



the HOMESTEAD

A Publication of the Nicholas Stoltzfus House Preservation Committee

Spring 2011 | www.NicholasStoltzfus.com

Spread of *Unser Leit* (Our People)

My* brother Chester (1934-2003) lived in Somalia most of the time from 1955 to 1975. There were no other Stoltzfuses in Somalia. He felt the exclusion factor as our father, Christian, spoke so much of our kin. How could Chester embrace the Somali if his first loyalty was to kin?

We five brothers (The Uncles) made two CDs in the James Hodgkin studio. On *More Love, More Grace* we recorded Chet's song, *Melchizedek*.

How can I be a "Stoltzfus" or "Smucker" and also be brother to the Somali – or Peruvians?

Thus Stoltzfus roots have spread to many parts of the country and abroad. Stephen Stoltzfus with his best friend Samuel Z. Stoltzfus were hard working Amish farm boys in their early twenties when they left home. Samuel Z. became a lifelong engineer with Boeing Aircraft Company, while Stephen S. Stoltzfus found his life work with the R.G. Letourneau Company of Longview, Texas, where he obtained his training, and then he went on to spend twenty-two years with one of Letourneau's projects in Peru, South America. Steve also found his wife in Peru. She was a Mennonite teacher from Mountain Lake, Minnesota, who had an assignment to teach English in Quito, Ecuador. They met in the jungle of eastern Peru where she was on vacation, and that is where they then lived and raised their family.

Steve's daughter, Rozanna, established the quilt sale for our early auctions. She, her husband (Steve Leever), and 4 children live and work in Qatar, the other side of the globe from Peru where she was born!



*Compiled by Paul Kurtz, C.P. Stoltzfus

Words and music by
Chester I. Kurtz 8/1996

Melchizedek

1. Old Ab - ram won a vic - to - ry and wished to thank the Lord,
2. Then A - bra - ham he had a son as God had said 'twould be,
3. But Je - sus is our great High Priest with no Le - vite pe - di - gree,
(Slower) 4. So if you think you've got to be of some pres - tig - ious blood

Then on the scene came 'Chiz - e - dek, and blessed him with his word
De - scen - dants in a - bun - dance that would bless hu - ma - ni - ty
So how could he be qua - li - fied a true high priest to be?
Be - fore you can be qua - li - fied to serve the liv - ing God,

In gra - ti - tude O! Ab - ram gave him a tenth of all he got,
And Le - vi was the one from whom the ge - ne - a - lo - gy
He's just like O! Mel - chi - ze - dek, no ge - ne - a - lo - gy...
Re - mem - ber God can take a bloke from Ka - la - ku - ka - lie

But would not take a shoe string Υ from the king of the land of Lot.
From which all priests were meant to come in per - pe - tu - i - ty.
Be - fore a Le - vi e - ver was, He's a priest e - ter - nal - ly,
And make him o - ver to be - come a priest of God Most High!

Chorus *Start*

O Melchizedek, King of Sa - lem, priest of God most High,

How did you get that ho - nor to be giv - en Ab - ram's tithe?
4 - Is this how you got the

The projects of Letourneau in Peru were actually in three stages, first it was road building, then land clearing, and the last was launching of barges for the oil industry when they found oil in the jungle. **Pictured on left: Steve (hard hat) with his work crew, C.P. Stoltzfus on far left.**

After Stephen Stoltzfus was working on the road building project in the jungle of Peru he got more of the Stoltzfuses from Pennsylvania involved in the project. His brother Ammon developed a chicken industry in Peru for Letourneau.

Merle Stoltzfus, son of Ammon, (our leader in the barn project) wrote the following: “Our family (6 children) went to Peru from August of 1961 until July of 1964. My dad built and managed a chicken complex with egg layers and broilers. In his last year he also helped with the saw mill and home construction.

Our family knew R. G. LeTourneau personally because Dad was his employee. On one occasion we had him to our home for dinner. Several times he came to Tournavista, Peru where we lived. He flew in with his own airplane which created some excitement in our jungle village. Our connection with LeTourneau was through my Uncle Steve (Dad’s younger brother).

My brother Dave, sister Esther and I attended and graduated from LeTourneau University in Longview, Texas in the 1970’s.” (Merle was chairman of the LeTourneau University Board, 2004-2006, is now a Trustee and Treasurer)



Left to right: Ammon, Storekeeper, C.P. Stoltzfus

Then there is Alvin Rahmel. Alvin came to Peru as a young man, a displaced person from East Germany. He established a chain of typewriter and electronic supply stores, supplying government offices and businesses, But the most important thing that Alvin Rahmel did at that time was to make many friends.

When making a road into the jungle, Alvin became the contact man for LeTourneau to negotiate with Peruvian officials, the same people with whom Alvin had befriended. Alvin continues to be a successful business man in Peru and also has a ministry of feeding many hungry children every day in the ghettos of Lima. He also owns a large cattle ranch among the Mennonites in Paraguay.

Because some Stoltzfuses went to Peru, Alvin Rahmel has become supportive of the Barn project. He feels



Left to right: Alvin, Mrs. LeTourneau, R.G.’s son, Roy LeTourneau

akin to all of us. He plans to come for the dedication of the barn – when it is finished!

C.P. Stoltzfus, who with his wife Mary had set up the house trailer and cared for the NSH, also was in Peru: “I spent two terms of about a year each in Peru. In 1966 I came there as a welder to teach welding in the shop to natives. I was told later by LeTourneau personnel that I left them with some of the best welders that they ever had. The ship building on the river port was just beginning to take root as oil had been discovered there.

My next stint was in 1974. As the oil wells were beginning to produce, barges were needed to transfer oil on the Amazon. Cousin Steve came home one day from a business trip to Lima and said he talked to an oil man who wants a contract to launch 200 barges into the river. We were the only people in the country who had heavy equipment sufficient to do the job. Ship building personnel came from Lima and the barges were built on the flat sand bars weighing from 150 to 250 ton. Our job was then to get them into the river, all this was without any regular dry docks.”

While we read Leroy Beachy’s books with background information on the Amish families that came to Berks County in the 1700s we note their devotion to the faith. Just as Abraham gave his title of appreciation to a stranger, Melchizedek, these descendants of Nicholas Stoltzfus have been blessed by others. We pray that such bonds may continue both here and abroad.

MY HOUSE

COME TO MEET LEROY BEACHY

Get your signed copy of
Unser Leit: The story of the Amish
Two volume, 500 pages each

He collected barn doors from the John Zook
homestead in the mid 1990's he will bring and
leave with the NSH

At the Auction, May 14



Nicholas' last community was the Berks Amish
settlement. Here he was home among such immi-
grant family heads as:

Jacob Beiler 1698–1771
John Gerber –ca 1778
Jacob Hertzler 1703–1786 Bishop
Jacob Hochstetler 1704–1775
Isaac Kauffman 1718–1802 ?
Samuel Koenig 1728–ca1786
Hans Kurtz 1722–1796
Hans Lantz –ca1789
Benedict Lehman ? – ?
Strong Jacob Yoder ca1726–ca1790
Moritz Zook (John's brother) 1715–?

Just imagine what they would have talked about
when they got together!

COME TO SEE BARN PROGRESS



Thanks to Alberta and many others!

COME TO EAT

Breakfast at 8
Barbecue chicken and beef (later)
Pie and ice cream



AND LOOK FOR RICH PAWLING The Canal Man



“As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord”

THE “BRING SOMETHING... BUY SOMETHING” AUCTION

MAY 14, 2011

(For bus reservations call 717-354-8834)

WHERE:

222 North, Exit right onto Broadcasting
1/2 mile to Tulpehocken, turn right
2 miles to the Stoltzfus House

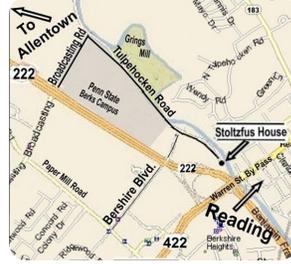
EVENTS:

Breakfast at 8:00am
Sanger Chor, Pigeon release
9:00 Bidding, 11:00 Quilts

IN THE HOUSE:

Don Carpenter, Jack Parmer, Chris Stoltzfus,
and Zach Stoltzfus with hot cider from the
fireplace and wool spinning

And see the barn-building progress



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