

SHENANDOAH MENNONITE HISTORIAN

Volume 3, Number 4

Fall 1996

Quarterly publication of the
Shenandoah Valley Mennonite Historian

Randall Shank, editor

Work Continues On Idea of Local Mennonite Heritage Center

During a public meeting on November 23, 1996, at Weaver's Mennonite Church, a resolution was voted on and passed as follows: "That we hereby endorse the vision for a Heritage Center for the Shenandoah Valley whereby, among other things, people may come to appreciate the history, faith, life and culture of Shenandoah Valley Mennonites and that we authorize the Shenandoah Valley Mennonite Historians' executive committee to appoint a Preliminary Planning Committee to consider, among other things, program, site and building possibilities, funding and the desired ambience for a Center and to report to SVMH within six months of this date, that is by May 23, 1997. "

In keeping with this action by the membership, the Executive Committee took the following steps in continuing to plan for the Heritage Center.

First, two public meetings were planned to brainstorm ideas for the Center, one concentrating on the contents and program of the proposed center, and another focusing on the finances and site possibilities.

Second, a Preliminary Planning Committee was organized to compile and distill input from the two brainstorming sessions. This group was chaired by Sherrill Kauffman Glanzer. A summary of their findings is included on page 2.

Third, a working-planning day has been scheduled for Thursday, March 13, at Lindale Mennonite Church. An agenda for this event is included on page 3 of this newsletter. The all day

meeting will begin at 9 am and continue until 4 pm with normal breaks for lunch and times of informal discussion. Levi Troyer and LeRoy Troyer have agreed to give their time and expertise during this meeting. Other persons with experience in such matters will also be in attendance. Plans include an informational meeting in the evening, also at Lindale. All are encouraged to attend all or part of these sessions.

**PLAN NOW TO ATTEND
THE ALL DAY BRAINSTORMING
SESSION ON MARCH 13, 1997
AT LINDALE MENNONITE
MEETINGHOUSE NEAR EDOM
STARTING AT 9AM ENDING 4PM
ALSO ATTEND EVENING
MEETING TO TAKE POSSIBLE
VOTE ON FUTURE PLANS
SEE INSERT FOR AGENDA**

Summary Statement

Presented by the Preliminary Planning Committee

There is a great deal of interest in the development of a Mennonite Heritage Center, located in the vicinity of Harrisonburg or the close surrounding area. The consensus was that the community will support a Heritage Center, and probably support a larger venture such as a conference center. The decision needs to be made as to whether the Heritage Center will be connected in any way, other than proximity, to any other facility, such as a restaurant or conference center. The suggestion was that some business people be asked to advise on the pro's and con's of a joint venture, and mixing not for profit and for profit businesses. While it may be helpful for board/committee members to visit other facilities of the same nature, the program elements for the center should represent the unique history of Virginia Mennonites and not try to duplicate other efforts. Caution was expressed that the Center should not be developed to fit a location but rather that a location be chosen based on the components of the Center, which are derived from a clear, focused, mission statement. There also is concern that we do not commercialize our heritage; it seemed a widely-held sentiment that we want to avoid becoming another Amish amusement park. Sharing our faith and inviting viewers to a personal faith experience of their own seems to be an element that definitely needs to be included in this project and evident in the mission statement.

Valley Mennonite Word Find

	S A C W X S H E N K Q B E Y A C Y K B R Y B S U T E R M R E H J L L B V F P X L G L H R D R V I T N F T F C V L Y W W H I T O Q J L I O U D N A R B E D L I H S N H W R Q H E T R I S S E L L B C G H R H N A M Y A L I E G O C H E N O U R Y E W N L M K R V R D N K W J G F W S S L D S A T K I E X H L H M P N F H M H S R O X Q E V R L G O O D E K M E U A O L E Y R P R P E Z L D H I N A M E N N E R B R J Q V T G T X E K U N W T K S H K L E E U K Z F N R E S R E V A E W M R Y S E E L R M M E A D B U X D I O A O V L U H B U I C W W H F U B K W P N L M L Y P K B R D Y J J W A X Q Z E Y Z N R P E Z E Q	
BEERY BLOSSER BOWMAN BRENNEMAN BRUNK BURKHOLDER COFFMAN DRIVER EBERLY FUNK GEIL GOCHENOUR GOOD GROVE HARTZLER HEATWOLE		HILDEBRAND KENDIG LAYMAN LEHMAN MILLER RHODES SHANK SHENK SHOWALTER SUTER SWOPE TRISSEL WEAVER WENGER YODER

**Working Day for the Shenandoah Valley Mennonite Historians
planning a Mennonite heritage center
Lindale Mennonite Church, Thursday, March 13, 1997**
signs to church about five miles north of Harrisonburg on Route 42

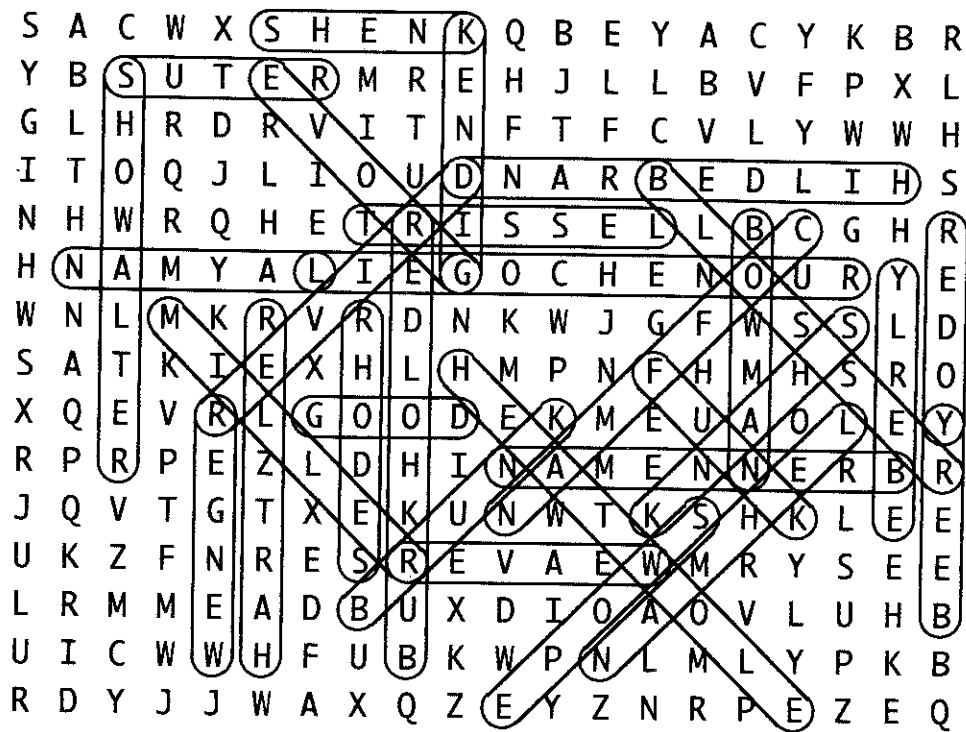
This planning day is being called by the Executive Committee of the SVMH in accordance with the action of the membership on November 23, 1996. LeRoy Troyer from Indiana and Levi Troyer from Ohio plan to be present as consultants for the day. All sessions are open to the public with the evening meeting particularly planned for the benefit of the general public. Discussions in recent months have matured to the point that it is hoped there may be an action by members of the SVMH to approve organizational structure in the evening meeting.

- 9:00 am** Opening Prayer and Comments
 Introductions: Consultants, etc.
 Review of SVMH history regarding Heritage Center
 Preliminary Planning Committee Report: Sherrill Glanzer

 Presentation on Mennonite heritage centers: Jan Gleysteen
- 10:30 am** *Break*
- 10:45 am** Proposal for commercial and not-for-profit ventures: Cal Redekop
 Resources for implementation: Clayton Shenk
- 11:30 am** Responses to Objectives, Priorities, and Planning
- 12:15 pm** *Lunch: available on donation basis*
- 1:15 pm** Continued Discussion of Objectives, Priorities, and Planning
- 2:30 pm** *Break*
- 2:45 pm** Discussion toward Implementation
- 4:00 pm** *Adjournment*
- 5:00 pm** **Dinner meeting** of SMVH executive committee, visiting consultants, and others interested in the formation of organizational structures
- 7:30 pm** **Public Meeting** at Lindale Mennonite Church
 Reporting--for Approval or Rejection--Specific Plans and Structures

For more information: Nate Yoder (432-4255); Cal Redekop (433-4930)

VALLEY MENNONITES



BEERY
 BLOSSER
 BOWMAN
 BRENNEMAN
 BRUNK
 BURKHOLDER
 COFFMAN
 DRIVER

EBERLY
 FUNK
 GEIL
 GOCHENOUR
 GOOD
 GROVE
 HARTZLER
 HEATWOLE

HILDEBRAND
 KENDIG
 LAYMAN
 LEHMAN
 MILLER
 RHODES
 SHANK
 SHENK

SHOWALTER
 SUTER
 SWOPE
 TRISSEL
 WEAVER
 WENGER
 YODER

Daniel Showalter (1738-1822)

Daniel Showalter was born in Germany in 1738. He was the son of Jacob Showalter. Daniel had seven brothers and three sisters. Jacob Showalter and his family sailed from Rotterdam aboard the ship Brotherhood arriving in Philadelphia in 1750. On the passenger list with the Showalter family was a young girl by the name of Margaret Saunders. After landing in Philadelphia they settled in Whitehall Township, Northampton County, Pennsylvania.

In the year 1760 Margaret Saunders and Daniel Showalter were married. They moved to Chester County, Pennsylvania around 1770. Here they farmed and started a family. In the tax

rolls of 1771 he is listed as a weaver. He was followed to the area by his brothers John, Joseph and Valentine.

The move to Rockingham County, Virginia came in the year 1788. Daniel, Margaret, and their six children settled in the vicinity of Broadway, Virginia. Here in the Valley they were blessed with five more children giving them a total of eleven children, six sons and five daughters. These are the eleven children of Daniel and Margaret Saunders Showalter.

Catherine (1770-1842) married William Rodehafer. They had 11 children. They settled along the North Fork of the Shenandoah River. They all eventually moved to Ohio.

Jacob (1772-1851) married Sophia Saufley and they had 15 children.

Elizabeth (1775-1841) married first John C. Pennypacker and second James Pennypacker.

Joseph (1776-1838) married Ann Rhodes daughter of Bishop Henry and Elizabeth Brenneman Rhodes. They had 12 children. One child was named Daniel. He became a minister and was the last Virginia Mennonite Conference minister to preach exclusively in German.

Mary (Polly) married Jacob Swank.

David (1781-1858) married Agnes Linville.

Nancy (1789-1827) married Conrad Rodehafer the brother of William.

Margaret (1790-1855) married Abraham Heatwole son of David and Magdaline Heatwole in 1820. They had 4 children. A grandson was L.J. Heatwole, a Mennonite writer, scientist and bishop from Dale Enterprise.

George married Nancy Kauffman.

John married Elizabeth Weaver.

Daniel died as a young man in the war of 1812.

More information needs to be gathered in order to place the children in order of birth.

Margaret Saunders Showalter died in 1816 and her husband Daniel in 1822. They are both buried at Trissels Mennonite Church Cemetery near Broadway.

Two of Daniel's brothers followed him to the Valley. Valentine moved around 1789 and settled near Daniel. On the tax rolls he is listed as a weaver. He was married to Anna Funk and

they had six known children.

In 1790 Daniel's brother Ulrich also came to the area with his wife and nine children. Ulrich was married to Susannah Watterson. They bought land from Daniel and lived there till 1806 when Ulrich sold his land to his son-in-law Christian Rhodes, and moved to Fayette Co Pennsylvania.

Two of Daniel's sisters also immigrated to Rockingham County. Daniel's sister Barbara was married to Henry Funk. They had ten children while living in Pennsylvania and added three more children after moving to Mountain Valley (now Singers Glen) in Rockingham County. Christian Funk the sickle maker and Joseph Funk the musician were two of their sons.

Martha Ann Showalter, Daniel's younger sister married twice. First she married John Tressler and then Joseph Trissel.

The Showalter brothers and sisters became an integral part of Valley and Mennonite Church history.

Sources used:

A Brief History of Bishop Henry Funk by A.J. Fretz

Family Record of the Showalters by Preston M. Showalter

The Rodeffer Family by Carrie Rodeffer Power

"The Search for the Showalters" Mennonite Family History,

October 1984

"The Virginia Mennonite Rhodes Families" Pennsylvania Mennonite Heritage, April 1980.

David Heatwole and His Descendants by Harry A. Brunk

Notes & Queries

*Please send in your queries,
even if they seem impossible.
We had none this time.*

To become a member of
Shenandoah Valley Mennonite
Historians and to receive future
copies of this newsletter, send
name and address and 1995
dues (\$10 per couple, \$6 for
single) to:

Michael Shenk, 1345 Hillcrest
Drive, Harrisonburg, VA. 22801.

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

Shenandoah Valley Mennonite Historians
780 Parkwood Drive
Harrisonburg, VA 22801