



MAH News and Notes

MICHIANA ANABAPTIST HISTORIANS

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Archives in Elkhart and Goshen to be Clarified at October 21 Meeting

Menonite archives in Elkhart and Goshen will be the subject of the fall meeting of Michiana Anabaptist Historians, to be held at the offices of Menonite Church USA, 3145 Benham Avenue, in Elkhart.

In spring 2017 the new Archives of Menonite Church USA opened in the basement of the MCUSA office building, having been moved there from Newcomer Center at Goshen College. A public open house and dedication program for the archives was held on June 1. The archives is now in a spacious, heat and humidity controlled space, with state of the art movable shelves.

Jason Kauffman, MCUSA archivist, will introduce us to the space and contents of the archives as well as the terms and schedule for its use.

One of Jason's major tasks was to identify which contents would be moved to Elkhart and which would remain at Goshen College as the "Goshen Archives." In general, the contents of the Goshen Archives, which remains in the Newcomer Center building, consist of papers from people associated with Goshen College, including the voluminous papers of H. S. Bender.



Jason Kauffman

Researchers now may need to travel between the two archives, although a courier service will also be available.

Joe Springer, director of the Menonite Historical Library at Goshen College, and also now responsible for the Goshen Archives, will tell us about the contents, scope and use of those materials.

Jason's essay, "Collections on the Move," regarding his experience with the Archives thus far, is an Aug. 17 entry in the web blog "Anabaptist Historians.org." The blog contains entries on many different topics related to Anabaptism, written by many different bloggers. Free email subscriptions are available.

As with previous MAH programs, coffee service will begin at 8:30 a.m., a business meeting at 9 a.m., and the programs at 9:30 a.m.

Pastors and Librarians:

Please post this newsletter in a public place. Thank you.



Members of MAH gather around the historical marker for John F. Funk now installed in front of Prairie Street Menonite Church in Elkhart. The marker was unveiled and dedicated Sunday, August 6, as part of "Funk Celebration Sunday" at the church, which was founded in 1871 by Funk and others. Rich Preheim spoke about Funk and the early Menonite church at two morning programs. Jane Goldsbury of South Bend, a great-great-grand-daughter of John and Salome Funk, attended the unveiling. Many thanks to the individuals and institutions that helped fund the marker, which was a collaboration of MAH and the Prairie Street Church. The two-side text of the marker is found in the MAH newsletter for March 2017. Photo by J. Nelson Kraybill.

The Church of God in Christ, Mennonite

Notes from the presentation at the spring 2017 MAH meeting by Doug Salsbury, pastor of the recently formed congregation in Elkhart County.

“Northern Indiana Congregation” CR113 has 17 families, 59 members, 28 children, 3 teachers, basement school, family names of Friesen, Koehn, Peachey, Penner, etc.

Originated from Indiana missions meetings in 2000/2004. 2004 first members moved here. Ron Wolgemuth, first pastor, from Canada. More attracted by jobs in rv industry. 2006 purchased building on 3rd Street in Goshen, school in basement. 2011 Salsbury came from Gratiot County, MI. 2014 purchased CR113 building.

Denomination founded by John Holdeman in 1859 as Mennonite renewal movement. Embraced by many Russian Mennonites in 1876 immigration to Kansas and Manitoba. From 1860-1930 local congregation existed on CR36 west of SR19.

Global membership of 25,400 in 38 countries, including Cambodia, VietNam. 17,000,000 tracts distributed per year.

Emphasis on Holy Spirit, New Birth, early teen conversion, consecration, cross-bearing, 33 articles of faith, brotherly reproof, missions, relief, service, nonresistance.

12 nursing homes, hospital in Moundridge, KS, parochial schools, bi-monthly publication “The Messenger.”

Modest, plain lifestyle, trimmed beards and mustaches for men but no regulation dress, head coverings for women, Christian homes, higher ed only for advanced tech careers (nursing, etc.)

Plural ministry, ministers not educated or salaried, no preaching from notes, KJV Bible, a cappella singing, shaped note music.

Challenges include travel, prosperity, internet, computer; website is churchofgodinchristmennonite.net



Participants in the MAH tour of LaGrange County Amish communities in July examine handmade wooden toys in the outlet store for the OWL Toycraft business, owned by Owen and LeEtta Wingard. The MAH website includes George Smucker's photos from each of the sites visited, but does not depict the wonderful noon meal served by Katie (Mrs. Floyd) Miller. Photo by George Smucker.

MAH Members' Research Progress

John Bender

In August 2014 in Scottsdale, Pa. I interviewed 27 former employees of the Mennonite Publishing House and did additional interviews in Indiana, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Ohio, Florida and Ontario. My working title is “The Scottsdale Literary and Potluck Preservation Society, The Story of Publishing in the (old) Mennonite Church by the Women Who Lived It.” May our publishing journey make it to paper or online, and archives, in 2018.

Eight members of a fictional (potluck) book club examine the contributions of women in the Mennonite Publishing Company, Elkhart, Ind. (1868-1908) and Mennonite Publishing House, Scottsdale, Pa. (1908-2011). They scour written and oral sources for the stories of the publishers' spouses and women employees, including artists, writers, editors, graphic designers, proofreaders, secretaries, marketers and others. Society members concentrate on the substance, emotion, insight and changing-tide contributions that women brought to publishing. How do the attitudes these women have for themselves, their environment and the church coincide with and influence large-scale change in church, community and world for the better? *John's weekly blog is “It's About Now.”*

Theron Schlabach

I have been annotating one large collection of H. S. Bender's correspondence and am about two-thirds through. The collection is attached to the Mennonite Historical Library at Goshen College. Because my annotations go on-line (<http://mac.libraryhost.com/>), I follow certain guidelines. I embed terms, names and phrases that will likely come to researchers' minds. Since in Bender's time many persons used initials more than first names (“D. A. Yoder,” not “David A. Yoder”), I supply full names, typically in brackets. I create consistent spelling plus spell-checking. I do not make annotations into research notes: my annotations should not tempt researchers to stop with them instead of going on to the sources. Finally, I try to be succinct, although shortening takes extra time. For putting on-line, we use the computer program “Archon,” although it has some awkward features that create problems in formatting. Fortunately John Ingold, another Goshen College retiree, is giving good help with that. Seeing the size of the task, I now try to work nearly 20 hours per week, whereas for years I worked only 10. Can I finish before my disability or demise? I very much hope so.

50 Years of the Michiana Mennonite Relief Sale

Most highlights come from the booklet “Michiana Mennonite Relief Sale” compiled by Jacob Yoder in 2014, supplied by Les Gustafson-Zook, Great Lakes MCC representative.

- 1968 – Levi Bontreger leads 80 congregations in planning the first relief sale; 433 quilts in outdoor auction; \$50,000 raised for MCC.
- 1969 – Motto “Buy, that hungry children will not die” raises objections to emphasis on money.
- 1972 – First Friday night religious service; first Airstream camping by 50 rvs.
- 1973 – Mennonite Witness Booth added to emphasize religious basis.
- 1975 – Fried mush added to menu to offer traditional Mennonite and Amish food.
- 1979 – “The righteous give without sparing.” Proverbs 21:26.
- 1980 – Apple butter raises record \$7448; corn for Somalia, \$1886.
- 1982 – First Run-for-Relief 5K raises \$1119.
- 1987 – First Shalom House, on 16th St. in Goshen, raises \$80,000.
- 1988 – 348 quilts sold; visitors from 14 different states.
- 1990 – Coins for Relief project begun.
- 1991 – Farmers’ auction of livestock, hay, straw, grain.
- 1995 – Shalom House raises \$130,000; project ends in 2007.
- 1997 – 525 enjoy first haystack supper.
- 1998 – 3-on-3 basketball tourney raises \$1035.
- 1999 – Children’s auction sells cookies, toys, etc.
- 2002 – Auction of traveling African quilt raises funds for HIV/AIDS.
- 2003 – Auction website created.
- 2004 – Hmong quilt auctioned for Hmong relief in Thailand.
- 2005 – Fair Trade Coffee House.
- 2007 – International Food Court; Friday p.m. fire ruins pie building; pie box auction, \$6000.
- 2008 – MCC banner stolen Friday night, perhaps to protest MCC in Iraq and Iran.
- 2009 – Record \$529,857 raised for MCC.
- 2011 – Silent auction via I-phones.
- 2012 – Penny Power raises \$50,180.
- 2013 – 3 recycling centers, instructions on composting.
- 2014 – Death of Frances Stauffer at 102; her quilts from 2003-13 raised \$35,000.
- 2015 – New and Used auction revived.
- 2016 – Sample meal from Syrian refugee camp served.



(Left:) “A girls club group” at the Mennonite Home Mission in Chicago. At the Spring 2017 meeting of MAH, Philipp Gollner spoke on “How Mennonites Became White.” He cited home mission work in Chicago as the moment when Mennonites first identified themselves as “Anglo,” in working with ethnic immigrants. See his essay by the same title in MQR for April 2016. Photo courtesy of MCUSA Archives.

(Below:) Wes Bontreger, pastor of Yellow Creek Mennonite Church, and Dawn Paul, president of Women’s Fellowship, with her daughters Lydia (l.) and Dulaney. The quilts are included in the exhibit “Inherited Quilts 3.” Photo by George Smucker.



MAH Executive Committee (2016)

Ervin Beck, President, 1402-1 Pembroke Circle, Goshen, IN 46526.
 Leonard Gross, Vice-president, 405 Gra-Roy Drive, Goshen, IN 46526.
 Helene Hoover, Membership, 2005 E. Jackson Blvd., Elkhart, IN 46516.
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Send events, reviews or articles to Ervin Beck: ervinb@goshen.edu.
 Jill Steinmetz, layout; Karl Stutzman, webmaster.
 Membership is \$10 per year. Renew at meetings or send payment to Helene.
All members, please give your e-mail address to Helene.

EXHIBITS

❖ Until November 12, antique and vintage quilts from families at Yellow Creek Mennonite Church are on display in the Library Gallery at Goshen College. They have descended through two, three or four generations in the families, with makers and owners identified in contextual labels and photographs. The quilts are of full, crib and doll sizes and illustrate patchwork, applique, embroidery and whole cloth work. The exhibit is sponsored by the Mennonite-Amish Museum Committee at Goshen College. For group visits and times open call 574-535-7418.

❖ From October through December 2017 the Goshen Historical Museum on S. Main Street is exhibiting needlework art made by Elizabeth Wenger, daughter of the late J.C. and Ruth Wenger. The museum is open, free to the public, every Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

❖ From February 11 to April 8, 2018, the traveling exhibit, "Voices of Conscience: Peace Witness in the Great War," will be hosted by Goshen College in the Good Library Gallery. The exhibit was created by the Kauffman Museum in Newton, Kansas, and will appear at the National World War I museum in Kansas City, for a conference on civil liberties during World War I, on October 19-22, 2017. At the center of the exhibit is a recreation of a cell at Alcatraz Prison, where resistant Hutterite C.O.'s were held and abused. They later died at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Surrounding the cell are panels that raise and illustrate provocative questions about the C.O. position. Related programs will include a presentation by Duane Stoltzfus, Professor of Communication, author of the book about the Hutterite men, "Pacifists in Chains," and a one-man performance by Michael Mears, from England, who will

present the experiences of C.O.'s in Great Britain during World War I. The exhibit is sponsored by the Mennonite Historical Library, the Mennonite-Amish Museum Committee and the Indiana Humanities Council.

❖ Recently the museum collection of the Mennonite Historical Library at Goshen College received a major donation—of the historic European Anabaptist costume prints collected by Jean and the late Paul Kraybill, mainly while Paul was executive secretary of Mennonite World Conference and living in Strasbourg. The collection consists of over 20 such prints, as well as other historic items related to Dutch Mennonites. Generous donors have also made possible the purchase by the MHL of local Amish domestic arts as collected by David Pottinger of Goshen. An exhibit, "Amish Arts 1900 to 1940: From the Pottinger Collection," is planned for June 11 to November 18, 2018, at Goshen College.