

Boehm's Chapel Society

FALL 2015

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

Taking aim at 30th Apple Festival



Joelle Kroesen prepares to launch an apple from the large slingshot set up for children at last year's Boehm's Chapel Apple Festival. The slingshot will be back Oct. 10 for the 30th festival where there will be plenty of activities for children. Please see Page 2 for articles and Page 3 for pictures of festivals past.

Photo by Chere Fizer

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Chapel Society member performed many good deeds for church. Page 7



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Have you joined Chapel Society?

Suggested activities for our 225th anniversary? Please see insert.

In 30th year, Apple Festival always goes on

By Dolores Myers
Executive Director
Boehm's Chapel Society

This year will mark the 30th anniversary of the Boehm's Chapel Apple Festival. The 2015 event will be held Saturday, Oct. 10, rain or shine, on the grounds of Boehm's United Methodist Church, 13 West Boehms Road, Willow Street, Pa.

Admission and parking are free for the event, which will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Tents offering homemade apple butter, apple dumplings, homemade ice cream, apple bread, baked goods and luncheon fare will dot the Boehm's campus.

Children's activities,

entertainment and vendor crafts will round out the scene. Historic Boehm's Chapel will be open to tour and to view the documentary: "A Boehm Legacy — More Than Just A Chapel On A Hill." Boehm's Chapel, built in 1791, is the oldest extant house of worship built for Methodist use in Pennsylvania.

Entertainment will be provided by the barbershop group, "Break From Blue Collar," with Zach Bailey, tenor, Ben Hallowell, lead, Tyler Hart, baritone, and Shaun Ressler, bass.

The first mention of the annual apple festival, found in Chapel Society newsletters, appeared as a follow-up story in November 1987, reporting the festival had netted a profit of

\$1,200 toward the restoration of the chapel. Despite bad weather, that was twice as much as was raised the year before.

Over the last 30 years, some Apple Fests have definitely been more memorable than others, by and large, because of weather conditions. Year 1996 was a cold and frosty Apple Fest, but by far, the year everyone remembers, was, Apple Fest 2005. It rained and rained, rained a bit harder, and never stopped raining, the entire day. In spite of the deluge, the rain did not dampen people's spirits, and folks surprisingly still showed up to buy dumplings and apple butter.

Apple Fest 2012 was a banner year. It was a glorious fall day and approximately

800 plus people traversed the Boehms campus checking out vendor and food stands. Parking was touch-and-go that year, which found the parking lot attendants working to find one extra spot to squeeze in an additional car. It may have been the only year vehicles parked on the berm of Route 272.

The parking situation has been remedied in recent years thanks to the generous offer by Boehm's neighbors Pam and Bruce Dombach, and now their son, Matt, allowing Apple Festival workers to park on their property.

Hopefully, Apple Fest 2015 will be one for the record books with fabulous fall weather and a bountiful harvest of visitors.

From snitz to applesauce

Doris Moore was at an apple festival in Virginia a year ago when she saw something that made her stop and ask questions.

Doris, who is the secretary and treasurer of the Chapel Society, and her husband, Ken, often visited a town fair in Edinburg, Virginia, before he passed away. They also stumbled on an apple festival held in a small town nearby. Her son, Kevin, offered to take her back. A year ago, Doris noticed that people making apple butter in that small town were pouring applesauce into the boiling mix, instead of apple snitz.

Applesauce instead of snitz! And the applesauce was coming from Chambersburg, Pennsylvania.

Anyone who has worked making apple butter for the Chapel Society's Apple Festival for the past 20 years or so knows about snitz. And they know the tremendous amount of labor that goes into producing those snitz.

First, find the apples. Good ones. No worms or specks, please. Then, in a production building owned by Jim and Sharon McCullough, the apples were



A familiar apple butter scene: Dick Karr, left, and Jim McCullough, checking out the product.

peeled, cored and passed along to a large group of volunteers who sat in a circle from early morning to past noon. They quartered the apples, cut out blemishes (watch your fingers) and dropped the apples into tubs. The apples in those tubs were then sliced with a hand operated machine (more watch your fingers). Now, you had snitz. Those snitz were packed into a multitude of coolers.

And this process was repeated over two Fridays.

It wasn't all work. There was plenty of camaraderie (and a free lunch prepared by Sharon and others). And pranks. (You know who you are, Nancy Karr.) But time has taken many of those volunteers away from us.

Jim McCullough, apple butter patriarch, at first resisted the thought of not using snitz, but came around. After all, snitized apples turn into applesauce in the kettles anyway. Using applesauce would be a huge savings in labor and time.

And as it turns out: a savings in cost. Long story short, Jim connected with one of the apple butter experts in Virginia and found out the Musselman people sell large cans of applesauce at greatly reduced prices to nonprofit groups. The cans might be dented (but not on the seams) or have their labels damaged or torn off. Jim found Musselman had a plant in Biglerville. He made arrangements and ventured out to Adams County in his truck and picked up 1,300 pounds of applesauce, in .85-gallon cans for \$180.

The applesauce does not contain sugar. The second ingredient used to make apple butter at the Apple Festival is apple cider. It does add some sweetness. Through an exchange of apple butter with Virginia, Jim found that the folks in Virginia add a great deal of sugar to their kettles. The Virginians find our apple butter a bit tart. Their butter is thinner and lighter in color.

On Saturday, Sept. 12, Jim set up a test with other volunteers at his home, boiling up a batch of apple butter. The idea was to capture the flavor and the color of our past apple butter outputs, which, by the way, have changed slightly over the years as knowledge was gained in the process.

"We want to test it so that the change is not noticeable," Jim said.

The verdict: You might detect a difference, but only because we told you.

Some strange coincidences to end with: Strasburg, Pennsylvania, is where Jim and Sharon McCullough live and where the first batch of apple butter is cooked every year. The apple festival that Doris Moore visited was in Strasburg, Virginia. And the place where the apple festival is held in Virginia? The Strasburg Railroad Museum.

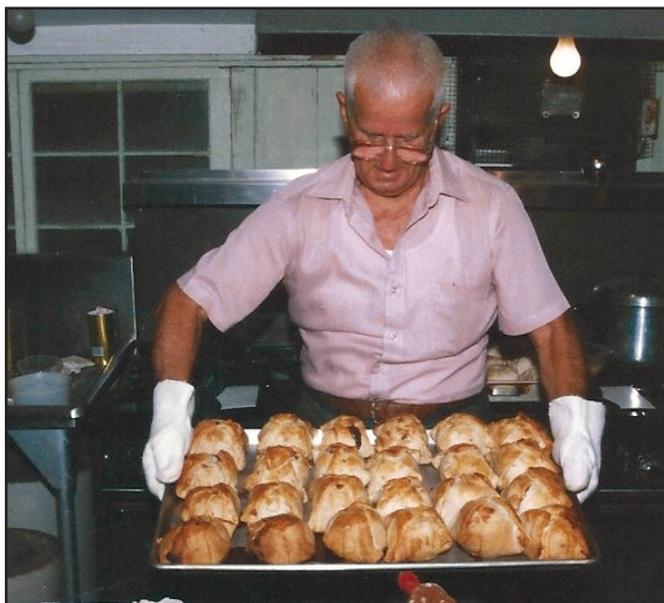
How do you like them apples?

Apple Festivals past

In 29 Apple Festivals there are a lot of memories. Things have changed over those years. Some of the stalwarts who made the festival have passed on. Shown here are some memories.



Apple bread is the speciality of the women of Grandview United Methodist Church. Above, they display their products which are usually the first to be sold out. The year was 2004. From left are: Jane Schultz, Dorothy Garboczi, Helen Strathmeyer and Margaret Lafferty.



The year is 1991 as Russ Kauffman prepares apple dumplings for sale at the festival. The kitchen at Rawlinsville Camp Meeting was used back then to make the popular dumplings.



Not all festivals have been warm and sunny. It was so cold in 1996 that someone wrote in the frost. In 2004, below, the festival went on despite 10 inches of rain.

Also in 1991, the Rev. Abe Sangrey watches as Mike McCullough readies a batch of homemade ice cream.



Busy, busy summer at Chapel

Mennonite World Conference brings a flood of visitors.

The summer of 2015 will be remembered as the year Boehm's Chapel opened its doors to visitors from across the globe.

The Chapel Society was asked to serve as a point of interest on a tour of Anabaptist historical sites in Lancaster County. The tours were offered as part of the Mennonite World Conference, which convened in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, July 21-26.

A tour bus rolled in on four consecutive afternoons in late July, and Mennonite visitors from around the world assembled in the Chapel to learn the story of Martin Boehm, a Lancaster County Mennonite.

Signing the welcome register were individuals from the continents of Asia, Africa, Australia, Europe and North and South America. Several Spanish- and French-speaking visitors were accompanied by interpreters provided by the Mennonite World Conference.

Communication was not always accomplished accurately, but smiles and hugs tended to translate into warm feelings, no matter the language. Countries recorded on the guest register include: Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Japan, Germany, Mozambique, Paraguay, Senegal and Switzerland.

North American visitors included individuals from Mexico, many provinces throughout Canada and states as far away as Texas and California.

Guests from Germany were more than willing to



Photo by Dolores Myers

People on one of the smaller bus tours from Mennonite World Conference hear about the history of the Boehm family and the Chapel.

demonstrate the correct pronunciation of the Böhme surname. Repeated practice attempts by the chapel docent, resulted in a lot of laughter from all parties involved. The closest comparable pronunciation, able to be achieved by one born and reared in Lancaster County, resulted in something sounding like a forcefully exhaled Boom. The North American pronunciation, which has evolved into Beam, obviously would not be recognizable by Martin or his immigrant father, Jacob Böhme.

In addition to hosting Mennonite World Conference bus groups, the chapel was also asked to provide a display, tied to the conference theme, "Walking with God," which emphasized the Christian walk is a continuing journey. The history of Martin Boehm, his connection to the United Brethren in Christ Church and

influence on the origins of the River Brethren were related.

Additional summer visitors included six Boehm descendants, in attendance, on Heritage Sunday.

Justin Gilbertsen, of Illinois, a descendant of Rudolph Böhme, Mennonite preacher of Warwick Township, Lancaster County, and brother to Jacob Böhme, Pequea Township immigrant, visited the chapel just prior to Heritage Sunday. Additional out-of-state visitors, during the summer months, hailed from Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, New York, Ohio, Virginia and Washington, D.C.

The Chapel participated in two additional summer programs. The 2015 Lancaster County Museum Council's "Passport to Discovery" program ran between Memorial Day and Labor Day. Each participant was issued a passport to collect colorful stamps at any of the

21 Lancaster County Museum Council organizations.

Participants returning a passport were eligible to win prize packages.

On Aug. 29, the Chapel was one of six stopping points featured on neighboring, 1791 Herr House Museum's Seventh Annual Historic Driving Tour. The 2015 tour concentrated on sites surrounding the area of West Willow, including the Chapel, nearby Baumgardner Railroad Station, which has stood since 1878, and a large brick Victorian mansion on property purchased by Martin Kendig, one of the original Swiss Mennonites to the 1710 Pequea Settlement.

The property and additional outbuildings remain in the Kendig family today.

Approximately 65-75 visitors toured the Chapel during the drive-around, which brought the summer Chapel hours to a close.

Baptized in waters of Rawlinsville Camp

For the second Rawlinsville Camp Meeting session in a row, the Rev. Chris Eden, of Boehm's United Methodist Church, performed a baptism ceremony in the stream that runs through the camp.

At right, Pastor Eden is shown baptizing Heidi Edwards, daughter of Tony and Abby Edwards, with water from the stream. The request for baptism came directly from Heidi, who is shown in the inset at far right.

In the photo below, people line the bridge and walkway to watch the ceremony which began with the singing of a hymn, followed by prayer and the baptism.



Photos by Stephanie Reddinger



HERITAGE SUNDAY

Martin Boehm shunning is in discussion

Heritage Sunday 2015 was held June 28. The afternoon program was a two-part program, consisting of the society's annual business meeting, followed by a short worship service.

During the business meeting, the following persons were re-elected to serve on the chapel society board throughout 2017.

Marv Adams, president; Matthew Buckwalter, vice president; Doris Moore, secretary; and directors: Rev. Joe Garber, James Jolly, Rev. William Spiegelhalder and Donald Walters.

Pastor Garber, of Byerland Mennonite Church, provided an update on a recent undertaking to present the case of Martin Boehm's excommunication before the Lancaster Mennonite Conference. He, along with Chapel Society Vice President Matthew Buckwalter, believe the research they have done, to this point, affirms the reality that an official act/statement from LMC would be valuable to the church in the region.

Pastor Garber and Matt are working with an LMC bishop, pursuing Martin's case, as intercessors, for what God desires to do in the conference of churches, not as members of the Boehm's Chapel Society.

Society members will remember that this was a passionate subject of the late Rev. Abram Sangrey, who approached Mennonite bishops in hopes of having Martin Boehm's excommunication



Photo by Larry Kowerski

Above, the Rev. Joe Garber, left, and the Rev. Chris Eden tell the Heritage Sunday gathering about their research on Martin Boehm. Below, Boehm descendants present were, top to bottom Janet Wilson, Dorothy Jones, Lawrence Beam, Evelyn Chaffer, Dolores Myers, Catherine Tribit and the Rev. Fred Day, speaker for the service.



Photo by Julia Pleno

lifted.

Visiting Böhm descendants included:

Evelyn Chaffer and her sister, Dorothy Jones, both of New York state; Catherine Tribit, Janet Wilson and her daughter Dolores Myers, all residents of Lancaster County,

and Lawrence Beam, Ontario, Canada.

The Rev. Alfred T. Day III, chief historian of the United Methodist Church, served as guest speaker for the worship program.

His address reflected on the gospel of Luke's story, of Jesus' surprise post-resurrection meeting with despondent

disciples on the road

to Emmaus, and how there is a temptation in doing the work of history to look backward; and how reflecting and reckoning with the past has an important, life and mind-changing function in both the present moment and in pointing to the future.

Report from Rev. Garber

Following is the report from the Rev. Joe Garber on research done on Martin Boehm and discussions with a Mennonite bishop.

The Church of the United Brethren in Christ (United Brethren Church) was founded in 1800 by Philip William Otterbein (1726-1813), who came to America in 1752 as a missionary of the German Reformed Church, and Martin Boehm (1725-1812), a former bishop of the Mennonite Church in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, who had been excommunicated in 1777 because of teaching Methodist doctrine.

Otterbein and Boehm were elected the first bishops of the church. Boehm took a considerable group of Mennonites with him into the new church, and others joined the church later at various places.

At first Mennonites

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How to order Beam book

To order a copy of Lawrence Beam's 613-page recently released book: "Beam/Boehm Family-Immigration to Canada 1788-2000":

■Email your U.S. request to: isaiah6062@gmail.com or send request to Evelyn Chaffer: P.O. Box 264, Rush, New York, 14643-0264.

■To order in Canada, email to LBbilder41@aol.com or request via Canadian post: Lawrence Beam: P.O. Box 83, Stevensville, Ont. LOS 1S0

Report:

On effort to overturn the excommunication of Martin Boehm

Continued from Page One

welcomed Boehm's emotionally driven preaching, but by about 1777 his style of preaching and evangelism created serious concerns among his fellow Mennonite pastors.

A number of charges were brought against him, including participation with worldly Christians who practiced warfare and oath taking, acceptance of members who were under church discipline, insistence on "his own particular way," and failure to accept the community's instruction to confess in his faults.

For these faults Martin Boehm was excommunicated by the Mennonite conference of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. In spite of being excommunicated, Boehm wore a Mennonite-style plain coat and low flowing moustache-free beard all his life.

From The Mennonite Church and Her Accusers, John F. Funk, Published 1878 Chapter IV. Martin Boehm's Departure Doctrines And Practices Of The Church Set Forth.

"We now present our readers with the contents of an old manuscript, a copy of a statement made by the ministers of the Mennonite Church of Lancaster County and vicinity, about 100 years ago, giving us a clear representation of the character of the church during that period of time, in which the church, is said, by her accusers, to have had so far departed from the faith, doctrine and practice of the old fathers of the church.

"We regret that we cannot give the exact date of the manuscript, nor the names of the bishops, ministers and deacons who constituted the Conference

DEATH Michael Rhineer dies at 71

Michael W. Rhineer Sr., 71, of Willow Street, a longtime member of the Boehm's Chapel Society, passed away May 17 surrounded by his loving family after a courageous battle with cancer.

Born in Lancaster in 1944, he was the son of the late Mervin C. and Irene Wise Rhineer. Mike was the husband of Darlene M. Rhineer. They were married in 1961.

Mike owned and operated Mike Rhineer Excavating for more than 40 years. His true passion was his love for horses and teaching the younger generation the technique of roping. Mike was competitive and a



Michael Rhineer

champion in calf and team roping. He was an instructor of youth roping and team roping. He loved to support his grandchildren in the youth rodeo.

Jim McCullough, who has held many executive positions at the church and with the

which acted in the matter."

But the fact that the matter was brought before the Conference, and that the Conference labored to effect a reconciliation, proves that the Conference was united in the views brought out by the manuscript, and that we may safely accept it as a reflection of what the church, in that vicinity, not



Photo by Jamie Heckendorn

In a parade held at Willow Valley Communities in 2013, Mike Rhineer portrays a circuit rider as an entry of the Boehm's Chapel Society.

Chapel Society, said:

"Both Mike Senior and Junior have provided Boehm's prompt service for a number decades.

"They have never hesitated providing short notice for cemetery service. This notice is rarely more than one-or two-day notice. In winter they even clear snow into the cemeteries for family access to grave sites.

"Their prompt service has also included snow and ice removal including access to the Chapel for fuel deliveries and a variety of special Chapel events.

"They have also provided numerous excavation needs on the Boehm's site. They

have never failed any request. Snow and ice removal has been part of their dependable service to the Boehm's site."

Besides his wife, he is survived by his children, Michael W. Rhineer Jr. and Tammy A. Rhineer, both of Willow Street, and his grandchildren, Justin K. Shearer, Dallas C. Rhineer, Michael R. and Colton P. Rhineer. Two sisters survive, Debbie J., wife of Barry Hershey, of Willow Street, and Brenda Rhineer Ambrose of Lancaster. He was preceded in death by his daughter-in-law, Shannon P. Rhineer, and a brother, Art.

Mike's interment was in Boehms Cemetery.

only believed, but also practiced.

Matt Buckwalter and I believe that the research that we have done to this point with Pastor Chris Eden from Boehm's UMC affirmed the reality that an official act/statement from Lancaster Mennonite Conference would be valuable to the church in the region. On Aug. 12 we

met at the Byerland Mennonite Church with an LMC bishop who has expressed interest in working together with Matt and me.

Both Matt and I are pursuing this with the LMC as intercessors for what God desires to do in the Conference of churches and not as members of the Chapel Society.

Variance granted

Good things come to those who wait.

And wait.

In planning to build our auxiliary building, it was decided to avoid going to the local municipality for a variance. Instead, we were told that the township's new zoning ordinance might reduce the rear setback from 60 feet to

20 feet. Variances can be expensive to pursue. The applicants must prove they face a hardship in building.

The ideal location for our building calls for one corner to be 20 feet from the property line with the Frey farm. Other locations just did not work.

We were surprised when the zoning ordinance was announced: The rear setback had been reduced only 10 feet to 50 feet, not enough to get us where we wanted to build. Working with Don Dale, of D.A. Dale Building Designs, and Cheryl Love, of ELA Group, board

AUXILIARY BUILDING

members prepared their case and took it to the Pequea Township zoning hearing board on Sept. 1.

Jeff Frey, owner of the Frey farm with his wife, Sue, accompanied the group which included a Boehm's trustee, Dave Ressler, Pastor Chris Eden, Chapel Executive Director Dolores Myers and Chapel President Marv Adams. Jeff supported the request

for the variance.

The zoning hearing board heard the testimony, took a recess, and then came back with a unanimous decision to grant the variance. The meeting lasted less than an hour. The one stipulation is that some landscape work be done on the property line as requested by the Freys.

The next move by the board will be to hire a contractor, get building permits and prepare a landscaping plan. No work is expected to start until after the Apple Festival at the earliest.

Completion date? By Heritage Sunday 2016 at the latest.

Boehm's Chapel Society

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Lancaster New Era
Nov. 22, 1883
**WIDE AWAKE
WEST WILLOW
Happenings in and Around
the place, as Told by
a Correspondent
Building Improvements**

Quite a number of building improvements have been made here during the past year. Capt. Richard Hicks, one of our prominent citizens, has built for himself a handsome residence near Baumgardner's Station. The building stands upon the summit of a hill, and commands a fine

OUT OF THE PAST

view of the surrounding country. [Hicks is the Civil War veteran buried in the Boehms Cemetery. His stone is heart-shaped. We do not know where his house stood.]

Mr. Weaver, who purchased the farm formerly owned by Cyrus Charles, has removed the old buildings and erected others in their stead. [That farm was the

home farm of the Martin Boehm family, now the farm of Jeff and Sue Frey just below the Chapel.] Mr. Bachman, the contractor, did his work admirably, and Mr. W. can congratulate himself on having the handsomest farm buildings in Pequea.

The work of remodeling the old church, known as Boehm's Chapel, an account of which has already been published, was done under the direction of Messrs. Hackman and Brenneman, two of the leading builders and contractors of Pequea. The building occupies a prominent site east of the Quar-

ryville railroad, and on account of its great age and the many incidents connected with its history, is an object of more than ordinary interest to travelers.

Chapel Society Executive Director Dolores Myers found this newspaper article in doing research for a booklet on the 225th anniversary of the founding Boehm's Church. She wrote:

"Isn't it odd that both the Chapel and the farm were 'updated' in 1883? I wonder if the old buildings removed on the farm included the stone house Martin built in 1756. If only that was still standing, we would have the complete history of Boehm's Church with the house being where the first circuit riders stopped to establish class meetings."