

The Stoltzfus Story

By one calculation there are nearly one million descendants of Nicholas Stoltzfus living today. We know almost nothing about the mother of Nicholas's children. The seventh generation exists today and the 12th generation is on the way.

Taking the great-great grandparents (16), many descendants have a Stoltzfus score of 4 to 8. That is, 1/4 to 1/2 of these had the surname "Stoltzfus", some spelling Stoltzfoos or Stolfus. Nearly all of Lancaster County, Pa., have this in their genealogy, with the Stoltzfus score exceeding King or Fisher.

Two of Nicholas' children continued this descendancy. Christian (m. Catherine Garver and Elizabeth King) had 13 children, his sister (m. John Smucker) had 13 children, 18 in the 3rd generation bore children.

Nicholas sailed from Rotterdam on the ship Polly, Robert Porter-captain, then from Cowes, England on 20 August, 1776. They arrived in Philadelphia 2 months later. It is estimated 181 people were on board. Nicholas lived in Leacock Twp., Lancaster County, Pa., prior to the 1771 move to Berks County. They were probably the last Amish family to locate there among the 70+ families in Berks County, with some settling as early as 1737. No doubt they sang the Loeb Song when they gathered.

Nicholas had joined the Amish in Zweibrucken, Germany. There he married an Amish girl. His grandfather was a Lutheran minister. His son Christian was an Amish bishop.

We are preserving the Nicholas Stoltzfus House to set the occasion for Stoltzfus descendants to consider what we have received. Now the Stoltzfus House is a place for heritage and for activities. Here, as Mose Smucker stated, we meet because of our common heritage and set our differences aside. Here we find common roots.

Levi Stoltzfus (1924 - 1991) compiled "The Revealed Life of Nicholas Stoltzfus." While Christian P. Stoltzfus was in Germany, he researched and wrote many papers that are available at the Stoltzfus House. Among other findings, he noted the name derived from Steltzenfuss (wooden leg) rather than Proudfoot as had been thought before.

On Aug 29, 2000, Michael Leader met with John F Stoltzfus, Pequea Bruderschaft Chairman, Samuel S Stoltzfus, historian, Aaron Petersheim, 1st chairman of The Stoltzfus House Committee, and Paul Kurtz, facilitator. They met several times with a final agreement to preserve on December 6, 2000. Pam Shenk, Executive Director of the TriCounty Heritage Society, signed to allow the Committee to function as a subsidiary. Aaron Petersheim also signed as the Bruderschaft was the prime mover.

The deed (Bk 3277 p 1563) was granted to Country Meadows by Tulpehocken, Ltd on December 15, 2000.

Preservation assurances were issued by the Leader family on April 24, 2007, and again on November 4, 2010.

The TCHS connection was dissolved in 2005 when the Nicholas Stoltzfus House Preservation Committee became incorporated as a non-profit organization.

The Nicholas Stoltzfus House Committee Officers

Moses Smucker Chairman
Benuel S. Riehl Vice Chairman
Sherry King Secretary - E-Mailer
Vivian Beiler - CPA Treasurer
Paul S. Kurtz Ad Hoc Coordinator

Published November 1, 2012



Progress at the Nicholas Stoltzfus Homestead



Brief History of the Stoltzfus House

Amish Mennonite Nicholas Stoltzfus immigrated to America in 1766. He is the progenitor of all Stoltzfuses in America today. In 1976 it was determined he obtained the property at 1700 Tulpehocken Road, Wyomissing, Berks County, Pa., dated 1771. Most likely he lived in this house until his death in 1774.

The Schlegel family occupied the house until 1988. Although a demolition permit had been issued, it became eligible to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places. By 1977 it was boarded shut and overgrown. Abner Beiler and other members of the Pequea Bruderschaft Library, while on the Amish Heritage Tour, pled for the restoration of the house.

The Textile Machine Company purchased this tract in 1924 and it became a part of Tulpehocken Farms. As development progressed, the house became bounded by Country Meadows (a Leader Family venture), the Warren Street Bypass and the new Route 222. Tulpehocken, LTD met with Bruderschaft members in 2000, promising to sell the 1 1/4 acre tract only with the assurance they would allow the preservation of the house. George Leader, 1955 governor of Pennsylvania and his son Michael, purchased the lot with a generous agreement with the Bruderschaft and the TriCounty Heritage Society, Morgantown, Pa.

On Aug 29, 2000, Michael Leader met with John F. Stoltzfus, Chairman - Pequea Bruderschaft, Aaron Petersheim - 1st chairman of The Stoltzfus House Preservation Committee, Samuel S. Stoltzfus - historian and Paul Kurtz - facilitator.

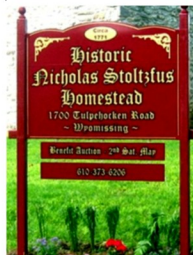
They agreed to preserve the Stoltzfus House on December 6, 2000. Pam Shenk, executive Director of the TriCounty Heritage Society enabled the Committee to become a subsidiary. Aaron Petersheim signed on behalf of the Bruderschaft. The deed (Bk 3277 p 1563) was granted to Country Meadows by Tulpehocken, Ltd on December 15, 2000. The committee incorporated as a 501 (c) 3 non-profit entity in 2005.

Preservation assurances were issued by the Leader family on April 24, 2007, and again on November 4, 2010. The TCHS connection was dissolved in 2005 when NSHPC became incorporated as a non-profit organization. When the barn is complete, along with the agreed upon plot conditions, an NSHPC ownership agreement will be finalized. Thus the project has the blessings of many.

“The First House built along the Tulpehocken”

accredited to Henry Janssen

Prospects for future use abound. Berks Co. Parks, Berks Penn State University, Wyomissing Borough and Country Meadows are all a part of an encouraging environment. With the many contributions of labor and donations, we have come a long way in only 12 yrs.



The Barn at the Stoltzfus Homestead

Ground breaking for the Barn was on the day of the spring Auction. May 10, 2008



Barn raising

July 27, 2011

Summer 2012
Windows and doors installed.
Stonework finished on the lower level of the barn.



Late summer 2012
All stonework was finished on the eastern side of the barn.

The House is Preserved ~ A barn is begun

For.....

Caretaker residence

Public rest rooms

And most of all

The Heritage Room in the Barn

~~ TO DISPLAY ~~

The Stoltzfus Story

The Leader family

The 1700's Berks Amish Settlement

Stoltzfus Descendants Today

The Heritage Room will be for ALL the nearly One Million descendants living today!

All this will be possible if 10,000 new donors contribute \$20.00 each!

Go to nicholasstoltzfus.org.

Donate through **Network for Good**

Mail check to: Vivian Beiler, 243 W Fulton, New Holland, PA 17557 (*Make out to NSHPC)

For information write: Paul S Kurtz
206 Wheat Ridge Dr, Ephrata, PA 17522

Call: 717-808-7785 Email: Psku04@ptd.net

Nicholas Stoltzfus House Committee's Mission Statement

“To preserve the history of the early Anabaptists through the restoration of one of the only remaining structures left from the early settlement in Berks County, PA., namely “the Stoltzfus House” which was occupied by Nicholas Stoltzfus, whose roots reach into approximately 98% of the Lancaster County Amish and their descendants. The Stoltzfus House and other artifacts of the Stoltzfus Family are being restored and preserved to remember the example of their lives lived with a humble attitude of obedience, forgiveness and willingness to share and help others in need; all to the glory and honor of our Lord Jesus Christ.”