

# Hans Herr House Restoration

Plans are underway to restore the oldest dwelling house in Lancaster County and the oldest Mennonite meeting place in America.

The house is the Hans Herr house and the family which once occupied the house claims many descendents in Lancaster County.

In April 1960, the Mennonite Research Journal reported that pioneer David Martin married Barbara Herr, a granddaughter of Hans Herr.

Peter Martin, a grandson of David Martin, in 1819 moved with 14 children to an area three miles north of Waterloo, Ontario. Judith, another child, was born in Canada.

In moving, however, Peter left behind two sons. And many descendents are reported in the New Holland and Ephrata areas.

That is how Hans Herr descendents became scattered throughout the U.S. and Canada, according to H. Elvin Herr, chairman, Hans Herr House Restoration Committee.

Herr also gave Lancaster Farming the following report on the history of the Hans Herr house and efforts to date to restore it.

The Hans Herr house was built in 1719 by the first settlers locating in what is now Lancaster County. They arrived in 1710.

On October 21, 1969 Marion Herr, widow of Herbert T. Herr, Jr. of Pittsburgh, with her daughter, Mrs. James O'Hara Denny III also of Pittsburgh, came to Lancaster County to initiate a project to preserve and restore the Hans Herr House.

Herbert T. Herr, Jr., was a

grandson of Theodore W. Herr, genealogist and compiler of the Genealogical Record of Reverend Hans Herr and His Direct Lineal Descendants in 1908.

Mrs. Herbert T. Herr's interest was to have the Mennonite Church purchase the house through a branch of the Church, the Lancaster Mennonite Conference Historical Society, an incorporated, non-profit organization, which would maintain it with the dignity that she felt her former husband's ancestral home deserved. Before leaving the County, she pledged \$2,500, and subsequently gave over \$3,000.

On November 3, 1969 D. Mark Huber, owner of the house and a direct descendant of Hans Herr, offered to sell for \$40,000 to the

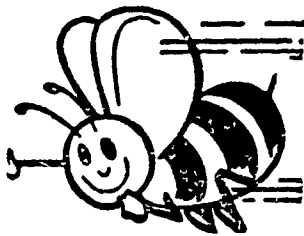
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The hand-hewn steps in the Hans Herr house, one of many examples in the house of priceless construction in the early 1700's.



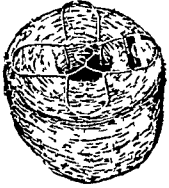
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