

# Dreibelbis Cousins

*Our Past ... Bridging to the Future*

*of America*

## 285th Anniversary Celebration Sunday, August 20, 2017

### **SPEAKER: Irvin Herring**

*The History of Dreibelbis Station &  
The Life of Dr. Perry K. Dreibelbis, V.S.*



Dreibelbis  
Station on  
"Reading-  
Schuylkill  
Railroad."



Dr. Perry K.  
Dreibelbis  
Mid-1920s

Come enjoy learning about the early Dreibelbis landowners, including Dr. Perry K. Dreibelbis, 4th generation, and history of Dreibelbis Station.

Irvin is a lifelong resident of Dreibelbis Station and was actually employed to work at the Dreibelbis Mill at east end of the covered bridge. Irvin - through his wife - has inherited and collected many Dreibelbis artifacts and certificates, and will project photos of many of these during his talk.



Dreibelbis Cider / Apple Butter Mill  
ca. 1919

## 2017 DCOA Reunion Schedule

Reunion Begins ..... 10:00 am  
(rain or shine!)

Meal ..... 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

Family Meeting ..... 1:15 pm

Speaker-Irvin Herring ..... ~ 2:00 pm

*There will be games and  
activities for children!*

*Handicapped accessible  
porta-potty available.*

*Socialize*

*Nature Trail*

*Genealogy Station*

*Hayrides*

*Games*

*House Tours*

*Family Photos for  
DCOA Database*

## Flashback to 2016 Reunion

Cousins were in attendance from Delaware, Maryland, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Washington.

### **Prizes Awarded**

**Oldest man** - John D. Smith, 93, Fleetwood, PA

**Oldest woman** - Evelyn Ziegler Heffner, 87, Timonium, MD

**Youngest child present** - Atticus Donahue, 2 mo., Kutztown, PA

**Most recently married** - Angela and Andrew Donahue, Kutztown, PA

**Greatest distance traveled** - Jennifer, Terry and August Hayes, Renton, WA

**Door prizes** - Joyce Dietrich, Lenhartsville, PA and Desira Kunkle, Mohrsville, PA

## Post your articles and pictures on "Cousins' Connection Bulletin Board" at the Reunion

Please bring your family photos, newspaper clippings and other recognitions to share your "connections" with other cousins! Feel free to take them home after the reunion.



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DreibelbisCousins.org

Visit us on facebook!  
Search "Dreibelbis Cousins"



# Your Dreibelbis Family Genealogy

## Interesting Additions!

Ric Tobin found information about the Dreibelbis family tree through the Dreibelbis Cousins of America website. His wife is a descendant of John Jacob Dreibelbis and he was looking for information and sources on his wife's ancestors to confirm the research he had done. Ric provided access to a family tree he had created and from that tree 579 Dreibelbis cousins have been added, all in the Catherine Dreibelbis branch of the family. There are more cousins in his family tree that still have to be added to the John Jacob Dreibelbis family tree in Ancestry.com.

If you know of anyone who has created or has access to a Dreibelbis family tree, please put them in contact with Fred Polaski so that information can be added to the Dreibelbis Cousins

## Dreibelbis Cousins in the US Armed Services

The first two Dreibelbis descendants to serve our country in the armed forces were **Abraham Dreibelbis (A-2-4)** and **Jacob Dreibelbis (J-2-6)** who served in the Revolutionary War of Independence. Abraham was not able to enlist in the army for active duty because of his family, but joined the Reserves of the Colonial Army whose duty was to see to it that food and provisions were forwarded to the soldiers in the front line of duty. Jacob was a Captain in the Third Company of the Second Battalion of the Militia of Berks County. Jacob also served in the Reserves of the militia after end of the Revolutionary War.

**Peter R. Dreibelbis (A-3-27)** and **Joseph R. Dreibelbis (A-3-29)**, sons of Abraham Dreibelbis, served in the US Army during the War of 1812. We have no information on what Peter did during the War of 1812. Joseph was a Lieutenant and in charge of the 77th Regiment of the Fifth Military District of the Pennsylvania Militia, stationed in Marcus Hook, PA. He was in charge of 92 members of the Pennsylvania Militia until his discharge in 1814. **Jacob M. Dreibelbis (M3-32)** was a 2nd Lieutenant in the US Army during the War of 1812. Undoubtedly, other Dreibelbis cousins served their country during the War of 1812.

Many Dreibelbis cousins served in the US Army during the Civil War, more than can be listed here, and several gave their lives for our country. One of interest is **William H. Rothermel (MM-5-384)** who served in the US Army. After his discharge, he enlisted again and served in the US Army in Arizona (then a territory) where he was killed by an Indian on July 13, 1869. Also of note are twin brothers **Charles D. Biehl (A-5-557)** and **Jonathan D. Biehl**

**(A-5-558)** who died on January 16, 1865 and February 12, 1865. They were buried in the same grave in the Biehl family plot in Montoursville, PA.

Dreibelbis cousins also served in the Spanish-American War, World War I, World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam. The following story is about the Bothwell brothers and son who served in WWII and Vietnam.

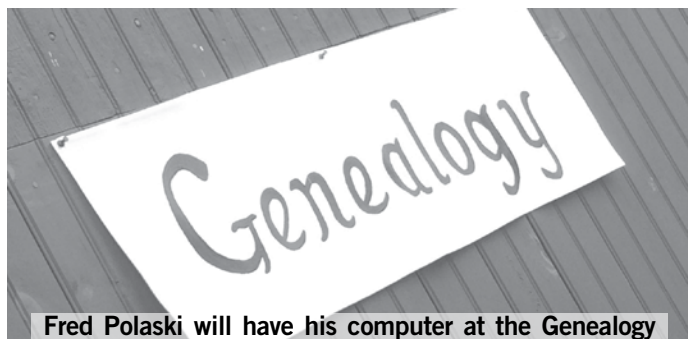
**Frederick Charles Bothwell, Jr. (J-07-05306)** and his son **Frederick Charles Bothwell III (J-08-05306-01)** are both graduates of the United States Military Academy at West Point. Frederick Jr. served in the Army Air Corp in World War II in North Africa and Italy with the 15th Air Force. He was awarded the French Croix de Guerre and the American Bronze Star, and was made an officer of the Order of the British Empire for his service in the war. He retired as a full Colonel.

Frederick III served as an officer in Armored and Infantry units in Italy, Germany, Vietnam and the US. In Vietnam, he was assigned to the 4th Infantry Division, and was second in command in the task force sent to defend Kontum during the Tet offensive in 1968.

**Robert Lewis Bothwell (J-07-05307)**, brother of Frederick Bothwell Jr., graduated from the United States Naval Academy during World War II. He became a Naval Aviator and served with an AD "Skyraider" unit called "Black Bats," flying night combat missions from the aircraft carrier "Princeton" during the Korean War. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for bravery in aerial combat.

All of the updates and corrections to the Dreibelbis Cousins genealogy that were submitted after the Dreibelbis genealogy was published in 1990 have been completed. But updates continue to be provided by Dreibelbis cousins. The Dreibelbis family tree now has more than **23,000 descendants** of John Jacob Dreibelbis, and over **12,000 spouses**. These numbers will only increase as more cousins provide information they have discovered.

To gain access to the John Jacob Dreibelbis genealogy in Ancestry.com, **please email Fred Polaski at [Polaski5@comcast.net](mailto:Polaski5@comcast.net)** so that Fred can "invite" cousins to give them access to all the information in Ancestry.com, such as dates of birth, death, and marriage, town of residence, and Dreibelbis genealogy number. Any changes or updates to information in the Dreibelbis genealogy should be emailed to Fred.



**Fred Polaski will have his computer at the Genealogy Station at the Reunion**, so bring your updates and watch them be added to the genealogy on August 20, or you can email any updates to Fred, write them on a piece of paper and bring them to the reunion, or mail them to Fred at 32 Georgian Circle, Newark DE 19711-2552.



## Become a Part of History

We need to hear from you about marriages, deaths, births, e-mail addresses, change of addresses, etc., that have occurred in your life or the lives of your extended family. This information will be added to our "growing" computer database.

If you have a copy of the *Dreibelbis Family History* book or access to Ancestry.com, please look up yourself and/or your family and use the Genealogy Information Form to let us know of any corrections or additions - mail or electronic versions accepted! If you do not have a copy of the book, please visit us at the 2017 Reunion where we will have a **"Genealogy Station"** set up where you can review your family's entry in the book and make note of any corrections/additions. If you are not in the book, we will work with you to develop an entry for yourself.

Thank you in advance for assisting us with our record keeping! With your help, the story of our ever-growing family will be kept alive for generations to come.

### Dreibelbis Family Genealogy Information

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Nickname: \_\_\_\_\_

Address / Place of Residence: \_\_\_\_\_ Dreibelbis Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
(only city or town will be listed in the genealogy) (if a number has been assigned)

Name of Parents: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Location of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Death: \_\_\_\_\_ Burial Location (e.g. cemetery name): \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Marriage: \_\_\_\_\_  
(include maiden name for wives, indicate if divorced)

Spouse's Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's Location of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Date of Death: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's Burial Location: \_\_\_\_\_

*Note: If the Dreibelbis cousin was married more than once, complete the spousal information for all spouses.*

Name of Children: \_\_\_\_\_

*(For each child, please include date of birth, and if applicable, date of death and burial location.)*

Any information that identifies Dreibelbis relatives and any information on occupation, where they lived, military service, or anything else of interest.

Information provided by: Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Please return form to:

Becky Dreibelbis Mazzei | becky.dreibelbis@gmail.com  
168 Lower Creek Road | Stockton, NJ 08559

*The full-page Genealogy Information form can be downloaded and printed from the website at DreibelbisCousins.org*



# Cousins' Connection

## Obituaries

*When someone you love becomes a memory,  
the memory becomes a treasure.*

Name	Genealogy #	Death Date
Joanne Antonelli Dresher wife of David Dresher	(A-08-04379-01)	12-22-2016
Nancy Jean Rhoads DeTemple	A-08-06331	05-25-2016
Ralph S. Adam	C-07-03545	09-28-2016
Lillie M. Merkel George	J-06-03029	12-30-2016
James G. Mengel husband of Barbara Ann Yeager	(J-08-06612b)	12-28-2016
Charles W. Werley	J-07-05360a	12-29-2016
Gene R. Wertz	J-08-02420-19	03-26-2017
Jason F. Smith	J-09-05604-03	03-01-2017
Rodney P. Brunner	J-08-02803-04	01-02-2017
Mary A. Moyer Seidel	J-08-05338-01	10-02-2016
Miriam W. Weidenhammer Kuntz	C-08-05858	09-04-2016
Neal L. Merkel	J-08-03019-02	09-15-2016
Dorothy A. H. Snyder Merkel wife of Arlan Lee Merkel	(J-08-05168-02)	11-02-2016
Joann Antonelli Dresher wife of David H. Dresher	(A-08-04379-01)	12-22-2016
Nancy Jean Rhoads DeTemple	A-08-06331	05-25-2016
David Preston	J-09-06742-01	02-21-2017
Peter K. Dreibelbis	J-08-06961	02-03-2017
Stephen Davis	J-08-05635-01	01-13-2017
Charles T. Bower	J-08-065150	07-20-2016
Marguerite E. Sondag Hepner	J-08-06684	07-23-2016
Dorothea M. Kunkel Boyer	J-09-07416	10-20-2016
Richard G. Miller	J-08-05622b	08-26-2016

## Births

**Carter Ava Polaski** born to Brian & Sarah Polaski, 7/22/16

**Evelyn Violet Mazzei** and **Jonah Vincent Mazzei** (*twins*) born to Vincent & Becky (Dreibelbis) Mazzei, 10/13/16 - two years to the day of older brother Zachary's birth!

**Emma Lynn Dreibelbis** born to Brian & Liz Dreibelbis, 4/4/17

## Celebrate!

Edwin Holt turned 100 on October 26, 2016. He and his wife Helen celebrated their 76th wedding anniversary on Christmas Day 2016.

## Volunteers Needed

Calling relatives on address list to verify contact information, seek additional volunteers, and locate relatives not in our genealogy or receiving newsletter.

- Submit birth, marriage and death information for cousins in
- Your area of the country
- Reunion setup, cleanup, sales, or registration
- Submit newsletter articles
- Newsletter preparation and mailing
- Web designer with
- Dreamweaver background

Contact Eric Dreibelbis at 717.575.6823 or [highmtnepd@frontiernet.net](mailto:highmtnepd@frontiernet.net)

*Let us know about changes to your family's history by completing the enclosed  
Family Genealogy Information form.*

## Dreibelbis Mill/Station Covered Bridge Rehab Project



National Historic Registry of Covered Bridges believes the 172' single span covered bridge should be saved! Federal funds, PennDOT, and Berks County all agreed!

### Project Goals

- Repair deteriorating wood structures
- Increase load limit to at least 12 tons
- Preserve characteristics that made this bridge eligible for placement on National Registry
- Re-build stone support abutments on each side
- Add cedar shingles as the bridge original had
- Re-use as much original, solid wood as possible.

A crane will lift the entire bridge over onto east bank and all repairs made "on-land."

Schedule- Construction bids in Dec., 2017, begin construction early in 2018, completion in late 2018.





# DCOA Reunion Registration

August 20, 2017

**Family Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

# attending: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Age 12-Adult @ \$8.00 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Children 6-11 @ \$3.50 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Ages 5 and under *FREE* \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Choosing not to eat? \$ FREE

To assist in planning for games and activities, please list ages of all children attending. \_\_\_\_\_

## Contributions:

*(Whether you can attend or not, your support is needed.)*

Dreibelbis Cousins of America  
Newsletter Printing/Postage \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*(to 1,225 cousins)*

Genealogy \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Cemetery Maintenance \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Dreibelbis Farm Historical Society \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total enclosed for both columns** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Make one check payable to:** Dreibelbis Cousins of America

**Mail check and registration form to:** Jane Hornberger,  
Secretary, 7 Jalappa Road, Hamburg, PA 19526

**Please register by August 12, 2017.** If registering later,  
please contact Mark Dreibelbis at (610) 488-7896 or  
mjdreil@verizon.net.

## Travel Plans

Microtel Inn & Suites, Rt. 78, Hamburg..... 610-562-4234

Campus Inn, Old Rt. 222, Kutztown..... 610-683-8721

Lincoln Motel, 12 Lincoln Road, Kutztown..... 610-683-3456

## For additional information, contact:

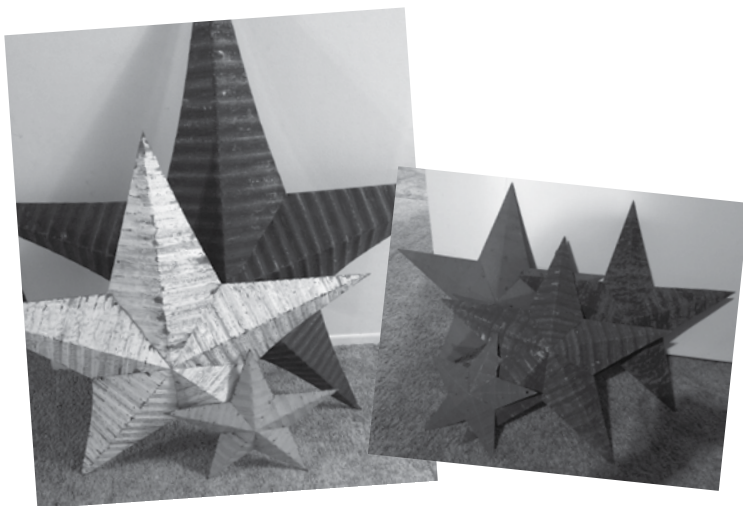
Diane Dreibelbis, vonboehn@verizon.net..... 610-944-9152

Joyce Dietrich, joycliff@verizon.net..... 610-756-6959

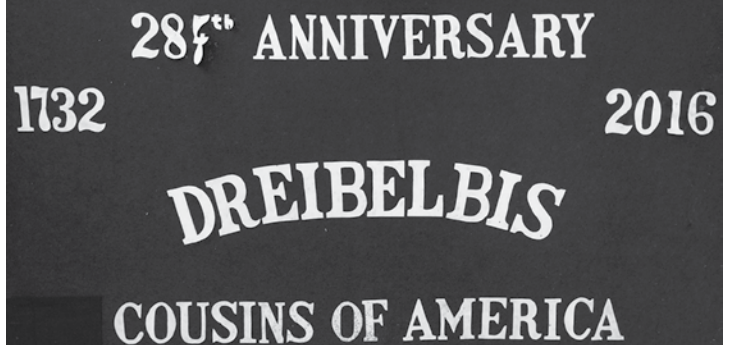
## Original Barn Stars Made From Metal Roofing Off DFHS Barn

All new metal roofing has been installed on the DFHS barn. Fortunately, a "Barn Star" maker was discovered just an hour away from the farm. So, 137 metal roofing sheets of a certain profile were loaded on a trailer and taken to be made into decorative "Barn Stars."

These barn stars, made from metal taken off the roof, will be available for sale at this year's Reunion. There are five sizes (12", 18", 24", 36", & 48") and come in a variety of antiqued colors. Visit our website at [DreibelbisCousins.org](http://DreibelbisCousins.org) to see other items available for purchase.



## Design Contest for Reunion Banner!



Each year many families choose to have their pictures taken in front of the Reunion Banner which yearly has the date changed to the current year, chronicling the number of years since John Jacob Dreibelbis came to America.

But the banner has seen better years (thanks to a very hungry mouse)! So, your officers invite all crafters and designers to submit ideas on how to improve and modernize the sign. Current dimensions are 30" x 50" and at minimum the current information should be included with changeable letters and numerals for 284th and 2016. **All submissions with photo or mock-up must be received no later than July 1, 2017.** Submit to [highmtnepd@frontiernet.net](mailto:highmtnepd@frontiernet.net) and for info call Eric Dreibelbis at 717.575.6823.



Logan Lyle Dreibelbis passed away on March 30, 2016 at his home in Cincinnati, Ohio. He was 97 years of age. He served the Dreibelbis Reunions by making a tape of the history of John Jacob Dreibelbis coming to America, and the early history of settling in the United States. These tapes and CDs were made available to interested cousins who purchased them, helping to build up the funds for the Dreibelbis Reunions.

Lyle was a graduate from Texas A & M University in 1941, he entered the US Air Force and was stationed at Wright Field in Dayton, Ohio, where he remained until his discharge as a Major. He used his Mechanical Engineering Degree, and during his last years, invented a missile launching system for the U.S. to use in wartime. His innovative idea was to be able to move the system, after launching missiles, to a new site for further launching to protect the United States.

## Dreibelbis Farm Historical Society

Fulfilling our mission to preserve and protect the Jacob B. Dreibelbis homestead farm (son of our original immigrant ancestor John Jacob Dreibelbis) continues with many activities ranging from programs for the public to maintenance and restoration. While busy all year, the culmination of our efforts comes in August with our annual "Farm Festival" where the farm "comes alive" with music, re-enactors, demonstrators and tours. This year it will be Saturday, August 26.

Many popular activities have become annual events including the ice harvesting demonstration in February, spring peeper / wetlands walk, wild flower/native plant walk, and walking the nature trail. New for this year was a presentation by KASPER, a local paranormal research group. Having done an investigation at the farm a few years ago, they were anxious to present their findings. So, what better time than Halloween for the event! We were overwhelmed with nearly 100 people who came for the talk, a demonstration of an investigation, and a hayride, bonfire and cookout.

Last summer we added an historic PA German farm garden with examples of types of produce grown on a self-sufficient farm. In May 2017, we hosted the Berks County Museum Council for their monthly meeting. As a member of the Museum Council, we benefit from networking with other organizations which are preserving historical sites and managing museums in Berks county.



Looking ahead at long term survival and financial stability for the Dreibelbis Farm Historical Society led to the creation of an endowment fund designed to provide funds to support our mission well into the future. This was set up with Thrivent Financial and gives anyone invested with Thrivent the opportunity to designate their quarterly "choice dollars" distribution to the DFHS. If you desire further

information about donating to the endowment fund or the Thrivent Choice dollar program, contact Mark Dreibelbis.

As an all-volunteer organization, we depend on the generosity and involvement of Dreibelbis cousins and friends who are passionate about the preservation and interpretation of family and PA German History, open space and nature, archeology, and Native American history.

Everything that has happened in the past 19 years has been from the work of volunteers. Upcoming projects include refurbishing the chicken house and ice house and working on lane improvement. Projects relating to the Dreibelbis family center around the care, preservation and documentation of antiques and artifacts in the house. Financial support and donations are always welcome.

The Dreibelbis farm is becoming an important piece of the historical preservation landscape of Berks county. Thanks to our volunteers, we are confident we can preserve this treasure for future generations!



Contact Information: Mark Dreibelbis • President, DFHS • 610-488-7896 • [mjdrei@verizon.net](mailto:mjdrei@verizon.net)

**August 26 – 6th Annual DFHS Farm Festival**

10am - 4pm

Demonstrators, exhibits of PA German Farm life,  
music, lectures, hayrides, hiking, house tours, and food.



## Donations & Acquisitions of Artifacts for DCOA Historical Preservation *"On Display" at the Reunion!*

### Holderbank, Switzerland Photos Donated!

Five photos have been received of the Holderbank, Switzerland church where many of our relatives attended. The photos include a front and rear picture of the outside of the church, one of several gravestones of family members, one of the inside front of the church, and the fifth of the stained-glass window that five "ancestor" brothers (Dübelbeiss) paid for and was installed in the church. This occurred in approximately 1890.

These framed prints were from Col. Robert C. Dreibelbis (correct spelling) J 6-3029x, and were sent to past President of DCOA Earl Dreibelbis, then sent to St. Peter's Church, Fleetwood, PA where Reunions used to be held, and they recently forwarded them on to DCOA.

### DCOA Artifact Purchase Guidelines

Article II of our Constitution, the "objects and purposes" of our organization, includes, "To collect and compile Historical data, and the genealogies of the members, and to make this material available to the Cousins."

### Criteria used to determine whether an item supports our "Objects and Purposes"

- ~ Helps to clarify our ancestors and genealogies
- ~ Can be documented as to authorship
- ~ Names, dates, places identified
- ~ Connects generations
- ~ Our "name" will likely be on it

### Three Photos Donated

According to the wishes of the Kenneth Fry family, three old portraits were donated. Portraits are of:

- Amanda Sayer Dreibelbis, b. 5/14/1850, d. 1/20/1925 (was wife of James H. Dreibelbis (A-5-705).
- Sallie S. Dreibelbis (A-6-2188), b. 12/10/1878, d. 4/27/1902, (Mother of Sadie Dreibelbis Rhoads).
- Sadie Dreibelbis Rhoads (A-7-4390), b. 12/26/1897, d. 7/18/1981, and her husband Nevin Fry. They were married 12/22/1917.



Photo of a previous donation.

*Do you have treasured family heirlooms you would like to have preserved and at the same time make available for extended family members to appreciate? Please consider the DCOA as an organization to do just that!*

## Some History of the Power Supply for the Dreibelbis Mill



*(Somewhat frequently DCOA gets inquiries into the operation of the Dreibelbis Mill at Shoemakersville, PA. The following first-hand account was submitted by Bryan L. Dreibelbis- -"I thought you all may want to know more about the history of our mill.")*

The motor is side shot bronze water turbine. The original shipping papers (in the mill office) share it came from Philadelphia via barge to Reading, then mule train to mill site at Shoemakersville, with manufacturer's drawing included. An inconsistent water supply from mill pond and water wheel led to need for steam engine power. The mill pond would only provide a half day of full power for grinding, thus we moved to steam. The water turbine was a 12' drop from the flume gate to the turbine. We lost the steam engine and boiler when a hired hand impatiently used coal oil to start the coal fired boiler. The coal oil smothered the fire and produced a huge cloud of vaporized oil fumes. He then lit a coal oil soaked rag and threw it into the

boiler, causing a huge explosion destroying the boiler and damaging the slate rock boiler foundation and smoke stack. The base is still there today. We moved to the 2-cylinder diesel as I recall in Oct. 1941- -it is written on the engine at the oiler pump.

I started this engine many mornings when I was 9 years old, and my job was to fill and light the coal oil blow torches to heat the glow plugs by climbing up between the two exhaust pipes. In summer of 1975 we pulled the cylinder heads, replaced the gaskets, and inspected the cylinder bore. Piston rings for this motor were changed in 1954. They are hanging in the mill on the second floor at the northeast door way. There is much history and stories from my grandfather, my dad, and me from my 15 years working in the mill learning the milling trade. Some may recall around the "Folk Festival" we would do "mill tours" showing and telling the process of the long system roller mill.

Dreibelbis Cousins of America  
Dreibelbis Farm Historical Society  
Jane Hornberger, Secretary  
7 Jalappa Road  
Hamburg, PA 19526  
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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US POSTAGE  
PAID  
Reading, PA  
Permit No. 153



### Save the Dates of Future Reunions!

2018 Reunion ..... August 19

2019 Reunion ..... August 18

~ Always the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in August ~

### Officers & Committee Chairs of Dreibelbis Cousins of America

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becky.dreibelbis@gmail.com

Mark J. Dreibelbis..... Reunion Coordinator  
(610) 488-7896 ..... DFHS President  
mjdrei@verizon.net

### *Dreibelbis Family Reunion* 285th Anniversary



*“Our Past ... Bridging to the Future”*

**August 20, 2017**

#### Directions to Historic Dreibelbis Farm

The farm is located on Rt. 143 between Rt. 78 and Rt. 222. From Rt. 78, exit at Lenhartsville and take Rt. 143 south. Pass “our” Dreibelbis Covered Bridge, then through Virginville. Look for Historic Dreibelbis Farm sign, about 200 yards on the right after you leave the village.

From Rt. 222, turn north at Moselem Springs (Sheetz gas station) onto Rt. 662. At the curve after the golf course, take Rt. 143 to the right 1.7 miles toward Virginville. Look on the left for a white sign at the lane to the farm just before the village of Virginville.

**GPS Navigation --** 356 Hard Hill Road, Hamburg, PA 19526