



**Mennonite Heritage Center
Bus Tour**

***Vermont, the Green Mountain State
Mennonite Community, Historic
Sites, Scenic Views
Tuesday-Friday, September 9-12, 2008***

Vermont, a popular vacation land, is known for its cool climate, mountain lakes, fine scenery, and outstanding attractions. Mennonite mission workers were drawn to this state in 1947 when the Franconia Board of Missions established a mission work in the small community of Peaseville. Wellington and Betty Alderfer served as the first mission workers in Vermont. The Mennonite Heritage Center will be sponsoring a tour through this colorful New England state on Tuesday-Friday, September 9-12. Ray Hacker will serve as tour escort.

As we travel north through New Jersey, New York and into Vermont we will be travelling through some of the Northeast's most beautiful landscapes. We should arrive by late afternoon at the Quality Inn at Quechee, VT, where we will lodge for the next three nights. At the hotel we will have access to their heated indoor pool, exercise room, laundry, and guest computer. After checking in, with time to relax, we will drive to the Taftsville Chapel Mennonite Fellowship Church for our evening dinner. Here we will meet our tour guides, Abner and Virginia Schlabach. For some of us they are long-time friends. The Schlabachs will be with us for the next two days. Virginia and Abner lived in the Blooming Glen community and worshipped at the Perkasio Mennonite Church until 2003 when they moved to Vermont. Prior to their retirement Abner was a Microbiologist at Merck Research Labs for 25 years and Virginia was an Editor and mission communicator for the Franconia Mennonite Conference for 16 years. Following our meal John Lutz, a long time Vermonter, will give a presentation on Mennonites in Vermont. Here too we may meet persons with Bucks-Mont roots who may help to serve the meal or will stop by.

A deluxe continental breakfast will be served at the Quality Inn on all three mornings. Following breakfast on Wednesday morning there will be time to view the nearby Quechee Gorge, Vermont's Little Grand Canyon, after which we will travel to Plymouth Notch to visit President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site. The village, a National Historic Landmark, is virtually unchanged since the early 20th century and comprises sixteen buildings and sites. Lunch today will be served at the Bethany Birches Camp, a Mennonite Camp located near Plymouth. Brandon Bergey, executive director, will give a presentation on the camp and a walk-about. Gwen Groff will also be at the camp and will tell us about Bethany Mennonite Church at Bridgewater Corners where we will be making a brief stop later in the afternoon. Situated, with a lovely back-road setting, our afternoon will end with a visit to Sugarbush Farm. The farm is well known as a cheese lover's and pure maple syrup paradise. Enjoy free samples of cheese, maple syrup, VT jams, mustards & spreads. We don't want to overeat as we'll be having a delicious dinner this evening at the Farmer's Diner which features locally grown foods. Following our meal, Marian Levasseur, a wonderful storyteller and life long resident of Vermont, will tell us stories of Vermont life.

Thursday morning we will travel north to Barre for a guided tour of the Rock of Ages quarry, visitor's center, and stone cutting factory. The quarry offers a breathtaking view of the 50 acre, 600-foot-deep, active quarry, the world's largest dimension granite quarry. After leaving the quarry we will make a stop at the nearby 65 acre Hope Cemetery, filled with amazing granite monuments – works of art. Then on to the state capitol in Montpelier for a brief stop. In one of the

more on back

Vermont Bus Tour Registration Form

Enclosed is a total of \$_____ for _____ persons for the bus tour on Tuesday-Friday, September 9-12, 2008
____ MHEP Members at \$495.00 per person (double occupancy) Roommate: _____
____ Non-members at \$515.00 per person (double occupancy) _____
____ MHEP Members at \$635.00 per person (single occupancy) _____
____ Non-members at \$650.00 per person (single occupancy) _____
(A \$100 per person deposit can be sent to hold your seat, with the balance due by August 15, 2008)

Name(s) _____
Address _____
e-mail _____ Phone (_____) _____

Send reservation with check, payable to MHEP, to the Mennonite Heritage Center, PO Box 82, Harleysville, PA 19438-0082. Telephone 215-256-3020; e-mail info@mhep.org. The fee is not refundable, but it is transferable.

Vermont Bus Tour

nearby parks we will partake of a delicious box lunch featuring a variety of sandwiches prepared by Pizza Chef along with other goodies. On our return trip to Quechee we will stop at village green in South Royalton to experience the flavor of small town Vermont. The green will be alive with the Thursday afternoon farmers' market, along with a number of small shops for you to browse and enjoy. (This is the area where the Schlabachs live.) This evening our dinner will be at the Weathervane Seafood Restaurant where we will have a choice of either a seafood or meat entrée. They guarantee that we will not leave their restaurant hungry. Following our meal we will return to the Taftsville Church where a group of Vermont Mennonites will entertain us with their stories.

Enroute home on Friday we will be stopping in the southwestern corner of the state in Bennington to visit southern Vermont's oldest and largest museum of history and fine arts. This museum has changing exhibits and during September will be exhibiting "Art of Vermont", a collection of portraits and landscapes by famous Vermont artists. Here too we will see the largest public collection of Grandma Moses art and memorabilia in the world.

The tour fee includes three nights lodging at the Quality Inn, three continental breakfasts, two lunches, three dinners, all admission fees, guide services, and bus driver and speaker gratuities. Lunch stops on Tuesday and Friday are not included in the tour fee.

NEW: Tour participants will board the Hagey Coach Tour bus at the Hagey Coach and Tours located at 210 Schoolhouse Road, Souderton (located 1½ miles east of Route 113), on Tuesday morning at 7:00 am, board at 6:45 A.M. The tour will return to the same location around 6:30 P.M. on Friday. Your automobiles may remain parked in Hagey's fenced in parking lot. Deadline for registration is Friday, August 22. It is anticipated that this tour will have a high interest so our recommendation is that reservation deposits be sent as soon as possible. (See registration form at the bottom of front side for details).