

Chairman's Message

Mark your calendar!

Saturday, May 5, 2018, is auction time at the Stoltzfus House, 1700 Tulpehocken Road, Wyomissing, Pa. Partake in good food and fellowship. We are hoping to make this auction as successful as before and if possible, even more so!

The purpose of the auction is to bring awareness to the property we are preserving and also to raise funds for this worthy cause.

We appreciate all the donations as this is a Bring Something, Buy Something auction.

You will meet people from numerous parts of the country, including descendants of Nicholas Stoltzfus.

All Stoltzfuses are related to Nicholas Stoltzfus.

This year you will meet the authors of *Kinship Concealed*, Sharon Cranford and Dwight Roth. Dot Moss will also be there to explain the land ownership of John Mast who went to North Carolina. His grandson is the theme of the May 1 banquet.

You will again meet Elam Stoltzfus and son Nic from Florida who are compiling the *Stoltzfus Story*.

We expect Masthof to be there with lots of books!

Also on display is the wooden chest that was brought over on the ship Polly by the Nicholas Stoltzfus family from Europe in 1766.

Pud Sam Stoltzfus will be collecting memories of Governor George Leader who had so much to do with Amish, and whose family gave us the deed to the property. He was born January 17, 1918, 100 years ago.

We'll see you on May 5th!

Moses Smucker, Chairman

Annual Auction - May 5, 2018 Tulpehocken Rd. Wyomissing, Pa.



Moses Smucker auctioning off a afghan blanket at the 2017 auction.



Handmade quilts and other goods at the auction.



Plenty of fresh food and homemade goodies.

Sharon Cranford portrayal of the Charlie Mast legacy

by Paul Kurtz

Two Mast brothers (12 year old Jacob and 10 year old John) came with an Uncle to Pennsylvania in 1750.

John Mast is said to have pushed a wheelbarrow all the way to North Carolina, itself intriguing. (Dot Mast Moss will have many clarifications)

But then to have a slave as a great grandson makes for a bigger and deeply interesting story, unraveled in *Kinship Concealed*, written by cousins Sharon Cranford and Dwight Roth.

Jacob stayed in Pennsylvania and became the Amish bishop until he died in 1808.

Upon overhearing Sharon Cranford speak of her Grandmother Mast began a search of their relationship. What had been rather hidden until then was that John's Grandson Reuben Mast's slave girl gave birth to the slave son, Charlie Mast. He was freed two years prior to the Emancipation Proclamation by his father.

When I heard Sharon tell of her heritage, I heard more than the discovery of an unexpected genealogy connection. I heard a story that speaks to today, how wayward actions that could have left a sad mark actually had a touch of redemption, a redemption we need, whether we are black or white, in a culture that divides and seeks to place blame and to pressure others to solve our problems.

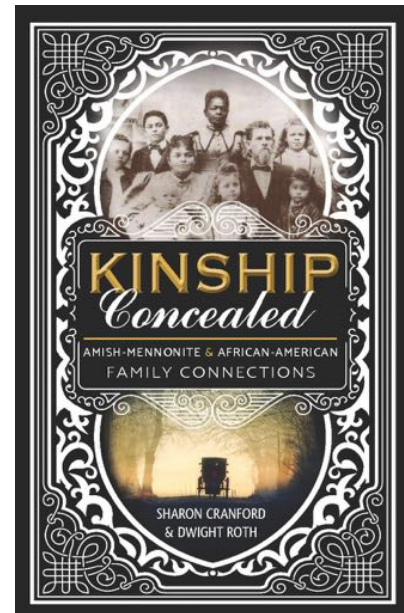
Sharon, along with Dwight, will tell the story at the Bareville Fire House on May 1. Make your reservation early before April 20. The cost is \$ 22.00, (or \$36.00 to include the book at a bargain price) a benefit for The Nicholas Stoltzfus House project, sponsor of the banquet. Food is donated by Stoltzfus Meats.

To enable acquaintance with the story the book can be purchased prior to the event from Masthof Bookstore at
219 Mill Rd, Morgantown, PA 19543
\$19.95 Plus shipping and tax.

Send your reservation to:
Leonard Groff, 58 Ashlea Village
New Holland, PA 17557-1815

Contact: lengroff@gmail.com.... (717) 355-0454
Checks can be written to:
NSHPC, labelled for the banquet.

Sharon and Dwight will also be present with their book (signing) at the annual benefit auction May 5, 1700 Tulpehocken Rd. Wyomissing, Pa.



Jacob Mast.....John Mast
Dwight's ancestor.....Sharon's ancestor

Reviews of "Kinship Concealed"

"Artfully executed, weaving historical facts with oral histories, Kinship Concealed is a unique, riveting page turner."

— Brenda Clarkson Turpeau, Researcher, Genealogist, Philanthropist and Author of *ALMOST FORGOTTEN: The Real America*.

"There are two amazing and unlikely narratives in this book. One is the unusual story of Amish immigrant brothers who take divergent paths to distant worlds.

These paths do not converge until, generations later, two descendants meet on a Midwestern college campus. And there lies the second amazing story; how the coauthors, one African American and the other Anglo American discovered their common roots while teaching at Hesston College... Cranford and Roth invite the reader to join their journey of exploration and discovery."

— John E. Sharp, Hesston College History Faculty and Author of *A School on the Prairie: A Centennial History of Hesston College, 1909-2009*.

Bruderschaft Connection

Since 1959 Amish homesteads in Berks County have gotten a lot of attention. About 1976, Amish historians such as Gideon and Amos Fisher with the help of Isaac Mast verified that the current Stoltzfus House was the one owned by Nicholas and his son Christian.

In 1955 George M Leader had become Pennsylvania's governor. During his term he signed the law granting the Vocational School that discontinued Amish imprisonments for refusals to send children to the consolidated schools.

The House was neglected by 1997. Originally purchased by Textile Machine Company (Henry Janssen) in 1924 it became a part of the Tulpehocken Farms. Then development through Tulpehocken, LTD occurred: Berkshire Mall in 1970 soon included the Sears building, on west end of the 101 Stoltzfus acre, and in 1972 Penn State located nearby.

The "leftover" 1 1/2 acres with the Stoltzfus House sat next to Country Meadows with the Leader family hoping to annex it to their Country Meadows. On the 1997 tour it became urgent to preserve the abandoned home, and again Gov Leader entered the picture. When Governor Leader learned of the Amish interest the Leaders supported the preservation, giving up his demolition permit. This agreement paved the way.



Pictured is Michael Leader (Gov. Leader's son) and supporter Amos Zook during the Nicholas Stoltzfus House benefit auction 2017.



Aerial view of the Nicholas Stoltzfus Homestead. Images by Nic Stoltzfus - Live Oak Production Group.

Goal is to have occupancy of the barn by the auction 2018. Earlier a number of drywallers volunteered to be at the barn when needed! Soon we will need you. Call Dave Esh, builder, to arrange 717-951-0166.

Heat and water are in the barn. Dave will have an inspection soon, if it passes then drywalling can begin.

Thanks to all who gave at year end. That made it possible to pay the heating installation \$28,000. There will be additional expenses, maybe \$20,000 until we have occupancy, depending upon donated work.

If you would like more information or are interested in donating, please contact Paul Kurtz by email at psku04@ptd.net, by phone at 717-808-7785, or by visiting nicholasstoltzfus.org.



Nic and Elam Stoltzfus at Heidelberg, Germany 2013
Castle in Zweibrücken, Germany



Like and share the Facebook page. Plans are to place stories and images on the page in the near future.

<https://www.facebook.com/NicholasStoltzfusHomestead>

Stoltzfus Story

Masthof Publication has agreed to publish, distribute, and be an active partner in printing the coffee table book Anabaptist history, the life of Nicholas Stoltzfus & the Nicholas Stoltzfus Homestead story.

Nic Stoltzfus will write, design, layout and prepare the book ready for print. Elam Stoltzfus will provide photography and support. Elam and Nic are very excited about this opportunity and partnership with Masthof Publication. The goal is to be inspired by our heritage.

Nic and Elam are planning a Germany trip this summer in the end of June and part of July.

On this trip, Elam and Nic plan to document the Nicholas Stoltzfus homestead in Zweibrücken, Stoltzfus ancestral records and images at Rudolstadt and Ringweilerhof, Passau where the writing of the Ausbund began, and other areas. They will be meeting up with Zach Stoltzfus—who is in France with his wife, Lucy, working on his doctoral thesis—to document the research and his findings in Germany and Switzerland.

Elam and Nic plan to share new documents, stories, research and images with you this fall. These images will be used in the future Heritage Room located in the barn.