

Boehm's Chapel Society

FALL 2014

boehmschapel@gmail.com

13 West Boehms Road, Willow Street, Pa., 17584

INSIDE

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The long road to settling in Pennsylvania. Pages 2-3



Chapel undergoes painting, repairs

Last 1791 window frame is showing damage. Page 4



Mama Beam's apple is home



Chapel Society acquires cuttings. The story: Page 7

September program at Chapel will cover history and art of old German gravestones



Photo by Dolores Myers

A program on old German gravestones will be held at Boehm's Chapel on Sept. 23. The slate tombstone shown above is for Henrich Resch, a brother-in-law of Martin Boehm. He was born March 10, 1729, and died Feb. 14, 1808. The decoration at the top of the stone makes it the only tombstone like it in the Boehm's cemetery. Please see Page 5 for information on the program and more details on this stone.

Part III, Boehm family: Coming to America

Following is part III detailing the Boehm family roots in Europe and America.

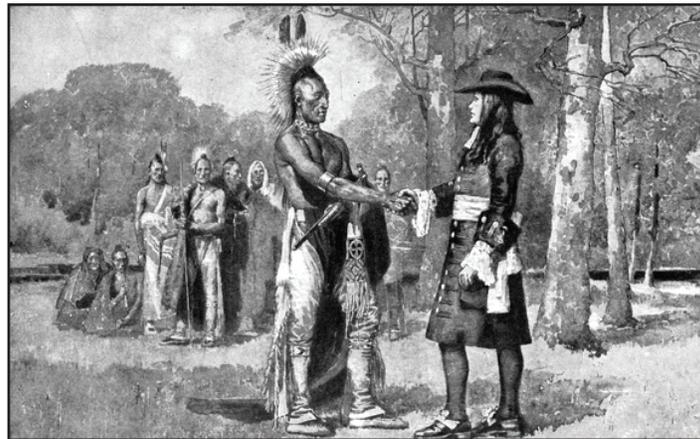
By Dolores Myers
Executive Director
Boehm's Chapel Society

At Zweibrücken in the Palatine of Germany, Jacob Böhm (II) married and "had several children, of whom Jacob, the third was my [Rev. Henry Bohem's] grandfather." Jacob Böhm III was born in 1693, the third child in the family. Jacob, his brother Rudolph and possible brothers Peter and Samuel were among the Palatine immigrants to America.

During the time of Jacob Böhm III's father, a series of events started which would culminate in several of the family moving to America. In 1681, King Charles II of England granted a charter to William Penn conveying a colony thereafter known as Pennsylvania. Penn wrote introductory letters to the native peoples then crossed the Atlantic to visit them, presenting gifts and payments for their land. Penn developed a close and permanent friendship with the Indians and maintained it until his death in 1718.

Returning to Europe in 1684, Penn embarked energetically on a wide distribution of printed circulars and a lecture tour advertising his new territory to audiences in Switzerland and Germany. Penn enticed prospective settlers for his lands, extolling the fertility of the soil, the temperate climate, and the many other advantages, especially the freedom from religious persecution:

"Of living creatures, fish, fowl and the beasts of the wood, here



William Penn meets with an Indian tribe

are divers sorts, some for food and profit..the elk, as big as a small ox; deer bigger than ours [in England]: beaver, raccoon, rabbits, squirrels...some eat young bear and commend it. Of fowl of the land, there is the turkey, (forty and fifty pounds weight), which is very great; pheasants, heath birds, pigeons and partridges in abundance... Of fish, sturgeon, herring, rock, shad, catshead, eel, trout, salmon, etc."

The fruits, which I find in the woods, are the black and white mulberry, chestnut, walnut, plums, strawberries, cranberries, burtleberries, and grapes of divers sorts. The red grape [is] called by ignorance, the fox grape."

—William Penn, 1683, from Daniel Rupp's "History of Lancaster County," 1844.

Some Palatines and English Quakers joined Penn during the early period of his pioneer

Jacob Böhm's pacifist Swiss and German Mennonite neighbors met with additional harsh treatment at the hands of the local authorities for their refusal to bear arms during this upheaval that ravaged central Europe.

settlement at Philadelphia in the 1680s but the greater Palatine migrations occurred 25 years later as a result of an upheaval that split central Europe

THE LEADERS:
Jacob Böhm II, born c. 1668;
Jacob Böhm III, born 1693

while Jacob Böhm was a child and then a youth.

During the first decade of the 1700s, the independent western principalities of Germany were then among the fought for "prizes" in the War of the Spanish Succession. Beginning in 1701, this conflict was a rivalry between England, The Netherlands and most of various northwestern German states on one side, against Spain, France, Bavaria, Savoy and Portugal on the other. The ultimate goal of the combatants was the crown of The Netherlands to the north and the Rhinelands of the Palatine, which formed a corridor for invasion by the Catholic French alliance. As the war progressed, England enlisted the aid of her allied Protestant German principalities to prevent the overrunning of Holland.

Much of the war was fought in the Palatinate on the German-French border. Jacob Böhm's pacifist Swiss and

German Mennonite neighbors met with additional harsh treatment at the hands of the local authorities for their refusal to bear arms during this upheaval that ravaged central Europe. Their strategic location in the war of kings and princes led many of the Palatine residents to consider moving to a more peaceful frontier. People of all faiths set their sights on the British colonies in America.

William Penn was deeply aware of the Rhineland persecutions during the invasions of Protestant German territories by France. The populace in northwestern Germany listened readily to news from England concerning settlement in her colonies in far off America. Previously foreign places like New York and Pennsylvania became a part of the war-weary Palatine vocabulary.

The Wave of Migration

Delegations representing families and friends traveled to England in the closing years of the first decade of the 1700s. They approached both William Penn, and diplomatic representatives of Queen Anne. One group approached Penn in 1707, arranging terms for settling in present-day Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. Another group led by Lutheran Pastor Joshua Kocherthal, of Zweibrücken, petitioned Queen Anne in 1709, through the British Board of Trade, requesting assistance in the emigration and transportation to America. This latter group requested settlement in New York.

Both Penn and the newly appointed governor of New York, Robert Hunter, responded enthusiastically

Boehms: Coming to America

Continued from Page 2

to the approaches. The latter waxed particularly supportive at the prospect of an influx of manpower, advising the Board of Trade that should 3,000 families be brought in, the Germans could be employed in the production of stores for Her Majesty's Navy, in particular producing "Turpentine Rozin Tarr and Pitch," from the abundance of pine trees in the colony. (O'Callaghan, E.B. Documents Relating to the Colonial History of New York (1855), vol. III P. 638).

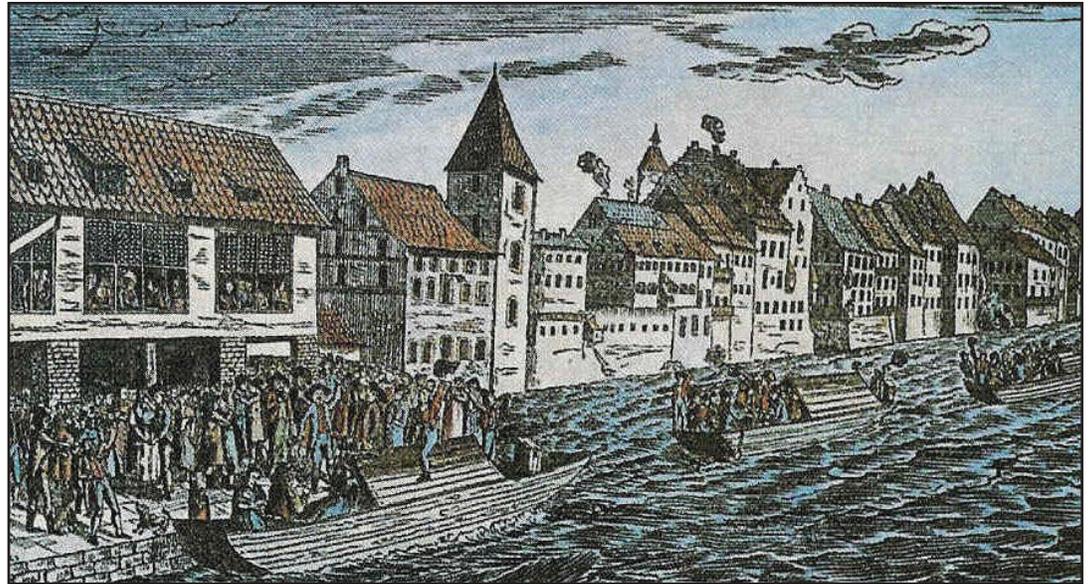
Both William Penn and the Board of Trade issued pamphlets to the Palatines inviting them to emigrate to America with promises of free transportation and either gratis or nominally priced tracts of land.

Little did they expect the overwhelming response. So many families traveled up the Rhine River then crossed into Holland during the summer and fall of 1709, that an embarrassed British government had to send agents to Rotterdam to turn them back. Among those at the Dutch port were Lutherans, Mennonites and Catholics, all seeking colonial refuge.

Despite the British agents' screening, within three months some 13,000 families found their way into England and camped outside London.

The British authorities initiated a further filtering and those found to be too young, too old, or unfit to work, were either sent back or shunted to Ireland, together with their families.

While the Mennonite



Seeking passage to the New World, religious refugees from the Palatine sail up the Rhine River and crowd the port of Rotterdam in Holland.

group held back in Rotterdam awaiting the turn of events, some 4,000 in England, mostly Lutherans, were chosen for New York settlement to work in the "tar camps" on the lower Hudson River, manufacturing pitch for the Royal Navy. Their flotilla of ten crowded ships left on Christmas day 1709.

The New York "tar camp" experiment failed miserably and the Lutheran Palatine migration continued across the Catskill Mountains to the Schoharie and Mohawk River valleys of central New York. (James E. Gibson, The Historical Background of the German Emigration, in 1723-1973 anniversary Magazine of Tulpehocken Settlement Historical Society (Womelsdorf, PA" 1973).

The Mennonite Migration to Lancaster, Pennsylvania

Most of the Swiss-German Mennonites at Rotterdam waited out the New York mania, preferring William Penn's specific overtures to the pacifist Quakers and their own faith. The Pennsylvania

Among those at the Dutch port were Lutherans, Mennonites and Catholics, all seeking colonial refuge.

settlement prospect particularly sparked an interest with their aging bishop, Hans Herr, who transplanted his followers from Switzerland to the Palatine a half century earlier. Historian Harold S. Bender, in his article, "Zürich," in the *Mennonite Encyclopedia* estimated that 75 percent of the Mennonites of the earliest Lancaster, Pennsylvania, settlement (1710-1717) were of former Zürich area families who came from the Palatine.

In the first stage of their journey, Herr and a venturesome few of his congregation traveled to Rotterdam in June 1709, along with scores of others, then held fast in Holland for the rest of the year waiting for Penn's arrangements. In the following spring, on April 4, 1710, the Pennsylvania governor wrote a letter indicating the 40 or 60 "Swissers called Menonists" were on their way from Holland to England to emigrate to Pennsylvania (C. Henry Smith, *Mennonite*

Immigration to Pennsylvania, 1929). In June 1710, a select group, in London, England, obtained passage for Philadelphia on the ship "Mary Hope."

Six of the departing company signed a letter to their friends in Holland, on June 27, 1710 — Martin Oberholtzer, Martin Keundig, Christian Herr, Jacob Mueller, Martin Meili and Hans Herr (Amst. Arch. Letter No 2253).

Addressed to: "Dear friends out of their great kindness of heart toward our journey," the epistle acknowledged an appeal which they had made to their Dutch sympathizers for contributions "because the journey cost more than we had imagined" and thanked the supporters for their assistance. The letter continued:

"We were detained almost ten weeks, before we were put on board ship; but then we actually entered into the ship on the 24th, were well lodged and cared for, and we have been informed we will set sail from here next Saturday or Sunday for Gravesend, and wait there for the Russian convoy..."

Next newsletter: The voyages to Pennsylvania continue.



Photos by Rev. Chris Eden

Above, a painter finishes work on a lower window; below, the rotted sill that was found.

Damage found during painting; sill for 1791 window frame rotted

Painting of the wooden window frames and other wood surfaces on the outside of the Chapel, and a search for recurring water leaks, revealed the need for repairs to the historic 1791 building.

Above, a painter works on a lower window. Those windows are in fine shape.

But the painters, using a lift to prepare the high window that stands above the pulpit, found that the sill of that window had badly deteriorated and that a board was missing along the roof life.

The deteriorating window is historic and was important for the reconstruction of the Chapel.

"The window is the only original 1791 frame. It was used as a pattern for the rest of the windows," Jim McCullough, past president of the Chapel Society, noted.



The window above the pulpit is high and the deterioration of the sill could not be seen from the ground.

The Chapel will be checked for any other damage water might have done.

Repair work is being overseen by Barry Hart, chairman

of the trustees of Boehm's United Methodist Church.

New hardware is being added to the shutters.

Cost of painting and repairs will be handled by the Society.

Photos of the damage were taken by the pastor of Boehm's, Chris Eden, who rode up in the lift used by the painters.

OBITUARIES

Two members of the Chapel Society have passed away.

Arlene Hackman

Arlene Susan (McDonald) Kneisley Hackman, age 89, died June 20 at Willow Valley.

She was born in Washington Boro, the daughter of the late Abram Roy Sr. and Carrie (Miller) McDonald. She married her high school sweetheart, Melvin H. Kneisley, a native of Conestoga, in May 1943.



Arlene Hackman

They had one son, Ronald Lee Kneisley. Melvin was killed in Germany during WWII.

In 1947, Arlene married Daniel H. Hackman and had three additional children, Sharon, Dennis (deceased) and Melynda, and remained in Willow Street for 66 years.

She was a member at Boehm's UMC for 40 years where she taught Sunday school for youth and adults, sang in the choir and led worship. She was a founding member and worshipper for the past 16 years at Harvest Bible Chapel of Lancaster.

She is survived by her son, Ronald L. Kneisley, husband of Patricia A. (Hunsinger), Willow Street; daughters: Sharon A., wife of James R. McCullough, Strasburg, and Melynda S., wife of Gerald E. Hasselbach Jr., Millersville; a brother, John R. McDonald, Conestoga; and five grandchildren.

She is buried at Boehms cemetery with her husband, Daniel, and son, Dennis.

Peter Kurapka

Peter J. "Jim" Kurapka, 81, of Gate City, Va., died Oct. 26, 2013, at his residence.

Born in Gate City, he was the son of the late Peter James Kurapka VIII and Geraldine Jayne. He was also preceded in death by his son Peter James Kurapka X. He is survived by his wife, Marian B. Kurapka, a direct Boehm descendant; one daughter, Virginia Keener; and one son, David J. Kurapka.

German gravestones are subject of Sept. 23 program at the Chapel

Part of 'Discover the Corners of the County' during September.

To better acquaint local residents with the offerings of their county museums and historical societies, the Museum Council of Lancaster County is sponsoring "Discover the Corners of the County," a month-long scavenger hunt throughout September.

Each week in September a "Corner of the County" will showcase special activities and scavenger hunt clues. Prizes will be awarded at each site. One grand prize winner will be drawn at the end of the month.



Michael Emery

Historic Boehm's Chapel will be featured Sept. 22-28. On Tuesday evening, Sept. 23, a program, "Pennsylvania German Gravestones: Art and History in Stone," will be presented by Michael B. Emery, educator at Landis Valley Museum. The program will begin at 6:30 p.m. with a brief visit to the oldest, extant tombstones in Boehm's Cemetery and then move inside for the PowerPoint presentation beginning at 7 p.m.

The event is free to the public. Donations will be appreciated. Persons attending the presentation will be eligible to win the Boehm's Chapel scavenger hunt prize that will be drawn at the conclusion of the program.

Clues, rules and regulations for the scavenger hunt, a site map pinpointing all participating museums and a listing of special activities can be found on the new MCLC website at <http://lancastercountymuseums.org/>.

The new MCLC website, launched July 4, can also be accessed by clicking on the MCLC logo on the bottom of the homepage of Boehm's Chapel Society's website, <http://www.boehmschapel.org/>.

Discover the
CORNERS of the COUNTY

Each week explore another corner of the county
Check for special activities! Join the scavenger hunt!
Prizes at Each Site! One Grand Prize!

<p>September 8-14 Amos Herr House Manheim Historical Society National Watch & Clock Museum Wright's Ferry Mansion</p>	<p>September 15-21 Ephrata Cloister Landis Valley Museum Hands-on House Historical Society of the Cocalico Valley Ressler Mill Foundation</p>
<p>September 1-7 Lancasterhistory.org Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society North Museum of Natural History and Science Phillips Museum of Art Rockford Plantation Lancaster Science Factory</p>	<p>September 22-28 Boehms Chapel Conestoga Area Historical Society 1719 Hans Herr House & Museum Railroad Museum of PA National Toy Train Museum</p>

Cover photo

The slate tombstone is on the grave of *henrich Refch* — Henry Resh — brother-in-law to Martin Boehm. The old German uses what looks like an "f" rather than an "s" in his last name. The capital old German "H" is more like a large lowercase "h."

That is a stylized Pennsylvania German Her stone does not have the tulip decoration on it.



suggested meaning of a "double" trinity. It represents the trinity, plus "faith, hope and charity."

Henrich married Martin's sister Susanna but her name looks like "Guffanna" on her tombstone.

Her stone does not have the tulip decoration on it.

Taking aim at the Apple Festival



The annual Boehm's Chapel Apple Festival will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Oct. 11. Above, a girl takes aim with the popular apple slingshot; at left, Jean Hess welcomes visitors; and below, Dick Karr stirs apple butter.



Shaking the trees to find apple of Mama Beam's eye

By **Dolores Myers**
Executive Director
Boehm's Chapel Society

After a cross-country sojourn of approximately 200 years, Mama Beam is returning to Lancaster County — so to speak. On March 30, 10 scions taken from a Mama Beam apple tree in the state of Washington arrived in Willow Street, Pa.

(A scion is a detached shoot or twig containing buds.)

The Belmont apple also known as the Gate or the Mama Beam apple, originated in southern Lancaster County on the homestead of Abraham Beam, brother of the Rev. Martin Boehm.

In 1786 Abraham Beam lived near an area known as Camargo and it was on this homestead, north of Quarryville, Pa., where Abraham planted his apple orchard. Per research done by Jim Galloway and his late wife, Dorothy, the apple trees stood toward the north end of the fenced herb and vegetable garden of Abraham's wife, Barbara Herr Nissley Beam.

The grafting together of two of the best variety of apples from their orchard resulted in Mama Beam's well-known apple. Mama planted this special variety next to her garden "gate" giving rise to one of the names of the variety.

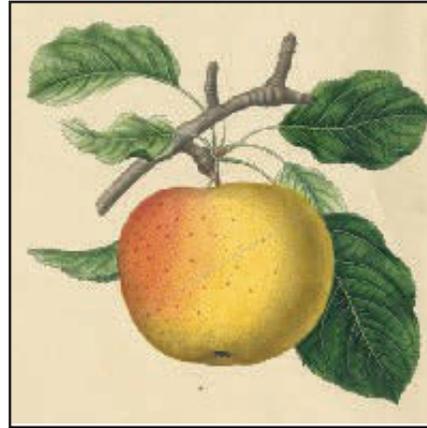
Jacob Nissley Jr., Mama Beam's only son to her first husband Jacob Nissley Sr., reached maturity and moved south taking along scions of his mother's apple. These scions were planted beside the Ohio

River in Virginia's panhandle. By 1799 Jacob owned 2,764 acres on the Virginia side of the river, approximately 900 of which were in orchard and 800 acres on the Ohio side, south of Steubenville, most again which were in orchard. When the apple blossoms bloomed, it is said that folks would take excursion boats down the Ohio River from Pittsburgh to view Jacob's orchards that extended nearly five miles along both sides of the river.

Two sons born to Mama and her second husband, Abraham Beam, also eventually moved to Ohio. Again, both of these sons took scions of their Mama's apple tree and the variety eventually was propagated throughout Ohio. Because of the Ohio county in which it was grown, in addition to the names, Mama Beam and Gate, the apple also became known as the Belmont.

Confusion arose among horticulturists in later years because the Gate apple belonging to Jacob Nissley and the Mama Beam apple grown by the Beam brothers looked and tasted the same. When the relationship between Jake Nissley and the Beams was unraveled, it was discovered the scions had been taken from the same trees. To resolve the confusion, at the North American Pomological Convention held in Buffalo, N.Y., in 1848, it was decided that the name Belmont was to be used when describing Mama's apple.

Johnny "Appleseed" Chapman also planted orchards in Belmont County, Ohio. Information posted by the Stratton



Shown is the Mama Beam, or as it is also known, the Belmont apple.

House Inn, Belmont, Ohio, indicates it was "because of Jacob Nissley's large orchards and the increasing number of orchards in Belmont County that were growing the Mama Beam apple, (that) Johnny Appleseed soon decided to move on farther west. The great legacy that Johnny Appleseed spread throughout Ohio and Indiana started, in part, with the Belmont apple and 'competition' from Jacob Nissley and the Beam brothers."

When Jim and Dorothy Galloway visited Dr. Elwood Fisher, of Virginia, in 1986, Jim reported there were two trees in Dr. Fisher's orchard still producing the Mama Beam or Gate apples, although sadly both were failing. Jim and Dorothy also reported finding the variety to be available in New York State in the 1980s.

Attempts made circa 2006 to contact Dr. Fisher or find a mention of the variety on the Internet yielded no results. Continued research in the fall of 2013 produced a Google hit for a blog written in 2012 by Karen Dale, a member of the Vashon Island Fruit Club. Vashon Island is in Puget Sound, Wash., 2,785 miles from Camargo

Sections of Karen's blog, <http://blogs.vashonbeachcomber.com/gardenon/blog/name-that-apple-at-the-fruit-clubs-annual-fruit-show/2141/>, and email correspondence with the

Boehm's Chapel Society director, Dolores Myers, follow:

"My freezer's now well-stocked with applesauce and pie filling, thanks to a bumper year for apples and a generous apple tree (and its owner) on the Burton Peninsula. I've always wondered what kind of apple this old tree produces. With the Fruit Club's annual Fruit Show coming up, I thought someone might be able to identify it. So I bagged three

representative fruit and headed to the show on Nov. 10.

Sean Shepperd from Portland's Home Orchard Society was knifing open mystery apples, looking for traits searchable in his enormous apple database. Well, take these, I thought and unveiled my three yellow Burton apples.

His brow knit just a little. "Hummm... let's see ... oh my! This is a Belmont—quite popular in the 19th century."

"Who brought the Belmont?" I felt rather proud to spin around and say, "I did!"

In an email to the Chapel Society, she wrote:

"The apple is a large yellow apple with tiny freckles (not russetting) on a very old standard apple tree that is still very productive.

"It is a large, softer apple, not tart, very sweet, cooks down to a non-chunky applesauce and a non-slicey pie filling. I think it's pretty tasty."

Several of the well traveled scions were ordered by the Society and have been grafted onto Lancaster County apple trees. The remaining scions will hopefully root and be planted in the spring. An Internet search found an orchard in Michigan able to provide saplings that will hopefully arrive in Willow Street, spring 2015. Updates on the grafts and saplings will be provided as growth occurs.

Building project update

By **Marv Adams**
President

Boehm's Chapel Society

In early July, a meeting was held with Don Dale, designer of the proposed auxiliary

building, to discuss the location of the building.

The meeting included Barry Hart, chairman of the Boehm's Church trustees; Jim McCullough, chairman of the church's administrative board; Dolores Myers, of the Chapel Society, and myself.

Pequea Township, in which the Chapel sits, requires a 60-foot setback from other properties. We had earlier measured 60 feet from the Frey farm property line and from the property owned by the Chapel Society at 5 W.

Boehms Road. That put the location of the building just off the far corner of the cemetery, far from ideal, because of the distance from the Chapel and the closeness to graves.

Don Dale's advice was to pick the spot where we would like to see the building. That spot is where the utility shed now sits.

The new building, which will include restrooms, could have been put up by acquiring a building permit issued by the township zoning chief, a very simple procedure. Now, we

have to seek an exception from the township, even though the owners of the Frey farm are agreeable to having the building close to their property line.

Complicating the situation is that the Boehms' property is actually five separate parcels. One of those property lines was surveyed and where we want to plant the building is closer than 60 feet to that line.

This is a small bump in the road, but it will take more time and money and might mean we won't start construction this year. Stay tuned.

Boehm's Chapel Society

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OUT OF THE PAST

Aug. 3, 1936

Bro. Harry Hackman be appointed a director to Rawlinsville Camp in place of A.G. Breneman, deceased.

Sept. 13, 1937

Committee on renovating the Old Boehms Church was appointed as follows: J.W. Hildebrand, Frank Charles and Ira Hackman.

Sept. 05, 1939

J.W. Hildebrand was elected

as a delegate to a Special conference to be held Oct. 9 1939 in Philadelphia with C.G. Beneman as reserve delegate. Motion to pay \$50 on basement improvements.

Sept. 2, 1940

A bill of \$7.50 for organ repair was paid. The spout leading from the west tower roof was repaired. Motion made that coping on towers be repainted. Bro. Smith appointed the following persons to work with him and study the new Methodist Discipline. I.E. Breneman, Mrs. I.S. Breneman, Ira Hackman and Mrs. Ira Hackman and Mrs. Ira Holzshaur. The following were

named as managers from our church to the camp meeting board, Clayton Wile and Ralph Stettler. Motion made to begin fall prayer meetings on Wednesday, Oct 2.

Oct. 7, 1940

The following committee to work on a program for 150th anniversary of Boehms Church was appointed. Ira Hackman, Frank Charles and Guy Carriagn. Anniversary to be held in October 1941. Motion to pay \$23 on basement debt. Plans for revival were discussed and left in pastor's hands.

Sept. 10, 1947

Bro. I.S. Breneman said repairing church chimneys,

will be done sometime this fall by Maris Hackman. Motion passed for church piano to be tuned and repaired.

Sept.17, 1951

Meeting was held for the purpose of making plans for needed repairs on the church chimney. The mechanic, Mr. S.C. Marshall suggested the chimney be torn down as far as necessary to insure a good job. Motion passed, same be done. Motion by Roy Dagen, 2nd by Victor Harnish that we put new roof on the old church on Saturday, Sept. 29, 1951. Should there be any metal left it is to be used on parsonage garage. Motion passed.