

# Bonnet Blues

by Lorraine Frantz Edwards\*

Have you shopped for a bonnet pattern lately? I wanted a sunbonnet to wear with an old-fashioned dress for the Jamboree sponsored by Southern California Genealogical Society.

Butterick, McCalls, Simplicity . . . I checked all the pattern books. Of all that variety, there was only one "centennial dress." Although it included a bonnet pattern, I didn't want to pay \$5.50 for it!!

I phoned a square dancing friend and, sure enough, she had a bonnet with one of

her dress patterns. The borrowed pattern assisted me to accomplish my goal: a pretty covering for my hair.

"Have you shopped for a bonnet pattern lately?" I asked several of my genealogical researcher friends. After several negative responses, a first-cousin (once removed) told me that she had two patterns. Her patterns were quickly used to fashion two more pioneer sunbonnets.

I haven't used a sewing machine in years. I'd rather spend time on computer genealogy—not mending or sewing! Actually, I got involved in the project and really enjoyed the change of pace. The sunbonnets are an attractive addition to my pioneer wardrobe.

One thing leads to another: I decided that an early American "dust cap" was needed. "How does one make a dust cap?" I mused.

Time spent at the computer and thoughts about genealogy were often inter-

rupted by ideas about the construction of a dust cap.

Obviously a full circle!—but how large? "Three inches larger than a lamp shade," was the curious message that came to mind. (That translated to eighty-six inches circumference.) As I basted and stitched on the experimental covering, every step was guesswork. "Will it be too big?" "Is it too small?" were questions that bothered me as I basted and stitched around that full circle.

Finally the elastic was laced through the tube and temporarily pinned in place. I inspected the dust cap from every angle as I preened in front of the mirror. It looked great!!

After making four bonnets in less than two months, I have only one regret. There are too few Jamborees and/or special occasions to wear old-fashioned long dresses and bonnets!! Woe is me—I was born 100 years too late!

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## News and Notes

"The MeetingHouse," the new museum, historical library and archives, and a Mennonite Life Center for the Mennonite Historians of Eastern Pennsylvania, will be located near Harleysville, Pennsylvania. Funds for this well-planned and informative center are currently solicited. For more information, write to Carolyn S. Nolan, Administrator, 24 Main Street, Souderton, PA 18964.

A "Symposium on Polish-Prussian Mennonite History" is scheduled to take place prior to the Mennonite World Conference in Winnipeg, Manitoba, from July 21-24, 1990. An invitation is extended for persons to present papers on Polish and Prussian Mennonite history. Details are available from Dr. John Friesen, CMBC, 600 Shaftesbury Blvd., Winnipeg, MAN R3P 0M4.

*Leinbach Family Researcher*, a new newsletter for the Leinbach family, was first published Fall 1988 by Editor Donald Garber, 917 S. 12th St., Goshen, IN 46526. This professionally-done newsletter covers not only the Leinbach/Linebaugh/Lineback family, but also will cover articles on genealogical computing.

The USSR has admitted that for 50 years, they "have deliberately falsified virtually all public maps, misplacing rivers and streets, distorting boundaries and omitting geographical features, on orders of the secret police." Authorities recently agreed to release accurate maps in the future.

*Funk Forebears* is a series of booklets to be issued periodically by Kinney Enterprises, E. 1905, Spokane, WA 99223. Editor Norma J. Kinney plans to include items from both primary and secondary sources of interest to anyone researching the Funk/Funck/Funke surname. The cost of each volume is \$5.00 plus \$1.25 shipping and handling.

The first official census records taken in Europe:

- Austria - 1815
- Bavaria - 1818
- France - 1802
- Great Britain - 1851
- Greece - 1836
- Norway - 1815
- Prussia - 1810
- Russia - 1897
- Saxony - 1815
- Spain - 1798
- Sweden - 1749
- Switzerland - 1860

How do you save old signs? Yes, even signs can be considered historic, but how do you preserve them when they often do not meet today's zoning codes? *Sign Controls for Historic Signs*, a four-page pamphlet from the American Planning Association, explains how to save these historic signs varying from neon fantasies to barber poles. Write to Cynthia Clark at the American Planning Association, 1776 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

If you expect a reply from a correspondent for genealogical information, please do not forget to enclose a SASE (self-addressed, stamped envelope).

Do you have a family Bible record that you could share with *MFH* readers? *MFH* is happy to print these family records in order to provide a medium for sharing these often one-of-a-kind source materials.

There are a few openings yet on the May 1990 "Mennonite Heritage Tour" planned by J. Lemar and Lois Ann Mast, P. O. Box 171, Elverson, PA 19520. If you've never had the opportunity to visit the land of your ancestors, write for a free brochure. We'll be visiting sites in Netherlands, Germany, Switzerland, Belgium, and Luxembourg. An add-on alternative to attend the Passion Play has also been arranged.