

MEMBERSHIP INFO INSIDE

Boehm's Chapel Society

SPRING-SUMMER 2018

boehmschapel@gmail.com

West Boehms Road, Willow Street, Pa., 17584

To our friends

The Boehm's Chapel Society has a dilemma.

We send out nearly 1,600 newsletters twice a year, but have only 154 members to help pay the bills. At one time, we published four newsletters a year, one for each season. We cut back to two because of the cost. Each newsletter we send out costs about \$1 for printing and mailing.

Our memberships at \$25 per person or family bring in only a fraction of what we need to operate each year. Our finances are not what they once were. We are selling a property we bought in 2011 to bolster those finances. Please see Page 7.

But we need to cut newsletter costs and the only way we see to do that is to send out printed newsletters only to those of you who are members or who donate \$10 toward the cost.

If you do not wish to become a member or to donate, we will still email you a newsletter. Let us know by sending your email address to:

boehmschapel@gmail.com

The newsletter will continue to be posted on our website.

This new policy will go into effect after the fall-winter newsletter is mailed. You will find membership information inside and an envelope for your convenience.

We hope you will join us as we maintain the Chapel in good repair and keep the Gospel flame ignited by Martin Boehm, and spread by the circuit riders who lie buried on the grounds, burning.

Marv Adams
Boehm's Chapel Society
vice president

Summer events at Chapel

Anne Brockley, historian of Otterbein United Methodist Church, Lancaster, will be the featured speaker on Heritage Sunday, June 24. Please see Page 7.

LEST WE FORGET



The cemetery at Boehm's United Methodist Church is the final resting place for 112 military veterans, including a newly discovered Revolutionary War soldier, John Spence. His gravestone is shown above. See his story on Pages 2-3. Flags were placed on all the veterans; graves by Boehm's Chapel Society executive director Dolores Myers and her husband, Dennis, for Memorial Day.

A second Revolutionary War veteran discovered at Boehm's

His death touched off a family civil war over his large estate.

Joseph Charles (1749-1828) was the only known Revolutionary War veteran interred within Boehm's Cemetery. (His story appeared in the September 2008 Chapel newsletter.)

Recent research by Chapel Society executive director Dolores Myers was conducted on two additional men, whose tombstone dates indicated they lived during the time period to have possibly served during the Revolution.

The one man had not participated, but that military information was available for John Spence.

John Spence of Martic Township died July 2, 1832, in his 77th year and was buried to the west of Boehm's Chapel.

Per information recorded on the 1908 Pennsylvania death certificate of John's daughter, Rachel Spence Robinson, he was born in Ireland. Spence family research submitted to Ancestry suggests his parents may have been William and Catherine Veach Spence. The first record of John Spence in Martic Township, Lancaster County, appeared in the 1793 Septennial Census, which was an enumeration taken every seven years to determine state representation and for tax purposes.

Information in the Pennsylvania Militia records for active duty soldiers, during the Revolutionary War, included John Spence as a



Boehm descendants, no doubt about it

To commemorate the 300th anniversary of the arrival of Jacob Böhm (Boehm) to present-day Lancaster County, Darvin L. Martin discussed the genetic background and the land records of local 1717 Mennonite families on Oct. 22, 2017, in Boehm's Chapel. A number of local people took the DNA test to see if they are descendants of the Boehm family. They are:

Front row, from left, Katherine Tribit, descendant of John Boehm; Dolores Myers,

descendant of Susanna Boehm Resch; JoAnne Foss, descendant of the Rev. Martin Boehm; and Sandy Schenck, descendant of Magdalena Boehm Schoff.

Back row, from left, Mark Stoner, descendant of Eve Steiner Boehm; John Stehman, descendant of Magdalena Boehm Shoff; Darvin Martin, speaker and descendant of Mary Boehm Strickler; and Deborah Oesch, descendant of Magdalena Boehm Shoff.

private from Lancaster County serving under company commander Capt. William Allen, 9th Battalion. He was accepted as a substitute for Martain Penogel, of Londonderry, Lancaster County, in September 1781.

In September 1781, John Spence served with the 5th

Class of the 9th Battalion and was under marching orders to Newtown, New Jersey. The regiment was subsequently furloughed at Trenton, New Jersey. The last military reference found for Spence was dated May 2, 1782, when he served under Capt. James Willson, 1st Class, 6th

Company, 9th Battalion, listed as Inactive Duty Militia. The 9th Pennsylvania Regiment saw action during the Battle of Brandywine, the Battle of Germantown, the Battle of Monmouth and the Battle of Springfield, New York, all of which occurred before 1781, when John Spence served as a

private.

Veteran Spence appeared with his growing family in the Martic Township census records between 1800-1830. Children born to John and his first wife, Anna Souder, (daughter of Jacob and Anna Bowman Souder, according to family records), included:

Esther (Hetty), married to George Kendig; Nancy, married to John Boyd; Kuriah, married to John Henry; John; Jacob; Jesse; Abraham and Gabriel.

Anna died sometime before 1819 when the oldest child of John and his second wife Rosanna Snodgrass, was born. The four children born to Rosanna and John were Mary, married to William McLaughlin; James; Rachel, married to Isaac Robinson; and Adam Clark Spence.

John Spence drew up his will on July 2, 1832, within two hours of his death, which initiated a series of disputes and investigations, which would be presented before the Lancaster County Court of Common Pleas and the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. The financial value of the personal and property inheritance caused significant conflict among the family and was not resolved until 1835. In 1850 the home farm real estate was valued at more than \$11,000, a significant amount of money for the time. One calculation puts the value at \$330,000 in today's dollars.

Executors named were Rosanna and John Beam, a farmer. Rosanna received the plantation house on a 105-acre tract of land in Martic (referred to then as "Martick") Township on which they resided, and a second 127-acre tract of land and house, approximately four miles from the home residence, on which John's son, Jesse, by his first wife, lived.

Rosanna also received all the livestock, farming implements, household and kitchen furniture, linen cloth, plus all of John's personal estate, "absolutely." John



American flags flap in the cemetery at Boehm's United Methodist Church.

directed Rosanna to support and educate their four youngest children, Mary, James, Rachel and Adam Clark, who at the time of John's death ranged from three to 13 years of age.

Following Rosanna's death or remarriage, the real estate and remains of their personal estate were directed to be sold at public auction, and the proceeds divided equally among John's children from both marriages or grandchildren in the event any of his children died before Rosanna. John's daughters Nancy and Kuriah, and son Gabriel, born to his first wife, died before his death in 1832.

Witnesses to the will were John Good, Margaret Snodgrass and James Kelly of Martic Township.

On Aug. 18, 1832, Abraham Spence, a son by the first wife, appeared before the Court of Common Pleas for the County of Lancaster to contest his father's will.

When questioned in a hearing, one of the witnesses to the will, James Kelly, affirmed he had witnessed John Spence sign the document and heard him say, "It is my will." When asked if John Spence was of a disposing mind, memory and understanding at the time he signed the will, Kelly replied, "That's hard to tell, he spoke sensible enough. The man, well, he only lived about an

hour and three-quarters, after that he died. It was two o'clock when he signed it, and it wanted a quarter of four when he died, in the afternoon."

Kelly stated John Spence was trying to get up and he and one of the women, who was also appearing as a witness, took him under the arms and by the feet to help him up.

Kelly added that John Good, Peggy Snodgrass, James Kelly, the widow, (Rosanna), and her son, James Spence, a boy of about 10 or 11 were in the room when the will was signed, and the door was bolted on the request of John Spence.

The case was heard on Feb. 6, 1834, and appealed to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court in May 1835. The case of Spence v. Spence was brought before the Supreme Court in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

The defense for Rosanna attempted to prove, via John Beam, who was present, that the lawsuit and controversy about the will were settled by the parties.

After many objections and rejections of examination, testimony was closed and judgment affirmed in favor of the widow. On June 15, 1835, Rosanna Spence, one of the named executors (John Beam, the other executor was renounced), appeared before the Court of Common Pleas

of Lancaster County and were affirmed to handle the estate.

While several men named John Beam lived throughout Lancaster County at the time John Spence wrote his will, it is possible that the John Beam was John Beam, born 1777, son of Jacob and Barbara Nissley Beam, and grandson of the Rev. Martin and Eva Steiner Boehm. John married Anna Herr and lived on the Boehm homestead until moving to Lancaster city, circa 1840. He died in Lancaster in November 1855 and was interred in Woodward Hill Cemetery.

A Revolutionary War marker will be obtained for the tombstone of John Spence.

Society sponsors the Wesley Forum

The Boehm's Chapel Society again sponsored the Wesley Forum held April 25 at Evangelical Theological Seminary in Myerstown, Pennsylvania.

The featured speaker was Dr. Chris Armstrong, historian at Wheaton College, Illinois. His talk was titled, "The Art of Work: C.S. Lewis and John Wesley Speak." He spoke of how Christians can find God through their work and vocation.



Used with permission from Lancaster History.org.

Shown is the Boehm homestead now owned by the Frey family as it looked 100 years ago when Morris Stanley visited.

100 years ago, this visit from a Boehm was front-page news

This article appeared on the front page of the Lancaster Daily New Era slightly more than 100 years ago. There are several discrepancies between what was assumed in 1917 and information that has been uncovered throughout the last 100 years. The article relays the political feelings reflected at the time of World War I.

Jacob Böhm, the progenitor of the Pequea Boehm family, arrived in Philadelphia, circa August 1717 on one of three ships transporting approximately 80 Swiss-German Anabaptist families. With other members of the group, he traveled to the Pequea Colony, established ten years earlier, near Willow Street, Pennsylvania. Böhm claimed 381 acres of land in present-day West Lampeter and Pequea townships, in November 1717.

Major Morris Stanley Boehm's ancestor, John Beam, son of the Rev. Martin and Eve Steiner Boehm, moved to Upper Canada in

the spring of 1802. John's uncle, Abraham Boehm, had previously moved from Lancaster County to establish a homestead in Canada, circa 1788, after having served time in the Lancaster County jail for aiding the British cause.

Morris Stanley Boehm was born at Bertie Township, Welland County, Canada on Dec. 14, 1874. He was a real estate agent in Toronto before serving in the Canadian Army during WWI. In his later life, he researched and authored a manuscript on his Boehm ancestry.

**LANCASTER DAILY
NEW ERA
Monday, Nov. 5, 1917**

**CANADIAN MAJOR
COMES HERE TO VISIT
THE HOME OF HIS
FOREBEARS**

**Major M.S. Boehm Finds
Spot at Willow Street Where
His Ancestors Settled In 1712
Family Went to Canada in
1783 Because It Was Not
In Sympathy With Colonies**

About 134 years ago, or to be more exact, in 1783, a Lancaster county family named Boehm, who were not in sympathy with the American colonists in their war against England, emigrated to Canada, settling not far from Niagara Falls. And on the homestead there, established descendants of that family still reside.

One of them was in Lancaster county on Sunday, a distinguished soldier Major M.S. Boehm of the 169th Battalion of Ontario. He is now in this country on a mission for the English government, and is now in Philadelphia, where he will be for two or three weeks.

The Major recently met Senator Boies Penrose and when the latter learned that the Canadian's forebears came from Lancaster county, he suggested a visit to the old homestead. It was a suggestion that pleased the Major, and he soon arranged a trip here with Dr. L. Webster

Fox, the noted Philadelphia dentist.

Through Rev. Dr. John Wilson, District Superintendent of the Philadelphia Conference, Dr. Fox got in touch with Rev. Joseph L. Gersermer, pastor of St. Paul's Methodist Church, Lancaster, and it was arranged that he should accompany the Major and Doctor on a trip from Lancaster to the old Boehm farm, as being familiar with the locality, and so on Sunday morning they motored to Lancaster.

The visitors were greeted at the Stevens House by Lieutenant Governor Frank B. McClain, who had been notified through Senator Penrose of the intended visit. By reason of a previous engagement, the Lieutenant Governor, much to his regret, as well as to that of the visitors, was unable to accompany them on the trip. So the party that visited the homestead of the Major's ancestors consisted of himself,

Rev. Gersmer and Photographer Darmstetter.

Before saying more about this trip, a few words about the Major's forebears are apropos. They came to Lancaster county from Switzerland in 1712, settling on 600 acres of land near Willow Street. The tract in course of time, was cut up into smaller farms, and that on which the first dwelling house was situated is now the property of a Mr. Weaver of Mountville, the tenant farmer, being William Charles. The first Boehm married Miss Martha Kendig, daughter of one of this section's early settlers, one of seven families that came over together from Switzerland a few years before the first Boehm arrived.

One of the landmarks of Southern Lancaster county is Boehm's M.E. Church and that building was erected through an ancestor of the Major, Rev. Martin Boehm, on the Boehm property. This early Boehm was the father of Rev. Henry Boehm who was a companion of the first Methodist Bishop, in the United States, Bishop Asbury. These two traveled in an association of thirty years, upward of 250,000 miles, preaching and establishing congregations. The grave of Rev. Martin Boehm and his wife are still to be seen in the graveyard in Boehm's burying ground. The present pastor of Boehm's Church is the Rev. Leo P. Zook.

All that Major Boehm found intact as the home of his forebears was a curious arched stone structure that formed part of the cellar and the foundation walls of the house, and he reverently chipped off several places of stone as mementos, of his visit. He had several photographs of the spot taken, as well as a landscape picture.

A visit to the old Boehm's Church was full of interest to the Major, for here his ancestors worshiped and in the graveyard he found the graves of Rev. Henry Boehm and wife. Within the sacred

edifices is a highly prized painting of Rev. Henry Boehm, a copy of which the Major will have made. He had several photographs of the church made of the interior and exterior, including himself in some of the photographs."

(The Rev. Henry Boehm and his wife are buried at Woodrow Cemetery, Staten Island, New York. A notation appears on the reverse of his parent's tombstone, which mentions Henry's attributes to the early Methodist Church.)

While in that vicinity the Major met John B. Kendig of Willow Street, a prominent resident of this section. While of the same surname as the wife of the first Boehm, Mr. Kendig does not claim relationship with that part of the Kendig family.

Upon returning to Lancaster late in the afternoon, Major Bohem and Dr. Fox made a short stop at the Stevens House. A representative of The New Era had the pleasure of meeting and conversing with the distinguished Canadian, a fine-looking man, standing about six feet in height, well built and with a ruddy feature, the beau ideal of a soldier, and a very pleasant gentleman. He expressed himself as highly pleased with his trip, adding that he believed he was the first of his family to visit the old homestead since the emigration in 1783. In spite of his Teutonic name, the Major is very much of an Englishman, and deservedly proud of the fact that he is the fifth of his line to hold the King's commission.

He was in business in Ottawa, Canada when the war broke out, an officer of militia. He joined the 169th Battalion of Ontario and spent some months in arduous recruiting and training troops for his regiment and was then sent to France in second in command. After active service he was chosen by his Government to take charge of a photographic exhibit of actual scenes of

Original Chapel group member says fond farewell after 43 years

Chapel Society Board member James Jolly, a retired history professor at Millersville University, is heading to Florida with his wife, Bonnie, to become residents of the Sunshine State.

In 1975, inspired by the upcoming national bicentennial celebration, Jim was among a group of individuals who formed an ad hoc committee to consider restoration of the old Chapel.

Members of that committee included the Rev. William Sharp, district superintendent; Alan Holliday, lay member of First United Methodist Church, Lancaster; the Rev. Russell Clayton, pastor at Boehm's; Donald Aument, a member of Bird-in-Hand United Methodist Church; the Rev. Abram Sangrey, a World War II era pastor at Boehm's; and Professor Jolly.

As the years passed,

the men from the ad hoc committee with the foresight to save Boehm's Chapel have passed away, leaving Jim the only member from those early planning days.

In 1982, The Boehm's

Chapel Society was incorporated and work to restore the Chapel began. Jim remained a dedicated and active member of Boehm's Chapel Society through the years. Jim served as president of the Chapel Society board, financial secretary, historian, and as a director on the board.

Jim attended his last board meeting May 10 and was honored by the board. Noting that he was the last surviving member of that original group, he said, "I'm the last leaf on that tree. Please don't shake it."

Jim, your devotion and commitment to the Chapel Society is very much appreciated and will be long remembered. We thank you for your foresight and many years of service.



James Jolly

Canadian fighting at the front.

"The purpose of this exhibit," explained the Major, "is to show our people, at home, what the boys are actually doing, to give them a better idea of the situation in France, and the opportunity for helping the war Memorial Fund. This fund is unique in its purpose, aiming to establish some sort of memorials to our men in various Canadian cities, after the war."

These pictures, some of which have been enlarged to twice as many feet as the original photographs were inches, are now being exhibited in the Hale building,

corner of Chestnut and Juniper streets, Philadelphia and will be shown in other large American cities. They have been shown in London and Washington and in Toronto where viewed by 46,000 persons.

The Major, replying to a question, stated emphatically that the tales of German brutality were not in the least exaggerated. "The Allies," he said, "do not hate the Boches. They simply look upon them as vermin, that must be wiped out," scraping a foot over the floor as he spoke, as one would do in obliterating a noxious insect.

Chapel Society Membership List

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Donations

Marvin, Helen and Abby Adams
 Ethel G. Bielmyer
 Fay and Bill Binzen
 D. Guy and Sandra Carrigan



Property under agreement

Shown above is the house at 5 West Boehms Road that has been owned by the Chapel Society since 2011.

The property was purchased with the possibility of using some of its 1.3 acres for an auxiliary building and to give the congregation at Boehm's United Methodist Church some space to grow.

The house was never rented, and no money was made from it. It was used for families working to get back on their feet through the organization Homes of Hope. Numerous families have passed through its doors on their way back to

financial solvency.

A two-car garage on the property is used by the church for its lawn equipment.

The board made a decision to sell the property to bolster its finances. A lot of repairs have been made, or will be made, to make the property salable.

The board also switched its money to a United Methodist fund, cutting our fees in half.

The property is under agreement with a buyer with a closing set for the end of May.

The Society will donate a storage shed that it owns to the church for its equipment.

One way to donate

In recognition of the recent 225th anniversary of Boehm's Chapel, we hope you will consider making a generous donation to Boehm's Chapel Society. Persons donating \$225 or more will have their name added to "The Builders" plaque in the new Tying Shed. Donations of \$225 in memory of a loved one or to honor a Boehm ancestor will also be noted on the plaque.

To donate: Please make checks payable to Boehm's Chapel Society. Canadian checks must indicate U.S. funds. Please mail your gift to:

BOEHM'S CHAPEL SOCIETY
P O BOX 272
WILLOW STREET, PA 17584

Name _____ (Please specify in honor of, or in memory of, if so desired)

Street _____

City _____

State/ Province/Zip/Code _____

Heritage Sunday, bike ride through history at Chapel

Summer events scheduled at Boehm's Chapel include the annual "Heritage Sunday" business meeting and worship program to be held June 24, beginning at 4 p.m.

The condensed business program will segue directly into the worship program, featuring Anne Brockley, historian of Otterbein United Methodist Church, Lancaster, as the featured speaker.

Brockley will present a 20-minute PowerPoint program on the history of the Otterbein congregation, established in 1904. The program is based on her anniversary book, "Otterbein Church, 110 Years of History and Service." Copies of the book will be available after the worship program.

Reformed pastor Phillip William Otterbein and Menonite Bishop Martin Boehm met at a "Great Meeting" held at Long's Barn on Pentecost Sunday 1767. Their pursuit of common spiritual beliefs, created a friendship, which lasted throughout their lifetimes.

Gradually, a following of like-minded believers developed around their teachings, which formally organized in 1800 as the United Brethren in Christ Church. Heritage Sunday 2018 will bring followers of Boehm and Otterbein together in worship.

At the conclusion of the worship section of the program, light refreshments will be available on the porch of the Tying Shed, the auxiliary building for the Chapel.

■ On June 16, historic Boehm's Chapel will be a stop for participants on the Story Ride, Bike-Learn-Taste, a 41-

Anne Brockley, historian of Otterbein United Methodist Church, Lancaster, will be the featured speaker on Heritage Sunday.

mile bike trip and storytelling tour of Lancaster County. Historical stops of interest scheduled as part of the ride include:

The 1719 Hans Herr House, Conestoga Indian-town, The Rock Ford Plantation, Bethel AME Church, Boehm's Chapel, Wright's Ferry Mansion, Wheatland, The Thaddeus Stevens and Lydia Smith site, and Washington Boro.

Parking for the ride will be available at Central Manor Church of God and Central Manor Elementary School.

Registered groups will depart the Central Manor site at a designated time. Groups will be assigned a leader and ride at a determined pace to reap the most benefit from the storytelling experience.

At each location, a 5-7 minute story about the importance of the site will be presented before the group continues the ride.

Two ride options are available, offering different distances and elevations. Boehm's Chapel is featured as part of the longer journey. The shorter ride of 24 miles will include the four historic sites closest to Lancaster city center.

For additional information or to register, please contact: <https://www.thestoryride.com/>

Boehm's Chapel Society
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8 SPRING-SUMMER 2018

Boehm's Chapel Society newsletter

Henry returns to the Chapel

Don Walters portrays Henry Boehm during a tour of Boehm's Chapel for the May 9 visit of the Northeastern Jurisdiction Commission of Archives and History.

Approximately 40 members attended the conference from as far away as Maine to West Virginia.

Don Walters, a former board member of the Chapel Society, is shown in the inset, during another portrayal.

