



# Notes From The Farm

Volume 20 Issue 1

Fall 2010

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Dawson Grau

### Archivist

Rosanna Moser

### Facilities Manager

Norman Moshier

### Website

[mennoniteheritagefarm.com](http://mennoniteheritagefarm.com)

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

## GLEANINGS FROM THE AMISH HISTORICAL LIBRARY

By Bernadine Schwartzentruber

The first paper maker was \_\_\_\_? That riddle was one of the fascinating tidbits presented at an historical library I visited one afternoon this summer.

A one-day reunion at Aylmer, Ontario at my Amish Uncle Lewis' farm was the setting for 80 descendants of my grandparents, Simon and Daisy Swartzentruber, to get together. This provided an ideal opportunity to visit the library nearby.

Sixteen of us piled into my cousin's van that afternoon to go to the Amish Historical Library a few miles away. Begun in the early 1970's, the library is located on the family farm in an unmarked building. For fire protection it has metal siding and roof, and has no electricity or climate control.

David Luthy, the director, opened his presentation by showing us some of his 200+ artists' depictions of the Anabaptist Dirk Willems rescuing his pursuer



on the ice. The collection includes a depiction by David Nolt, a mouth artist, from Leola, PA. Luthy had just received his latest artwork the day before. The Willems story, along with the *Hostetler Massacre*, and the *Mystery of the Thatch*, is now in a booklet, *Love Your Enemies* by Christian Light Publications, Inc. printed in 18 languages, with 300,000 copies alone in the Ukrainian language. He also showed us a pocket watch with the Dirk Willems rescue depicted on the inside of the lid that a tourist sent him. The watch is now being marketed in Switzerland! There is tremendous interest around the world in that story, according to Luthy.



## **Amish Historical Library - Con't**

The oldest Bible portion in the library (owned by Pathway Publishers) is from the 1400's, handwritten on vellum in Latin by monks.

A 1570 copy of the Martyr's Mirror was obtained from a book dealer in the Netherlands and is the only copy in Canada.

Luthy explained how paper was made from flax (linen). The thicker stems were placed in a frame and the thinner stems placed at a ninety degree angle and then the common process for all papermaking ensued. To see if your old book is made of linen, hold up a blank page to sunlight. If you can see the criss crossing lines, it is made of linen.

The first German Bible produced by a printing press was in 1466 by Johann Mentel at Strasburg. This predated the Gutenberg Bible. The library has a facsimile of this 5 -volume work. The oldest German Bible in the library is a 480- page book printed on vellum in 1480. It contains 417 hand painted capitals.

The library has 12 Froschauer Bibles including the 1524/1525/1529/ edition translated from the Hebrew and Greek texts. This was done in sections, hence the three dates. This was done five years before Luther's German Bible. The library bought this Bible at an auction in Berlin, Germany. The numbering of verses in Froschauer Bibles was not done until 1589. It was written in a Swiss-German dialect, and thus became a treasured Bible of the Anabaptists. In 1691 the Swiss authorities "issued a mandate calling the 1687 edition false and dangerous translation, to be confiscated". Because of this, these Bibles were often hidden and often had the title page removed or replaced with one from an acceptable Bible.

I gave photos of the 1556 Froschauer Bible from AMHA to Luthy. It is now the 9<sup>th</sup> documented copy in North America. Nelson and I have a 1744 edition handed down from his family. It is one of about 60 known to exist in North America.

Once after returning from a late night trip, David was taking an after -breakfast nap and was interrupted by a knock on the door. He thought, "Just another old German dictionary". David perked up fast when he saw it was an Ausbund (Amish song book) that the visitor wanted him to translate. Luthy ended up buying the book for a substantial sum.

He also has photos of the AMHA 1809 Ausbund. It has the initials "CN" on a metal plate on the front cover that Luthy believes belonged to a Christian and Marie (Jantzi) Nafziger who lived in Lewis County. The museum has some items donated by the Roggie family of Lewis County.

The library contains over a hundred categories of all things written pertaining to Amish and Old Order Mennonites. I certainly want to go back and spend more time there. Oh yes, the first paper maker- wasps!

## **AMHA TRIVIA**

What is the date carved into the wood on the gable of the sheep shed?

(Answer later in newsletter.)



## AMHA 2010 HIGHLIGHTS

2010 is coming to a close and the Board reports on the following accomplishments. Our membership is about 65. Visitors came from several states including PA, NY, VA, and FL and from Germany that totaled 116 including a family reunion tour group and a "Mennonite Your Way" bus tour group. Our Z-fest enjoyed perfect weather and attendance of 400. About 70 people attended the plaque unveiling ceremony on October 16 and 47 BRCS first graders plus staff visited on October 29 for a total of 650 visitors.

Our facilities continue to be improved. Ken Good completed the barn wall in January. Two Amish men power washed and cleaned the stable walls and ceiling, smoothed the floors with stone dust, built the back doors, and installed new windows. They also repaired the barn roof. Dave Norris rewired the barn. So this year the stable was suitable to use for Z-fest for the first time.

This fall a new porch roof was built on the house and three maple trees were planted in the front yard. The new side entry and archives are almost finished; just a few items remain to be done.

Norm Moshier was hired as Facilities Manager. He oversees and organizes the work on the property. Mose Beiler helps him with the carpentry work.

Dawson Grau was hired as Executive Director. After graduating from Furman University (South Carolina) with a BA in History he earned a Master's degree in Documentary Film and History from Syracuse University. He specializes in the study of folk and social history and the use of multimedia in the presentation of history. He set up our new website and organized Z-fest. In addition, he facilitated the year long process of adding the Heritage Farm property to both the New York State and National Registry of historic places. This designation was bestowed on the farm in August for its significant architectural and social history contributions.

He organized the plaque unveiling ceremony that was held on October 16<sup>th</sup>. The ceremony was a lovely event that brought together both old friends with local and state officials. We were especially have New York State Senator Joe Griffo in attendance, which included a prayer from Milton speeches from Dawson and Joe Griffo, was fol-cake and cider reception and house tours.

As part of our ongoing commitment to not history but to also create new historical research nonite community of Lewis County, AMHA con-long oral history project that involved 25 people the ages of 75-95. This project has resulted in an lection of over 50+ hours of stories and history of hope to have the entire collection available for in 2011 in our new archive.

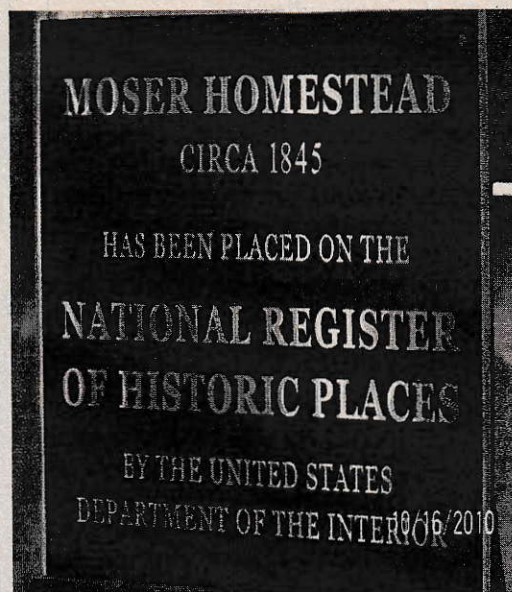
Rosanna Moshier was hired as archivist.

Diane Stitt Melchert created greeting and AMHA to sell.

We created a partnership program whereby individuals commit to planned giving to AMHA.

Our 1556 Froschauer Bible was registered with the Amish Historical Library at Aylmer, Ontario.

As we enter 2011 feel free to contact any of the board members to suggest your ideas for this newsletter or for the Heritage Farm. We welcome new members. See any board members to join. To join the partnership program, contact Don Roggie, our treasurer.



and supporters fortunate to dance. The Zehr and lowed by a

just preserve on the Men-ducted a year-ranging from additional col-the area. We public review

postcards for



## GRANDFATHER ZEHR'S SCHOOLING

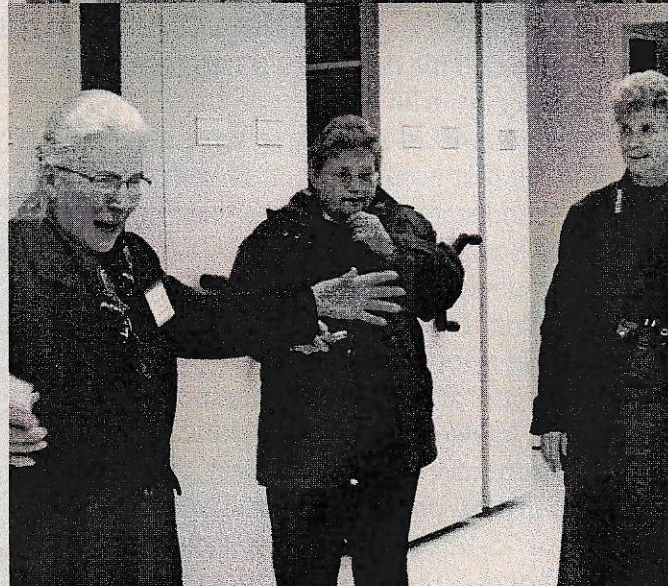
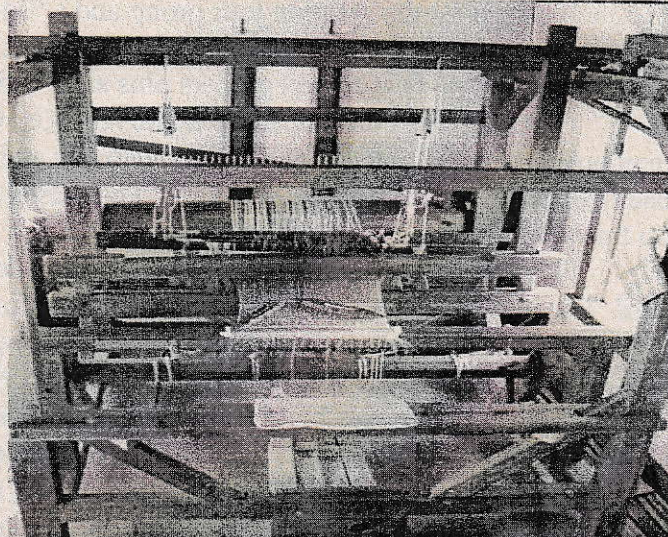
By Debra Gingerich

He wouldn't let them sleep when they arrived home late after hitchhiking five hundred miles from the nearest Mennonite college. He'd fill the wood-burning cook stove like it was a time to warm the kitchen for breakfast-their bags still resting in the entryway-and quiz them on the view in the planetarium, world geography, even the fundamentals of physics that make a plane fly-all that his eighth-grade education had not provided. Even the walk to bed was fueled by discussions as they'd stumble over Donna-still too young to stay up past nine-hiding on the stairway to overhear her brothers and father debate underlined portions of text. She would fight sleep, wording "Psychiatrist" after her pre-med brother or "Vietnam" from another's history class, as if they were prayers. Then with the kids in their beds and the flicker of his reading lamp, he would milk every tired drop out of a book about missionaries in China, until he woke them at 5:00 a.m. for chores and questions, their weary answers a map to how they'd leave that farm for good.

Reprinted by permission from Debra Gingerich  
"Grandfather Zehr's Schooling" in *Where We Start* (Telford, PA: imprint of Cascadia Publishing House, 2007),  
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The grandfather was Elias Zehr,  
Milton and Joe's father.

## TRIVIA: WHERE IS IT & WHAT IS IT? (Find Answers Elsewhere in Newsletter)





## IMPRESSIONS OF Z-FEST

By Bernice Zehr

I spent most of the day around the ice cream stand. It went well (thanks to Dave Norris) and we sold out between 2:00 and 2:30 p.m. People sure love that recipe! It was a perfect day for ice cream.

All of a sudden around 11 a.m. I noted a line of cars out front and finally realized Arlon Widrick really is being buried at this cemetery. For me, the cemetery is so historical. I forget that time transcends to today. I had to think about how it must have been for Philip and Katie Moser to look up the road after their son was buried. I came to grips that history is not always long ago but also present.

Soon after that I meandered to the area for story presentations, but first we decided to do the a cappella singing since everyone was right there. Again, history presented a pleasant surprise. Often we have just about all we can do to get through one or two songs. This year we had a spirited group with Jeanie Jantzi, Diane Stitt Melchert and the gentlemen belting out next to me and another lovely soprano who seems to sing with us each year. I thought that I had joined the heavenly choir right here on earth. What a lovely celebration of burying Patrina's (Ashley) brother and all on the same day. Somehow we couldn't have arranged it if we had tried. Heritage has a beautiful way of joining the past with the present and we realize we really haven't changed that much—only the dates have changed.

I am reminded again of this after returning to the ice cream stand. A lady came hustling over with her children and was exuberant because the ice cream still wasn't gone. She had just completed the bag race with one of her children. We, as ice cream attendants, asked how it had gone and she stated, "I haven't done that for a while. I lost because I fell down. We had a lot of fun anyway. I'm ready for ice cream."

I didn't see the race but it's pleasant to think of play events that transcend age and time. It is what I call "cheap fun". I remember it as "everyone wins".

We all won again when people readily rose to the occasion and doused the fire. The bucket brigade was not assigned but volunteered readily when the occasion presented. (Editor's note: a small fire, caused by a carelessly discarded cigarette, burned briefly near the barn.) It reminds me of the community of faith in action. I personally place this Z-Fest at a special place in time.

## 2010 DONATIONS

2 Picnic tables - Ralph and LaVeda Taube

Clothes bar - Paul and Dawn Widrick

Anabaptist Timeline II by Nelleke and Jacob Schere - Bernadine Schwartzentruber

2 Oak display cases - Norm and Phyllis Lyndaker

\$336.00 - Anonymous - Designated for "something we need"

Barn Loom

+++++

**Reminder:** We appreciate the artifacts we receive but request that you please fill out accession papers that must accompany them..

**Please do not drop off items at the farm without documentation.** See any board member to donate items and fill out the paper-work. Thank you so much.



## **I Saw It In *The Budget*—Continued**

### **Occupations Chapter**

“Our gold mines are starting up again, with two new factories, one at Belfort, what is known as Mt. Tom, and the other at Pine Creek, that will make five in all.”

Aug. 16, 1900 Croghan, N.Y. Joe J. Zehr (Locations included the intersection in Belfort, Nevin Lehman’s property, and one near Balsam Creek. No gold was ever found.)

Salesperson: p. 260 “It is a nice thing to be a general agent. There was one of our young people selling the book of the famous hero, Admiral Dewey and his deeds. Of course they all get rich, for he jumped his job and is digging potatoes.”

Oct. 26, 1899 Lowville, N.Y. Chris Schwitzer- (He came from Canada and was Barb Taube’s grandfather).

### **Recreation and Avocations Chapter**

#### **Hunting Big Game**

p. 289 “Panthers are said to be prowling about the woods three miles from here among the several camps. Everyone is anxious to get them, but they have not been captured.”

Sept. 19, 1901 Jerden Falls, N.Y. A Reader (This is near Indian River.)

### **Seasonal Things Chapter**

p. 304 “Putting up ice is the order of the day among the farmers.”

Jan. 21, 1909 Lowville, N.Y. Jacob G. Stoltzfus (He lived near the County Home in Lowville.)

### **Social Banter Chapter**

#### **Animals**

p. 319 “The writer won a horse last week by buying a ticket for 30 cts. He was a “wind spoiter,” I’ll bet the horse could go 1 mile in 29 minutes and 63 seconds. After having him for 5 days-I sold him for \$9.00.”

Dec. 28, 1899 Lowville, N.Y. J. K. Schwartzentruber

### **Technology Chapter**

p. 348 “A Graphophone entertainment was given at the school house.”

Sept. 19, 1901 Jerdan Falls, N.Y. A Reader

### **Unclassified Excerpts Chapter**

p. 379 ‘I was informed that Fred Loucks, the practical bee-keeper, is trying to cross his bees with lightning bugs (June bugs) so that his bees can see to work night and day.’

June 14, 1900 Lowville, N.Y. J.K. Swartzentruber

1st TRIVIA ANSWER: 1874

2ns TRIVIA ANSWERS: Barn Loom & Archival Room



**I Saw It in *The Budget* By Elmer S. Yoder 1990 Schlabach Printers**

*I Saw It In the Budget* by Elmer S. Yoder 1990 Schlabach Printers

Editor's Note: These excerpts are from *The Budget*, based in Sugarcreek, Ohio. It is a weekly newspaper for Amish and related groups, and has been published for over 100 years. Scribes from around the world write community news. The parenthetical comments are added.

Economics and Ethics Chapter

p. 123 "Our factory at Kirschnerville has started making cheese; one sale has been made at 12 cents per pound. It fights some of the farmers to think their cows give so much milk."

May 21, 1903 Lowville, N.Y. Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Steria

p. 120 "Seven car loads of maple syrup was shipped from Croghan lately, in one day, amounting to about \$20,000, that being about half the output of this vicinity; the rest was sold to local dealers."

May 30, 1907 Croghan, N.Y. Joseph J. Zehr

Every day Life Chapter

p. 155 "The latest novelty is a ring with a chain and a heart attached to it: some are already in use."

Feb. 13, 1902 Croghan, NY J.J. Zehr (Betty Roggie's grandfather)

Every Day Life Chapter

p. 148 "The wood bee at Chris. Widricks was well attended. About 35 cords were cut, and a nice time was enjoyed by all."

Mar. 20, 1902 Croghan, N.Y. J.J. Zehr

Greetings and Closings Chapter

Lowville N.Y. June 5, 1902 "Three Sports"

Lowville N.Y. Aug. 17, 1902 "Tallyho"

Croghan NY June 14, 1903 "Little Clarence" (Anybody know who had these nicknames"?)

Crop Report of 1901

Lowville, N.Y. Lewis C. John K. Schwartzentruber (Arlene Yousey and I think this is a misprint, the initial "K" is probably "B". These accounts were hand written; that could explain the mix-up. [Nelson Schwartzentruber's grandfather.]

Language and Vocabulary Chapter

p. 212 "Now and then a farmer has completed his haying."

Aug. 21, 1902 Croghan, N.Y. Joe J. Zehr

p. 215 "*Sugaring is near at hand* and many are making preparations to move *into their bushes*."

Mar. 12, 1903 Kirshnerville, N.Y. J. Yousey (Arlene Yousey's uncle)

Music and Singing Chapter

p. 241 "To Joseph J. Zehr, I will say, anyone wishing to hear a good graphophone and about 60 good records, this is the place to stop."

Sept. 26, 1907 Croghan, N.Y. Lena R. Moser (Ben Yousey's mother)