

Highlights of the 2012 Bullitschek Family Reunion

The annual reunion of the Joseph Ferdinand Bullitschek descendants was held June 21-23, 2012 at the Warwick Inn in Lititz, Pennsylvania. Family members were welcomed Thursday afternoon by the coordinators, Jack and Ginny Lykins. Each family received a packet containing the reunion schedule, information on Lititz, a listing of local restaurants, suggested activities and a map. The afternoon was spent visiting. Everyone enjoyed viewing a poster assembled by Jack Lykins which showed the children of Joseph Ferdinand and the direct-line descendents of those present at the reunion. Time was also spent identifying people in pictures of previous reunions.

The group went to the Lititz Family Cupboard Restaurant for dinner. After the meal, Dale Shelley of the Lititz Moravian Church gave an overview of the history of the area and church from before Lititz was established until present day. He told us many details about the town during the time Joseph Bullitschek lived there. Lititz was established in 1757 and was a closed community for almost 100 years. This meant that no one could live in Lititz unless they were a member of the Moravian Church and that the residents could not buy anything out of town if it was available in Lititz. Joseph Bullitschek lived in Lititz for 7 years. During that time he married Charlotte Haller/Holler, and they had 4 children. In 1771 the family left Lititz to go to North Carolina. It is said that Joseph thought there were too many rules and regulations in Lititz.

On Friday morning, the group met at the Lititz Historical Foundation Museum. The museum contained displays of beautiful stitchery, furniture and memorabilia of family life of the late 1700's. After visiting the museum and gift shop, we went to the Johannes Mueller house next door. Here costumed docents led us through the 1792 home. The house has been restored with traditional household items from the late 1700s and 1800s. The docents gave an informative, at times humorous, view of everyday life in the early days of Lititz.

We were on our own for lunch. Some took the time to have a quick walking tour of Main Street guided by a pamphlet published by the Lititz Historical Foundation which had photographs of the houses as they looked in the mid to late 1700s and as they look today.

Friday afternoon the group gathered on the Moravian Church Square which consists of several buildings in addition to the Church. We heard an interesting account of the history of the Church, which was consecrated on August 13, 1787, and also learned some about the present world-wide Moravian Church. A costumed guide gave a tour of the church. Some of the group also visited God's Acre, the Moravian Cemetery located behind the church, where Jack Lykins showed us the grave marker of Abraham Haller, brother of Charlotte Haller. Later some of us drove past the Klein (Haller) Barn, built by Charlotte Haller's father. It is now a renovated apartment complex.

Saturday morning the business meeting was held in a room at the Lititz Historical Museum. This was followed by the auction which raised \$282.50 for the cemetery fund. After the auction, everyone assembled outdoors for the annual group picture. Several of us then gathered in a dining room at the General Sutter Hotel for lunch.

Some of the attendees left for home on Saturday. For the rest of the family members, Saturday afternoon was free time to further explore Lititz, to go to Hershey, to the Lancaster area or to rest.

Sunday morning many of us attended the Moravian Church. During the service, Dale Shelley, who had been a speaker and guide during some of the weekend activities, gave a wonderful announcement about our reunion and introduced us to the congregation. The service was made special by music by a Steel Drum Band from the Moravian Grace Church in Queens, New York.

Following the church service, we left Lititz planning to meet again in Cedar Rapids, Iowa next year.

**Minutes of Business Meeting of Bullitschek Family Association
June 23, 2012 - Lititz, PA**

The Business Meeting was called to order by President Janice Estell at 9:15 am. She opened with a reminder that we should follow the admonition in Psalm 100 to praise God and to remember that we should rejoice and be glad in each day. The minutes were read and approved as corrected. The Treasurer's Report was approved as presented.

It was noted that attendance at the reunion is less each year. It was discussed whether to continue to have an annual reunion, have a reunion every two years or discontinue the reunions. Bob Jones moved that we continue to hold the reunion annually. Marilyn Blackburn seconded the motion. Motion carried.

There was also discussion on whether to continue the reunions on the same day of the week or to move them to weekdays only. Barbara Frazier moved to retain the reunions Thursday through Saturday with the option of staying and attending church together on Sunday mornings. Jim Bolerjack seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Many commented on the well-planned activities for the reunion. Thanks were given to Jack and Ginny Lykins for their work in planning the reunion. It was voted to give them \$100 as a token of our appreciation for their fine job.

The officers suggested next year's reunion be held at Cedar Rapids, Iowa. As many recalled, the 2008 reunion was to be there but had to be cancelled due to massive flooding in that area. Some sites of interest in the area are the German and Czech museums and historical farms and the Amana Colonies. Phyllis Bagby moved the next reunion be held at Cedar Rapids, Iowa and Bob Jones seconded the motion. Motion carried. Marilyn Blackburn volunteered to coordinate the reunion with the help of some others.

The following slate of officers was proposed for the coming year:

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| President - | Janice Estell |
| Vice-President - | Bob Jones |
| Secretary - | Virginia Bryant |

Treasurer - Mary Anne Templeton
Newsletter Editor - Gerald and Susan Bolerjack
Historian - Marilyn Blackburn
Archivist - Richard Soash

There were no nominations from the floor. Phyllis Bagby moved that the slate of officers be accepted. Jim Bolerjack seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Richard Soash contacted Janice Estell by email to say that he was now digitalizing original documents such as birth records, marriage records, etc. There are expenses involved in obtaining the documents, and he requested funds to do this. Marilyn Blackburn moved that funds up to \$500 be made available to Richard with receipts being sent to the treasurer. Bob Jones seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Marilyn Blackburn reported that a possible informal mid-winter (February) get-together in Florida was being planned for those who would like to attend. It would probably be a lunch-time visit. More information will be in the newsletter.

In appreciation of the wonderful tours given by the Lititz Historical Foundation and the Lititz Moravian Church, it was decided to donate \$50.00 to each.