

# John Jacob Dreibelbis Cousins of America

Our Past ... Bridging to the Future

June 2021

## 289th Anniversary Celebration

Sunday, August 15, 2021

Greetings to all Cousins across the USA and abroad! Last year was, unfortunately, the first year our Reunion was cancelled since 1966, and we look forward to getting back on track this summer! We have performed a survey to judge interest, and of those contacted, there is a strong interest in holding the Reunion.

**Here is how we can have a safe Reunion** and still enjoy our usual fellowship:

- No food or drink will be served.
- Bring a picnic or take-out lunch and your own utensils, napkins, etc.
- Bring your own chairs and masks.
- We will still have house tours - reduced group size.
- Hayrides held with separated seating.
- We will have our meeting outside, as we did 20 years ago.
- Hand sanitizing stations.

However, to ensure there is adequate interest, **we must receive 50 registrations by August 1.** Should we be forced to cancel, an announcement will be posted to:

- DreibelbisCousins.org website
- Dreibelbis Cousins Facebook page
- VP Jean Davis' voice mail @ 610.944.6357

Should bad weather be predicted immediately prior to the Reunion, announcements will be posted by these means listed above.

### 2021 Reunion Schedule and Activities

Reunion Begins ..... 10:00 am  
Enjoy Your Picnic..... 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

### 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 catalog 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!

### Inside This Issue

Acquisitions & Donations .....	2
Genealogy Info .....	3
Cousins' Connection .....	4
Reunion Registration & Details .....	5
Dreibelbis Farm Historical Society .....	6
Profiles From the Past .....	6
Lizzie Moyer 1914 Vacation .....	7

Visit us at [dreibelbiscousins.org](https://dreibelbiscousins.org) or on Facebook for more information about DCOA!

### Dreibelbis Station Bridge

After about five years of planning and reconstruction, the Dreibelbis Station Covered Bridge is finally completed! The exterior received the most new material, with the interior able to retain- many of the supporting beams. The bridge does qualify to remain on the National Registry of Covered Bridges, meaning that at least 50% of existing material had to be in the new bridge. To see more photos and view the dedication ceremony on YouTube, go to [https://youtu.be/sm6E4\\_y65HY](https://youtu.be/sm6E4_y65HY).



## 1918 Pandemic Tough on Our Ancestors

by Jean Davis

In 1918, our last major pandemic killed 675,000 people in the US, with 50 million deaths worldwide. The H1N1 virus responsible is believed to have been avian in nature. Strangely, mortality was higher in the very young (less than 5), those 20-40, and those over 65. With no vaccine to prevent disease, and no antibiotics to treat the secondary bacterial infections, physical controls were their only option. That included masks, quarantine, and limited exposure, which, of course, sounds familiar today.

Research was done into the genealogy of Dreibelbis cousins who perished during this time. Of course, the cause of death is not listed in the records, so one cannot be certain that these folks died from the pandemic, but in many cases, it is fairly apparent considering the timing. There were 102 cousins who died in 1918, or the first half of 1919 when the third wave hit.

There were eleven deaths of very young children during this time. Of those aged 20-40, we lost 33 cousins. Those 65 or older may have died of natural causes, however there are 25 on this list. In addition, there are some records

with heartbreaking stories of multiple deaths in one family; relationships are listed where they could be verified.

**Esther Viola Adam**, aged one, died in November 1918. **James Kline Adam**, aged 63, died in September of 1918. An infant with no first name, last name **Breiner** died at four days old in 1918. In the same family, a **Lewis Breiner**, aged 53, and a **Catharine Breiner**, aged 27, both from West Penn Township, died in January 1919. Lewis was the grandfather of the infant, his daughter, **Catharine**, the aunt.

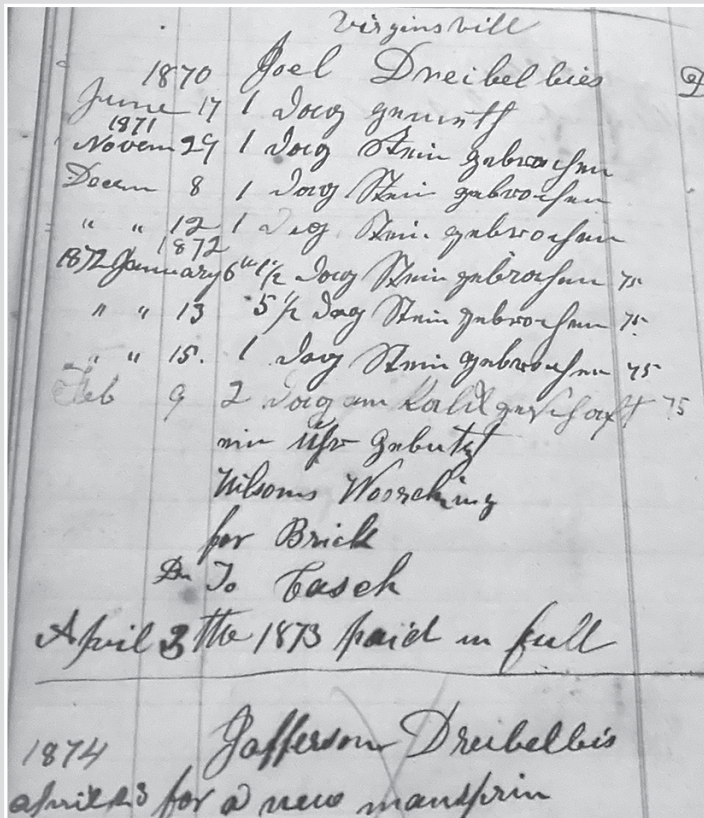
**Alexander C. Dreibelbis** died at age 31, **Charles D. Dreibelbis** was 41, and

- continued on page 7



## Acquisitions & Donations

Artifacts for DCOA Historical Preservation  
"On Display" at the Reunion!



### Record Books

Despite the pandemic, we were fortunate to receive a few donations to add to the DCOA artifact collection. These items will be displayed at the 289th Reunion.

Two record books were received courtesy of a friend of Barry Bennecoff, Shoemakersville, PA. The first book has records for watchmaking from Lynnville and Virginville, PA circa 1868-1877. Many of the earlier entries are still in Deutsch (the dialect of our ancestors) and we would welcome some translation of what was being recorded. The second book is from brick-making company, W.B. Schappell of Virginsville, PA, from 1870-1877.

Each book contains many "Dreibelbis" transactions including Joel, John, Jacob, Gustav, August, William, Manassas, and more (image shown above).

### Auction Finds

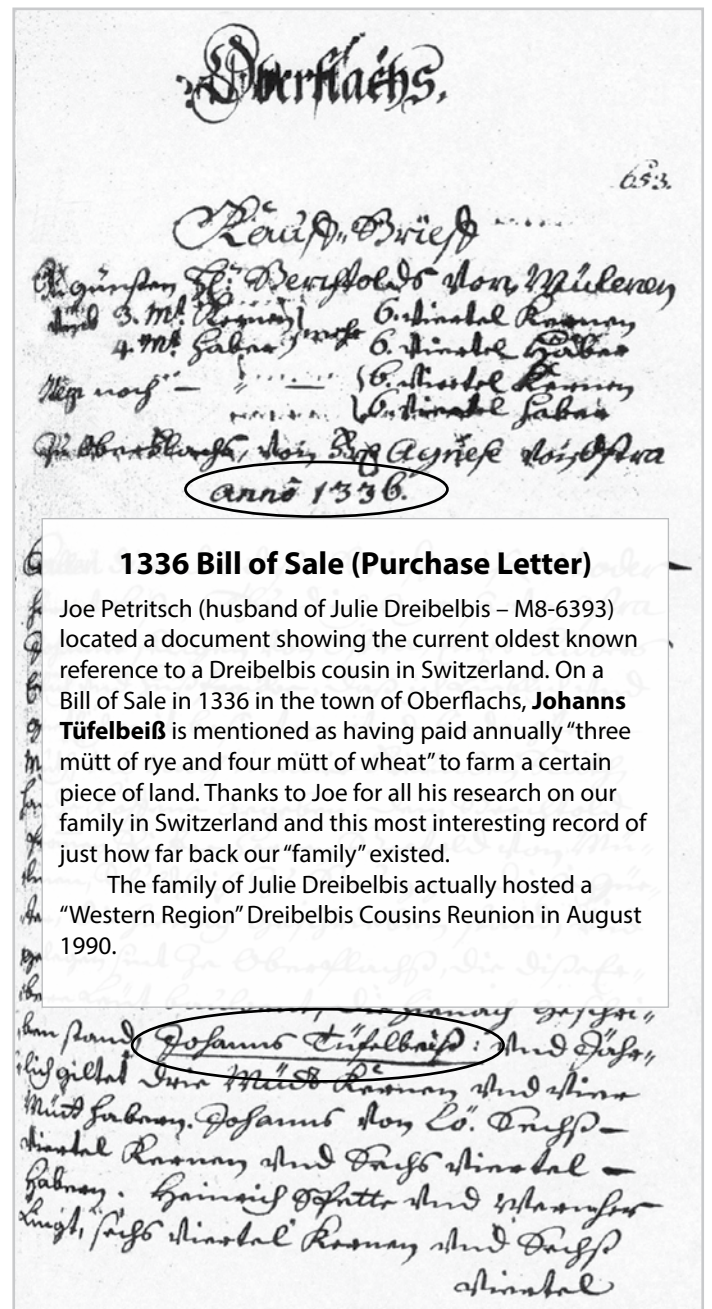
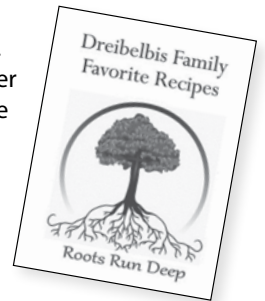
Cousin Kelley Leisey of Mohrsville, PA has again been busy at the local auctions looking for "Dreibelbis" memorabilia, and donations this year have included:

- The History of Virginville by Lloyd Dreibelbis
- Plate: Dreibelbis and Kaufman. Virginville PA
- 2 Plates: Dreibelbis and son 1941. Virginville PA
- Class Photo from Virginville School approx. 1908 with picture of Sallie Dreibelbis (who lived at the farm)
- White Rose Flour Bag W.H. Dreibelbis (from the mill) Shoemakersville PA

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 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](mailto: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.



### 1336 Bill of Sale (Purchase Letter)

Joe Petritsch (husband of Julie Dreibelbis – M8-6393) located a document showing the current oldest known reference to a Dreibelbis cousin in Switzerland. On a Bill of Sale in 1336 in the town of Oberflachs, **Johanns Tüfelbeiß** is mentioned as having paid annually "three mütt of rye and four mütt of wheat" to farm a certain piece of land. Thanks to Joe for all his research on our family in Switzerland and this most interesting record of just how far back our "family" existed.

The family of Julie Dreibelbis actually hosted a "Western Region" Dreibelbis Cousins Reunion in August 1990.

# 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](http://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,



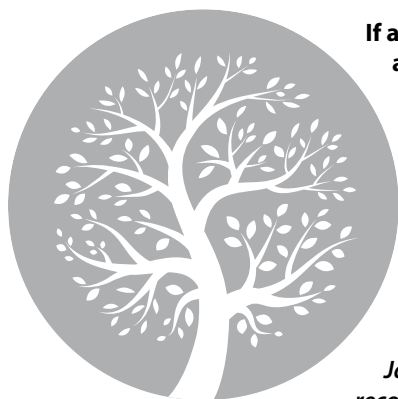
please email Fred Polaski at Polaski5@comcast.net so that Fred can "invite" cousins to give them access to all the information in Ancestry.com, such as dates of birth, death, and marriage, town of residence, and Dreibelbis genealogy number.

## 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](http://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

## Assistance Needed with DCOA Genealogy

*Without documentation of our family members and connections, Dreibelbis Cousins of America wouldn't exist.*

If you love researching our current families and ancestors, you may be just who we need! Our number of families recorded has approximately tripled in the past 20 years, there is incorrect information on Ancestry.com that should be corrected, and new information is constantly arriving. If you have an interest in helping with documentation of our family, please contact Fred Polaski - Historian, or Eric Dreibelbis. Contact info is listed on last page of the newsletter.

## "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.

## 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](mailto:highmtnepd@frontiernet.net) by **May 1 each year** to be included in next year's newsletter.

## 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

Reach out to Eric Dreibelbis if you would like to help. Contact info is listed on last page.

## 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
- John Jacob Dreibelbis Cemetery Maintenance

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

## Obituaries

**Patricia A. Dietrich**  
*wife of James T. Dietrich*  
(A-09-6291 A-4)  
Died 08/08/2020

**Nancy Lee Dreibelbis Collins**  
M-08-06430  
Died 04/03/19

**Betty C. Dietrich Dreibelbis**  
J-07-02998-07  
*wife of Earl George Dreibelbis*  
(J-A-07-05313)  
Died 02/02/2021

**Betty J. Dreibelbis**  
*wife of Lloyd E. Dreibelbis*  
(J-07-05252)  
Died 01/26/21

**Catherine M. Dreibelbis**  
*wife of the late Oscar H. Dreibelbis*  
(J-07-05600)  
Died 02/10/20

**Jack Dreibelbis**  
MMA-08-5743  
Died 04/20/2021

**Jesse Edward Dreibelbis**  
A-08-04372-01  
Died 08/03/2019

**Lee Lavern Dreibelbis**  
A-09-07053  
Died 10/26/2018

**Marie Kreiser Dreibelbis**  
*wife of Lee Lavern Dreibelbis*  
(A-09-07053)  
Died 12/30/2019

**Robert Richard Dreibelbis**  
J-07-05628  
Died 06/27/2020

**Ella M. Miller Engel**  
J-08-06721  
Died 09/07/2018

**Reta May Shock Galante**  
M-08-04563-04  
Died 04/13/2020

**Donald Harvey Kerchner**  
J-06-02909  
11/2020

**Ruth Mary Dreibelbis Kerschner**  
J-A-07-05310  
Died 07/27/2020

**Richard G. LaFaver**  
*husband of Janice C. Lutz LaFaver*  
(J-08-06676)  
Died 01/28/20  
*Incorrectly listed as Dennis R. LaFaver in the 2020 newsletter.*

**Carolyn Jane Taby Larkins**  
MM-08-00079-07  
Died 07/14/20

**Elaine J. Miller**  
J-08-6527  
Died 02/27/21

**Marshall L. Miller**  
J-08-6717b  
Died 04/12/21

**Warren G. Miller**  
*husband of Jane A. Kemp*  
(J-08-06800)  
Died 08/25/2020

**Doris Savage**  
J-08-6760  
Died 02/20/2021

**Clair Carl Seidel**  
J-08-06631b  
Died 06/29/2020

**Daniel Robert Seidel**  
J-09-4709-5  
Died 02/02/2021

**Carl Raymond Schock**  
M-08-04563-02  
Died 01/15/2020

**David J. Smith**  
J-08-05620-01  
06/10/2020

**Ruth A. Hottenstein Smith**  
*wife of John D. Smith*  
(J-07-05602)  
Died 05/09/2020

Listed obituaries are those reported since the 2020 newsletter.



## How to Register for 2021 Reunion

### Mail the registration form to:

Carolyn Hollenbach  
245 Dreibelbis Mill Road  
Shoemakersville, PA 19555

**Please register by August 1, 2021.** We need a minimum of 50 registrations by then in order to hold the Reunion. Any questions or concerns, contact President Eric P. Dreibelbis (contact info on page 8).

## DCOA Reunion Registration

August 15, 2021

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

**# attending:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone #:** \_\_\_\_\_

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

## Be Sure to Visit Each Station at the Reunion!

### 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 15, 2021!

### 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!

### Bowl Cozies for Sale

Vice-President Jean Davis has been busy making Bowl Cozies! These will be available for \$5 during the Reunion. Proceeds will go to DCOA.



### Kids' Corner

Our Kids' 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 to choose from.

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 also be a story time while adults enjoy the presentation.

### Photography & Artifacts Booths

We will continue, with permission of the Cousin, to photograph anyone that is attending the Reunion for the first time or if you haven't attended the Reunion recently.

On August 15th, cousins may check in and then come over to get individual or group photographs. Some families preferred to have larger family photos taken also. Photos could also be ordered and shipped. We will continue to take photographs, which will document the Dreibelbis Cousins and eventually will correspond with our genealogy in Ancestry.com.

The Artifacts Booth will display several of the Dreibelbis family artifacts including feed bags, platters and dishes, birth and deed certificates, family photos, and the newly acquired record books. 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 family. The Board will continue to protect them for future generations.

## THE COUNTRY BOY'S CREED

*Note: This item was also among the writings from Lizzie Moyer's notebook as mentioned in the article, "My Vacation 1914" on page 7. It emphasizes the strong feelings that farm families had for their way of life.*

I believe that the country which God made is more beautiful than the city which man made; that life out of doors and in touch with the earth, is the natural life of man.

I believe that work with nature is more inspiring than work with the most intricate machinery.

I believe that the dignity of labor depends not on what you do, but how you do it; that opportunity comes to the boy on the farm as often as to the boy in the city; that life is larger and freer and happier on the farm than in the town; that my success depends not on my location, but upon myself; not upon my

dreams, but upon what I actually do; not upon luck, but upon pluck.

I believe in working when you work and playing when you play, and in giving and demanding a square deal in every act of life.

~ Edwin Osgood Grover



## Two Dreibelbis Cousins Now Have a Tombstone; Third Cousin Discovered *by Fred Polaski*

John Ellsworth Dreibelbis was born near Shoemakersville in Berks County, PA February 29, 1873. He moved to Missouri and married Flora Waldron. The 1990 Dreibelbis family book shows that John and Flora had two children, Franklin born in 1896 and Grace born in 1898. John was killed in a mining accident in Wentworth, MO on July 26, 1899 at the age of 26, leaving his wife and young children. The 1990 Dreibelbis book has no information on either child.

In November 2020, Charlotte Lang contacted me to find out any information about John Ellsworth Dreibelbis. Charlotte is not a Dreibelbis cousin, but she recently learned through research that after John Ellsworth's death his widow, Flora Dreibelbis, married Charles Summer Moore whose wife had died in 1891 in Missouri. Flora and Charles were married September 1, 1906. They never had any children of their own, but raised Charles's children and Flora's children as their own.

Charles Moore is Charlotte Lang's great grandfather, so Flora is her step great grandmother. Charlotte's research also found that



John Ellsworth and Flora Dreibelbis had a third child, Lola, born in 1899. The 1910 census records include Franklin and Grace Dreibelbis as step children of Charles Moore, but not Lola, so it can be assumed that Lola died before the 1910 census. Charlotte has not been able to find where Lola is buried or when she died.

When researching burial plots for an uncle of hers who had recently died,

Charlotte discovered that what was thought to be an empty plot contained an infant grave. Charlotte was able to identify that the infant grave contained the remains of two still born children born to Franklin and Ethel Dreibelbis. Franklin and Ethel Abshier married in 1921 in Siloam Springs, AR. The two children were stillborn on November 9, 1930. Charlotte purchased a tombstone for the children because they were step cousins of her uncle who had recently passed. Charlotte also found information on the burial location of John Ellsworth Dreibelbis and continues to look for information on Lola Dreibelbis.

## Dreibelbis Farm Historical Society

The Dreibelbis Farm Historical Society continues to preserve and present to the public, the Jacob B. Dreibelbis farm in Virgenville despite the twists and turns of the past pandemic year. Instead of the annual August Farm Festival, six short videos were posted on the Historic Dreibelbis Farm Facebook page. We featured areas and items of the farm not often seen during the traditional house tours. These videos are still available to view and include the history of the farm and current restoration projects as well as tours of the attic, the basement and the cold cellar. There are also presentations on the music from the Victrola and the melodeon, the model train diorama of the farm, and the historic garden.

The annual ice harvesting demonstration and the annual wood duck nest box maintenance were also replaced this year with Facebook presentations. This helped us in a small way to keep the public safely involved in this project.

Ongoing maintenance projects at the farm include documentation and organizing of artifacts and items in the house, refurbishing the milk house, and keeping the fields clear of fallen ash trees which were killed by the emerald ash borer blight.

The endowment fund through the Thrivent "Choice Dollars"

program continues to benefit us. At no cost to them, all Thrivent Financial members are entitled to select a non-profit or charity on a quarterly basis 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](mailto:mjdrei@verizon.net) or 610-488-7896.

The Dreibelbis Farm Historical Society and all we do is only possible with the hard work of our dedicated group of volunteers. Much work remains, and there is plenty to do for new helpers.

Please contact us to get involved.

Financial donations are another great way of helping support DFHS. During this pandemic year, those contributions were especially helpful to keep us going.

We hope to see you soon at an event at the farm! Please follow us on our website at [dreibelbisfarm.org](http://dreibelbisfarm.org) or on the **Historic Dreibelbis Farm Facebook page**. Times and dates for upcoming events, as they are permitted, will be posted.

**August 21, 2021**  
**9th 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](mailto:mjdrei@verizon.net)

## My Vacation of 1914

By Lizzie Moyer

*This information came from Fleetwood Historical Society board member Russell Anderson whose research made this article possible.*

Lizzie Moyer was one of ten children of David and Charity (Schlegel) Moyer. She later married Earl A. Peters (MM7-365b-9). Born in 1899, she relates what she did for that summer at age 14, and what she considered a vacation from school. It is far removed from what most youths, or any of us today, would consider a vacation. The following is in Lizzie's words as written in her notebook at age 14 (*with a few editorial comments for clarity*).

“

There was lots of work to do all summer. I helped plant potatoes. (We got two hundred seventy bushels of potatoes.)

After that it was time to make hay. Before we cut the hay, we had to go through the fields and pick out the wild carrot stalks (apparently bad for cattle). We did not have to make the hay on heaps because we have a hay loader. I had to drive the horses to pull the hay up in the barn. I kind of like that work.

When the boys cultivated the corn, Willie and I had to hoe it. Sometimes it was pretty hot.

We always ate strawberries when we came at the fence. It took a day and a half to cultivate it.

We cut our wheat with two binders (which tied the stalks into sheaves.) Herbert drove the one and Father the other. Then we had to shock it. (The sheaves are stacked into piles, or shocks, until they can be hauled in for thrashing.) The wheat crop was not as good as other years. There was something at the wheat and ate it off at the bottom. Mr. Schaeffer had some poor wheat fields. He made hay with some, but we did not have to do that. Many people came to us to buy wheat to sow.

We are done thrashing the wheat, but not quite done with the oats. I also had to help to shock the oats. When we were around the field twice, it began to rain. But I was home before it rained. The oat crop was good.

We got lots of cherries and we got many raspberries. We went to the Blue Mountains for huckleberries. Mr. Stahler, Mable and Manilla came over to us. We all went with our team. My Father, Emily and I went. We went with the milk wagon. At 3 o'clock we got up and got ready. It began to rain a little bit but we started out anyhow. We went and fetched the Stahlers. We had a ride in the dark. When

we came up everything was all wet. Then we went farther up the hill. Emily drove and we walked. When we were way up we started picking. Every once in a while, we heard the trains at Hamburg. We got about 40 quarts that day too.

We ate our dinner at the creek. It has large ant hills up there. I believe they are three feet high. If we came near, they bit us. We did not see any snakes. We unhitched the horses and tied them in the bushes so that the flies would let them alone. We fed the horses on a large stone. I think it was 4 o'clock when we ate our supper. Then we went home. We all enjoyed our ride. I saw the Hamburg reservoir. It is all cemented. On the

way home we sang songs.

We used to get up around 4 o'clock this summer. I milked five and six cows. But now I only milk three and four.

I helped chop the corn. I did not husk much corn. I had to help prepare the dinner and supper. We husked Mr. Schmehl's corn too. Then I helped all day. The corn crop was good. (Note that the corn was pulled from the stalks by hand and "husked." It was now ready for storage on the cob, usually in corn cribs. Corn shellers were used to remove the kernels from the cob for use as feed, etc.)

I did not go on many visits this summer. I was at central park and enjoyed it too. I went with the Dryville excursion. I was at the Dryville picnic. (Dryville had a picnic grove for community picnics. Remnants of it still exist.)

I was at the Kutztown park a few times. When I was there, I went to see my brother, too. I was not at the Kutztown fair. I visited my neighbors sometimes. We had company almost every Sunday.

Soon Autumn came and vacation is over.

”

*On the way  
home we sang  
songs.*

## 1918 Pandemic

- continued from cover

**Rosa Dreibelbis** was 31. **Sarah A. Dreibelbis** was 47, dying in 1919, and **Stella Mae Dreibelbis** was 21 in 1919. **Carolina W. Dreibelbis** was 75. **John Joseph Dreibelbis** was only 29 when he died in October of 1918.

In the **Heinly** family, **David L.** was 82, **Enoch J.** was 70, **Esther D.** was 77, all dying in 1918. Esther and Enoch were siblings. **Ruth Arlene**, a twin, was four when she died in September of 1918. Her twin, **Myrtle**, died at the end of 1919 but she was not counted in this survey.

**Jessie and Margaret King**, both of PA, died two months apart in 1918, ages 51 and 46. Jessie and Margaret were siblings.

**Dina and Rosa Lechleitner**, both of Schuylkill County, died ages 36 and 31. They also were siblings.

**Amanda (Dreibelbis by marriage)** and **Mary D. Rothermel**, ages 52 and 86, both of Berks County, died in 1918 or January of 1919.

**Joel R.** and **Samuel D. Sunday**, both of Greenwich Township, died ages 32 and 73. Samuel was Joel's uncle.

The most interesting thing to come out of this research, however, is the record of Hannah Blandina Dreibelbis. I have been giving DFHS farmhouse tours for years now, and in part of the tour we learn that Hannah Blandina was the child designated to be the caregiver for her parents, Joel and Elizabeth Dreibelbis at the homestead in Virginville. It happened, however, that she died young and could not fulfil that role. The story was that since she was not dating, she had time on her hands to do the unique crafts found in the homestead, many of which are one of the highlights of the tour.

**Hannah Blandina Dreibelbis** died on May 13, 1919, aged 48. There is no record of cause of death, but since it was during the third and final wave of the 1918 pandemic, it is likely that it was the cause.

Considering the challenges the world has suffered since December 2019, we should remember those who perished before, and learn from those events to control this pandemic and save lives. At the time of this printing, there have been 600,087 deaths due to COVID-19, and we are looking at a third major surge.

While advances in medicine have been phenomenal, and the vaccines appear to work well at present, we are still on track to lose as many or more victims than in 1918. Those victims have died in vain if we have not learned from that event; please wear your mask and get the vaccine. Your life, and that of all humanity, depends on it.

**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



The Facebook page continues to actively post about DCOA information in addition to local activities and videos regarding the Historic Dreibelbis Farm. Any genealogical inquiries are sent to Fred Polaski.

Questions are answered as efficiently and accurately as possible. If anyone would be interested in being an assistant administrator of the page, you can contact Amy directly at [birdgyrl@gmail.com](mailto:birdgyrl@gmail.com) or at the Dreibelbis Cousins of America Facebook page.

*Please note: even in 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 (comments will be hidden).*

## Officers & Committee Chairs of Dreibelbis Cousins of America

Eric P. Dreibelbis ..... President  
(717) 575-6823 ..... Newsletter Editor  
[highmtnepd@frontiernet.net](mailto:highmtnepd@frontiernet.net) ..... Webmaster

Jean Davis ..... Vice President  
(610) 944-6357  
[Neatkid001@gmail.com](mailto:Neatkid001@gmail.com)

Amy Langman ..... Vice President  
(610) 901-3633 ..... Artifacts  
[birdgyrl@gmail.com](mailto:birdgyrl@gmail.com)

VACANT ..... Vice President

Carolyn Hollenbach ..... Secretary  
(484) 665-3383  
[Geepa4113@outlook.com](mailto:Geepa4113@outlook.com)

Fred Polaski ..... Treasurer  
(302) 368-8235 ..... Historian & Ancestry.com  
[polaski5@comcast.net](mailto:polaski5@comcast.net)

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

## *Dreibelbis Family Reunion 289th Anniversary*



We are looking forward to seeing you on  
**August 15, 2021** at the Historic Dreibelbis Farm.

**REGISTER TODAY!**

Historic Dreibelbis Farm  
356 Hard Hill Road  
Hamburg, PA 19526

**Save the dates of future reunions!**

2022 Reunion ..... August 21  
2023 Reunion ..... August 20  
~ Always the 3rd Sunday in August ~