

2022 DCOA Minutes

Minutes of the John Jacob Dreibelbis Cousins of America, Inc. annual family reunion held August 21, 2022 at the Dreibelbis Homestead in Virginville, Pa. This reunion celebrates the 290th anniversary of our ancestor's arrival on American shores. The register was signed by 78 individuals. Cousins were in attendance from Illinois, Maryland, New Jersey, Texas and Pennsylvania.

We enjoyed a fine sunny reunion day. House tours were available. The Dreibelbis Store offered family inspired merchandise for sale. Cousins visited with Fred Polaski at the genealogy station where they could research family records or provide new family information.

After a delicious buffet served by cousins and volunteers, President Eric Dreibelbis called the meeting to order. We opened with the pledge of allegiance and the singing of Proud to Be an American.

The Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were posted on the bulletin board. The Treasurer's report was approved. Treasurer Fred Polaski reminded us that sales of Dreibelbis merchandise and generous donations help with the budget. Fred read a list of deceased cousins after which all observed a moment of silence for those departed.

Genealogy chair, Fred Polaski, requested cousins contact him via email with information on family members. His email is listed in the newsletter. There are 25,000 plus direct descendants of John Jacob Dreibelbis, including a cousin in Ukraine. Fred assured us that ours is a private family tree on line. Eric commented that since the 1990 Dreibelbis edition, we have quadrupled in numbers and asked cousins to provide family information to complete our data bank.

Mark Dreibelbis covered DFHS(Dreibelbis Farm Historical Society) activities for the year. With a goal of protecting and preserving the farm, volunteers are always needed. Projects require skills in groundskeeping, carpentry, fence repair, roofing and painting. All help is welcome. He also announced fresh picked sweet corn is available for purchase.

Amy Langman, artifacts chair, was absent. No report was issued. Amy also heads the tee shirt project and the family photo project.

Eric thanked Vice President Jean Davis for designing a new Dreibelbis sign with outstanding calligraphy. Jean is also in charge of docents(tour guides). Her many talents resulted in a \$100 donation to DCOA from the sale of bowl cozies at her craft stand. She announced that a selection of prizes from the Dreibelbis Store is available to today's contest winners. Winners are:

Greatest distance traveled – Sandi Nelson, San Antonio, TX

Oldest man – Paul Miller, Shoemakersville, PA

Oldest woman – Eleanor Dreibelbis, Mertztown, PA

Youngest child – Lily Dreibelbis, Downingtown, PA

Most recently married – Randy and Desira Rickenbach, Mohrsville, PA

Fred Polaski asked for volunteers to plan the 300th anniversary in ten years. President Eric Dreibelbis announced two oil paintings are for sale in the Dreibelbis Store. He then invited cousins to explore the farm and its environs, as there was no speaker planned.

After a collection to help cover newsletter expenses, Eric closed the meeting. All joined in singing Blest Be the Tie That Binds.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Hollenbach, Secretary