



THIS VERY GROUND, THIS CROOKED AFFAIR *A Mennonite Homestead on Lenape Land*

by John L. Ruth

Summary: Ruth's volume connects the centuries-old history of the author's Pennsylvania Mennonite homestead with that of the land's indigenous Lenape inhabitants, interweaving documented Pennsylvania history with the national pursuit of a Doctrine of Discovery—and the story of Mennonites who had themselves fled suffering and landlessness with the fates of Native Americans continent-wide.

"Ruth dares us to remember how the Original People of Turtle Island responded to the English Quakers and Swiss-German Mennonites breaking into their world. How could such strangers learn to live in peace? How can a human being 'own' land? What is justice for all? After a lifetime of unearthing facts, with inspired insight Ruth builds the foundation stories of who and what we are today. Listen to him—very carefully."

—Rudy Wiebe, *Author, Of This Earth: A Mennonite Boyhood in the Boreal Forest*

"In erudite, short chapters, author John Ruth leads readers to the fields, woods, cities, and streams where the choices and legacies of Quaker leader William Penn, Lenape headman Sassoonan, and Mennonite settlers converge. This book names the Lenape, and, through diligent research and perhaps some historical imagination, recovers lost voices. It represents atonement, the attempt of one masterful storyteller to retell, beg forgiveness, and circle the story once again."

—Kimberly D. Schmidt, *Director, Washington Community Scholars' Center; Professor of History, Eastern Mennonite University*

"A bold, frank, honest account of how Pennsylvania Mennonites, including the author's ancestors, got entangled in colonization policies that dispossessed the Lenape (Delaware) Indians of life, land, and culture. By including the Indian point of view and insightful analysis (musings), Ruth provides a model for truth-telling narratives about other communities established by Mennonite settlers on lands taken from Indians."

—Marvin E. Kroeker, *Author, Comanches and Mennonites on the Oklahoma Plains*

Market: Historians, scholars engaging the historical and contemporary intersections of Native American—especially Lenape—history, anyone interested in the story of "A Mennonite homestead on Lenape land" told by a historian who both lives on that very land and has exhaustively studied how it passed from the Lenape to his ancestors in "a crooked affair."

Shelving: History—Native American, Lenape, Sassoonan, Pennsylvania, William Penn, United States colonial era, Anabaptist, Mennonite

The Author

Author, historian, and documentarian John L. Ruth, Harleysville, Pennsylvania, is recognized for depicting the lives of Mennonites and their spiritual cousins, the Hutterites and the Amish. Ruth's narratives of Pennsylvania Mennonite life include *Maintaining the Right Fellowship: A Narrative Account of Life in the Oldest Mennonite Community in North America* (1984), *The Earth is the Lord's: A Narrative History of the Lancaster Conference Mennonites* (2001), and *Forgiveness: A Legacy of the West Nickel Mines Amish School* (3rd. ed. 2010).

PUBLISHED BY CASCADIA PUBLISHING HOUSE

Publication date: Dec. 2021 (*tentative*)

Pages: 386 plus frontmatter, with index, bibliography

Format: 6 x 9" trade paper

Prices: \$37.95 US/Can.

ISBN13: 978-1-68027-019-8

TO ORDER:

- From Cascadia, use options end of page
- Online: Amazon.com, BarnesandNoble.com, BookDepository.com, and other Internet retailers

More Cascadia titles:

- *The Absent Christ: An Anabaptist Theology of the Empty Tomb*, Justin Heinzekehr
- *Education with the Grain of the Universe: A Peaceable Vision for the Future of Mennonite Schools, Colleges, and Universities*, ed. J. Denny Weaver
- *Making a Difference in the Journey: The Geography of Our Faith*, ACRS4, ed. Nancy V. Lee and more
- *Human Sexuality in Biblical Perspective: A Study Guide*, Carrie A. Mast and Gerald J. Mast
- *Re-Envisioning Service: The Geography of Our Faith*, ACRS3, ed. Ray C. Gingerich and Pat Hostetter Martin
- *Living the Anabaptist Story*, Lisa D. Weaver and J. Denny Weaver
- *Songs from an Empty Cage: Poetry, Mystery, Anabaptism, and Peace*, Jeff Gundy



To place orders or for more information see <https://www.CascadiaPublishingHouse.com> or

contact us at • contact@cascadiapublishinghouse.com • 1-215-723-9125 • 126 Klingerman Road, Telford, PA 18969