

# MHEP Quarterly

Mennonite Historians of Eastern Pennsylvania

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**Summer chores, circa 1950s.** *Photo by Anna Guntz*

## *In This Issue*

Summer Chores and Summer Fun	p.2	Whack & Roll Croquet Tournament	p.8
Lost in Allentown by Glenn Landis	p.3	Notes from the Advancement Desk	p.10
Traditional Art Workshops	p.6	New Treasurer for MHEP	p.11
Annual Used Book Sale	p.7	Singing the Mennonite Hymnal	p.12

# Summer Chores and Summer Fun



Strategy and fun are part of the winning combination for the Whack & Roll Croquet Tournament. *Photo by Jack Dyson*

Summer activities - both the fun and the chores - have changed over the generations but the simple joys of being outdoors in summer remain. Our cover photo depicts a typical summer chore of hanging out the laundry, circa - . Gardening and farm chores were mainstays during the summer season for early to mid twentieth century children. Swimming, fishing, picnics and Vacation Bible School were part of summer fun.

Croquet has been part of summer fun for many generations, and the Whack & Roll Croquet Tournament on Friday, May 29 and Saturday, May 30 here on the Mennonite Heritage Center campus was a great time of camaraderie and fun,. Friday featured the Senior Tournament where teams played for a traveling trophy for their retirement community/senior center. On Saturday, teams played to win cash prizes for 27 area

nonprofit organizations, and senior high youth groups played for funding for their church mission/service projects. Thank you to the many volunteers that helped with event preparation, registration, court referees, and serving food .

Whack & Roll is both a community event and important fundraiser for the Mennonite Heritage Center and we are grateful to our many corporate and individual sponsors. Enjoy the photos on pages 8 and 9 and see our website: [www.mhep.org](http://www.mhep.org) for a complete list of tournament winners and sponsors.

We also invite you to enjoy Sunday Croquet every Sunday afternoon through September 27 from 2 to 4 pm here at the Mennonite Heritage Center. Sunday Croquet is free of charge, no reservations are needed. Croquet experience isn't needed either - come and learn from other players!

The MHC is thankful to Blooming Glen Mennonite Church for helping sponsor our summer intern Monica Roth. Monica is a senior at Brown University majoring in archaeology. She is working in the Historical Library doing preliminary research for a special exhibit on the 300th anniversary of European Mennonite immigration to North America and data entry for museum artifact collections, along with helping with events. We are pleased to have Monica join the staff this summer.

I am also pleased to announce that Steve Diehl has accepted the position of Director of Advancement for the Mennonite Heritage Center. Steve grew up in Telford and graduated from Wheaton College with a B.A. in Biblical Studies and Christian Education and then went on to earn an M.A. in Theology. Steve founded an English Language Institute in Czechoslovakia and then served as Head of School for several private Christian schools where he was involved with advancement campaigns. He has also worked as a financial advisor and a limousine driver. Steve is glad to be back in his home community and looks forward to meeting members and friends of the Mennonite Heritage Center.

Sarah Heffner  
Director



Summer intern Monica Roth.  
*Photo by Sarah Heffner*



Director of Advancement  
Steve Diehl. *Photo by Sarah Heffner*

# Lost in Allentown

By Glenn H. Landis



Author Glenn H. Landis is a genealogist and volunteer in the Mennonite Heritage Center Historical Library. He was also an adventuresome six year old as this account of a visit to his aunt and uncle in Allentown demonstrates. Allentown was a favorite shopping destination of area residents during this time and many have memories of going to Hess's Department Store. The photo above, probably in Summer 1941 at Harry Bergey's farm in Franconia, shows Glenn and cousins Nancy Nyce, Patsy Nyce, Arlene Nyce, Sara Bergey, and Glenn's sister Joan. *Photo credit: Glenn Landis*

1940 was a very influential and exciting year in my life. I turned six in May, my sister Joan was born in September, my grandfather Abram Hagey died in June, and my Aunt Verna married Jim McDonald, her long time boyfriend. Aunt Verna was my favorite of the aunts and uncles who lived next door to our home in Souderton. The war in Europe was being reported to the U.S. by Lowell Thomas on the radio and others in the daily news and the young men were being required to register for the draft as the clouds of war cast a strong shadow over the U.S.

Jim and Verna began their marriage in an apartment just two doors away from our home, but then Jim's boss decided that the GE salesmen at the Allentown office should live in Allentown and so Verna and Jim moved to 20th and Green in Allentown in October of that year. We were about 25 miles away from Allentown and I didn't have many opportunities to spend time with my favorite aunt, but on November 29th I got a chance to visit at their new home in Allentown. I was to spend the night and then come home with my Aunt Miriam who would be coming for a visit on the 30th, a Saturday.

I will tell the story of my adventure on Saturday as best I can remember. I have recalled many of the events of that day over the 74 years since that day, but I may have distorted some of the happenings as the years went by. Fortunately, we do have my grandmother's personal diary for that day which does reaffirm the basic facts of the story. I will quote her entries for the day:

"Ground still covered with ice. Cold and clear this morning. Farmers have a lot of corn to husk. They had late planting of corn in June because of the wet season in June. Glenn was lost in Allentown today from 10 A.M. to 7 P.M. Verna and Jim had quite a suspense. Miriam was up too. His feet were swollen from walking."



The photo above is from the Freed reunion at the Freed farm near Cedars during the summer of 1940. Closest to the camera are Glenn's mother Mary Landis, Glenn, dad Marvin Landis and aunt Miriam Landis.

*Photo credit: Glenn Landis*

My feet were swollen because I had walked for about nine hours without sitting down! I am pretty sure that is true because I never had a memory of any place where I sat down that day. I am a bit fuzzy on the beginning of the adventure, but I do recall being a bit persistent about the chance to play outside. I was not used to "apartment in the city" life. Verna agreed with the condition that I stay close by. Well, "close by" has some elasticity for a six year old. As best I can remember, I decided to go down to the corner and take a look at the next street. The next street, evidently, was so inviting that I decided to see more of it. Trouble. I think that I started with the idea of going around the block back to my starting point at the apartment door, but when I got back around the block, the apartment wasn't there! And so I began a journey of going down to the corner of the next block and looking for something familiar. Of course this was my first trip to the neighborhood and I really didn't have much of a basis of things to look for. I remember being quite optimistic for most of the day that if I went down to the next corner and looked up the street, I would see the apartment entrance. One problem was that the apartment was the second floor of a row house which had many "cousins" that looked very similar. And so I began to explore an area of Allentown about 10 blocks wide by 15 blocks long. I began at 20th and Green and ended up on the 7th St. Pike, the main street north out of town, nine hours later.

Many years later, my aunt Miriam, who joined aunt Verna for the day, said that when the police were called in early afternoon, one of them suggested that "Oh we'll soon find him sitting on a curb and crying" and Verna responded by stamping her foot and saying "No you won't, he's a good boy and he will just keep walking and trying to find his way home!"

Well, good or not, I kept walking. I do distinctly remember crying at one point, but it was a very calculated maneuver. I had been walking and turning corners for about two hours and had not seen any other pedestrians for quite a while when I saw a woman approaching from the opposite direction. I thought that she might be helpful, but I didn't know how to initiate a contact and decided that she might stop if a small boy was whimpering and looking lost. Well, she did stop and asked what was wrong and I explained that I was lost and did not know the address or even the last name of Uncle Jim! I remember that she looked around a bit and then advised that what I need was a policeman and that I should find one and ask him for help. Yes, good idea, but approaching a city policeman would not be much easier than finding my way back to Verna's apartment. And so on I went.

At one point in the early afternoon, I found myself on Hamilton Street. Hamilton Street was the center of the city's shopping district, also the home of Hess's Department Store. My parents and many others from our area would come to Allentown to shop at Hess's. This day was a Saturday several weeks before Christmas and, as it happened, as I walked past Hess's Department Store, some people who attended our church were just leaving the store and saw me and recognized me as "Marvin's boy". Well, they did not see any reason to think that my parents were not close by, shopping at Hess's, and continued on without a concern or a word to me!



Hess's Department Store, at 6th and Hamilton Streets, Allentown, was a city landmark for generations.

I knew that the shopping district was not close to my destination and wanted to leave that area and crossed over Hamilton Street to the south side of the district. That of course was a mistake because I had not crossed Hamilton before on my journey up to that point. That direction, somehow, led me to the 8th Street Toll Bridge which was a convenient path to the south side of Allentown, but when I started to cross the bridge, a voice from the toll booth said, "Hey where are you going?". I told the man in the booth my story and he asked if I had crossed this bridge before? And I told him that I hadn't and he gave me the excellent advice that "If you didn't cross the bridge to get here, crossing the bridge will not get you home" He correctly advised that I should turn around and "go back the way you came". And I did attempt to do that back across Hamilton Street and as best I could understand it "back the way I came".

Well there were more row houses and more slightly familiar looking streets to encourage me on my way. Finally, I did come across some children playing in the grassy snow in front of their house and I stopped to watch because it was more enjoyable than anything I had done so far that day. After a bit, they asked where I lived and I told them my story about being lost. They were quite sure that I was not telling the truth because they did not see how anyone could be lost in their neighborhood. Evidently, the one girl did go in to her house and told her mother about this strange story by this strange boy because she came out and said that her mother said that if I came in to their house, she would give me a bowl of soup, but going into the home of strangers did not seem like a good idea to me and I walked on.

Now it was getting dark and a wet snow was falling. And it was about this time that I ran out of row house streets and things began to look a bit more discouraging with a more rural road with large houses and no cross streets to explore. I think that my brain was also working at a slower pace by this time. I had not had any food or drink for nine hours and had been walking all day, and I am not sure that I would have had the energy or the determination to retrace my steps back in toward the city. I'm not sure what my fate would have been. Fortunately, a young man, hitch hiking back to his home town after a graduation photo appointment in Allentown, was the one person who made the effort to save the day.

I walked past him, headed north on the 7th Street Pike and he said, "Where are you going?" I told him my story and he told me that there were no houses out there and that couldn't be the way home. Later, he related that he had also noticed that, by this time, I was walking with a pretty strong limp. He volunteered to help and also to carry me back on his shoulders to some form of contact. We went back toward the center of town and came across a corner grocery and we went into the store. He asked if I was hungry and bought me a Tastycake cupcake for the first nourishment of the adventure. He conferred with the grocer about the best way to help. I was not very helpful, the only thing that I could contribute was that my Uncle Jim worked for GE. Well, the grocer said that there was a big GE sign at a store just to the west of there and perhaps those people could help. I don't know why the police were not an option, but I think they believed that it would take a long time for them to respond.

So, the boy put me back on his shoulders and headed west to the GE sign. Fortunately, that was the store where my Uncle Jim worked, the store was open and someone took both of us back to the apartment and then took him on to his home town north of Allentown. He got some sort of reward, five or ten dollars and a ride home. I got lots of hugs and tears and a bowl of soup. Verna put me in a warm bath and came in after a few minutes to find me fast asleep. That got me to a warm bed and a long sleep. I got a ride home Sunday morning with my parents, but I don't really remember anything about Sunday except that we went to "Uncle John's" (John Mack's at the family farm in Lower Salford) for dinner and I had to wear bedroom slippers because my feet would not fit into shoes after the Saturday excursion. My parents had not been told that I was missing until rather late in the day. It may have been only when I was found that they were told and there was some unhappiness about that. A month or two later we visited the boy who rescued me at his home to thank him for his kindness. He was pleasant, but more interested in getting back to his basketball game out back. Unfortunately, my parents did not record the boy's name. I would have liked to look him up and thank him as an adult. When he stopped me, I was very tired and my mind was getting a bit numb. It could very easily have been the end of my story.

# Traditional Arts workshops



Ruth Konrad showing participants the fine points of spinning wool. *Photo by Sarah Heffner*

## Sit and Spin a While....Wool and Alpaca Fibers Workshop on July 11, 9 am to 4 pm

Participants will learn the centuries old craft of spinning wool and alpaca yarn with a drop spindle. The workshop will be led by textile artist Ruth Konrad who was given her first sheep in the early 1980's and taught herself to spin, and from there to knit and weave.

Workshop participants will start at the very beginning of the spinning process and learn about the characteristics of wool and alpaca, different preparations and their effect on the final product. Ruth will teach techniques for spinning on the drop spindle and share parallels to wheel spinning. Students will have time for one-on-one help periodically throughout the class, and the opportunity to discuss and touch examples of different kinds of handspun wool and alpaca yarns.

Bring your own drop spindle, or purchase one with your workshop registration. The workshop fee is \$55 (\$50 members). The material fee is \$10 for the wool and alpaca fiber, and an additional \$20 if you need to purchase a drop spindle. Pre-registration is required as the workshop size is limited. **Students who wish to sign up for the coordinated 'Weave your Way to an Alpaca Scarf' workshop on July 25 will have the opportunity to use their own handspun from this workshop in the project!**

Check the Mennonite Heritage Center website: [www.mhep.org](http://www.mhep.org) for registration information, email [info@mhep.org](mailto:info@mhep.org), or call 215-256-3020. No refunds are given unless a workshop is canceled for insufficient enrollment.



Weaving a table runner at the 2014 Weaving Workshop. *Photo by Sarah Heffner*

## Weave your Way to an Alpaca Scarf Workshop on July 25, 9 am to 4 pm

Have you ever wanted to try weaving? Have you hesitated because of the initial cost and daunting prospect of setting up a loom? This workshop is designed to provide a satisfying weaving experience for participants, as well as answering those beginner questions and more. The workshop will be led by textile artist Ruth Konrad. Ruth takes special joy in teaching others to weave and to enter the creative world of fiber arts.

Students will work on looms pre-warped with supersoft alpaca yarn, to weave a luxurious alpaca scarf during class. Ruth will demonstrate how to warp a rigid heddle loom if you should ever decide to purchase one. While taking breaks,

participants may want to try out a portable floor loom that will be available. Everything you learn in this class on a table loom will be of use should you decide to continue weaving, even on a floor loom. Come and learn to weave in a comfortable, relaxed small group workshop. **Students who wish to sign up for the coordinated 'Sit and Spin a While' class on July 11 will have the opportunity to use their own handspun alpaca in this project!**

Workshop fee is \$55 (\$50 member) plus a \$15 materials fee. Preregistration required. To register for the workshop, go to [www.mhep.org](http://www.mhep.org), email [info@mhep.org](mailto:info@mhep.org) or call (215) 256-3020. No refunds are given unless a workshop is canceled for insufficient enrollment.



Learning the traditional art of wood carving.  
*Photo by Sarah Heffner*

## Wood Carving Workshop on September 19, 9 am to 3 pm

Learn how to carve a whimsical bird in a folk art style in this one day workshop led by folk art wood carver Pat Russo.

Pat Russo, a native of Bucks County, has been developing her folk art wood carvings for over twenty years. Self-taught, she began working with wood when she rescued a jigsaw earmarked for the trash. Over the years, some of her most requested favorites have been her bird trees, roosters, chickens, flying pigs and snowmen. Workshop participants will carve a bird and learn how to display it on a stand. Ms. Russo will show examples of her work and explain the full process, including how to paint carvings, so that you can continue to work at home.

Wood and tools will be supplied for the workshop.

Pre-registration is required as class size is limited. The workshop fee is \$55 (\$50 members) plus a materials fee of \$10 in addition to the workshop fee. No refunds are given unless a workshop is canceled for insufficient enrollment. To register, go to [www.mhep.org](http://www.mhep.org); email [info@mhep.org](mailto:info@mhep.org) or call the Mennonite Heritage Center at 215-256-3020.

## Annual Used Book Sale July 16 to 18



Come take a break from the heat and pore over our great selection of books organized by topic.

The book sale includes good condition used books of Mennonite and local interest, geography/travel, literature, history, cookbooks, fiction and nonfiction, self help, poetry, local histories/

genealogies, and children's books; CD's, DVD's and puzzles.

Great books at low prices!

### 2015 Book Sale Hours:

Thursday, July 16, 10:00 am-7:00 pm

Friday, July 17, 10:00 am-7:00 pm (half-price)

Saturday, July 18, 10:00 am-2:00 pm (bag sale)

**Donate your used books!** We are accepting good condition used books and/or rare books for this year's sale until July 11. Bring donations to the Mennonite Heritage Center at the address below. Also needed are good condition used CD's, DVD's, and puzzles. Please no textbooks, phone books, magazines, Reader's Digest Condensed, cassettes.

## Seventh Annual Whack & Roll Croquet Tournament, May 29 and 30, 2015



The nonprofit tournament first place prize of \$5,000 sponsored by Franconia Insurance & Financial Services and Goodville Mutual Casualty company was won by the Spruce Lake Retreat Team of Owen Longacre and Kim Longacre. *Photo by Morgan Kratz.*



Let the games begin! *Photo by Morgan Kratz*



Second place prize of \$2,500 sponsored by Detweiler, Hershey and Associates was won by the Living Hope Farm Team of Ivan Derstine and Delphin Monga. *Photo by Morgan Kratz*



The Butter Valley Community Church team won the first place prize of \$1,000 in the Youth Survivor Croquet competition. The award, sponsored by Franconia Mennonite Church, will be used for their summer service trip from July 25-August 1 to Old Faithful Christian Ranch, Island Park, Idaho. *Photo by Morgan Kratz*



Twenty seven nonprofit organizations participated in the Saturday tournament. Each organization received \$500 from Bergey's Inc., our Nonprofit Community Sponsor. *Photo by Morgan Kratz*



The Ken Gehret Bluegrass Band provided entertainment for the Reception on the Lawn Friday evening. *Photo by Harry Anselmo.*

## Notes from the Advancement Desk



Roofers hard at work replacing the shingles on the Mennonite Heritage Center. *Photo by Steve Diehl*

It is a great privilege to join the staff of MHEP. I have moved back to the Indian Valley after over 30 years away. I am back “home”; and working for MHEP really feels like “home home”. Each week I find another way in which the Center holds my history. From Joel Alderfer directing me to audio interviews with my grandmother the week of Mother’s Day, to the documentation of my great-great grandfather starting the Mennonite Brethren in Christ, to John Ruth’s wonderful talk on Native Americans that taught me many things about the landscape I grew up in and love. Other stakeholders in our community have enlightened me not just on the religious and business origins of our community, but on early Mennonite engagement with athletics, an area of great interest for me. My stories are held here. As our mission states, we exist, in part, to reach the “broader community”. I understand now that we steward the stories of many local residents, regardless

of whether they have a Mennonite genealogy or faith. Many brand new residents enjoy careers with businesses founded by Mennonites, and the benefits of the values and health of a community borne in faith.

The activity (and noise!) this week in early June at the Center highlighted one of our capital projects. After 25 years here at Yoder Road, the Center badly needed a new roof. Our shingles are being replaced by a product that will cover and protect the Center and its collections for the next 50 years. This is a \$64,000 project. We are also in the final stages of construction on the Nyce barn, and in lively discussions on the many ways we may utilize this great asset in our future programs and outreaches. We need \$42,000 to completely fund the barn. Funding these two capital projects would greatly enhance our financial condition.

I am also impressed and thankful for the legacy of giving by you—our members, volunteers, founders, board members, and other donors. I hope that you will continue to support the mission of MHEP, and also help us find new partners to carry on the work beyond our lifetimes. Soon I hope to share with you some ways that you can help us find those people.

Steve Diehl  
Director of Advancement



The Nyce barn is a beautiful addition to the campus.  
*Photo by Sarah Heffner*

## New Treasurer for the Board of Trustees

The MHEP Board of Trustees has asked Tasha Alderfer to serve as Treasurer on the Board. Jeff Godshall, Treasurer from 2006 through 2014, asked to step down as treasurer but is remaining on the Board. The members of the Board thank Jeff for his many contributions as treasurer and welcome Tasha to the position. As an MHEP member, you are invited to affirm this nomination. To affirm, please cut out the form below and send to the Mennonite Heritage Center, 565 Yoder Road, Harleysville, PA 19438 or you may email your affirmation to Sarah Heffner, Director, at [heffners@mhep.org](mailto:heffners@mhep.org).



Tasha Alderfer

Tasha is an Accounting Manager with Seitz, Leatherman and Kolb and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from Eastern Mennonite University. She is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Tasha is married to Joshua Alderfer and attends Franconia Mennonite Church.

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\_\_\_\_ I affirm Tasha Alderfer as Treasurer of the MHEP Board of Trustees.

\_\_\_\_ I do not affirm Tasha Alderfer as Treasurer of the MHEP Board of Trustees.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

## MENNONITE HISTORIANS OF EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA

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Web: [www.mhep.org](http://www.mhep.org)

### Museum & Library Hours

Tuesday - Friday  
10 am to 5 pm  
Saturday, 10 am to 2 pm

The mission of the Mennonite Historians of Eastern Pennsylvania is to collect, preserve, and interpret the Anabaptist-Mennonite heritage in order to educate, inspire, and witness to the church and broader community.



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## **Singing the Mennonite Hymnal Series**

**Join us on July 12, 4 to 6 pm**  
**Mennonite Hymnal #539-594 - Gospel songs**



**And continuing through the fall months:**

August 9 - Mennonite Hymnal #333-387  
September 13 - Mennonite Hymnal #388-441  
October 11 - Mennonite Hymnal #442-476 and #607-619  
November 8 - Mennonite Hymnal #477-526  
December 13 - Mennonite Hymnal #111-153 and #595-606

The July hymn sing will be held in the meeting room of the Mennonite Heritage Center.