

Nonfiction Books and Resources that Offer Factual Information about the Amish

Following are some Nonfiction Books that offer factual information to satisfy a person's personal interest in the Amish or provide information for a student to write a report, essay, or give a speech. In case you are a student who needs to use the following sources for a MLA (Modern Language Association) "Works Cited" page, we have presented this page in PDF format so that the proper spacing, hanging indentation, and punctuation is correct according to the latest 2009 MLA Style Manual. The PDF file should lock in the proper spacing, hanging indentation, and punctuation. This is not always true in what is seen on web pages where the screen monitor size and screen resolution may distort the formatting.

Whittmer, Joe. *The Gentle People: An Inside View of Amish life*. Washington, IN : Black Buggy Restaurant & General Store, 2007.

This is a very good book that is approximately 200 pages in length. This book provides enough information to help answer just about any question that you may have about the Amish lifestyle and community. The different sections include introducing The Old Order Amish; Amish origin Amish music; Amish family system; married-pair living; children and growing up; rules for living; Orders of the Church; footwashing; symbolism of dress; humility; nicknaming; Church Services and Ordaining Ministers; taking care of older persons; no insurance or involvement with the state; holidays and ceremonies; health and medicine; practicing the common courtesies; Amish newspaper; the budget; courtship, marriage and death; Amish plan of education; brief history of the problems with public schools; Amish schools; today's problems in the New Millennium; farming related issues; slow moving vehicle sign controversy; new Amish home-based enterprises; problems with social security; child labor laws; genetic problems; problems with tourists, and some perplexing compromises with progress.

Nolt, Steven M. *A History of the Amish*. Intercourse, PA: Good Books, 2003.

Steven Nolt provides over 300 pages of a very detailed and complete history of the Amish. This is an excellent book for anyone who wants to know the **history of the Amish**.

Shachtman, Tom. *Rumspringa: to be or not be Amish*. New York: North Point Press, 2007.

“Rumspringa is Tom Shachtman's celebrated look at a little known Amish coming-of-age ritual, the rumspringa-the period of "running around" that begins for their youth at age sixteen. During this time, Amish youth are allowed to live outside the bounds of their faith, experimenting with alcohol, premarital sex, revealing clothes, telephones, drugs, and wild parties. By allowing such broad freedoms, their parents hope they will learn enough to help them make the most important decision of their lives-whether to be baptized as Christians, join the church, and forever give up worldly ways, or to remain in the world.”

Stevick, Richard A. *Growing Up Amish: The Teenage Years*. Baltimore, MD:

John Hopkins University Press, 2007.

Richard Stevick provides a **scholarly** look at the Amish's teenage years. “Nearly 90 percent of those who grow up Amish choose the Amish way: a lifetime commitment to the faith and a traditional way of life. To outsiders immersed in the daily realities and luxuries of the modern world, this statistic may seem unbelievable. In this in-depth study of Amish adolescence, Richard A. Stevick offers a balanced, comprehensive, and engaging account of the social forces and rituals-including Rumspringa-that contribute to this statistic. In *Growing Up Amish*, Stevick reveals the world of Amish youth caught between the expectations of their traditional community and the growing pressures and temptations that accompany adolescence. Drawing from a dozen years of **research** in more than seventy communities in fifteen states, he carefully details home life and school, social singings and wild parties, isolated settlements and Amish youth gangs, and courtship practices and wedding rituals. Stevick shows how the strong and distinct Amish identity is fostered by the entire community-parents, ministers, teachers, and neighbors. With positive reinforcement and constant modeling of Amish behavior and values, this strong identity keeps most youth from feeling at ease in and identifying with the outside world. This definitive work provides new and important insight into what life is really like for the adolescents, their families, and their communities during the "running around" years and how these fascinating rituals have, in fact, helped the Amish preserve their unique culture.”

Wesner, Erik. *Success Made Simple: An Inside Look at Why Amish Businesses Thrive*.

San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass, 2010.

“*Success Made Simple* is the first practical book of Amish business success principles for the non-Amish reader. The work provides a platform of transferable principles--simple and universal enough to be applied in the non-Amish world, in a wide variety of business and management settings.

Learn how to develop profitable and fulfilling enterprises as Amish explain how to build fruitful relationships with customers and employees, prosper by playing to strengths, and create an effective marketing story.

Includes interviews with over 50 Amish business owners outline the role of relationships in business and the importance of the big picture-taking in long-term goals, the welfare of others, and personal integrity.

Offers ideas on practical application of Amish business practices to non-Amish businesses, with bullet summaries at the end of each chapter reviewing the most important take-away points.”

Waters, Bruce M. *Faces of Lancaster County*. Atglen, PA: Schiffer Pub. Ltd., 2011.

Many people are looking for **pictorial works** that feature the Amish. This is one book that you may want to consider.

Website Resources that Offer Factual Information about the Amish

Following are some Website Resources (including journal articles) that offer factual information to satisfy a person’s personal interest in the Amish or provide information for a student to write a report, essay or give a speech.

Greksa, Lawrence P. and Jill E. Kobin. (2004). Amish. In C. R. Ember & M. Eber (Eds.),

Encyclopedia of Medical Anthropology, Volume 2: Cultures (pp. 557-564). New York:

Kluwer Academic/Plenum Press. Retrieved from

www.case.edu/artsci/anth/documents/Amish.pdf

“Amish” is a chapter in the book *Encyclopedia of Medical Anthropology*. Lawrence Greksa and Jill Kobin are the authors of the chapter. C.R. Ember and M. Eber are the editors of *Encyclopedia of Medical Anthropology*.

The Amish chapter provides a lot of very good information about the Amish culture and community including a very brief history of the Amish; overview of the Amish culture; context of health care for the Amish, including the environment, economics, social and political factors; classification of illnesses, theories of illness, and treatment of the illness; sexuality and reproduction; health through the life cycle, pregnancy and birth, infancy, childhood, adolescence, adulthood, the aged, and dying and death. This article can be located at

www.case.edu/artsci/anth/documents/Amish.pdf

Amish Studies: The Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies at Elizabeth College in Pennsylvania located at <http://www2.etown.edu/amishstudies>.

“Amish Studies is an academic website developed by the Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies at Elizabethtown College (Pa.) to provide reliable information on Amish life and culture.” This website provides quite a few pages of information on a variety of topics about the Amish. A “Frequently Asked Questions” web page can answer many questions that people have about the Amish. However, there are links to more information about the Amish including topics such as: religion, communal values, education, family, government, language, leaderships, jobs, population growth, deviance, health, leisure, Rumspringa, technology, statistics, and much more.

An example of how to cite the “Education” page from this website, according to MLA 2009 would be:

“Education.” *Amish Studies*. Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies, Elizabethtown

College. n.d. Web. (Place here the date of access such as 24 Aug. 2012)

Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission presents “Amish in Pennsylvania” which consists of four pages of information about the Amish. Topics covered: brief history of the Amish; religion; children/education/schools; finances/money; family/kinship; community events/lifestyle; clothing; taxes, and MORE. The web page can be accessed at:

<http://pa.gov/portal/server.pt/community/groups/4286/amish/471927>

“Amish in Pennsylvania.” *Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission*. N.p, n.d. Web.

(Type the date that you accessed the website such as 24 Aug. 2012).

Rearick, Elizabeth. “Amish Culture and Healthcare.” *University of Arizona College of Nursing*.

n.d. Web. (Type your date of access such as 24 Aug. 2012)

This appears to be a student’s research paper/article that is presented on a web page maintained by the University of Arizona’s College of Nursing. A popular topic at many nursing schools is Transcultural / multicultural / cultural nursing. Many different cultures have their own views/perspectives on healthcare. This particular article provides credible information on how the Amish deal with healthcare. **This article is located at**
<http://juns.nursing.arizona.edu/articles/Fall%202003/rearick.htm>

The Amish and the Law: A Religious Minority and its Legal Encounters is a **scholarly research article** that is published in the *Washington and Lee Law Review*. This is a 1984 article. The date might be a concern for outdated material, BUT much of the article has to do with the **history** of the Amish so the date may not be that big of factor. The paper covers a brief history of the Amish; charter of the Amish community; Ordnung; excommunication and shunning; pressure to conform; education; compulsory insurance; and the Amish uses of the Law. **The information provides a historical look at the Amish, especially related to the Law.** The URL is very LONG. It may be easier to just type the title of this paper into Google in order to find the FREE article. However, here is the URL that you can click on for access and hopefully this link works:

<http://scholarlycommons.law.wlu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=2112&context=wlulr&sei-redir=1&referer=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.google.com%2Furl%3Fsa%3Dt%26rct%3Dj%26q%3Damish%2Band%2Ba%2Breligious%2Bminority%26source%3Dweb%26cd%3D1%26cad%3Drja%26ved%3D0CCIQFjAA%26url%3Dhttp%253A%252F%252Fscholarlycommons.law.wlu.edu%252Fcgi%252Fviewcontent.cgi%253Farticle%253D2112%2526context%253Dwlulr%26ei%3D9XuBUJHNFYaWqgGjpoDwDw%26usg%3DAFQjCNEFC7d7F1-Ir0YHh9tjmOR04gjwA#search=%22amish%20religious%20minority%22>

Hostetler, John A. "The Amish and the A Religious Minority and its Legal Encounters."

Washington and Lee Law Review 41.1 (1984): 33-47. Web. (Type the date that you

accessed the article such as 24 Aug. 2012.)

American Culture through Amish Eyes: Perspectives on an Anarchist Protest Movement.

This **scholarly research article** "identifies the countercultural and anarchistic elements of Amish society and outlines its resemblance to social movements and to other separationist/pacifist societies of the past." In presenting this perspective, the author provides A LOT of very interesting characteristics of the Amish. If you just want to know more about the Amish culture, then this is worth the read. You do NOT have to agree or disagree with the author's thesis.

Very interesting information is presented about crime within the Amish community; views on factory life; involvement with legal system; military status; shunning; manual labor / jobs / employment / business; ordnung; population growth; materialism; technology; art; deviant behavior; and non-violence and civil disobedience. Something very interesting about this article that is hard to find in other sources is the relation of the Amish lifestyle to the scripture in the Bible. The author gives examples of why the Amish do specific things based on their interpretation of specific Bible passages. Some parts of Amish life are explained according to scripture. For example, here are two paragraphs on page 94 that help explain some of the Amish culture and lifestyle. "The wellspring and continuing inspiration for Amish anarchism is religion, and is to be found in the Anabaptist interpretation of the Holy Bible. Two of the most important biblical passages for Anabaptists are the scriptural admonitions to 'Be not conformed to this world' and to 'Be not unequally yoked to unbelievers' (Hostetler 1993)."

"Being unconformed to the world means, to the Amish, that they are obliged to seek conformity to the norms of Christianity and to the role model provided by the life of Jesus. Yet is left to each church district to develop its own specific interpretations of precisely how to be different, e.g. in matters of local technological adaptations, permissible occupations, allowable places of residence, and so on."

This nineteen-page article **provides very interesting insight** into the world of the Amish. The article is free and can be accessed at

<http://kuscholarworks.ku.edu/dspace/bitstream/1808/5128/1/STARV20N1-2A7.pdf>

Foster, Thomas W. "American Culture through Amish Eyes: Perspectives of an Anarchist Protest

Movement. *MARS/Social Thought & Research* 20.1-2 (1997): 89-198. Web. (Place here

date that you accessed this article such as 24 Aug. 2012)