

Saturday, May 2, 2026

ANNUAL BENEFIT AUCTION & GATHERING

Auction starts at 9 AM - Quilts 11 AM - Books 12 PM



DELICIOUS AMISH FOOD!

BBQ Chicken & Homemade Ice Cream, Soft Pretzels, Pies & More!

SHOP FOR RARE TREASURES!

Old & New Books, Rare Collection of Fraktur bookplates, Quilts, Household & Garden supplies, Tools!

EXPERIENCE HISTORY!

Old Bibles & Magazines, 1700s Historic House Tours, Museum Displays, 1800s Family Fraktur Records Exhibit, Candle Maker, and More!

EVENTS FOR EVERYONE!

Meet Authors & Historians, Kids' Bounce House & Games, Meet Friends, Family & Neighbors!

"Sharing our Amish History & Heritage in Berks County and Beyond"

Book Catalog download at: www.NicholasStoltzfus.com
Request Book Catalog call - 484-878-2916

Sylvan Stoltzfus, Auctioneer (AY002475)



Auction Bus Schedule - May 2nd, 2026 - Bus Number 1

Time	Location	Address	Comments
6:20 AM	Leola	98 Hellers Church Rd, Leola, PA 17540	Formerly Amos Zook
6:25 AM	Intersection - Creek Hill & Newport Rd	2754 Creek Hill Rd, Leola 17540	Intersection at Newport & Creek Rd
6:35 AM	Mascot Mill	2900 Stumptown Rd, Ronks, PA 17572	Meet in parking lot
6:40 AM	Pond Road	107A Pond Rd, Ronks PA 17572	Amos Zook's place
6:45 AM	Gordonville Fire Company	3204 Vigilant St, Gordonville, PA 17529	Meet in parking lot
6:50 AM	Fairview Grocery Store	96 Paradise Lane, Ronks PA 17572	Meet in parking lot
6:55 AM	Intersection - Ronks & Rt 30	167 N, Ronks Rd, Ronks, PA 17572	Ronks & Rt 30
7:00 AM	Fisher Harness Shop	267 N. Star, Ronks, PA 17572	meet in parking lot
7:10 AM	Fisher Houseware & Fabrics	1098 Georgetown Rd, Paradise PA 17562	meet in parking lot
7:20 AM	George Town Hydraulics	334 Christiana Pike, Christiana, PA 17509	meet in parking lot
7:25 AM	Lapp Lumber Paneling Sales	1640 Mine Rd, Paradise, PA 17562	meet in parking lot
7:30 AM	Gapview Mennonite Church	5324 Mine Rd, Kinzer, PA 17535	Meet in parking lot
7:40 AM	Salisbury Park/Gap	750 White Horse Rd, Gap PA 17527	Meet in parking lot
7:50 AM	SLC Rental - Woodworking shop - Buyerstown	5019 Newport Rd, Kinzers, PA 17535	Meet in parking lot
7:55 AM	Redwell Repair	15 S New Holland Rd Gordonville, PA 17529	Meet in parking lot
8:05 AM	Sheetz New Holland	698 W Main St, New Holland, PA 17557	Meet in parking lot
8;15/20	222 & 568 Adamstown Exit		Standing by the off ramp exit
8:45 AM	Arrive at NSH	1700 Tulpehocken Road, Wyomissing, PA 19610	
3:00 AM	Depart NSH	To New Holland - and Leola	

Bus Number 2

Time	Location	Address	Comments
6:58 AM	Philips Cheese House	433 Centerville Rd, Gordonville	Meeting along road
7:00 AM	Centerville Bulk Food	Centerville & Scenic	Meet in the parking lot
7:10 AM	Intercourse Candle Barn	3551 Old Philadelphia Pike, Intercourse PA 17534	Meet in the parking lot
7:22 AM	Mel Esh place	3666 E. Pequea Lane, Gordonville, PA 17529	Meet in the parking lot
7:25 AM	Spring Garden Mennonite Church	5157 Old Philadelphia Pike, Kinzer PA 17535	Meet in the parking lot
7:30 AM	White Horse Luncheonette	5562 Old Philadelphia Pike, Gap, PA 17527	Meet in the parking lot
7:35 AM	Old Road Mennonite Church	5795 Old Philadelphia Pike, Gap, PA 17527	Meet in the parking lot
7:40 AM	Hilltop Bulk Food Store Compass	1403 W Kings Hwy, Gap, PA 17527	Meet in the parking lot
7:50 AM	Brandywine Shoe Store	1620 Cambridge Rd, Honey Brook, PA 19344	Meet in the parking lot
7:52 AM	Bus Parking Lot (former Kerns Hardware)	450 Pequea Ave, Honey Brook, PA 19344	Meet in the parking lot
7:55 AM	Honey Brook Hardware	5004 Horseshoe Pike Honey Brook, PA 19344	Meet in the parking lot
7:58 AM	Jake Riehl's place	812 Churchtown Rd, Narvon, PA 17555	Meet in the parking lot
8:05 AM	Pool Forge	1940 Main St, Narvon, PA 17555	Meeting along road
8:10 AM	Gap Arborist Supply	2014 Main St, Narvon, PA 17555	Meet in the parking lot
8:15 AM	BB Grocery Outlet	150 Morview Blvd, Morgantown, PA 19543	Meet in the parking lot
8:45 AM	Arrival at the Nicholas Stoltzfus Homestead	1700 Tulpehocken Road, Wyomissing, PA 19610	
3:00 AM	Depart Stoltzfus Homestead	To Intercourse and White Horse	

No need to make a reservation, be at the location and watch for the bus. For more info call 484-878-2916
suggested \$30.00 donation for transportation cost - Thank you!!

Nicholas Stoltzfus Homestead Book Auction Lots for May 2nd, 2026 Benefit Auction

Jack Parmer's collection (Lot 100 to 146), Lot # (# of items); Book Title, publisher, publisher location, date of publication, Names of Fraktur and artist. This is a very rare **fraktur** collection of old German books, Ausbund hymnals and others. It will be a long time before this type of collection will be available at a public auction.



LOT 100 German Bible - Heilige Schrift late 1800s, Old and New Testament with handprinted illustrations and other information. 8 pages of Fraktur by Doell, Hoke, & T.J. Stevens and others. Poor condition, front cover is detached. Pages are in fair condition. Fraktur is in fair condition. Printed in Philadelphia National Publishing Company. Names on Fraktur: **Fannie F. Beiler** 1894, **Benjamin B. Fisher** 1911, Marriage record of **Benjamin B. Fisher** to **Mary Z. Stoltzfus**, Eltern **Benjamin B. Fisher & Mary L. Fisher** birth dates. Deaths **Emma S. Fisher** 1926, Birth record of 6 children 1918 to 1929.



LOT 101 Book of Psalms in German and English. Lancaster PA by John Baer and Sons, 1881 Fraktur front cover: Dieses Buchlein Gehört mir **Lidia Miller** Empfangen von meiner gross dade **Jacob Blank** 1885, artist: Barbara Ebersol. Handwritten text on inside page **Susan B. Ebersole**



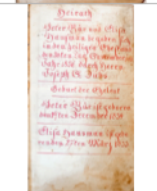
LOT 102 Die Ernsthafte Christenpflicht (small book) Amischen Gemeinden in Lancaster PA 1953, Fraktur on front cover: Dieses Buch gehöret mir **Stenna L. Blank** zum Geschenk empfangen von **Christian N. Blank** 1896, Artist: John Döll Book in excellent condition



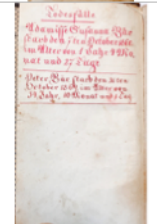
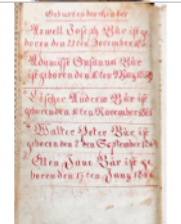
LOT 103 Die Ernsthafte Christenpflicht (small book) Lancaster by John Baer & sons 1868, Fraktur on front page: Dieses Gebet Buchlein gehöret mir **Esra Fischer** 1871, Artist: Gideon Fisher, Book in fragile condition.



LOT 104 Johann Friedrch Stark's Hand-Buch (German) Philadelphia Verlag von J. Kohler 1857. 3 pages of Fraktur: Marriage of **Peter Bär and Eliza Kaufman** 1856 followed their birth dates 1834 & 1833. 2nd page, Birth record of their 5 children from 1856 to 1866. 3rd page, death record of **Udamisse Susanna Bär and Peter Bär**. Artist unknown. Book in fragile condition.



Continuation of LOT 104




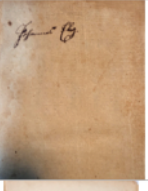





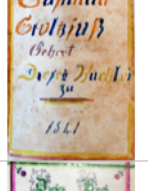













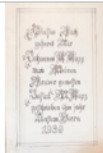



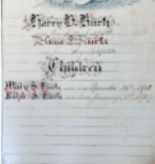

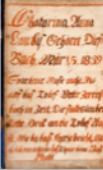












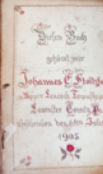
LOT 105. Neues Testament, Lancaster PA The New Era Printing Co 1913. Fraktur: Dieses Buch gehöret mir **Susie Lapp** geschriben den June 1914. Artist: David Hoke, Book in good condition.




LOT 106 Neues Testament, Lancaster PA The New Era Printing Co 1913. Pencil signature of Dan Zook on inside cover. Fraktur: Dieses Buch gehöret mir **Fannie G. Fisher** Geschriben den June 1926, Artist: David Hoke, Book in good condition



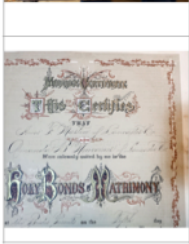



		LOT 107 Neues Testament, Lancaster PA The New Era Printing Co 1913. Fraktur: Presented to Jonas Glick by his parents, Artist: T.J. Stevens. Book in good condition.
		LOT 108 Ausbund - Germantown by Leibert und Billmeyer 1785, signature in German Cursive, Johannes Eby , Loose cover, book in fair condition.
		LOT 109. Ausbund - Kutztown Publishing Company, Kutztown PA 1922, Fraktur: Dieses Buch Gehoret Mir Samuel M. Fisher July 1924, Artist: T.J. Stevens. Book in fair condition
		LOT 110 Ausbund - Lancaster by Johann Bär, 1834, Fraktur in from cover, 1st page Diese Büchlein gehoret mir , Susanna Stoltzfus , geshrieben 1840, Artist: unknown, 2nd page Dieses Buch Gehöret Mir Susanna G. Kinnig 1913, Artist: Barbara Ebersole, Book is in good condition.
		LOT 111 Ausbund -Lancaster by Johann Bär, 1834, Fraktur in from cover, Susanna Stoltzfus Gebret Dieses Buchlein zu 1841. Artist unknown. Book is in fair condition.
		LOT 112 Ausbund - Lancaster by John Bär Söhnen 1880, Beautiful Fraktur in front page, Diese Buch gehoret mir Amos F. Zug , Leacock Township, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, 1905, Artist unknown. Book is in fair condition with leather straps.
		LOT 113 Ausbund - Elkhart IN Mennositischen, 1905, Fraktur front cover, Dises Buchlein Gehoret Mir Sarah Smucker , 1908. Artist, McGlaughlin. Book is in fair condition. One strap is missing.
		LOT 114 Ausbund - Lancaster, Johann Bär & Söhnen 1880, Fraktur in front page, Dieses Lieder Buch gehoret mir Johannes U. Stoltzfus , Salisbury Township Lancaster, Pennsylvania, gift from his parents. 1903. Artist: John Doell, Book is in fair condition. Note: This was Jack Parmer's first book that he purchased with Fraktur in a book.
		LOT 115 Unparthenisches Gesang-Buch, Amischen Gemeinden Lancaster Co. 1937, Fraktur front page, Dieses Buch georet mir Johannes L. Lapp , 1939, Artist: Mary Lapp, Book in fair condition.
		LOT 116 Das Neue Testament, Lancaster New Era Printing Co. 1918. Fraktur: Dieses Buch gehoret mir Stephen U. Stoltzfus , 1930. Artist: Albert Colona. Book is in fragile condition.

		LOT 117 Das Neue Testament, Lancaster New Era Printing Co. 1913. Fraktur: Dieses Buch gehoret mir Johannes L. Lapp word mine Bruder gemesen Josua M. Lapp him jahr 1939. Artist: Mary Lapp. Book is in fragile condition.
		LOT 118. Holy Bible, old and new testaments, 1895 self pronouncing edition. Fraktur: Front: presented to Anna F Kurtz by Harry B. Kurtz 1907. Insert records, Holy Matrimony of Harry B. Kurtz and Anna L. Shirk of Denver PA 1904 followed by a beautiful fraktur of Marriage of Harry B. Kurtz and Anna L. Shirk , artist: Harrison Kramer 1909 plus a birth fraktur of two children Mary S. 1904 and Ralph S. Kurtz 1909, book is in fair condition.
		Continuation of LOT 118
		LOT 119 Lieder-Sammlung, G. und D. Billmeyer 1814, Fraktur inside cover Chatarina Anna Landis , Gehort Dieses Buch, Marz 5, 1839, follow page in text, Hannah Fishburn , 1819, fair condition with two leather straps.
		LOT 120 Ausbund, Elkhart IN Mennonitishen Verlagshandlung, 1905, Fraktur: front page, Dieses Buch gehoret mir Elizabeth Allgyer Lanc Co PA 1901 Artist: David Hoke, book is in fair condition, straps are missing.
		LOT 121 Ausbund, Elkhart IN Mennonitishen Verlagshandlung, 1918, Fraktur: front page, Dieses Buch gehoret mir David B. Smucker , 1914, Artist: unknown. Book is in good condition.
		LOT 122 Ausbund, Lancaster Johann Bärs Söhne 1880, Fraktur: Dieses Lieder Buch gehoret mir Amos K. Allgyer , Lancaster PA 1896, Artist: John Doell, book is poor condition with two leather straps.
		LOT 123 Heilige Schrift, old alten and neuen testament. Martin Luthers. Cleveland OH 1854. No name or artwork, book is in good condition.
		LOT 124 Enchiridion Oder Handbuchlien, Von Der Christlichen Lehre and Religion, Lancaster, Joseph Ehrenfried, 1811. Fraktur front page, Dieses Buch Katharina King 1828 with the signature of Amos L. Lapp written below. Artist: unknown. Book is in fair condition, two leather straps
		LOT 125 Neues Testament, Martin Luthers, Lancaster, Johannes Bärs Söhne, 1890. Fraktur: front page Diese Buch Gehoret mir Elizabeth B. Flaud , 1943, Artist: unknown, book is in fair condition, one leather strap is missing.
		LOT 126 Die Ernsthafte Christenpflicht, front page missing, Fraktur: inside front cover, Dieses Buch gehoret mir Johannes E. Stoltzfus Upper Leacock Township, Lancaster PA 1905, Artist: unknown, book is in poor condition.

		LOT 127 Unparthenisches Gesang-Buch Amischen Gemeinden in Lancaster PA 1941. Fraktur: front page, Dieses Buch gehöret mir David E. Esh Oct. 1927 Leacock twp. Geschrieben ihm jahr 1947, Artist: Mary Lapp, book is in good condition.
		LOT 128 Das Neue Testament, Martin Luthers, Berlin, Germany 1914, Fraktur, front page, This book belongs to me, Katie Speicher , 22. Rec'd it from my Aunt Nancy Speicher. Artist: unknown, Book is in fair condition.
		LOT 129 Das Neue Testament, 1940? front page missing, Fraktur: front page Dieses Buch gehöret mir Mary R. Beiler , 1942, Artist: unknown, book is in fair condition.
		LOT 130 Ausbund, Amischen Gemeinden Lancaster PA 1935, Fraktur, front page, Dieses Buch gehöret mir Susie B. King , Mir zur lehre, Gott zur ehre. Artist: David Hoke, book in good condition.
		LOT 131 Ausbund Lancaster Johann Bär, 1834, Fraktur front cover, Dieses Buch war mine Vater Moses Schmucker gehöret jets mir Eli H. Schmucker , Lancaster PA 1896, Artist: John Doell. Followed by a page of German cursive text: Vater das geben mihr, dated April 26, 1835, book is fair condition, two leather straps are missing.
		LOT 132 Gegangbuch, 1887, front page missing, Fraktur: front page, Dieses Buch Gehöret mir Lidia Stoltzfus , Geschriben den 19 ten August im Jahr 1887. Artist: Barbara Ebersol. Book is in fair condition.
		LOT 133 Ausbund, Lancaster Johann Bär's Söhne 1868, Fraktur Diese Buch Gehöret mir Lidia P. Fischer , Geschriben den 31 Julius im Jahr 1879, Artist: Barbara Ebersol, book is in good condition.
		LOT 134 Das Neue Testament, Lancaster PA The New Era Printing, 1917. Fraktur: front page, Dieses Buch Gehöret Mir Samuel M. Fischer , July 1924. Artist: T.J. Stevens, book is in fair condition.
		LOT 135. History of the Patriachs for the Young, English and German. American Tract Society NewYork. Fraktur, cover, Dieses Buch Gehöret mir Fennie Beiler , 1886, Artist: unknown, and 2nd fraktur inside page, Presented to Fannie E. Beiler by Samuel and Barbara Fisher 1886, artist: unknown. Book is in fair condition.
		LOT 136 Das Neue Testament, Johann Bär's Söhne Lancaster, 1871, Fraktur: front page Samuel H. Beiler . Artist: unknown. Book is in poor condition.

		<p>LOT 137 Lust-Gärtlein, Johann Bärs Söhen, Lancaster PA 1890, Fraktur on front page, Anna K. Beiler Gerhöret Dieses Buchlein zu Gesebriben den 1897, artist: Susanna Beiler. Book is in poor condition.</p>
		<p>LOT 138 The Psalmen Davids, Martin Luther's, Elkart IN 1882, Fraktur inside page, Dieses Psalmen Buch gehoret mir Lydia M. Beiler Lancaster PA 1909, artist: unknown. Book is in poor condition.</p>
		<p>LOT 139 Die Ernsthafte Christenpflicht, Johann's Bärs Sohen Lancaster PA 1892, Fraktur: front page, Dieses Buch gehöret mir Anna S. Lapp, Leacock Township Lancaster PA 1896, Artist: unknown, book is in fair condition.</p>
		<p>LOT 140 Das Neue Testament, Amischen Gemeinden Lancaster PA 1936, Fraktur: front page, Diese Buch gehoret mir Amos E. Stoltzfus, 1945, Artist, David Hoke. Book is in fair condition.</p>
		<p>LOT 141 Church Hymnal Mennonite, Mennonite Publishing House, Scottsdale PA 1927, Fraktur: front page, Mary A. Fisher, Gordonville, PA, Artist: David Hoke, 1928, book is in fair condition.</p>
		<p>LOT 142, book plate from a book cover, Dieses Gesang Buch Gehoret Mir Frene Lapp, 1885. Artist: unknown, poor condition.</p>
		<p>LOT 143 book plate from an inside page, Dieses Buch gehoret mir Rachel Stoltzfus, Salisbury Township, Lancaster County, PA 1904, page is in fair condition.</p>
		<p>LOT 144 The Holy Bible, William Harding, Philadelphia, 1864 English. With Apocrypha, Concordance and Psalms. Kauffman Family Bible, fraktur: at the back of the book, Marriages: Benjamin Kauffman was married to Fanny Werfel November 24, 1864, 2nd page, births of parents, Benjamin 1838 and Fanny 1845 and their 9 children: John 1864, Henry 1865, Albert & Amos 1867, Michael 1868, Elizabeth 1869, Barbara 1872, Benjamin 1875, Esther 1877, 3rd page, Deaths: Michael, Benjamin, Elizabeth. Fraktur artist is unknown. Book is in poor condition.</p>
		<p>Continuation of LOT 144</p>

		<p>LOT 145 The Holy Bible, Old and New Testament with Apocrypha and concordance. Charles H. Yost Philadelphia, Fraktur: front page, Presented to Amanda B. Newcomer by her parents Jacob & Anna Newcomer, Christmas 1881, insert in book, page 2 Marriage certificate for Amos F. Martin and Amanda Newcomer, 1891, 3 page Marriages, Amos F. Martin & Amanda B. Newcomer, November 5, 1891, 4th page, Births, Amos F. Martin, January 30, 1868, Amanda B. Newcomer, February 23, 1867, Children, Jacob N. Martin, May 13, 1894. Fraktur Artist: Henning 1851-1894. Book is in poor condition. Cover is loose, has two large straps. (includes an original marriage license document, signed by minister Jacob N. Brubacher)</p>
		<p>Continuation of LOT 145</p>

LOT 146. 1748 Martyrs Mirror is in excellent condition. No name or writing on the cover or inside pages.

The 1748–1749 Ephrata Cloister printing of the Martyrs Mirror is a landmark of American colonial printing. Translated from Dutch to German at the request of Mennonites, this 1,512-page volume was the largest book printed in America at that time, produced over three years.

Key Details of the Ephrata Martyrs Mirror:

- Purpose: Translated to strengthen the faith of German-speaking Mennonites in Pennsylvania amid fears of future war.
- Production: Led by Peter Miller, 15 people at the Ephrata Cloister in Lancaster County, PA, worked on the project starting around 1745, completing it in 1748 or 1749.
- Significance: It documented 17 centuries of Christian martyrs, emphasizing nonresistant Anabaptist history.
- Revolutionary War Irony: Hundreds of unbound copies, stored at the Cloister, were seized by American soldiers during the Revolutionary War and used to pack muskets, turning a book about peace into ammunition.



Beiler–Renno Pavilion Construction to Start After Auction

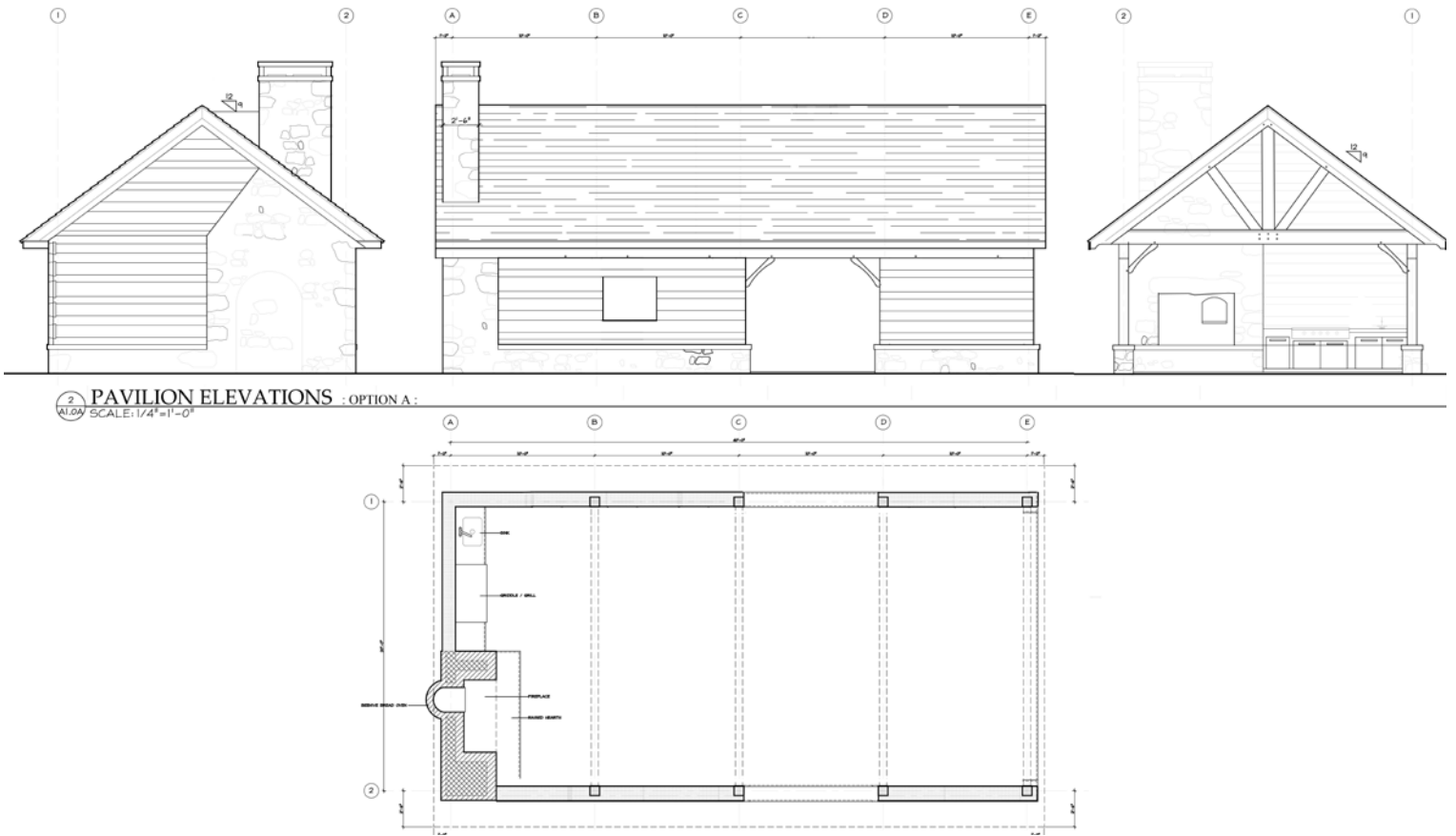
Construction on the Beiler–Renno Pavilion will begin immediately after the Benefit Auction. This new gathering space is designed to serve descendants, visitors, and community partners for years to come. With a projected completion in 2026, this project represents both a tribute to our shared heritage and a practical investment in the Homestead's future.

The building will include a stone fireplace, a pizza-oven hearth, picnic-table seating, a refrigerator, and open space for events and educational programs. To complete the project, we will need volunteers throughout the construction process. We are also inviting families and supporters to sponsor picnic tables. For details on sponsoring or volunteering, please call the Homestead (484-878-2916).

The pavilion's name recognizes two early immigrant families connected to the first Amish settlement in America. The Renno family arrived in the mid-1700s, with Joseph Renno and his brothers settling in Berks County after immigrating from France as young indentured servants. The Beiler family story begins in 1737, when Jacob Beiler arrived on the Charming Nancy with several Amish families who established the early settlement north of Reading.

As work begins, the Beiler–Renno Pavilion will serve as a practical gathering place and a reminder of the Beiler and Renno immigrant families. The Pavilion structure will include logs from the 1760 Renno cabin and stones from the early 1700s Beiler barn foundation. Your support—through sponsorship, volunteering, or spreading the word—helps move this project from planning to reality.

The pavilion will incorporate some of the logs from the Renno cabin and stones from the Beiler barn foundation into the structure.



The lower part of the Renno Cabin along Jungle Road



Remnants of the Jacob Beiler barn foundation along Molassas Hill Road

Schmucker • Smoker • Smucker



John Schmucker Homestead

Family Reunion

July 17th & 18th, 2026

at the Nicholas Stoltzfus Homestead

President's Comments & Welcome by Jim Smoker

Greetings Cousins,

I am excited to share the plans for our **50th Anniversary Schmucker-Smoker- Smucker Family Gathering** which will be held July 17 and 18, 2026 at the Nicholas Stoltzfus Homestead in Wyomissing, PA. The theme for our gathering is "Interconnected Legacies". I am very grateful for the assistance of Elam Stoltzfus, Executive Director of the Nicholas Stoltzfus House Preservation Committee, Emily Smucker-Beidler, SSS FA Board member, and Joanne Smoker for their assistance, to date, in pulling this Gathering together. I hope you will join us as the Nicholas Stoltzfus Homestead holds special meaning to those of us who are descendants of John Schmucker and Barbara Stoltzfus Schmucker (a daughter of Nicholas Stoltzfus) and the temporary residence of John and Barbara. Participants will have access to tour the "Homestead", the "Stone House" in Wyomissing Park, an optional bus trip to Berks and Lancaster Counties heritage sites, to learn more about our family history and stories, and to share in extended family time together.

Schmucker Bus Trip

July 17th - 2026 - This bus tour will include the Schmucker Berks/Lancaster families. Tour will begin at the Nicholas Stoltzfus Homestead, lecture about the 18th century Berks Amish communities, visit the John & Barbara Schmucker Wyomissing house, look at the gravestones of Joseph Schmucker and a Gerber family member, the Gerber Fix Cemetery, Miller homestead, Heister mansion and others in Wyomissing. The tour will continue to Lancaster County to visit immigrant Christian Schmucker homestead and surrounding places of interest. This tour is designed to highlight the Schmucker families and others in Berks county that connect to the family. A once in-a-life time event. This tour is limited to 50 participants and requires a separate registration. A box lunch and beverages is included in the package. Registered individuals must meet at the Nicholas Stoltzfus Homestead where a continental breakfast will be served from 8:30 to 9:30. The bus will depart at 9:30 AM and return to the Nicholas Stoltzfus Homestead around 3:30 PM.

For more information and reservations contact: Jim Smoker, jsmoker725@comcast.net - 717-650-4878

Registration at: www.Schmuckerfamilies.org - **Registration deadline is June 1st.**

Preliminary Schedule - SSS Family Gathering

"Interconnected Legacies"

Friday, July 17

8 AM "Early Birds" Registration & Continental Breakfast
9:30 AM - 3:30 PM Bus Tour of 18th Century Amish-Mennonite Homesteads in Berks & Lancaster Counties, Led by Elam Stoltzfus & Emily Smucker Beidler
(Separate Pre-registration required - \$60 per person)
9:30 AM - 5:00 PM Open Time:
Tour the Nicholas Stoltzfus Homestead
Tour the John and Barbara Schmucker "Stone House" which will be open to family members
Visit the exhibits in the Barn
Take a chance on the silent auction
Visit the Masthof Book Store collections in the Barn
"Interactive Digital Family History" project by Tom Smucker
Learn how to access our SSS Family Genealogy database with Eber Rice-Smucker (tentative)
Meet the Author - Sue (Stoltzfus) Hooley

5:00-6:30 PM Chicken BBQ Dinner (*Included in Registration*)
6:30 PM Welcoming Words - Jim Smoker
6:45-7:45 PM "Our Schmucker-Smoker-Smucker Story,"
by Emily Smucker-Beidler

Saturday, July 18

8:00-8:45 AM Continental Breakfast (*Included in Registration*); late-comers registration
8:45-9:00 AM Welcoming Words
9:00-10:00 AM "Economic Life in 18th Century Berks County,"
10:00-11:00 AM "Be the Keeper of Your Family Stories,"
by Sue Hooley
11:00-11:30 AM Discussion and vote on the future of our SSSFA
11:30-1:00 PM Chicken Corn Soup Luncheon (*Included in Registration*)
1:00-2:00 PM Visit the Barn and last chances on silent auction
2:00-3:00 PM "The Northkill Community & Its Influence on the Amish-Mennonite Community," by Elam Stoltzfus
3:00-3:30 PM Amish Youth Sing (*Tentative*)
3:30-4:00 PM Closing and Hymn Sing led by John D. Smucker

Family Records Exhibit: The 15 historic family records exhibit was a success for 2025. We now have another exhibit of family records for 2026 that are privately owned from Nicholas Stoltzfus descendants and other Berks County Amish families dating back to the 1800s. These family heirlooms -- which have never been viewed by the general public -- have been painstakingly preserved over multiple generations. The records are comprehensive in scope and include essential dates and genealogy information, and they are also intricate works of art that include fine needlework and classic fraktur designs.

Please contact Elam Stoltzfus at NicholasStoltzfusHomestead@gmail.com or 484-878-2916.

The Nicholas Stoltzfus Homestead will be open to the public every Friday and Saturday from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, in 2026. All other visits may be made by appointment by calling 484-878-2916 or email NicholasStoltzfusHomestead@gmail.com.



Legacy Maker



Introducing the Legacy Makers Program

By Nic Stoltzfus

The Nicholas Stoltzfus Homestead Preservation Committee (NSHPC) is excited to share a new opportunity for **businesses founded by descendants of the Amish immigrant families who settled in Berks County in the 1700s**. This effort helps us carry forward the mission of telling our shared story, honoring the faith and hard work of our ancestors, and passing these values on to the next generation.

The **Legacy Makers Program** is a special partnership designed to support the launch of the Berks County Amish Heritage Series, a new set of books that will highlight one immigrant family at a time. The first volume will be an expanded and rewritten edition of *German Lutherans to Pennsylvania Amish: The Stoltzfus Family Story*, planned for release in 2027. This book will become Volume 1 in the series and will set the pattern for future books about other Amish families who lived in Berks County during the 1700s.

To help fund this longterm project, the NSHPC is **seeking ten Stoltzfus Legacy Makers**. These will be key partners whose support will help underwrite the cost of producing the Stoltzfus volume and establishing the series for years to come.

Each Legacy Maker will receive:

- **A twopage feature in the book**, including a 700–1,200 word article and photos highlighting the business
- **A featurette in the Homestead newsletter**
- **Acknowledgment on the Homestead website and Facebook page**
- **Recognition as one of the ten founding Legacy Makers for Volume 1**

To keep the project aligned with our mission, **the Nicholas Stoltzfus Homestead retains the right to choose which families or businesses are included** in the Legacy Makers program. Selection will be based on heritage connection, mission fit, and the desire to represent a broad range of Stoltzfusfounded businesses.

If you have questions, ideas, or suggestions—or if your Stoltzfus founded business would like to be considered as one of the ten Legacy Makers—we would be glad to hear from you. Your participation helps us share our history, values, and family stories with a wider audience in a way that honors the past and strengthens the future.



John F. Glick Story

By Nic Stoltzfus

John F. "Glicky" Glick (1912–2002) spent his entire life in the village of Millwood, a small Amish community in eastern Lancaster County. Though he farmed the same 32 acres where he was born, his influence reached far beyond those fields. John was a farmer, minister, columnist, genealogist, and a gifted fraktur artist whose work reflected both tradition and personal devotion.

Early Life in Millwood

John was the only child of Aaron H. Glick and Sarah King Fisher Glick. He grew up on a small farm where they "worked hard on a small scale with 6 cows, 100 chickens, farmed tobacco, corn, clover, hay, 2 work horses, and 1 driving horse."

As a child, he loved to draw and sing. His mother and his maternal grandfather, "Dawdy Fisher," both taught him the old Ausbund tunes, and he treasured those times of singing with them. He would later go on to be a song leader in the church.

John was also fascinated by steam engines and the mechanics of how different pieces work together to form one machine. One day in class, he drew a train in such detail that he could practically hear it. And then, lost in the moment, he did hear it: he let out a full "Woool!" as if he were pulling the whistle himself. The teacher's reaction, as he later wrote in his memoir, was immediate and unforgettable: "You should have seen the reaction of the scholars. And the teacher. I remember right where she was standing (on the platform) with surprised looks. 'John! What are you doing?' I felt like the floor could go out from under me and for a moment I imagined it did. She came down to where I was sitting (I re-member the spot) and promptly explained to me that steam engines are not to be built in school hours and especially explained that the whistle shall not be pulled while school is in session."

Marriage, Work, and Ministry

In 1932, at the age of twenty and in the midst of the Great Depression, John married Barb Fisher. Their wedding was small: "Dad Fisher [John's father-in-law] could not afford it," he shared in his memoir. And yet, like the small acorn that becomes a mighty oak, their family tree endured and grew: John and Barb were married for more than sixty-five years and raised five children together.

John spent the early years of marriage working at the D.K. Fisher Feed and Flour Mill in the village of Millwood where they lived. In 1939, he sent his first letter to The Budget (Die Botschaft), beginning a writing career that would stretch across six decades. His letters reported local happenings, family news, and community history, making him a familiar voice to Amish readers across the country.

When his father retired in 1940, John took over the family farm. For more than thirty years, farming shaped the rhythm of his days. In 1954, he was ordained as a minister in his district, adding preaching and teaching to his responsibilities.

Fraktur and Family Records

Even with farming and ministry filling his days, John always made room for art. He created his first family record when he was twelve, and from that point on, fraktur became a lifelong passion.

John was influenced by the fraktur artist David Hoke. He studied Hoke's work closely, practiced relentlessly, and over time developed a style that was unmistakably his. His work combined careful penmanship with decorative borders, birds, tulips, and motifs familiar in Lancaster County fraktur.

Word spread about his talent, and John became known locally as a "family record artist." Families brought him their genealogies, and he turned them into beautifully lettered and decorated family records. Autumn was his busiest season. As Christmas approached, orders piled up. Some families bought a record for each child; others wanted a single piece meant to be passed down through generations. He worked many evenings, often two hours at a stretch, at his desk just off the kitchen.

A Steward of Amish Life and Culture

John continued drawing family records until his death at age ninety. Even when his hands slowed and the lines grew harder to keep straight, he didn't stop. When asked about his father's legacy, his son Omar shared the following, "Dad was a teacher, he was a preacher in this district, he was a writer and enjoyed genealogy by designing family records. He was good father to us children. He was a farmer."

John Glick's work stands as a testament to a life lived with meaning and intention—rooted in place, grounded in faith, and expressed through the steady hand of a man who believed that family history was worth writing down beautifully.

SOURCES:

Glick, John F. History Gleanings of the 1900's. Lancaster County, PA: Pequea Amish Bruderschaft Library, ca. 2000.

Glick, Omar. Personal interview by Elam Steve Stoltzfus. Lancaster County, PA, December 23, 2025.



Debuting at Auction: Amish Family Records with Rare Walnut-Boxed Collector Copies

The coffee table book *The Amish Family Records of Lancaster, Pennsylvania: Fraktur & Needlework, 1800–1900s* — featuring 123 beautifully preserved family records from the private archives of Jack Parmer—is now available for pre-sale and can be ordered from Masthof on their website or by calling 610-286-0258. All pre-ordered books will be available for pickup at the Homestead auction on May 2nd.

This first edition will include a limited run of twenty signed and numbered collector's copies that will be available for purchase. Five will be presented in an Amish-handcrafted walnut box with wood harvested from the Homestead; five exclusive sets will be auctioned off during the live auction. A wonderful item for collectors. Funds from the sale of these five books will be designated towards the Beiler-Renno Pavilion.

Acknowledgements - By Elam Stoltzfus

Creating this book has been a collaborative effort rooted in curiosity, patience, and shared commitment. For nearly 30 years, Jack Parmer devoted himself to gathering family records, bookplates, and fraktur artwork. His collection became the foundation of this project, and I am deeply grateful for the care he invested in preserving these pieces of our Amish family history.

When I joined the project, Jack's health was declining, and many of his digital files seemed lost on an aging computer. Thanks to a skilled technician, those files were recovered—revealing a remarkable archive of images and notes that made this book possible. Working alongside Jack's wife, Loa, and daughters, Julie and Jeralyn, has been a privilege. Their trust and dedication helped guide every decision as we shaped Jack's decades of work into a cohesive story.

This project grew out of my research on the Ausbund for Plain Values magazine, which led me to Aaron Petersheim and, ultimately, to Jack. Aaron also introduced me to Chris Lapp, and together we spent meaningful afternoons with Jack, surrounded by the materials that inspired this book.

I am grateful as well to Emily Smucker-Beidler, an accomplished fraktur artist whose generous spirit and careful hand brought beauty and continuity across the book. My son, Nic, contributed editorial guidance and several articles that strengthened the narrative. Special thanks also to Isaac Beiler for reviewing early drafts and to the Pequea Bruderschaft Library for their invaluable research support.

Finally, I extend heartfelt appreciation to the families who shared their private records with the Nicholas Stoltzfus Homestead throughout 2025 and 2026, making possible the year long exhibit of more than a dozen family documents in the historic stone house.

Printing The Ausbund, Part 4

By Elam Stoltzfus

Eli King, (member of the Amish Book Committee) shared a story with me about while attending church one Sunday morning, he observed that there wasn't enough Ausbund Hymn books for everyone to sing from. At the next Sunday gathering, Eli brought along several new Ausbunds and set them on the benches. The man who was hosting the church gathering that Sunday asked Eli, "where do these Ausbund come from?"

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Last month, we ended at the cusp of the 1900s. By the early years of the 20th century, many German printing presses were no longer in operation, and anti-German sentiment swept across the country due to World War I. In Berks County, bordering Lancaster, the Reading Adler newspaper stopped publishing in German in 1913 and switched to the English language text as The Reading Eagle. In Lancaster County, the Der Volksfreund Und Beobachter newspaper ended in 1910.

In the early 1900s, many Plain communities in Lancaster County got their German books from L. B. Herr Bookstore, located on North Queen Street, only a few blocks from the Lancaster Central Market. But even this bookstore in the heart of Pennsylvania Dutch country was feeling the pressure to stop selling German books.

One day, Amish minister Jacob Lapp traveled to this bookstore in the city of Lancaster to replenish his inventory of German books. Jacob Lapp was known for his skills in German: he taught children how to speak and read the language and cherished German books. He was generous in giving away books as gifts and providing the church with new books when supplies got low.

When Jacob arrived at the L.B. Herr bookstore, he was informed that the Ausbund and other German books may not be in print much longer.

Troubled by this answer, Jacob asked, "How is this possible?"

He immediately walked across Queen Street to talk to Johann Baer & Sons Printing, printers for the Ausbund, the well-regarded German Almanac, and other German books. The printers informed him that he had heard correctly: they were considering no longer printing German books. Furthermore, they were planning on discarding and destroying the lead printing plates for the German books.

Who would print the collection of these important collection of books for the Amish and Mennonites? If these books were lost, an essential piece of their heritage would be lost, too. He had to find a way to save these books.

With a bit of creative thinking, Jacob Lapp asked if the plates could be bought and what would the price be. But Jacob would not be alone in making these large decisions. On August 13th, 1913, the Amish bishops and brethren from nine districts met to see if they could support printing the collection of German books. This was an arduous task that would include buying the plates, printing, binding, storing, and shipping the books to churches and people across the country who desired these books. This was the beginning of the Amish Book Committee.

Two other men who shared Jacob Lapp's vision and worked closely with him were Amish minister Stephen F. Stoltzfus (known as Steffy F.) and Amish minister Christian L. Fisher. The leadership of these three men came at a crucial time for the Ausbund and other German books. If not for their intervention, these books could have been lost or destroyed forever.

After some counsel and successful meetings with the church leaders, they had the support and go ahead to purchase the lead plates for the German book: the Unparteyisches GesangBuch (Impartial Songbook).

This songbook contains a collection of Reformed Hymns from Ambrosii Lobwasser's book, a selection of Ausbund songs, series of basic hymns, and Psalms along with some scored shape notes. It is still used today among some Plain churches, most commonly by the Old Order Mennonites.

Johann Baer & Son Printing sold the book plates to the Amish Book Committee for \$500. This may not seem like much money today, but let's put it into context. In the early 1900s, an 80-acre farm was being sold for an average price of \$8,000. That means that the amount the Committee paid for the GesangBuch plates could have bought five acres of farmland.

A plan was devised by the three members of the Amish Book Committee with Steffy F. assigned as the spokesperson. The idea was put in motion to have each of the nine church districts donate at least \$50 dollars.



According to Steffy F's meticulous ledger records, we find the commitments of funds from the 9 districts:

|                                    |         |
|------------------------------------|---------|
| Upper Pequea (Bird-In-Hand, Ronks) | \$65.00 |
| Upper Middle Creek (Belmont)       | \$45.00 |
| Lower Middle Pequea (Intercourse)  | \$60.00 |
| Lower Pequea (Cattail-Kinzers)     | \$65.00 |
| Upper Millcreek (Leola)            | \$55.00 |
| Millcreek (Monterey-Mascot)        | \$50.00 |
| Lower Millcreek (Centerville).     | \$55.00 |
| Groffdale (West New Holland)       | \$55.00 |
| Conestoga (Churchtown-Elverson)    | \$50.00 |

*The Ausbund is the only book which encouraged us Swiss Mennonites in the face of oppression, from the Reformation to the present time. Even the well-known Martyrs Mirror has little effect on us Swissers before we came to American. The Ausbund is a Jewel.*

~ Amos B. Hoover, Historian and Founder of Muddy Creek Farm Library  
January 27, 2022

The purchase included 11 wooden boxes of the Stereotype lead plates of the Ein Unpartheyisches GesangBuch originally created in 1841 by Douglas Wyeth for Johann Baer Printing. One of the challenges was for people to move the 11 heavy wooden boxes of the lead plates from the print shop to the warehouse—I'm sure they had some strong Amish youngfolk to help with that task! Next the Book Committee signed a contract with Lancaster New Area Printing to print 1,000 songbooks, at the cost of less than 16 cents each.

These lead plates were used for 31 editions and were retired in 1985. Today the 11 boxes of the old 1841 lead plates of the Unpartheyisches Gesangbuch is on display at the Muddy Creek Farm Library, in Ephrata, Pennsylvania.

One of the important goals for the Book Committee was that books would not be sold for profit; each book was sold at a small margin above the cost of printing. For the Committee, this wasn't about operating a book organization to create wealth. Printing these German books was about preserving the songs, stories, and writings of our Anabaptist ancestors. Many of our Anabaptist ancestors had experienced hardship and persecution for their faith in the Old Country. But now, with leadership, commitment, and passion for the German language and faith of our Fathers, the hymns and scriptures will be part of worship and a collection of books will be found in our homes.

Although this article does not deal specifically with the Ausbund, it was the Unpartheyisches Gesangbuch demand that began and became the working structure for the Amish Book Committee.

In the next newsletter we will learn about the struggles the Amish Book Committee had to deal with for the "1922" Ausbund printing.

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**SAVE THE DATE:**

**May 2nd 2026** - Nicholas Stoltzfus Homestead Annual Benefit Auction and Gathering.

**July 17th & 18th, 2026** - Schmucker-Smucker-Smoker reunion at the Nicholas Stoltzfus Homestead. This will include Schmucker Berks/Lancaster bus tour. Tour of the John & Barbara Schmucker Wyomissing house tour, a hymn sing, series of lectures and many items on display about the Schmucker, Smucker and Smoker families.

**October 24, 2026** - the Annual Berks County Amish Historical Tour. Berks County, Pennsylvania, was the first place in America where Amish people settled, around 1735. The tour starts at the Nicholas Stoltzfus Homestead and includes other important homes and places near Wyomissing. You'll also travel through Irish Creek region, western Hamburg, and south of the Blue Mountains in northern Berks County. The tour will stop at old graveyards and the sites of historical homes like the Schmucker house, Zug/Zook farm, Koenig land, Detweiler home, Hochstetler home and many other locations.

For more information contact Elam Stoltzfus - NicholasStoltzfusHomestead@gmail.com or 484-878-2916.

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Jerry Stoltzfus  
Elam & Esther Stoltzfus, Executive Directors

## Annual Benefit Auction & Gathering Saturday, May 2nd, 2026



Like and share the FaceBook page, which is a place to tell stories, share images, videos, and stay informed with updates.

<https://www.facebook.com/NicholasStoltzfusHomestead>

Web site - [www.NicholasStoltzfus.com](http://www.NicholasStoltzfus.com)



The 2026 & 2027 calendar at the Nicholas Stoltzfus Homestead has openings and is accepting bookings for family reunions, company outings, or youth group events. Schedule early to reserve your desired date.

Call Elam or Esther Stoltzfus at 484-878-2916 to reserve.

Newsletter Editor: Nic Stoltzfus  
Design/Layout by Elam Stoltzfus