



Chapter Six

~ LITITZ SPRINGS PARK –
THE HEART OF OUR COMMUNITY ~

A PLACE OF COMMUNITY PRIDE ~ by R. Ronald Reedy

The seven-acre expanse that became Lititz Springs Park was traversed and inhabited many centuries ago by Native Americans. The area is endowed by nature with extraordinary beauty. Indian relics, arrowheads, pottery shards and other artifacts — have been unearthed there, thus substantiating the conclusion that this pristine wilderness of scenic serenity had cultural development and social organization long before the arrival of the European settlers.

Lititz Run, which flows through the Park, was known for many years as Carter's Run, named for Richard Carter, who emigrated from Warwickshire, England in 1729. In Carter's day the head- water's of the "Big Springs" were marshes fed by several converging underground streams.

The first reported use of the "Big Spring" as a pleasure place was in May of 1778. Tohias Hirte, a local music teacher, along with a small orchestra of young men gave evening concerts. The "Aufseher Collegium," the Moravian governing authority, viewed this lively entertainment as too worldly. They expressed disapproval; because of merry-making late into the night. But the Revolutionary War soldiers, who were convalescing at the Moravian Brother's House, enjoyed the concerts immensely.

The earliest remembrance of the "Big Spring" indicates that the grounds were in a wild, uncultivated state. The hill extended down to the mouth of the spring and was overgrown with bushes. A broad swamp extended several acres on the northern side, and in the springtime the water was sufficient depth to admit boats being rowed upon the surface.

It was not until 1792 that a meeting of citizens was called to take additional steps to improve the Lititz Springs. The town fathers, who were afraid that such a "Lustplatz" would encourage too much worldliness, reluctantly gave permission to young people to use an acre of ground around the "Big Spring." This lot was not worth much for building, thus provided a location for recreational activities. Trees were planted, arbors were built, walks were laid and the arched bridge was constructed.

The farmers, who watered their cattle there, were

opposed to the improvements and destroyed everything. The benches were broken, the summerhouse was upset and the wall was through into the creek.

In 1805, a pond of considerable size was still there in an area on the north side of today's Park. To move the water from the pond, an irrigation ditch, of approximately one-fourth of a mile in length, was dug to the east. Even though it would ameliorate water availability to Lititz residents, this "improvement" was quite controversial, and it was a cause of frequent concern to the town fathers.

As the Lititz Springs became an increasingly popular gathering place, the need for additional upgrading of the environs was recognized. Attempts at beautification, however, were sporadic. In 1810, the young men of Lititz "planted an avenue of locust trees leading from near the springs' head, on the south side, along a lane by the base of the hill to the Manheim road." On the same night, however, some malicious fellows came in from the countryside and chopped off every one of the trees; leaving it to the boys to get to work, with much defiant bluster, the very next morning, and plant the avenue afresh.

It was not until 1835 that further efforts were initiated to improve and beautify the Lititz Springs. The town committee gave its approval for fences to be built by voluntary labor and seats were again erected. The cost of construction was thirty dollars. "Work was done each year," an interested resident observed, "and from 1835 to 1840, first one thing and then another was added to the place, which was already becoming a thing of beauty."

The Lititz community invariably watched the improvements in the Park with much interest. Vivid memories of the transformation of a former virgin wilderness into a beautiful recreational oasis endured. In 1920, Abraham R. Beck, a local historian, picturesquely reminisced his recollection of the Lititz Springs as early as 1838.

"Then the limit of its grounds was fence running from



Lititz Springs Park – circa 1880's.
Photo from the Robert "Sketch" Mearig Collection.

the north across the stream (where now is the arched stone bridge) and joining a fenced field on the south. The pathway around the springs' head rose to the height of six feet about its present level, so that to get a drink one had to go down the steps on the north side of the water's edge. There was then only a single well, just where the main one is now; but its flow was strong and it bubbled up higher, I think, than the latter does.

Out from the terrace above the wall grew, on the south side, an ancient iron wood tree stunted and lonely, until of necessity it was cut down. Beyond the basin, to the south, there stood a row of five immense willows; and consequently there grew into the stream along their front a dense matting of pink rootlets reaching out a foot or more. Between two of those trees there was, on an artificial mound, a fountain throwing a jet of about three feet high.

To visit the Lititz Springs on a Sunday afternoon and for several years later, the villagers - the men in high silk

hats and swallow-tail coats, and the ladies wearing "kiss-me-if-you-dare" bonnets - had to walk out the Manheim Road (now West Main Street) and then turn into the land that led to their destination.

In 1842 the fence that crossed the stream limited the Lititz Springs grounds (as the site of the arched bridge, let me repeat) was removed, allowing the main path to continue down through the meadow to the highway. The arduous work to accomplish this, besides going for and planting more trees, whitewashing fences and building two large vine-covered summer houses, was the voluntary contribution of our young men. (In later years Mr. John Beck planted a large number of the trees now found at the Lititz Springs).

Wild life at the Lititz Springs then was more apparent than it is now. Chipmunks abounded, eels were impaled by the rakers of moss, and I remember to have seen a Virginia Rail - a bird you would not dream of seeing there now - swimming diagonally across the stream followed in its wake by a string of eight or ten fuzzy little young ones. Along the whole course of the water a bullfrog jumped off the bank almost every step, and at least three species of turtles were there in abundance; while the stream fairly swarmed with "mulligrubs" and crawfish - the latter resembling miniature lobsters.

There was a boy, often met with at the Lititz Springs, whose method of showing himself was to swallow a crawfish alive. Once I saw him perform before a bevy of Seminary girls, several of who made pretense of earnestly trying to dissuade him from it, yet eagerly hoping he would do it nevertheless. A few crackling chaws, a complacent grin, and the feat was done.

In 1846 a few of our people erected a second fountain, situating it beautifully in the midst of the four grand old oaks (three of which still exists) on the north side of the stream midway between the upper two bridges. Its basin, constructed of bricks and plaster, was 16 feet in diameter; the jet thrown may have been fifteen feet in height. It certainly was a lovely spot; especially in the moonlight, and when, on occasion, some village Lorenzo and his Jessica would be very closely seated there. Some of us thought that the plashing of the water in its basin gave out a musical tinkle never heard elsewhere. The wheel and pump operating the fountain were placed about

forty feet lower down the stream, - probably so that their unsightliness might not interfere with its scenic beauty.

From the terrace where now is found the Lion's Head, one could, in those days, awaken a remarkable fine echo - or rather a series of echoes - the sounds being repeated four or five times. But the most charming effect was that produced, on a quite night, by the playing of chords on a pair of French horns whose mellow, violet tones in ever diminishing repetition would come back to us like "The Horns of Elfiand faintly blowing." Owing to change in environment it is likely that echo has fled away forever.

Picnics at the Lititz Springs in those days, whether from home or abroad, were of rare occurrence, and Sunday School celebrations were not yet customary. It is true we boys once fell upon the idea of getting us a grand Harvest Home Festival there. Boy like we worked ourselves up to a high pitch of resolution that it should be a grand success and no mistake without once considering that we had not the power to carry out our plans; so that when we finally assembled about one of the shaky old picnic tables, instead of a spread of festive eatables, there was on it only a pint tin cup full of ice cream that Dick Tshudy had carried all the way from his home - his left arm rigidly extended to supply a careful balance - as his contribution. We had not got so far as to take counsel how this pint of cram, could be made to go round among the expectant little Blickensderfers and Sturgises present, when a tall, lanky, Academy boy - a giant he seemed to us - stalked up to the table saying, "Why, why, why, what have we here? It looks like cream!" (He takes a sip). "Why, yes, I do declare it is cream!" With that he put his tin cup to his lips, tilted back his head, and down went all there was of the Harvest Home Festival."

From 1846 to 1856, the Lititz Springs Park was placed under the care of John Beck, who was then the Principle of the Lititz Boys Academy. He expended a considerable amount of his own resources to plant trees, thereby enhancing the overall attractiveness of the grounds. To the boys of the Academy, many of who willingly aided the work of their beloved teacher, the Lititz Springs was a favorite resort for recreation and relaxation.

When the steep bank around the springhead was contoured in 1855, three additional springs, which have

continued to flow from the wall, were uncovered. Also, at this time, the pond was removed, and the irrigation ditch was abandoned.

In 1856, a committee of the town's civic-minded men, having accepted sandstone in the rough from the Colemans of Brickerville, placed founts and coping around the head-end of the Springs, which was constructed in a "graceful, elliptical design. At the foot of a ledge of rocks which formed the Springs western terminus, water gently bubbled to the surface and, from here, moved slowly along an easterly route through a narrow, walled channel shaded on both sides by beautiful trees.



Head-end of the Springs – 1856.
Photo from the Robert "Sketch" Mearig Collection.

The Lititz Springs, dedicated in 1856 as a public park, had now become a favorite spot where townspeople leisurely gathered; and to which visitors came because of the clear, limestone water's reputed, therapeutic efficacy in healing rheumatism and other assorted ailments.

In addition to its beautiful stream, shaded walkways and its well-kept, natural environment, an elegantly carved lion's head by J. Augustus Beck, was added to the décor in 1857. It was strategically placed to the right of the springhead near the steps. Choosing as his model the world-famous "Lion of Lucerne" in Switzerland, Beck had hoped to incise all of the head, the shoulders and the forepaws of the "king of the beasts." However, because of the extreme hardness of the rock, which ruined his chisels, he had to abandon his original plans.



Lion's Head carved by J. Augustus Beck in 1857.
Photo Courtesy of Ron Reedy.

To the perseverant men who began and, then, oversaw the improvements to the Lititz Springs Park, the possibility that the facility would become a much used picnic ground was never envisioned. But, with the completion of the railroad in 1863, visitors from reading and elsewhere frequently traveled to Lititz. Thus, Sunday School picnics and other community group outings permanently became social activities in the Park.

March 8, 1884 the Lititz Moravian Congregation leased a parcel of land situated in the northeast corner of the Park, to the Reading & Columbia Rail Road for a term of 999 years. On this land the railroad erected a new passenger depot and express station. At the same time tow bridges were built across the Lititz Run, one to enter the depot and park grounds and the other to obliterate the ford on Broad Street.



Beck's Concert Band at the Music Pavilion dedication
July 4, 1906.
Photo Courtesy of Ron Reedy.

Through the efforts of Paul E. Beck, Maestro of the Beck Concert Band, an octagon shaped music pavilion was built and dedicated July 4, 1906. His band and many other bands would now have a more fitting facility in which to perform.

Sometime later, Paul E. Beck and his father, Abraham, and brother Herbert, put a stone tablet into the wall of the springs' head-end, upon which was engraved a German inscription, "Gottes Brunnlein hat Wasser die Fulle - "God's Fount is Never Failing."

The great cantata "Belshazzar", or The Fall of Babylon was staged on the grounds of the Lititz Springs Park for three evenings beginning on August 14 to 16, 1908. The cantata was under the auspices of the Lititz Young Men's Christian Association. Some public opinion, when the cantata was being considered, was that it was "too big of an undertaking for the community," but it proved the negative views wrong and received great laurels for the production.

In 1927, on the hill behind the springs' head-end, Lititz Boy Scout Troops 2 and 3 built the Log Cabin.

In January 1937, the Lititz Springs Park governing body addressed the Lititz Chamber of Commerce upon reawaking the interest of the people of Lititz, by sponsoring needed improvements in the Park. From this discussion came the Park Improvement Project, which included the construction of the present day Band Shell (dedicated to the memory of Paul E. Beck), a comfort station and improved landscaping of the grounds.

Ravaged by both time and nature, the Park by the mid 1950's required improvements to modernize its physical appearance. During the summer of 1956 while Lititz was celebrating its Bicentennial, Elmer H. Bobst, an international-known philanthropist and Chairman of the Board of Warner-Lambert Pharmaceutical Company, returned to his boyhood home. He surprised the community by announcing a bequest of \$100,000 for the complete rehabilitation and restoration of the Park.

On October 29, 1956, the Lititz Moravian Congregation relinquished its managerial responsibilities of the

facility. A perpetual “Declaration of Trust” placed the actual operation of the Park under the control of an incorporated community-represented, twelve-member Board of Trustees. Under the terms, the Board of Trustees was to include a cross section of other churches in the community.

As part of the Parks’ restoration, the passenger depot and express station built in 1884 was demolished in May of 1957 for the purpose of constructing a more modern entrance.

The playground equipment selected during the Park’s renovation of 1957-58 served for many years. Over time many changes and improvements were made, but finally it became necessary to consider a total revision of existing play areas. It was “Our Kids Turn.” In 1992 funds were raised to construct a new accessible, children’s and older youth areas, a fitness course, and a beach volleyball court. This all became possible through the unselfish support of the Lititz community.

Seeing a need for major Park repairs, the Lititz Springs Park Board of Trustees approved a major capitol improvements project at their May 9, 1995 meeting. The centerpiece of the project was the reconstruction of the 1884 Lititz Passenger Depot and Express Train Station to be used as a Welcome Center, a Park Office, a meeting place for small groups and public restrooms.

To generations of community residents, the Lititz Springs Park has always been an important place to gather. Visitors, who once came to town by train and trolley, now travel to Lititz by automobile over the roadways that have facilitated access to the Park. The community’s commitment to preserving the Park, as an idyllic retreat from the effects of an ever-changing society, is recognized in the cooperative spirit of voluntarism by which the facility’s attractive physical appearance is maintained.

William B. Oehme, a dedicated volunteer long appreciated the Park and especially the Fourth of July celebrations. He served as Treasurer of the Lititz Springs Park Board of Trustees during the 1960’s. As a bakery pioneer, civic leader and philanthropist he generously provided funds that have, and will continue to assist ongoing maintenance of the Park for many years

to come. Thus the Board of Trustees felt it fitting to dedicate to his honor and memory a replica of the 1906 octagon shaped music pavilion for his untiring efforts and support of the Lititz Springs Park. The dedication was held May 15, 2004.

On April 26, 2005 it was discovered that the priceless lion’s head carving of 1857 had been defaced beyond recognition. A special Lion’s Head Restoration Committee was appointed by the Lititz Springs Park Board of Trustees to determine how the lion’s head could be restored. After careful consideration it was determined by the Committee that to restore the lion’s head would not be feasible. Realizing the dream of Mr. Beck, it was decided that a full lion, symbolic of the “Lion of Lucerne” be carved out of granite and placed directly above the original lion’s head. This full lion completes Julius Augustus Beck’s original dream. The symbolic “Lion of Lucerne” was dedicated July 2, 2006.



Unveiling & Dedication Ceremony of the Symbolic “Lion of Luzerne” - July 2, 2006. l/r – The Hon. Russell L. Pettyjohn, Mayor; Henry N. Diener, Great Great Grand Nephew of J. A. Beck; R. Ronald Reedy, President of Lititz 250 Inc.; James I. Nuss, Chairperson, Lion’s Head Restoration Committee.
Photo Courtesy of Ron Reedy.

As part of the 250th celebration of the naming of Lititz, a “Wall of Remembrance” was constructed in the Park at the South Spruce Street entrance. The Wall was dedicated Sunday, September 17, 2006 in honor of 302 individuals who built the community of Lititz and to those who made the ultimate sacrifice on the battlefields preserving freedom.

With its incomparable beauty and its scenic serenity, the Lititz Springs Park is certainly a community legacy. It is a place of gala celebration and family gathering and individual quietude. It is indeed a place of community pride.

CAVES IN LITITZ ~ by Aaron E. Fry

The story has been passed down for generations in Lititz- a network of mysterious natural caves and tunnels lay underneath the heart of the downtown. They were explored and used by booze bootleggers during prohibition, but today are only rumored to exist.

Most descriptions of the tunnels are strikingly similar: the tunnels start in the beer cellar of the Old Lititz Brewery, wend their way down to the General Sutter Inn, and cross under Main Street to the Lititz Springs Bank's vault. Most often in these stories, the tunnels were used and partially constructed for smuggling during prohibition. A detail that is mentioned in some versions of the tale is that a one-inch-thick steel plate, which is monitored electronically by the police department, supposedly blocks the section of tunnel that leads to the bank vault.

Another version of the story has an additional arm of the tunnel leading to the basement of the Parkview Hotel.

So, are the rumors true? Well, in the 1950's, Ira Yeagley, at the direction of the park committee, sealed up a cave entrance in the wall at the head end of the Lititz Spring so teenagers would stop entering the small cave and endangering themselves. Also, reliable sources report that there is a wall covered by small stones in the cellar of the old brewery, as well as a hole in the wall in the basement of the Parkview Hotel that may lead somewhere.

Could these stories be true, or are they simply fabricated tales? Hopefully, someday soon we will discover the truth.

A LITITZ TRADITION - CELEBRATING THE FOURTH OF JULY ~ by R. Ronald Reedy

In the early nineteenth century, observances of Independence Day in Lititz occurred randomly and sporadically. Young fellows and apprenticed boys gathered old "Indian Traders" (usually long, flintlock fowling pieces originally made for Indian trade) and horse pistols. Then, assembled in platoons, these enthusiastic celebrators fired their guns at the Lititz Springs and throughout the village.

The first recorded Independence Day observance was Tuesday, July 4, 1811. The village band, organized in 1810, played in the newly laid out park at the Springs. This met with disapproval of the "Aufseher Collegium," the governing authority, for "making merry" at the Springs and "greatly disturbing the village late into the night," but, what was worse, associating themselves with the neighboring military company which paraded here during the day.

It was not until July 4, 1818 that Lititz held its first community-wide observance of Independence Day. Broadly supported by the public, the event included a banquet, homemade fireworks and music. The Moravians, who did not want to show a lack of

patriotism, now tacitly encouraged the celebration.

These informal festivities initiated a continuing tradition of annual patriotic demonstrations that, in importance and with regularity, have been scarcely equaled elsewhere. The familiar springhead has silently witnessed more celebrations of the Nation's birthday than most places in the United States. This distinction has reflected favorable upon the Lititz community and, thus, has mollified the often differing attitudes toward the colonial cause of independence that, in several years before and during the American Revolution, were evinced by a sometimes ardent, almost religious sense of duty to the English Crown.

The first formally organized, regularly planned observance of Independence Day took place, Thursday, July 4, 1822, on the grounds of the Springs. The festivities included music by the Lititz Band (composed of 2 oboes, 2 clarinets, 3 key-bugles, 1 flute, 1 trumpet, 2 French horns, 2 bassoons, 2 tenor and 2 bass trombones, 1 serpent, drums), a dinner with thirteen toasts gun salutes.

First Candle Illumination in 1843

A special attraction that would give the annual event in Lititz a recognized uniqueness was introduced on Tuesday, July 4, 1843. To raise funds for improvements to the Park, the event planners decided to light 400 candles. This was an extraordinary feature advertised as a “general illumination of the grounds.” Prior to 1843, there had been small illuminations at the Moravian Brother’s House. Two of these small illuminations took place in 1783 marking the “joy at the return of peace,” and at the “Children’s Festival” in the Church Square. But, the first illumination of the “Springs” was one of the grandest affairs ever to occur in Lititz. The candle lighting custom had been “borrowed” from the most familiar portion of the Christmas Vigil of the Moravians. Thus, a cherished, continuing Independence Day tradition had begun. Today, 7,000 candles are illuminated.

“A Tale Told on Independence Day, 1843”

“I remember back in 1780...These Lititz Springs weren’t much to look at then. Hardly more than a swampland. No trees. No paths or fences. Then several of us young fellows from the village get the idea of fitting up the place as a pleasure ground. Of course, the Church Council didn’t take to the idea right off. They were afraid that such “lustplatz” would engender to much worldliness. But finally they consented and granted an acre for park purpose.

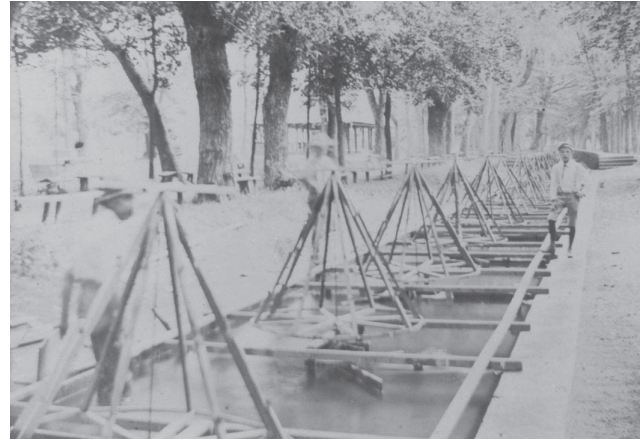
And let me tell you, we worked hard and long.

All the Lititz villagers for in were in on the act. Soon as we got home from work and finished supper, we’d be out there filling in that swamp. Night after night. Weekend and weekend. It took years till we finally got to planting the trees. When all the trees but the locusts started to die; we got discouraged and quit the project. It wasn’t till 1835 we decided to give it another go around.

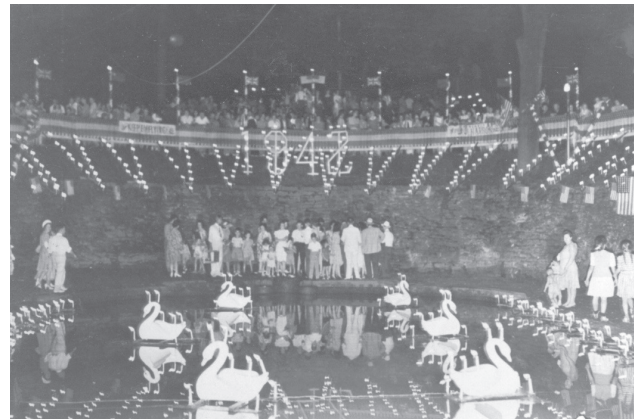
And look at us now, Celebratin’ the 4th of July in high style.

It was as a boy of 16 that I lifted my first shovel of fill into that old swamp. Today, in 1843, we have a real nice park for celebratin’ our day of freedom. Lititz

Springs Park. We have a lot to be thankful for as Americans. And as Lititz villagers, too.



Candle Illumination Display – July 4, 1896.
(Earliest known photograph).
Photo from the Robert “Sketch” Mearig Collection.



100th Anniversary of the First Candle Illumination –
July 4, 1942.
Photo Courtesy of Ron Reedy.

Many personal stores have been told about recollections of Fourth of July celebrations in Lititz Springs Park. The following are just a few, including a poem by Selina Cox Eshleman.

A letter appeared in the June 14, 1945 Lititz Record Express, written by Elmer Schreiner, a native of Halfville, who was doing war work at the Akron, Ohio, YMCA. It was a sketch describing the Fourth of July celebrations during the late 1800’s:

“In those days, Lititz was the only place to celebrate Independence Day. No other town in the country could come up to it, not even Rockey Springs at Lancaster could hold their people at home. They came to Lititz. The Philadelphia & Reading Railroad ran special trains east and west, from Columbia, Lancaster,

Manheim, and from Reading via Sinking Springs, Ephrata, Millway and Rothsville. Many hacks too, came from all directions; Scheafferstown, Brickerville, Lexington, White Oak, Clay and some even came from Lebanon and Quarryville.

Lititz on the “4th” was not the same town at all; it was like a carnival or circus with bands and parades. Big flags hanging from wires stretched across the streets, buildings were trimmed with bunting of stars and stripes, and inside many windows hung portraits of George Washington and Betsy Ross. The whole town was breezy with the spirit of “76”.

The huckster stands along the sidewalks were like stalls in the Lancaster Market house. You could buy anything you wanted: sandwiches, roasted peanuts, pop corn balls with rubber strings, ice cream at 5 and 10 cents a plate -- coffee, lemonade, orange pop, and sarsaparilla, also shooting crackers, cannon crackers, toy balloons with many colors, walking sticks with ribbons, fire-wheels, roman candles and sky rockets.

Medicine men gave free shows; black face comedians picking on banjos and singing funny funny songs; performers balancing on their hands on top of chairs and clowns slapping one another’s faces. Then a big man in a Prince Albert coat would step on the platform and talk about his wonderful medicine liniments for rheumatism, snake oil for sore muscles and swamp root bitters for the stomach—“all for the small price of 50 cents a bottle.”

There were fakers too, and how they fooled the men with three walnut shells and a tiny black ball. “We da defel kenna sie des do?” the men would say after their quarter was gone. For 50 cents pretty girls took you into a little tent and told your fortune all you wanted to know and many things you didn’t want to know - they did a good business too, not only with the men for women, too, like fortune telling.

For music the best was none too good, there was the Ringgold Band of Reading, or the Silver Cornet Band of Lebanon, the Germania Band of Lancaster, sometimes the Rothsville Band got in it to -- then known as “Die Hossaharrig’r Band” -- and they were good. Not only did they play shot marches, but long

classical stuff. One afternoon at the Springs they played a piece 25 minutes long. Old timers would say: “Ich con go net fersteh - vie sic so long spheele kenne.” The “Lititz Record” once gave a big write-up on their good playing. Brunnerville tried hard to have a band -- something funny about that everytime they were good enough to play four or five pieces something happened and they broke up. Only once did they play at the Lititz Springs. They had on Navy blue suits and silver braiding over their chests and on the side of their pants. On their blue caps were three silver letters “B.C.B.” (Brunnerville Cornet Band). Old John Blants after a drink of Habecker’s whiskey, said to the leader of the band: “What does it mean that “1-3.C.B.” on your caps?” - That John means ‘Before Christ was born.’ “What,” said John “Before Christ was born, then by God you ought to play a dern sight better than you do.”

The Lititz Springs was always decorated. Everywhere flags on the trunks of the trees and all the posts of the fences wrapped with red, white and blue bunting. Japanese lanterns with many colors swung from the limbs of trees, the band stands and speaker stands were not draped in national colors but beautiful flowers and ferns hung all around. The source of the springs was a large circular basin with sandstone walls that continued all the way along the waters. On top of the walls along were placed narrow slabs of wood, so arranged that they formed geometrical figures, squares, triangles, diamonds, crosses and stars. These slabs held thousands of candles -- and when lit up at night made a beautiful sight. Half way down was a big Ferris wheel upon which hung colored lanterns, and a little water wheel kept it going around in slow motion.

The main attraction at night was the fireworks. At sunset they began to send up paper balloons, puffed up with hot air and very large. It was amusing to see them glide upward in the air, and then sail on and on. Some kept going for miles over the farms of the county. The “Lancaster Morning News” once came out with the headlines, “Lititz Paper Balloon Picked Up, Near Philadelphia.” Next, came the fire wheels and fire fountain and roman candles. But not until the skyrockets did things get exciting. They were the best on the program. After the torch was set to the fuse, they fussed and spit fire for a few seconds, then with a

widely rushing speed they shot up into the air wagging their fiery tails behind them. When they could go no further they turned over slowly in the shape of a croquet wicket, and with a loud band, opened up and sent forth streams of colored fiery halls. The women folks always liked that rough rushing force of the rockets, and screamed when they took off their flight.

One night for a closing number they had set up a large frame -- which when set off was to be a picture of George Washington. But something went wrong. The upper part of Washington was very good, hut the lower half would not do it's part, the lower jaw caught fire and then caved in as though he was cremated, It was a great disappointment, and for days people talked about it. The fireworks closed the day's program. The respectable men went home with their wives and stayed there, others when home and came back again, but many didn't go home at all and let their wives go alone."

Edna Mae Longenecker Wolfskill, daughter of John and Blanche Longenecker of Lititz, gave a written account of her recollection of the 4th of July (1910-1920 circa) to her grandchildren on May 30, 1977:

"The Fourth of July was always a big event in our town. My parents always invited guests for the day and Mother cooked a big pot of ham and string beans, plus potatoes, etc.

The town had a big parade in the morning and Dad always had a beautiful float to enter, which he designed. One year he designed an airplane float made on top of the automobile. We have pictures of this and on top the wings could be pulled back if you were going through a narrow passage way.

One of the floats had a swing on top and several kids in the neighborhood sat on it, along with some of us, dressed in crepe paper costumes, red, white and blue, which Mother had made.

In the afternoon, everyone went to the Lititz Springs Park, which was a beautiful spot.

A creek or stream ran through the center of the park and at the source of it, a lovely head of a lion had

been carved Out of the rock, which had been carved by a local citizen, Abram Beck, great grandfather of John Beck. Mr. Beck was a very talented man; also a musician and he wrote many of the hymns, which are in the Moravian hymnals and still sung, today.

John Beck has been a good friend of our family for many, many years. He is now retired, living in Dallas, Texas, after serving many years as Chief Pilot for American Air Lines. Wooden frameworks in many designs were put up spanning the creek for this 4th of July event. They held colored glasses and a candle was placed in the center of them; then lighted at night, just at dusk, creating a veritable fairyland.

Two beautiful gazebos served as the seating place for the Bands. One year we had John Philip Sousa, during the early years of his activity. He always ended his program with his own composition of the now famous "Stars and Stripes Forever." As Bach was considered the father of the piano, John Philip Sousa was considered the "March King" of the nation. The last concert he ever performed was in Reading, Pennsylvania, with the Ringgold Band. They too, were well known and gave many concerts in our park.

Enck's Ice Cream stand was the "in" place to spend your pennies. Their ice cream cones, plus their candies, selling for a penny a piece, were in great demand.

Fourth of July evening was climaxed with a giant display of fireworks after which we all hurried home so as to sit on the porch, watching all the open-air trolleys, take the picnickers home. What a jolly crowd they were, singing lustily, with now and then a scream as torpedoes, which were placed on the tracks by kids, exploded with a loud Band! Bang!

Speaking of torpedoes, Mother never wanted us to have firecrackers as she said they were dangerous.

One year I decided to spend some money on torpedoes, which I did. I carried the torpedoes in a paper bag, under my arm, on my way to a friend's house. Suddenly, I heard a loud band; the paper bag of torpedoes exploded from the heat and friction of my arm. I looked around and the bag with them exploded and the debris was on the payment. Luckily I suffered no injuries, but realized

I was not supposed to have them.”

**The Saga of The Belated July 4th, 1965
Celebration**

**by Selina Cox Eshleman
The Lititz Record-Express
July 15, 1965**

* * * * *

The weather was humid and damp to the touch,
You felt like just moving was doing too much.
Broad & Main was a sight to see,
Crushed stones - nothing like these Streets should be.
We hoped for rain, yet prayed that it might
Hold off 'till after the Candle Light.
We decide to take a stroll through the park
Though the sky is ominously cloudy and dark.
Our hearts leap up when each time we meet
Old friends of yore and we pause to greet
Them once gain in the same old way
That we did in that far off yesterday.
We look at the springs all muddy and dry
And feel like we might he going to cry.
A clap of thunder and a flash of light
Sends us scurrying, aware of our oncoming plight.
We make it home then the rain comes down
And once again it's a sorry old town,
With shattered hopes and deflated elation
It looks like the end of Our Celebration
But wonder of wonders in an hour or so
The sun come out, so it's "On with the Show,"
The Band Strikes Up with its big brass din
For the few - just a though they had packed them in.
As time went along the crowd grew and grew
With more and more friends some old, some new.
A Hosler, an Amidon, Simcox, Mary Anne and Jay,
Skip and Roy, A Gochenaur changed our way.
The Queen of the Candles was crowned -
always thrilling,
Once again the Fourth's tradition fulfilling,
And the light from her Candle kindles the spark
That makes a Fairyland of Old Lititz Springs PARK.
The Warning Boom! - a Successful Story.
The Fourth of July Celebration is over
And we laugh as we run through the rain for cover.

**Remembering the Good Old Fourth of July
Celebrations in Lititz as told by several Individuals,
to the Lititz Record Express, June 28, 1984:**

To some people, Lititz and July Fourth are synonymous. Some come to Lititz year and year to see glittering candles light up the Park, listen to the music of the bands, and watch the explosion of color in the air.

Others grew up in Lititz when the Fourth of July was THE HOLIDAY, the highlight of the year, an outstanding annual high-point of their childhood. The memories may he a bit faded around the edges, but many of the details are as sharp and clear as a new photography and the sounds and smells and textures of those long gone Independence Days still linger in many people's memories.

"The Fourth of July celebration was always quite the large time for Lititz." Mrs. Barbara Keith, 86, a resident of Moravian Manor, recalls. "You always went to the Park," she said. As a child, Mrs. Keith lived at 337 E. Main Street, with her parents, Mr. & Mrs. Levi Rudy, and five brothers and four sisters. "They had a train into Lititz, and the trolley from Lancaster, which stopped at the Park View Hotel," she said.

"An important part of July Fourth was of course, the band concerts," Mrs. Keith said. She remembered listening to Paul Beck's Band and epically recalls the delicious confections she would buy at Enck's Stand, in the Park, located where the refreshment stand now is. "They had ice cream, drinks, candles of all shapes and kinds," she said. But if you wanted a drink and didn't want to pay the price, there was always the clear, fresh, cold Lititz Springs water you could savor by using the tin cup, which hung on a chain by where the spring bubbled up into the Park.

"It was delightful...cold and refreshing," she remembers, Mrs. Keith said that her family didn't go to the Park as a group, but rather the children usually went with a group of there individual friends. "My father slaughtered cattle, and that work had to be done first, she said. Mrs. Keith also remembers the baseball games on July 4th, which were an important of the day. Her brother, Harry Rudy, was a pitcher on the town team for a while, and she sued to go see him at the baseball

diamond, near the waterworks, which then had a grandstand. And of course there were the fireworks.

After she grew up, she and her husband, Chester Keith, who was from Brownstown, always took their children to the Park on the Fourth of July, the life-long resident of Lititz said. That is until the children were old enough to go on their own, just like their mother before them.

C. Chester Long, who has lived in Lititz 94 years, since he was four, recalls the Fourth of July when he was a young man, and participated in parades, which were a regular feature of July Fourth celebrations, he said, around the era of World War I. “I always helped prepare a float for Long & Company,” Long remembers. Long & Company was the forerunner of Long & Bomberger, a company, which he helped, founded. Long recalls that the parade was in the morning, around 10 am, he thought. “Dr. Harry Bender was the Grand Marshall. He rode a beautiful horse,” Long said. The streets and houses would be decorated with flags and bunting and the whole atmosphere of the town was festive and exciting,” he said.

“Company was the order of the day for the Long family,” he said. A lot of the out-of-town guests would arrive on the trolley, the night before and have to spend a day in town with his family,” he said. And of course the kids had to put firecrackers on the trolley tracks to hear the exciting cracks, bands and sizzles that made July Fourth so special.

Long said in his youth there were always two baseball games on July Fourth, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. “A visiting team from another town would come to Lititz in attempt to beat the home team, of which he was a member for several years when he was in his 20’s,” he said. “We won about 50 percent of the games!” Admission to the games, he recalls, was about 15 cents for children and 25 cents for adults to the fenced-in baseball diamond.

“At home the menu of the day was usually deviled eggs, cold ham, potato salad-picnic type things,” he said. But the Long family ate their picnic at home, and didn’t carry it to the Park, which was just down the street from their North Hoard Street home. “The

Fourth of July was one of the big days of the year,” Long said. “We had no transportation, so we didn’t get away a lot.” All this contributed to making the day so exciting especially for the youngsters.

Not all memories of the Fourth are happy ones though. There were some tragedies in Lititz. “We didn’t have professional firework crews,” he said. “As a result, local men would set off the fireworks,” he said. It was during one Fourth of July, somewhere in the part of the first decade of the century, he thought, that a Mr. Habecker was killed trying to light the fireworks display for the crowd. Another Lititz native recalls that incident very distinctly. Tom Dussinger, 33 W. Marion Street, said it was many years ago, when he was “just a kid” that it happened. Dussinger, who is in his early eighties, remembers that Hahecker lit one of the rockets, set up on the ball field, but it didn’t go off. “He got a bucket of water,” Dussinger said. “Men yelled at him not to pour water on it, hut he did anyway, and the thing exploded.” Dussinger said the man was killed instantly and pieces of tch casing flew over the crowd and landed near what was then known as the “coffee house,” now the small pavilion at the west end of the Park. The fireworks are much safer now, his wife Helen said. She recalls that the Fourth of July in Lititz was a pretty rowdy time when she was younger. “It was perfectly legal for men to carry ammunition on their person,” Mrs. Dussinger said. “They could carry it into the Park and to the ball field and could shoot off guns in town.” So firecrackers, which could be bought anywhere, weren’t the only explosives.

Tom Dussinger, who lived on Spruce Street as a child, also remembers parades, especially the year the Spring Garden Band from York came to town. “It arrived by train and the Boy Scout Troop was the one escorted them all over

Lititz as they played marches,” he said. He said the scouts spread out as a single line in front of the band and marched down the street in front of them. Dussinger said he made sure the band marched down Center Street because Helen lived on it. “I guess the band couldn’t figure out why we went there,” he said.

It was a moment of glory for a young Lititz Boy, and it all mattered a lot to them - the parades, the flags,

the band concerts, the entertainment of a small town bustling with people. Mrs. Dussinger also recalls the smell of the candles burning, they were made of real beeswax, she said. The Fourth of July was about the most exciting thing that happened in Lititz all summer, the Dussinger's said. "Watching the crowds of people arrive by train from Reading with their picnic baskets was also a treat, as a child," he said.

"What a difference there is now from then," they said. "We're having a safe, silent Fourth compared to then," Mrs. Dussinger said. Paul Foreman's childhood memories of July 4th are somewhat connected to Dussinger's because Foreman was also a scout, although a few years later, having been born several years after Dussinger graduated from High School.

"What I remember most about the Fourth of July was running around down in the Park," Foreman, who recently retired from the Post Office, said. "I was a scout and we opened the log cabin in the Park for exhibits." Foreman said the scouts helped park cars on the baseball field so the baseball games by then had gone by the wayside.

"Mostly I waited for it to get dark for the fireworks," he said. "I didn't think of it as a celebration of Independence then. It means more since I got older," he said. But I still enjoy the fireworks display that so enthralled him as a child. "I go see them every year, although not always in the Park." He remembers that the morning after the fireworks he and his friends would get up early and go to see if they could find any remnants of the shells or casings in the field.

Foreman, 123 E. Lincoln Avenue, was born and raised in the same house, which he still lives in, he said. And all but for a few years in the service during World War II, he has always lived in Lititz. It was the year that he graduated from Lititz High School, 1942, and the summer before he went to war that the first Queen of the Candles was chosen. She was a member of this High School class, Polly Moyer. She lived down the street from him. It was the start of another Lititz tradition.

Foreman is another person who remembers Enck's Refreshment Stand. "Every time I had a nickel, I would get a cone of French vanilla ice cream," he said. The biggest disappointments he suffered were the years it rained and the fireworks had to be postponed. "I always used to be so disgusted then. It would be so hot all day long and along about early evening an enormous thunderstorm would come along and drench everyone, and everyone would go home and they would postpone the fireworks," he said.

Where will Foreman be on this Fourth of July after dark? He'll be somewhere in town where there's a good vantage point to see what he thinks is the best part of the whole day -- the varied brilliant and loud fireworks final to the July Fourth in Lititz. "I believe it was just about the biggest celebration we have in Lititz. I hope it never changes," Foreman said, still the twinkle of a boy in his eye. In Paul Foreman's eyes, if you took the Fourth of July celebration out of Lititz, it just wouldn't be Lititz.

To all who gather in Lititz on July 4th, the community's fore fathers, silently peer over the hill and quietly peek around the trees and lend a mystical approving presence to the gala festivities of the continued observance of Independence Day celebrated in Lititz Springs Park since 1818. As the church bells are tolled, the varied entertainment is presented, the more than 7,000 candles are illuminated and the fireworks extravaganza is displayed, the Independence Day observance imbues planners and participants alike with gratitude and thanksgiving for the precious American birthright of individual freedom. To celebrate the Nation's birthday in this "Moravian" community nestled amidst the fertile farmland of Lancaster County is to appreciate with pride and joy a rich history and a priceless heritage in which shimmering shadows from the past, are indelibly etched into myriad concerns of the present, and subtly blended with salient aspirations for the future.

"If you took the Fourth of July celebration out of Lititz, it just wouldn't be Lititz."





Chapter Seven

~ THE OTHER SIDE OF THE TRACKS:
ANNEX TO OUR COMMUNITY ~

THE TOWN OF WARWICK ~ by Charlene VanBrookhoven



Town of Warwick, looking down N. Broad Street from Lincoln Avenue – circa early 1900's.

Until 1915, Lititz, as we know it today, was actually two villages – the Moravian settlement of Lititz and the village of Warwick for all non-Moravians. All land north of Front Street from North Broad Street in the west to the road to Brunnerville to the east was known as Warwick. The history of Lititz and the town of Warwick would not be complete without information pertaining to the founding of Warwick Township.

One of the first settlers to arrive in what we know as Warwick Township was Richard Carter of Warwickshire, England. He occupied land about four miles southeast of where Lititz is now located – around the area of Millport. In 1729 he named the region Warwick Township after his birthplace. Lititz Run, the stream that begins in the Lititz Springs Park and flows through Lititz, was originally named Carter's Creek in honor of this English gentleman. Richard Carter died in 1750 and is buried in Millport cemetery.

Christian Bomberger, Jacob Huber, and George Klein were among many German settlers arriving in the area prior to 1740. Most of the people settling in Warwick Township came from Germany, so the customs and traditions brought to Warwick were mainly of German origin. German folks are generally known for their hard work and frugal ways. These attributes played a large part in the rapid development of the township.

Early records of Warwick Township show that life

during the 1700's was anything but easy. Small pox and other epidemics ran rampant among the settlers. Infant mortality was great. More than two-thirds of the deaths recorded were of very young children or infants. Some lived a few days or some only hours. During one epidemic of dysentery and fever, a family lost four children in less than a week. Diseases of pioneer living took men and women in the prime of their lives.

When Count Nicholas Von Zinzendorf arrived in Warwick Township in 1742 the idea of forming an all-Moravian settlement took root. It was at the home of Jacob Huber that Zinzendorf met with German Lutheran farmers as well as other denominations who had settled in Warwick Township. Zinzendorf persuaded them to join his Moravian way of thinking. The preaching of Zinzendorf and other Moravian ministers sent to Warwick Township from Bethlehem was well received by the settlers. One after another they became communicant members of the Moravian Church.

In February of 1748 a small group of Moravian brothers and sisters living in Warwick Township built a "Gemeinhaus." This combination meeting house, parsonage, and school was located west of Oak Street along Lititz Run. It was important for the German settlers to give their sons some education, but not enough to lure them away from their farm work. This log building was the first step in forming an all-Moravian town.

The Warwick Country Congregation was formed February 9, 1749. Members were interested in forming a settlement in which they could be spiritually fulfilled, yet not live the cloistered life evident in stricter religious cults of the day. In 1754 George Klein donated his entire farm of 491 acres in Warwick Township for this new venture. On June 12, 1756 a letter from Count Zinzendorf named the new town "Litiz". This separated Moravians from other denominations. Non-Moravians established a village of their own and named it Warwick.

The Warwick school in the log "Gemeinhaus" continued in operation for sixteen years. Attendance grew steadily for the first ten years. By 1758 the number of pupils reached seventy-seven. In 1764 the Warwick school was closed by a vote of the church council.

From 1764 until 1768, the Warwick children had no school or schooling other than what their parents could supply. Their school was reopened in the town of Litiz on November 22, 1768. This was made possible through the decision to move the schoolhouse, log by log, into town. In 1771 another decision was made to combine the school for the Warwick children with the two new existing schools in the town of Litiz. The boys' school was under the direction of Brother Roessler. It was held in the transported Warwick schoolhouse. The girls' school was under the direction of Elizabeth Burstler and Anna Maria Kohn. It was probably held in the Sister's House on the now developing church square in the town of Litiz.

Moravians placed a great deal of emphasis on education for both boys and girls. Since the "Gemeinhaus" was moved from Warwick into Litiz, there was a strong feeling to include the Warwick children in the learning processes, but the non-Moravian children were not permitted to live in the all-Moravian community. At the end of the school day they had to return to their farms.

Israel Erb, an early pioneer of Warwick Township, described the first school as follows: "Short terms of three or four months were taught by the day, at the rate of three or four cents per day per pupil. The buildings were small dingy log cabins and old meetinghouses. The school supplies consisted of several flat tables, a large woodstove, a few books such as Byerly's spelling book, arithmetic books, a pencil made of gravelstone, a goose quill, indigo for ink and six sheets of paper sewed together to make a copy book. It was the duty of the teacher to give the pupils double recitations, English and German, mostly in the Testament."

Not until the year 1811 was the town of Warwick officially laid out into lots. Charles Montelius, Mr. Hibshman and several other residents of Warwick Township purchased land immediately north of Litiz

from the administrators of Nicholas Stroh, the son-in-law of Jacob Huber. The sole purpose of the purchase was to begin a new town for non-Moravians in the area.

On July 16, 1813, Mr. Montelius put an advertisement in the Lancaster Journal hoping to sell off these lots.

Town of Warwick

No. 1, 116 feet 6 inches front, on Litiz street by 363 feet deep – on which are a large two-story limestone house with a cellar under it, and a never-failing pump before the door; and a number of bearing apple trees, valued at a moderate calculation, at 4000 dollars.

No. 2. 115 feet 6 inches front, on said street, by 280 feet, 6 inches deep, with a beautiful log barn, and a number of bearing apple trees, worth on a low calculation, 1000 dollars.

No. 135, contains half an acre of ground, lying between West Front Street and South Alley, with a beautiful log dwelling house, worth at a low rate, 800 dollars.

Also 15 lots, containing each half an acre of first-rate timberland, each worth 200 dollars.

Likewise 6 lots, containing each half an acre of first rate ground for cultivation. And 26 other lots, containing from 1/4th to 3/4ths of an acre each – their respective numbers and contents as per plan.

The remainder are building lots, 66 feet front by 18 feet, 6 inches deep, all having the advantage of streets and alleys, handsomely intersected at right angles, and the ground being level and well adapted for building.

A lawful title will be neatly executed on parchment, by the subscriber, with sufficient security against all legal claims if required, excepting only fees for said titles, which shall not exceed 3 dollars and 50 cents.

The subscriber reserves all the rails and standing timber in the public streets and alleys for his own use.

The lottery will be drawn as soon as 2/3rds, or the whole of the certificates are sold, on the premises in the town of Warwick, and under the direction of such disinterested persons as the purchasers of certificates may choose to appoint.

Warwick is handsomely and conveniently situated on and adjoining Litiz, that well-known village; and the turnpike road from Marietta and New Holland turnpike, will probably pass through this town, which will be commenced as soon as the necessary arrangements are made.

Charles Montelius, Esq.

An indication that Mr. Montelius felt the sale was a success was in the August 6, 1813 Lancaster Journal article:

Town of Warwick

The holders of certificates for lots in the town of Warwick are requested to meet at Christian Hall's Tavern in the town of Lititz, on Saturday the 21st of August, 1813, at 10 o'clock, in the forenoon, for the purpose of appointing managers to conduct the drawing.

Charles Montelius

Mr. Montelius and his fellow investors thought they had a successful sale of land in the newly organized town. Unfortunately in 1836, when the town only consisted of seventeen houses, it was necessary for the sheriff of Lancaster County to seize the land to satisfy claims against Mr. Stroh's estate. Frederick Zitzman bought the remaining sixty-six acres and thirty-five perches for the total amount of \$6,900. Later Zitzman sold the property to David Bricker, a Warwick businessman. He represented the original landholders who bought their lots from Montelius.

The first house in Warwick occupied the site at 101 North Broad Street at the corner of Front Street and Broad. It was demolished in 1754 when George Klein deeded his farm to the Moravian Congregation. It was replaced by the present building in 1879. The second house was built at 19 East Orange Street (later renamed Lincoln Avenue); and the third house was erected at 67 East Front Street.

Many of the street names of the newly organized town of Warwick were different than what they are today. When Mr. Montelius was laying out the plans for the town, he incorporated a large square (now the intersection of Market and Liberty Streets) in the hope of erecting a market house. This made Market Street the main street in Warwick. The market house was never built. What we know today as Lincoln Avenue was originally named Orange Street. The section of roadway from North Cedar Street turning left onto New Street up to and including The Lititz United Methodist Church was originally named Apple Street.

Today's Liberty Street was first named Stroh Avenue in honor of Nicholas Stroh. This was renamed Liberty Street at the end of World War I because Stroh was a German name. There remains a Stroh Lane on the current map of Lititz, and is a short stretch off of Liberty Street to the west, and meets Rodney Lane to the north.

In the building that is 8-10 East Lincoln Avenue was a "revival hall." Many evangelists, including Bill Sunday who was the famous turn-of-the-century evangelist from Iowa, preached the gospel to listening Warwick ears. The "hall" was mainly used for temperance meetings and religious services.

The large, white house at 314 North Broad Street was built by Peter Bricker, and in 1814 he opened the first store in the village of Warwick. In the basement of this house rifles were made and repaired. Upon Peter's death, his son David took over the family business. David Bricker was also a tobacco broker and owned a tobacco warehouse at 215 North Liberty Street as well as several other tobacco warehouses in Warwick. Being a cigar maker was a popular occupation of the Warwick residents.

One of the largest industries in Warwick was the N.C. Yerger & Company Cement Block factory. Owned by Nicholas Yerger and John Bricker, the cement block factory occupied the entire area at Lincoln Avenue and North New Street to the east. A 1905 advertisement read "Manufacturers of Miracle Double Air Chamber Cement Blocks, Sills, Lintels, Steps, etc." Yerger also dealt in the buying and selling of leaf tobacco.

Before the cement block factory was developed, Christian Rauch burned lime on the site. Another limekiln was located at the site now occupied by Lititz Mennonite Church on the corner of Front and Waters Streets. The limekilns were very important. The Warwick area lies on a bedrock of limestone and there was a readily available natural supply of this raw material. The limestone rocks were heated at a very high temperature in a large open-air kiln or oven until the pure lime was extracted and fell into chunks on the oven floor. The pure lime was used for securing cement blocks or bricks and lime washing wooden houses as a water and bug proofing method. Lime was sprinkled in

outhouses as a decomposing agent and used to sweeten acidic soil.

The village had a blacksmith shop located at 116 East Market Street. The building was demolished during the early part of the century. Many remnants of worked iron and horseshoes were discovered during the excavation for the present dwelling on this site.

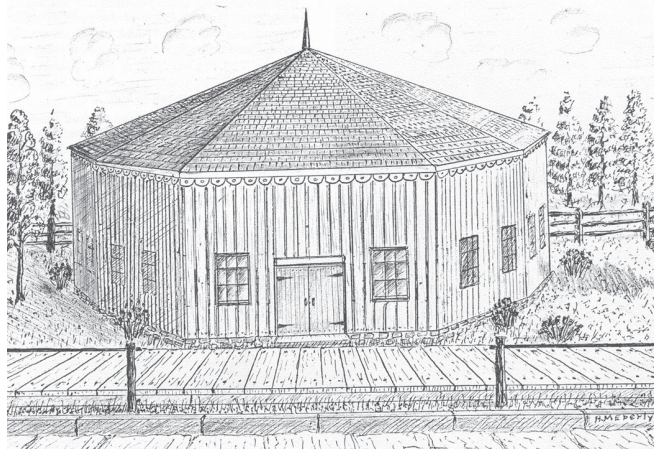
The residents of Warwick became quite an enterprising group of individuals. Although many of the citizens worked in the cigar industry and at the Ideal Cocoa & Chocolate Company, quite a few started business ventures on their own. Some that advertised in the Warwick Directory of 1913 were The Lititz Bologna Company at 62 Front Street; Milton Bender, the butcher at 5-points (corner of Cedar, Front, and Liberty Streets); J.B. Hernly, 5 Point Cash Grocery; and H.C. Miller & Bro., "Dealers in dry goods, groceries, fancy goods, notions and country produce" on the corner of Broad Street and Lincoln Avenue. The lone woman among the many businessmen was Mrs. Levi Longenecker, 80 Front Street. She was a distributor for the Imperial Self-Heating Flat Iron.

Village children attended what was called Huber's School House on North Cedar Street and another "newer" school on Newport Road. These former Warwick schools are now private residences. In 1885 a school known at Warwick No. 1 was erected at 12-14 Market Street. In 1892 another schoolhouse was built and was known as Warwick No. 2. Warwick No. 2 was used for primary grades and Warwick No. 1 was used for the higher grades. These two schoolhouses were back-to-back with a playground separating the two buildings. The first graduating class was in 1914 with Guy Bard as the principal. Both buildings are occupied today as private dwellings.

An unusual building in Warwick was the "round house" built on Stroh Lane. Charles Kreider erected an eight-cornered, round shaped building to accommodate a merry-go-round. The merry-go-round venture failed, but an altogether different purpose was given to the uniquely shaped building. In 1871 Rev. A. Shultz, a preacher in charge of the Brownstown Circuit of the Evangelical Association, arrived in Lititz. Rev. Shultz held prayer meetings with Warwick residents George

Shaffner, John Young and their wives in a home on Pine Lane.

As this church grew, it was necessary to find a larger place to worship. The group decided to rent the round house owned by Mr. Kreider. The building could seat 150 people and included an altar. The round house was soon too small for the congregation and was made into a private dwelling. The house was accidentally burned down by Ed Murr who lost his life in the fire.



The "Round House" – circa 1870's.
Drawing by H. M. Eberly.

Trinity Evangelical Congregational Church had its roots in the round house. In 1874 Julius Sturgis presented the lot on the corner of Orange and Cedar Streets in the town of Lititz for the construction of a new, larger church. This two-story brick building was the first non-Moravian church allowed in the town of Lititz.

In April 1896, Henry H. Snavelly leased the racetrack on the edge of Warwick. This half mile track was located on the Huber farm across from the Warwick school house at the corner of Brunnerville Road and Locust Street. Mr. Snavelly named the track The Warwick Driving Park.

The land used for the Warwick Driving Park was originally the Lancaster Fair Grounds. The Lancaster County Agricultural Fair was held on these grounds annually. Blue ribbon poultry were shown as well as livestock, machinery, fruits and vegetables. In the main building were exhibited bicycles, furniture, and ladies fancy work. Entertainment at the county fair were games of chance, a baby parade, a sword swallower,

music, and a sideshow which featured a six-legged steer and a five-legged calf.

It has been mentioned by many of the Lititz old-timers that the “round house” in the Lititz Springs Park originally was the grandstand at the Lancaster Fair Grounds. Some say it was dismantled and reconstructed on its present site in the early months of 1880. “The octagonal building, very serviceable in cases of sudden storms to picnic parties, will soon be completed” was reported in the January 9, 1880 Lititz Record. This information, however, has not yet been confirmed.

Count Zinzendorf’s plans for Lititz had been accomplished. A church settlement under strict spiritual supervision and free from worldly influences was formed. As time passed it was becoming more and

more difficult to keep outside influences from entering this community.

The town of Warwick, planned by Charles Montelius as a village for mainly non-Moravians living in Warwick Township, also accomplished its intentions of becoming a successful economic area to live and work.

With the end of the lease system in 1855 (all land in Lititz was owned by the church and leased to the house owners), Lititz was opened to non-Moravians. A vote was taken by the Moravian Church council, with considerable opposition, to end the rules and regulations written for an exclusive church settlement. In 1888 Lititz was incorporated as a borough; and on January 25, 1915 the borough limits were extended to take in the village of Warwick.

WARWICK HOUSE ~ by Aaron E. Fry and Charlene VanBrookhoven



The Warwick House – 1905.
Photo from the Robert “Sketch” Mearig Collection.

1905 advertisement The Warwick House

The Warwick House - the oldest hostelry in northern Lancaster County - established 1809 - is located one-half square north of the depot, of the trolley terminus and of the entrance to the famous Lititz Springs Park. A large, well kept lawn affords abundant recreation and amusement. The meals — prepared by a Pennsylvania Dutch cook — are always excellent. You can obtain a room with board at \$1.50 per day. Special rates by the week or month.

At a time when travel was done by horse and it could take days instead of hours to move from one town to another, small inns served an important purpose to thirsty and weary travelers. Dozens of small taverns sprang up along trading routes in Lancaster County during the early 19th Century. The Warwick Inn, on the Lancaster Road just outside the northern border of the “closed” Moravian town, was one of these early establishments.

The Warwick Inn’s first year of operation was in 1809, when it occupied a small building that is now the barroom. In 1814, there was a one and a half story addition built on the north side of the building. The establishment changed hands at least four times prior to 1850, when it was owned by a man named Weidner, Charles Stark, Mr. Neveling, and a Mr. Studenroth. From 1850 to 1900, the hotel had 10 different owners: Thomas Sands, Joseph and Emanuel Weidman, Levi G. Kemper, E.O. Eby, Joel Hutton, John Hollinger, Samuel G. Hacker, Emanuel and Frank Carpenter, Frederick Frey, and H. H. Snively. In the early 1860s, the inn’s named was changed in honor of its new owner Thomas

Sand, and was known as the “Thomas Sand’s Hotel.” Likewise, it was renamed the “Kemper House” after Levi Kemper became proprietor in the late 1860s.

The establishment really took off after the railroad station was built in 1863, bringing a steady flow of visitors to Lititz. To these tourists, the Kemper House provided cheaper rates than the Lititz Springs Hotel and the new Sturgis House.

Around 1883, proprietor E. G. Carpenter changed the name to the “Warwick House.” In 1888, Carpenter sold the hotel to H. H. Snavelly, who remodeled it throughout so the hotel could accommodate 100 guests. At the time, the main building contained 28 rooms, while the residence section of the hostelry contained 10 rooms. The livery stable could accommodate 100 horses at a time.

During the summer of 1896, the vacant lot north of the hotel was laid out with walks and terraces. A frame pavilion was erected, as well as a fountain. Shrubs and flowers were planted, making it an enjoyable spot for visitors and locals alike.

In the spring of 1901, Mr. Snavelly decided to give his attention to other, more profitable business ventures and sold the Warwick House to John S. Badorf. One of Snavelly’s most lucrative of these business dealings was his livestock auction, Warwick Sales Stables, which started in March of 1897 on the premises of the Warwick House. Sales of cattle, farmers’ produce, as well as household goods, were held every alternate Saturday and drew hundreds of interested buyers. Snavelly’s gigantic yearly “Annual Sale at the Warwick House” was an especially big draw, attracting hundreds of people to Lititz every year.

Lititz Record, March 21, 1918 Annual Sale at Warwick House

With favorable weather conditions prevailing on Saturday the population of the town will be increased by many hundreds for the day, the visitors being those who attend the annual sale at the Warwick House Sale Stables. It will be the twenty-first annual and the 518th sale at the Warwick House and many articles will be put under the hammer by Auctioneers H. H. Snavelly and L. H. Kauffman. A large lot of live stock will be consigned by Monroe Shue and there will be the usual and unusual variety of articles too numerous to mention.

During the early 1900s, the hotel was used for many local and national shows and events. For a time it was used as a dance academy and was known for its Vaudeville shows on Friday nights. Along with this, the Warwick House was always a very popular place for locals to purchase alcoholic beverages in the Lititz and Warwick area, even during prohibition. On at least one occasion, the establishment was raided and found to be in possession of several quarts of liquor.

The Warwick House continued to rent rooms and serve as a restaurant and even a gas station during the mid-20th Century. In 1947, a bowling alley was built on the site of the old auction house/stables, and it remained open for nearly four decades. In the early 1990s, a kidnapping incident involving boarders at the Warwick House led to the closing of the apartments. The Warwick House was sold in 1992, and the name was changed to the “Toy Soldier.” Today, only the main portions of the building are being used as a restaurant and bar.



“Annual Sale” at the Warwick House –circa early 1890. Photo from the Robert “Sketch” Mearig Collection.