



Notes From The Farm

Volume 17 Issue 1

Fall 2007

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*Pioneer John & Joseph Moser's
Ancestry*

As always, new members are welcome to join AMHA. Your support and expertise will help fulfill the goals and purpose of AMHA.

Contact any board member or mail in the one on the back page to Carolyn Henry.

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175th Anniversary of Mennonites in Lewis County

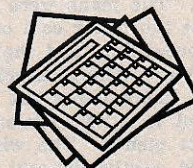
By Norman Moshier

"Time is; time was." This pithy phrase was often etched into the faces of clocks in early America. Now as then, the march of time beats out a rhythm to our lives; hours, days, months, years. God's creation breathes timepast, present and future.

Our lives are a journey through time and we measure this journey with birthdays, anniversaries, reunions and celebrations. Communities also celebrate their history. In 1983 we celebrated the 150th year of Mennonites in Lewis County. Many members of our community were not yet born in 1983 and many friends who were with us then have passed on. If you were born before 1983 about one third of your life has passed in the interim and in just a few months 2008 will mark the 175th year that Mennonites have lived in Lewis County.

The Adirondack Mennonite Heritage Association (AMHA) will be planning several special events throughout 2008 in cooperation with all of our local Mennonite congregations. It is our hope that celebrating and reflecting on our history will be a reminder of God's grace and will challenge us to continue to faithfully follow God's call.

Watch for a calendar of events to be published later this fall. You will want to etch some of these once-in-a-lifetime events on your 2008 calendar.



The Wood Shingle Project By Carolyn Henry



Underneath the green shingles that Norm Moshier took off the house were wood shingles nailed with square nails. Norm decided that some of them had to be saved. So he did. The thought came to Phyllis to put pictures on them. So before Z-Fest, pictures were found and duplicates made. Carol Widrick and myself went to work. I hope you saw them at Z-Fest. We still have some for sale and will also do one for you if you want one of your pictures on the shingle. Contact a Board Member. They would make a unique Christmas gift.

PIONEER JOHN AND JOSEPH MOSER'S ANCESTRY - By Arlene Yousey

Recently new facts have been uncovered regarding pioneer John and Joseph Moser's ancestry. Some has come through a European researcher who has been in contact with Paul M. Zehr (son of late Alvin R. and Vera Moser Zehr) now of Lancaster, Penn. While it fills in gaps it also raises new questions and reveals variances. However, it substantiates their parents as Christian and Marie Farney Moser. Not Nicholas Moser as oral sources gave heretofore. It has brought to light that the parents for whom they earned passage money, was their father and stepmother. John and Joseph's biological mother died when they were but six and three years old respectively. Below is given old and new information regarding this family:

In 1833 the arrival of but one family was noted, that of Christian Kennel and wife, and two brothers, Joseph and John Moser. Christian Kennel had twelve children: Christof, Johan, Michael, Joseph, Daniel, Lena, Catherine, Barbara, Anna, Marie, Susanna and Francisca. The young men, Joseph and John Moser, came to the settlement first to earn money sufficient for the transportation of their father and family, Christof Moser, who came over in 1835, two years later. Christof Moser had seven children all told, viz: Nicola, Christian, Joseph, John, Catherine, Barbara and Magdalene. The two Moser boys when they first came were without means and were animated by the one thought of earning money for their father's passage. They secured work from the widow Yancie chopping logs in the woods. As described by themselves at a later day, when their measure of success was full, they said they went out into the cold air without overcoats, clothed only in thin garments of blue jeans; underwear was not much in vogue those days, so they had none. The jeans were rather light against the bitter cold of the northwesterns prevailing, and they became frostbitten. Their stockings were of cotton, there being but little wool to be had in the settlement. Sheep were not plenty. The winters were bitter cold, vastly different from those at home. They suffered many hardships in getting out the logs, which were to be used for building purposes, and several times nearly perished. They worked over a year to get the amount of money necessary and with joyful hearts sent it to their father, who was waiting in a distant land, to come at their call.

Taken from "THE BLACK RIVER DEMOCRAT" 1913

533 MOSER Christian
vh
RISSE Madeleine

1. Christian * about 1771
vh 1800 FARNY Marie

John and Joseph Moser's grand parents and parents on their father's side.

229 FARNY Christian, anabaptiste de la Bellegrade
* + before 1794

- vh
HIRSCHY Anne
* about 1748
1. Joseph * 12.11.1766 Hingsange <230>
vh 1796 NEYHOUSER Anne
 2. Anne * 15.08.1771 Bistoff <446>
vh 1794 JANTZI Christian
 3. Barbe * 01.07.1777 Bistoff <233,904>
vh 1802 STECKER Joseph
 - * 4. Marie * about 1780 <535>
vh 1800 MOSER Christian
 5. Madeleine * about 1783 Bistoff <957,697>
Istvh 1809 ZEHR Michel
IIndvh 1814 RISSE Joseph
 6. Catherine * 07.09.1784 Bistoff <261>
vh 1802 FRISCHMAN Pierre
 7. Suzanne * about 1787 <889>
vh 1809 SPRINGER Christian
 8. Anne * 24.05.1794 Bistoff

John and Joseph Moser's grand parents on their birth mother's side. Also their mother's brothers and sisters.

535 MOSER Christian, à la Capelle en 1806, puis à Bellegrade, de Creutzwald <533.1>,

huilier, fermier

* about 1771

vh cr 30.01.1800 Bistroff

FARNY Marie <229.4>

* about 1780

+ 31.08.1819 Chateau Voué

John and Joe
Moser's par-
ents & broth-
ers and sist-
ers.

- | | | |
|--------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Anne | * 11.12.1800 Bistroff | |
| 2. Barbe | * 23.02.1802 Bistroff | |
| 3. Madeleine | * 15.08.1803 Bistroff | + 20.02.1805 Bistroff |
| 4. Madeleine | * about 1804 | + 26.12.1808 Bistroff |
| 5. Suzanne | * 26.02.1805 Bistroff | + 06.08.1813 Chateau Voué |
| 6. Christian | * 31.07.1806 Bistroff | |
| 7. Barbe | * 11.02.1808 Bistroff | + 11.07.1808 Bistroff |
| 8. Catherine | * 29.06.1809 Bistroff | |
| 9. Barbe | * 30.06.1811 Linstroff | |
| 10. Jean | * 21.10.1813 Chateau Voué | |
| 11. Joseph | * 25.09.1816 Chateau Voué | |

TRANSLATION

Christian Moser, in the chapel in 1806, then in Bellegrade, from Creutzwald
Oil trader, farmer.

Michael Jantzi - Barbara Gerber
b. 1/13/1719 (Bellgrad) b. 1723
d. 8/28/1822

Married about 1755

Michael was an Anabaptist

Christian Farny - Anna Herchi
b. 1745 (Bistroff) b. 1749
Anabaptists at Bellgrad

Children (all born at Bistroff)

Christian Jantzi - Anne Farney
b. 10/18/1768 b. 8/15/1771
d. 11/15/1828 d. 12/26/1816

Married 3/2/1794 at Bistroff

Anna Jantzi b. 5/24/1794
Married Rev. Michael Zehr 10/9/1811

Anne b. 8/15/1771, d. 12/26/1816
Married Christian Jantzi 3/2/1794

Joseph b. 11/12/1766
Married Anne Neyhouser b. 4/15/1772
at Singling

Barbe b. 7/1/1777
Married Joseph Steckler 5/7/1802 at Bistroff

* Marie b. 1780
Married Christian Moser b. 1781 on 1/30/1800
at Bistroff
(Son of Christian Moser and Madeline Risser
from Crutzwald, France)

Catherine b. 1781
Married Pierre Frischmann 10/1/1802
at Bistroff

Madeleine Farny b. 1783
Married Michel Zer 9/7/1809
Children: Pierre b. 8/20/1809
Madeleine b. 3/18/1813
Michel Zer died 6/1/1813
Madeleine married Joseph Risser 8/3/1814

Suzanne Farny b. 1788
Married Christian Springer 2/2/1809
at Bistroff

This diagram shows the
relationship of John &
Joe Moser (first cousin)
to Anna Jantzi, wife of
Rev. Michael Zehr.
Michael Zehr was our
early Lewis County Amish
man who put down roots
in 1833 on the north end
of what is Croghan today.

John Moser age 41, married, B. in France

Has been a resident in Town of New Bremen— 16 years.

Farmer, Naturalized, Living in a frame house.

Catherine - age __, wife, B. in France

Resident in Town of New Bremen 6 years.

Catherine age 65, B. in France

Relationship to head of household - Mother. Widowed.

Resident in Town of New Bremen—16 years.

Taken from the Town of New Bremen census 1855 House #65

We have a few details preserved for us through Menno Moser, a great grand child of Christian and Marie Farney Moser. According to his oral account they never adjusted well to their new home in Lewis County. This was still pioneer territory and panthers roamed about so that they described it as a “howling wilderness”. Amid the eerie cry of the wolves and panthers they always remained ill at ease. The weather was much colder than their native land of France. Their fear was also heightened by knowing that a panther had been killed close to the building by their two sons and a son-in-law. Christian died in 1849 and his wife Catherine (the step-mother) died in 1863.

In 2007 Paul M and Mary Zehr toured the area of the birth of pioneer John and Joseph Moser. There are beautiful colored pictures of the Moser's small village and surrounding areas available. Watch for them as they are displayed during the 175th Anniversary celebration.

A typical European farm has a family home in the village and the land owners go out into the surrounding area to maintain and cultivate their crops.



FARM HOUSE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

By Norman Moshier



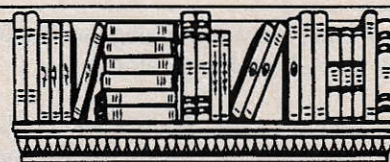
In the beginning of 2006 the AMHA Board of Directors made plans for a major work project on the Heritage Farm house. The stone foundation was crumbling and the sills and some of the floor joist were seriously rotted. Standing without being heated for many years was beginning to affect the interior of the house as well.

In the Fall of 2006 construction began. The rear two thirds of the house which had only a crawl space was excavated and a new foundation was poured using insulated concrete forms. The entry room on the driveway side was removed and a new entry which allows for handicapped access was built to replace it. All of the sills on the rear part of the house were replaced along with some south side floor joist and the rest of the floor joist were strengthened. In the winter of 2007 a furnace was installed and the kitchen chimney was relaid. Finish work on the outside and inside has continued through 2007.

The new basement was designed to house our archives. It will have a small office, a bathroom and will be climate controlled. It will be furnished with mobile shelving to maximize our storage space and has the long term potential of housing over 2000 cubic feet of archival materials. We are projecting to have most of the work done by mid-2008.

Because this project is essential to the long term care of the house, AMHA is grateful for the support you have given in various ways. As we have worked together on this project we have been reminded many times that the purpose of the AMHA is to tell the story of our faith. The Mennonite Heritage Farm is a unique place and has given us the opportunity to do this in a setting where people come and freely inquire about the meaning of what we believe.

WANTED:



Christmas Carol Kauffman's books published in 1940's through the 1960's were some of the most read books in our churches at that time. Some of the titles desired are:

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Light From Heaven | 6. Search to Belong |
| 2. Not Regina | 7. One Boy's Battle |
| 3. For One Moment | 8. Little Pete and Other Stories |
| 4. Dannie of Cedar Cliffs | 9. Lucy Winchester (We now have) |
| 5. Hidden Rainbow | |

Also desired are two games Bible Quotto and Bible Lotto probably from the 1940's or so.

Old songbooks such as Church and Sunday School, Life Songs No.2, Church Hymnal, Radio and Revival series, Men's Quartet books, Children's songbooks, especially "Songs of Cheer for Children", plus others that may have been used.

If anyone has any of the above and would be willing to donate them to the Mennonite Heritage Association, please contact one of the Board Members listed in this newsletter.

Thank You, Phyllis Lyndaker

GRANTS GIVEN TO AMHA — Phyllis Lyndaker

Perhaps by now many of you know that during 2007 the Mennonite Heritage Association was the recipient of several grants

- ♦ The Prattt-Northam Foundation awarded a grant \$7,500 for foundation work on the farm house.
- ♦ Another grant of \$250 by Steward's was received to help make the Mennonite Heritage house become handicapped accessible.
- ♦ The Northern New York Community Foundation awarded a grant of \$20,000 to help develop a climate controlled area in the new basement of the house for archival collections and documents of our Mennonite community.

We are very grateful for these financial gifts. They have helped us very much to restore the Mennonite Heritage Farm. We invite all to come to the farm to use our facility as an archival resource when it is completed or just to enjoy the peacefulness and serenity the farm offers.

THE 17TH ANNUAL ZWANZIGSTEIN FEST— JULY 7, 2007

By Carolyn Henry

They came early and throughout the day. Some came in large groups, others as families or with a friend and they were all glad they came.

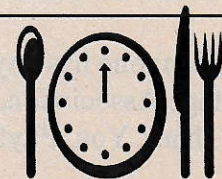
Why do they come? Many come for the food which is the best. A hot meal included ham loaf with all the fixings, or a cold plate of Croghan Bologna, cheese and potato salad was available as well as hot dogs, sauerkraut and brats, fresh strawberry shortcake, brownie sundaes, homemade pie, homemade ice cream and homemade root beer, hot apple fritters and choices from the bake sale.

Some come to sing hymns with us during the lunch hour and find it very touching and meaningful. Families with children are happy with all the activities for children. One grandfather was debating where to go but when he read about the wagon rides he knew this was the place. We also had oxen this year.

The farmhouse tour may be the outstanding part for many. Not only do they see rooms and artifacts but they hear God's faithfulness to these early settlers and the generations that followed. What an opportunity to share our faith story and likewise give people an opportunity to ask questions concerning our faith.

New this year was an antique and collectibles booth. People also like our handiwork and one lady gave an order for six aprons.

Praise be to God for the blessings we each received at the 17th Annual Zwanzigstein Fest on July 7, 2007, which was definitely more than just a fundraiser!



SUMMER AT THE HOMESTEAD

Carolyn Henry



My days at the Farm this year were rewarding to me. Not that I had visitors everyday but thinking about our forefathers did inspire and encourage me. Several days some one did come. Altogether we had about 50 visitors this summer.

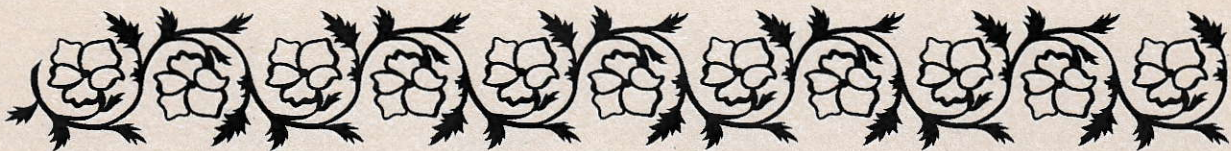
Talking about Conrad Grebel, Martin Luther, Menno Simons and the twenty families that came to the Croghan area in America, made me really appreciate my heritage.

One day I was able to read Don Kraybill's forty-eight page book entitled "Who Are the Anabaptists". I hope you read it someday. One group of visitors were so impressed that the tomb stones at the cemetery were all the same and wondered why. After I explained one lady said "I would like to be buried there. Everyone is equal."

BITS AND PIECES OF INFORMATION

- ◇ November 3, 2007 Farmer's Breakfast Bar at the Croghan Fire Hall—Benefit of AMHA
- ◇ November 14, 2007 AMHA will be catering a dinner for a Senior Citizen Group at the Croghan Church

We anticipate the need for more finances in the near future to continue with the restoration work at the Heritage Farm. Any donation you feel led to give would be greatly appreciated. Thank You and God Bless.



Wish List : New or Used Pop Up Tents for Z-Fest 10'x10' or preferable larger.