

STUDEBAKERS WERE BRETHREN

From the earliest days of our family in America, a great many of our cousins have been members and supporters of the "BRETHREN." For this reason we want to report on an unusual religious conference held by the German Baptist Brethren in our area of Tipp City, OH, May 25,26,27,28, 1985. Often these people are called "Old Order Brethren" or just "Old Order."

Like many denominations, there have come into being over the years, several main denominations, or branches of "Brethren."

1. The largest is the CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN with headquarters in Elgin, IL, with a membership of about 180,000.
2. The BRETHREN CHURCH has headquarters at Ashland, OH with a membership of 15,500.
3. GRACE BRETHREN is headquartered at Winona Lake, IN and a membership of 43,000.
4. DUNKER BRETHREN, a very conservative group is located mainly in Pennsylvania, with a membership of 1050.
5. The GERMAN BAPTIST BRETHREN, membership of 5,250 plus, with headquarters in Covington, OH, have members scattered in PA, OH, MI, IN, KS, VA, FL, OR, WA & CA. Basically rural people they, now that agriculture has changed so radically, tend to go into the trades and some into professions, especially medical.

These explanations seem necessary so that there will not be confusion about just who was involved in the conference we are reporting here. Another note here seems essential. Do not confuse any of the Brethren group mentioned above with Mennonites, Amish, Quakers, United Brethren, Brethren in Christ or any of the "Baptist" organizations.

Over 7,000 German Baptist Brethren and friends gathered at the farm of Ulyssis Denlinger on Agenbroad Rd & Dayton Brandt Rd, Bethel Twp, to take part in their annual conference. The purpose of this conference, held each year at the time of Pentecost is, "to hear good preaching, to pray, to fellowship together and to seek the Lord's Will in questions that arise among the members. They have a Biblical basis for everything they do. They attempt, in everything they do, "to lead a simple life, free of frills."

On the Denlingers' 25 acre sodded field, their committee erected a council tent 103' x 135' that seated 2700 at one time.



COUNCIL TENT

Seating was on carefully constructed hand made benches. There was no public address system, but the speaker at the pulpit, situated in the center of the big tent, could in most cases, be heard. His competition was from an occasional baby, of which there were quite a few.

The Brethren men in their beards and big black hats, and the women in their prayer caps and cape dresses, met each morning at 7:00 for breakfast and morning worship before the main meeting got under way. Men greeted the men & women greeted each other with the Holy kiss of fellowship. 2nd Corinthians 16, verse 20.

Every detail of this conference seemed so well planned and carried out that if there were any hitches anywhere, they were certainly not obvious. The weather was perfect with that beautiful Ohio spring weather, like unto which few states can match. It rained and was overcast one day.

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SISTERS FROM CALIFORNIA

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Lodging was provided by local Brethren within a radius of 25 miles. Perhaps a few went to motels. Food for all was prepared and cooked from temporary kitchens, and served in adjacent dining rooms. 12,677 free meals were served in the dining tent.

Members of nearby Churches of the Brethren gladly offered their homes and helped the Old Order Brethren in every way they could.

On Sunday evening the Brethren Communion, consisting of feet washing, the Lord's Supper and the bread and wine was observed in solemn dignity. To those who have never seen or participated in the Brethren Communion, be assured that it must be experienced in order to appreciate the deep, spiritual growth and devotion that it so obviously inspires.

Tuesday was the day for the usual Democratic business meeting where issues and queries were discussed and decided. This was truly a great meeting for the Old Order Brethren and for our local community as well.

To observe the entire event, including planning, the devotion, the discipline observed within the families, the good manners, the love, the patience, the general behavior was, I submit, an example that could well be imitated by many Christians.

This is all the space I have for reporting this meeting. I only do it here because the Studebakers owe so much to the Brethren as our early ancestors participated, took root and absorbed so many principles and values that we still cherish within our family.

If I receive, say a half dozen letters in response to this article, asking for additional information on the history and especially the beliefs, strict discipline and practices of the "Old Order Brethren," I will gladly write an article for a future SF newsletter describing in some detail the "Simple Life" as they conceive and live it.

Emmert Studebaker

LATE ARRIVAL

RICHARD & DANIELLE (GOWAN) STANLEY, P929-31 thru #2, announce the birth of their first child, a daughter, HANNAH NICOLE BERNIECE, born May 7, 1985.

STUDEBAKER GENEALOGY: BOOK II PROJECT

MORE HELP NEEDED...we are face to face with all the work that must be done to complete this project by mid-July 1986. Besides the book work there will be six "SF" newsletters to put together and mail, in addition to answering letters and telephone calls, not to mention caring for the membership records, the checks coming in and welcoming cousins who come calling.

When we produced Volume I, several people volunteered their help. Some of the typists were paid by Process Equipment Co. None of the genealogists received any pay until the end of the project, at which time two of them (Alvin G. Faust had died) were paid \$1,000 each from the proceeds of our book sale.

If, out there among our cousins is a good typist who would like to become involved, we would certainly like to talk with her or to him. Perhaps there might be a man and wife team who would consider a six months (?) stint here as time well spent.

The typist should be able to know, or be able to learn, the operation of our word processor. The ability to do some writing, searching and clerical work would be added qualifications, plus having a genuine interest in genealogy.

Perhaps a couple college students or high school graduates would consider this a worthy project. Are there any English major's or Journalism students among our cousins? Give us a call at (513)667-4451. This is the phone number for Process Equipment Co, just ask for Emmert, Ruth or extension 246.

Our association does not carry anyone on a payroll. Our secretary, Ruth E. Studebaker works for Process Equipment Company. However, should anyone like to explore this, several items such as room and board and some transportation can be worked out.

LATE ARRIVAL

NEVA BARBARA (PRICKETT) FOSTER, 89, H311, Dalles, OR, died May 23, 1985.

Survived by her husband, Zeph; two daughters, Hazel Brannan, Sparks, NV, and Anna Anderson, Coos Bay, OR; one son, Zeph, Jr, one grandson & three great grandchildren.

Vol 5, No. 7 Summer 1983

(in La Verne Library)