

# August 21, 2011 Reunion Minutes

(279th Anniversary)

Minutes of the John Jacob Dreibelbis Cousins of America, Inc., annual family reunion held August 21, 2011, at the Dreibelbis Homestead in Virginville, Pennsylvania.

Along with pleasant weather, we had a good attendance for this reunion, with 124 people signing the register. Cousins and other descendants of John Jacob traveled from near and far. In addition to our kin from Pennsylvania, there were attendees from the states of Arizona, Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey and North Carolina.

Many of our usual activities were part of our reunion again this year--tractor-pulled hayrides, Dick Fry's always interesting display of Native American artifacts, property and farmhouse tours, the 'Dreibelbis Store' selling varied items of interest to Dreibelbis kin; also, two computer stations to display the Dreibelbis Cousins of America website as well as genealogy information. As always, Jean Davis had many fun games available. Diane Dreibelbis, once again, organized the childrens' games. Dreibelbis collectibles, T-shirts, 2007 Commemorative Reunion Booklets and Dreibelbis Bookmarks were also available for purchase.

Lunch was provided by the Dreibelbis Farm Historical Society and, as in previous years, was served by Janine and helpers. They did a great job since initial registrations suggested that there would be fewer people attending. It's difficult to plan the amount of food needed if people don't pre-register for the meal, but somehow the ladies managed to feed everyone.

The Dreibelbis Cousins' business meeting, led by president, Eric Dreibelbis, opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and the singing of Proud to be An American. This year a new format was adopted which eliminated the reading of the minutes. The minutes had been posted previously, and a motion to accept, deny or correct was requested at this time. Jean Davis of Fleetwood, PA, made the motion to accept, and Marlene Miller of Mohrsville, PA, made a second motion. The treasurer, Fred Polaski of Newark, Delaware, read the treasurer's report. A motion to accept the report was made by Carol Merkel. A second motion was made by Patricia Jante-Clappsy of Mechanicsburg, PA. A list of names of recently deceased family members was read by Becky Dreibelbis, and a moment of silence was observed in their memory. It was also

expressed that, while we remember the deceased, it is also proper to honor the newborns to our families. We would sincerely appreciate if all births, marriages, graduations and other important life events would be reported for documentation.

Mark Dreibelbis, owner of the historical property, spoke about projects which are planned to improve the farmstead. He spoke about the importance of retaining the original appearance of the property and the use of proper materials in order to retain that appearance. Once again, Mark discussed the importance of volunteers and thanked the volunteers who have been involved in past projects.

We had an unexpected presentation by Janice, Michael and Darlene LaFaver of Fleetwood, PA. They spoke about a Paranormal Club at Fleetwood High School, of which they are the founders. It was related that they have discovered some ghosts on the farm property, one being a seven year old boy named George who fell from a second story window of the house. There was also a tale regarding the chicken house, chilling and very interesting stories.

Eric Dreibelbis mentioned that the organization is attempting to purchase items related to Dreibelbis history whenever such items appear on E-Bay or other online sites. If anyone notices any such items, please let Eric know. He stated that our website has had heavy viewership. Eric also mentioned that we always welcome articles for the newsletter and requested that family members submit articles regarding other reunions they attend or know about.

After all business had been conducted, Jean Davis introduced our speaker for the 2011 reunion, Patrick Donmoyer, who gave a presentation on Pennsylvania Barn Stars. This young man spoke about his research of barns in Berks County and surrounding areas. His presentation also included many slides showing the subjects of his research. It was interesting to know that Patrick has found barn stars and other paintings, not only on the exterior of barns, but on interior surfaces as well. Sincere thanks to Jean Davis for bringing us this very interesting speaker.

Prizes were awarded to those who participated in the games and contests. Winners of prizes for the drawing of registration numbers were #100, Leroy Auman of Bloomsburg, PA, and #63, Darlene LaFaver of Fleetwood, PA. The prize for the oldest man was awarded to Ralph Vanderbeck - 84 years old; oldest woman, Grace Henninger of Lenhartsville, PA - 96 years old. The youngest child present was Nora Langman of Media, PA - 1 1/2 months old. Most recently married were Patricia Jante-Clappsy and Frank Clappsy of Mechanicsburg, PA. The prize for the greatest distance traveled went to Glenda and Gene Hill of Williams, Arizona. The meeting concluded with the singing of Blest Be the Tie That Binds.

After the closing song, everyone is urged to continue visiting and enjoying the property. The reunion organizers are grateful to all who attend, to those who volunteer their efforts, and to those who donate funds to cover mailing and reunion expenses, as well as for renovations to the historic farmstead.

We look forward to seeing everyone again, and hopefully some new faces, on August 19, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane E. Hornberger, Secretary