

of the
Brethren in Christ
Historical Society

Roxbury Camp hosts the annual meeting of the Brethren in Christ Historical Society

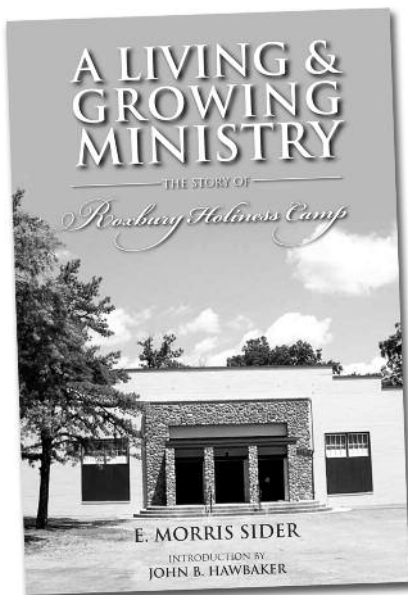
This year the Brethren in Christ Historical Society will hold its annual meeting in the tabernacle of Roxbury Holiness Camp on Saturday, July 31, from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. This enables the Historical Society to join with the Roxbury Holiness Camp in celebrating the Camp's 75th anniversary. The meeting is open to the public, and everyone on the camp ground is invited to attend.

The Historical Society and Roxbury Holiness Camp are joint publishers of a book-length history of the Camp entitled, *A Living and Growing Ministry: The Story of Roxbury Holiness Camp*. The book will be released in the morning service on July 31. In the Historical

Society's meeting, Morris Sider, the author of the book, will speak on writing the Camp's story. Historical Society leaders will report on the Society's work. Two members will briefly tell why they are members of the Historical Society.

A display table will exhibit various Historical Society materials and some of its publications will be available for purchase.

Traditionally, the annual meeting of the Historical Society begins with dinner. However, a special meal is not part of this year's program. Persons attending the Historical Society's meeting are welcome to stay for the regular Saturday evening meal, available in the Camp's dining room on a free-will offering basis.



E. Morris Sider
Editor

Glen A. Pierce
Contributing Editor

The Newsletter of the Brethren in Christ Historical Society is published three times a year. No subscription charge. Comments, ideas, article suggestions, and letters may be directed to the Editor, Brethren in Christ Historical Society, P.O. Box 310, Grantham, PA 17027, (717) 766-7767. E-Mail: msider@messiah.edu Web: www.bicweb.org/ministries/histsoc

Storytelling with Edgar Moyo

The Historical Society is sponsoring an evening of storytelling by Edgar Moyo on Monday, July 26 at 7:00 p.m. The event will be held in the chapel at Messiah Village, 100 Mount Allen Drive, Mechanicsburg, PA.

Mr. Moyo will tell of his ancestors' relationships with missionaries, recall his experiences with teachers in Brethren in Christ schools in Africa, and relate conversations with missionaries in Bulawayo, Zambia, and the United Kingdom.

Mr. Moyo is a native of Zimbabwe and the son of Mapendhla

Moyo, who studied at Messiah College in the mid-1960s. Since 1964, he has resided in the United Kingdom. He has served for many years in the Department of Care Services of the London Borough Council.



Non-members of the Historical Society are invited to attend this meeting.

Preview of the August Journal

Here is a preview of some of the articles that will appear in the August issue of *Brethren in Christ History and Life*:

- A short biography of Ephraim Disi, Brethren in

Christ Church leader in Malawi

- Dwight Thomas's article (with photographs) of early missionary photography in what is now Zimbabwe
- An article in which Ruth Myers Dourte reflects on her life as a pastor's wife

and counselor in the Brethren in Christ Church

- Continued discussion by three writers on the issue of Brethren in Christ attending the theatre (a discussion stemming from Devin Thomas's article in the April 2010 issue)

- An article on Old Order River Brethren love feasts and what their love feasts tell us about those of the Brethren in Christ in earlier years
- A series of paintings by Darleen Maust



Excerpts from *A Living and Growing Ministry: The Story of Roxbury Holiness Camp*

This chapter captures varied scenes of camp life, most of them within the last twenty-five years. The scenes follow no highly organized scheme; they are more in the nature of a series of snapshots.

■ Howard Vermont from Ontario, Canada, saw the camp director [John Hawbaker] in one of his unofficial roles. “One year when we attended Roxbury, we slept over after the last meeting on Sunday. Very few people were left at the camp. On my way down to breakfast I saw John Hawbaker picking up garbage. ... It brought tears to my eyes, and still does years later. No one was there to see him. He was just doing what he always does — serving where there was a need. My respect for John soared at that time and has grown since.”

■ [In the *Roxbury Ripples* in 1991] an item appeared on the ever-popular snack bar. “In the snack bar section that sells drinks and ice cream is another handy invention designed by Leroy Bert. When a person buys a pint of ice cream and asks for it to be cut in half, you are sure to get a true share because the pint is placed in a wooden form especially made with a slice mark. Leroy’s wife, Dorothy, finished the wooden invention with vegetable oil. Take a look when you buy a pint of ice cream.”

■ From the newsletter in 1999 comes this splendid account, entitled

“Sunbeamers Are Shining Examples.” “Grammie Hawbaker told this story from her life to the Sunbeamers yesterday. When just a young girl, she listened to the tempter during a peanut scramble and lied about the number of peanuts she picked up, in order to receive a prize. She lived with the guilt of that choice until she was grown up. Then she asked forgiveness and made restitution. She urged children to seek grown-up help when Satan is trying to trick them.

“After Grammie’s story, a child came to Mrs. Blowers, feeling troubled. Instead of putting the money she had collected for the missions project into the offering, she spent it on herself at the bookstore. She was so sorry. She was led in a prayer of confession, and then she visited Mr. Blowers in the bookstore to ask forgiveness.”

■ At the end of the 2000 camp meeting the nurses reported “one person admitted to the hospital, one broken arm, three burns, and multiple bicycle tumbles” (*Roxbury Ripples*, August 13, 2000).

■ In 1995, Roxbury Holiness Camp celebrated its sixtieth anniversary. “Camp Director John Hawbaker and his wife Jolene were invited to the

platform where Eugene Heidler, chairman of the Board of Directors, cut the 60th anniversary cake and gave them some. Then the whole congregation was invited to enjoy the anniversary cake at supper this evening. ... The cake was made by Maggie Hawbaker (sister-in-law of Bishop John). In creating the larger layer cake and the 19 sheet cakes, Maggie used 64 cake mixes, 16 dozen eggs, 38 pounds of 10X sugar, and 2 large cans of shortening!” (*Roxbury Ripples*, August 6 and 12, 1995).

■ In 2009 an article asked in its title, “Has Mae Holtry Rocked Your Baby?” “In the Friday evening service, Mae Holtry was honored for her 28 years of service here at Roxbury Camp. John Fickett asked everyone under the age of 29 to stand. What a sea of children, teens and young adults rose to their feet throughout the tabernacle! Mae, what a blessing and influence you have been” (*Roxbury Ripples*, August 8, 2009).

■ “Who Feeds the Cooks?” asks an entry in the August 7, 2000, issue of *Roxbury Ripples*. The answer is “Each morning at 8:30, Monday through Saturday, Pastor Si Lehman has devotions for the cooks, dining room staff and daily helpers. This year his theme is on Gideon. This morning he spoke on Gideon, Man of ‘Hospitality’. ... This is Pastor Si’s twelfth year ‘feeding’ these workers.”

■ “On Friday afternoon a large group trekked to the swimming hole in the creek for a baptismal service for two children, one teen, and one adult who wished to be baptized. They were Darren Dutterer from Virginia, Laura Musser, from Greencastle, Betsy Shetterly, from Millersburg, [and] Benjamin Zook, from Virginia” (*Roxbury Ripples*, August 11, 2001).

■ On the last Sunday [of 2001], Henry Ginder declared, “I can feel God everywhere I go on the grounds.” **BIGS**

the search for piety and obedience.

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Photo Friday: Tuning In to "Gems of Grace"
June 25, 2010 by devincthomas



Members of the Upland (Calif.) College faculty -- (L to R) David Carlson, announcer/producer; Ernest Boyer, chairman; William Boyer, business manager/recording engineer; Royce Saltzman, music director; and Owen Alderfer, radio minister -- during a 1958 taping of a short-lived Christian radio broadcast titled "Gems of Grace." Courtesy of the Brethren in Christ Historical Library and Archives.

ABOUT

"the search for piety and obedience" isn't as sanctimonious as it sounds. (At least, I hope not.) Rather, it's an allusion to a formational text, and a statement of intent.


At this blog, my goal is to explore the history, theology, and identity of the Brethren in Christ—an evangelical Christian body with roots in the Anabaptist, Pietist, and Wesleyan holiness traditions—and to engage with other scholars and writers studying the life and thought of this unique Protestant denomination.

Blogger's Interest in Brethren in Christ History

Devin C. Manzullo-Thomas is a writer and aspiring student of American religious history. A 2009 graduate of Messiah College, Devin currently serves as an associate in congregational relations for the Brethren in Christ Church. Below he writes about a blog he has initiated.

As the title of Carlton Wittlinger's seminal history contends (and as a generation of Brethren in Christ historians has further shown), the Brethren in Christ have long embodied a "quest for piety and obedience." My blog, allusively titled "the search for piety and obedience" (<http://devincthomas.wordpress.com/>), is a personal attempt to contribute to the ongoing conversation about the nature of the Brethren in Christ heritage.

The goal of the blog is twofold: to serve as an online repository for the reading and research I've been doing in Brethren in Christ history and life, and to facilitate dialogue about that subject.

As any good blogger will tell you, success or failure depends entirely on an active and engaged readership! For that reason, I implore you to regularly visit and read "the search for piety and obedience," and to add your comments to the blog: share personal recollections; add to my conclusions; disagree with my observations and interpretations. (To leave a comment, click the "Add a Comment" link at the end of each post.) You can also subscribe to the blog (using the "Subscribe" box on the right-hand column of the home page) and receive e-mail updates about new posts. Please join me as I continue to investigate our shared heritage as Brethren in Christ! 

New Membership and Renewal Information

If you are receiving a sample copy of this issue of the *Newsletter*, we invite you to consider joining the Historical Society.

As a member of the Historical Society, each year you will receive three issues of the journal, *Brethren in Christ History and Life*, three issues of the society's *Newsletter* and, from time to time, free copies of books published by the Historical Society. For example, last year members received a copy of Morris Sherk's history of Rapho District, *In the World But Not of the World: Rapho District (1872-1957)*. Of course, members have the privilege of attending annual meetings as well as other activities sponsored by the Historical Society.

The cost of an annual membership is \$10.00; contributions above that amount receive a tax-deductible receipt. The various categories of membership in the Historical Society are:

- \$ 10 regular membership
- \$ 25 contributing membership
- \$ 50 supporting membership
- \$100 patron membership

Renewal Reminder

Current members, please check the mailing label on this *Newsletter*. If it has "10" on the upper-right corner, your membership has been paid through calendar year 2010. If your label reads "09," our records indicate that your membership expired at the end of 2009. In order to continue receiving the journal and this *Newsletter*, please send your renewal check as soon as possible. Otherwise, we will need to place your name on the "inactive" list.

In the U.S., make checks payable to "Brethren in Christ Historical Society" and mail to: Brethren in Christ Historical Society; Messiah College P.O. Box 3002; Grantham, PA 17027.

In Canada, make cheques payable to "Canadian Conference BIC Church," and on the memo line, write "Historical Society." Mail to: Leonard Chester; 209-400 Steele St.; Port Colborne, ON L3K 5Z7.

THE Newsletter

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Brethren in Christ Church

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Images from the Past

From the photograph collection of the Brethren in Christ Historical Library & Archives



Norman and Eunice Wingert were Brethren in Christ relief and service workers, serving with Mennonite Central Committee from 1948 to 1970 in Germany, Austria, Japan, Hong Kong, Burundi, and in Reedley, Calif. In one of their photo albums now in the Archives, Norman makes the following comment about this photograph:

“I consider this as one of my most significant photographs. It is of an old water well in the Holy Land. The grooves in the stone walls of the well stretches one’s imagination as to how many buckets of water were drawn to wear down these many grooves. There is no one at this well, but I have seen wells with many women drawing water.”

*“The LORD, the LORD, is my strength
and my song; he has become
my salvation.”*

*With joy you will draw water from
the wells of salvation.*

— Isaiah 12:2-3, NIV