New online databases offer genealogists 190,000 names

The Society’s online resources grew exponentially last month with the addition of two unique family history databases—the Varden Leasa Genealogical Database and the LMHS Genealogical Database.

Kenneth Varden Leasa was a former Society member, volunteer, researcher and Pennsylvania German dialect instructor. Before his untimely death in 2009, he compiled a genealogical database of more than 100,000 names that includes data from nearly everyone who knew him.

This database, along with many of Leasa’s other materials, was generously donated to LMHS by his wife Marie.

Many Mennonite family histories are included in Leasa’s research. Often he added transcriptions of obituaries and other notes, which reveal more personal information than names and dates alone can provide.

Less relevant to the Society but revealing of Leasa’s varied interests are genealogies for some early Egyptian pharaohs.

The database will be a closed collection, meaning that it will remain as Leasa compiled it, with no further additions or corrections.

Since 2008 Society volunteers and staff have been compiling the LMHS Genealogical Database, consisting chiefly of information from obituaries in Lancaster newspapers and genealogical articles which appeared in the Society’s quarterly, Pennsylvania Mennonite Heritage.

As of August 2011, there are more than 93,000 names in this database with more being added each week.

The records in the LMHS database do not duplicate the Genealogical Card File in the library, said librarian Steve Ness. New genealogical information submitted to the Society is now entered in the LMHS database rather than added to the card file.

Both the Leasa and the LMHS database are accessible online to Society members as well as to anyone using the Society library in person. They join a growing list of resources available at www.lmhs.org.

Linda Frey, Jolene Newcomer and Sue Broaddus bought new books for Akron Mennonite Church library at the Society bookstore this summer. For a sample of the Society’s resources on Mennonite biography, poetry, genealogy, history, theology and worship, see the special insert in this issue of The Mirror. Shop in person or online at www.lmhs.org.

Special auction to sell Ivan Glick books

Over 600 lots of rare and used books will fill a special Society auction on November 11 and spill into a previously-scheduled sale on December 9, 2011.

The books, on topics ranging from literature and agriculture to Mennonite and Quaker history, come from the collection of former New Holland employee Ivan Glick.

Among the unusual finds is a 1700 German translation of Vita Patronum, an account of early Christian saints first published in 1628.

The sale will include a rare History of Northampton, Lehigh, Monroe, Carbon & Schuylkill Counties (Pa.) edited by William and Thomas Evans in 1854, an Illustrated Historical Atlas of Berks County (Pa.) from 1876 and an 1899 Atlas of Surveys of the County of Lancaster.

Two large multi-volume sets printed in the 1850s detail items from the Pennsylvania archives and minutes of Pennsylvania’s provincial council through the end of the Revolutionary War.

Charles Dickens, Edgar Allen Poe and Mark Twain are also represented in large multi-volume sets.

For a free copy of the auction catalog, go to www.lmhs.org.

See new books inside!
Upcoming Lancaster Roots Events

“Lancaster Roots” is the combined programming of Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society and the 1719 Hans Herr House. For more information, go to www.LancasterRoots.org. Call (717) 393-9745 for a color brochure.

Saturday, October 1, 10:00 AM–4:00 PM
Snitz Fest  Popular festival of traditional Pennsylvania German food, crafts, and farm life at the 1719 Herr House.  $ HH

Friday, October 14, 6:30 PM–8:30 PM
Rare and Used Book Auction  F LMHS

Saturday, October 22, 9:00 AM–4:00 PM
Girl Scout Badge Day: Juniors  $ R HH

Saturday, October 29, 7:00–10:00 PM
Harvest Party & Square Dance  Music, food, seasonal games and a bonfire at the 1719 Herr House.  $ R HH

Friday, November 11, 6:30 PM–8:45 PM
Rare and Used Book Auction Special sale added for part of the Ivan Glick collection (see front page story)  F LMHS

Saturday, November 12, 9:00 AM–4:00 PM
Girl Scout Badge Day: Brownies  $ R HH

Monday, November 14, 7:00 PM
Ten Things You Should Know About Native Americans at Millersville Mennonite Church.  F LMHS

Friday, November 18, 6:00–9:00 PM
Opening Reception, Show & Sale of Pennsylvania German Folk Art Handmade work by over two dozen local artists on sale Tuesday–Saturday, 8:30 AM–4:30 PM, through December 31.  F LMHS

Wednesday, November 30, 9:00 AM–4:00 PM
Closing Day at the 1719 Herr House  $ HH

December 1–3, Thurs–Sat, 5:00–8:30 PM
Christmas Candlelight Tours of the 1719 Herr House. Music, bonfire, holiday treats.  $ R HH

Friday, December 9, 6:30 PM–8:30 PM
Rare and Used Book Auction  F LMHS

Saturday, December 10, 8:00 AM–4:30 PM
Field Trip: Buffalo Valley Mennonites and the Christkindl Market  $ R LMHS

KEY TO CALENDAR SYMBOLS

F  Free admission
S  Fee charged
R  Advance reservations required
LMHS  Contact LMHS
HH  Contact the 1719 Herr House: (717) 464-4438 or info@hansherr.org

Christmas trip primed to fill fast

Seasoned storyteller and tour guide Henry Benner will conduct the last field trip of 2011, a tour of Old-Order Mennonite communities in Buffalo Valley, Pa. and a rare chance to shop at the festive Christkindl Market in nearby Mifflinburg.

“We’ll be traveling along the Susquehanna, learning the history of the river to Lewisburg” Benner said.

Starting at Lewisburg, a local Old-Order Mennonite will guide the group through churches, schools and businesses of various Mennonite groups in the Buffalo valley.

A meal will be included.

Later, the group will visit Mifflinburg’s Christkindl Market. Inspired by a 700-year-old German tradition, the “Christ Child Market” features outdoor huts featuring unique handmade crafts, traditional treats and live holiday music.

“The air is filled with the enticing aroma of roasted almonds, hot chocolate, Hungarian goulash, sweet sausages, gourmet coffees and hot spiced wine,” boasts the market Web site at www.mifflinburgchristkindlmarket.com.

To reserve your seat, call (717) 393-9745 or e-mail tours@lmhs.org.
Roots and Branches: A Narrative History of the Amish and Mennonites in the Southeast United States, 1892-1992, Volume 2: Branches
Martin W. Lehman
“What emerged as new people came to faith from traditionally non-Mennonite white, African American, Hispanic, Garifuna, Haitian and other origins.” $21.95 (LMHS member $19.76)

Teatime in Mogadishu: My Journey as a Peace Ambassador in the World of Islam
Ahmed Ali Haile
“In 1991, Ahmed Ali Haile returned to the chaos of his native Somalia with a clear mission: to bring warring clans together to find new paths of peace—often over a cup of tea.” $14.99 (LMHS member $13.49)

Mennonite German Soldiers: Nation, Religion and Family in the Prussian East, 1772-1880
Mark Jantzen
“In this engaging historical narrative, Jantzen describes...the legal, economic and social pressures brought to bear on the Mennonites to conform.” $38.00 (LMHS member $34.20)

Cities of Refuge: Stories of Anabaptist-Mennonite History and Life
Harry Loewen
“Spanning 500 years of Anabaptist migration from 16th-century Europe to modern-day Canada, Loewen’s stories centre on the Mennonite struggle to find a sense of home in the world but not of the world.” $31.95 (LMHS member $28.76)

Paint, Pattern & People: Furniture of Southeastern Pennsylvania, 1725-1850
Wendy A. Cooper and Lisa Minardi
“This landmark publication explores the...diverse furniture of southeastern Pennsylvania through the people who made, owned, inherited and collected it.” $55.00 (LMHS member $49.50)

Meditations on the Beatitudes: Lessons from the Margins
Donald R. Clymer
Poignant stories from Clymer’s years in Latin America bring alive each beatitude and invite readers to fresh insight. $12.95 (LMHS member $11.66)

The Jesus Factor in Justice and Peacemaking
C. Norman Kraus
What is Jesus’s impact on the practice of conflict resolution, including restorative justice, mediation, peace-building and trauma healing? $12.95 (LMHS member $11.66)

Third Way Allegiance: Christian Witness in the Shadow of Religious Empire
Tripp York
“York makes the case that both nations and the church require total allegiance and that Christians must choose Christ over the state.” $12.95 (LMHS member $11.66)

Present Tense: A Mennonite Spirituality
Gordon Houser
explores the heart of Mennonite spirituality and how Mennonite spiritual practices may succeed or fall short. $16.95 (LMHS member $15.26)
The Writings of Ernest Waldo Bechtel, Volumes 6 & 7

Day by Day These Things We Pray: Uncovering Ancient Rhythms of Prayer
Arthur Boers
Practical and wise, Boers invites us to reclaim the ancient tradition of morning and evening prayer—and to find our relationship with God forever changed. $15.99 (LMHS member $14.39)

Yesterday’s Farm Tools and Equipment
Michael Emery & Irwin Richman
Over 600 vintage and modern photos display the amazing gadgets once needed for farming. $39.99 (LMHS member $35.99)

Massacre of the Conestogas: On the Trail of the Paxton Boys in Lancaster County
Jack Brubaker
Examines the 1763 massacre of Conestoga Indians by Scots-Irish militiamen. $21.99 (LMHS member $19.79)

Architecture and Landscape of the Pennsylvania Germans, 1720-1920
Sally McMurry and Nancy Van Dolsen, Editors
Eight essays by leading scholars and preservation professionals not only describe important architectural sites but also offer original interpretive insights that will help advance understanding of Pennsylvania German culture and history. $49.95 (LMHS member $44.96)

Pequea Settlement, 1710: Self-Guided Tour
Photos, addresses and descriptions of historical sites within Lancaster County’s first settlement. $14.95 (member $13.46)

Bohne Supp un Lattweig Brot: Humor and Inspiration in Pennsylvania Dutch, Booklet & CD
The Stutzmans
• Booklet: A collection of songs and poems in Pennsylvania German with English translation. $3.00 (LMHS member $2.70)
• CD: 13 songs sung a cappella in the dialect. $9.95 (LMHS member $8.96)

Worship & Mission After Christendom
Alan Kreider and Eleanor Kreider
A much-needed guide for people who take seriously God’s call to be the church in a world where institutional religion is no longer taken for granted. $19.99 (LMHS member $17.99)

Meetinghouse Treasures
Hymns from Reformed 1797 Gesang-Buch (Philadelphia), the Lutheran 1803 Lieder-Sammling (Germantown), the Mennonite 1803 Zion’s Harp (Germantown) and the Mennonite 1804 Gesangbuch (Lancaster). Sung by Old Order Mennonites who use these hymns in worship. $14.95 (LMHS member $13.46)

U.S. HISTORY

The Seed of a Nation: Rediscovering America
Darrell & Lorrie Fields
“Why many now acknowledge William Penn as America’s first Founding Father.” $18.99 (LMHS member $17.09)

Pequea Settlement, 1710: Self-Guided Tour
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Massacre of the Conestogas: On the Trail of the Paxton Boys in Lancaster County
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LOCAL STORIES

A Lancaster County Boy in Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania
Donald E. Newswanger
Autobiography about growing up Mennonite in the 1950s and 60s. $12.00 (member $10.80)

Kitchen Window Memories
Irene Horst
Compilation of some of Horst’s inspirational writings from her weekly column in the “Tri County Record.” Includes some recipes. $9.75 (LMHS member $8.78)

Such Wonderful Memories
Autobiographical story of John R. Hess, Jr., growing up Mennonite in Lancaster and Chester counties. $14.50 (LMHS member $13.05)

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C. Richard Beam and Jennifer L. Trout, Editors

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Concise Encyclopedia of Amish, Brethren, Hutterites and Mennonites
Donald B. Kraybill
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The author peels back the layers to reveal the core components of Anabaptism—and what they mean for faith in his context and ours.
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Written and illustrated by a Lancaster County native who recalls growing up in an Old Order Mennonite household. Recommended for ages five and up.

Book 1: The Pony Cart Adventure
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Book 3: A Country Girl's Christmas
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Books $5.00 each (LMHS member $4.50 each); CDs $5.00 each (LMHS member $4.50 each)

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Classic Pennsylvania Dutch card game brings fun to the whole family. $9.95 (LMHS member $8.96)

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This recipe-packed book (with a comb binding) joins the three books in the Lizzie Searches for Love series and cites the passages in their pages where Lizzie picked up her fork and dug in with finger-licking vitality. $18.95 (LMHS member $17.06)

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  A hot-tempered, high-spirited teenage girl who hates housework, dislikes babies and loves driving fast horses tries to fit in among the members of her Amish community. Based on true experiences of the author’s extended family.
- When Strawberries Bloom
  New love and even more questions enter Lizzie Glick’s life.
- Big Decisions
  The third and final novel in this series. Lizzie has some potentially life-changing decisions to make. Includes nine of Lizzie’s favorite recipes. $13.99 each (LMHS member $12.59 each)

ORDER FORM

- These offers expire December 31, 2011. Prices are subject to change without notice.
- To browse our complete inventory, visit the bookstore on Route 30, Lancaster, or go to www.lmhs.org.
- Become a member of Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society and save 10% or more on your purchase.

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Missouri counselor to offer primer on Native Americans

Native American counselor Ivan Doxtator will explain “Ten Things You Should Know about Native Americans” in a free presentation at Millersville Mennonite Church, Monday, November 14 at 7:00 PM.

Doxtator is a member of the Onyta’aka (Oneida) Nation and founder of First Nations Counseling Ministries (FNCM, O’Fallon, Mo.), a Christian non-profit dedicated to consulting and equipping North American indigenous groups.


“Recognizing the great need for healing, wholeness and spiritual health, FNCM’s ministers use counseling and other therapeutic approaches to reach out to Native individuals and their communities,” the Web site states.

Doxtator spoke in Lancaster in October 2010 for an “honor and healing” event in which Mennonite, Presbyterian, Quaker and local government leaders formally acknowledged wrongs committed against Native Americans in Lancaster County during the past 300 years.

The evening will be divided into two half-hour segments with time for questions.

Doxtator with his wife, Linda, a counselor and partner in FNCM

Director’s Reflections: Why am I a Mennonite?

by Rolando Santiago

For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

—Ephesians 2:10a (NIV)

Why am I a Mennonite? I have answered this question in different phases and contexts of my life.

Growing up in rural Puerto Rico through my teens, I was a follower of Christ tied to a Mennonite faith community that adopted the self-reliant, hard-working and earth-loving spirit of the Puerto Rican jibaro.

During a decade-long journey through academia, I was a disciple of Jesus who discovered education as a powerful tool for bicultural children from low socioeconomic backgrounds to become skillful contributors in their communities.

Later, during ten years of government employment, public service became a way to help create caring communities for children with serious emotional disorders and their families across the United States. This was my calling at the time as a servant of Jesus.

My Mennonite identity is shaped by a rich history of interactions between myself, my communities and the set of Christian Anabaptist beliefs and values that guide my thought and behavior. These beliefs and values stem from Jesus, his life and teachings.

For the early church and for Anabaptists, the community of faith played an important role in the formation of Christian disciples.

At the July 4-9, 2011 Mennonite Church USA Convention, delegates affirmed the role of the church in Christian formation, mentioned as the first and highest priority of the denomination’s new Purposeful Plan.

The document states: “As missional communities, our congregations, conferences and agencies will ensure that people are invited to make a commitment to Christ, disciplined in the way of Christ, taught to engage with the scriptures, helped to develop Christian identity from an Anabaptist/Mennonite perspective and given the capacity to cultivate their vocational calling.”

Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society is an agency of the Lancaster Mennonite Conference and Atlantic Coast Conference of Mennonite Church USA. As such, it is one of the missional communities called to assist individuals in their Christian formation. Society members, board, staff, volunteers and event participants are part of this missional community.

The tools that LMHS offers to people for Christian formation include:
• A 30,000-title research library (including books, magazines and media on theology, history, genealogy, music and worship);
• Archives preserving everything from early Mennonite writing, to the records of Lancaster and Atlantic Coast conferences—and most likely your congregation;
• A museum illustrating Mennonite and Amish experience,
• Concerts, conferences, classes, field trips, lectures—many hosted by local Mennonite churches; and
• A bookstore full of Mennonite theology, biography, poetry, history, children’s stories, teaching resources and worship aids—also available online.

The Society’s vision summarizes how it intends to help: “We seek to be a gathering place where people can explore stories, ideas and legacy—for themselves and with each other.”

Your personal history, like mine, interacts with the histories of the communities of which you are a part. Your community of faith helps you form your identity and calling as a disciple of Jesus, which is ever-changing through creative interactions with fellow disciples, guided by a stable set of beliefs and values.

How do you answer “Why am I a Mennonite?”
See inside:
• 50 great books for sale
• Two new online genealogy databases
• Extra book auction in November

Special thanks to our 2011 business partners—please support them!

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www.theYGSgroup.com

Merry Christmas! For gifts, don’t forget:

Pennsylvania German Folk Art Show & Sale

November 19–December 31
Tuesday–Saturday, 8:30 AM–4:30 PM
Opening reception Friday, November 18, 6:00–9:00 PM

The Book and Museum Store at LMHS
Next to the Tanger Outlets on Route 30, Lancaster

Do you have an old cookstove?

What about a treadle sewing machine? They don’t need to work—or even look nice. The Society bookstore will clean them up and use them for displays. Contact Jonel Ness for details: (717) 393-9745 or shop@lmhs.org.