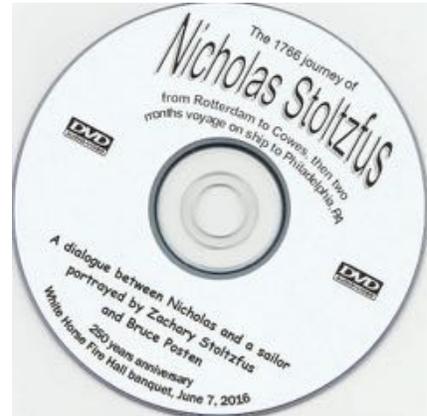


Friday, September 30, 2016

250th Anniversary Tour (Featuring the Stoltzfus event, along with the Berks Amish Heritage)

Commemorating the Philadelphia Landing of the Ship, Polly, October 18, 1766

On June 7 we reflected upon The Stoltzfus Journey to Pennsylvania 250 years ago, October 18, 1766. The 4 year-old Nicholas who lost his father, then lived with his mother and step father in Zweibrucken, eventually when his mother also died he was an orphan. It was then and there he found his people among the Amish.



Thus our roots were established among the Amish. And today we have the Stoltzfus House because of these roots. Governor George Leader in the 1990's had plans to annex the lot, demolish the house, to expand Country Meadows. When he learned the Pequea Bruderschaft insisted to preserve the house, he helped the preservation, and the family has given the deed to the Committee. The Vocational School the Amish have was pivotal, created by Gov.Leader.

250 years after the embarking in Philly (His travel chest is at the Pequea Bruderschaft Library) we have Stoltzfus as the most prominent Amish name in Lancaster County. Smucker/Smoker adds to this, as descendants to Barbara Stoltzfus Smucker (John). Then there is the spread so that in a recent survey 41 states show Stoltzfus businesses. Possibly 1 million living descendants, many non-Amish.

The heritage tour will identify the nearly 70 year presence in Cumru Township, Berks County, with Christian's stay being 30 years. The tour will identify Amish that lived nearby. Along the way we will tell of the Germany Nicholas came from, the 2 month journey on the sea, and comments on later descendants. We will walk on the paved parking lot at the Wyomissing Farmers Market – located on the 101 acre Stoltzfus tract, and in the market we will meet mostly descendants of Nicholas.

250 years later.

7:30 breakfast here:

845 Woodland Road, Wyomissing, PA. 19610

(Breakfast by the Tour)



Then to the Stoltzfus (Smucker) Homestead



Because it was determined the house had been one story, Jack Parmer in documenting the preservation, drew this visual for us to better understand the Stoltzfus experience here. It was when repointing the stone walls the pattern was found, note the window moved up and the original roofline.

Likely daughter Barbara and her husband John Smucker of 1774 lived in this house for a time before occupying the Heister House in Bern



Township. Later on our tour we will visit the Stone House that is now the center of the Wyomissing Municipal Park. The Smucker Reunion of 1976 placed a marker which, at the time, considered the home where John and Barbara raised their 13 children. Recently we learned the family was in the Heister House prior to 1801, and it is most likely John died in 1809 in the Stone house, leaving the estate to sons Peter



and Joseph. A tombstone in the Barnhart-Evans cemetery marks Joseph's burial.



The Stone House has been visited on tours as early as 1959, as it was assumed John Smucker's father was there during the Revolutionary War, 1776. Now it is believed he was visiting the area and refused to sign the pledge of allegiance to the new republic that could have been the occasion for imprisonment. Christian Stoltzfus purchased the Stone House property in 1787, then sold to John and Barbara in 1801.

By 1766 many Amish families had located in the Northkill/ Irish Creek Valley of Berks County. In 1770-71 the Stoltzfus Family moved into the Reading area. We can imagine what it meant to all these families as they sang the Lob Lied. They were not far from the early days of rejection and persecution, now in the freedom to sing.

We will drive by many of the early Amish homesteads, stopping at the Hostetler, Hertzler, Strong Jacob Yoder, and Detweiler Homesteads. The focus will be on how the Stoltzfus family may have related to these.

The aim is to meet at the Wyomissing Farmers Market 7:30 for breakfast and return there by 4:45. Car parking is specified for northeast of the market building. Lunch at Love's in Shartlesville on your own.

Please use the slip below when mailing your check for the tour:

Friday, September 30, at 7:30 a.m.: Berks Amish Heritage Bus Tour
Begins at the Wyomissing Farmer's Market located near the Nicholas Stoltzfus House
Adults: \$65 Ages 5 to 12: \$50 4 and under: free.
Reservations paid before September 1: \$60 and \$45.

Number of reservations: _____

Vivian Beiler, Treasurer, 243 W Fulton St, New Holland, PA 17557 or Pay (\$65) at door: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Contact: Paul Kurtz @ 717-808-7785

The tour is sponsored by The Nicholas Stoltzfus Homestead Preservation Committee, Inc., Mose Smucker, Chairman.

Tour Guides:

Paul Kurtz, with the project since its beginning, and with Berks Amish Heritage tours since 1997.
Sam Stoltzfus, on the European Tour Imagination (John Ruth, guide) into August. He will have interesting reports for us.