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# EBY FAMILY NEWS

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Issue 19

January 2004

From "For the Love of God: The Mennonites & Benjamin Eby," a video offered by White Pines Pictures

## ***Benjamin Eby goes to Canada***

Benjamin Eby crossed the Canadian border in 1807 in a horse cart carrying a quilt with ten thousand pockets. Each pocket held a silver dollar, meant to purchase 60,000 acres of land in Waterloo county in Ontario. By 1880 (the date of the map to the right), there were a total of 17 Eby families in Waterloo county alone. They included a basket maker, a teacher, a flour merchant, a hotel keeper, a currier, a town treasurer, as well as several farmers.

Although he was not the first Mennonite settler, Benjamin Eby is an ideal example of a Canadian Mennonite. He was the first Mennonite bishop in inland, Upper Canada. He built the first meeting house and first school house. He was the first teacher and he brought in a printing press to start the first Mennonite newsletter. Benjamin was part of a wave of Mennonite immigration from Pennsylvania into Canada in the eighteenth and early nineteenth century. The migration was spurred by the belief by many that the



*continued on page 2*

## **INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

- 1** Canadian Eby Migration
- 1** Eby Family Reunion 2003
- 2** Obituaries, Now and Then
- 3** Eby Family Association Information
- 4** All Things Eby
- 4** Recipe: Rote Ei
- 5** 2003 Eby Family Association Treasurer's Report
- 6** 2003 Eby Family Reunion Secretary's Report

## ***Memories of the 2003 Eby Family Reunion***

By Sherlee S. Ruth

Soft rain sprinkles did not spoil this day! For many it was a long awaited event that they traveled long distances to attend. The local Eby Family members, very loyal, also turned out, making for a successful day. The reality, however, was that too many members were not there and we truly missed all of you.

We can report that there were some children present and that they greatly enjoyed the Grove's play area. They came with parents from Austria and grandparents from New York state. Lynne Hagan, our

*Continued on page 3*

### **Call for Participants**

Those interested in contributing time and talents to the success of the Eby Family Association and/or the Eby Family Reunion are asked to call Christian Eby at (717) 656-2626

### **Obituaries, Now and Then**

**Pinkney “Cherokee” Abec**, 79, of Greenbrier, AR died December 9, 2003. He is survived by a brother Jimmy Abec of Tennessee and son Dennis Parish of Greenbrier, AR. Burial in Mayflower Cemetery in Greenbrier, AR. (Source: *Arkansas Gazette*, December 11, 2003.)

**Mabel Selina (Caudill) Eby**, 82, of Ivy Terrace, Boone, NC died Tuesday morning, Dec. 2, 2003 at Watauga Medical Center. She was born in Fayette County, PA, a daughter of the late Craig and Elizabeth Caudill. Survivors include one son, Dan Klink and wife Barbara, of Creston; one brother, Len Caudill of Oakdale, CA; three grandchildren, Kim McCune of Boone, NC, Deb Winnie of Denver, PA, Lori Sanger of York, PA; six great-grandchildren; and two step-granddaughters; one step-grandson and six step-great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, Walter Klink.

**Margaret Blanch Schwindt, nee Eby**, died November 3, 2003 at the age of 87. She was born March 15, 1916 in Portland, OR and graduated from Girl’s Polytechnic High School. She was a homemaker who most recently lived in The Dalles. In 1939 she married Henry G. Schwindt who died in 1988. Survivors include her daughter, Shirley Emerick, her sons, William and Jim, seven grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren. (Source: *The Oregonian*, Portland, OR; November 5, 2003, pg. D11.)

**Milton Eby**, 77, died December 11, 2002 of cancer. Survivors include wife Agnes, daughters Karen Martin and Linda Kruger; grandchildren Tonya and Jonathan Martin and Nathan, Daniel and Matthew Kruger; sister Lovina of Conestoga, brother Ivan Eby of Cambridge and sister Luella Snider of St. Jacobs. He was predeceased by his parents, Menno Eby and Melinda (Gingrich); stepmother, Angeline (Martin) and sisters, Barbara Weber, Almeda Martin and Rebecca Gingerich. Milt’s great joys in life were his family, traveling, genealogy, gardening and volunteering for Habitat for Humanity and House of Friendship. He was an active member of the First and Stirling Seniors.

Milt’s daughters recall a family trip to the Woolrich township farm where he grew up. Here his mother died of a heart attack when he was eight years old, his four older sisters helped raise him and his father struggled to care for a motherless family. Born the youngest of six children into a Mennonite farm family, Milton did not practice the old ways, though his life was one of simplicity and honesty. Before joining Case Power Equipment, where he worked for 24 years, Milton tried various jobs ranging from stacking produce in a grocery store to driving a Kitchener city bus.

**Mary A. (Plank) Eaby** died near her home in Clyde, near Morrison, IL, of paralysis on October 15, 1899, aged 47 years, 3 mos, 26 days. She was born June 19<sup>th</sup>, 1852 in Lancaster County, PA. She came to Illinois in 1893, united in marriage with Noah Eaby the same year. She was a member of the United Brethren Church. (Source: *The Herald of Truth*, Vol. XXXVI, No, 21; Nov, 1, 1899, pg. 334)

Continued on Page 4

### **The Canadian Ebys**

War of Independence threatened their pacifism. They felt safer under the British Crown. The Eby group crossed the Niagara in rafts and entered Canada on horseback via the Grand and Conestoga rivers in the Summer of 1806. In total, about 2,000 Mennonites migrated into Canada at this time, among them Benjamin Eby and his wife, Maria.

Mennonite populations continued to increase with successive migrations. In the 1870’s about 18,000 Dutch Mennonites came from Russia to escape government policies they found abhorrent, as well as for the availability of land, cultural and educational freedom and exemption from military service. American conscription in 1917 pushed another wave of migrants into Canada from America. Another migration from Russia caused by the Bolshevik Revolution brought the largest number of Mennonites – 20,000 – and was followed by another 12,000 (mostly Russians and Germans) during WWII.

Most of these migrations were caused by religious persecution. Initially, European immigration was caused by the Roman Catholic Reformation, under which heretic priests, including Menno Simon’s followers, were tortured, executed and suspended in cages outside church walls to serve as examples.

The initial immigration to Canada was conditioned on the right to operate Mennonite schools with bible lessons and German language. Even after moving to Canada, Mennonites held to these conditions. Such was the case, for example, in Manitoba. When the government passed the Public School Act mandating state-controlled, tax-supported public schools offering non-secretarian instruction in only English, the Mennonites did not hesitate to move on to Saskatchewan and, then later on to Alberta.

For more information on “For the Love of God: The Mennonites & Benjamin Eby” and the rest of the *A Scattering of Seeds* video series, contact White Pine Pictures at [www.whitepinepictures.com](http://www.whitepinepictures.com) or call (416) 703-5580.

#### **Share Your Stories**

Newsletter contributions of ancestor questions, obituaries, interesting facts and stories are gratefully accepted. To submit yours, please contact Lynne Hagan:

Phone: (201) 568-8438

Email: [Lynne@interactmarketing.us](mailto:Lynne@interactmarketing.us)

Mail: 138 Sunset Lane; Tenafly, NJ 07670

## **2004 Eby-Eaby-Abee Family Reunion**

**Date:** May 29, 2004  
**Time:** 10:30 AM - 3:30 PM  
**Place:** Overly's Grove  
New Holland, PA  
**Food:** Potluck Lunch featuring  
Pennsylvania Dutch favorites;  
Please bring your specialty.  
**Activities:** Picnic social, family meeting  
and prizes for youngest,  
oldest, those who traveled  
farthest

### **Eby Family Association**

Eby Family News is produced by and for members of the Eby Family Association. The Association is open to descendants of Theodorus Eby (Durst Aebi) and anyone else interested in Eby Family history.

### **Eby Family Association Address**

P.O. Box 292; New Holland, PA 17557

### **Internet Sites:**

<http://www.ebyfamily.org>

<http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/q/u/a/B-D-Quast>

<http://www.ristenbatt.com/genealogy/ebyplot.htm>

<http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/p/o/p/Michele-Popovich>

### **Association Officers:**

President: Christian Eaby, (717) 656-2626  
Secretary: Mary Grant, (610) 775-1183  
Treasurer: Marty Hollinger, (717) 653-8150  
Upcoming Treas. Elizabeth Thompson, (703) 591-8881  
Vice President: Roy Z. Eby, (717) 768-7271  
Graveyard Committee: George Eaby, (717) 394-6758  
Reunion Committee: Margaret Eby, (717) 768-7271  
Special Projects: Sam Wenger  
Abee Family Contact: Bill Abee, (828) 874-3598

### **Family Research**

We are, unfortunately, unable to do genealogical or family research. Family links and research can be found at the Web sites listed above. In addition, we will be glad to post your research questions, on a first come, first serve basis in the "Searching for Roots" section.

*continued from page 1*

## **2003 Reunion**

Eby Family News editor, integrated the children into the meeting by inviting them to participate in the prize drawings.

Our picnic repast consisted of a delicious variety of Pennsylvania Dutch (yes, we know it's German) long-time favorites. Such well-remembered dishes like Grandma used to serve – sauerkraut and sausage, roasted chicken, baked corn casserole, Lebanon bologna, buttered noodles, cole slaw, rote ei (red eggs), scalloped potato and ham, Dutch apple and shoo-fly pies. That and much more that we called a picnic!

Our afternoon meal was followed by a meeting presided over by George and Roy Eby. Several important presentations were given but for those I must refer to you to the secretarial minutes (attached). One, concerning the publication of an Eby Homeland Tour book, was presented by Margaret Eby and, although favored by the majority present, the presentation grew into a lengthy discussion on ways and means.

I want to close with a poem from my weather-beaten *Pennsylvania Dutch Cook Book*. It's about eating Schnitz and Nep (apples and ham), but it's also about how I felt at the picnic. Maybe next year I will bring some. I hope you'll come too!

### **Manna**

By William J. Meter

When the leaves is all on the mountain  
And the road is glutzy with ice,  
The team don't doppel along the way  
For I'm hungry for something nice.

My hands get doppich, I hurry so,  
To get them unhitched and fed,  
And I go for the house where I can smell  
Hot dough of fresh baked bread.

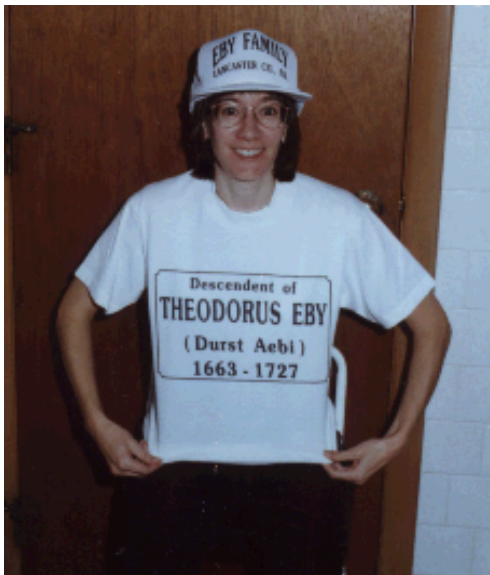
But it isn't the bread that waits for me  
But something better was kep'.  
There's sweets and sours and pies and all  
But the best is the schnitz and nep.

I eat myself done and get all full,  
And I feel like in Heaven then,  
For schnitz and nep the way Mom makes  
Gives all that's good for us men.

## *All Things Eby*

Farmer Tom Eby of Germantown, Ohio (Jefferson Township) has turned one of his corn fields into a tourist attraction. For two years now, Tom has created a 3-mile **maze puzzle** full of dead ends and paths leading to 12 mailboxes, each containing a piece of a map of the maze. Tom got more than 4,000 tourists into the maze last year and probably more this year. He operates the maze in the Fall through the end of October. For more information, go to [www.tomsmaze.com](http://www.tomsmaze.com).

If you can't make next year's Eby Family Reunion, you might want to consider having **lunch with your ancestors** buried on Whidbey Island in Washington State. Last year, the island hosted a Historic Memorial Weekend Cemetery Picnic, complete with vintage flowers for placement on graves and a tour guide. The event relives the tradition of picnicking in graveyards to celebrate ancestral memories. Trying to find Isaac Ebeby's grave might be difficult though since, according to Theresa Trebon, last year's historic tour guide, Isaac was supposedly beheaded by Indians and buried at the family farm at Ebeby's Landing.



**Eby Family T-Shirts and caps** are still available. Caps are \$4 each. T-shirts are \$6.50 for children's sizes (2-16), \$8 for adult sizes (S, M, L, XL) and \$10 for XXL. There is a \$3 shipping charge. Place your order via mail through Grace Georges; 40 Rolling Lane; Hudson, MA 01749 or call (978) 562-9237.



### *Rote Ei*

### *(Pennsylvania Dutch Red Eggs)*

Contributed by Sherlee S. (Otis) Ruth

*These Red Eggs were traditionally served by our PA Dutch ancestors at all meals. My grandmother and mother always made them and I have tried to carry on the tradition with my children.*

Hard boil, cool and peel some eggs. Place in a quart jar and fill with a solution of 1/3 beet juice, 1/3 water and 1/3 vinegar. Add a dash of nutmeg, some whole cloves and small beets. If necessary, use a second jar so as not to crowd eggs. They will color uniformly if not crowded. Keep in refrigerator for several weeks to thoroughly integrate the color, vinegar and spices. (If too little vinegar is used or the eggs are not kept jarred long enough, the right taste will not be present.) To improve flavor, use garden-fresh beets.

#### **How to Share Your Favorite Recipes**

Share your favorite recipes with Eby family and friends. Send them to Lynne Hagan, Editor, Eby Family News via:  
Email: [lynne@interactmarketing.us](mailto:lynne@interactmarketing.us)  
Mail: 138 Sunset Lane; Tenafly, NJ 07670

#### ***Obituaries, Now and Then (Cont.)***

**Susanah Eaby**, aged 10, died on the 11<sup>th</sup> of December, 1870 in Salisbury township, Lancaster County, PA. Susanah was the oldest daughter of Henry S. and Barbara Eaby.

**Barbara Eaby** died on the 12<sup>th</sup> of March, 1871 in the 35<sup>th</sup> year of her age. On the 12<sup>th</sup> her infant child, who was only two days old, was buried.

**Christian Eaby**, son of Henry S. and Barbara Eaby, died on March 13<sup>th</sup>, 1871 in the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of his age. On the 14<sup>th</sup> the mother and son were buried together at Hess, burying ground. Funeral services by Jacob Hershey, Samuel Wenger and Jacob Andrews, from Hebrews 9:27, 28. (Source for above three entries: *Herald of Truth*, Vol. VIII, No. 5; May 1871; pgs.78-79.)

## 2003 Eby Family Association Treasurer's Report

**Cash on Hand - 5/16/03** **\$5,505.19**

Deposits		
Dues	150.00	
Contributions	94.00	
Book Sales	43.00	
Reunion	945.00	
Shirts/Hats/Cup Sales	10.00	
Interest	2.39	
<b>Total Deposits</b>		<b>\$1,244.39</b>

Payments		
Newsletter/Postage	48.00	
Web Page	63.90	
Reunion ' 03	1,635.73	
Family Graveyard	0.00	
Office Supplies	0.00	
Essick Gallery	0.00	
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>\$1,747.63</b>

**Cash on Hand - 7/8/03** **\$5,001.95**

Since beginning the Treasurership on 7/24/96, the following monies have been received:

Dues	7,570.00
Contributions	4,510.51
Books/Shirts/Hats/Cards	3,777.74
Interest Earned	352.49
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>16,210.74</b>

Dues-paying members (from Reunion to Reunion)

2003	71	plus 10 since reunion 03
2002	60	
2001	42	
2000	57	
1999	77	
1998	68	
1997	80	
1996	108	
1995	106	

## Eby Family Reunion: May 24, 2003 Secretary's Report

Attendance: 39  
Meeting Chair: Roy Eby  
Recording Secretary: Lynne Hagan (One-Time Only)  
Report Date: May 26, 2003 (Revised July 2, 2003)

### Old Business:

Mary Grant reviewed how the Eby Family Association got started as follows:

- Started on May 2, 1992
- Founded by Christian Earl Eby
- Goals: 1) Restore family cemetery (owned by Daniel Smoker)  
2) Restore family bible
- Founding members (14): Christian Earl Eby, Dace Eby, Mary Grant, Grant Eby (deceased), George Eby, Shirley Eby (deceased), Ben & Theodora Longenecker,, Grace Eby, Gladys Gehman
- Christian Eby became chairman and Mary Grant became treasurer of Eby Family Association in 1992.
- First family reunion decided on in 1993 (believe to be held in 1994).

Mary Grant reviewed brief history of Eby Family bible as follows:

- Printed 1596
- Held by Lancaster County Historical Society.
- Restored using funds generated by Eby Family Association.
- Process and participants in restoration can be found in progress reports (held by Mary Grant), Eby Family newsletter (2000 issue) and local newspaper articles (Lancaster Intelligencer).

Mary Grant outlined the status of Eby genealogy books:

- Volume II, Number 1 of *The Eby Report* by Clyde L. Groff and George F. Newman currently of print.
- Volume I, Number 2 of *The Eby Report* by Clyde L. Groff and George F. Newman available through Mary Grant.
- New publication, *The Aebi-Eby Families of Switzerland, Germany and North America, 1550-1850*, by George F. Newman and Dieter Eby Newman through NMN Enterprises Ltd. Not yet published, but pre-ordering is possible through NMN Enterprises Ltd. (PO Box 10, Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006). Lynne Hagan to provide membership with status of this latest publication through the newsletter.
- When asked how many of those present would be interested in purchasing books, three of approximately 30 expressed immediate interest.

George Eby reviewed history of cemetery restoration and maintenance as follows:

- George's father told by Mr. Smoker, owner of land surrounding Hammer Creek cemetery, that there was a tree and 15 grave markers in one of his fields for some, at that time, unknown Eby ancestors.
- Mr. Smoker leaned stones on the tree and told George's father that when stones were gone, he'd plow over the plot.
- One of first tasks accomplished by Eby Family Association members was staking out the plot, having ground radar applied to identify number and disposition of remains, erecting fence around perimeter identified by radar and putting up monument for Theodorus (Durst) Eaby.
- Three graves definitively identified:
  - Theodorus – 1727
  - Peter – 1749
  - Isaac – 1850

Roy Eby reviewed Treasurer's Report. Present members approved.

Status of newsletter reviewed by Lynne Hagan and editorial contributions requested.

*Continued on Page 7*

### **New Business:**

Margaret Eby suggested development of a tour guide outlining Eby family points of interest within Lancaster County as follows:

- New project titled “Eby Homeland Project.”
- Objective is to document and record significant Eby landmarks in Lancaster County.
- Project to be compiled and edited by Sam Wenger, assisted by association member volunteers
- Production costs estimated to be \$3,500
- Some costs to be covered by commercial/personal sponsorships
- Distribution through the Lancaster Country Historical Society (which has requested that the association supply copies of the current Homeland Tour Guide) and association.

Several members made suggestions, as follows:

- Conduct feasibility study to identify more accurate production costs, potential pricing and demand for development of a project “P&L” statement.
- Conduct project in two stages: Stage 1: Provide Lancaster Country Historical Society with copies of current tour guide, enhanced with some readily available materials and use this year’s distribution to gauge demand; Stage 2: Develop higher-quality guide collaboratively after cost/demand analysis.

Margaret suggested revisiting possibility of registering the Eby Family Association as a non-profit organization to:

- Allow the endowment of a fund to financially support future projects and to sustain current maintenance of cemeteries.
- Allow non-taxable donations.

Elizabeth Thompson offered to gather information and report on pros/cons and logistics for obtaining non-profit status. (Christian, Elizabeth will contact you shortly via email to discuss.)

(Ad Hoc New Project-Jason Eaby ([jeaby@epix.net](mailto:jeaby@epix.net)) offered to spearhead effort to reformat Eby books to electronic format, i.e., XML via Lynne Hagan; Lynne Hagan to identify copyright holders for both volumes of *The Eby Report*, gain approvals and oversee up-front logistics.)

### **Election of Officers:**

Roy Eby requested candidates for President, Vice President, Recording Secretary and Treasurer.

Lynne Hagan nominated Margaret Eby for President. Jason Eaby seconded. Margaret Eby declined.

Elizabeth Thompson ([elizabethhthompson@hotmail.com](mailto:elizabethhthompson@hotmail.com)) offered to fill treasurer post. Lynne Hagan nominated. Mary Grant seconded. Membership approved.

- Lynne Hagan to forward contact information and request to provide job description/briefing and necessary information from CE Eaby and M Hollinger to Elizabeth Thompson.

Mary Grant and Joanne Hess Seagrist both suggested that the desire of current officers to resign and the lack of potential candidates to fill positions represents a serious problem.

Lynne Hagan suggested that outlining the responsibilities associated with each position and an estimate of the time spent to fulfill responsibilities may be helpful for members interested in filling positions.

**Status:** Christian Earl Eaby remains President  
Roy Eby remains Vice President  
Elizabeth Thompson becomes Treasurer.  
Recording Secretary post remains unfilled.

**Awards:** Farthest: Tony & Sylvia Polt (Austria)  
Youngest: Simon Polt (18 months)  
Oldest: Grace Eby (92 years old)  
Door Prize #1 (Homestead Print): Elizabeth Thompson  
Door Prize #2 (Eagle Plaque): Name TBD (Christian, I need to see the registration list)

*Continued on Page 8*

**Next Steps:** Investigate possibility of reprinting of Volume II, Number 1 of *The Eby Report*. (Lynne Hagan); Christian Eaby subsequently suggested placing this project on hold to see how much material is repetitively covered in George & Dieter Newman's upcoming book.

Sam Wenger to move forward with compiling and editing interim tour guide for 2003 distribution through the Lancaster Country Historical Society with aid of project volunteers (Joanne Hess Seagrist, Jason Eaby and Lynne Hagan). Project team to discuss and report on development of feasibility report for more polished edition. (Comment by C. Eaby: Final editorial subject to approval by association committee members.)

Elizabeth Thompson to gather information on gaining non-profit status and report out to membership, probably via newsletter.

Lynne Hagan to report on status of *The Aebi-Eby Families of Switzerland, Germany and North America, 1550-1850* in future issue(s) of newsletter.

Additional Items (suggested by Christian Eaby upon review of meeting report):

- Pamphlet done on Aebi Family Bible restoration.
- Pamphlet containing several articles done on family topics by Christian Eaby. Project head TBD. (Volunteers welcome. Please contact either Christian at (717) 656-2626 or Lynne Hagan at (201) 568-8438.
- Sam Wenger's name and contact information to be added to all pertinent Web sites and newsletters as "Special Project" person.
- New projects outlined above may require additional funds. Fundraising suggestions welcome.

Eby Family Association  
P.O. Box 292  
New Holland, PA 17557

PLEASE PLACE POSTAGE HERE
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