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As always, new members are welcome to join AMHA.

Your support and expertise will help fulfill the goals and purpose of AMHA.

Notes From The Farm

Volume 22 Issue I

Fall 2012

Why Build A Church?

By Ginny Moser

The Amish Mennonites were among the first denominations to settle in Croghan, but they were the last to erect a church building. By the time we built our church in 1912 other denominations in and around Croghan had built several times. For instance the Apostolic Christian Church, which we know as the Virkler Church, was built in 1855, 59 years before we built ours, and remodeled in 1901. The St. Stephens Catholic that is standing today is the fifth church built in Croghan but in several locations. The Catholics built 81 years before the Mennonites. Their present church was built after the first Croghan fire of 1902.

The history of persecution to the Amish Mennonites before leaving Europe formed a pattern of meeting secretly. No longer having to meet secretly they still rotated meeting places to worship. The use of homes for weddings, worship, and funerals expressed their belief in the home as the center for religious life. The home also provided their belief of simplicity and thrift as another building did not have to be maintained. It provided a social life as the home was a warm welcome place where they often stayed together until late in the day to visit. The youth often stayed overnight.

easily or without opposition in Lewis County they buyers bought farms everyone and it became ship.

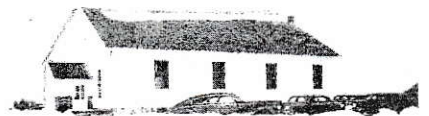


The home as a meeting place did not die. Seventy-five years after their arrival had grown into a large group. Some members where the houses were too small to host a lot of work to prepare a house for worship.
Photo Late 1940's

Two separate incidences convinced many that it was time to build a central meeting place:

The first in June of 1911: the meeting was held at Mrs. Chris Zehr's (Long Pond Rd.) in her small house. Being too small for everyone to be inside, the young boys were left on an open front porch. They could not see the main speaker so their minds wandered and eventually they sneaked off the porch and were found playing in a nearby stream during the sacred hour.

The second occurrence: The service at Christ Lehman's farm on the Beaver Falls Cut Off Rd. (Currently Wayne Roggie's). There were an unusually large number of horse drawn carriages on this Sunday. His cow stable had only one row of stanchions and he also tied some in the hayloft. On this day this was not enough room so he proceeded to use an upstairs barn storage area. As the horses were being led in this area the floor began to crack and showed signs of possible collapse. After quick action to clear the horses out to safety, Chris exclaimed in German: "It's high time we get a church of our own". This became the major factor in the decision to build the Meeting House.
Photo 1948



Editor's Note

Ginny Moser is the Croghan Mennonite Church historian and has a large collection of photos and stories about Lewis County Mennonites. The Croghan church is the "mother church" from which all the other Mennonite churches were later formed. One hundred years ago a church building was built. Prior to this the Amish Mennonites worshiped in homes from their arrival here in the 1830's and the incidences at the Zehr and Lehman homes contributed to the interest in building the first church.

Introducing...New Board Members

Neil Keib is re-
ilton, NY. He
furniture. Prior
Board, Town of
Committee of
cluded Coach/
years ago he
wife of 46 years.



tired and is a graduate of Lowville Academy. He lives in Ham-
enjoys remodeling work around his home and building wood
board experience includes: Town of Constantia Planning
Constantia Parks & Recreation Board and Building Advisory
Central Square Central School. Other volunteer activities in-
President of the North Shore Little League for 7 years. Several
built a scale model of the Moser homestead. Judy Bush is his
They have three sons Michael 45, Patrick 43, and Jon 33. His
great-great grandparents were John Rieffenacht and Barbara Moser. Barbara was a sibling to John
and Joseph Moser. Neil's skills include 46 years of planning, design, and construction experience
that can benefit AMHA board in reaching their future goals. He is currently helping sort through
items in the granary to prepare for documenting those holdings.

Ron Roggie is a retired teacher/coordinator at Carthage. His
perience includes the Ives Hill Retirement Community, board
President of Adirondack Mennonite Camping Association and a
ment Team at Carthage. His spouse is Janet. They have two chil-
lives in Carthage, and Alyssa Allen, Grand Rapids, MI. Ron's
experience and interest in Anabaptist history will be an asset to AMHA. Ron was a tour guide for the
Franconia bus tour group on October 11 when they toured several sites in the Croghan area includ-
ing our site.



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member and
School Manage-
dren, Rhea, who
prior board ex-

STRANGERS & PILGRIMS

The book, *Strangers and Pilgrims*, a history of Lewis County Mennonites, by Arlene Yousey was
originally printed in 1987. There is interest in doing a third printing.

Would you be interested in buying a copy - perhaps for yourself, your children or other family mem-
ber? This would make a great resource for those not familiar with our heritage. We would want a
formal commitment of interest before we proceed to determine whether the project is viable. More
presale price information will be available in church bulletins.

Please contact any board member or Rosanna Moser to add your name to this initial list.

HISTORY BUILDS COMMUNITY

DAWSON GRAU

As a historian I have often been challenged by various individuals about the importance of history as a field and the impact it has on our everyday lives. A typical thought along this line is: "History is just a glorification of the past that doesn't have any relevance to today." After thoughtful



consideration on the topic, my response to this way of thinking is that the past has the power to bind us together through our common experiences. In a world where we often find it easier to notice the differences between ourselves rather than our similarities, the past is always there to remind us of how similar we really are. If you dig deep enough we will always find that we have something in common. This is why when we meet new people we always discuss our past first—*where we are from*, or *what we do for work* are always early questions as we look for common ground to start a basis for connection. The same is true with history—there is always something in our past that connects us to those around us and once we find that connection we can start to build a community. That is why I and so many others believe in the work that we do at AMHA is so important. We are striving to provide that little bit of history that can help bring people together and help create a stronger community around us. Celebrations like the Croghan Mennonite Church's 100th Anniversary are wonderful because they remind us that at one time all of our common Mennonite ancestors knew each other and fellowshiped together in one place.

So with this vision of the importance of history, we move forward into 2013 as more than just a museum—we are also a resource to our community. Through our work we hope that we can continue to tell the stories that can unite our extended Mennonite, Lewis County and Northern New York communities. We also hope that many more of you will join us in helping to make these connections possible so we can continue to make our Northern New York home the strongest community possible.

Mennonite Community Collection Increasing at the Heritage Farm

ARCHIVISTS REPORT

Since November 2011, AMHA has received a number of objects, archives, photos, and books that have been accessioned/catalogued with related history, description, and photographed into a museum software program on the computer. During this year's time, with the help of Mallori Norris, we have accomplished 690 accessions or 1060 items (some accessions have more than one item such as a cup and saucer).

On behalf of AMHA, we wish to note the following major gift(s) from the following donors:

Hubert Gingerich and Lois Bast... Full box of handwritten sermon notes from Rev. Andrew Gingerich and presentation notes from Esther Gingerich, 1947 to mid 1990s. Some of the sermon topic folders included the following: Ordinances, Salvation, Evangelism, Colossians, Second Coming, Prayer, Holy Spirit, and Funerals. While I was leafing through some of the sermon notes, I came across this title "Simon Gingerich Wedding Reception 10/23/84." Briefly, he concentrated on what "The Home Should Provide," that is, love, acceptance, security, unselfishness or sacrifice, priorities, discipline, communication, and faith.

Paul E. Lehman... Hat, shoes, school books, and *Martyr's Mirror*, 1886, that belonged to Rev. Joseph Lehman.

Phyllis Lyndaker... Framed wall hanging of four cloth fans that represents wedding dress fabric of her mother Christina Moser Lehman (Emanuel), and old fabric worn by Christina's two sisters, Martha Moser Zehr (Chris) and Veronica Moser, and sister-in-law of Christina, Rosina Lehman.

Lena Mae Yousey Martin... Black dress and black fur coat that Lena Moser Yousey wore in the early 1900s; she died at the age of 35 in 1921. The black coat has fancy buttons which had to be covered when she wore the coat to church in the early 1910.

Dorrance and Jan Moshier... High school certificate from Castorland Grammar Department for Clara Yousey Moshier (Ezra) in 1929, plus a compositional notebook, geography book, and hooked rug.

Bernadine Schwartzentruber... Photos and genealogy from the John and Katie Moser Schwartzentruber family.

Karl Smith... Certificate of citizenship for Peter K. Lehman, dated 22 November 1892, arrived in New York on April 20, 1852.

Arlene Yousey... Business ledgers of pioneer John Moser and son Philip Moser, penmanship booklet of Philip Moser, 1877 or 14 years old, and war ration stamps.

Gary Widrick... Joseph B. Lyndaker's cement grave marker, August 10, 1841 - June 30, 1930.

Charlotte Zehr and late Kathleen Zehr... Homemade snow sled used by Susanna Lehman Zehr (Ben) with painted initials "SL."

Since cataloguing began in 2010, about 1110 accessions and/or 1600 items are completed in the house, shop garage, milk

(Con't on Page 4)

house, and lower level of the barn. We have many old books and other objects to process in the archival basement and have begun accessioning objects in the granary.

Throughout the past year, we have also processed other objects, archives, books, and photos that were in the house or had been given as gifts in the past. Here is a list of the major items:

...Diaries of Joseph C. Moser, 1918-1956.

...Clock that was a wedding gift to Reuben and Verna Yousey Roggie on December 15, 1927, by Ezra Yousey and Marion Moshier.

...Chest from Switzerland that originally belonged to Rosina Lehman's grandmother, Rosina Kipfer Kennel (Joseph).

...Framed marriage certificate of Michael and Lena Moser Zehr Farney, September 28, 1901.

...Wedding silk tie of John R. Moser, 1922.

...Child's buggy from Chris B. and Katie Moser Yousey family, early 1900s.

...Adult wheelchair from Daniel and Lena Roggie Moser, early 1900s.

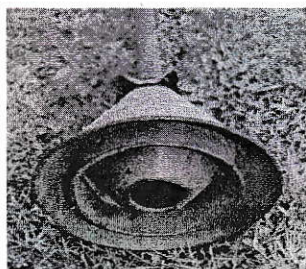
...Family Bibles: Peter Farni's 1556 Froschauer; Philip and Katherine Roggie Moser, 18--; Joseph and Katie Yousey Widrick, 18--; and Solomon Noftsier, 1871.

...*Martyr's Mirror*: Michael M. and Christina Gerber Zehr, 1915; Joseph C. & Barbara Mary Virkler Bachman, 1870; and John and Philip Moser, 1849.

...Genealogy folders: Joseph and Mary Widrick Steria, Jacob and Catherine Zehr Roggie, John and Catherine Steiner Moser, Joseph and Magdalena Gerber Erb, and Joseph B. and Barbara Zehr Lyndaker.

A three-part article "To Do or Not to Do" published in *The Christian Example* editions of June 3, June 17, and July 1, 2012, was submitted to AMHA. The article is written on the life of Rev. Christian M. Nafziger's immigration to Lewis County. In a phone conversation with the author, Joanna F. Martin, from Hanover, Pennsylvania, has written a couple of children's books that are historic stories. She came across Arlene Yousey's book *Strangers and Pilgrims* and was very much intrigued with Chris Nafziger's life to write a story.

Here is an object (photos below) found in the granary this fall. The late Anna Mae Roes Noftsier (Grant) gave the gift to the Heritage Farm in 1996 which dates to the original owner, Jacob and Catherine Zehr Roggie family. This laundry gadget, which can be purchased yet today, was first made in the 1800s and is called a "Rapid Washer." To use this antiquated washer, one would raise and lower the "Rapid Washer" like a plunger. The special internal baffle sends water rushing through clothes to flush out dirt.



Grau, Mike & Cynthia

Henry, Don & Carolyn

Jantzi, Paul & Phyllis

Lehman, Jane

Lyndaker, Steve & Shereen

Lyndaker, Norman & Phyllis

McArdle, Kevin & Susan

Moser, Alan & Nancy Jo

O'Leary, Linda

Roggie, Donald & Janet

Roggie, Andrew & Eunice

Schwartzentruber, Nelson & Bernadine

Steria, Perry & Beth

Taube, Ralph & LeVeda

Virkler, Carolyn

Widrick, Glendon & Maribel

Zehr, Bernice

Zehr, Pearl

Zehr, Floyd & Pearl

Lowville Mennonite Church

MENNONITE HERITAGE CENTER RETURNS TO NORTH COUNTRY

The Mennonite Heritage Center of Harleysville, PA, coordinated a trip with Adirondack Mennonite Heritage Association to visit the Mennonite and Amish community and Thousand Islands for a three-day tour October 10-12. (Last trip was done in 2004 with Homer Myers and Arlene Yousey as tour guides.) Ron Roggie and Rosanna Moser assisted in the coordination and were tour guides for 42 tourists. The bus tour included the following stops: Lowville Fairgrounds, Colwell Farm Market, Flat Rock (wind mills), Kennell Farms, Lowville Producers Cheese Store, Village of Croghan, and a tour of the Heritage Farm. Stops were also made at many of the Mennonite churches plus the Apostolic Church on Route 812, with a brief history of the churches, cemeteries, and the Maple Ridge Center, Beaver Camp, Brookside, and the Croghan Mennonite Church.. The group took a boat tour of the Thousand Islands and visited the North Country Store and Storage Barns in Philadelphia. For many of the tourists, it was their first trip to the North Country and they especially enjoyed the fall landscape and the view of the wind-turbines.

2012 MEMBERSHIP LIST OF AMHA

Carolyn	Barkley	Watertown	NY
Arletha	Bender-Yoder	Lowville	NY
Charmaine	Company	Croghan	NY
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Marcia	Lyndaker	Lowville	NY
Norman and Phyllis	Lyndaker	Lowville	NY
Steve and Shereen	Lyndaker	Lowville	NY
Loretta	Moser	Lowville	NY
Melanie	Moser	McDonough	GA
Robert and Bettie	Moser	Severna Park	MD
Rosanna	Moser	Lowville	NY
Joyce	Moser	Copenhagen	NY
Dorrance and Janet	Moshier	Brownville	NY
Sid and Beth	Nafziger	Lowville	NY
David and Isabel	Norris	Lowville	NY
Linda	O'Leary	Lowville	NY
Donald and Janet	Roggie	Lowville	NY
Ronald and Janet	Roggie	Lowville	NY
Nelson & Bernadine	Schwartzentruber	Lowville	NY
Nelda	Steria	Carthage	NY
Perry and Beth	Steria	Lowville	NY
Carolyn	Virkler	Croghan	NY
Glendon and Maribel	Widrick	Castorland	NY
Bernice	Zehr	Lowville	NY
Pearl	Zehr	Croghan	NY

"KEEPSAKE" BOOK PROJECT

AMHA has started a project of collecting old *recipes, remedies* and *sayings* that our parents and grandparents would have had and used. The end product will be a keepsake book to ensure that this interesting part of their lives will not be forgotten or lost.

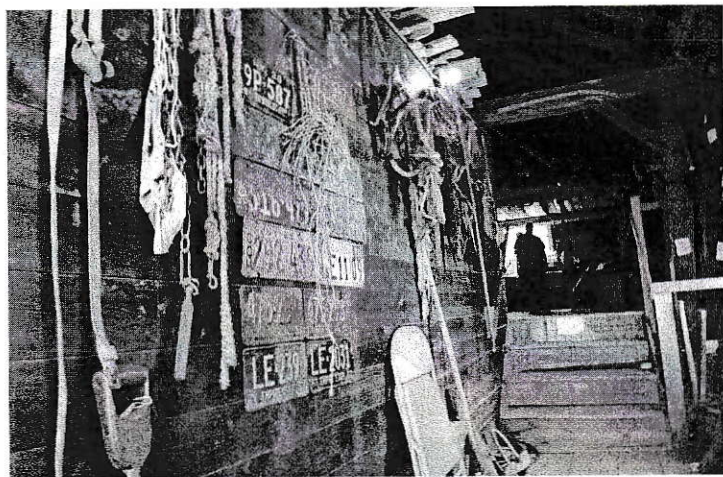
In looking over the responses we have received, it is enlightening our knowledge of our ancestors' past of "making do", of simple yet effective remedies, and their way of bringing the truth to bear on family and community life. Reading over the material makes us realize there must be much more information "out there" that we would very much like to include in this book.

So, please, take a few minutes to jot down your handed-down recipe, remedy, or saying so it can be included! If possible please include the person's name that passed on this information. Send materials to:

Phyllis Lyndaker
7700 N. State Street
Lowville, NY 13367

Pearl Zehr
PO Box 356
Croghan, NY 13327

Or email to: schwartznb@yahoo.com
Thank you so much.



YEAR IN REVIEW...2012 Heritage Farm Highlights

By Bernadine Schwartzentruber, Board Chairperson

As this year draws to a close we highlight our events and activities for 2012. In January the board spent several days creating a vision for AMHA and long term planning. Our board welcomed two new members, Neil Keib and Ronald Roggie. After serving many years, Ralph and LaVeda Taube retired in January. Also, because of family commitments, Joyce Birk and Kendra Eberle requested to leave the board.

At the annual meeting in February we adopted a new membership policy that includes a yearly fee. This is in line with how most other historical societies handle membership and will help provide a way to gauge interest in our organization.

In June we once again attended the Beaver Camp Auction and sold t-shirts and greeting cards in addition to providing information about the services and resources available at AMHA.

A rainy morning gave way to perfect weather in the afternoon for our Z-fest activities, held on Saturday, July 7th. For this year's celebration we were excited to have a small musical group perform as a part of the program. Keeping with our theme of "fun" we had a variety of games available for people of all ages including our new horseshoe pits and volleyball net. All this was in addition to many of the great historical demonstrations which we do every year as a part of Z Fest. A group of over 20 people from the Adirondack Architectural Heritage came in the afternoon from the Adirondack region. The mission of this group is to preserve the architecture and communities of the Adirondacks through education and action.

Several groups toured our museum this year including the Lehman family, a Roggie family birthday party, and a senior citizens group. In August we held our first neighborhood picnic. Six families that live close to the farm (including eight children) joined us in the stable for a potluck meal and getting acquainted. A church group of 16 visited on September 30th.

For the Harvest of the Arts in August, we had a food booth as well as a booth with quilts and other items for sale. Popular menu items were bratwurst, hamburgers, hotdogs, and peach pie with ice cream. We also offered baked goods, chili and clam chowder. This could become an annual fundraiser for AMHA.

In September we held our first "Tea at Grandma's House" event. The turnout was great—it was an intimate affair with women from many different generations coming together to enjoy fresh tea and sandwiches.

October was a busy month. Nineteen participants in the Leadership Academy, sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, visited our site on October 5th, and on October 6th, we welcomed visitors to the property as part of the Fall Foliage Tour. On October 12th about 42 tourists from Franconia County, PA, toured the farm and were served a noon meal at Croghan Mennonite Church. On Mennonite Heritage Sunday, October 28th, 42 people attended our church service in the house and then enjoyed a simple soup lunch. A group of 84 first graders, teachers and parents from Beaver River School toured on October 31. The total yearly visitors numbered about 433.

(Continued on Page 7)

YEAR IN REVIEW ... 2012 Continued

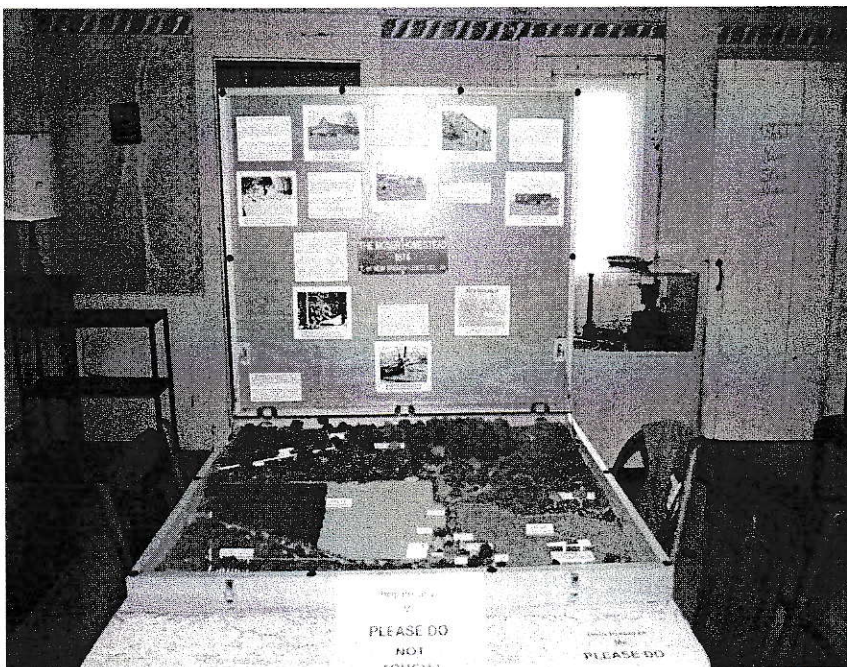
In other news, we will need to do unexpected repairs to the well. A leak in the system occurred just before our summer activities commenced plus the long dry spell caused the problem. The repairs will probably be done next spring.

Additionally, we co-sponsored a slide show presentation by Larry Taube with the Lewis County Historical Society on October 13. The presentation, entitled, "Following the Trails of Your European Ancestors: Travels through Alsace-Lorraine and Germany" took us on a journey that explored our Mennonite, French, or German heritage.

A Fiber Arts Festival on November 12, organized by Pat Falton, brought a group of ladies to the farm for a fun time with a workshop on making hooked rugs, and enjoying the fabric displays and a barn loom demonstration at the farm.

We hope to plan more programs and events in 2013. We are in the process of creating a "Friends of the Farm" list. It will list the ways people can volunteer and then match that with those who would like to contribute in that specific area according to a person's skills, experience, and interest. This includes many volunteers who have helped with food fundraising events in the past.

By using this list we hope to expand our choices from which to find volunteers and spread the work around more. If you would be willing to help in this way, please contact one of the board members (you may already be on it!).



MOSER HOMESTEAD

1874

Photo Credits:

- P. 1 - Ellen Yousey
- P. 2 - Editor
- P. 3 - Dawson Grau
- P. 4 - Rosanna Moser
- P. 5 - Dawson Grau
- P. 7 - Dawson Grau

The Adirondack Mennonite Heritage Association operates under the non-profit charter granted by New York State. Your tax-deductible gifts will help secure the future of AMHA and give you a part in preserving the homestead and the Lewis County Mennonite story. Send checks to:

Adirondack Mennonite Heritage Association
Don Roggie, Treasurer
4491 Boshart Road
Lowville, NY 13367

Newsletter Editor-Bernadine Schwartzentruber
Printer-Sue Boldt
Typist-Carolyn Virkler

Heritage Farm Hours:

July-October: Friday & Saturday
10:00 a.m. - 4 p.m. or by appointment

To become a member download the application form on our website or contact our treasurer, Don Roggie for a form.

Individual \$15

Married Couple \$25

Membership Valid Through April 30, 2013

Adirondack Mennonite Heritage
Association
P. O. Box 368
Croghan, NY 13327