

MAH News & Notes

Michiana Anabaptist Historians (established 1992)

Spring 2012

Volume 21 • Number 1

What Attracted Settlers To LaGrange County, Indiana?

(Includes the Shipshewana area)

What Attracted the Anabaptist Folks to Settle There?

Presentations by Al Yoder and
Floyd Miller:

Al Yoder has been president of the Shipshewana Area Historical Society for a long time, and had served as Vice President before that. He is also the historian of the Emma congregation.

Floyd is a knowledgeable historian of the Amish in LaGrange County. He is the founder of the Northern Indiana Amish Library located at 4445W 100S, LaGrange, IN. Floyd sometimes does cemetery/historical tours. If you have a

question about some history connected with that area, he will be able to help you. A little over a year ago he was ordained as a preacher in the Old Order Amish Church.

Both these men will share out of their vast knowledge and their passion for history.

This meeting, sponsored by the Michiana Anabaptist Historians, is open to the public. It will be at Emma Mennonite Church at 9 a.m. on March 24, 2012.



Folks listen intently to Rachel Weaver Krieder at the Fall 2011 Meeting.

Spring 2012 Public Meeting

Saturday,
March 24, 2012

Registration & coffee
at 8:30 a.m

Program 9 -11:30 a.m

Emma Mennonite
Church

Emma, Indiana
1900S 600W, Topeka, IN

*Sponsored by Michiana
Anabaptist Historians*

Directions: Approaching from
the north from US 20, turn south
on 600W approx. 2 miles to the
church, west side of the road.

If coming from the west from
SR 5, turn east on 200 S to
Emma, turn left several blocks
to the church on the left or west
side of the road.

Annual Fall Meeting Report

Sat., October 22, 2011
9:00-11:30 a.m.

Evergreen Place,
Greencroft, Goshen, IN

by Wanda Hoffman, Secretary

President, Ruby Bontrager gave opening remarks and announcement that the Spring program will be featuring Anabaptists in LaGrange County.

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“Reflections Of A Centenarian”



Now available on DVD

The fall meeting featuring Rachel Weaver Kreider, long-time genealogist and observer of church life, is now available

on DVD.

She reflected on her observations of church life in the Anabaptist family over the 102 years of her life. Best-known for her work on the famous “Gingerich-Kreider” work, *Amish and Amish Mennonite Genealogies*, Rachel is an avid reader and has maintained a keen interest in the life of the church. In the form of an interview by Loren Johns, she will reflect on life in the 1920s, her memories of the village of Pashan in LaGrange County, Indiana, and on her work on the landmark *Gingerich-Kreider* genealogy, published in 1986.

This meeting, sponsored by the Michiana Anabaptist Historians, was open to the public. It was held at the Evergreen Gathering Room at Greencroft in Goshen on Saturday, October 22, 2011.

The DVD is \$10 and will be available at the Spring Meeting at Emma on Saturday, March 24, 2012. You may also order it by mailing a check for \$15 to Helene Hoover, 2005 E. Jackson Blvd, Elkhart, IN 46516. Please write “Rachel Weaver Kreider DVD” on the memo line.

The additional \$5 will be used to cover postage expenses.

Looking Ahead With MAH In 2012

Both the Spring and Fall Public Meetings will focus on Western LaGrange County history. Emma Mennonite Church, Emmatown, Shipshewana, and Topeka and settling of Amish in the area will all be on the agenda. It will be both interesting and informative!

Annual Fall Meeting Report — *Continued from page 1*

Business:

1. Minutes of the 2011 Spring Members Meeting were read by Secretary, Wanda Hoffman
2. Treasurer’s report was given by Ezra Miller.
3. New business Affirmation of Loren Johns to the three year

term of Vice-President.

The program featured Rachel Kreider, co-author of “*Amish and Amish Mennonite Genealogies*.” Questions asked by Loren Johns set the stage for Rachel to share her recollections of Anabaptist movement during her lifetime.

The program was videotaped by Judy of Gospel Echos and a CD will be made available for purchase.

Refreshments were made available by the Evergreen staff.

There was a record attendance of 114 people.

Michiana Anabaptist Historians Celebrates Twenty Years

by Wanda Hoffman

In 1992, Conference Historian, Russell Krabill reported he felt responsible to do something to help local historians in their task of collecting and preserving their story. That was the beginning of what became the Michiana Anabaptist Historians.

After Russell suffered a heart attack and handed responsibility to others, he ended his “report” saying he prays that the work will continue to grow and prosper and be an honor to the Lord of the Church.” On this twentieth year anniversary, let us reflect on our mission as we plan for our future.

Michiana Anabaptist Historians • The First Twenty Years

<u>Date/Location</u>	<u>Theme of meeting</u>	<u>Date/Location</u>	<u>Theme of meeting</u>
Nov. 9, 1991 Forks Mennonite	A meeting to get acquainted; consensus was to form an area Mennonite Historical Society.	Mar. 24, 2001 Bethel College	Theme: "Churches Preserving Documents of Historical Value"; Tim Erdel: Video of History of Bethel College; Interactive workshop with Dennis Stoesz
Mar. 21, 1992 Townline Mennonite	Dennis Stoesz, archivist in Goshen, speaker Proposal to form MAH presented by Russell Krabill	Oct. 20, 2001 Wolfe Building, Ship.	Theme: "Amish Education in Indiana" Elmer Lehman: "Amish Schools - Why? Where? How?"
Oct. 24, 1992 Waterford Mennonite	Theron Schlabach, Goshen College prof.: "Materials I Have Helpful in My Writings" Approved Constitution	Mar. 23, 2002 Prairie Street Mennonite Church	Dorsa Mishler: "History of Prairie Street Mennonite." Church
Mar. 20, 1993 Pleasant Oaks Menn.	Ervin Beck, GC prof.: "Artifacts from Northern Indiana Mennonite & Amish Life" Artifacts for future museum on display.	Oct. 26, 2002 Shore Mennonite	Theme: "She Hath Done What She Could", stories of Mennonite women in the Michiana area who were limited to supporting church leaders rather than being recognized leaders themselves.
Oct. 23, 1993 Silverwood Mennonite Church	Allen Yoder, Jr.: "The Silverwood Story"	Mar. 23, 2002 Prairie Street Mennonite Church	"10th Anniversary of MAH, 1992-2002"
Apr. 17, 1994 Newcomer Cntr (GC)	Visit archives, Mennonite Historical Library, display of congregational materials. Narrated tour of Goshen area Mennonite-related churches.	Mar. 15, 2003 Griner Mennonite	David Lee Miller & Harley Troyer: "The Story of the Conservative Mennonite Churches in Michiana"
Oct. 29, 1994 Newcomer Cntr (GC)	Angela Showalter: "11 Mennonite Women in the Archives" Mary Esther Bigler: "Mennonite Nursing"; Clara Hershberger: "Historical Research with My Husband"; Paton Yoder: "Rhea's Involvement as a Missionary to India"	Oct. 25, 2003 Kern Road Menn.	"Church Architecture and Its Influence Among Michiana Anabaptists" Leroy S. Troyer
Mar. 25, 1995 Maple Grove Menn.	Leonard Gross: "Dynamics at Work in Amish and Mennonite Churches Leading to the 1916 Merger"	Mar. 20, 2004 Clinton Christian Schl	Dan Beachy: "The Clinton Christian and Woodlawn Schools: Founding and early years."; Joe Springer: "Encompassed with dangers...true as steel: The beginnings of Mennonite Higher Education in Michiana"
Oct. 21, 1995 Yellow Creek Menn.	Theme: "First Mennonite Settlers West of Goshen" Thelma Martin: "Overview of Early Settlers There" Drama: Miller/Culp/Huffman: "Funk, Wisler & Brenn."	Oct. 9, 2004 Community Center	Delbert Farmwald: "Amish Schools' Importance to the Amish People"; Wilmer Hollinger: "Why Mennonite Church High Schools? Why Bethany?"
Mar. 19, 1996 Bethel Missionary	Theme: "Daniel Brenneman to Missionary Church Today" Timothy Erdel: "A Chart History of Missionary Church"; Wayne Gerber: "Conservative/Progressive Controversies Leading to Mennonite Brethren in Christ and Beyond"; Dennis Engbecht: "Missionary Church Today"	Mar. 13, 2005 Yellow Creek MC	J. Dan Hess: "Revisiting CBS's glimpse at Northern IN Mennonites in the 1967 TV Special, 'Mennonites: The Peaceful Revolution'"
Oct. 26, 1996 Waterford MC	Theme: "A Tribute to Menno Simons" John Oyer: "Menno: Why We Should Revere Him"; Joe Springer: "Artists' Conceptions of Menno"	Nov. 5, 2005 Bonneyville Menn.	Ellis Bontrager: "History of Bonneyville Mennonite Church"; Ted Eash: "Introduction to History of the Former Barker Street Congregation"
Mar. 22, 1997 Waterford Mennonite	John Oyer & Mary Oyer: "History and Songs of the Ausbund"	Mar. 4, 2006 Prairie Street Mennonite Church	MYFers Interview CPSers (video)
Oct. 18, 1997 East Goshen Mennonite Church	Susan F. Fisher: "The Ministry of John S. Coffman"	Oct. 8, 2006 College Mennonite Church	Rachel W. Goossen: "The Women of CPS"
Mar. 21, 1998 Forks Mennonite	Theme: "Some Ministers of Vision in the Early 1900's" Galen Johns: "Daniel J. Johns"; Al Albrecht: "Daniel D. Miller"; Daniel E. Hochstetler: "Eli J. Bontrager"	Mar. 24, 2007 Wolfe Building, Ship.	Mervin Yoder & Leroy Nisley: "Plain People in Northern Indiana: A Careful and Reflective Look"
Oct. 17, 1998 Holderman Menn.	Theme: "The Mennonite Experience in America" William Hooley: "Brief History of Olive Church"; Theron F. Schlabach: "MEA What We Tried To Do"; John Sharp: "Doing History Beyond MEA"	Oct. 13, 2007 Jayco Visitor Center	Two Middlebury businesses started by Mennonite families. What is the common thread in the histories of Jayco and Pletcher Ice Cream (Vic's)
Apr. 10, 1999 Greencroft Sr Center	Theme: "Inspecting Mennonite Mission Fires That Ignited in Chicago"; Simon Gingerich: Chicago Home Mission slides; reports and interviews of persons involved in ministry and the Chicago Fresh Air Program	Mar. 15, 2008 Middlebury Church of the Brethren	Dr. James Hollinger: "300 Years of Brethren History"
June 8, 1999 MennoHof, Shipshe.	Theme: "Transmitting Faith, Generation to Generation" Russell & Martha Krabill and extended family: Stories of faith told and sung.	Nov. 15, 2008 Fairhaven Amish/Mennonite Church	Panel on 1-W service
Sept. 7, 1999 MennoHof, Shipshe.	Theme: "Mennonites & Humor": Historian John Sharp Academician Paul Keim, Theologian Harvey Chupp	Mar. 21, 2009 Evergreen Place, Greencroft Senior Center, Goshen	Founders, Founding and Early Vision
Oct. 23, 1999 Woodlawn Am/Menn.	Daniel H. Beachy: "Historical Sketch of Woodlawn Church: 1959-1999"; Steve Nolt: "Commonalities and Intersections Among the Plain Peoples of Michiana"	Oct. 31, 2009 Clinton Brick Mennonite Church	Clinton Brick Anniversary
Apr. 1, 2000 Clinton Frame Menn.	Duane Stutzman: "Clinton Frame in Perspective" Paton Yoder: "Bishop Joseph Yoder, 1822-1908"	Apr. 17, 2010 North Main St. Menn.	Nappanee Programs Planned for 2010; Nappanee Mennonite History
Oct. 21, 2000 Hively Avenue Menn.	Earland Walter: "Brief History of the Hively Avenue Church"; C.J. Kyck: "Tracing the Beginnings of the General Conference Mennonite Church"	Oct. 2, 2010 Weldy Amish School	Owen Burkholder & Karl Stutzman: "Nappanee Amish History & Nappanee Anabaptist Groups"
		Mar. 19, 2011 Oaklawn, Goshen	Laurie Neumann Nafziger & Dale Raber: "Oaklawn Programs Reach Anabaptist Community and Beyond"
		Oct. 22, 2011 Greencroft, Goshen	"Reflections of A Centenarian: Rachel Kreider interviewed by Loren Johns.
		Mar. 24, 2012 Emma Mennonite	"What attracted Settlers to LaGrange County, Indiana?"

Please check your address label on the envelope this newsletter came in. Look at the date in the top line, at the right side. That is when your membership will expire (or did expire!). Please make sure you keep your membership of \$10/year current. Mail to Helene Hoover. Her address is also on the envelope or on page 4 of this newsletter. Thank-you!

Ruby's Musings

by MAH president Ruby Bontrager

Recently I have been thinking about the power of words... Words can encourage, comfort, humor, hurt, damage, heal, anger, confuse, sadden, bring joy, forgive, include, exclude, please, depress, excite, surprise, question, and more...

For many of us older folks, when we were very young we were probably told this old adage, "sticks and stones may break your bones, but words can never hurt you". I hope we have all learned by now that it is not true; it is a false saying. We may have literally or figuratively had someone point or shake a finger at us and say some harsh words to us. It may have been a parent, teacher or a preacher. I trust that we have learned by now that there are more effective and better ways to bring change. Words do have power to hurt, and we do not need to celebrate many birthdays and get very old, to discover this fact.

The same words can be experienced differently depending on how they are spoken. For example: When we are told in an emphatic way, that a certain action will be taken which will affect us, this can be devastating. If the same situa-

tion would be approached as having several options possible. Then if we were to be asked, "What is your opinion about this?" It possibly may have the same end result; but your response/ feeling about it would be totally different because of the way it was handled. Words have power!

I am in awe of writers of books. One can write about one's life experiences while drawing on one's life experiences. That is one kind of writing. I believe we do all have a story to tell.

I ponder about the writers of the biblical text. Without going into much detail which isn't my intent here; there are many kinds of literature in the Bible and the writers certainly have different writing styles.

But to invent a story line with many characters each with their own personality and quirks etc. within that story is amazing to me. One example: After reading Hannah Coulter, by Wendell Berry, my husband was showing me the family tree as it is shown on the back pages.

He said to me, "I almost know how all these persons are connect-

ed, and they don't even exist!"

The power of story!

Silence can be powerful as well. You may have experienced this in a family or church meeting when you know a person has strong feelings about the issue at hand, but refuses to engage in the conversation. Silence instead of a well-spoken word can be a way to control a situation. The words that encourage and invite further conversation are golden.

Someone said that when he was young the children were to be silent unless spoken to, and now that he is an older adult, his opinions aren't valued either, and the children are the ones to speak.

This has changed a lot in the past several generations. There is both positive and negative in this change. Respect is always appropriate and never goes out of style.

I pray as we enter a new year, we can have a goal of a growing awareness of the words we speak. I pray that in 2012, our words will be an encouragement to those around us; and that we will not exclude persons by the way we conduct ourselves and how we speak.

May God help us.

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