

## Barn Sounds

Dave Esh, our builder, and I have a different impression from the hammer marks on the barn floor. Just after seeing a new, perfect barn floor he came to this one with hammer marks. You can imagine his disappointment.



In October about 30 Ravens came to a work day. As the girls were into housekeeping, the boys performed a symphony with hammers, nails, and elbow grease. The sound wasn't captured, but if it had it could ring with all devoted to the Homestead.

*Continued on page 2*

## 20 Years from Now

- by Paul Kurtz, Reprinted from the last newsletter -

When Gideon Fisher paid \$1600 for Nicholas' chest there was a gasp: *So much money for just a wooden chest!* Now many people have looked into the open chest and felt a kinship. That money is not a factor anymore.



The barn is costing so much. Yet even now its intrigue has become a curiosity. News reporters ask, "What does the house mean to you?" Then there was the bicyclist who pulled in to see the house with his children. The children thought it was awesome.

The nearby Tulpehocken Creek is our Old Man River - "He just keeps rolling along." The creek was the same. Some things are the same; some things change. Twenty years from now there will be Stoltzfus descendants. But like the water in the creek, they will change, yet their descendency will be the same. Will they understand what being Amish meant to Nicholas and his family?

How do you feel when you look into the chest in which all of Nicholas' belongings fit in 1766? How do you feel when you walk into the Stoltzfus House, the same doorway Nicholas and his family entered in 1771?

When the Heritage Room is done it will be a place to contemplate meanings. Ben Blank and Abner Beiler will be affirmed *Twenty Years from Now* when today's teenagers bring their young families for Heritage!



Catch Up:

*Last fall we published a newsletter which was posted, but not mailed out. The Committee decided we needed to budget for the annual auction, and since we used funds for the barn we could not do both. You can request that newsletter from Paul S Kurtz, 206 Wheat Ridge Dr, Ephrata, PA 17522, 717-808-7785, Psku04@ptd.com.*

*You would not want to miss the article by Amy Martin (now Stoltzfus), "Why I'm proud to be a Stoltzfus" and Sam Stoltzfus' "What would Abner Beiler have said?" Just ask.*

If you would like more information or are interested in donating, please contact Paul Kurtz by email at psku04@ptd.net, by phone at 717-808-7785, or by visiting [nicholasstoltzfus.org](http://nicholasstoltzfus.org).

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## Dr Fegley, Zach, and Students

In a class taught by Dr. Randall Fegley, assisted by Zachary Stoltzfus, ten students pondered into the Old Orders of Berks County. They focused attention on Nicholas Stoltzfus and the Amish settlement of Berks County. Each was required to donate 10 hours to the NSH project. Among other activities they dug a ditch for the water line through the barn and took down a tree enabling a clear view of the barn from the house.



This well could include identification of the artifacts now in the back room, items that Chris P had assembled.

That was last semester, and this semester Zach is guiding the process of publishing their work. The Penn State Berks University will publish Dr. Fegley's and the student's efforts in a significant document.

Dr. Fegley has plans for a continuing relationship. We expect what is known as an archeological dig on our site to see what may be uncovered about the past.

### *Barn Sounds, continued from page 1.*

Yes, there are hammer marks in the wood. Looking at them brings tears to my eyes, but not for the same reason Dave could cry. I tear up when I imagine what may occur 10 years from now: These young people will become parents, they will bring their children to the Homestead, Dad will point to a mark and say, "I made that mark." The children may ask, "what is all this for?" That will lead to the story.

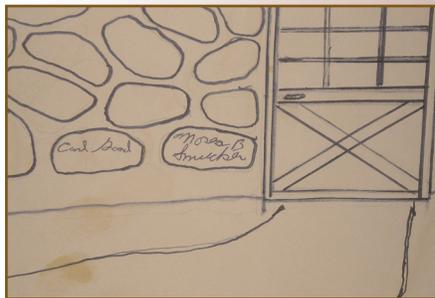
It is this story that deserves writing a check for the project. The story is the compass that gives us our direction. It is a story where the needle points to The Word which had become, for the first time, available to the common people of Europe. Nicholas had come to hear the Word in Zweibrucken, preached and lived by Amish. It is a story of how the Word came to us.

Ravens is a large group of Amish youth. They are Amish of the future. Can they sing! At one point the group of 30 stood in the barn and sang. The timbers, put in place July 27, 2011, resounded as they sang.

## Build the Wall

Lydia is getting ready to have you help with the wall. Each stone represents \$20, allowing you to help build the wall. Donate \$20 and your name will be on a "stone".

Lydia's wall will be on display at events if you wish to sign it yourself. It will be at the Stoltzfus House, call 717-808-7785 to assure the door will be open. For this, mail your donation to Lydia Kurtz, 206 Wheat Ridge Dr, Ephrata, PA 17522. Checks are written to NSHPC. Go to [www.Nicholasstoltzfus.com](http://www.Nicholasstoltzfus.com) if you want to reserve a "stone" on Lydia's wall.



Lydia is among the devoted with no Stoltzfus ancestry. She arranged for our move to Fairmount so I would be closer to the Stoltzfus House.

We expect the signed wall will be placed in the heritage room some day!

### The Barn at the Stoltzfus Homestead

Do you want to have a part in finishing the stone work on the barn?

Each stone will represent a name. This mural will be a permanent part of the display inside the Heritage Room in the Barn when it is finished. We can be proud of our heritage and the Stoltzfus name.

For a contribution of only \$20.00, you can have your name put on a stone on this mural. Maybe you want to honor a loved one by buying a stone in their memory. There is no limit to the number of stones that you can buy but each one must have a different name.

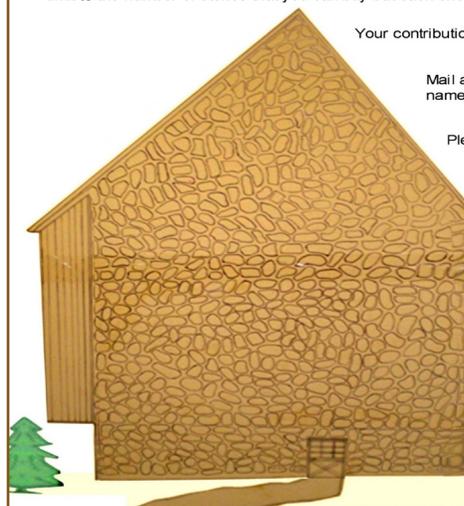
Your contribution will be greatly appreciated!

Mail a check of \$20.00 for each name you wish to put on a stone.

Please make checks payable to:  
**NSHPC**

Mail to:  
Lydia Kurtz  
Barn Wall Fund  
206 Wheat Ridge Dr.  
Ephrata, PA 17522

For Internet donations  
Please visit the  
Nicholas Stoltzfus website  
<http://www.nicholasstoltzfus.com/>





## The 10th Annual Benefit Auction at the NSH

May 12th begins with breakfast at 8:00. Donated items for the auction can be given at the tent along Tulpehocken road, the house will be open. Events such as the Sanger Chor will sing Pa. Dutch songs, and we expect a volley ball game on the flat, and cooking in the fireplace. Vendors may contact Lorraine Smoker (717-354-8834) to reserve a table.

Other events include continuous showings of a video by Jack Parmer entitled "Ten Years of Progress on the Nicholas Stoltzfus House." Chris P. Stoltzfus will be available to answer questions.



- Bidding begins at 9:00, with the quilts at 11:30. Cristina Smoker (717-626-2668) is in charge of the quilt sale.

- Besides the breakfast, barbeques, hot dogs, ice cream, and other foods are on the menu. Baked goods can be purchased as well.

- Mose Smucker, auctioneer, (AU4088) has led all previous auctions, and wants this one, again, to be a "Bring and Buy" auction. Bring something to donate, and buy to support. Besides the quilts there are numerous Amish made items as well as tools, plants, hand-crafted items, and much more.

- To report donated items call Brian Smoker, 717-626-2668.

- To reserve for the bus from Lancaster County please call Amos Zook, 768-7739

- To volunteer on the barn work, call Dave Esh, 717-768-8528. Help finish the barn: write check to NSHPC, mail to Vivian Beiler, Treas., 243 W Fulton St., New Holland, PA 17557

- To reserve on the bus from Pequea call Amos Zook, 717-768-7739

For further information contact Paul S Kurtz 717-808-7785 Psku04@ptd.com. Also go to: <http://www.nicholasstoltzfus.org/> (click on donation icon) or visit facebook: Nicholas Stoltzfus House/



## Special Dinner Featuring Leroy Beachy

A special dinner is scheduled for Wednesday, April 25, 6:00, at the Gordonville Fire Hall along the Old Leacock Road, with the meal donated by Stoltzfus Meats. Reservations (\$20) are requested by April 20 with a check written to NSHPC and designated as dinner reservation, mailed to Vivian Beiler, Treas., 243 W. Fulton Street, New Holland, PA 17557.

Leroy Beachy is scheduled to present *Unser Leit*, his recent publication of Amish origins, family backgrounds, and more recent Amish developments. Beachy first presented his newly published volumes at the auction of 2011. Autographed copies of *Unser Leit* can be purchased.

## What You Can Do

•Donate for completion of the barn. Dave Esh had estimated when we have \$120,000 he could erect the structure. It is well insulated, the doors are locked, and now we need to line with the stones, make the apartment for caretakers, provide public restrooms, and equip the Heritage Room. Send in \$20, request your name on a "stone" the gable end poster. Pass the word on.

•Call Dave Esh (717-768-8528) to donate labor.

•Bring and buy at the auction on Saturday, May 12th.

Yet to be realized: The Heritage Room. *For internet donations go to Network For Good at [www.Nicholasstoltzfus.com](http://www.Nicholasstoltzfus.com) (PayPal is an option)*

Photos for this issue were contributed by Carl and Lydia Good, Dr. Randall Fegley, Paul Kurtz and Richard Patrick.



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