



Notes From The Farm

newsletter of the adirondack mennonite heritage association

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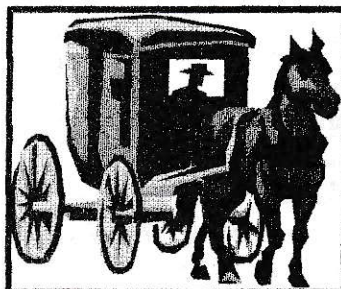
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If you were asked to make a list of distinctive Mennonite beliefs it probably wouldn't take you long to get it down on paper. Your list might include: discipleship, non-resistance, separation of church and state, high view of scripture, conscientious objection to war, two kingdoms, mutual caring and brotherhood, peace and justice, service to others.... While some parts of the list may be contemporary in expression and practice, they are mostly Anabaptist derivatives at heart. Still, many Christians continue to share various parts of these beliefs. Can you put your finger on what really defines us?

When thinking about this I sometimes wonder why our ancestors were heretics and we are not. George Bush made me feel a little

like a heretic recently when he said anyone not with us in our war on terrorism is against us. Of course, I know I won't be burned at the stake and MCC probably won't be shut down for sending relief kits to Iraqi families. Thankfully, we live in a society which is tolerant in allowing a variety of religious practice and expression. The idea of separation of church and state (one of Anabaptism's gifts to the world), I believe, has a lot to do with the tolerance we experience.

Even so, our government demands a high level of loyalty from us. The experience of Mennonite CO's throughout the 20th Century brings this close to home. From torture and death in WWI era to refusal of student loans to CO's in recent decades, it becomes evident that the state demands our co-operation when it comes to expressions



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Newsletter

Cassandra Lyndaker

AMHA News Briefs

**Welcome New Members:*

Sid & Beth Nafziger,
Carl & Sharon Moser Garber, and
Carolyn Yousey Virkler

*Pearl and LaVeda always do a great job with the candy sale in

February and our bake sales. Watch for a Pre-Christmas Bake Sale!!

** Each year we ask all members of AMHA to make a donation of \$10.00 or more. If you have not done this, please consider this in your year end giving. (Please send donations to Mrs. Carolyn Henry 4348 Saunders Rd., Clinton, New York 13323) Thank You!*

Some Distinctions Of The Anabaptist-Mennonite Faith

(Part 1, continued from page 1) By: Norman Moshier

of highest loyalty; giving one's life, and taking another's.

Mixing religious fervor and state power has been the norm in Christendom since Constantine. Even through the Reformation, the territorial church held sway. History has no lack of examples that illustrate men's desire to inject religion into state politics: From the Roman's "Caesar Is Lord," to fundamentalist Moslem regimes like Iran, and closer to home, the Christian Right flexing its political muscle. The State expects our highest allegiance. Add a little religion and that allegiance becomes sanctified. Why is it that Mennonites have traditionally turned 180 degrees from many Christians when it comes to this? Let me suggest an answer that I find fills some of the gaps.

Mennonites have believed that the teaching of Jesus is to be our guide for faith and life. He is the fullest revelation of God and therefore is the lens through which we read and understand the rest of the Bible. The simple and profound teaching of Jesus in the Gospels and the Sermon On The Mount in particular, is at the heart of our understanding of what it means to be faithful followers of God. These are not just beautiful words or teachings for some future time. It is how God invites us to live today as citizens of his kingdom. Jesus' answer to the teacher of the law on which was the greatest commandment (Matthew 22) is simple and direct. **"Love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and love your neighbor as yourself."** **This verse distills all religious teaching and exposes true loyalties.**

Jesus chose a way for the kingdom of God that was separate from the kingdom of this world. When we follow his rule, we are members of his kingdom. The way to turn the world upside down is not through political agenda or military power, but by following the Prince of Peace who gave his life for all. Could it be that what defines us best is undivided loyalty to follow the teaching and example of Jesus?

Part 2: By Bernadine Schwartzentruber

The concept of a voluntary, "free" body of believers is the defining characteristic of Anabaptism. As a result, a separate reformation arose out of the Protestant Reformation of the 16th Century. Out of this milieu evolved the concept of separation of church and state. Several centuries of struggle and martyrdom gradually gave way to this idea of becoming a foundation of modern democratic societies worldwide. The Anabaptist contribution to political life is found in the constitutions of democratic states.

This church and state separation is expressed in Mennonite and Amish life in American society in various ways. Some examples include the absence of the national flag in our churches, the absence of "patriotic" hymns in our songbooks, the reluctance or refusal of some to recite the "Pledge of Allegiance," refusal to accept benefits and monies from the government, the emergence of church schools, and not holding governmental offices that require duties that conflict with the teachings of Jesus.

Harold S. Bender in The Anabaptist Vision (Herald Press, 1944, p.4) says it best.....

"There can be no question but that the great principles of freedom of conscience, separation of church and state, and voluntarism in religion, so basic in American Protestantism, and so essential in democracy, ultimately are derived from the Anabaptists of the Reformation period."

On a lighter note, Mennonites practice customs that apparently are somewhat unique. We emphasize "fellowship" and service to others such as: sewing circles, wood bees, barn raisings, MDS, MCC auctions and stores, fellowship meals and lots of visiting after church. A teacher in the lunchroom at school recently told a story of her first visit with her Mennonite boyfriend to a local Mennonite church. As they were leaving the sanctuary after the service she noticed the foyer was filled with people.

She asked her friend, "What are these people doing?" His reply, "They're visiting!"

Cleaning Out The Attic... with Bernice Zehr

The other day I climbed the stairs to the attic to search for two storm windows and the storm door for the side porch. The attic with its collection has a path down the center with nicely piled treasures on either side. It wasn't long and Evan joined me too. I heard a comment "wow I don't think anything got thrown out over the years!" It was easy to agree with this but actually I knew this was an exaggeration, otherwise the roof would have lifted several more stories!

With a brief sweep my eyes rested on two pack baskets that could tell a walking history of their own. My dad, an avid hunter prior to marriage, recounted many hunting stories over the years. Walking the twenty mile route to the Mas-sawepie Camp one would wonder why he packed in all that weight and counted it all a joy. I recall him mentioning "I put on my pack and thought it would tip me over backwards!" With school being his forte I wondered why the learning process didn't preclude him to stop backpacking. Perhaps this was the initiation for the real events to come later. After we were born and could stand up we received a free ride in the back pack one mile into and out of the sugar bush. My folks authored the Adirondack environmentalist warning of "pack it in, pack it out." I wonder if my parents nostalgia matches mine after we once

reached the age of walking accountability. My mom in her wisdom seemed to add the best conclusion when I was searching for a woods to purchase. Her sole advice was "find something you can drive into. You're young now and can pack but it won't always be that way!"



Moving on I ran across the round blue tin can with a lid that is the memorabilia from the short-termed Woody Wood Club existence. The can held the notes of our meetings. It was my first membership in a club that lasted one fall and winter and consisted of my siblings, a neighbor boy, and myself. My neighbor as president practiced his newly acquired skill of parliamentary procedure. It was Greek then and has remained an unimpressive gibberish! Savilla was secretary and Evan was treasurer. Clubs I learned later are sought out as a means of identification with a cause or in-

terest. I never could figure out the point or reason for our meeting. We met up in the attic for this momentous event. I spent my time ceremoniously walking up and down the stairs and never did comprehend the reason for our meeting!

Off on the opposite side are "insignificant" empty boxes of all shapes and styles. Whenever a box is needed there's always a supply. My eyes spot a large candy box. This was my mom's organizational tool for Bible School teaching. It preceded tote bags and briefcases. The box served as a supply cupboard and desk all in one compact area. There was a box of stars for attendance, a ruler to point with, a pen and a pencil, and a ring of small pins to pin their papers to their shirt for safe travel home. Pupil books were stacked with the teachers' manual and carried to and from Bible School.

I spent less than five minutes in the attic and it afforded me years of nostalgia. Where else can a person find such memorable cleaning!





The Two Festivals By Carolyn Henry

Our 12th annual Zwanzigstein Festival was held in July. This of course is our biggest fundraiser, but more importantly it is a day for children, families, and everyone to step back in time and also to learn about our faith in God.

We were happy to have Arletha Bender Yoder give a slide presentation about our ancestors in Germany and in America. Richard Zehr narrated it. In the afternoon Floyd Harwood from Hartford, New York showed slides on the restoration of an 1810 grist mill he bought and restored. You may want to visit it during warmer months.

The children decorated 26 school kits for MCC. When the paint dried each one was filled. A quilt was also tied by our visitors and sent to MCC. Children

as well as adults enjoyed pulling taffy, making butter, and ice cream. Even washing clothes by hand was fun for a short while! The horse drawn wagon is a special treat for many, not just once but many times. During our group singing at lunch time, one girl asked her mother if we could sing a child's song. We asked her to lead Jesus Loves Me. How precious this was.

Everyone can find plenty to eat. It smells so good and that home-made taste is the best. Our thanks to everyone that helped. Our visitors enjoy the day so much. We would love to have you help next year and experience the happiness.

On October 5th we held our annual Apple Festival. It was a little crisp in the early morning but

what a perfect day to fly a kite! How everyone enjoyed this. It was just as fun to watch as it was to fly one.

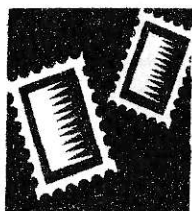
Many of the people who came had never been at the Homestead. Some were vacationing in northern New York and learned of the Apple Fest through the internet! Children made cider and sauerkraut, dried apples, took dried corn off the cob, and ground dried herbs.

An Apple Fest is not complete without a wagon ride. Baked goods, fall produce, and lunch were also available. The soup and hot dogs were delicious along with the pie. Since some had not been here before, they wanted a tour of the place. It gave us another opportunity to tell of our ancestors faith in God. It was a great day!

International News...

Paraguay Puts Stamp On Anniversary

Menno Colony, Paraguay – Paraguay has issued two postage stamps commemorating the first Mennonites' arrival in the South American country 75 years ago. The stamps feature churches in Menno Colony, the first settlement, and in Fernheim Colony, the second settlement. Both stamps also have portraits of Menno Simons.



Menno Colony was founded by conservative Mennonites from Canada. Fernheim Colony was established in 1930 by refugees from the Soviet Union. Today Paraguay is home to 18 colonies.

-Mennonite Weekly Review

Summer Occupancy

Submitted By: Carolyn Henry

Cassandra Zehr spent three days a week (Thurs., Fri., & Sat.) at the Homestead during June, July and August. During June she was busy cleaning, mowing the lawn, making signs, stamping AMHA on used chairs that we had bought, and other projects that needed to be done.

Not only is she there to work but also to welcome guests. This summer we had a number of visitors. One group came and enjoyed the artifacts. What memories it brought back. We

served lunch to them. LaVeda is a wonderful cook! If you know of a group that would like to come to the Homestead, please invite them. We can serve lunch too, if they wish.

Other activities planned were for children 4-8 and 9-12 to spend an afternoon at the Homestead. A bike ride was planned for August

but it rained. We welcome suggestions for an event during the summer at the Homestead.

We thank Cassandra for her help throughout the summer. To have the Homestead open this summer was made possible through Pratt-Northram Foundation. We appreciate their support in the community.



Gingerbread

Nancy K. Leis Widrick

Submitted by LaVeda, daughter of Nancy, she writes: This is a very old recipe from Nancy K. Leis Widrick, Castorland, NY. I found this in her very old cookbook. We had gingerbread real often. It was supposed to be very healthy and full of iron due to the molasses. Many times Mom would bake the cake in a small bundt pan and place on a cake plate after cooling. Then she would put freshly made applesauce in the center and serve with whipped cream on the side. What a treat!!

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1/2 cup Sugar | 1/2 cup Butter & Lard mixed |
| 1 1/2 tsp. Soda | 1 tsp. Cinnamon |
| 1 tsp. Ginger | 1 Egg |
| 1 cup Brer Rabbit Molasses | |
| 1 1/2 cup Sifted Flour | 1/2 tsp. Salt |
| 1/2 tsp. Cloves | 1 Cup Hot Water |

Cream shortening and sugar. Add beaten egg, molasses, then dry ingredients after sifting together. Add hot water and beat until smooth. The batter is soft but makes a fine cake. Bake in greased 9x9 pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 40-45 minutes.

AMHA Joins The Parade!

Submitted By Carolyn Henry

Did you see the AMHA's float at the Lewis County Fair Parade? It was there! On Monday Shereen presented Phyllis with the idea. After several phone calls, we decided to make a float. With Shereen's help and others (Steve, Phyllis, Norm Moshier, Pearl, Marcia, Janette, Aja, Olivia, Catherine and myself) the float was ready by Tuesday. The float consisted of tying a quilt, knitting, games, and making wooden chair legs. Thanks to Sid and Beth for the wagon and bales of hay. A thank you to Elton & Jane who pulled the float with Steve's car. We thought it was a unique float. No doubt we'll be back next year!



A New Adventure.....

Harvest Of The Arts

-Carolyn Henry

In September we participated in the Harvest of The Arts at the former Seber Farm. We had two sites. At one place we had our crafts to sell and demonstrated tying a quilt that Marcia had pieced. It was given to MCC. This also gave us an opportunity to witness.

In the food court we had a variety of homemade pies and served ice cream with them. They were delicious. Many learned about AMHA and want to come to our next Z-Fest. We were pleased with the atmosphere at the Harvest of the Arts. It was nice to have local artists promote their products.

THE BARN WALL

- Donald Henry

After several years of foundation work, a little bit at a time, the Board became anxious to get the wall done. In March 2001 the Board developed plans for a fund drive to restore the barn wall with a commitment to complete it "this year." We are still anxious, but thankful for the response to the fund drive. So why hasn't the wall been completed by now?

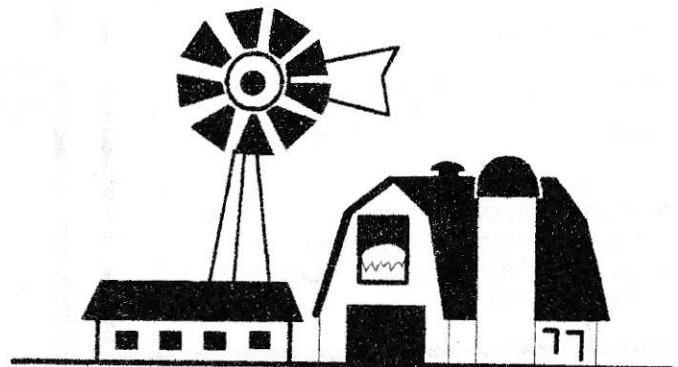
In November 2000, we had prepared and filed a grant application for funding from a New York State preservation program on restoration of historic barns. This was competitive among the many applications received. The review of so many, processed into the slow pace at which the cogs of state government turn, resulted in announcement of awards in June 2001, three months later than planned. By now the construction season was well under way and Roch Brothers offered no assurance of time to do the work in 2001. Meanwhile \$4,750.00 had been donated for the wall!

So in December 2001, we applied for another grant in the 2002 grant cycle. This time the competition was less but again we were not selected for a grant.

By now our donations for the wall had amounted to \$5,075.00 for which we are grateful. The welcome mat is still out for any further donations toward the \$35,000.00 project. All will reduce the amount we'll need to borrow at added interest expense.

Now for some light at the end of this tunnel—arrangements are in place for Roch Brothers to devote their first month of the 2003 construction season to the barn wall. There is a lot of wall to build and the amount they can complete will depend on the amount of "sweat equity" we can supply for less skilled tasks, for example: getting rocks and other materials in place for the masons, mixing mortar, mixing and pouring concrete for the core, or drilling for and placing pins in the concrete.

Can you offer your help and contribute in this way? If so please let a board member know. Thank you all!



Two Events Telling of... **Our Past History**

By Carolyn Henry

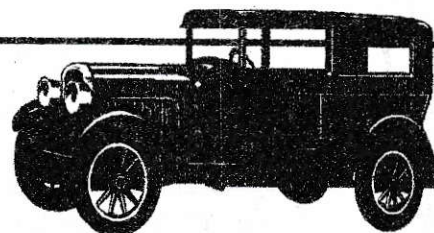
Our annual meeting was held in April. Following the meeting Bernice Zehr led a discussion concerning CPS (Civilian Public Service). Twenty Mennonites from Lewis County participated in CPS. Those telling us about their service included Ralph Lehman, Clayton Yousey, Nevin Lehman, Alvin Noftsier, and Ervin Noftsier. Some worked in the field of mental health. They did make a difference. Because of their concerns about mistreatment and which they were asked to document, changes did take place. Many of these men had not been away from home before. Arthur Lyndaker was killed during his service in South Dakota while operating a large bulldozer. The evening gave us an insight into CPS that most of us had not known. Arlene Yousey has a section about CPS in "Strangers & Pilgrims." You may want to read it.

New York State had set aside the week of October 6-12 as Archives Week. We as a Board decided to commemorate this week by learning more about our ancestors. Arlene Yousey has faithfully saved bits of information from past and present generations. Are we ever glad and grateful that she is doing this! Hopefully you also are preserving your past to be passed on to someone.

It was Thursday evening of Archives Week that she shared with us some of our history. She started with the A's. I'll just mention a few things she said about the automobile. John Widrick had told Arlene that the first person who drove a car to the Apostolic church did not park it in the church yard but down the road a ways, and then walked to the church! He wasn't sure how it would be accepted. The automobile was discussed at conference. Chris Nafziger wanted only to allow trucks, John Lehman was the first member to have a car and Aaron Moshier was the first to have an enclosed car. In 1914 Mr. Basselin of Croghan gave Ed Yancey and his bride a ride in his car after the wedding reception as a special treat. Ed worked for Mr. Basselin and so he was invited to the couple's wedding.

This is only the beginning of the interesting notes she has. She shared some of the stories from A—L. Hopefully she will do more later. You won't want to miss it!

Interested In Becoming A Member?



Why not consider becoming a new member of the Adirondack Mennonite Heritage Association. It's easy! Simply contact any AMHA Board Member or send your name and address to Carolyn Henry at 4348 Saunders Road, Clinton, NY 13323-3618. Cost of membership is a donation of your choice. Join today!

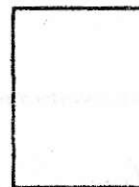
An AMHA Membership Also Makes A Great Gift!



Adirondack Mennonite Heritage Association


P.O. Box 368

Croghan, N.Y. 13327



Archival Preservation

-Bernice Zehr



In the early spring of 2003 the Roch Brothers will be completing the stone work for stabilizing the barn wall. Our next project will be to begin a fund for establishing a storage building for the Anabaptist-Mennonite archives. We are at a critical junction as we have outgrown the present space at the Croghan church. Virginia Moser, our church historian, currently has a house full of archives. In addition there are collections in many other homes. At the last joint Mennonite business meeting in May 2002, it was agreed that the Adirondack Mennonite Heritage Association work with Virginia Moser to pursue a system for archival preservation. Our AMHA committee welcomes your feedback. Please contact any AMHA board member for information or input regarding this project. Thank You!