



Notes from the Farm

Volume 26 Issue 1

May 2016

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Chairperson's Report

Bernadine Schwartzentruber

Here is a highlight of recent Mennonite Heritage Farm activities.

On Saturday, March 19, AMHA presented a slide presentation on the "History of Lewis County Mennonites" at Beaver River Central School at the 175th anniversary celebration for the Town of Croghan. The presentation was again shown at the First Mennonite Church at New Bremen on Monday evening, April 18, to the senior citizens. AMHA extends an invitation to any church and/or group to have this presentation shown. Please call the farm office at 346-1122 or 376-7822 for coordinating the arrangements with Rosanna Moser.

At our annual program on Sunday afternoon, April 17, Alvin Zehr Jr. spoke about his PAX experience in Germany after World War II. An old-fashioned hymn sing began the program. There was also wax on snow and a business meeting.

On Saturday, May 21, at noon, a "Roadside Historic Marker" will be unveiled and installed at the Mennonite Heritage Farm. This marker has been made possible through a grant with the William G. Pomeroy Foundation whose purpose is to promote historic tourism, economic development, and provide cultural and educational benefits. The Foundation began its "Historic Roadside Marker Program" in 2006 to erect markers in towns and villages within Onondaga County. In April 2012, the Foundation expanded the program to include all municipalities and 501(c)(3) organizations as eligible grant recipients. AMHA is pleased to announce the approval of the funding for this historic marker, one (1) of over 280 in 46 New York counties!

The 26th Zwanzigstein Fest will be on Saturday, July 2. The theme this year is "Celebrate Croghan – 175 Years." Several new exhibitors will be present. The Adirondack Community Chorus will sing as well as several other groups.

Our renovations at the Heritage Farm continue. Some of the projects pending completion are as follows:

- New fence.
- Installing windows in the barn loft.
- Barn loom room built in the loft to display the loom currently in the granary.
- Completion of house siding.

Chairperson's Report, Cont.

Many other renovation projects are on the horizon pending revenue incomes from grants and from our local Mennonite community and beyond.

We welcome your ideas for future programs and events you would like to see happening in the future.

Reflections on the Holocaust Survivor Program—April 15

Bernadine Schwartzentruber

The Adirondack Mennonite Heritage Association Board thanks the North Country community for your attendance and generous donations at Joseph Hirt's Holocaust survivor program. We appreciate also the financial support of the Pratt-Northam Foundation and the Foy Agency.

We were amazed at the huge crowd. The Pennsylvania trip coordinator discouraged our planned interview on the Channel 7 noon news on April 14. He said that it would bring too many people! We are glad we cancelled!

So how does this story change lives today? How would *we* react if suddenly thrust into a life or death scenario? Our world today continues to experience horrific atrocities, especially since 9/11. Instant electronic communication bombards us with these news events so it is easy to become numb and "shut down" with this daily barrage of news until it happens close to home. In the 1940s people who lived a



short distance away from the concentration camps were "in denial." We may live thousands of miles from these events, *but we know*. What do we do with this knowledge?

It may not have been clear in his story, but Joseph's parents and brother did survive and all came to America. Joseph and his wife live in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. Joseph is finalizing a book about his life. If you wish to order a book, you may e-mail your information to info@mennoniteheritagefarm.com (provide name, phone number, and/or e-mail address) or call 315-346-1122.

Mr. Hirt had requested that the speech not be recorded. He has expressed interest in returning to Lewis County. Did you know there is a "Safe Haven Holocaust Refugee Shelter Museum" in Oswego County? *"The museum is dedicated to keeping alive the story of the 982 European refugees who were allowed into the United States as "guests" of President Franklin D. Roosevelt during the Holocaust in World War II. They were temporarily housed at Fort Ontario in Oswego, New York from August 1944-February 1946."* Joseph Hirt, brother, and parents were among those refugees.

News from the Curator

Rosanna M. Moser

During 2015 about 107 accessions were completed. This makes a total of 1761 accessions processed at the curator's office since July 2010.

A brief summary is highlighted of the major artifacts at the curator's discretion. You may view the complete listing at the archival office by appointment or during visiting hours.

Objects:

Communion goblet original to Martha Widrick Zehr (Rev. Elias).

Quilt made by Mary Yousey Zehr (Christian A.) for Anna Zehr Lyndaker (daughter), c. 1891.

NOTE: This quilt is on display at TAUNY until October 2016.

Motto collection original to Lena Widrick Lyndaker (Alvin).

Motto "Child's Evening Prayer" original to Priscilla Moser Lyndaker (Sandy).

Man's wool pants original to Elmer Nafziger or one of Gladys Yousey Nafziger's brothers.

Tableware set original to David and Mollie Moser Yousey.

Quilt tops (two) purchased at an auction by Alvin R. Zehr Sr.

Miniature wooden desk, chair, and book made by Pete Wallack; donated by Martha Boshart. (See photo at the right.)

Mattress (feather tick) original to Philip and Katie Roggie Moser.

Bedspread (knitted) made by Veronica Moser.

Quilt (tumbling blocks) original to Mrs. Hostelton, West Martinsburg, donated by Milford and Carolyn Zehr Lyndaker.

Shoes (bridal and going away) and dresses (bridal and going away) original to Catherine Lyndaker Dannan (Rex).

Shoes, head covering, hat (wedding), and purse (wedding trip) original to Gladys Yousey Nafziger (Elmer).

Child's hats, suit, sweater, and shorts original to Milford Lyndaker.

Cradle original to Bishop Christian M. and Anna Moser Nafziger family (c. 1898-1901).

Bonnet, gloves, and capes original to Catherine Widrick Lyndaker (Paul H.).

Plate original to Magdalena Albrecht Kennel (Christian E.).

Rug hook frame original to Barbara Mary Virkler Bachman (Joseph C.).

Serving bowl (wedding gift) original to Rev. Elias and Martha Widrick Zehr, c. June 7, 1928.

Letter opener and dial coin tester original to Aaron E. and Sarah Schwartzentruber Widrick.



Objects, Cont.:

Bisque china doll original to Gladys Yousey Nafziger (Elmer).

Print frame of 21 Bible scenes of Jesus with German text for each scene original to Edward and Bertha Yancey Roes; bought and donated by Wilbur and Sharon Lyndaker Moser.

Name plate (personalized name and address); comb; stamp pad, mirror/vinyl cloth case with “M.M.” written on inside clasp cover original to Menno Moser.

Purse original to Mary Nafziger Moser (Joseph) donated by Pearl Lehman Hirschey Farney.

Velvet pillows (three) original to Fanny Moser Widrick (Daniel).

Potato masher original to Rev. Elias and Martha W. Zehr.

Crocheted doilies (three) original to Ednor and Fannie Widrick Lyndaker.

Sugar bag original to Christian L. and Katie Moser Lyndaker.

Comforter original to Katie Roggie Moser (Philip).

Dollhouse and furniture made by Floyd Zehr, c. 1944-45; donated by Milford and Carolyn Zehr Lyndaker.

Aprons (half) worn at wedding receptions original to Catherine Lyndaker Dannan (Rex).

Chisels (three) and knife original to Christian L. Lyndaker.

Crumb scraper set original to Phyllis Lehman Lyndaker (Norman).

Iron pipe wrench with “S.K.L.” initials original to Simon K. Lehman.

Comforters (3) original to Katie Steinman Moser (Jacob).

Library:

Ausbund original to C. Lehman.

Confession of Faith Minister's Manual compiled by John F. Funk original to Clarence Widrick.

The Way of Salvation by Daniel Kauffman original to Clarence and Beulah Widrick.

Flowers by the Wayside original to Lena Zehr Yousey (Joseph J.).

Gospel of St. John original to Joseph Roggie.

Bible Blessings original to Kate Noftsier Roggie (Joseph).

Secret of Gladness by J. R. Miller original to Rosina Lehman.

Archives:

Conservative Mennonite Conference menu notes at Beaver River Central School in 1972 and 1982.

Notebook entitled “Book of Remembrance for Rev. Lloyd and Naomi Moser Boshart” created by Ruthann Boshart Roggie.

“Our Baby” book original to Gilbert J. Lehman.

“The Baby's Record” original to Beulah Lehman, daughter of Elmer and Rosella Roggie Lehman.

“Certificate of Ordination” original to Rev. Elias M. Zehr.

“Chart Your Roots” original to Kathleen Zehr.

Quilt Exhibition at TAUNY

Tells Story of Region's Quilting Traditions, Past and Present

The exhibit will continue through October 2016 at the TAUNY Center, which is located at 53 Main Street, downtown Canton. The museum is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

TAUNY is a nonprofit organization that showcases the folk culture and living traditions of New York's North Country, offering opportunities to experience, learn about, and reflect on issues related to life in that rural region. Through research, multimedia presentations, and publications, they delve into North Country cultural life past and present.

In late 2014, Jill Breit, a folklorist, and Hallie Bond, a historian, began a 14-month journey to study quilts and comforters old and new made in the North Country to learn more about the people who have made and continue to make quilts in the region. The two spent time in the Adirondacks, the Tug Hill Plateau, the St. Lawrence River Valley, the Thousand Islands, and the Lake Champlain Basin. They hosted quilt documentation days, visited museum collections, viewed family collections, attended quilt shows, and had conversations with dozens of quilters throughout the region. Photographs and interviews collected during this period have been added to TAUNY's research collection. The research was supported by a grant from The Coby Foundation.

From a total of about 75 quilts/comforters, twelve (12) in the exhibition are from Lewis County. Three come from the Mennonite Heritage Farm, namely, AMHA comforter (first photo on left), "Sisterhood" wall hanging by Phyllis Lyndaker (middle photo), and "Bars" from Inez Lyndaker (photo on right). Some of the other quilts from the community are: Anne Martin's "Basket," Mary Lou Waugh's "Family Tree Comforter," "Tumbling Blocks for Teacher" from the Lewis County Historical Society, "Circles" from Geneva Virkler, and three scrap comforters from the Agape Shoppe. TAUNY borrowed antique quilt stencils and unfinished blocks from Lynn Lyndaker. There are photo slide shows throughout the exhibition. The Beaver Camp Auction, Naumburg Mennonite Church sewing circle, and other Mennonite circle groups are featured in one of the slide shows. There is no entrance cost; donations would be appreciated. This is a "must see" exhibit if you have an interest in quilts.

The Brookside Senior-Living Community is offering a day trip on Wednesday, May 25. You may obtain more information by calling them at 376-4333 or view their website (<http://brooksideseniorliving.org/>).



Family Research by Ed Widrick

For genealogy enthusiasts, Ed Widrick has provided AMHA the following three website links, which are posted under *Resources*:

<http://worldconnect.rootsweb.com/~july2267>

<http://yanceyfamilygenealogy.org/darla.htm>

www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=cs

Ed Widrick, Route 26, Deer River, son of Ernest and Mildred Steria Widrick, became interested in family history about 1965 while talking with his grandparents, Joseph and Helena Noftsier Steria III, and his parents. He visited many of the older people to obtain facts and any historical information about the Mennonite immigration of the 20 plus families as well as some who went to Ontario, Canada. "Writing down the information turned out to be much bigger than I ever thought," Ed said. As waiting for replies by letter was very time-consuming, he decided to speed the process of communication and purchased a computer. He spent a considerable amount of time at the Lewis County Court House; and with the help of county personnel and Jesse Schantz, much data was gained.

Ed also began visiting all of the Mennonite cemeteries and gained more historical information from the stones. In addition, through the help of his Grandma Steria, Nelson Widrick, and other older Mennonite individuals, the information is now available at www.findagrave.com with most grave stones photographed. With the ship and census records that he was able to acquire (who, where, and when they came), along with communication from individuals in Switzerland and France over several years, he gladly shares this research with us.

He states that "without the help of others, I would not have been able to do this." Ed further states the following: "One of the biggest problems was the different spelling of surnames. Most all had four to six spellings and made it hard to read ship and census records. Many that died here were hard to find information on or to verify. Babies were often buried on their farms mainly around the gardens. Some burials will never be found (no records). Old family Bibles that had written information was mislaid or given away because they were in German and no one could read them."

He concludes by saying. "I now have 50 years working on this and enjoyed it very much, along with the help of my wife and family. Now for those that enjoy looking back to see where they come from, hope you enjoy the research."

Ed has provided AMHA a burial listing of names and dates (birth and death) for the Kirschnerville and Croghan Mennonite Church cemeteries, which is available for review at the Heritage Farm curator's office.

AMHA thanks Ed for providing the three website links. He is recognized as a "talking" encyclopedia of Lewis County Mennonite genealogy and history. Ed plans to be available again this year at the Kirschnerville Cemetery on Saturday, July 2, at the annual Zwanzigstein Fest to answer your questions and share genealogy and history.

A “Zehr Gunsmith” in Croghan

A Lewis County native of Beaver Falls, Karl Z. Smith, who lives in West Liberty, Ohio, came across the following in a book that he was reading entitled *American Gunsmiths* by Frank Sellers: Zehr Christian Croghan NY 1870.

Communication between Karl Z. Smith (son of James M. and Lois O. Zehr Smith) and Titus Mast (pastor at Naumburg Mennonite Church) recently occurred about this finding. Upon further research, Titus found in the *Lewis County Business Directory of 1895* "Zehr and Son, P.O. Croghan, h do, owner of store." At the bottom of the page, it also states after the name of the business... "machinists, repairs and dealers in nearly all kinds of machinery, agricultural implements, bicycles and guns."

Karl is most interested in finding some Christian Zehr guns. (Research is ongoing to determine more information on “Christian Zehr.” Your assistance is greatly appreciated.) He has authored a book *Getting’ the Lead Out* (copy at the Mennonite Heritage Farm and also to be available in the gift shop this season).

Artifact Inquiry

A black cotton throw pillow with a colorful log cabin pattern was recently put between doorways at a home on Hummingbird Lane at Brookside Senior Living Community. It is assumed that the pillow was to be donated to AMHA, but no information was provided. The curator’s office would appreciate knowing more about the pillow.



Summer Hours

The Mennonite Heritage Farm is open for visitors and/or tour groups from June to October by appointment. During the months of July and August, the farm is open on Wednesday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. for visitors. Entrance is on a donation basis.

We welcome individuals to come to the Mennonite Heritage Farm for research. As we continue to preserve the artifacts, whether it be *objects*, *library*, *archives* (family history/genealogy/church information), or *photos*, AMHA desires to share the information with you.

New Books Available at the Gift Shop

Jacob and Catherine Zehr Roggie by Arletha Zehr Bender Yoder: The Roggie couple immigrated to this area in 1849 and had a family of 12 children on the Croghan-Belfort Road. The 450-page, illustrated book provides Roggie ancestry in Switzerland plus history and genealogy for five generations. The children's names are: Barbara Roggie (m. John Martin), Anna Roggie (m. Andrew Moser), Christian M. Roggie (m. Mary Noftsier), Joseph Roggie (m. Lena and Kate Noftsier), Mary Roggie (m. Christian Moser), Magdalena Roggie (m. Daniel Moser), Jacob Z. Roggie (m. Anna Lyndaker), Catherine Roggie (m. Philip Moser), Andrew Roggie (m. Anna Widrick), Elizabeth Roggie (deceased at one year), John Roggie (m. Sarah Yoder), and Lydia Roggie (m. Joseph M. Zehr)

AND *Getting’ the Lead Out - A Study of American Primitive Bullets and Shot Bags* by Karl Z. Smith.

Wish List

AMHA would appreciate the following donations for use at the farm: antique china hutch, hay wagon, milking machine, oil lamps, butter churn, and vintage women's dresses. We continue to accept donations/gifts for the Heritage Farm. In particular, we are looking for vintage dolls and toys, glassware, dishes, quilts, linens, pillows, etc., from our Anabaptist/Mennonite families.

Oral Histories

Work continues on transcribing the oral histories that have been done over the past six years within the Mennonite community. You are more than welcome to read those available at the Heritage Farm office. The following are additional oral interviews that have been completed: Nevin Lehman and Floyd Zehr, Marvin and Belva Zehr Moser, Dan and Beulah Roggie Zehr, and Llewellyn Zehr.

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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