

# Boehm's Chapel Society

WINTER 2014

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

## LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION



Aerial photo above shows the approved location of the Chapel Society's auxiliary building. For an article, please see Page 4.

## INSIDE

The story on gravestones

September program brings out a crowd to Chapel to hear what the stones say. Page 5



Rain can't stop Apple Festival

After showers move out, crowds come out to make another successful event. Page 6



# Part IV, Boehm family: Coming to America

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

## The Mennonite Migrations to Lancaster, Pennsylvania By R. Robert Mutrie

On June 29, 1710, 94 passengers sailed from Gravesend, England, on the ship *Mary Hope* under the command of Captain John Annis.

Included were some 20 Swiss Mennonites from the Palatine (Martin H. Brackbill, *Historical Papers, Lanc. Co. 1935, p 73*). Diaries of the passage were kept by the Rev. Thomas Chalkley, a Quaker minister, and the Rev. Samuel Gulden of the Reformed Lutheran faith. Chalkley held services on the deck for English Quakers and the German Palatines, interpreted by one of their number (Ira D. Landis, *The Lancaster Menn. Conf. Hist. And Background, p.50*).

After a stormy passage of nine weeks and four days, they sailed into Delaware Bay. They spent a week on the bay before finally landing at Philadelphia on Sept. 23.

William Penn had divided the lower, southeastern part of his colony into three counties — Philadelphia, Bucks and Chester. The Mennonite immigrants chose Chester, the westernmost county, and moved there soon after their arrival. The specific location later fell into Lancaster County when it was formed out of Chester in 1729.

Their five-mile-by-three-mile tract ran east of what became the village of Willow Street in Conestoga (later Pequea) Township, Lancaster County, about five miles south of the present city of Lancaster. For their 10,000 acres, the founders paid 500 sterling, estimated by some to be about 16 cents per acre, by others at



**Mennonites arrive at the docks in Philadelphia in this 3D painting by Aaron Zook, titled "Coming to PA." Photograph is used with the permission of Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society An exhibit of the Zook dioramas continues there through Dec. 31.**

38 cents. On Oct. 10, 1710, a warrant permitting settlement was issued to John Rudolph Bundeli (the founders' agent), Martin Kendig, Jacob Miller, Hans Graeff, Hans Herr, Christian Herr, Martin Oberholzer, Hans Funck, Michael Oberholtzer and Wendell Bauman ("Swissers, lately arrived in this Province": Rupp, pg 76-78, Smith 152, Landis 52).

The land was surveyed on Oct. 23, 1710, then divided among the settlers in the following spring on April 27, 1711. Among the grantees, Martin Kendig took title to 2,000 acres and Hans (John) Herr Jr. to 530 acres. The numbers in the fledgling settlement

were small. A letter of July 1711 referred to "six or seven families of Palatines at Pequea" (Smith 155).

Once settled, the pioneers decided to send for relatives and friends in the Palatine. They drew lots to see who would make the trip back to Europe and the lot fell to the aged Rev. Hans Herr. As willing as the elderly gentleman acceded to his lot, his small congregation determined that he was needed as the religious leader of the fledgling settlement. Associate Martin Kendig volunteered to go in his place and made the return voyage to the Palatinate.

Sometime during 1712,

Kendig brought back with him a considerable number of immigrants, including 16-year old-Jacob Böhm III.

Kendig became Penn's agent and for many years was more responsible than any other man for the introduction of the Palatines to Pennsylvania. By 1718 there were 600 persons of the Mennonite faith occupying 15,000 acres of land in what would become Lancaster County. As the numbers on the Pequea grew, a warrant for additional land was taken out on Sept. 22, 1717.

## Jacob Böhm's Migration and Settlement

"My grandfather was induced to come to America from the glowing description given of this country by Martin Kendig, one of the seven families who had settled in what is now Lancaster County, Pa. He landed at Philadelphia, from thence to Germantown, then to Lancaster, and finally settled in Pequea, Conestoga Township."

—Rev. Henry Boehm

Jacob Böhm III, only 16, a blacksmith by trade, ventured from Zweibrücken to Pennsylvania in 1712 and after a brief stay at Germantown, north of Philadelphia, joined the pioneer Pequea River settlement. Being so young, Jacob did not receive an allocation of land for some time. In 1714 he married Barbara Kendig whose parentage is not known. Martin Kendig, who led the Palatine migrations, had no daughters. She may have been a child of Martin's brother Henry, who died in 1725.

Jacob and Barbara had a large family of five sons and seven daughters. All but one son survived infancy and grew to adulthood.



*Germantown Mennonite Historic Trust*

The pen-and-ink sketch above shows the the first Mennonite meeting house in the colonies, erected in 1708, Germantown. This meeting house was standing when the Pequea colony Anabaptists arrived in Germantown. Shown below is the present-day Germantown Mennonite Meeting House, built in 1770. It stands on the location of the earlier log church.



*Photo by Dolores Myers*

## Dates raise questions, make for discussion

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

While author/researcher R. Robert Mutrie cites 1712 as the year Martin Kendig returned to the Pequea settlement, bringing with him a second wave of Anabaptist relatives and friends, including emigrant Jacob Boehm, other noted Lancaster County historians propose alternate dates of return, ranging between 1714-1717.

Unfortunately, unlike several first-hand accounts that establish 1710 as the date the "Herr party" traveled to the New World, there are no known documents to substantiate an exact date of arrival for the second group of Mennonites bound for the Pequea. Per an account taken from "Reminiscences," as related by Jacob's grandson, the Rev. Henry Boehm, "He, (Jacob), was born in 1693 and emigrated to this country in 1715.

While "Reminiscences" is the best account available regarding the ancestors of Henry Boehm, it must be noted that Henry was advanced in years when he was interviewed by the Rev. J.B. Wakeley, D.D., compiler of Henry's reflections.

As memories tend to do with time, Henry's memory

might possibly have miscalculated a date by a year or two.

Indeed, Henry lists his grandfather's date of death as 1780 while documents found at the Bachman Funeral Home and Lancaster County Courthouse archives indicate grandfather Jacob's death was in 1781.

While Jacob Boehm may have been in Pennsylvania by 1715 there is no way to confirm Henry's account.

Likewise, the exact date of Jacob Boehm's marriage to Barbara and the names of her parents remain unknown. Again, Jacob's grandson, Rev. Henry Boehm, states in his "Reminiscences:"

"He, (Jacob), landed in Philadelphia, from thence went to Germantown, then to Lancaster, and finally settled in Pequea, Conestoga Township. Soon afterward he married a Miss Kendig."

In addition, many local historians now feel that it was not the aged Rev. Hans Herr, who drew the lot to return to the Palatinate, but his son, Rev. Christian Herr.

Regardless upon which minister the lot fell, the small community felt it could not spare its spiritual leader and Martin Kendig agreed to return to the motherland as the representative of the Pequea community.

### Results of election on Heritage Sunday

The following people were elected or re-elected during te annual Boehm's Heritage Sunday in June.

#### Elected treasurer through 2016:

Doris Moore

#### Directors re-elected through 2016

Rev. Helen Adams  
Rev D. Guy Carrigan  
Dorothy Garboczi  
David Hess  
Elaine Neff  
Rev. Dennis Snovel  
William White  
Rev. Dr. Charles Yrigoyen Jr.

## AUXILIARY BUILDING

### Approval of location gives project a big boost

The Boehm's Church board of trustees at its meeting on Nov. 4 gave permission for the location of the Chapel Society's auxiliary building (as shown on Page One).

A week later, the board of the Chapel Society reiterated its approval of the building.

Pequea Township is still in the process of writing new zoning laws, which we hope will allow the location of one corner of the new building to be 20 feet off the property line of the Frey farm.

In the meantime, detailed drawings and a selection of materials for the building can be made. A meeting has been set with Don Dale, of D.A. Dale Building Designs, in early December to start work on final plans for the building.

The building is designed to look like a smaller version of a tying shed (used for horses in days gone by) that once stood behind the Chapel.

Don Dale gave us the illustration you see on Page One, superimposed on an aerial shot of the area. He added an extended driveway, a sidewalk that runs nearly to the Chapel, benches, and plantings of trees. For now, the trustees have approved the location of the proposed building only. Later meetings will be held to work out the shape of the driveway and any other additions.

One of the pressing needs at Chapel events and the Apple Festival has been the need for

## Chapel repairs completed



*Photos by Dolores Myers*

**Extensive work to repair rotted wood and to do needed painting of outside woodwork and window frames was completed in October. Above, two men repair a window sill on the back of the Chapel. The sill was badly rotted. Total cost of the repairs came to \$9,555, and was paid for by the Chapel Society, which has taken on the responsibility of financial supporting repairs to the Chapel. The work was supervised by the Boehm's Church trustees, led by chairman Barry Hart.**

bathrooms. This building will have seven, and will still have room for meetings, areas for wedding parties to get ready, and places to display historic items. A basement will serve as a storage area. The shed that now sits near the Chapel will

be moved to another location. After a final plan is drawn up, the Chapel Society then can put the project out for bids.

Once we have a contractor signed on, we can look forward to planning a groundbreaking date.

## OBITUARY

### Ronald Kneisely

Ronald L. Kneisely, 70, of Willow Street, died Sept. 12. He was a lifelong member of Boehms United Methodist Church.

Born in Columbia, he was the husband of Patricia (Hunsinger) Kneisley, and the son of the late Melvin H. Kneisley and the late Arlene (McDonald) Kneisley Hackman. His mother died June 20.

Ron served in the U. S. Army engineers. He retired from PPL Electric with 41 years as a

lineman.



**Ronald Kneisely**

Ron was an avid sportsman, his favorite sport being duck hunting on the Susquehanna River with his son and friends. He enjoyed working in his yard

and driving his 1963 Corvette and taking it to the Carlisle car shows with his daughter Jen.

His first love was always for the Lord and his love for his wife and family was evident to all who knew him.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by his daughter, Jennifer Kneisley, fiancée of Thomas Beecher, of Millersville; son Matthew Kneisley, husband of Kerri, wife of Conestoga; daughter Amy, wife of Ronald Deiter, of Conestoga; stepdaughter Marie, wife of Donald Emerick, of Martic Township; stepson Lee Butzer, husband of Cindy, of Leola; stepdaughter Lynne, wife of Bart Kastor, of New Providence; three grandchildren, Dylan Kneisley, Makenzie Kneisley and Cayden Deiter; stepgranddaughter, Leann Ginter, and great-grandson Mason Groff; two sisters, Sharon, wife of James McCullough, of Strasburg, and Melynda, wife of Gerald Hasselbach, of Millersville; and two nieces.

A brother, Dennis H. Hackman, and his stepfather, Daniel H. Hackman, preceded Ron in death.



## Gravestones tell a story

Fifty-two people turned out on Sept. 23 when Boehm's Chapel hosted a program, "Pennsylvania German Gravestones: Art and History in Stone."

The program was led by Michael Emery, an educator at Landis Valley Farm Museum.

The program started outside in the cemetery with a tour by Chapel Executive Director Dolores Myers, shown below, and then moved inside, above, for Mr. Emery's program.

The event was part of The Museum Council of Lancaster County's "Discover the Corners of the County" program.

*Photos by the Rev. Chris Eden*



# Showers didn't dampen Apple Festival

A bit of rain fell on this year's Apple Festival, but didn't stop people from coming out and enjoying the day.

Chere Fizer and the Rev. Chris Eden

captured the images of the day with their cameras.

Photo at right shows Chapel through the smoke from apple butter fires.

At left, a jar of steaming hot apple butter is filled. Rubber gloves are a must.



*Photos by Chere Fizer*

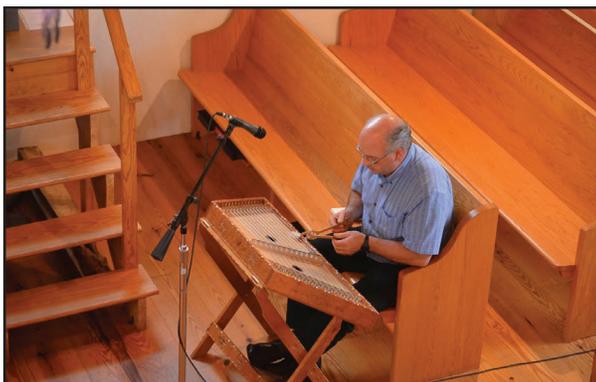
In middle row of photos, members of the Apple Butter team pose for photo during a break.

From left, Jamie and Michael Hecken-

dorn and Jamie Fizer and son Jared. At far right, Stehman Church's french fries, served in the food tent.



*Photos by the Rev. Chris Eden*



*Photo by Chere Fizer*

Above, Jim Hoover plays the hammered dulcimer. At right, Joelle Kroesen takes aim with apple slingshot.



*Photo by the Rev. Chris Eden*



Scott and Mary Lingo will perform at Advent program.

## Music to fill Chapel at Vespers service

The annual candlelight Advent Vespers program will be held at 3 p.m., Dec. 7, in historic Boehm's Chapel.

The hour-long program is held mid-afternoon to allow attendees who prefer not to drive after dark to return home prior to dusk.

The program of lessons and carols will relay the story of Christ's birth through familiar readings from the biblical prophetic books and the gospels. Scripture readings will be interspersed with special music and a cappella singing of traditional carols by the congregation.

Scott Lingo, director of Music and Family Ministries at Boehm's United Methodist Church, and his wife, Mary, will provide music on recorder and keyboard.

"Der zeuner tantz" by Hans Neusidler (composed 1540), a Renaissance piece, will be performed with soprano recorder and harpsichord sound from the keyboard.

Lingo said the second

selection, "Fantasy on a Rose: Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming," by Jackson Berek, (composed 1998) is a true gem of a composition. A modern Baroque/Romantic style work, it was originally written for harpsichord, however it has been adapted to be performed with tenor recorder and piano. It features the familiar carol, "Lo, How a Rose," but also freely incorporates florid and expressive passages with a flowing base ostinato that pulls the listener into its intricate harmonies.

There is even an unmeasured harpsichord passage, a genre first adopted by Louis Couperin (circa 1650).

The unmeasured, stemless notation was used by certain composers in the late Renaissance and early Baroque periods as a means of dictating more freedom to the player.

A love offering will be taken. For additional information, please visit [www.boehmschapel.org](http://www.boehmschapel.org) or phone 717-872-4133.

## We want you ... to join Chapel Society

| Support the preservation and future ministry of Boehm's Chapel:<br><i>BECOME A MEMBER TODAY</i> |    |         |
|---|----|---------|
| <b>Membership Categories:</b>   |    |         |
| Individual  | \$ | 25.00   |
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| Contributor   | \$ | 100.00  |
| Sponsor   | \$ | 250.00  |
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\*Plaque is pictured on memorabilia page

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Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

For Membership Year: June 1 20\_\_ To May 31, 20\_\_

Please print and return to:  
**Boehm's Chapel Society**  
**P.O. Box 272**  
**Willow Street, PA 17584**

(717) 872-4133  
[boehmschapel@gmail.com](mailto:boehmschapel@gmail.com)



## Just married

In August, newlyweds Charlotte and Sid Boehms of Tennessee visited the chapel in search of family history.

## Visiting

Students from West Lawn UMC, Berks County, visited the Chapel for their confirmation class studies in October.

At far right, David Wold, of Connecticut, a Boehm descendant, visited in September. He traveled with his wife, the Rev. Liz Wold, and their dogs.



## Boehm's Chapel Society

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## OUT OF THE PAST

**Nov. 5, 1928**

(Unanimous vote) to create a perpetual fund for the maintenance of the cemetery of Boehms ME Church; Farmers Trust Co. of Lancaster appointed trustee of the fund.

**Oct. 5, 1931**

Rev. Grason reported new furnace installed in parsonage.

**Dec. 7, 1931**

Bill of \$30 submitted by

Will T. Eagen for wiring "old church" (Chapel).

**Jan. 4, 1932**

Bill for oysters for supper \$18.20. Rev. Grason proposed a one-week meeting Feb. 21- 28 with different speakers for every night. Reported ladies will have supper in basement on Saturday evening, Feb. 27.

**Dec. 2, 1935**

Motion to give the ladies a rising vote of thanks for the cooperation and donation of \$5,000 to the steward fund; motion carried and every member present rose to his feet.

**Dec. 13 1936**

At a meeting held after preaching service in the morning, Roy Dagen was elected as sexton of our church at \$6 per month. The vacancy occurred by resignation of Ira Hackman.

**Nov. 14, 1939**

The pastor's salary set at \$1,200 for 1939; a motion carried to pay Bro. Smith an extra \$100. Motion made, the pastor's salary shall be \$1,400 for 1940 and \$1,500.00 for 1941. Should the salary and all claims not be fully met for 1940, the salary for 1941 will remain at \$1,400. Carried by standing vote of 13 for and 1 against.

**Nov. 6, 1942**

Letter of appreciation to be sent to Hugh Sherrad for use of his station wagon and to Ed Yeagly for delivering Boehm's donations to the old folks home in Philadelphia.

**Jan. 3, 1944**

Motion to have the certificate of Bro. Abm. (Rev. Abram) Sangrey, as Army chaplain from the War Department, framed and hung in church.

**Dec. 6 1944**

A motion passed that some of the men cut away one or two of the trees on the church grounds for firewood. The time set was on Dec. 13.