



Shenandoah Mennonite Historian

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Elwood E. Yoder, Editor

A quarterly periodical dedicated to the history and culture of Mennonites in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, USA

2021 Directory of Mennonites, Amish, and related Anabaptists in Virginia

Fifteen years ago, *Historian* Editor James O. Lehman compiled a Directory of Mennonites, Amish, and other Anabaptist groups in Virginia. Since then, we have updated Lehman's Directory in 2008, 2010, 2012, and 2015. These Directories seek to compile all the Mennonite, Amish, and related Anabaptist groups in Virginia. We have not included Brethren churches in our Directories.

Since our last Directory six years ago, the Beachy Amish membership in Virginia has increased by 14%. The Amish have increased from 7 to 16 districts in Virginia, the Southeastern Mennonite Conference has risen by 16% in membership, and the Conservative Mennonite Conference has risen by 24% in six years. Since Lehman's first Directory fifteen years ago, the Virginia Mennonite Conference membership in Virginia has decreased by 44%.

All prior Directories can be read at our website at <https://mennonitearchivesofvirginia.net/>

Community Mennonite Church (above), Harrisonburg, Va., a member of Allegheny Mennonite Conference, as seen June 14, 2021

Photo by Editor



Wayne Waters, President of the Page County Heritage Association (standing in the doorway), showed the Mauck Meetinghouse, Hamburg, Va., to a group of the Editor's students from EMHS on a field trip studying Shenandoah Valley slavery sites, April 20, 2021. The church has a slave bench, and across the road from the nineteenth-century log church is a cemetery for enslaved persons.

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2021 Directory of Anabaptists in Virginia		
Allegheny Mennonite Conference		
Name	Location	Members
Community Mennonite Church	Harrisonburg, Va.	271
The Table	Harrisonburg, Va.	14
		285
Amish		
Charlotte County	South central Virginia, south-east of Lynchburg, Va.	3 districts
Cumberland County	Central Virginia, west of Richmond	2 districts
Giles County	West of Blacksburg, Va.	2 districts
Halifax County	South central Virginia near the Virginia & North Carolina border	4 districts
Highland County	West of Staunton	1 district
Pittsylvania County	South central Virginia near Danville, Va.	2 district
Richmond County	Eastern Peninsula of Virginia, at Northern Neck	1 district
Tazewell County	West of Blacksburg, Va.	1 district
Source: Amish Studies at the Young Center, Elizabethtown, Pa.	Estimated population	1595
Beachy Amish Churches		
Faith Christian Fellowship	Catlett, Fauquier County, Va.	58
Faith Mission Fellowship	Free Union, Albemarle County, Va.	78
Farmville Christian Fellowship	Farmville, Buckingham County, Va.	24
Fincastle Mennonite Church	Buchanan, Botetourt County, Va.	41
Gospel Light Mennonite Church	Gordonsville, Louisa County, Va.	35
Kempsville Amish-Mennonite	Virginia Beach, Va.	50
Light of Hope Christian Fellowship	Wytheville, Wytheville County, Va.	100
McKenney Mennonite Church	McKenney, Dinwiddie County, Va.	40
Oak Grove Mennonite Church	Aroda, Madison County, Va.	123

2021 Directory of Anabaptists in Virginia		
Pilgrim Christian Fellowship	Stuarts Draft, Augusta County, Va.	113
Still Waters Mennonite Church of Virginia	Tazewell, Tazewell County, in southwestern Va.	19
		681
Biblical Mennonite Alliance		
Calvary Mennonite Fellowship	Mt. Clinton, Rockingham County, Va.	194
Oak Hill Mennonite	Cumberland, Cumberland County, Va.	74
		268
Charity Ministries		
Dayspring Christian Fellowship	Amherst, Amherst County, Va.	34
Church of God in Christ, Mennonite (Holdeman)		
Shenandoah Valley Church of God in Christ, Mennonite (Holdeman)	Elkton, Rockingham County, Va.	90
Conservative Mennonite Conference		
Dayspring Mennonite Church	Midland, Fauquier County, Va.	62
Dayton Mennonite Church	Dayton, Rockingham County, Va.	176
Gospel Hill Mennonite Church	Fulks Run, Rockingham County, Va.	42
Providence Mennonite Church	Virginia Beach, Va.	28
Trinity Mennonite Church	Prospect, Prince Edward County, Va.	58
		366
Eastern Pennsylvania Mennonite Church		
Bridgewater Mennonite Church	Bridgewater, Rockingham County, Va.	57
Maranatha Amish Mennonite Churches		
Maranatha Bible Fellowship	Rose Hill, Lee County, Va.	40
Mountain Valley Mennonite		
Bethel Mennonite Church	Broadway, Rockingham County, Va.	32
Faith Mennonite Church	South Boston, Halifax County, Va.	15
Morning View Mennonite Church	Singers Glen, Rockingham County, Va.	89
		136

2021 Directory of Anabaptists in Virginia		
Nationwide Fellowship Churches		
Pilgrim Mennonite Church	Amelia Court House, Amelia County, Va.	14
Pleasant Valley Mennonite Fellowship	Mt. Crawford, Rockingham County, Va.	74
Southside Mennonite Church	Kenbridge, Lunenburg County, Va.	68
Virginia Highlands Mennonite Church	Chilhowie, Smyth County, Va.	29
		185
Old Order Mennonites		
Original Old Order Mennonite Conference	Rockingham County, Va.	312
Pleasant View Conference	Rockingham County, Va.	128
Riverdale Conference	Rockingham County, Va.	338
		778
Mt. Pleasant Mennonite Church - Weaverland Old Order Mennonite Conference	Dayton, Rockingham County, Va.	235
Stauffer Old Order Mennonites	One settlement in Northern Neck, Richmond County	10
Pilgrim Mennonite Conference		
Piedmont Mennonite Church	Amelia Court House, Amelia County, Va.	94
Winchester Mennonite Church	Winchester, Frederick County, Va.	43
		137
Shalom Mennonite Church (Central District of Mennonite Church USA)	Harrisonburg, Va.	153
Southeastern Mennonite Conference		
Bank Mennonite Church	Hinton, Rockingham County, Va.	168
Bethany Mennonite Church	Dayton, Rockingham County, Va.	70
Bethesda Mennonite Church	Broadway, Rockingham County, Va.	52
Ebenezer Mennonite Church	South Boston, Halifax County, Va.	64
Mabel Memorial Chapel	Harrisonburg, Va.	20
McDowell Mennonite Church	McDowell, Highland County, Va.	36

2021 Directory of Anabaptists in Virginia		
McGaheysville Mennonite Church	McGaheysville, Rockingham County, Va.	32
Mount Hermon Mennonite Church	Stanardsville, Greene County, Va.	49
Peake Mennonite Church	Harrisonburg, Rockingham County, Va.	106
Pike Mennonite Church	Harrisonburg, Rockingham County, Va.	71
Rawley Springs Mennonite Church	Hinton, Rockingham County, Va.	58
Strasburg Mennonite Church	Strasburg, Shenandoah County, Va.	45
		771
Unaffiliated Congregations		
Bethel Mennonite Church	Gladys, Campbell County, Va.	86
Broad Street Mennonite	Harrisonburg, Va.	10
Island Creek Mennonite	Hillsville, Carroll County, Va.	69
Mountain Valley Mennonite Church	Lyndhurst, Augusta County, Va.	215
Olive Branch Christian Church	Staunton, Augusta County, Va.	4
Timberville Mennonite Church	Timberville, Rockingham County, Va.	30
Wills Ridge Mennonite Church	Floyd, Floyd County, Va.	65
		479
Virginia Mennonite Conference		
Beldor Mennonite Church	Elkton, Rockingham County, Va.	17
Big Spring Mennonite Church	Luray, Page County, Va.	32
C3 Hampton (Calvary Community Church)	Hampton, Va.	850
Charlottesville Mennonite Church	Charlottesville, Va.	48
Christiansburg Mennonite Fellowship	Christiansburg, Va.	44
Crossroads Mennonite Church	Timberville, Rockingham County, Va.	27
CrossWay Mennonite Church	Harrisonburg, Va.	8
Daniels Run Peace Church	Fairfax, Va.	25
Early Church	Harrisonburg, Va.	38
Eastside Church	Harrisonburg, Va.	100
Family of Hope	Harrisonburg, Va.	12
First Mennonite Church	Richmond, Va.	76

2021 Directory of Anabaptists in Virginia		
Grace Mennonite Fellowship	Lacey Spring, Va.	50
Greenmonte Fellowship	Stuarts Draft, Va.	100
Harrisonburg Mennonite Church	Harrisonburg, Va.	400
Hebron Mennonite Church	Fulks Run, Va.	55
Huntington Mennonite Church	Newport News, Va.	107
Iglesia Enciende una Luz	Harrisonburg, Va.	90
Iglesia Esperanza de Vida	Harrisonburg, Va.	~
Iglesia Menonita Monte Moriah	Lacy Spring, Va.	~
Immanuel Mennonite Church	Harrisonburg, Va.	65
Lindale Mennonite Church	Linville, Rockingham County, Va.	303
Lynside Mennonite Church	Lyndhurst, Augusta County, Va.	55
Manantial de Vida	Harrisonburg, Va.	90
Mosaic of Grace	Harrisonburg, Va.	13
Mt. Clinton Mennonite Church	Harrisonburg, Va.	65
Mt. Pleasant Mennonite Church	Chesapeake, Va.	180
Mt. Vernon Mennonite Church	Grottoes, Rockingham County, Va.	80
New Song Anabaptist Fellowship	Harrisonburg, Va.	20
Park View Mennonite Church	Harrisonburg, Va.	346
Powhatan Mennonite Church	Powhatan, Powhatan County, Va.	78
Providence Mennonite Church	Newport News, Va.	22
Rehoboth Mennonite Church	Schuyler, Nelson County, Va.	7
Ridgeway Mennonite Church	Harrisonburg, Va.	98
Signs of Life Fellowship	Staunton, Va.	20
Springdale Mennonite Church	Waynesboro, Va.	127
Staunton Mennonite Church	Staunton, Va.	34
Stephens City Mennonite Church	Stephens City, Va.	20
the exchange	Winchester, Va.	29

2021 Directory of Anabaptists in Virginia		
Trissels Mennonite Church	Broadway, Va.	107
Valley View Mennonite Church	Criders, Rockingham County, Va.	44
Vietnamese Christian Fellowship	Falls Church, Va.	21
Warwick River Mennonite Fellowship	Newport News, Va.	50
Waynesboro Mennonite Church	Waynesboro, Va.	65
Weavers Mennonite Church	Harrisonburg, Va.	170
Williamsburg Mennonite Church	Williamsburg, Va.	92
Zion Hill Mennonite Church	Singers Glen, Va.	37
Zion Mennonite Church	Broadway, Va.	143
		4460

Changes from the 2015 Directory in *Historian* include:

- Conservative groups have tended to grow in Virginia, though not all, while Virginia Mennonite Conference in Virginia has declined numerically from 5,894 in 2015 to 4,460 in 2021;
- Virginia Mennonite Conference has a total membership in 2021 of 5,302, with congregations in West Virginia, Maryland, Washington, D.C., North Carolina, Kentucky, and Tennessee. Our first *Historian's* Directory in 2006 listed 7,971 in VMC in Virginia, a decline of 3,511 in the state in 15 years;
- Conservative Mennonite Conference includes five congregations in Virginia;
- Amish continue to move to Virginia and establish new settlements, with 16 districts in 8 counties in Virginia in 2021;
- One reader of *Historian* noted that with Stauffer Old Order Mennonites moving to the eastern peninsula, "The Lord is being worshiped in German by Mennonites in Virginia once again."

Origins of Joseph Funk's, "A Compilation of Genuine Church Music."

by Wayne Diehl

J. W. Hollis of Winchester, VA printed the first edition of Joseph Funk's, *A Compilation of Genuine Church Music*, in 1832.

Prior to printing, there was correspondence between Hollis and Funk concerning the

production of the hymnal. In December 2017, nine letters from Hollis to Funk were offered for sale on the internet. The earliest of these letters was dated February 7, 1832 and the last, October 3, 1832. This correspondence included interesting detail on the working relationship between the two men in the production of the first edition. Apparently, they shared a great deal of personal regard and respect.

Following is the transcript of one of the nine letters from Hollis to Funk which was dated September 12, 1832.^{1 2}

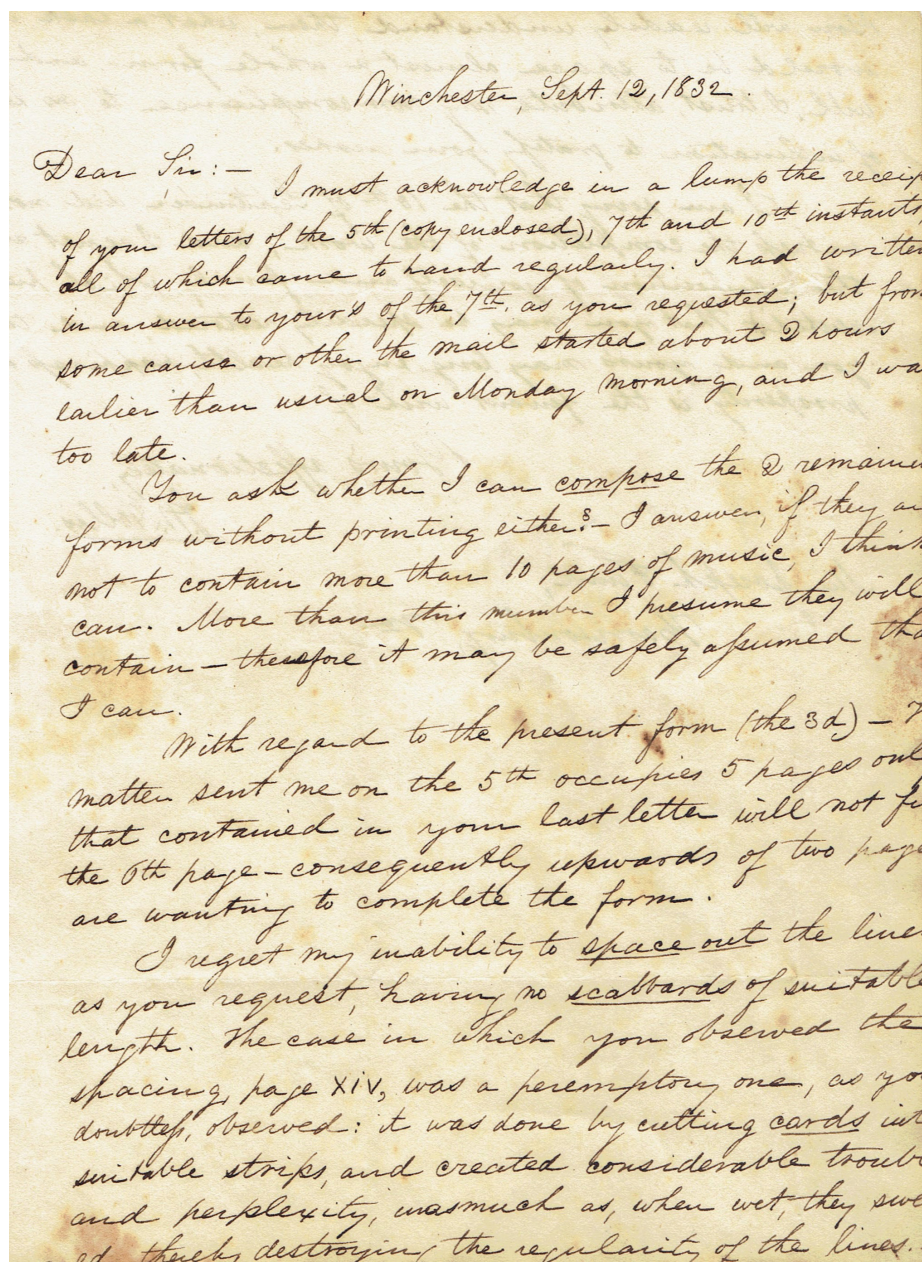
Winchester, Sept. 12, 1832

Dear Sir:---

I must acknowledge in a lump the receipt of your letters of the 5th (copy enclosed), 7th and 10th instants, all of which came to hand regularly. I had written in answer to yours of the 7th as you requested; but from some cause or other the mail started about 2 hours earlier than usual on Monday morning, and I was too late.

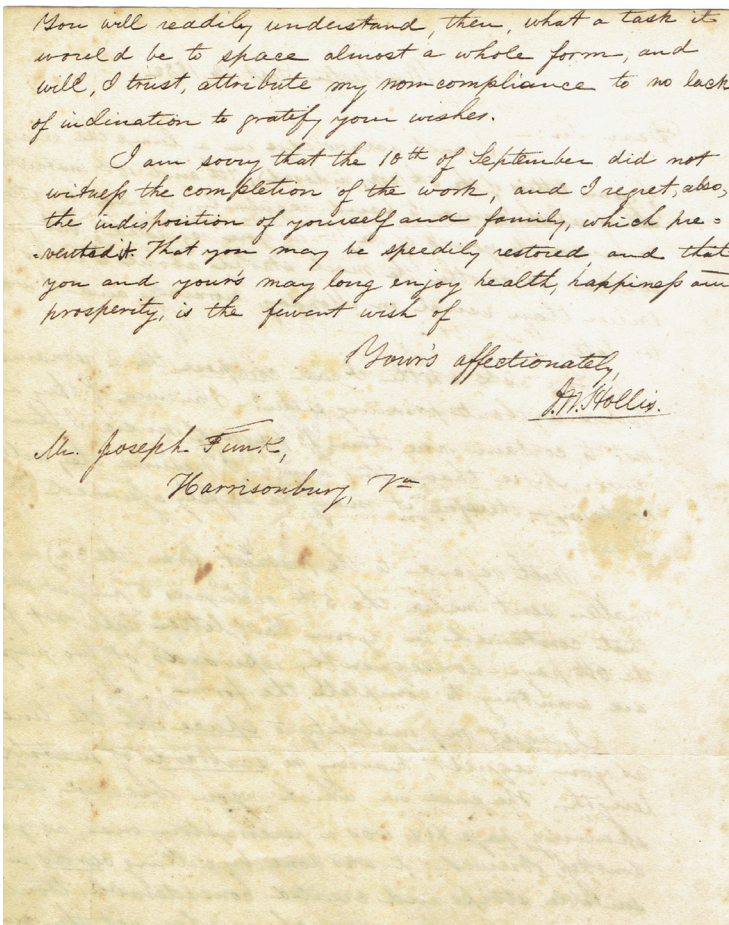
You ask whether I can compose the 2 remaining forms without printing either? -- I answer if they are not to contain more than 10 pages of music I think I can. More than this number I presume they will {not} contain -- therefore it may be safely assumed that I can.

With regard to the present form (the 3rd) -- The matter sent



1. The letter is in the possession of the writer.

2. There is a term in the letter pertaining to the printer's trade that may not be familiar to the casual reader. The word "forms" referred to the block or plate that contained the moveable type. A thin coating of ink was applied to the type in the form. A sheet of paper was laid upon the form and then pressed to transfer the image of the inked characters to it. Hollis also referred to a "scabbard" which was, apparently, a spacing device within the form.



Scans of a letter from J. W. Hollis to Joseph Funk, dated September 12, 1832. Wayne Diehl has the original letter in his possession.

me on the 5th occupies 5 pages only, that contained in your last letter will not fill the 6th page -- consequently upwards of two pages are wanting to complete the form.

I regret my inability to space out the lines as you request, having no scabbards of suitable length. The case in which you observed the spacing, page xiv, was a peremptory one, as you doubtless observed; it was done by cutting cards into suitable strips, and created considerable trouble and perplexity, inasmuch as, when wet, they sweated thereby destroying the regularity of the lines.

You will readily understand, then, what a task it would be to space almost a whole form, and will, I trust, attribute my non-compliance to

no lack of inclination to gratify your wishes.

I am sorry that the 10th of September did not witness the completion of the work, and I regret also, the indisposition of yourself and family, which prevented it. That you may be speedily restored and that you and yours may long enjoy health, happiness and prosperity is the fervent wish of

*Yours affectionately,
J. W. Hollis*

*Mr. Joseph Funk
Harrisonburg, Va*

All of the letters from Hollis to Funk were later bound into a volume by Funk or someone in his family. As a result, the letters have minor loss to the right-hand margins resulting in some of the words being partially “clipped.” The writer has taken editorial license to infer the full extent of these words.

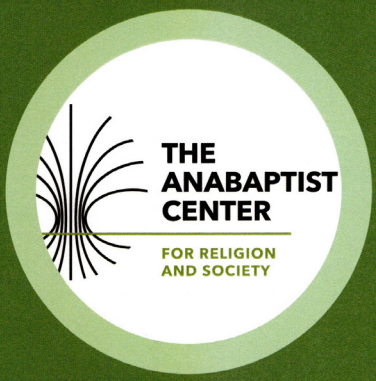
J. W. Hollis also printed the second and third editions of *Genuine Church Music* in 1835 and 1842. Funk printed the fourth edition at Singers Glen in 1847. The familiar title of *Harmonia Sacra*, first used with the 1851 edition, was also printed at Singers Glen.³

The other eight letters of 1832 from Hollis to Funk are in the Carrier Library at James Madison University.⁴

Wayne Diehl lives in Montpelier Virginia, near Richmond, though he grew up in Rockingham County. Wayne maintains a genealogy blog with about 20 articles that he has researched on various family lines. These include a number of Valley Mennonite and Brethren related families including Showalter, Landes, and Wenger. The link is <https://shenandoahvalleygenealogy932815865.wordpress.com/>

3. [Wikipedia https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harmonia_Sacra](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harmonia_Sacra)

4. <https://www.lib.jmu.edu/special/manuscripts/sc0242/>



THE ANABAPTIST CENTER
FOR RELIGION AND SOCIETY

ANABAPTIST CENTER FOR RELIGION AND SOCIETY

CAMPAIGN GOAL
\$45,000 for Six Projects

The Anabaptist Center for Religion and Society operates out of Eastern Mennonite University. The ACRS is a community of elders bringing critical thinking and a prophetic voice to the engagement with local and world issues. The group works through the lens of Anabaptism, striving to be a catalyst to provide leadership in practical ways to pursue responsibility and justice for the common good.

The ACRS, established in 2002, has launched a funding campaign to address climate and environmental sustainability in the Shenandoah Valley. The ACRS has outlined six projects for their campaign: Park Woods Rehabilitation, Lewis J. (L. J.) Heatwole Legacy Award, research and publication of an L. J. Heatwole biography, consultations on sustainability for the Shenandoah Valley, and collaboration with both Eastern Mennonite University and Virginia Mennonite Conference to promote racial equity and antiracism.

Dr. Lee M. Yoder is Chair of the ACRS. Professor Vernon E. Jantzi is Vice-Chair and Director of the ACRS. For more information about goals of the ACRS, the Steering Committee, meetings, and resources, navigate to <https://emu.edu/acrs/>

SHENANDOAH VALLEY HISTORIANS ANNUAL MEETING

Jo Anne Kraus has agreed to deliver a lecture at the Historians' Annual Meeting, Saturday, November 13, 2021, 9:30 AM. Jo Anne Kraus recently finished writing a major Herald Press history of the Warwick Colony, Newport News, Va. Kraus' book is entitled *Holy Experiment: The Warwick River Mennonite Colony, 1897-1970*. You can purchase a copy of her book at amazon.com.

The location of the Annual Meeting will be announced later. Put November 13 on your calendar, plan to attend the lecture, and learn more about the Historians.

Ryan Brunk graduated from Eastern Mennonite High School on June 6, 2021. Ryan (below right) is a fifth-generation descendant of George R. Brunk I, one of the founders of Eastern Mennonite School. Ryan's parents are Benjamin and Cynthia Brunk, his paternal grandparents are Gerald and Janet Brunk, his great grandparents are George R. Brunk II and Margaret Brunk, and Ryan's great-great-grandparents are George R. Brunk I and Katie Brunk. The Editor (below left) studied history under Gerald Brunk in college, and while on the EMHS faculty, he heard George R. Brunk II speak in chapel and taught both Ryan and his father, Benjamin Brunk.





**Community Mennonite Church Sign,
Harrisonburg, Va., April 21, 2021, about a year
after the pandemic began.**

Photo by Editor

The *Shenandoah Mennonite Historian* is published quarterly by the Shenandoah Valley Mennonite Historians, established in 1993.

Officers of the Historians: Chair, James L. Hershberger; Treasurer, Norman Wenger; Secretary, James Rush; Lois Bowman Kreider; Gerald R. Brunk; and, Elwood E. Yoder, Editor

If you have an idea for an article or picture for the *Historian*, contact the Editor at elyoder@gmail.com.

All past issues of *Shenandoah Mennonite Historian*, from 1994-2021, can be found at mennonitearchivesofvirginia.net. This site includes a link to over 1,600 photos related to Mennonites in Virginia, provides a way to subscribe to *Historian* online, and connects readers to the Editor's history blog.

An annual individual membership fee for the Shenandoah Valley Mennonite Historians is \$10.00 per year, which includes a subscription to the *Historian*. Additional family memberships are \$5 each. Send membership fees to James Rush, e-mail at jameslrush@comcast.net, phone 540-434-0792, or U.S. mail to James Rush, 780 Parkwood Drive, Harrisonburg, Virginia, 22802.

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