



Facing religious persecution for their beliefs, the Separatists were granted permission to immigrate to the United States in 1817. A group of about 300 Separatists boarded the Russian ship *Vaterlandsliebe* to start their journey.

Joseph Bimeler (Baumeler), a weaver, teacher, healer, and preacher, became the unofficial leader of the Separatists on the voyage to the United States. Bimeler would serve as Agent General of Zoar until his death in 1853.

The Separatists landed in Philadelphia with the help of the Society of Friends (Quakers) in August of 1817, after a four month journey via ship from Antwerp.





The original cabin built by the Separatists in 1817 still stands today.

The cabin is privately owned.



The Zoar Meeting House was built in 1853.

The building still functions as a Church and is home to the Zoar United Church of Christ. The original 1873 organ is still used in services today.

Zoar Crops

Planting

Early spring:

Spring greens
(dandelion, lettuces)

Radishes

Peas

Spring wheat

Spring:

Carrots

Onions

Cabbage

Turnips

Beets

Oats

Barley

Hops

Clover

Flax

Buckwheat

Fruit trees

Late spring:

Corn

Potatoes

Other garden vegetables

(kohlrabi, cucumbers, etc.)

Fall:

Winter wheat

Rye

Timothy

Harvesting

Late winter:

Maple sugar

Spring:

Lettuces, dandelions

Late spring:

Radishes

Green tops of root vegetables
(turnips, beets, etc.)

Peas

Summer:

Garden vegetables

Barley

Peaches

Currants

Cherries

Late summer:

Winter wheat

Timothy

Rye

Flax

Honey

Carrots

Onions

Potatoes

Root crops (turnips, beets,
kohlrabi)

Grapes

Early fall:

Clover

Spring wheat

Cabbage

Hops

Apples

Oats

Buckwheat

Late fall:

Corn

The Quakers of Philadelphia helped the Separatists secure land in Ohio. In 1817, Godfrey Haga sold 5,500 acres to the Separatists for \$15,000. Haga asked for three payments, the first one due in 1828. Joseph Bimeler bought the land, sight unseen.

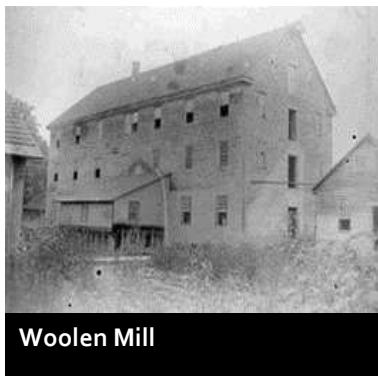


In October of 1817, Joseph Bimeler and the first group of Separatists set out for their new home. They build crude cabins to survive the winter. The rest of the group arrived in the Spring of 1818.

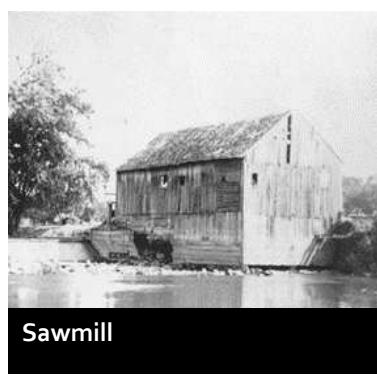
The new town was named **Zoar**. The name derives from the Bible. Lot sought refuge in Zoar after fleeing Sodom. The Separatists viewed Zoar as their place of refuge.

ZOAR INDUSTRY

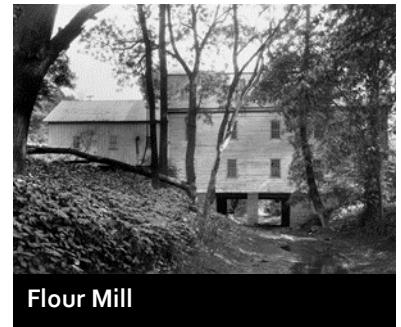
Some of Zoar's industry was craft-based, including the wheelwright, tinsmith, cobbler, brewer and cabinetmaker. Much of what they made was for Society use, but some surplus items were sold to outsiders. Products of the Woolen Mill had a dual purpose – fabric for Society clothing, and colorful coverlets and blankets for sale. Another industry, iron-making, was developed to export the product, made of local iron ore and coal, although some ironware was used in the village.



Woolen Mill



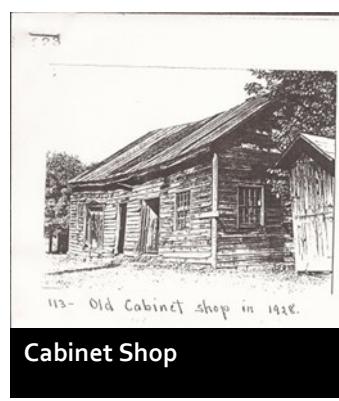
Sawmill



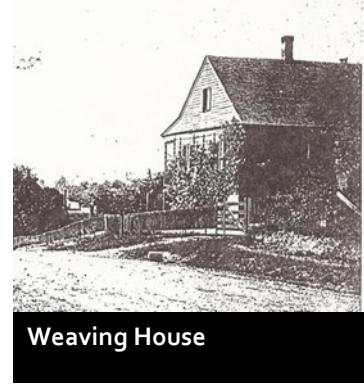
Flour Mill



Tinshop



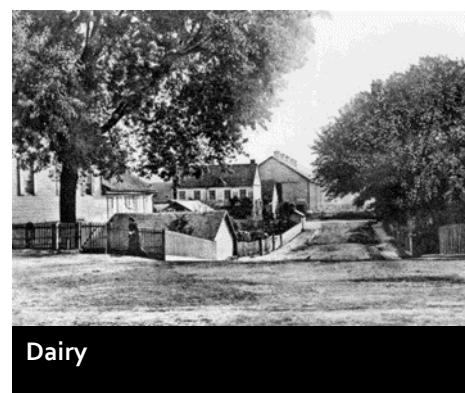
Cabinet Shop



Weaving House



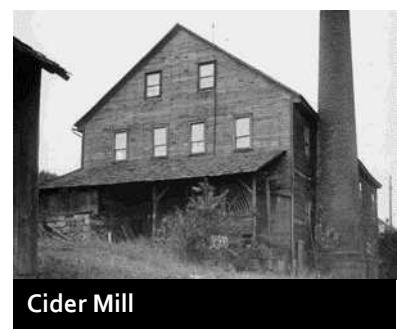
Brewery



Dairy



Blacksmith



Cider Mill

Pottery was also a major industry of Zoar.

No historic building photograph available.

eine güter gemeinschaft

(community of goods)

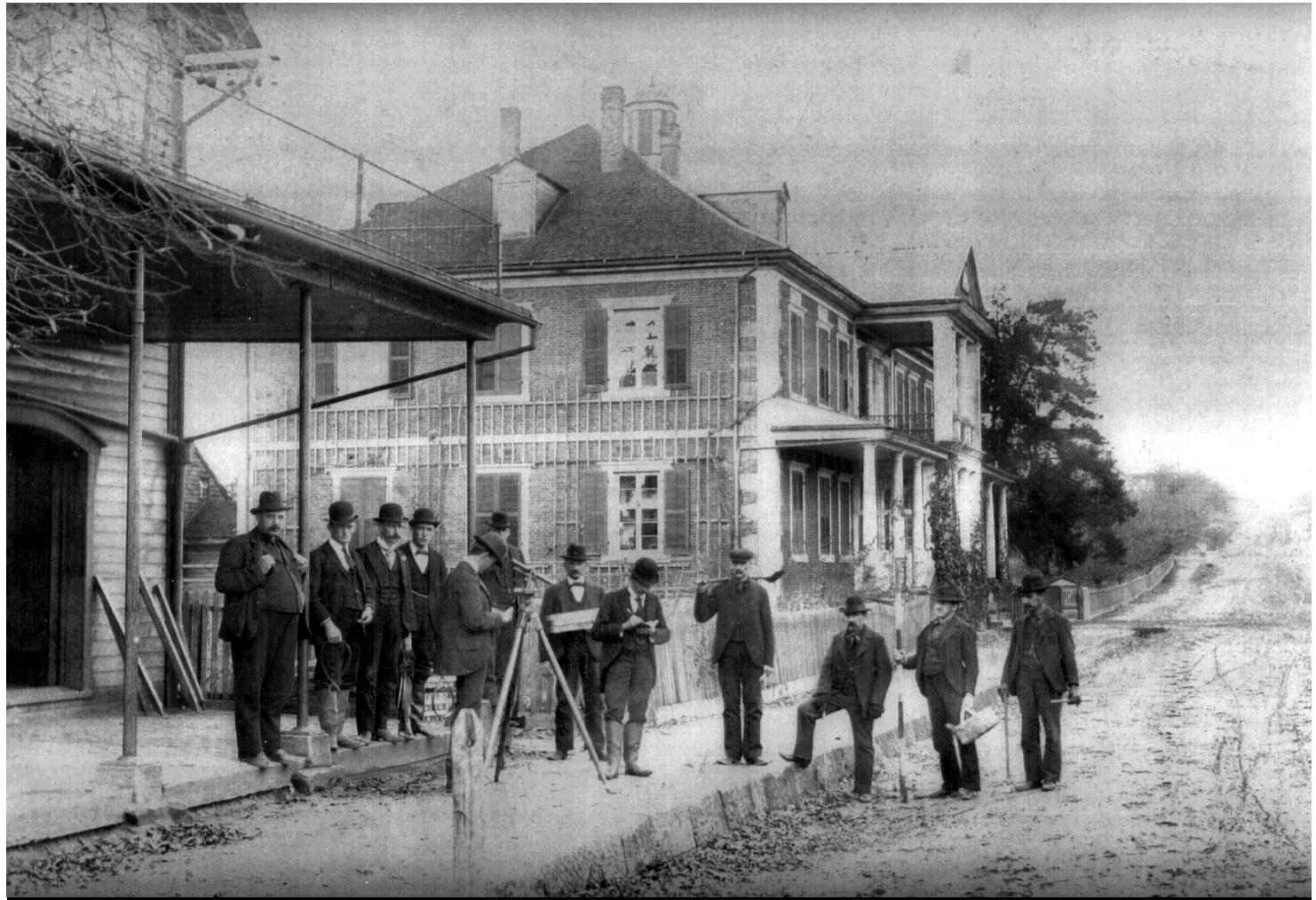


On April 15, 1819, the Articles of Agreement were signed by all women over age 18 and men over age 21 and the Society of the Separatists of Zoar was formed. The Society of Separatists would become one of the longest lasting communal settlements in American history.

The following occurred after the articles were signed:

- The needs of every member were taken care of (food, clothing, shelter)
- Everyone worked for the benefit of the whole
- All private property was banned
- Women could vote and could run for the position of trustee
- Joseph Bimeler became Agent General
- The people of Zoar lived as one large family

After 79 years of living communally, all 222 members of the Society of Separatists decided to dissolve and hired three surveying teams in March of 1898 to divide the property of the society. Every remaining member received a share and those with trades received their workplace (the Tinsmith received the Tinshop, etc.) Members also received the home or a portion of the home in which they lived. An auction in October of 1898 sold the farm equipment and livestock with the profits being equally distributed.



A group of surveyors assessing the property of the Society of the Separatists of Zoar.



Zoar was designated a National Historic Landmark District in 2017. Guests today can tour 14 museum buildings.

March 14- Pie Day

April 4- Opening Day

April 10- Pretzel Day

April 24- Earth Day School Day

May 9- Maifest

June 20- Artful Blooms: Art and Garden Tour

July 15-17- Kid's History Camp

July 25 and 26- Harvest Festival: Antique and Artisan Show

July 28-31- Adult History Camp

August 1- Teacher Day

August 15 and 16- Quilt and Fiber Show

September 19- Cider and Cellars and Octoberfest

October 16- Zoar and the Presidents School Day

October 23, 24, 30, 31- Ghost Tours

December 5 and 6- Christmas in Zoar

Speaker Series- 1st Saturday of March-November

For more information please call 330-874-3011 or email zoarinfo@historiczoarvillage.com

Tours are conducted April through October with festivals, programs, educational classes, speakers, field trips and other events offered year round.

