

Notes From The Farm

NEWSLETTER OF THE ADIRONDACK MENNONITE HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

Vol. 6, No. 1

Spring 1996

ROOTS OF TURMOIL, HARVEST OF BLESSING

The mid-nineteenth century was a time of great change for Europe. 'Men of Destiny' warred and ruled and wrought a new order that changed the world into patterns which still exist today. Napoleon Bonaparte, Benjamin Franklin, Vincent LeRay de Chaumont were influential men whose actions shaped the futures of those Amish and Mennonites who eventually chose to leave the strife of western Europe to live in the wilds of northern New York.

Bonaparte, military genius of Europe, climbed to notoriety at the end of the eighteenth century, following the revolution in France. The Revolution and its leaders spelled the end of the feudal system in France, as well as the beginning of the end of its traditional dependence on the land for its food resources.

Napoleon was responsible for many of the changes in civil society that remain in place today: village magistrates and civil bodies, codification of laws and much more that we take for granted now. An early move by the French attracted hundreds of Mennonites and Amish from neighboring countries to the fertile basin of Alsace-Lorraine to farm and produce the food to fuel the forces of the new French Republic. The promises included a pact with Mennonites recognizing their non-violent stance by exempting their sons from military service.

But intervening years saw increasing pressure for change. Bonaparte's military campaigns stripped the country of more than one generation of its manhood. (During his Russian

* 1996 CALENDAR *

Annual Meeting.....	April 23
Z-Fest.....	July 6
Work Day.....	May*

(* watch for date)

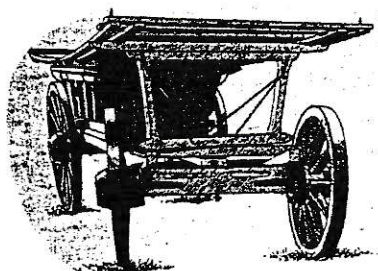


campaign, Napoleon took 240,000 troops to battle in Moscow. He returned with 40,000 survivors.) Even the sons of the essential farmers were now no longer exempt from consideration for service.

The Industrial Revolution, although it had come late to France, had gained a stronghold in Alsace-Lorraine, eating up the fertile farmland of the region. The coal and iron deposits of the region resulted in increasing demands for industrialization, putting at risk the farmlands of

those Mennonites who had earlier resettled there and established bountiful farms in the midst of well-settled regions.

Mennonite farmers were squeezed in a vice of international making. Their sons, essential to the labor-intensive farming methods of the early nineteenth century, were threatened with the military draft - undermining the very soul of their non-resistant lifestyle. The pressure on farmland from industrial uses was driving agriculture to less productive lands or out altogether.



At the same time, in the Western Hemisphere, land speculation was rampant. No place was more affected than the new United States of America - a brash new place with great wealth in land and too few to farm it. There was still a place for the independent farmer in this untamed wilderness. One of the early speculators, Chaumont, had bought rights to develop large tracts of land in Northern New York - some say as a payment from the US government for his assistance in France for the American Revolution (and housing its liaison, Benjamin Franklin, over several years) though his descendants say it was solely his own money. Chaumont's ties to France reached Alsace-Lorraine and its hard tried farmers, millers, cheesemakers and others, through his land factor in the region.

Buoyed with hope that they might remain faithful to their God's command to do no violence and to continue their rural agrarian lifestyle without the turmoil in Europe, several Mennonite households invested in passage to northern New York. Some could afford passage only for their sons, removing them from the grasp of the draft on the venture that they would then earn the passage for other family members to join them.

Those who travelled to Lewis County found a wild, wooded country with the potential for great blessing.

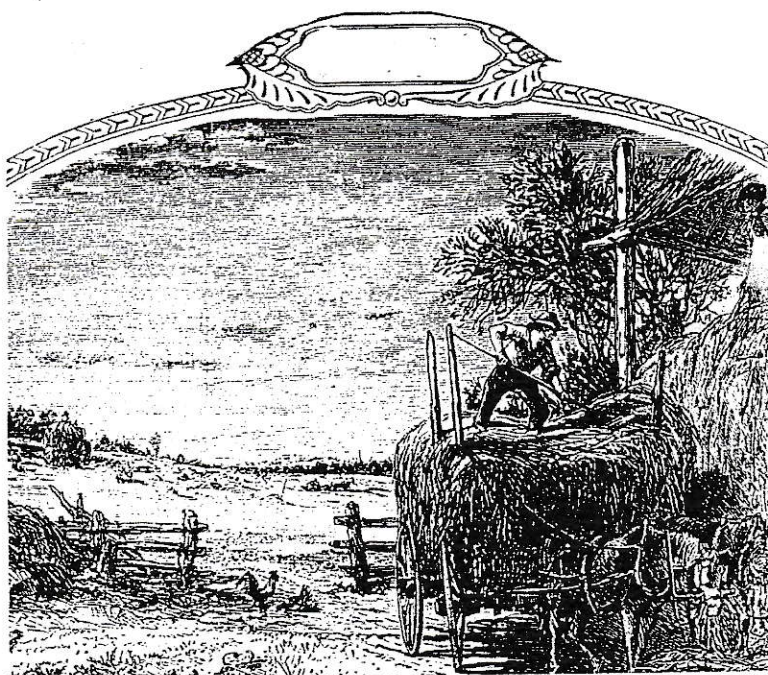
Pat Falton

P A GROUP TOURS HOMESTEAD

On Oct. 9, 1995, forty three people from PA (mostly Mennonites) stopped at the Lowville Church to have dinner which was prepared and served by Joyce & Ellis Moser, Phyllis Lyndaker and Carolyn Henry. Hosting the group were Pat Falton, Luella Moshier, Norman Lyndaker and Tom & Brenda Houser. Everyone enjoyed a meal of chicken cordon bleu with rice, molded salad, peas and maple cake. Several even asked for the recipes. Following dinner, the group saw a few slides of the Zwanzigstein Fest.

The next morning Arlene Yousey met the group on the bus at Lowville Church to relate many stories about the Mennonites of Lewis County and to show them the Croghan Church, Maple Museum, Croghan Island Mill and the Homestead. While at the Homestead the group enjoyed tea, coffee and homemade cookies around a cozy kitchen fire. Arlene continued her interesting remembrances of our forefathers. As we sang "What a Friend We Have In Jesus" and prayed with Richard Zehr, not only those from PA were blessed but those who entertained them were too.

Carolyn Henry



JOSEPH P MOSHIER
Family History & Genealogy
1832 - 1995
by
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November, 1990, I purchased a computer along with some software which included a sample BROTHER'S KEEPER program. I soon purchased the complete BROTHER'S KEEPER software. I began by entering my own name/data; then that of my wife and that was followed by the same for the Aaron E Moshier family. I entered the data from a genealogy of the Gingerich side of the family.

Seeing the potential of the program, knowing that no **Joseph P Moshier** genealogy had been produced, and since in September of 1991, I formally retired from having a regular job, I decided that that would be a good project for me. I prepared forms to be filled out for every member of the Moshier family, mailed/gave them to family members for completion. Cards were sent/telephone calls made as reminders, and for incompletes/?? data. By late spring of 1995, I had the genealogy for every member completed. A draft copy was run off and designated parts were mailed to key family members for proof reading and asked that such be returned by July 1!

At the same time along with the draft copies for proof reading, I asked for photos of all family members so that I could also put together a homemade video of the **Joseph P Moshier** family. More procrastination led to more cards/telephone calls and so by mid November, 1995, the project was completed!!

Realizing that I was serious about the above mentioned projects, I found all of the Moshiers to be cooperative in the final analysis! Luella Moshier provided me with much help and encouragement. Some of the information about our early ancestors was received from STRANGERS AND PILGRIMS: HISTORY OF LEWIS COUNTY MENNONITES. I also collected information by regularly following the LOWVILLE JOURNAL AND REPUBLICAN, the LOWVILLE MENNONITE REFLECTOR, and talking with/asking questions of Moshier members.

Doing this **Joseph P Moshier** genealogy and video has been a challenge and stimulated the flow of extra strength adrenaline; thus, the task was completed!!

fOLK ART PORTRAYS A HERITAGE

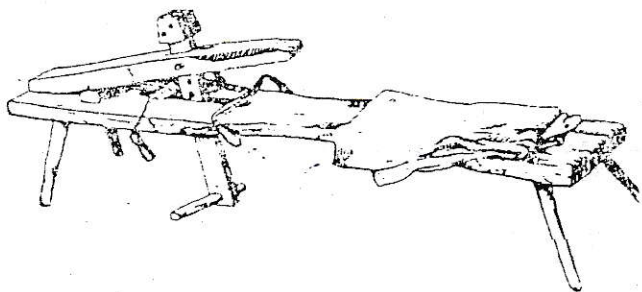
A new and exciting project in folk art by the AMHA Board of Directors is underway. We observed folk art paintings of various communities, listened to folk artist Jim Parker's presentation of his work, questioned him, dreamed a little and decided to commission him to do a folk art painting we could use as a fund raiser.

Board members have researched and/or contributed various subjects and ideas to help Jim do his research necessary to produce a painting. Ken Proulx, BRCS social studies teacher and local history enthusiast, was a valuable resource person for details.



The goal of these efforts is a folk art painting of the Village of Croghan as it was around 1900. Prints of the original, available in sizes 5x7 and 8x10 will be matted and framed and will make its debut at the July, 1996 Zwansigstein Fest.

Donald Henry



COLLECTIONS * * *

During the past year AMHA has formulated policy regarding the acquisition of artifacts and the receipt of gifts. If you donate an item to AMHA you will be asked to sign a Donor Release form. This collections management policy will help us catalog and organize our collections and also avoid any misunderstandings after an item has been donated. We wish to thank all of you who continue to donate items which will enrich our understanding of Mennonite history in Lewis County.

Guests arrived promptly and were seated around a table that was beautifully set by Kathleen Zehr. Carla Miller and Tina Mast very competently and graciously the mouth watering roast beef (prepared Amish style), the tasty ham loaf, mountains of mashed potatoes, Amish roast, dishes of home grown corn plus many other side dishes and homemade bread and jams. Desert time was very tempting indeed with its choice of four kinds of pie, graham cracker fluff and stewed prunes.

The special evening ended with a mutual good feeling-- the guests still savoring the meal and the pleasantries of a lovely evening, and the workers expressing gratitude for the generous contribution made to the Mennonite Heritage Association.

Phyllis Lyndaker

AMISH MEALS SERVED

The kitchen at the home of Norman and Phyllis Lyndaker buzzed with activity on the afternoon of November 11, 1995, and soon an irresistible aroma filled the air. The cooks, Elizabeth Schneider, Joyce Moser, Pearl Zehr and Phyllis Lyndaker were doing a great job of preparing food for the Amish meal to be served at two seatings that evening as a fund raiser for restoration work at the Moser Homestead.



fUND RAISING EVENTS

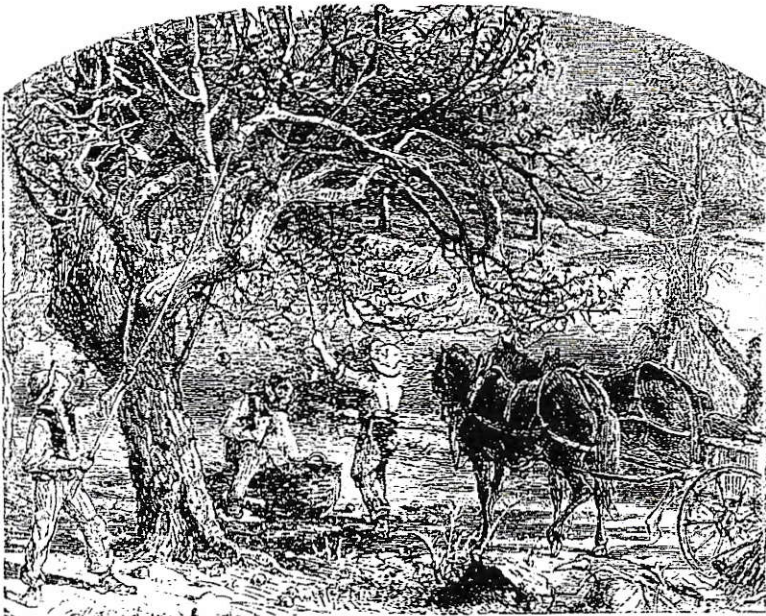
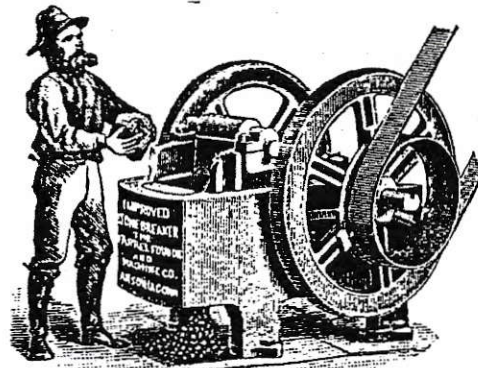
Rummage Sale and Craft Shows *****

During May we had a combined rummage and bake sale when the Croghan area had their annual garage sale day. Free coffee was served which provided time for conversation and an opportunity to explain the Mennonite Heritage Association. We made \$278.75 that day.

In November we spent one Saturday at Carthage Elementary School selling mostly crafts remaining from the Zwansigstein Fest. Another Saturday we set up booths at Beaver River Central School during the Spanish Club Craft Fair. Proceeds from the two craft fairs were \$280.65.

Pearl Zehr

What's It Answer: This common tool is a neck yoke and was used to aid in the transport of water before piping was standard practice. It rested on the shoulders and palls were hung from the hooks.



GIFT * * *

Each year AMHA gives a gift from the proceeds of Z-Fest. This year(1995) \$100.00 was given to MCC for the work in Rwanda.

Membership Items

Our membership is gradually increasing. We appreciate your ongoing help in the various activities we undertake. In the past we have not had annual membership dues. Beginning next year we plan to ask you for annual dues of \$10. For families with children who are members also, \$10 per family will be the rate. You will receive renewal by mail and an annual membership card.

Adirondack Mennonite Heritage Association



RR 1, Box 283

Croghan, NY 13327

(315) 346-

FAX (315)

Member (1996 Season)

ADIRONDACK MENNONITE HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

FINACIAL STATEMENT

JANUARY 1, 1995 - DECEMBER 31, 1995

Balance January 1, 1995 \$ 12,583.37

Receipts:

Donations	\$ 6479.00	
Memberships	20.00	
Bake Sale	278.75	
Land Rent	350.00	
Zwanzigstein Fest	4226.60	
Craft Shows	280.65	
Garden	27.50	
Amish Meals	1110.00	
Brownville Women's Club	35.00	
PA Tour Group	524.00	
Reimbursement on utilities	300.00	
Interest	<u>239.93</u>	
		\$ 13,871.43
		<u>\$ 26,454.80</u>

Disbursements:

Mennonite Mutual Aid	\$ 3648.00	
Taxes	1096.78	
Niagara Mohawk	536.06	
Telephone	458.72	
Insurance	121.65	
Repairs	5879.47	
Zwanzigstein Fest	1786.21	
Gift to MCC	100.00	
Supplies (reimbursed)	100.00	
James Parker	300.00	
IRS (non profit status)	<u>465.00</u>	
		\$ 14,491.89

Balance December 31, 1995 \$ 11,962.91

Balance is as follows:

checking account	\$ 4722.98
savings account	\$ 7239.93

Indebtedness as of December 31, 1995 is \$16,743.88 at 8%.

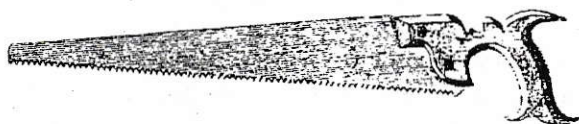
Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn L. Henry
Carolyn L. Henry, Treas.

mINI AUCTION

The 1996 Z-Fest will include a Mini Auction. We are soliciting 10-20 high quality items to be auctioned at a set hour during Z-Fest. Members and friends of AMHA, please consider donating quality antique or quality hand made items. Furniture, quilts, home wares and primitives are acceptable.

Antique items should be complete or properly restored; hand made items perferably from traditional crafts and well executed. Value can be a minimum of \$25 thru \$500. If you have an item you wish to donate please contact Carolyn Henry or any other Board member at least two weeks prior to the July 4 weekend.



Vintage



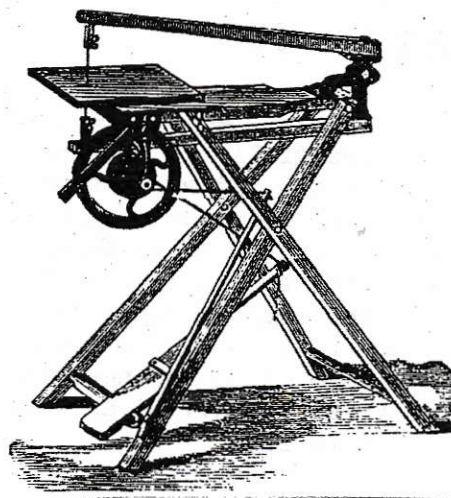
Recipes

fOR DIPHTHERIA

Get a ripe pineapple
squeeze out the juice
and let the patient swallow it.
It will cut out the diphtheria
mucus and if you take the
fruit before it is ripe it will
make your throat sore.

Katherine Roggie Moshier

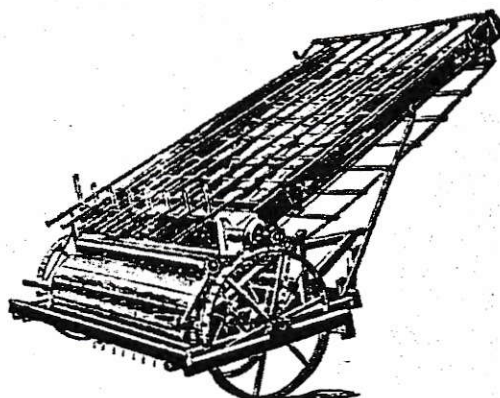
---From a collection of folk
medicine recipes by Luella R.
Moshier.



TAX BUSINESS

A milestone of the past year has been the ruling by the IRS of our exempt status under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. This means that anyone may now contribute directly to AMHA and have that contribution recognized by IRS as a charitable deduction for income tax purposes. Other recent regulations by IRS require that the doner possess a receipt for the contribution to be honored in an audit. Therefore, please let us know of the needed receipt if you plan to use the contribution as a charitable deduction on Schedule A of your tax return.

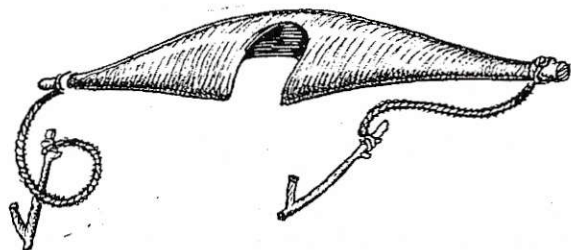
Donald Henry



"What's It"

At one time this specialized tool was produced commercially in New York State and sold in six different sizes. They were also home made and often were carefully fitted for the individual users comfort. Collectable today for their pleasing and artful shape, their utilitarian significance may be easily overlooked by those of us who need only to turn a tap to supply all of our water needs. What is it?

Answer: page 5



MISCELLANEOUS * * *

Repair work on the stone foundation of the shop was begun by Norman Lyndaker and Norman Moshier. Repair work on the stone walls of all our buildings will be an ongoing undertaking for the near future.

*

Invitation: We encourage our readers to submit original research and essays relating to local Mennonite history (300-500 words). Mail to address on the back page of the newsletter. This issues article, Roots of Turmoil, Harvest of Blessing by Pat Falton is a good example.

*

The 1995 edition of Z-Fest was attended by hundreds of people enjoying a July 4 weekend. Z-Fest continues to be AMHA's major public event of the year.

1

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MAIL TO: