

John Jacob Dreibelbis Cousins of America

Our Past ... Bridging to the Future

June 2019

287th Anniversary Celebration Sunday, August 18, 2019

We are pleased to have the **Miller Brothers** back a second time to provide lively musical entertainment with lots of audience activity! They were a great hit about five years ago and are sure to keep you laughing! Born on a farm above the Dreibelbis covered bridge, at a young age the six boys and a sister began competing with their singing and square dancing. Through the years they earned many awards including first in the state and even got much attention at national events. Seven decades later the Miller boys still love to sing and entertain, blending in a little of our forefathers' Pennsylvanian Dietsch language and accent!



RESTORATION

The Covered Bridge at "Dreibelbis Station"

After several years of planning, public meetings and hearings, fenagling over finances, and seeking approvals from the National Registry of Covered Bridges, ground has finally been broken for the rehabilitation of the covered bridge at Dreibelbis Station.

The building of a bridge had become almost a necessity to growth of the small village because the Maiden (Ontelaunee) Creek created a division that had to be forded several hundred feet downstream. Finally a spot was chosen on the former property of Manassas Dreibelbis for the bridge to be built, and beams and lumber were sawed at Manassas' saw mill. Through the years numerous repairs have needed to be made to the stone abutments as well as the siding and roofing. During hurricane Agnes in 1972, a small bungalow house came washing down the flooded river and

pictures exist showing it smashed against the bridge, but the only real damage was it bowed the bridge and pushed it about 6" downstream on its foundation.

Repairs will involve lifting the entire 172' bridge and setting it down on the eastern bank and taking out soft members and replacing with new, one by one, so as to maintain integrity of the original bridge. The entire under structure will be replaced with steel so as to raise the weight load from 3 tons to 20, preventing farm and construction vehicles from long distances they had to travel around. Roofing, siding, wood trusses, and the decking inside the bridge will be replaced to look just as it did in the past so as to maintain its original look. Once new abutments are built on both banks and covered with natural looking stone, the bridge will be lifted back in place. Currently the Dreibelbis Covered Bridge

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2019 DCOA Reunion Schedule

Reunion Begins (*rain or shine!*) 10:00 am
Meal..... 11:30 am – 1:00 pm
Family Meeting..... 1:15 pm
Entertainment ≈ 2:00 pm

Socialize • Nature Trail (1.1 mi.)
Genealogy Station • Hayrides
Games • House Tours
Family Photos for DCOA Database

Kids' Corner at Reunion

Diane Dreibelbis will continue running the kids activities for the Reunion. This year, she has a nature/horticultural theme for the children. Please allow yourself to enjoy the meeting, entertainment, walking the grounds, and meeting new cousins while your children are in Diane's trusting hands. You may want to bring some boots and garden gloves for the kids in case they go back into the fields behind the house. Let's be proactive against ticks and poison ivy! Some of the older kids may also enjoy helping Diane and the younger children.



*The reunion
will be held,
rain or shine!*

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Search "Dreibelbis Cousins"

www.DreibelbisCousins.org

The Covered Bridge at “Dreibelbis Station”



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is the second longest single span covered bridge in Pennsylvania, and according to an article in the Reading Eagle, is the 15th longest in the United States. Given that notoriety, it is great that we are able to have the family treasure preserved for future generations to appreciate! The rehab project is due to be finished by this coming November.



Manassah Dreibelbis operated a combination of buildings and businesses on this site (on the east side of the Dreibelbis Bridge) that changed function as the needs of his customers changed. It was first a mill to process flax to make linseed oil. After farmers no longer grew flax, the mill was converted into a clover seed mill, then later an apple butter cooker was added (pictured above on right). The apple butter and cider pressing business operated until 1962. A saw mill had also operated on this site as well, which was used to saw lumber for the covered bridge. *To locate site of buildings, cross the bridge to the east and they were located on the left.*

Profiles from the Past

Dreibelbis Cousins Travel West

A regular column looking at eccentric or noteworthy relatives from the past.

By the early 1800's, Berks County was becoming crowded and there was not enough land for all families to have farms, which was the primary occupation of men at that time. Movement to the cities to pursue work other than farming had not started much at that time. The first movements were within Pennsylvania to Columbia, Northumberland, Centre, Clinton, and Verango Counties. Around the same time, Dreibelbis cousins moved west to Ohio, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Indiana, Illinois, and other states or territories in the Midwest. From there, some moved to Oregon, California and other western states on covered wagon caravans.

In 1859, **Joshua (C-04-00101) and Hannah Hinterleiter migrated from Berks County in six days to the State of Nebraska**, with their daughter Mary, and probably the youngest brother Charles Joshua. They made a home out of sod and the grass that grew there as there were no trees in that area. After one year they decided they had enough of this kind of living and they returned to Berks County.

Joshua Breyfogel (C-04-00112) was born in 1808 in Berks County. He married Theresa Gaby in 1834. Their children were born in Cool County, Illinois; Delaware, Ohio; and Missouri. In 1852 the Breyfogel Family left their home (we don't know if home was Ohio, Illinois, or Missouri) and started out for the wild west, but when they had reached Oklahoma (then the Indian Territory), they took sick with the cholera. Many in the group died from the disease. Joshua, his wife Theresa, and daughter Harrietta were among those who did not survive the cholera, dying about thirty miles away from the town of St. Joseph, Oklahoma on the Fort Hall Road, and about three quarters of a mile from the agency. All three died on the same day and were buried on a rising ground about one hundred yards from the road. Joshua requested before he died that the rest of the family should return back to Ohio where some of his relatives were living at the time.

Isaac A. Dreibelbis (A-04-00157), son of Isaac and Leah (Adams) Dreibelbis, was born in Lower Mahanoy Township, Northumberland County, Pennsylvania. He was in the tanning business while living in

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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:

Fred Polaski | Polaski5@comcast.net
32 Georgian Circle | Newark DE 19711-2552

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



If anyone has factual information about John Jacob Dreibelbis' siblings or cousins, please

let us know so it can be preserved. More importantly, if you have information about descendants of John Jacob Dreibelbis, please let us know so that the family tree can be updated. **There are over 23,000 direct descendants of John Jacob Dreibelbis, and over 12,000 recorded spouses,** but the family

tree shows many branches which end

after only a few generations. I would expect that there are many more Dreibelbis cousins who have not been identified, so if anyone would like to have an interesting hobby, one that can be both challenging and rewarding, let me know and I can direct them to locations in the Dreibelbis family tree that need work; or if you have information on the descendants of John Jacob, please provide it to Fred Polaski at Polaski5@Comcast.net.

To gain access to the John Jacob Dreibelbis genealogy in Ancestry.com,



please email Fred Polaski at 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.

Ways to Update Your Genealogy Record

- Complete the form on this page and mail it.
- Download, complete and mail the form from our website at DreibelbisCousins.org > Family History and click on Family Information Submission Form in the genealogy section.
- Email your updates.
- Visit the genealogy station at the Reunion.

Contact Information:

Fred Polaski
Email: Polaski5@comcast.net
Address: 32 Georgian Circle, Newark DE 19711-2552.

COUSINS' CONNECTION

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.

Births

Nathan Joel Dreibelbis

Son of Brian and Liz Dreibelbis
Downingtown, PA
Born 4/29/19

Anita Dreibelbis

Daughter of David and Karen Dreibelbis
Plainsboro, NJ
Born 4/13/18

Obituaries

Eric E. Eck

J-08-05260-01
Died 10/17/18

Orlea Elizabeth Wanamaker Hartman

J-07-05639
Died 10/18/18

Betty Jane Fry Brant

A-08-06352
Died 10/25/18

Shirley Elda Miller

wife of Lee Herbert Miller
(J-08-06723)
Died 11/4/18

Russell L. Heiter

J-EJ-08-05173-02
Died 11/13/18

Robert Jacob Heinly

J-08-05166-02
Died 11/28/18

Lester T. Noll

J-09-06915-01
Died 12/5/18

Lillian Heller

wife of the late Frederick H. Dreibelbis
(J-06-03057)
Died 12/26/18

Galen Hill

husband of Eleanor B. Hill
(J-07-5264)
Died 1/17/19

Leon M. "Kit" Strausser

husband of Doris (Trump) Strausser
(J-07-5517)
Died 1/21/19

Pauline A. (Polly) Heffner

daughter of the late Franklin and
Edna (Adams) Heffner
J-08-6643
Died 2/3/19

Carl S. Schroeder

husband of Anna Violetta (Adam)
Schroeder
(J-08-6526)
Died 2/3/19

Sarah Ann (Fink) Henninger

wife of Robert R. Henninger
(J-07-5208)
Died 3/4/19

Submit Your Articles!

Let us know what is happening in your family so we can include it in next year's newsletter! Submit your articles to Eric Dreibelbis at highmtnepd@frontiernet.net.

Volunteers Needed

Calling on all relatives to:

- Submit birth, marriage and death information for cousins in your area of the country
- Reunion setup, cleanup, sales, or registration help
- Submit newsletter articles
- Newsletter preparation and mailing

Contact Eric Dreibelbis at 717.575.6823 or highmtnepd@frontiernet.net

DCOA Facebook Page



The Facebook page is still going strong. We continue to receive inquiries regarding genealogy, finding friends and cousins, and discussions about donations from Dreibelbis family members. If you'd like to be kept up-to-date on activities at the Dreibelbis Farm or have some information relevant to the Family, please reach out as a Post or Private Message to the Dreibelbis Cousins of America Facebook page. Please note: even if you are not a Facebook member, you should be able to see the Facebook page and the updates provided regarding reunion dates and other items.

*Every family has a story...
welcome to ours!*



DCOA Reunion Registration

August 18, 2019

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.

DCOA Newsletter Printing/Postage (to 1,225 addresses) \$ _____

Genealogy Research/Artifacts/Ancestry.com \$ _____

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: Carolyn Hollenbach, 245 Dreibelbis Mill Road, Shoemakersville, PA 19555.

Please register by August 9, 2019. If registering later, please contact Mark Dreibelbis at (610) 488-7896 or mjdreid@verizon.net.

Travel Plans

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

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

For additional information, contact:

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

Jane Hornberger, jhornbe@verizon.net 610-562-7324

Be Sure to Visit Each Station at the Reunion!

Genealogy Station

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. Or just stop by to say hi and to ask questions. Can't make it? See page 3 to learn how to update your genealogy record!

DCOA Photography Booth

We are continuing our mission to photo-document all the attendees/cousins at the DCOA Reunion (with their permission). Cousins check in, enjoy touring the farm, and then came over to **get individual or group photographs**. Some families preferred to have larger family photos taken also. Photos could also be ordered and shipped. These photographs will document the Dreibelbis Cousins and eventually will correspond with our genealogy in Ancestry.com.



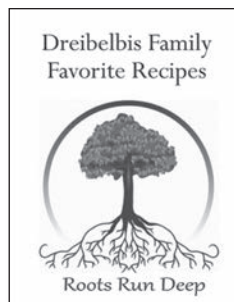
Dreibelbis Store

If you'd like a little **memorabilia** to commemorate your first or even your tenth DCOA reunion, there will be plenty on hand. We will be offering metal stars crafted from the tin roof removed from the Historic Dreibelbis Farm barn, as well as more recent facsimiles, notecards, magnets, coasters, and more. Please stop by the Dreibelbis Store on August 18, 2019!

Artifacts Tent

Near the photography 'booth' we will have several of the **Dreibelbis family artifacts**. Many of these items are extremely sensitive to sunlight and humidity, so weather conditions must be conducive. **If there is an artifact you are interested in seeing, please contact us** before the Reunion and we will make sure it is in the display area. Please note: these artifacts purchased by or donated to the DCOA are to share with the Dreibelbis cousins at large. The Board will continue to protect them for future generations.

Dreibelbis Favorite Recipes!



Dreibelbis Family Favorite Recipes cookbooks are still available for purchase. To purchase, please call Jane E. Hornberger at 610.562.7324. If no answer, please leave a message including your name, phone number, and the number of books you want to purchase. You may also e-mail your request to **jhornbe@verizon.net**. The cost of the book is \$12, plus \$4 for shipping. Contact Jane for multiple book reduced shipping cost. Your check, payable to Dreibelbis

Cousins of America, must be received prior to mailing your order. Your understanding in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Flashback to 2018 Reunion

Cousins were in attendance from California, Delaware, Florida, Kansas, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania. There were 140 Cousins in attendance and awards were given:

Oldest man - John D. Smith, 95, Fleetwood, PA

Oldest woman - Orlea Hartman, 88, Fleetwood, PA

Youngest child present - Bracston Scott Davis, 7 1/2 mo., West Reading, PA

Most recently married - Kristin Hartman, Blandon, PA, 2016

Greatest distance traveled - Tony Boswell family, San Francisco, CA

Door prizes - Jean Davis, Fleetwood, PA and Carl Schrock, Allentown, PA

Dreibelbis Cousins Travel West

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Pennsylvania, having owned and operated a tannery that had been the property of his grandfather. In 1856, at the age of 43, Isaac migrated to the western part of Pennsylvania. From there he moved to Iowa for a short time before moving to Florida where he worked in a sugar refinery plant. From Florida he returned to the Midwest and finally settled in Kansas where he had entered the General Merchandising Business. Isaac is buried in a cemetery near Sabetha, Kansas where he lived at the time of his death in 1896.

Martin M. Dreibelbis (M-04-00174), John Augustus Dreibelbis (M-04-00175), and Lewis Jacob Dreibelbis (M-04-00176) were the sons of Jacob M. Dreibelbis (M-03-00032) and were born in Schuylkill Haven, PA. Martin and John Augustus left Schuylkill Haven for Galena, Illinois where they worked in the lead mines. Lewis Jacob also worked in the lead mines in Galena IL but after having traveled through Canada, Martin left Galena for Minnesota where worked and prospered, having owned considerable land throughout Minnesota and the Dakotas. John Augustus left Galena IL after a few years and went to Kentucky where he went to college and graduated with high honors. In 1843 he enlisted in the US Army when the United States declared war on Mexico. He was discharged at the end of the war with the rank of Major, after which he traveled to Shasta County, CA. He was elected sheriff of the county and later was an Indian Commissioner for the western section of the United States. He died and was buried in Winnemucca NV. Lewis Jacob stayed in Galena IL for several years, and then he and his wife moved to Jones County, Iowa where they helped found Scotch Grove, Iowa. In 1853, and the age of 43, Lewis Jacob left Iowa with a party heading for California to mine for gold. Many of the party did not make it to California due to attacks by Indians, Mormons, and small pox. In 1861, after having sent much gold home, Lewis Jacob and others headed home by ship around Cape Horn to New York, but the ship wrecked off the coast of Mexico. He was one of the few who escaped being killed by the Mexicans, and then took two years to cross Mexico to the Gulf of Mexico where he was able to sail north to New York. While traveling through Ohio, he was stricken with Typhoid fever but survived and finally arrived in Iowa in 1864.

Although he did not stay in California, **Charles K. Dreibelbis (J-04-00208)** traveled from his home in Verango County to California in the 1850 gold rush. He returned to Verango Co., bought a 131 acre farm in Richland Township and lived there until his passing in 1904.

William H. Rothermel, (MM-05-00384) was born in Northumberland County, Pennsylvania, and lived in that community until enlisting in the Union Army when the Civil War broke out. After being discharged from the service, Mr. Rothermel enlisted again and

while serving in the United States Army in Arizona, he was killed by an Indian on July 13, 1869. There is no record of where Mr. Rothermel is buried, and it is possible that he was buried at the place where he was killed while in Arizona.

Franklin E. Dreibelbis (M-05-00763) was born in Schuylkill Haven, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania, and moved to Naperville, Illinois as a child when his parents moved to Illinois. He then lived for some time at Eureka, Kansas. After Mr. Dreibelbis had reached maturity he migrated to Melbourne, Australia where he made his home for some time and where he met his wife. While living in Australia he was interested in horses and made it his business to train horses. Some time later in life he returned to the United States and eventually made his home in Los Angeles, California, where he lived until his death in 1900. After returning to the United States, he and his family moved frequently as his four children were born in Fitzroy, Australia; Eureka, Kansas; South Pasadena, CA; and Naperville, Illinois.

Franklin's brother **Charles Dreibelbis (M-05-00764)** also liked to travel. After growing up in Naperville, Illinois he moved to Eureka Kansas, but then started out to see the world and traveled to several countries. He lived in Alaska for several years, and then settled in Montana where he raised horses and cattle. He operated the "Rock Hill Ranch" a large ranch in Barzle, Montana, in the foothills of the Belt Mountains. When he married late in life he moved to Richmond, California.

A third brother, **George E. Dreibelbis (M-05-00765)** traveled in many lands and places but finally wound up in Alaska where he made his home and where he was a United States Marshall.

A fourth brother, **Louis E. Dreibelbis (M-05-00769)** was in the drug store and music store business. He had a chain of drug stores in Butte, Montana, also the Dreibelbis Music Store. He was the President of the Montana State Pharmaceutical Assoc.

A fifth brother, **Martin E. Dreibelbis (M-05-00771)**, after traveling around the country, settled in Butte near his brother Louis. He previously had been in Alaska mining for gold and in Waco Texas working for his brother Joseph. One day in 1910, Martin was closing up one of Louis' stores when two men tried to hold-up the store. Martin shouted "Get the gun boys", which caused the bandit to shoot and hit Martin in the arm. His brother, George Dreibelbis was also in the store that day. One of the bandits pinned George Dreibelbis, the brother of Martin Dreibelbis, to the wall and then pointed his gun at his head, but in the scuffle and commotion, George caught the bandit off guard and then grabbed him and beat him up so badly that the bandit was glad when finally the police came along and took them away.



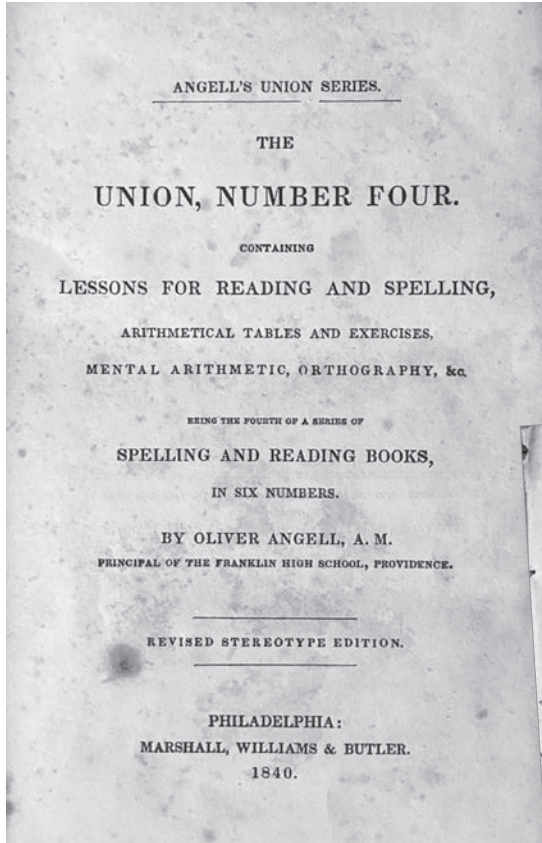
Artifacts



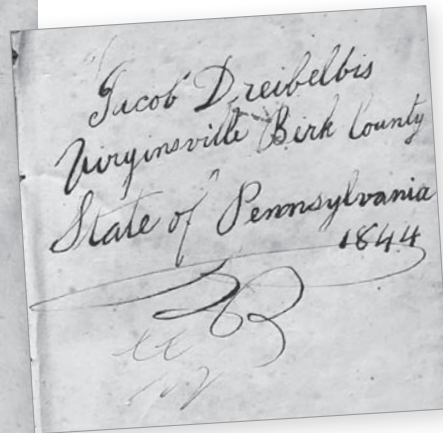
Pictures from past reunions.



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



Since the 2018 DCOA reunion, we were grateful to have acquired a reading and spelling book from 1840 from 'Virginsville', PA. Thank you to friend and relative Jon Acker for continuing to search for historical Dreibelbis items. Two Board members also spent extensive time going through Eleanor Hill's collection of Dreibelbis memorabilia, following her passing. Some items were kept for Dreibelbis posterity. Thank you to her children for donating those items.



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!

Dreibelbis Farm Historical Society

We are now in our 21st year of operation as an organization with the mission to preserve and protect the Jacob B. Dreibelbis (son of the original immigrant, John Jacob Dreibelbis) Homestead farm and to present it to the public for educational, environmental, genealogical, historical, and archaeological purposes.

We continue to be busy throughout the year. Activities at the farm in 2018 included the unique **ice harvesting** demonstration in February, a **guided hike** to replenish the wood duck box nesting material, **spring peeper hike** with naturalist Amy (Dreibelbis) Langman, and a **wild flower walk**. We also have a fall activity with **bonfire, hayrides, and a paranormal group presentation**. The entire year is spent planning for the annual **Farm Festival**. This is held the **fourth Saturday of August** and features over 40 reenactors, crafters, demonstrators, musical groups, and guided tours of the farmhouse. All of this makes the farm "come alive."

Preservation and maintenance are ever present concerns. We continue our efforts to complete an inventory of the house antiques and artifacts. There is ongoing painting and repairing to keep the farm in good condition. Over the past year we have increased efforts at building/restoring the ice house and beehive bake oven.

We have been working with the local colleges to establish internship programs that could assist us in developing further environmental,

historical, and educational programs. This year we have decided to increase our hours of operation, by opening the **2nd Sunday of the month in June, July and September for house tours.**

The endowment fund through the Thrivent "Choice Dollars" program continues to benefit us. At no cost to them, all Thrivent Financial members are entitled, on a quarterly basis, to select a non-profit or charity to receive money from Thrivent. Thank you to all Thrivent members who have made the DFHS the recipient of their Choice Dollar Funds. For more information on how to sign up, contact Mark Dreibelbis.

The DFHS has been blessed with many fine volunteers, and we are able to accomplish all that we do only because of our dedicated volunteers. Much work remains to get the farm in top shape: construction, restoration, preservation and cataloguing artifacts, painting, and gardening. We also always are in need of tour guides and farm festival helpers. There is room for more dedicated helpers to carry out our mission. Contact Mark Dreibelbis to volunteer.

Our mission is progressing, and we are happy to preserve this gem of Dreibelbis family history for future generations.



August 24
8th Annual DFHS Farm Festival
10am - 4pm

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

Contact Information
Mark Dreibelbis
President, DFHS
610-488-7896
mjdrei@verizon.net

**Dreibelbis Cousins of America
Dreibelbis Farm Historical Society**

Carolyn Hollenbach, Secretary
245 Dreibelbis Mill Road
Shoemakersville, PA 19555

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**Save the Dates
Future Reunions!**

2020 Reunion.....August 16
2021 Reunion.....August 15

~ Always the 3rd Sunday in August ~

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

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mjdrei@verizon.net

Dreibelbis Family Reunion
August 18, 2019
287th Anniversary



"Our Past ... Bridging to the Future"

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