

August 17, 2014 Reunion Minutes

Minutes of the John Jacob Dreibelbis Cousins of America, Inc., annual Family Reunion held August 17, 2014, at the Dreibelbis Homestead in Virginville, Pennsylvania. This reunion celebrates the 282nd Anniversary of our ancestor's arrival in America.

It was raining in the morning, but the skies cleared, and the sun shone through. There were 148 people who signed the register. Twenty-eight of those signing said that they were attending the reunion for the first time. We had family members attending from the states of Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, New Jersey, Virginia and Pennsylvania.

Selling items at the 'Dreibelbis Store' were Aimee Dreibelbis and Dorothy Miller. New items, as well as old favorites, were available. Computer stations were set up by Fred Polaski where he and Becky Dreibelbis were available to assist family members in viewing the Family Tree Maker and research our extensive genealogical records. As in previous years, there were guided tours of the historic farmhouse. A hayride was again offered for the enjoyment of all. The nature trail and strolls around the farm site were a pleasant way to pass the day. At our 2013 reunion, Jean Davis set up a geocaching experience which was available again this year. Jean, as in the past, also had many fun games available. Family pictures were being taken by Amy Langman, our designated photographer. This year we also had Redware plates for sale which pictured the farmhouse and other designs. Orders were being taken in the barn.

As in previous years, a lunch buffet, provided by the Dreibelbis Farm Historical Society, was set up by Janine Dreibelbis and her assistants. As always, sincere thanks go out to Janine and her volunteers for their hard work, and providing a great meal for less cost than local caterers can provide.

The Dreibelbis Cousins of America meeting, presided over by president Eric Dreibelbis, of Christiana, PA, began with the Pledge of Allegiance and the singing of Proud to Be An American. Eric introduced the officers of the Dreibelbis Cousins. He announced that Fred Polaski and Jean Davis have been actively soliciting nominations for Vice President of the organization and have finalized a nomination of Amy Langman of Media, PA, to serve as a Vice President. Donna Kunkle made a motion to accept the nomination, and Fred Polaski seconded the motion. A motion was made by Jim Dreibelbis of Lansdowne, PA to accept the secretary's and treasurer's reports. The second was from Jean Davis. Eric addressed the first time attendees of the reunion. It's always interesting to hear where they're from and their remembrances of spending time here at the farm with our ancestors who lived here, and other interesting stories. Becky Dreibelbis Mazzei read the names of family members who have passed away since our last reunion, and a moment of silence was observed in their memory. Fred Polaski gave a genealogical update, reporting that there are more than 19,000 names recorded in the online archives, and added that this is constantly changing. A sincere "thank you" is owed to Fred and Becky for the many hours spent compiling our genealogical information.

Mark Dreibelbis spoke about the Dreibelbis Farm Historical Society and the activities which were held on the farm throughout the year, which included ice harvesting, the spring peeper walk, flower walk and the farm festival, which, this year, will be held the Saturday following this reunion. He also mentioned the Native American presence and the environmental and historical value of the farm buildings and land. Mark offered his appreciation for the monetary support and volunteers who dedicate their time in the upkeep of the farm. This year volunteers put a new roof on one side of the barn, which had considerable damage from past storms. Eric mentioned the need for assistance in moving chairs and tables, etc. at the end of the Reunion, and thanked all those who could help. A basket was passed for anyone to make a donation for the

continued funding of reunion expenses, printing and mailing the yearly newsletter, and maintaining our website and John Jacob's Cemetery. Sincere thanks to everyone for your continued support.

Jean Davis presented prizes to the winners of her games. Jean also entertained the audience with one of her fun jokes. Among the winners of Jean's various games were Linda Summers, Debbie Murray, James Auman, Desire Kunkle, Donna Kunkle, Lori Hall, Will Summers and Mary Storm. Thanks to Carole Merkel for her assistance. Prizes were awarded to the oldest man attending, Jack Dreibelbis, Camp Hill, PA, 85 years. The oldest woman present was Mabel Stein of Kutztown, PA, 91 years. The youngest child reported was Charles Hall V, Boyertown, PA, 2 years old. Sara and Brad Ogle of Odenton, MD, received the prize for the most recently married, in July, 2014. William Summers was awarded the prize for the greatest distance traveled, approximately 900 miles from Nashville, TN. Door prize winners, chosen by the number at which they signed on the registration sheet, were #93, Tammy Nolt, of Stevens, PA, and #49, Angie Dreibelbis of Wyatt, IN.

The meeting was ended with the singing of "Blest Be the Tie That Binds." The committee hopes that all present had a fun day and that many will return again next year for our 283rd Anniversary celebration of John Jacob's arrival in Pennsylvania, to be held Sunday, August 16, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane E. Hornberger, Secretary