



Notes from the Farm

Volume 30 Issue 1

July 2020

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Rosanna M. Moser
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Administrative Assistant

Priscilla Lyndaker

Facilities Consultant

Norman Moshier

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Chairperson's Report

By Bernadine Schwartzentruber

This report is like none other. Whoever imagined that the Mennonite Heritage Farm activities would come to a sudden halt in 2020? We quickly learned how to conduct business with a crash course on using ZOOM for two board meetings.

Our annual business meeting was conducted via letters to members. Three board members were reelected, and we welcomed Linda J. Noftsier as a new member. (See separate article). A record number of members returned their ballots. The board thanks Keith Steria for his three years of board service.

"AMHA 2020 Vision"

The AMHA Board was on the verge of announcing a "2020 Vision" capital campaign when the COVID-19 pandemic hit. This involved replacing the house-shingled roof with metal roofing. Second, a parking lot for about 105 vehicles was to be constructed to include a new access road from the Erie Canal Road to the front of the barn.

The board has decided to move ahead with the much-needed house roof project this summer. From the \$30,000 + estimated cost, \$12,000 has already been raised. With your support and donations, we plan to proceed.

Informational donation cards will be put in church mailboxes in mid-July. With no activities at the farm this summer, this is an ideal time for the project. Because of limited activity at the farm, the parking lot project will be put on hold.

Only after the new roof is completed will future house interior work proceed. The lath plaster is falling in places, and the roof work will likely bring down more plaster.

A safe stairway to the original basement will eventually make that area available for displays that depict how food was preserved and stored years ago.

Looking back, we have come a long way in the last decade in making improvements and restorations to the buildings and grounds. This was possible because of your support. It is exciting to dream of how the house interior will look going forward but only with the continued support of our community will this be achieved.

Supporting AMHA

We have lost revenues because of cancelled events, but our fixed expenses remain. We are encouraged that Partnership Fund contributions are actually higher so far this year compared to 2019. We tentatively plan for bake sales and definitely a ham loaf sale at a later date.

To support our various funds, such as Endowment, Partnership, 20 for 10, and AMHA 2020 Vision, please contact Don Roggie, treasurer.

NOTE: The purpose of the “20 for 10 Fund” is to establish a support base committed to help offset heat, utilities, and insurance. This plan can ease the pressure for the bakers by opening the funding option to any committed person. Other fundraisers such as occasional bake sales, Z Fest, Harvest of the Arts, and special programs can then truly be fundraisers for ongoing projects. The fund enlists committed people to pay \$20 a month for 10 months per year. Participants can choose their months for payment.

A reminder to those who have access to retirement funds that your “Required Minimum Distribution” can be automatically transferred from your fund to AMHA tax free as a “Qualified Charitable Distribution.” It must go directly from the retirement fund to the nonprofit. We thank you for your prayers and financial support during these challenging times.

New Board Member



Linda Noftsier has been employed in tax accounting for 35 years and at the present time operates her own accounting business. Knitting is a passion of hers as well as scrapbooking photo albums.

Linda also serves as treasurer and a director for Friends of Lewis County Hospice. In the past, she served on the audit committee for Brook Haven House and currently serves as church treasurer and a council member at the First Mennonite Church of New Bremen.

Other volunteer experiences include assisting other nonprofit organizations with accounting and tax services along with teaching summer Bible School and Sunday school.

Her husband is Terry E. Noftsier, and their children are Karla Woods, Jasyn Noftsier, and Nancy Wolff. They have three grandsons and two granddaughters.

Linda is interested in Mennonite heritage and family genealogy. She enjoys organizing and helping wherever needed. In addition, she especially enjoys working and serving on boards with others and making new contacts and friendships.

New Administrative Assistant

Priscilla Lyndaker is the daughter of the late Nelson and Lorena (Moser) Moser, fifth generation to the original homesteaders of the Mennonite Heritage Farm. She and her husband, Sandy Lyndaker, have three children and six grandchildren.

She is a member of the Shekinah Mennonite Fellowship and has enjoyed teaching Sunday school, VBS classes, as well as responsible for the weekly church bulletin.

After graduating from Copenhagen Central School, she attended Eastern Mennonite College for two years and received a certificate in the Medical Secretary program. She has previously worked in two medical offices and has done child care in her home for 27 years.



SUMMER HOURS

The Mennonite Heritage Farm is open for tours in July and August on Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Appointments may be made for other days (Exception: Sunday). To make an appointment, please call 315-376-7822 or email info@mennoniteheritagefarm.com.

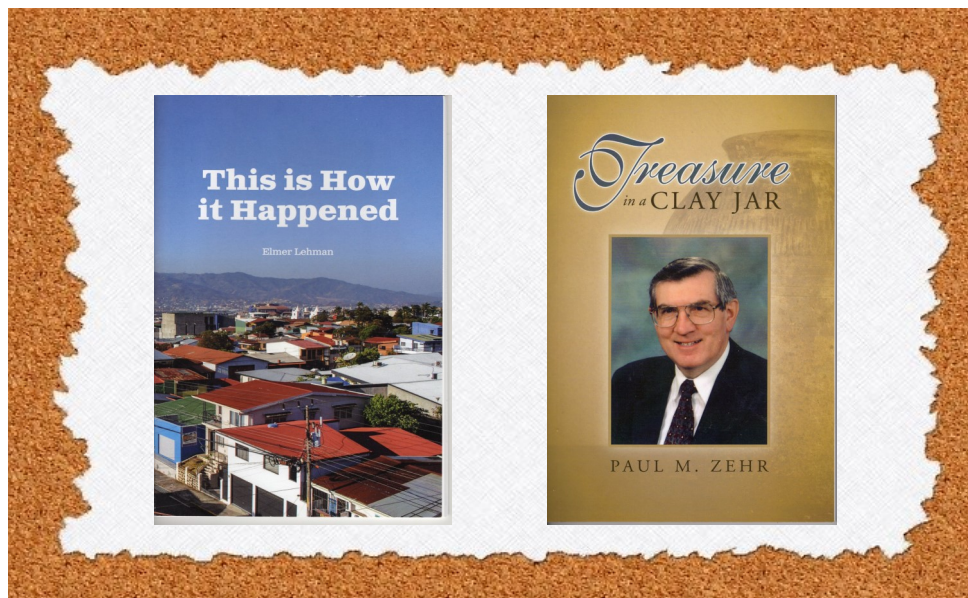
We welcome individuals to visit the state-of-the-art archival area for research, such as genealogy and church history, read documentary interviews (most recent interview completed is Harold and Doris Steria), and see the oldest 1556 Froschauer Bible and other family Bibles, variety of books, textiles, etc.

NEW BOOKS IN GIFT SHOP

Two authors originally from Lewis County (Elmer Lehman and Paul M. Zehr) have recently published books, which are available at the AMHA gift shop.

Elmer Lehman wrote a supplement to *One Step at a Time* entitled *This is How it Happened*. The author's introductory statement is as follow: "...this little compilation details some of our additional interesting experiences, both exciting and difficult, and often unexpected during the 22 years of our pilgrimage in Costa Rica." Cost of the book is \$5.00.

Paul M. Zehr writes about his life in the book *Treasure in a CLAY JAR*. He demonstrates his life by using clay jar imagery and at the same time God's work in and through him. Cost of the book is \$12.00.



Curator's Notes

In the November 2019 *Notes from the Farm*, the two photos in the "Photo Trivia" were from the former Joseph B. Yousey property on the Reservoir Road, Croghan. Benjamin Yousey, youngest son of Menno and Lena Moser Yousey (Lena died in 1921; remarried Mary Lehman), purchased the property from his mother around 1970. Since 2009, Ben's daughter Jane and her husband, Ned Nafziger of Ohio, have owned the property.

* * *

The archival office is looking for a better record or copy from the Daniel Yancey Bible. You may check out this link <http://yanceyfamilygenealogy.org/danielyanceybible.htm>. An original or better copy would be much appreciated to obtain a translation.

Acquisition Report

By Rosanna M. Moser

The curator's office completed a total of 171 accessions in 2019, which now gives a total 2312 accessions since 2010. AMHA is indebted to the many individuals for the historic artifacts that help tell the story of our Anabaptist Mennonite faith throughout the various buildings and displays. We continue to accept artifacts at the Mennonite Heritage Farm.

NOTE: In the event that you do not see an artifact(s) listed that you donated, they are on the "to do" holding shelves.

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

Detwiler, Ellis and Caroline (Moser)...suitcase original to Menno Moser, x-ray glass plates (3) original to Michael B. Zehr, scripture plaque, and woven basket original to Philip and Katie Roggie Moser.

Emerson, Laureen (Lyndaker)...framed print "Spiritual Labyrinth" original to Andrew J. Lyndaker.

Gingerich, Emmanuel and Margaret...hay hook original to Jacob Gingerich; honey bee smoker and sickle inherited to Allen Gingerich; butterfat tester w/attachments original to Allen Gingerich; glass bowl original to Joseph M. and Lydia Roggie Zehr; wooden vegetable cutters (3), cast iron skillet, cheese slicer, tin mold, wooden washboard, large serving utensils, and life story of Marian Zehr Gingerich written by Marian; cake platter (pedestal), serving bowls (2), enamel dinner plate, water goblet, relish dish, sauce dish, and fruit bowls (3) original to Martha Widrick Zehr.

Gingerich, John...*Gingerich Jacob (Wagner) and Veronica (Litwiller) Family History and Genealogy* notebook, framed certificate "Sunday School Teacher Training of the Mennonite Church," tracts (8), *Instructions to Beginners in the Christian Life* book, photographs of Eastern Mennonite School (EMS) students and notebooks (3) at winter Bible EMS, and booklets (4) – *Mennonite Young People's Bible Meeting Topics* original to Allen Gingerich; photographs (single ladies and winter Bible school) and music manual original to Marian Zehr Gingerich.

Grau, Mary Zehr...woven wool blankets (3) original to Peter Lehman (bishop), assorted handkerchiefs and scarves (embroidered), pillowcase w/initials "M.L.", crochet potholder and money bag, and glass goblet and creamer pitcher original to Magdalena Kennel Lehman (John); handkerchief and child's bonnet original to Charlotte M. Zehr; child's bonnet original to Johnny Kennel; crochet-edged pillowcases, satin stitching scarves, knitted child's stockings, and child and adult dresses original to Susianna Lehman Zehr.

Hoch, Teresa Steiner...stereo record albums (4) of "The Choraleers" original to Doris Hirsche Steiner and document entitled "The Diaries of Samuel G. Virkler – The Eighties and Nineties" compiled by Diane Kipfer Beller.



Jantzi, Paul...butter mold (photo at left) original to John E. and Ellen Lehman Widrick and butter mold original to Aaron and Susan Ressler Jantzi.

Keefer, Eulene Lehman...bassinet original to Lewis and Eulene Lehman Keefer.

Lederman, Janell Roggie...black covering, black bonnet, and black-fringed blanket original to Anna Yousey Lyndaker (John N.)

Lehman, Betty Moser...comforter original to Katie Leis Moser.

Lehman, Doris VanNess...bridal dress original to Doris Lehman (Everett).

Lyndaker, Lois...research paper entitled “Changes in Wedding Practices Since 1900 in Croghan-Lowville Congregation” by Lois Lyndaker, handkerchiefs original to Lois Lyndaker, and crocheted potholder (dress) original to Anna Zehr Lyndaker (photo at right).



Lyndaker, Phyllis Lehman...camera, assorted handkerchiefs, and school notebooks (2) original to Phyllis Lyndaker; poem entitled *The Vine* written by Phyllis Lyndaker, and unfinished comforter top and blocks original to Beatrice Widrick Moser.



Moser, Joyce (Ellis)...linen scarf made and given to Rosina Lehman (age 14) by Grandmother Kennel (photo at left); mug/saucer original to Mary Kennel Lehman; chamber pot, crock pot/cover, butter paddle, children's building blocks, and miniature cast iron stove original to Philip and Katie Roggie Moser; rocking chair original to Veronica Moser; flour sifter, child's high chair, Victorian box with shaving mug/brush, and genealogy entitled “History and Genealogy of John (and) Veronica Erb Schwartzentruber 1743-1956” original to Andrew R. and Emma Widrick Moser; unfinished comforter top, and German book original to Emma Widrick Moser; pitcher original to Lena Roggie Moser, framed German print of “Lord's Prayer” and “Ten Commandments” original to John N. Widrick; and suitcase original to Joseph R. Moser.

Moser, Robert...hand-shaped wedding cake topper original to John R. and Katie Leis Moser.

Moser, Rosanna...wooden chairs (6) original to Croghan Mennonite Church and copper kettle original to Katie Leis Moser.

Moshier, Dorrance...marriage certificate original to John N. and Veronica Erb Widrick.

Moshier, Susanna...autograph book original to Samuel C. Moshier and document entitled “Marian Gingerich's Committal Service.”

Nafziger, Elsie...bridal dress original to Elsie Moser Nafziger.

Norris, David and Isabel Nafziger...small feather pillow original to Isabel Norris.

Nortz, Martha Roggie...book entitled *New Analytical Edition & Comprising Bible Dictionary* original to Samuel Roggie.

Passero, Lisa Beller...document entitled “My Life, His Story” original to Lisa Passero.

Roggie, Eunice Gingerich...kerosene lamp original to Allen or Marian Zehr Gingerich.

Roggie, Mary Ellen Gingerich...wedding photograph of Norman J. and Irene Gingerich Moshier.

Roggie, Ruthann Boshart...document entitled “My Experience with Shape Notes in the Mennonite Church.”

Schantz, Jesse...genealogy booklet “Schantz – 1814-1959.”

Schwartzentruber, Nelson and Bernadine...tile plaque (Menno Simon's home), notebook of Lowville Mennonite youth group programs, and photographs.

Shaw, Marilyn Lehman....book entitled *Glimpses of Mennonite History* original to Addison E. Lehman.

Smith, Mary Jantzi...black bonnet original to Susan Ressler Jantzi and black covering original to Anna Zimmerman Ressler.

Steria, Beth Boshart...document entitled “Life Story of Beth Boshart Steria.”

Steria, Keith...eye glasses/case believed to be original to Chris M. Nafziger (bishop) and *The Mennonite Hymnal* original to Shirley Nafziger Steria.

Steria, Robert and Lillian...eye glass/case and Selective Service classification cards original to Elmer Nafziger; wedding photos and handmade open book for wedding corner original to Elmer and Gladys Yousey Nafziger.

Tanner, Joanne Widrick...upholstered chair original to Rebecca Naftziger Sauer Farney.

Tuley, Janet K. Lehman...booklet entitled *Constitution and By-Laws Amish Mennonite Orphan's Home Association* original to Mary Zehr Lehman.

Weaver, Anna Mae Forrester...soup tureen/cover original to Anna K. Lehman Jantzi.

Widrick, Edward...wedding photographs and bridal dress and slip original to Mildred Steria Widrick and dictionary original to Anna R. Moshier (John W.).

Widrick, Shirley Boshart...white bridal Bible.

Yancey, Dennis J...genealogy of “Jacob and Katherine Reyn and Theodore M. and Christine Christman Reyn” and “Daniel Schrag Genealogy” by Keith G. Schrag.

Yousey, Arlene...photographic assortment of lenses, glass plates, wooden printing glass frames, and camera lenses original to Chris B. Yousey; notebook of WMSA programs, wedding family photographs, and church directories original to Arlene Yousey.

Yousey, David...large wooden cradle (restored; photo at right) original to Joe B. Yousey family.

Zehr, Carolyn...document entitled “Sharing My Story.”

Zehr, Malinda Zehr...document entitled “Malinda’s Story.”

Zehr, Mary Ann...diary and notebook of sermons original to Elias M. Zehr, handkerchief original to Martha Widrick Zehr, and German Bible original to Joseph J. and Katie Moshier Zehr.

Zehr, Milton J. and Dorothy...eye glass/case original to Katie Moshier Zehr, razor/case original to Joseph J. Zehr, and comforter (mid-1800s).

Zehr, Paul...cassette and CD – *Alvin and Vera Zehr Family Reminiscing* (March 25, 2007), CD entitled *Anabaptist Heritage* original to Paul M. Zehr.

Zehr, Ramona...German book original to Daniel L. and Mary Lehman Zehr and notebook compiled by Kathleen Zehr of “History of the First Mennonite Church, New Bremen, New York.”

Zehr, Terry...Thesis entitled “Fractured Community: The Legacy of the 1941 Schism Among Lewis County Mennonites.”



Part III: A "Zehr Gunsmith" in Croghan

By Fred Zehr

A visit to the Mennonite Heritage Farm led to the examination of an adjustable jaw wrench stamped "C. ZEHR." Karl Z. Smith noted that this was the correct size to fit on the top of an octagon gun barrel and that it was common for gun makers to put their name on the barrel between the breech and the rear sight. He also noted that Frank Sellers' *American Gunsmiths* listed "Zehr Christian Croghan NY 1870." Titus Mast found in the "Lewis County Business Directory of 1895" a listing for Zehr and Son "machinists, repairs and dealers in nearly all kinds of machinery, agricultural implements, bicycles and guns."

That raised the following questions: Who was Christian Zehr, where was his machine shop, and did he "make up" guns or simply repair and sell them? The following research attempts to answer these questions.

Christian Zehr (1847-1906) was the eldest son of John Zehr (1821-1906) and Catherine Keiffer (1826-1885). In the 1850, 1855, 1860, and 1865 censuses, the John Zehr family is listed in Croghan near Nicholas Valin, Michael Zehr, and Andrew Zehr (who operated the original Michael Zehr homestead). A June 28, 1871, *Lewis County Democrat* article states "John Zehr operates a sawmill that produces a good amount of lumber and shingles." The 1870 census lists Christian's occupation as "sawyer."

Christian's obituary (*Journal and Republican*, Nov. 8, 1906) states that he married Magdalene Egli in July 1871 and that "she lived but a year afterwards." It also states that he married Carrie Wright at Albany in 1879. The 1880 census had Christian and Carrie living in Corinth, Saratoga County, New York, and Christian working in a paper mill.

In 1888, Christian purchased 303 sq. ft. of land in Croghan from Nicholas Valin and in 1891 purchased 34/100 acre on the Belfort Road from John Zehr. The 1892, 1900, and 1905 censuses have Christian living in Croghan, and his occupation is "machinist." The 1890 and 1895 Sanborn and Perris insurance maps of Croghan confirm a machine shop almost directly across the road from the Rev. Michael Zehr homestead. In 1905, Christian Zehr sold a 34/100 acre parcel in the town of Croghan to John C. and Peter E. Farney. The 1989 edition of the *FVZ Genealogy* (pp 103-104) recounts that John C. Farney purchased a machine shop and home from Christian Zehr and operated it with his son Peter until 1912 when he sold the machine shop to his son Ira. The shop was then moved across the street by Ira Farney and attached to the old Methodist Church. (This is depicted on the 1914 Sanborn insurance map. Further, in 1863, Michael Zehr sold 25/100 acre on the Belfort Road to the Beaver River Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church...the "M. E. CH" appears on the 1875 D. G. Beers map of Croghan.) The building is now owned by Jim Zehr, and the tall windows reflect its original use as a church.

Christian Zehr's obituary said, "In early life, Mr. Zehr was engaged in the sawmill business, but later learned the trade of a mechanic. Few were his equals in this line of work." If someone has a gun stamped with "C. ZEHR," it would complete our quest for the work of Christian Zehr. Please email AMHA at info@mennoniteheritagefarm.com or call 315-346-1122.

Jantzi/Yantzi/Yancey Article

By Fred Zehr

A very informative and interesting two-part article appeared in the October 2019 and January 2020 editions of the *Mennonite Family History* magazine. Written by Bruce W. Jantzi, the articles draw together not only Bruce's research but also the work of Lorraine Roth, Leroy Beachy, Delbert L. Gratz, and Joseph Peter Stacker. Many of us are descended from the Jantzi/Yancey men and women who settled in Lewis County and also in Ontario.

In Part I (October 2019), the author takes us back to Switzerland with some research about the family's possible origins; then an extensive narrative of the years spent living in Lorraine, France, with several photographs of the Jantzi farm at Bistroff. This part also includes detailed genealogies of the descendants of Michael Jantzi (1719-1822), who eventually immigrated to Lewis County, NY, Canada, and the Midwest. These updated genealogies are particularly useful in correlating to the people enumerated in the "Immigrant Passenger Lists" published on the [Resource](#) page of the [mennoniteheritagefarm.com](#) website.

Part II (January 2020) is primarily devoted to the Jantzi descendants who settled in Canada. It does have a section recounting the 1837 mission to Canada by Michael Zehr and John Jantzi and includes the text of a petition by them to the Governor of Upper Canada. In the petition, they state that they are dissatisfied with the quality and price of the land in Lewis County and that they represented about 16 families presently in Lewis County and other families who were planning to leave Europe.

If you do not subscribe to *Mennonite Family History*, individual editions may be purchased for \$6.00 each at [Masthof.com](#) or by calling (610) 286-0258 (M-F, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.).

Footsteps are Footsteps

By Norman Moshier

Legacy 500 is a series of programs sponsored by the Adirondack Mennonite Heritage Association to help us understand, reflect, and celebrate the 500th Anniversary of Anabaptism, 1525-2025. We take a lot of foot-steps, you and I,...long ones and short ones, some taken in the obscurity of night, some in the full light of the noonday sun. Footsteps... up steep and dangerous heights crowned with majestic promontory overlooks... down broad beaten valley roads...through wasteland and bulging cities. A maze of footsteps crisscrosses our way and world. We need them to get to places...here and there, now and then. We are travelers in time, you and I; and footsteps chosen or not chosen are our song. Our mutual history is a thinly traveled track extending deep into the past. If we care to follow it, it leads inexorably to the future.

C. Arnold Snyder was our guest speaker October 26-28, 2019. He is Professor Emeritus of History, Conrad Grebel College, Waterloo, Ontario. He is the author of several books on the Anabaptist tradition. Snyder's topic for the weekend summarized his understandings of Anabaptist spirituality found in his book *Following the Footsteps of Christ* (2004, Orbis Books). In Christian tradition, according to Snyder, spirituality (the life of the spirit) embraces both the inner and the outer aspects of our lives, the contemplative, and the active.

Harold Bender's *Anabaptist Vision*, written in 1943, brought the beginnings of our denomination into focus. His understanding of the baptizing movement provided an important model for the church of our time. There were three keys:

1. The essence of Christianity is discipleship.
2. The fellowship of believers is voluntary.
3. There is an ethic of nonresistance.

"They," said Snyder, "had a huge impact on the Mennonite church and provided us with a historical past to measure ourselves against."

C. Arnold Snyder was part of a generation of students/scholars spawned in the wake of Bender's leadership. In the course of his Anabaptist studies, Snyder began to see something he felt was missing in the *Anabaptist Vision*..."the actual point of departure is not discipleship, but how do you get there and how do you continue on that path." Menno Simons wrote that believers are clothed with power from above...baptized with the Holy Spirit so they become partakers of the divine. "This is a ringing appeal to the Holy Spirit," emphasized Snyder, "that leads to a life that conforms...to discipleship." He came to see from his research in Anabaptist primary sources that Bender's three points are derivative, that is, follows from a personal and immediate encounter with the presence of the living Spirit of God. To continue in growth, to walk in the footsteps of Jesus

(I Peter 2:21), disciples must be empowered by the Holy Spirit. The practice of our ethical convictions necessarily requires the cultivation of the presence of God's Spirit.

In *Footsteps*, Snyder explores the key spiritual understandings and disciplines that "undergirded, nourished, and defined the visible Anabaptist witness." Snyder outlined a central three-fold understanding of the baptizing movement.

1. Baptism with the Holy Spirit: a new birth by the power of God.
2. Water baptism: a public witness to an inner transformation and a covenant of good conscience with the visible body of believers.
3. Baptism in blood: the daily yielding of self-will with the possibility of a martyr's death. (Paul Glock wrote from prison – "The devout die daily.")

In Snyder's understanding, the three baptisms conjoin the inner and outer walks of our spiritual lives.

Snyder points to the underlying starting point in the Anabaptist's understanding of spiritual disciplines: the fear of God and repentance in an immediate encounter with the spirit of God. These spiritual disciplines or practices had the practical end of keeping them on the path they had begun to walk. Snyder touched on some that included:

Self-examination of self-control: Repentance was a lifelong practice.

Immersion in the Bible: 90 percent of Anabaptists were illiterate but still memorized amazing amounts of scripture. They organized the most important passages topically in order to be able to live them out. Jesus, as modeled in the New Testament, was the rule against which they measured how they lived.

Prayer: From the heart was a way to stay connected to the vine by cultivating the presence of the living God.

Song: An estimated 1000 to 2000 songs were written by Anabaptists. They unified them in communal worship, strengthened them in times of trial, and were the outflowing of their theological understandings.

Finally, Snyder reflected on how we "practice walking in the truth" today in light of our spiritual heritage; how do we live with integrity so that our visible life and our inner life are congruent. This discussion included the following three areas: possessions/stewardship, truth telling, and noncoersion/nonviolence. Snyder reflected in his conclusion that "we have received an amazing tradition over 500 years. We need discernment for our time and place in history...don't believe in the 'golden age' stuff. The Holy Spirit has been at work among all kinds of believers for over 2000 years...we must connect with the Spirit now."

We take a lot of footsteps every day, you and I, walking, walking...always walking....each generation learning anew to encounter the mystery of the living presence of God on a path that transcends the intellect, that transcends rules without ruling out ritual, that conjoins our inner and outer life in a harmonious song. "The word that was spoken by the mightier creator, still rings through the hills, still waits to be found, the past and the future sing together, now hear it today, an eternal resound.

Wish List

We would appreciate the following items: large vacuum machine, tractor-pulled eight-passenger wagon, wooden sap spigots, and skipjack.

The archival office would be interested in obtaining photos of women and/or men working with quilts/comforters. It can be from the beginning stages of cutting blocks, sewing, tying knots/quilting, etc. In addition, the archival office desires to start a collection of vintage photos, such as individuals, families, children, occupational living (farming, logging, sugaring), etc., that would be scanned. The photos would be returned to the donor, if so desired.

Congratulations, Nelson L. and Mary W. Nafziger Roes – 70 Years!

By Rosanna M. Moser

NAFZIGER-ROES 1950

Miss Mary W. Nafziger, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph M. Nafziger, Lowville, and Nelson L. Roes, son of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Roes, also of Lowville, were married June 9th in the Amish Mennonite church at Dadville, by Rev. Lloyd Boshart.

They were attended by Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Roes and by Miss Gladys Yousey and Elmer Nafziger.

Immediately following the ceremony, a reception was held at the home of the bride's parents.

They have returned from a honeymoon trip to Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan and Canada, and are now living at the bride's home.

The bride was a guest of honor at a variety shower given by Mrs. Maurice Roes of Castorland.

Nelson L. and Mary W. Nafziger Roes, charter members of the Naumburg Mennonite Church, is the first couple from the congregation to celebrate 70 years of marriage.

They had a three-day outdoor celebration with family, relatives, and friends visiting them at their Steepleview home in Croghan during the week of June 7.

Nelson said, "We had good times, hard times, and been really blessed."



Originally, the marriage date for Nelson and Mary was planned for Thursday, June 15, which would have been Mary's 21st birthday. With the marriage of two brothers (Lloyd and Nelson) within a month's time, Nelson and Mary changed their marriage date to Friday, June 9, to accommodate the presence of the Canadian relatives for their wedding to be two days apart from Lloyd Roes and Clara Roggie, who were married Wednesday, June 7.

The full-course wedding meal with the immediate family and relatives was held at the large farmhouse of the bride's parents, Joseph (deacon) and Rose Widrick Nafziger, Route 26, Martinsburg (presently the home of Sidney and Beth Roggie Nafziger). All of the furniture was moved out of several rooms in the house to accommodate the approximately 200 guests and also made room for the bride and groom and attendants in a decorated "corner."

It was a tradition for the youth from the Croghan and Dadville (Lowville) Mennonite churches to gather at the bride's home for an evening wedding supper and also a time of fellowship and singing. Before the youth ate, the young ladies and men would gather upstairs and look at the couple's presents that had been opened by the receivers. (Wonder how much looking the young men really did.) Before the youth went downstairs, a man would ask a lady to be in his company for the occasion. Then each couple would walk downstairs into the dining area for the meal. In some cases, this was the beginning of courting for a couple. (The unattached of both sexes would take the remaining seats.)

The year "1950" is marked as one, if not the largest, of the most marriages within the Mennonite churches. It is believed that Chris M. Nafziger, bishop, married some of the couples. In the *Journal and Republican* edition of January 17, 2001 (AHHA archives), there is a full-page article with photos of 10 couples out of 16 who celebrated their 50th anniversary in December 2000. The couples gathered together every five years for an anniversary celebration. The ten couples present at the "Golden Anniversary" celebration were the following as stated in the article: Clifton and Belva Lehman, Daniel and Florence Lehman, Alvin and Luella Martin, Floyd and Gladys Moshier, Elmer and Gladys Nafziger, Lloyd and Clara Roes, Nelson and Mary Roes, Wilford and Eunice Roggie, Robert and Muriel Widrick, and Llewellyn and Clara Zehr. Other couples not present: Andrew and Sarah Martin (deceased), Leon and Katherine Martin (Goshen, IN), Elton and Helen Roggie, Gerald and Gladys Schweitzer (Big Bear City, CA), and Gerald and Angeline Zehr.

Why Become an AMHA 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.

ADIRONDACK MENNONITE HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Date _____

Name (print) _____

Membership Category (Select One) Address _____

Individual \$15 _____ City _____

Married Couple \$25 _____ State, Zip _____

Membership Valid Thru April 30, 2021 Telephone _____

Email _____

Congregational Affiliation (if applicable) _____

The purpose of the corporation is to (a) preserve our Mennonite Heritage (based on its Anabaptist origin of 1525), (b) share our unique Christian faith story with our world, and (c) keep intact artifacts of the North Country Amish Mennonite Settlement.

Affirmation:

I, _____, affirm that I am in agreement with Adirondack Mennonite Heritage Association's purpose and shall do my utmost to support the organization in accomplishing these goals.

Please make checks payable to AMHA [501(c)(3) organization]. Mail check and application to:

Don Roggie, Treasurer

4491 Boshart Road

Lowville, NY 13367

WEBSITE Sources

The Mennonite Heritage Farm website (www.mennoniteheritagefarm.com) has added links to “Find a Grave” section (available from either the Home page or the Resource page). To avail the ease of finding Mennonite and other cemeteries (burials of Mennonite individuals), a link is listed for each cemetery. A number of people have been involved from the community to keep our cemeteries updated with tombstone photos, obituaries, and family information. On behalf of AMHA, their work is very much appreciated. We are very grateful for the late Edward Widrick in his past interest and involvement of the Croghan and Kirschnerville Mennonite cemeteries. Please check out the new cemetery links.

Here is a reminder of information posted at www.mennoniteheritagefarm.com for your viewing and research:

- Newsletters from 1991 to the present under News.
- Manifests—immigrant passenger lists and translates. (See the details and the family links under Resources).

In addition, two more links are available on the Resources page:

“Is There a Lesson? Documentary Heritage” by John L. Ruth
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zUIVBDYXDdY&feature=youtu.be>

DNA genetic testing kit reviews and provides a comprehensive knowledge base of DNA test-related articles and resources from ancestry, family tree to health, wellness, diet, and nutrition.
<https://www.dnaweekly.com/blog/myheritage-vs-andme-vs-ancestrydna>

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

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