

# August 19, 2012 Reunion Minutes

(280th Anniversary)

Minutes of the John Jacob Dreibelbis Cousins of America, Inc., annual family reunion held August 19, 2012, at the Dreibelbis Homestead in Virginville, Pennsylvania. This year we enjoyed ideal weather for our reunion. This was one of the most pleasant days, weatherwise, that we have enjoyed in several years. The day started with a Pennsylvania German church service, with English translation and historical explanation. The church service was attended by 58 people.

On the day prior to the reunion, Mark and Janine Dreibelbis, of Hamburg, PA, owners of the historic farmstead, held their first annual Historic Dreibelbis Farm Festival, and we were fortunate to have most, if not all, of the artisans who demonstrated at the festival also displaying at our reunion. The demonstrations and presentations included blacksmithing, reverse glass painting, spinning and weaving, grain threshing, butchering, candle dipping, butter making and quill pen writing. Dick Fry, of Mohnton, PA, was also available again this year with his display of native American artifacts. There was an area to build-your-own birdhouse, as well as games for children. Those attending the reunion could walk the new self-guided nature trail or enjoy the hayride which was driven by Daniel Dietrich of Leesport, PA. As in previous years, tours of the farmhouse were available and continued throughout the day, and everyone could stroll the grounds and enjoy the historic farm buildings.

The register was signed by 156 people which included the signatures of most of the artisans who displayed throughout the day. Of those who signed the register, twenty people said that they were attending the reunion for the first time. People were in

attendance from the states of California, Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York and Virginia.

Dorothy Miller, of Shoemakersville, PA, was again on hand with the 'Dreibelbis Store' of family history, with items of interest available for purchase. Fred Polaski and Becky Dreibelbis once again made computer stations available where visitors could view the Family Tree Maker, which holds genealogy information, as well as the Dreibelbis Cousins of America website.

A pig roast lunch, provided by the Dreibelbis Farm Historical Society, was available at approximately 11:30. As always, Janine and her helpers did a great job preparing and setting up the food and beverages.

The Dreibelbis Cousins of America meeting, presided over by president, Eric Dreibelbis, of Christiana, PA, began with the singing of "Proud to Be an American," followed by the secretary and treasurer's reports. Jenna Hepner, of Hamburg, PA, approved the Secretary's report, and Fred Polaski, of Newark, DE, was second to approve. The Treasurer's report was approved by Gary Dreibelbis of Cincinnati, OH, and the second was Nancy Mortensen of King of Prussia, PA. Fred Polaski spoke briefly about his efforts in recording the extensive genealogy of the Dreibelbis family, after which Becky Dreibelbis read the names of recently departed relatives, followed by a moment of silence in their memory. Mark Dreibelbis informed us of the workings of the Dreibelbis Farm Historical Society and reported on the farm festival of the previous day. He also discussed volunteer opportunities available at the farm. Eric Dreibelbis introduced the first-time attendees and discussed the need for assistance in moving chairs and tables, etc. Your assistance in cleaning up is always appreciated.

Prizes were awarded to the oldest man attending, John Mortensen, 88 years old. The oldest woman present was Nancy Mortensen, also 88 years old. The Mortensens reside

in King of Prussia, PA. The youngest child present was Charles Layton Hall V of Boyertown, PA, 4 months old. Becky Dreibelbis, of Stockton, NJ, received the prize for the most recently married, in January 2012. Jeff Heckman was awarded the prize for the greatest distance traveled, approximately 350 miles from Rochester, NY. Door prize winners, chosen by the number at which they signed on the registration sheet, were #133, Evan Rill, of Westminster, MD, and #146, Bob Noecker, of Shoemakersville, PA.

The meeting ended with the singing of 'Blest Be the Tie That Binds'. All present were asked to meet in the front of the barn where Amy Dreibelbis Langman, of Media, PA, would be lining up everyone to take a group picture. After pictures were taken and everyone signed a sheet so that they could be identified in the picture, everyone was dismissed with the hope that they would continue to enjoy the beautiful day and spend more time visiting with friends and relatives.

The committee hopes that all present had a fun day and that many will return again next year for our 281st anniversary celebration of John Jacob's arrival in Pennsylvania, to be held Sunday, August 18, 2013.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane E. Hornberger, Secretary

