# Planning & Zoning for Plain Sect Communities

Northern Oneida County Council of Governments Land Use, Code Enforcement, and Property Tax Assessment in Amish Communities January 28 2025

### Anabaptist Plain Sects



#### Amish

- 5,000 Population of Old Order Amish in U.S about 1900;
- 241,000 Est. population of Old Order Amish in U.S. and Ontario;
- 1,400 Church districts/26 states.

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\* Cooksey, Elizabeth, & Cory Anderson Ohio State 2012

### Anabaptist Plain Sects



#### Mennonites

- +/- 1.7 million in 82 countries "traditional" to "assimilated;"
- +/- 800,000 in U.S.
- +/- 340,000 Est. population of "traditional" Mennonites in U.S. and Ontario\*;

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\* Global Anabaptist Mennonite Encyclopedia Online, 2012

# **Growing Population**

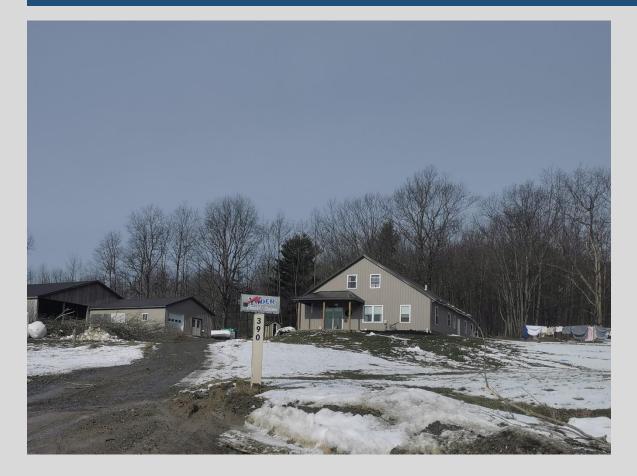
#### **New York**

- One of the fastest-growing Amish populations in US;
- Now 5th-largest overall;
- Today over 23,000 Amish live in New York (2024);
- 58 settlements and over 175 church districts identified.

Source: E. Wesner, New York Amish: 2024 Guide, June 2024 https://amishamerica.com/new-york-amish/



# **Growing Population**



#### **New York**

- Avoiding sprawl;
- Need for agricultural lands to maintain family, community;
- Improve prospects for youth;
- Theological/philosophical conflicts.

### Who Are They

- Rooted in the Anabaptist ("re-baptizers") movement originating in Switzerland during Protestant Reformation in the early 1500s.
- Broke with Roman Catholic tradition, replaced ritual of infant baptism with adult baptism.
- Rebelled against a legalistic, exploitive and irrelevant church hierarchy (Catholic & new Protestant churches)
- "...in the world but not of it..." (I Peter 2:11)



### Schleitheim Articles (1527)

- Adult baptism for those who have been taught repentance;
- The ban for those who fall into error and sin, and refuse to repent;
- The breaking of bread reserved for those who reject the "dead works of darkness" and the "table of the devil;"
- Separation from the evil and wickedness of the world and the weapons of violence and their use: "You shall not resist evil."

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### Schleitheim Articles (1527)

- The Shepherds persons of good report, who can preside over the prayer and in the breaking of bread;
- The Sword (government) coercive, worldly institution that rules according to the flesh not the spirit, that punishes and kills, (but also) guards and protects the good;
- Rejection of Oaths one's speech shall be yea or nay, as the swearing of oaths are for those who are quarreling or making promises, and against the teachings of Christ.



### Who They Are



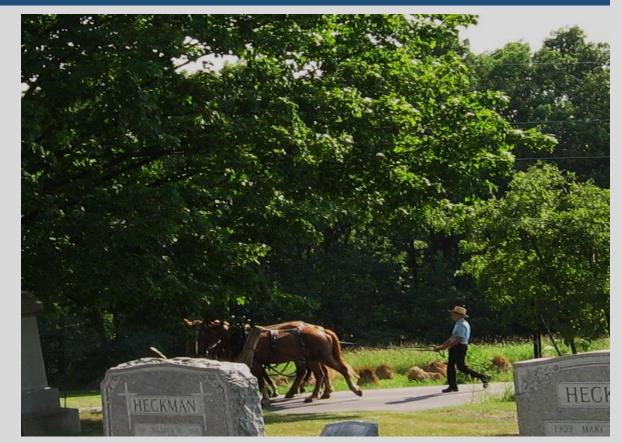
#### Mennonites (1530s)

- Brethren movement founded in Holland by Simon Menno, Catholic priest who left church.
- Largest of the Anabaptist Brethren groups;
- Span the spectrum Old Order to almost "English"

### Who They Are

#### <u>Amish</u> (1690s)

 Swiss, Dutch and Alsatian followers who joined Jacob Amman in a split with the mainline Mennonite movement over matters of doctrine.



### Central Tenet: Gelassenheit

Roughly translated as tranquil submission, or yielding to a higher authority, .i.e.:

* self-surrender	* forsaking ambition
* self-denial	* contentment
* yielding to others	

#### "[A] life etched with modesty and reserve."

Donald Kraybill, Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies



### Who They Are



"The Anabaptist farmer." from cover of an Alsatian almanac, 1841. source: Hostetler, Amish Society

#### <u>1727-1770</u>

 1<sup>st</sup> wave of migration to North America

#### <u>1816-1860</u>

• 2<sup>nd</sup> major migration



# Negotiating With Caesar

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment religious freedoms VS. public health, safety and welfare

- Pacifism & military
  Public health laws; service;
- Education;
- Social Security;

- - Highway safety;
  - Building codes;
  - Land use regulations.



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# Thank You

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