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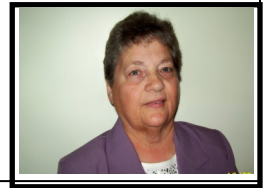
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Notes from the Farm

Volume 25 Issue 1

Spring 2015

News from the President Bernadine Schwartzentruber



With the arrival of spring, projects and activities at the Heritage Farm will increase.

Our tally of visitors at the Heritage Farm for 2014 was about 940, which includes 525 at Zwanzigstein Fest.

Last fall the waterline was dug up adjacent to the house. Repairs were made to the electrical line that will allow us to install a submersible pump for our water supply system.

Our annual meeting will be held on Sunday, April 12, at 2 p.m. at the Lowville Mennonite Church. Arlene Yousey, author of *Strangers and Pilgrims*, will tell some stories that she has collected over the years pertaining to the early Mennonite settlers to the area. A PowerPoint presentation will highlight recent renovation projects and planned projects for 2015 and the near future. *Simple Servants -- The Story of the Lewis County Mennonites* by Dawson Grau will be shown followed by our traditional "Wax on Snow." Our annual members' business meeting will conclude the afternoon.

Through the William H. Pomeroy Foundation, we received a grant to have a historical roadside marker at the farm. An unveiling ceremony is planned for this spring.

The Zwanzigstein Fest Committee is in the planning stages for the 25th annual fund-raising event on Saturday, July 4. The theme is "Open the Door to the Past." This event would not be possible without the generous help of our local community. We hope you will make this part of your holiday activities.

The name for "Zwanzigstein Circle" on the front lawn has been changed to "Zwanzigstein Garden." (Zwanzigstein means "twenty stones.") The garden is to commemorate the original 20 Anabaptist families who started immigrating to Lewis County in 1833. A dedication ceremony is planned for 11:45 a.m. at the Z Fest on July 4.

Norm Moshier will be in charge of the barn re-siding project this spring. We are looking for volunteers to help with this work.

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

2015 Volunteer Opportunities

Neil Keib

In addition to the barn re-siding project planned for this year, we have several other opportunities for volunteers.

The **first** project is the fence replacement project. The 65 posts are on site; most of the holes will be dug by machine. Volunteers will help place the posts, backfill with gravel, and put up the wire fence.

The **second** project is finishing the floor in the granary lower level. Last year the Naumburg Mennonite Church youth group removed the large rocks. Now we need workers to excavate debris and stones to 6" below the side door threshold and then fill with a layer of stone that will make that area useable.

A **final** project is creating a 1.5 mile long nature/hiking trail. This involves clearing brush, debris, and stones. About 50 posts and trail marker tags on posts will be installed. Monies for this project have already been donated.

With your help, the completion of these projects will make the Heritage Farm a more attractive place to visit. Please give any board member a call for more information.

Help Wanted!

As our local Mennonite churches become more independent of each other and new small independent groups form, it becomes challenging to keep in touch. The AMHA board is confident that we have a "hidden" base of younger people, as well as retired people, who would be willing to be involved with AMHA. Who are they and how do we reach out to these people? We are asking **you**, our readers, to contact any AMHA board member with name(s) and contact information of family member(s) and acquaintances, young or old, who may be interested in being involved with AMHA.

We appreciate our faithful supporters of AMHA since its beginning. As our members and volunteers get older, we need to broaden our support base!



Rosella Moser Erb (Aaron), Esther Moser Boshart-Jantzi (Simon and Aaron), and Amos Moser.

Inez Noftsier Lyndaker recently donated some old photos to the Heritage Farm. One photo was of three people with names written on the back, and one of the names was "Uncle Amos." When my husband, Nelson, who is a relative, saw the photo, he made copies and sent them to Amos' two daughters who live out of state. They were so thrilled to see this early photo of their father that they did not know existed.

That is just a small example of what AMHA is all about—connecting the present with the past.

Bernadine Schwartzentruber

News from the Curator

Rosanna M. Moser

The Mennonite Heritage Farm received a large number of Anabaptist Mennonite related historical donations throughout 2014. We thank each individual and/or family for their contribution(s). AMHA does its best to preserve the artifacts at the Heritage Farm in its controlled environment for temperature and humidity. Each donation “tells a story” about our Anabaptist Mennonite heritage, and we will do our best to display your gift on a permanent or rotating basis or in a temporary display case. The display cases are changed annually late spring.



Throughout 2014, the archival office catalogued approximately 160 accessions, which now makes an overall total of 1654 accessions that has been accomplished since 2010. (Note: Some donations given in 2014 have not been processed into the computer software program.)

Here is a partial listing of some of the artifacts processed in 2014 by categories:

Objects

Pillow top made by Barbara M. Lehman Gingerich.

Wooden bowl original to Anna Noftsier Noftsier (Joseph).

Estate of John B. and Mary Yousey Moser...vegetable cutter/slicer, butter bowl and butter paddle, cream skinner, foot warmer, yarn winders (2), water pitchers (2) and water glasses, black wool shawl, black bonnet, pin cushion, berry pail, geese feather mattresses (2), and rocking chairs (2). NOTE: The smallest rocking chair is placed in the kitchen next to a window, which was a custom of the Moser family. The second rocking chair is located in the parlor and original to Joseph B. and Catherine Steri Yousey.

Estate of Chris B. Yousey...a leather suitcase purchased after 1898 that Chris used in his travels to the West, hand-made wooden hangers (2), a “Life’s Voyage” motto given to Katie C. Moser Yousey, a tuning fork for the key of “C”, lamp wick, two razors and strops, razor hone, hair clipper, granite pails (2), crock, large wooden vinegar barrel, and sap skimmer.

Aaron A. Widrick’s dresses (2) worn as an infant.

Pair of wedding glasses used by Joseph B. and Catherine Steri Yousey, c. 1871.

Charmaine Virkler Company...horse saddle made by Perry Steria when he was in Colorado; rack/stand for saddle made by Willard Widrick.

Pin cushion original to Mary Yousey Zehr.

Estate of Ralph and Alta Yousey Steria...wooden shovel, wooden sled, and wooden pair of skis.

Elmer and Gladys Yousey Nafziger...2-gallon milk jug and wedding dress, c. 1950.

Eileen Zehr and Estate of Elias and Martha Widrick Zehr...Goblets used as common cups in Mennonite churches for communion.

Estate of Fannie Moser Widrick...wool knitted mittens, black silk stockings, black silk scarf, black wool bonnet, wine silk dress with half black silk apron, and black leather shoes.

Estate of Christian Martin...guest towel with pink cross stitching floral pattern and “Christian Martin” embroidered.

Estate of Christian Lyndaker...wooden ironing board.

Estate of Mary (Mollie) Moser Yousey...wool knitted mittens, pressure canner, and wine cotton dress.

Estate of Elmer and Ruth Lyndaker Widrick...strainer cloths and three handmade pillows.

Traps (2) original to Philip Moser.

Mark and Violet Yousey Kennell...black bonnet that Violet wore as a senior at Eastern Mennonite High School, c. 1950-51; baby bonnet and wool blanket, child’s dress, children’s stockings, dresser scarf, and clothing worn by Mark Kennell--child’s two-piece suit and pajamas.

Cutter/Sleigh...A restored cutter came back to Lewis County in September 2014 and is presently stored at the Lehman Lodge, Castorland. Dewey and Bernice Lehman Hostetler of Harper, Kansas, were the last owners. Here is the text of the plaque to be placed on the cutter:

“This cutter/sleigh originally belonged to Mrs. Samuel (Clara Kennel) Lehman
1919 – Brought to New York State from Ontario, Canada
1957 – Ken and Lucy Lehman, Port Royal, PA
1991 – Back to New York to Lehman Lodge
2001 – Taken to Harper, KS and owned by Dewey & Bernice Hostetler
April 2002 – Restored by Ralph & Doris Hunt, Attica, KS
2014 – Cutter on its journey back to New York State”



Clara Kennel Lehman had the cutter/sleigh brought to New York after she was married in 1919 to Samuel

Lehman, son of Christian and Mary B. Zehr Lehman. The cutter had belonged to her mother (Barbara Schrag Kennel) and grandmother. Ken, second oldest son of Sam and Clara Lehman, states that when he was a little boy (about 1929 or 1930), he remembers his mother putting the harness on “Harry,” who was a black, feisty horse. She hooked the horse up to the cutter and went to Castorland (had a dairy farm on the Ridge Road) to Snyder’s store after groceries. The road was “stormed” shut to Castorland at the time. Ken recalls seeing her drive in the yard with boxes of groceries beside her and in the small box or compartment behind the seat.

AMHA is eager to bring the cutter to the Heritage Farm. Hopefully, we will have it on the premises later this summer.

Archives

Genealogies

Christian and Elizabeth Yancey Martin by Louise Schrag Litwiller, c. June 1966

Summary information on Barbara Wutherick (Widrick) by Edward Widrick

“The Yantzi Family—From France to Canada”

Jean Pierre Yousey family by Laurie Halladay

Correspondence/Documents

Correspondence addressed to Philip Moser dated June 23, 1924

Collection of documents relating to the Christ and Katie Moser Ernst family

Handout on “Handkerchief Fun for the Church”

Document entitled “Conservative Amish Mennonite Testament or Will of Andrew B. Zehr and his beloved wife, Mollie Roggie Zehr”

Collection of correspondence to John B. and Mary Yousey Moser

Newspaper article “Some History of the Joseph Leyendeker Family”

Mennonite Disaster Service notebook of local documents by Llewellyn Zehr

Scrapbook of newspaper clippings compiled by Marian Gingerich (Beryl)

Deed original to Paul and Catherine Widrick Lyndaker, c. May 1926

Programs: Collection of “Young People’s Bible Meetings of the Amish Mennonite Church of Lewis County, New York”

Research

Interview with Nelson Widrick (compiled by Arlene Yousey)

Paper pertaining to the family of Catherine Lyndaker Dannan

Paper entitled “Christian M. Nafziger, 1861-1953” written by Eileen Zehr Lehman

Paper entitled “Experiences of Emanuel Swartzentruber in World War I” written by Pearl Zehr

Other

Frame print of major events for Reformation and Anabaptist movement (1517-2002) – created by Ken Landis.
Poster prints (4) of Menno Simons' sayings and Lowville Mennonite Church timeline (1913-2014).

Books

Menno Simons: His Life, Labors, and Teachings by John Horsch (property of Joseph C. Moser)
Little Lost Lamb by Golden MacDonald, purchased by Loretta Lehman and then donated to Naumburg Mennonite Church
The Burning Bush periodicals (3), c. 1929-30
"Unspoken Love" by Christmas Carol Kauffman printed in *The Youth's Christian Companion* (1949-50)
On Sequoia Trails and *Smoke Jumper* - CPS stories
Bible original to Joseph M. Nafziger
Bible presented to Elmer Lehman, Jr. - June 28, 1944
Bible original to Elmer and Mollie Roggie Lehman
Builder Book for the Christlike Youth (German book translated into English) – original to Barbara M. Virkler Bachman
Scribner's Ready Beckoner and Log Book, for Ship Builders, Boat Builders and Lumber Merchants original to Christian Martin

Photos

John Martin and nine children, c. late 1920s to 1932
Single ladies (11) from Mennonite community who worked and resided in Lowville area, c. 1936
Jacob and Anna Widrick Roggie family, c. 1934
Photos of evangelistic tent scenes in Lewis County, c. 1960s

Old Amish Zehr Cemetery (1834-1886)

Last fall the Cemetery Committee donated to the Mennonite Heritage Farm the only two granite tombstones (remnants) from the Old Amish Zehr Cemetery for the purpose of preservation. One of the tombstones states "Michael" clearly and believed to be "Michael Zehr," whereas the other tombstone is undistinguishable in name. The tombstones had been leaning against wooden posts for years at the cemetery.



The early Amish settlers followed the custom of having cemetery plots on the farms. Michael Zehr, pioneer Anabaptist settler, "...permitted the use of a plot of ground on his centrally located Croghan village property," states Arlene Yousey in *Strangers and Pilgrims*. The church never received a deed to this land; therefore, the plot remains private property with the farm, which is still under Zehr ownership today, namely, Jim and Joyce Moshier Zehr. One may visit this cemetery by using the Zehr driveway and using the lane next to the barn to drive and/or walk to the cemetery.

In May 2014, the Cemetery Committee took on a major project to landscape and install a white vinyl fence. Much volunteer labor was involved from the Lewis County Mennonite church constituency. It is believed that this is the third fence constructed on this property, which is approximately one-quarter of an acre or 48 by 96 feet. About 40 graves can be delineated, but only 26 names (substantiated from oral interviews) are listed on the sign that was posted in August 2005 on the property by the Cemetery Committee. The committee consists of the following: Andrew Zehr, Croghan; Sidney Nafziger, Lowville; Gary Widrick, Naumburg; Roger Zehr, Pine Grove; and John Zehr, Jr., Carthage.



Kirschnerville Cemetery

This is Part II to the article “New Kirschnerville Cemetery Sign” published in the Fall 2014 newsletter.

Initially, John Moser donated a quarter acre of his land on the Erie Canal Road to the need of having a second cemetery in the Amish Mennonite church community. More strips of land were donated in 1925 from two neighbors of the cemetery, that is, Philip Moser, son of John Moser, and Solomon Widrick. Thirdly, another parcel of land (about 2 acres) was donated by Dale Moser (grandson of Philip and Katie Roggie Moser) and deeded in 1991. This makes an overall total of 3.1 acres for the Kirschnerville Cemetery. More bases (28) were poured on June 7, 2007. To date, the last individual buried at this cemetery was Donna Moser (died December 12, 2013).

Quilt Review at Mennonite Heritage Farm—May 19

In preparation for a major exhibit of Northern New York quilts in 2016, Traditional Arts in Upstate New York (TAUNY), Canton, is holding a series of “Quilt Days” around the region. You are invited to bring your quilts to be documented and photographed at the Mennonite Heritage Farm on **Tuesday, May 19**, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The quilt documentation team is led by Jill Breit, TAUNY executive director and folklorist, and Hallie Bond, historian. TAUNY’s team will measure and photograph each quilt and record any information owners have about them. They are particularly interested in family stories about the quilts, photographs, and biographical information of the makers. Photographs can be scanned at the farm with permission, and any information is valued for its contribution to the story. All information collected will be added to TAUNY's research collection.

The call is for antique, heirloom, and contemporary quilts made in Northern New York. “We are interested in the whole range of what people have and make in our region. That includes art quilts, bed coverings and other utilitarian quilts, items made from kits or directions in a magazine, or tied with yarn instead of being quilted with tiny stitches. Each piece is a part of the larger story of life in Northern New York, past and present,” states Hallie Bond.

In addition, all of the quilts that have been donated to the Mennonite Heritage Farm will also be documented for review. You may call 376-7822 (Rosanna Moser) if you have questions and/or desire to arrange an appointment for quilt documentation at the Heritage Farm.

Oral Histories

Work continues on transcribing the oral histories that Dawson Grau had done within the Mennonite community. You are more than welcome to read those available at the Heritage Farm office. Oral histories for Inez Lyndaker, Lena Yancey, and Ben Yousey are also available for reading.

Visits to the Heritage Farm

The Heritage Farm will be open for visitors on Wednesday and Saturday throughout July and August from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For the months of April-June and September-October, please call 376-7822 or 346-1122 to arrange an appointment.

Why Should I Be an AMHA Partner?

Donald Roggie

The “Partners of Adirondack Mennonite Heritage Association” was started in the year 2010 for the purpose of collecting revenue to help fund the expenses of operating the Heritage Farm. The Partnership Fund has played a significant role in funding the activities and paying the expenses associated with the operation and maintenance of the museum.

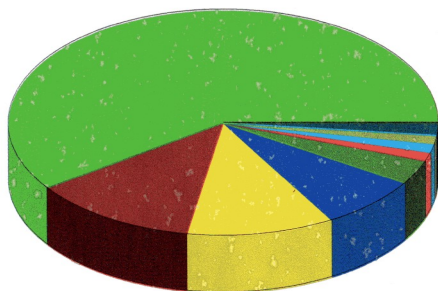
In the first year, \$13,125 was realized through your giving to this fund with a total of \$94,840 received since its beginning to the end of 2014. We still depend on various fund-raising projects, but this source of income has meant fewer fundraisers.

The Partnership Fund Program is an excellent way for you to contribute to the Adirondack Mennonite Heritage Association in a planned, consistent way that does not involve a large amount of sweat from anyone else. All it takes is for you to decide to give a gift to AMHA on a regular basis (monthly, quarterly, or annually).

Partners can choose to make a contribution on your own schedule, or you can choose to make a pledge to AMHA and be reminded when your gift is due. To do this, send your pledge amount and the size of each payment (must be a least \$25) to Adirondack Mennonite Heritage Association, c/o Donald Roggie, Treasurer, 4491 Boshart Road, Lowville, NY 13367.

There will always be an opportunity to give to specific projects. If you like the idea of giving your gifts on a regular basis, I encourage all those who are now partners to continue. For those who are not yet partners,

Income Summary
January through December 2014



Income by Percentage

Contributions	60
Z Fest	12
Fundraisers	11
Sale of Goods	7
Miscellaneous	6
Grants	4

Books and DVD Available at the Heritage Farm

Generation to Generation (A Keepsake Book of Old-Time Recipes, Remedies, & Sayings) compiled by AMHA

Strangers and Pilgrims—History of Lewis County Mennonites by Arlene Yousey

Genealogy of Christian Lehman and Mary B. Zehr compiled by Janice Lehman Crofoot

Zehr History and Genealogy by Arletha Zehr Bender Yoder

Town of Watson by Arletha Zehr Bender Yoder

DVD – *Simple Servants: The Story of the Lewis County Mennonites* by Dawson Grau

Request for Donations

AMHA would appreciate the following donations: used vacuum sweeper, old China hutch, small Farmall tractor, and monetary donations for the “Zwanzigstein Garden.” We continue to accept donations/gifts for the preservation of our Anabaptist Mennonite history. In particular, we are looking for more glassware, dishes, quilts, linens, etc.

The Adirondack Mennonite Heritage Association operates under the nonprofit 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.

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