



The Heritage

www.goesselmuseum.com

Winter 2023

Faith, Courage, Action: 1874-2024. 150 years. Celebrating the Mennonite Immigration

By Museum Board Members

The 150th Celebration Planning Committee is preparing a series of events throughout 2024 to help us learn and tell the stories of the immigrants who came here from Russia in 1874.

Buy a commemorative calendar so you don't miss a single event!

Our first event will be at the Mennonite Heritage and Agricultural Museum's annual meeting, **January 28, 2024**. Rod Ratzlaff will present "Origins of Alexanderwohl, Hoffnungsau, and Lone Tree: the Legacy of the Old Flemish Mennonites of Przechowko." The Mennonites who immigrated to Molotchna and became the Alexanderwohl church lived in Prussia for many years prior to their 1820 immigration to Russia. Rod will provide us with information about the villages and life in and around Pzrechowko.

On **February 18**, Mark Jantzen, history professor at Bethel College, will tell about our ancestors' lives during their 54 years in Molotchna Colony in Ukraine, Russia.

April 5 will be our annual Heritage Dinner. Join us for a meal of German sausage, horseradish, zwieback, and more. Mayleen Thiesen Vinson will give a presentation, "Packing for the Journey." What to take? Will it fit? What about food for the journey?

The Mennonite Men's chorus will be honoring the immigrants through music on **April 7**, Bethel College, 4 pm and **April 21**, Tabor College, 4 pm.

May 20 is an informal opportunity to share with each other our experiences, to keep our ancestors' stories and traditions alive through genealogy notebooks, videos, and interviews. MH&AM volunteers and staff will also be available to help you identify your ancestors using the GRANDMA program and other records. We can help find the grave sites of your immigrants so your family can mark them with a Tyvek streamer with the names of your family lineage or a note of thanks, whatever is meaningful for your family. This is one

150th Celebration, continued on page 3

Upcoming Events:

Museum Hours

October & November:
Tues - Sat: 12 pm - 4 pm
Closed Sundays & Mondays
Open by appointment
December through February

Fourth Monday Genealogy Group

7:00 pm Goessel City
Community Room

November 27

Holiday family history ideas
December — no meeting
See p. 3 for 2024 info.

Annual Meeting

January 28, 2024
Speaker: Rod Ratzlaff
The perfect time to renew
your museum
membership!
See p. 4 for details.

**Commemorative
calendars with event
dates, pictures, and
historical info will be for
sale at the museum store
soon!**

Low German Saying

Schmatji goot; tjeep di uck. Tastes good; buy some for yourself also.

Mennonite Heritage and Agricultural Museum Board Members:

John Janzen, President; Pat Penner, Vice-President; Sandy Duerksen, Secretary; Aileen Esau, Treasurer; * Fern Bartel, Museum Director; * Roger Bartel, Myron Goertzen, Kris Schmucker, Lloyd Voth, Nelson Voth, Connie Wiens, James Wiens. *non-voting members

Ditt unt Daut (this and that) by Fern Bartel, Museum Director

Museum Store Refresh

I wish to thank board members Sandy Duerksen and Pat Penner for redesigning the museum store. Come see its fresh, new look!

Shop local first. Christmas is coming! We now have 150th celebration memorabilia—t-shirts, tea towels, vinyl stickers, and more—and ZZPI red fire truck t-shirts in sizes for you to XXL. Show your hometown pride with a Goessel sticker for only \$3. Check out the half-price items on the discount table. The museum store will be open in November and December, 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm, Tuesday through Saturday. The last day to shop before Christmas is December 22.

150th Celebration Price List

Adult T-shirts	\$25.00
XXL Adult T-shirts	\$27.00
Tea Towels	\$10.00
Vinyl Stickers	\$3.00
Small Pins	\$2.00
Calendars	TBD

Giving Tuesday is November 28. Stop by the museum's table at Goessel High School's Blue-and-White Basketball Scrimmage, beginning at 5:30 pm.



Last Chance for Patterson Matching Funds!

Matching funds are still available from the Patterson Family, and you have one more opportunity to double the value of your gift! **Designated contributions received by Friday, November 24, will generate an additional 70% for the museum** and 30% for the Goessel Community Foundation. Donations the museum receives will be added to the endowment fund, providing long-term benefits. Yearly distributions will be used for upkeep and renovations of the museum's buildings and will help us tell our story and celebrate the 150th anniversary of Immigrants with "Faith, Courage, and Action" settling in the Goessel, Kansas, area.

Please make checks payable to MH&AM with "Patterson Matching Funds" in the memo line. Mail to P.O. Box 231, Goessel, KS 67053, or drop your check off at the museum. Thank you for considering this exciting opportunity!

Busy ZZPI, Goessel's First Fire Truck



ZZPI visited its "old home" for the fire department's pancake feed during Goessel's Harvest Festival.



Goessel Elementary School students got an up-close education with ZZPI, thanks to Pat Penner. Ilona Abrahams told stories in and about the Prep School. Fern Bartel talked about the Liberty Bell and displays in the Turkey Red Wheat Palace. Brian and Nancy Stucky led groups in the Immigrant House. Emily Gibson taught lessons in the South Bloomfield school.

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way to help you, your children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren learn your family roots and your stories by claiming your immigrant whose DNA and cultural traditions you may carry.

May 26: Tour of the Alexanderwohl, Goessel, Tabor, and Wedel cemeteries. Some of the immigrants' tombstones will come alive with the stories they would tell if they could only talk.

Memorial Day Weekend, the flags, "Immigrant with Faith, Courage and Action - Thanks be to God," will be back in the Alexanderwohl, Goessel, and Tabor cemeteries. We plan to put flags in other area cemeteries including small family plots. If you know of grave sites of immigrants who need to be honored with a flag, contact the museum with the information.

On **June 9**, Arlin Buller will present "A Mennonite Timeline: The Big Picture." Using his color-coded timeline, he puts the story of Mennonites in context of what was happening in history. The timelines will be available at this presentation.

July 14th we will be hearing the dual story of what was happening with the Indigenous people at the same time as our ancestors were immigrating. While it might seem that our stories would be very different, there are some common threads. Pauline Sharp (adopted great-granddaughter of Chief Washunga of the Kanza people and granddaughter of Lucy Tayiah, the first woman chief of the Kanza) and Annette Voth (great-great-granddaughter of immigrants David and Helena (Voth) Unruh, Heinrich J.A. and Katarina (Unruh) Voth) will share their stories as well as the story of the Alexanderwohl people and the Kaw Nation people.

August 2, 3, and 4 are Country Threshing Days. At Friday evening's multimedia presentation, we will hear the voices of the immigrants through their words, pictures, and vignettes. Nancy and Brian Stucky compiled the pictures and narratives.

In **September**, the museum will host field trips for all of Goessel Elementary School's students to discover, through hands-on activities, what it meant to be an immigrant.

September 22 (with a rain date of September 29), 150 years after their arrival on the Kansas prairie, we will stand on the ground where the immigrants first lived, ate, and worshiped. Brian



Stucky will tell stories of the arrival of the Mennonites and life in the immigrant houses as they worked toward establishing their homesteads and farms.

Flags will be out in the Alexanderwohl Cemetery. Arlin Buller will tell about the Cimbria, the ship that carried many ancestors of the Alexanderwohl Church across the ocean. How big was it? What were the conditions? Where did they sleep? What did they eat? Find out on **September 22!**

October 5th will be Goessel's Harvest Festival. The museum will be demonstrating some of the artifacts in the museum. Try your hand at weaving, shelling corn, using the old wooden mangle, making rope and more!

On **November 24**, a joint church worship service will be held, sponsored by the Goessel Ministerial Alliance. Come celebrate and be grateful for our ancestors, our community, and our heritage.

For up-to-date information on all of the events, go to www.goesselmuseum.com or follow the "Mennonite Heritage and Agricultural Museum" on Facebook.

Fourth Monday Meetings

The November 27 meeting of the Fourth Monday History and Genealogy Group will share ideas for family holiday events, focusing on family history. No meeting will be held in December. In 2024, the group plans to concentrate on the immigration story. Call Anna Beth Birky (620-386-0381) for information.



Mennonite Heritage and Agricultural Museum
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 Goessel, KS 67053

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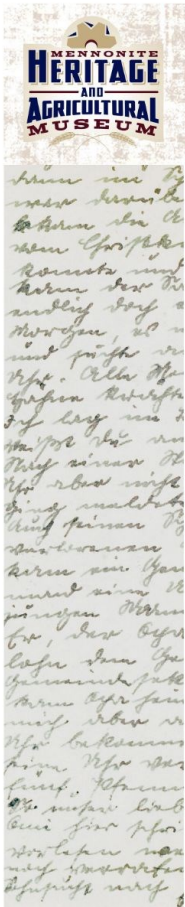
(620) 367- 8200
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 www.goesselmuseum.com



Museum Hours:
 March, April, October,
 & November:
 Tues - Sat: 12 pm - 4 pm
 Closed Sundays & Mondays
 Open by appointment
 December through February

May - September:
 Tues - Sat: 10 am - 5 pm

The Heritage
 Written & edited by:
 Fern Bartel, Director
 Aileen Esau, Treasurer
 Museum Board Members
 Anne Harvey



MENNONITE HERITAGE & AGRICULTURAL MUSEUM

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

150th Anniversary Celebration Kickoff

Rod Ratzlaff
 presents:
 "Origins of
 Alexanderwohl,
 Hoffnungsau, &
 Lone Tree: the
 Legacy of the Old
 Flemish
 Mennonites of
 Przechowko"



Traditional faspá following presentation

January 28, 2024, 2:00 pm
Goessel Church
 109 S Church, Goessel, KS

Join or renew your annual
 museum membership!

www.goesselmuseum.com 620.367.8200