



Notes from the Farm

Volume 27 Issue 1

May 2017

Board of Directors

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Bernadine Schwartzentruber
315-376-2792

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315-376-3076

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315-853-6879

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315-825-0242

Keith Steria

315-376-7625

Curator/Director of Operations

Rosanna M. Moser

315-376-7822

Administrative Assistant

Janice Lehman Crofoot

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mennoniteheritagefarm.com

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Chairperson's Report

Bernadine Schwartzentruber

After a quiet winter at the Heritage Farm, we are busy “behind the scenes” planning for this year’s programs and events.

Work has begun on building a “loom room” in the barn loft. The barn loom, which is presently located in the granary loft, will be taken apart and reassembled in the barn loft. We are fortunate to have several persons in our community who are skilled in operating this loom. Steps and a landing have been placed on the south side of the house. The sheep shed will be taken down this spring. Some material will be saved and” repurposed” including the “1874” carved out of the gable peak.

The “Capital Campaign 2017 - Restoring the Heritage Farm for the Future” is progressing towards its goal of \$17,000 with over \$12,500 raised locally to date. We hope to raise matching funds with a grant so work can begin this summer. The major work will be a new house roof, finish house residing, and install new windows and door in lower level of granary and repair/replace fascia and soffits on granary.

Our Partnership Program continues to provide a steady income stream for ongoing expenses of the farm. We encourage you, our readers, to join these programs. For those readers who have IRAs, donations to charitable organizations can be made directly from the “Required Minimum Distributions” by the financial institution managing the IRA. These donations are deducted from the IRA owner’s RMD and are not taxable under the IRS code for the donor.

Please forward your contributions to the treasurer (address on the back page). Your support will help to make the farm a more user-friendly site that will help us carry out our mission.

An insurance inspector evaluated the farm early spring and is requiring AMHA to demolish the 1874 horse/sheep barn prior to July 1. Plans are underway to salvage as much as possible for reuse. It is anticipated that some of the siding boards will be available for sale. If you are interested, please call Bernadine Schwartzentruber at 315-376-2792.

Looking Ahead Events

Annual Zwanzigstein Fest

The plans for the 27th annual Zwanzigstein Fest to be held on Saturday, July 1, are well underway. The theme this year is “Strangers and Pilgrims—Past, Present, and Future.” We have several new demonstrations planned such as rope splicing, rug braiding, tinsmithing, willow whistles, etc. Again, horse/wagon rides and activities for children are being planned. The afternoon is planned for music and a number of singing groups. We will have a number of meal choices besides homemade ice cream and a variety of desserts. You may visit the website for more information.

Looking Ahead Events, Cont.

Hymn Sing

An outdoor hymn sing is in the planning stages for Sunday evening, July 2, at the Mennonite Heritage Farm. More details will be forthcoming in the church bulletins.

Daylong Faire Activities for Children

The Fine Arts Faire is returning this summer as well as a Music Faire and Fiber Arts Faire in August. Registration information will be announced in the church bulletins and local newspaper.

New Board Member

Keith Steria was recently accepted as a board member at the annual meeting. Keith is a retired mechanic. He now works part time on his son's dairy farm and also does snow plowing with the town of Watson. Keith travels to Adams twice a week for Lowville Producers to get cheese curd.

He is married to Elizabeth Roggie Steria, daughter of the late Ralph and Frieda Jantzi Roggie. Their children are Julia, Jeremy, Jeanna, and Jacob; and they have 13 grandchildren. He is the son of Wilbur (deceased) and Shirley Nafziger Steria whose great-grandfather was Chris M. Nafziger (ordained bishop of the Lewis County Mennonite churches in 1896). Keith is a member of the Lowville Mennonite Church.

He served as commander of the Lowville VFW Post 6912 and is currently senior vice president, Marine Corps League 754. Keith volunteered with the Special Olympics for five years and has helped with various projects at the Mennonite Heritage Farm over the last two years.



New Administrative Assistant

Janice is the daughter of the late Norman and Alice Bachman Lehman. She and her husband Bob Crofoot have two children and two grandchildren.



Janice is interested in family history and genealogy and compiled the book "*Christian and Mary Zehr Lehman Genealogy*" published in 2013. She is a member of the First Mennonite Church of New Bremen and is assistant secretary. Janice has served as Sunday school superintendent, Bible school teacher, and on several church committees.

After graduating from Beaver River Central School, she attended Goshen College for one year and received a certificate in Secretarial Science. Janice retired in 2006 from Beaver River Central School. Along with her duties as secretary to the Superintendent, she also served as District Clerk for the Board of Education for the last eight years of her 19-year employment. Prior to working at Beaver River, she was a secretary at Lewis County Department of Social Services and Lewis County Probation Department. Other experience included employment as a teller/payroll clerk at a local bank for several years and working at an insurance agency.

Celebrating the Reformation and Its Stepchildren

By Evan Zehr

On the eve of October 31, 1517, in Wittenberg, Germany, a priest approached the door of the village church, the community bulletin board, and nailed a document to it for public consideration. These papers disclosed 95 issues this cleric had with the church and its practices, which differed from Scripture as he understood it. These hammer sounds became a reverberation heard around the world. Little did this priest, Martin Luther, know, but this action was the straw which would precipitate the Protestant Reformation.

There had been individuals in the past also calling for reform, ie, Francis of Assisi, Girolamo Savonarola, Peter Waldo, John Wycliff, John Hus; several of whom were executed as “heretics” for challenging the church. Even so, they provided the spark and fodder for the torch Luther now held. The time was right, and the movement was on its way. The desire of all these men was to work inside the church promoting reform. The church leaders, however, saw their efforts as an attack and sought to squelch it, exercising the power of the state to root out these “heretics.” Martin Luther had the support of powerful nobles who had issues with the power of the church and his life was spared. He was, however, excommunicated from the church so then was forced to work outside the church.

At about this same time, another cleric, Ulrich Zwingli, was at work in Zurich, Switzerland. He, too, was studying and preaching from the Bible. He saw areas of needed reform in the church and was starting to implement some of them. This caused him to be at odds with church officials so he resigned his position of priest. The ruling council of Zurich then proceeded to hire him as pastor of the church in Zurich where he had been priest. He continued to preach from the Scriptures and look at reform. Several young scholars attached themselves to him so as to study the Bible and grow in discipleship.

Both Luther and Zwingli depended upon their governmental backing and were hesitant to move too quickly with reform which might jeopardize this support. Zwingli’s students were pushing to follow Scripture regardless of where the civil authorities were at. To them, what mattered, was what God says, not the council. Things came to a head and Zwingli, with the council support, delivered an ultimatum to these young men - shape up or get out. Force would be used against noncompliance.

These students gathered together for a prayer time seeking God’s direction for them. In the midst of that meeting, a spontaneous baptismal happened. All were baptized upon their desire to commit their lives to one another and to God’s will as discerned in the Gospel narrative. A new concept of church was created, visible, distinct from the state, separated from the “world.” In essence, this was the establishment of the first truly Protestant church. Because they rebaptized believers, they were derogatorily called Anabaptists – baptized again. They were later referred to as the stepchildren of the Reformation. They didn’t fit and were persecuted by both the Roman church and the Reformers. In time, several of the “radical” Anabaptist church principles became widespread and taken for granted – separation of church and state, voluntary church membership, and adult baptism.

This year is the 500th year anniversary of Martin Luther’s courageous step of posting his 95 theses. The church has not been the same since. Various Protestant churches, with a strong emphasis upon the supreme authority of Scripture, have come into existence. Without the Reformation, there may never have been an Anabaptist movement emphasizing a focus on Jesus and following Him in life. Even the Roman church was impacted – Vatican II with its reforms being a recent example.

We owe a debt of gratitude to the Reformation movement, though messy at the time, it brought reform to the Christian church. The Anabaptist movement emerged out of the Reformation as neither Protestant nor Catholic and, though severely persecuted, remained extant. My prayer is that we today may celebrate and extend gratitude for the legacy the Reformation produced as well as the inheritance we have received from the Roman church. At the same time, may we faithfully adhere to those Anabaptist concepts and principles, which are both, as well as neither Protestant or Catholic.

Mennonite Heritage Sunday

Through the years, the book *Martyrs Mirror* has been in many Amish and Mennonite homes. A recently released book, *Martyrs Mirror: A Social History* by David Weaver-Zercher will be the subject of a fall program by the author.

On Mennonite Heritage Sunday, always the last Sunday in October, AMHA will feature this author on October 28-29 at several churches, which will be announced later. David will discuss “the fascinating history of *Martyrs Mirror* with a detailed analysis of Anabaptist life, religion, and martyrdom. He traces the publication, use, and dissemination of this key martyrology across nearly four centuries and explains why it holds sacred status in contemporary Amish and Mennonite households” (Johns Hopkins review). The book will be available for purchase and signing. David is a professor of American religious history at Messiah College in Pennsylvania.

Part 11 - A “Zehr Gunsmith” in Croghan

The Mennonite Heritage Farm accessioned an adjustable jaw wrench in 2013 (donor unknown). Interestingly enough, the tool is stamped in three places with the name “C. ZEHR.”

Karl Smith of West Liberty, Ohio, and Beaver Falls states the following:

“This tool must have been a good one since he signed it several times. He definitely wanted it known that it was his. The second thought is that it is exactly what a late, black powder percussion gun maker would have used to sign his gun. It was a common practice to put the maker’s name between the breech and the rear sight. The lettering of the stamp is of the correct size to fit on the top flat of an octagon gun barrel. Now, all we have to do is find a gun signed by him.”

The archival office continues its research and welcomes information to be sent to info@mennoniteheritagefarm.com or call 315-346-1122.



Amish Quilts

The following information became known through a recent issue of the *Mennonite World Review*:

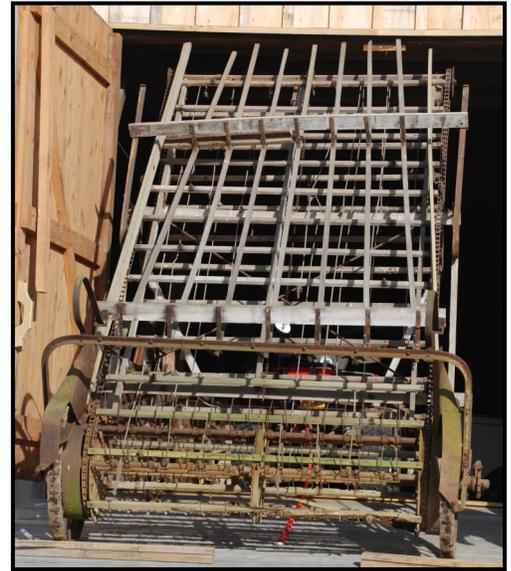
The International Quilt Study Center & Museum at Quilt House at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln is featuring “Amish Quilts and the Crafting of Diverse Traditions.” Here is the website to view the exhibition: http://www.quiltstudy.org/exhibitions/online_exhibitions/amishquilts/

Acquisition Report

By Rosanna M. Moser

Between April and November 2016, the curator's office accessioned or catalogued about 70 accessions. Over the past 6.5 years (since July 2010), we have completed a total of 1830 accessions and/or 2787 items. Work is ongoing with cataloguing artifacts that have either been donated over the past couple of years or were at the farm.

For example, an Emerson hay loader with steel wheels that is original to the Philip and Katie Roggie Moser farm was accessioned this past year. In addition, a large farm wooden wagon with steel/wooden wheels that was used at Irving and Esther Moshier's farm on Route 812 was accessioned (donated by Herbert Gascho).



A brief summary is highlighted below of the major artifacts at the curator's discretion. You may view the complete listing at the archival office by appointment or during visiting hours.

Objects:

- Crystal two-tier candlestick votive original to Ben and Susanna Lehman Zehr, tablecloth and doilies original to Susanna Lehman Zehr, hand-knitted knee high stockings and wool socks made by Magdalena Kennell Lehman, embroidered flannel slip made by Lena Zehr Yousey given to Charlotte Zehr, and handkerchiefs (donated by Charlotte Zehr).
- Corn planter, milk stool, metal ice scraper, cast iron water kettle, and wooden shovel (donated by Melvin and Bertha Zehr).



- Embroidered scarf and set of china dishes original to Elias and Martha Widrick Zehr (donated by Milford and Carolyn Lyndaker).
- Clear glass casserole dish original to Christian and Mary Zehr Lehman (donated by Carol Lehman Streeter).
- Oil lamps--two (donated by Reta Steckly).
- Collection of Sunday school "Lesson Picture Cards" in German and English original to Norman Lehman (donated by Alton and Geneva Virkler).
- Sleigh cutter original to Samuel and Clara Kennel Lehman (donated by Dewey and Bernice Lehman Hostetler).

Acquisition Report, Cont.

Objects:

- Large wooden cheese box presumed original to Joseph Nafziger (donated by Elmer and Gladys Nafziger).
- Black head covering original to Magdalena Roggie Moser (donated by Helen Burkholder).
- Child's black leather shoes and child's dress original to Anna Margie Widrick (donated by Glenn and Anna Margie Widrick).
- Rocking chair original to Veronica Moser (donated by Phyllis Lyndaker).
- Lavender wedding dress original to Ilona Zehr Schaefer (donated by Ilona Schaefer).
- Black fur hat original to Samuel Gingerich (donated by Joseph and Malinda Zehr).
- Ice skates (two pairs) original to John and Katie Moser family (donated by Wilbur and Sharon Moser).
- White cotton, heavy weight jacket original to Andrew Lyndaker (donated by Lois Lyndaker).
- Framed oil painting of 1874 sheep/horse barn at the Mennonite Heritage Farm painted and donated by Eileen Zehr.
- Black head covering original to Eleanor Moser (donated by Barbara Lehman Martin).

Photos:

- Wedding photo of John E. and Ellen Lehman Widrick (donated by Wilburn and Elveira Roggie).

Archives:

- Research paper on Yantzi family (donated by Ed Widrick).

Library:

- Martin Luther German Bible original to Christian and Anna Beller Zehr (donated by Charlotte Zehr).
- Martin Luther German Bible original to Joseph and Anna Virkler and Martin Luther German Bible original to Mary C. Martin by Father Lehman and German hymnal *Zion's Harp* original to Joseph C. Bachman (donated by Alton and Geneva Virkler).
- German-English penmanship booklet original to John R. Moser (donated by Wilbur and Sharon Moser).
- Autobiography book written by Harold Widrick, several Sunday school and children's Bible books, DVD recording of songs and favorite scriptures original to Elaine Widrick (donated by Elaine Widrick).
- .
- Book—*The Life of Christ* (donated by Ellen Yousey).
- Book—*Mennonite Yearbook 1525 Anabaptist Mennonite Heritage 1975* (donated by Titus Mast).

One Step at a Time

By Elmer and Eileen Lehman

It all began last Easter 2016 when we visited our daughter Elnora and her family in Waxahachie, Texas, several miles south of Dallas. One day Elnora sat us down and said, “Dad and Mom, I want you to write your story.” Then she told us she had already contacted a fine Christian and good friend of hers, April Barker, who serves as a “coach” to Christian writers. We met with her twice and worked out a plan. We returned home to Ohio with arrangements to do a weekly chapter-by-chapter writing assignment, and in December, the book was released. April saw this project as a way to challenge and encourage other persons and families to commit themselves fully to God’s plans for their lives and to also help raise funds for missions.

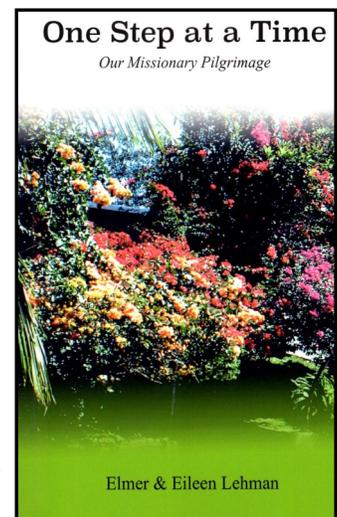
We decided early on that we did not want this to be a money-making project for ourselves. Our retirement income, although not lucrative, is sufficient to be able to continue living debt-free. Since Rosedale Mennonite Missions has been such a major part of our lives for the past 56 years since 1961, we would donate all profits from the book to this mission agency. In the sales we have made since the book’s publication in December, we have already been able to donate \$1,000 to Rosedale Mennonite Missions.

We plan to make the book available at the annual Zwanzigstein Fest at the Mennonite Heritage farm on July 1 and be present to autograph the copies people purchase. Thanks to our good friend Shirley Widrick, a significant number of persons in the northern New York area have already purchased the book. If you would like to have your copy of the book autographed, take it with you to this festival, and we will be glad to do that for you.

God’s steps for us have led us into several different communities, and we have had ten different addresses. Our missionary pilgrimage has taken us from Lewis County to Puerto Rico for two years, to Harrisonburg, Virginia, for five years, to Costa Rica for 22 years, back to Harrisonburg for two more years, and then to Rosedale and Hilliard, Ohio, where we have now lived for more than 30 years. Although we have concluded our assignments at Rosedale Bible College and the offices of Rosedale Mennonite Missions, we continue to be involved in a Spanish-speaking congregation.

The book begins where it all started in Lewis County, New York. This community continues to hold a special place in our hearts, and it is where we first experienced the Lord’s leading in His plans for our lives a step at a time.

Everyone has their story. This is our story. We trust that it will bless you as much as it has blessed us to put it into writing.



Gift Shop—New Books

One Step at a Time – Our Missionary Pilgrimage by Elmer and Eileen Lehman

Counting Grains of Sand by Natasha Metzler

Philip and Katie Roggie Moser History and Genealogy by Rosanna M. Moser

The Miner’s Song, Returning Home, Crossing the Distance, and Secret Shadow by Loreen Plett (married to Eugene Zehr)

* * *

Jacob and Catherine Zehr Roggie – History and Genealogy by Arletha Zehr Bender-Yoder...price of book reduced from \$32 to \$30.

Summer Hours

The Mennonite Heritage Farm is open for visitors and/or tour groups from June to October by appointment. During the months of July and August, the farm is open on Wednesday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. for visitors. Entrance is on a donation basis.

We welcome individuals to come to the Mennonite Heritage Farm for research. As we continue to preserve the artifacts, whether it be *objects*, *library*, *archives* (family history/genealogy/church information), or *photos*, AMHA desires to share the information with you.

Oral Histories

Work is nearing the completion of transcribing the oral histories that have been accomplished over the past seven years within the Mennonite community. An interview with Arletha Zehr Bender Yoder is also in the documentary collection of oral histories. You are more than welcome to read them at the Mennonite Heritage Farm office.

Can you identify this artifact?

See answer on page 10.



Wish List

For use at the farm: antique china hutch, tea pots, vintage women's clothing of the late 1800s to early 1900s that would be wearable, hay wagon or wagon frame, monetary donations for pop-up tents.

For use in the archival office: Book entitled *Beginnings The History & Genealogy of an Amish-Mennonite Family from New York* by Roland Lyndaker.

Why Become an AMHA Member?

- To affirm and support the preservation of our Mennonite heritage, to share our unique Christian faith story, and to keep intact artifacts of the Lewis-Jefferson County Amish Mennonite settlement.
- To receive the yearly publications (annual newsletter and *Plowman's Journal*). NOTE: The *Plowman's Journal* will be featuring excerpts from over 20 documentary interviews within the Mennonite community in future issues.
- To afford a 10 percent discount on books and merchandise at the Heritage Farm.
- To have voting privileges at the annual meeting.
- To be assured of great fellowship and bond of working together in the fulfillment of enlightening future generations.

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ADIRONDACK MENNONITE HERITAGE ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Date _____

Name (print) _____

Membership Category (Select One) Address _____

Individual \$15 _____ City _____

Married Couple \$25 _____ State, Zip _____

Membership Valid Thru April 30, 2018 Telephone _____

Email _____

Congregational Affiliation (if applicable) _____

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 Country Amish Mennonite Settlement.

Affirmation:

I, _____, affirm that I am in agreement with Adirondack Mennonite Heritage Association's purpose and shall do my utmost to support the organization in accomplishing these goals.

Please make checks payable to AMHA (a 501(c)(3) organization). Mail check and application to Don Roggie, treasurer. See address on the back.

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:

Adirondack Mennonite Heritage Association
Donald Roggie, Treasurer
4491 Boshart Road
Lowville, NY 13367

Correction —Fall 2016 newsletter:

Melvin Kipfer and Glenda Lehman Kipfer were married on August 10, **1946**, not 1926.

Answer: Oil filter wrench

Co-Editors: Bernadine Schwartzentruber
Rosanna Moser
Layout/Design: Carolyn Virkler
Proofreader: Janice Crofoot
Printing: Sue Boldt
Distribution: Nelson Schwartzentruber

Adirondack Mennonite Heritage Association
PO Box 368
Croghan, NY 13327