



Volume 18, Issue 1

Notes From The Farm

Fall 2008

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THANK YOUs

Summer At the Farm

2008 Z-Fest

Archive Project Update

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 application to Carolyn Henry.

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175th Anniversary Year: Time is ... Time was

By Norman Moshier

It seems like just yesterday when we introduced the program for a 175th anniversary year in 2008. It was actually one year ago and we encouraged you to etch some of the coming dates on your calendar as colonist clockmakers etched the pithy saying, "time is ... time was" on their clock faces. Well, time has flown and 2008 with its reminiscing, remembering and celebrating is now "time was" on the clock face of the Lewis County Mennonite community. We encourage you to take some time this fall or winter to etch in your memory something from the anniversary year you want to keep.

The program for the year included several events and four guest speakers. In January we asked our ministers to preach a sermon on Anabaptist history. We also had a breakfast for our pastors and their spouses. In May, we had a comforter blitz completing more than 80 comforters in three days. Events in the summer included: a program of music by Ruthann Roggie, tours of pioneer Mennonite homesteads, exhibits of many items from personal collections, including creative art work, and the Dedication of the Archive at the Mennonite Heritage Farm. In the fall the Kingdom Singers directed by Ruthann Roggie presented a program of choral music.

Four exceptional speakers, Paul M. Zehr, Nancy Heisey, Nate Yoder and John D. Roth, addressed us in August, September and October, helping us to focus our thinking on the significance of our heritage. It was a special privilege to have these gifted persons share their time and insights with us.

The final event of the year was a combined worship service on Sunday Morning, October 26. It was held at Beaver River Central School auditorium, with attendance of over 700. Nate Barker from First Mennonite of New Bremen shared his moving personal story. Marvin Zehr directed a chorus and John D. Roth's sermon "The Earth is the Lord's: Sharing the Anabaptist Story in the 21st Century" was the capstone on this year of celebration.

The AMHA Board of Directors wishes to thank all who helped in so many ways to make this year a success. Your help and attendance breathed life into what were just a list of plans.

What will you etch in your memory? For me, I think it may be that our theme verse, "Stand at the crossroads, and look" Jer.6:16, is not just a good verse to use every twenty-five years, but is an attitude, a stance, a way to orient the direction of our personal and corporate lives on a daily basis.

For the AMHA Board of Directors
Norman Moshier

Comments Regarding the 175th Anniversary Celebration

- ♦ "Donald Roggie asked if I would give a few of my thoughts about the Mennonite Heritage events this summer and fall. I was able to attend most of the events. I particularly enjoyed Paul Zehr, John Roth, Nancy Heisey and Nathan Yoder.

As most people would know I am not from this community but came here because my wife is from here. I enjoy learning about Anabaptist faith and heritage, it's particularly interesting to see and hear things of my wife's heritage and what my children will call theirs.

I enjoy listening to stories. John Roth sees stories as an important way to connect us together and encouraged us to bring new people into that story. The events that I attended all included stories of local interest and several that tie us to the global Anabaptist faith. I see the heritage farm doing that through material objects, the archives through writing and guest speakers through verbal communication.

Paul Zehr spoke at the archive dedication and talked about another aspect of Anabaptist faith that is very important to community life, the priest hood of all believers. We all may have different interpretations of what that means, but it talks about community working together. That is why we can celebrate 175 years of Mennonite(s) in Lewis County.

I'm glad that many people took the time to put together events that showed us a little of who we were and what we have become with the hopes that we will continue affecting our communities in the way Jesus taught us to."

David Lapp

- ♦ "We especially enjoyed the music part and sang in both Ruthann's and Marvin's choirs. Ruthann's was fun and like a reunion because we grew up with the choir members. We also enjoyed all the speakers. The highlight for us was the combined worship service at Beaver River School and John Roth as speaker. We've heard from several people we should do this again."

Ken & Carol Erb

- ♦ "What a celebration! There were so many different activities. This was very impressive to me. Each one was my favorite. I was so blessed to be able to attend each one. Many, many thanks to each one who did all this planning and made possible these sessions."

Carolyn Lehman Henry

- ♦ "We need to do this again concerning the service of accapella singing."
- ♦ "It was great to worship together with people of other congregations. We should do this every year."
- ♦ "I had no idea of the gifts and talents within our Mennonite community." (Concerning the displays at the Croghan Church.
- ♦ "I wish I would have attended more of the meetings"
- ♦ "The comforter blitz provided a great time of fellowship as well as working together to make comforters for those here at home and overseas who need them"

A Thank You Note

The Mennonite Heritage Board of Directors wish to convey their many thanks and deep appreciation for your participation, your volunteer help and the use of church facilities for the many activities and events of the 175th Anniversary celebration of Mennonites of Lewis County. We truly feel blessed by God and humbled by his leading. We give thanks for the messages of our guest speakers, for the privilege of having a joint worship meeting of our congregations at Beaver River School and for the generous offering of \$6,106.00. We praise God for His continual guidance to the Mennonite churches of Lewis County these 175 years and pray for His continued direction for our future years.

Thank You from MCC

Following is part of a letter from Mennonite Central Committee, addressed to Lewis County Churches, in response to the truck load of comforters made during the May '08 Comforter Blitz of the 175th Anniversary Celebration:

"Thank you for contributing to the work of Mennonite Central Committee to relieve suffering around the world in the Name of Christ. Your gift of comforters is greatly appreciated. The ministry of the MCC could not go on without the commitment and dedication of our friends and volunteers.....We have enjoyed working with you and look forward to continuing this relationship. We appreciate your prayers for us and for the various MCC workers and volunteers around the world. Thank you for partnering with MCC to be a Christian resource for meeting human need.

Peace, The Staff at the Material Resources Center"

BOOKS AND OTHER ITEMS FOR SALE

There are a number of items left for sale from the 175th Anniversary book table that would make meaningful gifts at Christmas or anytime. Most of the books are offered at discount prices and include John Roth's books of Stories and Beliefs, other books pertaining to Mennonite values and beliefs, cookbooks and children's books. There are limited copies of Strangers and Pilgrims by Arlene Yousey and copies of Zehr History and Genealogy by Arletha Zehr Yoder. Also available are a limited number of the commemorative 175th Anniversary plates with a stand and shingles from the farmhouse with old pictures. If interested contact Phyllis Lyndaker, 376-7643 as the items are at her house.

ARCHIVE PROJECT UPDATE - Phyllis Lyndaker

As most readers know the archive space in the newly constructed basement area under the farmhouse was dedicated during the 175th Anniversary Celebration. Although there is still a few things to finish we are pleased to tell you that the shelving for archive storage and the computer and software that was purchased with the generous grant from Northern New York Community Foundation is now at the Heritage Farm. Plans are to get the computer set up soon and then we can begin to categorize our materials.

AMHA wants to remind you again that we are thankful for the support you have given. During this year of 2008 we have had more fundraisers than usual to help with the expenses of renovation work of the archival space and we thank you for your part in that effort. The Mennonite Heritage Farm is a unique place where the meaning of our faith can be shared.

Wish List: Pop Up Tents ,10'x10' or larger
Easels
Large sturdy clothes bar—new or used

SUMMER AT THE FARM

Carolyn Henry

It is always interesting to learn where the visitors live. This summer we had people from Pennsylvania, Canada, Oregon, Vermont, Florida, Connecticut, England, Maine, and of course New York. Each person enjoyed the tour and the time spent at the farm. Many thanks to you who volunteered to spend the day at the farm and waited for visitors. If no one came it was a time to relax, enjoy the quietness, read, sweep the floor, tie a quilt, meditate or remember the past.

The planned events included Zwanzigstein Fest, Apple Fest and the first graders from Beaver River Central School. Each event was enjoyed by all.

Many thanks for volunteering. Thank you.

ZWANZIGSTEIN FEST- 2008

What a great day, July 5, 2008 was! It was wonderful to see persons from the community and from area Mennonite churches come together to work, demonstrate their skills and enjoy the day together.

This family oriented event was enjoyed by persons of all ages. There was plenty of great food and fellowship.

Many demonstrations were available including quilt tying, soap making, wood working, basket weaving, spinning and carding, and basket making to name a few. This year we had two girls from a younger generation demonstrating making grass dolls and churning butter! How exciting to pass our heritage down to younger generations!

What a privilege it is to be able to share the story of our heritage and the Lord's faithfulness through the generations!

Janette Lyndaker

ELDERBERRY PIE - LaVeda Taube

3 Cups elderberries
3/4 cup sugar
2 Tablespoons flour
1/8 teaspoon salt
3 Tablespoons lemon juice
Pastry for 2 crust 9" pie

Line a pie pan with pastry.
Stem and wash elderberries.
Fill pie shell.
Mix sugar, salt, flour. Sprinkle over berries.
Cover with top crust.
Fasten edges securely.
Bake at 425 degrees for 10 minutes.
Reduce temperature to 350 degrees and bake 30min.
Makes 1 9" pie.

GRAPE JUICE - LaVeda Taube

1 Cup Grapes
1/2 cup sugar
Boiling Water

Wash grapes, put in a sterile quart jar.
Add sugar, fill jar with boiling water.
Stir with a silver spoon until sugar is dissolved.
Seal. If silver spoon is placed in jar before boiling water is added it will keep jar from cracking.

This is a very good recipe and easy to make.
It takes several weeks for it to cure. Mom and I used to make quarts and quarts for our family when I grew up.