



OMHGS Newsletter

OREGON MENNONITE HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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HISTORY OF THE SALEM MENNONITE CHURCH Salem, Oregon

by Beulah R. and John L. Fretz

This is the 35th anniversary of the Salem Mennonite Church.

In 1955 a group of interested persons met in the home of Mahlon and Christina Bender to discuss the possibility of starting a Mennonite congregation in Salem. No concrete plans resulted from this meeting and no further exploring was done at that time.

Later, on January 15, 1960, eight families in the Salem area met at the home of Bernard and Miriam Showalter to discuss the beginning of a Mennonite fellowship in Salem. These families were represented: Merlin Aeschliman, Glen Byers, John Fretz, Marvin Headings, Leo King, Robert Lantz, Bernard Showalter and Daniel Widmer. Many ideas and goals were discussed, such as: it would give Mennonites already living here a place of worship and a place to invite others; it would be a witness by those already living here, instead of calling in workers from another location; and it would provide a central location in the Willamette Valley for various conference and other meetings. Six of these families began meeting for mid-week fellowship in the homes on the first week of February 1960. Some of those already living here at that time had originally moved to this area to teach at Western Mennonite School.

After more discussion by the group, it was decided to "proceed with further steps toward organization as the Lord may direct". Following this decision, three brethren, with their wives, were appointed as a Guidance Committee: Daniel

Widmer, Chairman; Merlin Aeschliman, second member; and Leo King, third member. They first met on Tuesday evenings, and later on Wednesday evenings, with a separate meeting for the children. Regular attenders were those on this committee, plus the Robert Lantz and Bernard Showalter families. Within a year this grew to include the Henry Becker and Ralph Holderman families, Mrs. Amos Hostetler and Doris Kennel.

In the spring of 1960 the Guidance Committee began communication with the Outreach Committee of the Pacific Coast Mennonite Mission Board and received encouragement and direction, and were advised that the group should first find a leader, before thinking of a building. In October 1960 contacts for a pastor were in progress. By April 1961 they called Brother Wilbert R. Nafziger, a pastor at Winton, California. In June of the same year he met with the fellowship, at which time he expressed his willingness to accept the pastorship, and the Salem group decided to accept him as pastor for a two year period, on a part-time basis. In September 1961 Pastor Nafziger began his service to the congregation. It was decided some



Salem Mennonite Church, before landscaping.

time later to use Brother Henry Becker, former missionary in India, as part-time pastor whenever needed.

On October 1, 1961 the group began meeting for regular services in the basement of the Johnson Memorial Seventh Day Adventist Church at Hood and Summer Streets in Salem. This included a Sunday morning worship service, Sunday afternoon vesper service, and a Thursday evening prayer fellowship.

At the November 12, 1961 business meeting a motion was passed to have the Guidance Committee prepare a church constitution. At a business meeting one month later the proposed constitution was read and discussed, and a motion was passed to adopt it.

About the same time the fellowship voted unanimously to ask Brother John Lederach of the Zion Congregation at Hubbard, Oregon, to serve as their bishop, which he did. Also in the same month the name of Salem Mennonite Church was adopted, and the group asked permission of the Pacific Coast Mennonite Conference to organize as a congregation.

On November 12, 1961 the church letters of 43 Charter Members were received. These were the following, who each signed the Church History Record Book: Wilbert R. Nafziger, Sarah Nafziger, Carol Nafziger, Byron Nafziger, Henry D. Becker, Gladys Becker, Ruth Becker, Elaine Becker, Paul Becker, Bernard Showalter, Miriam Showalter, Leo King, Pauline King, Amos G. Hostetler, Lena Hostetler, Joanne Hostetler, Robert P. Lantz, Emily Lantz, Merlin Aeschliman, Kathleen H. Aeschliman, Paul Hochstetler, Ila Hochstetler, Charity Wolfer, Jane Wolfer, Charles Kauffman, Bernice Kauffman, Sharon Kauffman, Ardis Kauffman, Dennis Kauffman, Darrel Kauffman, Ralph Holderman, Ruth Holderman, Emerson Martin, Thelma Martin, Carol Ratzloff, Glen Byers, Lila Byers, Judy Widmer, Grace Widmer, Daniel M. Widmer, Dorothy A. Shenk, Carol Byers, Dean R. Byers.

By the summer of 1963 a Building Committee had made negotiations to purchase 1.4 acres in the Keizer suburb, on Candlewood Drive N.E., where the church is now located. It was in one of the more unchurched areas of the city. This committee was composed of Bernard Showalter, Chairman; Glen Byers, Charles Kauffman, Dan Widmer, Robert Lantz, Orvin Miller, Lester Steckly and Leo King, Consultant and Architectural Designer.

A groundbreaking service was held on Wednesday evening, June 10, 1964 at which the head of each family turned a shovelful of earth. Building work began five weeks later. Plans were drawn for a 210 seat sanctuary and a classroom wing, library, mother's room, pastor's study, kitchen and balcony. During the time of the building a great deal of volunteer labor was used. Materials were donated by various individuals in the congregation, particularly by Bernard Showalter who did the front stone wall and many other parts of the building, and Charles Kauffman, who gave much of the lumber needed, which he cut on his own portable sawmill.

An interesting digression here: a number of years ago a former member who was an accomplished rock climber, gave an impressive talk one Sunday as he carefully ascended the wall with full rock climbing gear. He apparently got possession of a church key in the week prior to his demonstration, came in and drilled holes at the proper places for the pitons, and practiced his climb in preparation for the Sunday service. In the week after the climb, he came back, filled in the holes he had drilled with plaster made with the rock dust he had saved, and it is said even the builder of the wall had difficulty finding where the holes had been drilled. This was during an interim period between pastors when various members led the worship service.

By December 20, 1964 membership was 65 and attendance had already reached 100 several times. The first worship service in the new building

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Salem congregation, while still meeting at the Johnson Seventh Day Adventist Church. taken about 1962.

was held February 21, 1965 with 127 persons attending. On September 14, 1965 at the annual business meeting, a motion was passed that the congregation accept the church council recommendation to call Pastor Nafziger as our leader for another two years. On October 24, 1965, the day of Dedication of our new building, church membership had reached 73. This was an impressive service and a very meaningful milestone for our group, a symbol of what can be done through faith, prayer and working together for the growth of God's kingdom. The sermon of dedication was preached by Pastor Roy D. Roth of the Logsdan congregation at Siletz, Oregon.

Our first pastor, Wilbert Nafziger, completed his official duties on Sunday, September 10, 1967. Almost a year earlier he had asked to be relieved of his responsibilities. He and his wife Sarah then assumed positions at Mennonite Home for the Aged in Albany, Oregon. After much prayer, searching and correspondence, a new pastor was found. He was John Heyerly, who was ordained and installed on Sunday, October 8, 1967. Bishop Max Yoder performed the ordination service and Bishop Verl Nofziger the installation ceremony. Outgoing Pastor

Wilbert Nafziger was also a guest participant.

On June 8, 1971 the congregation voted to purchase church pews in place of the metal chairs which had served us well. There was considerable feeling expressed on both sides, in favor of new pews, and for keeping the folding chairs. With the chairs there was the advantage of more flexibility in worship format.

In September 1972 Pastor John Heyerly and family left us for an assignment in Kansas City, after turning in his resignation some time earlier. After about nine months without a pastor, on Sunday, July 1, 1973, John Willems was installed as our new pastor. He with his wife Dora and two children, Mardell and Kevin, came from a pastorate in Milford, Nebraska. An impressive service was held with a number of the congregation participating and a message was given by Harvey Yoder, acting principal of Western Mennonite School.

On January 14, 1974 a Building Expansion Committee was appointed by the Church Council to study our needs at that time. The Chairman was Leo King, other members were Glen Byers, Paul Hochstetler, Bernard Showalter, Mim Swartz and Dan Widmer. Groundbreaking service was June 4,

1978 with work beginning in July 1978. Many members donated their labor. Also assisting were Loren Miller of Virginia and Orval Troyer of Hesston, Kansas. The remodeled building was dedicated July 8, 1979. On November 23, 1986 a 25th Anniversary Service was held with former pastor Wilbert Nafziger and John Heyerly participating, along with a number of members of the congregation.

Programs and activities in this congregation over the years have included an active Sunday School, Summer Bible School, women's & girls' service groups, women's prayer groups, weeknight prayer groups, men's breakfasts, Mennonite Youth Fellowship, Boys' club and annual church retreat.

As a result of our SBS outreach, an important occasion was held on November 1, 1981, when Roger Pierce was licensed and commissioned as pastor at the New Covenant Community Mennonite Church in Tigard, Oregon. Roger and his wife Jan and two children began attending Salem earlier as a direct result of the children having attended our Summer Bible School.

Spiritual life meetings were held for a number of years, usually for several nights in succession or over a weekend. Some of the speakers were John Lederach, Roy Hostetler, Paul Brunner, Marcus Lind and Glen Egli. While most baptisms were held in the church sanctuary at given times, several applicants requested to be baptized by immersion. This was done in the Willamette River with many of the congregation in attendance. At one such time as we gathered on the banks of the river, some nearby picnickers became alarmed and called the police. Upon investigation, the officer said, "More people should have such baptismal services!"

Ordinances practiced followed quite closely those taught by our denomination. We have had a communion service with a separate footwashing service about twice a year. The attire of the pastor has changed since we began, here is an excerpt from the Church Secretary records: On April 17, 1966 the congregation adopted a Church Council recommendation: "We as a congregation look with favor on the use of non-clerical dress by our ministry, but we feel that we should give them the liberty to choose their own attire." About 1968 the style of the women's head covering began changing from the traditional Mennonite pattern to a more modern one, that of a chapel cap which is more

readily available in religious supply stores. Since then the custom has continued to change so that now most women wear no head covering during worship services.

Sunday evening service attendance began to decline in the late 1980's and later services were discontinued on a regular basis, with only special meetings occasionally. Yet total Sunday evening attendance has increased overall in the form of small groups which meet regularly.

When thinking of persons in the various church offices through the years these names easily come to mind: Children's Education - Lyla Snyder, Claudia Beechy, Sheila Hochstetler, Miriam Showalter, Kathleen Aeschliman; Women's Activities - Grace Widmer, Miriam Showalter, Lila Byers, Bernice Yoder, Laura Heppner; Administration - Bernard Showalter, Marion Schrock, John Beechy; Music - Merlin Aeschliman, Ken Snyder, Marion Schrock, Brenda Bartel, Ruby Berg; Pastoral Elders - Charles Kauffman, Marion Schrock, Bernard Showalter, Florence Gingrich; Mennonite Youth Fellowship - Elden Stutzmans, Merlin Aeschlimans, Paul Hochstetlers, John Beechys, Stephanie Snyder; Treasurer - Leo King, Dan Widmer, Harold Snyder; Library - Ruby Friesen, Mary Boshart; Church Secretary - Leo King, Dolores Miller. Other persons who have been active in various capacities are Gale Gingrich, Roy Blackstone, John Hochstetler, Carl Snyder, Paul Roth, Joyce Yoder, Caleb and Bonnie Heppner. Others could also be named and if any are omitted it is not intentional. I feel that perhaps the names of all members of this congregation could be listed here as most have faithfully carried their share in the various duties of the congregation.

Over the years quite a number of members have been active in conference work, Mennonite Central Committee, Mennonite Disaster Service, Voluntary Service and in various mission projects. Several years ago our church sponsored two Asian refugees and helped them establish themselves in our community. At this present time, Jerry, Sharon and Beth Stutzman are in mission work in Kenya, and Mabel and Ken Snyder have just returned from a term with MCC in Laos.

In the past few years many of our group helped in the building of the House Against Hunger with proceeds going to MCC. A small group has been active regularly for several years with the

Salem Outreach Shelter which provides meals for homeless families.

More recently, our church building is being used by a Hispanic group on Sunday afternoons under the leadership of Victor Vargas, pastor at the Iglesia Mennonita Pentecostes in Woodburn.

Pastors since our beginning have been:

Wilbert R. Nafziger, Sept. 1961 to Sept. 1967

John Heyerly, October 1967 to September 1972

John Willems, June 1973 to July 1985

Norman Derstine (interim), Oct. 1986 to June 1987

Ross Collingwood, July 1987 to July 1991, assisted part-time by his wife, Allison

Leo Schlegel (interim), Sept. 1991 to June 1992

Carl Newswanger from Oct. 4, 1992 to the present.

There are twelve persons of the original 43 charter members who are still active members. These are: Kathleen Aeschliman, Merlin Aeschliman, Glen Byers, Lila Byers, Ila Hochstetler, Paul Hochstetler, Bernice Kauffman Yoder, Dennis Kauffman, Emily Lantz, Bernard Showalter, Miriam Showalter and Daniel M. Widmer. Inactive members are Leo and Pauline King.

There have been many successes in the life of our congregation for which we give thanks to God. There have also been some difficult times. During one such period, from January to June 1991, we as a congregation worked through some hard issues with the help of Marcus Smucker from the staff of Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Elkhart, Indiana and Floyd Lapp of the Zion congregation at Hubbard, Oregon.

We have tried to be a reconciling and forgiving community of Christian believers, endeavoring to follow the teachings of Christ in the Scriptures as followed by our denomination. As we look back over the 35 years of our journey we might ask how we have achieved some of the goals we had when we began. By God's help we will dedicate ourselves to seeking His guidance as we continue in helping to build His Kingdom.

I realize this is not a complete or detailed history of this congregation. I need to give credit for much of this information to former and present church historians and their notations, written by Kathleen Aeschliman, Ruby Friesen, Daniel Widmer and John Fretz; various church records; bulletins and newsletters; and charter members. We may have inadvertently omitted some names or facts.

DANIEL B. KAUFFMAN FAMILY HISTORY

by Bernice Kauffman Yoder

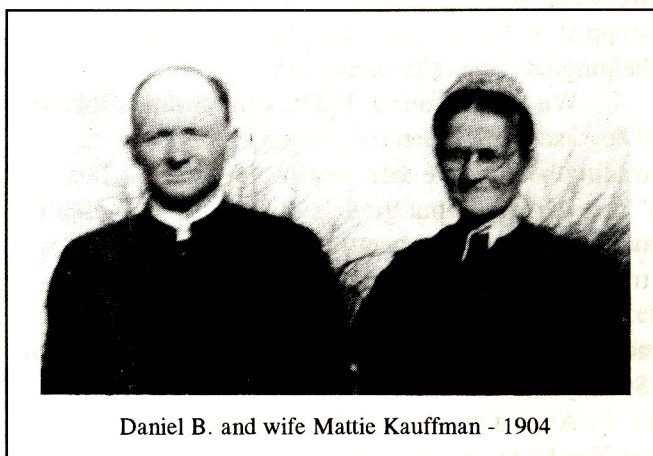
Some of the information and remarks I have, come from members of the Kauffman family, friends and Mother Mattie Kauffman who lived in our home the last years of her life, and son, Charles, who was my husband for 37 years, till his death November 23, 1977.

Daniel B. Kauffman was born November 28, 1875 at Logan County, Ohio to John J. and Martha A. Zook Kauffman. He had four brothers: Levi, Alpha, Joe and William. Sisters, "Fannie" Morningstar and "Lydia" Ogburn.

He moved to Missouri, where on December 25, 1889 at age 23 he married Mattie B. Sharp, age 18, from Belleville, PA at Gunn City, Missouri.

Mother Mattie Kauffman has written this account of their travel to North Dakota as follows:

Having heard of free homestead land, we decided to leave our Native Land and seek a home in North Dakota. Leaving early in May 1899, before automobile days, we traveled in what was called a Prairie Schooner; 2 horses, hitched to a covered wagon. We did not travel 25 nor 30 miles an hour, an average was 25 to 30 miles a day. This depended on level country or hills, comparatively



Daniel B. and wife Mattie Kauffman - 1904

slow travel for today.

Having taken provisions with us, we camped at night, where we were fortunate enough to find water and pasture for our horses. We always tried to camp near a farm with buildings, where we would get milk from the farmer.

Having no tire trouble, there was no need for

a garage but occasionally stopped at a blacksmith shop to have the team of horses shod. Blacksmith shops were found in every little town, however not quite as numerous as the garages we have today. We followed the main traveled road by the aid of a map. We were to notify the folks back home two weeks ahead just where we would be, we were able to get mail in this way. We always were glad to receive a letter from home.

We frequently asked for information regarding the conditions of the roads, only once were we misdirected. We got on a trail that led to the hills, night overtook us. There were no buildings in sight for miles around. It began to rain, the howling of coyotes made the situation more spooky than ever. We were glad to see the first signs of dawn. After a light camp fire and breakfast, we again started on our journey.

When we saw the signs of buildings ahead of us it proved to be a little town. Here we again replenished our supply of provisions.

A few nights later, while camping we were molested with multiplied millions of mosquitos that seemed very friendly. By the aid of matches and rubbish we made a smudge before we were able to retire in the wagon.

In Nebraska we encountered a sandstorm that had raged a day or so, at least till our flour was a mixture of sand and flour. After eating sand biscuits we were able to endure most anything. When we stopped at farm houses people were very friendly, helping us feel welcome.

We encountered Indians in South Dakota. They seemed friendly, somewhat insisting on trading horses. We told them we needed our horses. "Yes, we know, but give us this horse," pointing to our best horse. Not wanting to cause a problem, we traded, knowing they got the best deal.

We never traveled on a Sunday. We were advised by a Negro, of others who did travel on Sundays who encountered problems.

After a number of these hardships, we arrived on North Dakota soil. Making twelve hundred miles from Cass County, Missouri, landing 7½ miles east of Kenmore, North Dakota, ending our journey.

There being only a few homesteads located there in that section, we made our own trail, then marked the place by putting up a pile of brush, in case we were late getting back from town, we'd have no difficulty finding the road.

The land was fast being taken up by other immigrants arriving from other states. We were one of the first Mennonite families to locate in North Dakota. Other Mennonite families soon followed.

Theodore Roosevelt, being President at that time, signed our final papers, allowing us a "free homestead".

On October 6, 1904 Daniel B. Kauffman was ordained as a minister of the Old Mennonite Church at Baden Ward County, North Dakota by Samuel G. Lapp, bishop of South English, Iowa, where he was installed as minister and Amos C. Ogburn as deacon.

The Commission was given as follows:

"The Lord has called thee to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ to make known His Holy Word, and the counsels of His will concerning our salvation. Go preach the gospel in its purity, admonish the unconverted to repent, instruct and encourage the church. Continue earnestly to read the Word of God, to exhort and teach. 'Pray without ceasing'. Seek to be faithful and zealous, labor in the vineyard of the Lord. Be instant in season and out of season: reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine, continue in them, for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself and those that hear thee. May the Lord direct, help and bless thee. 'Amen'." Signed: Samuel G. Lapp, Bishop, South English, Iowa.

At this time it was decided to build a church building. There were 25 charter members. When the building was completed, the first meeting was held March 17, 1905, where Daniel B. Kauffman served from 1904 to 1919.

Many happy and encouraging times were experienced, as well as sad times. Three infants born to them died during this time.

They became aware that Mattie Kauffman was having lung problems. The doctor suggested they move to a different climate. It was decided that Dannie B. "as he was called" to make a trip to Central California. He visited in and near the Terra Bella Community. However, not being well impressed, he decided to travel north to Oregon. He stopped to visit his cousin, E.Z. Yoder, near Hubbard, both having roots in Cass County, Missouri. While visiting E.Z. Yoder, he encouraged Dannie B. to move his family to Oregon. Dannie B. was well impressed with the country and especially in and around the Hubbard



Back row left to right: Ben, Daniel B., Mattie, Chester, Grace, Charles, Lela holding Orpha. Front: Tim, Freeman, Bill.

Community.

After returning to North Dakota it became apparent something had to be done because of Mattie's health. So, after 20 years in North Dakota, Daniel B. and Mattie Kauffman, with their 9 children, left North Dakota in 1919 moving to Oregon in the Hubbard Community. When they left North Dakota, the Certificate of Ordination was sent with Dannie B. It reads as follows:

"To Whom It May Concern.

This is to certify that Daniel B. Kauffman is a regularly ordained Minister of the Gospel, called and commissioned according to Divine Authority by the Mennonite Church, to preach the Word, to minister to the spiritual need of his congregation, to proclaim the Gospel of Salvation wherever and whenever he may be called or sent by God and the church. He is now in charge of congregations and work near Kenmore, North Dakota, which work is under the auspices of the Missouri-Iowa Conference District.

Signed: Isaac S. Mast - Bishop

J.R.Shank, Conference Secretary"

Daniel B. Kauffman's ministry was accepted, used and appreciated by the Zion Mennonite Church where he took his responsibility as a minister of the Gospel seriously.

He had a deep concern for young people. The boys at MacLaren School at Woodburn were one of his concerns. Services were held there on Sunday afternoon where he preached, often speaking to the boys in person. His kind, soft-spoken voice,

preaching the Word of God touched many lives. This was proven when the boys, as a tribute, sang at Dannie's funeral. The song, "Beautiful Isle of Somewhere".

Daniel B. was active in the Bible School movement, served as chairman of the Conference Bible School Committee. He was largely responsible for the high quality of instructors they obtained to serve on the West Coast. In those years, in the twenties and thirties, few young people attended school after the eighth grade, so were able to attend the Winter Bible School. I remember hearing how the young people enjoyed the Bible School, how beneficial it was to them spiritually. The Word of God was important to Dannie. He enjoyed memorizing scripture. It was important to him having devotions with the family, before going to his work. Having scripture in his heart and mind helped him develop his sermons while working. He worked at farming and sawmill work. After work he'd go home. When all activities of the evening with the family were finished, he would work at his messages after the family had retired for the night.

Dannie had a deep concern for the lost, there were times he gave an altar call at the close of his message. He was asked why this was done at a regular church service? His reply: "When the Commission was given to him at his ordination, he was to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ, make known his Holy Word, admonish the unconverted to repent."

In March 1921 the family was saddened when two month old Ruth Marie died.

My grandparents, Simon and Nancy Yoder and my parents, Dan and Elfie Widmer, were friends of Dannie and Mattie. Lela Kauffman, one of their daughters, was near my age and we became friends.

In 1923 when the Pacific Coast Conference was held at Zion church, my parents, living near Lebanon, with we children, decided to attend all four days of Conference. So the folks took their tent, setting it up on the church grounds, where we stayed during Conference.

The second day, my friend, Lela wanted me to spend the night with her at their home. My folks gave permission. I was 9 years old. What a treat to go home with the Kauffmans in their horse and buggy.

Dannie was janitor at that time. He didn't go

home with us, he stayed to get things ready for the next day, but helped put us all in the buggy. He knew Mattie had to have bread before the next day so he told her, "You start the bread. When the boys and I get home, I'll set the alarm and put the loaves in the pan. When they are ready to bake, I'll take care of it." Dannie and the older boys walked home. I don't know when they got home, but I recall smelling fresh bread when we woke up the next morning.

Soon everyone was up ready for breakfast. After breakfast and devotions Mattie fixed lunch for the family to take to Conference, while Dannie helped dress, comb and braid the little girls' hair. As a 9 year old I was impressed, seeing a preacher comb the girls' hair and being so helpful getting the family ready for church. When all was ready, we literally piled in the buggy heading for Conference, while the older boys walked. When we got to church, as we were getting out of the buggy someone standing nearby said, "What a nice group of little red heads." That is some of the memories I have as a 9 year old. I also recall seeing Dannie up front preaching at Zion, never dreaming 17 years later I'd become a member of the Kauffman family. I've felt somewhat cheated that I never had the privilege calling Daniel B. Kauffman my father-in-law.

Daniel B. and Mattie Kauffman lived in Oregon only 9 years when, several days before Christmas, December 19, 1928, Daniel B., at age 53 years, died of a heart attack, taking him from the family and church, leaving Mattie and their 11 children. The youngest was 3 years old.

Now alone, without her companion, was it possible to go on with such a responsibility? Her faith and trust in God, she faced her situation knowing God would never leave nor forsake her.

With the help of God, her children, family and friends, working outside the home at the cannery in Woodburn, in hopyards picking hops, helping take care of the sick in their homes, her life continued.

Mother Kauffman was known to make \$10 stretch farther than the average person. But her family never were without food or clothing, she would say "Maybe it wasn't the best but we got along."

One of her desires was to go see her aged mother, Salina Sharp Hartzler, who lived at

Fairview, Michigan. When her children were more on their own, she with her daughter Grace and son Charles left in 1938 for a four week trip visiting her sisters in the midwest and her 92 year old mother and brother Elmer Sharp in Michigan. How glad she was she had taken this trip. Three years later her mother, at age 95, died.

There were happy and sad times in Mother Kauffman's journey. One joyful experience when son Chester was ordained to the ministry July 22, 1945. Again saddened when Ben, her oldest son, died April 5, 1951. Knowing her life on earth was short, she often prayed for her children and grandchildren wishing them to meet Papa and her in Heaven.

Since her passing, three daughters and husbands, Minnie and husband Joel Roth, Grace and husband Alex Pollard, Lela and husband Elmer Richerson, and three sons, Chester, Charles and William have left this old world.

There are 4 children living and 5 daughters-in-law:

1. Freeman & wife, Elizabeth Kinman Kauffman, Canby, OR
2. Tillman & wife, Elizabeth Good Kauffman, Surprise, Arizona
3. Mabel & husband, Wilbur Shank, Milwaukie, OR
4. Orpha Kauffman Saucy, Beaver Creek, OR
Leona Kauffman, Newport, OR
Juanita Kauffman, Woodburn, OR
Bernice Kauffman Yoder, Woodburn, OR
25 grandchildren, 30 great-grandchildren, 20 great, great-grandchildren

Among them are professionals, nurses, doctor, school teachers, ordained ministers, VS workers, homemakers, airline pilots, college and university students.

Maurice Kauffman, a grandson, who had polio was widely known. Even with his handicap, he touched many lives with his Christian testimony.

Son, Chester Kauffman, was an ordained minister in 1945, daughter Minnie and Joel Roth, superintendent and matron for a number of years at Albany Mennonite Home.

Mother Kauffman lived in our home the last years of her life, bedfast most of the time, having cancer. Never complaining, always cheerful. Many times she entertained our 4 young children in her bedroom, telling Bible stories, stories of her childhood and covered wagon experiences. Mother

Kauffman had a great sense of humor, often we'd hear laughter from the bedroom. She was a special Grandma to the children. She loved her Bible and hymns of the Christian church. She was a kind and loving mother and grandmother. Going through many hardships, she was patient and uncomplaining.

She enjoyed visits from her many friends and her families. Her faith and trust in the Lord left a deep impression on all who knew her. She peacefully left for her Heavenly Home July 22, 1952, at age 72 years.

It might be interesting to note: Milo, Archie, George, John, Edward Kauffman and Lina Kauffman Snyder Miller were double first cousins to the Daniel B. Kauffman children. Levi Kauffman, brother to Daniel B. Kauffman and Rebecca Sharp, sister to Mattie Kauffman were their parents. There were 4 ordained ministers in the Levi Kauffman family; Milo, Archie, George and Edward.

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Oregon Mennonite Archives and Library (OMAL) is located on the west side of the new chapel building at Western Mennonite High School, 9045 Wallace Road N.W., Salem, Oregon. The OMAL is open on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month from 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. There are staff persons to help you in your research. Use of the library is free for OMHGS members. There is a minimum charge, or donation, of at least two dollars per day for non-members. A copy machine is now available at 5¢ a copy for members and 10¢ for non-members. The OMAL is open by special request by contacting one of the executive committee:

John Fretz (364-1669)
Charity Kropf (651-2204)
Hope Lind (344-5974)
Perry Schrock (258-6054)
Margaret Shetler (873-6406)

ATTENTION: The OMHGS is running out of space in the archives room. We are currently looking for some comparatively safe, dry locations to "warehouse" some of our periodicals. A suitable area could be an available closet but not a basement or attic location. If you have such a space available, please contact one of the OMHGS members listed on page 2/or in the OMAL information in this issue. Thank you.

MY FATHER

Dedicated to my Father, Daniel B. Kauffman
(Shortly after Father's death) by Chester Kauffman

- 1 -

My father is not here today
He lies beneath the sod.
And tho his body is decayed
His spirit lives with God.

-2-

I do not want to wish him back
I would not if I could,
This world is full of vice and sin,
His home is pure and good.

- 3 -

His path was not always with flowers strewn,
sometimes the briars grew.
The ocean was not always smooth
The waves grew fierce too.

- 4 -

But his faith was always steadfast,
No, not once could it be shaken.
And upon his dying hours,
Surely he was not mistaken.

- 5 -

He was called to preach the Gospel
while just a young man
And his life helped many a wanderer
to bridge a way across the span.

* * * * *

OMHGS MEETINGS

The OMHGS Fall 1996 Meeting will be held September 15 at Grace Mennonite Church in Dallas. The meeting will feature Menno Simons by Tim Epp, the Pacific District Conference by Vivian Schellenberg and the Pacific Coast Conference by Margaret Shetler.

The OMHGS Spring 1997 Meeting will be held March 16 at Lebanon Mennonite Church and will feature this church as they celebrate their 40th anniversary. The George Kauffman family history will be given by Jeanie Hershey.

SPRING MEETING

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Dan Widmer, who gave a brief introduction to the OMHGS. He then called on Carl Newswanger, pastor of the Salem Mennonite Church.

Carl Newswanger extended a welcome on behalf of the congregation, then told us briefly of his interest in history and pilgrimage from Lancaster County, Pennsylvania to Oregon. For a devotional meditation, he read Psalm 78:1-8. History is His story. Three questions: What do we tell? Why do we tell? How do we tell? Following brief comments on these questions, Pastor Carl led in an opening prayer.

Beulah Roth Fretz and John Fretz read a history of the Salem Mennonite Church which is celebrating its 35th anniversary this year. A display was set up in the foyer with items pertaining to the 25th anniversary celebration held in 1986. The display was prepared by Ruby Friesen and Lyla Snyder. Attention was also called to a banner behind the pulpit which was made by Lyla Snyder and Miriam Showalter.

Following Beulah and John's presentation, the Chupp Sister, Claudia Beechy, Sheila Hochstetler and Lyla Snyder, all members of the Salem congregation, sang three songs.

The featured family was that of Daniel B. Kauffman, an early minister in the Zion Mennonite congregation, members of whose family have been active in the Salem congregation. A history of this family was given by Bernice Widmer Kauffman Yoder, a daughter-in-law of Daniel B. Kauffman.

Dan Widmer led the group in singing "To God Be the Glory".

Margaret Shetler, secretary, in the absence of Hope Lind, made announcements concerning future events: a genealogy workshop and the annual dinner meeting tentatively scheduled for August 6 with Lorraine Roth from Kitchener, Ontario, as speaker. The September 15 meeting was also announced.

Perry Schrock, treasurer, gave a brief report about the Mirror of the Martyrs exhibit.

An offering was received for purchase of new books for our Library.

Dan Widmer led in the first verse of "Blest Be the Tie That Binds" to close the meeting.

Sixty-nine people signed the attendance register. Margaret Shetler, Secretary

OMHGS GENEALOGY WORKSHOP

Lorraine Roth, of Waterloo, Ontario, was the featured speaker at the OMHGS Genealogy Workshop on August 6, 1996. Seventeen persons gathered at the Fairview Mennonite Church's multipurpose building for the event. In the afternoon, Lorraine provided private consultations with persons who have ancestors from Ontario, Canada. During that time Edna Kennel, of Newport, Oregon, spoke on preserving photos and records and Vivian Schellenberg, of Dallas, Oregon, described how she does genealogical research. At the end of each presentation there was time for questions, comments and discussion by workshop participants.

In her first presentation, Lorraine discussed the need for our Swiss ancestors to find asylum in other parts of Europe, sketching a broad historical context for their moving from Switzerland to Germanic and French states. Her second presentation focused on doing research in Europe, what information one needs to start such research, and sources and places for documents and records which may hold data about our families.

Edna presented a brief overview of when and how the photographic process developed, along with what and what not to do to preserve and identify old photos. She also talked about how to care for old documents such as marriage certificates, diplomas and such records. As she spoke, she illustrated her points with examples from her own photo collection and some materials she uses.

Vivian told us how she does genealogy, reinforcing Edna's premise about the value of photos. Vivian, too, illustrated her talk with examples of her notebooks and photos.

The Oregon Mennonite Historical and Genealogical Society hopes to compile Lorraine's two papers, along with her presentation at the evening dinner meeting into a booklet which will be available for purchase. OMHGS also plans to include Edna's and Vivian's presentations in a special edition of the Newsletter, which all members receive.

Grace Mennonite Church at Dallas will be celebrating 100 years of God's grace since the organization of the church in 1896. The three day celebration will be October 4-5-6 and will celebrate three time periods as follows:

Friday evening, October 4 : 1896-1930

Saturday October 5 : 1931-1960

Sunday October 6 : 1961 - 1996

DINNER MEETING

Just under forty persons gathered on August 6, 1996, at the Fairview Mennonite Church's multipurpose building for the annual OMHGS dinner meeting. Lorraine Roth of Waterloo, Ontario was the featured speaker. Lorraine is an accomplished genealogist who has published, alone or in collaboration, genealogy books on numerous families which have roots in Ontario, Canada, including many who now live in Oregon. She has done extensive research on Ontario families, both in Canada and in Europe.

Lorraine's topic, "*The Second Boat: Amish Mennonite Immigrants to Canada*," emphasized that the Amish Mennonites who immigrated to Canada in the early to mid-eighteen hundreds were not the first Amish or Mennonite immigrants to North America (nor even the second -- her title was figurative, not literal!). Many of those present were especially interested in stories Lorraine told which included some of their ancestors. OMHGS plans that this presentation, with her two morning ones at the Genealogy Workshop, will later be available in booklet form for purchase.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

March 12, 1996 - The *Mirror of the Martyrs* exhibit was reviewed. It is estimated that at least 800 people attended. It was agreed that overall it was a positive experience.

April 23, 1996 - Plans were finalized for the September meeting to be held at Grace Mennonite Church in Dallas. Tentative topics for future meetings were discussed.

Details were discussed for the August 6 workshop and dinner meeting. The workshop prices will be \$25 per member for all day, \$15 per member for half day, \$30 for nonmembers all day, and \$20 for nonmembers for half day. Edna Kennel and Vivian Schellenberg will also be workshop leaders.

The Historical Committee of the Mennonite Church has commissioned a special piece of fraktur as well as notecards as part of the commemoration of the 500th anniversary of the birth of Menno Simons. Our Society will sell both the fraktur and the notecards.

June 11, 1996 - Plans for future meetings were discussed. The March 1997 meeting will be held at Lebanon Mennonite Church and the George Kauffman family will be featured.

Space problems in the archives room were discussed. There are six shelves in the area: the west three will be used for library materials, including periodicals; the east three will be used for shelving archival materials. There is a need to 'warehouse' some of the periodicals because of the limited space. We need to have some dry clean space for housing these extras. If you could help with this, please contact one of the executive committee.

These are some of the family genealogy books at the OMAL. Plan to come to the OMAL and take advantage of the great research material found there.

1. From Switzerland to Nebraska - The Burkey Family Story: Valentine (1794-1860), Joseph (1816-1902), Peter (1867-1947) by Eldon Hostetler
2. Christian & Catherine (Buerge) Boshart Family History & Genealogy by Lucile Boshart-Carr, Shirley Jantzi-Boshart/Lorraine Roth
3. Mennonite Pioneers by John Umble
4. Bishop Jacob Hertzler and His Family
5. The Alderfers of America History and Genealogy by Helen Alderfer Stanley
6. The Barkman Family - A History & Genealogy of the Jakob Barkman Family Through the Line of Martin J. Barkman/Peter M. Barkman 1765-1982 Vol. 1 & 2
7. Daniel Bender Family History by Lucy Beachy
8. Descendants of Daniel Bender by C.W. Bender
9. The Berkey Book by William Albert Berkey & Ruth Berkey Reichley
10. Descendants and Ancestors of Johann Martin Borntraeger by Marion G. Bontrager

11. Descendants of Andrew & Ann (Kempf) Birky by Earl Erb
12. Descendants of Lovina Miller Burck & a Brief History of the Samuel Miller Family in America by Viola Burck Kropf
13. A Genealogical History of the Cassel Family in America Being the Descendants of Julius Cassel or Yelles Cassel, of Kriesheim, Baden, Germany by Daniel Kolb Cassel
14. History & Genealogy of John M. (1865-1923) & Margaretha (Rempl)(1872-1956) Classen by Dale Classen
15. Henrich and Maria Clemmer by Abram Lapp Clemmer
16. Christian and Anna (Widmer)Conrad Family History Eight Generations 1796-1978 by Kent E. Richard
17. Eash Family Record and History (Descendants of Bishop Jacob Eash) by Levi T. Eash
18. Crawdads Roasting on an Open Fire - Headings Family Stories by Cheryl Van Camp
19. A History of Peter P. Hershberger & Leah Hochstetler Their Ancestors & Their Descendants 1736-1970 by Leo D. Hershberger
20. Descendants of Jacob Hochstetler by Rev. Harvey Hostetler
21. David Heatwole and His Descendants by Harry Anthony Brunk
22. The Hertzler-Hartzler Family History by Silas Hertzler
23. Descendants of Jacob Hochstetler the Immigrant of 1736 by Rev. Harvey Hostetler
24. Descendants of David J. and Magdalena Hochstetler by Daniel E. Hochstetler
25. Descendants of Barbara Hochstetler & Christian Stutzman by Rev. Harvey Hostetler
26. The Descendants of Christian J. and Magdalena Hershberger Hostetler by Larry L. Hostetler
27. John & Elizabeth (Gerber) Jantzi Family History & Genealogy by Mrs. Menno W. Keupfer & Lorraine Roth
28. Kanagy Roots and a Branch by Ezra Kanagy
29. King Family History Vol. 1 & 2
30. Daniel J. Kropf and Anna Hostetler and Descendants Family Record 1861-1985
31. Abraham P. and Elizabeth (Luginbuhl) Lehman and Their Descendants March 1819-Dec. 1964 by Elma Bixler and Paul Bixler
32. Let's We Forget-Stories About Samuel & Mary Kuhns, Samuel & Magdalena Kuhns & Their Desc. by Emerson/Ruth Miller
33. The Story of A. Miller, the Descendants of Benedict Miller (1828-1906) & Rachel Mast (1827-1906) by Ken J. Heeter
34. Joseph & Barbara Maurer Descendants
35. Descendants of David & Alice (Kenagy) Hostetler
36. The Miller Book - A Genealogy & Directory of the Descendants of Levi J. & Mattie (Zook) Miller
37. Descendants of Joseph Miller & Christian Eicher by Loretta Yoder
38. Descendants of Mary Egli(1848-1918) and Joseph Roth (1838-1910) by Sadie Roth
39. Descendants of Jacob Rediger & Catharina Schertz by Elizabeth Fahndrich
40. Nice Family Hist.,the Ancest. & Desc. of Joseph Nice(1791-1874) & His Wife Mary Clemmer(1794-1882) by Hazel N. Hassan
41. Allied Lines of Brouse, Conrad, Kuhns, Mast, McTimmonds, Mishler, Monk, Row & Walker
42. The Gen. of Henry & Froenika Neuschwanger Who Arrived in N.A. from Germany in 1846 by Weldon/Barbara Neuschwanger
43. Christ R. Nofziger 1827-1968 by Harley Nofziger
44. The Family of Jacob & Margretha Oswald by Ken & Fern Oswald
45. The Descendants of Jacob Oswald (1858-1931) & Elizabeth Rupp Oswald (1860-1927) by Don & Bernice Oswald
46. Christian Reeser, the Story of a Centenarian by Ethel Reeser Cosco
47. Along the Banks of Jacobs Creek - A Genealogy of a Mennonite Community by Winifred Paul
48. Oswald Roots - A Genealogy of the Family of Peter Oswald Sr. by Ann Oswald Roth & Peggy Oswald Jackson
49. The Genealogy of Christian & Catherine (Rich) Roth
50. The Christian N. Roth Family (1857-1938) by Mary (Buckwalter) Roth
51. Family Record of Joseph W. Roth & Barbara (Eicher) Roth
52. The Nicolaus Schlegel Family History & Genealogy 1986 by Henry & Mae Yantzi
53. John M. & Anna Roth Schlegel Reunion 1987
54. The Jacob Schrag Family Record 1836-1974 by Ed G. Kaufman
55. Jonas Smucker - Ancestors & Descendants by John R. Smucker
56. Knit Together in Love Moses Schlabach(1859-1932)& Lydia Yoder(1868-1959) Their Ancest. & Their Desc. by John M. Slabaugh
57. Shirk by Rolfe Jacob Jonson
58. Autobiography of Barbara Weaver Sharer with Family Record by Wilbert R. Shenk
59. Desc. of Frederick Swartzendruber 1825-1895 & Sarah Yoder 1829-1867 by Esther Glick & Carolyn Swartzendruber Nafziger
60. David D. Stutzman & Mary Ann (Beckler) Stutzman Family History & Genealogy by Shirley Jantzi Boshart
61. The Christian Steinman Family History & Genealogy 1990 by Veronica Eyer
62. Troyer (Dreier) Family Hist.- Desc. of John F. Troyer & Pauline J. Mullet 1840-1974 by Milo R. Troyer/Adella Mueller Ryser
63. Swiss Mennonite Ancestors & Their Relationship from 1775 by Arthur Graber
64. The Cherokee Blood Trickle on-Stories & History of Martin & Martha Smith Warns & Their Descendants by N. Emerson Miller
65. The Wenger Bk.-A Foundation Bk. of American Wengers by Samuel S. Wenger/ The Wenger Book Index
66. The Brief Gen. & Hist. Sketch of Christian R. & Barbara Roth Widmer & Their Family by Daniel M. Widmer
67. Yoder Clan Vol. 1 Remembrance Book compiled by Diana Yoder
68. Descendants of David Y. Yoder by Eli Brenneman
69. The Yordy Story 1803-1971 by Earl & Florence Yeackley & Paul & Merlyn Stutzman
70. Footprints of Noah & Deemy Yoder Family Record 1864-1989 by Wayne & Pauline Miller
71. Yoder Family (Desc. of Noah Yoder & Barbara Bontrager) by Mrs. Frances (Yoder) Shearer
72. Zehr Family Directory 1993 by Cliff & Hope Lind
73. A Branch of the Yutzy Family Tree-Solomon & Magdalena Kemp Yutzy & Their Desc. by Ella Yutzy/Esther Youngberg
74. My Memories by Cora Emmert
75. Memorial Family History of Daniel Schoettler, Christian Swartzendruber & Jacob Kauffman by S.D. Guengerich