



SCHÜRCH FAMILY ASSOCIATION OF NORTH AMERICA REUNION

Best Western Plus Hotel
7701 Westbranch Highway (Rt. 15)
Lewisburg PA 17837

The reunion planning committee is anticipating welcoming you in Lewisburg! We trust you will enjoy this new geographical location and first-time hotel reunion venue. This area is dictated by multiple mountain ranges and valleys. While the Appalachian Mountains don't quite match the Swiss Alps, the valleys share a similar beauty with thousands of acres in woods and farmland, open vistas, small hamlets and medium sized towns. Between the two Friday tours, we will discover more than 400 miles across the valleys -- yet only scratch the surface of this lovely area. Consider coming early/staying later to explore the area more fully. Welcome all!

REGISTRATION (Additional forms may be downloaded at schurchfamilyassociation.net)

Our past experience has been that many persons register within two weeks of a reunion. This year we urge you to register early and book your hotel space as soon as possible. Hotel policies enabling us to block space and negotiate discounted room rates require that hotel reservations must be made well in advance of the event.

Critical pre-reunion deadlines:

- **June 13:** We are holding a block of 50 rooms at the **Best Western Plus Hotel** (reunion site). To be guaranteed space within that block, hotel reservations are required by June 13. (See Accommodations)
- **June 26:** We are holding a block of 30 rooms at the Quality Inn, New Columbia, five miles north of the reunion site. To be guaranteed space within that block, hotel reservations are required by June 26. (See Accommodations)
- **July 6:** For guaranteed tour seating, registrations and your tour choice must be received by July 6. Persons registering after July 6 will be accepted on a space available basis and may be unable to receive the tour of first choice.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Thursday, July 26 - Reunion Registration/Check-in

- 6:00pm to 9:00pm: Reunion Registration, lower level of the Best Western Plus Hotel. Pick up reunion packet, greet other reunion attendees, explore exhibits, purchase reunion sale items, seek genealogy assistance, deliver auction items, sign-up for optional Sunday worship service in Mifflinburg.

Friday, July 27

- 8:00am – 9:00am Reunion Registration/Check-in continues
 - 8:45am – 9:15am Welcome and Official Reunion Opening
- NOTE: Tours are the only day-time reunion activity.**
- 9:30am Family Code C and H tour departs
 - 10:00am Family Code E tour departs
 - 5:30pm Tours return to the Best Western Plus hotel
 - Dinner on your own
 - Evening Mix and Mingle, displays, items for purchase, genealogy assistance available, sign-up for optional Sunday worship in Mifflinburg

Saturday, July 28

- 8:00am – 4:00pm Reunion Registration/pick up reunion packet, displays, purchase reunion sale items, genealogy assistance available, bring auction item(s), sign-up for optional Sunday worship in Mifflinburg
- 8:45am – 9:00am Welcome and program review
- 9:00am – 9:45am The Switzerland Anabaptist story: from the 1700's persecution to a formal apology by the Bern government to Mennonites, November 2017
--John Weber, Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society
- 10:00am – 10:45am The Susquehanna Frontier of the 1790s
--Bruce Teeple, President, Union County Historical Society
- 11:00am – 11:20am "Herstory" – Through the diary of an 11 year old girl, insights of women during the early years of Pennsylvania. --Joan Shirk
- 11:20am – 11:45am Sounds from Shoeneck: Life on Code E Immigrant Ulrich's land
--Elaine Bowman, E43550112
- 11:45am – 1:00pm Lunch break – on your own

Afternoon

- What are local Schürchs doing today?
 - 1:00pm – 1:30pm Introducing a different Swiss descendant: Bernese mountain dogs!
--Susan Houser, Code H43123802
 - 1:30pm – 2:00pm Artistic woodworking creating Shaker furnishings
--Steve Srouse, Code H4355A6112
- 2:15pm – 3:00pm Online Schürch genealogical database update
--Justin Houser, Code H431238011
- 3:00pm – 3:30pm Highlights of Heritage Tours 2007 and 2013
--Stephen D. Shirk, Code H44112562
- 4:30pm Close of exhibits and sale items

Evening

- 5:30pm – 6:45pm Dinner Buffet and brief business meeting
- 7:00pm – 9:00pm Live Auction and official closing of the reunion

Sunday, July 29

- 10:30am – 11:30am Optional family worship service in Mifflinburg



Friday, July 27 Full Day Tour Options

Following a brief reunion opening celebration, the Friday program is a choice of two tours, each highlighting Schürch and local history. The Susquehanna Trailways motor coaches are air conditioned and provide an onboard restroom. Lunch is included in the tour cost.

Family Code C and Code H: Departs at 9:30am; returns to the Best Western Plus hotel by 5:30pm. Highlights include Curtin Village where numerous descendants worked in the ironworks, a visit to the former Shirk Dairy location, family cemetery stops and drive bys of former Schürch homesteads.

Family Code E: departs at 10:00am; returns to the Best Western Plus hotel by 5:30pm. Highlights include a visit to the Michael Scherch (E81) homestead, the Juniata Mennonite Historical Center and the historical Brick church, family cemetery stops and drive bys of former Schürch homesteads.

Getting To Lewisburg

Flying? Check fares to Harrisburg, State College or Wilkes Barre/Scranton, all within a 1½ hour drive of Lewisburg. Depending upon flight arrival time in Harrisburg (between 3pm and 6pm) allow a two hour drive due to rush hour traffic. Less expensive fares are likely to Philadelphia or BWI, but allow a three hour drive.

Driving? The Best Western Plus Hotel is located along Route 15. (For GPS destination, use 101 Hafer Road, Lewisburg PA)

- Driving north on Rt. 15; through Lewisburg, pass the hospital, turn left onto Hafer Road
- Driving south on Rt. 15: through Williamsport, past the I-80 interchange; turn right at the Country Cupboard restaurant or the next traffic light, Hafer Road
- Driving from State College airport: I-80 to New Columbia/Route 15 South. Continue about five miles; turn right at the Country Cupboard restaurant or the next traffic light, Hafer Road
- Driving from Wilkes-Barre/Scranton airport: I-81 South to I-80 West. Exit at the New Columbia/Route 15 South interchange. Travel about five miles; turn right on Hafer Road

Accommodation Options - Thursday, July 26 to Sunday, July 29

Reserve hotel accommodation **ASAP**. Options are limited and may be unavailable or costly for “last minute” reservations. Credit cards will not be charged until check-in. Negotiated blocked space and rates are available at the reunion site, Best Western Plus Lewisburg, and Quality Inn, New Columbia, five miles north. Both hotel rates include a full breakfast and taxes, however the PA state legislature is debating a 2% hotel tax increase. If/When implemented, rates could increase a few dollars.

NOTE: Reservations **cannot be made online or by calling the national #800 hotel chain phone**. The hotel is fully booked this weekend so even though the website indicates space is unavailable, the reunion has block space. If you arrive earlier/stay later, inquire about receiving the same negotiated rate.



a) **Best Western Plus.** Guaranteed space in our block of 50 reserved rooms is available **if booked by June 13**.

OF SPECIAL NOTE: On June 14, half of any unreserved rooms will be released and on June 28, any remaining unreserved rooms will be released. After June 28, there is no guarantee of the negotiated reunion rate.

The Thursday night rate is US\$120 and US\$136 per night Friday and Saturday. For reservations, **CALL** the hotel at **570-524-5500** and state you are booking for the Schürch Family Reunion.



b) **Quality Inn, New Columbia:** Guaranteed space in our block of 30 rooms is available **if booked by June 26**. After June 26, there is no guarantee of the negotiated reunion rate.

The per night rate is US\$118. For reservations, **CALL** the hotel at **570-568-8000** and state you are booking for the Schürch Family Association Reunion.

Other Lewisburg accommodation possibilities– none with blocked space or negotiated rates:

- Country Inn and Suites, 13 Walter Drive, Lewisburg, PA 17837

- Hampton Inn, 140 International Drive, Lewisburg PA 17837

(Both hotels are located very close to the Best Western Plus)

- Comfort Suites, 4775 Westbranch Highway, Lewisburg PA 17837

- Days Inn, 313 N Derr Drive, Lewisburg PA 17837. (2 star hotel)

(Both hotels are located six miles south of the reunion site. Lewisburg is usually a highly congested traffic area. Allow a 20 minute drive to the Best Western Plus)

Williamsport, located about 25 miles north of the reunion site, offers a wide selection of hotels. Additional information can be found online.

Bed and Breakfast options in Lewisburg include the Tawsty Flower B&B, Copper Beach Manor, and the Pineapple Inn B&B. Information can be found online.

Camping? Check KOA, New Columbia PA: 570-568-5541 – or Hidden Valley Camping Resort (includes cabin options), Mifflinburg PA: 570-966-1330

Meals

A full breakfast is included with the negotiated rates at Best Western Plus and the Quality Inn. If you register for a Friday tour, a bagged lunch is included in the tour cost. Other meals (Friday dinner, Saturday and Sunday lunch) are on your own. If you choose **not** to register for the buffet Saturday, dinner is on your own.

The dinner buffet Saturday, July 28 includes just about EVERYTHING you can think of: a soup and bread bar, salad bar, multiple entrée and vegetable options (including prime rib and carved ham), a dessert bar and most beverages. The meal cost includes tax and gratuity. Identify the number of reservations required on the Reunion Registration Form.

Live Auction!

Don't miss the Saturday evening auction, led by professional auctioneer Clarence N. Shirk, Kutztown PA! This is a fun-filled event closing the reunion. Donations at past reunions have included items particular to Schürch family history. Examples of other items are hand sewn/crocheted/knitted items, home baked or canned foods, food specific to your home area (chocolate, farmer sausage, maple syrup), framed photographs, art work, small quilted items, books and specialty magazines. Auction proceeds help cover reunion costs.

This year we are privileged to have two notable auction items.

- A 1914 edition of Shirk Family History and Genealogy, written by Henry Yocum Shirk. The book is well-worn but is/was THE premiere book of family Code E Ulrich Shirk with detailed descendant information of E41 Ulrich Shirk. Donated by Ron Sherk, Pearland, TX.



A collection of handcrafted, hand-painted, puzzle-like ornaments by Laird L. Shirk (1922-2000), family Code H844156. This is the last complete collection available. Graciously donated by Laird's children: Vaughn Shirk, Brent Shirk, and Jill Shirk.

Sunday morning worship – July 29

An optional **Sunday morning worship service** will be held in nearby Mifflinburg. If you would like to attend, there will be a sign-up sheet and driving directions provided at the reunion registration desk.

Now known as the Elias Center for the Performing Arts, this former church is in the oldest section of Mifflinburg, laid out in 1792 by its founder, Elias Youngman. As was customary, he dedicated a small lot for the construction of a church, to be shared by the German Reformed and Lutheran congregations. The Elias Church, originally known as the Union Church, is one of the most historic buildings in Union County, and may be the oldest wood-frame church in Pennsylvania. It was the third church built in the area, and the oldest existing church building remaining. The 1806 Elias Church has been carefully restored to its original state featuring a wine glass pulpit, arched Leigender Stuhl trusses, original plank flooring, curved ceiling and a three sided upstairs gallery.

You may wish to linger and explore Mifflinburg before heading home. An interesting attraction close to the Elias Center is the Mifflinburg Buggy Museum. Check buggymuseum.org for information.

Come Early – Stay Late!

The Susquehanna River Valley Visitor's Bureau is conveniently located near the Best Western Plus Hotel at 81 Hafer Road. Check www.visitcentralpa.org or email info@visitcentralpa.org for sightseeing dining, and shopping resources. We offer the following suggestions to explore:

- Wednesday: Sale day in Belleville. Amish and Mennonite baked goods, a variety of produce, antiques, various wares, quilts and livestock sales
- Lewisburg Children's Museum; www.lewisburgchildrensmuseum.org
- Dale-Engle-Walker House (1793), Lewisburg; www.unioncountyhistoricalsociety.org
- Buggy Museum, Mifflinburg; www.buggymuseum.org
- Little League Museum, South Williamsport; www.littleleaguemuseum.org
- Knoebels Amusement Resort, Elysburg; www.knoebels.com
- Penn's Cave, Centre Hall; www.pennscave.com
- Clyde Peelings Reptile Land, Allenwood; www.reptileland.com
- Fort Augusta, Sunbury; www.northumberlandcountyhistoricalsociety.org
- Slifer House, Lewisburg; www.sliferhouse.org
- Packwood House, Lewisburg; www.packwoodhousemuseum.com
- Priestley House, Northumberland; www.josephpriestleyhouse.org
- T & D Cats, Penns Creek; www.TDSCats.com
- Bucknell University, Lewisburg; www.bucknell.edu
- Penn State University, State College; www.psu.edu
- Boal Mansion and Columbus Chapel, Boalsburg; www.boalmuseum.com
- Hershey Park and Hershey Chocolate, Hershey; www.hersheypark.com, www.hersheychocolateworld.com
- Corning Glass, Corning, NY; www.CMOG.org

Thank you for attending the 2018 Family Reunion.

We look forward to meeting you again at Reunion 2020!