

Notes from the Farm

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President's Report

Sam Gingerich

I can report that 2023 was a successful year for the Adirondack Mennonite Heritage Association (AMHA). As in the past, board members, staff, and hundreds of volunteers and friends made this happen. Because of all of you, the house and the barn are now stabilized, and these will stand into the future. More importantly, the Association continues to develop the grounds, build the archives, and offer programming for visitors. The AMHA Board is committed to continuing on this path as it fulfills its mission to preserve and share our collective heritage. I want to thank everyone for their direct and indirect support in this work.

We need to offer a special thanks for Rosanna Moser, AMHA's Director, who coordinates and staffs the activities hosted on the Farm throughout the year, and also for all the board members and volunteers who assist in this part of our mission. This year, AMHA was able to employ Ella Barker under a grant from the Pratt Northam Foundation. Her work in the archives and assisting with programming was invaluable. We also need to acknowledge the work of Priscilla Lyndaker for her work managing the office and assisting with archival efforts.

Historically, AMHA has only offered annual membership. For a number of years, the Board has discussed establishing other options. After discussing and reviewing other Anabaptist historical societies, the Board has created a lifetime membership category. Please note this option in the membership application included in this newsletter. As you will note, the fees for annual memberships remain constant while those for lifetime membership have been set at \$500 for an individual and \$1,000 for a couple. Regardless of the level you select, we do ask you to join AMHA.

Reflecting our commitment to maintain and enhance the Farm's buildings and grounds, the following work was completed last year:

- Purchased and installed pine storage shed (14' x 26').
- Completed site prep for the pavilion (28' x 48') to be built in 2024.
- Demolished two-stall garage (1960) in November and burned the rubble in March 2024.
- Planted memorial trees: Two sugar maple and five oak trees planted in lane to the woods donated in memory of Lewis Schweitzer by his family; sugar maple near the garden donated in memory of Marilyn Mayer by the family of Elmer and Grace Steria.
- Access driveway completed with top coating of stone in May.
- Installed new milk house windows (2) and one window in the original cellar
- Installed archival window blinds (5) to the pioneer bedroom, minister's room, dining room (enclosed porch door and South window), and woodshed.
- Painted floors of front and side porches.

Since the Board is committed to making the site more accessible and welcoming for the community, plans are in place to construct a pavilion which will be completed by this fall. Preliminary site work for this facility has been done. Plans are being finalized to build this during Z Fest as a volunteer-based "barn raising." Z Fest is scheduled for Saturday, June 29, and we are asking volunteers to arrive by 9 a.m. There are jobs for adults to include the following: working on the roof, helping get supplies for those on the roof, measuring, cutting, and moving lumber, and other similar activities related to construction. Please call the office at 315-346-1122 or any board member if you are interested in helping build the pavilion on this date. A typical barn raising meal will be provided at noon. This project is supported by a gift from Susan (Taube) and Frank McVeigh in memory of



her parents, Ralph and LaVeda Taube, and their commitment to AMHA.

Plans are in place to relocate a stone smokehouse from the former Joseph B. Yousey farm on the Reservoir Road to the farm in the near term. This project is being supported by Jane (Yousey) and Ned Nafziger. In addition, several smaller projects are planned to maintain the house, barn, and grounds.

The AMHA Board is committed to the renovation/stabilization of existing historic buildings at the farm. In this light, significant renovation work, including residing and window replacement, is planned on the granary later this year.

Finally, plans are being developed for a facility that will replicate the horse and sheep barn that was original to the property. This project is scheduled for 2025. Given the scope of this project, significant funds will need to be raised. Initial plans have an estimated construction price of \$350,000. While some donations of materials are already in hand and some money has been donated for this work, the Board believes another \$150,000-200,000 will need to be raised. During Z Fest, plans and a model will be displayed, and board members will be available to talk with attendees. If you are interested in making a donation or a pledge, please complete the form on the back page of this newsletter and mail it to the address indicated. In addition, if you would like to have more information, feel free to call me (605-639-1210) at your convenience.

None of this is possible without your support. AMHA received a number of significant donations during 2023 and earlier this year. We appreciate the generosity of members and friends. These gifts allow the Association to continue to stabilize and build out the farm as well as to provide a range of programming. We offer a heartfelt thank you to all who support AMHA with their time, money, and talents. Most importantly, we appreciate your prayers for the organization.



NEW BOARD MEMBER

Eric Schwartzentruber of Lowville, was elected to the board to fill the vacated seat of Bernadine Schwartzentruber. He is a logger and helps in a sugarbush. Eric also serves on the board for the Railroad Historical Society of Northern New York.

From 1996-2002, he was an assistant youth sponsor at the Lowville Mennonite Church and junior high youth group sponsor at the Slate Hill Mennonite Church, Camp Hill, PA, from 2003-2006.

Eric married Hannah Zehr, daughter of Evan and Amy Zehr in 2021.

Acquisition Report

Rosanna M. Moser

A total of 177 accessions were completed in 2023, which is a total of 2945 accessions since 2010. We are indebted to the many individuals for the historic artifacts that continue to help tell the story of our Anabaptist Mennonite faith throughout the various buildings and displays. NOTE: In the event that you do not see an artifact listed that you donated, they are in the holding shelving.

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

Beller, Diane (Kipfer)...Book Both Sides of the Ocean.

Beller, Nevin and Lorraine (Zehr)...School books (3) original to Andrew and Martha (Zehr) Beller.

Belsterling, Julie (Morse)...Collection of photos and book My Journey original to Mary Lou (Yantzi) Morse.

Deavers, Amy (Schaefer)....DVD - A Tribute to the Seagoing Cowboys, notebook relative to experiences with the Heifer Project International, book Cowboy Memories, photos, correspondence, diary, and lanyard original to Donald Schaefer; Bible original to David L. Zehr; "David L. & Elvina (Noftsier) Zehr Family History & Genealogy;" unfinished crochet pieces, etc., pinwheels (56) made into a table scarf original to Ilona M. (Zehr) Schaefer; porcelain sugar bowl, creamer, and butter dish and two handwritten pages of birth/death dates for unknown children born to Joseph and Anna (Noftsier) Noftsier.

Gingerich, Simon...Bridal dress/cape and nightgown/shrug original to Diane (Roggie) Gingerich; photos (3) and library collection of books, booklets, and pamphlets (34) original to Simon Gingerich.

Hostetler, Dewey and Bernice (Lehman)...Genealogy notes original to Katherine M. (Zehr) Lehman.

Kieffer, Patricia...Handmade woven blanket original to Susanna (Lehman) Zehr. (See photo to the right)

Knechtel, Adeline (Zehr)...Throw pillow (unfinished) original to Mary (Yousey) Moser.

Lehman, Lyle C...Cutter and buggy original to estate of Norman and Alice (Bachman) Lehman.



Lehman, Noel...Cedar fence (small slab) original to John and Philip Moser homestead.

Lehman, Samuel and Clara (Kennel) Estate...Wired egg basket, egg grader, washboard, iron, butter churns (2), and photo of Sam Lehman and sons (1944).

Lyndaker, Milford and Carolyn...Photo of Daniel M. and Veronica (Lichti) Gingerich (1909-1910).

Lyndaker, Phyllis (Lehman)...Booklet *Blood and Health* original to Rosina Lehman.

Lyndaker, Sandy and Priscilla (Moser)...Collection of summer Bible school book/photo, certificate, and diploma.

Lyndaker, Wilbur and Florence (Widrick)... Variety of songbooks and cantata music (4) original to Wilbur Lyndaker; book *Testament and Psalms* original to Victor Lyndaker, and diaries (7) original to Joseph J. Widrick.

Marlow, Doug...Homemade child-size bonnet.



Matuszczak, Elaine (Schaefer)...Large glass-framed portrait of Carra Noftsier, daughter of Joseph and Anna (Noftsier) Noftsier, believed to be born about December 31, 1896; died at 4 years of age, 4 months, 2 weeks on May 21, 1901; buried at Kirschnerville Cemetery.

McFadden, Fern (Stalter)...DVD – *Hardly Able Boys* and photo album of Glenn Stalter's CPS experience.

McVeigh, Susan (Taube)...Book Apostolic Christian Church History Vol. 1 original to Ralph Taube.

Moser, Kathleen (Lehman)...Collection of photos, condiment tray set, porcelain tea set, metal coffee pot, glassware, motto, and book *Cruden's Complete Concordance*.

Moser, Kermit...Book *Confession of Faith and Minister's Manual* original to Joseph M. Nafziger and photo collection original to Solomon and Doris (Zehr) Moser.

Moser, Rosanna...Photo original to Nelson Moser; cassettes of 1993 revival meetings with Nelson Coblentz.

Moser, Sharon K. (Lyndaker)...Pincushion (homemade) original to Catherine (Martin) Zehr; handkerchief original to Adah (Lehman) Lyndaker; handkerchief original to Mary B. (Zehr) Lehman; baby shoes (2 sets) original to Reuben and Adah Lyndaker; and thimble holder original to Mary Lehman or Catherine Zehr.



Moshier, Carol...Books Bible Symbols and Our Darlings' Bible ABC Book.

Norris, David and Isabel (Nafziger)...Notebook "Passing the Torch" original to Arlene Yousey and collection of summer Bible school photos original to Elmer and Gladys (Yousey) Nafziger.

Rice, Susan (Grau)...German book *Pleasure Garden* and *An Impartial Song Collection* original to Michael B. Zehr; German book *The Serious Christian Duty* and *Lifepictures* original to Magdalena A. Kennel; German book *ABC* and Scripture cards (2) original to Rachel R. Zehr.

Roes, Cathi (Widrick)...Vintage salt/pepper set and sugar spoon original to Anna (Widrick) Yousey; doily original to Veronica (Erb) Widrick; German hymnal original to John N. Widrick; tea pot, serving bowl, crystal glass jar, booklet – "My School – Day Autobiography," and notebook on grave markers original to Ezra and Clara (Yousey) Moshier; porcelain bowl original to Anna Margie (Moshier) Widrick.

Roes, Dawn (Noftsier)... New Testament original to John N. Lyndaker; bridal shoes, wedding Bible, and wedding handkerchief original to Charlotte (Lyndaker) Noftsier.

Roes, Stacie (Widrick)...Collection of early 1900 calendars (5) from local businesses original to estate of Allen and Anna (Herzig) Widrick.

Roggie, Kevin and Sue (Lehman)...Ceramic porcelain serving bowl original to Veronica Moser, gift from her mother (Katie Roggie) Moser.

Steria, Robert and Lillian (Nafziger)...Collection of mottos and summer Bible school books (2) original to Lillian and summer Bible school photos original to Elmer and Gladys (Yousey) Nafziger.

Swartzentruber, Marvin...Beehive original to John B. Swartzentruber.

Tuley, Janet (Lehman)... Table scarves (2) made from cloth remnants in Joseph Martin's original trunk.

Virkler, Geneva (Lehman)...Handkerchief original to Laura E. Farney, wedding certificate (copied) for Joseph and Anne (Farni) Virkler, autobiography notebook "Leaves" original to Alice (Bachman) Lehman, memorial books for Joseph and Barbara (Virkler) Bachman, ledger of nurse's notes for Anna Mary (Farney) Virkler, 1957 Virkler Funeral Home calendar, copy of "District 7 Pupil Listing – 1936-37," and photos.

Widrick, LeEtta (Lyndaker)...serving bowl original to Katherine (Yousey) Widrick.

Widrick, Loren and Marilyn (Zehr)...Document/brochure relating to building project of Grace Community Church, Adams Center, and brief bio of Loren and Marilyn.

Zehr, Nathan... Book collection (18) original to Vernon Zehr's pastoral library; toddler shoes original to Esther (Swartzentruber) Zehr.

Zehr, Wayne and Donna (Kreider)... German Martin Luther Bible original to Joseph and Mary (Widrick) Steria II or Joseph and Helena (Noftsier) Steria and vintage glass jar holding buttons.

Zehr, Pearl (Floyd)...Collection of VHS tapes (3) on family of Joseph P. and Katie (Widrick) Moshier (converted to DVDs).

A "Raising the Roof" Event

Bernadine Schwartzentruber

"Raising the Roof" for a pavilion, an old-fashioned meal, and the Virkler family will highlight this year's Z Fest on Saturday, June 29, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Volunteers (25-30) coordinated by Mose Beiler and Norm Moshier plan to erect the pavilion. Onlookers can watch the process unfold as Carl Zehr, Evan Zehr, and others will tell barn raising stories and answer questions.

An old-fashioned barn raising meal featuring scalloped potatoes, ham, coleslaw, applesauce, vegetables, cheese, etc. will be served. Hot dogs/buns, sauerkraut, and chips will be at the same booth. Homemade ice cream, pies, and other goodies will also be available. Donations will be accepted.

Several members of the Apostolic Christian Church of Croghan will be the storytellers and have a PowerPoint presentation available for viewing. Their church group will also sing acapella hymns.

Live music, children's activities, bread and cookie baking, making sauerkraut, and textile and fiber arts are just a few of the usual events to be enjoyed on June 29. Come, join us for an exciting, memorable, and funfilled day! Admission is a donation basis.

Legacy 500

Norman Moshier

Nelson Kraybill was guest speaker November 5-7, 2023, in a continuing series of lectures highlighting the 500th Anniversary of Anabaptism coming in 2025. Kraybill is a pastor, educator, former president of Mennonite World Conference, and author. He had just returned from teaching at Bethlehem Bible College in the West Bank.

Kraybill's theme was "God was in Christ Reconciling the World to Himself." His presentations included many of his own photos. The first session titled "Zionism and the Changing Map of Palestine" was a deep dive into the history of Palestine with particular focus on Zionism from the fourth quarter of the 19th century through October 2023. Kraybill believes that understanding the conditional nature of Old Testament covenants as well as having a long view of history are essential for a thorough understanding of current events.

The second session was called "Why Did Jesus Weep Over Jerusalem?" Kraybill answered this question in the context of his theme of reconciliation. "They were behaving in ways that were destructive and would lead to violence...would that you knew of the things that make for peace," Kraybill said, reflecting on this question. He followed with an exposition on the "House of Hillel" and the "House of Shammai." Rabbi Hillel said, "What is hateful to you do not do to your neighbor...the rest is commentary." Nelson continued by saying, "Learn to know your neighbors...people don't care how much you know until they know how much you care." Finally in sum, "Jesus reduces to simple essence what God requires of us...love God with your heart, soul and mind, and your neighbor as yourself."

The third session Nelson called "For the Unity of the Body of Christ." Here he drew mainly from Apostle Paul. Key points were:

Scripture has a lot to say about how believers relate to each other.

Do not paper over...do not avoid.

There are pressing issues in the church and world that require Christians to deal with.

It is God who transforms the church, not us.

"We are witnesses;" a witness is not a judge. Never write off anyone.

And finally before leaving Corinth to take a gift of money to the impoverished church in Jerusalem, Paul could likely see his end when he expressed his deepest convictions in Romans 12-15: We are many but one body; love fulfills law; no longer pass judgment; welcome one another. "Paul," says Kraybill, "was an innovator but not a Lone Ranger. He gave his life for the unity of the church--for reconciliation. One body with different expressions centered in Jesus; this is what Paul died for."

Part IV - CPS Forest Service Experience

Bernice Zehr

In 1942 Clayton Yousey (age 20) was working at the Climax Manufacturing Co., Castorland, in the printing department, where he had begun soon after high school graduation. He received a draft notice, completed his physical, and applied for 4-E classification (Conscientious Objector or CO status).

One day at work Clayton's neighbor John Woolschlager dropped by and asked Clayton to come to his shop to talk. John's shop was full of World War I paraphernalia...bayonets, guns, etc. It was not unusual to hear John fire off a gun he was sighting. John was a draft board person described by Clayton as "a dyed in the wool military man." John ran him through several scenarios popping out weapons and throwing bayonets into the floor and listening to Clayton's response. After a while, Clayton was able to leave. Clayton noted, "I questioned if I would get the right CO classification." Shortly after their meeting, Clayton received his travel papers with destination to Luray, Virginia. He received the draft notice one day and left the next.

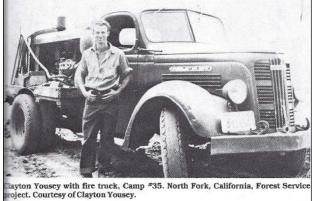
On October 6, 1942, Clayton left on a bus by himself headed to Virginia stating, "It was a daunting experience. I was lost from the time I boarded the bus. Where the bus went, I went. The bus stopped for a lunch break. I checked my envelope of papers and was able to find some provision tickets I could use. After a lot of twists and turns, we arrived at Luray. I got off the bus, and there was a building way up the hill that looked like a depot and I headed up there. I was told someone would be by to pick me up. A truck with canvas top and two men dropped by; and I rode in the back, not able to see anything into camp. I was shown my dorm and learned where my bed was. Soon after, the other men returned from their work day. It was to be a new experience. In the morning, I woke up to complete fog outside and still couldn't see anything."

The CPSers were told their induction time was "the length of the war." He would come to befriend four other men, and they would work together and share stories. As a part of the forest service camp, all CPSers were trained to fight forest fires. Their day-to-day work consisted of keeping fire roads open and cleaning up forest and maintaining parks. Work consisted of pick and shovel clearing, driving truck, placing dynamite, etc. With less than one year of service, Clayton took a 30-day furlough, "which I was entitled to and came home. It was good to get home."

Soon after his return to Luray around Memorial Day, the camp was presented with an option of filling recruits needed for forestry service at North Fork, California. He and his four friends signed up. On that Sunday, the parents of one friend dropped by camp for a visit. The friend's mother was distraught to think her son would be placed so far away so he withdrew his name. That evening the announcement came that Clayton and his three friends would be leaving by train the next morning for California. It was a long train ride!"

Their work in California was similar to Virginia. One noted difference was use of equipment. Clayton stated: "In California they had machinery, and they used it. There were bulldozers, trucks, diggers, etc. In Virginia we were filling in washouts with a wheel barrow, pick, and shovel. The washouts were big enough to drive trucks through. You can see how much we were able to accomplish."

The U.S. Park Service was in charge of the CPSers who gave them instruction for their work. Often the men lived in tent outposts approximately 65 miles from the base camp.



They did their own cooking and maintenance. They especially enjoyed meal times when fighting fires because the U.S. Forestry Service provided the meals, and "They were good." Water was heated in a barrel beside the river. They drank water out of the river. A shower head was rigged up through a barrel. Army sleeping bags were provided, including cold weather sleeping gear. Sleeping bags were shook out each night prior to crawling into to remove the rattlers.

When they were not fighting fires, they built forest maintenance roads, which involved drilling and blasting. Clayton's son Terry noted, "At one point, Dad didn't have gloves on and nitroglycerine was absorbed into his hands resulting in violent headaches."

During the fire season, the CPSers were the "mop up crew." They attempted to encircle the fire and scrape debris back. Terry said, "One time Dad got his feet burned badly and ended up in the hospital for a few weeks. For the rest of his life, he had to purchase good footwear." They were often elected to go into hot spots after fires to dig and control. Sometimes their job was to start fires for bank burning. Sometimes this backfired. They were often out for several months at a time until having a leave option.



Clayton never visited home while serving in California. He was officially discharged from CPS March 7, 1946, serving three years and five months. After three years of letter writing, Clayton married Iva Yancey on June 5, 1946.

Terry noted, "He was best buddies for life with eight or nine of the guys. Most of his tent mates were farm boys from Pennsylvania with similar ages." After CPS, reunions were held every three to four years in differing locations. Clayton did return to visit his work area in California. Often on a yearly basis, Clayton and his CPS buddies with families would get together.

His return to Climax Manufacturing was not rosy. On his first day back to work, some of the men started a walkout at the mill.

Mr. Hirschey came out and reported there was work for all employees. Those who wished to work could report back inside and those who didn't could leave. This quelled most of the problem, but Clayton was still under attack for CO comments. Later, he was promoted as

supervisor requiring management for some of these workers. Terry commented, "Over time many of these men came privately to Dad and thanked him for his willingness to be fair."

Andrew Lyndaker also served with forestry service beginning October 16, 1942, at age 30. He spent his first year in Pennsylvania serving time with Art Lyndaker. He transferred to his final location in Montana serving at Glacier National Park. In Montana, he worked outside under the forestry service and also was the camp medic. He was discharged from CPS on April 20, 1946, serving three years and six months.

His daughter Lois stated, "CPS camp at the Glacier National Park was always a highlight for Dad. He talked a lot about his experiences and the beauty of the park." Andrew made a return trip and recognized some of the buildings that are not used by the government. He married Inez Noftsier in 1948. He had a lifelong love for the woods. For years, Andrew Lyndaker and Vernon Zehr planned family get togethers at the end of the summer to have a one to two-day backpacking trip for the fall. Their favorite tended to be the Five Pond wilderness area with camping near Big Sand and Rock Lake. Often their sons or other men would join them. They continued this well into their 70s.



Dairy Farming Over 140 Years

Rosanna M. Moser and Arlene Zehr



We are featuring what is one of the oldest Mennonite dairy farm operations to date. (Future articles of like subject will continue.) As of Fall 2023, the farm has been in operation for over 140 years. This four-generation farm on the Croghan-Belfort Road is under the ownership of James and Leona (Nolt) Zehr today. They have owned the farm since 1994. The farm today has a total of 425 acres and total head of 150. The average number of milkers is 75.

It was in 1883 that Joseph and Lena (Noftsier) Roggie (married September 20, 1883) purchased the farm of 50.24 acres. Lena died two days after the birth of their first son Joseph N. Roggie in December 1885. Joseph married Lena's single sister Kate Noftsier in 1887. Joseph and Kate Roggie sold the farm to their daughter

Mollie (Roggie) Zehr and her husband Andrew Zehr in December 1920 (married February 1914). At that time, the farm consisted around 138 acres plus 13 acres of flat land along the Black River and wooded land of 8.5 acres in the town of Diana (Cedar Swamp).

In the Zehr History and Genealogy book by Arletha Zehr Bender Yoder, the author shares the following about her father Andrew: Dad enjoyed hunting for honey bees and caring for the bee swarms he secured. When a bee stung him, he would say, "The bee kissed me." Andrew and Mollie sold the farm to their youngest son Anthony and Arlene (Nafziger) Zehr in May 1947. Anthony increased the size of the barn and added more cattle. (The couple was married August 22, 1946, and celebrated 70.5 years of marriage until Anthony's death in April 2017.)

We had a wonderful life living on this farm.



Arlene (age 96) writes the following: Andrew and Mollie lived across the road from the farm at the former home of Mollie's parents, which is also my retirement home today. Mollie continued to wash the milking machines for several years after they were off the farm. We had 11 children. Two have passed away...Darius, age three, and Ann at birth. I was a busy mother. I milked cows, drove tractor, and had a large garden. We raised ducks, turkeys, chickens, rabbits, and goats. Sugaring was a big family affair and is yet. I cooked in the sugar bush making the meals and also made sugar cakes.

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.

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ADIRONDACK MENNONITE HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

(Valid Through April 30, 2025)

Date			
Renewal NEW		Name (print)	
Membership Category	(Select One)	Address	
Individual	\$15		
Married Couple	\$25	Phone	
Lifetime (Individual)	\$500	Email	
Lifetime (Couple)	\$1000		
• •	nique Christian fai	preserve our Mennonite Heritage (based on its Anabaptist origin of th story with our world, and (c) keep intact artifacts of the North	
		, affirm that I am in agreement with Adirondack Mennonite I do my utmost to support the organization in accomplishing these	
Please make checks pa	ayable to AMHA [501(c)(3) organization] and mail to:	
AMHA Treasurer, Char PO Box 368 Croghan, NY 13327.	rlene Moser		

Donation Card for the Horse/Sheep Barn				
We/I want to help build this facility to replicate the horse and sheep barn.				
Name(s)	Phone			
Address				
Email				
Amount of Donation	(Please include a check payable to AMHA.)			
Amount of Pledge	_ (We will follow up with you.)			
Please mail this form to AMHA Treasurer, Charler	ne Moser, PO Box 368, Croghan, NY 13327.			

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 Charlene Moser, Treasurer PO Box 368

Croghan, NY 13327

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