



Notes from the Farm

Volume 35 Issue 1

June 2025

Board of Directors

Linda Deveines
Interim Vice President
315-376-3020

Charlene Moser
Treasurer
315-681-8933

Donald Roggie
Assistant Treasurer
315-771-0019

Bernice Zehr
Secretary
315-376-2166

Jim Rush
540-421-7890

Eric Schwartzentruher
315-376-8397

Marie Swartzentruber
315-874-5782

Jacob Waugh
315-286-2975

Rosanna M. Moser
Curator/Director of Operations
315-376-7822

Priscilla Lyndaker
Administrative Assistant

Norman Moshier
Facilities Consultant
315-486-9284

Email:
info@mennoniteheritagefarm.com

Website/Facebook
www.mennoniteheritagefarm.com

Activity Report for 2024

AMHA had a great year in 2024. We need to acknowledge our board members, our staff, and the innumerable volunteers that are supporting the work of AMHA. A special thanks to Rosanna who coordinates and staffs the activities and for all the board members and volunteers who assist. For the third year, AMHA employed Ella Barker under a grant from the Pratt-Northam Foundation. Her work in the archives and assistance with programming was invaluable.

Though the weather on Z Fest drew a smaller crowd, we had a number of volunteers who helped with the truss installation on the pavilion who started much earlier than planned that day due to the weather forecast.

Facilities Work at the Farm

Reflecting our commitment to maintain and enhance the Farm's buildings and grounds, the following work was completed in 2024:

- Controlled burn of the 1960s garage and cleanup of the area.
- Installed a new dumpster pad (crushed stone) at the east corner of the parking lot in June.
- Constructed stand for water pitcher pump (donated by Peter Keys).
- Installed the large school bell (donated from Taube residence) near house entrance.
- Construction of pavilion (28' x 48') started in May; trusses installed in June followed by metal roofing in August.
- Added another layer of shelving in barn loom room for textile looms.
- Replastered ceiling and walls, where necessary, in large bedroom and painted the room.
- Razing of former Joe B. Yousey smokehouse and excavation to the farm.
- Town of New Bremen replaced culvert pipe at parking lot entrance. Installed 10" HDPE culvert pipe across farm lane; drainage ditch placed between granary and pavilion.

Plans

The pouring of the concrete floor for the pavilion is completed and also the pad to anchor the 11' windmill from the former Ralph Taube property. An addition (16' x 12') to the pavilion is in progress for a serving area and to store appliances, supplies, and tables. The pavilion is available to host family reunions, church picnics, and other similar events too. Please make arrangements with Rosanna Moser at info@mennoniteheritagefarm.com or call 315-346-1122.



The pouring of the concrete floor for the smokehouse will be done later in the summer. Randall Zehr will then begin the reassembling of the smokehouse that is original to the late Joe B. Yousey property.

The pavilion will be a welcome addition to the site for the 33rd annual Z Fest on July 5 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. with a focus on the Farm's place in the history of the Anabaptist churches in Lewis County and the resources it holds. The dedication of the pavilion will occur about 11:45 a.m. This year's theme is "*...strangers and pilgrims on the earth.*" Hebrews 11:13b, which is based on Arlene Yousey's book *Strangers and Pilgrims - History of Lewis County Mennonites* printed in 1987. The book will be available at the gift shop at a discounted price. The Yousey family will be recognized at the Fest and throughout the season in artifact and photo displays. At 10:45 a.m., there will be a discussion on the "Evolution of Amish Mennonite Congregations in Northern New York" and a panel interview with Yousey family members is planned for 1:45 p.m. There will be some demonstrations, singing, PowerPoint presentations, and tours of the house and archival area throughout the day. Food choices will be chicken barbeque (take outs available), hot dog/sauerkraut, baked goods, and pie/ice cream.

The Board feels adding a series of events will allow the Farm to better showcase how this is truly a resource for the community. Three more Fests (10 a.m.-3 p.m.) are in the planning stages that will include food, tours of the house and archival area, barn, and granary, etc.

Fiber Arts Fest – July 26: Throughout the day, there will be demonstrations of weaving, spinning, knitting, crocheting, embroidery, quilting, etc. We will also have a comforter set up for tying. There will be a workshop on dyeing yarn with Kool-Aid in the morning and in the afternoon a demonstration of making a sock on the circular sock machine.

Children's Fest – August 16: Come learn about "Summer's Bounty" that will feature activities specifically geared for children at any age and those young at heart. Visitors will pick up a passport upon entry and receive a stamp for each activity they complete as they explore the farm. A few activities will be time dependent but most will be available at all times. Try your hand at skills from the past and deepen your understanding of the bounty on a farm in the late summer.

Harvest Fest - October 4: Enjoy a fall day at the farm for activities such as cider making, bread making, sauerkraut making, food preservation, wagon rides in the woods, etc. More details will follow in advertising. Plans for the replication of the horse and sheep barn are placed on hold for this year. Significant funds will need to be raised. While some donations of materials are already in hand, the Board will be working on raising the moneys needed so work can begin another year.

AMHA Members and Friends

Once again, AMHA received several significant donations during the year. We appreciate the generosity of members and friends. These gifts are allowing the Association to continue to stabilize and to build out the farm. We offer a heartfelt thank you to all who support with their time, money, and talents. Most importantly, we appreciate your prayers for the organization.

Loving Memory of Samuel B. Gingerich

The Adirondack Mennonite Heritage Association Board was very saddened by the sudden death of fellow board member and president, Sam Gingerich. Although the Board tenure was quite brief, he had a huge impact over the past four years. He challenged the Board to think about doing programs and events in new ways. For example, the focus of Z Fest has been changed by discarding some activities and keeping those that align better with the AMHA mission and vision.

Also, he was instrumental in taking steps to ensure future financial stability. We now have the beginnings of an Endowment Fund to help in this endeavor.

At our last board meeting with Sam on April 2, he positioned himself sideways looking off as though he was thinking out loud. He said, "I plan to serve at least three more years, if you will have me. There is far more I would like to do. I am just having way too much fun!" He cupped his hands together, looked at us, and gave a grin.

The teacher/administrator combination served Sam well as he led us through many tasks. At times we were students learning processes, volunteers helping out with a project, dreamers and visionaries looking ahead. Sam served AMHA well, and we were privileged to have him. Sam joins the legacy of the many capable leaders AMHA has been gifted. There will be more, and we are privileged.

We miss Sam; hopefully, we can carry out his ideas as we move forward.

Acquisition Report

Rosanna M. Moser

A total of 185 accessions was completed in 2024, which is an overall total of 3130 accessions and 4727 items 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:

- Bender, Alvis & Bonnie (Zehr) - Plastic doll original to Arletha (Zehr) Bender Yoder; porcelain doll original to Kate (Noftsier) Roggie.
- Bingle, Doris - *Holy Bible* original to Joseph Mosher (Moshier) Rieffanacht.
- Brouty, Janet (Martin) - Framed photo, wedding dress, and doll carriage original to Mae E. (Zehr) Farney.
- Deavers, Amy (Schaefer) - Sunday school attendance record original to Ilona Zehr (Schaefer); baby shoes, crocheted baby sweater and hat original to Gail Marie (Schaefer) Lyndaker; book original to Anna (Noftsier) Noftsier (Joseph).
- Garber, Carl - Book entitled *To God Alone The Honor* by Allan A. Garber.
- Gingerich, Simon - Booklet entitled "Where is the Church?"
- Grau, Mary (Zehr) - Notebook (short stories, poems, scripture, and trip diary notes) original to Magdalena (Kennel) Lehman; doll original to John A. Kennel, porcelain doll original to Kathleen Zehr; and homemade child's rocking horse original to Ben & Susanna (Lehman) Zehr family.
- Jantzi, Mark - Collection of books (16) authored by Mark Jantzi.
- Jantzi, Wilbur - Embroidered scarf original to Florence (Moser) Jantzi and 1992 "Sears" catalog.
- Keefer, Valerie (Roggie) - Wool blanket original to John B. & Mary (Yousey) Moser.
- Kelly, Cheryl (Schweitzer) - Bridal dress and belt original to Audrey (Steiner) Schweitzer (Lewis).
- Lehman, Anne - Library collection of German and English books (13), including *Ausbund* from household of Kenneth & Cleo (Yousey) Lehman.
- Lehman, Delvin & Sharon (Roes) - Crocheted blanket made by Mabel Mayer; diary original to Jacob Z. Roggie; and "Following Your Husband's Calling" presentation by Sharon Lehman at 2024 Jeff-Lewis Women's annual meeting.
- Lehman, Doris - Collection of homemade head bonnets (four) original to Saviera (Gingerich) Lehman and daughters, Doris Lehman, Adalene Lehman, and Kathleen (Lehman) Moser.
- Lehman, Gary & Alice - Iron (coal) and ice tongs from estate of Sam and Clara (Kennel) Lehman.
- Lyndaker, Amy - Yarn winder, dresses (two), and pillowcase set original to Sarah (Roggie) Moshier; toddler dress original to Marion (Moshier) Yousey; "Leyendecker Family 1811-1843" genealogy booklet original to Dale & Sarah (Yousey) Lyndaker.
- Lyndaker, Roland J. - Genealogy books (two) of Lyndaker and Roggie families.
- Lyndaker, Sandy & Priscilla (Moser) - Bridesmaid dress, bridal party photo, and Eastern Mennonite College year books (two) original to Priscilla Lyndaker.
- Lyndaker, Shirley - Collection of books (six) original to Christian L. Lyndaker & Mary (Jane) Lyndaker (Noftsier); inspiration cards original to Christian Lyndaker.



Martin, Jane - "John Martin Genealogy" compiled by Vera Hirschy and German periodical "Family Calendar" for 1921 original to Catherine (Roggie) Martin.

Martin, Lena Mae Yousey - Music book original to Emma Yousey; vanity set original to Irene (Widrick) Yousey; vanity set original to Lena (Moser) Yousey; sap bucket and egg carrier/egg cartons original to Benjamin & Irene Yousey; heart-shaped doily original to estate of Floyd & Gladys Moshier.

McFadden, Fern (Stalter) - "2001 Family Directory" of William & Katherine Schaefer.

McVeigh, Susan (Taube) - Rug beater, milk pail, baby doll, hot plate, embroidered bureau scarf, lace table scarf, crocheted tablecloth, oil lamp, scales, stoneware jug, framed prints of "Lord's Prayer" and "Ten Commandments," homemade bridal dress and belt, and wedding photograph from estate of Ralph & LaVeda (Widrick) Taube; wooden ladder and laundry wringer original to Elmer S. & Minnie Taube.

Moser, Kermit - Collection of school books (four) original to Solomon & Doris (Zehr) Moser.

Moser, Merlin & Charlene - Photo collection original to Donald & Arletha (Mayer) Moser; cards/correspondence addressed to Mrs. Daniel (Lena) Moser.

Moser, Rosanna - Book entitled *Memories and Stories* by Aaron A. Lehman; 2023 pictorial church directory of Naumburg Mennonite Church; Master's Men's quartet photo; *Grace and Truth Community Church Directory 2024*; *Andrew R. & Emma Moser Our Heritage in Memories* by Rosanna M. Moser; book entitled *Together in the Work of the Lord* by Nathan E. Yoder.

Moshier, Carol - Toddler dress and sweater set original to family of Erwin & Esther (Zehr) Moshier; store bought romper original to Samuel J. Moshier.

Moshier, Dorrance & Janet - Pillowcases, photo albums, booklet, rocking chair, and clock original to estate of Ezra & Clara (Yousey) Moshier.

Ovando, Lila (Moser) - Feather mattress and goose feather pillows (three) original to Jacob & Nina (Lehman) Moser.

Roes, Cathi (Widrick) - Homemade bridal dress and slip, purchased petticoat original to Anna Margie (Moshier) Widrick and wedding photo of Glenn R. & Anna Margie Widrick.

Roes, Dawn (Noftsier) - War ration book original to Charlotte A. (Lyndaker) Noftsier.

Roggie, Calvin - "Happy Time Nursery Songs" record album and hymnal original to estate of Wilburn & Elveira (Lehman) Roggie.

Roggie, Richard & Delores (Jantzi) - *Holy Bible* (wedding) original to Delores (Jantzi) Roggie and scanned photos from family album.

Roggie, Wayne & Edythe (Finney) - Poultry incubator original to Christian W. Lehman.

Schwartzentruber, Nelson & Bernadine - Collection of photos (Pine Grove Mennonite Church and Barbara Streicher) and comforter made by Abner Swartzentruber.

Sirtoli, Lorna (Widrick) Widrick - Poem collection written by Lorna (Widrick) Sirtoli.

Smith, Mary (Jantzi) - Book entitled *Aaron & Susan Jantzi* by Mary Smith.

Steiner, H. Paul - Hay rake original to Paul Schulz.

Steria, Carol - Collection of books (three) original to Daniel & Nelda (Moser) Steria.

Steria, Roberta - Photo of Joseph & Helena (Noftsier) Steria III family.

Verschneider, Karen (Lehman) - Dresses (two), cape, and jacket original to Mary (Zehr) Lehman (Chris).

Virkler, Alton & Geneva (Lehman) - Stereo album "Acappella Choraleers" original to Norman and Alice (Bachman) Lehman; handwritten pages copied from family Bible register of Christian W. Lehman.

Virkler, Caroline (Roes) - Book entitled *The Samuel and Lena Nafziger Roes Family* Updated 2023.



Widrick, Glenn & Anna Margie (Moshier) - Collection of diaries and photo albums from the estates of Ezra & Clara (Yousey) Moshier and Jacob Yousey.

Widrick, John & Mary Ellen (Yousey) - Matching coat, vest, and pants; vest, wool suit coat, and wool pants original to David Yousey; petticoat (homemade), and leather purse original to Mary (Mollie Moser) Yousey; leather wallet original to Elmer Yousey; booklet original to David & Mary Yousey; large wagon original to Jacob Widrick.

Yoder, Arletha (Zehr) Bender - Butter churn original to Andrew B. & Mollie (Roggie) Zehr.

Zehr, Carl & Lois (Wagler) - *Holy Bible* original to Jacob Wagler; genealogy of Andrew & Anna (Widrick) Roggie; DVDs (two) relating to the life of Anna (Roggie) Wagler, essays (four) authored by Lois Zehr; essay authored by Anna Wagler; collection of photos, bridal attendant dresses/belts (two), and slip original to Lois Zehr.

Zehr, Carolyn (Erb) - Homemade wool bonnet, handwoven wool blanket, homemade dress, and half apron original to Mary (Roggie) Moser (Christian).

Zehr, Gerald - Photo of Wilbur F. Zehr.

Zehr, Joseph P. - Collection of taxidermy animals (four) original to Joseph P. Zehr.

Zehr, Joseph & Malinda - Embroidered baby bib, baby shoes (two), homemade dresses (two), cape for wedding dress, wedding shoes, and overshoes original to Joan (Gingerich) Zehr; book original to Malinda Zehr; collection of postcards original to Samuel & Malinda (Martin) Gingerich.

Zehr, Melvin & Bertha (Nolt) - Booklet entitled "Crystal Light Mennonite School 50 Years 1972-2023."

Zehr, Nathan & Paula (Yancey) - Eyeglass/case, shirt replacement collar, two calendars, and "Young People's Bible Meeting" Fall 1954 program original to Gerald & Lena (Lyndaker) Yancey; wooden chair original to Edward & Rosella (Zehr) Yancey.

Zehr, Rachel B. - Grindstone.



Joseph C. Zehr—Barber Trade Certificate—January 6, 1911, New York City



Son of Christian A. and Mary (Yousey) Zehr born March 14, 1885.

Married Isabelle Brouty March 1911.

Killed by a falling tree limb in woods near Long Pond February 21, 1929.

90 Years or Older in Lewis-Jefferson County
Mennonite Community – 2024 to June 2, 2025
(Including Out-of-County and State Residents)

Beller, Tom and Beulah Roggie
Detweiler, Ellis and Caroline Moser, Harrisonburg, Virginia
Hostetler, Bernice Lehman (Dewey), North Newton, Kansas
Gingerich, Simon; Diane Lyndaker Roggie – Died February 2025
Glick, Rosalie Zehr (Wesley), Rustburg, Virginia
Good, Mervin, London, Ontario
Kloster, Beverly Lehman (Henry)
Lehman, Betty Moser (Beryl)
Lehman, Donna Lyndaker (Nevin)
Lehman, Doris A.
Lehman, Doris VanNess (Everett)
Lehman, Elmer – Died March 2025; Eileen Zehr – Died May 2024, Hilliard, Ohio
Lehman, Jane, Goshen, Indiana – Died March 2025
Lehman, Laverne (Jim); Hildabeth (Betsy) Hirschler – Died January 2025, Goshen, Indiana
Lehman, Lyle, Rochester, New York
Lyndaker, Kenneth – OLDEST Male – 96 years
Lyndaker, Phyllis Lehman (Norman)
Lyndaker, Velma Zehr (Harold)
Moser, Claire M.
Moser, Joyce Lehman (Ellis)
Moser, Kathleen Lehman (Elmer)
Moser, Robert and Bettie Durst, Severna Park, Maryland
Moshier, Gladys Widrick (Floyd) – Died June 2024
Moshier, Maietta Lehman (Arnold), Sarasota, FL
Myers, Pauline Zehr (Homer), Harrisonburg, Virginia
Robertson, Joan Yousey (Herbert), Toledo, Ohio – Died May 2025
Roggie, John R.
Roggie, Richard J.
Schweitzer, Audrey Steiner (Lewis) – Died May 2025
Schweitzer, Gladys Lyndaker (Gerald), Big Bear Lake, California
Sirtoli, Lorna Widrick (Walter, rm. Peter)
Smoker, Muriel Lyndaker Fisher (Arthur), New Holland, Pennsylvania
Steria, Shirley Nafziger (Wilbur)
Virkler, Alton – Died February 2025
Wagler, Rosemary Martin (Edward), Richmond, Virginia (Died June 2025)
Wedel, Dolores Lehman (Arnold), North Newton, Kansas
Widrick, Arlene Roggie (Royal)
Widrick, LeEtta Lyndaker (Norman)
Widrick, Rachael Zehr (Sherwood)
Widrick, Susanna Lehman (Clayton) – Died January 2025
Yousey, Arlene – OLDEST Female – 102 years
Yousey, Ira, Rome, New York
Zehr, Jr., Alvin R.
Zehr, Arletha Archer (Robert L.)
Zehr, Beulah Roggie (Daniel)
Zehr, Arlene Nafziger (Anthony)
Zehr, Janet Widrick (Gilbert)
Zehr, Jean Snyder (Donald), Lititz, Pennsylvania
Zehr, Levi and Florence Erb
Zehr, Llewellyn P. – Died June 2024
Zehr, Michael M., Goshen, Indiana
Zehr, Pauline Bauman (Walter), Harrisonburg, Virginia
Zehr, Pauline R.
Zehr, Pearl E. Bauman (Floyd), Lititz, Pennsylvania

Note: Please notify Rosanna Moser if a name is inadvertently missed on this list.

Yousey Family History

By Jane Yousey and Yvonne Yousey



The Yousey farm (the Homestead) on the Croghan Reservoir Road began with a man named Joseph B. Yousey. Born in 1840 in Carthage, New York, Joseph moved to Canada with his family at around 11 years old. He moved to Lewis County in young adulthood to work for John and Anna (Nafziger) Widrick. Through his work, he met his bride, Catherine Steria, and they married in the summer of 1871. She was 22, and he was 31. Their marriage occurred after Joseph

granted Catherine's request that they make their home in Lewis County.

For the first years of their marriage, they lived with Catherine's parents on her childhood farm next to the Homestead. Their first two children, Katie and Joseph J. were born in the same log cabin where Catherine was born. Here, she learned to spin flax and weave it into cloth on a large loom in her teenage years. She wove flax for other families as a way to contribute to household income.

In 1875, Joseph and Catherine built a log cabin of their own on the Homestead. Part of the land was given to them as Catherine's "inheritance." At around the same time, Joseph was selected by the "lot" method to serve as minister in the Amish Mennonite congregation and maintained that role for the rest of his life. Additionally, he fathered 11 more children with Catherine: John, Chris, David, Menno, Solomon, Mary, Jacob, and Anna as well as two (2) sons who died in infancy. Madeline, the youngest, was born in a new farmhouse that was constructed along with a barn and smokehouse. A sturdy foundation of red granite, cut from outcroppings on the land, supported the house and barn while the smokehouse walls were made entirely of hand-cut stone. Around this time, friends from Nebraska wrote letters strongly encouraging Joseph to purchase cleared land there with the promise of rich soil, plentiful water and abundant corn, wheat and oat crops. Joseph kept his word with Catherine, and the couple continued to carve out a life at the Homestead.

Their home was multi-functional. The copper wash boiler in the kitchen held boiling water where strips of wood were steamed and bent around forms to make snowshoes. The frames were laced with leather straps and then readied for use in the deep snow for maple sap gathering, logging and working the farm.

Catherine also continued her weaving and sewing in the house making clothes for both her husband and her children.

The Yousey family also hosted church meetings in their home. In preparation, the kitchen walls were whitewashed. If snow-drifted roads canceled Sunday services, neighbors gathered to read the Bible and sing hymns in German. They arrived with meat, potatoes, cabbage, turnips, and beans which were stewed in large pots. In the afternoon, they shared the meal and socialized.

Out-of-town guests received a warm welcome in the Yousey home. Relatives from Canada, Pennsylvania, and out West planned overnight visits. During their stay, they rode by horse and buggy to see local sights such as the new electric plant in Effley Falls.

Besides the farm, the family owned a sugar bush on the Belfort-Soft Maple Road. In 1907, they made 5,600 pounds of maple sugar in addition to maple syrup. The maple sugar sold for 12 cents a pound in nearby Lowville. This and logging were their main sources of income.

A small house was added to the farmhouse in 1909 for Joseph and Catherine to live in as they aged. That same year, son Menno married Lena Moser, and they purchased the Homestead, although they didn't receive the deed for seven more years. Menno farmed the land, and the two families lived on the property until Joseph's death in 1915 at the age of 74. Catherine lived in the small house until 1919 when she divided up her remaining household goods and moved in with her daughter Katie. This coincided with the purchase of the 136-acre Brewery Hill farm (owned by John S. Bush) on Route 812 by Menno and Lena. By this time, their family included two sons, Warren

(b. 1911), and Reuben and three daughters, Emma (b. 1912), Elva, and Mabel. Their youngest son, Benjamin, was born on the new farm in 1921, and his mother Lena died six months later from tuberculosis. She preceded her mother-in-law Catherine who died in 1929. Menno remarried Mary Lehman Schweitzer in 1923, and the couple operated the farm while using the Homestead to graze heifers in the summertime and also make hay. In early summer, the young stock was herded nearly seven miles to the Homestead and then herded back in late summer. Menno also built an addition to the barn which allowed him to expand the number of milking cows from 25 to 30. They retired from farming in 1946 and moved to a house in Croghan. He died in 1957 at the age of 75, and Mary continued to live with her step-son Warren until her death at the age of 92.

Youngest son Benjamin purchased the Brewery Hill farm also in 1946 after marrying Irene Widrick Yousey. He was 25, and she was 20 when they started farming together and raising a family of five daughters. Lena, Yvonne, Marcia, Jane, and Beverly all learned to milk cows, help with haying and perform other farm-related chores as well as helping their mother with cooking, gardening, canning, and child care. Benjamin added 20 more milking cows to the herd, and he continued the tradition of grazing heifers on the Homestead property in the early years. However, the farmhouse was taken down in the 1940s, and the studs and siding were used elsewhere for new buildings including construction of a large garage on the Brewery Hill farm. The barn was dismantled in 1953 and rebuilt for Harold J. Moshier.



Benjamin and Irene sold their farm in 1981, and they moved to a house in Beaver Falls where he worked in carpentry and as a school custodian. Irene worked for Head Start at Beaver River Central School and volunteered in various capacities for Beaver Camp and at the Croghan Mennonite church. They kept ownership of the Homestead, and Benjamin, along with brothers-in-law Floyd Moshier and Michael Moser, would often cut wood for burning and maintain the forest roads there.

In 2002, they sold their house in Beaver Falls and moved to Brookside Retirement Center. As long as he could drive, Benjamin would still work up at the Homestead. He expressed an interest in keeping the property in the family. Irene passed in 2010 at age 83, and Benjamin died two years later at the age of 91. Before their deaths, daughter Jane and her husband Ned Nafziger purchased the 103-acre property in 2009. They have since donated the smokehouse to the Adirondack Mennonite Heritage Association. Jane and Ned live in Ohio and wish the property was closer. They visit as often as possible, though, holding campfires and enjoying the beauty and the serenity of the land, which has mostly returned to forest.

Sources for this article are:

Strangers and Pilgrims by Arlene Yousey

The Yousey Family Story by Arlene Yousey

Stories As He Remembered Them as told by Nelson Widrick

Transcript of talk given at Yousey reunion in 1974 by Arlene Yousey

Transcript of interview with Ben Yousey in 2010 by Dawson Grau

Note: A more detailed history will be available this fall in the AMHA archives.

New **AMHA** members

Dan Pierce

Jim Zehr

101 Fun Facts to love about Lewis County and The Tug Hill region....

Journal & Republican – December 4, 2024

No. 13 An antique Bible from the 1500s is housed in the Mennonite Heritage Farm Museum.

No. 34 Lewis County, NY has 35 spots identified as National Register of Historic Places.
(AMHA was recognized in 2010.)

TRIVIA

Trivia in *Notes from the Farm* November 2024: “What Lewis County Mennonite couple was married the longest in the 1980s?” Credit goes to the late Elmer Lehman, Hilliard, Ohio, to answer the Trivia question.

Answer: John and Ellen (Lehman) Widrick were married 69 years in 1989. John E. Widrick died at 94 years on September 8 (short one month to have 70 years of marriage on October 7, 1990). The couple was given a trip from Utica to Syracuse and back on their 68th anniversary by their children. Helen Lyndaker and Phyllis Jantzi, two daughters, accompanied them on October 7, 1988.

Correction in *Notes from the Farm* November 2024: One more couple to add for the total of 14 married in 1954 and that is Howard and Ruth (Jantzi) Miller – November 26, 1954. See article “Levi and Florence Zehr Celebrate 70 Years.”

The AMHA panel interview “The Evolution of the Amish Mennonite Congregations in Northern NY” held on May 4 is available on YouTube at the website <https://mennoniteheritagefarm.com/> - click on Videos or <https://mennoniteheritagefarm.com/>. Individuals who participated are the following: Norm Moshier, moderator, Duane Farney, Larry Moser, Edward Roggie, Geneva Virkler, Evan Zehr, and Nathan Zehr.

FALL *Plowman's Journal*

MORE reading for each of the following two brief summaries will be published in the *Plowman's Journal* fall edition. See page 11 for subscription information to the *Plowman's Journal* on the membership application.

Christian and Mary Roggie Moser

139+ Year Family Farm

On January 17, 1886, Pioneer John Moser conveyed to his son Christian and wife Mary (Roggie) Moser 77.84 acres of land (7507 Kirschnerville Road), which was deeded in 1889. Throughout the years until 2024, it was a dairy farm operation. In the later years, the farm had an average milking herd of 55 and had young stock. The present owner of the farm is Jason and Julie Moser, who was deeded the property in 2016.

First Medical Doctor in Local Mennonite Community

Dr. and Mrs. Ralph (Betty Strong) Zehr left September 16, 1965, for London University to do a one-year tropical medical study, which was followed by a term of service in Ghana with the Mennonite Board of Missions, Elkhart, Indiana. He served at an outpatient clinic for 1.5 years with an additional half year at Worawora and Adidome Hospitals. They returned to the states in May 1968; and thereafter, Ralph spent his entire medical career (43 years) at the Guthrie Clinic healthcare system, Sayre, Pennsylvania. Ralph is the son of the late Elias and Martha (Widrick) Zehr. Dr. Zehr earned his M.D. degree at State University of New York Upstate Medical Center, Syracuse.

Virkler lettuce seed available on a donation basis at the AMHA gift shop.

Croghan Cemetery Map

By Gary and Carol Widrick

In 2021 it became clear that the grave diggers needed a new map for the Croghan Mennonite Cemetery. The fragile window shade map with its hand-drawn plots with numbers and names on was literally falling apart and now will be displayed with other memorabilia at the Mennonite Heritage Farm in Kirschnerville.

We took the old map with us to Production Unlimited in Watertown to get started. After several meetings, a layout of the cemetery was printed onto a 36" x 32" sheet of paper. This was not nearly large enough to print the 1000 names and numbers on the plots.

We found Dillon Designs in Carthage with a larger printer/scanner. We had several maps made. When we walked the cemetery with maps in hand, the lines did not line up with the cemetery. Unknown to us was a drainage system running through the "Center Section" throwing everything out of line. We also found the children's section had smaller size sites and did not line up with the "Center Section" they were connected to. We finally got the correct information to Dillon Designs. They were very patient with us and made an accurate map.

The cemetery is divided into three sections. The "Center Section" has numbers 1-594. The "West Section" is numbered 1-159, and the "North Section" is numbered 161-450 with room for expansion.



We used the old map to get the numbers placed correctly on the plots. Using the Find a Grave for the Croghan Mennonite Cemetery was helpful to spell names correctly. Larry Noftsier had an up-to-date ledger; Sharon (Moser) Garber had compiled cemetery information into an electronic spreadsheet, so we were able to cross-check data. The project was completed in February 2025 and turned over to Derek Hartzler, who is responsible for grave digging.

IN ORDER TO BE BORN, YOU NEEDED—

- 2 parents
- 4 grandparents
- 8 great-grandparents
- 16 second great-grandparents
- 32 third great-grandparents
- 64 fourth great-grandparents
- 128 fifth great-grandparents
- 256 sixth great-grandparents
- 512 seventh great-grandparents
- 1,024 eighth great-grandparents
- 2,048 ninth great-grandparents

For you to be born today from 12 previous generations, you needed a total of 4,094 ancestors over the last 400 years.

Think for a moment... How many struggles? How many battles? How many difficulties? How much sadness? How much happiness? How many love stories? How many expressions of hope for the future? -did your ancestors have to undergo for you to exist in this present moment...

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* twice a year and *Notes from the Farm* (annually).
- 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.

-----Cut Here -----

Adirondack Mennonite Heritage Association ANNUAL or LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION (Valid Through April 30, 2026)

Date _____

Renewal _____ **NEW** _____

Name (print) _____

Membership Category (Select One)

Individual \$15 _____

Married Couple \$25 _____

Lifetime (Individual) \$500 _____

Lifetime (Couple) \$1000 _____

Additional Donation \$ _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Subscription to *Plowman's Journal*—\$15.00 _____

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.

AMHA is a 501(c)(3) organization. Please make checks payable to AMHA.

Mail check and application to:

Adirondack Mennonite Heritage Association
Charlene Moser, Treasurer
PO Box 368
Croghan, NY 13327

Supporting AMHA

To support our various funds such as Endowment, Partnership, 20 for 10, and AMHA 2020 Vision, please call Charlene Moser, treasurer (315-681-8933). A reminder to those who have access to retirement fund, 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.

NOTE: The purpose of the “20 for 10 Fund” is to establish a support base committed to help offset heat, utilities, and insurance. Other fundraisers such as occasional bake sales, Z Fest, and special meals 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.

Wish List

- Volunteer to work with “Ancestry” in updating our Mennonite community genealogy.
- Engagement announcements and wedding programs.

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

Co-Editors: Rosanna Moser
Bernadine Schwartzentruber
Layout/Design: Janice Crofoot
Proofreading: Janice Crofoot and Priscilla Lyndaker
Printing: Nicole Houser
Distribution: Linda Deveines

Adirondack Mennonite Heritage Association
PO Box 368
Croghan, NY 13327