

Elizabethtown Historical Society **Historical Book Review & Essay Contest**

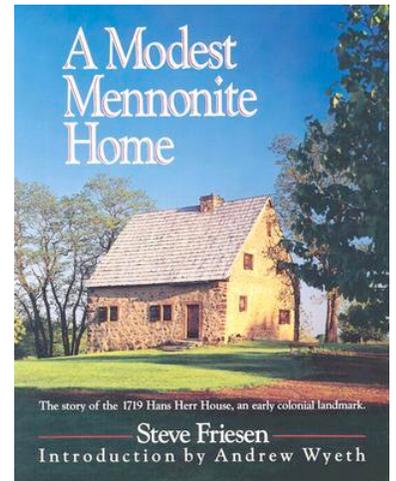
Contest Overview -

As a way to promote study and consideration of local and county history, the Elizabethtown Historical Society is sponsoring an annual book review contest and essay contest, open to both middle school and high school students. Books are selected with a unique connection to Elizabethtown history in mind and allow students the opportunity to delve deeper into a local history topic of their choice.

What book will be the focal point of this year's contest?

The book being featured in this year's essay contest will be "**A Modest Mennonite Home: The Story Of The 1719 Hans Herr House, An Early Colonial Landmark**" by author and historian Steven Friesen. The book tells the story of the Hans Herr House, the oldest surviving structures in Lancaster County, which was built in 1719 by Mennonites Hans and Christian Herr, who traveled west from Philadelphia to settle in this area of Pennsylvania that today includes Lancaster County with other Mennonite settlers. The book also gives readers a deeper understanding of life for these early Mennonite settlers.

For students and / or teachers wishing to take part in the contest, the Elizabethtown Historical Society has graciously offered to provide copies of the book free of charge to interested young writers. Contact EHS educational coordinator, Gerald Huesken, at gerald_huesken@etownschoools.org for more details.



What should be the focus of my essay in this contest?

Students should focus their essay on (1) an brief overview of the book and its contents and (2) focus on one aspect of the book they found interesting and connect it to some form local Elizabethtown history. Students are encouraged to use resources and materials available through the Elizabethtown Historical Society. Topics can range from early Elizabethtown settlement, local industry, biography of famous Elizabethtown residence, agriculture, education, and many other topics.

What prizes will be awarded for winners of this essay contest?

Prizes will be awarded as followed:

- 1st Prize = \$100 check from EHS, an opportunity to have your essay published on the EHS website, and a chance to present your essay at a EHS meeting to fellow local historians
- 2nd Prize & 3rd Prize = A \$50 gift certificate to Folklore Coffee & Company (Elizabethtown) and an opportunity to have your essay published on the EHS website

Finished essay can be submitted electronically to the EHS educational coordinator, Gerald Huesken, at gerald_huesken@etownschoools.org. **Deadline for entries in April 13, 2018**

Requirements for Essay Submissions:

Student essays should be written in the following format – typed in black ink, Times New Roman font, single-spaced, one inch (1”) margins on white computer paper. Essays should be a minimum of two (2) pages and a maximum of five (5) pages. All reviews should include the following header:

<p>Author’s Name School Grade</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Essay Title</p>
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Requirements for the Book Reviews:

Student essays should also be written to address the following questions through their body paragraphs:

- **Introduction**
- **Book Summary:**
 - A through overview of the book’s plot and/or historical thesis and evidence
- **Personal Interest & Connect to Etown History:**
 - What aspect of the book did you find interesting and how did it motivate you to learn more about local Elizabethtown history? What unique find, person, event, or aspect of Etown history did you discover? Why is it something worth understanding and remembering?
- **Conclusion** (Students will also be asked to include a bibliography of their research)

Judging Criteria:

Essays will be judged on the following criteria

- Formatting (1/3 of essay judging) –**
 - Where all of the page and writing formatting requirements followed?
 - Was the paper written in an academically honest fashion, without hints of plagiarism or academic dishonesty?
 - Is the paper devoid of spelling and grammatical errors?
 - Was a bibliography included?
- Book Background / Summary (1/3 of essay judging) –**
 - What the overview of the book’s plot and / or major points presented? Was it clear and understandable?
- Student Insight / Historical Connections (1/3 of essay judging)**
 - Did the essay present a direct connection from the book to Elizabethtown history?
 - Was the historical connection clear and well researched?
 - Did the essay discuss this connection’s meaningfulness to the study of local Elizabethtown history?