

Hi KKC Extended Family,

Our Reunion on June 9th is fast approaching, and to get you thinking of life 300 years ago, I want to call your attention to a 47-minute-long video, *The Quiet In The Land*, written by John Ruth and produced by Jay Ruth in 1971. It was made as part of an observance to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the death of Christopher Dock, but it also features Dielman Kolb, his nephew “Strong” Isaac Kolb, Henry Funk, and others. The story is not just about Dock, but also the Mennonites in general, the Martyrs Mirror, Skippack and the surrounding area.

It can be found free on YouTube here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ko-NhvQxPI0> and there some additional notes in the comments below this version which might be of interest.

As you watch, I also would like you to pay attention not just to what the characters are doing, but to the set background, how they dress, chores they are performing, etc., plus the events around them they are reacting to. If you are able to watch it before the reunion, it will also give some background to Walt’s talk.

Remember, our ancestors (and we for that matter) were not living by themselves in a bubble. They were influenced by what was going on around them, not just their local surrounding, but international events, culture, the technology of how to do things, etc. That is all part of our ancestor’s history. Genealogy and individual history is just a small part of studying their lives.

We are 300 years away from our ancestors coming to America. But I think it is important to try to put ourselves in their shoes and to think about what it was like back then. And I don’t think you can talk about Kolbs without understanding what is going on around them whether it is in Skippack or wherever. Likewise, the Kolbs made significant contributions to the Skippack area that you really can't tell that story without the Kolbs either.

Walt Johnson is going to be a great speaker. I have spoken with him several times and he just is so knowledgeable about the area and its history which it is so intertwined with the early Kolbs. And Walt is a Kolb relative on Jacob's side. In fact, his grandfather gave the benediction at a reunion in the 1930s. I don't think he knew about our Kulp Family Record book until I sent him one and he was also amazed at all of the information about it.

The Kolbs have a very rich history, let’s remember it and try to preserve it.

A reminder of a Skippack Historical Society (<https://www.skippack.org/shs.htm>) event:
April 25th at 7:30 p.m. – “Seven one-room schoolhouses in Skippack Township” - The program will be held at the school house next to Lower Skippack Mennonite Church.

Website update: Hoping to get all of the older newsletters and the Family Record Book (Brown Binder) in the Library section before the reunion. Any help with writing is welcome!

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Secretary, Kolb, Kulp, Culp Family Association

Website: <https://kolb-kulp-culp.org>

P.S. Save the Date: next Kolb reunion 9 June 2024 at 12:30 at the Lower Skippack Mennonite Church