

John Jacob Dreibelbis Cousins of America

Our Past ... Bridging to the Future

June 2020

288th Anniversary Celebration

Sunday, August 16, 2020

In this year of uncertainty due to COVID-19, **we are going ahead and making plans to hold our Reunion as usual (see more about possible cancellation on page 5)**. We have chosen to not bring in an outside speaker. Instead, our Vice President Jean Davis - and also tour guide of the farm house - will share information and lead discussion about the Dreibelbis family history!

Dreibelbis History Presentation

A brief history (in time) of the Dreibelbis Family, starting with John Jacob's emigration to the new world and culminating in the speaker's personal connection to the family. Historic information about the various Dreibelbis properties in the vicinity, and how the farm was purchased and preserved. What the organization is doing to collect and properly catalogue Dreibelbis artifacts. Finally, what are the future plans for the organization and how we can assist in the efforts. Question and answer period will be held with the assistance of our Historian and other cousins!



Dreibelbis Station Bridge

Restoration Project Underway

The restoration experts continue to make progress on the renovation of the 172'6" Dreibelbis Covered Bridge. At this time last year they were just making final plans for the project and to-date are progressing on schedule.

Throughout last summer the roof and siding were carefully removed, all piece by piece! By the first week of September it was ready to be lifted in full length sections off the foundation and laid to the side. A flat stretch of rock and gravel had been created on the west side against the bank and sticking out into the creek. When the giant crane arrived, this is when the sections of the two sides with the Burr Arches all intact, and the flooring structure were each lifted and set down. Every single piece was individually numbered prior to dismantling. The entire bridge was then loaded onto flat-bed tractor trailers and taken to the reconstruction site in York County, PA.

What then continued through late fall and the winter was reconstruction of the walls and flooring. After all was laid out at the work area, each piece was assessed as to its strength and condition, with all unsuitable pieces removed and an "exact" replacement made and fit into the structure. Fortunately, through the constant contact of cousin Lester Miller with the crew foreman, a bus trip was set-up to go over to view the site and progress being made on fitting together the new sections. The precision of the work was impressive - but most intriguing was that the same process had to be done on-site back in 1872 without the convenience of modern-day power tools. - continued on page 2



The bridge lifting drew quite a crowd!

COVID-19 Note

At present, we are making plans to hold the 2020 Reunion. **A final decision will be made by July 26, 2020.** This decision will be based on recommendations by the PA state and local government agencies.

An announcement will be posted to both the **DreibelbisCousins.org** website and **Dreibelbis Cousins Facebook** page. If you provide a phone number on your registration form, you will also receive a phone call. *Please see page 5 for further registration details.*

2020 Reunion Schedule

Reunion Begins (rain or shine!) 10:00 am
Meal 11:30 am – 1:00 pm
Family Meeting 1:15 pm
Dreibelbis History Presentation ≈ 2:00 pm

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

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Visit us at **dreibelbiscousins.org** or
on **Facebook** for more
information about DCOA!

Dreibelbis Station Bridge

- continued from cover

As of this writing, the wooden undercarriage and side-wall sections are being lifted back into place on top of steel weight-supporting beams that will increase the weight limit to 20 tons. Hopefully by Reunion time, there will be an impressive structure on-site. Reunion attendees will want to take a short three mile drive north along the Maiden Creek (Route #173) to check out the progress!



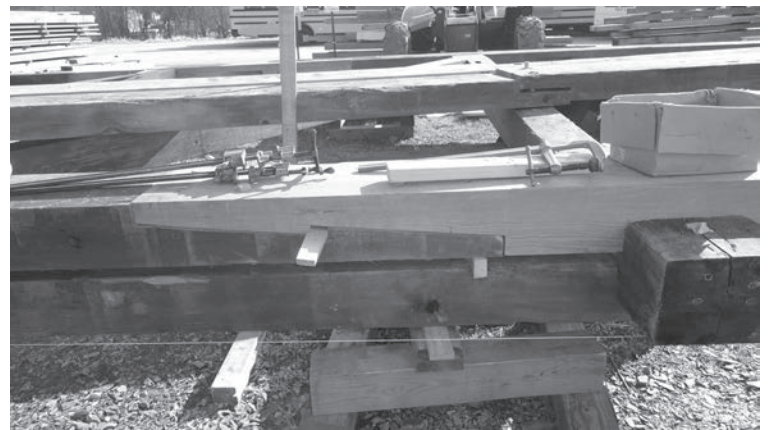
Siding is all gone and roof removal in progress.



"Poison" warning stamped on beam from Dreibelbis bridge. Poison was used to keep bugs and critters from chewing on it.

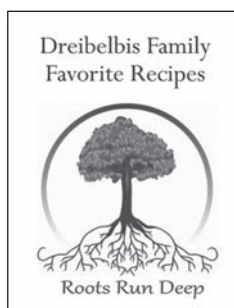


One side wall with Burr Arch. Beams that are lighter color are ones that have been replaced.



Joint showing new and old wood with peg driven in to tighten the joint.

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 2019 Reunion

Cousins were in attendance from Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Virginia, Washington and Pennsylvania. There were 127 registered Cousins in attendance and awards were given:

Oldest man - Carl Schock, 95, Allentown, PA

Oldest woman - Evelyn Heffner, 88, Timonium, MD

Youngest child present - Nathan Dreibelbis, 3 mos.,
Downingtown, PA

Most recently married - Desiree and Randy Rickenbach, May
2019, Mohrsville, PA

Greatest distance traveled - Jennifer Davis, Seattle, WA

Door Prize Winners - Brian Dreibelbis, Downingtown, PA and
Tammi Flowers, Hartford, CT

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,



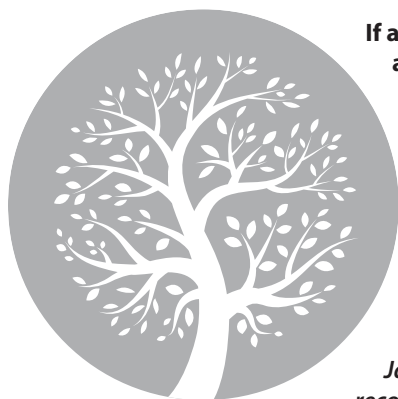
please email Fred Polaski at Polaski5@comcast.net so that Fred can "invite" cousins to give them access to all the information in Ancestry.com, such as dates of birth, death, and marriage, town of residence, and Dreibelbis genealogy number.

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.

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

Call or text Eric Dreibelbis at 717.575.6823 or highmtnepd@frontiernet.net

Donations are Always Needed and Appreciated!

If you are interested in supporting Dreibelbis Cousins of America (DCOA), there are several areas to which you could contribute!

- DCOA Newsletter Printing/Postage (to 1,050 addresses)
- Genealogy Research/Artifacts/Ancestry.com
- Website Fees
- Cemetery Maintenance

Contributions can be mailed to Fred Polaski, treasurer, at 32 Georgian Circle | Newark DE 19711-2552.

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 **by May 1 each year** to be included in next year's newsletter.

Births

Margaret Helen Krauss

daughter of Carol Dreibelbis and husband Simon Krauss
Arlington, VA
Born 05/07/20

Obituaries

Jeffrey A. Adam

J-09-6696-1
Died 10/30/19

Daniel C. Dietrich

EJ-08-06816
Died 08/05/19

Darlene S. (Miller) Dondore

daughter of Lester D. and Theodora (Schopell) Miller
J-08-5289-3
Died 10/18/19

Mary Jane Ochs Dreibelbis

wife of Paul D. Dreibelbis
(A-98-06270)
Died 01/12/20

Willard S. Dreibelbis

J-07-5649
Died 02/09/20

Kathryn S. Gehris

daughter of William & Helen (Moyer) Weidenhammer
C-07-3508
Died 08/15/19

Francis Hollenbach Heffner

J-07-1081-6
Died 03/20/20

Malcolm Hollenbach Heffner

J-07-1081-7
Died 01/21/20

Shirley L. Herring

wife of Donald E. Herring
(J-08-4980-1)
Died 05/08/18

Dennis R. LaFaver, Sr.

husband of Janice (Lutz) LaFaver
(J-08-6676)
Died 12/30/19

Mildred M. Merkel

wife of Thomas J. Merkel
(J-08-4781)
Died 02/03/20

Marlene Miller

J-07-5641
Died 02/03/20

Shirley M. (Deisher) R(a)emaly

J-08-6663
Died 12/26/19

Kenneth L. Schappell

J-09-6609-1
Died 01/06/20

Clara M. Schucker

J-07-5322
Died 12/18/19

John D. Smith

J-07-5602
Died 09/08/19

Janice I. Werley

J-08-5269-5
Died 12/22/19

2020 Registration Instructions

Due to uncertainty of reunion being held this year, **PLEASE HOLD PAYMENT UNTIL THE DAY OF THE REUNION.**

Mail ONLY the registration form to: Carolyn Hollenbach, 245 Dreibelbis Mill Road, Shoemakersville, PA 19555.

Payment should be made the day of the Reunion. Cash or checks will be accepted. **Credit card payments are UNABLE to be accepted.** If checks are received and the Reunion is cancelled, they will be destroyed rather than being returned.

Please register by August 7, 2020. If registering later, please contact Mark Dreibelbis at (610) 488-7896 or mjdrei@verizon.net.

If Reunion is Cancelled or Postponed

A final decision will be made by July 26, 2020. This decision will be based on recommendations by the PA state and local government agencies. If postponed, the Reunion will be held on September 27.

An announcement will be posted to both the **DreibelbisCousins.org** website and **Dreibelbis Cousins Facebook** page. If you provide your phone number on your registration form, you will also receive a phone call.

DCOA Reunion Registration

August 16, 2020

Family Name: _____

attending: _____ **Phone #:** _____

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

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

_____ Ages 5 and under FREE \$ FREE

_____ Choosing not to eat? \$ FREE

Total Due (payment due at Reunion) \$ _____

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

Retain for your Records

Payment due the day of Reunion \$ _____

Things to Do at Reunion!

Socialize • Hayrides • Games • House Tours • Appreciate 1900's Farm • Nature Trail (1.1 mi.)

Kids' Corner

Our Kid's Corner this year will again be organized and supervised by Dreibelbis Cousin and volunteer, Diane Dreibelbis. She plans on making summer sock puppets with the children this year. Feel free to bring one of your own miscellaneous socks that always seem to run away from its partner. If not, we'll have some available.

As always there will be large Legos for the little ones, coloring, and other activities. Feel free to let your kids enjoy these activities while you take in the history of the farm, listen to the presentation, and just enjoy some peace and quiet. There may be a story time while adults enjoy the presentation. Any recommendations, questions, or concerns, please contact Amy Langman at birdgyrl@gmail.com.

The Dreibelbis Reunion Rocks!

In keeping with the kindness rock movement throughout the nation, there will be numerous painted rocks hidden around the farm. Each will depict an historic feature of the farm or contents of the house; you will need to take the tour to find out the history of what is depicted. You are welcome to keep your painted rock or re-hide it for others to enjoy; either on the farm or elsewhere. Feel free to bring your own painted rocks to hide and share - we especially welcome positive messages spreading kindness. See you at the Reunion!



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.

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!

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 16, 2020!

DCOA Photography Booth

Please stop by the Artifacts Tent to visit Amy (Dreibelbis) Langman if you're visiting for the first time or maybe haven't attended a Reunion in a few years. She is actively photo-documenting all living Dreibelbis Cousins at each Reunion and family gathering in hopes of including them, with your permission, into the Ancestry.com database someday.

Profiles from the Past

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

Hannah K. Dreibelbis Hoch

Restored Family Cemetery in 1832

Most cousins have heard about the restoration of the Dreibelbis family cemetery in 1932 at the time of the 200 year anniversary, but did you know that Hannah K. Dreibelbis Hoch restored the cemetery in 1832? From the 1990 Dreibelbis family book:

Mrs. Hoch had been the last of the original Daniel Dreibelbis Family folks who had been interested in the matters of the Old Dreibelbis Homestead Farm and Cemetery after it had been sold to the Shollenberger Family; as she had been the last of the Dreibelbis Folks to have the "Dreibelbis Burial Grounds" on the farm repaired. That was in 1832, and she had gone to quite a lot of trouble and expense as she had built a fence clear around the lot and had straightened out all of the grave markers and had planted Lillies of the Valley on the entire lot so as to keep the weeds and thorns from spreading.

Samuel L. Dreibelbis

First Dreibelbis Cousin to Take Interest in Family Tree

Samuel L. Dreibelbis (J-04-00248, born 3-25-1848, died April 13, 1921) was the first Dreibelbis cousin to take an interest in the Dreibelbis family tree. Samuel was a physician, graduating from Hahnemann Medical College in Philadelphia in 1871. He practiced in Reading PA for many years was the Obstetrician at the Homeopathic Hospital in Reading. He was very involved with the First Evangelical Church of Reading where he was the Sabbath School Superintendent for 18 years. From the 1990 Dreibelbis family book:

Dr. Dreibelbis also had spent some time in Europe where he had made a careful search of the origin of the Dreibelbis name and the birthplace of the immigrant, Johann Jacob Dreibelbis, but for some unknown reasons the data that he had gathered got lost and therefore much of the information that he had could not be located. When the compiler of these articles had asked the daughters of Dr. Dreibelbis about the data, they told him that it was thrown out into the scrap and burned.

Daniel R. Dreibelbis

Farmer in State College, PA

Daniel R. Dreibelbis (A-MM-05-00344), son of Martin (A-04-00131) and Hannah Rothermel (MM-04-00072) Dreibelbis, was born in Richmond Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania. When he was twelve years of age his parents moved to Millheim, Center County, Pennsylvania where he grew to manhood and where he worked on his father's farm until he went to work for himself.

Daniel was a farmer and owned and operated a large farm at State College, Pennsylvania, which now is part of the Penn State University campus golf course. In 1976, in celebration of the 200th anniversary of the United States, four of his great grandsons (Jack H. A-08-05743, Donald A. A-08-05744, Galen E. A-08-05745, and Dan A. A-08-05746a Dreibelbis) erected a stone monument on the foundation of the original homestead at State College, PA. The monument was built with stone collected from farms that were owned by the Dreibelbis clan from all corners of Pennsylvania. The monument honors the John Jacob Dreibelbis Cousins of America.

Marriages to Distant Cousins

Kissing Cousins???

The Dreibelbis family tree includes at least 183 marriages between Dreibelbis cousins. Although many of these marriages were between distant cousins who were known to each other as cousins, some of these marriages were between distant cousins who did not learn they were related until after being married for many years. One of these marriages was between Jason F. Dreibelbis (J-08-06670), the former President of the Dreibelbis Cousins of America, and Eleanor Jane Moyer (MM-08-00365b). They were married in 1948. After raising 3 sons and both Jason's and Eleanor's retirement from the field of education, they purchased the farm where Eleanor was born in Mertztown, PA. When Eleanor researched her family history she learned in 1990 that she was a descendant of Mary Magdalena Dreibelbis, through the family tree of Rothermel, Deisher, Schelgel, and Moyer, and is also descended from Merkel, Schaeffer, Rohrbach, Bush, and Fox, all of German descent. That makes her children not only Dreibelbis cousins, but double cousins on both sides.

Charles B. Breyfogel

Bishop, United Evangelical Church of the Eastern Conference

Many Dreibelbis cousins have become ministers of many different Protestant religions, but of special note is Charles B. Breyfogel (C-05-00529). In 1875, Charles entered the ministry of the United Evangelical Church of the Eastern Conference and in 1891 became a Bishop of the church. When the Czar of Russia issued the edict of religious tolerance, Bishop Breyfogel traveled to Russia and personally secured recognition from the Russian authorities for the planting of the Evangelical church in Russia.

Joseph M. Dreibelbis

A Family of Adventurers!

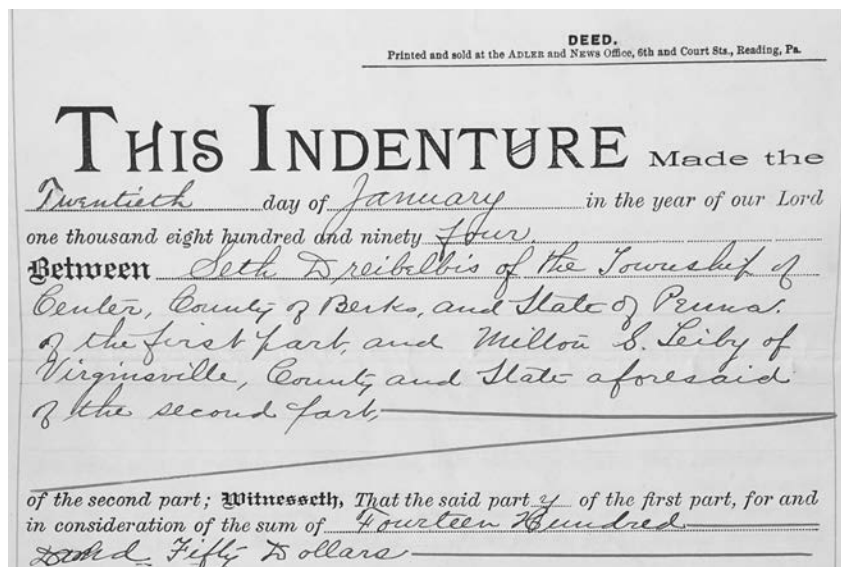
(And beware of those Dreibelbis boys!)

Joseph M. Dreibelbis (M-04-00179) was born in Schuykill Haven, as were his 10 children, but later he and his wife moved the family to Naperville, IL and then Eureka, KS. Some of his children were even more adventurous. Son Franklin (M-05-00763) traveled to Australia where he married and raised horses, then returned and lived in Los Angeles. Son Charles (M-05-00764) lived in Alaska and several other countries, then returned to the United States and settled in Montana where he operated a large cattle ranch known as "Rock Hill Ranch." Son George (M-05-00765) traveled the world and settled in Alaska where he was U. S. Marshall. Son Charles (M-05-769) was not as adventurous as his older brothers, but was in the drug store business in Eureka KS, Dallas TX, and Butte Montana. In Montana he ran a wholesale pharmaceutical business that supplied all the retail drugs to stores in Montana and Idaho, along with being in business with his brother Charles on the Rock Hill Ranch. Son Martin (M-05-00771) worked in Waco TX, Dallas TX, and was in Butte Montana in his brother Louis's store when it was robbed. Brothers Charles and George were also there when a pair of the toughest robbers in the west tried to rob the store at gun point, but the Dreibelbis brothers got the better of them and beat them so badly the robbers were glad when the police arrived to arrest them.

Acquisitions & Donations

Artifacts for DCOA Historical Preservation

"On Display" at the Reunion!



We recently acquired two deeds, one from Seth Dreibelbis to Milton S. Leiby and one from Jacob and Magdalena Dreibelbis to Milton S. Leiby. These deeds including property transfers in "Virginsville, Berks Co, Pa." are from 1894 and 1904 respectively, and were gifted to us specifically by Sheryle Baer. We are very grateful that the DCOA is considered worthy of family artifacts and donations. These deeds and other artifacts will be on display during the 288th Reunion.

While you're checking out these items, please check out all the other amazing items we have in the Artifacts tent (see page 5). There is an elaborate Bible from approximately 1888, feed bags, platters and dishes, birth and deed certificates, and family photos.

Dreibelbis Farm Historical Society

We are moving ahead! The past year was an active one as we continued to preserve and protect this 18th century treasure of family history, and present it to the public for educational, historical, environmental, genealogical, and archeological purposes.

Traditional programs that took place were well attended. The Farm Festival in August was again a great success. The Fall Family event with bonfire and hayride had close to 90 people. The ice harvesting demonstration this February was unfortunately during a mild stretch of weather and there was no ice to cut. But the event still drew 60+ visitors as we talked about tools and the history of ice harvesting. The late winter walk where we do maintenance on our wood duck boxes was squeezed in just before the State shut down. Over 60 people participated and 2 screech owls also attended!

Unfortunately, due to the PA shutdown, both the spring peeper and wild flower walks were cancelled. We also had our first-time barn dance/ hoe down scheduled for the end of May but this was also cancelled. **At this time, we are still uncertain if the August 22 Farm Festival will be held. A decision will be made by July 26.** Keep your eye on the website, dreibelbisfarm.org. or check us out on Facebook for further info.

Farm work on 180 acres can occur while practicing social distancing. We have lots of room to spread out so many of our maintenance and clean-up activities have continued.

A self-guided wildflower and native plant trail has been created by relative, Dick Miller of Topton and his friend Plummer Dunkle. Participants can follow the trail map to the plant locations.



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 at mjdrei@verizon.net or 610-488-7896.

The DFHS has been blessed with many fine volunteers, and we are able to accomplish all that we do only because of our dedicated workers. Much work remains to get the farm in top shape: construction, restoration, and preservation as well as 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.

We also would not be able to preserve the farm and plan these activities without all of the financial support that we have gotten from relatives, friends, and supporters. Every dollar is appreciated.

Finally, we would like to mention that the Dreibelbis Farm Historical Society (DFHS) is a distinct organization. While we share many of the same goals and volunteers as the Dreibelbis Cousins of America (DCOA), and we host the Dreibelbis family reunion, we are a separate organization. All donations made to the DFHS are put to use to maintain this historic property.

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

August 22 - tentative 9th Annual DFHS Farm Festival 10am - 4pm

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

Please check the dreibelbisfarm.org website or Facebook page to see if event will be held this year.
A decision will be made by July 26.

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
Reading, PA
Permit No. 153

DCOA Facebook Page



Eight years ago, we started a Facebook page. We typically receive inquiries regarding genealogy, finding long-lost friends, and discussions about donations from Dreibelbis family members. All inquiries are sent to the appropriate Board member and we try to answer everything as efficiently and accurately as possible.

Please note: even if you are not a Facebook member, you can still see the Facebook page content and the updates provided regarding reunion dates and other pertinent items.

Officers & Committee Chairs of Dreibelbis Cousins of America

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mjdrei@verizon.net

Dreibelbis Family Reunion 288th Anniversary



We are looking forward to seeing you on
August 16, 2020 at the Historic Dreibelbis Farm.
Register today!

Historic Dreibelbis Farm
356 Hard Hill Road
Hamburg, PA 19526

Save the dates of future reunions!

2021 Reunion.....August 15
2022 Reunion.....August 21

~ Always the 3rd Sunday in August ~