Inside:
- Belonging to God’s Kingdom
- Gettysburg: An Anabaptist Perspective
- Auction Features Old Bibles and Hymnals
Find Your Summer Reading at the Bookworm Frolic

This coming August, over 40 thousand books will cover the grounds of the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society. Laid out in neat rows, their unveiling announces the annual Bookworm Frolic. This year, the frolic will start Wednesday, August 10 and runs through Saturday, August 13. The sale opens at 9 AM every day, closing at 7 PM Wednesday through Friday and at 4 PM on Saturday.

David Sauder, Bookworm Frolic coordinator, notes that the sale “is about making books available to the community.” And the community has responded positively over the years.

There are 25 categories of books waiting to be sold, ranging from paperback fiction to biographies to science. While there are rare and unique books to be found in many of the genres, the most popular genres are children’s books, Christian fiction, history, and classical literature.

Books start between $3 and $1, with prices dropping each successive day. The final two days of the Frolic, there is a “box special,” where prices are reduced even further—$15 per box on Friday, going down to $10 on Saturday.

An assortment of food will be available throughout the Frolic. Wednesday through Thursday there will be hamburgers, hot dogs, and garden sandwiches. Friday and Saturday chicken BBQ, chicken-only as well as dinners, will be grilled on site and available starting at 10 AM as supplies last. Every day there will be Lapp Valley Farm homemade ice cream, baked dessert items, and drinks.

The Society’s year-round bookstore will also be open, selling new and used books, folk art, music, games, and genealogical resources. There will be a 10% discount on all new books, and a 25% to 75% discount on select titles. This event is free and open to the public.

Steve Ness, librarian

Our online collections database (Past Perfect Online) is up and running! What does this mean? For the first time, researchers can browse or search our collection of nearly 10 thousand photographs and artifacts that we have cataloged over many years. Anyone, anywhere with an internet connection will be able to see what we have at http://lmhs.pastperfectonline.com. You will also find the link from the Archives page and the Online Resources page on our website.

The photographs include various formats, from tintypes to cabinet cards to postcards to photographic prints and more. While some of these items are part of the “Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society Photograph Collection,” the majority are spread throughout the thousands of personal and organizational collections elsewhere in the Archives.

For photographs that have been scanned and attached to the catalog record, the images will appear online as well. At present, the percentage of catalog records with attached images is a small portion of our entire collection. This is something that we will be working on over the coming years. If you are interested in volunteering to scan photographs, please contact Steve Ness at (717) 393-9745 or sness@lmhs.org.

Not all archival collections (including photographs) have been fully cataloged. If you are not finding what you are searching for in the online database, a staff person may be able to suggest other collections to search manually. You may also want to browse the listings of personal and organizational collections at http://www.lmhs.org/research/archives for potentially relevant collections.
New Field Trip added to 2016 Schedule: “The Trail of Greenywalt’s Boys”

Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society has added a new field trip to the 2016 schedule of events. Get a new view of historic sights in Lancaster and Lebanon with the upcoming field trip, “The Trail of Greenywalt’s Boys.” The tour will visit sites relating both to the Mennonite and Scots-Irish communities, looking at how these two groups of religious refugees lived uneasily next to one another. The trip will run on Saturday, October 8, from 8 am to 4 pm, leaving from the Society’s Millstream Road headquarters.

Join Ken Yoder Reed on a field trip highlighting sites mentioned in his forthcoming historical novel, Both My Sons (Greenywalt’s Boys). Reed says, “The tour follows the route of the main book character, Klaus Greenywalt, as he accompanies Scots-Irish militiamen and religious refugees lived uneasily next to one another. The trip will run on Saturday, October 8, from 8 am to 4 pm, leaving from the Society’s Millstream Road headquarters.

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The International Zaugg/Zook/Zug/Zuck Reunion will be held July 1-3 in Morgantown, Pa. For more information, contact Lois Ann Mast, 219 Mill Road, Morgantown, PA 19543, mast@masthof.com

Juniata Mennonite Historical Society will hold its Annual Meeting on July 9, starting at 9 am. See Community News at lmhs.org for more details.

The biannual Schürch Family Reunion will be held August 4-7 in Waterloo, Ontario. See Community News at lmhs.org for more details.

Community News

An anniversary celebration of 225 years of faith will be held on the campus of Boehm’s United Methodist Church, 13 West Boehms Road, Willow Street, June 24-26. For more information, visit www.boehmschapel.org.

The tour of Gettysburg from 8 am to 4 pm, Saturday, September 17, will reveal the difficult choices that some Anabaptists made during the Civil War.

The tour will visit the major sites of the battlefield—Devil’s Den, Little Roundtop, and more—discussing the personal stories of soldiers and the greater strategic fight.

But the trip will also walk the property of Joseph Sherfy, pastor of a local Church of the Brethren whose home was ravaged by war. It also includes locations where Anabaptists chose to fight.

Kevin Lay, tour leader, says, “We will also get a glimpse of how the war raised difficult questions for Anabaptists that are still being asked today. We will hear stories of those forced to fight and the travails

Gettysburg Historical Sites: An Anabaptist Perspective

The American Civil War was a divisive time. Not only were families split apart, but so were churches. With the introduction of drafts and expectations of neighbors to fight, those of Anabaptist witness had to make hard choices. Should an Anabaptist pick up a gun and fight? Should they run and hide? Should they stay home and face ridicule, arrest, and in some cases death? What about soldiers who were shocked by the violence and turned to a way of peace during their time in the Army? The Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society’s tour of Gettysburg from 8 am to 4 pm, Saturday, September 17, will reveal the difficult choices that some Anabaptists made during the Civil War.

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The field trip departs and returns from the Society’s headquarters, 2215 Millstream Road, Lancaster, Pa.

online at lmhs.org, by calling (717) 393-9745, or by mailing in the form on page 3.

Ken Yoder Reed spent his childhood near Swatara Gap in Lebanon County, attended Mennonite schools, and moved to San Jose, California in 1977. He started several recruiting companies there and works today recruiting engineers for Silicon Valley high-tech companies. Reed’s previous historical novels, Mennonite Soldier and He Flew Too High are available through Masthof Press. His newest novel, Both My Sons (Greenywalt’s Boys) will be published by Masthof Press in Fall 2016. Tour participants are encouraged to read it before the field trip if possible.

Joanne Hess Siegrist is the tour coordinator. Joanne, the LMHS field trip committee chair, is an author, historian, teacher, and brings a wealth of knowledge of Lancaster County history.

**Harris Trading Post, 1720s**

his murdered son’s body from Lancaster to Harris’ Landing in July 1755.” While the novel is fictional, the events and locations are real—many of the sites will be visited, from the Benedict Brechbühl cabin site and Logan’s trading post along the Susquehanna to Harris’ Landing and Light’s Fort.

Registration for the tour is $75 for Society members and $90 for nonmembers. Register by September 8.

**Gettysburg Historical Sites: An Anabaptist Perspective**

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Belonging to God’s Kingdom: Ethnicity or Faith

Rolando Santiago, executive director

Ben Goossen, a young Mennonite historian at Harvard University, recently captivated a large audience who heard him speak on Mennonites during Nazi Germany, the role of Mennonite Central Committee, and the invention of Mennonite ethnicity. Ben gave his talk to 266 persons at an educational meeting of Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society held on the evening of May 20 at Ridgeview Mennonite Church.

During the Third Reich, Mennonites had to choose either to integrate into German society or risk alienation. At the time, Germany was dominated by the politics of National Socialism, which advocated the superiority of German and Aryan peoples against Polish, Russian, Ukrainian, and Yiddish-speaking populations. Mennonites did not want to fall among the “inferior” communities, which would cause them hardship, persecution, and unspeakable abuse. Most Mennonites chose integration. They complied with required “racial passports” with detailed genealogical information that confirmed their Aryanism. These passports gave them access to government services and other special privileges.

Associates of the Mennonite Central Committee played an important role after World War II to help distressed German-speaking Mennonite Ukrainian refugees migrate from western Europe to the Americas. They used the same genealogical data collected by the Nazis, but instead of arguing for a “German” or “Aryan” ethnicity for these refugees, they argued for a non-German “Dutch” or “Mennonite” ethnicity for them.

There was a strong sense of a Mennonite ethnic identity in mid-twentieth century when a large majority of Mennonites were descended from sixteenth-century European Anabaptists.

Today, over two-thirds of Anabaptists are from the global south. Ben Goossen argued that it’s due time that Mennonites put to rest the notion that a “Mennonite ethnic culture” is crucial to one’s Anabaptist identity.

I am convinced that belonging to God’s kingdom today is about embracing the values, beliefs, and practices of Jesus. It’s not about belonging to a particular ethnic or cultural peoplehood. Rather, like the sixteenth-century Anabaptists, it’s about choosing a Christian identity based on faith. Specifically, a faith grounded in Jesus’ values of non-violence, love of enemies, and giving of one’s life for the other.

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Field Trip Registration

Puerto Rico—Island of Enchantment: October 20 to 24. Check and send in this form to receive more information. Regular registration due July 15.

Gettysburg Historical Sites—The Civil War from an Anabaptist Perspective: September 17, $75 members, $90 nonmembers. Registration due August 17.

Greenvale's Boys: October 8, $75 members, $90 nonmembers. Registration due September 8.

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Please return to LMHS, 2215 Millstream Road, Lancaster, PA 17602-1499.

Emergency Contact: Name ____________________________    Phone ________________

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Old Bibles and Hymnals Featured at July Auction

David Sauder

The Society’s bimonthly auction of rare and used books will be held on Friday, July 8, from 6:30 to 9:00 PM. Book collectors will not want to miss this sale.

A collection of sixteen old Bibles adds much interest to the auction. The oldest was published in Rheims in 1582, and another from 1607 was translated into English from the Latin Vulgate. Another Bible (German) was published in Basel in 1767. Some of these Bibles show lots of wear, but have valuable family records.

Old hymn books in the sale include an 1815 Ausbund published in Lancaster, an 1808 Unpartheyisches Gesangbuch published in Lancaster, and a Die Psalmen David published in Zurich in 1749. Another book of interest is a 1794 Ein Fundament, by Menno Simons.

The sale also includes a five-volume set of Mennonite Encyclopedia and several books featuring the history of the Reformed Mennonites, written by John Herr and Daniel Musser. Stauffer Mennonite history is featured in Die Briefe an David Stauffer. Another important book is an Ephrata Martyrs’ Mirror with a family record of John Hoover Sr. and wife Elisabeth. It is in good condition except for some pages spoiled by someone in the past, who used the book for drying flowers.

Local county histories are featured with an Ellis and Evans history of Lancaster County in good condition and a four-volume set of Lancaster County history by H. M. J. Klein. Also included in the sale are history books of Lebanon, Chester, Berks, and Butler Counties. Several nineteenth-century Lancaster city and county directories add special interest to the auction.

Amish life is featured in The Amish Year, signed by the author, and The Amish Today, published by the Pennsylvania German Folklore Society, vol. 24. Jonathan Fisher’s Amishman Travels around the World will also be of special interest.

Genealogists will be interested in the Bomberger Chronicles and Jacob Eby’s A Brief Record of the Eby’s.

The entire sale catalog can be accessed at lmhs.org. Information can also be obtained by calling (717) 393-9745. Mail-in bids are accepted through 4 pm, Thursday, July 7. No absentee bids under $10 will be accepted.

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