



The Heritage

www.goesselmuseum.com

Winter 2021

Museum's Bank Building Displays Now Houses Goessel Business History

by Fern Bartel, Museum Director

The first bank in Goessel was established in 1910. It was a one-man operation for most of its twenty-five year history. Henry J. Loewen served as cashier from 1912 until it closed in 1935.

The Goessel bank offered area citizens entertainment as well as financial aid. The bank faced south and on the east wall hung a barometer. Many people walked into the bank just to ask about the weather.



In 1945, Crossroads Co-op Association of North Newton opened a branch office in Goessel. The old bank building was moved back north from the street and, in 1957, a new service station structure was built. Then they used the bank building to store

feed sacks. When the service station was extended to the north, a new warehouse was built to the east of the station. The historic bank building was moved to the museum complex in 1975.

The displays in the State Bank Building have changed! Pat Bartel Penner (museum board member) and Fern Bartel (museum director) have been hard at work.

Photos remind visitors of long-gone businesses that were important in their day: The Franz Store, Voth Store, Lehrman Oil, and long-time barber Ferd Graevs.

In the fall of 1904, a young Gerhard Schmidt was recruited to be the mail carrier. He began a 28 mile route that continued for 30 years until he retired. He first used

Bank Displays, continued on page 3

Upcoming Events:

Museum Hours

See page 4 for our open times.

Christmas Shopping Hours

Tuesday—Saturday
Noon—4 pm
until December 23, 2021

Annual Meeting

January 23, 2022, 2:30 pm
Tabor Mennonite Church's
Hospitality Hall
Speakers: Jason Schmidt &
Miriam Goertzen-Regier
See page 4

Heritage Dinner

March 25, 2022
Tabor Mennonite Church's
Hospitality Hall
Speaker: Ilona Abrahams

Low German:

In Low German (Plautdietsch)---An interesting word is "Oba." Here are a few examples:

1) *Nee oba!*, 2) *Oba doch nich!*, 3) *Woat du oba sajst!*, 4) *Doat es oba kult!*, 5) *Oba daut jeit!*, 6) *Daut es mie oba so to waddre!*

How can one translate these phrases into meaningful English? Send your version to mhmuseum@mtelco.net.

Mennonite Heritage and Agricultural Museum Board Members:

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

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

Is visiting our museum on your bucket list?

I truly enjoyed a wonderful visit with Sharon and Rich Davis, who came to visit the museum this summer on their way home to California from a cross country trip in their motorhome.



Sharon and Fern visit in the Davis' motorhome.

Visiting Goessel and the museum had long been on Sharon's bucket list.

Sharon is a great-great-granddaughter of Dr. Peter P. Richert (1850-1937), the founder of the city of Goessel. Dr. Richert named the town, then just a post office. He was also minister at the

Goessel Mennonite Brethren Church and got the ball rolling for the Bethesda Hospital.

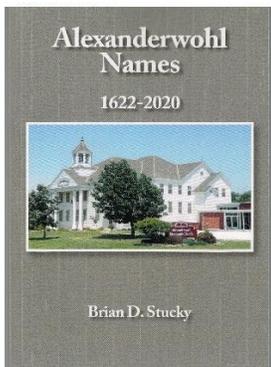
Sharon and Rich spent the day in Goessel. While Sharon visited the original Bethesda Hospital steps and the museum, Rich visited with museum board member Roger Bartel about Goessel's 1928 Ford Model A fire truck. Rich has restored several Model A Fords and knew a lot about them.



Rich Davis stands with the Model A they towed behind their motorhome.

Christmas Shopping at the Museum

Christmas shopping hours are Tuesday—Saturday, noon—4 pm until December 23, 2021. Three new books, two with local connections, are available at the museum store.

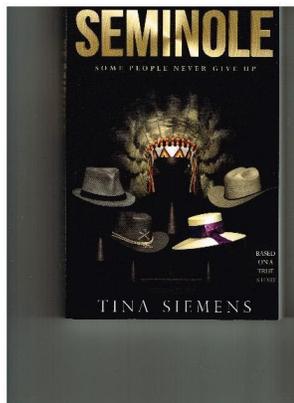


Alexanderwohl Names 1622-2020

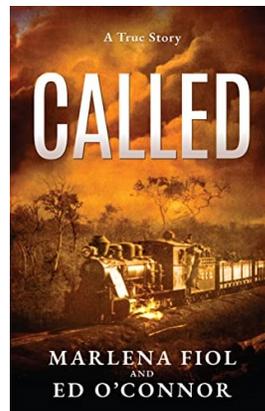
Alexanderwohl Names 1622-2020 is a fascinating collection of birth names as recorded in the 400-year church records of the Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church, Goessel, Kansas.

Generation categories are included as are lists of most popular names for each generation. Local author Brian D. Stucky is a retired art teacher, and historian.

Another new book is *Seminole: Some People Never Give Up*. In a true story of faith, hope, and perseverance, author Tina Siemens, Mennonite Jacob Rempel's great-granddaughter, reveals the incredible narrative of an event that captivated the hearts of people around the world. Experience this vivid saga of a man determined to survive, and a people who refused to give up.



Seminole: Some People Never Give Up



Called

Against the backdrop of World War II, Nazi uprisings, political unrest in Argentina and Paraguay, and the scourge of leprosy left untreated, Dr. John and Clara Schmidt are called to a life of service in their fight against poverty, stigma, and social injustice. *Called* is based on true events and is written by the Schmidts' daughter Marlena Fiol and Ed O'Connor.

Board member Pat Bartel Penner and her brother Harlan designed a "Peppernut Press Plus" with all dishwasher-safe parts (limited supply).

Decorate a Christmas tree with a garland of origami stars fashioned by Pat Bartel Penner. She also created note cards

containing origami birds, stars, trees and hearts using 1940 *Mennonite Hymnary* pages. Also for sale are wheat weavings by Elda Schrag Jantzen, donated by Museum board president John Janzen and his wife Janell's family.



Bank Displays, continued from page 1

a closed carriage and horses (one horse on good days, two on rainy days), then changed to a bicycle, a motorcycle, and at least 6 different cars. Check out his early mail buggy in the Wheat Palace! In 1934 the mail route was consolidated with Newton's Route 2, which continues today. What did the first Goessel Post Office look like? Some of the first postal equipment is displayed in the Bank.

Early Goessel photos and memorabilia are now exhibited. Bethesda Home's "store on wheels" has been



See how an electric mangle works in this display of very early Bethesda laundry equipment.

The "Four Sixes Tornado" almost totally destroyed Goessel on June 6, 1906, at 6:00 in the evening. See photos of the damage around town. Other photos show flood scenes and aerial shots of Goessel.

The Bank Building is also the new display home of several collections, such as Abe Banman's folk art people, each of which shows such a different personality. A unique display shows knots created, presumably, by Ferd Graevs and donated by him. Collectable give-away items commemorate Wheatland Bank's anniversaries.



"Goessel grew slowly, but solidly. It never became a commercial center; it never was a station along a railroad line. It remained a trade center for the surrounding rural community. Some businesses came and went; others passed from owner to owner. Some have survived in some form to the present. A few remained in the same family through the years."
In Earlier Days: A History of Goessel, Kansas by Marjorie Jantzen, copyright 1987. (Copies for sale at museum store.)

The Wheat Palace has a new concrete pad on the south side of the building. This space will be used to display farm equipment that does not need to be housed inside.



Marlin Janzen and his crew poured the concrete.

Country Threshing Days Entertainment

Steel SkareCrow, with Goessel's own Rollin Schmidt playing pedal steel guitar, gave an excellent Friday evening country music concert.



Thank you to area business sponsors who helped make the concert a success. Board member Sandy Duerksen sat at the donation table.





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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 by:

Fern Bartel, Director

Editorial Staff:

Museum Board Members

Museum Annual Meeting January 23, 2022, at 2:30 pm

Say “cheese” with Jason Schmidt and Miriam Goertzen-Regier of Glazing Plains Farm at the annual meeting of the Mennonite Heritage and Agricultural Museum on January 23, 2022, at 2:30 pm at Tabor Mennonite Church.

Jason Schmidt is the proprietor of Grazing Plains Farm LLC, a fifth generation dairy farm located southeast of Newton that specializes in artisan cheese. On his farm, Jason strives to make small farming work by using sustainable agricultural practices. His diverse educational background and Mennonite heritage shape the way he lives his life and manages his operation. Following his utopic dream, Jason strives to operate his farm and raise his family in a way that understands the intersection between ecological health and the well-being of people.

Miriam grew up loving the south central Kansas prairie on her family’s farm east of Newton. Her deep curiosity about food and the science behind it first led her to develop a line of small cookies for a local grocery store; she now engages that curiosity through cheese-making for Grazing Plains.

Jason and Miriam’s presentation will follow the business portion of the meeting. The traditional faspa (refreshment time) will include cheese samples from Grazing Plains Farm. Faspa may be in-person or take-home, depending on the COVID conditions in January. This event is also the perfect opportunity to purchase or renew your annual museum membership.

As 2021 comes to a close, we gratefully acknowledge the gifts of each museum volunteer and financial contributor.

Frohe Wehnachten und ein glückliches neues Jahr!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

