



Spring 2024
Volume 27, Issue 1

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**SCHWENKFELDER LIBRARY
& HERITAGE CENTER**

HERITAGE HEADLINES

PENN DRY GOODS MARKET BACK FOR ANOTHER GREAT YEAR

We are very excited to welcome new and old friends back for the Penn Dry Goods Market on May 31 and June 1! We bring you our annual textile and Americana-focused antiques show with 25 quality dealers offering superb needlework, stunning quilts, charming sewing smalls, yard goods for your next project, and so much more. Add to your collection or find just the thing for that vacant nook or space on your wall.



If you enjoy our Textile History Lecture Series, you're in for a treat this year. We have 12 fascinating programs scheduled—including a virtual pre-Penn Dry Goods Market lecture to be held on Sunday, May 19, at 2:00 pm EST. To make it easier for more attendees to see our quilt turnings, we're having the same turning scheduled Friday and Saturday. See page 7 for complete list of topics.

And our big rummage sale is back! This year there will be more quilting, stitching, and sewing stuff for you to discover at bargain prices. Fat quarters, patterns, bags of scraps, books, and all kinds of notions will be available, plus some general vintage items.

Make a day of it and have some lunch at our Café Applique and tour the galleries. Our permanent exhibits about Pennsylvania German life and the Schwenkfelders will be available. Watch social media for an announcement of a special exhibit we are planning for that time period!

Story continues on page 7 with discount coupon

NEW HOURS as of APRIL 1

To improve communications and coordinate with public interest, on April 1 our hours will become:

Tuesday through Saturday 10am–4pm
Sunday 1–4pm

As part of this change, we are hiring friendly people to act as Customer Service Representatives to work the weekends. If you have an interest, please see the job application at schwenkfelder.org/staff or call 215-679-3103.

105 Seminary Street
Pennsburg, PA 18073-4898
Phone: 215-679-3103

info@schwenkfelder.org
www.schwenkfelder.org

VIEWS & NEWS

Beginning in April of this year, we are going to experiment with mailing hard copies of the summer and winter newsletters and delivering the fall and spring issues by email. **Please send your email address to info@schwenkfelder.org ASAP.** If you do not have email, let us know at 215-679-3103 as we will print a small quantity for those who otherwise cannot read the newsletter. We do not want to prevent anyone from receiving the newsletter but need to be good stewards of donations. By the way, did you know that the current issue is always available on the website?

Our current annual appeal ends March 31. If you have not given yet, **please help us make our fiscal year goal by giving before the end of March.** Details for how to give are at schwenkfelder.org/donation. And if you have given already, **THANK YOU!**



November Scrapple Workshop

Church Ruins continued from page 12

Monument. Schwenkfelder Heritage Tour buses park alongside the ruins during our visits to the small village.

The Refuge Church was the topic of a conference held at the Wroclaw University of Science and Technology on Wednesday, November 22, 2023. Four presentations at the conference included a summary of current research on the church, the practice of restoring church steeples, Schwenckfeld's theological views expressed in church art, and the Polish Regional Department of Monuments work with the Twardocice church ruins.

Doctoral candidate Daria Dobrasiak, a presenter at the conference, clarified the current plans for the church ruins. Working with the community, they (University faculty and students) are documenting and researching the physical structure of the church tower. The storks, which had been nesting on a high wall of the ruins for many years, were successfully moved to a separate tall perch placed nearby especially for them. The top of the steeple was removed from the tower and placed in the center of the ruins to protect it – it is quite fragile and there was fear of it collapsing. The ultimate goal of this community, University, and Department of Monuments partnership is to restore the tower to allow people entry into the tower. The surrounding ruins will then be stabilized, and the area landscaped and opened to the public as a park.

Ms. Dobrasiak is a doctoral student at the University and, in addition to two professor advisors, is working with Sara Korzynska who will be writing her master's thesis on the church ruins in Twardocice next semester.

Visiting Twardocice with these historic church ruins is just one of the many stops we will experience on the Schwenkfelder Heritage Tour 2025. For a full tour itinerary, which includes all details regarding this tour, please contact David Luz by email — david@schwenkfelder.org — or by telephone: 267-642-2151 (please leave a message and David will return your call).

SPOTLIGHT ON...

Bev Jones



If you ever have come to visit the Heritage Center on a Thursday morning, you have received the warm welcome of Bev Jones. Bev has the distinction as being the volunteer who has worked the longest at the front reception desk—partially because she has done *two* stints of it. While not a native of the area (Bev hales from Newburgh NY) nor ever having visited before volunteering, Bev is a huge Heritage Center booster. “There are so many amazing things here—and the people especially are fantastic!” She first came here after retirement when RSVP placed her here, that is, after her *first* retirement.

When Bev and her family moved to the region in 1976, she began work as a school bus driver and at Solid State Microelectronics. She is proud of the fact that a computer chip made at the latter went to space. Later she had a 13-

year career at Knoll. She liked how she learned to do many different things there, from upholstery to wood finishing. After a work accident, she ironically worked in the safety department. During those years of employment, she enjoyed most meeting people. So when she retired from Knoll, she was eager to volunteer. RSVP sent her to the Heritage Center. She has always liked American history, so the placement seemed like a good match. After a few years, though, she returned to the paid workforce at Walmart for 5 years. Fortunately for the Heritage Center, when Bev retired again, she came back to us.

When not at the Heritage Center, Bev enjoys her family, crafts, and traveling. She has 3 children, 5 grandchildren, and 6 great-grandchildren. When asked her favorite craft, she said, “whatever I am working on at the time.” Some of her products have sold through the Heritage Gift Shop. She and her husband Bud especially enjoy Cancun, where they have been over 10 times. They also have been very involved over the years with the American Legion and VFW.

For now, we are happy to have her smiling face here, and Bev is glad each week for a chance to see her favorite artifact—the organ that stands just beyond the front desk. She invites you to come see it too!



COLLECTION NEWS

Collection Highlight: A German Cut-Paper Picture

For this highlight, we are featuring a recent donation by Barbara Edwards to the museum collection—an exquisitely and meticulously cut-paper picture of the Crucifixion, with watercolor detail. The piece descended in the donor's family. Though there are some losses to the foliage on the sides of the cross, overall the picture was lovingly and carefully preserved over its 300 years lifespan.

Some readers may be familiar with the word *Scherenschnitte* (scissor cutting, which is used to describe Pennsylvania German cut-paper pictures). Given the fact that this art form extended across many cultures since ancient times, the term cut-paper picture embraces all of this work. What we may know from the Pennsylvania German culture is just the tip of the Iceberg (or maybe the scissors?).

European cut-paper pictures often had religious themes. This image also includes the verse *Wann du Jesum recht wirst lieben/Wird die Welt sich nicht betrüben* (When you will truly love Jesus, [then] the world will not be sad). Also, the artist included his location and the date at the bottom—"Steinheim 1721." Steinheim is a town in North Rhine-Westphalia in Germany and is best known as the site of the discovery of the Steinheim skull, a 350,000-year-old human fossil of the species *Homo heidelbergensis*. That's just a tad older than our picture! Cut-paper pictures were cut with scissors or small penknives, and it is possible that this one was done with a knife.



New to the Museum

From Edith Landis: A Native American beaded whimsy from Ontario, Canada, ca. 1920s; late 19th/early 20th century embroidered pillow with floral motif.

From Andre Fatula: 1930s/1940s cast iron circus wagon and hay wagon toys.

From Rev. Thomas T. Kochenderfer: Quilt, wall hanging size, "It's Only Fruit" by Nancy Roan.

YOUTH & FAMILY PROGRAMS

Drop-In Programs

These programs are free of charge, though we ask that you pre-register to ensure enough supplies (215-679-3103 or Meredith@schwenkfelder.org). Fun for all ages. Younger children may need the assistance of their parent or guardian.

Seasonal Saturdays: Make & Take crafts for all ages. 10am–2pm

- ◆ March 16—Sun catchers and wind chimes will bring in the sunshine and help to ring in Spring.
- ◆ April 27—Make your own rustic decorations with fabric crafts. Both no-sew and a few simple sewing projects will be available to make.

Hands-on Heritage: Explore past generations through the traditions we continue to uphold. 5–7pm

- ◆ April 18—An American Girl springtime tea with your friends and favorite doll or stuffed animal. We will learn about a female historical figure, engage in crafts and activities, socialize with friends, and enjoy refreshments. Everyone will receive a journal to use and keep.

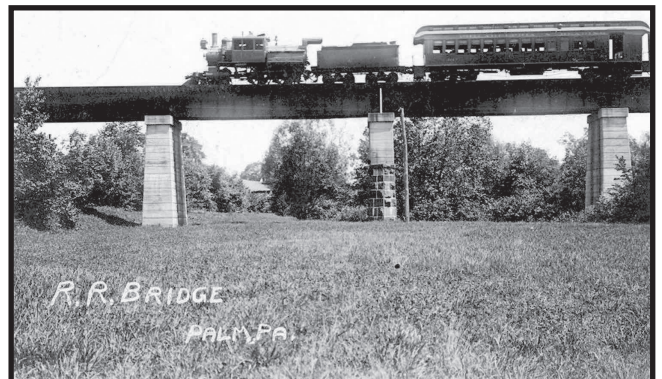
Schwenkfelder Summer Camp 2024 Traveling The Valley & Beyond

Dates: Monday, July 29 through Friday, August 2 Times: Drop off from 9:15am–9:30am
 Ages: Children 7–12 years old. Camp runs from 9:30am–3pm
 Cost: \$125 per child Pick Up from 3pm–3:15pm

Early Bird Special, just \$99 per child until 4/1/24

With a focus on traveling by way of the Conestoga Wagon, trains, planes, and automobiles from the past and present, campers will explore exhibits and related artifacts throughout the museum. Crafts, games, and related activities will also be included. Register at schwenkfelder.org/programs-for-kids.

Extra info: Campers are asked to bring their own packed lunch and water bottle; daily snacks will be provided.



ADULT PROGRAMS

Brown Bag Lectures are free and available in-person or on Zoom.
To register or to receive the link, call 215-679-3103 or email info@schwenkfelder.org.

March 13 Fastnachts and Fish Fridays: Eating Our Way Through Carnival and Lent
Join Heritage Center Curator Candace Perry for a fun illustrated lecture about foods you should probably give up for Lent because they are secretly (or not so secretly) delicious and decadent! This program will examine Lenten culinary traditions in Europe and the United States, focusing, of course, on German-speaking countries and the Pennsylvania Germans.



April 10 Development and Use of the Wood Cook Stove
Historian Bob Wood traces the development of coal and wood fired kitchen stoves and the transition from hearth cooking to kitchen stoves by the end of the 1800s. Some will fondly remember how the wood burning kitchen cook stove served not only for doing the family's cooking and baking but also for warming up after sledding and drying wet mittens.

May 8 – Current News and Updates from Lower Silesia
Dave Luz is in contact with a number of friends in or near Lower Silesia (now southwest Poland) through social media. In this informal presentation, Dave will present happenings in Twardocice (Harpersdorf) and the surrounding community over the last couple of years—perhaps even from a few days ago! (See the back page for a teaser.)



Special programs

Register at Schwenkfelder.org/calendar by clicking on the date or calling 215-679-3103.
Both programs in-person and through Zoom.

Sunday, March 17 The Pennsylvania Dutch Kitchen Garden
2pm

Dr. William Woys Weaver, an internationally known food historian and author of “Heirloom Vegetable Gardening” and numerous other titles, will provide a survey what we know about kitchen gardens based on surviving documentation as well as horticultural genealogies that trace back into Mennonite seed exchanges with Holland. He will have his books and a selection of his heirloom vegetable seeds available for purchase at the program. Admission to the program is \$5.

April 28 Back Porch Conversation: Working for Knoll
1:30pm

Knoll, with its production plant in the Valley since 1941, has been central to the economy of the Upper Perkiomen Valley as well as an international style setter. Come hear from employees past and present about Knoll's history and role in the community. An invited panel will kick off the conversation but then we want to hear from everyone about their experiences. Free with refreshments.

2024 Textile History Lecture Series

For full descriptions, see [schwenkfelder.org/program-schedule-registration](https://www.schwenkfelder.org/program-schedule-registration).

Sunday, May 19

This is a Zoom only lecture

2:00 — 3:00pm EST The Royal School of Art Needlework at the Philadelphia Centennial Exhibition 1876: Dr. Lynn Hulse, co-founder, Ornamental Embroidery

Friday, May 31

8:45 — 9:45am Gingham Embroidery 1890–1990: Ann Hermes, collector of antique quilts and textiles and student of textile history

10:00 — 11:00am The “Valley” Quilts of the Berks County, Pennsylvania Area (Quilt turning): Pat and Arlan Christ, collectors

11:15 — 12:15pm McDonald Sisters from West Virginia Make-do Crafts/Rugs: Susan Feller, writer, historian, and artist

2:00 — 3:00pm Oh Darn! Reevaluating Mended Early American Textiles: Emily Whitted, PhD Candidate, University of Massachusetts Amherst

3:15 — 4:15pm Mermaids & Sea Dragons, Slavers & Privateers: Quilted Petticoats and Rhode Island’s Maritime Economy in the 18th Century: Lynne Bassett, independent scholar, author, and curator

4:30 — 5:30pm The Means of Learning: Exploring the Embroidery Samplers of the Vassar College Collection: Joanne Lukacher, author

Saturday, June 1

8:45 — 9:45am “The Duty of ‘Plying the Polished Shaft’”: Sewing Tasks in Eighteenth- and Nineteenth-Century American Women’s Lives: Alden O’Brien, Curator of Costume and Textiles at the DAR Museum, Washington DC

10:00 — 11:00am The “Valley” Quilts of the Berks County, Pennsylvania Area (Quilt turning): Pat and Arlan Christ, Collectors. Repeat from Friday

11:15 am — 12:15pm Emerging Scholar Presentation: “A Place to cultivate her Mind in by Musing”: New Exploration of Anne Emlen’s 1757 Shellwork Grotto: Kaila Temple, Colonial Dames of America Chapter II Curatorial Assistant

With Bonus presentation: Waxing Rhapsodic: 19th Century Wax Art and Craft: Candace Perry, Curator, Schwenkfelder Library & Heritage Center

1:15 — 2:15pm Patterns and Pieces: Whitework Samplers of the 17th Century: Dr. Tricia Wilson Nguyen, Owner, Thistle Threads

2:30 — 3:30pm Delaware Valley Chintz Quilts: Lori Lee Triplett, Business Manager, Quilt & Textile Collections

Penn Dry Goods Market: continued from page 1

The Penn Dry Goods Market antique show hours are 10:00am to 5:00pm Friday, May 31, and 10:00am to 3:00pm Saturday, June 1. Lectures start on Friday morning at 8:45am. Admission to the antiques show is \$9, but you can get early discounted admission by using this QR code or visiting <https://www.schwenkfelder.org/penn-dry-goods-market>. You can register for the lectures there too; a lecture ticket includes free admission to the show. And you can always shop the rummage sale for free!



COLLECTION NEWS *continued*

New to the Museum *continued from page 4*

From Rebecca McBrien: Bowling shirt for Central Schwenkfelder Schwenkies, worn by Abram Kulp (below); Norristown Police Committee badge, owned by Emerson Seibert Kriebel; shell cameo brooch.



From Gladys Frantz: Horse pull toy, early 20th century, and collection of local wooden nickels and other ephemera.

From Mr. & Mrs. Waldo Johnson: Bed case, early 19th century of blue and white checked linen.

From Sarah Heffner: Spongeware dish, late 19th/early 20th century.

From James Fillman: Painting, Irish Meeting House, Deep Run, Bucks County and record player and 45 rpm records, late 1950s/early 1960s.

From Barbara Garrett: Dresses, two, cotton, 1930s, WPA-made.

From Lori Horning: Figures of winter sports for putz/model railroad, made by Barclay, 1950s.

From Barbara Edwards: Cut-paper picture of the Crucifixion in frame, German, dated 1721, from Steinheim, Westphalia, Germany. (See Collection Highlight on page 4 for image and more information)

New to the Library

Selection of books donated by Joel Clemmer:
-*A Treasury of American Folk Patterns*, by Ellen S. Sabine. Van Nostrand Reinhold Co., 1982.

-*Women of Waterloo County*, edited by Ruth Russell. Canadian Federation of University Women, 2000.

-*Taufe und Taufzettel im Bernerland*, by Christian Rubi. Buchler-Verlag, 1968.

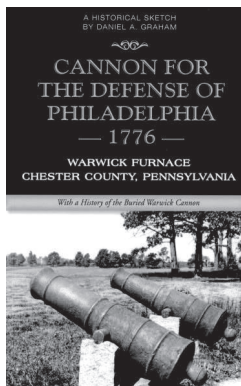
-*Art Populaire d'Alsace*, edited by Adolphe Riff. Librairie Istra, 1963.

-*American Folk Art from the Traditional to the Naïve*, by Lynette I. Rhodes. Cleveland Museum of Art, 1978.

Selection of books donated by L. Allen Viehmeyer:

-*Mystische Theologie, oder: wahrer Wegweiser nach unserm Ursprung und Vaterland!* Ezechiel Sangmeister. Joseph auman, Ephrata, 1819.

-*Sammlung geistlicher Lieder nebst Melodien von verschiedenen Dichtern und Componisten*. Printed and published by Conrad Doll, Lancaster, 1798.



Donated by Dan Graham:

-*A History of New Sweden*, by Israel Acrelius. Readex Microprint, 1966.

-*Cannon for the Defense of Philadelphia, 1776: Warwick Furnace, Chester County, Pennsylvania*, by Daniel A. Graham. French Preservation Trust, 2023.

Donated by Janet Vincent:

VCR: Peter Erb lectures, April 13 & 15, 2007.

Donated by Kay Bachkai: Photocopy of *Eckert Families of Northampton County, PA*.

Donated by Mike Osiol:

- Berks County Soldiers in the American Revolution*, by Raymond E. Hollenbach. Berks County Genealogical Society, 1986.
- DVD-R, black and white photographs of Schwenksville, ca. 1930s.

Donated by Sarah Heffner:

- Encyclopedia of American Farm Implements & Antiques*, by C. H. Wendel. Krause Publications, 1997.
- Classic Farm Tractors: History of the Farm Tractor* by Randy Leffingwell. MBI Publishing Co., 1996.
- Cars, Trucks and Buses Made by Tractor Companies* by Bill Vossler. Krause Publications, 1999.
- Instruction book McCormick-Deering Farmall Tractor, Model F-20*. International Harvester Co.
- Bally Home and Camp News, 1947, Memorial Edition*.

Donated by Hettie Bortz:

- Horne's Pennsylvania German Manual*, 1875.
- Medial Writing Books* (single copy), 1901.
- Common Sense Pennsylvania German Dictionary*, 1887.
- Pamphlets relating to the Pennsylvania Germans.

Purchased by the Heritage Center:

- This Very Ground, This Crooked Affair: A Mennonite Homestead on Lenapi Land*, by John L. Ruth. Cascadia Publishing, 2021.
- Lists of Germans from the Palatinate who Came to England in 1709*, compiled by John Tribbeko and George Ruperti. Reprinted from *The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record*, Clearfield, 2003.
- The Legacy of Melchior Rinck: Anabaptist Pioneer in Hesse*, by Stuart Murray; Leonard Gross and Ellen Yutzy Glebe, translators. Herald Press, 2022.
- Becoming German: The 1709 Palatine Migration to New York* by Philip L. Otterness. Cornell University Press, 2006.

New to the Archives

Donated by Andre Fatula:

Photographs and documents of Wallace Schultz and other family members (sample right).



Donated by Barbara Henry:

Collection of photographs and postcards of Pennsburg High School, local businesses, and recreational locations in the Upper Perkiomen Valley, ca. 1930s.

Donated by Banny Ackerman:

- Papers, pamphlets, and photographs of the Jacob Wagener and Judge William Augustus Porter families, including:
 - Two cased images of Jacob Wagener (one with his stepdaughter, Elizabeth Burke)
 - Correspondence relating to the Society of the Descendants of the Schwenkfeldian Exiles, of which Judge William Wagener Porter was a founding member.

Donated by Laura Heebner: Digital copies of photographs and labels from the Schwenkfelder Ladies' Aid bridal fashion show held at Central Schwenkfelder Church, 1971.

Donated by Hettie Bortz:

- Solomon Bortz framed fraktur (memorial), 1860.
- Penmanship and drawing book of Solomon Bortz.
- Folder of Solomon Bortz drawings and classroom instructions.
- Autograph book signed by students of Solomon Bortz, 1891.

Donated by Adrienne Massey: Daniel Royer diary collection, 1885–1910, account books, and Royer family photographs.

Donated by Charlotte Puff: Aerial photograph of New Goshenhoppen Reformed Church, ca. 1960s.

The Schwenkfelder Library and Museum: A Treasure Trove of Local History

By Donna Van Valkenburgh

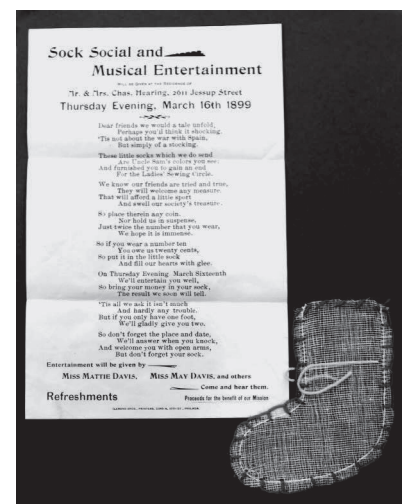
On a recent cold and dreary December day, I arrived as a new volunteer to begin sorting through and inventorying boxes in the archives. My first project involved items belonging to Dr. Oswin Berky of Bally, Berks County, from 1897 to 1936. As a Ballyite myself, I was thrilled to be able to delve into some local history. What I discovered were receipt books, stock correspondence, advertisements, report cards and funeral invitations as well as letters, letters, and more letters! The oldest correspondence was from 1897, I was amazed that I was holding in my hands something from 127 years ago. Some letters were from patients of Dr. Berky or their concerned families. Others were from cousins and siblings, writing to Dr. Berky to encourage him in his endeavors at the Medical Chirurgical College in Philadelphia. One friend wrote addressing Dr. Berky as “Lady Killer”! In that same letter, he reminisced about a picnic at which a young lady showed her ankle and bloomers when she got stuck jumping down from a tree branch. Obviously, it wasn’t all work and no fun at school!

Dr. Berky was born in 1875 in Pike Township and died in Allentown in 1949 at the age of 73. He was a student at the Perkiomen Seminary, and he married Amy Latshaw in 1904. During his lifetime, he was instrumental in not only the lives of his patients but also in building, sometimes literally, the tiny town of Bally. He was Postmaster, Burgess, and owner or part owner of the Bally Garage that he built. I know this because he had receipts for everything regarding the raw material and labor that it took to build the garage. Dr. Berky was involved with the school board, he was on staff at Sacred Heart Hospital, and he was a Director of the First National Bank in Bally. In addition to all of this, he carried on his private practice out of his home. Dr. Berky was also very involved in church affairs at Hereford Mennonite in Bally.

Considering how busy he was, I’m not sure how he had time to write and respond to hundreds of letters. A 1918 letter from the *Town and Country* newspaper mentioned how he ministered to patients of the 1918 flu epidemic. Another letter was from a prisoner at a Berks County prison, begging for Dr. Berky’s forgiveness for whatever this man did to break the law. The quirkiest piece of correspondence was an invitation, in the form of a poem, to a Sock Social (right). I don’t know about you, but that is not something I have ever been invited to! Within the envelope was a miniature sock into which the invitee was to put a donation of coin for whatever worthy cause the Social was to benefit.

What struck me about this inconsequential box on a library shelf was that it was about so much more than Dr. Berky’s life. The items touched on national issues like the flu epidemic of 1918 as well as local institutions like the Perkiomen School, Bally history, and social norms of the time. What really came across about the time period was how much more social people were—letters and parties and visits. Finishing the box left me a bit nostalgic for that perhaps more connected period in our history.

Ed. Note: Donna answered the call in the winter newsletter for volunteers to help in the library and with genealogy. We are always looking for help, so contact info@schwenkfelder.org if you have interest.



SPRING 2024 PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

For more details and registration info, visit schwenkfelder.org/calendar

New exhibits: (right)

The Spring Fine Arts Show of the Pottstown Area Artists Guild

Exhibits ongoing:

Fraktur in Miniature through March 2024

A Loving Tribute to a Quiltie Lady: The Quilts of Nancy Roan
through April 14

A Culinary Journey from Germany to Pennsylvania through May 12



March 13—Brown Bag Lecture: Fastnachts and Fish Fridays

March 16—Seasonal Saturdays: Sun Catchers & Wind Chimes

March 17—Heirloom Vegetables Lecture

March 21—Genealogy Club

April 1—Early bird deadline for camp registration (see page 5)

April 10—Brown Bag Lecture: Development of the Kitchen Cook Stove

April 18—Hands-On Heritage: American Girl Springtime Tea

April 18—Genealogy Club @ Upper Perkiomen Valley Library

April 27—Seasonal Saturdays: Fabric Crafts

April 28—Back Porch Conversation: Working at Knoll

May 5—Opening reception of Spring Fine Arts Show

May 8—Brown Bag Lecture: Current News and Updates from Lower Silesia

May 16—Genealogy Club @ Upper Perkiomen Valley Library

May 19—The Royal School of Art Needlework at the Philadelphia Centennial Exhibition 1876
Pre-Penn Dry Goods Market Virtual Lecture

May 31 & June 1—Penn Dry Goods Market

Changes for the Genealogy Club

The Genealogy Club continues under the leadership of Joanne Luz the third Thursday of most months. Beginning with the April meeting, however, its location is moving to the Upper Perkiomen Valley Library at 350 Main Street, Red Hill. The Heritage Center will continue to support this program and hopes that those of you doing your family history will come find your roots here at the Library Tuesday through Saturday 10am to 4pm and Sunday 1 to 4pm.



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Hours as of April 1

Tuesday–Saturday
10 am–4 pm
AND
Sunday 1–4 pm

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

**PENN DRY GOODS MARKET
LECTURE SCHEDULE PAGE 7**



**The Refuge Church Ruins in Harpersdorf
A Special Schwenkfelder Heritage Tour 2025 Focus**

By David Luz



Taken in September 2023 from the road and looking toward the village. The top of the church steeple placed within the walls of the church ruins to protect it.

The Refuge Church in Harpersdorf, first constructed in 1206, was destroyed and rebuilt many times over the years. It was declared a Refuge Church—that is, a Protestant Church surrounded by Catholic churches, in 1653/54. The church was built with a huge seating capacity (over 3,000) because there were no Protestant churches in surrounding towns and villages and people traveled great distances to attend worship on Sunday mornings.

This magnificent church, laying in ruins since the 1970s, is in the center of the small village of Twardocice (formerly Harpersdorf), Poland. The Refuge Church sits along the main road through the village and across the street from the small dirt road leading up the hill to the Viehweg

Continued on page 2