



Notes from the Farm

Volume 28 Issue 1

May 2018

Spring 2018 Chairperson's Report

by Bernadine Schwartzentruber

Board of Directors

President

Bernadine Schwartzentruber
315-376-2792

Vice President

Janet Zehr
315-346-9910

Treasurer

Don Roggie
315-376-3076

Secretary

Bernice Zehr
315-376-2166

Harold and Linda Deveines

315-376-3020

Carolyn Henry

315-853-6879

Neil Keib

315-825-0242

Keith Steria

315-376-7625

Curator/Director of Operations

Rosanna M. Moser

315-376-7822

Administrative Assistant

Janice Lehman Crofoot

Facilities Consultant

Norman Moshier

Website

mennoniteheritagefarm.com

Facebook

Looking back in 2017, our farm visitors totaled 777 with a total of 1180, which includes off-site events.

The board is working on creating long-range goals and visions for renovations, improvements and new structures at the farm, a time line, and how to finance it. We anticipate many of our readers will support us in these endeavors that will make the farm more "user friendly."

One avenue we are pursuing is creating an endowment fund to put us on a more secure financial path in the decades ahead. Having an endowment fund in place will give our donors the opportunity to make gifts to our organization that will keep benefiting AMHA for years to come. This fund is something you may want to consider as you make arrangements for how your estate will be handled, as well as a place to contribute your sizable donations.

The year 2025 will mark the 500th anniversary of the start of Anabaptism in Europe. A committee has been formed to plan yearly programs emphasizing this theme.

Your ideas for programs and events are always appreciated. Thank you for your prayers and financial support.

* * *

We welcome new members to the Adirondack Mennonite Heritage Association. (Please see membership form at the end of the newsletter.)

Why become a member and/or what are the benefits?

- To affirm and support the preservation of our Mennonite heritage, to share our unique Christian faith story, and to keep intact artifacts of the Lewis-Jefferson County Amish Mennonite settlement.
- To receive the annual *Plowman's Journal* and *Notes from the Farm* (twice a year).
- To afford a 10 percent discount on books and merchandise at the Heritage Farm.
- To have voting privileges at the annual meeting.
- To be assured of great fellowship and bond of working together in the fulfillment of enlightening future generations.

Work Projects

We are planning work days at the farm from May to October 1. The two back-to-back days per month with volunteer help will include the following projects: build a split rail fence using rails stored in the barn, finish the new fencing, clean up and bring in fill in the area of the old sheep/horse barn, finishing touches to the hiking trails, and cut new openings in the bay areas of the upper barn loft. We also plan to work on the house siding project.

Visit the Mennonite Heritage Farm

We encourage our Mennonite community to visit the Mennonite Heritage Farm. This is your heritage with many artifacts for your viewing in the house, barn, and granary. Come and visit the state-of-the-art archival area. People often comment that they had no idea the farm house has a section to the home that is unique and unlike the house.

AMHA is most indebted to Arlene and Ellen Yousey and others who assisted them over the years for the recent acquirement of a LARGE collection of Amish Mennonite family history for each immigrant family (20), scrapbooks with news articles of the Amish Mennonite history and community from the 1700s to the present, photograph albums, and much more! Arlene developed a thorough and valuable card catalog index system, which is a wonderful tool to retrieve the immense information.

The Mennonite Heritage Farm is open for visitors in July and August on Wednesday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Other dates to visit during the summer (June to October) may be made by appointment. The curator's office is generally open on Monday and Wednesday between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. To make an appointment, please email info@mennoniteheritagefarm.com or call 315-346-1122 or 315-376-7822.



Sample view of the Yousey collection.

THANK YOU!

The following donations have been received for use at the Mennonite Heritage Farm: Two griddle grills, two homemade wooden bookcases, large white board, chalk markers, pie servers, ladle, eight tables, and two pop-up tents.

Mennonite Community Instruments Featured in TAUNY “Instrumental Stories” Exhibit

by Camilla Ammirati

All around Northern New York, people treasure musical instruments that have been made by hand in the region or lovingly brought or kept here. Over 2017, TAUNY (Traditional Arts in Upstate New York), a Canton, NY-based organization dedicated to researching and showcasing North Country living traditions and heritage, set out to document these handmade and/or heirloom instruments. This research project has culminated in “Instrumental Stories,” a major exhibit at the TAUNY Center in Canton, running through October 27.

As part of the research process, TAUNY partnered with organizations around the region to hold open documentation days inviting community members to bring in their own family and community instruments or any instruments they had made and to share their related stories. TAUNY's Director of Research and Programs, Camilla Ammirati, was the lead researcher and curator for this project. She was delighted last August to have the opportunity to partner with Curator Rosanna Moser to hold a documentation event at the Adirondack Mennonite Heritage Farm. In addition to Rosanna sharing a fife, tuning fork, and hymnals from the Farm's



holdings, community members Milford, Nelson, and Bernadine Schwartzentruber brought in the accordion Milford and Nelson's father (John) used to play, along with other treasured instruments of Milford's. Don and Carolyn Henry also shared an unusual seven-string guitar that once belonged to a dear friend, who may have acquired it on a mission trip. Following an afternoon of rich and lively conversations about these instruments at the Heritage Farm, Ammirati has gladly had the opportunity to feature many of these instruments and related materials in TAUNY's current exhibit, as objects in the display and/or in exhibit panels and additional images. Many visitors have enjoyed the exhibit since its opening in February, and many more come through each day, marveling at the instruments—their craftsmanship, their beauty, their variation, their remarkable sounds—and the moving, varied stories that go along with them. In addition to highlighting North Country people's creativity and industry in making instruments, the exhibit celebrates the energy and thoughtfulness that goes into stewarding family and community instruments and the rich, ongoing traditions and cultural identities they represent. The exhibit remains on display at the TAUNY Center in Canton through October 27 and a series of related programs continues throughout this time. For those who are unable to visit the TAUNY Center, or for those who wish for a souvenir of the display, an "Instrumental Stories" catalog, including much of the text and image material of the exhibit, is available at TAUNY's online store. Visit tauny.org for further details.

A Trip from Strasbourg to Croghan

For my genealogical research, I had contacted the Mennonite Heritage Farm. After several years of exchanges with Rosanna Moser, we decided last year to come to the states on the occasion of the Z Fest to meet the descendants of Philippe Steiner, brother of my ancestor, Jacques Steiner.

After a few days spent in New York City, we took the secondary roads to reach Lowville and Croghan. This is the region in which Philippe Steiner settled with his entire family in 1848. We discovered a bucolic landscape very different from the big city and a much more peaceful pace of life. Ten wonderful days were spent in an environment different from the one we are used to.

The preparation of the Fest was an opportunity to meet the warm people with whom we shared these few days, which allowed us to discover other ways of being and sharing other habits. We participated for the first time in a Mennonite cult at an evening of a capella singing without understanding much because our English is very rudimentary.

Rosanna and Audrey Steiner Schweitzer showed us the various cemeteries in the vicinity for the descendants of Philippe Steiner and Marie Anne Zehr. We also viewed the sawmill remains at Audrey's birthplace on the Steiner Road.

On the last day, Charmaine and John Campany, after giving us a tour of their sausage factory in Croghan, took us to Lake Bonaparte with Heidi and Paul Lehmann, who kindly served as interpreters.

We have two regrets. Not having been able to stay an extra eight days to visit the surrounding area, the St. Lawrence or the Adirondack Park, and not have found in the Mennonite Heritage Farm library a few things that would have allowed me to get back into my genealogy.

We keep a lot of good memories of our stay and hope to come back one day in this beautiful area and thank all the people who welcomed us warmly.

Martine and Daniel STEINER, Strasbourg, France

MCC's Mobile Meat Canner in 1967

By Janet Zehr

It was Saturday, February 4, 1967, over 51 years ago, when the Mennonite Central Committee's Mobile Meat Canner turned into Clarence Mayer's driveway on Route 12 (between Lowville and Copenhagen) and slowly pulled to a stop in front of the house. Two weary "Canner Boys" crawled out of the tractor cab, having driven from southwestern Pennsylvania, and headed for the house. The night was late and very cold, and the boys

needed sleep. After the boys had some conversation with Clarence Mayer and the family, Clarence's wife, Mabel, showed them to a bedroom upstairs where they gratefully prepared for rest.

Although the MCC's Mobile Meat Canner had been in operation for over 20 years, this was the first attempt to bring it to Lewis County. The 1967 Planning Committee consisted of the following couples: Clarence and Mabel Mayer, Andrew and Emma Moser, Harold and Mildred Moshier, Bernard and Ruth Widrick, Ezra and Elva Widrick, and Walter and Ramona Zehr.

The plan was to process beef from local farmers. The six couples had contacted farmers for donations of beef or availability of beef to purchase. Word was also circulated among the churches for monetary donations to cover the cost of supplies and purchases for needed beef. Clarence had agreed to the use of his farm. So a day or two before the event, the Mayer family had cleaned out the garage, moved out the equipment, cleaned the floors, and set up tables. Three wooden tables were set end-to-end in three rows.

The donated beef cattle were slaughtered on Saturday and brought to the site on Monday morning. A total of 24 cattle were donated from local farmers and 8 more were purchased. (From Aaron Mayer's memory, he stated that 40 cattle were processed.) Donations of \$2750 were received for the purchase of the beef and supplies.

Early Monday morning, refreshed and ready to go, the young "Canner Boys" planned to start by 8 o'clock. After they ate breakfast quickly, the two headed outside to move the trailer containing the four canners into position with the garage, where the meat would be cut into small chunks. To their dismay, due to the extreme cold, the tractor would not start; and the canners were frost-covered. While they worked at starting the balky tractor with salamander heaters, others arrived bringing the beef, which had been slaughtered on Saturday, needed utensils, pans, and knives. Aaron Mayer, a junior in high school, skipped school on Monday and Tuesday in order to assist at the canning site. He drove to Daniel Widrick's butcher shop on Route 126 to pick up about 16 quarters of beef, piled them on paper laid on the bed of the truck, and covered them with a tarp. Upon arriving at the canner site, the men carried in the quarters quickly. It was well below zero; and even though the garage was heated with a small heater and not very warm, it was better than the outside temperature.

No water was available in the garage, so a hose was strung from the barn to the garage (about 150 feet). Because of the extreme cold, the water was left running all night. The faucet on the canner leaked and by the end of the canning process, a big pile of ice had built up underneath.

By the time the tractor thawed enough to start and position the trailer, it was discovered that the propane for the canners was not working. Lowville Suburban Propane was called, and shortly Bob Widrick came and got the propane running properly. By then it was Monday noon. The volunteer workers already had a pile of beef, boned and cubed, ready for the precooking kettle, which held about 140 quarts. When the beef was ready, it was packed into metal quart cans, put into the canners, and processed. Each canner had a capacity of 140 quarts. When the processing was complete, the cans were cooled and taken into the milk house, where they were washed, dried, labeled, and packed two dozen to a carton for shipping. By Wednesday, 4760 cans had been processed, labeled, and packed into cartons.

The milk house, a 12' x 14' building, had to also serve its usual function for the farm twice daily at its milking time. This was before bulk tanks to store the milk. Aaron recalls milking the cows, carrying the milk into the milk house, straining the milk into the milk cans, and sliding them into the cooler on one side while the cans of beef were being finished on the other side.



On Monday or Tuesday, an inspector arrived from USDA and shut down the operation. News had reached the inspector that meat was being processed for the black market. The men explained what was being done. Upon observing all the meat, the inspector allowed them to complete the canning, but the finished cans had to be quarantined until permission was given for shipping. The canning was completed, and the boxes taken to Jacob Wagler's garage for storage. On Thursday, Richard Zehr and several other men traveled to Albany and met with USDA officials and explained what this operation was doing and received permission to ship the cans.

Because the canner had the capacity to process 2200 to 2800 cans per day, the "Canner Boys" had planned to be finished processing and cleaning all the equipment by Tuesday noon. With the late start on Monday plus time lost with the inspector, they did not finish until Wednesday afternoon. They slept several hours and then the MCC's Mobile Meat Canner rolled out to the next appointment at a chicken factory in Berlin, Ohio.

Between 1967 and 1989, a group of men looked into the possibility of bringing the Meat Canner into the North Country again. Knowing that a more convenient place was needed, they also knew that inspections were getting more rigid. They were informed of a butcher shop in St. Lawrence County that was no longer being used and traveled there to examine the site. Because the building needed much work to bring it up to code and the distance for the Lewis County volunteers to travel, the idea was abandoned.

On April 12–13, 2018, the MCC's Mobile Meat Canner again made an appearance in Lewis County, but this time canning turkey that was purchased from contributed funds. Larry Herr, who was familiar with the canner from working on the site in Penn Yan, talked with Carl Zehr about the feasibility of bringing the canner to Lewis County. During a trip to Akron, PA, Larry visited MCC asking about the possibility of hosting the canner in Lewis County. An affirmative answer led to the formation of a committee to oversee the project. As word spread, many people in the community responded to the request for volunteers.

The Planning Committee for 2018 consisted of Larry Herr, Ben Fouse, Jeremy Kelly, Ken Landis, Amos Metzler, Marvin Roes, Scott Watkins, Marie Western, and Keith Zehr.

Statistics for 2018 Differ Dramatically from 1967:

- Project was done at Maple Ridge Center
- 4 Canner boys came with tractor trailer
- 4 USDA inspectors were present during operation
- 7 Industrial cookers on mobile canner
- 10 Stainless steel tables and 80 knives were purchased
- 20 hours were scheduled for cutting meat
- 25 plastic tubs used to transport meat from cutting tables to canners
- 500 approximate number of volunteers from community
- 9,423 cans of meat processed, 936 kept for local distribution
- 14,070 pounds of turkey purchased, cooked, and canned
- \$42,000 approximate donations for meat and supplies

Ken Landis memorialized the 2018 event in pictures, which he has donated to the AMHA archives. To see his photos, you may also visit his website: <https://kenrlandisphotography.pixieset.com/mccmeatcanner2018/>.

Additional Note: Larry Boldt, originally from California, worked as a volunteer "Canner Boy" from 1983-1985. During his service, he met his future wife, Sue Widrick, and is now a local resident.

Sources: Aaron (Sonny) Mayer's memories; *Watertown Daily Times* - February 1967; *Home Hi-Lites* - March 1967; Keith Zehr - 2018 statistics – *Journal and Republican*; Larry Herr - 2018 event

Acquisition Report

By Rosanna M. Moser

Throughout 2017, the curator's office accessioned 193 artifacts (objects, library, photos, and archives). Since July 2010, the office has completed a total of 2023 accessions and/or 3082 items. We sincerely thank all those individuals who have deeded historic artifacts for the preservation of our Anabaptist Mennonite faith story.

NOTE: In the event you do not see an artifact listed that you donated, there is pending many more artifacts to catalog.

Here is a summary of the major artifacts catalogued over the past year:

Brown, Violet Zehr...*Program Guide 1966 for Sunday Evening Services* and also for 1967.

Crofoot, Janice Lehman...*The Farney-Virkler-Zehr Families* (first edition) original to Barbara M. Bachman and biography/tribute of Alice B. Lehman.

Gingerich, David...*Holy Bible* (large) original to Christian L. and Veronica Mayer Gingerich.

Gingerich, Emmanuel and Margaret...Baby plate original to family of Allen and Marian Zehr Gingerich.

Grau, Mary Zehr...Baby dolls (2) original to Susianna Lehman Zehr.

Hammond, Harold and Ruth Ann...Rocking chair original to Michael and Barbara Widrick Moser.

Keener, Donna Zehr...Goblet original to Martha Widrick Zehr.

Lehman, Betty...Memorial book in remembrance of Katie K. Moser; toddler suit original to Douglas Steria; two-piece honeymoon suit original to Betty Moser Lehman.

Lehman, Doris (Everett)...Horse hide coat, wooden ice cutter, ice tongs, ice hand saw, milking machine, milk strainer, filters, and cover lid original to Benjamin Z. Lehman; refurbished horse-drawn hay mower original to John Keib.

Lehman, Elmer and Eileen...*One Step at a Time – Our Missionary Pilgrimage* by Elmer and Eileen Lehman; rocking chair original to Fanny Moser Widrick; wooden sap bucket original to Joseph J. Zehr; wooden straight folding chair.

Lehman, Elton...Memorial books for Emanuel K. and Christina Moser Lehman.

Lyndaker, Phyllis...Throw pillow original to Rosina Lehman; throw pillow made from scrap material original to Veronica Moser; comforter made with fragments; table runner and scarf original to Charlotte Zehr.

Lyndaker, Sandy and Priscilla...Ledger book original to M. K. Zehr.

Lyndaker, Vernon...White Talcott candles (8); cradle scythe original to Benjamin Z. Lehman; set of quilt frames with pegs original to Emma Martin Lehman.

Moser, Joyce...Child's wooden wagon, wooden large cheese box, clothes dryer rack, and wooden dough box original to Philip and Katie Roggie Moser.

Moser, Rosanna...Head veiling, large rubber doll, ministry and Croghan Mennonite Church photos, memorial/burial service (DVD) of Rev. Elmer Moser; booklet, "*Nonresistance Under Test*" by Emanuel Swartzentruber; *Philip and Katie Roggie Moser Family Heritage and Genealogy* by Rosanna Moser; pillowcase set original to Mollie Zehr Lehman; serving bowl original to Veronica Moser; small crochet dolls (2) and autograph book original to Eleanor Moser.

Moser, Wilbur and Sharon...Dictionary original to Michael A. Lehman; *Webster's Little Gem Dictionary and Reference Manual* and pocket watch original to Menno Moser; meat platter original to Veronica Moser; *Holy Bible* original to John R. Moser and his memorial book; gun original to Joseph Moser.

Moshier, Arnold and Maietta...Documents, taped story, and testimony (life of Arnold and Maietta).



Moshier, Norman...Hay fork.

Nafziger, Elsie...Bridal dress/cape and dress/cape original to Beatrice Widrick Moser; War Ration books original to Ernest Moser; crocheted baby booties and cotton stockings original to Elsie Moser Nafziger and Joseph Moser; baby dresses (2) original to Elsie Moser Nafziger; black half-length apron original to Lena Martin Widrick.

Nafziger, Sidney...Wooden "Honey For Sale Here" sign original to Joseph Nafziger; wooden water pipe and fanning mill original to Christian Nafziger.

Norris, David and Isabel...Child's rocking chair and comforter original to Elmer and Gladys Yousey Nafziger; miniature eating utensils and man's suit/vest original to Elmer Nafziger.

Ovando, Lila...Bedspread, wool blanket, and coverlet original to Katherine Zehr Lehman.

Roggie, Bruce and Barbara...Flannel strainer cloths original to Christina Moser Lehman; chamber pot, embroidered throw pillow, and crocheted tablecloth original to Leah Moshier Roggie; shoe cobbler stands and lasts.

Roggie, Ruthann Boshart...Collection of Kingdom Singers' concert programs.

Schwartzentruber, Nelson and Bernadine...Historic life story of Emanuel Swartzentruber, homemade Amish dolls and photos of Aaron E. and Sarah Widrick; glass sugar and creamer original to Katie (Kate) Moser Schwartzentruber; baby plate original to Nelson Schwartzentruber.

Steiner, Daniel...Translation of book *Lieder-Buch fur Katharina Steiner*.

Steiner, Paul...Baby carriage original to family of Paul Steiner.

Steria, Beth...Birth certificate (copy) and original naturalization certificate for Lloyd Boshart, Clayton and Florence Bast Boshart (family life booklet), and *Gingerich Family History and Genealogy*; autograph book original to Naomi R. Moser (Boshart); notebook collection of "The Good Old Days" and full-length floral aprons (2) original to Naomi Moser Boshart; collection of photos and articles relating to barn fire at Lloyd and Naomi Moser Boshart's residence and family photos.

Steria, Carol...Baby blanket (knitted) original to Nelda Moser Steria.

Steria, Nelda...One wheel horse-drawn moldboard plow original to Dannie Steria.

Sirtoli, Lorna Widrick...Large dough box (homemade).

Taube, Barbara...School book original to Ezra Schweitzer.

Widrick, Carlton...Horse-drawn moldboard plow.

Widrick, Marilyn (Ed)...Comforter.

Widrick, Paul and Dawn... *Ausbund* original to Anna Moser.

Widrick, Ruth...Homemade bureau scarf original to Katie Leis Moser; child-size crutches original to Derwood Widrick; homemade wooden racetrack for marbles original to John R. Moser.

Yoder, Arletha...*Jacob and Catherine Zehr Roggie History and Genealogy* by Arletha Yoder.

Yousey, Benjamin...Reaper original to Menno Yousey.

Yousey, Betty...Portraits of Leon H. and Katherine D. Lehman Widrick; toy original to Leon Widrick; miniature doll, baby doll in peanut shell, and two miniature dolls in papoose.

Yousey, Ellen and Arlene...Homemade wooden shuttles original to Arlene Yousey; tin toy dishes and wooden blocks original to Ellen Yousey; homemade rug original to Ellen and Arlene; weathered boards, floating dairy thermometer and tube cylinder original to Joseph B. Yousey; hydrometer original to Chris B. Yousey; dominoes and fur stretchers original to Danny Yousey; stenciled signs original to Chris B. and Katie Moser Yousey family; pottery bowl and plate original to Katie Roggie Moser; children's books and three-ring notebooks on Elmer and Eileen Lehman, etc. and Son Light Missions.

Zehr, Charlotte...Tablecloth original to Magdalena Kennel Lehman.



Gift Shop

The newest book, *The Three Homes* by Dan D. Kurtz, is a nonfiction book on the writings of Yesteryears: 1957-2017 between the Adirondack Mountains and the St. Lawrence Seaway.

We continue to offer the following and many other books (visit the website):

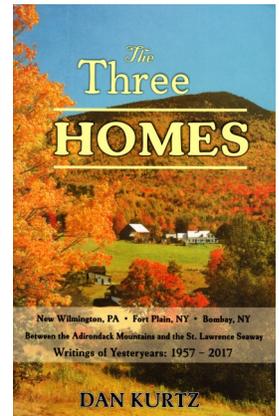
One Step at a Time – Our Missionary Pilgrimage by Elmer and Eileen Lehman.

Strangers and Pilgrims: History of Lewis County Mennonites by Arlene Yousey.

Jacob and Catherine Zehr Roggie – History and Genealogy by Arletha Zehr Bender-Yoder.

Philip and Katie Roggie Moser History and Genealogy by Rosanna M. Moser.

The Miner's Song, Returning Home, Crossing the Distance, and Secret Shadow by Loreen Plett Zehr.



The shop also has a variety of cards and homemade craft merchandise, such as aprons, throw pillows, table scarves, pot holders, 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.

Send checks to:
Adirondack Mennonite Heritage Association
Donald Roggie, Treasurer
4491 Boshart Road
Lowville, NY 13367

Co-Editors: Bernadine Schwartzentruber
Rosanna Moser
Layout/Design: Janice Crofoot
Printing: Connie Zehr
Distribution: Nelson Schwartzentruber

Adirondack Mennonite Heritage Association
PO Box 368
Croghan, NY 13327