



## PUBLICATION INFORMATION

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## Query Regarding Brethren in Christ Fiction

For an upcoming article for *Brethren in Christ History and Life* on a writer of Christian romance novels in the late 1960s and early 1970s, the authors are interested in other Brethren in Christ fiction writers, especially but not limited to the same time period. If you have any information, please contact the editor, Harriet Sider Bicksler, at [bickhouse@aol.com](mailto:bickhouse@aol.com).

## Legacy and Laughter: Stories of Three Presidents



*One night,  
one stage.  
Celebrating  
120 years of  
mission and  
ministry.*

*From left to right: George Kibler, Emerson Leshner, and Curt Stutzman share a laugh during a photo shoot for the spring edition of the Messiah Lifeways Magazine.*

The Historical Society will partner with Messiah Lifeways for this year's annual meeting on November 5, 2016, at the Grantham Brethren in Christ Church, Mechanicsburg, PA.

Rev. George Kibler, Dr. Emerson Leshner, and current CEO Curt Stutzman will be featured guests in a night of storytelling as they share reflections, memories, and likely, some funny stories. This idea was birthed as Messiah Lifeways planned its 120th anniversary celebrations this year. Although the organization has a long history of leadership, including many decades of stewards and matrons who served the Home on Bailey Street and at Paxton Street, only the last three are still living, giving us a unique opportunity. Messiah Lifeways' three modern "chief executives" all live locally and have many attributes in common – from their connections to Messiah College to facing the challenges of construction!

The dinner will begin at 5 p.m. in the Grantham Church Fellowship Hall. The sto-

rytelling program, slated to begin at approximately 7:15 pm, will be held in the sanctuary. In addition to some video vignettes, Devin Manzullo-Thomas, director of the Sider Institute for Anabaptist, Pietist, and Wesleyan Studies at Messiah College, will moderate a conversation among the three presidents. Devin also serves as archives coordinator for the college's Ernest L. Boyer Center, and regularly teaches courses in the History, Biblical and Religious Studies, Peace and Conflict Studies, and Interdisciplinary Studies departments at the College. He is currently enrolled in a doctoral program at Temple University. His enthusiastic interest in Brethren in Christ life and history, and his engaging, inquisitive personality make him an ideal moderator for an evening of storytelling.

You can register for the dinner and annual meeting using the registration form at the bottom of page 2. Cost is \$15. Persons wishing to attend only the program in the sanctuary may attend at no charge.

## A Photo Heirloom Mystery

### Couple's Portrait Triggers Questions

This portrait photo currently makes its home with John and Mary Ebersole who live in Akron, PA and attend the Speedwell Heights Brethren in Christ Church. The photo was a gift from Wayne and Alma Ebersole, John's parents.

The couple in the portrait is Jacob and Annie Heisey Book, John's great-great grandparents on his father's side. Jacob Book lived thirty years, from January 5, 1840 to December 12, 1870; his wife Anna lived seventy-seven years, from April 22, 1843 to April 19, 1920. Jacob and Annie's daughter, Mary Book (September 24, 1865 to November 12, 1937), married John Funck (March 27, 1868 to December 10, 1936). Mary Book Funck was Wayne Ebersole's grandmother (John's great-grandmother). Mary's daughter Anna Book Funck (July 10, 1891 to December 1, 1952) was Wayne's mother, John's grandmother.

The photo surface appears to be canvas. The woven grain is visible on the reverse side of the photo. The canvas is stretched over a wooden frame. The faces look like photographic images, but the clothing and hands do not look realistic. The hands especially appear to be drawn onto the image. Aspects of the clothing look one-dimensional—for example, the cascading bonnet ties lack shading. Jacob's vest and lapels appear to have fine highlights added to add dimension.

Whether this was their wedding portrait is not known for sure, but it likely was. The date is probably in the early 1860s. It is large and imposing — 16" wide by 20" high.

The photograph raises a number of interesting questions:

- Given the Brethren in Christ Church's aversion to images and likenesses, why did this couple engage a photographer to produce such a large image?
- Did couples of the period typically sit for special occasion photos (maybe wedding)?
- What was the photographic process that produced this image?
- The clothing the couple is wearing is clearly not the conservative garb of this period in Brethren in Christ history, but is it typical of clothing trends of the period in popular culture?
- When you look at the photo carefully, it almost appears that the faces were photographed through "holes" in a photo backdrop that pictured formal dress (as in an amusement park). What process might have produced this effect?



*Jacob and Annie Heisey Book*

*We would love to hear from readers who know something about photography of the mid-1860s and could help answer any of these questions or provide any additional information about the photo and the people in it.*

#### KEEP THIS AS A REMINDER

### Historical Society Annual Meeting

*Saturday, Nov. 5  
Grantham Brethren in  
Christ Church*

**Meal starts at 5:00 p.m.**

Persons attending: \_\_\_\_\_

My check number: \_\_\_\_\_

### 2016 Annual Meeting — Brethren in Christ Historical Society

#### Registration Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Number of persons attending \_\_\_\_\_

Payment enclosed (\$15 per person) \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to  
"Brethren in Christ  
Historical Society"  
and mail to:  
Brethren in Christ  
Historical Society  
One College Ave, Ste 3002  
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055



## News and Notes

*From the Brethren in Christ Historical Library & Archives*

*Judy Hamilton, whose parents Howard and Pearl Wolgemuth were Brethren in Christ missionaries in Cuba from 1955-1960, recently contacted the Archives regarding 113 slides she had acquired, most of which were taken during the year that Dale and Betty Ulery and three of their children worked in Cuba (1954-1955). Below, Judy tells the story of how the color transparencies were saved from destruction and became part of the Archives' photograph collection.*

The members of the Cuban church are very interested in learning of and preserving the history of the Brethren in Christ mission work in Cuba. After sharing some of my parents' slides with them, one person suggested I contact the family of Dale Ulery to see if they had photographs. Dale, his wife Betty, and Janet, David, and Brenda had spent a year there while my parents prepared for their permanent assignment in Cuba.

On a Saturday evening I decided to phone Keith Ulery, Dale and Betty's son, telling him of my interest in borrowing any slides or pictures of the Cuban work he might have. He quickly replied that due to downsizing and lack of family interest, their slides were in a trash bag — ready for Monday's trash pickup. After he retrieved them from the trash, we both agreed the timing of my telephone call was "God-ordained."

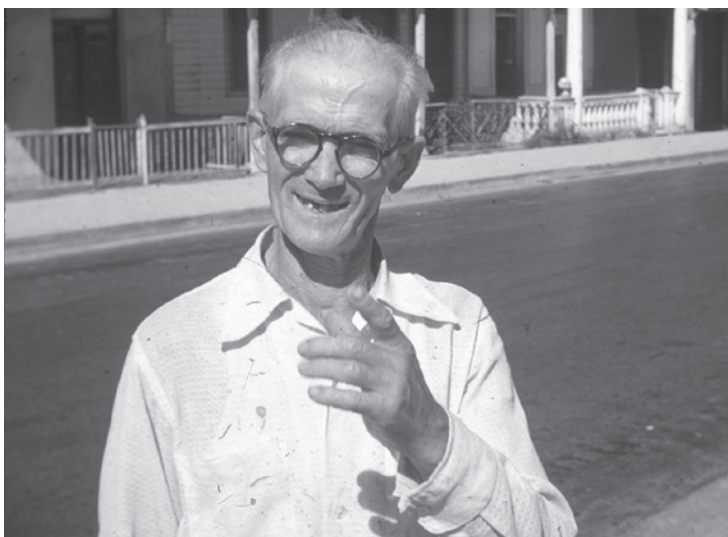
Thankfully, this historical material was spared and preserved for current and future interest and research.

Judy Hamilton and Eduardo Llanes provided the following information about three of the photos:

**Top photo:** Juana Garcia (second from the left) and her family in front of the home of her parents and siblings in the countryside near the town of Catalina. Jesse Cassel of Ohio is on the right. After the Wolgemuths left Cuba in 1960, Juana gave leadership to the church in Cuba for the next several decades.

**Center photo:** Herminio Alvarez, a faithful member of the Brethren in Christ Church in Cuba, lived in a small shack on Heriberto Perdomo's farm. Because of his faith he claimed, "I am the happiest man in Cuba!"

**Bottom photo:** A man named Pastor Fantes made daily trips through Cuatro Caminos with his horse-drawn cart loaded with fresh produce and grocery items. His grocery scale was also useful for weighing newborn babies. Eduardo notes, "He was extremely abusive of his animals until he came to know the Lord through the ministry of Howard and Pearl Wolgemuth. It was an amazing and radical change." He became a faithful member of the Cuatro Caminos congregation.





BRETHREN IN CHRIST  
**HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY**

c/o Brethren in Christ Church  
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Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

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## Images from the Past

*From the photograph collection of the Brethren in Christ Historical Library & Archives*



### Brethren in Christ home missions workers and board members

Brethren in Christ home mission workers and members of the Home Mission Board gathered at Memorial Holiness Camp in West Milton, Ohio, June 18-21, 1957, for the fourth Mission Workers Institute and Fellowship Retreat. The 1957 *Handbook of Missions* reports the guest speaker, Bishop E. J. Swalm from Canada, brought messages on Ephesians while board members and others conducted worship sessions and focused on such topics as planning services, counseling, and financing. One home mission worker said, "Words cannot express how rich an experience this has been to me, and what a spiritual challenge." Another said, "It has definitely been a high point in my spiritual experience."