

# CHRONICLES

WINTER 2004 THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE VALLEY BRETHREN-MENNONITE HERITAGE CENTER VOL II NO.4

## Second Unionists book released; forum set

The Massanutten Regional Library in Harrisonburg will host a forum December 7, at 7 p.m., on two new books featuring Brethren and Mennonite faith and life.

The first of these, Volume II of *Unionists and the Civil War Experience in the Shenandoah Valley*, highlights the stories of 32 Brethren and Mennonite families who lived in the Greenmount, Linville and Edom areas of northwest Rockingham County. The areas and the names of the families who lost crops, cattle, saddles, food stores, firewood, and the like to the Union Army during the war and sought compensation are:

**Greenmount:** Michael W. Bowman, Samuel Bowman, Mary Brenneman, Martin Cromer, George W.M. Evers, Adam Gowl, Emanuel Grove, John Hildebrand, William Hinkle, Benjamin, Jacob and Michael M. Miller, Christian Myers, Samuel Niswander, Samuel H. Plaugher, James Ritchie, Jackson Showalter, Emanuel Spitzer and Jacob Wenger.

**Edom:** John H. Beery, David C. Breneman, Henry, Jacob and John Geil, Jacob Shank, Jr., John E. Shaver, George W. Showalter, Isaac Wenger and Jacob W. Zirkle.

**Linville:** John D. Miller, Anthony Rhodes and Henry J. Showalter

This attractively bound hardcover retails for \$49.95, plus tax and can be purchased at Reflections of Yesteryear in the Dayton Farmers Market, Rockingham Cooperative on Grace Street in Harrisonburg and through Valley Research Associates.

Researcher Norman Wenger and editor Emmert Bittinger, with collaborator Dave Rodes, will share highlights of the book and answer questions during the forum.

Also to be featured during the forum will be *Building on the Gospel Foundation* by historians Samuel L. Horst and Edsel Burdge, Jr. They will review their 927-page history of Mennonites in the Cumberland Valley of Pennsylvania and Maryland. Because of historic links to the Shenandoah Valley during pioneer days and the Civil War era, the book is of special relevance to Valley residents and will be available during the forum for \$49.99.

## "Legacy Alive" born, Chronicles re-shaped

The New Year will bring the birth of a new publication, *Legacy Alive*, designed specifically for CrossRoads members, and a modification of *Chronicles*. The new *Legacy Alive* will carry in-depth stories, articles and features that highlight the Brethren-Mennonite legacy, while the streamlined *Chronicles* will focus on upcoming events and activities.

If you signed on as a CrossRoads member at the \$100 or higher level, you will automatically receive *Legacy Alive*. To become a member, complete the coupon on the back and return it with your membership check made out to CrossRoads.

## volunteers needed!

A team of staff and volunteers is working vigorously at preparing the Welcome Center and CrossRoads site to serve the public. Your gifts of time and expertise are requested in this effort. The work includes renovating the former Landes House for exhibits, lectures and oral and video introductions to Brethren and Mennonite life. Volunteer carpenters will be especially helpful January through March 2005.



## first Harvest Day well attended

More than 600 persons braved threatening clouds and cool weather to participate in the first Harvest Day at CrossRoads on October 16. The boiling of molasses from sorghum cane syrup was a highlight of the day. Billed as "old timey fun for everyone," the day offered intriguing activities for adults and children - a sorghum maze, log sawing, shelling and grinding corn to feed to barnyard animals, hayrides, apple cider pressing, board games and stories of faith from the Civil War era, such as that of John Kline, martyred because of his Christ-like actions to treat wounded soldiers of the North and South.

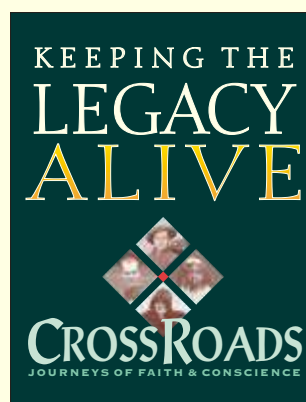
Additional activities included dulcimer, banjo, violin music and a cappella singing; a display of old tractors and farm machinery, a blacksmith forging nails to give away, and spinning, weaving, and quilting artisans. Guests bought more than 13 cases of molasses during the day. Ham sandwiches, corn bread muffins, beef vegetable soup, hotdogs, molasses cookies, home baked breads and cider and coffee were also served.

### Valley Brethren-Mennonite Heritage Center

711 Garbers Church Road  
P.O. Box 1563  
Harrisonburg, VA 22803  
540-438-1275

[www.VBMHC.org](http://www.VBMHC.org)

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