

2019 DCOA Minutes

Minutes of the John Jacob Dreibelbis Cousins of America, Inc. annual family reunion held August 18, 2019 at the Dreibelbis Homestead in Virginville, Pa. This reunion celebrates the 287th anniversary of our ancestor's arrival on American shores. The register was signed by 127 individuals attending. Cousins were in attendance from Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Virginia, Washington and Pennsylvania.

We enjoyed a lovely sunny reunion day. House tours were again available. The Dreibelbis Store offered many 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 served generous amounts of tasty food.

The DCOA 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 estimated that there are 100,000 descendants of John Jacob Dreibelbis and mentioned the last Dreibelbis genealogy book was published in 1990. He read a list of deceased cousins, followed by a moment of silence in their memory. Eric asked for volunteers for next year. Secretary Carolyn Hollenbach offered a few remarks.

Mark Dreibelbis, owner of the historic Dreibelbis Farm, invited interested people to the farm festival at the farm on the Saturday following the reunion. He thanked all the volunteers, among whom are Richard and Lester Miller and Ned and Nancy Dresher. They are instrumental in the upkeep of the property, including planting, weeding, cooking, serving and other domestic duties.

Amy Langman offered remarks on the artifacts project, old photos and photo documentation in the future.

Jean Davis presented awards and prizes. The oldest man present was Carl Schock, a WW II veteran from Allentown. The oldest woman was Evelyn Heffner from Timonium, Md. The youngest child present was three month old Nathan Dreibelbis from Downingtown. Newlyweds Desiree and Randy Rickenbach were most recently married in May 2019. The greatest distance traveled was awarded to Jennifer Davis Hayes from Seattle, WA. Registration number winners were Brian Dreibelbis and Jamie Flowers. Trivia contest winners were George and Sally Parker and Donna Kunkle. Other contest winners included Dorothy Dietrich, Barbara Weiss and Ace Pozzi, who won the tootsie roll contest. First time attendees included John and Margaret Moyer, Alex and Catherine Wartzluft and Paulette Kehm.

President Eric Dreibelbis introduced the fabulous Miller Brothers—Bill, Bobby, Russell, Richard and Lester—who entertained us with humorous and moving songs in English and the Pennsylvania German dialect. They displayed wonderful memories in addition to their vocal talents.

In closing we sang "Blest Be the Tie That Binds". It was time for cleanup and all help was appreciated. It is our hope that everyone had a fun and interesting visit to the farm and that many of you will return next year on Sunday August 16, 2020.

Slate of officers of the Dreibelbis Cousins of America for 2020:

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