



Notes From The Farm

Volume 23 Issue 1

Spring 2013

Board of Directors

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Bernadine Schwartztruber
376-2792

Vice President
Ron Roggie
874-4017

Treasurer
Don Roggie
376-3076

Secretary
Bernice Zehr
376-2166

Carolyn Henry
853-6879

Phyllis Lyndaker
376-7643

Perry Steria
376-7317

Neil Keib
825-0242

Archivist
Rosanna Moser
376-7122

Assistant Archivist/Docent
Mallori Norris

Facilities Manager
Norman Moshier

Website
Mennoniteheritagefarm.com

Face book

As always, new members are welcome to join AMHA.

Your support and expertise will help fulfill the goals and purpose of AMHA.

NEW DOCENT

We have hired Mallori Norris as our docent at the farm. The farm will be open July-October on Fridays and Saturdays from 10-4 p.m. Mallori can also arrange for group visits, and events outside our regular hours.

She continues to assist Rosanna Moser with archive work and will be available to accept items for the archives and help with the creation and changing of current displays. Additionally, she will keep our Face book page updated and respond to emails on our website.

Z-FEST VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Pre Event:

Does your Sunday School class, small group or youth group need a work project? We could really use help in the following ways:

- Weeding flowerbeds, fence rows
- Pruning rose bushes
(Please provide your own equipment for these tasks.)
- Paint the fence posts - (We will provide paint and brushes.)
- Help with setting up tents
- Growing bedding plants, annuals for plant sale booth
- Making baked goods for food booth:
(Whoopie pies, pies, white breads, snicker doodle cookies sell well)
- Creating/donating crafts (textile, wood, ceramic) to sell
- Flea Market Booth - small furniture, household items, dishes. **No clothing, please**

Please take your items to Janet Zehr's (346-9910) house near Croghan before June 29th to be sorted and priced.

Also Volunteers to do the following:

- Old Fashioned soap making
- Demonstrating how to set up frame for quilt tying
- Quilt tying throughout the day (come & go)- outdoors if weather permits

Please call 376-2792 or 376-7643 for more information

Looking Inside.....

Z-Fest plans
 Help Wanted: Friends of the Farm
 Tribute to LaVeda Taube
 Director's Report
 Archivist Report

TRIBUTE TO LAVEDA TAUBE 1931-2012

LaVeda was a friendly, enthusiastic person who was willing to donate her time, money and energy to help organizations that kindled her spirit. When AMHA began in the early 1990's her husband Ralph and LaVeda were on the Board of Directors and served in that capacity most of the years until they retired in early 2012.

LaVeda was especially passionate about earning monies for AMHA. She organized many bake sales for that purpose. She was a persuasive saleslady and enjoyed the interaction with customers. She was an optimist- "Sure we can" was a common expression.

The crafts booth at Z-Fest was of special interest and a source of great satisfaction for LaVeda. She gave of her time and money to collect items for "her" craft table in addition to the items provided by others.

LaVeda was very hospitable and she loved to visit. She made sure she sent food when there was a work project at the Heritage Farm.



RETIREE RECOGNITION – Ralph Taube

Ralph was on the original board and served for many years before retiring in January 2012. He was deeply involved in transforming the Heritage Farm into a museum. His carpentry skills were a great asset in various maintenance and repair projects at the farm. His help in preparing the site for the annual Z-Fest was also most valuable.

He and LaVeda were willing tour guides. They loved to demonstrate old time skills such as making cider with their small apple cider press. They often drove to the farm from their Naumburg home several times a week just to check on things. When the STAT alarm rang in the night (false alarms), Ralph more than once traveled to the farm to check it out. He and LaVeda's generous financial support enabled the board to keep moving ahead. In many "seen and unseen" ways and often thankless jobs, Ralph contributed greatly to the smooth operation of the farm. He continues to be involved as his health and age permit.

Thoughts From the Director

HISTORY MUSEUMS NEED YOUR HELP

By Dawson Grau

At the Adirondack Mennonite Heritage Association, we have a wonderful problem. That problem is that we need your help to survive. Like all history museums, we are constantly searching for new stories, new artifacts, new pictures, new anything



from the past. Learning more about the past so that we can share it with the people who visit our property is a never ending task. By continuing to grow in our knowledge, we not only make sure that no one's story is forgotten, but we also use their new stories to help make visiting the farm a fresh and worthwhile experience each and every time.

I am proud to say that our type of museum stands in contrast to other institutions like art museums, or natural history museums. At these places you go to see world renowned artists or the bones of dinosaurs and animals from all over the world. While these museums are wonderful places to spend a day, they do not need anything from you (personally) to keep their displays going. They will get new pieces from collectors, professional artists, or paleontologists. They can continue on without you. We, however, cannot.

This reliance on you helps us to build stronger bonds with the communities that we serve. Therefore, we ask all of you with Anabaptist, Lewis County, or farming background to consider joining with us to help make our museum everything it can be. If you have been disappointed by the fact that we have not covered your family or your group's history better, let us know and please give us your information. Only then can we truly become not just an Adirondack Mennonite museum, but also your museum. We cannot wait to fill in the gaps in our knowledge and start a new relationship with you today.

ARCHIVIST'S REPORT

The archival area is always interested in obtaining gifts or donations for the Heritage Farm collection such as genealogy, textiles (old quilts, linens embroidered dresser scarves, etc.), dolls, children's toys, games, and any other object or document.

The gifts or donations are to be connected with early Amish-Mennonite settlers between mid-1830s and 1950. Please talk with Rosanna Moser (376-7822) regarding inquiries for donated gifts.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RESIGNS

For three years Dawson Grau has been our executive director. Dawson is resigning because he and his wife Ashley, are moving to Los Angeles, California this month. Much of his AMHA work has been done via computer (they lived near Syracuse). Originally they were planning to relocate in New York City and continue as director but in April they decided California would be a better opportunity because of his work in films.

Dawson has been a great asset to AMHA. Some highlights of his three years of work include:

- Getting the Heritage Farm on National and State Registry of Historic Places
- Creating a Web page, Face book presence
- Organizing fundraising campaigns
- Nudging the board to consider what type of museum we could, should or want to be in the future and what steps we need to take to achieve that goal
- Setting yearly and longer term goals and preparing yearly budgets to achieve those goals
- Interviewing and recording 20 oral histories of older Lewis County Mennonites
- Creating a documentary about Lewis County Mennonites (scheduled to be completed in about one year)
- Organizing Z-Fest for two years

Thanks again for your many hours of service and your passion for preserving our Mennonite culture and faith.

SUMMER RENOVATIONS PLANNED AT THE FARM

We are pleased to announce some renovation work that will begin at the Heritage Farm this Spring and Summer. This is work that simply can't be put off any longer.

The two barn bridges will be replaced. Safety features will include railings. Only one bridge is currently usable. We hope to have volunteer labor to help with this project to keep the cost down.

A foundation corner wall of the granary will be repaired after Z-Fest. The entire stone foundation will be repaired and re-pointed. Water drainage from the garage and granary roofs over many years, with the resulting freezing and thawing, has deteriorated the stone foundation. These water drainage issues will also be addressed.

A third phase will be to repair the water situation at the well.

Finally, the whole area around the barn, sheep shed, and behind the garage and granary will be cleared of debris, rocks, and brush. It will be graded and leveled with the debris to be pushed over to the ravine area between the road and the barn.

Some of the elderberry bushes will be saved and transplanted to a new area.

We are looking to our local community for financial support and to help with labor to complete these projects. Look for details in church bulletins and newspapers in the coming week for more information.

The AMHA Board has pledged over \$6,500 for this project and \$5,000 has been pledged/received from other sources for a total of \$11,500. To donate toward our goal of \$35,000 for these renovations see information on page six.



KEEPSAKE BOOK

Our keepsake book, **Generation to Generation**, is nearing completion. This book contains recipes, remedies, and pithy and practical sayings and hints handed down from our Lewis County ancestors. We hope to have the books for sale at Z-Fest.

LOOKING AHEAD

Z-Fest: Saturday July 6th -10-4 p.m.

Theme: "Discover Farm Life of Yesteryear"
Look for more details in church bulletins in June.

Fall program by Karen Johnson
Weiner about Amish in New York
State - date to be announced.

**ADIRONDACK MENNONITE HERITAGE ASSOCIATION
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Date _____ Name (print) _____
 Membership Category (Select One) Address _____
 Individual \$15.00 _____
 Married Couple \$25.00 City, State, Zip _____
 Membership Valid thru April 30, 2014 Telephone _____
 E-Mail _____
 Congregational Affiliation (if applicable) _____
 Pastor _____

The purpose of the corporation is to (a) preserve our Mennonite Heritage (based on its Anabaptist origin of 1525), (b) share our unique Christian faith story with our world, and (c) keep intact artifacts of the North County Amish Mennonite Settlement.

Affirmation:

I, _____ affirm that I am in sympathy with and shall support the underlying Christian purpose of the Adirondack Mennonite Heritage Association.

Make check payable to AMHA.

Mail check and application to: Adirondack Mennonite Heritage Association
 Donald Roggie, Treasurer
 4491 Boshart Road
 Lowville, NY 13367

Documentary Update We are excited to announce that AHMA's documentary film project, "**Simple Servants: The Story of the Lewis County Mennonites**" has currently raised almost \$30,000 of its \$35,000 budget. With this important goal reached and the script completed, we have laid the groundwork to complete the film in the coming year. In addition to completed script we have been able to amass a large collection of photographs that we hope to use in the film and are looking to add even more for the final project. We are looking forward to sharing the story of this area and our ancestors with you in the wonderful medium of film in the near future.

DONATIONS WANTED

Church and SS Hymnals in Good Condition

(1902 black cover with red edges on pages)

Corn Sheller

Laundry Wringer

(Hand cranked that attaches to a wash tub)

Reel push mower

These items would be for use at events and would **not** be accessioned or catalogued.
 Call 376-3792 or e-mail

"FRIENDS OF THE FARM" OPPORTUNITIES

Computer Skills:

1. Transcribe 20 recorded stories of Lewis County senior Mennonites who were interviewed several years ago. This would involve listening to and typing the material. Eventually these will be edited and kept in the archives. (One has been completed.) Several people could work at this.

2. Power Point Project: convert a slide show presentation about the Lewis County Mennonites to a Power Point format.

The narration of each slide is included. Call 376-2792 for information.

3. Help with creating and editing newsletters.

The Adirondack Mennonite Heritage Association operates under the non-profit charter granted by New York State. Your tax-deductible gifts will help secure the future of AMHA and give you a part in preserving the homestead and the Lewis County Mennonite story.

Send checks to:

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Donald Roggie, Treasurer
4491 Boshart Road
Lowville, NY 13367

Newsletter Editor : Bernadine Schwartzentruber
Printer : Sue Boldt
Typist: Carolyn Virkler
Proofreading: Ron Roggie

HERITAGE FARM HOURS

JULY— OCTOBER Friday and Saturday

10:00 a.m.— 4 p.m. or by appointment

2013 New Membership or Renewal Time

To become a member please fill out the form on page 5 and return it to Donald Roggie. A downloadable form is available on our website: mennoniteheritagefarm.com
Click on the "Join Us" icon.

Individual \$15 — Married Couple \$25
Membership Valid Through April 30, 2014

Adirondack Mennonite Heritage Association
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