

Benefit Auction this year: Saturday, May 2

Inspiring Through the Stoltzfus Family

You will not want to miss the deed transfer from Country Meadows to The Preservation Committee, Inc. On behalf of Nicholas Stoltzfus descendants, Chairman Mose Smucker will receive the deed from Michael Leader, President and CEO of Country Meadows.

Think of it! Prior to Michael Leader having majority ownership of Country Meadows, his father, Governor George M. Leader called Michael Allgyer, excavator, informing him he had a demolition permit for the house and asked him to tear it down. Shortly thereafter he called again cancelling the request until further notice, which never came. Apparently Gov. Leader got word of the significance the house held for many Amish. (Photo at right: the two Michaels, 2010)

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Ben's Plan (to finish the upper level in the barn)

The goal is to be finished by Friday, March 27 and the old trailer moved out by April before the auction. The upper level is the kitchenette, rest room and storage area.

Suggested schedule on Fridays (if someone is there to supervise)

- Jan. 16 ... Framing Contractors needed
- Jan. 23 Electrician, plumber needed
- Jan. 29 Carpenter needed
- Feb. 6 Carpenter needed
- Feb. 13 Carpenter needed
- Feb. 20 Carpenter, vinyl installer
- Feb. 27 carpenter needed
- Mar. 6 Plumber needed
- Mar. 13 Moving day
- Mar. 20 do finishing touches on kitchenette,



NSH can provide transportation for Ben or whoever wants along. Call Dave Esh (717-951-0166) to offer a Friday, call Paul Kurtz (717-808-7785) if transportation is needed. Ben will provide a large infrared radiant heater to heat the barn so we can have a warm place to work in cold winter days. Lets all work together and get this phase done on schedule.

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. Photo credits by Richard Patrick, Carl Good, Jeff Stoltzfus, Harold Mast

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Inspiring, Cont.

Gov. Leader felt a kinship as Mary Jane had Anabaptist ancestry (Strickler and Boyer). In his youth he often delivered chicks from the family hatchery in York to Amish in Lancaster County. When he ran for governor in 1954 he campaigned on the promise to find the way for Amish to meet educational requirements, so as to eliminate the practice of sending fathers to prison when they refused to use the consolidated schools.

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Chris Lapp published Pennsylvania School History in 1991 which details the proceedings when Leader became governor. Chris Lapp's book is available for \$32, tax included. He will be signing the book and answering questions about the Governor's era.

When the apartment is finished we will be looking for someone to live there as caretakers of the property. The terms and conditions are being thought out as we proceed with the project. If you have any interest you may call Mose at 717-278-6532.



A few lines from Joyce Kilmer



Whenever I walk to Suffern along the Erie track

I go by a poor old farmhouse with its shingles broken and black.

I suppose I've passed it a hundred times, but I always stop for a minute

And look at the house, the tragic house, the house with nobody in it.

So whenever I go to Suffern along the Erie track

I never go by the empty house without stopping and looking back,

Yet it hurts me to look at the crumbling roof and the shutters fallen apart,

For I can't help thinking the poor old house is a house with a broken heart.

I learned this poem, recited it in grade school. I became one of many who were stirred by the depiction of the connections between people and where they had lived. I felt that again when the Schlegel family in 2010 returned to their home after they buried their mother. They were asked to leave their home in 1988 as the area was in development.

We had the large bus filled for our October 10, 2014 tour of Berks Amish homesteads. Many of these houses are removed by now, some remain. Like a section of the Hochstetler House in Shartlesville. It is not deserted, rather well occupied by Kevin and Sandy Schlappach. On this tour as before we were taken back to September 20, 1757 as Kevin pointed to where Jacob Hochstetler made his decision.

Thirteen years later Nicholas Stoltzfus brought his family to the "first house built along the Tulpehocken Creek." Although meager, the beginning has proven significant. Jesus said the mustard seed, very tiny, grows to be a big tree. The Stoltzfus family tree is large.

Although no one lives in, The Stoltzfus House is more than an empty residence, it is full of descendants! It is a "homestead", it was a farmhouse for that early family. It was one of 70 homesteads that contained home and work for Amish families coming to Pennsylvania from 1737 to 1767. From there....they spread out in many ways!

While these families grew, the House held its own as it passed from owner to owner 20 times! Oscar Sweitzer (1911-2005) who had managed the Tulpehocken Dairy Store told us the House was the first one built along the Creek. Isaac Mast noted in his deed search in the mid 1970s that William Penn granted a 500 acre warrant to Anthony Morris on March 16, 1737.

The house likely was built by someone in the Morris family. Anthony, according to the Perot Papers, came over with William Penn, there is no evidence he would have lived in this house. A generation or two later broke up the tract by selling half to Thomas Youngman, keeping the rest with James Morris. Nicholas and Christian Stoltzfus acquired 171 acres, including 101 with the house.

Imagine the activity come to the Stoltzfus House in 1771! Before Nicholas' death, November 10, 1774, there were the marriages of Christian and Catherine Gerber, 4 May 1774, and Barbara to John Schmucker about the same time. Did Bishop Jacob Hertzler from Jalappa perform the ceremonies? If he did, how long did it take him to reach the House from his home 20 miles across water, mountains, and hills? Imagine!

Lines from Joyce, continued from page 2

Owners after Solomon King may have interesting descendants:

Who lived in the house after Nicholas died in 1774 is not clear. The property was in John Smucker's name after 1787, but then they lived in the Joseph Hiester House in Spring Township. In 1801 the Smucker daughter Veronica with her husband Solomon King occupied until 1804 when they moved to Lancaster County.

Ten owned the house from 1804 to 1924 when the Textile Machine Company purchased it, as the partner Henry Janssen was developing the Tulpehocken Farms. Then folks who lived in the house were employed by the Farms.

Harold Mast, married to the former Ruth Angstadt, toured the area with his father-in-law, Mennonite Pastor Paul Angstadt. Paul recognized the house – he had lived there with an Uncle during teen years.



His daughter Lois treasures the House for this reason, serves as tour guide for us.



Pam Bush told me this when on the recent Berks Amish tour: Hi Paul, my grandparents, Ewald & Adelma Schreiter lived in the Stoltzfus house with their children Kurt, Elsa and Gertrud (my mother).

They came from Annaberg in Saxony, near Chemnitz

and Dresden. Ewald was brought to the US to work building shipping crates for Wyomissing Industries in 1924. In 1925 his family joined him and they moved into the Stoltzfus house. They were there a few years. My mother began at Kissinger's School (next to Kissinger's church) in 1926. By 1930 or so the family moved to Berkshire Heights.

The next family I am aware of is the Schlegel family. Many persons have told me of playing with the Schlegel children. We have pictures of the house in 1982 depicted as a place of peace, pictures that Mrs. Schlegel treasured after 1988 in their Reading residences. When the family had buried their mother in 2010 they came to recover memories. A daughter told of going up to the corner with her dog to get the mail.

"But a house that has done what a house should do"...The Stoltzfus House has done what a house should do. Now it moves up a notch to be a house for many people – preserved to remember a people of faith that came to Berks County in the 1700s.

The research by Issac Mast.

Mar. 16, 1737 unto Anthony Morris 500 acres in Cumru Twp. from the Penns.

May 22, 1744 Pat. Book G. Vol 12, page 120, Anthony Morris, Stephen Armitt.

July 17, 1752 Pat. Book G. Vol. 12, page 120, 500 acres, Anthony Morris, Jr.

Sept. 29, 1760 Pat. Book G. Vol. 12, page 120, 500 acres, Samuel Morris.

Apr. 14, 1769 Pat. Book G. Vol. 12, page 120, 101½ acres, Thomas Youngman.

Jan. 1, 1770 Book B. Vol. 2, page 358, 70 acres, 31 perches, 231 pounds, Nicholas Stoltzfus and Christian Stoltzfus both of Leacock Twp.

It appears part of this tract of 101½ acres was sold to John Gerber and later bought back again.

Feb. 9, 1771 Deed Book 6 Vol. 1, page 89 unto Thomas Youngman.

Mar. 2, 1771 Christian Stoltzfus release from Thomas Youngman.

Mar. 1, 1776 Release; Book B. 2, page 454 of Nicholas Stoltzfus Estate

May 17, 1787 Deed Book 10, page 66, 101½ acres 4500 lbs. to John Smucker.

Dates	Year	Book	Page	Acres	Price	Buyer
May 14	1801	18	243	101½	2000 lb.	Solomon King
May 26	1804	20	336	84½	1560 lb.	Daniel Myer
Apr. 1	1814	56	245, 247			Union Canal and Martin Riegel
						the Trolley Co. had part of this land.
Apr. 1	1814	44	34	42	Estate of	Martin Riegel
Mar. 31	1849	56	245, 249	26	\$1386.	Jacob Madeira
Apr. 1	1863	74	720	84½	\$9600.	Levi Templein
Feb. 16	1872	114	326	84½	\$4,500.	Henry Gass
Jan. 6	1873	108	502			Levi Templein
Apr. 1	1874	114	326	84½	\$14,500.	Charles Gring
Aug. 24	1894	228	37	84½	\$1.	Wallace Gring
Apr. 13	1923	470	34	84½	\$30,000.	William Sheidy
Feb. 12	1924	573	608	84½	\$1.	Textile Machine Co.

Nicholas Stoltzfus House Preservation Committee, Inc. Officers:

- Chairman.....Mose Smucker
- Vice Chairman.... Ben Riehl
- Secretary....Sherry King
- Treasurer.....Vivian Beiler
- 5th member...Roy Smoker

A Special Note:

The mobile home in which Chris and Mary Stoltzfus lived while beginning the preservation is giving way to better days! It would take a big book to record all they did for the preservation. Thank you!





Why go? To The Benefit Auction:

Benefit Auction this year: Saturday, May 2

*1700 Tulpehocken Road, Wyomissing, PA
Mose Smucker, Auctioneer: AU4088
717-278-6532 | Look to: nicholasstoltzfus.org.*

Return Address

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Stamp
Here*

Address

Send a copy to a friend.