



Editor's Page

The Association Francaise d'Histoire Anabaptiste Mennonite is asking North American friends to assist financially in the upkeep and care of the Repaix Cemetery in Lorraine, France, pictured above.

In the nineteenth century, French Mennonites began about twenty cemeteries, but only nine are in use today. Some of these run-down cemeteries include only ancestors of North Americans; no descendants live in France today. Can we help by sending a donation to Willy Hege, 57 route de Carspach, 68130 Altkirch, France?

The Repaix Cemetery's first burial took place in 1867 and the last in 1940. Surnames found there include: Bechler, Eymann, Lidviller/Litwiller, Mozimann/Mosemann, Neuhauser, Rupp, Schlerich/Sherick, Sommer, Werker/Vercler, and Zert/Zehr.

Time to Publish?

Are you ready to publish your research in book form? Would you like us to help you?

We have published eight books in the past twelve years in addition to *Mennonite Family History*. With our desk-top publishing computer, it is much easier to print and publish materials at a much lower cost than using a type-

setter at a printer. We even have the ability to index your manuscript, if you wish.

Currently, we are working on two books and would be happy to accept a few more. May we help you?

Write to Lois Ann Mast, P. O. Box 171, Elverson, PA 19520-0171.

"Pennsylvania German Mennonite Life and Community" Exhibit

An informative exhibit of over 100 artifacts on display from Apr. 2, 1989-Oct. 1989, at the Mennonite Heritage Center, 24 Main Street, Souderton, PA 18964. Exhibit hours are Wednesday-Saturday, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

A Marriage of Convenience

by Lorraine Frantz Edwards*

"Due date" was less than two weeks and I was desperate! I rushed into the marriage hastily—without second thought.

The "marriage" is between my computer and a recently purchased microfiche "reader." The need for the reader arose because I had thirty-six plastic "cards" and ten days to study 2,778 pages of old books.

A month earlier in my local library, I investigated the lending service from the Sutro Genealogical Library in San Francisco, California.

*Lorraine Frantz Edwards, P. O. Box 2076, Lancaster, CA 93539-2076, lives in the high desert north of Los Angeles. Author of previous articles in *MFH*, she will gladly exchange information on the Showalter and Frantz families.

I was told that it takes months to receive the requested material and the items would be arriving irregularly. I ordered the maximum—four—for myself and four in my brother's name. You guessed right: all arrived at the same time—and I had two weeks to view them WITH NO RENEWAL!

Full-time employment interferes with my hobby. During lunch hour and Monday and Wednesday after work, I read the material in the local library. On Tuesday and Thursday night, I read in the Lancaster L.D.S. Library (because their readers are much better).

While explaining my predicament to a considerate volunteer at the L.D.S. Library (on Thursday), she alerted me to the advertisement on the bulletin board regarding a new reader for sale. Several phone calls and a visit later, the \$45 (bargain) purchase was beside my computer and I was able to search late into the night, and all weekend. What a delight! What a marriage!

Originally I was handwriting lots of information and making notes to photocopy some

"absolutely necessary" data (with specialized microfilm/microfiche copiers). Now, in the comfort of my own home, I was able to enter infinitely more details without time restraints.

The pressure was forgotten while I discovered my ancestors interwoven throughout books authored by Rev. A. J. Fretz: *A Brief History of Bishop Henry Funck* (published in 1899), *A Brief History of John and Christian Fretz* (published in 1890), *Genealogy of the Moyer Family* (published in 1909), and *A Genealogical Record of the Descendants of Henry Rosenberger* (published in 1906).

Now that I have the microfiche reader, I will take advantage of an offer from The Family History Library, Salt Lake City, Utah. Their outdated microfiche are sold for a dime apiece. At that price I can acquire data about ancestral areas and have it at my fingertips.

This may prove to be a brand new "window" as I look at the family tree. The marriage of convenience has become THE PERFECT MARRIAGE!