

SHENANDOAH MENNONITE HISTORIAN

Volume 1, Number 3

Summer 1994

Quarterly publication of the
Shenandoah Valley Mennonite Historians

Annual Meeting to Feature CPS Work

The annual business meeting and program of the Shenandoah Valley Mennonite Historians will be held October 1, 1994, Saturday morning, 8:00 a.m., in the West Dining room at Eastern Mennonite University. A breakfast will be served from 8:00 to 8:30. Cost will be \$3.00.

Following a short business meeting, a program featuring the Civilian Public Service (CPS) in the 1940's will be presented. Featured will be several drafted men and one woman who were involved in CPS between 1941 and 1946. Our host for this part of the program will be Daniel B. Suter.

EVENTS OF INTEREST

BUS TOUR OF PAGE COUNTY -
SEPT. 17, 1994

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
SHENANDOAH VALLEY MENNONITE
HISTORIANS - OCT. 1, 1994

EMU HOME COMING - OCT. 7,
1994

War started in Europe in 1939, and the United States became a part of the global struggle after the bombing of Pearl Harbor in 1941. The historic peace church faced a nation that was unsympathetic toward those men who refused to bear arms. The government, however, through the Selective Service, placed drafted conscientious objectors into a variety of situations doing work that was considered of national importance.

Following an interview session with these CPSers, Albert Keim will comment on the influence of CPS on the church and on those who were drafted. Keim is an EMU History professor and the author of the book, *The CPS Story*.

For those who were a part of the Civilian Public Service experience in the 1940's, the October 1 meeting will be an important time to remember their experiences and how their lives were impacted by them. For others, especially younger persons, this will be an important opportunity of learning how the Mennonite Church of half a century ago, and how its

young men, were guided by their convictions when the world was engulfed in the crisis and turmoil of World War II.

Persons are encouraged to bring photographs and memorabilia of CPS. Tables will be available for displays.

Brubaker Family Escapes Indians

During the period of the Indian raids in Page County, the people no doubt kept a watchful eye on unusual occurrences. Perhaps none was as alert as Barbara Miller Brubaker, the wife of Abraham Brubaker.

As the story goes, the evening before the Stone family was massacred in 1758, Mrs. Brubaker told her husband that she wished to go to a place of safety. She claimed to have seen a party of Indians fixing their supper on the Massanutten Mountain. Abraham laughed.

Nevertheless, the next day she kept a lookout while carrying her baby and doing her chores. When the commotion began next door at the John Stone farm, she made her escape across the river.

The Brubaker home, Wall Brook was plundered and set on fire, but did not burn.

Bus Tour to Page County Nearly Filled !

Plans continue for the Page County Historical Tour to be held on Saturday, September 17, 1994. The bus is almost full! Due to some last minute cancellations, there are a limited number of seats still available. Please contact Jim Rush by phone if you wish to go along. (434-0792) For those who made their reservations, the following is a synopsis of the day's itinerary.

We plan to leave the EMHS parking lot at 8:00 a.m. At the junction of Rts. 211 and 615 we will be joined by Gary Bauserman, our guide and narrator for a tour on the west side of the Shenandoah River, covering the Preacher Abraham Strickler House and the general site of the Preacher John Roads massacre.

Again on Rt. 211 we will see the memorial to the pioneers of the Massanutten settlement. Across the river we will stop at the Brubaker Cemetery and memorial monument to Martin Kauffman Sr.

We will view from the bus the White House, built by Martin Kauffman, Jr. in 1760. Next we will proceed to the Kauffman Cemetery and the grave of Preacher David Kauffman.

We will spend some time at the old Hamburg Church (Mauck Meetinghouse) and our final stop will be at Wall Brook, the beautiful and historic home of the Brubakers.

At the proper juncture in our tour we will have lunch at the Mimslyn Motor Inn.

Shenandoah Valley Mennonite Historians Annual Meeting October 1, 1994

8:00 a.m. Breakfast (\$3.00)

8:30 a.m. Business Meeting
Election of officers
Review of dues
Report of activities from 1994

Program

Daniel B. Suter, CPSer and Host
Introduction and Overview of CPS
Harold D. Lehman
Interviews with persons involved in CPS
Cleo Weaver, interviewer
Harry Kraus, served at Western State Hospital
Eber Rhodes, kitchen staff, cook, and baker
Jim Brunk, smoke jumper and cattleboat
Ruth Brunk Stoltzfus, MCC worker and CPS camp matron

Keynote Address

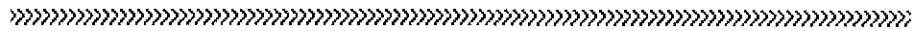
Albert Keim, EMU History Professor and author of The CPS Story

9:45 a.m. Adjournment and time of informal sharing

Please bring photographs and memorabilia. Tables will be available for your displays.

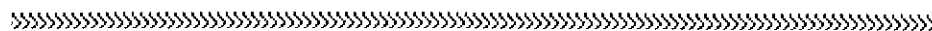


Fall is a good time to start working on that special project in local history. Perhaps that includes genealogical research, interviews with local persons, or maybe just sorting those letters and photographs. If you find something to share, let us know!



Quick Quiz -Answers on last page

- 1) Jacob Stover, who held the original land grant to the Massanutten Colony, was the uncle of
 - a) George Washington b) Daniel Boone c) Benjamin Franklin d) Thomas Harrison
- 2) The early Virginia Mennonites were sometimes called
 - a) Quakers b) German Quakers c) Mennonists d) all of the above
- 3) The person who introduced the Baptist faith to so many Mennonite settlers in the Massanutten Settlement was
 - a) John Koontz b) Peter Ruffner c) Philip Long d) George Keyser



Abraham Strickler(-1746)

Abraham Strickler was born in Canton Zurich, Switzerland probably as early as 1670. He came to America about 1700 and settled near the Susquehanna River in Chester County (now Lancaster County), Pennsylvania.

Sometime before 1730 he relocated to Virginia at the Massanutten settlement in Page County, having acquired 1000 acres of land from Jacob Stover. Although the date on this deed is 1735, most historians believe that he was in the Shenandoah Valley settlement as early as 1728 or 1729. His plantation has always been known as Egypt.

Abraham Strickler was an expert weaver by trade. It is said he wove a tablecloth with the initials of a knife, fork and spoon at every place setting.

Not much is known about Abraham Strickler's wife. It is thought she was the only sister of Peter Ruffner, another Page County pioneer. Abraham died in 1746 and is probably buried opposite the mouth of Mill Creek where his son Jacob is also buried.

It is believed that he left a grown son in Pennsylvania when he migrated to Virginia. Abraham had four sons and a daughter among the early pioneers of Page County.

Jacob Strickler, the oldest, owned a farm four miles west of Luray called Fort Egypt. It was part of the original tract that his father purchased from Jacob Stover. It is situated at the mouth of Mill Creek. Jacob Strickler first

married Nancy Kauffman, the daughter of Martin Kauffman, Sr., and they had six children. After her death he married Magdalene Moomaw and was blessed with seven more children. Jacob was a Mennonite preacher and the father of Colonel David Strickler.

Joseph Strickler owned the land in the upper part of the bend known as Egypt. This land was also part of the original deed. We know, from the study of his will, that his wife's name was Barbara and that they had ten children. Both Jacob and Joseph had to clarify their deeds with Lord Fairfax because their land also a part of his land grant.

Benjamin Strickler purchased several tracts of land till he had over 600 acres. His plantation was situated about six miles west of Luray. Benjamin married Mary Beidler and they had four children who survived to adulthood.

John Strickler owned property on the west side of the river between Newport and Grove Hill. The patent was dated 1754, for 230 acres, and was located at Pitt Spring Bend. His wife's name was Mary and they had eight children.

Mary Strickler married Joseph Rhodes, the oldest son of Preacher John Roads. They had four children.

It was to their brother Joseph's home that Elizabeth and Esther Rhodes fled when the Indians massacred most of their family. When their brother Michael escaped from his captivity three years later he also lived

with Joseph and Mary.

After Joseph's death, Mary married Jacob Huddle and moved to the Crabill farm near Maurertown.

The name of Isaac Strickler appears frequently connected with Abraham's family. He also received a share of the original land tract. It is believed by several historians that Isaac was the grandson of Abraham. Isaac married three times. The first time was in Pennsylvania. There were no children from this union. His second wife was Susan Brubaker, daughter of Abraham Brubaker, another Page County pioneer. They had four children. His last wife was the widow Catherine Beaver.

It is supposed that, at least for a time, Abraham and his children were members of the Mennonite Church, especially since his son Jacob Strickler is listed as a Mennonite minister. The Strickler family was an important building block in the history of Page County.

Sources used:

Old Homes of Page County Virginia
by Jennie Ann Kerkhoff

Forerunners, A History or Genealogy of the Strickler Families
by Harry M. Strickler

A Short History of Page County
by Harry M. Strickler

Notes & Queries

Wanted: We are in need of questions and information to place in this column. There is no need to be bashful as we are all trying to learn more about our common past.

The Plains: I would like any information that anyone might have concerning the Plains Academy Church built in 1826 northeast of Timberville, for inclusion in an upcoming newsletter. Randall Shank, P.O. Box 870, Broadway, Va. 22815

To become a member of the Shenandoah Valley Mennonite Historians and to receive future copies of this newsletter, send name and address and 1994 dues (\$5 per couple, \$3 for single) to Linden Wenger, 1570 Hillcrest Dr. Harrisonburg, Virginia 22801

Name _____
Address _____

The "Notes & Queries" section of this newsletter is meant to be a forum whereby the reader can obtain information about Shenandoah Mennonite families and happenings. If you have a need for such information, send us a letter with your inquiry. We also will consider short notes which may be of interest to others.. Be sure to send your name and address so that others can reply to you. We will attempt to print as many queries as space on this page allows. Send to Randall Shank, P.O. Box 870, Broadway, Va. 22815

Quick Quiz Answers: 1)b 2)d 3)a

SHENANDOAH HISTORIANS
760 Parkwood Drive
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

Edward Yoder