

© 2000

Hochstetler • Hostetler • Hochstedler Family Newsletter

Jacob Hochstetler Family Association

Volume XVII, No. 3
Goshen, Indiana
September 2003

In America since 1738.



Photo by Carolyn Nafziger

4. 2003
Kalona
IA

Jacob's Progeny Meets West of the Mississippi

By Carolyn Nafziger, Daughter of Shem T., DJH 3840

The year 2003 marks the 265th anniversary of our ancestor's immigration, and the fourth quinquennial (occurring every fifth year) descendants' continent-wide reunion. Reunions sponsored by the Jacob Hochstetler Family Association began in 1988 to commemorate 250 years since the family's 1738 arrival in America.

What would a reunion be without a big carry-in meal? Lots of food and lots of space in the big gym provided the setting for lots of visiting at noontime at the 4th Nationwide Gathering of the descendants of Jacob Hochstetler, held at Iowa Mennonite School, Kalona, Iowa.

About six hundred descendants gathered at Iowa Mennonite School in rural east central Iowa on July 12, 2003. Jacob Hochstetler's great-great-granddaughter Susanna Miller Gingerich was among the early Amish Mennonites to settle west of the Mississippi in 1846, in Iowa Territory very near the present site of the school. Visiting began before registration and was interrupted, sometimes with difficulty, only for programs and seminars.

Festivities began Friday evening at the Fairview Conservative Mennonite Church between Kalona and Sharon

Continued on page 3

Jacob's Progeny *Cont'd from page 1*

Center. Round tables in the spacious fellowship room and name tags showing which of Jacob's four adult children was your ancestor aided introductions. Small family groups were evident, but most of the 265 at the banquet were strangers when the evening began.

The delicious meal, served family style, was a great starter. Raw potatoes, one hundred pounds of them, were cooked and whipped for real home-cooked mashed potatoes. Second help-



A double registration line facilitated signing in, getting a name tag and souvenir pin, making a donation, and picking up other materials to help make the many choices available for the all-day Saturday event.

ings were appreciated with very little food left over. Most of the forty fruit pies were also consumed, with ice cream. A quartet from Sharon Bethel Amish Mennonite congregation provided a cappella music.

Dr. Frank Yoder's descriptions of detectives, curiosity seekers, and searchers "Making Sense of the Past" helped to explain and justify the very apparent interest in our family history. Yoder is a Kalona native and a historian.

Saturday's scheduled activities were a mine for genealogists, whether mainly detectives, curiosity seekers, or searchers. Hallways and foyers were filled with displays and vendors with a variety of items to sell and many publications, showcasing many inspired family projects for posterity.

Displays included Joseph Hostetler's 1787 Froschaur New Testament, and "Then and Now" regarding John's Little House. Loren Wengerd brought his beautiful *Tom Lions* painting by Sam McCausland, now deceased, recently appraised at \$45,000, and had beauti-

fully framed prints for sale.

Family charts to the third generation lined a wall in the gym. Registration on the charts, at the appropriate location, was encouraged. Genealogy helpers in the library were available to help discover individual family lines.

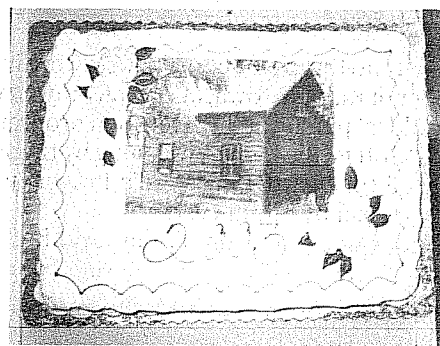
Two videos and eight seminars during three morning sessions required hard choices. Seminar leaders were Marti Swanson of Illinois (German Childhood of Anna Schönbeck Miller), Eldon Hostetler of Nebraska (West of the Mississippi), Beth Hostetler Mark of Pennsylvania (Primary Hochstetler Documents), Paul E. Hostetler of Pennsylvania (Writing Your Life Story), Daniel Hochstetler of Indiana (Updating Your Branch of the Family Tree, and slides on European & Colonial Background), J. Virgil Miller of Florida (Both Sides of the Ocean), and Jim Hostetler of Virginia (OMII-SAGA).

Book sales were brisk, especially J.



Displays of pioneer tools used by early Iowa settlers attracted the attention of modern descendants. The nearby Kalona Mennonite Museum and Archives is an excellent resource for the study of family heritage and community history.

Virgil Miller's new *Both Sides of the Ocean*, Beth Hostetler Mark's new collection of documents, *Our Flesh and Blood*, and John Showalter's new *Index of Unnumbered Persons in DBH*. Author Evie Yoder Miller introduced *Eyes at the Window*, her historical novel based on the infanticide in 1810. It will be available later this year. Vendors included the JHFA, Iowa Mennonite Historical Society, John R. Showalter, Paul Wengerd, Loren



Cutting and eating this large decorated cake after the Saturday afternoon program culminated the day for many who had come from the far corners of the country to the Iowa prairies, all descendants of the Pennsylvania pioneer Jacob Hochstetler. It was a visual, and sweet, reminder to plan to stop in at Spruce Forest Artisan Village in Grantsville, Maryland in future years and see the reconstructed Little House.

Wengerd, Eldon Hostetler, and a number of others.

The noon carry-in meal was soon served in several lines. Two long tables also in the dining area in the gym held an interesting array for the silent auction to benefit the "John's Little House" project in Spruce Forest at Grantsville, Maryland. This included a well-built toy barn, sewn items, decorative wooden birdhouses and other well-crafted donations and historical publications. Lumber salvaged from the house after the tornado was used to frame photos of the original house and had a starting bid of \$100.00.

Among other H/H/H souvenirs were suncatchers, 3-ring binders, a pin, a glass dish, and various other items, all with the delicate official JHFA edelweiss "H" logo.

Children and younger adults were present. As at most reunions, church conferences, and gatherings, the majority of planners and attendees were early retirement to elderly. In contrast to many in distinctive Amish garb, a man wearing a skullcap, a black-skinned man, and a spouse from southern Asia were visual reminders of the diversity of the family of Jacob Hochstetler today.

Twenty five states from coast to coast, including Washington, Oregon, and California, Texas, Florida, North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland and Pennsyl-

Jacob's Progeny*Continued from page 3*

vania, and the province of Ontario were represented. Bessie Yoder of Kalona, Iowa, age 97 on July 27 was recognized as the oldest person at the afternoon program/business meeting. "Gott ist die Liebe," was sung by the assembly, who also prayed (or heard!) the Lord's Prayer in the German language used by our ancestors.

Yoder suggested on Friday evening that, rather than celebrating a massacre, we learn who we are as we search for meaning in that tragic event. Jacob and his sons continued to be sustained by their Christian faith. Rachel Kreider's play, *Overcoming Evil* performed as Reader's Theater on Saturday afternoon, ponders whether Jacob's refusal to kill influenced the outcome of the French and Indian War, and challenges our faith.

Thanks to good organization and planning of the Jacob Hochstetler Family Association many descendants have been inspired again by new and renewed acquaintances with extended family and revisiting our common history.

Carolyn Nafziger from Minier, Illinois served on the Historical Committee of the Illinois Mennonite Conference. She is the past editor of the Illinois Mennonite Heritage Newsletter of the Illinois Mennonite Historical and Genealogical Society. In 1995 she co-authored with her cousin Esther Glick the large Descendants of Frederick Swartzendruber and Sarah Yoder (DJH 3820) book.

Editor's Corner*Continued from page 2*

mother.) He also reminded us that it was his father, born in 1901, who was the polling pioneer, though he also continued the career.

Another correction reminds us that while the Jost Stutzman family may have been the first Stutzman family who came to Iowa (by 1859) whose descendants remained in Iowa, as I indicated in the March 2003 Newsletter, another Stutzman family may have arrived in Johnson County a year or two earlier. Chuck Stutzman from Michigan pointed out that his great grandparents, Michael and Barbara (Stucky) Stutzman, DBH 9796, moved from Elkhart County, Indiana to Johnson County, Iowa. Records indicate that they sold 20 acres to an Andrew Meer in Johnson County already in December of 1858. While Gingerich and Kreider say that the Stutzman's daughter Veronica (their fourth child) was born in Indiana in 1857, her obituary in *Gospel Herald* says she was born in Iowa. For sure, Chuck says, his grandfather Joe (the next child) was born in Iowa in April of 1859. The next four children after Joe, from 1860 to 1864, were also born in Iowa, but the next and last child was born after the family moved to Starke County, Indiana. Apparently none of this branch remained a part of the Johnson County community—which may be why the *Hazelbrush* book by Yoder missed them.

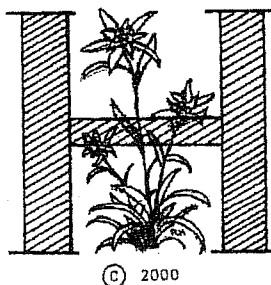
We appreciate Dr. Gallup and Chuck Stutzman's corrections and encourage others to also help us keep the record straight.

*I want to find ALL of them!
So far I have only a few thousand.*

New DBH Index Now Available

By John R. Showalter, of families DJH 5797 and DBH 13913

Index of Unnumbered Persons in Harvey Hostetler's Descendants of Barbara Hochstetler & Christian Stutzman. By John R. Showalter. 320 pages, paperback, 2003. \$12.00, postpaid.



The Index of Unnumbered Persons in the Barbara Hochstetler book is now available. There are around 35,000 children and single persons listed in it who otherwise do not appear in any index in the DBH book. These "children" are now adults and many are reaching old age or dying. This book is an important resource for family historians

trying to connect this generation into the Hochstetler family. Being a "lost generation" as far as the Barbara book's indexes go, this will often provide the connection needed to place a person whose name and age you know. The alternative to finding, for instance, a Joseph Miller born in 1935, would be to look at each of the hundreds of Miller families in the book! With this index you can go immediately to all possible Joseph Millers born that year, or around that year to a particular set of parents you know the names of, and you should be able to place or rule out Joseph as a Hochstetler relative fairly quickly.

The book has 320 pages, is soft cover, and perfect bound. It follows the same format as the 1993 Index of Unnumbered Persons in the Jacob Hochstetler book that the JHFA published. The price is \$12.00, postpaid to the lower 48 states. Overseas or Alaska/Hawaii orders, add an additional \$2.00.

Order from:
John R. Showalter
34 Daisy Hill Road
Asheville, NC 28805

Questions to:
828/298-1325 (afternoons or weekends best)
or jrshowalter@juno.com

OMII Database Grows

James Hostetler from Virginia, who did a workshop at the Kalona Gathering, continues to add entries to his database found on the website www.omii.org. As of April 2003 the number was 351,974, many of whom are H/H/H descendants or interrelated with this clan. The site is very user-friendly, and will amaze you.

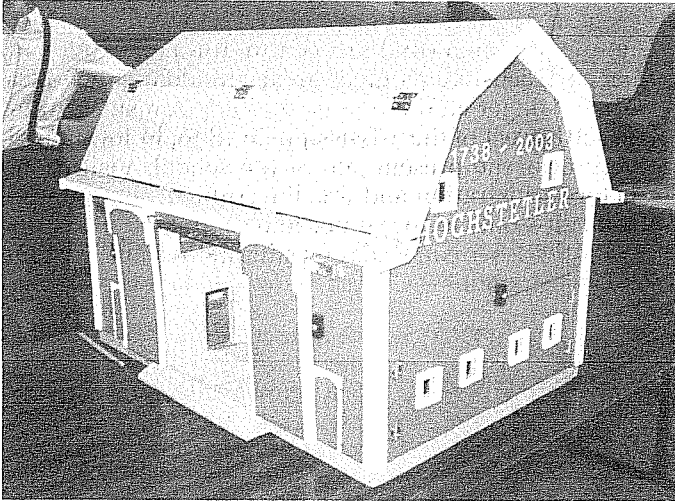


Photo by Carolyn Heitzinger

This attractive barn, donated by Carson and Ruth Hochstetler from Chesapeake, Virginia, evoked lively bidding at the Silent Auction which helped put the fund raising for the John's Little House project over the top. It will also make some little children happy whose grandpa lives at Griffin, Indiana.

JHFA, Inc. Board Elected

The Saturday afternoon meeting included a business segment in which the following persons were affirmed as the Board of Directors of the Jacob Hochstetler Family Association, Inc. for a five-year term: Owen Borkholder, Mary Lou Bowers, Patricia Dickerhoof, Daniel E. Hochstetler, Gordon Hostetler, Paul E. Hostetler, Tom Hostetler, D. Richard Miller, Milo Stalter, Anne Stevens, Paul Wingerd. Officers are appointed by the Board of Directors, according to the bylaws. The Family Association was incorporated in Indiana as a non-profit corporation in 1991.

—DEH

Thank you, Thank you!

Our Jacob Hochstetler Family Association quinquennial meeting was a great success, thanks to the hard work of everyone that helped put it together and all who attended. Board member Mary Lou Bowers and her husband, Paul, organized and led all facets of the local organization for both the banquet Friday night and the Saturday gathering, making sure that things ran smoothly. She was helped locally by: Lois Gugel who organized children's activities; Ethel Swartzendruber, in charge of the school's kitchen; Les Hochstetler, in charge of setting up tables and chairs and putting them all back again; Dale Marner & Galen Graber, in charge of running video machines; and Mitch Stutzman, who arranged the reader's theater. Many others helped these persons.

Members of the Board that helped were: Dan Hochstetler, who organized the break out sessions that provided information for everyone; Anne Stevens who worked with the local committee to make sure that the noon lunch was handled efficiently; Pat Dickerhoof who handled JHFA

sales and the money; Owen Borkholder and Tom Hostetler, with Ed Miller and Jim Hostetler, who worked in the library to help people find their descent information; and Paul Hostetler who made the frames for the Little House pictures and worked on the silent auction. **So many more people helped make this gathering a success.** They include many others who pitched in and helped as needed. Thanks to all.

—Gordon Hostetler, JHFA President

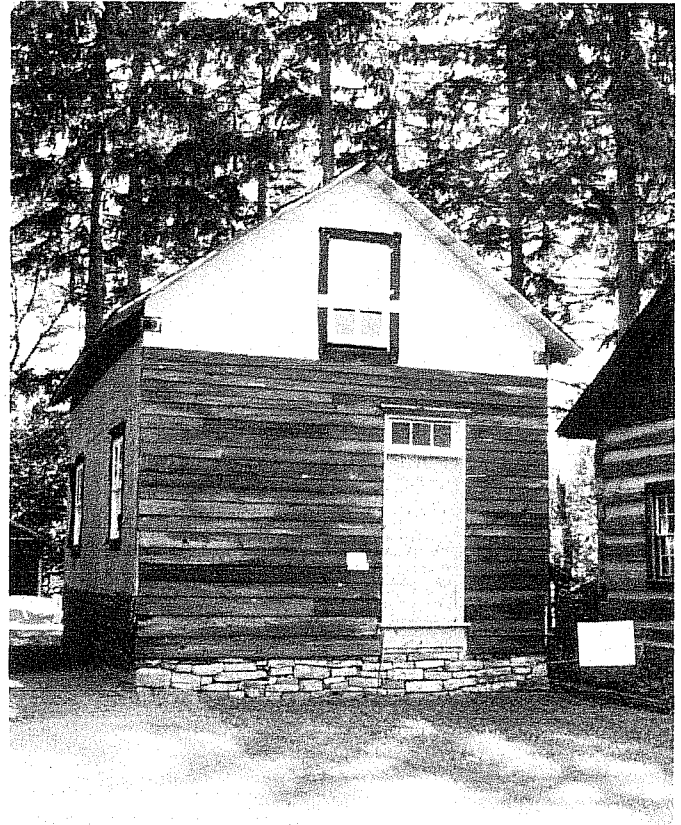


Photo by Daniel E. Hochstetler

Reconstruction of John's Little House in Spruce Forest continues under the direction of George Hostetler who planned to work at it on Labor Day weekend. For more information on further work days this fall, write him at 403 N. Allen Ave., Richmond, VA 23220 or e-mail atgeorge.hostetler@gmaccfc.com. Ph. 804/340-1955 (home). This June 2003 photo shows the original siding and foundation stone on the front.

Registration Summary

The 265 persons who attended the Friday evening banquet came from the following 24 states, plus Ontario: AL, AR, AZ, CA, FL, IA, IL, IN, KS, MD, MI, MN, MO, MT, NE, NY, OH, PA, SC, TN, TX, VA, WA, WI. Registrations on Saturday no doubt added a few states, and boosted the total registrations to approximately 600. While some persons came by various means of public and private transportation, the majority of the people were from a radius of one day's commute.

—DEH