



OMHGS Newsletter

OREGON MENNONITE HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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A HISTORY OF THE GRACE MENNONITE CHURCH, ALBANY, OREGON

Leon Widmer

Greetings from the friends and former members of the Grace Mennonite Church of Albany. It gives me great pleasure to bring to you the history of this congregation as best I can, given the years that have passed since we were active here.

First, I must give credit to those who have given me some of the early details. To my Aunt Martha, wife of Elmer Widmer, to my Mother, Marie Widmer, wife of Ezra Widmer (thank you), and a special thanks to Pete and Donna Roth, who kept the books, as recorded by the church secretary, in a safe place, and after all this time, still knew where they were! A very special "thank you" to Pastor Larry and Vivian Vogel and the members of the Living Waters Assembly of Albany, who so willingly helped us in setting up and making us feel welcome.

I will begin this history lesson by quoting from the oldest document that we have on record: "This indenture witnesseth, that W.C. Mitchell, W.G. Meyer and E.J. Upham, are the duly elected trustees of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church of Albany, Oregon, and at the regular annual meeting of said church on January 4, 1913, a resolution was adopted authorizing the said trustees to convey the real property of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church of Albany, to the Grace Presbyterian Church of Albany." This document was signed

February 28, 1913.

It was late in 1931 when Dr. George Kenagy and Elmer Widmer heard that the Grace Presbyterian Church building could be for sale. They, along with others, had expressed an interest in starting a General Conference Mennonite Church. They attended a Sunday service of the Grace Presbyterian Church to see if there was any possibility of a sale. At this time the Grace Presbyterian congregation was without a full-time minister, as Rev. Buchanan had left and Rev. Blair was serving the group as needed. George and Leah Kenagy and Elmer and Martha Widmer attended a Sunday service that had dwindled to only a Sunday school program. They came away with the knowledge that the church could be purchased.

After some negotiating, a sale was agreed upon. The building, all pews, song books, a piano, an organ and the parsonage joining on the east end of the property were purchased for \$1,000. An agreement was made that the Sunday school enrollment would be accepted, as well as all those who were currently attending.

This gave this new group a good start, as along with those now attending, a semi-retired minister, Rev. Blair, would stay and serve until a permanent pastor could be called. A number of dedicated Christian people came with the group. A number of members of the Hackleman family, Marion Stanford, the Fuerstien family and the J.N. Johnson family, only to name a few. Mrs. Johnson was the adult Sunday school teacher for many years. All who studied under her learned of her dedication to the teachings of the Bible. She also played piano for church services.

In the summer of 1932, the annual conference for the Pacific District of

the General Conference, which was headquartered in Reedley, California, was held in Pratum, Oregon. George Kenagy and Elmer Widmer attended this conference and requested to have some officials come to Albany to help organize this congregation. Mr. Paul Aeschliman and Mr. Neuenschwander came after the conference at Pratum was over and organized the Grace Mennonite Church of Albany, Oregon. This event took place in the fall of 1932. The articles of incorporation were filed with the State of Oregon and are dated February 24, 1933. Inflation had already set in, as the value of this property as stated in the articles of incorporation was \$2,000 (not a bad return!).

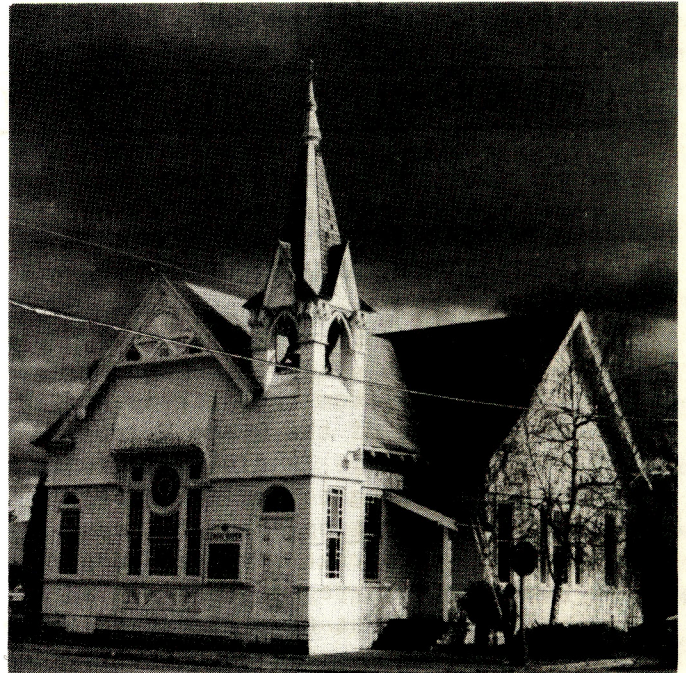
Records do not tell and memories fail to tell us who all the charter members were. Dr. Joseph N. Widmer, Cornelius F. Funk and Elmer P. Widmer were the first trustees, and were the signers of the incorporation papers. Others known were the Jacob Reeser family, the C.R. Widmer family, the E.H. Widmer family, and early joiners included the Eli Kennels and the Jake Funks.

The Grace Mennonite of Albany was served by 10 pastors in its 36 years. In order of their service they are: Harley King, J.M. Franz, Bill Augsburg, P.A. Kliewer, Ed Peters, Peter Loewen, Henry Dalke, Herbert King, Clyde Dirks.

In 1947 this congregation hosted the annual Pacific Conference, a big undertaking for a small group. It was a great success, as people from Washington, Idaho, Oregon and California were in attendance.

World War II spawned a new awareness of the rest of our great country. Those who served in the armed forces found new frontiers away from Albany where farming and lumbering were the major industries. The old saying, "how can you keep the boy on the farm

after he has seen Paris" was certainly a factor in the dwindling numbers in attendance here. The last Sunday that this congregation met was November 10, 1968. The property was sold to the Faith Bible Church and after all bills were paid, the remainder was sent to the Conference Board in Reedley, California.



Living Water Christian Assembly
401 N. Main, Albany, Oregon

This was the home of Grace Mennonite Church from 1932 to 1968

In the late 1930s or the early 40s the men of the church dug a basement under the building. With the use of our tractor and a "slip" it was accomplished. One of the great improvements the basement gave us was the installation of restrooms to replace the outhouse located just behind the parsonage. The Herbert Kings were the last to live in the parsonage, as Clyde Dirks purchased a small acreage in North Albany where he enjoyed his hobby, tending to livestock. The parsonage was rented

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and was torn down after the property was sold.

Mother tells me that she, my Dad and myself were the last to leave the building. On our way out, we saw the old pulpit Bible still on the table in front. We picked it up and Mother has had it since.

We recently were involved in a family reunion of the descendants of C.R. Widmer. This year, one of the George Kenagy grandsons, David Kenagy, was our camp leader. The theme for our reunion was taken from the 145th psalm. As these words apply to our family, they also apply to the mission of the church.

I believe the Grace Mennonite Church of Albany followed this teaching.

Herewith, Psalm 145, verses 1 through 7.

1. I will extol thee, my God, O King, and I will bless thy name for ever and ever.
2. Every day I will bless thee: and I will praise thy name for ever and ever.
3. Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; and his greatness is unsearchable.
4. One generation shall praise thy works to another, and shall declare thy mighty acts.
5. I will speak of the glorious honour of thy majesty, and of thy wondrous works.
6. And men shall speak of the might of thy terrible acts: and I will declare thy greatness.
7. They shall abundantly utter the memory of thy great goodness, and shall sing of thy righteousness.

Two new books available from Masthof Press, Route 1, Box 20, Morgantown PA 19543:

Delbert L. Gratz, Compiler, Was Itsch Dini Nahme? What Is Your Name is a study of names. \$5.50 plus \$2.50 shipping.

John W. Heisy, Genealogy--Helps, Hints, & Hopes. A collection of 74 articles on a variety of subjects relevant to genealogists. \$8.50 plus \$3.00 shipping.

A TIMELINE OF THE INFLUENCE OF THE EMANUEL KENAGY FAMILY IN OREGON

Compiled by Edward Kenagy

1850 Emanuel L. Kenagy is born on March 13 in Logan County, Ohio. He is the second child of bishop Jacob C. Kenagy and Elizabeth Yoder. The 1850 census spells the name "Kanaga."

1852 Emanuel's older brother, John, and baby brother, Christian, die ten days apart in August in an epidemic. They are buried in a tiny cemetery alongside their maternal grandparents northwest of West Liberty, Logan County, Ohio. Many other young children die in the same epidemic, thought to be dysentery. The gravestones spell the name "Kenagy." At age 2, Emanuel is the only living child.

1859 Emanuel's sister Emma is born. Emanuel is now 9. He has been an only child for about 7 years.

1860 Census now spells the name "Kenagy" and lists Emanuel as "Amanda."

1863 Slavery is abolished in January. Emanuel's father, J.C., and David Plank start the first permanent Amish Mennonite Sunday school in the South Union congregation.

1864 President Abraham Lincoln is assassinated. Emanuel's sister Sara is born. Sara lives to be 90, never marries.

1866 The J.C. Kenagy family moves to Cass County, Missouri, in April. Emanuel is 16, Emma 7, and Sara 2. J.C. buys 80 acres where Sycamore Grove Church now stands. The seller, determined to buy it back, follows J.C. to St. Louis and gives J.C. \$25. J.C. immediately purchases 130 acres one mile east of East Lynne, where he settles. The Clearfork congregation is organized. J.C. serves as first minister and bishop.

1868 Emanuel's brother Jacob L. is born on March 23. Jacob L. lived to be 90. He died in Colorado.

1872 Emanuel, now 22, marries 21 year old Lydia Ann King in Garden City, Missouri. Lydia was born September 5, 1851, in Lawrence County, Pennsylvania, and is the daughter of Jonathan and Mary Kenagy King. Emanuel farms and does carpentry.

1873 Emanuel and Lydia have a son, Joseph, who is born and dies on February 12. Joseph is buried in Clearfork Cemetery near Garden City, Missouri. This same year

another brother of Emanuel is born, Solomon. Solomon's wife, Mary Ann Oesch, died in Albany, Oregon, at age 101. Solomon's three children lived in Kansas City.

1874 Emanuel and Lydia's daughter Alice "Allie" is born on April 8. She lives to be 74. "Allie" married David Hostetler of Missouri. They had eight children. Allie died September 3, 1948.

1876 Mary Elizabeth "Mellie" is born June 7. She lives to age 77. "Mellie" married John W. Oesch of Hickory County, Missouri. The six Kenagy Oesch children stretched their influence among Missouri and Montana and Oregon.

1878 David Oliver is born on August 4 and lives to almost 55. David married Allie Schmucker of Aurora, Oregon. The Schmucker Kenagys, three boys and two girls, kept morale high and jolly wherever carpenters, farmers, lumber and Sunday school met them.

1880 Salome "Lomie" is born on November 29. In a letter written January 30, 1881 (see entire "Lydia" letter elsewhere), her mother Lydia says: "i have to stay at home agin it is 7 month since i was in meeting last my little girl is nine weeks old today now i have two baby agen i am never out of babys and i gess thats the way with you to oh well loma i gess we jest have to let it come as it will thats the only way i no"

"Lomie" married Silas Stutzman December 2, 1900. She passed away February 13, 1944. Nine children swept along with Kenagy Stutzman enthusiasm from Missouri to Iowa to Harrisburg, Oregon.

1882 Emanuel has erected a large stone cider mill along with a fruit and jelly manufactory. The cider mill is capable of producing 2000 gallons per day.

1882 Emanuel's wife Lydia, age 31, and new infant died March 6 in Cass County, Missouri. Both are buried in Clearfork Cemetery. Salome, age 2, goes to live with her grandparents, J.C. and Elizabeth Kenagy. The prevailing report of this tragedy says, "At the grave,

during the burial Emanuel held two year old Salome. When the grave was closed Emanuel stepped over to his mother, handed Salome to her, and said, 'You take care of her.'" Emanuel has become a single parent at age 32, now raising eight year old Alice, six year old Mellie and three year old David himself.

1886 Emanuel marries 26 year old Martha Hostetler on February 26. Martha is daughter of Levi and Barbara Hershberger Hostetler.

1887 Urie Emmett is born on April 27. Urie marries Bertha Neuschwander of Silverton, Oregon, on October 10, 1912. Nine Neuschwander Kenagys influenced Oregon in the postal services, in farming, in health services, in the media, and in medicine.

1888 Levi Irvin is born on December 16. Irvin married Mary Brenneman January 27, 1917. Six Brenneman Kenagys flavored the West Coast as carpenters, civil servants, patrolmen and entrepreneurs.

1891 William Gilbert is born on June 4. "Will," as his family called him, married Emma Troyer of Hubbard, Oregon, on June 4, 1913. This combination of two girls and five boy Troyer Kenagys salted and peppered the Hubbard area as farmers, loggers, tile manufacturers, ditch diggers, carpenters, and Sunday schoolers except for four years spent near Beaver Lake in Alberta.

1892 Emanuel starts a diary documenting his daily activities such as hunting rabbits, filing a crosscut saw, and making brackets, curtain rods and whatnots. The April 2 entry says, "Worked for Dr. Shoors 3/4 day." The diary is blank until April 23 when the Emanuel Kenagy and C.C. Smucker families arrive in Oregon by train. Allie



David O. Kenagy, the only one of Emanuel and Lydia's children to make his home in Oregon

is 18, Mellie 16, but did not go to Oregon, David 14, Urie 5, Irvin 3, and Bill less than a year, and 12 year old Lomie stays with her grandparents in Missouri. Emanuel's diary says simply:

"Saturday, April 23. Showery. Arrived at Hubbard, Oregon, at six in the morning. Went to Menno's for dinner and then Dan Kropf's and stayed overnight.

"Sun. 24, April. Stormy and rainy - went to church at Erb house - the boys were nearly all there.

"Mon. 25, April. Showery. - went to Levi's and John's and Israel's in the forenoon - After dinner Levi went with us to Hubbard and brought out our tools. I went to John Kropf's and stayed over night.

"Tue. 26 April. Showery - I helped Levi move in the forenoon. - afternoon I went with Menno to Needy - Took the gun along and shot at two China Roosters but did not kill - Went home with Menno." (end of diary)

The tools the diary mentions were carpenter tools. His wood-turning lathe was powered by men's and boys' feet. He had every imaginable shape of chisel and wood plane. There is a desk Emanuel made out of wood he reclaimed from a worn out threshing machine.

Emanuel walked to work as far as from Elliot Prairie to Marks Prairie, building and repairing houses. One of the projects he worked on was the new church at Whiskey Hill. While the men were working, they talked about what to name their new church. Emanuel began singing: "We're Marching to Zion." It has been Zion ever since.

Somewhere in his active years a piece of steel ruined one of his eyes. He had a glass eye made. I never saw him wear it. But it is rumored that one of the grandsons has the Emanuel eye planted on the face of a fireplace.

1893 George Jacob is born on July 23, the first natural born Oregonian of the tribe. George married Leah Widmer of Albany, Oregon, on June 4, 1916. Around 1920, George and "Will" ventured into Alberta. George, a chiropractor, brought back to Oregon a potato so big it filled his doctor bag. The

Widmer Kenagys are felt from Seattle to Southern California in the realms of flying, pastoring, lawyering, teaching and singing. There are two boys and two girls.

1894 Emanuel's father, J.C. Kenagy, dies in East Lynne, Missouri, at age 72. He is buried in Clearfork Cemetery in Missouri.

In a letter written to Emanuel in January 1894, there is a glimpse of the depth of spirit and character that existed within and between these two. (See two entire "J.C. Kenagy 1894" letters elsewhere.) It reads: "you state in your letter an invitation to visit your parts. It would be a hazardous trip for the locks of 72 summers and as many winters; Labor and Sorrow indeed. I have passed the waters of strife long since, dug the wells of Esek and Sitna, pressing on to Rehoboth, even to Beersheba, toward the prize of Eternal rest..."

1895 Sarah Alma is born on February 9. Sarah married Joe Birky July 13, 1919. (At the age of 4, I sang at that wedding - and got scolded for saying some dirty words.) Three boys and three girls round out the Birky Kenagy family's sweep of the world in farming, teaching, and administering from Pacific to Atlantic and the Caribbean.

1896 A.L. Kenagy, a stillborn son, is buried in Zion graveyard in an unmarked grave in the same lot where Emanuel and Martha are buried many years later.

1898 Amos R. is born on January 20. Amos never married. He was a teacher at Goshen College and later explored alternative religious organizations.

1899 Eldon Leroy is born on May 21 at Hubbard, Oregon. Eldon married Isabelle Scheele of Blodgett, Oregon, on December 25, 1930. One son, Donald James, carries on from Oregon to Texas. Eldon died at age 38 on March 10, 1938, as a result of getting his thumb chopped off.

1901 In March Emanuel buys land known as the Swanson place in the Elliot Prairie school district. He owns this land until 1907.

1902 Thomas Benton is born on January 28. Thomas married Violet Mishler of Albany, Oregon, on April 1, 1922. Three girls and two boys carried on the Mishler Kenagy influences in auditing, extension services, and the church. Tom made the name Kenagy almost a password in downtown

Salem. He walked door to door carrying mail for many years.

1906 In August the Emanuel Kenagys move to the Union School district east of Woodburn, Oregon, between the Pudding River and Butte Creek in Marion County. They lived here until September 1909.

Irvin said he was better educated because he went to two schools: Union, in Marion County, and Elliot Prairie in Clackamas County.

"Will" often told stories of sorting apples during the school year. The sorting was done in the cellar on Saturday. The best apples were carefully laid back in the cellar. Really poor ones were put in an outside "V"-shaped vat where apple peelings also went to become vinegar. The apples between good and bad were to be eaten during the coming week. "That way we always ate bad apples."

There also was a vat out doors into which ashes from the cook stove and the heating stove were dumped. Rain on the ashes made lye to mix with tallow which made soap.

Also from before 1901 through 1909, the Emanuel Kenagys were involved in the ownership of a piece of land straddling Rock Creek on the Barlow-Monitor Road. Bill and Em Kenagy lived in the house on the bank of Rock Creek when Ed was born. (Em once grabbed Ed by his dress and dunked him because he played in the creek too much. A cow also tried to kill Ed on this place, but Maude Babb rescued him.)

The house on the hill, about a quarter mile across and above Rock Creek bottom, burned down while the Irvin Kenagy family lived there. Glen remembers he was five years old. Roy Kenagy remembers seeing a red hot chimney standing alone where the house had been. Of course the Kenagy carpenters rebuilt. I remember the Dave Kenagys living in this "new" house. To get to this house on the hill the deed says, "...also a strip of land twenty feet wide and running along the South line of said lots no. 3 and 4 from said beginning thence East to said half-mile post between sections 32 and 33 to be used as a road." In the wet places

this road had poles as long as the road was wide, split lengthwise, and laid in the mud side by side crosswise of the road. It was called "corduroy road."

1912 Emanuel's mother, Elizabeth, dies June 11 in East Lynne, Missouri, at age 83. She is buried in the Clearfork Cemetery near East Lynne. **The Emanuel Kenagy family moves to Albany, Oregon.** They live in a house near the Mennonite Church on Twelfth Street.

In the span of years between 1903 and 1924, Emanuel pioneered in reclaiming dry land in the Tumalo Irrigation District. This was the first project by any State to use the Carey Act, a Federal law that established the Federal Reclamation Agency.

Watering 27,000 acres was the plan. Having four railroads headquarter in their city was a dream. Apparently people bought land instead of homesteading.

By the beginning of the 1915 irrigation season the dam was completed, but things did not go as planned. According to one account:

"The morning the water reached the 35 foot mark on the dam Freda Clark and her school mates were walking along the dusty track that led from their homes to the school house on the edge of camp six. As they came to the embankment on the edge of the reservoir they suddenly stopped with wide eyes listening.

"'What's that?' Freda asked, looking at Mary Silvers.

"There were eight children in the group, and as one they scooted under the barbed wire fence along the bank and scrambled to the edge of the lake.

"The sight that opened before them was awesome. Where there had been 35 feet of water there was now a raging flood roaring and swirling down into the ground!

"Giant, muddy whirlpools sliced off great chunks of the shoreline as the water plunged underground.

"Wilbur Silvers and 'Butch' Clark picked up a big plank lying on the ground and heaved it out into the swirling waters. With a roar the brown, gurgling mass caught the plank, tipped it on end and sucked it into the yawing earth that gulped up the waters.

"The children were watching the end of Laidlaw (Tumalo) as the water carried



The Emanuel and Martha (Hostetler) Kenagy Family

four boys in front: Urie, Irvin, Eldon and Tom
center: Emanuel and Martha

back: William, George, Sarah (m. Joe Birky), and Amos

the dreams of so many where they disappeared into the thirsty earth. Freda shudders today as she remembers how close she and her friends came to be carried away with those swirling waters.

"Time after time the more faithful and ambitious of the settlers went to the reservoir with baled hay and soil and tried to plug the leaks. Time after time Nature gobbled up the water and the dreams."

(This whole story is on file in Crook County Court House in Prineville, a history by Jim Anderson entitled, "LAIDLAW - The Dream That Lives On.")

1924 Emanuel and Martha buy a house across the river from Albany in Benton County.

1927 Emanuel L. Kenagy dies at age 77, on March 31, in Albany, Oregon. I went with Dad to Albany on this occasion. I slept with Eldon. Eldon made the bed swing sideways on the tall bed spring. The next morning Dad had me place my hand on Grandpa's forehead. He was in his coffin. With a little thought I can still call up that feeling.

At his funeral they sang:

"I saw a Wayworn Traveller in tattered garments clad
And struggling up the mountain I saw that he was sad.
His back was heavy laden His strength was almost gone
But he shouted loud 'HOZANNA' deliverance has come."

1930 Martha buys land by Albany Mennonite Church. Irvin builds her house.

1951 Martha dies on March 31 in Albany, Oregon, at age 91. Emanuel and Martha are both buried in Zion Mennonite Cemetery.

-- September 1995

The following two letters were written by Bishop Jacob C. Kenagy. The first was found in the back of an 1892 diary of Emanuel L. Kenagy, son of J.C. Kenagy.

January 9, 1894
at East Lynne Missouri

Friends and fellow pilgrims in earth
first a friendly Salute in the bonds of
love and peace in Christ Jesus amen - -

Our health not So fair as might be the gripp is prevailing I have a touch of it more than a week and I still feel rather Disagreeable. the rest are about as usual. Several in the vicinity are on the sick list the Weather has been very fine for more than a month Sometimes nearly as warm as Summer but Water is getting to be an object in places. if you had some of our Weather and We had some of your rain We might divide and both have enough

(2) all along this fall the roads Were So good that two horses could pull all a Wagon Would bear and is still better than Summer neither dust Nor Mud We got the house finished in good time last Summer but We had a dreary time in the Shop during the heavy rains I Wonder we didn't get Sick Moreover the Irksome task having from 3 to 7 hands and our provision all burnt up the House cost more than I anticipated George Fraser wanted to leave his Mary nearly everything first class so I came out behind if you had been here I might have saved \$ too at the same wages I paid \$2.00 per day.

(3) Old man Fraser died several days ago numbers of others throughout the county I received a letter from John Kauffman lately he Says numbers of old persons were taken away; in the midst of life We live in death; this is called the land of the living but it is as much the land of the dying; Old I. Hertzler went to Indianna his sister Gid Yoder's wife died week before last Joseph Hertzler and family intend making a tour through Western Kansas Starting about the first of Aprile for his health they will go with 2 horse spring wagon he thinks he may stay near all Summer if they get my benefit; no telling yet I fear he waited too long; Will Landers got married last Sunday; his wife lived near Belton We had several inches of Snow last Sunday night.

(4) Old Levi Hostetler and Lydia were here last Monday; they were about as usual Jonas Kurtz sold out they are going to E Lynne a short time then probably to Battle Creek Mich. They still cling to the I learn one of his family has been baptized 7 times,

for the remissions, so much for water, David Morrell's wife was quite low last I heard; you state in your letter an invitation to visit your parts. it would be a hazardous trip for the locks of 72 Summers and as many winters; Labor and Sorrow indeed I have passed the waters of strife long since dug the wells of Esek and Sitna pressing on to Rehoboth even to Beersheba toward the prize of Eternal rest Where millions have gone before; if I keep health till or my health improves by next fall I may go to the Conference

(5) in Illinois next fall; no telling the women are Still weaving carpets they wove about 70 yds for Isaac Yoder's We are getting furniture slowly; we have enough to shift; the times are very trying East and West precursor for worse; a few years more in the present ratio and Capitol and Millionaire will control the Union; but blessed be God there is a grand Jubilee in the near future; and they have heaped up treasure in the last days I have so little communication in the County I know but little of what is going So my letter is of slender value; Easter Kaufman has inflammatory Rheumatism; Mostly in One knee; I have been studying the Signs of the times and see to my satisfaction the times of the gentiles near come in; the gospel of the kingdom spreading over

(6) the entire globe Thibet the last Stronghold of Satan with a population of about 8,000,000 is now open as a missionary field South America is opening; God is mightily at work the mighty angel is now flying in the midst of heaven giving the last heavenly proclamation: fear God and keep His commandments for the hour of his judgment is Come, 50,000 Bibles published per day in 300 languages; So the appearing of the Son of Man is at the door; and all who love his appearing will be changed in the twinkling of an eye; and the dead in Christ be raised and Simultaneous with the living Saints meet the Lord in the air. this is called the Rapture; next descent will be upon the Mount of Olives see Zecharia 14:4-10 - - then the prayer: Thy Kingdom come thy Will be done in earth as it is in Heaven

(7) has been ascending to the throne for near 1900 years will eventually be answered. and the glorious Kingdom for which

all Saints long and yearn is established for ever: see Daniel ch. 7=27= also verse 13=14 the Jews after their dispersion of 1800 years are turning their attention to Palestine the land promised Abraham and his Seed for an everlasting possession; as soon as the Turk is crushed the way will be open for the Exodus of the Seed of Abraham to their long desolate inheritance and that they will return and possess their own land is as certain as their dispersion among all nations See Romans 11:25-26 to 30 There are at this time 21,000 in Jerusalem and in all Palestine about 100,000 but the proper time for their full exodus is not far distant, there are near 4,000,000 in Russia alone (8) Waiting with wisdom to see the last small cord of the Otoman empire cut; the turk who overrun and subdued so many countries for 390 years has been losing territory after territory for 212 years and all the fostering care of Europe can not much longer keep the feeble Turk alive. I have told the church some years ago that I could scarcely expect to see the time of the beginning of the Jewish restoration but some of the youngest members would see the glorious redemption of the Seed of Abraham I wonder if they have forgotten what I told them the rapture of the bridegroom is so near that we close this Epistle by saying let us be Waiting Watching Praying Lord Jesus come quickly
J.C. Kenagy

* * * * *

Feb. 20th 1894 East Lynne Mo.

Friends Children and grand Children and Friends in general
A friendly Salute in love and peace let peace and prosperity be multiplied in Christ Jesus: Amen;
The family is in usual health, but I am on the decline since I first had the gripp. Still no better I can saw one or two sticks of wood at a time I have literally done nothing for the last 6 weeks I may probably get better but the look out is not flattering. I have been to church every time so far

but not every one would go under my circumstances; nearly every Sunday there is something extra to do it appears no one can take my place

(2) C. Warey and wife from Johnson Co. Iowa were here near two weeks: It was a feast for him and the church he and wife were greatly elated their visit was an edifying one They left well satisfied Old Unkle K----- is still not much better I fear he may become troublesome He thinks of going to meeting every Sunday but when Sunday comes he is no more fit than the Sunday before The probability is he may never be able; no telling; This winter was a severe one on old age from Ocean to Ocean Lagripp laid great numbers in the silent tombs waiting for the last trump of the mighty Arch Angel; the Rider on the pale horse has come with iron hoof taking away the children of men prepared or unprepared time and tide wait for no one

(7 & 8 are pages not dated, but were with the page with a date)

(7) Our Old Brother S. is still here. E. Beilers had him awhile after the house was consumed but they brought him back before the house was near finished. He had to sleep in the barn: he has not been so much trouble of late. Old Cabe Hartzler is the oldest man in our church. Reuben Yoder is next. Old Mother Kellers comes to church once in awhile if the weather is fair. Old Gording Zook attends nearly regular. His family all belong to the Coffman faction. Isaac King's seat is seldom vacant. Old Brother Kropp is not quite so regular. The Yoder's family are nearly all sick with LaGrippe.

Noah hartzler was married to Mary E. Yoder last Sunday.

The Simeon Zook family are about as usual. The two Becky Kings are scarcely heard of. John King and C.P. Klopfenstein are the hardest nuts in the vicinity.

The world is now astir as never before. About 50,000 Bibles are issued daily in 300 languages. About 15 tons of tracts have been distributed in Chi---- by H. L. Hastings alone. The endeavor has become a belt around the earth. Millions are working in different institutions in all the large cities besides other missions. The Mennonites have 3 mission stations in territory one in Arizona and are now getting up a benevolent

institution in Chicago. Missionaries are now scattered in all parts of the world. Thibet was opened last summer, the last stronghold in the world South America is one of the last. God is mightily at work, and yet infidelity is heading off the work in every part. My hand is weary and my brain is dimmed. Let us watch and Pray looking for the coming of Jesus in the clouds of heaven. Behold I come quickly and My reward is with me. Lord Jesus, come quickly.

LYDIA

This is a letter from Emanuel's first wife, Lydia King. Evidently she wrote home to Ohio. She wrote this 13 months before she died in childbirth.

east lynne Mo.
january the 30 1881

Dear sister and brother

it is with the greatest of pleasure that I have seated myself ? somday [Sunday] loving to ansure youre kind and loving welcome letter which i receved long long long time ago and i am indeed ashamed that i did not answer sooner and write oftener it is not because i dont want to wrigt for i always like to hear from youns we are all well except myself i was not well all last sommer but it gose a little better then it did last sommer and i hope when thease few scribling lines will reach you i hope the kind lord will have blest you with good health such is the best that we can expect in this trouble some world for that is all i have seen since i am in this place nothing but trouble and i dont expect to see it an other way as long as i live and this morning i thought i could go to meeting to day but i could not go at last for we have no way to go unless we go with old jacks and they came before i vas

redy then i haft to stay at home agin it is 7 month since i waz in meeting last my littles girl is 9 weeks old today now i have two baby agin i am never out of babys and i gess thats the way with you to oh well loma i gess we just have to let it come as it will thats the only way i no well about the weather we have had lots of cold weather but not much snow yesterday it was warm but it is cold agin today well loma i must quit my scribling and go and get dinner and i will finish after dinner if i can well dinner is over and well i cant write more for emme and sara is coming thats emmanuel sisters well loma this is wenesday afternoon already and i have not touched this since sounday i could not get at it in the evening i have to nurse my babe i never hardly can get her to sleep till 9 or 10 oclock she is so much trouble at night well it looks like spring today it is nice and warme agen on monday it was cold and rained all day and freece az it fell and now if it stayes nice till sonday meby i can cokckez [coax] him to go to steves or to milikens we havent bin there yet matty she schoolse often that we dont come steve waz hear 8 weekz ago next sonday and i have not seen mary since but steve waz home last week and worked for us and they wuz all well except they all had the sore eye pretty bad well loma i wish you wus hear today for i and my babe are alone and she iz asleeping i cent ally and melly and david all over up to old jacks and emmanuel he iz working in easte lynne he haz a carpenter shop there and iz going every day and after awhile he is going to put up a house for a man and then he is going day and night and oh i wish you and becah and leah could come and see me in thease lonesome days that i have to pass this summer agen well loma i must quit my scribling or you will get tired reding it i sent my love and best respect to youns all write soon if you please

tell becka and leah that i will rite
them as soon
as i can i hope youns will
all excuse me for not writing
oftener from your ever tru sister
LKS'J

FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Jerry Barkman is our new vice president. Jerry is from Dallas, a member of the Dallas Mennonite Brethren Church, and is currently employed in Canby as Director for HOPE Village, a retirement center being planned by the HOPE Corporation, and begun under the sponsorship of Mennonite churches in the Canby area.

Jerry's family were part of the Russian immigration to Kansas last century and his interests include the Russian Mennonite story. This interest was sparked in part by his Grandfather Barkman' stories.

Welcome, Jerry.

Programs for the spring meeting featuring the Salem Mennonite Church and Daniel B. Kauffman family, to be held at the Salem Mennonite Church, are included with the **Newsletter**.

The September 1996 meeting will focus on important anniversaries:

500 years since the birth of Menno Simons;

100 years since the organization of the Pacific District Conference;

90 years since the Pacific Coast Conference was organized.

We have been invited by Lebanon Mennonite Church to have our March 1977 meeting there as part of their 40th anniversary celebration.

Plans are underway for a dinner meeting in early August with Lorraine Roth, historian, researcher and genealogist from Kitchener, Ontario, as speaker. Lorraine has recently spent time in Europe doing research there. We may sponsor a workshop at the same time so Lorraine can share some of her expertise with us. A tentative date for the dinner is August 6. Definite information will be forthcoming when plans are finalized.

The main focus of the Executive Committee the past few months has been the **Mirror of the Martyrs** exhibit which is currently on display at the Lebanon Mennonite Church through February 25. Early attendance has been poor because of the unusual weather conditions we have experienced here in Oregon the past few weeks.

If at all possible, we urge you to take advantage of this excellent exhibit.

A RESEARCH TIP:

Did you enjoy reading the diary excerpts and the old letters printed in this issue? Both are excellent examples why diaries and old letters should be preserved. Even if they don't record earth-shaking events, they give us a picture of life in the times when they were written as well as interesting tidbits about people, places and incidents of which we would otherwise have no knowledge. Likewise the insights of their theology is informative and challenging and interesting to compare with today.

A suggestion for the preservation of such documents would be to make a photocopy of the original if it can be done without damaging it. Then try to make a transcript of the original, keeping the spelling and punctuation (or lack thereof) as written.

To make the document more useful to family and future researchers, add a page of comments, identifying people mentioned, including last names. You may know who they are, but do your children or grandchildren? For example, in the above letter from Lydia King Kenagy, Loma, Leah and Becah were her sisters; to whom were they married? And who were Steve and Mary whom she mentions? They were her sister Mary, married to Steve Kauffman, who lived in Cass County, Missouri. (See the King Family History by Hertzler for more information on Lydia's family.)

We encourage any of you that have old letters and diaries to make copies for the Archives if you do not wish at this time to donate the originals. We are also available to help you with transcribing letters or diaries if you need it. Contact us at the Archives or call Margaret Shetler, (503) 873-6406.

Another example of the value of old letters follows. Many of the published Shetler family genealogies are garbled to a

We are missing **Newsletter** editor Dianne Jeli's special touch this issue. Dianne's daughter, a freshman at Canby Union High School, became suddenly ill and underwent surgery on February 5 for removal of a benign brain tumor. We praise God that at this writing Jennifer is doing very well and a complete recovery is anticipated.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

From time to time we are asked to announce programs from other areas that may be of interest some of our members. Copies of these programs are on file at the Archives.

National Genealogical Society 1996 Conference, May 8-11, Nashville TN

Palatines to America: several seminars from March 23 through May 11, with a national conference in Peoria, Illinois, June 6-8.

Lancaster Family History Conference, May 28-30, Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

or lesser degree. Recently I was contacted by a person translating into English the collection of over 150 letters and documents assembled by the family of immigrant Christian Iutzi who came from Hesse in 1832. These are letters between people in the U.S. and Hesse and surrounding areas of Germany during the middle of the last century.

Already these letters have yielded new and corrected information on the Shetlers as well as other immigrant families of that period.

So, **please DO NOT THROW AWAY ANY DIARIES, LETTERS OR PICTURES** before you check with us to see if we would like to go through them for or with you. Contact any one of the officers listed on Page 2.

FROM THE ARCHIVES AND LIBRARY:

How many of you have visited the Archives and Library located on the west side of the chapel building on the Western Mennonite School campus? The usual comment of first-time visitors is becoming, "You need more space!" And while we do appreciate the space and excellent

accommodations we have, we do need more space.

We have passed the 1000 mark of books accessioned. We appreciate the donations of pertinent books to the library. We are primarily interested in books by Mennonite authors and books that relate to Mennonite life and theology as well as history, settlements and genealogies. We welcome genealogies and histories of other than the Swiss-German Amish and Mennonites of which we have the most. New Swiss-German works are still wanted and accepted, too.

Some of our recent additions, by both donation and purchase, are listed below. They will give you an idea of what we have and continue to collect.

We have been recipient of books as well as archival materials from several estates recently including those of Berdena West, Ethel Snyder, Julia Snyder, Marcus Lind, Ada Sommers and others.

We are also acquiring extensive holdings of Amish and Mennonite periodicals. Many sets are now complete and are a gold mine for researchers.

We are beginning to organize and catalog the personal collections we have. Most of the smaller collections are finished. Folks working on projects for the forthcoming Western Mennonite School Jubilee are finding our resources helpful even though they are not as well organized as we would wish.

Our collections do include several diaries, as mentioned elsewhere. Some are copies and/or transcripts; others, like the N.A. Lind collection, are the original diaries.

Recent book acquisitions:

Dyck: A Leap of Faith

Dyck: The Great Shalom

Dyck: Up From the Rubble

Ely: The West Liberty Heritage

Friedmann: Mennonite Piety

Friesen: Christian Peacemaking and International Conflict

Glick: Descendants of Frederick Swartzendruber

Hochstetler: Descendants of Daniel J. and Magdalena Hochstetler

Hostetler: Early Milford People Stories

Hostetler: From Switzerland to Nebraska
Pennsylvania Mennonite Heritage, cumulative indexes from 1978 through 1992

Luthy: Amish Folk Artist Barbara Ebersol

Rempel: The Lord's Supper in Anabaptism

Verheyden: Anabaptism in Flancers