



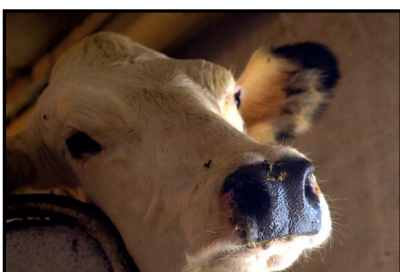
# The Heritage

www.goesselmuseum.com

Fall 2019

**Pioneer History** (as translated from the *Bethesda Herald* by Lydia Pankratz, edited by Norman Pankratz)

Continuing the celebration of the museum's 45th anniversary, these experiences of first getting settled in Kansas are from Cornelius C. Wedel. Paraphrased by Fern Bartel.



## One Ornerly Cow

During the beginning years, immigrants lived in villages. They used the old European style of taking all the village cattle at one time to graze on the still-open prairie. A herdsman was hired for the months of March to November. They herded the cattle out in the morning and back at night. At the end of the day, a swift runner had to separate these cows into the correct owner's yard.

One cow had an American name, "Bobtail." She received this name because of a short tail with a little bunch of hair at the end, which stretched up when she ran. As the leader of the herd, she was always looking for something better. The vegetable gardens were close to the alley. The cows had to pass these gardens to get to their own yards. Some of the villagers had made deep trenches bordering their yards to keep out unwanted cattle. Bobtail just jumped over them. If the children were not there to protect the garden, Bobtail was able to get the best of any garden, including the best heads of cabbage. And yet she was as skinny as the cows in "Pharaoh's dream."

She even had other tricks. About half a mile from the village, a pond had been made where the herd was driven to drink, and the boys, at times, took their baths. One day C.C. Wedel wore the velvet vest he had gotten for Christmas, in which he took great pride. They took their clothing off to bathe while the herd grazed nearby. All of a sudden one of the boys shouted, "Nu frat dea zantvast op!" "Now she is even eating your vest!" Sure enough, Bobtail had the vest in her mouth.

They ran quickly after her, but who could catch her? Just a narrow strip of material and the brass buckle was all that was left.

*Pioneer History, continued page 3*

*Remember this Plautdiesch verse?  
"Aule enna Reaj aus Klosses Tjeaj."  
All in a row like Klassen's cows.*

## Upcoming Events:

### Museum Hours

See pg 4 for our  
Fall & Winter hours

### Pizza Fundraiser Meal

Alexanderwohl Mennonite  
Church, November 13

### Museum Store Christmas Open House

Saturday, November 16  
10 am – 4 pm

### Christmas Shopping Hours in the Museum Store

Tuesdays - Saturdays  
12-4 pm until December 14

### Second Monday Family History & Genealogy Group

7 pm, Goessel City Building

#### November –

Sharing Family History &  
Traditions with Family,  
Elaine McAllister

#### December –

Sharing Christmas Memories,  
Marcia Zuercher -  
Photo History Books

#### January – No meeting

February - Planning & sharing

### Museum Annual Meeting

January 19, 2020, 2:30 pm  
Goessel Mennonite Church  
Speaker to be announced  
Faspa

## Mennonite Heritage and Agricultural Museum Board Members:

Steve Banman, President; John Janzen, Vice President; Anna Beth Birky, Secretary; Aileen Esau\*, Treasurer; Fern Bartel\*, Museum Director; Roger Bartel, Howard Birky, Myron Goertzen, Anne Harvey, Ladene Herrick, Nelson Voth, Connie Wiens, and James Wiens. \*Non-voting members

## Ditt unt Daut (this and that) My Thoughts on Time by Fern Bartel, Museum Director



This fall we had the “Russian Mennonite Clocks and more” special exhibit. I just love hearing the clocks tick and “call out” their chime. The oldest is dated 1822, and the youngest is from the 1920s.

Thanks to Jerry Toews for teaching me about the clues left by the Russian Mennonite clockmakers, such as the pendulum styles, construction of the clock hands, and the small doors in the back that open to show the clockworks. He and Leann loaned four Russian Mennonite clocks, and several others loaned a variety of clocks and pocket watches. Kitchen/mantel clocks from the early 1900s have a personality of their own, their own individual voice (chime) and how they work.

This museum runs on “volunteer time.” Volunteers regularly mow grass (a guest mentioned this just last

week), clean buildings, serve as docents, and staff the museum store. Mayleen Vinson puts together the museum’s newsletter and keeps the Facebook page interesting. Bethel College students, Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church attenders, and museum board members have volunteered their time and labor recently.

I really love the museum guests who take time to get off the well-beaten interstate path. Two Goossen sisters from Florida stop in whenever there is a local relative’s funeral.

Diana Plett Russo (right) traveled from Iowa to see her ancestor’s smuggled Russian doll. Loyal D. Ediger spent countless hours carving the scale models of three tractors (left), a combine,



and the travel trailer used for wheat harvest in his youth. Now museum guests get to enjoy them, also.



### Recent Events:

#### **Country Threshing Days, August 2, 3, & 4**

**KWCH 12 Where’s Shane?** came to the Museum’s Turkey Red Wheat Palace Friday morning of Country Threshing Days. Shane Konicki interviewed local celebrity Bruce Funk about the Liberty Wheat Bell, the cook shack, and the first Goessel fire engine.

**Friday Evening Entertainment** during Country Threshing Days: Knocknasheega Celtic Band with Correy Academy Dancers.

**Schroeder Barn Facelift** celebration was held on Sunday afternoon. About 50 guests enjoyed telling their barn stories and listening to several Schroeder Barn family descendants.

#### **Volunteer Community Service Days**

*September 18*, Bethel College student volunteers dug a ditch around the Schroeder Barn for drain tile. They also readied the landscaping in front of the Museum store for new ornamental grass, planted by Steve and Sandy Banman (*right*).

*September 29*, Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church Community Service Day.

“Fun” projects included pulling off old wallpaper in Schroeder Barn (*far right*), sweeping, and scraping paint on the porch of Friesen House. New signs were put up along Hwy K-15.



**Fall 2019 Heritage Lecture, October 5:** Arlin Buller (standing on left) told about “Seagoing Cowboys.” Donley and Carol Duerksen shared family history with “Tractors to Poland.”



**Ilona Abraham’s Goessel Elementary School fifth grade class** came for the Russian Passport Scavenger Hunt.

*Give the gift of experience - Purchase a 2020 Museum Membership for that special person on your list!*

## Homestead Beginnings

The Lumberyard at Halstead, KS, had made a contract with Mr. D. C. Ruth to build 65 houses for 65 families; so Mr. Ruth took the responsibilities with 130 carpenters till the middle of December to complete the contract. These houses were built in one model\*, thirty feet by forty feet, one story but built so that another floor could be added later. The upper floor was the storage area for harvested grain. Not all the houses were made of lumber; native sod was also used. When prairie was broken it gave nice sod, easily worked with and readily available since winter was near at hand. After a period of living in the immigrant houses, the families whose houses were partly finished moved in; sometimes many families lived in one house.

[After a difficult winter,] the spring 1875 found [some] settlers had been fortunate to have plowed or broken land, leased for money, where they sowed their summer grain and planted potatoes. They started to break the prairies either with horses or oxen. Those that used oxen had problems that required much patience. If the oxen saw a water puddle, they headed straight to the hole and laid down in it while still being attached to any field implement.

The Hard Red Turkey wheat they had brought along from Russia in small bags was later ordered in larger quantities [from Russia] by Mr. Bernhard Warkentin. They harvested wheat with scythes brought from Russia and tied in bundles by hand taking a little bunch of helms knotted together. As soon as the grain was dry, it was rolled over with a big stone pulled by a horse thereby threshing out the grain. They had made hand forks from wood that were much larger than the metal forks of today.\*\* This threshed grain was thrown up in the air so the wind could blow the chaff and straw away. This method of threshing was used for many years because it did a good job. The threshing stone used was made from a pattern brought by Rev. Dietrich Gaeddert and Rev. Peter Balzer who took it to the quarry at Florence. The floor or ground where they used this stone had to be very hard so they could scoop up the grain.

The women had not forgotten to bring flower and vegetable seeds along from Russia. They introduced watermelon, which did well in the sod.

\*The museum's Krause House is similar.

\*\*Examples of hand-made wood threshing forks are in the museum's Wheat Palace.

**Needed** - For the Spring Art Show, April and May of 2020, the museum would like to showcase the wheat marquetry of local artisans Marie and Martha Voth. Call the museum if you have a Marie and Martha work of art you are willing share.

## Become a Museum Member!

It's easy to become a member. Choose a membership level below, fill out the form, and return it with your check payable to MHAM to: Mennonite Heritage & Agricultural Museum, P.O. Box 231, Goessel, KS 67053.

**Individual \$15   Couple \$30   Family \$40** (Includes children and grandchildren age 18 and younger)

Annual memberships run from Jan. 1 - Dec. 31.

Benefits of annual membership

- Unlimited free visits to the museum
- 10% discount on museum store purchases
- One guest pass (two guest passes for couple and family memberships. Not valid for Country Threshing Days)

Life memberships \$500 / person

- Membership fee is added to museum endowment fund
- Unlimited free visits to museum
- 15% discount on museum store purchases
- Five guest passes per year (Not valid for Country Threshing Days)
- No annual membership renewal

I would like an annual membership \_\_\_\_ Individual \$15   \_\_\_\_ Couple \$30   \_\_\_\_ Family \$40

I would like a life membership \_\_\_\_ \$500 / person

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City / State / Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send future newsletters to my email address: \_\_\_\_\_





Mennonite Heritage and Agricultural Museum  
200 N Poplar  
P.O. Box 231  
Goessel, KS 67053

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

(620) 367- 8200  
mhmuseum@mtelco.net  
www.goesselmuseum.com



Museum Hours:  
March, April, October,  
& November:  
Tues - Sat: 12 pm - 4 pm  
Closed Sundays & Mondays  
Open by appointment only  
in January & February  
May - September:  
Tues - Sat: 10 am - 5 pm

*The Heritage*

Written by:  
Fern Bartel, Director  
Editorial Staff:  
Museum Board Members  
Mayleen Vinson

# Come Home for *Christmas* Museum Store Open House

Saturday, November 16, 2019  
10 am to 4 pm



Mennonite Heritage and  
Agricultural Museum  
200 N. Poplar  
Goessel, KS (620) 367-8200  
www.goesselmuseum.com

Open Tues. - Sat., 12 to 4 pm  
until Dec. 14, 2019  
(closed Thanksgiving Day)

Photo taken by Fern Bartel at the Pine Creek Christmas Tree Farm south of Goessel.  
The restored '34 Ford grain truck is on display at the museum's Wheat Palace.



**Mennonite Heritage and  
Agricultural Museum**

P.O. Box 231  
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Goessel, KS 67053-0231  
(620) 367-8200

**Email:**  
goesselmuseum@gmail.com

**Website:**  
goesselmuseum.com

November 2019

Dear Friend of the Museum,

The Mennonite Heritage and Agricultural Museum is recognizing forty-five years of existence! We get enthused when we hear that the museum helps to refresh memories for those who walk in the door.

Colleen Olleman of Spokane, Washington, was visiting her mom, Linda (Friesen) Deasy, and stopped by the museum. Colleen treasures memories of the Friesen House. *"So many memories are sparked when I walk into the Friesen House at the Mennonite Heritage and Agricultural Museum. We visited my grandparents every summer, and I lived there for a short time when I was in 4<sup>th</sup> grade. My grandma was dying of cancer, and my mom, a nurse, came to care for her. When I stand in the Friesen House, I can still see Grandma standing in the kitchen or out feeding the chickens. I can also see her being cared for by my mother and the worry on my grandfather's face. I can hear Grandfather reading the morning devotion and praying in Low German. I can see my Uncle Randolph bringing in eggs to clean. I can hear the laughter of my aunts and uncles sitting at the dining room table for Sunday faspa while we kids ate in the kitchen.*

*"So, when I walk into the Friesen House, I feel an overwhelming sense of coming home. I am so grateful that the house is a part of the museum complex. It is a wonderful example of a typical Mennonite farmhouse of the era. But for me it is so much more. It is a home that was filled with love and laughter, where God was central and adversity was faced with faith. I am grateful I can visit the Friesen House and bridge both the past and the present and be at home again."*

Your support keeps the museum alive and active! Monetary contributions to the General Operating Fund keep our doors open by paying monthly utility bills and two part-time employees, and allow us to provide educational programming. In 2019, the

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**MY 2019 CONTRIBUTION**

I would like to support the museum financially.

Enclosed is my gift of \_\_\_\_\$50 \_\_\_\_\$100 \_\_\_\_\$250 \_\_\_\_\$500 \$\_\_\_\_Other

I designate it for: \_\_\_\_General Operating Fund \_\_\_\_Building Maintenance \_\_\_\_Where Most Needed

I plan to give a commodity gift of \_\_\_\_ Grain \_\_\_\_Livestock

\_\_\_\_Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Please send me future newsletters to my email address:

\_\_\_\_\_

*Your gift is tax deductible. Please make your check payable to MH&AM.*

Schroeder Barn restoration was completed. The barn looks alive again with the assurance that it will last many more years. But this restoration totally depleted our Building Maintenance Fund. Gifts designated to this fund will replenish the dollars for awaiting projects.

Farmers and landowners have the opportunity to donate livestock or grain commodities. A commodity gift is a significant benefit to you as well as the museum! Although not allowable as a charitable contribution, a commodity gift avoids the inclusion of the sale of the commodity in your farm income, reducing your taxable income. If you itemize deductions, the expenses of production can also be deducted. Please consider making a donation to the Mennonite Heritage and Agricultural Museum at Team Marketing Alliance when you market your grain.

**Thank you** for your time and support for the museum!

Steve Banman, Board President