

**John Jacob Dreibelbis Cousins of America, Inc.  
2025 Annual Reunion Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** August 24, 2025

**Location:** Dreibelbis Historic Farm, Virginville, Pennsylvania

**Occasion:** 293rd Anniversary of the Dreibelbis Family's Arrival in America

**Attendance:** 75

**Registration and Attendance Report**

	<b>Adults</b>	<b>Ages 3-11</b>	<b>Under 3</b>	<b>Total</b>
Registered	56	6	1	63
No Shows	8	1		9
<i>Subs. For No Shows</i>	2			2
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>56</b>
Walk-ins	19			19
<b>Total Count</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>75</b>

A total of 60 adult meals and 10 children's meals were reserved through Kathryn's Katering of Blandon, PA. Of the 19 walk-in attendees, 15 opted not to partake in the catered meal. Ultimately, 55 adult meals and 6 children's meals were served. Leftover food was shared among interested attendees. Beverages were provided by the organization along with ice-cream. A cake was generously donated by Diane Dreibelbis.

**Reunion Activities**

Setup for the reunion was largely completed the evening prior, following the Dreibelbis Farm Festival. A brief rain shower occurred during final preparations on the morning of the reunion.

House tours were offered at 10:30 AM, 10:45 AM, and 3:00 PM, led by Jean Davis Janine Dreibelbis and a Docent. Outdoor activities included self-guided walks along the nature trail, visits to the barn and historic farm equipment, and exploration of other structures on the property.

Fred Polaski was on hand to update the family genealogy and welcomed discussions with attendees regarding their family lines. The Dreibelbis Store, managed by Rachel Dreibelbis, offered memorabilia for purchase. Amy Langman displayed family artifacts although some items were withheld from display due to damp weather. She continued photographing family groups for genealogy records.

All attendees received a reunion survey upon registration; seven completed surveys were submitted by the end of the event.

**Annual Meeting**

The official meeting of the John Jacob Dreibelbis Cousins of America, Inc. was called to order at 1:05 PM by Vice President Jean Davis. The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance and a communal singing of "Proud to Be an American."

Jean Davis presented the 2024 Business Meeting minutes and the 2024-2025 Treasurer's Report; approval of the reports follows:

- **Secretary's Report:** Motioned by Deb Auman, seconded by Karen Strange.
- **Treasurer's Report:** Motioned by Donna Kulp, seconded by Patsy Danly.

Fred Polaski provided a financial update, noting that the organization is experiencing a gradual shortfall in income relative to expenditures. He urged attendees to consider making donations, as contributions are the organization's primary source of funding.

He also gave a genealogy report, stating that many family branches currently end at the fourth generation. He estimated that the organization could add approximately 100,000 names with additional contributions beyond that point. Fred read aloud the names of family members who had passed away since the last newsletter and led a moment of silence in their memory. He addressed inquiries regarding the publication of a new genealogy book, confirming that no such publication is planned due to cost and the rapid obsolescence of printed materials. He emphasized the importance of providing updates to the online family tree.

Amy Langman invited attendees to view the artifact display and thanked everyone for their continued support of the historical preservation efforts, despite the limitations caused by the weather.

Mark Dreibelbis, owner of the Dreibelbis Historic Farm, spoke about the mission of the Dreibelbis Farm Historical Society and expressed his appreciation for the generous donations and volunteer contributions. He noted that the reunion was strategically scheduled the day after the annual Farm Festival to accommodate out-of-town attendees. Approximately 10–15 individuals had attended the Festival the previous day.

Outgoing President Eric Dreibelbis announced this would be his final year serving in an officer role after 17 years of leadership. He introduced Jacob Dreibelbis as the nominee for President, effective August 24, 2025. The nomination was unanimously approved by vote.

Eric also announced that Aimee Dreibelbis would be stepping down as Secretary following the 2026 reunion. Interested individuals were encouraged to contact current officers regarding the position.

## **Awards and Recognitions**

Vice President Jean Davis presented the following awards, with recipients choosing between \$10 Walmart or McDonald's gift cards:

- **Oldest Man Present:** Jim Dreibelbis (81 years old)
- **Oldest Woman Present:** Patsy Danley (81 years old)
- **Youngest Attendee:** Lily Dreibelbis (4 years old, Downingtown, PA)
- **Most Recently Married Couple:** Jacob and Rachael Dreibelbis (2 years, Hoboken, NJ)
- **Longest Married Couple:** Terry and Diane Michael (61 years)
- **Traveled Farthest Distance:** Elliot Smith (North Carolina)
- **Registration Raffle Winners:** Nicholas Perry and Waylon Smith

**Raffle Baskets:**

New this year, two themed raffle baskets were offered. Both the Chip & Dip Basket and the DCOA Merchandise Basket were won by Chaz Pozzi.

Donation baskets were circulated during the event to support the organization's ongoing efforts; \$253 were donated as a result.

**Special Presentation**

David Smoot delivered a featured presentation titled "*The Art of Medicine*," focusing on medical practices during the Civil War era. He highlighted the experiences of several Dreibelbis ancestors who served during the war and discussed the types of medical treatments they might have received.

**Conclusion**

The event concluded with the traditional singing of "Blest Be the Tie That Binds." Volunteers were sincerely thanked for their assistance with cleanup of chairs, tables, and equipment.

**2025–2026 Officers of the John Jacob Dreibelbis Cousins of America, Inc.**

- **President:** Jacob Dreibelbis
- **Vice Presidents:** Jean Davis, Amy Langman
- **Secretary:** Aimee Dreibelbis
- **Treasurer:** Fred Polaski

**Respectfully submitted,**  
*Aimee Dreibelbis, Secretary*