

The Homestead

A Publication of the Nicholas Stoltzfus Committee

Chairman's comments

Just before the Auction this year, I was very sick and couldn't be involved in managing the Auction, so I feel somewhat disconnected from the Stoltzfus project at this time. I want to say thanks to all the people who stepped in and made the Auction work:

- Thanks to Mary, wife of Chris P. Stoltzfus, for the donation of the books from her husband's collection.

- Thanks to Ben Reihl, David King, and Nic Stoltzfus for organizing the books, putting together the lots, and providing the sale bill on the books.

- Thanks to my nephew Sylvan Stoltzfus and his family for providing the auctioneer duties for the sale.

- Thanks to the food committee, vendors, and supporters of the Homestead in many different ways.

If you haven't seen the Stoltzfus Homestead grounds recently, this would be a good time to visit, experience the Homestead, and see the expertise of Esther and Elam's handiwork with the landscaping and flowers, along with improvements on the property.

With 2022 just around the corner, the Committee is excited about the future at the Homestead. With some added renovations, bringing in young students from our schools, having more families and groups visiting the Homestead, this is a good time to tell the Stoltzfus story along with our rich heritage.

I hope to see you at the 2022 auction, where you can come to meet lots of the descendants of the Stoltzfus family, visit with friends and enjoy good Lancaster County homemade food.

See you there,

Moses Smucker, Chairman of the Nicholas Stoltzfus Homestead Preservation Committee

A place where memories are made.

A place to bring families together.

A place to relax and relive history.

Save The Date

May 7th 2022 - Annual Benefit Auction

Spring 2021 Auction Highlights: May 1st 2021 was a special day for many of us and we finally had a public gathering after the winter pandemic. The perfect spring day included: tons of finger licking good food, tours of the Homestead, family & friends reconnecting, new & old out of print book sales, and a wonderful slide/bounce house that stayed full all day. A good time was had by all. The Homestead committee is very grateful for the support from many friends, family and neighbors that helped make this auction a great success. We are busy planning for the May 7th 2022 Benefit Auction. Bring something - buy something.



2021 Auction Highlights



Happenings around the Nicholas Stoltzfus Homestead in the past 14 months.

Fourteen months ago Esther and I moved here to manage the Nicholas Stoltzfus Homestead. Moving from the deep south meant change; some big and some small. While there were adjustments along the way, it has been a pleasant transition for us both.

Some people teased us that we have it backwards because when you are older you move from Pennsylvania to Florida. That may be true in many cases, but we are convinced that God orders our steps and, for us, being at the Homestead is part of our journey. We are here for a moment like this.

Recently people have asked me what it's like to be caretakers of a place where people visit any day of the week—sometimes by appointment—but sometimes spontaneous drop ins because they were admiring the flower beds or are in the vicinity. There was a period of time this summer when we had daily visitors. One of the blessings of being curators of the Homestead is the opportunity to meet family, make new friends, and learn more about the history of the Stoltzfus family and the homestead. We are learning more about Berks County Amish history and the rich German/Dutch heritage that is steeped in this region.

Several memorable moments from the past year have been etched in our memories. One is the experience of hosting extended Stoltzfus family reunions and tours. Now, if you all came home at one time, the property couldn't contain us all! But what a thrill it is to see the Stoltzfus' coming "home". I'm sure Nicholas and Anna had no concept of the legacy they were creating in the small house by the Tulpehocken Creek.

Another piece of the family puzzle is the renewed interest in our genealogy connections to Nicholas and Anna. Sometimes this means sitting at the table researching through the Fisher book to find the link that connects us through the years.

We have enjoyed preparing the soil for the flower gardens. Esther's green thumb thrived with most of the plants. She has done a super job learning about Pennsylvania plants she couldn't grow in the south like lilacs, peonies, and lavender. She learned that groundhogs were not cute when they munched on her petunias! The gardens have been enjoyed by many visitors and sometimes people would stop by just to walk the grounds. Our vision includes adding more flowers and trees. We are grateful for many friends and family who shared plants, bulbs, seeds, and gifts of money that added beauty to the gardens.

In the past year I was busy doing maintenance and repairs around the property. One big item was closing up the ditch in front of the house. We filled this up with fill and top soil, seeded grass and planted new trees and shrubs. A huge thanks to Mike Allgyer for his work with the backhoe and bulldozer. The fence was repaired and we added more fence around the barn for safety. I also repaired the rain gutters and painted and stained doors, windows, and trim on the old house and barn. Old houses require continuous maintenance.

Along with physical upkeep and giving tours, I started the process of reviewing business records such as insurance and zoning regulations. In my record search, I realized the Occupancy Permit had never been finalized. After a thorough search for documents and looking through meeting minutes, I discovered the sprinkler system was incomplete and needed an alarm and a monitoring system installed. Esther and I invited the Wyomissing Borough officials to visit the homestead and they came and toured the house and property. This visit was an incredible gift to the homestead and they offered and provided robust support for the occupancy permit as well as for rezoning requests. This has been a time consuming and somewhat costly process to complete the sprinkler system. However, we have gotten the final Occupancy Permit and the homestead will be rezoned from a retirement facility to a historical/tourism site before the end of the year.

Our son Nic is working on the second phase of applying to be on National Historical Registry and this is the comprehensive and somewhat tedious portion that requires photos, measurements, and input from historic architectural experts. Hopefully we can have this completed sometime in early in 2022.

With the rezoning approval we are now able to move forward with the completion of small apartment upstairs in the barn to be made available on Air BnB. We are excited and look forward to the prospect of managing this special place in the barn and creating an ongoing income for the Homestead.

This winter we will continue renovation in the old house, finishing the walls and ceilings of two rooms that have never been completed during the restoration of the house. We want to showcase the house realistically and authentically, especially as we begin to add school tours to our regular tours. We continue to look for old items to add interest and character. We want to preserve the downstairs rooms to look like the 1770's when Nicholas and his family lived here. The upstairs has not been completely restored and one part of that process will be the removal of two closets that were added in the 1800's. We envision the main focus of the upstairs to include interpretative exhibits, a selection of featured historical objects and art.

We are grateful to the many people who have shown support, taken ownership of the Homestead and provided encouragement to us. As we plan for 2022, we will focus on ongoing tours, interpretive education for school programs, managing the rentals and providing a place for reunions, other events for people to learn about their heritage and create new memories at this historical sanctuary.

May God bless you richly,
Elam Stoltzfus

Do you know your Stoltzfus Score?

The Stoltzfus Score - how many lines do you have that go back to Nicholas Stoltzfus?

Either through his son, Christian or his daughter Barbara who married John Smucker. It seems amazing how so many people have multiple ancestry to Nicholas. He was the only Stoltzfus to immigrant.

Would you like to see your ancestors back to Nicholas (and other Amish families) in a family tree chart? Imagine the stories your children and grandchildren about the lives of your ancestors.....and history you will pass on to them.....

Our database is extensive, and with the help of the Fisher Book and Amish directory we could supply the information for most Stoltzfus descendants.

We are using the services of **FamilyChartMasters.com** to print the charts.

Here are the steps you take:

- 1) view the website to get ideas for family trees (optional)
- 2) complete the attached form giving us your parents, grand parents and great grand parents name and date of birth (DOB) along with the corresponding number from the Fisher book or the Amish directory
- 3) call Sherry King (443-907-2636) to discuss your ideas and determine a price. We are charging the cost of the chart printing plus shipping and asking for a donation for the Nicholas Stoltzfus Homestead
- 4) when the price has been determined - mail or email this information to Sherry King, 32 Ginty Drive, North East, MD 21901 or sherryking0323@accountant.com. We will take a check or credit card as payment.

We will get back with you when we have an estimate of the time it will take to send the family tree chart to your home.



2022 Stoltzfus Homestead Calendar Fund Raising Campaign

Collection of 12 photographs of the Homestead by Elam Stoltzfus

Support the ongoing efforts to maintain the Nicholas Stoltzfus Homestead



Field Trips for Amish schoolchildren coming next spring!

By Nic Stoltzfus

We are excited to announce that next spring the Homestead will be open for field trips for Amish schoolchildren!

Plans are to begin field trips for Lancaster Amish schools next spring. The dates are as follows:

March: 1, 2, 3 & 8, 9, 10 & 15, 16, 17 & 29, 30, 31 & April 5, 6, 7 & 12, 13, 14.

If you are interested in having your local school come to the Homestead for a field trip, reach out to caretaker Elam Stoltzfus at 484-878-2916 or email elamsteve@icloud.com. We will send you a packet of information.

Here's a sample schedule of the field trip visit for an Amish school for 1st-8th graders:

10 am: arrive at the Homestead and introduce students to the property

10:30-12: 1st-4th graders learn more about colonial lifestyle (use a butter churn, schnitzelbank, crosscut saw, spinning wheel, grain harvesting, etc.),

5th-8th graders learn more about the Amish faith and immigration (Ausbund, wooden ships, Amish in Berks during the Revolutionary War, Native American history, etc.).

12-1: lunch and colonial-era games

1-2:30: groups switch

3 pm: students head home

This summer, Dr. Rose Beiler, history professor at the University of Central Florida, and I supervised graduate intern Cassidy Michonski for a virtual internship at the Homestead. From her home in Florida, Cassidy built lesson plans for school children to visit the Nicholas Stoltzfus Homestead for field trips.

In Cassidy's own words, reflecting on her internship for her final paper, she said,

"The purpose of the internship was to create curriculum for Amish and public-school field trips to the Homestead. The curriculum was designed for grades first through eighth with the focus on the themes of rural lifestyle, immigration, and religious practice which are consistent with the Homestead's mission... The Amish grade levels were grouped together by grades first through fourth, and fifth through eighth. For the curriculum, I created lesson plans, worksheets, activities, and docent [tour guide] scripts for each of the grade level groups. I began with the public-school curriculum as I used the Pennsylvania State Standards as a basis for the lessons and I had a two-week period to create the lessons, worksheets, activities, and docent scripts for each of the grade level groups."

At the end of her virtual internship, Cassidy flew up from Orlando to visit the Homestead in person in October. She visited several local historic sites across the region, including the Hans Herr House and the Daniel Boone Homestead. My parents Elam and Esther enjoyed hosting her and sharing excellent Dutch food with her from the Wyomissing PA Amish market (Cassidy said her favorite food was homemade shoofly pie)!

The work Cassidy did is essential to sharing more about our Amish history and faith heritage with future generations. This is core to the purpose of what we do, and we are grateful to Cassidy for her hard work in expanding our mission to Amish school children.

2022 Stoltzfus Homestead Calendar Fund Raising Campaign

Order Form



Instructions: Please fill out the form below and enclose your check, written out to "The Nicholas Stoltzfus Homestead," include a check and mail it to this address:

The Nicholas Stoltzfus Homestead, 1700 Tulpehocken Road, Wyomissing, PA 19610.

Orders will be processed weekly for the 2022 calendars.

Name: _____ Address: _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____ Ph# _____

Your Donation Amount: \$14.00 Per Calendar \$12.00 for 5 or more - Amount _____

*Every order includes FREE Shipping

LECTURE Series

Tuesday, November 16, 2021 • 7:00 pm • Bucher Meetinghouse, Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies
One Alpha Drive, Elizabethtown, PA 17022-2298
717.361.1000

SNOWDEN LECTURE

Seeking Religious Toleration: Anabaptist Communication Networks and Migration in the Seventeenth Century

Rosalind Beiler, Ph.D. explores the connections between seventeenth-century European Anabaptists in Switzerland and the Netherlands and many places in between. She explains why those connections arose, how participants communicated across cultural, linguistic and political borders, and how their relationships shaped migration opportunities and flows. The networks and processes of mobility that began in the seventeenth century extended across generations and expanded well beyond the Rhine Valley by the eighteenth century.

Rose Beiler is an associate professor of history at the University of Central Florida in Orlando whose research focuses on the German-speaking Atlantic world. She has published *Immigrant and Entrepreneur: The Atlantic World of Caspar Wistar, 1650-1750* (Penn State University Press, 2008) and essays that look at the intersections of religion and migration within Europe and to the British North American colonies. She is currently working on a book titled *Communication Networks and the Dynamics of Migration, 1630-1730* and a companion digital project.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE NICHOLAS STOLTZFUSS HOMESTEAD FACEBOOK PAGE

BERKS HISTORY CENTER

FINDING ANNA ELIZABETH BACHMAN:
Mysterious Wife of Nicholas Stoltzfus
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4TH • 10 AM

Finding Anna Elizabeth Bachman: Mysterious Wife of Nicholas Stoltzfus

December 4, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

940 Centre Avenue
Reading, PA 19601

Rosalind J. Beiler, Ph. D., shares how she conducted research to discover the identity of Nicholas Stoltzfus’s wife, Anna Elizabeth Bachman, who immigrated to America in 1766. Until recently, her full name was unknown. Dr. Beiler also explores the role of German-speaking and Anabaptist immigrants to Berks County. This presentation continues the BHC’s Berks Suffrage Centennial Celebration and is being held in connection with the historic Nicholas Stoltzfus Homestead.

This program will be held in person, inside the BHC Museum Auditorium. The cost of this program is \$5 for BHC members and \$8 for non-members. The program fee includes admission to the BHC Museum. Fees will be accepted at the door on the day of the event. Coffee, hot tea, juice and pre-packaged muffins will be made available for participants at 9:30 AM.

Attendees must call 610-375-4375 prior to the event to reserve a space.



Fall/Winter BOOK FUNDRAISER for The Nicholas Stoltzfus Homestead



Grab a book and curl up by a warm fire! For a donation to a great cause you can enjoy these books by authors who are historians, master storytellers, and award-winning photographers. Whether you are interested in cowboys or Amish history or memoirs, it's all right here. Your tax deductible donation goes towards Homestead preservation projects. These fundraiser efforts provides us with the funds to stay open and further our vision of sharing our Amish history & faith heritage in Berks County and beyond.

Back by popular demand and request, we offering a repeat of the book fundraiser by mail for the Nicholas Stoltzfus Homestead.

Place your orders by **December 15th** for shipment for **Christmas delivery**.

The Book Fundraiser ends December 31, 2021. All donations must be made by this date.

The Nicholas Stoltzfus Homestead is a registered 501(c)3 non-profit, and your donations are tax-deductible.



German Lutherans to Pennsylvania Amish: The Stoltzfus Family Story

Coffee table book that tells the story of six generations of the Stoltzfus family spanning over 200 years (1624-1832). Includes history of the Nicholas Stoltzfus Homestead. Written by Nic Stoltzfus (Masthof, 2019).



In the Footsteps of My Stoltzfus Family: A Genealogy Memoir

A memoir about reconnecting with Amish heritage, research trip to Germany, and first year as caretaker of the Nicholas Stoltzfus Homestead. Written by Nic Stoltzfus (Masthof, 2020).



The Great Florida Cattle Drive: Unbroken Circles

Coffee table book about a modern-day cattle drive and the history of cowboys in Florida! Written by Nic Stoltzfus (self-published, 2017).



Plow, Pulpit, People: We Called Him Pop

The life story of Christian J. Kurtz, founder of the Amish in Berks tours and Mennonite minister in Morgantown, as told by his son Paul. Written by Paul Kurtz (Masthof, 2019).



Reflections on Old Order German Sects in Berks County: Past, Present and Future

A collection of essays collected by the history department at Penn State Berks; includes essays by Zachary Stoltzfus and "Pud" Sam Stoltzfus. Edited by Owen Reitenauer, Randall Fegley and Zachary Stoltzfus (Masthof, 2019).



The History of the Buffalo Valley/Union County, PA, Amish, 1836-1894, And Immigrant Christian Stoltzfus

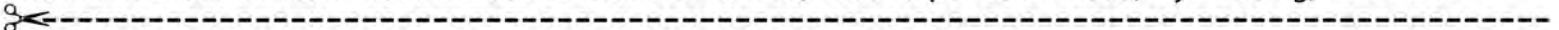
The history of the disbanded Amish community in central PA; includes a history of Nicholas' son Christian. Written by Ben Riehl (Grace Press, 2019).



2022 Nicholas Stoltzfus Homestead Calendar

We will send you a complimentary 11x17 calendar when you make a donation! Includes twelve stunning photos of the Nicholas Stoltzfus Homestead by current caretaker Elam Stoltzfus.

Instructions: Please fill out the form below and enclose your check, written out to "The Nicholas Stoltzfus Homestead," and mail it to this address: The Nicholas Stoltzfus Homestead, 1700 Tulpehocken Road, Wyomissing, PA 19610.



Name: _____ Address: _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____ Ph# _____

email _____

Your Donation Amount: \$25.00 (Choose One Book) \$50.00 (Choose Two Books)
 \$100.00 (Choose Three Books) \$250.00 (All Six Books and a Calendar!)

Please check the box for the Books you would like us to mail you:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>German Lutherans to Pennsylvania Amish</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>In the Footsteps of My Stoltzfus Family</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>The Great Florida Cattle Drive</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Plow, Pulpit, People</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Reflections on Old Order German Sects</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>The History of the Buffalo Valley Amish</i> |

The Nicholas Stoltzfus House
Preservation Committee
1700 Tulpehocken Road
Wyomissing, PA 19610

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Reading, PA
PI# 415

Send a copy to a friend.

Do you have any old books you want to donate for the support of the Nicholas Stoltzfus Homestead 2022 Benefit Auction? Donate your books to the Homestead by February the 28th, 2022. Contact Elam Stoltzfus - 484-878-2916 at the Homestead. Also contact Ben Reihl (717) 768-8218 or Moses Smucker (717) 278-6532 about your donations.



Like and share the FaceBook page. A place to tell stories, share images, videos, and stay informed with updates.
<https://www.facebook.com/NicholasStoltzfusHomestead>

2022 Spring Benefit Auction

**May 7th, 2022 at the
Nicholas Stoltzfus Homestead.**

Come join us to honor the family legacy & support future preservation. Nicholas Stoltzfus purchased the property and moved here in 1771 along the Tulpehocken Creek. Tour the old house, meet new friends and learn about your genealogy.

Bring something - buy something

For more information contact 484-878-2916

