

The Pennsylvania German Folklore



Society of Ontario

# PGFSO Newsletter

EDITOR: DAVE BURKHOLDER  
NUMBER 52 Winter, 2023

## Message from the President

David R. Burkholder

New Year greetings to members and friends of this Society.

Apologies for the late issue of this issue. It's finally here.

We experienced a pleasant and exceptionally warm fall season, allowing for the completion of the fall harvest and associated activities. Our farmers had a good window of opportunity to harvest soybean, plant winter wheat and combine corn.

Those summer pigs that had been enjoying sweet corn husks, pumpkins and other vegetable treats have by now taken a trip to the abattoir to fulfill their higher purpose of winter sustenance.

The ongoing and persistent aspects of Covid 19 restrictions, openings, closings and health precautions continue to affect how we move forward in our day to day activities. Thankfully most folks who have acquired Covid have been adequately protected from serious illness by 3-4 vaccinations. Let's continue to do all we can to protect ourselves, our families and our communities.

During the last year Canadians were confronted with the confirmation of unmarked graves of hundreds of indigenous children who had died while attending residential schools. This sad reality simply adds to the litany of the mistreatment and marginalization of our First Nations Peoples.

Hundreds of Native communities still suffer from lack of potable water, substandard housing, schooling and access to reasonably priced foods and general goods and services.

As part of the settler population of Canada, who have prospered on former Indigenous land, we need to continue to simply listen sympathetically to the



## Coming Events

THE PENNSYLVANIA GERMAN FOLKLORE  
SOCIETY OF ONTARIO

### Annual General Meeting

Rouge Valley Mennonite Church

**Saturday April 15th, 2023**

10:30 am-2:00 pm

Lunch will be provided

litany of native stories, asking our indigenous how we can help them with their day to day challenges and engaging where we are able, locally, provincially and federally

This issue contains a tribute to a dear, departed and long-time PGFSO member and contributor, Jim Monkman, written by his lifelong friend and PGFSO member Marlene Mattson. Lorne Smith has provided an update on his accident and his subsequent and continuing journey back to health.

Included is a pictorial follow-up to last issue's piece by Cathy Brydon about the historic Homey Farms Cheese factory in Locust Hill. Enjoy.

Wishing all of you a safe and prosperous New Year.

Dave Burkholder

## Reesor Family of Canada Reunion

(postponed in 2020)

Saturday, June 24th, 2023 10am to 4pm

Markham Fairgrounds

Livestock Pavilion Complex

Check Reesor Family of Canada website  
for additional updates and details.

## *Remembering Jim Monkman*

My Cousin Jim - by Marlene Mattson

Have you ever been lucky enough to have a relative or friend who was there, really there, when you needed to talk and have someone listen with a supportive ear.....well, Jim Monkman was my sounding board as well as my "kissin cousin" for many years. Jim died on a Monday...May 2nd of this year. When I heard Chris Monkman's voice on the 'phone early in the morning, I knew I had lost my favourite cousin and life as I knew it had been changed forever. Jim and I were particularly close; we travelled together many times, most notably to visit Old Order Amish relatives in Ohio and when Jim lost his short term memory, I knew we could always talk about our adventures in Holmes Co., Tuscarawas Co., Coshocton Co. and Wayne Co. in Ohio as well as our favourite authors, since we were both avid readers and couldn't possibly be without a book to read.

When I had a particularly thorny problem (and I had many) Jim was always there for me. Avonelle would make me a tea and we would sit at the big kitchen table where I would try to explain what I had done or hadn't done. By the time I had consumed two cups of tea, my problem would have been explained....though not solved as yet. Jim was always patient, even with the really bizarre or outrageous problems just presented to him and invariably by the time I left 49 Harding Ave. the situation always appeared to be headed somewhat in the direction of "solved".

Jim's grandmother was Selena Troyer, the fifth child of Jacob and Ann (Hacking) Troyer, who married George Stephenson in 1892. Selena and George had eight children with Jim's mom Ethel Gertrude the third child born. Ethel married Russell James Monkman in 1919 (Russell worked in the rose industry in Richmond Hill). They had four children; Velma Louise, George Joseph, Wilbert Russell (died in infancy) and James Lawrence Wellington.

Jim married Ruth Avonelle Knight on July 11, 1964 and they had three children; James Richard Scott, Jon Christopher Stephen and Martha Jane Laura.



**Jim & Avonelle Monkman – 40th Anniversary – 2004**

There were twelve years between Jim and I since my grandmother Emma Troyer was the last born (and a twin to Martha) in a family of three boys and ten girls. Jim had many interesting jobs throughout his working life, but I always believed his favourite was driving the tractor on his Uncle Jim Stephenson's farm when he was a boy. He also belonged to many organizations, among them The Pennsylvania German Folklore Society and the Richmond Hill Historical Society. He loved to have coffee with friends and maintained many friendships with old friends from school; he was respected and well-known in the Richmond Hill community, since he had lived there almost his entire life.

Later he and Avonelle moved to St. Thomas to be near their son Chris, but they really missed their friends back home. Jim died on Howe Island at Chris and Courtney's home where he always assured me he was very comfortable and well looked after.

Jim loved conversations with people---it didn't matter if he knew you or not...he was curious about your life and interests. He was a member of the Canadian Troyer Family Archives along with myself, Bert Robinson, Jim Troyer, Ron Sheffield, John Becker, Troyer Archibald and Leah Stephenson. Jim was always curious about his "roots" and was overjoyed when we discovered our Old Order Amish family.



**The Troyer Archive Committee: L-R: Bert Robinson, Marlene Mattson, Troyer Archibald, Leah Stephenson & Jim Monkman. circa 1981**

I am sure he was relieved that cousin Marlene wasn't getting in as much trouble in her "old age, but I miss him so much already...he was a very intelligent man, a wonderful loving cousin, an ingenious trouble solver and a lovely supportive friend to so many.

Marlene

### *Annual Sausage Dinner Revived*

On November 26th approximately 80 hungry friends and members of the Folklore Society enjoyed a classic sausage and sauerkraut dinner with mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables, raw kraut, apple butter, cottage cheese and rolls followed by apple, pumpkin and fruit pies. Dan Burkholder and his crew cooked and served us buffet style. In a brief program following dinner George Duncan, a local historian shared a new insight into his present daily recording of present & everyday Markham events while associating it with recorded history and stories. The revived dinner evening was enjoyed by all.



Jim and I talked on the telephone at least once every two weeks and my brother Murray and I visited one September weekend not long ago and stayed in one of Chris' cabins, cooking our Pennsylvania German sausage and sauerkraut, along with apple butter for Jim.



**Pies by Heather Mussleman**

## *The Recovery of Lorne Smith*

### *January 15, 2023*

Dear Friends:

Many of you are aware that I had a very serious ATV accident on November 20, 2021 at our sugar camp east of Bobcaygeon, Ontario. I was flown by air ambulance to Sunnybrook Hospital and was transferred to Markham Stouffville Hospital on December 31, 2021. My recovery continued at MSH in several wards until I was deemed safe enough to be discharged on March 12, 2022. Thus I spent 112 days within the Ontario Health Care system. I was very fortunate that my family (Carol, David, Donald and Anne) visited regularly and became my advocate with the hospital system at all times. I experienced many of the shortcomings of hospital care that we all read about in the Toronto Press. Fortunately, my son-in-law Albert Romkema gave me an expression from the Bible that made life bearable in the hospital: "Be Still and Know that I am God"(Psalm 46).

I remain so thankful for the outpouring of thoughtful prayers, messages and cards from our many friends during my stay in hospital and my recovery at home. It has been a truly amazing time of recovery.

Thus on March 12, 2022 I was placed in the care of Carol and our family to continue my recovery at home. I was fully dependent on my G-tube for feeding as the hospital had left the tubes in my throat too long and damaged my swallowing capability and vocal chords. I was only able to walk with a walker around the house. I must say that thanks to the intervention of daughter Anne I did receive good home care from the health care system: an excellent nurse three mornings a week, a PSW three mornings a week, a dietitian, a physio therapist and a SLP(Speech Language Pathologist) one day a week. The nurse and PSW are still in place.

Thanks to some hard searching the family was able to locate a private physio therapist and SLP to provide needed help on an ongoing basis. Anne, of Neurocore Physiotherapy Centre on Leslie Street, has done a wonderful job of building my strength and balance so that I am now able to walk without any support. Sara, of Speech Language Therapies on West Beaver Creek, has done a wonderful job of training my throat to swallow all kinds of foods. In

late November I was given permission to start eating real food orally. On December 8 my nurse Mehdi removed the feeding tube and I was on my own eating. Carol really appreciates me joining her for coffee time and meals. I was able to enjoy a wonderful traditional Christmas dinner.

My core strength is increasing and I can walk back the lane without assistance, drive the car and truck, plow snow with the tractor and bring in wood for the stove. Life is almost back to normal with Anne, my physio, continuing my exercise homework and Sara, my SLP, working on strengthening my vocal cords to improve my speech.

Thanks for everyone's prayers and expressions of support over the past 14 months. It worked and I am on the mend.

Lorne Smith



### **PGFSO Newsletter**

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Articles for the PGFSO Newsletter are welcome

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***Homey Farms buildings behind the Reesor Pioneer Cemetery Gate - Lot14 Conc10, Markham,  
Painting by Elsie Nighswander***

*The Homey Cheese Farm at Locust Hill  
The Pursuit of Freedom and a Dream –Part 2 Photos*

To give the following photos a context they are a continuation of the Homey farm story which fascinated and informed us in the fall 2021 issue. It was the result of the extensive research and writings of Lorne Smith and Catherine Brydon. Pictures courtesy of the Black Family Album sent to us by Montreal based Peter Margo.



***Left –right: Edward “Eddy” David, Mrs.Bill Arneil,  
Elizabeth “Epps” David,  
Herman Sauer,.Mrs. Trude Sauer, Mr. Bill Arneil***



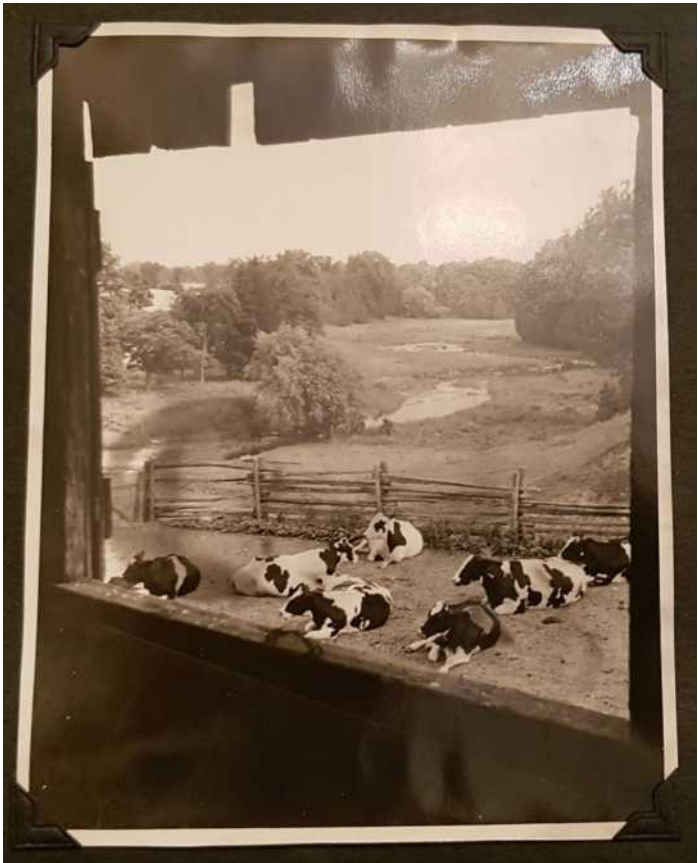
***Left to right -Herman Sauer,Eva Sauer,  
Elizabeth David, Photographer ?***



*The Poultry Barn*



*Cutting wood and disking the land.*

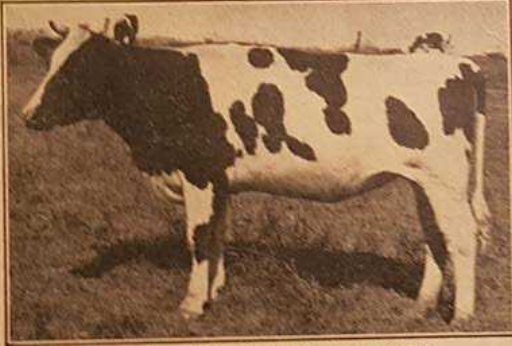


*View from the barn floor*

*Homey Farm offers*  
**HOMEY BILL DEWDROP R.A. BARON**

A 4-year-old son of Lonelm Rag Apple Baron W. who was sired by Montvic Rag Apple Baron 2nd and out of Lonelm Dora Texal (GM), a Red Seal Producer with 123,908 lbs. of 3.95% milk. His "Very Good" dam is by a son of Montvic Rag Apple DeKol from a granddaughter of Abbekerik Sylvius Lad; she has a 2X record of 22,237 lbs. milk, 808 lbs. fat and is herself a Red Seal Producer. Active and sure.

*His Maternal Sister*



A member of the British shipment at \$3,100.

Also Offered — Twin service-age sons of Lonelm Texal Fayne from a dam of Baron 2nd breeding who freshened at 2 years, 29 days, to make 11,694 lbs. of 3.84% milk, now has 15,000 lbs. at 3 years.

A late opportunity to buy Texal Fayne sons.

**E. David & H. Sauer — Stouffville, Ont.**

The Holstein-Friesian Journal • November, 1946

*An example of Homey Registered Holsteins*



*The Farmhouse - Reesor Family Homestead*



*The Barn view from the south. (Rouge River valley)*



*The Barn view from the north*



*Dairy herd in the Rouge River valley*



*Delivering milk to the cheese factory*



*Reesor Family Cemetery in the background*



*Trellis Gardening*



*Artist at work in the valley setting*



*Filling Silo*