



Notes From The Farm

newsletter of the adirondack mennonite heritage association

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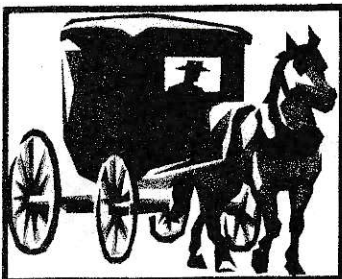
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**AMHA welcomes new mem-
bers. See any board mem-
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send to Carolyn Henry.**



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Newsletter

Casandra Lyndaker

Thoughts From Andrew Gingerich...

Let me tell a little about who I am. How I happen to be who I am seems to be hidden in the mysteries of our creator. I am one of the 6 Billion plus people on planet earth in 2003. I have lived through a large part of the past century and now I am well on the way into the present century.

The ancestors of my parents were immigrants from Europe and of German nationality and culture. I too was born in another country, but immigrated to the United States, as a child, from Canada.

My parents were Christians and of the Mennonite faith since before I was born. They were very loyal to the church and active in witness and service. They were serious in living for the Lord. We had Bible reading and prayer nearly every morning. Under this parental and church environment I, early in life, was made aware of the spiritual need and the claims of Christ in my life.

I remembered when I was about 14 years old the Bible became very meaningful to me, however because of other influences in my life, this experience faded and as time went on and my life drifted to the point I realized I was not living in the will of God. Eventually, the Lord seemed to be telling me that if I continue in the direction I am going it would lead to disastrous results. Later I decided to rededicate myself to the Lord and to live for him. All this was not without serious struggles.

Later the Lord made it possible for me to attend Bible School for two years. Some time later I was called to serve as pastor of a church to which I devoted much the rest of my life. Throughout my life there were many victories and defeats. I want to acknowledge, that all I am and did is only by the mercy and grace of God; all glory goes to him.

The theme of our celebration today is "We are all children of God". This fact moves us to think globally.

We are all God's children by creation, since he is the source of all life. However, there is another dimension of family relationship, which is spiritual and is only entered into by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

God is a Global being since one of his attributes is omnipresence. Also, he made the earth on which we live a round planet. The Bible is Global in its message; it is translated now into most of the people's languages. The gospel is for the whole world as we are commanded to proclaim it to the uttermost parts of the earth.

The Church is also global since it is made up of all nationalities of people. The Mennonite church is planning a world assembly this year in Africa. Our church had its origin in Europe and America. Now, there are about as many brothers and sisters in Africa as in North America.

Heaven is also a place for all people. The population in heaven has its origin on the earth. The Bible gives us a scene of multitudes of all nationalities and races, all together, involved in worshiping God with praise and thanksgiving for the glorious salvation through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Grave Markers in the Kirschnerville Cemetery

By: Richard Zehr

I remember my Grandfather John B. Moser saying that in the early years of the Kirschnerville cemetery all the dirt dug for a grave was piled back onto the grave, leaving a mound of dirt. He said, later the mounds were leveled to make possible mowing of the grass. Information that Arlene Yousey gave me indicates that by 1921 or 1922 people remember that the Kirschnerville Amish Mennonite cemetery was leveled off with no grave mounds anymore. I do not know when the leveling of the mounds took place.



Grave markers were made of wood for many years. Arlene quotes from Chris Lyndaker's diary dated Wednesday, October 23, 1912, "Went to cemetery, put a grave stone on Dear Lena's grave." Lena was his first wife who died July 23, 1911. Arlene also reported that Veronica Moser told her that Chris Moser also made wooden grave markers.

When I purchased the farm where Merlin Moser now lives, there was a wooden grave marker in the shop in nice condition. The carved letters were neatly done. The inscription is "Mrs. A.B. Zehr, Born Nov. 18, 1853, Died March 1, 1918 Age 64 yrs. 3 mo. 12 days. The marker is 42 inches high, 10 inches wide and 1-½ inches thick. I want to donate this marker to the Moser homestead some time. I believe the wood is pine.

I do not know when they began to use stone markers on the Kirschnerville cemetery. The cemetery by the Croghan Church was begun in 1923 and all markers are of stone there. A quote from the book "Strangers and Pilgrims" by Arlene Yousey says "With emphasis on simplicity and uniformity the memorial type and design were preplanned and those wishing a plot for their deceased are to follow this pattern. The use of large tombstones or costly monuments was discouraged and expressed the brotherhood concept and awareness of death as the great equalizer".

Could it be possible that our congregations would follow the same principle in choosing a casket for their loved ones? Could we be more practical in simplicity and stewardship with less costly caskets?

JESUS...

"the sure and steadfast anchor of the soul."

-Hebrews 6:19

AMHA NOTES OF INTEREST...

By Carolyn Henry

LaVeda Taube and Pearl Zehr have had several fundraisers which included a Valentine candy sale, an Easter bake sale along with ham loaf, a craft show at Castorland, a table at the Brookside Fair and a bake sale just before Christmas. Phyllis Lyndaker coordinated the pie sale at Thanksgiving.

At the Harvest of the Arts in Lowville we sold pie by the piece with ice cream, if desired, and participated in the craft show. With flea market things left over from the Z-Fest, we had a garage sale and porch sale. All of these activities help us raise money to meet our expenses.

This summer Darcy Zehr and Megan Lyndaker were at the Mennonite Heritage Farm during July and

August to welcome visitors, kept the place looking clean and working on the cookbook. Zach Zehr helped with lawn mowing. We appreciate their help.

Again this year AMHA had a float in the Lewis County Fair Parade. The theme of Magical Moments illustrated butter making, kneading bread, weaving, reading, wood making, and blowing bubbles.

The Roch Bros. Started the stone wall on the barn this fall. I hope you have seen it as it is a work of art. We will await their return in the spring to complete it.

The Apple Fest was enjoyed by the Boys and Girls Club and their advisors even though it rained. We made cider, ground barley, and made sauerkraut. The house and its contents were of great interest to the boys and girls. With the rain we could not have a wagon ride or fly a kite. Of course the warm soup, hotdogs, cookies, and pie tasted great!

Two programs presented by AMHA were of great interest. After our annual business meeting, Bernice Zehr interviewed Alvin Zehr, Jr. concerning PAX service during the 1950's in Europe. The PAX service program did make a difference. Following the interview, we enjoyed our tradition of wax on snow.

In November AMHA presented a program for the combined Sunday evening program of the area Mennonite churches. Arletha Zehr Bender Yoder graciously allowed AMHA to show her collection of slides of our Anabaptist ancestors in Europe and in New York. Many people enjoyed this program. *(continued on page 4)*



Edna Zehr's

Homemade Soap

Ingredients:

1 can Lye

1 cup Ammonia

½ to ¾ cups 20 Mule

Team Borax

1 to 2 Tablespoons Sugar

6 pounds Fat (Liquid, but not Hot) Use varying mixtures of chicken, beef tallow, pork and table fats.

Prepare Lye mixture first. Let cool. Pour slowly the lye into the water (use directions on the lye can). **Wear a facemask for this.**

To the fat add sugar and Borax and mix well.

Then add ammonia. Add lye mixture gradually to the grease. Stir until thickened but still pour-able.

Pour soap into mold (1½ gallon milk cartons work well and yield two 4 x 4 blocks). When dry, rip down the carton and shave blocks smoothly with a knife.

The soap needs to cure a few months before using it.

(Edna made many, many batches for MCC.)

To Make A Donation...

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 it. Send donations to Carolyn Henry, 4348 Saunders Road, Clinton, NY 13323 Thank You!



Notes of Interest continued... By: Carolyn Henry

In May of 2002 at the combined business meeting of the area churches, the church historian and AMHA were asked to look into finding space to house our archives. A committee of Virginia Moser, the AMHA Board, Richard & Eileen Zehr, and Norman Moshier was formed. The committee met several times and presented its recommendations to the combined business meeting in May 2003. These were approved and are now being presented to the congregations. It is exciting to think that these archives and artifacts can be preserved for now and future generations. If at some point you no longer want your archives and artifacts, do not throw them away! Contact one of the names on the committee listed in this paragraph. We'll be happy to talk to you!

Zwanzigstein Fest 2003

Our 13th annual Zwanzigstein Festival was held July 7, 2003. A quick shower came about 5:00 a.m. and the rest of the day was dry. We give thanks for that. Between 300 and 400 people came and about two-thirds of them were non-Mennonite. It is interesting to hear why some of them come. One lady said she comes every year to buy handmade laundry soap because it takes out every stain! After announcing that we were going to sing from the old church and Sunday School hymnal, one lady said, "Oh you are going to sing, I come every year for this." She has a beautiful voice and we are happy that she joins us. And then there is the food. Some come just for that. It was hard to decide whether to have the ham loaf dinner, cold plate of potato salad, cheese and Croghan Bologna, rice soup or a hot dog with fresh squeezed lemonade. Others enjoy visiting in a shaded area. They are pleased to find this relaxed atmosphere at Z-Fest. One person visited with someone he had never met before. At the end of an hour or more, he thanked him for this time of fellowship and said "I'll be back next year." He was so pleased someone took time to visit with him.

The young children enjoyed decorating school kits and then filling them with school supplies. Children as well as adults enjoy the butter making, washing clothes by hand (a novelty for just a few minutes), pulling taffy, planeing a board, making cookies, tying a quilt and kneading bread.

One must take a horse drawn wagon ride. New this year was horse shoeing by Bill Meyer. What an attraction! The displays of horse shoes were interesting as well as other metal work. How happy we were that he was able to come this year.

The bake sale, cheese and Croghan Bologna booth, pie stand, strawberry shortcake, ice cream making, warm apple fritters, half moon pies, crafts and flea market items all interested the people. What great homemade goodies!

This year Andrew Gingerich, Wanda Yancey and Pat Falton spoke on experiencing God in their everyday lives. It was superb. In the afternoon, Jack and Mary Sweeney, town historians, talked about neighboring towns, mainly Croghan and New Bremen. Edward Widrick shared his knowledge with those who went to the cemetery. Richard Zehr opened the Croghan Church for visitors. This was another time for sharing our beliefs and answering questions.

Someone told me that the best part of Z-Fest was the tour of the house with Arlene Yousey. If you have never done this, be sure to come in 2004 and hear stories of your forefathers. Christ certainly was central in their lives. Different times we heard the comment, "we'll be back next year." So Z Fest 2004 no doubt will happen. We need your help. Please volunteer!

We also welcome you to become a member of the Adirondack Mennonite Heritage Association. Our purpose is to preserve our religious heritage of the Mennonite Community by sharing, publicizing and promulgating the unique Christ faith story of the Mennonite Community, to encourage Mennonite research and to maintain artifacts and archives of the local Mennonite community. To become a member we ask that you agree with this purpose and make a donation of your choice. At present board members are Phyllis & Norman Lyndaker, Ralph & LaVeda Taube, Bernice Zehr, Charmaine Campany, and Carolyn Henry. Many thanks to you for helping at Zwanzigstein Fest 2003!

-Carolyn Henry