



Hottenstein Lines

May 2025

Hottenstein Lines is a newsletter of the Hottenstein Family Reunions about the descendants and many lines of ancestry of Ernst Von Hottenstein of Esslingen, Germany who immigrated to America. Presently, three immigrant lines are identified: Johann Jacob Hottenstein settled in Kutztown, PA, his nephew also Johann Jacob Hottenstein settled in Lancaster, PA, and a descendant Phillip J. Hottenstein settled in Gleason, WI. It is for the descendants, spanning twelve (12) generations, to share items of interest about our family and information about our annual reunions. At least one newsletter each year will announce the date and location of the family reunions. Your suggestions are always welcome.

Sharon Schnure Laverdure is honored to serve as your Interim President

On July 7, 2024, we suddenly lost our President Theron "Terry" Schnure due to a heart attack. I am Terry's younger sister and am honored to continue my families' legacy as Interim President. Many, many years ago my father Edgar Hottenstein Schnure was President and as I was growing up, I had the privilege of attending many Hottenstein reunions. I know how important keeping the legacy moving forward is and I look forward to our next PA Hottenstein Family reunion in June.

2025 PA Hottenstein Family Reunion Hottenstein Mansion Open House and Picnic to be Sunday, June 8th

The 88th PA Hottenstein Family Reunion will be held on Sunday, June 8, 2025, beginning at the Hottenstein Mansion, on Route 222, east of Kutztown, Pennsylvania. The family reunion, as occurred last year, will be in two phases and two locations. It will begin with an Open House at the Hottenstein Mansion beginning at 11:00 AM; the Picnic will follow, using the meeting facilities of the Masonic Hall just five (5) miles west of the Hottenstein Mansion on Route 222. All are welcome.

Hottenstein Mansion Open House

The reunion will begin in the morning with the Open House at the Hottenstein Mansion. Plan to arrive between 11:00 AM and 12:30 PM to tour the house and grounds. Rob and Jennette Reynolds have invited us into the Hottenstein family home where they reside. We will be the guests of Dr.

Reynolds, his family, and the Historic Preservation Trust of Berks County. Dr. Reynolds, as the curator of the Mansion, and Jennette will give explanations about its historical architecture. There will be tours of the rooms, out buildings, and artifacts. It is also a time when family members visit, socialize, and share experiences.

Please refer to the next page for parking details.



1783 Hottenstein Georgian Mansion

PA Hottenstein Family Reunion Picnic

The PA Hottenstein Family Reunion Picnic will begin at 1:00 PM at the Masonic Hall in Kutztown. The picnic will be a traditional catered meal, as has occurred in past years. Again, it will be a time when family members visit, socialize, and discuss reunion business. Rob and Jennette Reynolds will join us and he will update us on his role as curator and living in the Mansion with his family. Dr. Reynolds is the Freyberger Professor of Pennsylvania German Culture at Kutztown University.

Hottenstein Mansion Parking Hottenstein Mansion Open House

Parking at the Hottenstein Mansion will be along the West side of Hottenstein Road which intersects with Route 222. Please look for signs indicating Hottenstein Road. After turning onto Hottenstein Road, proceed past the Mansion, turn around, and park on the western side of the road or facing South toward Route 222.

Parking for those with limited mobility will be provided in the area on the eastern side of the Mansion.

The street address of the Hottenstein Mansion is 15441 Kutztown Road, Kutztown, Pennsylvania.



Hottenstein Road Parking

PA Reunion Picnic Reservations

We hope you will be able to attend the Reunion. Please print the attached reservation form to indicate your participation.

Cost for the reunion picnic to cover our expenses (including the catered picnic meal, facility rental, printing & mailings) will be as follows:

Adults	\$ 30.00
Youth	\$ 15.00 (10 yrs thru 17 yrs)
Children	No Fee (9 yrs and younger)

The reservation mail deadline is Saturday, May 31st. For late reservations, which can be accommodated afterwards, please contact:

Jane Herlacher, Treasurer
Phone 617-899-5257
Email jbradley10@aol.com

or

John L. Hottenstein, Historian
Phone 484-340-9969
Email jlhotten@gmail.com

PA Hottenstein Family Reunion Picnic Location

The PA Hottenstein Family Reunion Picnic will be at the Masonic Hall in Kutztown. This is a five (5) mile drive west of the Hottenstein Mansion. Travel southwest on Route 222 for 4 miles to the Virginville exit, then turn left onto Crystal Cave Road, then travel ½ mile to the Masonic Hall, on the left. A large parking area is located on the right side of the Masonic Hall.

The street address of the Masonic Hall (Huguenot Lodge) is 18 Crystal Cave Road, Kutztown, PA.

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PA Family Reunion Leadership Group

Sharon Laverdure, Interim President	570-424-5460
East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania	
Jane Herlacher, Interim Vice President	781-259-1370
Lincoln, Massachusetts	
Bob Hottenstein, Secretary	610-652-2552
Zieglerville, Pennsylvania	
Jane Herlacher, Treasurer	781-259-1370
Lincoln, Massachusetts	
John L. Hottenstein, Historian	717-892-7209
Landisville, Pennsylvania	
Bill Spagnola, Webmaster	717-683-4039
New York City, New York	

Larry Herlacher, Newsletter	781-259-1370
Lincoln, Massachusetts	
Russel Hottenstein, PA Picnic	484-577-9142
Fleetwood, Pennsylvania	
Omar Hottenstein, Trust Board	717-778-1986
Gettysburg, Pennsylvania	
Harriette Rensch, At Large	302-803-7017
Newark, Delaware	
Anita Burkhart, At Large	610-762-0219
Kutztown, Pennsylvania	
Robert Reynolds, Ex-Officio	610-417-3046
Kutztown, Pennsylvania	

Researching Hottensteins in Germany

John L. Hottenstein and his family made an epic trip to Europe in July 2024. Over two decades ago he and his wife toured some Hottenstein sites in southern Germany. Now as a graduation gift from high school for their two children they spent three weeks in central Europe seeing several historical sites with Hottenstein heritage and visiting with Ursula “Hottenstein” Goetzberger. Here are some Hottenstein themed highlights from their trip with researched links.

Ittlingen

Our family went to Ittlingen (www.ittlingen.de), the small town not far from Sinsheim and Heidelberg which was the town where the Hottensteins lived before they emigrated to America in the 1700's. We visited the town, spoke with some of the locals, and saw the sites. We stopped at the Rathaus (Town Hall) where I purchased a historical book from the town that contained records of our ancestry.

Recently I learned that my mother's family also came from a town just one mile to the east of Ittlingen, and that another prominent family in our area of PA also came from Ittlingen. I am amazed that about 250-300 years later, families that lived within a mile or so of each other in Germany in the early 1700's, now live within a few miles of each other in Pennsylvania.

While in the area, we visited the nearby town of Eschelbronn where I heard that there was a war memorial in the cemetery for Ferdinand Wilhelm Hottenstein, who died during WW1 in either Belgium or France fighting for Germany, but his body was never found. This was Ursula's grandfather.

Hottenstein Village (Wuppertal)

Located just northeast of the modern city of Wuppertal about an hour east of Düsseldorf is a small village called Hottenstein. Only about 2 blocks long along Wittnener Strasse northeast of the city proper, while it is now part of the larger city, the locals still know it as Hottenstein. My wife and I had visited this village in December 2000 on our last trip. On the morning of July 24th we visited the village again including the Hottenstein School (www.grundschule-hottenstein.de/) and Hottenstein Church. Based on the research I have done, the town was named for a geological formation and type of rock present in the area, and no connection to our family has been established.



Hottenstein School
Josiah and Jenavieve Hottenstein



Hottenstein Stone
Josiah, John, Jenavieve, and Jennifer Hottenstein

Langenholzen

In William Hottenstein's 1878 book on the Hottenstein history, he described the family name going back to the year 380AD when a Frankish Province Count Riedbold von Hottenstein held annually a great solemn court upon a large rock, under a powerful oak tree. I always considered this account to be a legend as I was never able to confirm it from any other sources. So I was surprised when over 20 years ago, I was searching the internet and came across an actual rock in the town of Langenholzen (www.langenholzen.de) that states it goes back to pre-Christian times, when it was used as a court stone, and its name in German is Der Hottenstein! There is also a civic group in the town that was formed to beautify the village, and they named themselves after the rock calling themselves the Hottensteiners (www.hottensteiner.de). I made contact with them via email and learned the group meets every Wednesday evening to work on projects around their village, so I arranged a visit for the evening of July 24th.

Leaving Hottenstein (Wuppertal) earlier in the day, we drove a couple hours east to Langenholzen to meet with the Hottensteiners for their evening activities. Langenholzen is located adjacent to the town of Alfred and is about an hour south of Hanover, Germany. Arriving late in the afternoon we meet up with the group and it was amazing. They were so welcoming and offered us coffee and cake while chatting. Then they gave us a tour of their village as well as the Hottenstein rock. Afterwards one of the members, Dr. Josef Wirth, a sleepologist who runs a snoring museum in the village (www.schnarchmuseum.de), gave us a tour.

After all the tours they took us up to their clubhouse where they had prepared a barbecue. It was during this meal that they presented me with various gifts including a book on their village as well as a one of their sweatshirts and made me an honorary Hottensteiner. They had me pose with the sweatshirt and state "Ich bin ein Hottensteiner" while they took pictures and recorded it.

We also discussed the rock. The red sandstone table rock is about 5 feet long, 3-4 feet wide, and 12 inches thick. It is a type of rock that is not native to the area. According to their legend it was deposited there when a giant was walking through the area and shook an annoying pebble out of his shoe and it has been a fixture of their village ever since. The legend describes how it was used as a court stone in pre-Christian times. Later, it was used to hand out a soup called "Hotten" that was made with dumplings, sheep's cheese, and bread to the schoolchildren every year. This practice ended in 1923 due to inflation after the first World War.

We talked with them how we both have these legends about a court being held over a large rock, how neither of us can prove these legends, but how similar these legends are to each other. I also asked if these court stones were common and they said no, that this rock is the only one they know about, so they are rare. There is no way to know if their account is in anyway related to our family, but it makes a good legend! After getting back to the states, one of the members, Margret Röker, sent me a copy of an article she had written about our visit for the local newspaper and was posted on their website (www.hottensteiner.de/familie-hottenstein-aus-amerika-kommt-zu-besuch/).

Ursula "Hottenstein" Goetzberger

On our last day in Germany, we were able to meet with Ursula "Hottenstein" Goetzberger and her son Oliver at their home in Freiburg. She prepared a wonderful meal for us and we discussed what we had seen on our trip. She talked about when she and her late husband Adolf lived in New Jersey back in the 1960's, never aware that a bunch of Hottenstein relatives were living just one state away. We looked at old books and pictures, having a good time reminiscing. It was a fantastic evening. It was a wonderful trip with memories to last a lifetime.

During the 2025 reunion I will be giving a deeper presentation on the sites described in this article and showing pictures and items from the trip.



The 2024 Hottenstein Reunion in Kutztown, Pennsylvania

PA Hottenstein Family Reunion Meeting Minutes, June 9, 2024, at the Mansion and the Masonic Hall, Kutztown, Pennsylvania

The 87th Annual Hottenstein Reunion began at the Hottenstein Mansion in Kutztown, PA on June 9, 2024 with approximately 45 persons attending an open house from 11 AM to 12:30 PM. Rob Reynolds provided explanations of the history and details of projects underway or planned for the Mansion and the outbuildings.

At 1 PM the reunion re-convened at the Huguenot F&AM Lodge No.377 on Crystal Cave Road, also in Kutztown for the luncheon, meeting, and socialization. Terry Schnure, President, called the meeting to order, made some announcements and Bob Hottenstein, Secretary, said the blessing. Then everyone assembled outside for a group picture and returned inside for the buffet luncheon. It consisted of fried chicken, roast fresh ham, escalloped potatoes, green beans, tossed salad, rolls and butter. Beverages were bottled water and iced tea. The food was provided by Kathryn's Katering from Blandon, PA. Russel Hottenstein provided the strawberry shortcake dessert with vanilla ice cream. Several family members assisted in serving the food and the cleanup.

The afternoon program began with Terry announcing recognitions to:

Rob & Jeannette Reynolds for their hospitality at the open house.

Russ Hottenstein and his family for the luncheon arrangements.

The Secretary's 2023 report by substitute Jane Herlacher as printed in "Hottenstein Lines" was accepted. Jane distributed the Treasurer's 2024 report which was also accepted. When the Historian's report by John Hottenstein was distributed Terry called for a moment of silence for family members who had passed in the last year. He also mentioned that it was the first time he could remember that there were no births to report. He also indicated that he was looking for someone related to the Schecleers. No reason was given.

John Hottenstein talked about his upcoming trip to Germany. He has been in touch with a man named Lucas who might have some historical information about the family.

Russel spoke about access to the cemetery. He thinks the Trust should enforce the right of way to the cemetery. He is looking for help with owner of the land, the Trust and members of the Trust. Jake Hottenstein, Bob's grandson, gave Russ his phone number regarding maintenance of the cemetery. He had done some work there after the 2022 reunion.

Terry then asked for comments on the proposed warehouse vs. Hottenstein Heritage. Rob filled us in on the latest news regarding the warehouse project.

PA Hottenstein Family Reunion Meeting Minutes -- continued

Terry then asked for volunteers for leadership of the reunion but there were no takers.

Bill Spagnola is helping with the reunion website.

Terry then asked if anyone was interested or could nominate persons to be officers of the reunion. None were forthcoming and Terry closed the nominations. The 2024-2025 Reunion Leadership Group is as follows:

Terry Schnure, President, Windsor Connecticut-860-683-2385

Vice President-Vacant

Bob Hottenstein, Secretary, Zieglerville, Pennsylvania-610-652-2552

Tami Weidman, Treasurer, Oley, Pennsylvania-610-207-9208

John L. Hottenstein, Historian, Landisville, Pennsylvania-717-892-7209

Bill Spagnola, Webmaster, New York City, New York-717-683-4039

Russel Hottenstein, At Large, Fleetwood, Pennsylvania-484-577-9142

Omar Hottenstein, At Large & Board Member of the Trust, Gettysburg, PA-717-778-1986

Harriette Rensch, At Large, Newark, Delaware-302-803-7017

Then Terry asked for recognition of various categories with a modest present awarded:

Oldest Woman-Carol Snyder

Oldest Man - Bill Hottenstein

Most Recently Married - Alex and Tory Marles

Most Grandchildren - Carol Snyder

Youngest Grandchild - Omar Hottenstein

Person with most keys - Joe Hottenstein

Traveled the Farthest - Charles and Diana Hayes

Longest Married - Charles and Diana Hayes

Rob Reynolds then introduced Anne Franke, Ken Franke and Laurel Burkhart of the Zoning Hearing Board of Maxatawny Township. Rob summarized what is happening in the area of the Mansion. For more information go to savemaxatawny.org or the MCC newsletter.

Terry then adjourned the meeting after announcing the 2025 reunion will be June 8, 2025, tentatively.

Respectfully Submitted,
Robert Hottenstein, Secretary



The Hayes family with others from Ohio
at the PA Hottenstein Family Reunion

PA Hottenstein Family Reunion Leadership Meeting Minutes, November 9, 2024 at Kutztown University, Kutztown, Pennsylvania

An evening meeting was held by the PA Hottenstein Family Reunion leadership on November 9, 2024 in Lytle Hall at Kutztown University, Kutztown, PA. Its purpose was to address the way ahead for the PA family reunion after the recent death of the PA reunion president, Theron "Terry" A. Schnure, who passed away suddenly at his home on Sunday, July 7, 2024.

In attendance were Sharon (Schnure) and Richard Laverdure, Bob Hottenstein, John L. Hottenstein, Russell Hottenstein, Omar Hottenstein, Anita Burkhart (Omar's friend), Larry and Jane Herlacher and Robert W. Reynolds (Kutztown University professor).

John coordinated the meeting and we started with a brief prayer led by Omar for Bob's wife, Linda Hottenstein, who was recovering from a recent mini-stroke. Rob was thanked for arranging the meeting room. Since none of us had dinner, Anita picked up food from a local eatery. John also prepared an agenda as a guide for our discussions.

New Leadership: We discussed how to replace Terry. He had done so many things to keep the family together and run the annual PA reunion. *It was agreed he was irreplaceable!*

Leadership Roles: We talked about all the tasks that Terry, as President, did and decided who would initially take them on and plan for the PA reunion in June 2025:

Mansion liaison, correspondence, and memorabilia sales, Sharon; newsletter and photographer, Larry; recorder of family milestones and Wisconsin reunion liaison, John; coordinator of PA reunion picnic and location, Russel; manager of address list (email & postal) and PA reunion registration, Jane; publisher of the genealogy book, no one.

In order to successfully sustain the tradition of the family reunion, everyone stressed the importance of getting new and younger people involved. Eventually Sharon, Terry's sister, accepted the role of interim President. Jane will serve as the interim Vice-President. Bob will continue as Secretary, Jane will be Treasurer, John will stay as Historian and Bill Spagnola agreed, by phone, to remain as Webmaster. Omar will maintain his relationship as a Board Member of the Historic Preservation Trust of Berks County. Russel will take responsibility for the PA picnic food and location. Rob, as curator of the Hottenstein Mansion, will advocate for its buildings and land within the Maxatawny, PA community. Anita will bring her long-time knowledge of Kutztown where she lives. Harriette Rensch, as the daughter of David Hottenstein (donor of the Mansion to the Trust), will continue to represent the PA family.

Finances: Because the Bank of America account was closed after Terry died, Jane will transfer the reunion balance to a new account in Pennsylvania. John volunteered to be the alternate signature. It was decided that the PA Hottenstein Family Reunion should become a nonprofit charitable organization (IRS Code 501(c)3) so future donations could be tax-deductible for anyone supporting the activities of the reunion. John volunteered to start the application process.

Newsletter: Larry can use the current newsletter format. He will need reports from Bob (2024 minutes), John (German trip & WI reunion '24 minutes), Sharon (welcome letter), Omar (Trust & warehouses status) and Rob (Mansion projects).

Mailing Lists: Larry also explained that current mailing lists have not been located yet but he will work with Tim Schnure, Terry's son, to find them electronically. The Schnure family, however, gave him a USB memory stick with 11 GBytes of PA reunion files, organized by year, from Terry's computer and Larry provided copies to Sharon, John and Omar. Unfortunately, the folders have only old postal mailing lists and address labels, with some corrections and notations, and no e-mail addresses. Assembling a complete mailing list and an e-mail address book will be a challenge. Meanwhile it was agreed that Save-the-Date postcards would be mailed by USPS announcing that the 2025 newsletter would be posted on the website and not be mailed as in past years.

The 88th PA Hottenstein Family Reunion is planned for Sunday, June 8, 2025 at the Hottenstein Mansion and elsewhere in Kutztown, PA.

Historic Preservation Trust: Omar introduced issues and concerns with the Historic Preservation Trust of Berks County, the owners of the Hottenstein Mansion and property. It is unclear how the Trust has used the donations from Hottenstein family members over the years. Many reunion donations were made with the expectation that they would be used for the upkeep and enhancement of the Mansion and the cemetery. Recently the Trust received a donation of \$200,000. from the will of E. Roberts and Elizabeth (Betty) Hottenstein for the Mansion. Although the death happened in March 2024, the will was not settled until December 2024. Omar and other family members have yet to see the exact wording of the will to better understand how the money can be used. There will be outreach to other Board members for further advice.

President's Records: In October 2024 Larry and Jane received several boxes of PA Hottenstein family items from Andrea "Andy" Schnure, Terry's wife, in CT. For more than 50 years Terry accumulated them, many from his father, Edgar Schnure. These boxes contained memorabilia (Hottenstein shirts, note paper, coffee mugs, trivets, etc.), reunion information, old photographs, and correspondence. Two plastic briefcases held Hottenstein genealogy information with copies of the seven books that Edgar had compiled.

Jane reorganized the boxes and all, except six that require additional sorting, were brought to the meeting. John took the boxes of genealogy information and the two plastic briefcases were given to Sharon and Bob. Fortunately, Rob offered to take the memorabilia boxes and store them at the Mansion. Memorabilia would then be more easily shown for sale at the PA reunion.

The USB stick contained valuable information about Hottenstein genealogy, planning for PA family reunions and the ongoing legal battle to prevent the warehouse that is proposed near the Mansion. It also included approximately 3000 photographs, mostly associated with the annual PA reunions, but unfortunately many are not labeled. Larry will put all the photographs in one computer file and display some of them at the next PA Hottenstein reunion. Hopefully family members can help identify the people and label as many of them as possible. These pictures were contributed by Terry, Larry, Miles Hoover, Fred Hottenstein, Howard Hottenstein and others over many decades of PA family gatherings.

Website: John suggested some updates for the website. He will confer with Bill about them.

Warehouses Plans: Because it was getting late into the evening, we decided not to discuss the changes in plans of the warehouses' proposals near the Mansion. Then we adjourned the meeting.

Compiled by Jane & Larry Herlacher



Left: Oliver Goetzberger
Middle: John L. Hottenstein
Right: Ursula "Hottenstein" Goetzberger

In her Freiburg, Germany home

2024 Hottenstein Mansion Annual Report

This past year was spent in continued defense of the Hottenstein Mansion and the Maxatawny context of nearby Hottenstein farmsteads, against a mega-warehouse proposal that would obliterate much of the Hottenstein mansion family farm context and degrade the safety and livability of the mansion.

While the airport warehouse proposal remains defeated and under appeal, the warehouse proposal at Hilltop Road and the larger warehouse proposal surrounding the mansion were reapplied for, before the new zoning could be approved that limits warehouse size in the zoning district containing the Trust property, and the other nearby associated Hottenstein farms.

The new Hilltop plan added a second large warehouse on an adjacent tract, but the rest of the submission was virtually the same plan, with the same issues, as the first plan that was turned down by the Supervisors months earlier. While appealing the denial on the first plan, the backers of the Hilltop project resubmitted with a second warehouse proposal just before the new zoning took effect that would stop such a proposal.

When I cross-examined the Hilltop project engineer, I read the list of deficiencies listed by the Supervisors when they turned down the initial plan and asked them each time how this defect got remedied in the new plan. When it was clear nearly all the same deficiencies remained the Supervisors decided they could turn Hilltop down, and that is what happened at the very start of the next hearing.

Hearings for the warehouse proposal adjacent to the mansion are on-going. However, the developer seems to be slowing down and has recently not been able to sustain regular monthly hearings since December. We saw them begin with an expensive lawyer, then shift to a lesser lawyer - the same lawyer that lost the Hilltop proposal twice. Seeing the same lawyer from Hilltop suddenly arguing for the former Duke proposal made clear that both projects were connected. Meetings were canceled in January, and just last week for March and April were cancelled as well. The next conditional use meeting may be in May, but no date is agreed upon.

The developer may be having trouble avoiding the required sewer plant improvements required for approval and seems determined to prove they can install septic. The minimum ten-acre tillable set aside of crop land around the mansion, a requirement in the short list held by the Supervisors, was the first area to be dug for perc tests. A few weeks ago their backhoe was out near the creek and in other areas inside the larger development. We are waiting to see how this project moves forward.

This January I was elected Chair of the Maxatawny Planning Commission. I developed a new Maxatawny hedgerow standard in consultation with an old order Mennonite friend and a KU field biologist. We will require the preservation of old and the establishment of new hedgerows planted with selections common to our community. I developed the hedgerow portion of our new landscape ordinance in response to the pine tree walls of screening we would get with the warehouses under current zoning. I believe we should be continuing the traditional field boundary approach and when the lands around the mansion change use, I want to see hedgerows bound our viewsheds.

On May 20 the voters of Maxatawny will choose a new Supervisor. Because of the Duke Realty warehouse threat and the subsequent warehouse proposals that followed, the voters overturned warehouse candidates in 2021 and again in 2023 to elect new supervisors against the mega-warehouses. Our schools are asking for a 10% tax increase by ballot and our township is facing revenue shortfalls. There are four Republican candidates on the ballot.

My name is on the May ballot for Supervisor. Three others are in the running. At least one candidate represents the warehouse interest, and they will be running on the argument that warehouse revenues would solve the tax shortfall. I will be running on the reality that the need for police and the wear of roads and the impacts of quality of life will far outweigh the short run tax increases over the long run.

I am running in a highly competitive race. I formed a political committee, and we are working on our first mailing, a Facebook page, and a website. The cost to run in this race will approach \$5,000. As I work to

earn the support of my community, I am seeking ways to work with municipalities in our school district and to encourage a greater awareness of how our region can better preserve our rural heritage as we accommodate growth. I do all of this work to affect the outcome of the Hottenstein property and the associated Hottenstein farms in Maxatawny.

We are happy to acknowledge receipt of a Berks County landscape painting and a watercolor painting of the mansion in memory of Betty and Bob Hottenstein. The watercolor is a 1946 image by Henry Sharadin, a KU Art professor who lived in the house the university now uses for the KU Foundation, and Henry's grandfather ran the farm at the Pennsylvania German Cultural Heritage Center where I served as executive director for seven years.



Our car mechanic was cleaning out the attic of his mother-in-law's home in Kutztown and turned up and gave to me a framed photo from the turn of the twentieth century. I have seen this photo before, but this copy had the names of the people written on the back. The two works of art and the photo are hanging in the dining room of the mansion to share with family and guests touring the property.



While the warehouse crisis continues, most of my support for the mansion in the foreseeable future will be through local hearings, meetings, planning projects, and my Supervisor campaign that will ensure a

better preservation future than the Hottenstein heritage faces under the warehouse proposals. While warehouse hang over our future, we will continue to maintain and repair the property as needed.

I met with my contractor to spec the details on a garage roof replacement. We will need to redo the aluminum garage chimney flashing in copper and the fireplace has an ash cleanout that needs mortar repair as the metal door is now unattached. We intend to use an asphalt roof in a slate shape that looks like aged slate. Dr. Hottenstein had eagle snow guards on the roof and if we can find a few replacements, these will be reinstalled as an homage to his ideas about the look of the mansion property. I found matching examples on eBay. We are soliciting bids right now to complete the roof this spring or summer.

As the warehouse outcomes are determined, we will continue to address outbuilding exteriors, over the coming years. The slate roof on the smokehouse will need replacement and is tarped in the meantime. The summer kitchen needs repair to one windowsill, and the root cellar/smokehouse, and the doctor's office will require carpentry repair before refreshing the paint. We plan to address the outbuildings serially and will likely expand to outbuilding interior repairs as we see what happens to the lands around us.

Sincerely,



Robert W. Reynolds, Resident Curator

Request for Person/Family Event Info for 2026 Hottenstein Historian's Report

Please send birth, adoption, marriage, death, or other family event which has occurred during the past three or previous years and has not been reported in a previous Historian's Report, or if there is a new or change of address, please send an email or note with this information by May 26th as indicated below:

For a birth, please include the full name, the parents' names, and the location of the birth. For a marriage, please include the names of the bride and groom with the location of the marriage. For a death, please indicate the descendant, the date of the death, the location of the death, and the place of interment. For all events, include family or parents' or family names. Available copies of birth or marriage announcements, obituaries, news articles, or event programs are welcomed.

To assist in updating, a Person/Family Event Form to update is available on the Reunion website at <https://www.hottenstein.org>, click on Forms; click on Update Form. Simply complete it, as applicable.

Please also include your address and other contact information with the email, note, or form, to enable acknowledgement or further contact as needed.

Return this information, by May 29th, with any applicable notes, explanations, or news clippings to:

John L. Hottenstein, 17 South Avenue, Landisville, Pennsylvania 17538-1018

Telephone: 717-892-7209 Email: jlhotten@gmail.com

Proposed Warehouses, Historic Preservation Trust, Estate of Betty Hottenstein

There have been fewer warehouse meetings this year, including one on Feb. 26, 2025 in the Maxatawny Township Municipal Building. Numerous people raised concerns and the topic was primarily Archeology for the Hottenstein historic district warehouse site. It was recently submitted by “222 Capital Partners”, consisting of two large warehouses and a very large trailer parking area on both sides of the existing Hottenstein Road. To say you should have been there is an understatement. The question was raised. “Are the warehouses destroying 5,500 years of Native American and Colonial history?” The representative expert answer was, in effect, they are just putting the warehouses and parking areas, blacktop on top of it all. We welcome further ideas at the reunion.

Now again, the two Hilltop Road warehouses have come back to influence the Hottenstein historic areas as well. The new warehouse submission is by “23 MAX LLC” who have been granted a new Conditional Use Permit Hearing on May 19, 2025 at 6:30 PM in the Maxatawny Township Municipal Building. It is important that concerned family parties observe and follow these meetings. It’s very concerning to all Hottenstein & Berks County history because the warehouse submission is by “222 Capital Partners” who have begun again meetings in the Township Municipal Building at 6:30 PM on May 21, 2025. It would be good that numerous interested family members attend these meetings that will continue for months ahead, if not the rest of this year. Those few who have attended have many questions and concerns, the details of which are not to be widely discussed or enumerated in detail, given the ongoing litigation and lawsuits that have been in play for the past 2 years. Support for the local community and historical efforts are encouraged and are available for discussion at the Annual Reunion meeting.

On May 17, 2025 in the morning at 9 and 10 AM, there will be meetings of the Historic Preservation Trust of Berks County at the White Horse Tavern, 50 Old Philadelphia Pike, Douglassville, PA. This Annual Meeting of the Board is for the Members of the Trust. All family members are encouraged to attend and participate, in particular with regard to the ongoing sustainment and preservation of the Hottenstein Mansion and property on Route 222. For various reasons, known or unknown, it has been an ongoing issue of disclosure and understanding of the management, finances, and now “endowment” of the Mansion in particular. Support from the Hottenstein Family Reunion is greatly appreciated and we need to have numerous, if not two dozen, family members as members, attending and contributing to the Trust and the history so precious in Berks County and the preservation of the Hottenstein historic district. We need more family members to attend all public meetings related to the above all year long.

On other matters, some of our members have been coordinating with the Trust to convey historical articles, paintings, artwork and furniture items of the Estate of Betty Hottenstein from the Trust to the Hottenstein Mansion or Hottenstein Family Reunion Leadership Committee. See you soon.

Submitted by Omar Hottenstein

Board member of the Historic Preservation Trust of Berks County

Contributions Enable the Hottenstein Reunion

Contributions made to the Hottenstein Family Reunion assist efforts to continue our contacts with families and organizations, to establish initiatives maintaining family ties, and to understand more about our lineages and family history. The Reunion maintains about 450 family addresses.

Contributions to the Historic Preservation Trust of Berks County, the owners of the Hottenstein Mansion and Property (including the cemetery), assist special projects considered as being historical or architectural. Scientific analysis of paint from specific areas of the Mansion will establish dating and the original colors. In 2023, \$790 were contributed to the Trust. Trust contributions are separately payable to the “Historic Preservation Trust of Berks County”; the memo line should indicate “Hottenstein”. These contributions are tax deductible and will be separately acknowledged.



Checks payable to the Hottenstein Family Reunion and/or the Trust may be sent with the reservation form included with this newsletter, whether or not attending the reunion. All contributions are greatly appreciated.

The Mid-West Hottenstein Reunion



The 2024 Mid-West Hottenstein Reunion Group Picture

2024 marked the 90th anniversary of the Phillip Hottenstein family reunion in Wisconsin. Approximately 55 members were in attendance. It kicked off with a potluck meal to include the fish fry as well as delicious deserts, and lively conversation ensued as is always the case. Bobby Jones, son of Norah Hottenstein, read his Hottenstein poem that is enjoyed every year. Bart Hottenstein read Fred Hottenstein's account of the Hottenstein families travels both here in Wisconsin and Alberta Canada that was first read by Great uncle "Fritz" at the Hottenstein reunion held in 1949.



The 91st Mid-West Hottenstein reunion will be held on August 17th, 2025, at the Hickory Hill Park in Potosi, Wisconsin beginning at 11:00 AM with a potluck meal at Noon. For Mid-West Reunion info, contact Bart Hottenstein at 608-769-3415 or email at k2noelle@hotmail.com. Hope to see everyone again this year.

2025 PA Hottenstein Family Reunion

(Please check or complete as applicable.)

Reunion Event Reservations

I/We will attend the 2025 Reunion at the Hottenstein Mansion and the Masonic Hall, in Kutztown, PA. Please refer to the newsletter for program details and locations.

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Total</u>
Sunday, June 8 th			
_____ Open House and Picnic, Adults (18 and above)	_____ @	\$30.00	_____
_____ Youth (10 to 17)	_____ @	15.00	_____
_____ Children (9 and below)	_____ (no cost)		

Please indicate the names of those attending below or on an attachment.

Internet Access

I/We have an email address; it is as follows:

_____ @ _____

Sports Shirts and Memorabilia

_____ Please check this box for an order form for Hottenstein embroidered sports shirts.

_____ Please check this box for an order form for other Hottenstein memorabilia, which includes mugs, plates, trivets, coat of arms prints, note cards, and banners.

Hottenstein Family Reunion Contribution

My/Our contribution to the Hottenstein Family Reunion to further support reunion planning, mailing costs, and other current activities is enclosed. The contributions enable us to continue the reunions and embark on new initiatives.

Remittance/Check (Payable to the "Hottenstein Family Reunion"): _____

Historic Preservation Trust Donation

My/Our donation directed to the Hottenstein property initiatives is enclosed. As explained in the newsletter, a separate check returned with this reservation form made payable to the "Historic Preservation Trust of Berks County" will be provided to this non-profit organization, the owner of the Hottenstein Mansion and the cemetery. Donations provided in this manner are tax deductible. Indicate Hottenstein in the memo portion of the check. These donations will be separately acknowledged.

Donation/Check (Payable to the "Historic Preservation Trust of Berks County"): _____

Name: _____ Tel: _____ / _____ - _____

Please print this form, fill it out, scan it, and email it to jbradley10@aol.com or jlhotten@gmail.com

Or mail this filled-out form to Jane Herlacher, Treasurer, 7 Brooks Hill Road, Lincoln. MA 01773