

Notes From The Farm

NEWSLETTER OF THE ADIRONDACK MENNONITE HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

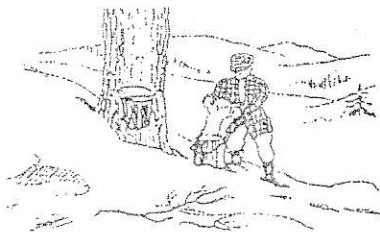
Vol. 2, No. 1

Spring 1992

spring work... FROM SAP TO PLOWING

"What are they going to do with the place...?" is a question we hear frequently regarding the Heritage Farm. If you've asked this question to yourself you are in good company. But "we" who are the "they" of your question are in some company also.

It is interesting to note that, "Every 'Mennonite region' now has its own historical societies, libraries, information centers, archives, public lectures, genealogists, or historians. There are currently 37 of these groups in the U.S. and Canada. They vary from informal committees to societies with professional staffers, journals, and building projects of over a million dollars...In terms of dollars and energy flow, this movement may be the biggest growth sector in the church in the last decade." "Searching For a Usable Past", Levi Miller. Gospel Herald, June 25, 1991.



An interesting phenomenon it seems. This is not part of Vision 95 or some other planned program or strategy of the Mennonite Church.

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1992 Calendar

Annual Meeting..... May 1
Work Day(to be announced).. Spring
Zwanzigstein Fest..... July 4
Conserv. Conference Tour... August
Amish Supper(to be announced). Summer



BEST COUGH SYRUP MADE

Take 1 oz of thoroughwart, 1 oz of slippery elm, 1 oz of stick licorice and 1 oz of flax seed.

Simmer together in one qt. water until strength is entirely extracted. Strain carefully. Add 1 pt of best molasses, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb of loaf sugar. Simmer them all together and when cold, bottle tight.

This is the cheapest, best, and safest now or ever in use. It soothes and allays irritation, breaks up entirely whooping cough, and no better remedy can be possible for croup, asthma, bronchitis and effections of lungs or throat.

-----From a collection of folk medicine recipes by Luella R. Moshier.

\$ Business Brief ~

FINANCIAL STATEMENT APRIL 1, 1991- APRIL 1, 1992

Balance: April 1, 1991

\$ 5,009.53

Receipts:

Memberships	\$ 45.00
Donations	3,641.00
Pie sale	425.86
Candy sale	394.25
Hay	200.00
Zwanzigstein Fest	3,909.95

8,616.06
\$13,625.59

Disbursements:

Mennonite Mutual Aid	3,937.00
Taxes	702.30
Niagara Mohawk	67.68
Insurance	124.20
Repairs	2,120.23
Zwanzigstein Fest	673.15
MDS	100.00
Supplies	90.70

7,815.26

Balance: April 1, 1992

\$ 5,810.33

Indebtedness as of April 1, 1992 is \$22,930.00 (8%)

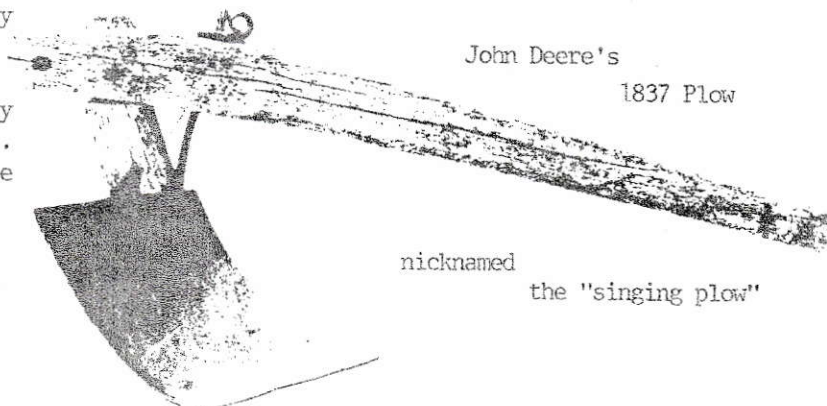
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When the process began four years ago that led to the formation of the AMHA and the purchase of the Moser farm, we had no idea "everybody else was doing it."

Why this is happening across the Mennonite Church may be difficult to explain. Why in Lewis County may be likewise difficult to explain. We, who four years ago became involved with the Heritage Farm, simply had a sense that it was important... we still feel that way. Perhaps the following thoughts can fill some of the blanks to these why and what questions.

On the top of each newsletter cover is a drawing of a plow. The development and refinement of the moldboard plow was part of a revolution in agriculture and industry in 19th century America. These forces changed the lives of a handful of German Amish Mennonite immigrants to Lewis Co. N.Y. (Along with everyone else). The plow is

arguably a representative symbol of the agricultural life of the many who came and put down roots, making new lives in their working of the land.



John Deere's

1837 Plow

nicknamed

the "singing plow"

We use it in our newsletter because it symbolizes for us the turning of the soil of the past to plant seeds for the future. continued p.3

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The late Alex Haley, author of Roots, understood the place the past plays in the future of a people. Haley brought to our attention the obvious; that each new generation of leaves take their life from the roots. Our purpose and goals center in this reality. We as an association work at this through the physical property of a three generation home and farm that was part of the work and worship of the Mennonite community of Lewis County.

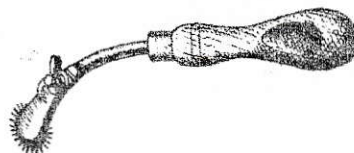
Our project is long term and results will not easily be measured or seen. Our strengths as Mennonites have been in service and community as exemplified in MCC, MDS, and on a local level, The Agape Shop and Beaver Camp. The fruits of these works are often visible and easily measured. Our goals at AMHA deal with the sources of the faith and values that have been demonstrated in these works. Our desire is to learn and teach how spiritual tradition and faithfulness to God directed the lives of the preceeding generations of Lewis County Mennonites in the midst of a world of revolutionary changes.

Our world today continues to change and fragment at what seems an accelerated rate. The Church and our personal faith is confronted by myriad issues at every turn... The developement of the Heritage Farm (restoration and conservation, collecting documents, etc.) is simply a vehicle to get sap from the roots to the new generation of leaves. We hope that the work we do will help produce a broader perspective and deeper understanding of who we are as God's people as we attempt to live faithfully in today's world.

During the next 20 years we plan and hope to make many changes in the appearance of the Heritage Farm... but what happens that is most important will be invisible. Finally, our hope is to change "they" to "we".

- Pie Sale

A pie sale at Thanksgiving and a candy sale on Valentine's Day were successful in raising over \$800. Special thanks to each one who baked, sold or helped in any way.



Z - Fest 1992

The theme for this year's Zwanzigstein Fest is COME ON HOME. Is it to Grandma's house, Lewis County, or a time to reflect on God's love and strength? It will be held Saturday, July 4, 1992 at the Heritage Farm. This year's planning committee is Edna Yousey, Rosanna Moser, Elmer & Gladys Nafziger, Joyce & Ellis Moser, Phyllis Lyndaker and Carolyn Henry. We welcome new ideas and of course, we will need your help.

We hope to have more artifacts and demonstrations this year. In the planning are butter making, popcorn shelling, rag rug making, strawberry shortcake and soap making.

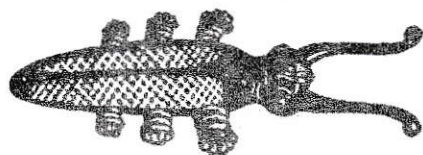
The smell of fresh baked rolls and maple syrup will make you come home. The bake stand and craft booth will be back as well as the fresh squeezed lemonade. We can't run out of ice cream this year. Wagon rides, a ball game, singing, children's games and more stories to be told are things you won't want to miss. It will be a day for you to enjoy. Come on home.

---Phyllis Lyndaker

What's it answer: This bug is a boot-
jack. You place one foot on his
back, and the heel of the other be-
tween his antennae.

"What's It"

This cast iron bug served a useful function in yesteryears household. Do you know what it is? Answer on page 3.



Work Day

Coming soon this spring: date to be announced. The main projects for the day are:

- clean old hay from barn
- clean grain etc. from shop
- general house cleaning
- repairing broken glass in windows

AMHA
% N. Moshier
PO Box 28
Martinsburg, NY 13404

Membership Items

During 1991 our goal was for each member to give a gift of \$10.00 or more. Seventeen members made donations. Included were four mortgage payments of \$304.00 and a donation to be directly to the principle. Thanks for your gifts.

New Members -----

William Hartnet
David & Isabelle Norris

1992 Goals -----

- 1) each member donate \$10.00.
- 2) members will actively participate in work days or programmed events as possible.
- 3) we again wish to increase our membership. Each member talk with others about the assoc. as opportunity arises.
- 4) Some members may consider making an interest payment(\$167), or mortgage payment(\$304).

Mail To: