

Mennonite Historians of Eastern Pennsylvania



Hist. Mss. 1-36
Jacob Fretz Collection
Three document boxes

The Jacob Fretz collection was given to the Mennonite Archives of Eastern Pennsylvania during 1979 over a period of several months. Jacob has been a life long resident of Bucks County, Pennsylvania and a member of the Blooming Glen Mennonite Church. As a young man he began to collect historical books and papers that dealt with Mennonite history. Jacob has been quite eclectic in his accumulation of historical material and has not restricted himself to only Mennonite information. Prior to his donation to the MHEP Jacob had several public sales of some of his material.

Along with manuscript material that was donated to the MHEP Jacob gave several thousand books. Most of these books were either in very poor condition or were totally unrelated to Mennonite and Bucks County history. The Historical Library and Archives found it necessary to dispose of many of the books from the Fretz collection. The manuscript collection has been kept in its original order and condition.

The Jacob Fretz manuscript collection is strongest in the area of Buck County Mennonite history. The researcher will find the many Public Vendues from the Mennonite community of Bucks County to be quite useful. Note should also be made of folders 19, 22, 83, 84, and 115.

The photocopies that are a part of the collection were copied from originals that are in the care of Jacob's brother, Clyde Fretz, of the Blooming Glen congregation.

There are no restrictions on the use of this collection other than the standard guidelines of the Mennonite Historical Library and Archives of Eastern Pennsylvania.

Joseph S. Miller, archivist

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- Folder 1.
Box 1
1. Draft of seven tracts of land situated on the Bear Creek near Wilkes Barre, Luzerne County. This survey made by H. Colt for John Hollenbach. Includes lands of Matthias Hollenbach, Jacob Vanorman, George Hollenbach, William Strak, John Hollenbach, and Joe and John Hagaman. No date.
 2. Deed for 1000 acres of land in Lycoming County, Nov. 5, 1799.
 3. Public sale for Christian Fretz, Milford Township, Bucks Co., February 13, 1822.
 4. Deeds from Henry Douglass to Charles Affkerbach, Hulmerville 1891. From Franklin Taylor to Deborah A. Joyce, Bucks Co. Mar. 28, 1891. From Abraham Iredell to Janett Penrose, Bucks Co. 1841.
 5. Wills of Lydia Yardley, Newtown, Bucks Co., March 19, 1849. Lucy Evans, Newtown, Sept. 28, 1836. John J. Finney, Southampton Township, Jan. 7, 1854. Augustus Guerard, Bristol, Bucks Co., Aug. 15, 1845. Samuel Yardley, Phil., April 12, 1867.
 6. Jonathan Butler's account book, 1808 to 1816.
 7. Jacob Dautel land warrent and survey, July 3, 1772 & 1773. Signed by John Lukens, Surveyor General.
 8. Letter to Col. Issac Lane, Hollis, Maine, 1826.
 9. Land draft for boundary between Philadelphia County and Bucks County, shows Newbritain, Warrington, and Warminister Townships.
 10. Draft of Old Bethlehem Road from Hilltown to Saucon, 1798.
 11. Letter dealing with produce sold to Indians in Bethlehem, 1763.
 12. Legal papers not related to Mennonites.
 13. Loan agreement between Christian Fretz and Jacob Stom, 1808.
 14. Newspaper clippings on floods in the United States.
 15. Broadside for the Point Pleasant grain store.
 16. Land draft for Deshlers Mill, Bucks County. (?)
 17. Land draft for land in Franconia Township along the Branch Creek, 1774.
 18. Grape planting record for 1833 plus school contract & subscription, 1816.

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- Folder 19. Petition aganist fellow Bucks County Tories (Mennonites & Quakers?)
Box 1 1778.
20. Rent agreement between Abraham Leatherman and John Landes, Bedminister, 1806.
 21. Legal agreement between Samuel Wigton and Christian Holdeman, New Britain, 1810.
 22. Land deed between William Allen and Dillman Kolb Jr., 1774.
 23. Bucks County Intelligencer, Doylestown, Pa. July 7, 1904.
 24. Pages from family Bibles, Joseph F. Derstine, Franconia. Daniel Webster Binder (Luthern). Christian Souder and Lizzie Lewis, Upper Salford and Franconia. James F. Butz and Catharine Smetzer.
 25. Fretz family reunion program, Saturday August 27, 1898.
 26. Store account from 1840 to 1843, unknown store.
 27. Financial papers, non-Mennonite.
 28. Broadside Susanna Cox, no date or place of publication.
 29. Broadside, Der Trost Jesu, Neujahrs Gruss, Ein Neujahrs Grusz, and Ueberschrift.
 30. Account book from unknown person, 1825 to 1832. A photocopy of the original.
 31. Sellersville bridge account book, 1829. A photocopy of the original.
 32. Sellersville bridge account book two, no date. A photocopy of the original.
 33. Vendue for Abraham Ditwiller, 1809. A photocopy of the original.
 34. Vendue for Jacob Stover, 1813. A photocopy of the original.
 35. Vendue for Micheal Smell, Haycock, 1796. A photocopy of original.
 36. Vendue for Abraham Wismer, Plumstead Township. A photocopy.
 37. Vendue for Barbara Fretz, Newbritian Township, 1824. A photocopy.
 38. Vendue for John Dillerly, Bedminister Township, 1827. A photocopy.
 39. Vendue for John Loux, Bedminister Township, 1830. A photocopy.

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- Folder
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40. Vendue for Samuel Delp, Bedminister, 1823. A photocopy.
 41. Vendue for Christian Leatherman, Bedminister, 1815. A photocopy.
 42. Vendue for Christian Leatherman, Bedminister, 1816. A photocopy.
 43. Vendue for John Hunsberger, Hilltown, 1825. A photocopy.
 44. Vendue for John Funk, Hilltown, 1815. A photocopy.
 45. Vendue for Abraham Fretz, 1816. A photocopy.
 46. Vendue for William Fretz, Bedminister, 1844. A photocopy.
 47. Vendue for Jacob Cope, Hilltown, 1824. A photocopy.
 48. Vendue for Abraham Fretz, Hilltown, 1840. A photocopy.
 49. Vendue for Joseph Fretz, Bedminister, 1824. A photocopy.
 50. Vendue for Jacob Hunsaker, Hilltown, 1813. A photocopy.
 51. Vendue for Henry Leatherman, Bedminister, 1815. A photocopy.
 52. Vendue for Daniel Fretz, Bedminister, 1816. A photocopy.
 53. Vendue for Jacob Angeney, Bedminister, 1808. An original copy.
 54. Vendue for Christian Clymer, Milford Township, 1801. Original copy.
 55. Vendue for Henry Crout, Bedminister, 1811. Original copy.
 56. Vendue for Elizabeth Kulp, Nockomixon, 1825. Original copy.
 57. Vendue for unknown person, no date. Original copy.
 58. Sale bill from Henry Huddleston to George Clymer & Judith Moyer, 1815.
 59. Release by Jacob Fretz & Magdalene from any claim from the estate of Michael Roeder, 1789.
- Folder
Box 2
60. Last will & testament for Thebe Burges, Bucks County, 1836.
 61. Vendue for Christian Fretz, 1803.
 62. Vendue for Jacob Fretz, 1808.
 63. Loan agreement between Abraham Fratse & Christian Fratse to Pearl White, Bedminister Township, no date.

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- Folder
Box 2
64. Financial papers non-Mennonite.
 65. Case of Jacob & John Leatherman sons of Christian Leatherman.
 66. Vendue for William Michener, Bucks County, 1802.
 67. Vendue for John Groff, Springfield, 1829, original.
 68. Vendue for Michael Blank, Rockhill Township, 1814.
 69. Vendue for Joseph Young, 1796, original copy.
 70. Vendue for Christian Kielsmann, Springfield Township.
 71. Philip Swartley survey, Franconia Township, 1858, shows mill.
 72. Broadside concerning the resignation of Rev J. A. Strassburger, Ridge Rd. Church, Rockhill Township, Bucks Co. July 14, 1854. His charge consisted of Indianfield Charlestown, Tohickon, no date.
 73. List of persons exempt from active duty in militia, New Britian Township, April 21, 1801., 18 names with ages.
 74. Jacob Leatherman & John Garber music book 1833-1836, New Britian, handwritten notes & words.
 75. List of heirs to estates: Jonathan Owens, deceased, 1887. Stacy Walker, Buckingham, deceased, 1872. John & Mary Townshed, Phineas & Sarah Walker, Benjamin & Hannah Walker, William Treichler.
 76. Account book of Michael Scholl 1813-1825, Scholl was born in 1742.
 77. Vendue for John Fretz, Warwick Township, 1805.
 78. Vendue for Daniel Fretz, Bedminister, 1795.
 79. Legal papers non-Mennonite, E. Potter to A. M. Adsit, 1802.
 80. Letter from B. I. Rawdler to his father, 1927, non-Mennonite.
 81. Captain Nathan J. Taylor's commission 1861, non-Mennonite.
 82. Certificate of birth & baptism, Adam Cox & Susanna Cox parents.
 83. Account book of William D. Fretz, 1907 to 1916.
 84. Account book for a cattle dealer from Quarkertown area, 1833-1834.

Folder
Box 3

85. Birth & baptism certificate Milton Henry Reiss Springfield, 1894.
86. Deed for land Adam Althouse to Walter M. Pool, Bedminister, 1750.
87. Broadsides: Smash Hitlerism!, Susquehanna Planing Mill, Columbia, Pa., Free lecture on free Masonry, Dr Bergner's essence of life.
88. Broadside: Doylestown Express Extra, Warlt Strsze, Oberhalb.
89. Broadside: Andenken an die Hinterbliebenen.
90. Paper money of Pa. \$30 bill issued July 25, 1776. Six pence 1/3 of a dollar bill 1776.
91. Book of receipts: Three estates, Jacob O. Meyers, New Britain Township. Jacob O. Meyers, Peter & John Lapp, Tobias W. Myers and wife.
92. Pamphlet entitled, Supplement to the American-Eagle. Milford, August 1, 1803 (Easton, Pa.)
93. Draught for Nitholas Wohlfort farm, 129 acres.
94. Pamphlet: What faith can do, a brief essay, on the nature & power of a true faith. by Thomas Bridge, Boston, 1713, 28 pages.
95. Thomas Palmer farmer of Horseham Township affirmation to General Assembly of Pa. 1786.
96. Bookplate for John Kepler, script only, no pictures, 1834.
97. Account book from William L. Strawn (Supervisor, Hilltown) book 1.
98. Account book from William L. Strawn book 2.
99. A hymn of 10 verses in German, Comet of 1811, no author given.
100. Newspaper clippings about the Fretz family reunion nine pages.
101. Claim for bounty on Fox skin Richard Lewis Hilltown 1794.
Claim for bounty on Fox by Henry Musselman Hilltown 1796.
102. Order for payment of \$42.99 for collecting taxes.
103. Doylestown Intelligencer, March 24, 1887 one copy.
104. Two Quarker letters: William Bradshaw to Robert Smith 1792.
Edward Foulker to "My freind" 1819.
105. Two letters dated 1847 addressed to Richard Watson both 1847.
106. Survey of land along the Allegheny River to Peter S. Audibert 1787 .
107. Original receipts received for payments in estate Michael Scholl 1825-1826.

- Folder
Box 3
108. Five land drafts: Daniel Creely to James Moon, Fall Township Feb. 28, 1774. Daniel Creely to Daniel West, Falls Township. Tract in Upper Salford surveyed by Peter Richards for Thomas Mayberry. Tract of land in Bedminister Joseph Shelly to Benjamin Landes.
 109. Papers concering American Indians, Fort Allen, Bethlehem, Pa.
 110. Stamp collection , postage and revenue, 30 itmes.
 111. Receipt book for 1824-1834 with many Mennonite names.
 112. Vendue for Joseph Fretz, Bedminister Township, 1823.
 113. Material about Russian Mennonites visiting Blooming Glen Mennonite Church, 1962.
 114. Papers relating to Col. Amos Stickney, 1865-1907, non-Mennonite.
 115. Manuscript book, In account of the money collected for the meetinghouse in Doylestown.
 116. School agreement Bucks County, 1846.
 117. Miscellaneous papers 19th & 20th century.
 118. Miscellanous papers.