

# The Liebler-Quehl Wedding: A study of faces and fashions

## VINTAGE VIEWS

By Tim Mosher

*Tavistock and District Historical Society*

This photo is a great example of how far the medium of photography had advanced after its invention in France in 1822.

This is a very sharp, rich, black and white image using almost entirely the products produced by the Kodak company, based in Rochester, N.Y. Pharmacist and photographer John Lemp was invited by the families to take this milestone photo following the wedding at the bride's home in Tavistock. It was an overcast day, which produces beautiful soft light – ideal for portraits – complimenting both young and old for its gentle, nearly shadowless results.

Mr. Lemp set up his big view camera on a tripod, posed the group, ducked under his dark cloth, focused on the upside-down subject (image reversal systems had not been invented yet) and no doubt asked them not to move as he used a slow shutter speed. The blurred branch on the right and face of the best man are telltale signs of this.

Despite the hot weather, all the men and boys are wearing their jackets, ties, vests, bowlers and fedoras and the boys are in their usual knickerbocker, knee-length pants and long socks. The male wedding party's boutonnières are all pinned to their lapels with their stems up. The young women and girls are all wearing white symbolizing innocence and youth while the older women are all in black representing modesty and

dignity – especially popular for widows.

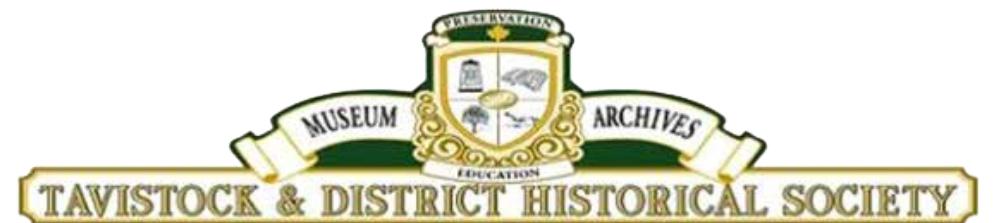
Only three people are identified in this picture: the bride, Agnes Quehl, is the woman standing above the man reclining on the grass; the man on her right is the groom, Arthur Liebler, and the Reverend Dr. Frederich Veit is standing on the doorstep wearing a fedora but not wearing the traditional clerical collar and his usual pince-nez. Remarkably, Rev. Veit served his entire career at Trinity Lutheran, 45 years, from 1872-1917.

After a five-day honeymoon that took the newlywed Lieblers to "Detroit, Toledo and other points," as described in the July 4, 1912, *Tavistock Gazette*, the couple managed Arthur's parents' hotel in Tavistock, the Oxford, on the main street. Here, Art and Aggie were widely reputed as having excellent homecooked meals, hand-pressed linens and cool drinks.

This is another good example of why it's important to record the who, what, where and when in photos as relatives decades from now will be left guessing if you don't. There are 53 people in this picture but, sadly, only three are positively identified. Photography has come a long way since the days of eight-by-10-inch (20-by-25-centimetre) glass negatives recording our histories. Today, the date and time are automatically noted with all of our digital photos and it's easy to add text later as captions on our computers and cell phones.

"Hold still for the photo," are now words from our distant past.

Last week's history mystery: The photo was of Dr. Niemeier's building in Tavistock with ladies in their Sunday finery and a carriage with people posing for the photographer. The question was "What's the sculptural vertical thing on the top left of the roof?" No one answered this correctly. The answer is that Dr. Niemeier had a pharmacy



(PHOTO ATTRIBUTED TO JOHN LEMP; LEMP STUDIO COLLECTION SCAN #0166.)

Happy times were had by all on June 27, 1912, when Arthur Liebler and Agnes Quehl were married at Trinity Lutheran Church in Sebastopol, just north of Tavistock. The reception was held here, at the bride's parents' home on John Street in Tavistock.

on the ground floor directly below this object, so he had the international symbol of apothecaries, a mortar and pestle, mounted on the roofline to advertise this. A mortar is a small vessel with a bowl-shaped bottom; a pestle is a club-shaped, blunt tool used to hand-grind drugs into a powder or paste in the mortar. The horizontal part is thought to be a whimsical addition helping to secure

the oversized mortar and pestle.

This week's history mystery: What's an odd thing about how some people in the wedding party are dressed? This question is open to all ages. Send your answer to [tim\\_mosher@hotmail.com](mailto:tim_mosher@hotmail.com). The first person to answer correctly will have their name, community name or rural route published in the next edition.

## Celebrating 90 Years of faith, family and farming: Glenn Zehr honoured in Tavistock

GARY WEST

*Gazette Correspondent*

Milestone birthdays aren't always easy to come by, but one New Hamburg resident has defied the odds, celebrating 90 remarkable years of a life filled with family, faith and community service.

Glenn Zehr marked the occasion on Sunday at the pavilion in Tavistock, surrounded by his large family, friends and neighbours who came out to help him celebrate.

Glenn Zehr and his wife Mary Ellen Zehr, who turns 90 this coming January, have been married for 69 years. Together, they raised seven children and credit their strong faith for the blessings they've enjoyed throughout the decades.

"We feel extremely fortunate," Glenn Zehr said, "and we thank God for the gift of family, friends, grandchildren and great-grandchildren."

Glenn Zehr spent much of his life as a dairy farmer on the 15th Line of East Zorra, near Tavistock. In 2009, he and

Mary Ellen Zehr retired to the Garden Homes at Nithview Community in New Hamburg.

But Glenn Zehr is known for more than just his contributions to agriculture. A dedicated local historian, he authored a book with help from his family on the history of Hillcrest Mennonite Church. He also served as a full-time pastor at Riverdale Mennonite Church for 18 years and has since offered pastoral leadership at several area churches.

A man of many gifts, Glenn Zehr's impact on his community has been far-reaching, from his faith leadership to his storytelling and historical preservation.

As Glenn Zehr celebrated his 90th birthday, his family reflected on the many memories they've shared, and the lives he's touched throughout his nine decades of a life well lived.

The family took in donations of food at his birthday party and they collected two full laundry hampers of food to give to the Wilmot Family Resource Centre in New



(GARY WEST PHOTOS)

The Zehr family gathers for a group photo at Glenn Zehr's 90th birthday celebration in Tavistock. From left in front are Judy Farlow (Zehr), Mary Ellen and Glenn Zehr, and Janice Zehr. In the back are Colleen Zehr, Marilyn Zehr, Peter Zehr, Colleen Zehr and Caroline Yausie.

Hamburg.

For many years, the Zehrs have volunteered at the MCC New Hamburg thrift

store along with leading activities and events at the Garden Homes at Nithview Community.