

Emmaus Historical Society

218 Main Street • Emmaus, PA 18049
610-966-6591 ~ emmaushist@ptd.net
www.emmaushistoric-pa.org



Season's Greetings 2019 NEWSLETTER

President's Message

Dear Members,

We often hear from so many people who visit the museum that they didn't know the Society would be interested in their "junk" that they were throwing away. It is not all junk and so we will often tell them to donate whatever they are getting rid of and we will find a home for most of it either at the Society, another historical society, or our annual garage sale.

We all have a lot of memorabilia, a few antiques, many photographic memories and quite a few items that may need to be shared and preserved instead of thrown out. I have begun donating items to some of the local historical societies as appropriate. I have discovered items that are not in the inventory of the Emmaus Historical Society or the Lower Macungie Historical Society and am finding a new home for them.



Therefore; I have decided that it is time to "downsize" just a little. My two daughters, like many of their generation, have not expressed a lot of interest in keeping all of the items I have accumulated or all of the objects that have been passed from one house to another as family members have left us and their houses have been cleaned out and sold. So many families find themselves in the same position. The inspiration for one of our featured stories in this newsletter is because another family is sharing their treasures with the Emmaus Historical Society. We, at the Emmaus Historical Society, truly believe that knowing that your treasures are being cared for and shared with so many for generations to come, makes parting with these items a joyful experience for all.

Anything donated to assist in the preservation of our Emmaus history is greatly appreciated. You can always donate any Saturday during our normal hours of 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. or by calling and setting up an appointment at (610) 966-6591.

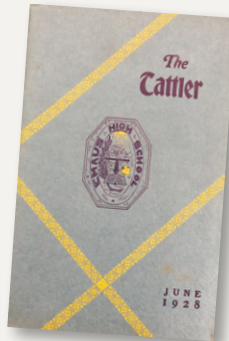


Jeanne

Corrections from our last newsletter:

We regret the misspelling of Corrine Durdock's first name in our last newsletter.

We also apologize for listing Ruth Kemmerer's position on the Board of Directors as Recording Secretary. She is currently in the position of Corresponding Secretary.



When my mother passed away in 2010, I had to clean out her house to prepare it for sale. She had not lived in the house since 2004, but I could not bring myself to face the cleanout of so many memories of my childhood in the years leading up to her death. When she died, I was forced to face the inevitable and began packing up what was possibly to be kept in the family and selling or donating items that were no longer wanted or needed. It was an emotional time to say the least but from that time, I determined that I did not want my children to have to go through the same thing I did in cleaning out my house. Along with all of our family's belongings in my mother's house, I also discovered items that had been kept from the cleanout and sale of my grandmother's house as well as from my father's cousin's house. One of my second cousins told me that when his ancestral house was sold, all of the belongings including many photographs were just laying in a pile by the house to be discarded with the trash. I can't imagine doing that to the many things that my ancestors kept and preserved.

Museum Acquisitions and the Tale of Silas Biery

By Jeanne Harakal

Recently, the Society was fortunate to receive some very treasured items from the past, discovered while one of our members was cleaning out a house where three generations of her family had lived over many years. Quite a few of these items were packed away and hadn't seen daylight for a long time. When hearing that we had received discharge papers from a man who had been in the Civil War, I asked what his



name was and immediately

recognized it from a branch of my family tree. His name was Silas A.F. Biery and he was my great, great uncle through marriage. His daughter, Georgianna Biery, my great aunt on my father's side, had married Charles Benner, my grandmother's brother. So many of us have discovered that the little town of Emaus was quite a small world back then with so many of its inhabitants sharing family lines.

Silas A. F. Biery was born on July 7, 1842 in Salisbury near Emaus. He was a sergeant in Company D of the 176th Regiment of Pennsylvania Drafted Militia Infantry who was enrolled on November 8, 1862 at the age of 20 to serve nine months. He was discharged on August 18, 1863 due to the expiration of his term of service. He was 5' 7", with black hair, grey eyes and a light complexion per his discharge papers. His occupation when he enrolled was that of a shoemaker.

After being discharged, Silas married Eliza (Lily) Elenor Carskaddon on November 15, 1864 in Greenville.



They had ten children, only four of which survived to adulthood, one being my great aunt, Georgianna. Silas had seventeen grandchildren. His daughter, Julia, was the mother of Nathan Biery Gery, former Emmaus Chief of Police. Silas Biery lived to be 81 years old and died on April 28, 1924. He was able to collect his pension from the Civil War, which was later continued for his widow as well.



It is amazing the treasure trove of genealogical information that can be gleaned from only a few pieces of paper that were carefully stored and saved. We would like to thank our member, Linda Gery Hamilton, for sharing her family's documents with the Emmaus Historical Society for future generations to enjoy.



Living on the Edge

By Scott A. Deischer

It was the early 1940s in Emmaus, with World War II raging in Europe. Our family farmhouse on Harrison Street had been demolished years before, since it stood directly in the path of the eventual extension of 2nd Street to the north. The “new” home of my grandparents, Jonathan and Blanche (Knauss) Deischer was already constructed at what would become the corner of 2nd and Harrison Streets.

Three prominent businessmen of Emmaus: Stoneback, Butz and Houser, had purchased the remaining 19 acres and 20 perches of what was the Knauss-Deischer farm. It would be subdivided into 94 building lots, known as “North Gate,” and developed starting in the late 1940s.



My grandparents received eight shares of stock in H. D. Remblau, Inc., a local silk mill, as partial payment for the sale of the farm. What better investment could one have made at that time – May 14, 1930? The Lehigh Valley was the largest producer of silk in the world. But within just one short year, the stock was worthless. The silk industry had moved south for cheaper labor.

The only residential development north of Harrison Street, oddly enough, was a set of row homes at the end of 5th Street, on Harrison and Liberty Streets. Allentown was known for its row homes, tightly squeezed within each and every block in the city. Throughout Emmaus, double homes, or “twins,” were the main choice and style of houses built for those working in the factories in town. By the mid 40s, the last group of twins was built on North 3rd Street, between Harrison and Berger. They would also be the last homes to have outhouses in the backyards.



By 1950, A. P. Houser, the developer, was building single homes for the returning men and women of war and their expanding

families. My family moved from Macungie to Penn Court in Emmaus when I was one year old. It was a cozy half block of 14 identical all-brick Cape Cods, tucked between 2nd and 3rd Streets, off of Berger Street. My parents, Lorraine and Albert, customized their home by extending the kitchen/eating area by 3' to 4', and by adding two larger windows to the south face of the house. Yes, three of the homes did have a small garage, but my parents were Pennsylvania German/Dutch. One could not be too ostentatious.



All six Deischer siblings, including my dad, were teachers. My mom became a homemaker, leaving ten years of teaching to raise my brother, Glenn, and me. We had 20 other children on the Court to play with, including Jeanne Hartman (now Harakal), who – along with her two sisters – lived at the opposite end of the block. It was a time of saying goodbye to Mom in the morning to play outside, returning home for lunch and being outside again till supper. Our parents had no idea where we were or what we were doing.



We literally lived on the edge of town, since the Kehs Farm was directly across Berger Street. Our summers were filled with playing on the farm across the street or in a friend's backyard. We only

had to walk one block for summer playground at Lincoln School, sponsored by the East Penn School District, where we did crafts like weaving potholders. Pet Day was always a big thing. I would take my guinea pig, Brownie. (Whitey and Blackie would stay home.) My good friend and neighbor, Louise Heckman, would take her dog, Susie, a 4' tall English Pointer. On the way home, I was tired of carrying “my pig” in the box and set it down. Was Susie hungry or jealous of Brownie winning first prize? Either way, Susie had Brownie in her mouth in a flash. As mad as I was, Brownie was okay.

We would walk to St. John's U.C.C., a few blocks from home, for summer Bible School. Every Saturday, we walked six blocks downtown to the hobby store across from the Emmaus Bakery on Chestnut Street. With our allowance, Glenn and I would each buy a \$.50 metal car. Sure, I promised Mom I would stop doing that and save my money instead. I really ended up having a big collection of cars to play with. (Sorry, Mom!)

Also, we would walk to the Emmaus Movie Theatre and stop by Dundore's Luncheonette on the Triangle for a root beer float or banana split. The waitress would often tell us she had no bananas. Little did she know that she was building my character. I would bring a banana from home for her to make that split!

We only had to walk around the corner to Stephen's Market on 2nd Street to buy candy. My parents only asked me once to buy them cigarettes. I refused to do that. Twice a week, a Woodson's Dairy truck would deliver milk to our home. The milk would be placed in a box we had outside our door. A butcher from Kriebel's Butcher Shop in Hereford would also make weekly stops in his truck. Mom would have a list of what she wanted for the week. While we waited for the order, we were always given a free slice of meat or cheese to eat. With so many children living in the area, the Good Humor ice cream truck and Mister Softee always made sure to stop.

Since Lincoln School was the junior high at the time, my brother and I would walk five blocks to Central School, at 4th and Ridge, where Glenn was in the 3rd grade. I had to walk one more block to St. Matthew's E. C. Church at 5th and Ridge for kindergarten. The East Penn School District was growing so fast in the 1950s/1960s that a new high school was built on Macungie Avenue in 1956. Jefferson became the junior high and Lincoln became our elementary school that next year.

By the time I entered 7th grade in 1961, a brand

new two-story addition had been added to the high school, north of the bus entrance, for grades 7 and 8. We would walk the six blocks on Berger Street to and from school each day. By 1967, when I graduated from Emmaus High School, another "new" junior high had been built on the baseball field adjacent to the junior/senior high school.

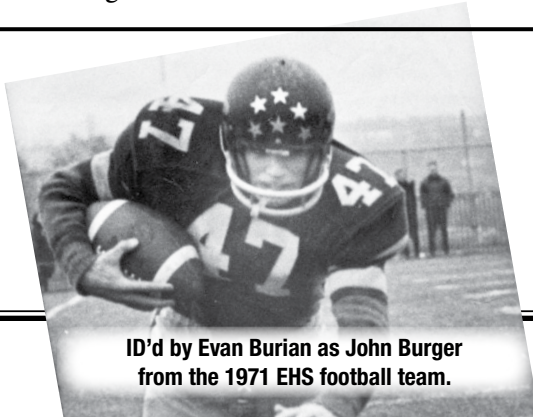
Stephen's Market represented the last of what America was, with the future development of Emmaus's transformation into what America was going to become. By the late 1950s, Emmaus installed sewage lines in the borough. The lines flowed to Allentown's treatment plant on the Lehigh River. The remaining farmland north of Berger Street would be developed.

The first section had streets named after Native American tribes, like Iroquois and Cherokee. The streets gently curved and bent to form "T" intersections. Gone was the square and grid pattern of streets. Gone, the mom and pop grocery store in each neighborhood. Gone, the farm across the street. Gone were the alleys behind the homes, as each house would now have an attached garage in the front, with a driveway to the street. At the northern end of Macungie Avenue, Little Lehigh Acres would be developed with homes with two-car garages. Gone were the sidewalks for people to walk.

New state laws made it all but impossible for towns and cities to annex yet more large chunks of land. Future development would be in the townships surrounding Emmaus. By 1967, Pat Mabus's grandparents, George and Edna Stephen, closed their store on 2nd Street, signaling the end of an era.



No Longer Mystery Photos!



ID'd by Evan Burian as John Burger from the 1971 EHS football team.



ID'd by Neil Moyer as Judge Theodore Gardner Administering a Loyalty Oath to East Penn School District Teachers in the 1950s.

Contributions to our Capital and General Funds

We acknowledge and offer our sincere thanks to everyone who has generously contributed to the Emmaus Historical Society during the period July 1, 2019 through September 30, 2019. Capital Fund contributions fund those major projects that are necessary to maintain and preserve our beautiful building and property, including our mortgage. The Capital project we are currently working on is restoring, repairing and painting the garage. Contributions to our General Fund support our operating expenses, programs, and special events.

Capital Fund

Founders - \$250.00 to \$499.00
Justine Postal

Heritage - \$100.00 to \$249.00
Judith Doughten, in memory of Joyce
Stephen Davis and George & Edna Stephen

Friends – up to \$49.00
Barbara Harris; Paulette Dobbs
in memory of Lynette Fink

General Fund

Founders - \$250.00 to \$499.00
Mark and Karen Bray,
in memory of Lynette Fink

Heritage - \$100.00 to \$249.00
Christian and Christina Giesler

Historian - \$50.00 to \$99.00
Mary Ann Wotring, in honor of
Mary and Howard Knauss Deischer;
Weaver Cleaning; Andrew and Jeanne Harakal,
in memory of Lynette Fink

Friends – up to \$49.00
Joan Matura, Frederica Stringfellow,
George and Melanie DeVault

Membership

Our membership meetings and programs are open to the public and held the third Wednesday of the month (except January, Lenten Wednesdays, June, July and August) at 7 p.m. at St. John's Lutheran Church Parish Hall, 5th & Chestnut Streets in Emmaus. An annual membership picnic is held the third Wednesday in June at Emmaus Community Park, where guests are welcome to become members with payment of membership dues. Our members include individuals (local and from afar), as well as Emmaus-area businesses and organizations. Currently, approximately 1000 individuals and 70 businesses and organizations comprise our membership. **Membership renewals will be sent in December and dues must be paid by March 31 of each year in order to be eligible to vote in the May elections for the vacant seats on the Board of Directors.**

Annual Membership

Individual	\$15.00
Family	\$25.00
Junior (Under 18 – No vote)	\$ 3.00
Business	\$40.00
Charitable Civic Org.	\$25.00



Life Membership

Individual	\$200.00
Family	\$350.00
Business	\$300.00
Charitable Civic Org.	\$100.00

Welcome to our New Members - Thank you for Supporting Us!

James and Jan Capehart | Sandi Ortwein | Ricki (Frederica) Stringfellow

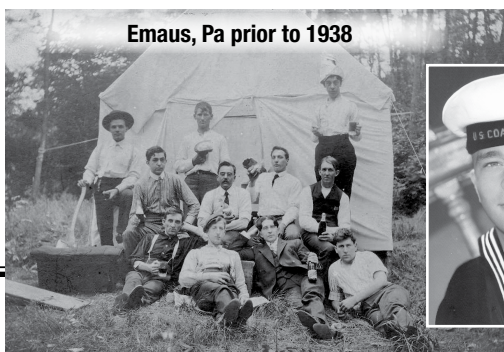
Deceased Members - We extend our condolences to the families of:

Elda Reichard -----February 20, 2019	Walter Hauser-----July 23, 2019	Robert Minnich: ---- September 11, 2019
Barbara Hahn ----- July 11, 2019	Egan Fehnel -----August 7, 2019	Richard Schmick ---- September 14, 2019
	Donald Andrews ----- August 28, 2019	

Please call the office at 610.966.6591 if you are aware of any member to whom we should send a Get Well, Sympathy or Thinking of You card.

The Emmaus Historical Society is a proud participant in the **Heritage Keepers of the Greater Lehigh Valley**, a group of historic venues and museums in Berks, Lehigh and Northampton Counties. Emmaus members looking for more history experiences can visit any of these locations and participate in their events. Follow the Heritage Keepers Facebook page for Activities at a Glance and visit lvhistory.org for information on all the history the Lehigh Valley has to offer!

Still
Mystery
Photos!



New
Mystery
Photo!





THE THIRD ANNUAL HERITAGE FESTIVAL AND THANK YOU TO ALL!

From Andrew Kerstetter

The third annual Heritage Alliance Festival was a big success with quilters, blacksmiths, the Poole Wildlands Conservancy and live music from Joel Shimer, the Emmaus Public Music Society and Bill Barto with his antique phonograph. Lots of food was provided by License to Grill and a kettle corn stand along with the drinks and desserts for sale through the Emmaus Heritage Alliance and the Moravian Church.



First and foremost, we want to thank our members from the Emmaus Historical Society who assisted us with the Festival. Although the Heritage Alliance, led by our festival leader, Alan Hawman, works on the planning of the Heritage Festival during the year prior to the day, we would like to thank the volunteers from the Emmaus Historical Society who assisted with tasks such as planning and prepping for the festival as well as manning the festival table and the museum on the day of the event. Volunteers assisted with setup of the tents, tables and chairs. They solicited donations for, and picked up, baked goods for the cakewalk. And when the



festival was over, they stayed to clean up, tear down and pack up the tents and the loaned tables and chairs.

Following is a list of our MVPs who helped make this year's festival another success!

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| Al Wieand | Linda Waddell |
| Bob Boehmer | Loren Weiss |
| Bill Barto | Mike Waddell |
| Carl Wieder | Nancy Matika |
| Christopher Weiss | Nancy Wieder |
| Jean Ross | Pat Mabus |
| Jeanne Harakal | Robin Kerstetter |
| Jim Roth | Robin Weiss |
| Katrina Wieand | Scott Deischer |
| Kitty Pherson | Ticia Herald |
| Linda Boehmer | Hendricks and Sons |



The Heritage Alliance is composed of eight members:

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------------|
| - Shelter House | -Emmaus Moravian Church |
| - Knauss Homestead | -Emmaus Main Street Partners |
| - 1803 House | -Emmaus Remembrance Garden |
| -Emmaus Public Library | - Emmaus Historical Society |

THE BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE THANKS ALL OF THE VOLUNTEERS

who are assisting in property maintenance: Al Farkas, Al Wieand, Andy Harakal, Christopher Weiss, David Kerstetter, Jeanne Harakal, Linda Boehmer, Linda Waddell, Loren Weiss, Pat Mabus, Rick Fox, Robin Kerstetter, Robin Weiss, Sandy Farkas, and Scott Deischer!

REMEMBER OUR NEW FUND RAISER WHEN SHOPPING ON AMAZON!



We would like to announce an opportunity for all of our members to contribute to our fundraising efforts without contributing their own money. We are now participating with Amazon Smile. If you purchase anything on Amazon, you can sign in through smile.amazon.com and choose the Emmaus Historical Society as the non-profit organization you would like to support. Amazon will contribute 1/2 percent of each purchase to the Society in return. Thanking all in advance for their support of our new Fundraising program.

Holiday Fun at the Emmaus Historical Society

Friday, December 6, 2019, 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm - "Celebrate the Holidays" - Come to enjoy refreshments and holiday exhibits while you listen to the children's choir of St. Ann's School at 4:30pm and the Emmaus Moravian Church choir at 6:30pm with organist, Tom Baker.

Saturday, December 7, 2019, 10:00 am to 8:30 pm - "Old Fashioned Christmas Open House" - Visit the Museum during "Old Fashioned Christmas" in Emmaus. Children following Candy Cane Lane are invited to make ornaments to decorate the Children's Christmas Tree on the Triangle. Ornaments can be made at the Museum from 12 to 4:00. The Children's Tree will be lit at 4:30pm. The Emmaus Moravian Church is partnering with the Emmaus Historical Society to offer a Walking Tour of Emmaus from 1 to 3:30pm to visit the historical sites which tell the story of the earliest days of Emmaus. The tour is free, but registration is requested. Please call the office at 610-966-6591 by December 5th to register. Additionally, the Emmaus Historical Society is participating in this year's Holiday Cheers Trail and Bonus Bites! Adult Beverages, in the spirit of the Holiday Season, will be served on the front porch of 218 Main Street on Saturday afternoon from 12 to 5pm.



December 11, 2019 - "Christmas Covered Dish Party" - Held at 5:30 PM at St. John's Lutheran Church Parish Hall. Please call the museum if you plan to attend and tell us if you will bring an appetizer, side dish or dessert. Appetizers will be available as soon as you arrive so you can snack and visit before dinner. Dinner (at 6:00) is followed by a visit from the Belsnickel at 7:00.



Saturday, December 14, 2019 - "Santa and Mrs. Claus at the Museum" - Remember when the children of Emmaus/ Emmaus would go to Town Hall or Fire Co. No.1 for an orange and a box of chocolates? Join us as we replicate this tradition when Santa and Mrs. Claus are in the museum from 11:00 to 2:00pm with fruit and a candy box for all visitors (young and the young at heart!). Bring your children and grandchildren to experience what once was!



The Emmaus Historical Society is starting a new season of gifting. Donors can purchase items from the Society's "Santa's Wishlist" and/or sponsor some of the Museum's holiday decorations in memory or honor of a loved one. Details are on the website (emmaushistoric-pa.org) or at the Museum and Programs.

Dan Schantz Benefit Ticket



Present coupon to the cashier or please download our app on the google play store or the apple app store.

<p>DAN SCHANTZ GREENHOUSE & CUT FLOWER OUTLET www.danschantzgreenhouse.com 610.797.2774 Lehigh ST @ 178 * BEHIND TURKEY HILL Emmaus Historical Society</p> <p><small>will receive a \$2.00 donation, when this coupon is presented via the APP or paper. Minimum purchase is \$10.00</small></p> <p><small>TICKETS MAY NOT BE DISTRIBUTED ON THE PROPERTY OF DAN SCHANTZ GREENHOUSE</small></p>	<p>2019</p> <p>1 80522 00001 9</p> <p><small>exp 12/25/19</small></p>
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Emmaus Historical Society November Program

"Emmaus and the Greatest Generation, In honor of Emmaus Veterans Who Served in WWII"

This program is dedicated to the sons and daughters of Emmaus who served in WWII. Their stories and contributions both in battle and on the home front upon returning will be featured.

Presented by Jeanne Harakal and Andrew Kerstetter

**November 20, 2019
7:00PM**

Program FREE to the public!
Members and Non-members Welcome

St. John's Lutheran Church Parish Hall
5th & Chestnut Streets, Emmaus, PA



Bus Trip Thursday, December 19, 2019

Open to ALL Luther Crest Residents! Pick-Up details outlined below!!!!!!



What: Emmaus Historical Society Bus Trip to Dutch Apple Theater, Lancaster, Pennsylvania for "Irving Berlin's Holiday Inn." Lunch and show included. Based on the classic film with music and lyrics by Irving Berlin, *Holiday Inn* is a whole year of holidays in one wonderful musical! It features thrilling dance numbers, laugh-out-loud comedy, and a parade of Irving Berlin hits including *Blue Skies*, *Easter Parade*, *Steppin' Out With My Baby*, *Heat Wave*, *Cheek to Cheek* and many more! Celebrate each holiday, from Thanksgiving to the Fourth of July in this heartwarming, high energy, tap dancing extravaganza!

When: Thursday, December 19, 2019

Details: Meet at Weis Market parking lot, 1220 Chestnut Street, Emmaus - bus departs promptly at 8:45am. **LUTHER CREST Residents:** Meet the bus at the Main entrance of Luther Crest, 800 Hausmann Road, Allentown. Bus will depart promptly at 9:15am.

Tickets: \$98.00 per person includes: bus transportation, table-served lunch and show. Members and non-members welcome! For Tickets Call Nancy Matka, 610-967-5715. Deadline for Tickets: November 19, 2019

Executive Board

President	Jeanne Harakal
Vice President	Patricia Mabus
Recording Secretary	Linda Waddell
Corresponding Secretary	Ruth Kemmerer
Treasurer	Albert Wieand

Directors

Linda Boehmer	Michael Henry
Andrew Kerstetter	Kathryn Pherson
Loren Weiss	Scott Deischer
Solicitor/Parliamentarian - John Zettlemoyer, Esq.	

Museum Hours

Saturdays: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.,
by appointment or special event times

OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

The mission of the Emmaus Historical Society is to collect, preserve and exhibit Emmaus artifacts, documents, histories, photographs and genealogy for displays and research and to offer educational programs and events throughout the year.

Mark Your Calendars!

November 20th – Program – “Emmaus and the Greatest Generation, in honor of Emmaus Veterans who served in WWII” presented by Jeanne Harakal and Andrew Kerstetter

December 6th and 7th – Old Fashioned Christmas

December 11th – Annual Christmas Party featuring the Belsnickel

December 14th– Santa and Mrs. Claus Visit at the Museum to Give Chocolate and Oranges to the Children

December 19th – Bus Trip to Dutch Apple Theater to see “Irving Berlin’s Holiday Inn”

February 1st – SnowBlast

February 19th – A Virtual Walking Tour of Historical Emmaus” presented by Alan Hawman

March 15th – Lucky Bucks Bingo



**Season's Greetings 2019
NEWSLETTER**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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