



Notes From The Farm

newsletter of the adirondack mennonite heritage association

Volume 9, Issue 1

Fall of 1999

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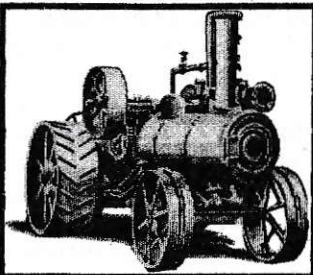
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Farewell From The Coordinator

By Pat Falton

This Fall will see the end of my tenure as the Site Coordinator at the Mennonite Heritage Farm. I have been so fortunate to be involved with the entire group over the past eight years, to see it grow and move.

I was a member at Watertown Fellowship when Norm and Phyllis Lyndaker kept asking me to become involved in the preservation of this Farm they seemed to love up in Lewis County. I resisted as well as I was able for several months, but gave in when I was invited to attend a meeting to share information about funding and preservation resources available.

That evening before the meeting Norm took me to see the Farm – and I fell absolutely in love with it. I was fascinated by the lines in the lane and the swale, the zig-zag fences and the piles of stone cleared over a century ago. The past lived in this small piece of land and the buildings.

But most wonderful of all was the Lords presence there. What a sense of joy and

peace! Obviously His presence has been a part of peoples lives there for so long that it lasts in many little ways.

In the Spring of 1992, the Board of Directors asked me to serve as the Site Coordinator at the Farm. The first two years I went up on weekends and either camped out in my tent or stayed in one of the beds upstairs (generally with the companionship of some wildlife).

The Board had already started the Zwanzigstein Fest in 1991 and it has continued to be the mainstay of the organization. It accomplished two of the major goals of the AMHA: to tell the faith story of the 19th Century Amish-Mennonite settlers to the community – both Mennonite and non-Mennonite, and to raise funds for the continuing preservation, repair and maintenance at the Farm.

I assisted the Board with its organization with writing by-laws, submitting a charter application to the State Education Department,

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Heartfelt Thank-You

Pat Falton, Thank You for seven years of co-coordinating and resourcing the Adirondack Mennonite Heritage Association (AMHA).

Your comprehension of our mission and the Mennonite Church, and your involvement in the larger community enabled you to render an indispensable service to AMHA.

Your ability to communicate with people in various settings and forms (writing, speaking, demonstrating); plus your characteristic demeanor and warmth with which you function resulted in a superb contribution to Adirondack Mennonite Heritage Association.

Many Thanks From All Of Us!

AMHA Board of Directors

Farewell... *continued from page 1*

...established a collections policy and the forms to implement it and finally the IRS application for not-for-profit status. In mid-winter in 1994-1995 I moved my trailer to the Farm and moved up in May. To get hooked up the Board put in a new water connection back from the house, connected an electrical service, and installed a new septic system and dry well to replace the broken one. (The new one also serves the house.) Barely two months later the Microburst hit. I learned two very important things – the men who set up the trailer tied it down very securely and skirting sounds like a deck of cards being whiffled when it is blown off. My neighbors and I continued to find pieces of the skirting for another year after the storm! I was to hear that sound many times more in the 5 years I have been there. The wind has been one of my biggest torments. The other has been problems with the water system. The next year at the Farm the line froze hard under the driveway and a new line and pump were reinstalled. Everything is now carefully insulated and works well, although like most country homes you have to know the quirks of the system.

The next summer I bought 3 sheep from Pat Yancey and therein lies another whole story. But they have been wonderful company and a real learning experience.

Members of the Board continued with craft and bake sales throughout this entire town, constantly keeping up with the monthly mortgage payments. Willing members sometimes chose to make a payment as well and we are well on our way to being free of that debt.

Thanks to the Pratt-Northam Foundation, the AMHA has had two interns working summers. I had a lot of pleasure working with Travis Kuhl and Nicole Moshier, and their families have become new acquaintances. Additionally the Board hired Todd Zehr for part of one summer to help with the Z-Fest. Though I already knew most of his family, I was really blessed in getting to know Todd better. Young people seem to have left the greatest impression on me in these years and I'm so grateful to them all – Jacob & Elon Zehr, Jacob Farney,

Ben Lehman, Evans Bellabre, Amy Widrick, Emily Yancey, and so many more! We even had a group, including the Farneys that volunteered to clean out the barn and to blacken the kitchen stove. What workers!

But there was something far more important going on. You see when I was asked to work at the Farm I had just finished 3 weeks at Philhaven Hospital and I knew that I was fragile emotionally. While the Board and my neighbors were always so understanding of my sometimes strange behavior (I often retreat from the public), these children never pushed, but never left me alone either. They have been so important in the healing that God has provided for me in the time at Kirschnerville. Please don't ever think that God doesn't find important uses for young children in His work.

Members of AMHA have been responsible for a great deal of work at the Farm. In addition to yearly cleanup. The old wire fence around the garden was replaced. Potatoes and squash have been raised over several years as a fundraiser. We are now looking for some new volunteers. Norm Moshier has headed the work to rebuild the crumbling walls and replace the two barn bridges on the big barn. The house has been painted outside as well as the garage. This year Norm Lyndaker stained the oldest barn back to match its original color.

But why tell you all these things about other people in my story of my years at the Farm, well to show the most important part of course. That no-one does it alone and that none of the work is the result of any one persons work. But most importantly, the Lord God is faithful in blessing those doing His work!

I'm so thankful to you all!

Pat



RECIPES from Miss Zehr's Grandma Moser

SALT

Salt puts out fire in a chimney. Salt in the oven under baking tins will prevent their scorching on the bottom. Salt and vinegar will remove stains from discolored tea-cups. Salt and soda are excellent for bee stings and spider bites.



To Fill Cracks In Plaster

Use vinegar to mix your plaster paris instead of water. The result will be like putty and will not set for 20 or 30 minutes. Push it into the cracks and smooth it nicely with a table knife.

Membership Dues

Each year we ask each member to give \$10.00 or more to the Association. A few of you have already done this in 1999. If you have not, please send a check payable to AMHA to Carolyn Henry, 4348 Saunders Road, Clinton, N.Y. 13323.

These dues have been used to make mortgage payments. Look at the treasurer's report in this newsletter and note the remaining balance on the mortgage. Can we pay it off in the year 2000? This would be a great goal!



attending the archives *by Donald Henry*

The Adirondack Mennonite Heritage Association (AMHA) has quietly observed it's tenth anniversary. Although a specific date was not recognized the Board of Directors has casually reminisced organizational events, been blessed with some structural restoration work and activities which many of you participated in, heard and discussed ideas and opportunities of things to do, and experienced frustration over tasks not completed that seemed would have been done.

This past summer considerable progress was made on one of these "should have been done", that of documenting our artifacts. This was done with the help of the Pratt-Northum Foundation Workership Program which provides funds for meaningful job experience for area college bound and in-college students. Accordingly we hired Nicole Moser, daughter of Nevin and Virginia Moser, to begin recording relevant data about each of the artifacts AMHA has received over the years. Such data included donor, description, historical background and entailed Nicole's contact-

ing donors for this information. You may have been one of these donors she contacted. If not and you have donated items to AMHA please get in touch with us.

Nicole completed documentation of approximately 80 percent of our current artifacts so there is more to be done. Anyone interested? If you like studying historical objects and have a flare for detail the Board would like to continue documenting current and future donated artifacts on a voluntary basis. Voluntary assistance is a widespread practice among local historical groups and ultimately serves the educational mission we are charged with in our Charter with the State Education Department.

So you may have another interest or skill you'd like to pursue. Do it, no matter how miniscule it may seem and if you'd like to on behalf of AMHA contact any one of the Directors listed elsewhere in this publication. Each individual effort will help fulfill the larger mission.

BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS *by Norm Lyndaker*

Barn: A new wall has been put in place on the backend of the barn. A set of new hay barn doors have been hung on the first bridge. The other hay barn entrance bridge has been repaired. All the barn lofts have been cleaned up, making them useful for events such as the Z-Fest. The pigeon holes have been closed. Finally, many loose boards on the barn have been nailed down.

Granary: The granary has a new wall on back. It received a paint and stain job on the front and one side of the building.

Projection: Put a set of new hay barn doors on the second bridge; continue with the barn wall work, hopefully, at a faster pace. Also, further improve the appearance of buildings by painting.

Any help you can give in labor or finances would be greatly appreciated.

For labor, contact: Norm Moshier, P.O. Box 28, Martinsburg, N.Y. 13404 Phone# 376-5959

For a financial contribution, send it to: Carolyn Henry, 4348 Saunders Road, Clinton, N.Y. 13323

Reminisce..... with Ralph Taube

I am Ralph Elmer Taube, the second child, first son born to Elmer and Minnie Isley Taube in Naumburg, New York, October 9th, 1931.

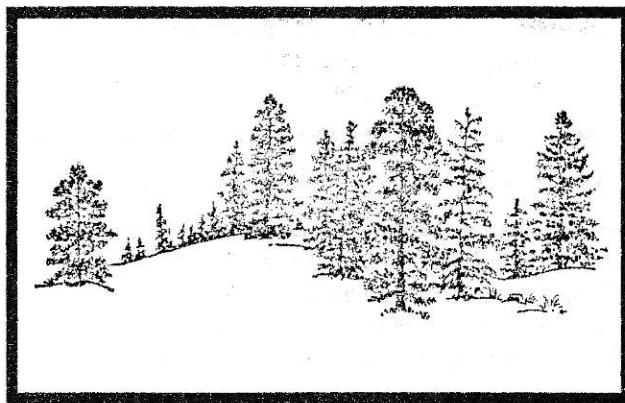
My parents were farmers, milked cows, raised pigs and chickens. My dad drove a team of horses for the farm work. The horses were in high spirits and liked to kick and run. In the winter, we would take the manure out to the field on a sleigh. We would spread the manure on the way out and when we turned the sleigh around, the horses would head for the barn as fast as they could run. Dad and I would pull on the reins as hard as we could, the reins were pulling the sleigh instead of the tugs on the harness. Those horses sure wanted to be back in the barn!

My dad built a puddle jumper out of a 1925 Reo car. We used this for haying time. The horses were used for mowing, they were high spirited and dangerous. One was a kicker. Dad loved a challenge.

We have the Lord to thank for His Protection!

I was asked to be on the Board in April of this year.

I enjoy being on the Board and working on the Homestead. There are so many opportunities to improve the property. The Lord willing, I hope to be a part of progress at the Homestead in the year 2000.



News From The Granary

by Bernice Zehr

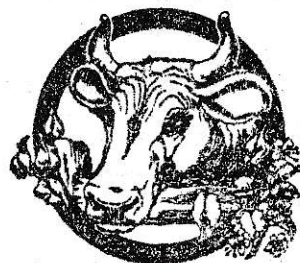
The last three years we have hosted panel presentations in the granary. Our initial in 1997 was a look at transportation especially horses with a peek at life in the 1920's. We relied heavily on Joe Nofziger for information. In 1998 we viewed "life during the 1930's—the depression years." In continuing the sequence, this year brought us to the 1940's with war rationing. Edna Zehr as a newly wed told us about her wedding without honeymoon due to scarcity of rubber tires and gas rationing. Esther Moshier (Croghan) shared her experiences of canning and caring for a household. Without a refrigerator baby bottles were cooled on ice in the milk house and she traveled back and forth between house and barn as needed. Earl and Norine Zehr recall buying their farm — 175 acres, two story house, barn, 19 cows, 9 heifers and Massey Ferguson tractor in Oct 1940 for \$12,000 and wondered how they would ever pay for it. Despite canning everything for their families in summer over a wood stove

these ladies recalled canning also for sewing circle. We acclaim the '40's "the canning generation" as the '50's changed with advent of the freezer.

Our afternoon session was devoted to hunting and trapping. Edward and Gerald Yancey shared their 3 generation history of hunting via boat on Stillwater Flow to a campsite where they completely set up camp— a huge 2-3 room tent. Their Uncle Ben Yancey who was a sport guide introduced their father and the boys to this area while they were teens. They recounted their self-sufficient lifestyle while hunting in some beautiful wilderness. Transporting out by motorboat after loading their gear was often more perilous than fun. They recounted freeze-up time on the flow and needing to inch along on the ice with boats in front awaiting the right instant to jump into the boats when the ice broke. Sometimes the instant was a little late. They pioneered the now common polar bear

contest!

Vernon Zehr recounted his love for trapping. Fox is his favorite animal. Perhaps he came by it honestly with his first trapping at age 10, with intent to catch a skunk, he came out with a fox! He treasures the alone time of hiking many miles and checking lines. Trapping began as a way to earn money but has become far more. He has developed his own lures and sells them and is active in the Trapper's Guild. When I inquired about his sharing his knowledge in writing a book he responded that "if I were to commit that kind of time to writing I would rather write about Christian Faith or Theology." Join us again for next years panelists!



RECORDS SURVEY

In 1998 the AMHA filed an application with the New York State Archives and Records Administration of the State Education Department for assistance in determining the amount of records in this area. We received a small grant to hire a consultant to conduct the survey.

The AMHA has contracted with Archivist Laura Lynn Scharer of Wauertown to conduct the records survey. Ms. Scharer is making a presentation to our Mennonite congregations explaining the program and contacting individuals. The presentation gives a clear picture of what the survey will and will not do. No records will be collected as part of this survey.

Historic records (the papers that tell us and others how we do things) are an important part of the Anabaptist legacy. Because the first believers were separated from the State churches in their countries of origin, there were no public records of births, deaths, and marriages for them and their families. This is a large part of why the Amish-Mennonite have such complete family records—they had to keep them themselves. It is also an important part of our faith history that we wanted to remember and keep alive of what God has done for us and continues to do through us (ie. The Martyrs' Mirror). This habit did not die out on this side of the Atlantic. Mennonites are good record

keepers, in fact, the father of Archivism in the U.S. was a Mennonite.

Lewis County Amish Mennonite settlers are no exception. Records were kept over the past 150 years of all sorts of things which bear witness to the lifestyles and choices made by a people living in a daily relationship with their Heavenly Father—church sermons, barn raisings, quiltings, food for fellowship meals, Sunday and Bible school records, logging scales and syrup production, Mennonite Mutual Aid and the records of the many missionary and community services provided by the believers here.

It is at this point that we ask for assistance when Ms. Sharer conducts the survey for records that you have.

ZWANZIGSTEIN festival 1999

by Carolyn Henry

Thanks be to God for an outstanding day! The sun shone and over 600 people came from all over New York including NY City, and from NC, SC, FL, MD, VT, CT, AZ, PA, TX, MA, KY, Canada and Holland. It was wonderful to see so many.

Our theme was "Look Unto The Land." Is 9:30. Our forefathers certainly did this. The stories that were told reflected this as well. It was great to hear that pre-teens and teenagers listened to these stories. They too have become interested in the history, culture and faith of our ancestors. No doubt they will read the book "Strangers and Pilgrims" by Arlene Yousey. We hope that the Zwanzigstein Festival will continue to create this interest.

The petting zoo was enjoyed by the youngest and up. Sheep shearing draws the attention too. Each year the taffy pull, butter making and ice cream making have participants. The smell of freshly baked bread and maple syrup boiling brings a taste of goodness too. I saw someone eat a roll that was almost too hot to hold. Somehow I missed the wax on snow in July, but there will be next year. The display of canned goods made you want to open one and find a spoon.

Outstanding for me this year was the beautiful quilt that was tied for MCC. Many hands of girls, boys, young adults and older adults completed the task. I was thrilled to see people who never tied a quilt before, work diligently. I'm sure God was pleased too.

Demonstrations of soap making, wool dying, spinning, and noodle making added interest as well as the glassware and maple syrup equipment displays.

The bake sale, craft sale and mini-auction went well. The lunch was delicious and all the desserts had to be tasted. Not much was left.

Dave Lapp won the wood identification contest. Arlene Yousey placed first among the women. Congratulations to these two and any one else that tried. It was too hard for me.

A big thanks to everyone who made the day special for those who came to the Zwanzigstein Festival. We needed each of you. Thank You!

Sugar Cookies *from Norine Zehr*

2 Cups Sugar
1 Cup Shortening
2 Eggs
1 Cup Milk
1 tsp. Soda
1 tsp. Baking Powder
5 Cups Flour

Aunt Kate made them with scollops
around the edge and raisins in middle.
Quite a large cookie.

Child Correction (Or "Parental Problems")

By Luella Moshier

Guidelines regarding child-rearing by King Solomon in Proverbs remain relevant throughout centuries. A thousand women in his harem with the resulting, constantly-changing numbers, unrecorded, necessarily, of the children made him a seemingly unsurpassed authority.

In our family of five children, we two girls, as the eldest, were the initiation into their parental disciplinary measures. My parents respected the Bible and Solomon's advice. Others did also, so two separate stories are included using two different families and using only two punishment methods of a possible number of alternatives. These herein were the "rod" or a half-hour dark closet, lock-in: pain for the body or pain for the brain?

For us, father had business and outside farm duties so we were with him less. From him, his displeasure shown in a disapproving look and stern word seemed sufficient and earned him great respect on the other hand. Another, with greater frequency, familiarity and opportunity in household tasks, training and feminine responsibilities, had the greater portion of the task with the girls. Training had to be physical or mental, if needed, for beneficial results. Most memories faded — conveniently! Delving into them for this article, surfaced the following. One, there had to be too many to keep. (Probably, too many for my mother to handle.)

This time a big surprise. Discipline choices for a misdeed: A whipping, or a dark closet, half-hour lock-in. Both familiar. The older girl hurriedly chose the dark closet as pain free. The younger girl, pleased about choices, though equally undesirable, debated mentally the options for a few moments: sufferings of the body or the mind?

The body one meant several sharp, physical pains, plus tears, but in a few minutes later, gone. The mind's suffering lasted 1/2 hour, divided into 30 l-o-n-g minutes, subdivided into 1800 many-seconds, all well realized and useful for undesired contemplation of our misbehavior. Squatting together on the crowded floor inte-

rior — waiting! On and on going! "Ages" later — the lifted door latch or lock opened to FREEDOM. So much otherwise interesting time lost. The younger ones decision shortly followed. Surprise for the mother —

The elder allowed her body to be closeted in dark seclusion while the younger, following her mother mentally prepared herself for suffering. In the kitchen her mother told her that she had a different substitute-choice: filling the wood box or another surprise! Accomplished, she now had the free rest-of-the-time to spend outside in the lovely summer afternoon. One problem: no playmate to share. The other girl had to endure her locked-in seclusion without her little companion-in-misery.

Years later when grown, I heard mother discussing children and child-rearing with her Sunday-guest Aunt. My startled attention was aroused by hearing the remark, "L___ used to like whippings." (What?? Me! Never, I sure didn't. Whatever gave her that idea?) Searching for forgotten memories, I suspected this: the only-answer story.

Dark-closet punishment may have been common otherwise. In the prior generation of a prominent Lowville family as a young son had the same treatment. The sister, with amusement, told the brother's story of years before. At the end of his closet stint, the door was opened for his release. A shock awaited. The father's best white summer hat of straw braids was ruined. It had finished occupation for the lad, who had picked open the threads of the brim braids into complete damage. Further details unknown.

So much for disciplinary actions for any generation. Don't underestimate the working power of young minds!

But King Solomon, still seems right about one matter, most of the time: "Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6

ADIRONDACK MENNONITE HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

JANUARY 1, 1998 - DECEMBER 31, 1998

BALANCE January 1, 1998

\$16,416.90

RECEIPTS:

Donations	\$5,964.00
Land Rent	350.00
Garage Sale	135.50
Craft Shows	439.85
Zwanzigstein Fest	4,939.20
Garden	96.35
Apple Fest	200.25
Amish Meal	320.00
Reimbursement on utilities	1,250.00
Interest	447.52

\$ 14,142.67
\$ 30,559.57

DISBURSEMENTS:

Mennonite Mutual Aid	\$3,648.00
Niagara Mohawk	1,411.26
Insurance	126.15
Repairs	8,365.10
Zwanzigstein Fest	1,758.49
Supplies	539.11
Gift to MCC (Hurricanes)	100.00

\$ 15,948.11
\$14,611.46

BALANCE December 31, 1998

Balance is as follows:

checking account	\$5,787.32
savings account	6,018.99
CD	2,805.15

Indebtedness as of December 31, 1998 is \$6,492.00

Respectively submitted,

Carolyn L. Henry
Carolyn L. Henry, Treasurer

The Jeff-Lewis Mennonite Church Colleges
Alumni and Heritage Scholarship Fund*

January 1, 1998 - December 31, 1998

Balance Jan. 1, 1998 \$ 551.08

Receipts:

Contributions	\$ 1820.00
Soup & Salad - Mar.	975.00
Soup & Salad - Oct.	567.00
Interest	38.99

\$ 3400.99
\$ 3952.07

Disbursements:

8 scholarships @ \$400	\$ 3200.00
1 scholarship @ \$200	200.00
(1 sem.)	
1 scholarship at \$225	225.00
(omitted in 1997)	

\$ 3625.00

Balance Dec. 31, 1998 \$ 327.07

*The Jeff-Lewis Mennonite Church Colleges Alumni and Heritage Scholarship Committee is administering this fund through the Adirondack Mennonite Heritage Association & Historical Society.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn L. Henry

Carolyn L. Henry, Treasurer

ADIRONDACK MENNONITE HERITAGE ASSOCIATION 1989-1999

- June - -- Interested persons met resulting in:
- July '89 -- formulation of bylaws
- membership commitments and
- election of officers
- Feb. '90 -- Purchase offer on Menno Moser property signed
- June '90 -- Closing on the Menno Moser property
- Jan. '91 -- First newsletter "Notes From The Farm" published
- July '91 -- First Zwanzigstein Fest - a fund raising celebration
- commemorating the heritage of some twenty European
- Amish Mennonite families who settled in Lewis Co.,
- 1830 - 1855 (Zwanzig-twenty, stein-stone)
- Read Joshua chapters 3 and 4
- Mar. '92 -- Position of "Coordinator" for planning established
- Aug. '92 -- Heritage tours for Conservative Mennonite Conference
- Sept. '92 -- First organized heritage tour for bused in visitors
- Aug. '93 -- Collections management policy adopted
- Jan. '94 -- Charter as an educational corporation granted by
- New York State Board of Regents
- Oct. '94 -- Participated as a designated stop on the Lewis
- County Fall Foliage Tour
- Apr. '95 -- Coordinator takes up on-site residence
- Aug. '95 -- IRS determination that contributions may be treated
- as charitable deductions by the donor for income
- and estate tax purposes
- Jan. '96 -- Formal donation forms adopted
- May '96 -- Unveiling of James Parker's Croghan print previously
- commissioned by AMHA
- Summer '97 -- First student intern thru Pratt Northam Foundation
- Grant
- Aug. '97 -- Two bike tours of 6 and 29 miles held
- Aug. '98 -- Awarded a NYS Documentary Heritage Grant to survey
- the quantity and location of archival records in
- the local Mennonite Community
- Oct. '98 -- Apple Fest at the farm - a first