

# Herr House Happenings



## House and Gardens

This year, the House will open for tours on Saturday, April 6th and will be open every weekend (except on Easter Sunday) from 1-4pm. The last tour will begin at 3:15. Arrangements for group tours can be made by calling (717) 735-2525.

Gardeners will begin working in the garden on Friday, April 12th at 8:30am. If you are interested in joining the gardeners, please call Louise Brewer at (717) 406-8284 to double check that there is no change in time or date. Anyone interested in volunteering to help keep the grounds looking great is invited to join.

## 2018 Donations

### **Ann Shenck**–

1948 Epilogue, Vidette 1925

### **Joanne Warrick**–

Account book from Christian K. Rohrer 1832-1889, Mary M. Greider 1840-1923 Farm, photos of Rohrer family members, and J. William Snavelly obituary

### **Susan Herr**–

Bookplate of Levi Herr

### **Harlan Redcay**–

Hay hook

### **Leon Stauffer**–

Levi Hershey's photos of candy business in Landisville

## Notes from Emma's Diary

*Saturday, January 1, 1916*

“Another year gone & others gone too. This is Aunt Sue Garber's funeral day-79 years old. It is a cloudy misty rainy day. We don't start early enough—so we don't get to funeral. But see the Mummers Parade & get to Frank Bausmans in good time for dinner everything fine.”

## 2018 YEAR END REPORTS

- Docents & Receptionists– 10 people volunteered 171 hours
- Gardeners– 13 people volunteered 160 hours
- Volunteers– 12 people volunteered 225 hours
- Visitors– 106 people
- Membership– 190

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# RECOLLECTIONS OF VISITING AMOS HERR—PART I

*Musings and memories of times with Amos and Ethel, written by Barbara Hurley (Amos's first cousin once removed) and her brother.*

1) First, something that you probably already know and that did NOT come from Amos: My Aunt Emma was an extremely difficult person to live with; we all knew that and I vividly remember her from when I was young. She was the polar opposite of my grandmother, who was the sweetest person on earth. I was afraid of

Aunt Emma. She was very imposing, domineering and gruff. She was sick for an extended period of time at the end of her life, but remained at home throughout her illness and Ethel cared for her.

2) Another tidbit that may or may not be known about Amos— he hated farming. He really was quite an intellectual and I am sure that his teaching career was partly a way to sidestep the “family business,” although as long as his

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*“Amos’ love of traveling was life long and he traveled a lot his entire adult life, usually to places that very few people went...”*

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## Background & Context for “Recollections of Visiting Amos Herr”

Amos’ mother, Emma Susan Rohrer, was the sister of my maternal grandmother, Minnie Augusta Rohrer. They were raised in Sporting Hill, Rapho Township. My grandmother married Harry Koser Miller, from a farming family in Mannheim. He left PA for New York City to study veterinary medicine in the 1800’s and brought my grandmother to Mamaroneck Village in Westchester County where he established his business on 12 acres which included the kennel building, boarding kennels and a large farmhouse. He also farmed some of the acreage. He was the first small animal doctor in the tri-state area, a pioneer in

Background & Context  
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mother was alive he kept the farm going with hired help.

3) When I was younger and my family visited, Ethel would put on such a spread in the dining room. I never ate at any relative’s home in Lancaster that did not include a massive variety of food! Sunday dinners seemed like spreads for a king for someone from NY (where we only serve one kind of meat, one vegetable, potatoes and one dessert). Anyway, she was a great cook and meals were wonderful. There is one family story about the time my brother took his then fiancé to visit Amos and Ethel. When she asked for thirds on potatoes, Ethel told my mother that they were impressed and approved her joining our family.

4. Ethel was very proud of her collection of china in the huge breakfast in the dining room and would show and tell about the history of many of the pieces.

5. Amos grew tobacco on his farm, and it was from him that I learned all about tobacco growing, harvesting and drying in his tobacco barn behind the big barn.

6. Amos’ love of traveling was life long and he traveled a lot his entire adult life, usually to places that very few people went (at that time). For instance, he traveled the Silk Road, including Samarkand, before it was generally in anyone’s consciousness. He also spent a lot of time

out west in Death Valley and other places not popular years ago. We would spend hours and hours watching his slides and hearing the stories about his travels.

7. As a kid, I remember jumping out of the hayloft in the barn into the haystack below, and there was always a litter of kittens that we fed milk. We hunted eggs in the hen house at the near end of the barn and also captured fireflies and put them in bottles that Amos provided.

8. Amos had a tractor that must have been from the 1940's that we all got rides on. There is a photo I took of my 2 children when they were about 5 and 3 on that tractor with him. The photo used to be on the Herr House website. It was not the original photo I had sent to Amos, though, it looked like it had been published in a newspaper. Amos really enjoyed driving the kids around on that antique tractor.

9. For years, Amos grew corn (or rented out to someone who did) in the fields all along the driveway. We would walk into those cornfields and get completely lost.

10. There was a stand of bamboo on the left side of the driveway near the barn that we also played in and got lost wandering through. That bamboo fascinated us as we had never seen any. I do not remember the story of how that stand of bamboo came to be there.

11. We loved the little stream at the back of the house. Amos kept a metal cup hanging in the Spring House that we all used to get cool drinks of water. I remember sailing homemade boats down that creek with my children.

12. My brother remembers putting pennies on the railroad tracks with Amos that the trains would run over and flatten, then they would retrieve them (I certainly never did that)!

13. Amos harvested watercress from the creek and made watercress sandwiches for us with slabs of butter on brown bread. That was our first experience with watercress sandwiches—they are not always for afternoon tea!

14. There was a small flower garden next to the kitchen at the side of the house where Amos grew iris and calla lilies. He gave my brother some of his calla lilies for his summer home in the Berkshires, which are still blooming.

## Background & Context cont'd

small animal medicine, a professor of veterinary surgery at NYU and a founder of the Veterinary College at Cornell University in Ithaca, NY.

Following my grandmother's death in 1949, my 2 siblings and I were raised on that 12 acre farm in Mamaroneck and spent part of every summer in Lancaster staying with relatives on the Miller side (including the Graybill farm in Penn and the Hummers in Manheim) as well as on the Rohrer side (namely Amos and Ethel). Ethel and my mother were very close best friends and in continual communication. My mother had spent all her childhood summers visiting with the extended Rohrer and Miller families in Lancaster and she maintained that annual connection her entire life including attending all family reunions. In fact, she was killed in a car accident on a back road in Rapho in 1964 while staying with Amos and Ethel and attending a Miller family reunion.

That ended the trips to Lancaster for a few years, but I married a man from the City of Lancaster, Rudolph Herr Nissley, Jr., so my annual trips began anew in the 1970's. After we divorced, I kept up my annual visits with my 2 children, Rudy and Becky, staying with Amos every year as they were growing up.

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## NOTES FROM AMOS' DIARY

Tuesday, January 1, 1963

“Happy New Year!

Another cold day. Barn chores for Harry-bowl froze. I thawed out with hot water—chop wood for fireplace—more roads are open. Bright sunshine by 9. Ethel irons. I take short drive to watch progress in road ploughing. Read, music 12:00 go to McCommons— Dick Boothman (dentist), Mangions—watch Miss defeat Ark 17-13 (Sugar Bowl) — dinner at 2:00 pork, sauerkraut, etc. Watch men play ping-pong. Home by 5:30 — Rose Bowl Wis 37 USC 42 — Read — Catalogue travel articles; Ethel helps — music — weather moderates a bit. A good day to begin a New Year.”

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY!

Docents (Tour Guides) and Receptionists are needed for the 2019 Season at the 1852 Herr Family Homestead.

The house will be open on weekends beginning April 6th through the last weekend in October. Tour times are from 1-4pm on Saturdays and Sundays. Docents and Receptionists are asked to volunteer approximately every five weeks during the season.

Please call (717)735-2525 for more detailed information.