

## The 12th Annual Auction

The 12th annual “Bring Something, Buy Something” was held Saturday, May 10th with a crowd of 200 people attending. We started with a 5k race and the Sanger Choir singing German songs. We released pigeons just before the start of the auction.

Some of the items we auctioned were: crafts, new furniture, sheds, tools, mailboxes, lawn furniture, garden tools, flowers, shrubs, toys. Stoltzfus Meats provided the meats for our breakfast sandwiches and Lapp Ice Cream provided several flavors of ice cream! There was also barbequed chicken and many pies and pastries to buy.

There was a large variety of 15 to 20 Amish/Mennonite made quilts and afghans. These are a favorite, but you can sometimes get a bargain!

If you have not attended one of our auctions, please plan to attend next year’s auction that is moving to the First Saturday in May; May 2nd, 2015. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend.



## Who Was Tennessee John?

“In the evening by the fireplace while Elizabeth did the mending, Tennessee John read the scriptures aloud and together they prayed for their children and the generations to come.” This is what a Gr-Gr-granddaughter (Christina N. Okamoto) remembers hearing from her mother.

“Writing the biography of my great-grandfather has been the most enjoyable task of my entire life. One of the circumstances which made it so pleasant was the fact that that Tennessee John and his wife Catherine were remarkable people in many ways. Their own children and grandchildren recognized this and literally ‘rose up to call them blessed.’ As their biographer I was drawn to the same conclusion.” Paton Yoder, *Eine Wurzel*, intro.

An Amish leader, his descendants are both Amish and English. After settling in Millwood, burying a child in the new Millwood Cemetery, in 1872 at 67 years of age he led 5 of their eleven families to the Knoxville area, to acquire farms on Dutchtown Road, an area affected by the civil war ten years earlier. It seems he wanted to establish a pure church, uncorrupted by the worldly practices creeping into the Amish churches. *Cont.*

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

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## Barn Progress

The planning began in 2005. The ground-breaking was in 2008. The exterior of the barn was built in 2011.....the interior framing is done in 2014.....



We have raised \$14,500.46 of the \$21,330.46 needed for the Fire/Sprinkler system.....we need to raise another \$7,328.46 so we can continue with insulation in walls, drywall and trim installation.....See page 4 to view a chart of items needed to complete the barn.

Our immediate goal is to complete the barn enough to get an occupancy permit from the Borough of Wyomissing.

This will allow us to place caretakers in the lower apartment. Those caretakers will not only secure the property (there have been no problems thus far....) but will also allow the homestead to be open for family reunions, weddings and other events. The public rest-rooms will be open. There will be additional storage in the barn for items that are currently stored in the mobile home on the property. When the barn is complete, the mobile home will be removed. The Governor Michael Leader family has promised to donate the materials for a pavilion with a functioning kitchen!

For more information on the plans for the barn, please visit our website: [www.nicholas-stoltzfus.com](http://www.nicholas-stoltzfus.com). This homestead will be an ideal location for many family gatherings!

## Who Was Tennessee John?, Cont.

*Cont. from page 1.* The oldest daughter, Mary, married to Amish preacher David Beiler, remained in Lancaster County. They have numerous Amish descendants. Numerous descendants live in the Knoxville area. In 2011, 11 of the 14 mineral royalties paid in Farragut were to descendants, none members of the church he had established.

A reunion August 2, 2014, will bring descendants together. Jim Yoder, whose father Paton wrote of the family in *Eine Wurzel*, will review the story. Attendees can clarify how they connect to John and Catherine (Hooley) Stoltzfus, and what John wrote on immigrant Nicholas. The name "Catherine" has been a favorite for new born girls.

Anna Mary Stoltzfus Groff will have copies of a book compiling letters written to son Gideon, and among descendants. There will be various sessions to be announced.

Volleyball, quoits, and table games along with entertainment for the children will make it a time to meet distant cousins. The Berks County Parks will have the Gruber Wagon Works Museum open nearby for any who want to see what travel and work would have been like in the late 1800's.

Sunday morning a service is planned similar to one led by Tennessee John. Bring your own lawn chairs. Also, bring along artifacts along to be displayed. Food will be available on Saturday. Bring your own for food on Sunday.

The group planning the reunion met at a Fairmount cottage on June 5. Here they are seen holding copies of "Eine Wurzel" by Paton Yoder which Ada Nancy King Smoker had helped to publish. She and C.J.Kurtz conducted a 1978 tour of the Concord area when the book was released.

Pictured below:

Standing: Christina N. Okamoto, Anna Mary Stoltzfus Groff, Mary Roth Leader  
Seated: Leonard Groff, Lowell Roth, Ada Nancy Smoker, Kathy Martin (daughter of Paton Yoder), and Paul Stoltzfus Kurtz. Calvin S Kurtz is missing from the photo.

If interested, folks may mail suggestions and questions to The Nicholas Stoltzfus House, 1700 Tulpehocken Rd, Wyomissing, PA 19610.



Reunion date: August 2, 2014 at Nicholas Stoltzfus House  
Email [psku04@ptd.net](mailto:psku04@ptd.net) or call 717-808-7785 for more information

## 2nd Annual Music & Crafts Festival

Do you enjoy gospel & bluegrass music?  
Come to the Nicholas Stoltzfus Homestead  
for a day of music, food and crafts!

Saturday, September 27, 2014

Children 10 & Under - Free | All others - \$10, admission

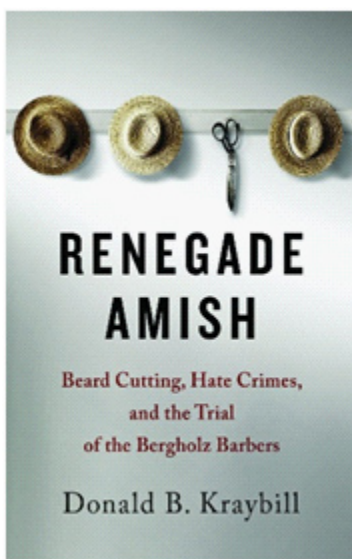
For information:

Festival - Sherry 443-907-2636 | House - Paul 717-808-7785 | [nicolasstoltzfus.com](http://nicolasstoltzfus.com)

### *Renegade Amish*

Wednesday, October 22, 2014 | 6:30PM | Shady Maple Banquet, 129 Toddy Dr, East Earl, PA 17519

This fall the Johns Hopkins University press will release a new book titled *Renegade Amish: Beard Cutting, Hate Crimes, and the Trial of the Bergholz Barbers* written by Donald B. Kraybill.

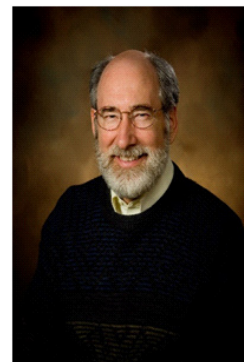


This is the first book that describes five beard and hair cutting attacks on nine Amish victims in Eastern Ohio in the fall 2011. The FBI and the US Department of Justice prosecuted sixteen offenders from the Bergholz community. All sixteen were convicted of various crimes including religiously motivated hate crimes. Bishop Sam Mullet and two ministers were among those convicted and are now serving time in federal prisons. The sixteen offenders received prison sentences ranging from one year to 15 years. The case is currently being appealed to a higher court which will decide the outcome in late fall 2014. The Bergholz offenders were the first people to be convicted of religiously motivated federal hate crimes in North America under the 2009 Shepard Byrd Hate Crimes Act.

Professor Kraybill assisted the US Department of Justice in the prosecution and also served as an expert witness at the trial. In the book he explains the development of the Bergholz community, the motivation for the attacks, why the jury convicted the offenders, and the national significance of the convictions for future hate crimes.

Donald Kraybill will present some highlights from his research and the book, answer questions, and also signed copies of books which will be available at a special discount. Don't miss this rare opportunity to learn about this unusual event in Amish history which has significant implications for future religiously motivated hate crimes in North America.

Reservations are limited. No Walk-ins at the door. \$32/person before Sept. 1, 2014 - \$35/person after Sept. 2, 2014. Call Sherry at 443-907-2636 for reservations. Checks must be mailed to Vivian Beiler, Treasurer NSHCP, 243 W Fulton Street, New Holland, PA 17557



*List of Items Needed to Complete the Barn*

		1st floor		2nd floor	
1	Stud out inside walls	Labor donated	Completed		
2	Rough in electrical	Donated	Completed	Donated	
3	Rough in plumbing	See #15	Completed	See #15	
4	Rough in sprinkler system	\$8,500.00		\$8,500.00	
5	Alarm system for S.S.	\$4,333.60		Included	
6	Install HVAC ductwork	See #16		See #16	
7	Install fiberglass in walls	Completed		Completed	
8	Install drywall	\$5,000.00		\$1,000.00	
9	Install door trim	\$4,000.00		n/a	
10	Install doors	Donated		n/a	
11	Prime and finish drywall	\$3,500.00		\$500.00	
12	Install electric fixtures	\$1,500.00		\$1,500.00	
13	Install drop ceiling	\$1,500.00		n/a	
14	Install kitchen fl covering	\$2,000.00		n/a	
15	Install kitchen cabinets	\$8,000.00		n/a	
16	Finish plumbing	\$4,000.00		\$1,000.00	
17	Install HVAC items	\$8,000.00		\$8,000.00	
18	Install kitchen appliances	\$3,000.00		n/a	
19	Touch up paint	n/c		n/c	
20	Install rug - 1st floor	\$2,000.00		\$8,000.00	
	Sub-Total	\$52,333.60		\$21,500.00	\$73,833.60
	Amount in barn acct. 6-11-				
	Total Amount needed to finish the barn.				\$59,825.14

*Return Address*

*Place  
Stamp  
Here*

*Address*

*Send a copy to a friend.*