

John Jacob Dreibelbis Cousins of America

Our Past ... Bridging to the Future

June 2024

Stay Connected With Your Cousins!

 @DreibelbisCousinofAmerica

 @DreibelbisHistory

Posts include updates on Reunions, family history, and genealogy. Genealogical inquiries and updates are sent to Fred Polaski. Inquiries are answered as efficiently and accurately as possible.

Please note: even if you are not a Facebook member, you should be able to see the Facebook page and its updates regarding reunion dates and other items (only comments cannot be viewed).

Website

www.dreibelbiscousins.org

Dreibelbis Cousins

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2024 DCOA Reunion Moves to Sunday, August 25, 2024

Save the
**NEW
DATE**

Mark your calendars, folks! The 2024 Reunion is shaking things up a bit, and we couldn't be more thrilled! **This year, we're planning to gather a week later than usual, on Sunday, August 25, 2024.** Why the change, you ask? Well, we're all about maximizing the opportunity for our far-traveling cousins on this 292nd annual celebration.

Not only will we be reuniting at the beloved Historic Dreibelbis Farm for our Reunion, but we're also piggy-backing with the Annual Farm Festival, happening the day before. The Dreibelbis Farm Historical Society holds their annual Farm Festival on the 4th Saturday of August. This yearly event features 40+ artisans who gather to share their crafts of what life was like on a farm more than a century ago. House tours, horse-drawn wagon tours, Blue Grass music, candle-making, butchering, etc. See inside for details about the Festival.

In order to make the back-to-back event a possibility, we need help from Cousins who live nearby...and even Cousins who have traveled from afar and are staying overnight. At the end

Reunion Schedule

Rain or shine!

10am	Registration Opens
10am - 3:30pm	Tour Property
11:30am - 1pm	Lunch Served
1:15 - 1:45pm	Family Meeting
1:45pm	Talk by Jean Davis
2:15 - 4pm	Continue Visiting

of the Annual Farm Festival on Saturday, we need (more than) several people to move tables and chairs to the barn for our meeting, move tent canopies, put up Reunion sign and hanging additional signs for Reunion stations, etc.

With your help we can continue to provide this back-to-back event for our traveling cousins! Please contact President Eric Dreibelbis at highmtnepd@frontiernet.net or 717.575.6823 to sign up as a volunteer!

Registration form is on the last panel.

Things to See and Do at the Reunion

House Tours • Hayrides • Nature Trail (1.1 mi.)

See Farm Buildings & Equipment • Play Games • Socialize

Kid's Corner will be organized and supervised by Dreibelbis Cousin and volunteer, Diane Dreibelbis. Activities and possible story time will be determined as we approach the Reunion. Feel free to let your kids enjoy these activities while you attend the family meeting, take in the history of the Farm, play some Bingo, or just enjoy some peace and quiet.

Genealogy Station Fred Polaski will have his computer at the Genealogy Station at the Reunion, so bring your updates and watch them be added to the genealogy. Or just stop by to say hi and to ask genealogy questions.

Dreibelbis Store If you'd like a little memorabilia to commemorate the DCOA reunion, stop by the store! We will be offering metal stars crafted from the tin roof removed from the Historic Dreibelbis Farm barn, flour sacks, t-shirts, magnets, coasters, and more.

Photography & Artifacts Booth

We will continue, with permission of the Cousins, to photograph anyone that is attending the Reunion for the first time or if you haven't attended the Reunion recently. We will continue to take photographs, which will document the Dreibelbis Cousins and eventually will correspond with our genealogy in Ancestry.com. Caveat: your photos will not be used on social media. It is solely for genealogical purposes.

The Artifacts Booth will display several of the Dreibelbis family artifacts including mill items, dishes, certificates, photos, and other acquired artifacts. Please note: these artifacts purchased by or donated to the DCOA are to be shared with the entire Dreibelbis family. The Board will continue to protect them for future generations. Please stop by!

Save Green, Live Green

Go Digital with Our Family Newsletter!?

Help us save money and the environment by opting for our electronic family newsletter! Skip the clutter of paper mail and enjoy our updates right in your email inbox. It's easy and eco-friendly. Simply send a request to our secretary, Aimee Dreibelbis, at aimeeld13@gmail.com, and you'll be notified by email each year when the newsletter is posted on our website. Join us in making a positive impact and stay connected the green way!

Obituaries

Listed obituaries are those reported since the 2023 newsletter or not previously published.

Mary Jane Anderson

Dana Ernst Dreibelbis

J-MM-09-07128

Died: 12/01/2023

John Jacob Dreibelbis

A-08-03944-01

Died: 05/21/2021

Rachel Sallie Fegley Glass

J-08-06772

Died: 2023

Dorothy Jean Freeman

M-08-04567-01

Died: 07/22/2023

Evelyn Ziegler Heffner

wife of Harold H. Heffner

(J-07-01081-05)

Died: 06/17/2022

James Otto Kloepping

AMM-08-05800

Died: 06/08/2023

Ronald Oliver Kressley

husband of Shirley Ann Miller

Kressley

(J-08-06710a)

Died: 03/06/2019

Shirley Ann Miller Kressley

J-08-0671a

Died: 07/12/2022

Norman O. Merkel

J-08-06508

Died: 11/12/2022

Elaine J. Adam Miller

J-08-06527

Died: 02/27/2021

Richard Edward Snyder

(A-07-00711-02)

Died: 01/15/2020

Barbara Ann Miller Stump

J-08-05237-01

Died: 11/07/2021

Stay Connected to Your Cousins

The Dreibelbis Cousins of America organization has been successfully operating since 1932.

During this time we have continued the annual Reunion to promote branches of the family meeting others, provided representation to County and State representatives to refurbish the Dreibelbis Covered Bridge, and had 1966 and 1990 editions of our Genealogy produced. Most recently, we have successfully transitioned to an online Genealogy which continues to grow into a 38,000+ person database.

As the years are quickly slipping by, we realize we must prepare for new members to "take over the torch!" Please seriously consider a role you could play in our organization and contact Eric Dreibelbis, President.

Ways You Can Participate

Submit Your Articles

Let us know what is happening in your family so we can include it in next year's newsletter! Submit your articles to Eric Dreibelbis at highmtnepd@frontiernet.net no later than April 30 each year to be included in that year's newsletter.

Volunteer

- Submit birth, marriage and death information for cousins in your area of the country
- Reunion setup, cleanup, sales, or registration help
- Submit newsletter articles
- Newsletter preparation and mailing

Reach out to Eric Dreibelbis if you would like to help. See front page for contact info.

Donations are Always Needed and Appreciated!

If you are interested in supporting Dreibelbis Cousins of America (DCOA), there are several areas to which you could contribute!

- DCOA Newsletter Printing/Postage (to 930+ addresses)
- Genealogy Research/Artifacts/Ancestry.com
- Website Fees
- John Jacob Dreibelbis Cemetery Maintenance

Contributions can be mailed to Fred Polaski, treasurer: 32 Georgian Circle, Newark, DE 19711-2552.

You are forever in our hearts.



Flashback to 2023 Reunion

Oldest man

Paul Miller, 93, Shoemakersville, PA

Oldest woman

Eleanor Dreibelbis, 93, Mertztown, PA

Youngest child present

Lily Dreibelbis, 2, Downingtown, PA

Most recently married

Coryn Dreibelbis, 2019

Greatest distance traveled

Coryn Dreibelbis, Reno, NV

Profile From the Past

Abraham F. Dreibelbis

Historical research by fellow cousin, David C. Dreibelbis

Abraham F. Dreibelbis (Cousin ID # A5-587), a miner by occupation, was born on May 8, 1843, died on October 29, 1921, and was interred at Simeon United Lutheran Cemetery in Gratz, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania. He enlisted in the Army on October 23, 1861, in Lykens, PA in the 96th Pennsylvania Volunteers Infantry ('the 96th') and assigned to Company G. Note: the PVI was in existence from September 23, 1861 until October 21, 1864. On February 15, 1864, he re-enlisted in the 96th at Brandy Station, Virginia.

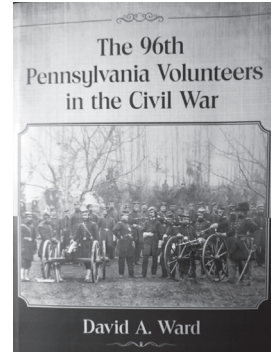
Please see the excerpt to the right that gives you the campaigns that the 96th was involved in with emphasis on the Battle of Spotsylvania Court House, where the 96th was in the first line of the Union assault on the "Mule Shoe." This assault was very comparable to Pickett's Charge, the Confederate attack at Franklin, Tennessee, and the Union assault at Fredericksburg.

According to Dreibelbis history, Abraham had a foot shot off in one of the battles. Research shows on June 1, 1864, at the battle of Cold Harbor, another sanguinary affair, he in fact did receive a wound which resulted in an amputation of his leg. However, it does not state when the amputation took place nor how much of his leg he lost.

On October 18, 1864, he was transferred to the 95th PVI as the 96th was retired because not enough of the regiment re-enlisted and was therefore, disbanded. Any member of the 96th who did stay with the Army was transferred to the 95th.

Author's assumption is that Abraham was still under doctor's care due to his amputation and was transferred to the 95th to keep him in an Army care unit.

He was finally discharged by a surgeon's certificate on April 6, 1865. Additional genealogy information can be found on page 190 in the 1990 Dreibelbis History Book.



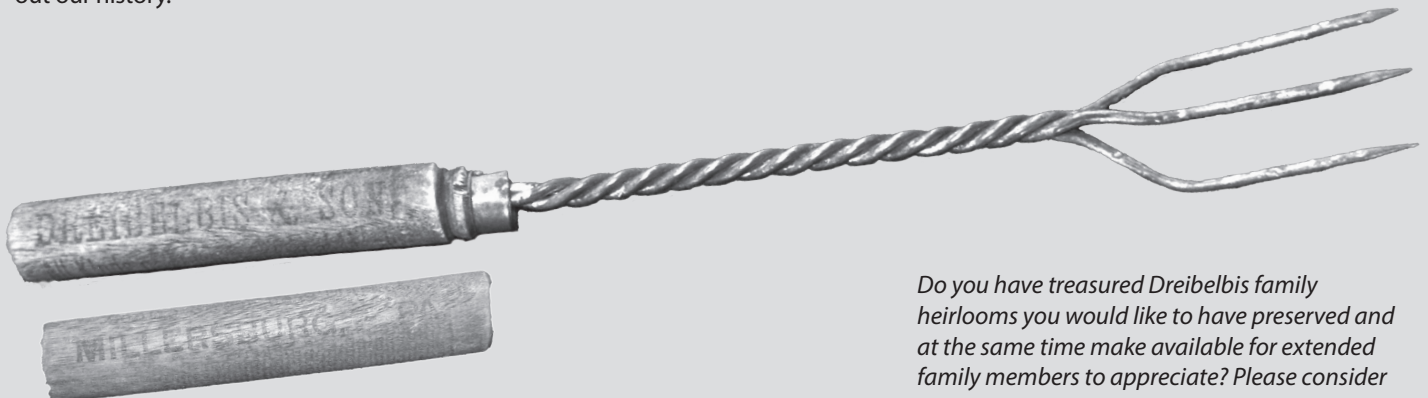
As the Connecticut men advanced, Lieutenant Luckenbill recalled the impact the artillery had on the soldiers formed in reserve in front of the guns. The lieutenant reported "Heavy skirmishing going on in our front. Cannons playing on us hard as they could fairly lifting us from the ground. Terrible fighting. Captured 50 prisoners in one lot and 171 in

another. Adjutant John Hannum right arm blown off." Henry Keiser also recorded his thoughts concerning the artillery fire. "The Batteries in our rear ... kept up a furious canonding. Our own, as well as the Rebel, shells flew around us like hail. One piece in the Battery directly in our rear exploded its shells right in our midst. The Adjutant's left arm was knocked off at the shoulder, and A. [braham] Dreibelbies' right foot was shattered by a shell from this piece" According to Captain Boyle, "On this day Lieutenant John T. Hannum, of Company D, acting adjutant, received a mortal wound, of which he died on the 7th. He was an intelligent man and a good soldier." For two hours the 2nd Connecticut fought valiantly against Clingman's North Carolinians. As the Heavies struggled to pierce the Confederate line, the 96th Pennsylvania moved forward to support the beleaguered Nutmeg men.

Artifact Spotlight

The butcher knife shown below is about 14-inch long with a wooden handle, a twisted metal shaft, and three prongs. If you've seen *Mysteries at the Museum*, you'll recognize this introduction. This historic Butcher Fork is stamped with "Dreibelbis & Son, All Kinds of Fresh and Cured Meats, Millersburg, PA." Millersburg is located north of Harrisburg, along the Susquehanna River along Route 209. It appears that Dreibelbis & Son consisted of J.W. and D.D. Dreibelbis and was located at Centre Street near Market Street.

A few small artifacts were obtained over the past year. Thanks to V.P.s Amy Langman and Kelly Leisey for their persistent search for Dreibelbis artifacts and memorabilia! Please stop by the Artifacts Tent at the Reunion to check out our history.



Do you have treasured Dreibelbis family heirlooms you would like to have preserved and at the same time make available for extended family members to appreciate? Please consider the DCOA as an organization to do just that!

Happenings at Dreibelbis Farm Historical Society

continue while there have been some new and exciting additions.

We are pleased to announce the addition of a site director/curator. Bradley Smith has been hired to give his expertise to further develop our efforts in programming and restoration. Bradley has a long history in the museum field and currently works for the Berks History Center. He had a few hours a week to spare and was able to offer his time to help us grow. So far, he has helped us with programming, preserving, and documenting artifacts, researching museum insurance, working to compile a history of the farm, assisting with period clothing for tour guides, conducting a self-assessment/visioning process, and in general adding his museum background knowledge to all we do. This is working very well and we are excited to have him on board.

To give our Dreibelbis cousins an easier chance to see the farm festival, the DCOA decided to have the Reunion the same weekend. The festival is Saturday, August 24, and the Reunion the next day Sunday August 25th. Hopefully this gives cousins from out of the area the opportunity to combine events in one trip.

We would like to thank the Schwenkfelder Library and Heritage Center for donating a large copper kettle to be used in making apple butter which you will be able to see in use this year at the festival.

As always, we are grateful to the volunteers and donors who support the work of the Dreibelbis Farm Historical Society. Please consider volunteering to help at the farm in a wide range of areas such as tour guides, maintenance and repair work, secretarial jobs, historical research, and set up for events. The Dreibelbis Farm Historical Society is a 501-c-3 non-profit charitable organization, and while we work closely with the Dreibelbis Cousins of America, we are a completely separate organization. Tax-deductible contributions are used for the upkeep and preservation of the farm.

Please contact us for further information or to express any ideas/feedback that may help us.

Another year of working to preserve, protect, and make available to the public the treasure of the Historic Dreibelbis Farm has seen our traditional activities



12th Annual Farm Festival

August 24, 2024
10am - 4pm

Demonstrators
Exhibits of PA German Farm Life
Music • Lectures • Hayrides • Hiking
House Tours • Food

Contact Information

Mark Dreibelbis
President, DFHS

(610) 488-7896
mjdrei@verizon.net

Search Historic Dreibelbis Farm on
Instagram and **Facebook** or visit our
website at www.dreibelbisfarm.org

Images from Past Farm Festivals



**Dreibelbis Cousins of America
Dreibelbis Farm Historical Society**

53 Fox Road
Hamburg, PA 19526

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2024 DCOA Reunion Moves to Sunday, August 25, 2024

CUT HERE

2024 DCOA Reunion Registration

Names of Attendees: _____

To assist in planning for games and activities, please list ages of all children attending. _____

Lunch Registration

Ages	# attending	Cost	Total
12 - adult		\$10	
6 - 11		\$ 5	
5 and under		FREE	
Choosing not to eat?		FREE	

Donations

Whether you can attend or not, your support is needed.

DCOA Newsletter Printing/Postage (930+ addresses)

Genealogy Research/Artifacts/Ancestry.com

John Jacob Dreibelbis Cemetery Maintenance

Dreibelbis Farm Historical Society

TOTAL (includes lunch and donation)

Make checks payable to Dreibelbis Cousins of America



We are looking forward to seeing you
at the Historic Dreibelbis Farm!

GPS

356 Hard Hill Road | Hamburg, PA 19526

On the Map

Route 143, south of Virginville, PA

Mail check and registration form to: Aimee Dreibelbis,
1213 Bartville Road, Christiana, PA 17509.

Please register by August 9, 2024 so we can provide
information to caterer. Questions, cancellations and
late registrations can be directed to Aimee Dreibelbis at
aimeeld13@gmail.com or 717.435.3150.

Dreibelbis Genealogy

If you have factual information about John Jacob Dreibelbis' siblings or cousins, please let us know so it can be preserved. More importantly, if you have information about descendants of John Jacob Dreibelbis, please let us know so that the family tree can be updated. There are over 25,000 recorded direct descendants of John Jacob Dreibelbis, and over 13,075 spouses in Ancestry.com, but the family tree shows many branches which end after only a few generations. There are likely many more Dreibelbis cousins who have not been identified, so if you would like to have an interesting hobby, one that can be both challenging and rewarding, let Fred Polaski know and he will direct you to locations in the Dreibelbis family tree that need work.

Ways to Update Your Genealogy Record

- Complete the form on this page and mail it
- Email your updates
- Visit the genealogy station at the Reunion

Accessing Ancestry.com

To gain access to the John Jacob Dreibelbis genealogy in Ancestry.com, please email Fred and he will "invite" you. This will provide access to dates of birth, death, and marriage; town of residence; and Dreibelbis genealogy numbers.

Contact Information

Fred Polaski | 32 Georgian Circle | Newark, DE 19711-2552
Polaski5@comcast.net

Dreibelbis Family Genealogy Information

Full Name: _____ Nickname: _____

Address / Place of Residence: _____ Dreibelbis Number: _____
(only city or town will be listed in the genealogy) (if a number has been assigned)

Name of Parents: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Location of Birth: _____

Date of Death: _____ Burial Location (e.g. cemetery name): _____

Name of Spouse: _____ Date of Marriage: _____
(include maiden name for wives, indicate if divorced)

Spouse's Date of Birth: _____ Spouse's Location of Birth: _____

Spouse's Date of Death: _____ Spouse's Burial Location: _____

Note: If the Dreibelbis cousin was married more than once, complete the spousal information for all spouses.

Name of Children: _____

(For each child, please include date of birth, and if applicable, date of death and burial location.)

Any information that identifies Dreibelbis relatives and any information on occupation, where they lived, military service, or anything else of interest.

Information provided by: Name: _____

Address: _____ Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Please return form to:

Fred Polaski | Polaski5@comcast.net
32 Georgian Circle | Newark, DE 19711-2552

The full-page Genealogy Information form can be downloaded and printed from the website at www.DreibelbisCousins.org