



Notes from the Farm

Volume 25 Issue 2

November 2015

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"They Came"

Coauthors: Steve Virkler, assistant editor of *Lowville Journal and Republican*; Rosanna Moser, AMHA curator

During the farm's 25th Zwanzigstein (Tsvantsigzhtain) Festival on Saturday, July 4, the garden was unveiled, designed with the number 20 in mind, as Zwanzigstein means "twenty stones." The center diameter of the new Zwanzigstein Garden is 20 feet. A circular walkway was chosen



because there is no beginning or no ending. There are 20 sections or panels to the circular walkway in honor of about 20 families for the county's Mennonite forefathers — Beller, Farney, Garber, Hirschey, Jantzi, Kennel, Lehman, Lyndaker, Martin, Moser, Nafziger, Rieffannacht, Roggie, Steiner, Steria, Virkler, Widrick, Yancey, Yousey, and Zehr. The Zehr family was the first to arrive here in 1833, while the Lehmans were the last in 1852.

As some families were small and others large, there are 12 small panels and eight large panels. Twenty stones gathered from the farm property line the interior diameter with family name plates attached. There are 10 boards per panel or 200 boards total to represent the continuing growth of the families since the 1830s. The main entrance is on the east side, which is the direction from which these families came for religious freedom and economic relief.

Nathan Zehr, retired pastor of the Pine Grove Mennonite Church and board member for Rosedale Mennonite Missions, reflected a few moments on "They Came" at the garden recognition. He said that the original Mennonite settlers came here not so much for freedom of religion but for freedom of relationships.

"Religion alone can be practiced in a vacuum, almost anywhere, under almost all circumstances," Mr. Zehr said. "Relationships, however, involve all of life, public and private. They clearly understood their relationship with Jesus needed to be lived out daily in life. While they struggled to clear the land and live out their relationships with Jesus, they wasted nothing and learned new skills needed to survive and flourish in this new environment," he said.

"We come to remember their courage, their hard work, their resourcefulness," Mr. Zehr said. "But, above all, we come to remember and to embrace their living, day-to-day relationship with Jesus, the source of their courage and strength. And may this garden, so beautifully done, continue to remind us of that relationship and what that means to us today, as well as future generations."



Zwanzigstein comes from when God led Joshua and the Israelites over the Jordan River. When they were safely across, the Lord said to Joshua that the 12 chosen men, one from each tribe, were to take a stone from the middle of the Jordan, carry it out, and pile them up as a monument at the place where they camped that night. In the future, when their children asked, “What is this monument for,” they could tell them it is to remind them of God’s amazing miracle. All nations of the earth will realize Jehovah is the mighty God and all will worship him forever.

At the garden recognition on July 4, a family member(s) was represented for each of the 20 stones with the exception of Garber, Kennel, and Steiner. Paul Jantzi and his wife, Phyllis, had the largest representation of five generations.

Left to right: Front row - Phyllis and Paul Jantzi
 Back row: Michael Allen (3rd generation), Jackson Reed (5th), Kaitlyn Allen (4th), and Sundena Cobb (2nd).

Report from the Chairperson Bernadine Schwartzentruber



AMHA has been involved with events at the farm, including off site, as well as renovation projects that have kept us busy this year. Just driving by the farm, the changes are visible! The “Zwanzigstein Garden” is completed. A DVD of the dedication ceremony is available in the gift shop.

Our annual meeting was held on Sunday afternoon, April 12, at Lowville Mennonite Church. Arlene Yousey told some stories that she has collected over the years pertaining to the early Lewis County Mennonite settlers. A PowerPoint presentation highlighted recent renovation projects and planned projects for the upcoming year and near future. We welcomed two new board members, Harold and Linda Deveines, at the business meeting. The *Simple Servants* DVD was shown followed by our traditional “Wax on Snow.”



The new barn siding project is done except for four windows that will be put in the north wall to provide light. Some of the horse/sheep shed siding was used to replace old boards in the barn. A hay loader in the rear section of the shed will be moved to the barn loft. The south side of the house (parlor section) has new clapboard siding, and new windows will replace the two old windows.

Other 2015 Activities and Events

- Quilts documentation (Traditional Arts in Upstate New York)
- Beaver Camp Auction booth
- Zwanzigstein Fest
- Paul H. and Catherine (Widrick) Lyndaker family dinner at Croghan Mennonite Church
- Iron Horse Day in Croghan
- Ladies’ tea party at the farm

2015 Activities continued....

Neighborhood picnic

Beaver River Central School Community Work Day

Lewis County Fall Foliage Tour

Harvest of the Arts at Maple Ridge

Coordinated visits with local Mennonite ministers, Lewis County historians, Mennonite Disaster Service regional, Adirondack Architectural Heritage (AARCH), and Leadership Academy.

Off-site genealogy/family history presentation at River Valley Mennonite School for Grades 6-8

As you can see, these activities involved a commitment of time for our board members, volunteers, curator, and docent. The approximate number of people who have been at the farm this year is about 915, including Z Fest attendees.

Our fundraising bake sales and dinners continue to generate over 10 percent of our yearly revenues. This is made possible with dedicated bakers and cooks. We hope to continue the growth to our Partnership Fund, where persons commit to a planned yearly giving to AMHA. The admission has been changed to a donation basis. We are planning a fundraising drive to help pay for the house and barn renovation projects.

Looking Ahead

AMHA plans to have a booth at “Christmas in Croghan” in early December.

On April 15, 2016, Joseph Hirt, a WWII Holocaust survivor from Lancaster, PA, will tell his story of escape from Auschwitz. John Ruth, Mennonite historian and author, will begin the program by giving an overview of the Mennonites in the context of Nazi Germany. More information about this upcoming event will be forthcoming. You will not want to miss this program.

Welcome—Two New Board Members

Linda Deveines, State Route 812, Lowville, is a retired special education teacher. She currently serves on the Gift Discernment Committee for First Mennonite Church at New Bremen and is a member of the Beaver River Central School (BRCS) Relay for Life team. Other volunteer activities from the past are as follows: BRCS Co-Advisor for Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA), New Bremen Community Improvement Association board member, Church Missions Committee, Bible school teacher, church youth group sponsor, and assisted with Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. Her hobbies include gardening, reading, scrapbooking, traveling, and spending time at Lake Bonaparte. She and her husband, Harold, have three children: Jared, Dillen, and Jenna. Her parents are Art and Mary (Lehman) Mathys, and grandparents were Erwin and Katie (Roggie) Lehman and John and Barbara (Martin) Mathys.

Harold Deveines, State Route 812, Lowville, is retired from the NYS Department of Transportation. Other board experiences include four years on the Town of New Bremen board, Lewis County Softball League, and the New Bremen Community Improvement Association. Other volunteer experiences include girls’ and men’s softball coach and Little League baseball coach. Harold enjoys traveling and gardening. He also enjoys traveling to local schools in the area to watch varsity softball games.

News from the Curator

Rosanna M. Moser

Collections Management Policy

AMHA revised their collections management policy recently. The bold text in the following collections management policy is revised:

Collections shall be primary to those artifacts which depict the daily life in agriculture, homemaking, worship, and other activities of the Amish Mennonites who settled in Lewis County during the nineteenth century. Items for collection shall be considered on the following hierarchical documentary bases with 1. being of first importance and 5. being least:

1. Connection with earliest Amish Mennonite families, in particular those articles which traveled with them from Europe or were used by them during the mid-nineteenth century.
2. Connection with other immigrants from Alsace-Lorraine to Lewis County in the same time period as in 1.
3. Connection with later Amish Mennonite settlers in Lewis County during the remainder of the nineteenth century **to the present day**.
4. Connection with other settlers in Lewis County in the same time period as in 3.
5. When there is no connection as outlined in any of the foregoing, but items have been verified as identical or similar to those documented as having been a part of **mid- to late-nineteenth century Mennonite households to the present day**.

Items will also be considered on the basis of their physical condition, quality of workmanship, and appropriateness to the expansion of the permanent.

Oral Histories

Work continues on transcribing the oral histories that have been done over the past five years within the Mennonite community. You are more than welcome to read those available at the Heritage Farm office. The following are additional oral interviews that have been completed: Pearl Hirschev Farney, Inez Lyndaker, Ruthann Roggie, and Lena Yancey. In addition, we have reflections of Alice Lehman given by a family member at her memorial service in November 2014.

AMHA appreciates interest from its members to do genealogy/family history research. Any information obtained is certainly welcomed and posted to our website at mennoniteheritagefarm.com. Please see the most recent website link regarding the arrival date of John and Joseph Moser's parents under the *Resources* page.

Can You Name This Artifact?

Answer on page 8.



Artifacts Deeded to AMHA



Colorful change trifold **purse** (4.25" x 7.75") in very good condition was donated by Pearl Lehman Hirschey Farney. The beaded pocket purse (mainly in pink, blue, green, brown, tan, and black) was original to Pearl's great-grandmother, Mary [Nafziger] Moser (Joseph). Joseph brought this "pocket purse" from Alsace-Lorraine to the French Settlement (Croghan) in 1834. He traveled with his brother, John, as a young man at about 17 years of age. It is understood that the beautiful purse was given to Mary before their marriage.

The lineage for the purse is as follows: Joseph and Mary (Nafziger) Moser, Mary Moser and Andrew B. Zehr, Mollie Zehr and Joseph Lehman (Rev.), and Pearl Helena Lehman and Ralph Hirschey, m. 2nd Perry Farney.

Large, homemade **dollhouse** was donated by Milford and Carolyn (Zehr) Lyndaker, of Virginia. Carolyn's oldest brother, Floyd (son of Rev. Elias and Martha [Widrick] Zehr), made the dollhouse for a shop project while he was a student at Lowville Academy & Central School in 1944.

He gave the dollhouse to his older sisters, Pauline and Eileen, at Christmas that year. The electrified dollhouse with a front enclosed porch is modeled after a home on East State Street (Lime Kiln).

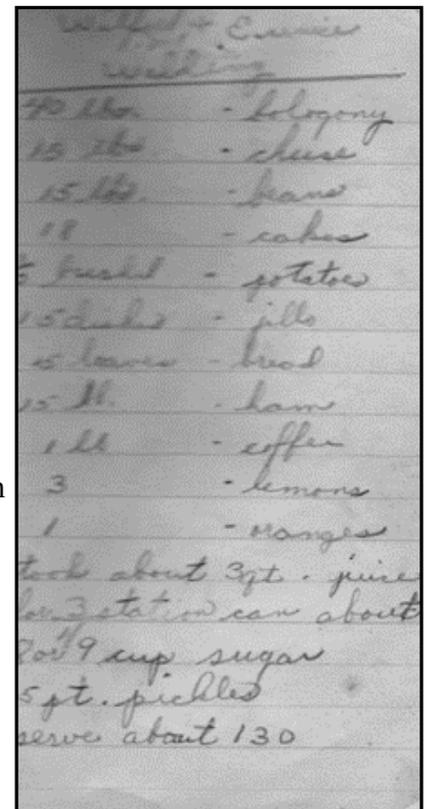


Floyd made a great majority of the wooden furniture for the house. His mother made the curtains and upholstery sofa furniture.

The dollhouse is located in the large bedroom on the second floor.

Handwritten **text** written by Christina [Moser] Lehman (Emanuel) was donated by Janet [Lehman] Roggie (Donald). The lined paper from a small spiral notebook states the amount of food required for the wedding of their oldest daughter, Eunice. She married Wilford Roggie, son of Menno and Leah (Moshier) Roggie on June 22, 1950. The couple celebrated 65 years of marriage this year.

The text states: 40 lbs - bologony, 12 lbs - cheese, 15 lbs - beans, 18 - cakes, 1/2 bushel - potatoes, 15 dishes - jello, 15 loaves - bread, 15 lb - ham, 1 lb - coffee, 3 - lemons, 1 - orange, took about 3 qt juice for 3 station can about 8 or 9 cup sugar, 5 qt. pickles, serve about 130.



Book of Remembrance for Rev. Lloyd and Naomi (Moser) Boshart was compiled by their oldest living daughter, Ruthann (Boshart) Roggie. The illustrated, 158-page notebook covers the family roots of her parents, marriage, children, grandsons, travels, special family times, farm at West Lowville, relatives and friends, ministry, Lloyd's 80th birthday celebration, illness and death of her parents, etc.



You are more than welcome to look at this notebook by appointment next season.
Y

Thanksgiving Woodville, Nov. 28, 1957

Topic: - Let us forget
Text: - Deut. 8
Intro: -

1.
2.

III Let us forget the future

1. have a responsibility to the future
2. The future is in our hands
- 3.

IV Let us forget the past

1. Hardships of our forefathers
2. Our spiritual heritage
3. God's leading
4. God's care, supplying our needs
5. God's discipline

VI Let us forget the present

1. material prosperity a gift of God
2. for these things we should give thanks
3. to keep his commandments
4. by allowing our hearts to be lifted up.
- 5.

Sermon notes in Rev. Andrew Gingerich's handwriting dated November 28, 1957, at Woodville on "Thanksgiving." The family deeded his collection of sermons to AMHA.

Rev. Andrew was ordained minister on May 25, 1947, at the Lowville meetinghouse during a terrific thunder and lightning storm. He carried on the work of pastor under the Lewis County bishopric for the Woodville Mennonite congregation. Source: *Strangers and Pilgrims* by Arlene Yousey.

Quilt Review at Mennonite Heritage Farm

In preparation for a major exhibit of Northern New York quilts in 2016, Traditional Arts in Upstate New York (TAUNY), Canton, held a series of "Quilt Days" around the region. The quilt documentation team led by Jill Breit, TAUNY executive director and folklorist, and Hallie Bond, historian, came to the farm on May 19.



Quilt Review, continued

About 13 visitors came to the farm to have a quilt(s) measured, photographed, and shared information about the quilt(s) with the TAUNY team. In addition, several quilts archived at the Heritage Farm were documented. All information collected was added to TAUNY's research collection. We look forward to the major exhibit in 2016 to be held at TAUNY in Canton.

Donations for Use at the Heritage Farm Received

THANK YOU!!

Metal shelving cabinet

Gas grill

John Deere A 1952 tractor

Electrolux vacuum cleaner

Wooden shaving bench

Fanning mill/grain separator

(photo at right)



Books and DVDs Available at the Gift Shop

Generation to Generation (A Keepsake Book of Old-Time Recipes, Remedies, & Sayings) compiled by AMHA

Genealogy of Christian Lehman and Mary B. Zehr compiled by Janice Lehman Crofoot

Heaven – Who’s Got the Tickets and How Much Do They Cost? by Martha Boshart

Zehr History and Genealogy by Arletha Bender Yoder

Town of Watson by Arletha Bender Yoder

Strangers and Pilgrims—History of Lewis County Mennonites by Arlene Yousey

DVD – *Simple Servants: The Story of the Lewis County Mennonites* by Dawson Grau

New books by community Mennonite authors and DVD at the gift shop —

Nonfiction: *Pain Redeemed*, *The Thing about Dairy Farmers*, and *Word Snacks* by Natasha Metzler

Fiction: *Dying to Live*, *Born to Die*, and *Forever with the Lord* by Angela Zehr

DVD – *Zwanzigstein Garden Recognition— July 4, 2015*

Between November and April, you may make arrangements for purchasing any of the above-mentioned books/DVDs by calling the curator (376-7822) or e-mail info@mennoniteheritagefarm.com. They make excellent gifts.

In addition, Aaron A. Lehman, Slave Lake, Alberta, Canada, has written a number of fiction books for children and teens. They are available for purchase at any one of the following sites: Amazon, CreateSpace, www.aaronlehman.com, or aaronwl@telus.net.

Mystery on Dog Island

Return to Dog Island

North of Dog Island

Friends of the Fencerow

A Book of Stories for Children and Others

Memories and Stories

Stories of Science with Dudley Dummkopf

Correction for Spring 2015 Newsletter

“Bible original to Elmer and Mollie Roggie Lehman” revised to state “Bible original to Mollie [Zehr] Lehman (Joseph)” —Bible was then passed onto their oldest son, Elmer Lehman, and then to his youngest son, Elmer Lehman, Jr.

Wish List

AMHA would appreciate the following donations for use at the farm: an antique china hutch, a hay wagon, and a milking machine. We continue to accept donations/gifts for the Heritage Farm. In particular, we are looking for vintage dolls and toys, glassware, dishes, quilts, linens, etc., from our Anabaptist/Mennonite families.

Artifact Acknowledgment

If you donated an artifact to AMHA between 1989 and 2008 and have not received an acknowledgment letter or “Deed of Gift,” please communicate such to the curator.

The Adirondack Mennonite Heritage Association operates under the nonprofit 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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Lowville, NY 13367

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Answer to “Can You Name This Artifact” on page 4: Antique iron and wood whey cutter (cheese curd)—about 23” long; 11 blades; original to Kirschnerville Cheese Factory.

Adirondack Mennonite Heritage Association
PO Box 368
Croghan, NY 13327

