

August 19, 2018 Reunion Minutes

Minutes of the John Jacob Dreibelbis Cousins of America, Inc. annual family reunion held August 19, 2018 at the Dreibelbis Homestead in Virginville Pa. This reunion celebrates the 286th anniversary of our ancestor's arrival on America's shores. There were approximately 140 individuals attending. Cousins were in attendance from California, Delaware, Florida, Kansas, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania.

This year we enjoyed beautiful weather on reunion day. House tours were again available. The Dreibelbis Store had many charming items for sale. Jean Davis greeted anyone who was interested in playing games. Diane Dreibelbis provided games and entertainment for the children. Many people visited with Fred Polaski at the Genealogy Station where they could research family records or provide new information regarding their families.

Lunch was scheduled from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and was provided by the Dreibelbis Farm Historical Society. Janine Dreibelbis and her volunteers provided a tasty lunch.

The Dreibelbis Cousins of America yearly meeting began shortly after 1:15 p.m. with President Eric Dreibelbis presiding. In keeping with tradition, the meeting was opened with the pledge of allegiance and the singing of Proud to Be an American. A motion was made to accept the Secretary's report, which was posted outside the barn. Fred Polaski read the Treasurer's report, which was accepted by unanimous vote.

Fred Polaski spoke about his genealogy work. He reported that there are approximately 23,000 names in our genealogy. He read a list of deceased cousins, followed by a moment of silence in their memory. Paul L. Dreibelbis commented on Uncle Charles Dreibelbis, who was instrumental in compiling the Dreibelbis Genealogy. President Eric Dreibelbis thanked the officers and volunteers for all their efforts in providing a successful reunion this year.

Mark Dreibelbis, owner of the historic Dreibelbis farm, noted that this is the twentieth year of the Dreibelbis Farm Historical Society, dedicated to preserving the farm for historical purposes and for wildlife conservation. He invited interested people to the farm festival at the farm on Saturday following the reunion. He also listed future projects which include construction of a modern composting toilet, construction of a beehive bake oven and the archiving of artifacts. He thanked volunteers and donors.

Amy Langman offered remarks on the artifacts project and procurement of a historical Bible. She also photographs cousins for genealogy purposes. Amy's photos will become a part of each individual's on line profile.

Eric introduced the speaker for 2018, James H. Dreibelbis, a former vice president of the John Jacob Dreibelbis Cousins. Jim's presentation was titled "100th Anniversary of Dreibelbis Cousins' Participation in World War I". He gave an overview of WW I, the United States in WW I. Dreibelbis Cousins in WW I and Jay Hoyt Dreibelbis in WW I. Jim's father Jay, who served in France in WW I, wrote a memoir of his military service. We must remember and honor our cousins who served in this conflict.

Awards and prizes were presented. The oldest man present was John D. Smith of Fleetwood, Pa. The oldest woman at age 88 was Orlea Hartman of Fleetwood, Pa. The youngest child present was Bracston Scott Davis of West Reading, Pa., age 7 ½ months. Newlywed Kristin Hartman of Blandon, Pa. was the most recently married in 2016. Those traveling the greatest distance were the Tony Boswell family of San Francisco, Ca. Registration number winners were #8 Jean Davis of Fleetwood, Pa. and #34 Carl Schrock of Allentown, Pa. Honorable mention was made to the Christine Hartman family. Also, happy birthday wishes were given to Isabelle, who was nine years old today.

In closing we formed a circle and sang "Blest Be the Tie That Binds". It was time for cleanup and all help was appreciated. It is our sincere hope that everyone had a fun and interesting visit to the farm and that many of you will return next year on Sunday August 18, 2019.

Slate of officers of the Dreibelbis Cousins of America for 2019: Eric P. Dreibelbis, President; Fred Polaski, Treasurer; Jean Davis, Vice President; Becky Mazzei, Historian; Amy Langman, Vice President; Carolyn Hollenbach, Secretary

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn B. Hollenbach, Secretary