

Boehm's Chapel Society

WINTER 2013

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Photos by Chere Fizer

Apple butter boils in a copper kettle just before being dipped and put in jars.

Rains came down ...

But sun shines on Apple Festival after two-day deluge

By Dolores Myers
Executive Director
Boehm's Chapel Society

Apple Fest 2013 brought to mind the chorus of the children's song, "The Wise Man and the Foolish Man," based on Matthew 7: 24-25. "The rains came down and the floods came up, but the house on the rock stood firm."

On Thursday, Oct. 10, and Friday, Oct. 11, storms dumped record-breaking rainfall on Lancaster County. Local rain gauges in and around Willow Street measured close to 7 inches of rain for the two days.

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Jamie Fizer, left, and Mike Heckendorn, who took over much of the apple butter duties this year, test their product.

Descendant walks downs the aisle at Chapel wedding

Pamela Deibert is descended from Rudolph Boehm, an uncle of Martin.

Pamela Deibert and Georges Martin were united in holy matrimony by the Rev. Joseph DiPaolo at Boehm's Chapel on Saturday, Sept. 29, at 2:30 p.m. The bright, warm fall day was especially befitting for the wedding of a Boehm descendant held in the historic chapel.

Pamela, of Exton, Pa., is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Harbage, of Media, Pa., and a descendant of Rudolph Boehm, uncle of the Rev. Martin Boehm on whose former homestead Boehm's Chapel stands.

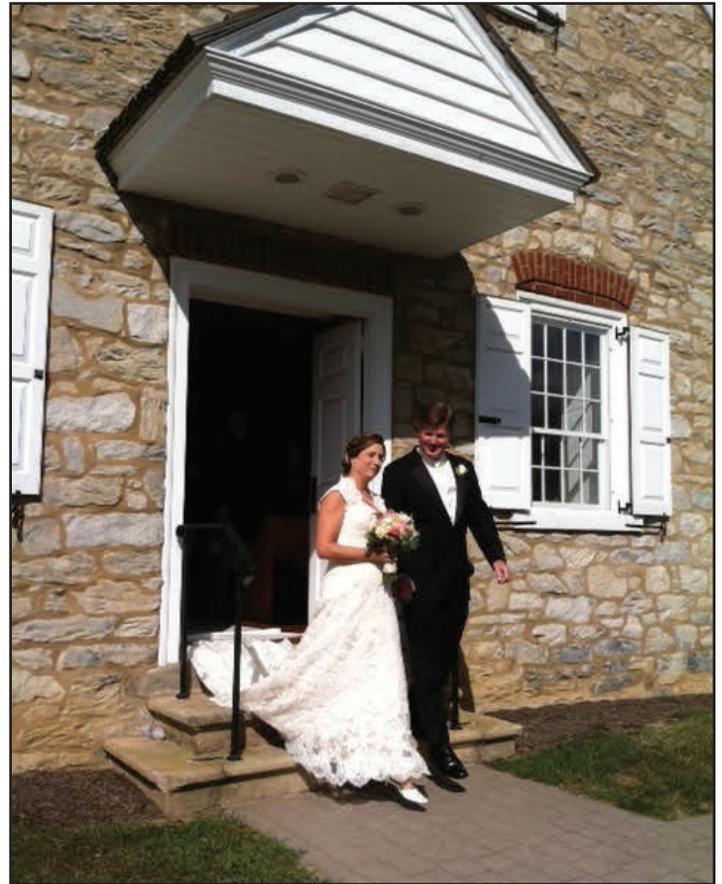
The following information concerning Rudolph Boehm is based primarily on the research of James and Dorothy Galloway compiled 1976-1997. Rudolph Boehm arrived in the colonies by 1727 and settled north of the city of Lancaster in present-day Warwick Township, Lancaster County, Pa. Rudolph Boehm and his brother Jacob, (father of Rev. Martin), were both blacksmiths and lay elders in their respective Mennonite churches. Rudolph was one of the first trustees of the Hernley Mennonite Church in Rapho Township, Lancaster County. Jacob served as lay elder at Byerland Mennonite Meeting House, present day Pequea

Township, Lancaster County.

Rudolph was naturalized as a citizen in Lancaster County in 1743. In his will dated April 10, 1764, probated April 30, 1773, Rudolph named his wife Elizabeth and six children: Jacob, Christian, Michael, Rudolph, Ann, married to Samuel Meyer, and Barbara, the wife of Henry Sherrer. Son Rudolph Behme Jr. received the plantation consisting of 212 acres and his father's blacksmith tools.

Rudolph and Elizabeth's son Jacob married Ann Steiner, daughter of John and Catherine Breneman Steiner and sister of Eve Steiner Boehm, the wife of the Rev. Martin Boehm.

Pamela is the second known Boehm descendant to be married in the chapel. Andrew and Bethany Myers Railing celebrated their marriage at Boehm's Chapel on Nov. 12, 2005. Bethany is a descendant of Susannah Boehm Resch, sister of Rev. Martin Boehm. The farms of both Andrew's parents and grandparents are on portions of the original Boehm homestead. Two additional Boehm descendants have renewed their wedding vows in the historic chapel.



Photos by Doris Moore

Above, Mr. and Mrs. Georges Martin leave the Chapel on their wedding day. Below, Mrs. Martin's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Harbage.



Historic Boehm's Chapel is available for sophisticated, intimate weddings. To inquire about the use of the Chapel contact boehmschapel@gmail.com or phone 717-872-4133.



Perfect place for a proposal

Howard Ulmer pops question to Janice Sherick, former Chapel Society director, in the balcony. She says 'yes.'

Oct. 12 was not an ordinary day at Apple Fest. It was an extraordinary day at Apple Fest especially for Janice Sherick and Harold Ulmer. Late in the afternoon during Apple Fest, Harold proposed to Janice upstairs in the historic chapel.

The time and place could not have been more suitable as Janice played a major part in the development of Boehm's Chapel Society.

Janice assumed the role as first executive director of Boehm's Chapel Society in December 2001 and served through December 2006. She had previously served the society for 15 years as treasurer and board member.

Ulmer-Sherick wedding will be Dec. 21. In Boehm's Chapel, of course.

When Janice began, her job description was a blank slate. She quickly put her organizational skills to use to establish programs and promote

the society throughout the area.

Janice was influential in raising the public's awareness of Boehm's Chapel. It was during Janice's term as director that summer tour hours were established and the Chapel Society became a member of the Museum Council of Lancaster County, a network of local museums and historical societies. Janice also developed a website to increase the visibility of the society.

In addition to her many other duties, Janice served as Mother Boehm at Apple Fest for many years. She was a well-known figure in her long skirt and cap as she walked back and forth across the campus. With that history standing behind them, Apple Fest 2013 could not have been a more fitting time or place for this couple to become engaged. Harold relates their story below.



Photo by Chris Eden

Harold Ulmer puts the engagement ring on the finger of Janice Sherick during the Apple Festival. They are sitting in the balcony of the Chapel.

"Janice and I have known each other since Hempfield Junior High School. We both lived in Ironville where my dad was the pastor of the EUB Church. We shared the same bus stop. I fell in love with her on a blizzardy bus ride home from school – but she didn't know it yet. We were snowed in for almost a week and one day she showed up at the parsonage door with a sack of mail for our house – the mailman couldn't get through the drifts, but she could. I melted when I saw her. We dated, didn't marry but kept

the years, breaking each other's heart now and then, rekindling our friendship and realizing that we truly are meant to be together."

"Boehm's Chapel is a very special place for Janice, and I have come to love it as well. We talked about what a lovely place it must be for couples to get married. I planned to ask her to marry me at Knoebels Grove Amusement Park at the end of October, either on the merry-go-round, the Ferris wheel or in the funhouse, but then I knew we were going to Apple Festival at Boehm's and it just clicked. I placed the

engagement ring in my hand, waited until the crowd in the chapel thinned, then asked her to go up to the balcony where we sat holding hands. Then the chapel magically cleared and I knelt in front of her – her blue eyes widened and she started to cry even before I could speak – she said yes!"

The officers and board members of Boehm's Chapel Society are overjoyed for Janice and Harold and pray that God will bless them as they begin their life together as husband and wife on Dec. 21 in Boehm's Chapel.

Festival:

No stopping it

Continued from Page One

Basements flooded, creeks overflowed, roads were closed and students at some schools were dismissed early Friday.

Meanwhile apple snitzing continued throughout the morning of Friday, Oct. 11, in preparation to fill the huge copper kettles of apple butter that would be fired in the early hours of Saturday. Tents dripping heavily with rain were raised on the Boehm's campus, albeit not necessarily in their usual locations due to very soggy ground. The forecast for the day of Apple Fest seemed to change with each hour. The most probable outlook was overcast with possible showers during the day.

The problem of where to park for anyone brave enough to face the elements was a major concern. Overflow parking in the usual area was ruled out due to the saturated condition of the grass. Neighbors and local businesses were contacted and asked if they might be willing to allow a few cars to park in their driveways and small parking lots.

Craft vendors assigned to the usual outdoor spaces lining the walkway to the chapel were contacted and offered refunds. Amazingly, most still elected to attend after being told they could be squeezed into spaces on the blacktop in front of the church.

Overnight, many of the annual workers at Apple Fest awoke periodically trying to determine if the rain was continuing. The apple butter crew dealt with mud while they sheltered under a huge canopy in the early hours to tend the kettles.

Skip to the last verse of "The Wise Man and The Foolish Man," "The blessings will come down as



At left, a steaming kettle of apple butter is lifted off the open fire at the Apple Festival. At lower left, the sun comes out over the Chapel. Below, two boys load the popular apple slingshot game.



Photo by Dolores Myers

the prayers go up."

At daybreak, Saturday, Oct. 12, the sun peeped out behind Boehm's Chapel. No rain fell while last minute set-up continued between 5:30-9 a.m. A few minutes after 9 a.m. a handful of folks arrived and began to walk around the campus. Gradually more and more people seemed to appear.

All too soon, the parking lot was congested and overflowing (until early afternoon when the parts of the grass lot was dry enough to be opened for cars, thank goodness.)

Eager kids began hurling apples from the huge slingshot. Hot foods sold out in record

Photo by Dianne Neff



Photo by Chere Fizer

time. Every one of the 800 apple dumplings was sold by the end of the day. Not one drop of rain fell during the Fest! Praise God for his abundant blessings that poured down on us.

Matthew 7: 25, "And the rain fell and the floods came and the

winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall because it had been founded on the rock."

A special thanks to Dave Frey, a member of Stehman UM, for bringing us bales of straw to help soak up the mud in the apple butter tent and other areas.

At right, the scene in the “big tent” at the Apple Festival (photo by Chere Fizer); middle left, 800 apple dumplings that were reduced to zero by the end of the day (Dolores Myers photo); middle right, members of Stehman Memorial food crew refill the french fries (Dianne Neff photo); bottom left, Jean Hess signs up visitors for door prizes (Chere Fizer); and lower right, a young helper, Lucia Eden, her face painted, passes out candied apples (Dolores Myers).



Contact us

Boehm's Chapel Society maintains a website:

www.boehmschapel.org/

You can also contact Executive Director Dolores Myers at: boehmschapel@gmail.com.

Barratt's Chapel reopens for regular worship

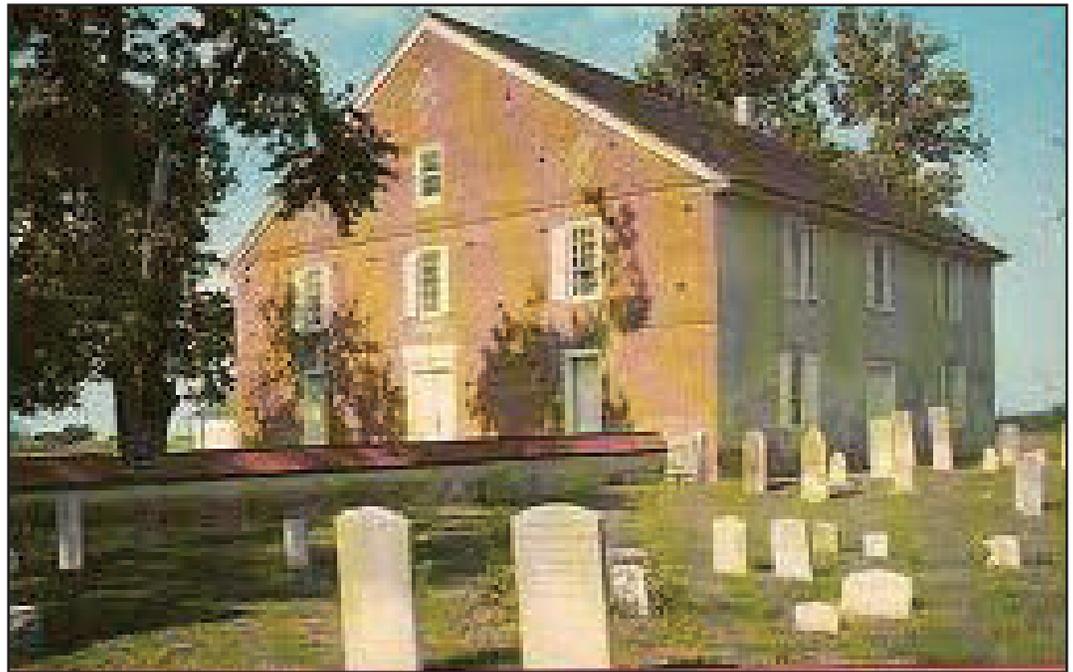
The following article is reprinted from the *Northeastern Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church MC Bulletin* for October. The chapel is off Route 1 in Delaware and is a familiar landmark for people traveling to the Delaware and Maryland shore points.

By Philip Lawton

For the first time in more than 50 years, historic Barratt's Chapel was opened this summer for weekly worship services. From its establishment in 1780, Barratt's Chapel has been used primarily as a setting for special events, from quarterly conferences featuring Francis Asbury to annual conference ordination services. There was, however, a smaller weekly congregation that met in the Chapel with services conducted by preachers from one or another of the area circuits. This congregation dissolved in 1956, at which point it had been reduced to one active member.

Since that time, there have been no regularly scheduled services in the Chapel, a UM Heritage Landmark, which has been maintained by the Peninsula-Delaware Conference CAH as a museum and conference archives center. The CAH has sponsored special services at the Chapel, including an annual anniversary service in November, lessons and carols early in December, and a Christmas Eve communion service led by Bishop Peggy Johnson.

The area around the Chapel has changed greatly since 1956.



Barratt's lies on one of the busiest highways in Delaware, and is close to many new housing de-

velopments. In recent years, the special services started to attract significant numbers of people

who did not have a church home. Responding to this change, the CAH decided to experiment by scheduling Thursday evening services in the Chapel for eleven weeks during the summer. Bishop Johnson personally offered to conduct the service on July 4, and a variety of pastors from the conference volunteered to lead the other weeks.

The first few weeks the attendance was around 20-30, but by the end of August the services were attracting over 200 worshipers and the experiment was clearly a success. Surveys taken of the congregations indicate that there is substantial support for continuing regular services at Barratt's.

News From The Past

1803

News from the Boehm Homestead as recorded by Henry Boehm in *Reminiscences*: "On October 22 the yearly meeting of the United Brethren was held at my Father's. Quite a number were converted during the meeting, and others

were filled with the wine of the kingdom. Their meetings generally lasted three days, and were seasons of great interest."

Nov. 17, 1813

It was 200 years ago that the Rev. Philip William Otterbein died. Otterbein and his brother-in-Christ, Martin Boehm, were elected the first two superintendents or bishops of the church of the United Brethren in Christ at the Annual Conference meeting in 1800.

In *Reminiscences*, Henry Boehm described the last time his father Martin met with Otterbein at the Baltimore Conference of 1810: "On Lord's Day I heard my aged father preach in Otterbein's Church from 1 Cor. IV, 20, 'For The Kingdom Of God Is Not In Word.' Etc. of course it was in German." It was a lovely sight to behold the venerable Otterbein, my aged father, and Newcomer, all together

worshipping in such delightful harmony."

"On Wednesday evening I preached at Otterbein's Church on Matt. XI, 28, 29 in my mother tongue. My Father concluded with an impressive exhortation and prayer. This was my father's last visit to Baltimore, his last interview with Otterbein, and the last time he ever attended an Annual Conference."

Martin died March 23, 1812.

A grave concern at Chapel

Richard Hackman, groundskeeper of Boehm's Cemetery, and Dolores Myers, director of Boehm's Chapel Society, attended a daylong conservation workshop held at Old Zion Church, Brickerville, Pa., to learn the basics of historic monument restoration and preservation.

Jonathan Appell, historic stone conservator and founder of New England Cemetery Services of West Hartford, Conn., led the workshop on Sept. 29. The class was held as a part of weekend-long activities offered to recognize the 200th anniversary of Old Zion Church.

Appell assessed the various types of stone and demonstrated proper cleaning, repair, leveling and resetting of historic monuments. Tombstones from each era, pre-colonial through modern day, present their own unique restoration dilemmas. All cleaning and repair products suggested by Appell are safe for older, more fragile stones.



Jonathan Appell, founder of New England Cemetery Services of West Hartford, Conn., leads the workshop on Sept. 29 at Old Zion Church in Brickerville. At right, the stone of Susan Stetler, who died in 1886, is crumbling in the Boehm's Cemetery.

Modern techniques can lead to further damage.

Appell states on his website, <http://www.gravestoneconservation.com>: "Gravestone conservation and historic stone preservation has become the art and science of preserving all we can of our heritage carved in stone." Hackman and Myers are eager

to put their newly learned skills to work beginning in spring 2014. A number of stones in the Boehm's cemetery are in desperate need of repair.

Persons interested in offering assistance in repairing monuments are invited to contact the Chapel Society at 717-872-4133 or boehmschapel@gmail.com.



Lessons and Carols at Chapel on Dec. 1

The annual celebration of Lesson and Carols will be held in Boehm's Chapel the first Sunday in Advent, Dec. 1, at 3 p.m. The service is planned for the late afternoon hours to allow those attending to return home before dark.

Simple decorations of beeswax candles and holly and ivy add to the ambiance of the historic chapel built in 1791.

The traditional service will include a cappella congregational hymn singing and/or special music following each selection of Scripture reading.

Featured in Lessons and Carols are, clockwise, from upper left, Jody O'Neal; Joanne Swords-Wang; Kayla Klase and Shaun Ressler.

A quartet composed of Kayla Klase, Jody O'Neal, Shaun Ressler and Joanne Swords-Wang will provide special music, including *Christ the Messiah*, *He Might Have Come on Clouds of Heaven*, *In a Far Judean City*, *No Eye Had Seen*, *The Night that Christ was Born* and *Child of Bethlehem*.



The event is free to the public. A love offering will be taken.

Lost is found

It was previously thought that all copies of Henry Boehm's *Reminiscences Historical and Biographical* had been sold, but a small stash was tucked away in the parsonage.

We apologize to those individuals or churches that inquired about obtaining copies and were told the book was no longer available. A small quantity of books is now available. The cost is \$12.50 plus the cost of shipping. All books are new and include an index compiled by the Rev. Abram Sangrey.

Be sure to place your order as soon as possible. See our website www.boehmschapel.org for an order form.

Chapel Society wants you!

We are constantly adding to the mailing list for this free newsletter, which gives us an opportunity to keep you up to date with Chapel Society events.

But while our mailing list has expanded to nearly 2,000, less than 200 belong to the Society.

More members would help us defray the cost of printing and sending the newsletters. We would prefer not to cut back on the size and frequency of the newsletters (four times a year) or

the quality of the printing.

It's easy to sign up. You can go to the form at left, pick a category and send us the form and a check.

If you would prefer to get your newsletter only online, we can send it to you by email. Contact Executive Director Dolores Myers at: boehmschapel@gmail.com.

Marv Adams
President
Boehm's Chapel Society

Support the preservation and future ministry of Boehm's Chapel: BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!	
Membership Categories:	
Individual	\$ 25.00
Family	\$ 40.00
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Life Membership & Plaque*	\$ 500.00
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*Plaque is pictured on memorabilia page.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

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For Membership Year: June 1 20__ To May 31, 20__

Please print and return to:
Boehms Chapel Society
P.O. Box 272
Willow Street, PA 17584
(717) 872-4133
boehmschapel@gmail.com

In the spirit of Boehm's Chapel

Three students of the West Lawn UMC (Berks County) confirmation class help relate the story of Martin and Eve Boehm and Philip William Otterbein while visiting Boehm's Chapel on October 19. Left to right: Martin Boehm, Will Wyrick; Eve Boehm, Ashlyn Rapley; and Otterbein, Ben Reber.



The class also visited Albright's Chapel, Long's Barn and Rawlinsville Camp Meeting as part of their day-long tour of sites relating to Methodism.



Photos by Dolores Myers