



Tom Sawin Photo

The Funk house in Singers Glen built c. 1810

## Joseph Funk A man of song

Joseph Funk is known as the Father of Song in northern Virginia. His legacy includes shaped notes and a hymnbook known as *Harmonia Sacra*. Funk was born in eastern Pennsylvania and moved in 1786 to Virginia as a boy of seven or eight when his family settled in what is now Singers Glen. After he married, he bought land from his father-in-law, Henry Roth, and built a log house on it (see photo).

When Joseph was 38, he produced a German-language songbook, *Choral Music*, using shaped notes. In 1847 he bought a printing press and bindery equipment and began his own printing and publishing business in Singers Glen. With the publication of the 5th edition of his hymnbook, he changed the name to *Harmonia Sacra* (Latin for Sacred Harmony). The 25th edition is still in print today.

You can read a fuller account of his life in *Legacy Alive* by becoming a CrossRoads member with a gift of \$100 or more. Please use the coupon below to become a member or send a contribution.

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# CHRONICLES

THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE  
VALLEY BRETHREN-MENNONITE  
HERITAGE CENTER

SUMMER 2005 VOL III NO. 2



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Whitmer School/Cove Mennonite Church

## Cove Church Homecoming Set

This first homecoming service for the Whitmer School/Cove Mennonite Church at the CrossRoads site is set for Sunday, June 5, 10 a.m.- 3 p.m. It will include a potluck meal, singing, storytelling and a meditation. All who attend should bring a potluck dish and a lawn chair.

The 100-year-old school/ meeting-house now graces the CrossRoads site with a fresh look. Volunteer James Brunk completely rebuilt the bell tower to replace the rotting and damaged original. Broadway Metal put a rolled metal roof on the building in April, and Brunk, with help from others, built the front porch, painted the building, restored the oak blackboard and oiled the floor.

## FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

When you drive by CrossRoads on Garbers Church Road, you can now see two beautiful historic buildings on our hillside—the 150-year-old red-brick Burkholder-Myers House and now the wonderfully restored 100-year-old white-frame Whitmer School.

A third building farther down the hill with a new face and more space has been named the Welcome Center. This former residence is not historic, but it will soon entertain the “pilgrims” and “tourists” that we are expecting.

Many people are involved in getting the Welcome Center ready to open to the public. Some are completing the renovations and others are preparing the furnishings and exhibits.

Watch for news about our opening!



Steve Shenk, Executive Director

## Welcome Center Born

Renovation of the Landes house at CrossRoads is giving birth to a Welcome Center. Major changes include moving the main entrance to the west side and expansion inside for wall and floor exhibits. A task force is now developing a program, including exhibits, to introduce visitors to the CrossRoads campus and to the heritage of the Brethren and Mennonites.

A formal opening and an unveiling service are planned for later in the summer. Check the web site and watch for other publicity regarding the date and time for this open house and new beginning at Crossroads.

Chronicles is published quarterly by the Valley Brethren-Mennonite Heritage Center to nurture faith and life in Jesus Christ by sharing news and highlights of the CrossRoads mission and ministry.

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