

# Mennonite Historian



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*Breaking ground for the new Centre: Left to right: Peter W. Enns, representing the Family Foundation which donated the funds to build the centre; Jake Fransen, vice-chairman of the Conferences of Mennonites in Canada; Gerhard Lohrenz, former teacher at Canadian Mennonite Bible College, who has had a long-standing interest in such a centre.*

## Heritage Centre: A Dream Come True

The ground-breaking service for a new Mennonite Heritage Centre was held on Sunday, August 28, on the campus of Canadian Mennonite Bible College in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

About 60 persons from the city and other nearby congregations shared the occasion with members of the P.W. Enns Family Foundation which has helped make the Centre a reality.

Chairing the service, Henry J. Gerbrandt, executive secretary of the Conference of Mennonites in Canada, led the group in singing "Grosser Gott Wir Loben Dich". Rudy Regehr, who is moderating the newly-formed building committee for the project, introduced other persons working in that group.

This included the architect, Siegfried Toews, of Vancouver, B.C. and Peter Martens of MBS Construction, Winnipeg, who will head the construction itself. Jake Fransen, recently reelected vice-chairman of the Conference of Mennonites in Canada,

led in the dedicatory prayer.

In his brief remarks prior to the sod-breaking, Rev. Gerhard Lohrenz, noted the Mennonite community's too-frequent disobedience of the biblical command to communicate its heritage to its children and later descendants. "We, the present generation," he said, "propose to remedy the situation."

Lohrenz, a well-known Mennonite minister, teacher, and historian, and a long time advocate of such a project, described the new structure as a "centre for the study of the past, but visualizing this as something that belongs also to the present."

"It is," he went on, "to enable us to understand and appreciate our problems of today more intelligently . . . to lead to a constant re-examination of our private and public life . . . to give us a greater vision for the future . . . and to produce a longing for those things that are pure, true, honorable, just, lovely and gracious."

Acknowledgement of the gift, and approval of construction took place at the

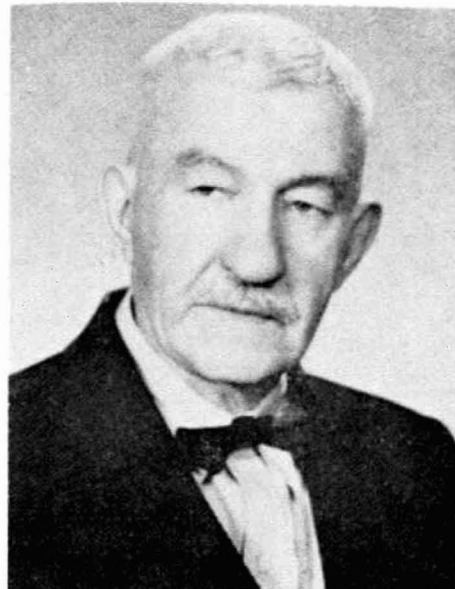
Conference sessions in July. It will be followed by work on the site commencing in September, and planned for completion in the fall of 1978.

The new facilities will include an expanded archives preservation and service area, a public meeting and heritage display area, and a library section for CMBC. Plans call for a structure to be located west of the present library wing, and south of the campus student residence. The archives is presently housed in the lower level of the Conference office area, on the campus as well.

Canadian Mennonite Bible College is located at 600 Shaftesbury Blvd. in Winnipeg.

## Bernhard J. Schellenberg (1879-1966)

In 1933 the Conference of Mennonites in Canada appointed Bernhard J. Schellenberg as the first archivist of the Conference. He held that position till 1941 when Benjamin Ewert succeeded to that work. Schellenberg presented his vision for a Conference archives in numerous yearbook reports, and particularly in a series of articles in *Der Bote*, May, 1938 to January, 1939. His collection now forms an important part of the Conference archives total holdings.



# It Happened in Glencross

By Peter Brown

"Like mother, like son," was a suitable caption for a unique observation during the proceedings marking the absorption of the Glencross School District No. 71 by the Garden Valley Area No. 26.

Speakers at the Sunday, July 19, 1970, program held on the Glencross school grounds, were George Henderson, M.L.A.; Howard Winkler, M.P.; Adolf Dack, Morden Historical Society; Art Warkentin, former pupil; H. I. Hoepfner, Stanley Councillor; and George Froese, Stanley R.M. reeve.

The three school houses that served the young people of the community during the 91 years that the Glencross people operated their school tell their own stories. Rough-hewn local oak timbers were used in the construction of the first school house. Local residents were the master builders. Eleven years later hired stone masons shaped the boulders that local farmers hauled from their fields to the school yard and erected a sturdy stone school-house. In 1941 a master carpenter supervised the construction of a modern frame-building with furnace and indoor-toilets for the Glencross school children.

Located a few miles west of Range Five (the western limit of the area set aside for Mennonite settlement in 1873), the Glencross area was homesteaded by Scotch and English pioneers in the 1870's and the 1880's. Records in the Morden Land Titles office show the names Borthwick, Bedford, Bell, Bradley, Fraser, Johnston, McKay, Mitchell, Parker, and Wilson. The same source reveals the change the neighboring Mennonite community brought about in the shadow of the Pembinas. Today names like Braun, Dyck, Fehr, Hildebrand, Hoepfner, Loewen, Thiessen, Suderman, Warkentin and Wiebe are the Glencross tax payers.

Accompanying this change in tenancy elderly Glencross residents still recall the riding to hounds chasing the deer, fox or wolf by the first settlers, damaging fences and ruining crops of their compatriots. As the clearing of land on the hills progressed, wild life diminished and this sport gradually disappeared. And yet a few of the Mennonite farmers in the area became avid greyhound breeders and loved the chase.

Historically Glencross is rich in Manitoba's story. Alexander Henry passed that way early in the 19th century. He made his observations from D'Allard's Point, a high point on the Pembinas two miles west of the Glencross school site. Prior to Henry the Indians used this high point to send smoke signals to look-out points south to Walhalla and north to Miami. From the



*Mrs. Elizabeth (G.G.) Brown with Wilfred Boyd Brown at the July 19, 1970 celebration marking the 91st anniversary of the Glencross School District and its addition to the Garden Valley School Division No. 26.*

same vantage point on any clear night the flats below are ablaze with a sea of lights thanks to Manitoba Hydro.

When the Canadian government opened southern Manitoba for settlement to forestall any encroachment from the south the early settlers by-passed the flats for the Pembina Hills and beyond where trees for fuel and stone for building purposes were available. Soon a wagon trail appeared across the open prairies. To avoid straying from this trail in winter, the Mennonites placed oaken posts along it, hence the name Post Road was applied to it. The Glencross school was located alongside of this trail. In 1880 the Canadian government provided the area with mail service via the village of Reinland. Eight years later in 1888 a detachment of the Northwest Mounted Police was stationed in Reinland.



Beyond Glencross this road led on to Mountain City, Stevens, Nelsonville, and other points west.

\* \* \*

**Peter Brown of 560 Waverley, Winnipeg, Manitoba, is a retired teacher, and author of THE BRAUNS OF OSTERWICK (1972). He is presently researching the history of the Burwalde School District, and is a regular contributor to the recently-begun BURWALDE ALBUM.**

## Burwalde Reunion

On April 2, 1977, 13 members of the Burwalde Reunion Committee of present and former residents of the community met at the Burwalde School to lay initial plans for a reunion.

The dates are now established at Saturday and Sunday, July 15 and 16, 1978. The Burwalde school grounds plus that of the Winkler Bible Camp and its facilities will be the location.

Registrants will be encouraged to come into the area by Friday and seek out their accommodation — whether it be staying with those living in the area or pitching a tent in designated areas on the reunion site.

The property committee envisioned putting up a tent and a P.A. system to accommodate 800 people. The programming committee called for a 2 p.m. registration on Saturday, kicking off a two-day schedule of events which includes meals, talent nights, story telling, sports, music — and, of course, lots of visiting. It sounds very exciting and more details on the event will be announced in further issues of the **Burwalde Album**.

There have been some very fine responses from readers of **Burwalde Album**. The Burwalde Book Committee has felt that a history of the district can be published in a book providing the material comes in. Naturally, the information on families published in **Burwalde Album** would find its way into the book as well.

The programming committee is also looking to many to sing in the "Burwalde Mass Choir". It announces the following.

You are invited to join the "Burwalde Mass Choir". Under the direction of a former teacher, Mr. Henry B. Hoepfner, tentative plans are to start practising twice monthly in April 1978, and possible weekly practice mid-June to mid-July.

If interested contact: "Burwalde Mass Choir" Box 665, Morden, Manitoba, R0G 1J0

— Isaac Froese

### Note:

Burwalde is a school district community located about 7 miles northeast of Morden, Manitoba.

\* \* \*

## Family Fellowship

Family and special reunions continue to form an important experience for many Mennonite communities. For a growing number of people such gatherings help to create and sustain "rootedness" relationships with others. The celebration of belonging becomes a hallmark of the full life in the people-world of God.

While some groups leave little record of their meeting, others share a bit of themselves with a larger public. The following are a few of the get-togethers from which information reached us through the press and other sources.

**June 25-26.** Members of the clan of Peter (1841-1915) and Maria Derksen Epp (1843-1933) met at the West Park School in Altona, Manitoba. They also visited the village of Schoenthal where the Epps once lived, and the junction of the Rat and Red where they first touched Manitoba soil. A family book is being prepared by Frank Dueck, of Winnipeg, Manitoba.

**July 2-3.** Another Vehr-Fehr family reunion was held at the International Peace Gardens in North Dakota, USA. Another larger gathering is being planned for 1980. If interested, contact Henry B. Veer, 58433 So. CR 105, Elkhart, Indiana, USA.

**July 3.** The descendants of Heinrich and Charlotte (Marie) Loepp Fast met at Kleefeld, Manitoba. Twelve of the possible 23 members of the first generation were present.

**July 9-10.** Former and present residents of the Silberfeld S.D. in the Waldheim, Saskatchewan area met to recall the story of S.D. No. 1065. A brief history of the district was published in Saskatchewan Valley News of September 8, 1977.

**July 16-18.** About 200 persons attended the Buhr reunion, with sessions at the MCI in Gretna, at Winnipeg, and finally at the Mennonite Village Museum in Steinbach. A family book entitled **Jakob Buhr Family**, edited by Helen Regier of Newton, Kansas, was presented for sale. The Jacob and Kathrina Buhr homestead is still in use at Edenburg near Gretna today.

**July 16-17.** The descendants of five families who came to Canada from the Trakt in South Russia met at Rosthern Junior College in Rosthern, Saskatchewan to reflect on the significance of that move 5 years ago. Those five families were the J. J. Dycks, two families of Cornelius Froeses, the Gustav Froeses, and the John P. Isaacs. (Cf. **Mennonite Reporter**, Sept. 5, 1977, p. 18)

**July 24.** Present and former residents of the Kleinstadt (Hochstadt) S.D. No. 781 met at West Park School in Altona, Man. A brief history **The School District of Kleinstadt** prepared by F. J. Kehler, G. A. Braun, and D. D. Friesen had been published for the occasion.

**July 28.** This was the fourth reunion of the descendants of Jakob Hoepfner, a "deputy" of the Mennonites moving from Prussia to Russia in 1788-1790. Over 350 members of the clan were present at the Mennonite Village Museum where the Hoepfner memorial, once erected on Chortitza Island in the Dnieper, has found another resting place. The museum also has the Hoepfner family Bible which dates back to 1643. At the gathering Pauline Heppner of Sardis, B.C. displayed the manuscript of an extensive family book which is being prepared.

**August 14.** The yearly Reesor reunion was held again at the St. Williams Forestry Farm, near Reesor, Ontario. The Mennonite settlement there was founded in 1925 by south Russian Mennonites but has since then dissolved. The text for a proposed cairn to be erected at the site of the former settlement was discussed, and plans were finalized to complete the project. (Cf. **Mennonite Historian**, Vol. III, No. 1 and 2 for a short historical sketch on the Reesor settlement.)

\* \* \*



Can you identify the persons in the above photo? It was found among the belongings of the late Mrs. Katherine Letkemann, born in Osterwick, south Russia, in 1864. She died at Aberdeen, Saskatchewan in 1955. Her mother was Anna Neudorf. She had been married three times: 1) with Heinrich Janzen, 2) with Peter Martens, and 3) with a Mr. Schellenberg.

If you can give any information about the family on the photo please write to J. Neudorf, Box 12, Osler, Saskatchewan.

## Prussian Church Records

Mennonite genealogists often wonder how to get hold of information from Prussian Mennonite congregational records which are deposited at the **Weierhof Forschungsstelle**,

West Germany, and elsewhere. Most of those records are available on microfilm through the branch systems of more than 200 libraries of the Mormon Genealogical Society of Utah, 50 East North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah 84150. The Society also refers researchers to accredited genealogists who are willing to search microfilms for a fee.

In Canada microfilms are available at the following addresses:

\*2021 - 17th Ave. S.W., Calgary, Alta. T1T 0G2

\*P.O. Box 839, Cardston, Alta. T0K 0K0. 9211 - 82 St., Edmonton, Alta T6C 2X4.

\*321 27th St. South, Lethbridge, Alta. T1J 3R7.

\*P.O. Box 82081, No. Burnaby, B.C. V5C 5P2.

\*P.O. Box 1508, Kelowna, B.C. V1Y 7V8.

\*Box 4425, Station D, Upper Gage Ave., Hamilton, Ont.

\*Box 247, Etobicoke, Ont.

**Readings:** Jeane Eddy Westin: **Finding Your Roots**, MacMillan, Toronto, 1977. Cf. ch. 5 on LDS collection and pedigree survey.

Adalbert Goertz, Route 5, Box 181, Waynesboro, PA 17268

## The Sommerfeld Story

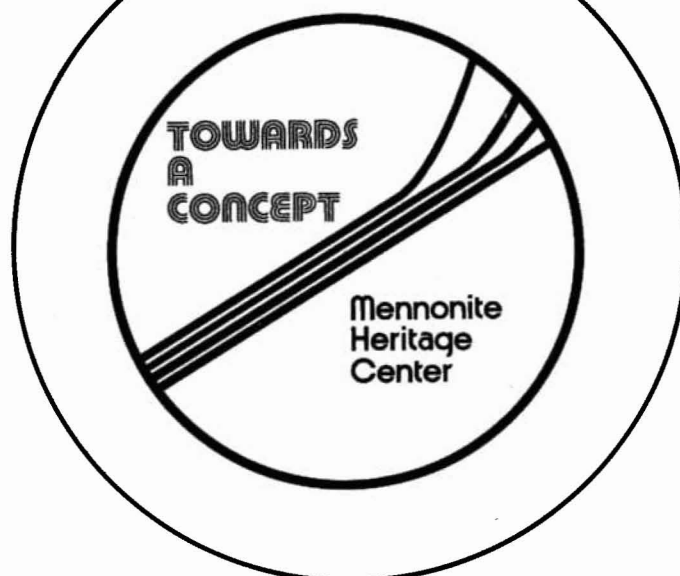
Sommerfeld, in southern Manitoba, is one of the original Mennonite villages of the West Reserve. It is located about eight miles southeast of Altona, five miles north of the Canada-US border.

Next year may bring a centennial celebration to the community, which some believe was founded around 1878. Others disagree, but more information about the origin of Sommerfeld is being sought at present. If you can supply documents or other data regarding the beginning of Sommerfeld, please contact the archives as soon as possible.

Sommerfeld was the home of the first West Reserve **Aeltester** of the Sommerfelder Mennonite Church, Abraham Doerksen, who was elected to that office in 1893. Doerksen led the church in Manitoba till the time of the Mennonite migration to Mexico in the early 1920's. Joining the movement of his own church, he continued his ministry in Mexico. He died on January 25, 1929.

Descendants of Bishop Doerksen prepared a family study of their family in a bilingual (German-English) publication entitled **Family Tree of Abraham Doerksen, Regina Hoepfner and Descendants, 1804-1960**. Edited by the late Bernhard Doerksen of Regina, Saskatchewan, the book includes photos, as well as original pioneer sketches by Leonard J. Gerbrandt, now of Ottawa, Ontario. The 102-page paperback volume can be obtained from the archives of the Conference of Mennonites in Canada. Other information about the Sommerfelder story can be found in **Adventure in Faith** by Henry J. Gerbrandt, published in 1970, and available in most Mennonite libraries.





Moses was God's instrument. On the one hand he received God's instructions. On the other, he passed these instructions on to his people. By his own choice he was God's dedicated servant. This steadfast continuing and constant desire to serve God was the reason God so often refers to Moses as "his friend".

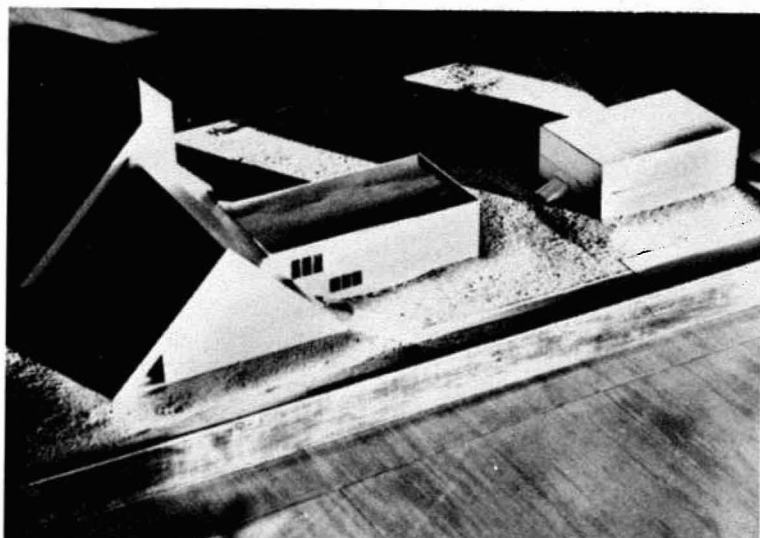
The primary purpose of a heritage center is to serve God. On the one hand it must store material — the testament of what God has shared with the Mennonite community.

On the other hand the center may act as a catalyst for Mennonite awareness.

- \* We must know who we are in the light of God's purpose.
- \* We need to realize how God helped our fathers and forefathers and then we can begin to understand God's plan for our lives and through that realization we can inspire our children and our friends to serve and praise God.

As a building the Heritage Center must:

1. Act as a secure storage facility for books, documents, photographs, and numerous other resource materials.
2. Allow for the interpretation, reading and discussion of the material stored.
3. Assist in community awareness through program, meetings and display.



The architectural design of the Heritage Center follows three basic principles.

1. **Storage** — The single storey box-like structure is designed for maximum temperature and humidity control. It serves as a resource center with reading and some study areas. It houses the rarer books and documents referred to in the curriculum.

2. **Interpretation.** The A-frame attached to the storage building is for interaction, discussion, interpretive display, and a handshake. Ceiling heights extend beyond normal, and the north wall gives way to the dominant light.

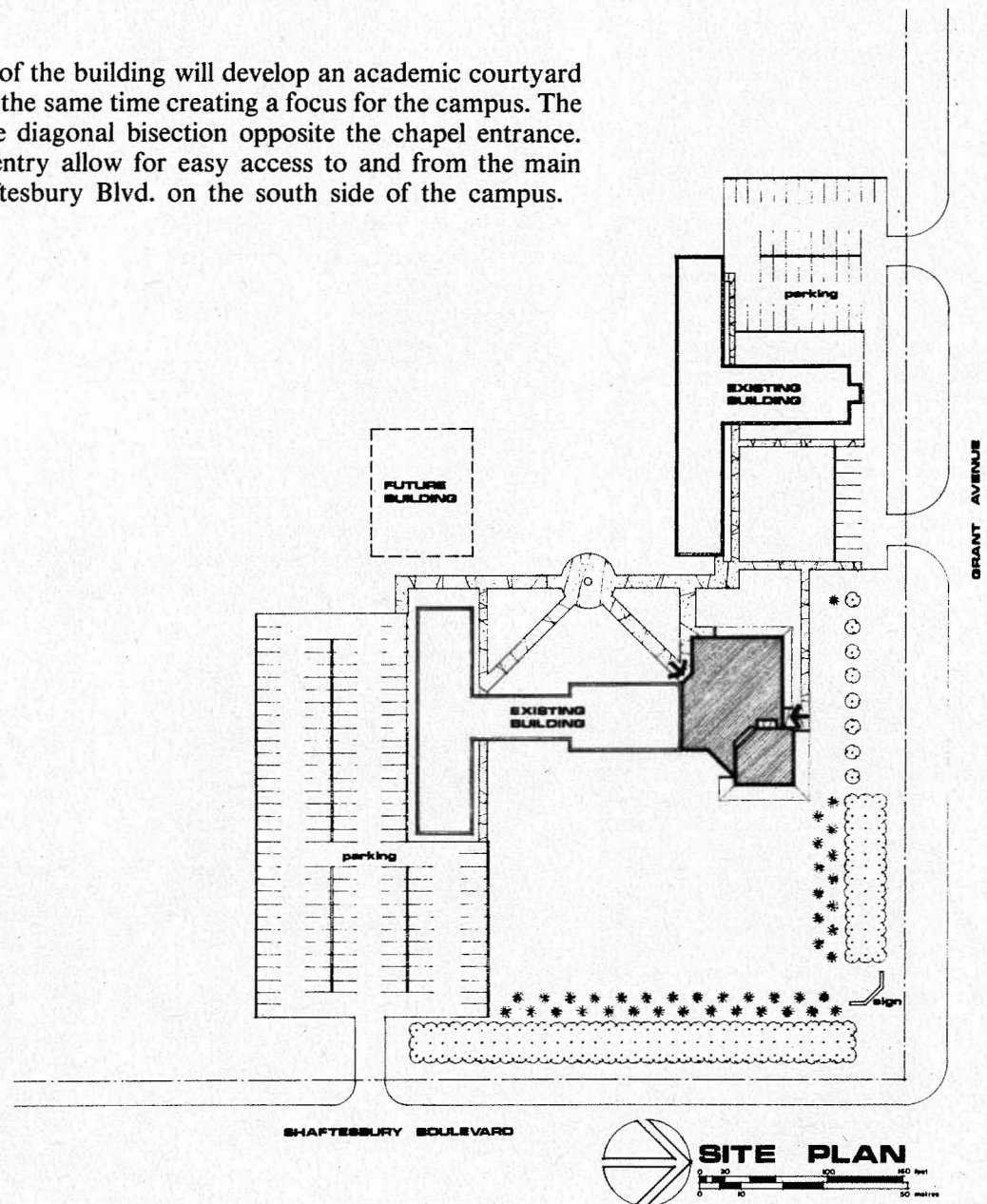
3. **Awareness.** From an exterior perspective, the building, like Moses, to ask for God's blessing on the majority whose hands are daily raised in prayer. It represents the future, which is now the present. It says "Nimm Zeit dir zur Andacht," (Take time, O Mensch, sei Weise," (The time is short, O Mensch, be wise," (The time is short, O Mensch, be wise," two traditional Mennonite songs of faith.

"Therefore shall ye lay up these my words in your heart and in your soul, and bind them for a sign upon your hand that they may be as frontlets between your eyes. And ye shall teach them to your children speaking of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt write them on the door posts of thine house and upon thy gates that your days may be multiplied and the days of your children, in the land which the Lord swore unto your fathers to give them, as the days of heaven upon the earth." Deuteronomy 11:18-21.

Through God's leading, the P. W. Enns Family Foundation has donated funds for the construction of the Heritage Center. The verses in Deuteronomy adequately describe the reason for constructing such a center. However, the emphasis is still on "we" the people to teach our children. May God bless the donors and users of this building.

The location and shape of the building will develop an academic courtyard from Grant Avenue, while at the same time creating a focus for the campus. The front entrance terminates the diagonal bisection opposite the chapel entrance. The rear door and ramped entry allow for easy access to and from the main campus parking lot off Shaftesbury Blvd. on the south side of the campus.

**Siegfried Toews**



enter highlights these three basic

ture acts as a preservation unit  
nd concrete construction allow  
he lower level serves as library  
reas, while the main floor area  
d to as archival material.

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, meetings and the friendly  
al to achieve a public forum, and  
or of our heritage — nature.

ve the clock tower reaches to  
nd advice. It represents the quiet  
er. At the same time the clock  
nd tomorrow our past heritage.  
ime for worship.) "Die Zeit ist  
so man, be wise.) in the words of



**Cornelius T. Loewen**  
(1883 – 1960)

## A Museum Gift

The families of George and Cornie Loewen of Steinbach, Manitoba, recently presented the Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society with a gift of \$40,000. It was stipulated that the money go toward construction of a lake and improved landscaping in the picnic area of the Mennonite Village Museum north of Steinbach.

The donors noted that the motivation behind the gift was two-fold. Firstly it is to be a tribute to a father and grandfather, the late C. T. Loewen. Mr. Loewen was the first lumber dealer in the village of Steinbach, a business which became the forerunner of Loewen Millwork and C. T. Loewen and Sons, two major firms in the community today.

A second reason for the gift is the concern to promote the work of the museum which "is there to help preserve our heritage," as George Loewen put it. The gift will become available to the society over a period of the next three years.

## The Cultural Committee

Recently the Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society accepted constitution revisions with plans for a new Cultural Committee. This committee now exists. Chairman at present is Dr. Gerhard Lohrenz, with other members being Peter J. B. Reimer, Gerhard Ens, Bill Schroeder (Winnipeg), Hilda Matsuo, John P. Dyck, and Lawrence Klippenstein.

It is hoped that this group will continue projects of the type planned by the Mennonite Centennial Committee, as well as others needing to be done. These will include heritage education, support of manuscript preservation, publication, distribution of literature, and general communication of Mennonite life and faith concerns.

Program suggestions at a recent meeting of the committee included promotion of the 40-minute color film, **Prairie Pioneers. The Mennonites of Manitoba** (rental fees were finalized); publication of materials prepared for the Low German program heard Monday evenings on Radio Southern Manitoba

(Gerhard Ens' lectures); providing heritage presentations for schools and churches, planning public school curricula materials for instruction in Mennonite history and thought; and regularly sharing information through the **Mennonite Historian** or other periodicals.

The Mennonite Centennial Committee, active from 1972 to 1976, has been disbanded. Its publications, the Centennial Hymnbook (1.00), **Harvest: An Anthology of Mennonite Writing in Canada 1874-1974** (5.00), and score copies of a Mennonite opera, **The Bridge**, (5.00), are still available. Write to: Centennial Publications, 600 Shaftsbury Blvd., Winnipeg, Manitoba. The document records of this committee are housed in the CMC archives at the same address.

\* \* \*



*John C. Reimer (left) became the first curator of the museum when it first opened in the early sixties. Now retired, he retains a keen interest in the work, and still acts as tour guide when he can. Ed Krahn (right) became the curator in 1976, and served till his appointment to the Estevan National Exhibit Centre this fall.*



**Henry W. Redekop**

*The Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society has elected Henry W. Redekop of Winnipeg, Manitoba, to succeed J. J. Reimer as president of the Society. Mr. Redekop is owner of Redekop Lumber and Supply Company, and a member of the Mclvor Ave. Mennonite Brethren congregation.*

**The material for this page was provided by the Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society, and prepared for publication by Gerhard Ens and Lawrence Klippenstein.**



**J. J. Reimer**

## A Tribute

On November 7, 1964 J. J. Reimer was elected chairman of the Board, and President of the Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society. He had previously been contacted by the Museum Committee to work towards establishing a permanent museum, the nucleus of which consisted of an artifacts collection by John C. Reimer housed in a small building which had formerly been a pioneer store in Steinbach.

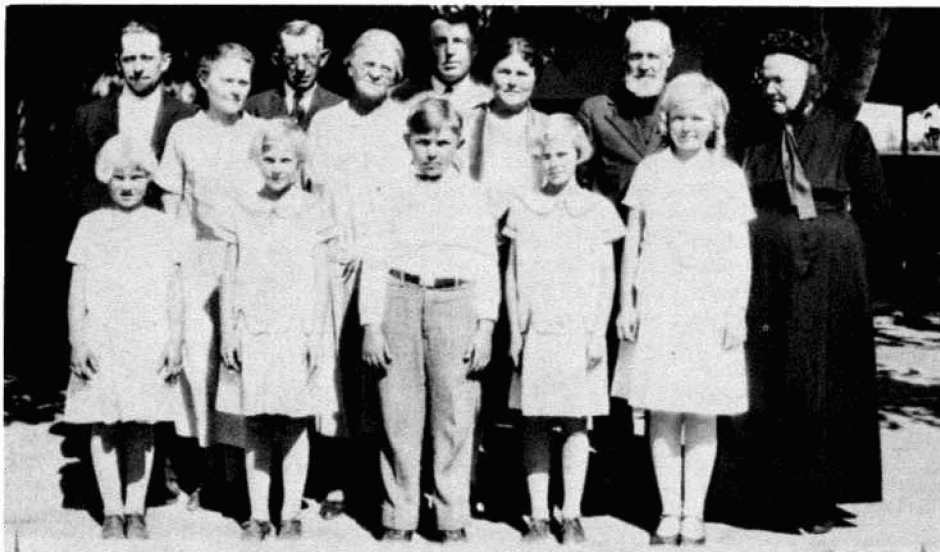
Mr. Reimer had the vision that the museum was not to consist of a single artifacts building. It ought to be a complex of buildings and exhibits to remind visitors of a Mennonite pioneer village. For this purpose a 15-acre parcel of land to the north of Steinbach on Highway No. 12 was acquired, and already in 1965 the decision to construct an artifacts building was made by the Society Board.

Both private and public monies were solicited by the Society. Government grants were applied for and received. Businesses in Steinbach, Winnipeg, Altona, Winkler and other places contributed funds. The Rural Municipality of Hanover and the Town of Steinbach pledged one mill for a number of years.

All of this, however, needed initiative and organization. Mr. Reimer supplied this in abundance. Through his efforts assisted by others, of course, the original 15-acre site has been increased to 40 acres. The original plan for a replica of a village street with some pioneer farm buildings has been executed and expanded to include a full scale working replica of a wind-driven grist mill which was built in Steinbach in the 1870's.

After almost 13 years of service to the Society Mr. Reimer has retired from the Board but has indicated his willingness to work in the capacity of past president in the context of finances. The Board and Society wish him well in his retirement.





## Research Inquiry

The above picture was found in a family album belonging to **Jacob Neufeldt**. He was born on June 6, 1891, in Jackson County, Minnesota, and died on May 4, 1965 in Arkansas. He married **Annie (Wiebe)** on March 28, 1913 at Dallas, Oregon. Annie was born on Dec. 21, 1893, at Steinbach, Manitoba, and died on August 7, 1951 at Salem, Oregon.

**Jacob Neufeldt** was the son of **Johann Neufeldt** and **Katherine (Penner)**. Johann Neufeldt was born in 1824 on the Molotschna Colony, south Russia. He died on August 29, 1884, in Minnesota, USA. The Johann Neufeldt family arrived at New York on July 17, 1876. They went to Jackson County, Minnesota, and farmed there till 1899.

**Annie** was the daughter of **Johann Neuman Wiebe** and **Anna (Harder)**. Anna Harder was born on Nov. 9, 1864, at Schoenfeldt, south Russia, and died on March 28, 1948 at Portland, Oregon. Johan Wiebe was born on Jan. 6, 1863 at Sparou, south Russia, and died on April 25, 1952 at Portland, Oregon. Anna was the daughter of **Heinrich Harder** and **Sarah (Klassen)**. Johan Neuman Wiebe was the son of **John Wiebe** and **Mary (Neufeldt)**.

The above unknown picture could have been a relative family or friend of the family underlined above. The picture is believed to have been taken in Manitoba, Canada or in the U.S.A.

Anyone having further information on this family (four sons and seven daughters and parents) would you please write to Mrs. Helen Hiebner, 9743-64 Ave., Edmonton, Alta. T6E 0J4. All letters will be answered.

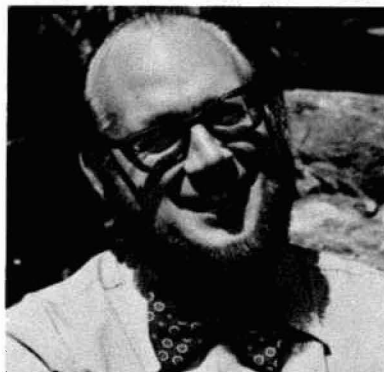
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We welcome research inquiries from anyone. Please be brief and clear. Be sure to include a complete address for replies.

Photo credits: Rudy Regehr, p.1, 4; Henry H. Epp, p. 8; The Carillon, p. 6.

## Calendar of Events

October 23 - November 10 — Heritage Studies tour by Jan Gleysteen, Anabaptist communicator. He will visit schools and churches in Manitoba and Saskatchewan during this period.



Jan Gleysteen

November 9 — North American Mennonite Archivists and Historical Librarians seminar at Winnipeg, Manitoba.

November 11-12 — Russian Mennonite studies seminar at CMBC and MBBC in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

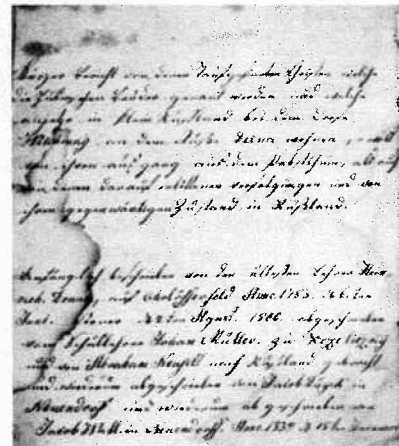
## A Hutterite Document

Some time ago Jacob Rempel, a long-time resident of Blumenort, Manitoba, brought to the archives a portion of the Johann Wall papers. They included some school work, a partial diary of his 1877 crossing of the Atlantic to Canada, and a manuscript copy of a Hutterite chronicle.

The latter document, rescued from burning the effects of a deceased relative to Mr. Wall, claims to be "a short report of Anabaptist Christians calling themselves Hutterian Brethren, having settled in "Russia Minor" (Klein Russland) in the village of Vischenkii . . . as well as about their persecution and their present condition in Russia."

It is described as having originated in

1783 with the "Aeltesten Lehrer" Heinrich Donner of Ohrloeffersfeld, then was recopied in 1800, by a teacher Johann Mueller and brought to Russia by Abraham Neufeld, recopied once more by Jacob Dueck in Neuendorf, and finally copied again by Jacob Wall of Neuendorf, south Russia, in January, 1839. The latter copy appears to have found its way into Johann Wall's collection.



The document consists of 45 pages, written in black ink, and completely legible throughout. A hand-drawn map of a large farmyard is included. The entire manuscript has been published in photo duplicate by the archives of the Conference of Mennonites in Canada.

Mr. Rempel, the donor of the material, wrote about the life and work of Johann Wall in an article published in **Mennonite Memories. Settling in Western Canada** (1977). It is entitled "The Blumenort Flour Mill." The same article appeared in the first issue of **Die mennonitische Post**, April 21, 1977.

## The Radical Reformation Microfiche Project Section I MENNONITE and related sources up to 1600

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## Book Reviews

**The Der Bote Index.** Vol. I, 1924-1947. Edited by Peter H. Rempel and Adolf Ens. CMBC Publications, 600 Shaftesbury Blvd., Winnipeg, Manitoba. 1976. Soft cover, 262 pp., \$12.00. Reviewed by Dr. Cornelius Krahn, North Newton, Kansas, USA.

A good book needs an index for locating information about any specific person or subject. For a periodical, whether scholarly magazine or a weekly, this is more important still. A storehouse of material is of little use if it is not accessible.

There is a simple way of remedying this problem. That is by providing an index which makes it possible to find the desired data quickly, even though published 10 or 20 years ago.

Many papers annually produce an index in the last issue of the year. Others, like **Mennonite Life**, do it at five-year intervals. For some time researchers and others have felt the need for this assistance with **Der Bote**, a weekly German paper which has appeared in Canadian and many other Mennonite homes for over fifty years.

**Der Bote** originally known as **Der Immigrant Bote**, began publication at Rosthern, Saskatchewan, in 1924. It was then merged with the General Conference paper **Der Christlicher Bundesbote**, and called simply **Der Bote**. D. H. Epp, founder and publisher continued his work as editor also. This merging gave the paper a wider basis and scope, including an increased readership in North and South America, and Europe.

The **Index** has a helpful introduction informing the readers how it came to be, listing the authors and articles they have written and followed by a subject index, biblical references, obituaries, weddings and anniversaries. It includes reference to congregational and community reports, and books reviewed. The 262 pages of the **Index** will be helpful not only to school and community libraries, but also to homes which wish to be informed not only about this week's news, but about some events of the past as well.

As the first volume, presumably of several, the **Index** covers the 24-year period from 1924 to 1947. It leaves the remaining portion, 1948 to the present, in preparation for publication. This, many will suggest, ought to be rather soon.

Peter H. Rempel, one of the editors of the first volume, is now a researcher on VS with MCC (Canada), and Adolf Ens is a CMBC history instructor. The publishers at Canadian Mennonite Bible College are known also for their production of **The Bergthal Colony** by Bill Schroeder, and **Heritage Remembered** by Gerhard Lorenz.

It is a pleasure for me to call attention to this valuable publication, both as one who was once also somewhat involved in publishing **Der Bote**, and one who finds it an unusually effective aid for personal reading and research. The price may seem a bit much for some, but purchase will be an investment well-made and worthwhile.



This group of students gave invaluable assistance to the **Bote** indexing project in its early stages. They were directed in this stage by Henry H. Epp, then executive secretary of the Congregational Resources Board in Canada, and now residing in Vineland, Ontario. Adolf Ens will supervise completion of the second volume of the Index.

**Jacob Buhr Family.** by Helen E. Regier. 212 Pine N. Pine St. North Newton, Kansas, 67117. U.S.A.. 224 pp. Illustrated with photographs and genealogical tables. Includes index. Hardcover, \$14.00; paperback, \$9.50. Reviewed by Dennis Stoesz, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

This book deals with the story and genealogy of a Buhr family from 1805-1977. It incorporates seven generations, starting with Jakob and Maria (Neufeld) Buhr, born 1805 and 1808, respectively, in Russia.

The book begins with the story of Mennonites in general. Jakob and Maria have their roots in Russia, their children all being born in Nieder Chortitza, Russia. The story moves quickly from this "first" generation to the second generation of seven children. Their story is told in two parts.

Part I, the bulk of the book, traces the lineage of the two eldest children, Maria and Jakob. It is these two that came to Canada, from the Bergthal Colony in 1874, while the other five children remained in Russia.

The story of Maria and her husband, Peter Friesen, is short in that little information on them could be uncovered. Through a letter, the author gathered that they moved south to Fargo, South Dakota, or Mountain Lake, Minnesota. They seemingly did not keep up correspondence with relatives in Manitoba, and so lost touch. The author laments this fact by ending their story with, "Where are Peter Friesens?"

The story of Jakob, on the other hand, is rich and long. It is filled with stories of fires, movement, and early pioneer life. This story itself flows rather smoothly, from father to son to grandson. Such cohesiveness becomes understandable in the light of the vast amount of information available on this lineage. The author herself comes from this branch, and so can add much information of her own.

Jacob and his wife Katarina, first settled in Schoenwiese, East Reserve, Manitoba, in 1874. They soon moved to Edenburg on the

West Reserve, in 1881. Edenburg is in southern Manitoba, just east of Gretna, and is well known for the Buhr families. Here the small family of two sons, Johann and Jacob, raised large families, 16 and 15 children respectively.

Part II traces the lineage of the other five children of Jakob and Maria Buhr; Sara, Peter, Kornelius, Helena, and Katarina. The story of their life in Russia unfolds, including their subsequent wanderings through World War I and the Russian Revolution.

Generally the book as a whole is easy reading. The type is large on most pages, except where a page was photo-reduced. The stories include reminiscences in narrative style, most of them written by the author. The genealogical tables are not overbearing. They include the occupation and birth place of each person as well as the usual birth, marriage and death dates. The photographs are well-spaced, usually one or two per page. The map included is somewhat too sketchy — some good ones are available. Also, the section on the general history of the Mennonites could have been longer. It might have tied the story of the Buhrs more directly to the large Mennonite movements.

The book is very worthwhile reading, both for its stories and genealogical information. As the author aptly states, "... a genealogy consists of more than just names and dates of birth and death. It reveals people: ..." A relative or friend of the Buhrs might find it more interesting to read than the general public. However, the creative way in which the author used various primary documents may encourage other genealogists to use this book as a model for their own projects.

**The December, 1977, issue of Mennonite Life will deal with Mennonites in Canada. Material is provided by the Mennonite Historical Society of Canada. Extra copies of the December, 1976, issues are still available at the CMC archives.**