

Wentz Post

A periodic publication of The Peter Wentz Farmstead Society in conjunction with The Farmstead Staff featuring news, views and activities.....

In Memory of Dick Anderl by Sally Graybill

The Society lost a true friend on May 2nd when Dick Anderl's long battle with brain cancer came to an end. Dick, age 67, fought long and hard, never complaining and always with a big smile on his face; maintaining his interest in the Farmstead until the very end of his life.

The major part of Dick's career was with Burroughs/Unisys and the Anderl Family moved from Minneapolis, MN to Worcester in 1987. Dick brought his pride and joy, a red '67 Corvette Sting Ray to PA and enjoyed driving it throughout the area. He maintained an avid interest in cars, racing and rebuilding engines throughout his lifetime.

The Anderl Family joined the Society in 1989 and Dick served in various capacities over the intervening years. He was Society Treasurer 1995 - 1998; Vice President, 1998-2000; and President 2000 - 2004. While President Dick guided the Scholarship Program, the Arbor Day Memorial Tree Programs and encouraged the production of the Peter Wentz cookbook. Under Dick's tenure as President the Society acquired a long anticipated cash register and credit card machine for the Museum Shop; as well as our very own computer! Additions were made to the Society collection, including the purchase of the Regina Schultz sampler. During 2004 three new dependencies, a smoke house, privy and woodshed, were constructed on site.

Dick's hours at the Farmstead increased after he retired from Unisys. In addition to the many obligatory meetings, Dick would attend committee meetings with his ball point pen and spiral notebook, taking copious notes in his small print. Diligence and concern were Dick's hallmarks. Unfailingly kind and polite; he was a friend to everyone.

Away from the Farmstead, Dick was very fond of Mexican food and his Friday Lunch Buddies. He could smoke a mean turkey and enjoyed holiday dinners with family and friends. Dick was a master yardman with a lawn looking like a Scotts advertisement. A devoted son, Dick made frequent trips to Sioux City, IA to visit his parents. He will be sadly missed.

Dick requested that the following poem, *Desiderata*, be included in his funeral program.

(Continued on page 6)



Dick and Ruth Anderl

Peter Wentz Farmstead Society Board of Directors Officers

President - Anne Condon
 Vice President - Richard L'Ecuyer
 Treasurer - Lee Kirk
 Asst. Treasurer - James Hern
 Recording Sec. - Ruth Guimond

Directors

Carol V. Allen
 Richard Clauser
 Christine L'Ecuyer
 Frank Luther
 Janice Muller
 Nadine Vigliano
 Connie Walsh

PWFS Committees

Executive Committee: Anne Condon, Ruth Guimond, Christine L'Ecuyer

ByLaws.....	Anne Condon
Development.....	Janice Muller
Finance.....	Anne Condon
Garden.....	Donna Armstrong
IT.....	Jim Karcher
Membership.....	Sally Graybill
Museum Shop.....	Phyllis Yerger Charlotte Herman
New Structures.....	Dick Clauser
Nominating.....	Ruth Guimond
Scholarship.....	Christine L'Ecuyer
Trip Planning.....	Frank Luther
Wentz Post.....	Albert Fritz Richard L'Ecuyer

Mission Statement

The mission of the Peter Wentz Farmstead Society is to preserve and interpret the 18th century Pennsylvania German farmstead established by the Wentz and Schultz families, which is now on the National Register of Historic Places. The Society's goal is to stimulate public interest and support the site's heritage through educational programs and public events focusing on the architecture, crafts, customs, and furnishings of the period.

Peter Wentz Farmstead Hours of Operation

Tuesday - Saturday 10:00 AM-4:00 PM
 Sunday 1:00-4:00 PM
 Last Tour 3:30 PM

Closed Mondays and holidays.

- New Year's Eve
- New Year's Day
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- Presidents' Day
- Good Friday
- Easter Sunday
- Memorial Day
- Flag Day
- Fourth of July
- Labor Day
- Columbus Day
- Election Day
- Veteran's Day
- Thanksgiving Day
- Christmas Eve
- Christmas

Reservations required for group tours.
 Admission: FREE!

The Farmstead is located on Shearer Road in Worcester, PA, near the intersection of Routes 73 and 363 in Montgomery County.

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Editor Albert Fritz
 Richard L'Ecuyer

Photography Morgan McMillan

Advisor Dianne Cram
 Sally Graybill

All correspondence should be sent to:
 Peter Wentz Farmstead Society
 P.O. Box 679
 Worcester, PA 19490-0679

Phone: 610-584-5104
 Fax: 610-584-6860
 E-mail: mail@PeterWentzFarmsteadSociety.org
 Web site: www.PeterWentzFarmsteadSociety.org



President's Report *By Anne Condon*

The Society notes with great sadness the death of Richard W. Anderl on May 2, 2009. Always concerned with happenings at the Farmstead and Society Events, even as his health deteriorated, Dick will be sorely missed by his many friends. Thank you to all those who honored Dick's memory with a donation to the Society.

Congratulations to Society Scholarship Winner, Allison Koch and to Brenda Hornsby Heindl, winner of the 2009 Albert T. and Elizabeth R. Gamon Scholarship. Best wishes from the Society to these outstanding young women as they continue with their education.

Ninety-five Society members have signed up and are now receiving Society news via e-mail. This is a great start in helping to "go green" and cut back on postal expense. Please join the effort by submitting your e-mail address to mail@PeterWentzFarmsteadSociety.org.

Keep this date open...July 15. Once again the Society will host a picnic for members at the Central Perkiomen Valley Mill House. Directors Carol Allen and Dini Vigliano are working out the details and you will be receiving an invitation in June. Once again, we are looking forward to meeting new members and renewing friendships with "veteran Society members."

Enjoy your summer and we hope to see you July 15!

PETER WENTZ FARMSTEAD SOCIETY 2009 BOARD MEETING CALENDAR

July	15	Membership Picnic	5:00 pm	The Mill House
September	16	Board Meeting	7:00 pm	Central Schwenkfelder Church
October	21	Fall Meeting	6:00 pm	Central Schwenkfelder Church
November	18	Board Meeting	7:00 pm	Central Schwenkfelder Church

The Welcome Mat *By Sally Graybill*

The Farmstead Society extends a warm welcome to our newest members

Christopher and Amy Detweiler Family
 James and Barbara Gawbill Family
 Ryan and Jess Greaser Family
 John and Kathy Guerin Family
 Robert and Laurie Kleman Family
 Liping Gu and Shaobo Kuang Family
 John and Marsha Maher Family
 William and Lynn Miles Family
 Francis and Tricia Mullen Family
 Edward and Christine Sholly Family
 Pamela Smith Family
 Jean Stahl
 Charles and Julie Szuchan Family

Trip Planning Committee - 2009 By Frank Luther

Twenty-seven members and guests had signed up for the April 21 Experience Chester County trip. This was truly an enriching and delightful day. Everything was going well until the personnel at Hibernia Park saw the Hagey motor coach. They immediately announced that the motor coach could never maneuver the trails in the park. All some of us could think was that we'd be hoofing those trails. Quickly, we were informed that a wagon could be provided to take us through the park.

After a tour of the mansion, we went outside and were greeted by a driver on a tractor hitched to a wagon with benches. What a sight to see twenty-seven of us climbing aboard that wagon! Over bumps and rocks we bounced up and down---certainly not the comfort of a Hagey motor coach, but enjoyable nonetheless!

June 30, we will be off to Kutztown to celebrate Pennsylvania German Culture. After our two-hour tour at the center, we will go to the Kutztown Festival where we will spend several hours. Hopefully, John Karavage, Patrick Donmoyer and Dr. Reynolds would be our guides at the Cultural Center. John and Patrick were PWFS scholarship winners and to quote Sally Graybill, it would be worthwhile for our members to see how the scholarship funds were spent to enhance Pennsylvania German culture.

Our trip to Gettysburg, Tuesday, October 6 is being planned and flyers will be available soon. The schedule for the day will be to depart from the PWF parking lot at 6:30. There will be a two and a half hour tour at the new visitor center which will include the new orientation film, the restored Cyclorama, the museum, and the book shop. A buffet lunch at the Dobbin House Tavern will be from 12:00 to 1:30. The afternoon will include a motor coach tour of the battlefield with a step-on guide. Stops will be made going to Gettysburg and a dinner stop made on the way home.

Our holiday trip is a visit to Bryn Athyn/Glencairn on December 8, 2009. In the morning, we will have a tour of Glencairn. A buffet lunch at the Olympia Café will follow the morning tour. In the afternoon, we will have a tour of the Bryn Athyn Cathedral.

Possible trips for 2010 are being explored. These included Poole Forge, a June trip to Jim Thorpe, an October trip to Annapolis, and a December Holiday Trip to Delaware.

Your Trip Planning Committee members are truly dedicated members of the Society! Five members of the committee have volunteered to finance their own preview trip to Annapolis with Hagey on Thursday, June 18.

We look forward to having you join us on these trips. And, as always, if you have ideas and suggestions, please let us know.



Experience Chester
County Trip



Help Wanted

Volunteer needed to help produce the thrice-a-year Wentz Post . Knowledge of Microsoft Publisher or we will train. If interested contact Rich L'Ecuyer @ 610-584-8087.

Administrator's Letter By Dianne M. Cram

Summer – Again!! Always a delightful time on a farm as everything bursts into bloom, lambs frolic in the meadow, the hayfields are waist high, and both the work and pleasure of summer is upon us. This spring has been tinged with sadness for the staff by the recent death of Dick Anderl, one of our most dedicated volunteers. Dick made an incredible difference, not only by his efforts on our behalf, but by the genuine love and concern he gave to everyone. We cherish the memory of his friendship and caring.

We enjoyed a monumental turnout for our sheep shearing event – those lamb pictures get us good press coverage every time! And our weather “luck” was good. THANK YOU TO ALL THE VOLUNTEERS who made this event possible. Weather luck wasn't with us for our barnyard concert on June 5th but, thanks to the Worcester Historical Society, we were able to move the concert indoors and over 80 people enjoyed the swinging sound of *The Girls From Mars*. On June 6th we were graced with a visit from Lady Martha Washington and her “humble and obedient servant” – AKA Irene Ferguson and Karen Dougherty.

Coming this summer... The sound of children's voices will soon be ringing across the farm during our two camp weeks. The staff is also looking forward to working with a couple of student interns who plan to volunteer their precious vacation time to help us out while they learn and earn a few credits. Interested in learning about traditional pie receipts – join us, and our friend Nancy Roan, on Saturday, July 11th as she tells us about this favorite treat of the Pennsylvania Germans. Need time to slow down and enjoy the beauty of a summer day? Come out to the Farmstead - take a walk, sit by the creek, smell the scent of freshly mown hay, stop by for a chat with the staff. ENJOY!

Spring Meeting by Rich L'Ecuyer

The Farmstead Society Spring Meeting took place Wednesday, April 15th at the Central Schwenkfelder Church auditorium. Attendance was excellent.

President Anne Condon led a brief board meeting the highlight of which was the awarding of the Albert T. & Elizabeth R. Gamon Scholarship to Brenda Hornsby Heidl by Carol Allen. Brenda is a graduate student at the University of Delaware where she is writing a research thesis on Moravian pottery manufacturing and marketing in Bethlehem, PA. Of special note is the fact that the University is matching the Society's \$5,000 scholarship. Best of luck, Brenda! We expect that she will be presenting the results of her research at next Spring's meeting.

The winner of the Peter Wentz Farmstead Society Scholarship, Gwynedd Mercy Academy Senior Allison Koch, was not able to attend the meeting due to a previously-scheduled trip.

Upon the conclusion of the Board meeting, last year's Gamon Scholarship winner, Kutztown University student Patrick Donmoyer, presented a Power Point presentation of his research into “Barn Stars” (hex signs) found on barns throughout Berks county. Patrick was introduced by his academic advisor at Kutztown, Dr. Robert Reynolds. Dr. Reynolds pointed out that Patrick had surveyed and catalogued every barn star in the county logging over 1,800 miles in the process! In addition, Patrick focused on signs and symbols found inside some of the structures, something no other researcher has ever done. Patrick's presentation was remarkable for both it's scope and his knowledge of the subject. He remarked that without the Gamon scholarship, he would not have been able to conduct as comprehensive a study. The next phase of the project calls for him to conduct similar research on barn structures in Lehigh, Bucks and Montgomery counties. Great job Patrick and good luck going forward!

After the presentation concluded all present availed themselves to a very rich assortment of refreshments.



Brenda Hornsby
Heidl
with her
scholarship

Anne Condon,
Patrick Donmoyer,
Dr. Robert Reynolds
and Carol Allen



Desiderata

--written by Max Ehrmann in the 1920s—

--selected by Dick Anderl to be included in his funeral program--

Go placidly amid the noise and the haste,
and remember what peace there may be in silence.

As far as possible, without surrender,
be on good terms with all persons.
Speak your truth quietly and clearly;
and listen to others,
even to the dull and ignorant;
they too have their story.

Avoid loud and aggressive persons;
they are vexatious to the spirit.

If you compare yourself with others,
you may become vain or bitter,
for always there will be greater and lesser persons than yourself.

Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans.
Keep interested in your own career, however humble;
it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time.

Exercise caution in your business affairs,
for the world is full of trickery.
But let this not blind you to whatever virtue there is;
many persons strive for high ideals,
and everywhere life is full of heroism.

Be yourself. Especially do not feign affection.
Neither be cynical about love,
for in the face of all aridity and disenchantment,
it is as perennial as the grass.

Take kindly the counsel of the years,
gracefully surrendering the things of youth.
Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune.
But do not distress yourself with dark imaginings.
Many fears are born of fatigue and loneliness.

Beyond a wholesome discipline,
be gentle with yourself.
You are a child of the universe
no less than the trees and the stars;
You have a right to be here.
And whether or not it is clear to you,
no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should.

Therefore be at peace with God,
whatever you conceive him to be.
And whatever your labors and aspirations,
in the noisy confusion of life,
Keep peace in your soul.

With all its sham, drudgery, and broken dreams,
it is still a beautiful world.
Be cheerful. Strive to be happy.

Sheep Shearing by Kim Boice

Baby Sheep + Historical Crafts + Good Weather = An Enjoyable Sheep Shearing Day

With a bit of help from Mother Nature on the weather and images of baby sheep scattered in local newspapers, the site hosted over 650 visitors during Sheep Shearing Day 2009.

Jim and Jay always draw a crowd as they meticulously shear our small flock of sheep while also explaining the process to visitors. The summer kitchen appeared full throughout the day with people asking questions about open-hearth cooking of the 18th century, especially on the various methods for preserving eggs. Demonstrators showcasing their skills at spinning, flax processing, and lucets are always a favorite. This year we had a few new offerings, including egg scratching, natural dyes, and farm tours.

At various points throughout the day I assisted at the welcome table and was intrigued at the number of visitors new to the site- about 40%. The heat caused the number of visitors in the afternoon to wane a bit, but all seemed to enjoy the program. Thanks to everyone who volunteered their time before and during the program, we certainly could not have made it through the day without you.



Shearing



Spinning



Scratching

Please Help Us Save Paper and Postage

Farmstead Society members wishing to receive future editions of the Wentz Post via email may do so by sending an email to mail@PeterWentzFarmsteadSociety.org

As an added bonus, email recipients of the newsletter see the newsletter in color. The paper version is reproduced in black and white for reasons of economy.

Museum Shop

by Charlotte Herman & Phyllis Yergey

The book, *Pennsylvania Country Antiques* by Albert T. Gammon has been added to our out-of-print editions. For the younger set, we have *Liberty's Children*, the story of eleven Revolutionary War children. A story of a young girl who joined the army dressed as a man is entitled *The Secret Soldier*. *The Skippack School* is back in stock. Two Eric Sloane books are on the shelves, *A Celebration of Bells* and *Do's and Don'ts of Yesteryear*. Carl Constein, a native of Berks County has written *From the Rhine to Penn's Woods* detailing the life of a Pa. German family during the American Revolution. Check out our varied selection of books.

Our redware has been replenished. It is done by a local Pennsylvania potter. On display are a baking dish, mugs, medium bowl, candleholder and many additional items. The ever-popular gourds now include a carved gourd with a light. The felted wool sheep share the shelf with a polar bear, moose and buffalo. There are many toys and activities for the children and we now have a beginner's lucet for \$1.50. Toy soldiers are marching and our cannon can also be used to sharpen a pencil.

Many thanks to our members for supporting the Museum Shop.

Garden Update

by Donna Armstrong

Warm weather has finally arrived and the Wentz Weeders are back working to beautify the garden. There is much to work at the beginning of the season, what with the clean-up, then planting. The rewards will hopefully outnumber the weeds! If you would like to join this Wednesday group, give Donna Armstrong a call @ 610-584-4115.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

If you enjoy history, antiques, historic houses and people –
We need you!

The Farmstead is recruiting any and all interested in becoming historic house guides –
no prior experience necessary.

We will train you!

We have morning and afternoon time slots, both weekdays and weekends available
for anyone who wants to help with guiding our visitors through the Farmstead.

Choose the time that best suits you.

Please contact Dianne or Kim at 610-584-5104

This is an opportunity for you to learn and enjoy
while helping others appreciate the unique history of the Farmstead

New Exhibit: Not Just for Pretty by Morgan McMillan

“...I have been very busy to day in the sewing way...” September 3, 1802

Needlecrafts were valuable skills in the 18th century. For many households, clothing, bedding, and other textile items were made by the women of the family. In towns and cities, seamstresses and tailors hired out their skill with a needle to others. The diary of Elizabeth Drinker provides a fascinating look at daily life of a well-to-do Quaker family living in Philadelphia in the 18th and very early 19th century. Elizabeth’s writing shows that even wealthy women did a significant amount of sewing themselves in addition to hiring help. As a young woman, Elizabeth produced an impressive array of embroidered items, including pocket books, pincushions, tea kettle holders, needle books, a Bible cover, and a screen. As she grew older, she continued to produce fancy work for friends and family, but the obligations of maintaining a family in clothing placed most of her attentions on more mundane sewing and knitting.

July 24, 1797 “...Anna Webb came to sew for us...”

Elizabeth describes visits from dressmakers and tailors for some clothing and bedding, but also speaks of her own work on shifts, quilted petticoats, handkerchiefs, knitted stockings and other garments. In addition to making clothes, she also did at least some of the never-ending task of mending for her family.

September 14, 1798 “...to day, like yesterday, only that instead of knitting I was mending Stockings, and instead of mutton, we had beef for dinner...”

The upcoming exhibit in the Peter Wentz Farmstead Visitor’s Center will feature textiles from the Farmstead collection that display the range of work accomplished by 18th and early 19th century seamstresses. Excerpts from Elizabeth Drinker’s diary will provide a voice from the past to comment on the work done to produce household clothing and bedding. Come see *Not Just for Pretty: Plain and Fancy Needlework from the Collection* at the Peter Wentz Farmstead this summer.



Dame School



Tailor

Got Switchel?

By Dianne M. Cram

Hazy, hot and humid – that describes most any summer day in Pennsylvania. It is no different today than two centuries ago. Farmers, on a June morning, were out in the fields by daybreak cutting hay. By 9:00 mid-morning, hot and thirsty, it was time for a break. Before the availability of commercially bottled soft drinks and fruit juices “switchel” or “haymaker’s punch” was a popular cool-down elixir in the American Colonies and became a traditional harvest time beverage right through the 19th and into the 20th centuries. Switchel, or *essich schling* in the Pennsylvania German dialect, is a vinegary, spicy drink sometimes sweetened with sugar or molasses. It quenched the thirst and replenished the fluids sweated out by hard labor – an early version of Gatorade! Switchel was carried out to the farm fields in earthenware flasks or canteens.

Feeling thirsty? Try one of these receipts:

Hay Time Switchel

1 cup light brown sugar
1 cup apple cider vinegar
½ cup light molasses
1 tbsp. ginger
2 qts. cold water

Old Fashioned Summer Drink

½ cup honey
½ cup apple cider vinegar
½ gallon water

Although switchel is non-carbonated this version calls for a small amount of baking soda. Add that to vinegar and you are sure to get some fizz!

Essich Schling

¼ cup vinegar
¾ cup ice water
Sugar to taste
Dash of nutmeg
¼ tsp. baking soda

Okay, so this may be an acquired taste. But for many farmers on the back of a hot and dusty hay wagon this was the drink of choice.

Pennsylvania Dutch Folklore Center, *The Pennsylvania Dutchman.*, Summer 1956, Vol. 8, No. 1. Bethel, PA.

Thanks to Deborah Peterson for contributing historical insights and receipts.

Peter Wentz Farmstead

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2009 MEMBERSHIP/VOLUNTEER EDITION

-EXHIBITS-

October 2008 – June 2009:

Cider and Other Home Brews: Homemade Beverages of the 18th Century
An exhibit highlighting methods of early home brewing.

June 2009– December 2009:

Not Just for Pretty: Plain & Fancy Needlework from the Collection
A brief overview of the variety of stitches & tools used to produce both decorative and functional textiles.

-PROGRAMS-

The German Tradition of Pies

Guest Speaker: Nancy Roan

Saturday, July 11th 1pm

Learn about some of the 18th and 19th century pie making traditions of the PA German peoples that lived in this area. Presented by Nancy Roan, renowned Goshenhoppen region historian.

Wentz Wonder Kids Camp

Monday-Friday, July 20th-24th

9:30-11:30am

Geared towards kids 4-5 years old, this half-day camp will educate and entertain about topics related to the historic Farmstead. Snacks provided. **-FULL-**

Pretzels of the Colonial Period

Saturday, September 26th 10am-3pm

Try twisting pretzel dough as you learn more about the long history of this delectable Pennsylvania German treat.

Laerenswaert

Saturday, October 10th 10am-3:30pm

A hands-on colonial crafts fair with demonstrations of early American domestic and agricultural skills “worth learning.” Also includes house tours by costumed interpreters, military camp life, and open-hearth cooking.

Moravian Holiday Traditions

Guest Speaker: Wendy Weida

Tuesday, November 10th 7pm

Join us for an evening of discussion on the Christmas traditions of the Moravians, most notably the Moravian pointed star and the Christmas Putz. Weida is the director of the Moravian Historical Society in Nazareth, PA and will share with you some of the holiday traditions of this fascinating religious group. New Location: Worcester Community Hall on Rte. 363 (Valley Forge Rd.) in Worcester, just before the intersection with Germantown Pike.

Candlelight Tour

Saturday, December 5th 2-8pm

The Farmstead will be all aglow and offer the experience of a traditional Pennsylvania German seasonal celebration, including a visit from *Belsnickel*, St. Nicholas in furs.

Membership in the Peter Wentz Farmstead Society

Our Society continues to grow, and if you are not already a member, please join us. There are two meetings a year which feature speakers and/or slides and movies on subjects of historical interest. Your membership fee entitles you to discounts on our day trips to historical sites, discounts on selected museum shop purchases, and a subscription to our newsletter. Join us in the worthwhile project of preserving the 18th century way of life at the Farmstead. The PWFS is registered as a 501(c)(3), not for profit organization. Donations are tax deductible.

Please Print:

Date _____

Name _____ Phone _____

(Company, if applicable)

Address _____ E-mail _____

(Street)

(Town and State)

(Zip)

Check if: Wentz descendant Schultz descendant

Check one: New member Please renew my membership

Check one:

- Student \$10.00
- Individual \$20.00
- Senior Family (both over 65) . \$25.00
- Family Membership \$30.00
- Life Member..... \$500.00
- Business Sponsorship.....Contact us for details

Additional donation:..... _____

Total amount enclosed:..... _____

Please contact me concerning volunteer activities

Mail to:
Peter Wentz Farmstead Society
P.O. Box 679
Worcester, Pa. 19490-0679

610-584-5104

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Route 73 and Shearer Road
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