



# *the* HOMESTEAD

A Publication of the Nicholas Stoltzfus House Preservation Committee

Summer 2011 | [www.NicholasStoltzfus.org](http://www.NicholasStoltzfus.org)

## Many helped get to HERE, and we are grateful!

What will it be like when the caretakers who will be living in the “barn” can see the House,



and when the Heritage Room is full of interesting connections, and we get the picture of what has been brought for us?

## How do we get TO THERE?

I spoke of Nicholas Stoltzfus to a young man at the Farmers Market in Wyomissing, he told me he is only interested if Nicholas left him something in his inheritance!

Somewhere near a million descendants living today have some genes, if nothing else, from Nicholas. Oh, yes, many know of more that we got from the early Stoltzfuses. But not all of them have been happy to be a Stoltzfus. Some even changed their last name to Proudfoot! (and some changed the spelling for practical reasons, like Stolfus, for instance!)

I remember my grandmothers' spirit as they sang the hymns, and read the Bible as well as the Martyrs Book. It is like a stream of meaning, refreshing me as I continue on the journey of life.

Song writer Steve Green, as he spoke of resentments in his teen years, said God was “writing a genealogy of grace.” More than the genes from Nicholas, we have had open to us the good news of Jesus Christ. I am convinced that Nicholas and his family listened and put the good news into practice. Thus handed to us are life patterns of benefit and a hope of life to come. Our “genealogy” is one of grace. So, where will we go to receive the inheritance?



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## Why and How we get there

Lydia and I recently moved from Elizabethtown to a cottage at Fairmount Homes, near Ephrata. This reduces the travel to The Stoltzfus House.

In this move we went “about” 65 MPH on routes 283, 30 and 222. On Farmersville Road we found carriages moving under 20 MPH.

What is the rate for our completing the barn at the Stoltzfus House? For many descendants of Nicholas driving 65 MPH is not the priority. An attitude of the heart? Something like that is most important. Keeping a sure foundation? As Dave Esh said, “If we don’t forgive, how can we expect to be forgiven?” “Going” is a way of life, and in going fast we could miss something.

Well, some descendants do drive 65. And some do use high-speed communication, like FaceBook! Here are samples from the Nicholas Stoltzfus House site:

Earlier: We are awaiting final drawings of the barn to submit the application for the building permit. Spread this word: “Be one of the 1000 that sends in \$20 to boost the project! “ Mail to Vivian Beiler Treas., 243 Fulton St, New Holland, PA 17557

**Susan Stoltzfus Hibshman** - This is my great, great, great, great, great, great, great, great grandfathers house. The father who brought the Stoltzfus name to America.

**Rachel Beiler** - Great idea for the 20 each - I sent mine.

**Kim Angstadt Schulze** - My father who was 78 just passed away on May 1st, was born in this house when it was the Tulpehocken Farms.

## By what speed will we complete the Barn?

This depends on donated time, material and finances. We are about 50 % of where we need to be. We have a great start.

### News Flash

On June 30 Wyomissing Borough granted Dave Esh, William Stoltzfus, and me the final permit.

### Barnraising

July 27, 2011, 8:00. Volunteer help needed. Contact **David Esh, 717-951-0166**. Come, see, hot dogs, hamburgers, soup, etc., will be served. Bring food to set out. See the House.

## We get there one step at a time.

The Committee met with interested persons at Pool Forge during the Auction Picnic July 6 to decide the priority, should it be the stone facing or the apartment.

Dave Esh calculates we can do one of these now. It was agreed to do the stone facing after the walls and roof are up. The interior will occur as funds allow.

Much is donated in time and material, but not all can be thus. These are hard times for many people, so who can help us take the next step?



**Rosie Lapp** - I am thankful to have a godly heritage and proud to be a Stoltzfus. Thank you to all who care about preserving our history and are working hard to make the homestead available to the family. I moved to Virginia from Honey Brook, PA 14 years ago and love it here, but I will always have my heartstrings tied to the homeland of my forefathers.

(From the Nicholas Stoltzfus House Facebook)

## This lit the fire!

Alberta Stolfus Brinkman's story is most interesting. As I review the records of the family groups and individuals that enabled the project to move forward I see so many who have given so much.

Yet it was Alberta's 90th birthday celebration in September of 2010 that sparked the readiness to move ahead. Dave Esh had said when we reach a goal of \$120,000 we can begin.

Years ago Alberta needed to piece together her story and met Abner Beiler, someone we can never forget. During the 1970's Abner searched the pile of tombstones from the old Reading cemetery seeking one with Stoltzfus engraved. Later then he accompanied Alberta to the newly discovered Nicholas Stoltzfus House, they kept in touch.

One visit to the Reading area coincided with the Flying Farmers convention. These were her (and her late husband, Jerome's) friends, so when her 90th came along they were there to join her!

Pud Sam Stoltzfus says Abner would be pleased to see the progress. He would feel rewarded for the time he took with the Brinkmans. Even before his death in 2002 he realized joyful progress.

So consider these contributors a worthy honor to pioneer Abner Beiler, 1917-2002.

## Barn raising date is July 27



Thanks to all who made the auction a success! We regret the rainy accommodations for the Sanger Chor, are pleased that Leroy Beachy sold 27 of Unser Leit, his comprehensive work on the Amish story. Don Carpenter, Rich Pawling and more made the day interesting.



*The Nicholas Stoltzfus House*  
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**Barn raising July 27**

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