

Our Heritage

Pacific Northwest Mennonite Historical Society Newsletter

Fall 2025

PNMHS.ORG

Volume 29, Issue 1

Mennonites Celebrate Five Hundred Years of Anabaptist History

Pacific Northwest Mennonites have celebrated the five hundredth year of the birth of the Anabaptist movement this year with worldwide and local celebrations. Among the themes of the radical reformation were following Jesus, in a community of believers, biblically informed, and Spirit led. Among the events sponsored this year in the celebration, the Pacific Northwest Mennonite Historical Society has decided to reintroduce our newsletter with this re-issue. We do so in hopes and prayers that we will remember our past and be attuned to new winds in the present awakening us to God's good future.

In reintroducing the newsletter, after a ten-year break, we hope to participate in what social historians often refer to as re-membering, or membering again with old and new members, honoring the past and looking to the future with meaningful relationships and community. Looking to the future we hope to document our past and be hopeful and not fearful about our future. At a local and regional level this will include

gathering documents and preserving them, and encouraging each other by telling each other wisdom stories garnered from our heroes, our institutions, and regular folks whose lives become extraordinary through their being alive to the moment in which they live, and awake and aware and energetic to the needs right around them. We will remember the past, member the present, and pre-member the future by paying attention, being alert, and lifting up the stories of the meek who will inherit our stories.

As a historical society, we rely upon our Board, our Volunteers, and our Members who give of their time, labor, money, stories, documents, and attention. This newsletter is sent out in hopes of communicating our appreciation, curiosity, dreams, and often surprise at what people who exhibit faith and trust in God's calling can accomplish and how they encourage us to live. If you are curious, if you like what you see and hear, join us as members, come and visit our library and archive, ask our volunteers to help you explore and preserve our stories, tell others who might be interested, visit our website (PNMHS.org), and explore.

President's Corner

Welcome to the rebirth of the Pacific Northwest Mennonite Historical Society's newsletter. Despite the lack of a newsletter for ten years, the society has been doing well in fulfilling its mission. Back in Volume 2, Number 1, of the February 1989 issue of the OMHGS Newsletter, the editor stated "We want you to share your ideas and suggestions of what you would like to see in this newsletter. We will be happy to hear whatever you wish to send us. Is it interesting? Does it inform? Let us know." Some thirty-six years later the statement still holds true. Share with us your thoughts and ideas to make this newsletter as informative as possible. Your thoughts are welcome at pnmhs.volunteer@gmail.com

We rely on contributions to preserve the rich histories and heritage of Mennonite communities of faith in the Pacific Northwest. We invite you to become a member.

By becoming a member, you will play a crucial role in supporting our mission. Membership contributions help us maintain and expand our collections, improve our facilities, and support educational programs that bring our history to life. Your membership will make a significant difference in our efforts to keep the Mennonite legacy alive and accessible to all. Together, we can ensure that the stories of our congregations and organizations continue to be available for future generations. To become a member, please print and fill out the membership support

form on the last page and mail it to: PNMHS, Attn: Treasurer. Alternatively, you can go to the "**Donate**" tab on our website at pnmhs.org and make your contribution there by choosing "Membership" on the donation link.

Lin Rush, Board President

The Pacific Northwest Mennonite Historical Society

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The Mennonite Gospel Mission in Portland Gets the Goods

by Steve Turner

In the following story, Steve Turner, one of our volunteers, creates a narrative using Allan Good's letters, complete in Allan's early 20th Century vernacular and creative spelling. If as Steve said, Portland "got the Goods," then "Steve produced a page-Turner."

On the 21st of February 1922 a letter sent on the 6th by Chris Snyder, President of the Pacific Coast Mission Board, caught up with its intended recipient, Mennonite Minister Allan Good, "after making its tour to Waterloo Ont- then to Guernsey Sask, then to Carstairs Alta then found me [Good] at Duchess Alta. Now I suppose you looked in the year Book to find my adres, well I was to Waterloo for four mounths a year ago in Dec. I returned, I have been on the move nearly all the time since my Wife died two years ago in Oct. I made a tour through the U S last summer, had planned to come back to Alta by way of Oregon, but time did not permit, Well I was glad to learn that the Orogon People are interested in Mission activities for their immediate district."

The Mission Board had been investigating Portland for a mission station and Snyder's letter was an invitation to Good to consider being Superintendent of this new mission. God's timing was apparently involved: "Well Bro. Snyder you seem to have caught me about the right time...where I am about to make desitions.

I ... am getting some what anxious to settle down some where, I am now just in the last of a four month tour of bible Class work in Alberta and Sask. ...have about two more weeks..."

As it happened, he had been asked by the General Mission Board at the last General Conference to consider the mission in Kansas City, and had offered himself for that place but a final decision was still pending. He also had "a very strong appeal to come to Elkhart Church, Now I must say that I had a little inkling about Portland before... I am sure I would enjoy to come to Oregon to hold some meetings...and if the people wanted me, the latter part of April and first of May might suit me pretty well, it all depends on where I will decide to locate, Yes we are trusting the Lord for his leadings, so will leave this matter until I hear from Bro. S. C. Yoder, thanking you for your iniquirey, and will pray over it..."

On March 10th Good received three letters, one from S.C. Yoder saying that they had decided not to make a change in Kansas City, but that they had another opening in Chicago; the second giving "a nice clear view of the Elkhart work;" and the third from Chris Snyder regarding the Portland work, to which he responded the next day: "Now for Allan Good to make the decision, well Bro, Snyder the desition really was almost made providing the K.C. work would not open, I had already written to that especially good friend of mine at Hesston...what our plans would likely be if we did not go to K.C. and these three letters have throughe[n] [thrown] a lot of light on my path, so much so that I am convinced that it is the leading of the Good Lord, and there for

can with a clear conscience ...[confirm that] We (Sister Fannie Miller my intended helpmeet...) and I will offer our services for the opening of the Portland work.”

He made several suggestions, including fundraising for the rental of a building and for starting a Children’s Home. “Now we would also be willing to make part of our keeping if the Board seen fit, I can do carpenter work and also other lines of work, as I think you will want to start on a small scale, then then let it grow... We also have Bedding, dishes and other things to start up house keeping ... and we would be only to glad to furnish them...” He noted he was enjoying good health and “always have heard that Orogon was such a healthy climate.”

He went on to describe a round of travels, plans and commitments including spending about 3 weeks in Oregon before his intended marriage in Pennsylvania, then to Eastern Canada and home to Alberta, “and then bring our things along to Orogon, say about the latter part of Sept- or first of Oct. Some Honey Moon would it not be? And give the Portland Proposition a years trial.”

He asked three favors of Chris Snyder: “to see some good tailor [or tailors]” ...who are good at making to order plain clothing, I of course need a Wedding suit ... and ask them to send me the sample of Black Serge of good quality it is to be for the best so like a real good one;” to “present this offer to your committee and let me know...as early as possible as I will have to let the Elkhart people know;” and “would you kindly find out for me what the fare from Portland to

Newton Kansas by way of Colorado, Lajunta would be also the fare from Portland to Newton Kans by way of Los Angeles, on boat”

Clearly Allan Good had lots of energy and inspiration for starting a mission outreach in Portland. I suspect from his letters he was “hyperactive” and a bit dyslexic (the first was actually dated “Bef.” (for Feb.) 22nd, 1922). On June 21st from Pennsylvania he responded to Snyder’s “very welcome letter” that “there seem to be so many appeals from every source, but to be as good as our word we will cheerfully accept your Portland Proposition, and shall endeavor to try and get there as soon as possible, but we still have a long rout ahead of us...” By 3 Oct they were in Portland, and he was hard at work scoping out possibilities for the Mission.

Allan Groff Good was 40 at the time as he was born 14 Aug 1882 in Woolrich Township, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada, a son of Daniel and Mary (Groff) Good. He had married his first wife Margaret Snyder in 1909 but lost her 15 Oct 1919. The marriage to Fannie Miller took place 19 May 1922; she was 37 at the time and would become a valuable asset for the early Gospel Mission work in Portland.

This is the first of three or more parts reviewing Allan Good’s ministry for the first decade of the Mennonite Gospel Mission in Portland, OR based on materials in the archives of the Pacific Northwest Mennonite Historical Society.

2025 Annual Meeting Summary

The Pacific NW Mennonite Historical Society held its annual meeting on March 15, 2025. Following a delicious lunch and business meeting, a program featuring Michele Hershberger, Bible Professor and Co-Campus Pastor at Hesston College, Hesston, KS, was held. The topic was “What’s so bad about being a Christian Nation?”



Beginning with Biblical passages, she tied them into early Anabaptist leaders’ interpretations and teachings. The early Anabaptists knew that: 1. God’s people are trans-national; 2. The church should never use a government to enforce its brand of Christianity; and 3. We have only one allegiance which is to Christ. The challenge she left for us was: 1. Tell your stories; 2. Speak of your faith with respect and love; 3. Practice talking to Christians who embrace the US as a Christian nation; 4. Advocate for minorities; and 5. Practice “power under rather than power over.” Luke 22:25-27.

A link to Michele’s presentation can be found on our website homepage at pnmhs.org.

Announcement of the Death of John Gingerich

The Historical Society regrets the passing of long-time volunteer, John Gingerich, who passed away suddenly on January 12th. His volunteer effort over the last twelve years was invaluable in moving us into the digital age. John spent hours helping our then archivist, Margaret Shetler, move from a paper file card system to an online system searchable by anyone with access to our website. He digitized thousands of photos and put them online. He also updated our web page, Facebook page and Library catalog. His work and friendly, helpful demeanor are missed by all of us. We intend to follow John’s lead as we begin the process of digitizing more of our documents and making them available through our website.

Over 5,000 Photographs Archived

Steve Turner, volunteer, has completed the year-long task of moving our photographs from Flickr to MAID (Mennonite Archival Information Database). This change will make them more accessible to a broader range of people searching the web for historical photos.

The photos can be accessed at this link.

[PNMHS Photos - Mennonite Archival Information Database](#)

Quakers and Church of the Brethren join Mennonites in Portland area to celebrate 500th Anniversary of Anabaptism

The Center for Christian Studies, based at Reedwood Friends Meeting in Portland, Oregon, organized an all-day Saturday bus trip, christened the first “Oregon Peace Pilgrimage”.



Declaring “our three traditions are arguably a spiritual family”, the bus trip was joined by Mennonites (mainly from Portland Mennonite Church), and Quakers (from Reedwood Friends Meeting), and members of Peace Church of the Brethren – 55 in all! The trip was initiated by the new Director of the Center for Christian Studies at Reedwood Friends Meeting, Dr. Daniel Smith-Christopher, who is a life-long Quaker, but also a MDiv graduate of Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Goshen, IN. The Center for Christian Studies is seeking to be a new partnership between the three “Historic Peace Churches” in Portland, and this bus trip was a first event to explore the concept with an enjoyable but also educational day dedicated to getting acquainted, celebrating

the 500th Anniversary of Anabaptism, and thinking about future possibilities in this new cooperative arrangement. The Bus Tour stopped at the Brigittine Monastery which produces chocolates (a popular stop!) but also gave the “bus pilgrims” opportunity to be reminded of the role of Hershey and Cadbury in Mennonite and Quaker traditions.

The second stop was the Old Colony Museum in Aurora, dedicated to perhaps the most important Christian Commune in Oregon history, from the 19th Century. Over lunch, Museum curators shared, but this stop also gave opportunity to think about the role of intentional community and “mutual aid” in the three traditions.

The final stop was Zion Mennonite Church in the countryside outside Hubbard, featuring the locally famous “Amish Barn”, and the Pacific Northwest Mennonite Historical Center.

Over a catered chicken dinner, the bus pilgrims further developed their new friendships, and the Mennonites led some special hymns while their new friends from the other two traditions joined in. After a full day of travel, the bus pilgrims returned to Portland and began to dream about where we go for NEXT year’s Oregon Peace Pilgrimage together!

Daniel L. Smith-Christopher Prof.
Theological Studies

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A Day in the Life of East Hubbard, 1917

Hooley, Menno Simon
1857-1934, buried Zion
Mennonite Cem;
Hooley, Veronica Frances
"Fannie" Hostetler
1857-1942 b Zion
Mennonite Cem

Yoder, Wilma Joy;
1891-1978; buried
Salem; 1910, Barrett,
Wilma (widowed) 1
son Russell

Pulley, Mae;
1892-1979; Rebecca
Lodge member;
Statesman Journal
Sun, Dec 22, 1929
Page 12

Hooley, Mayme; daughter in
law of Menno Simons
Hooley;

Nozinger, John (b
Germany) 1872-1971 Zion
Mennonite Cem
Nozinger, Fannie Miller
1879-1961 Zion Mennonite
Christine N
Katy S
Charlie E
Lena M

Hostetler, Levi Scor 1867-1909;
Eve Hygema Hostetler (later Mischler) 1859-1920; buried Hopewell Men

EAST HUBBARD NEWS

Mr. and Mrs. Levi Hos
bany visited their daughter
no Hooley, and other re
week and attended church
day.
Misses Wilma Yoder and
went to Portland Tuesday
several days visiting Miss
ter, Mrs. Prevost.
Mrs. Mayme Hooley has
ing from rheumatism the p
is reported better.
Mr. and Mrs. John Noz
children from Bethel, vis
home of S. L. Miller and
the first of the week M

The partial pages pictured to the left are from a 47-page pdf file of News Clippings from the Salem Statesman Journal, referred to as *A Day in the Life of East Hubbard 1917*. In this file are about 40 clippings of "news" items, annotated, and indexed. For your own full copy, send a request by Email to Shirley Martin at laismartin@canby.com and we will send you a pdf of the file by email. You can read the file on your computer, save it to your computer, read it on your phone, or print it on your printer. You can send a copy to your friends and tell them to visit our website at pnmhs.org or consider being members of our historical society.

We Welcome Visitors

We are open every Wednesday from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm for visitors. Appointments at other times are possible. Contact us at pnmhs.org, letting us know your contact information and desired time for a visit.

EAST HUBBARD NEWS

Roy Kropf went to Brownsville last week on business.

Forest Hostetler and David Egli visited at the home of Amos Roth near Woodburn, last Saturday night.

A singing school has been started at Zion, it meets every Tuesday and Thursday evenings, everybody invited, it is free. M. H. Hostetler is the instructor.

Rachel Deetz of near Needy was the guest of May Hostetler Sunday.

Friday evening, March 2, a parent-teacher meeting will be held at Whiskey Hill, it will begin at 7:30. Everybody invited. A good program has been arranged, good live topics will be discussed.

Jess Troyer returned to his home at Blodgett, last Friday after spending several days with friends around Zion.

Mrs. Emma Evans of Hubbard visited her father, Joe Kauffman, over Sunday, also at the homes of S. J. Kauffman and Henry Deetz.



ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT FORM

6030 S Whiskey Hill Road,
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08/2025