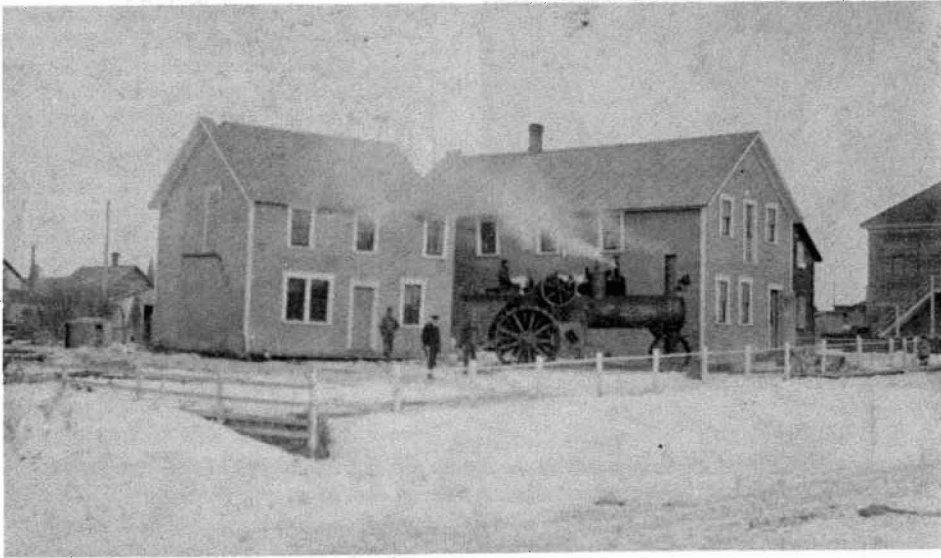


# Mennonite Historian



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*The Peter Unruh house in Rosthern served as the first home of the German-English Academy (later Rosthern Junior College) when it opened for instruction in 1905. Photo is courtesy of Mrs. Esther Ramsay of Brookdale, Manitoba.*

## A Sketch of the Peter Epp Family

by Gilbert Epp

Epp was a Mennonite family name in the Old Flemish congregations of West Prussia mentioned in the Danzig archives in 1584. In 1586 an Epp, born at Losendorff, Dutch province of Groningen, lived at Langgarten near Danzig. Members of the family emigrated to Russia and America. They are numerous in Kansas, Nebraska and Canada.

In the Dutch *Naamlijst* the name Epp is first found among the ministers in 1766, Peter Epp and Cornelius Epp being preachers of the Flemish congregation of Danzig. Peter served from 1758 as a preacher and became elder in 1779, serving until about 1790. Cornelius was a preacher until at least 1810. Leading later members of the family include David Epp, elder of the Chortitza (Russia) Flemish congregation 1793-1802, and one of the delegates to St. Petersburg 1798-1800, who obtained the *Gnadenprivilegium* from the czar; Heinrich Epp, a teacher and elder of the Chortitza

*Zentralschule*; and Dietrich H. Epp, editor of *Der Bote* 1924-55.

Peter Epp was born of Heinrich and Helena (Dyck) Epp on April 19, 1849, in the village of Schoenberg, Chortitza, South Russia. Father Heinrich Epp was born June 21, 1826, and died August 20, 1905. Mother Helena Epp was born July 17, 1827, and died July 1, 1902. In June, 1868, Peter Epp was baptized by Elder Gerhard Dyck and on December 20, 1870, he was united in marriage with Anna Rempel who had been born in Nieder-Chortitza, South Russia, on September 29, 1850, and baptized in 1869, also by Elder Dyck.

Peter and Anna lived in Nieder-Chortitza until 1872, then in Michaelsburg until 1874, in Alexandertahl until 1890, and in Georgstahl until May 20, 1893, when they left for Canada with their ten children. They arrived in Manitoba the following July and lived with his sister, Helen, and brother-in-law, Jacob Hoepfner, at Waldheim, Manitoba. Here their second last son, Jacob,

was born and daughter Helen was married to Jacob Hoepfner.

After acquiring a plow, a wagon, two yoke of oxen and one cow, in May, 1894, the family moved by train to, and settled on, a homestead described as the North East corner of Section 4 Township 43 Range 5 West of the 3rd Meridian. This was four miles north of what is today Waldheim, Saskatchewan, and is the very spot where a family reunion was held on August 15, 1965; it was then still a part of the North West Territories.

Peter and Anna Epp had been preceded in this district by his parents one year earlier. It is said that no difficulty was experienced in selling out in Russia before leaving but most of the proceeds were expended for the fares to Canada. By our standards the family arrived poor. The decision to pack up and leave was difficult as times had been fairly good and the climate pleasant. However, the prospect of obtaining free land in the new far-off country proved overwhelming and the pioneering spirit predominated. The decision to leave was further prompted by the loss some years earlier of the privileges such as exemption from military service granted by Catherine the Great.

A story is told of the unkind attitude of German customs officials when the caravan crossed into Germany. Reference was made to "Russian dogs" which was then promptly countered by Grandfather's retort, "What are you then, a German dog?" It seemed that Grandfather, five-foot-seven but of sturdy physique, was always a stern, hard-ruling man and not given to much humour; however, he was not ungrateful to his God, for in his diary, on arriving in the new land, he had written in German, "Thank the Lord for He is good and His mercies are everlasting." Grandmother was a slight woman but strong of will and is remembered best for her kindly disposition, a fact attested to by those of us who had the good fortune of knowing her.

Grandfather for some years owned a white mare named Queen, of which he was very proud. Before going visiting he would always say to his sons, "Yunges, wascht noch de Queen den sawgel oot." (Boys, wash out Queen's tail.) (to be continued)

## Mennonite Genealogy

Genealogists continue to visit the Mennonite Heritage Centre in significant numbers. As mentioned before, the collection of Mennonite Genealogy Inc. at Steinbach, Manitoba has now been moved to the Centre, and researchers or visitors are welcomed to visit the new premises.

For the information of such persons we list here a number of new items which have reached the Centre, and are now available for study here. A complete list can be obtained by writing to Mennonite Genealogy, 600 Shaftesbury Blvd., Winnipeg, Man. R3P 0M4.

BLOCK, Henry J.; BLOCK, Peter, 1979; also V. KAMPEN, Gerhard, **Family Record**, by J. H. Block, 1969, 59 pp. from J. H. Block, Herbert, Saskatchewan.

DYCK, Jacob, 1824. **Die Jacob Dycken Familie**, by Peter M. Hiebert, 1977. 50 pp.

FAST, Henry L., 1865, **The Henry L. Fast Family Register**, by Frank Fast, 18 pp., photocopied.

HOEPPNER, Jacob, 1748-1826, HILDEBRANDT, Michael, 17-, PETERS, Klaas, 17-, KLASSEN, Abram Edmun, 1802-1868. From West Prussia to Island of Chortitza and Canada, 11 pp.

HIEBERT, David, 1818, **A History of the Hiebert Family**, 1979, 57 pp., from Dave Hiebert.

ISAAC, Franz Kornelius (1857-1942). Descendants of Franz Kornelius Isaak and Maria Braun, nee ENS. Derksen Printers, Steinbach, 1976. 97 pp.

PLETT, Johann, 1965, **Bericht von den Pletten Tag, 12 July, 1945** by Gerhard J. Tielman, trans. by Delbert Plett, 1979. 29 pp. Received from Delbert Plett

WIENS, Abraham, 1834. **The Family of Abraham and Elizabeth Klassen Wiens**, by John T. Neufeld and Jacob C. Fast, 1970. 70 pp. donated by Jacob Fast, Waterloo, Ontario.

## New Finding Aids

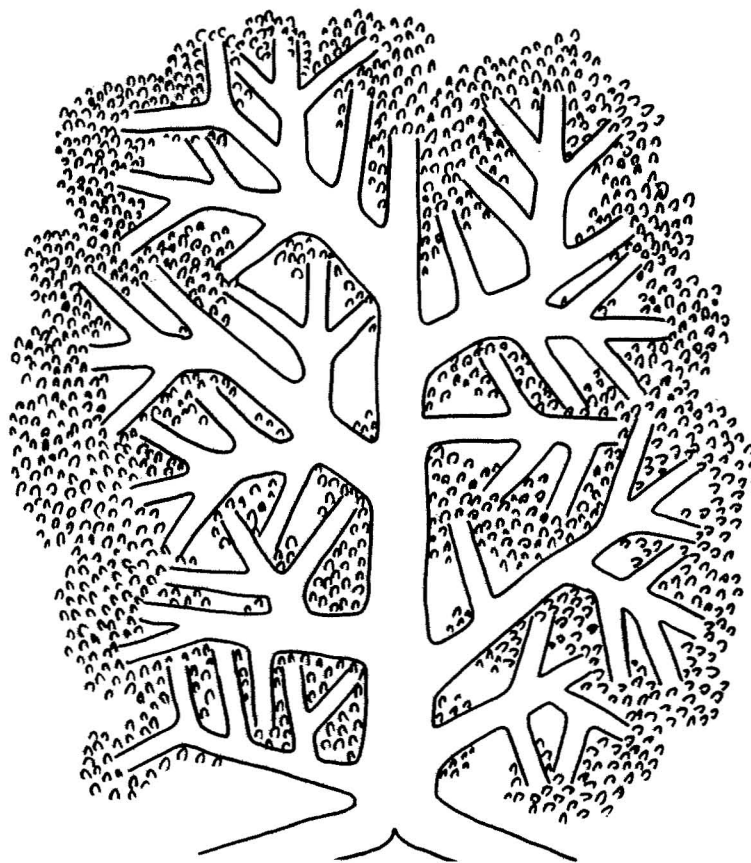
Indexing can be an important aid for locating research materials efficiently. During the past several years CMBC students have prepared several indexes for periodicals and newspaper columns at the Mennonite Heritage Centre Archives. The following have been completed so far:

- 1) **Pioneer Portraits of the Past**, a weekly column appearing in Red River Valley Echo since 1974. The brief sketches provide genealogical and biographical information about several hundred persons who emigrated to southern Manitoba during the early decades of settlement there.

- 2) The **Concern** pamphlets, published periodically between 1954 and 1971.
- 3) **Mennonite Historian** from its beginning (September, 1975) to March, 1980.
- 4) **Recalling Past Days**, a weekly column in Red River Valley Echo by Elizabeth Bergen. The index covers the period of January, 1972, the beginning, through 1977.
- 5) **Mennonitische Blaetter**, from its beginning in 1854 (West Prussia) to 1882. It continued publication till the 1940s.

It will be of interest also to many readers that the MB Archives in Winnipeg has begun the indexing of *Mennonitische Rundschau*. Inquiries may be directed to Ken Reddig at Centre of MB Studies, 77 Henderson Hwy., Winnipeg, Manitoba. The second volume of the index to **Der Bote** is being worked on as well. For genealogists Glenn Penner has prepared an index to the Schoenhorst, Molotschna, Mennonite Church register for the period 1870-1900.

Copies of indexes 1-4 listed above may be obtained from the Mennonite Heritage Centre for the price of photoduplication and mailing.



Doing a "family tree" together is one of the family projects on the 1980 CMC Project Calendar. Copies of this calendar are available free of charge at the Heritage Centre, 600 Shaftesbury Blvd., Winnipeg, Man.

## Available Now!

Agatha Ratzlaff, ed. **The Koslowsky Family, 1769-1979** (1979). 69 pp., pb. \$11.00. Order from the editor, 13718 Glen Place, Surrey, B.C., V3V 6L5.

Peter Goertzen, **Teichroeb. A Family History and Genealogy of Peter Johann and Justina (Wolfe Teichroeb) and their Descendants** (1979). Hardcover, 207 pp., \$16.00. Illustrated, with index. Write to author, 309 Montgomery Ave., Winnipeg, Man., Canada, R3L 1T5.

Marianne Heinrichs Janzen, ed. **Kornelius Heinrichs and His Descendants 1782-1979**. (1980). Hardcover, 287 pp. Well illustrated. Has index. \$18.00 Write editor, 607 Beecher Ave., Winnipeg, Man. R2P 0G5.

Mary Dueck Jeffery, ed. **Aeltester Johann Funk: A Family Tree** (1980). 232 pp., 30 photos, some maps. Paperback, \$10.00. Hardcover \$13.00. Order from editor, 713-3000 Pembina Hwy., Winnipeg, Man., Canada.

## Mennonite Studies Fund

Part of the support for the History-Archives program of the Conference of Mennonites in Canada comes from a Mennonite Studies Endowment Fund established by the Conference. It is anticipated that the portion of the History-Archives budget which will be met by this Fund will gradually increase. Interest from the Fund is used exclusively for program and not for facilities.

The Fund was established in 1973 at the annual conference sessions in Edmonton. Since 1974 was the centenary of the Russian Mennonite immigration into Western Canada, the churches of the Conference were invited to make contributions to this Fund in January of 1974. This contribution to a program designed to preserve the records and research the history of our Mennonite people was seen as an appropriate centennial year project.

During the first year about eighteen thousand dollars were contributed to the Fund. The Fund has been growing only very slowly since then because the Conference developed other financial priorities in the succeeding years.

In 1979 the Conference's General Board encouraged the History-Archives Committee to re-activate its solicitation of monies for this Fund. The General Board, however, suggested that the History-Archives Committee not make a general appeal to the congregations of the Conference, but that it direct its solicitation to individuals.

With this issue of the **Mennonite Historian** the History-Archives Committee is acknowledging people who have contributed to this Fund during the past year.

In reference to our donor acknowledgement schedule, (cf. the Endowment Fund brochure) we want to mention the following:

### 1980 Heritage Friends

(gifts between \$100 and \$999)

Dr. Bernhard Fast, Winnipeg	\$250.00
Peter Bergen, Kitchener	\$100.00
Ed Hoepfner, Winnipeg	\$100.00

Total \$450.00

We appreciate many gifts of any sums from our Mennonite Historian subscribers as well as other supporters, and would like to acknowledge them as a group.

Gifts (1979-1980)	Donors
\$50.00 - 99.00	3
\$20.00 - 49.00	14
\$10.00 - 19.00	24
\$ 0.00 - 9.00	62
Total gifts: \$1047.00	

Two ladies' groups, the Willing Helpers from Altona, and a group from the First Mennonite Church have made monetary contributions as well. Thank you very much, everyone, for your help in making the history-archives program a reality and a resource for others!

John Friesen

## Archives Acquisitions

\*Gnadenthal, Manitoba Village records in duplicate. Courtesy of Dr. Leonard Sawatzky, University of Manitoba. Four ledgers and five folders.

\*Dr. Archie Penner sermons given at the EMC sessions on July 1, 1978. Two cassettes.

\*Memoirs of Isaac Ens, Clearbrook, B.C. One cassette and in typescript. Courtesy of D. P. Neufeld, Olivet Mennonite Church, Clearbrook, B.C.

\*Sketches from Vorkuta, northern Russia. Courtesy of D. Neudorf, and G. Ens, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

\*Mennonite settlement registers kept by Bernhard Dyck, Coaldale, Alberta. Courtesy of Norman Bergen, Coaldale, Alberta. On microfilm.

\*Diary of 1923 trip from Russia to Canada by P. A. Rempel. Courtesy of John Friesen, CMBC.

\*Articles of Incorporation of Eigenheim Mennonite Church, Eigenheim, Saskatchewan. Courtesy of Rudy Baergen, Rosthern, Saskatchewan. In duplicate.

\*Materials related to the family story of Kornelius Heinrichs, south Russia. Courtesy of Marianne Janzen, Winnipeg, Manitoba. In duplicate.

\*Poems in German and English by Esther Bergen, Herbert, Saskatchewan. Two notebooks in duplicate.

\*Register of baptisms in Fuerstenland 1885-1932. Courtesy of Mrs. A.J. Martens, Rivers, Manitoba. Microfilm and photoduplicate copies.

\*H. H. Ewert letter dated January 28, 1913 to Brother Heinrichs. Original. Courtesy of Rev. B. W. Sawatzky, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

\*Invitation to a funeral, dated November 12, 1918, by Heinrich A. Wiebe. Courtesy of Menno Hildebrand, Roseisle, Manitoba. Original.

\*Tape copy of performance of J. S. Bach, **Mass in B**, by the Mennonite Oratorio Choir, March 14, 1980. Courtesy of Dr. George Wiebe, CMBC.

\*Heinrich Fast papers. Courtesy of Frank Fast, Kleefeld, Manitoba. Photoduplicates. 15 folders.

## Research Requests

We invite readers to use our space for requesting information on research projects which they are involved in. The following have appeared in other publications and we re-state them here:

### From Marianne Janzen, Winnipeg

I am working on the family tree of Heinrich Pauls (1806-1882). He apparently had eight children. I need information on the following four couples (sons and daughters of Heinrich):

a) John and Maria (H. Pauls, b. 1838) Neustaedter.

b) Abram and Susanna (H. Pauls, b. 1841) Neustaedter.

c) Franz H. and Helena (Daniel Peters) Pauls, b. 1841, a twin to Susanna.

d) Bernhard H. and Maria (Daniel Peters) Pauls, b. 1833.

If you can help write to Marianne Heinrichs Janzen, 607 Beecher Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba Canada R2P 0G5.

### From Rudy Regehr, Winnipeg, Manitoba

I have recently begun a study of the Regehr family. My grandfather was Gerhard Regehr (1855-1910), Aeltester of the Pordenauer Mennonite congregation in south Russia. My great-grandfather was David Regehr. My father David G. Regehr came to Alberta in the twenties, with his mother, Aganetha Regehr (nee Thiessen) as well as brothers and sisters.

If you can supply information about ancestors who remained in Russia write to R. A. Regehr, 19 Concord Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R3T 1H8.

### From Sally Kasdorf, Saskatoon

We are looking for written materials to help us write a history of the First Mennonite Church in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. If you have attended the church at any time, and have materials you could loan us please write to First Mennonite Church Office, 418 Queen Street, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7K 0M3.

## Microfilming Project

A federally-funded Student Employment program has provided a team of three persons to work at the Mennonite Heritage Centre this summer. Emphasis in the program is on microfilming congregational records of the Conference of Mennonites in Canada. First contacts have been made with congregations in Manitoba, but there will be an extension to other groups also.

Persons involved are James Friesen, from Winkler, Manitoba; Glenn Penner from Plum Coulee, Manitoba; and Kathy Derksen, from Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. All began a full-time summer term of work in mid-May and will be continuing through most of August.

To date microfilming at Mennonite Heritage Centre has been done for the following congregations: Nordheimer Mennonite Church at Hanley, Dundurn and Pleasant Point in Saskatchewan; Grace Mennonite Church in St. Catharines, Ontario; Elim Mennonite Church, Grunthal, Manitoba; and the following under the current summer program: First Mennonite, Home Street Mennonite, and Sargent Avenue Mennonite, all of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Steinbach Mennonite, and Graysville Mennonite.

**Needed:** The last two issues in 1974 of the CMBC Alumni Bulletin to complete the archives set.

## The New Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society

The Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society, and its antecedents have roots in the 1930s. The Youth Movement of those years had such interests in mind, and the Mennonite Agricultural Advisory Committee which published **Woher? Wohin? Mennoniten!** in the 1940s definitely did so too. Persons like William Friesen, J. J. Siemens, P. J. Schaefer, H. H. Hamm and Benjamin Ewert gave significant leadership during these phases of the program.

Interested members formalized a Mennonite Historical Society of Manitoba in 1953, and again restated their goals at a meeting held on April 25, 1958. At this meeting the 35 persons present elected a museum committee, and an executive to include Gerhard Lohrenz, Winnipeg; Jacob Rempel, Gretna; P. J. B. Reimer, then Grunthal; J. A. Toews, Winnipeg; John C. Reimer, Steinbach; T. E. Friesen, Altona; Franz Zacharias, Winnipeg; and Gerhard Ens of Gretna. Besides a concern for a Mennonite museum, members at the meeting also urged the academic study of Mennonite church development in Manitoba.

Establishing a Mennonite museum became a major agenda item with a further reorganization in 1964. From it has resulted the nationally known Mennonite Village Museum north of Steinbach, Manitoba. Persons like Mrs. Jacob Peters, Eugene Derksen, John C. Reimer, J. J. Reimer and many others deserve much credit in keeping this project under way.

Celebrating the Mennonite centennial in 1974-75 once again raised the question of broader objectives for the Society as such. With expanding vision of interest, it was

agreed in 1979 to make the museum the main project of the original society under a new name, Mennonite Village Museum (Canada) Inc., and to constitute a second group for stressing other areas of Mennonite studies in the province.

Deliberations on October 27, 1979, and March 1, 1980, brought into being a new group with the old name, Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society, and a constitution which gives ample scope to the many-sided interests manifested in the membership to date.

A thirteen-member board is in charge of the M. M. H. S. program. The following persons have been elected for 1980: Dr. Adolf Ens, CMBC, president; Dr. Victor Doerkson, University of Manitoba, first vice-president; Ted Friesen, Altona; Doreen Klassen, Winnipeg/Steinbach, second vice-president; Lawrence Klippenstein, Mennonite Heritage Centre, Winnipeg; Dr. Harry Loewen, University of Winnipeg; Elizabeth Peters, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg; Dr. Al Reimer, University of Winnipeg, Winnipeg; Herman Rempel, Morden; Ken Reddig, MBBC, Winnipeg, secretary; William Schroeder, Winnipeg; Frank Zacharias, MCI, Gretna; Peter Zacharias, MCI, Gretna, treasurer.

The first regular membership meeting may be held in fall, and a Mennonite studies seminar is projected for that time as well. Over fifty persons have paid up memberships to date. The organization is open to all persons who share its objectives and wish to participate in the programs which are being planned.



Along with many other Mennonite artists, Peter von Kampen displayed his sketches at the Mennonite Art and Music Festival held in the Polo Park Mall, Winnipeg, on May 18. This scene is from the village of Bergfeld, formerly East Reserve, in Manitoba.

## Lecture Series

Interpretive sessions will be held this summer in the church buildings of the Mennonite Village Museum, north of Steinbach, Man.

Time: Sundays, 2:30-3:00 p.m.

- July 13: Bill Schroeder  
**The Bergthal Colony**
- July 20: Al Reimer  
**The Writings of Arnold Dyck**
- July 27: Lawrence Klippenstein  
**Co Service Among Russian Mennonites**
- Aug. 3: Doreen Klassen  
**Low German Songs**
- Aug. 10: John Friesen  
**Danzig West Prussian Mennonites**
- Aug. 17: Adolf Ens  
**Early Manitoba Mennonite School Developments**
- Aug. 24: Ken Reddig  
**The role of the congregation in Mennonite experience**
- Aug. 31: Peter Zacharias  
**Reinland the 'West Reserve'**

## News And Notes

\*The Low German Drama Club of Landmark, Manitoba recently presented a drama based on Arnold Dyck's **Verloren in der Steppe** (English trans. **Lost in the Steppes**). It drew enthusiastic audiences at Landmark, Gretna and Winnipeg. The drama will also be staged at the Pioneer Days celebrations held in early August at Mennonite Village Museum, Steinbach, Manitoba.

\*Westgate Mennonite Collegiate, Winnipeg, and Mennonite Collegiate Institute of Gretna, Manitoba are sponsoring a Mennonite pavilion as part of the Folklorama festival in Winnipeg on August 10-16. The pavilion will be located at the University of Winnipeg campus.

\*Pioneer Days at the Mennonite Village Museum will be held on August 1-4.

\*Nearly 200 persons attended a J. J. Reimer fund-raising banquet held at the Fort Garry Hotel on May 28. Proceeds will go to promote the work of Mennonite Village Museum (Canada) inc.

\*On the archives scene Ken Reddig of the Mennonite Brethren Archives in Winnipeg recently attended a course in Ottawa on archival administration.

## Saskatchewan - Alberta Celebrate

This year the provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta are celebrating the 75th anniversary of joining Confederation in Canada. There will be special ceremonies and activities in hundreds of communities throughout the region. Book projects, homecomings, parades, and programs of all sorts are being planned.

Naturally, Mennonite communities will be involved as well. Already we have heard of a number of congregational histories underway — First Mennonite, Saskatoon; Zion Mennonite, Swift Current; Hague Mennonite, Hague; Tiefengrund Rosenort Mennonite, Laird; to name a few. We list below some examples of groups in action during the summer months ahead.

\*The town of Coaldale, Alberta, is inviting all former residents to a 75th anniversary celebration August 1-4, 1980. If possible, give notice of coming to: Homecoming '80, Coaldale, Alberta T0K 0L0.

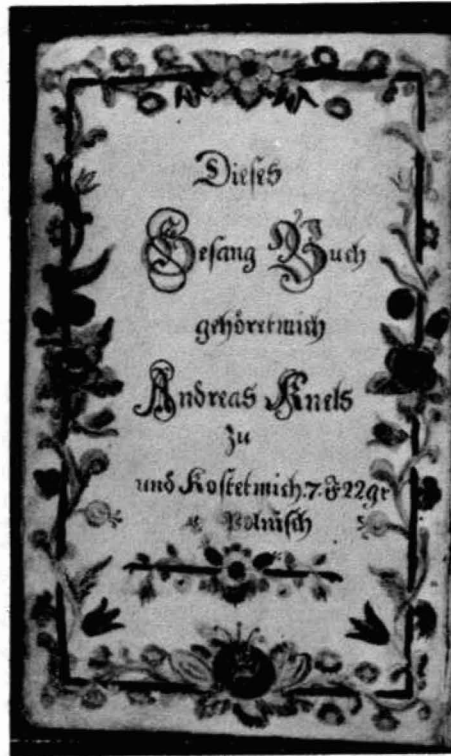
\*School District No. 4116, formerly Renfrew, is planning a reunion of former teachers, students and residents on August 2-3, 1980 to celebrate Saskatchewan's 75th anniversary. Contact G.K. Fehr, Box 335, Hague, Saskatchewan S0K 1X0.

\*Rosthern is planning a homecoming on August 2-4. The program will include displays of an anniversary quilt, reconstruction of an early 20th century schoolroom, and a movie presentation by J.J. Epp. For information write to Brenda Peters, Box 754, Rosthern, Saskatchewan S0K 3R0.

\*The 50th anniversary celebrations of the Rosemary Mennonite Church at Rosemary, Alberta will be held on June 14-15, 1980. Former members and friends are invited to come. For further information write John Nickel, Box 52, Rosemary, Alberta T0J 2W0.

\*Special anniversary celebrations will be held at Dalmeny on June 14-15. Special features are the community parade and a worship service on Sunday morning. An afternoon tea for seniors will be held at the Delmany Mennonite Brethren Church.

**The Mennonite Heritage Centre  
archives will be closed  
Aug. 18 - Sept. 1.  
Regular hours are 8:30 a.m.  
to 5 p.m. weekdays.**



**Page 4 of this issue is  
provided by The Manitoba  
Mennonite Historical Society**

## Other Reunions

The village of Gnadenthal, Manitoba will celebrate its founding centennial this summer. Programs are planned for July 19-20. For further information write to Paul J. Peters, Box 1245, Winkler, Manitoba, R0G 2X0 or Mary E. Neufeld, Box 910, Plum Coulee, Manitoba, R0G 1R0.

Former residents of the villages of Petershagen-Ladekopp in the Ukraine are invited to a reunion on July 13 at Springstein, Manitoba. For details write to J.J. Klassen, 1288 Rothesay Street, Winnipeg, Man., or J.P. Dyck, Springstein, Manitoba.

All former members and friends of the Lichtenau Mennonite congregation at St. Elizabeth, Manitoba, are invited to the celebration of its 50th Anniversary. The date is August 3, 1980, and the service at the church will begin at 10:30 a.m.

All descendants of HEINRICH EPP (1811-1863) of Rosenort, Molotschna, South Russia, are invited to a family reunion at the U.M.E.I. in Leamington, Ontario on July 25-27 this summer. If necessary contact J.J. Epp, 612 Oakland Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba R2C 0B8 for further information.

The annual reunion of persons who formerly resided in various South American countries will take place on July 28, at 2:30 p.m. in the auditorium of the MEI in Clearbrook, B.C.

## Association Of Manitoba Archivists

The Association of Manitoba Archivists was formally constituted at a general meeting held at the Provincial Archives on March 8, 1980. It is hoped that the new organization can provide leadership in the development of better archival resources, both public and private, in the province of Manitoba. One of its most important functions will be to provide a network of communication for archivists, who have in the past felt themselves to be isolated in their working experience. A newsletter will be circulated to members. It will contain information on archival matters here and elsewhere, and also act as a forum in which members may share their opinions, or air their views. Archival education will be another concern. Workshops, training sessions and lectures will be offered in order to keep members informed on principles and techniques of archival science.

The following officers have been elected for 1980-81: president: Catherine MacDonald, Manitoba Conference Archives, United Church of Canada; vice-president: Lawrence Klippenstein, Mennonite Heritage

Centre; secretary: Zenon Hluzok, Ukrainian Cultural Centre; treasurer: Elizabeth Blight, Provincial Archives of Manitoba; and newsletter editor: Garron Wells, Hudson's Bay Company Archives.

AMA is not a "professional" organization. Much of the archival work in Manitoba is done by volunteers and part-time workers without formal training. Their participation is essential if the Association is to be representative and useful. If you are working in the archival field or if you simply have an interest in the development of better archival resources for your region you may become a member by sending \$5.00 to: Elizabeth Blight, Association of Manitoba Archivists, c/o Provincial Archives of Manitoba, 200 Vaughan Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0V8.

### Update:

About 60 members have been registered so far. The first issue of the newsletter appeared in late May, and a workshop on archival resources was held at the Provincial Archives in Winnipeg on Saturday, June 21. A constitution is being finalized.

## Book Reviews

Sally Cunningham, ed. **Proceedings of the Local Histories Workshops**, Rural Community Resource Centre, Brandon University, Brandon, Manitoba 1978. Pp. 143, Paperback, \$5.00. Reviewed by Peter Goertzen, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

For all individuals interested in local histories, and especially those who missed the two local history workshops held at The Western Manitoba Centennial Auditorium in Brandon on November 23, 1977 and April 26, 1978, this is a most welcome publication. All the presentations, as well as introductions of speakers and biographical sketches, are compiled in an easy to read, soft cover book. Table of Contents groups the speakers under topics including researching, compiling and writing, funding, printing and distributing.

Research, by local historians, should begin with much motivation and a positive attitude, according to Fred McGuinness. Sources for such research are many and Tully McKenzie mentions both the more familiar ones as well as some, such as grain companies and livestock co-ops, which are more easily overlooked. John Bovey, Provincial Archivist of Manitoba, discusses the holdings of the archives and materials of special interest to individuals involved in compiling a local history.

Both Laura Long and Isabelle Heeney discuss their involvement and experience in compiling local histories. Everything from forming a historical committee, to certain "do's and don'ts", to the final pleasure and satisfaction of completing the project, is discussed.

David McDowell, president of the Manitoba Historical Society which presents the McWilliams Award for history books written in Manitoba, outlines what the society looks for when determining the receiver for this award. Area coverage, an index and style of writing are stressed for compiling a good local history. Dr. Gerald Friesen agrees and strongly emphasizes writing histories that will be interesting, coherent stories — not just for local people but for all readers. In concluding this section, Edith Paterson also discusses good writing and offers advice from her years of experience in writing historical items for the CBC and The Winnipeg Free Press.

Sources of funding, types of programs available and how to most effectively apply for government grants, are areas covered by Walter Hlady. David Friesen discusses eight points on compiling a local history with special emphasis on the printing and financing of the project. Both Friesen and Shirley Brockest stress printing a good quality book, and present various suggestions for retailing once the printing is completed.

The speeches by keynote speakers Dr. John Archer and Fred McGuinness, cover-

ing the realm of local histories in a broader sense, are both helpful and entertaining. Ideas and suggestions, as well as colorful anecdotes, appear throughout.

All areas of concern associated with the topic appear to be well covered by individuals in their respective fields. A great amount of knowledge and experience is thus available in this publication. Certainly groups contemplating or planning a local history, especially in Manitoba, should find the book most helpful.

Isaac Peter Klassen, **Die Insel Chortitza**, 205-300 Hawthorne Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba, 1979. 126 pages, with sources, maps and sketches. Paperback \$7.50, hardcover \$8.50. Reviewed by Peter Paetkau, Sperling, Manitoba.

In **Die Insel Chortitza** the author has proposed to present no dull historical narrative, although everything in the book is seen as truth as the author experienced it. A list of references at the end of the book confirms this. The sub-title, "Stimmungsbilder, Gedanken und Erinnerungen" implies that we may expect much more than an uninspired documentation of the past.

Isaac P. Klassen is an artist who has utilized the imaginative potential of his subject to portray life as it was. Drawing upon various human emotions, as well as the knowledge and experience of his audience, Klassen involves the reader in an intimate dialogue with the past revolving around life on the Isle of Chortitza.

The reference is to the Mennonite village in the Old Colony, established on the island. Those who are fortunate to have lived here remember vividly the **Kamp**, "ene schmoakke Welt", with unusual nostalgia. Well they might, for it is the only Mennonite village ever staked out on an island. The fact that it was the home of the Cossacks and situated in the Dnieper, a major river route in Russia gave it a unique context, and a history all its own.

With some brief but appropriate observations on matters not of the Mennonite world but very much determining its ultimate Russian destiny (the Cossacks, Taras Bulbina, the Testament of Peter the Great, etc.), the story gains perspective as the author explains how the "Island" of German culture was caught up in the stream of world events until it was dissolved.

With high regard and deference to the countless martyrs who perished under the Soviet regime, Klassen concludes with an unforgettable chapter dedicated to all those who either lost their lives, or were exiled to Siberia, or who made the difficult exodus to a foreign country. The book is a vital and vivid memorial to that "wholesome world" that is no more, and can well be recommended for reading.

In 1967-1968 the author wrote and had published **Dem Herrn die Ehre**, the story of the Schoenwieser Mennoniten Gemeinde of Manitoba from 1924-1968. Other materials from his Russian experience may be coming out in print as well.

Frank Isaac, **Elim 50th Anniversary: 1929-1979** (Winnipeg, Manitoba, 1979). Pb., 60 pp., \$3.50. Reviewed by James Friesen, CMBC, Winnipeg, Man.

The book, **Elim 50th Anniversary: 1929-1979**, was written by Frank K. Isaac for the occasion of Elim's fiftieth anniversary celebrations last year. It carries the reader through a half century of Elim activity by way of interviews, minutes of meetings, letters, and many illustrations. The book is divided into four main sections with each section speaking of a different period of Elim's growth and noting the characteristics of each.

The opening section entitled, "The First Years: 1929-1939", includes the first student list and an interview with H. J. Gerbrandt who was one of the students during this time period. The second section, "The Years of Stability: 1939-64", gives considerable information on Principal A. A. Teichroeb and the rest of the teaching staff that gave this period its characteristic stability. It notes the changes of location from Gretna to Altona. Course descriptions of this period are also outlined. The third division is entitled, "A Time of Change: 1964-1974". This period of time was characterized by the challenges of thought and lifestyle of many of the world's youth, and Elim was no exception. The author tries to faithfully draw out some of these problems without avoiding the highlights of this period. The last chapter, "Another Beginning: 1975-1979", speaks of the result of the years of change previous to this, the establishment of a new Elim Board, and its projections for the future.

The book goes beyond the merely factual, providing many excerpts from letters, minutes of meetings, and testimonies of students. Throughout the book, the author indicates the significance of the Lord's leading in every aspect of growth and change at Elim. The writing style is easy to read and the wide range of topics discussed gives the reader a good understanding of Elim and its history.

This easy reading style, combined with many photos, makes this book a good reminder for anyone having attended Elim during the past five decades. It is also a useful reference book for those who may otherwise have a personal interest in the history of the future of Elim Bible Institute.

The author is presently pastor of the Springfield Heights Mennonite Church in Winnipeg and a member of the Elim Board. One can obtain the book by writing to The Office, Elim Bible Institute, Altona, Manitoba, R0G 0B0.