

The MIRROR

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Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society

Preserving and popularizing Mennonite and Pennsylvania German heritage, history and faith for over 50 years.

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Florian Lawton watercolor donated to Society

The Florian K. Lawton Foundation donated an original Lawton watercolor valued at \$6,000 to the Society in September, museum curator Carolyn Wenger said.

"Old Time Parking", undated, depicts Amish buggies and blanket-covered horses hitched to fence posts a rain-soaked field in early spring. Two children peak out of one of the buggies.

Lawton grew up in Cleveland in the 1920's and studied at the Cleveland School of Art under Jack Burton, Paul Travis and Frank Wilcox, accomplished painters who helped to shape a distinct Cleveland school of watercolor-based American realism in the 1940's.

Lawton discovered the beauty of the Amish countryside during trips around the Northeast in the 1960's, and Amish scenes become his principal subject matter.

In 2010, a published retrospective of his work included a quote by former Historical Society director Beth



Graybill. "Florian Lawton's widely acclaimed watercolors of the Amish lifestyle, primarily in his native Ohio, reflect a realistic, respectful interpretation of his rural neighbors. His love for the simplicity of nature and rural life blends artfully and thoughtfully with local Amish mores. His depictions of Amish life evoke integrity, dignity and authenticity. We value his work."