

August 16, 2015 Reunion Minutes

Minutes of the John Jacob Dreibelbis Cousins of America, Inc., annual family reunion held August 16, 2015, at the Dreibelbis Homestead in Virginville, Pennsylvania. This reunion celebrates the 283rd anniversary of our ancestor's arrival on America's shores.

We enjoyed typical August weather on this reunion day. Registration began at 10 a.m. The register was signed by 135 individuals. Thirteen people reported attending the reunion for the first time. Family members came from California, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Vermont and Virginia.

Many items of interest were for sale at the 'Dreibelbis Store' where Aimee Dreibelbis busied herself setting up and greeting our guests. Dorothy Miller, former DCOA treasurer for many years, set up a display of Dreibelbis memorabilia. Many people availed themselves of time with Fred Polaski at the Genealogy Station to search our extensive genealogical records. Tours of the historic farmhouse were conducted throughout the day. As in previous years, there were hayrides and geocaching, as well as the opportunity to stroll among the farm buildings and enjoy the nature trail. Next door to the Registration Tent was our designated photographer, Amy Langman, who was taking pictures of people to be included with their on-line information. Jean Davis once again had some fun and challenging games for our enjoyment. Diane Dreibelbis was seen entertaining the children with various activities.

Our lunch buffet, scheduled for 11:30 a.m., was again provided by the Dreibelbis Farm Historical Society. Janine Dreibelbis and her volunteers were busy preparing the lunch throughout the morning. Sincere thanks to all for a delicious meal.

Shortly after 1:15 p.m., our President, Eric Dreibelbis, opened the Dreibelbis Cousins of America yearly meeting. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and the singing of Proud to Be An American. Eric asked for a motion to accept the Treasurer's report, which was read by Fred Polaski. The motion to accept was made by Jean Davis and seconded by Amy Langman. Fred Polaski made the motion to accept the Secretary's report, which had been posted for all to read, and Michael LaFaver seconded that motion. Eric introduced the officers of the Dreibelbis Cousins of America, after which Becky Dreibelbis read the names of family members who have been deceased since our last reunion, followed by a moment of silence. Eric addressed the first-time attendees and spoke to each one for a brief time.

Jean Davis announced the names of the winners of her games and told them to pick up a prize at her table. Included among the winners were Sue Murray, Desira Kunkle, Randy Rickenbach, Donna Kunkle and Brian Dreibelbis. Prizes were also awarded as follows: Evelyn Ziegler Heffner of Timonium, MD, for the oldest woman attending, age 86; Ralph Dreibelbis, Sr., of Sinking Spring, PA, the oldest man at age 87; Zachary Dreibelbis, at 10 months old, the youngest child in attendance; most recently married was our speaker of the day, Meghan Turner, of Secane, PA, married less than one month. The prize for the greatest distance travelled went to Keith Dreibelbis of San Francisco, CA. Registration numbers were drawn from the container by two of the young ladies in attendance. Chosen were #84, Ace Pozzi of Whitehall, Pennsylvania, and #51, Patricia Bothwell of Georgetown, Texas.

Fred Polaski spoke about his extensive genealogy records. Mark Dreibelbis informed us of the workings of the Dreibelbis Farm Historical Society. It should be noted that Mark can always use volunteers to help at the farm. An offering was taken to support the DCOA organization and its activities. A sincere thank you to all who support your family organization in any way.

Meghan Turner of Secane, PA, was our featured speaker. Her presentation was entitled "What Life was Like for an Indentured Servant (John Jacob Dreibelbis) Arriving in America". We are grateful to Meghan for an interesting presentation and a lively discussion in response to her information.

The meeting concluded with the singing of Blest Be the Tie That Binds. While some departed after the close of the meeting, others continued with visiting, games, activities, nature trail and geocaching. Your committee sincerely hopes that everyone in attendance had a fun time, and that you will consider joining us again next year on August 21st, 2016, for the Dreibelbis Cousins of America 284th anniversary celebration.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane E. Hornberger, Secretary