past year?

These are the topics of a series of lectures held on **Tuesday, October 8th, at 6:30 pm at Stoltzfus Homestead and Gardens, 3716 E Newport Rd., Gordonville, PA 17529**, as part of the premiere book signing for the "*Germany Lutherans to Pennsylvania Amish: The Stoltzfus Family Story*" coffee-table book. The event is hosted by the Nicholas Stoltzfus Homestead Preservation Committee and the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society.

The event starts with hors d'oeuvres and a chance to talk with the author, Nic Stoltzfus, photographer, Elam Stoltzfus, and co-researchers Rose Beiler and Zach Stoltzfus. Following the lectures, we will be doing a pass-the-plate led by Merle Stoltzfus. Chairman Mose Smucker will be auctioning off a few special items that evening to raise money for the Homestead. 100% of the proceeds raised from the pass-the-plate and auction will go to the Homestead.

The event is free, but seating is limited and reservations are required. You can make a reservation by calling **443-907-2636** or get your ticket on EventBrite by searching for "**Stoltzfus book signing.**"

A Note from the Treasurer

Vivian Beiler

Why do you need to make donations to the Nicholas Stoltzfus Homestead? If you've attended our auction, you may think that the Homestead takes in a lot of money from the Annual Benefit Auction and therefore, there is no need to make a donation. The truth of the matter is, however, that after paying the auction expenses such as tent rental, table & chairs rental, portable restroom rentals, food purchases (many businesses who donated food in the past no longer do so), and advertising, we have netted less than \$8,000 in recent years. A big reason for this is that so many not for profit organizations are hosting similar events. Our regular annual expenses for insurance, repairs and maintenance, newsletter printing and mailing, utilities, mowing, taxes and tax return preparation, etc total around \$13,500 per year. We have been able to close the gap by hosting dinners and from rental income from folks using the property. Our committee members spend countless hours on the auction and on benefit dinners. Many of us have been on the committee for a number of years and we're not getting any younger. We've had a few new younger members join us but we could always use more to help lessen the load. We are hoping that we will see an increase in rentals now that we have a caretaker on the premises to facilitate groups. But we would also encourage you to consider making an annual donation to the Homestead to help us meet our regular budget needs. Now that the house is preserved and the barn has been built, we need to look at how we are going to maintain this special property. We do not currently have a reserve fund to fall back on if our annual revenues do not cover our operating expenses. We also still owe \$10,000 to an individual who extended an interest free loan to us to enable us to finish the apartment. We need your help to continue to care for the Homestead. Please consider making a donation today.

Annual Benefit Auction

May 2nd, 2020

1700 Tulpehocken Road, Wyomissing, Pa 19610

Event is FREE for all ages.

2019 Auction photos



The 18th annual benefit auction will be held on Saturday, May 2nd, 2020 with breakfast starting at 8 am. Auction begins at 9:30 AM, with Quilt auction at 11:00 AM.

Please consider donating something for the auction! This is our biggest fundraiser of the year and goes towards covering our expenses as well as future projects sharing Stoltzfus family history and Amish-Mennonite history in Berks County. You can bring things to the auction the day of the auction.

Highlights of the auction: Re-enactors cooking pioneer food in the Nicholas Stoltzfus House fireplace, a collection of the finest Amish made quilts, family friendly books, and perfect items to stock new households.

Come meet new freundschaft, eat great home-cooked PA Dutch food, bid on some handcrafted goods and quilts, and find out more about our history!



Photos by Elam Stoltzfus

Furthering partnership with Penn State Berks

We are continuing to build our relationship with our neighbors at Penn State Berks. A summer intern from the Global Studies program, Shelby Burnley, took pictures of all the historical items in the house under the supervision of Dr. Randall Fegley. This fall Barbara Lessig with the library is leading an archeological dig at the homestead, looking to uncover new artifacts to add to our collection.



Over 500 visitors at the Homestead this summer

According to our guest book and visitation records, we had over 500 people visit the homestead this summer from May to September! We had visitors ranging from locals to as far away as Texas, New Mexico, and Florida. During this time we hosted multiple events: the annual auction in May, Kissinger's Church picnic in July, a baby shower, a wedding, multiple family reunions, and a few company picnics.

To rent the Homestead for your next event call our new office line at **484-878-2916** or send us an e-mail at **nicholasstoltzfushomestead@gmail.com**. Rental prices on our website.



Increasing Voltage at the Homestead

Dan Fisher of Morgantown led the project to increase the voltage in the barn and house from 110 to 220 volts. Mike Allgyer and his son dug a pit to bury the wires, which included burying the phone cable and lines for security cameras.



Homestead to be featured in Berks Historic Property Tour

The Homestead will be featured in the 2019 Berks Historic Property Tour, which will take place on Saturday, October 12th, from 9 am to 4 pm.

Tickets are \$35 and can be purchased by calling 610-375-4375 or visiting berkshistory.org. Tickets will also be sold the day of the tour at the Homestead.

We will be selling food that day to raise money for the Homestead. The last time the Homestead was on the tour, over 500 people visited the Homestead; like last time, it is the oldest home featured on the tour.



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2019 9AM-4PM

Discover the Borough of Wyomissing

4 Centuries in Berks
Historical Preservation Society

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

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Reading, PA
PI# 415

Send a copy to a friend.

A new release - this fall
A new coffee table book

***“German Lutherans to Pennsylvania Amish:
The Stoltzfus Family Story”***

Written by S. Nicholas Stoltzfus
Photography by Elam Stoltzfus & S. Nicholas Stoltzfus
Including new research by Dr. Rose Beiler
& Zach Stoltzfus.
Signature image by Freiman Stoltzfus & more

This group has retraced the steps of the Stoltzfus
ancestors, interviewed historians, visited with people
who live in the communities and completed extensive
archival research in Germany.

Order at www.Masthof.com or call 610-286-0258



Like and share the FaceBook page. A place to tell stories,
share images, videos, and stay informed with updates.
<https://www.facebook.com/NicholasStoltzfusHomestead>

Fall Cleanup

We are doing a fall cleaning on
Saturday, September 28th,
from 9 am to 4 pm at the
Nicholas Stoltzfus Homestead.
Please RSVP to 484-878-2916
if you can make it.

