

A Publication of the Nicholas Stoltzfus House Preservation Committee

Making Room for Heritage

A moving day of giving

October 19 had been selected as the day to move the Mobile Home off the site where the **Barn** is to be built. Would our schedules allow? Would the weather permit? Both looked doubtful until Daniel Glick, Jr., of Pequea Salvage called Monday afternoon and said we will go ahead.

Michael Allgyer delivered a front-end loader Monday evening. As we assembled Tuesday morning the rain continued, but soon the clouds broke up. When I called Michael to see where we would find the key to the loader, he said, "I'll be there myself" which was most encouraging.

Michael towed the Home to its new spot, pushed over a dying pear tree and evaluated the rocks where the

Barn will be. David Esh, our builder, concluded the rocks can be moved when we begin building.



Also present were Merle Stoltzfus who develops and presents the plans and Levi Fisher of Red Hill Plumbing to disconnect the utilities. Dan Fisher had been there early to do the electric.

Well, the pear tree did not yield to An easy pushover. It twisted as the scoop pressed against the trunk,

crashing down, (as I ran behind the other tree) then it fell along the south side of the house.

So often the Lord has given us signs of his blessing. Here was another: The falling pear tree did not hit me, or even brush the front of the house!

John Kauffman and Calvin Kurtz assisted, and began making firewood for future use at the auction from the fallen tree.

Daniel Glick asked only that he would be allowed to take some plants home that grew on land once owned by Nicholas, for his wife. "I want to do this for the heritage." So all that day gave their time and skill, continuing the dedication, which has made the preservation possible.

Heritage Friendships

Alberta Brinkman of Emporia, Kansas, cherishes her heritage. In the 1957 Fisher Book, Amos Fisher wrote on the first page:

We should be thankful for what our forefathers have done for us because we believe they were deeply concerned, naturally and spiritually, not only for themselves, but also for the future generations, so that we may prosper and live in peace in this country of free religion. If we study their history we find that they were very sincere to live and to do according to their Faith. We cannot fully appreciate what they have done for us, unless we know of their testimonies.

It was this Amos Fisher who first (later Abner Beiler) accompanied Alberta and her husband on her first visit to the Nicholas Stoltzfus House. Amos' wife Susie and Alberta became friends, Their son Elam Fisher, and wife Emma, along with 35 others attended her 90th birthday dinner at the Stoltzfus Farm Restaurant on September 28. Friends and family donated over \$10,000 to commemorate this occasion.

(She gave out shovels as thank you's!)

Merle Stoltzfus who has been key to planning the **Barn** project, invited Alberta to sign the application for a building permit. Committee chairman Mose Smucker made this ceremonial signing "official". This was



Alberta Brinkman, above left, with Merle Stoltzfus looking on, signing the application for the building permit.

most appropriate since Alberta has the desire to see the **Barn** in her lifetime. The **Barn** with its Heritage Room will remind us all of the Faith, the guide of importance that has come to us.

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“Heritage Friendships”

(Continued from Page 1)

On September 27, 2010, Alberta, her son Phil, and relative David Love, visited the cherished homesteads of Nicholas (Anna) in Wyomissing, Christian (Catherine, Elizabeth) on Hess Road, and Jacob (Mary) on the Newport Road, Lancaster County. On Sept. 29th Ben Riehl accompanied them to the Deacon Christian (Susanna) home in Union County.



Above Alberta points to a picture of her grandparents, Christian H. and Mary Rich Stolfus, (*Magdalena’s picture above them*) from a notebook by Christian P. Stoltzfus as Don Carpenter and Paul Kurtz look on.

Doing” for the Heritage

I wish you could have heard Dan Glick say this: “I want to do this for the heritage.” He took time from his busy day to move the house trailer.

So far 300 have made cash donations for the barn. That means most of the ***One Million*** descendants living today have not yet felt the joy of participation.

I was telling a Fisher friend about this recently. I said we are looking for 1000 to give \$20 so as to be involved. I said this should spread like a virus, or like gossip: “Have you heard about the barn at the Stoltzfus House? Did you send in your donation?”

My friend said “I can’t give \$20, but I can do \$10”, and he gave a \$10 bill.

That is the spirit that will keep this heritage alive.



Above, Alberta Brinkman greeting friends arriving at the Stoltzfus Restaurant while on her recent visit to Pennsylvania from Kansas.



Above, the wall of the house where Christian and his family lived (over the spring) after the 1801 move to the Mill Creek.

Biblical view of heritage (by “Cousin” Calvin)

An amazing million of us are walking around on this planet who possess the DNA (likeness) of Nicholas. What is so unique about this that a special room is being planned to hold this ongoing heritage in esteem?

The Prophet Malachi spoke on behalf of God that the agenda of bringing heaven to earth is by turning the hearts of fathers to their children & the hearts of children to their fathers. In doing this, the blessings of heaven are manifest vibrantly on earth. The other option to God, prophet Malachi said, is to strike the earth with a curse.

Our Lord Jesus Christ embodied this value deeply in all he did and said. Could we embrace this project as an opportunity to promote the embodiment of heaven on earth in God’s ongoing story through the Stoltzfus family heritage?

The Union County Story - by Don Carpenter
Held at Intercourse Fire Hall
Wednesday, February 16, 2011, 6:00 PM

Have you heard Don Carpenter? Twice at a Stoltzfus event he told of the Amish families that had been in Union County, Pa., the Buffalo Valley. Both times we squeezed him in. Now Mose Smucker gave the orders to give him an entire evening. This was backed by the Nicholas Stoltzfus House Preservation Committee meeting on October 27, 2010. The event will support the Preservation project.

Most Lancaster County Amish can trace ancestry to Union County. Don will illustrate homesteads of these ancestors; show the burial sites, and tell of those moving away. What were their issues, and why did this settlement disband? What is the heritage for the descendants?

One of those descendants, Alberta Stolfus Brinkman, came to the Stoltzfus Farm Restaurant to celebrate her 90th birthday on September 28. Her inspired support for the barn has enabled us to come sufficiently close to our goal so the committee passed a motion to apply for a building permit, then start building.

Another descendant, Ruth Yoder, 91, wrote *this note*, seen at right, along with her donation.

Both of these descend from Deacon Christian: Alberta from Susan Lantz, and Ruth from the second wife, Lydia Beiler (or Byler). They are second cousins. Don tells the agony that the Deacon felt from the issues. He also tells of the tricky move of most of the family to Kansas.

October 11, 2010, Monday.

Dear Vivian,

my mother was Rose Stoltzfus Byler,
 born Jan. 26, 1889, daughter of Ben
 and Emma Rich Stoltzfus.

as of now I am tentatively plan-
 ning on attending the next Stoltzfus
 reunion - may ?? 2011?

Is there any place near where
 3 couples + 2 single persons could
 stay, with bed + breakfast? and
 what would be the cost?

I am 91 years old (92 next Aug.)
 and use a walker; I have limited
 eye sight + hearing but want very
 much to learn more about my
 Stoltzfus background.

Thank you.

Ruth E. Yoder
 1325 Greencroft Dr Manor 3,
 apt. 305 - Doshen, Ind. 46526.

910 to cover expenses.

Return the enclosed envelope
 with your \$25.00 to make
 (a) Reservation(s) at the
 Intercourse Fire Hall
 February 16, 2011, 6:00 PM
 (717-367-3906 for info)
 Make checks payable to NSHPC

This newsletter is written and compiled
 by Paul Kurtz.. Questions and concerns
 should be addressed to him at:
 psku04@embarqmail.com
 Or call - 717-367-3906
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Twenty Dollar Amens

If I were a seismologist I would listen for rumblings, and signs that point to an earthquake or an eruption. Not that I would hope for such events to occur! But these rumblings I hear tell me something very well could happen. We could have 1000 of the 1,000,000 Stoltzfus or Schmucker (Smucker, Smoker) descendants of Nicholas Stoltzfus send in \$20.00 each as new donors.

This would be like the church service I knew as a lad when the preacher gave it his all – to be followed by two or three testifying to the message just heard.

Up till now we have seen over 300 give for the **Barn** so that we all are driven to say “amen”. New donors “AMENS” of \$20.00 would be like moving on to sitting down for a celebrative dinner! Like AMEN’s to the following message from Michael Leader:

I am amazed at how far the Tri-County Heritage Society has taken the Nicholas Stoltzfus House in nearly 10 years, You should certainly be proud of your accomplishments. Everyone at Country Meadows is anxious for the new **Barn** to get underway. Please convey my thanks and regards to your colleagues who are involved in this worthwhile project. Best wishes to you, Paul, for a Happy and Prosperous New Year. Very truly yours, Michael Leader

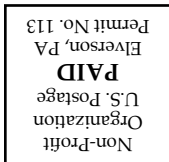
If we had 1000 new donors each giving small amounts it would mean so many more have an interest in the Heritage, and may well want to be a part of future events at the house. It would also give Dave Esh, the builder, the “AMEN” encouragement in going ahead.

The rumbling we hear is: “**Hey, do you know about the Barn at the Stoltzfus House?**” You could get connected. Send any amount (\$20?) to NSHPC c/o Vivian Beiler, Treasurer, 243 W. Fulton Street, New Holland, PA 17557

And - The May 14, 2011 Auction at the Stoltzfus House

- The Stoltzfus Reunion Ruth Yoder mentioned
- Expect to see **Barn** building

And - David Esh, Builder, will be calling on volunteers as needed to erect the **Barn**. His number is 717-768-8528. Let him know what you can do.



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