

John Jacob Dreibelbis Cousins of America

Our Past ... Bridging to the Future

June 2022

290th Anniversary Celebration

Sunday, August 21, 2022

Greetings to all cousins in USA and abroad! We are happy to be able to get back to a more traditional Reunion format, and also try to provide some change from what we have followed in the past. This is intended to let our cousins see more of the details of the Jacob B. Dreibelbis House and out-buildings that were typical of the era, and other displays related to our family.

Explanatory signs will be posted at all buildings for a self-guided tour - or just sit in your favorite chair and appreciate the fresh air and quietness. Irv Herring, immediate neighbor of the Dreibelbis Covered Bridge, will also be on hand with displays and to answer questions about the reconstruction of the 1869 "D" bridge - a bridge that continues on the National Covered Bridge Registry!

2022 Reunion Schedule

Registration opens..... 10:00 am
Tour property & buildings..... 10:00am - 3:30pm
Lunch served..... 11:30 am - 1:00 pm
Family Meeting..... 1:15 - 1:45 pm
Time to investigate!..... 1:45 pm
(no speaker this year)

Things to Do

House Tours • Farm Buildings & Equipment • Nature Trail (1.1 mi.) • Hayrides • Games • Socialize • Family Photos • Genealogy Station • Find Your Family in DCOA Database



NEW Dreibelbis Family Instagram Page!



A Dreibelbis Family **Instagram** page has officially begun!

@DreibelbisHistory is the new page and the posts will also go directly to the Facebook page. Look for updates on Reunions, Dreibelbis Farm activities, family and building history, and genealogy.



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, Historian.

Inquiries are answered as efficiently and accurately as possible. *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 (comments hidden from public).*

dreibelbiscousins.org

Facebook: Dreibelbis Cousins of America

Instagram: DreibelbisHistory



Acquisitions & Donations

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

Over the past year, Kelly Leisey has been actively searching for Dreibelbis memorabilia to add to the artifact collection for the DCOA. She has acquired the following items:

Studebaker full page ad, October 1947, featuring picture of father and son working together in the plant; "Peter and Floyd Dreibelbis."

Oil painting, signed by H. B. Dreibelbis, 1984.

Dreibelbis & Sons Store Calendar, Virginville, 1960.

Dreibelbis Genealogy Book, 1990.

Seven **Dreibelbis Mill flour cloth sacks**.

Dreibelbis Cousins of America **patch**.

Butcher fork: Dreibelbis & Sons (JW & DD) Centre Street & Market, Millersburg, PA.

Postcards:

- from Chicago, mailed to Jay "D." in 1911
- view of Ontelaunee Creek, Virginville, PA 1910
- picture of Dreibelbis Covered Bridge
- picture of Sawmill, Cider mill, Apple booth at Dreibelbis Station

1939 Swamp-Root Almanac, compliments of G. W. Dreibelbis, prescription druggist, Tower City, PA.

Dreibelbis Families booklet by uncle Charles B. Dreibelbis (DCOA Genealogist from 1932-1966).

Annals Book of the Oley Valley, page 108 refers to Captain Jacob Dreibelbis in the Revolutionary War.

Two **commemorative "wooden nickels"** from Hamburg, PA, 1977, honoring F. F. "Pappy" Dreibelbis, credited with laying out of the Appalachian Trail through Berks County, PA.

From the Pharmacy of Louis Dreibelbis, Butte, Montana - a **prescription medication bottle**, **picture postcard** of the pharmacy, and a **cast iron bulldog**, on which is inscribed, "New Bro. Drug Co.; Louis Dreibelbis, Butte, Montana."

Do you have treasured Dreibelbis 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 Ancestors

Genealogical Chart for Sale

Dates back to 1585 in Switzerland

This 18" w x 24" h (frame size) starts with the birth of Hannß Düffelbiß, born approximately 1585 in the "upper part" of Schinznach, Switzerland. This chart, appropriate for framing, includes our Dreibelbis family lineage in Switzerland through the first generation of children born in America (1760). From that point forward (2nd generation), the chart follows descendants of Jacob B. Dreibelbis - who was the settler and builder of the property where our "Reunions" are currently held. The chart continues to the 9th generation of that lineage, a very large chunk of our cousins. Though this chart follows one family's tree, it can be used by many as a starter to chart your own lineage. Copies are on sale at the Dreibelbis Store at this year's Reunion, or may be ordered by cousins from across the country through Eric Dreibelbis, President, at highmtnepd@frontiernet.net.

Obituaries

Lucille Ruth Breidegam Adam

wife of Norman Earl Adam

(J-08-05004-03)

Died: 02/26/2022

Carissa M. Balthaser

(J-12-06689-02)

Died: 11/04/2021

Dorothy Good Balthaser

wife of Donald K. Balthaser

(J-08-04694-03)

Died: 11/15/2021

George J. DeLong

(MM-09-0365b-06)

Died: 07/26/2021

Joyce C. Snyder Dietrich

wife of Clifford R. Dietrich

(J-07-02804-05)

Died: 10/03/2021

David Mark Dreibelbis

(J-07-05105)

Died: 06/05/2021

Linda Tokarchik Dreibelbis

wife of LeRoy E. Dreibelbis, Jr.

(A-MM-08-03287-02)

Died: 06/20/2021

Margaret Ann Dreibelbis

(A-08-06314)

Died: 10/03/2021

Randy Lee Dreibelbis, Sr.

(JA-J-08-6804)

Died: 10/12/2021

Robert Earl Dreibelbis

(M-07-04534)

Died 01/17/2021

Ronald Irvin Dreibelbis

(J-07-05630)

Died: 11/11/2021

Jared Parker George

(J-11-05164-01)

Died: 02/24/2022

Earl M. Guinther

husband of Kathryn C. Dreibelbis

Guinther (JA-07-05311)

Died: 05/18/2021

Mary Marie Merkel Hoopes

(J-09-04781)

Died: 05/22/2021

Barbara Ann Miller

(J-08-05237-01)

Died: 11/07/2021

Gail Marie Gunither Moyer

(JA-08-06810)

Died: 02/03/2018

Dr. George Elias Seidel, Jr.

(J-08-06886)

Died: 09/04/2021

(Also in the Dreibelbis book as J-08-6600)

Laura K. Kulp Seip

wife of LeRoy K. Seip

(J-07-05461)

Died: 10/15/2021

Karen Leigh Dreibelbis

Snyder

(J-08-06960)

Died: 04/28/2021

LeRoy R. Sunday

(J-08-06649)

Died: 11/17/2021

Marie Anna Balthaser

Weidenhammer

(J-08-06619)

Died: 05/20/2021

Listed obituaries are those reported since the 2021 newsletter, or not previously published.

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: _____

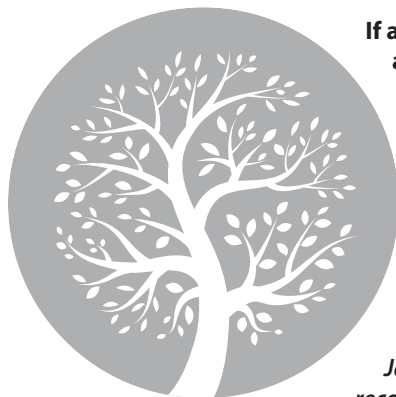
Please return form to:

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 25,000 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

Ways to become Involved with DCOA

"All good men and women must take responsibility to create legacies that will take the next generation to a level we could only imagine." - Jim Rohn

The Dreibelbis Cousins of America organization has been successfully operating since 1932. During this time we have continued the annual Reunion to promote branches of the family meeting others, provided representation to County and State representatives to refurbish the Dreibelbis Covered Bridge, and had 1966 and 1990 editions of our Genealogy produced. Most recently, we have successfully transitioned to an online Genealogy which continues to grow into a 37,000+ database.

As the years are quickly slipping by, we realize we must prepare for new members to "take over the torch!" Please seriously consider a role you could play in our organization and contact Eric Dreibelbis, President, or Fred Polaski for Genealogy support - a role we need assistance in immediately! Contact information can be found below and on the last page of this newsletter.

Genealogy Assistant | Remote

Help is needed with entering Genealogical information.
Contact Fred Polaski at (302) 368-8235 or polaski5@comcast.net.

Videographer

Person knowledgeable in videography to help in the making of a video of the "Dreibelbis Mill" in Shoemakersville, PA. This would be another effort to record and preserve another aspect of our Dreibelbis history (*Dreibelbis Mill article on page 7*).

Website Maintenance | Remote

The website is currently maintained using Adobe Dreamweaver. We are looking for someone to maintain the website and possibly convert it to WordPress or a simpler program to manage it. Some features we are looking to add to the website include being able to accept online reunion registrations, payment options, and online donations.

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



Barn Stars Available!

Stop by the store at the Reunion to buy a tin star (various sizes available) made from roofing taken off of the DFHS barn when roof was replaced.

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 1,000 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.

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.

DCOA Reunion Registration

August 21, 2022

Family Name: _____

attending for lunch:

_____ Age 12-Adult @ \$9.00 each \$ _____

_____ Children 6-11 @ \$4.00 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 1,050 addresses) \$ _____

Genealogy Research/Artifacts/Ancestry.com \$ _____

John Jacob Dreibelbis 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 12, 2022. If registering later, please contact Mark Dreibelbis at (610) 488-7896 or mjdrei@verizon.net.

For additional information, contact:

Carolyn Hollenbach
geepa4113@outlook.com
484-955-9417

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 zzzjanezzz@outlook.com. 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.



Visit Each Station at the Reunion!

DCOA 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. 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 artifacts from Kelly Leisey. Many of these items are extremely sensitive to sunlight and humidity, so weather conditions must be conducive. 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.

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 21, 2022!

Kids' Corner

Our Kid's Corner this year will again be organized and supervised by Dreibelbis Cousin and volunteer, Diane Dreibelbis. Activities will be determined as we approach the Reunion. Feel free to let your kids enjoy these activities while you attend the business meeting, take in the history of the Farm, or just enjoy some peace and quiet.

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!

Flashback to 2021 Reunion

Last year, folks were keeping it close to home due to COVID and the 64 who were in attendance were fairly local. Keeping up the tradition, though, here are the awards that were given!

Oldest man - Paul Miller, 91, Shoemakersville, PA

Oldest woman - Eleanor Dreibelbis, 91,
Mertztown, PA

Youngest child present - Lily Dreibelbis, <2
weeks, Downingtown, PA

Most recently married - Desiree and Randy
Rickenbach, May 2019

Greatest distance traveled - Donna Blatt, State
College, PA

First time at reunion - Katie and Wayne
Dreibelbis

50/50 drawing winner - Marlin Dreibelbis

Dreibelbis Farm Historical Society

We are starting to get back on track after the last two years of COVID. Even though many of our activities last year were cancelled, we continued to work behind the scenes to preserve and protect this 18th century treasure of family history, and to make future plans to present it to the public for educational, historical, environmental, genealogical, and archeological purposes.

We were able to open for our annual summer farm festival August 2021, and **have plans well underway for this year's event scheduled for August 27, 2022.** The **ice harvesting demonstration** was held last February following one of the coldest Januaries. The ice had been over 14" thick. Unfortunately, the week before the event, the temperatures rose to record highs near 70° followed by flooding, and we lost all of our ice. We were able to demonstrate tools and talk about the history of ice harvesting. The horse drawn wagon rides, bonfire, and the now famous chicken corn chowder soup were big draws. In March, we hosted a **winter walk** where we do maintenance on our wood duck boxes and enjoyed an up close and personal experience with two screech owls. The **spring peeper walk** was held in April and the **wild flower walk** in mid-May.

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.

During the past year, we have made progress on organizing and taking inventory of many of the items in the farm house. A donation by Malcolm and Shirley Dreibelbis enabled us to purchase a tractor with loader to help with ongoing maintenance. There



is continuous work on taking down dead trees, fixing shutters and doing general house repairs, painting, and clearing brush. We were able to have an expert look at and assess our Conestoga wagon that is in the barn. In addition, we have some volunteers setting up and maintaining our nesting boxes for kestrels, wood ducks, and bluebirds. We also have volunteers developing a wildflower trail highlighting native plants while removing invasive species.

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 taking inventory of artifacts, painting, and gardening. We are also always 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 from Dreibelbis Cousins of America (DCOA). While we share many of the same interests and volunteers as the DCOA and host the Dreibelbis Family Reunion, we are a separate non-profit foundation. The DFHS has its own board of directors who manage the organization. All donations made to the DFHS are put to use to maintain this historic property.

You can find more information at our website dreibelbisfarm.org or on our Historic Dreibelbis Farm Facebook page. We have several videos posted which highlight some interesting aspects of the farm.

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

August 27, 2022 10th 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 Mill

Shoemakersville, PA

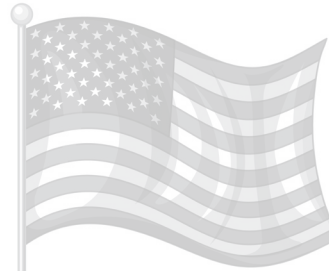


Four brothers once owned the Dreibelbis Mill and Farm. The mill, except for one broken part, is operable. For many years, Lloyd operated the farm and Earl operated the mill until a few years before his death at age eighty-three.

The mill came into the Dreibelbis family in 1868 when Simon (the Dreibelbis bridge builder) purchased it from Enoch Wartzenuft. Simon sold the mill to his son Cleophas S. Dreibelbis (p. 287) whose first wife was Catherine Ann Wartzenuft. Descendents of Cleophas will be interested in the Wartzenuft cemetery.

The cemetery is totally unkempt and is within a grove of lilac bushes a short distance from the mill.

Anyone interested in helping to secure permission and producing or assisting in making a video to preserve this family treasure should contact Eric Dreibelbis, DCOA President, or Carolyn Hollenbach, Secretary (who actually lived on this farm for many years). Contact information is on the last page of this newsletter.



Dreibelbises Honored

At the Pennsylvania Monument in Gettysburg National Military Park, several Dreibelbises were honored in the 151st Infantry. There may be more, but if you plan to visit the Park, make sure to stop by the Pennsylvania Monument. Below are the names of four of our family members!



Short History of St. Peter's UCC Church



Photo courtesy of genealogytrails.com

The German Reformed Church has roots in both Germany and Switzerland, with many participants emigrating to the US for religious freedom. The first Reformed Church in America was organized in 1628 in New Amsterdam, now New York. Many services were held in homes and in 1710, worship was held in Skippack PA by Paul Van Vlecq. That congregation met in a home until a church was established in 1725.

The reformed church had a long history of supporting the American Revolution and during the British siege on Philadelphia in 1777, farmers wrapped the Liberty Bell in potato sacks and hauled it to the Zion Reformed Church in Northampton near Allentown.

A seminary was established in 1825 in Carlisle, PA and eventually moved to Lancaster. Franklin College of Lancaster, supported jointly by both Lutheran and Reformed congregations, merged with German Reformed Marshall College to form Franklin and Marshall College in 1853.

In 1869, the word German was dropped and it became the Reformed Church, and in 1957, the Evangelical and Reformed Church, and the Congregational Christian Churches joined, forming the United Church of Christ with a total membership of two million followers.

The German Reformed and Lutheran congregations shared the original St. Peter's Church until there was a dispute in 1863, and many left to form Becker's St. Peter's Church. The current church building was then built in 1890.

In 1976, a plaque was dedicated to the Dreibelbis family and placed in the narthex, citing that John Jacob Dreibelbis had contributed much to the founding and life of St. Peter's Church, of course, including the donation of the bell still in use today. That bell, donated by Joel Dreibelbis in 1904, has the inscription

"Donated by Joel Dreibelbis to the German Reformed Congregation of St. Peter's Church in Richmond Township, in 1904."

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

53 Fox Road
Hamburg, PA 19526

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**Officers & Committee Chairs of
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polaski5@comcast.net

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mjdrei@verizon.net

*Dreibelbis Family Reunion
290th Anniversary*



We are looking forward to seeing you on
August 21, 2022 at the Historic Dreibelbis Farm.

REGISTER TODAY!

Historic Dreibelbis Farm
356 Hard Hill Road
Hamburg, PA 19526

Save the dates of future reunions!

2023 Reunion August 20
2024 Reunion August 18
~ Always the 3rd Sunday in August ~