

OMHGS

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GLIMPSES OF THE HISTORY OF THE

Harrisburg Amish Mennonite Church

by Elden Birky

Let me say first of all that I am deeply indebted to minister Wilbur Kropf, our historian, for the use of his collection of materials on the Harrisburg Mennonite Church; also, to Hope Lind for her excellent coverage of these early Mennonite movements and events.

The congregation was organized in the summer of 1911 with approximately 27 members. To me its history is divided into two parts: events 35 years prior to my membership in 1946 and subsequent events now totaling 45 years.

Daniel Kropf, minister at Zion, with his large family, was the first to move to the Harrisburg community. He was Harrisburg's first minister. Others who soon moved from Zion were Enos Hostetlers, deaf Levi Hostetlers, Joe "C." Hostetlers, Sam Kropfs (one year only), Sam Stutzman, R.D. "Rudy" Millers, Eli Bakers and deaf Joe Hostetlers. From Fairview came Peter Neuschwander's family (6 members) and Chris Widmers. Widmer died January 7, 1919. His widow was given a church letter April 18, 1919. Later, Joseph Maurers, Joseph Schrocks and Jacob Roths from Fairview were members here.

Two ancestors of early Sycamore Grove, Zion and Harrisburg settlers were Christian J. Hostetler (1850-1925) and his brother Levi Hostetler (1832-1921). These Hostetler brothers married Hershberger sisters, Magdalena and Barbara, respectively. Both families reared 10 children to maturity who were double first cousins, three of whom had identical first names. There were two Georges, two Josephs and two Levis.

Three of Christian's sons who came to Zion from Missouri were George (married to Paulina Eash), Joseph C. (married to Mary Werner), and Mose (married to "Mellie" Troyer Kauffman).

Christian's sons had a saying that there were "three and a half dozen boys in their family and they each had a sister." Her name was Elizabeth, married to Jacob Kropf, brother of Daniel, whose wife, Anna, was Elizabeth's double first cousin. Jacob Kropf was the father of Amos, Ezra and Mary Kropf Headings.

Of Levi Hostetler's nine children that came to Oregon, two remained at Zion; namely, Fanny Hooley and George (deceased in 1904), married to

Nora Troyer. Three sons and three daughters moved to Harrisburg; namely, deaf Joe, deaf Levi, Enos, Lydia Stutzman, Anna Kropf and Ida Baker.

EARLY TRIALS

In the spring of 1912, Joshua King, a bishop from Hartville, Ohio, (he may have been a relative of Myra King who was being reared in the Joe C. Hostetler home) came to assist in the ordination of a bishop. For some unknown reason, it was decided to ordain a minister first, with the bishop to be chosen the next year. In the lot were Joe C. Hostetler, Frank Kropf and Enos Hostetler. Enos was chosen and ordained. Almost immediately friction developed between Enos (1873-1946) and aged Peter Neuschwander. Enos preached only in English out of deference to his three deaf siblings and their spouses. Peter had moved to Harrisburg because they still had German services.

On June 13, 1913, Joshua King and Jonathan Troyer returned as planned, but instead of ordaining a bishop, Enos Hostetler was silenced. Enos did not accept this graciously. This was a period in the life of the church when it became especially needful to rely upon God for a special infilling of divine love and grace. Enos Hostetler was advised by the District Attorney of Linn County that disturbing a public assembly is unlawful and if such a complaint came to his office again, it would necessitate further action. This warning seemed to suffice. Following this, Enos Hostetlers, Urie Kenagys and Sam Stutzman withdrew. However, Sam was reinstated in 1922. Urie Kenagy and Bertha (daughter of Peter Neuschwander) moved to Albany where his parents, Emanuel Kenagys, had moved in 1912. Enos Hostetler later moved to Sheridan and was a member there although his ministry was not accepted.

LEADERSHIP AND NURTURE

Daniel J. Kropf (1861-1927) was ordained bishop in 1914 and served for 13 years, until his death on March 12, 1927. At his funeral, Joe Schrock and C.R. Gerig of Fairview spoke in the German service at the home. N.A. Lind, Daniel Erb, E.Z. Yoder and Fred Gingerich each spoke in the English service at the church.

Joe C. Hostetler, the first Sunday school superintendent, became deacon on October 15, 1922. He was ordained bishop by Joe Reber from Shelbyville, Illinois, on May 27, 1927, and served until his death on October 23, 1931. Conference ministers participating at the funeral service were Henry Yoder, Portland, A.P. Troyer, Zion, and N.A. Lind, Albany.

John P. Yoder (1885-1975) was born near Wellman, Iowa. For health reasons John went west and worked in Idaho, California and Washington and at the livery barns in Portland. He homesteaded for two years in South Dakota. In 1912 he came west again and worked as a carpenter around Albany, Oregon, with J.P. Bontrager and Harley Burck. In 1914 John married Ida Kropf at Harrisburg; she died in 1918. In 1921 he married Ida's sister Clara. On August 7, 1930, he was ordained deacon, and on January 31, 1932, he was ordained bishop by Joe Reber. He went

to be with his Lord at the age of 90, 45 years after his deacon ordination. He was a kind and sincere man beset by many trials which grieved him sorely. His integrity was never questioned, although his wife was criticized at times.

Levi D. Kropf (second son of Daniel and the first of his children born in Oregon) was born November 22, 1891, at Hubbard, Oregon. He moved to Harrisburg with his parents in 1911. He married Esther Maurer in 1918, Lydia Maurer in 1923 and Evelyn Hilty in 1961. On May 29, 1927, (shortly after his father's death) Levi, at the age of 35, was ordained to the office of minister by bishop Joe Reber. This was the same time that Brother Joseph Hostetler was ordained to the office of bishop. Levi was selected from a group of four nominees, the other three being Frank Kropf, John Yoder and Andrew Yoder. It was a time of transition from the German to the English language and Levi always delivered his sermons in English. He was moderator when the present church building was dedicated. He served many times as superintendent of summer Bible school. He also preached many funeral and wedding sermons and assisted at the Portland Rescue Mission and Corvallis jail services. The following tribute appeared in the Christian Family paper. "Bro. Levi was a faithful minister in the congregation for over 50 years. He had an unassuming concern for the spiritual welfare of the church. His even judgment caused many to seek his counsel. His foresight was seen in his concern for "C.P.S." during and after World War II. To many he became a 'beloved father'. Though personally very frugal, he was generous in his support of the teaching, publishing, and mission interest of the conservative cause. His long, consistent, peace-loving life was a demonstration of the grace of God."

In 1915, Lena Kropf Smucker, age 15, was the first to be baptized at Harrisburg. This took place at the stream across the road east of the church. This custom continued until 1924 when Earl Baker was baptized. By 1918 Sunday school and preaching were held on alternate Sundays. By 1940 preaching and Sunday school were held every Sunday morning and young people's Bible meeting and preaching every Sunday evening. Revival meetings were held on occasion and since 1924 are held annually. Some of those serving as evangelists have been B.B. King, S.E. Allgyer, J.M. Kreider, Dan Shenk, James Bucher and Andrew Jantzi.

Bible conferences have been held since the 50s. They were usually 2-hour morning and evening sessions conducted by two visiting ministers. Some of those that have served were John L. Stauffer, John Kurtz, Eli Kramer (Virginia), Lloyd Kniss, Paul Witmer (Pennsylvania), John Risser (Virginia), Clarence Neuenschwander (Ohio) and William McGrath (Ohio).

Wilbur Kropf, son of Levi and Lydia Kropf, married Erma Swartzentruber, Berlin, Ohio. Prior to his marriage, he was a campeer at Belton, Montana, then later transferred to mental hospital work at Roseburg, Oregon. He was called to the ministry in 1949 and served as a farmer-minister until 1989 when he and his wife volunteered for a 2-year term of service at

Mile 25, Dangriga, Belize, Central America. This mission is sponsored by six Western Fellowship churches.

Wilbert Kropf, son of Ezra and Ida Eash Kropf, married Elva Miller of Indiana. Before his marriage, he sailed with a cattle boat to war-torn Poland. He was ordained to the ministry in 1955 and bishop in 1957. He has been called to help many times in bishop work in other congregations. Wilbur and Wilbert's ministry, under the counsel of the retiring leadership of Bro. John Yoder for approximately 20 years, proved to be a real blessing to the congregation.

The following is a list of Harrisburg ministers from 1911 to the present (b = bishop, m = minister, d = deacon):

Daniel J. Kropf, m 1911-1914; b 1914-1927
Peter Neuschwander, d 1911-1916
Enos Hostetler, m 1912-1913
Jacob Roth, m 1921-1926
Joseph C. Hostetler, d 1922-1927; b 1927-1931
Joseph Schrock, m 1923-1943
Levi Kropf, m 1927-1980
John P. Yoder, d 1930-1932; b 1932-1975
Orrie Yoder, m 1934
Ira Headings, d 1942-1946
Jacob S. Roth, m 1942-1944
Noah Miller, m 1945-1948
Wilbur D. Kropf, m 1949-
Herman Kropf, d 1949-
Wilbert D. Kropf, m 1955-1957; b 1957-
Willard L. Stutzman, m 1959-1966
Joe Birky, d 1959-1980 (without official charge)
Delbert Birky, m 1978-
Leland Kropf, m 1984-
David Birky, d 1984-

TRAGIC ACCIDENTS

Four tragic accidents involving relatives and members of the Harrisburg congregation occurred in the four years 1947-1951. Two of these were triple funerals held at Harrisburg.

March 17, 1947, Oakland, Oregon - Three young men, Ray Kropf, 29, son of Frank Kropf (married to Bertha Krabil, two children: Walter and Leona), Raymond Hostetler, 18, of Tampico, Illinois (brother of Roy, minister at Fairview), and Donald Headings, 20, son of Harvey Headings (married to Verna Eash, one child, Donna Marie) all died in a fiery crash when their light plane failed to gain altitude and crashed on a hillside as family and friends were watching.

June 24, 1948 - Sherman Lee Neuschwander, born March 31, 1947, age 15 months, died in a farm accident at Harrisburg. He was the son of Loras and Ruth Kropf Neuschwander.

September 6, 1948 - Owen Troyer (son of Dan and Ella Gingerich Troyer), his wife, Marie Hostetler (daughter of Elmer and Vinnie Hostetler), and infant daughter, Sharon Marie, were killed in an auto accident near Yoncalla, Oregon. A triple funeral was held at Harrisburg.

February 7, 1951 - Milo Eash drowned in a boating accident near Oakland, Oregon, while trying to cross a swollen stream.

Of these tragic deaths, two were descendants of Frank Kropf--a son and a grandson. Six were near relatives of Elmer and Vinnie Hostetler: three were a daughter and her family and three were nephews.

In the fall of 1946 seven families and one unmarried man withdrew from Harrisburg. By 1947 they had moved and started a more conservative congregation at Sutherlin, Oregon, near Roseburg. Elmer Hostetler, son of Levi C. of the "C" line, came to Oregon and married Vinnie Baker of the "L" line. While at Harrisburg, he raised turkeys, acquired farms, hired lots of help, and did well financially. At one point prior to his leaving, his net worth was known to exceed \$300,000. His prosperity and persuasive speech were influential in this move to Sutherlin.

By the time of his nephew's drowning, Elmer could no longer hide his drinking problem. During the years 1950 and 1951, minister Ira Headings, Alvin Kropfs and Menno Schrocks moved to South Carolina. Curtis Kauffmans and Harley Bakers, in order to avoid taking sides, moved to Tampico, Illinois. By this time Elmer had lost everything. Some of his brothers moved him and his family to Illinois where he later died of cirrhosis of the liver. A minister from Tampico has said he felt Elmer had made his peace with God before he died. Through all this his wife, Vinnie, remained faithful and reared an honorable family.

Following Elmer's move to Illinois, bishop Roy Headings moved to Eugene in 1957 as did the Melvin Kauffman family, with Curtis Kauffman returning to Oregon. They worshipped in the Santa Clara Grange Hall until the year 1962 when they all moved to Muscoda, Wisconsin.

This experience surely shows that not all divisions of fellowship revolve around doctrinal positions only. It may also explain why Elmer's brother Dave Hostetler and brother-in-law Merle Kropf were especially burdened for the work among alcoholics.

LAKE CREEK MENNONITE SCHOOL

Lake Creek Mennonite School was organized in 1952 by Mennonite patrons of the closed Lake Creek public school five miles west of Halsey. Lela Birky was the first teacher with 11 pupils. That fall a new building 25 x 28 ft. was erected on a one-acre plot donated by Joe Kropf. Several years later the public school building and a small playshed were purchased and moved to a three-acre parcel adjoining the one-acre plot to supply

the needs of both rooms. In 1987 the school building and a larger gym were razed to make room for the present building of nearly 10,000 sq. ft. The new building includes four spacious classrooms, library-office, kitchen, gymnasium and rest rooms. Enrollment in 1990-91 is 73 students with four teachers plus an assistant. The building is also used for weddings, fellowship meetings, etc. While Lake Creek Mennonite School is organized under the Harrisburg congregation, it enjoys the full support and patronage of the Tangent congregation.

The school has served families of other faiths. Now its student body has a multiracial flavor through adoptions by Mennonite families from 1947 to the present.

The Harrisburg congregation has had fourteen adoptions by seven families and Tangent has had ten adoptions by four families. Citizenship at birth was U.S.A. (6), El Salvador (6), Colombia (5), Belize (Mayan) (4), and India (1). The mother of the five Colombian siblings was herself adopted from Korea by a Sheridan family. Also an El Salvadorian adoptee has married and they have adopted a U.S. infant.

FRANK KROPF

In the spring of 1939 I went to work for Frank Kropf to replace his son Ray who became of age in March. I boarded in the Kropf home. Because Frank was daily involved in building the Muddy Creek irrigation project, I actually was working with Vernon Knox in transplanting, irrigating and harvesting sugar beets for seed. We also cared for alfalfa, ryegrass, and flax for fiber.

Frank was a talented innovator and leader in the community. He spearheaded the cooperative Muddy Creek irrigation project with technical assistance provided by Oregon Agricultural College. This project diverted the McKenzie River water at Coburg to irrigate a potential 12,000 acres of land. By October of 1939 water was flowing through 24 miles of man-made ditches with 600 acres being serviced.

A similar project was the Harrisburg flax plant which used irrigation water for its retting tanks. This project was short-lived because linen from Belgium became available after the close of World War II.

Let me quote Floyd Mullen from his book, Land of Linn, p. 160. "In the fall of 1931, Frank Kropf of Harrisburg planted a small field with perennial ryegrass seed imported by Jenks-White Seed Co. from New Zealand. This growing attempt proved unsuccessful. The following year Mr. Kropf imported 100# of seed from New Zealand and planted 10 acres of land.

"From the plantings in 1932 by Mr. Kropf and the plantings of Smucker Bros. (Orval and Herman), Paul Jensen, Wm. Wendell and Carl Keen, all of Harrisburg, and Levi Kropf and Wilbur Evans of Halsey, the acreage jumped to 4,798 acres by 1939."

Frank donated the land and led out in the construction of the first church building for the Harrisburg congregation in 1915. Twenty years later, in 1935, a 24 x 32 ft. addition in the form of a tee was completed. This served the congregation until August 7, 1944, when it was destroyed by arsonists. Frank again led out in building the present building. Building materials were in short supply because of the war. Merle Kropf of Kropf Feed & Seed was put in charge of the finances and procurement of materials. He reported that he received good cooperation from wartime agencies in releasing hard-to-find items.

Frank and Levi Kropf were administrators of their Aunt Lydia Hostetler Stutzman's estate. Her will was to have her money used either for aid to the deaf or hard of hearing (which she was) or for an old folks' home. Frank used her money to interest others in building such a home at Albany. Here again he was the builder. Later he built a church house for the church at Tampico, Illinois. Also he built a church at Logsdan, Oregon.

Not all of Frank's inventions worked, as was evidenced by the "bone pile" behind his shop. Some of his ideas were not readily accepted, nor was he always gracious in listening to the suggestions of others. However, in the last 20 years of his earthly life he mellowed greatly and gave of himself in acts of Kingdom extension.

Kropf Feed and Seed across the road from Frank's home grew rapidly to supply mixed feed for turkey growers and seed cleaning for the expanding seed industry. Thus it became a community center. Some from the "dust bowl" who came west and found employment here in the 1930s and 40s were the following.

1. Jonas Hershberger, married Ina Roth, Fairview, worked in feed mill.
2. Albert Hershberger, married Ruby Kropf, Zion, worked as bookkeeper.
3. John and Malinda Kauffman and family, Albany, worked in feed mill. (Jonas, Albert and Malinda were siblings from North Dakota.)
4. Cecil Harris, married Mary Hooley, Zion.
5. Melvin Horst, married Elizabeth Miller, Harrisburg, worked in feed mill.
6. Abram Miller, married Olive Bucher, Upland, California, worked in seed cleaning.
7. Jake Nissley, married a Weirich, Old Order Amish from Kansas, worked for Frank.

Kropf Feed & Seed was sold to Mr. Nielsen before Merle went into rescue mission work in Sacramento, California. It was then purchased by Mr. Dickenson from Chicago. A few years later it was sold to the long-time employee and feed department foreman, Herman and Mildred Stewart Kropf. Herman is a deacon at Harrisburg. It is presently owned and operated by their son Marvin and wife, Dana (Hostetler, Virginia).

One employee who stayed on in every transfer of ownership was and is Clyde Yoder (married to Lena Wagler of Sheridan). He is 76 years old and known by all.

The Daniel Kropf Family History

by Arzalea Kropf Hostetler

I am the oldest daughter of Orié and Velda Kropf and a granddaughter of Daniel Kropf. Grandfather died before my birth, but I have always wanted to know about Grandpa and what he might have been like. I am sure my parents have grown tired of answering my many questions about him.

Cousin Arlene Hostetler started gathering information for a book and asked me if I would help her. With the help of cousin Merle Kropf, we put together a history and genealogy of the Daniel Kropf family which was published in 1985.

I have used some of the information from the Daniel Kropf book¹, along with the Magdalena Oesch and David Kropf Family History and Genealogy, compiled by Lorraine Roth. I also listened to a tape of Uncle Frank Kropf and met with his son Merle and daughter Elsie to obtain more information. My father, the only living child of Daniel and Anna, has given me some valuable information. It is amazing how I keep getting new bits of information or history as I visit with him.

Much of this report is based on oral history; therefore, there may be some disagreements on what actually happened. I have written this up knowing that not all may be exactly as it was, but I did my best to portray the history of our roots.

Sometime between 1822 and 1829 Daniel's maternal grandparents, John and Barbara (Schultz) Oesch, came to America from Bavaria, Germany. They moved from Pennsylvania to Ontario, Canada, by covered wagon pulled by oxen and settled in the Baden area. Their daughter Magdalena, Daniel's mother, was born at Baden, the fifth of 18 children.

Daniel's paternal grandparents, the Jacob Kropfs, were among the earliest settlers about 1822-23 to Baden, Ontario, from Alsace-Lorraine, France. Grandfather Jacob was ordained as one of the first deacons of the Wilmot Amish Mennonite congregation, now known as the Steinman Mennonite Church.

The Oesch and Kropf families were neighbors in Baden, Ontario. Daughter Magdalena and son David were married January 7, 1847. To this union were born 13 children of which Daniel was the tenth, born on March 3, 1861. In the 1860s when Daniel was but a baby the family decided to move to the States by covered wagon. The Civil War was in progress so they were told to return to Canada. They went to Zurich, Canada, near Lake Huron. There the last three siblings were born. When Daniel was six years old the family returned to the States and located in Cass County, Missouri, in the Sycamore Grove area.

Levi and Barbara (Herschberger) Hostetler moved to Cass County, Missouri, from Elkhart County, Indiana when their daughter Anna was 18 years old. There she met Daniel and was married December 29, 1885, in Cass County, Missouri. The first born was Frank on October 9, 1886, and the second born was Clara on November 13, 1887.

The Western Movement began in 1888 when Daniel's brother, John Kropf, and family along with his sister Josephine and her husband, Israel Yoder, and family moved to Hubbard, Oregon. One year later, in 1889, Daniel and Anna Kropf came with their two children to Hubbard by train. The railroad had been completed to Portland in 1887. They rode an immigrant car where there was a stove to cook their food on the way west. There were slats to sleep and sit on. They arrived in Portland on a foggy morning on November 2, 1889. They joined the John Kropf and Israel Yoder families who lived east of Woodburn in a timbered area. John had a sawmill on his place.

Daniel bought 40 acres of timbered land where he cut some trees and took them to the sawmill where they were made into lumber to build a home. They built a house among the trees, but Daniel disliked being cooped up in the timber. After two years the property was sold and a farm was purchased north of Needy next to the John Gahlers. On this place was a 30-foot-long log cabin with a fireplace, kitchen stove and a cellar. There were two bedrooms upstairs where the children slept, and the parents occupied the living room downstairs. Six children were born while the family was living in the log cabin: Levi David was born on November 22, 1891; Ida, on October 26, 1893; Elmer, on March 29, 1895; John, on December 21, 1896; Alvin, on August 9, 1898; and Barbara Magdalena (Lena), on December 20, 1900.

A new home was built on the same property in 1901. The last three children were born there: Orié Daniel was born on September 9, 1903; Joseph, on January 8, 1905; and Mae, on July 11, 1907.

The children attended Needy School which had two classrooms. Frank spoke only German when he began school; however, most of the students could speak the German language and helped him in spite of the teacher not knowing German. Frank relates how they had no money for school books or shoes. A neighbor kindly hired Frank and his mother to cut wood and his father would split it for pay. Some of the wood was hauled to Oregon City. Daniel had contracted tuberculosis from helping someone with the disease. He was not to work for a year, but did recover; however, he was never as husky and strong as he had been before.

A group of families worshipped together in homes using the German language. They then began to meet in a building south of Needy. In 1893 Joe Schlegel and Jacob Roth came to organize Zion Amish Mennonite Church. The first service was a baptism; the second service was communion; and the third, an ordination by lot. Daniel Kropf became the first minister of the church. In 1898 the Zion Church was built on two acres of donated land.

Son Elmer, just over three years old, died suddenly on April 17, 1898. His funeral was held at the Needy School, and Elmer was the first to be buried in the Zion Mennonite Cemetery.

There were no mail carriers in those days, so the mail was picked up at the Needy post office. The only paper the family received was the Words of Cheer. There was only one other book besides the Bible to read in the Kropf home.

In the summer of 1911 the Kropf family decided to move to Harrisburg, Oregon. The older members of the family traveled two nights and three days with two horse-and-wagon teams carrying their belongings. The younger children went by train to the Alford depot with their mother. Daniel had bought a 200-acre farm two and a half miles northeast of Harrisburg, located on old Pacific Highway which was the main road between Portland and San Francisco. The family lived in an old log cabin down by Muddy Creek. Frank Kropf came from the midwest to build a new home and buildings for the family. The Vernon Knox family lived in the original house for a number of years and then sold it to Daniel's grandson, Wilton Smucker, who moved it about a mile north.

The following four paragraphs are taken from Mae Kropf Smucker's account in the Kropf book. Mae remembers how two old men from Harrisburg would come out to buy wheat for their chickens. Her father would always give them a few extra pounds of wheat, even when folks thought these men were taking advantage of him. Orie remembers getting the wheat for the buyers.

Orie and Mae give this account. Living by the main highway, they often had transients stop by and ask for food. One man split some wood for food. Mother took him into the kitchen and fed him a meal. It was a cold day, so Father thought he should have a warm coat. He gave him his good new heavy warm coat. Mother thought he should not have given his new coat for the transient might pawn it off.

Another time a man and woman came walking to the home with a big dog. They asked to stay over night and brought their dog in the house with them. The big dog had a pack on his back which they thought had money in it. Mae was really scared and was glad when the people left the next morning. Orie recalls how their dog attacked the big dog as it was leaving.

Mae remembers that her father had poor eyesight so his evenings were long as he could not read much. "Our mother would often read to us in the evenings. One winter she read Uncle Tom's Cabin to us. Some of us younger children would play games together. Father enjoyed watching us play until someone cheated. Then our game was finished for the night. Some of the games we would play were marbles, dominoes and a homemade number game." Orie remembers the checker game as it was his father's favorite game and his father was an excellent checker player.

The Kropf children attended the Alford School located on old Pacific Highway and close to the railroad. Sarah (Maurer) Schmucker taught at the school in about 1913 when she was 20 years old. She boarded at the Kropf home until she could buy a car. Her sister Esther taught at the Lake Creek School. Esther married son Levi in 1918, but died after the birth of their second child in 1922.

Daughter Ida (Kropf) Yoder, Mrs. John P. Yoder, died shortly after the birth of their second child. She was a fine Christian lady who heard the angels singing and saw her best friend in heaven before she passed on.

Church was held in homes of families who had moved to the area. Anna's parents moved from Hubbard also. The opportunity came to buy some property on which to build a church. The Harrisburg Amish Mennonite Church was built on the corner of this property which intersects Power Line and Diamond Hill roads. Daniel was the first minister and was ordained bishop on September 29, 1914. The Harrisburg Amish Mennonite Church still occupies the same spot, but is now a different church building. The original building was destroyed by fire during World War II. During World War I a yellow streak was painted around the building. A padlock was placed on the door and a sign was placed above the door saying, "This building closed for the duration of the war!" An American flag was placed at the top of the church and was left there until it deteriorated. The yellow strip was left for a number of years and the people were beginning to wonder why it wasn't painted. The banker in Harrisburg offered to buy the paint to paint the church. Some thought that members of the church were German sympathizers because they spoke German. Some were angry because the members didn't buy war bonds. They also knew that the Mennonites didn't believe in going to war; however, son John (Kropf) had to go to Fort Lewis in Washington where he entered camp as a conscientious objector but was not required to wear the uniform.

Son Orie remembers the following incident that happened at their home when he was about 14 years old. One day about noon two cars with seven men stopped in front of their home. They came up to the gate of the yard yelling and talking loudly. His father walked to the yard fence to meet them. They were yelling at Daniel and wanted him to buy Liberty Bonds or he would have to pay. Suddenly they stopped yelling, talked quietly amongst themselves, turned, walked to their cars, and left. Sometime later it was found out that the men saw another person standing beside Daniel. This made them afraid, causing them to leave quickly. Orie remembers that his father felt a protection when encountered by the men. Word was out that they had come to tar and feather Daniel if he didn't buy War Bonds.

Since Anna, Daniel's wife, had two deaf brothers and one deaf sister, she would translate Daniel's sermons from German to English and then write them out in long hand for the deaf to read. Some of the sermons have been preserved. Daniel did learn to preach in English, so Anna could write them down faster.

Merle, the oldest grandchild, remembers his grandfather preaching in earnest, using gestures, and he was emotional at times. When Grandpa would see a youth whispering, he would stop until all was quiet. Then he would say, "When you are through talking, I will go on." He also remembers that Grandpa started Sunday evening services at the church to keep the young people from getting into trouble. He would rather have his sons and grandsons play ball or swim on Sunday afternoons than have them running off to other places.

Grandpa loved walking to Frank's house and did this quite often. Merle recalls that one day Grandpa came and asked for a pig. As it turned out, they misunderstood him. It was not a pig, but a pick to dig a hole with!

Grandpa had a real concern for the church, that the people should follow the ways of the Lord carefully. Orie remembers that Grandpa was a disciplinarian, as well, in the home. He expected obedience from his children and from the members in his church. Everything went like clockwork. The meals were always served on time. The chores were done on time and correctly. He was very punctual wherever he went.

Orie also remembers that Grandpa loved singing and would go to hear the youth sing at their singings. Daniel was a good bass singer.

When Daniel was 60 years old, he suffered his first stroke. From that time on he was in poor health and was bedfast two months before his death on March 25, 1927, at the age of 66. He was buried in the Alford Cemetery which is on Highway 99E three miles north of Harrisburg. Wife Anna lived eleven more years and died on March 5, 1938, at the age of 72. She was buried beside her husband.

Orie, the only surviving child, lives on his farm southwest of Halsey. There are 37 surviving grandchildren and many great and great-great grandchildren. Grandpa had a desire that all would come to know the Lord. There were prayers prayed many times for his family. What a wonderful heritage his descendants have.

¹Daniel J. Kropf and Anna Hostetler and Descendants Family Record,
1985, Arzalea (Kropf) Hostetler, Arlene (Smucker) Hostetler,
Merle Kropf; Edgewood Press.

²Magdalena Oesch and David Kropf Family History and Genealogy, compiled
by Lorraine Roth.

News, Announcements, Items of Interest

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS. We have finally come to a decision about the amount for a Life Membership, which will be \$500. This can be paid at one time, or in increments of not less than \$100 a year for five (or fewer) years. A portion of each life membership will go into an endowment fund (at least half) and the remainder will be used for capital expenses.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED for various activities of OMHGS. We are anxious to have you contact us if you have any interest in our work. We will be training persons as they are available for the different tasks to be done. We have moved many items into the Archive/Library Room on the Western Mennonite School campus, and will be moving more in as we secure shelving and display space. Please contact one of the officers if you are interested.

"APART and TOGETHER, Mennonites in Oregon and Neighboring States, 1876-1976", by Hope K. Lind, is for sale for \$26.95, plus 10% for postage and handling if it needs to be mailed. Make your check to "O.M.H.G.S". The book can be ordered from any officer of the Society.

OMHGS BROCHURES are available at no cost. They give information on the Society, its goals, purposes, and benefits. If you wish one or several copies for yourself, or to give friends who may be interested, contact one of the officers.

DISPLAY BOOTHS have been placed at the Western Mennonite High School Auction on May 4th, at the Pacific Coast Mennonite (MC) and Pacific District Mennonite (GC) joint conference June 20-23, and at OREGON '91 Mennonite Church General Assembly at Eugene, OR July 30 to August 3rd. One is also planned for the Mennonite Central Committee Fall Festival in October.

MIFFLIN COUNTY AMISH AND MENNONITE STORY, 1791-1991, is a new book recently published. It was released at the Bicentennial Weekend to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the first Amish settling in the two picturesque valleys, the Kischacoquillas and the Juniata River.

The book is written by S. Duane Kauffman, a history teacher at Christopher Dock Mennonite High School, Lansdale, PA. It is published by the Mifflin County Historical Society, Belleville, PA., who also operate The Mennonite Heritage Center. Copies of the 470-page book can be purchased from the Mifflin County Mennonite Historical Society, Belleville, PA 17004, at the cost of \$18.85 plus \$3.00 shipping, each.

SPRING 1991 MEETING

The Spring 1991 public meeting was held on April 14, 1991 at the Plainview Mennonite Church, Shedd, OR. About 135 persons attended.

Moderator Perry Schrock opened the meeting with a welcome. Robert Jantzi from the Plainview congregation read the devotional from the following scriptures: Exodus 3: 14-15; Psalm 24:1-6; Genesis 17:11; Deuteronomy 7:9; Job 8:8; Psalm 89:1; and Ephesians 3: 14-19. He made appropriate remarks and led in prayer.

The program featured glimpses of the history of the Harrisburg Mennonite Church. Elden Birky who has been a member there for the past forty or more years gave an interesting presentation of the congregation, which was established in 1911.

The history of the Daniel Kropf family was given by Arzalea Kropf Hostetler, his great-granddaughter. Dan Kropf was the first minister and bishop of the Harrisburg congregation.

A short business session was in charge of Hope K. Lind, President of OMHGS. She announced the completion of the new Archive/Library Room in the new chapel building at Western Mennonite High School, near Salem, OR. She also invited contributions for furnishings for the room. She added too, that volunteers would be needed to do the various tasks necessary. It is hoped that the Room will be ready to have it open for regular use later this fall. She also announced that we have decided on the figure of \$500 for a life membership, (see information inside back cover). Copies of Hope Lind's book were available for sale or order. The small booklet on the history of the Dan Kropf Family was also for sale.

Eldon Schrock closed the meeting with prayer.

PROMINENT MENNONITE HISTORIAN SPEAKS AT OREGON '91

Samuel J. Steiner, Ontario (Canada) Mennonite historian and archivist, is scheduled to speak at a meeting of the Mennonite Church Historical Association on August 1, 1991 at Eugene, OR, in conjunction with the General Assembly of the Mennonite Church.

Samuel Steiner is director of the archives and library at Conrad Grebel College, secretary of the Mennonite Conference of Eastern Canada, editor of Mennogesprach (publication of the Mennonite Historical Society of Ontario). He will speak on his personal journey as an archivist, historian, and church leader. He was also editor of the sixties underground paper Menno Pause.

HISTORICAL TOURS

A number of tours were offered during OREGON '91 Mennonite General Assembly in Eugene. These covered the subjects of early Mennonites and Amish, the origins of Oregon's earliest (Old) Mennonites in Albany and Hubbard, the Mennonite Home in Albany, 19th Century Amish Mennonite immigrants to Oregon, and Oregon Mennonites in World War I.

Coming Meetings

THE SPRING 1992 MEETING OF OMHGS tentatively will feature the Calvary Mennonite Church near Aurora, OR. and the Roth family. It will be held in March. More definite dates later.

In one of our next meetings we hope to have an emphasis on the Civilian Public Service program of World War 2 days. If you have ideas and suggestions for this, please contact one of the officers of OMHGS.

Future public meetings will be held in the months of March and September each year according to our present plans.

FAMILY REUNIONS.

We welcome your announcements of upcoming family reunions for our Spring 1992 Newsletter. Please get the information to us by January 15th, 1992, so it can be included in the Newsletter, which will be mailed about February 10th.

OMHGS LOGO CONTEST. The winning entry in our Logo Contest, which ended last October, was Mae Etta Kennel, Salem, OR. The entry is being "polished up" for use later in our Newsletter, and other printed matter. CONGRATULATIONS, Mae Etta! The Committee of judges was Cathy Passmore, Corvallis, Evelyn Kenagy, Albany, and Karl Birky, Albany.

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE ARCHIVE/LIBRARY =====

A letter was sent in May of this year to members and past-members asking for cash contributions to help purchase furnishings for the Archive/Library Room. There was a good response, but we do need more to properly equip the room. A figure of Five Thousand is estimated to purchase shelving, tables, desks, etc. We will try to buy good used equipment when we can. We want to continue to work with all Mennonite and affiliated congregations in Oregon and desire their blessing on our activities.

If we receive more than necessary for furnishings, we will use it for supplies, etc. For more information please contact one of the officers.

In late July Ralph and Margaret Shetler and John Fretz purchased some good used shelving in Portland at a very reasonable amount. We will continue to find items as we can and at the lowest price possible.

The MENNONITE CHURCH HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION, 1700 S. Main St., Goshen, IN 46526, is inviting interested persons to become members. The annual membership is \$20, and payments sent now will be for 1992. You will receive their Quarterly Newsletter, and be informed of other activities.

Executive Committee Highlights

March 1, 1991. Discussion centered around the subject of cash contributions for furnishings in the Archive/Library Room. Also the matter of keeping an accurate and complete inventory of all equipment and furnishings, which will be necessary to help file reports each year, as well as practicing good stewardship.

March 30, 1991. We talked about the logo submitted by the contest winner, Mae Etta Kennel, and that we felt it needed some slight revisions. It was decided to ask Maggie Butler from the Zion congregation to make finishing touches on it so that it can be used in our printing, etc.

Life memberships were again discussed, and we decided on the figure of \$500, payable all at once, or in increments of not less than \$100 a year for five (or fewer) years. A portion of each life membership will go into an endowment fund (at least half) and the remainder will be used for capital expenses. We will need some legal advice and will talk with John Hess-Yoder about this.

Ray Nussbaum, Western Mennonite School Controller, spent some time with us discussing an agreement on the use of the facilities (the Archive/Library Room), including telephone, cost of utilities and other items.

We spent some time "playing with blocks" as we worked at laying out possible shelving arrangements on the floor to see how we wanted to use the space. Ralh and Margaret Shetler and John Fretz will visit outlets in Portland to see about purchasing shelving, and other items needed.

We also talked about a fraternal grant of \$2000 which was received by the Conference for archival use a number of years ago, and we will need to make arrangements about this.

We discussed the new format for obituaries in the Gospel Herald and how we do not favor it. We felt that obituaries are an important source of genealogical information and that this format does not include sufficient pertinent data. Marjorie Nofziger will talk to the new editor about our feelings.

May 15, 1991. We discussed the security of the Archive/Library Room. We understand that only designated members of OMHGS will carry keys to open the room. A letter explaining this, along with a memo of understanding will be sent to the school.

We talked about sending out a letter to members asking for cash contributions specifically for furnishings and supplies, and this will be sent. We also talked about a letter to businesses owned by members of Mennonite and related constituency asking for their contributions.

An election will be held at the Fall 1991 Meeting to fill the offices of Vice President and Secretary, which expire this fall. Perry Schrock will head up a nominating committee.

Book Donations

Donated by Ray Kenagy Estate in charge of Percy Kenagy:

Beam, Richard - Pennsylvania German Dictionary
Bixler, Elma and Paul - Abraham P. and Elizabeth (Luginbuhl)
Lehman and their Descendants, (1964)
Boyer, Carl III - Ship Passenger Lists, New York and New
Jersey, 1600 - 1825, (1978)
Christensen, Joel - Riverside Cemetery Directory (Eagle
Scout Project)
Gingerich, Hugh and Rachel W. Kreider - Amish and Amish
Mennonite Genealogies (1986)
Guth, Herman - The Amish Mennonites of Waldeck and
Wittgenstein (1986)
Biographical and Historical Record, Adam County, Indiana,
1887. (Published 1977 from original 1887 volume).

Papers from the Urie Kenagy papers:

Programs of Bible Conference held at Zion, 1906
Programs of First and Second Annual Amish Mennonite
S. S. Conference of the Pacific Coast, 1906-07.
Other early programs.

Donated by John and Beulah Fretz:

Bittinger, Lucy Forney - German Religious Life in Colonial
Times
Bontrager, Ida B. - Under God's Arrest
Dowling, Emma C. and Anna A. Rapp - Early Pennsylvania
Settlers
Photograph of Portland, OR Mennonite Mission van with
Allen Good, Superintendent (taken about 1925-26)

Donated by Elmer and Mim Miller:

Esch, Henry D. - The Mennonites in Arizona (1985)

Donated by Mildred Schrock:

Schrock, Mildred - For His Sake: The Story of her grand-
parents, Joseph and Barbara (Garber) Schrag

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DONATIONS. Those who wish to make donations to OMHGS should
contact one of the officers to make arrangements
for delivering their items. Do not deliver directly to the
Archive Library Room on the WMS campus, since the room is not
quite ready. We want to say THANK YOU to the many who have
already given books and other items to our collection.

We welcome other donations of books, artifacts, documents, and
other items of historical importance.

Membership Information

Membership in the Oregon Mennonite Historical and Genealogical Society is open to persons or groups who are interested in and supportive of OMHGS and its purposes.

Dues are payable annually, and will be effective from January 1 to December 31. Individuals wishing to make a contribution of \$10.00 or more annually, in lieu of membership, will receive the Newsletter, and will be informed of the Society's activities.

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Membership Form for 1992

I want to become a Member of, or Contributor to, the Oregon Mennonite Historical and Genealogical Society. I will be informed of all Society activities; will receive the OMHGS Newsletter; and as a Member will be eligible to serve on committees of the Society. My contribution is enclosed, payable to O.M.H.G.S.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Enrol me (please check one):

_____ Student \$5.00 _____ Sustaining Member 50.00

_____ Single Membership 10.00 _____ Non-member
Contributor 10.00

_____ Family " 15.00 or more

_____ Contributing " 25.00 _____ Life Membership 500.00

payable in one sum, or increments
of not less than \$100.00 a year
for five (or fewer) years.

OMHGS is a non-profit organization and is supported solely by membership dues and contributions. The first \$7.00 of your dues or contribution represents services rendered by OMHGS, such as Newsletter and library use; amounts above that are tax deductible.

Join Now!
We need YOU

FIRST CLASS

OMHGS Newsletter
OREGON MENNONITE HISTORICAL
AND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
675 Elma Avenue S.E.
Salem, OR 97301