



Young Center

The Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies at Elizabethtown College

Fall 2013

News

Young Center acquires Sappington papers

In April 2013 the family of the late Roger Sappington, noted Brethren historian, donated his academic papers to the Young Center. Sappington was a professor of history at Bridgewater College in Virginia for 31 years. The addition of his papers to the papers of Donald F. Durnbaugh and the Bittinger Research Collection makes available at the Center a wealth of research material related to the Brethren.

Roger Sappington (1929–1989) was born in Avon Park, Florida. He earned degrees from Manchester College, Bethany Theological Seminary, and Duke University (Ph.D., 1959). At Bridgewater College, where he taught history from 1958 until his death in 1989, his courses in Brethren history were long a favorite, and he coached the debate team.

Sappington was also a minister in the Church of the Brethren. Ordained at Sebring, Florida in 1951, he served a congregation in Lima, Ohio, before he began teaching at Bridgewater. Sappington served actively in his church district and supported the service ministries of the Church of the Brethren.

Roger Sappington made his greatest mark as a historian of the Brethren. His research focused initially on Brethren service, and his first book, *Brethren Social Policy* (1960), grew out of his dissertation research on that topic. In 1964, Sappington published *Courageous Prophet*, a biography of Elder John Kline, a Brethren leader during the Civil War era. Sappington pursued extensive research on Brethren in southern states from the colonial era to the present, and maintained a lifelong interest in race



LeVerle Sappington, Jeff Bach, and Charlotte Sappington Brazeau at the Sappington home in Bridgewater, Virginia, during the donation of the Sappington papers to the Young Center.

issues and peace among the Brethren. He wrote the definitive book on Brethren activity in Virginia, *The Brethren in Virginia* (1973), as well as *The Brethren in the Carolinas* (1971), and *The Brethren in Tennessee and Alabama* (1988). Sappington chronicled the Brethren in Idaho in *The Brethren along the Snake River* (1966), and he also created two volumes of source material about the Brethren: *The Brethren in the New Nation* (1976) and *The Brethren in Industrial America* (1985).

The papers donated to the Young Center include research notes dating from Sappington's undergraduate college days through his graduate studies, as well as notes for the classes he taught at Bridgewater. The collection contains numerous

copies of historical documents related to Brethren in colonial North and South Carolina and Virginia. Much resource material related to the Brethren and war and the issue of slavery is included. Drafts of his books and corrections are also among the papers.

Roger Sappington married LeVerle Hochstetler in 1949 and they had four children. Known as an extremely modest and usually soft-spoken man, Sappington also had a good sense of humor when among family and close friends. The Young Center is deeply grateful to LaVerle H. Sappington and the Sappington family for their generosity in donating these papers. They will provide invaluable resources for current and future generations of students and researchers. ■

From the Director

The conference last June on the Amish and technology brought together a wide variety of people including Amish and other Plain people, medical researchers and care providers, professors, technology experts, and people with a general interest in the topic. Attendees came from right here in Lancaster County, across the nation, and around the world. The Young Center was the intersection point for people with a rich mix of experiences, training, work, and religious and cultural backgrounds. The conference illustrated our mission to pursue research and interpretation in ways that connect people from diverse settings.

The Young Center is such an invigorating point of intersection for research and discussion because of our unique resources. Our research collection related to Anabaptist and Pietist groups is strong and distinctive. Our staff is specialized in assisting researchers, visitors, and the college community.

As we look to the future, we face a great need to preserve and store our research resources in a space that will keep them safe and useful for years to come. We see a need for more space in the Young Center that can be dedicated for use by fellows and visiting scholars. Our mission to interpret the research we do requires expanded display and interpretive space where we can welcome visitors and explain the legacy of Anabaptist and Pietist groups.

This fall we launch an exciting project to create archival space in the lower level of High Library. I hope that old and new friends of the Young Center will support this new effort to keep the Young Center a distinctive intersection point for research and discussion. Support now will ensure that future generations can engage with the heritage of Anabaptist and Pietist groups and ask new questions. I hope that you can join us in this effort.

I hope that you'll attend our events this fall to experience first-hand the rich interface of learning and interaction that are a regular feature at the Young Center.



Jeff Bach
Director

New archive project launched

The Young Center and High Library have started a new project to create the Special Collections and Archives in the lower level of High Library. This project is Phase 1 of a two-phase plan to expand the Young Center. The first phase is to create archival space in High Library. The second phase is a longer-term project to build onto the Young Center building.

The Special Collections and Archives area will feature climate-controlled, secure archival space for the rare books and documents currently housed at the Young Center, for the rare books and congregational and district records in the Brethren Heritage Room in High Library, and for Elizabethtown College's archives. The space will also have appropriate fire suppression technology.

This project will create for the first time at Elizabethtown College a professional-quality archival space to store and protect the many unique, rare documents, publications, and some of the artifacts that pertain to Anabaptist and Pietist groups. Papers that have been donated to the Young Center by various scholars

will also be stored there. Currently, all of these special collections are kept in storage areas where temperature and humidity are inadequately controlled. The new Special Collections and Archives will have almost double the storage space needed for current holdings, allowing for future growth of our collections.

The archival space will include a reading room for researchers, work and office space for an archivist, and a secure storage area, all located in the lower level of High Library. The cost of the project is \$450,000. Already a generous donor has given a lead gift that provides nearly half of the total cost. We encourage friends of the Young Center to support this project, which advances the scholarly mission of the Young Center and preserves valuable materials pertaining to the Anabaptist and Pietist heritage of the Center and the college. For more information, please contact Bonnie Martin, director of Church Relations (717-361-1257; martinbs@etown.edu), or Jeff Bach, director of the Young Center (717-361-1467; bachj@etown.edu). ■

James Fritz named Snowden Fellow

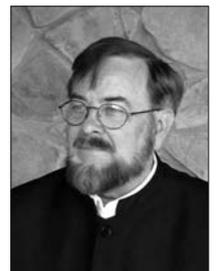
James Fritz has been named the Young Center's 2013 Snowden Fellow. Fritz is on the board of the Historic Preservation Society of Adams County and has been an adjunct professor at several local colleges and universities as well as a lecturer on historical topics. He has a law degree from Widener University School of Law and is completing a master's degree in American Studies at Pennsylvania State University.

During his fellowship, Fritz will research the history of the Quakers, Mennonites, and Brethren in York and Adams counties. He will visit the York County, Lancaster County, and Pennsylvania State archives, as well as area historical societies, to gather information and photographs. Fritz looks forward to his time at the Young Center because he sees the Center as "the matrix of Anabaptist literature and research materials that are

essential for any scholar working in this field."

Fritz will present a talk on his work on November 21 in the Bucher Meetinghouse. In his lecture, Fritz will examine the experiences of pacifist religious groups in York County during the American Revolution, the ethnic composition of the groups, and the larger context of the fading Quaker influence in Pennsylvania.

The Snowden fellowship and lecture are named for Lucille and Armon Snowden, whose generous gift endowed them. The Young Center invites applications for its fellows program. For details, visit www.etown.edu/youngctr. ■



Patrick Erben receives 2013 Brown Book Award

Book on early Pennsylvania named outstanding book in Anabaptist and Pietist Studies

A*Harmony of the Spirits: Translation and the Language of Community in Early Pennsylvania* by Patrick Erben has won the 2013 Dale W. Brown Book Award. Published by the University of North Carolina Press, the book explores ways that many religious immigrants to Pennsylvania sought a transconfessional unity through efforts to develop a common spiritual language. Research for the book was supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Omohundro Institute of Early American History in Williamsburg, Virginia.

Reviewers have praised *A Harmony of the Spirits* for making “a significant contribution to our understanding of the colony’s culture” (Evan Haefeli in the *Journal of American Studies*) and a work whose “ideas are complicated but clearly and eloquently described” (Jane E. Calvert in *American Historical Review*).

Erben is an associate professor of English at the University of West Georgia, where he teaches early American literature and culture. He received his Ph.D. in

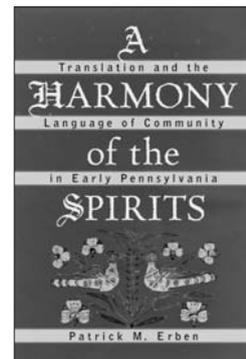
English from Emory University in 2003, and has been a member of the University of West Georgia faculty since 2006. Erben has published a number of articles and book reviews in scholarly journals and is currently working on a selective edition of the published and unpublished writings of Francis Daniel Pastorius, the founder of Germantown, Pa., and leader of the first group of Pietist and Anabaptist immigrants to North America.

The book award judges selected *A Harmony of the Spirits* from a pool of 27 books nominated for the award this year. One judge called the book “a strong work of scholarship,” noting that “Erben’s work provides a penetrating and important analysis of the role of radical religion, in particular German pietists, in the founding of Pennsylvania. He demonstrates how religious motivations not only brought early settlers to Pennsylvania, but also shaped the project of Penn’s Holy Experiment.”

Erben will discuss “Love, Language, and Differences among Pietist and

Quaker Immigrants in Early America” at the Young Center on October 10.

The Brown Book Award recognizes an outstanding book in Anabaptist and Pietist studies published in the U.S. during the previous three years. It was named for Dale W. Brown, a noted author and theologian among the historic peace churches. Nominations for the 2014 award will be accepted until December 10, 2013. Visit www.etown.edu/youngctr for details. ■



Conference on prophetic speech set for next June

The Young Center will host a study conference, “Privileged Speech: Prophecy, Pietism and Beyond,” June 5-7, 2014. The conference will focus on prophecy and inspired speech among Christian groups and individuals in the Pietist movement and among other groups—such as Quakers, Shakers, Anabaptists, and Wesleyans—primarily in the early modern era.

The Center invites proposals that address various aspects of inspired speech and the prophet speakers. Paper proposals should include title, topic, and an abstract of 300 words or less outlining the content of the presentation. Submit proposals to Jeff Bach, Young Center director, by e-mail (bachj@etown.edu) or by postal mail (Jeff Bach, Elizabethtown College, One Alpha Drive, Elizabethtown, PA 17022). The deadline for proposals is March 14, 2014. For additional information, please contact the Young Center director. ■



Archbishop Bernard Ntahoturi of Burundi and Father David Peck, rector of St. James Episcopal Church in Lancaster, visited the Young Center on May 24. The Archbishop and Father Peck met with Donald B. Kraybill, senior fellow at the Young Center, and Edsel Burdge, research associate, in order to learn more about the Anabaptist peace witness and the Young Center’s research on Anabaptist groups. Kraybill presented the guests with copies of two books: *Amish Grace*, about Amish forgiveness in the wake of the Nickel Mines school tragedy, and *The Amish Way*, about Amish life and religious values.

Students present research on Brethren work in China

On Tuesday, November 12, at 7:30 pm, three Elizabethtown College students will present their research from Peace and Conflict in China, a course taught by David Kenley, a professor in the history department, and Jeff Bach, in the spring 2013 semester. The course explored the story of Brethren missionaries in China from 1908 to 1951 as a lens for understanding cultural, political, economic, and religious issues in China in the first half of the twentieth century. Class members

also examined the role of women among the Chinese and among the missionaries, as well as the challenges that war presented to the pacifist Brethren.

The students presenting their work are Bella D'Ascanio, Cesar Vera, and Caitlyn Whirt. D'Ascanio will compare and contrast the work of two single Brethren women missionaries, Nettie Senger and Anna Blough. Vera will examine the impact of the Communist Revolution as Brethren were forced out of China and

attempted to return. Whirt will discuss evangelistic work by Brethren women and the role of Chinese "Bible women" who helped to explain Bible stories to other Chinese women. The presentations are based on archival research the students conducted during a class research trip to Chicago and the Brethren Historical Library and Archives in Elgin, Illinois. Several other students from the class will attend the presentations to answer questions about the research work. ■

International conference receives positive response

When Young Center senior fellow Donald B. Kraybill began planning "Amish America: Technology in a Cyber World," he could only imagine the breadth of topics prospective presenters would propose, the diversity of people who would attend, and the energy and insight everyone would bring to the event. But when the participants gathered June 6-8 on the Elizabethtown College campus, the richness of the conference was evident.

"Amish America" drew nearly 300 attendees from the United States and thirteen other countries. The diversity of the group—which included established scholars, professionals involved in outreach to Plain communities, graduate students, and members of Old Order and plain-dressing Anabaptist groups—offered many different perspectives on the Amish in North America and facilitated networking across geographical areas and professional backgrounds. The 34 international attendees, some of whom were presenters, contributed an additional dimension to the gathering.

Plenary talks by technology guru Kevin Kelly, professor Karen Johnson-Weiner, writer Valerie Weaver-Zercher, and Amish Research Clinic founder Alan Shuldiner were the featured events, with some fifty seminars, panel discussions, and paper presentations rounding out the program. The focus on technology alongside the broad spectrum of other subjects related to health care, history, spirituality, and language created

an enriching and abundant mix of breakout sessions.

Events began at 8:00 a.m. Thursday with two preconference tours of Lancaster County, and the packed schedule concluded at noon Saturday following the final plenary lecture. Attendees conveyed their interest and enthusiasm via their animated participation in the sessions, their informal discussions during breaks and mealtimes, and their post-conference feedback.

Professor Mark Loudon, who led a seminar on the Pennsylvania Dutch language, noted that this was the "most satisfying" conference he had ever participated in. "It struck a good balance between

scholarship and public outreach, and the diversity of the attendees added much to the overall stimulating atmosphere." Mary Yoder, a nursing instructor from Ontario, said that she "came away loaded with ideas and many tools" to plan a course on the Amish and health care. Consultant Judy Stavisky commented that the conference "provided a depth and breadth of knowledge as well as the opportunity to engage in thoughtful conversations with the nation's leading scholars, real world practitioners, and Plain people." Conference planners were pleased that the event was well received and helpful to attendees; Kraybill noted that it met and exceeded his expectations. ■



Elizabethtown College president Carl Strikwerda and Young Center director Jeff Bach with some of the 34 international attendees at the Young Center's June conference, "Amish America: Technology in a Cyber World." Attendees came from Belgium, Canada, China, Colombia, Estonia, Germany, Italy, Israel, Japan, the Netherlands, South Africa, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom, as well as the United States.

UPCOMING EVENTS

“Mind the Slurs”: Old Order River Brethren Tunes

MYRON SAUDER

Thursday, September 19 ■ 7:30 p.m.

The musical style of the Old Order River Brethren, a small Anabaptist-Pietist group in Pennsylvania and Iowa, features memorized hymn tunes sung from a small hymnal without musical notation. These tunes have a slow, a capella melodic style somewhat like Amish singing. This presentation by Myron Sauder will feature transcriptions of River Brethren melodies along with a chance to listen to and sing them.

Myron Sauder teaches high school at Sonlight River Brethren School in Mount Joy, Pa.

Love, Language, and Differences among Pietist and Quaker Immigrants in Early America

PATRICK ERBEN

Thursday, October 10 ■ 7:30 p.m.

The author of the 2013 Brown Book Award winner, *A Harmony of the Spirits*, will trace the radical reformist ideas that compelled early modern Protestants such as William Penn and Francis Daniel Pastorius to conceive of the new colony of Pennsylvania as a spiritual community across differences in language and religion. Erben will also discuss why and how quarrels came about among Pietists and Quakers of various stripes, creating in the process some strange bedfellows, such as followers of the eccentric mystic Johannes Kelpius and the renegade Quaker George Keith.

Patrick Erben teaches early American literature and culture at the University of West Georgia. He holds a Ph.D. from Emory University.

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LECTURE

Jacob Albright and the Pietist Roots of the Evangelical Association

Jane Donovan

■ Tuesday, November 12, 7:30 p.m.

PRESENTATIONS

Peace, Love, and China: Brethren Missionaries in 20th-Century China

Bella D’Ascanio, Cesar Vera, and Caitlyn Whirt

■ Thursday, November 21, 7:30 p.m.

SNOWDEN LECTURE

Gathering Storm Clouds: The Pacifist Culture of York County during the American Revolution

James Fritz

Jacob Albright and the Pietist Roots of the Evangelical Association

JANE DONOVAN

Tuesday, October 29 ■ 7:30 p.m.

Donovan will discuss Jacob Albright, one of the originators of the Evangelical Association in the early 1800s. The group was shaped by the pietistic influences of John Wesley and later became part of the Evangelical United Brethren.

Jane Donovan teaches in the religious studies program at West Virginia University. She holds a D.Min. from Wesley Theological Seminary, and is the author of seven books and numerous articles. Her research focuses on the Second Great Awakening and American Methodism.

Peace, Love, and China: Brethren Missionaries in 20th-Century China

BELLA D’ASCANIO, CESAR VERA, AND CAITLYN WHIRT

Tuesday, November 12 ■ 7:30 p.m.

Three Elizabethtown College students who took Peace and Conflict in China, a course offered last semester, will present their research on Brethren mission efforts in China. D’Ascanio will compare and contrast the work of two single Brethren women missionaries, Nettie Senger and Anna Blough; Vera will examine the impact of the Communist Revolution as Brethren were forced out of China and attempted to return; and Whirt will discuss the evangelistic work of Brethren women and the role of Chinese “Bible women.”

Gathering Storm Clouds: The Pacifist Culture of York County during the American Revolution

JAMES FRITZ

Thursday, November 21 ■ 7:30 p.m.

During the American Revolution, peace groups in York County faced significant decisions. Join the militia, as required by the law of 1777? Support the war efforts in some other way? Harbor British and Hessian prisoners? Pay fines or have property taken from them? Go to trial in a York tribunal? Move to other lands to escape persecution? Fritz will address these and other questions that tested the faith of pacifist religious groups in York County during that time period.

James Fritz holds a J.D. from Widener University School of Law and is completing a master’s degree in American Studies at Penn State University. He has been an adjunct professor and a lecturer on historical topics.



Elizabethtown College

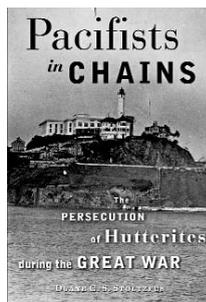
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

New books in the Young Center series

A richly illustrated volume about Amish quilts and an absorbing account of four young Hutterite men drafted into the U.S. Army in 1918 will be the next books in the Young Center series published by the Johns Hopkins University Press.

In *Amish Quilts: Crafting an American Icon*, Janneken Smucker, who teaches at West Chester University, traces the history of Amish quilting from the late 19th century to the present. She discusses what makes an Amish quilt Amish and considers what the term “Amish” means in the quilt consumer marketplace. In his book, professor Duane Stoltzfus of Goshen College tells the sobering story of Joseph Hofer, Michael Hofer, David Hofer, and Jacob Wipf, who in accordance with their beliefs, refused to perform military service in World War I. *Pacifists in Chains:*



The Persecution of Hutterites during the Great War uses letters written by the four men, interviews with their descendants, and archival material to explore the tension between a country preparing to enter into a world war and a people whose history of martyrdom for their pacifist beliefs goes back to their sixteenth-century Reformation beginnings. *Amish Quilts* will be available in October; *Pacifists in Chains* in November. ■



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Young Center News is published twice each year for those interested in the work and events of the Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies. Comments and suggestions are welcome. Please direct correspondence to the address below.

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