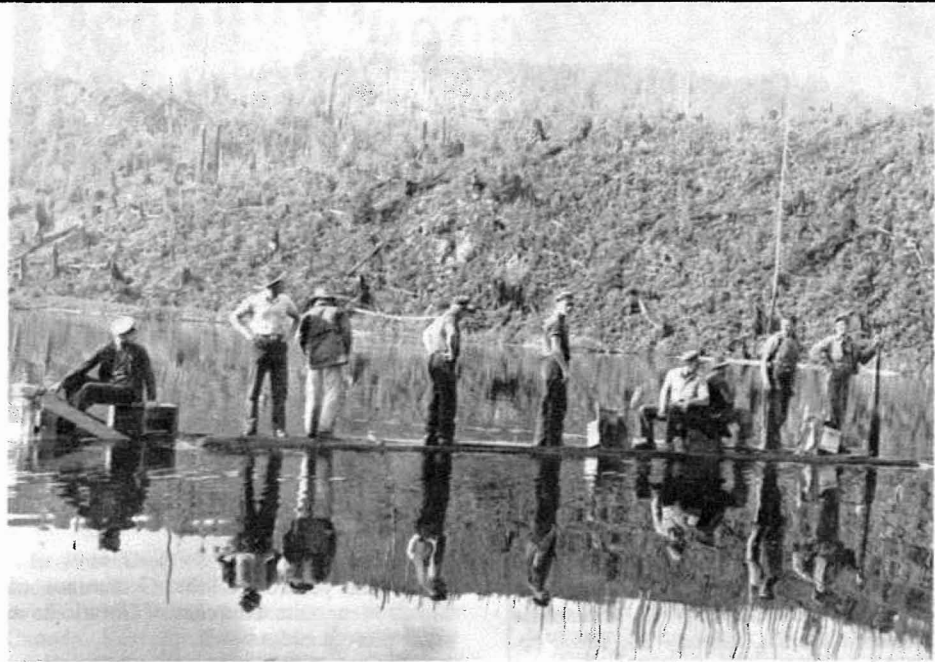


Mennonite Historian



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These COs from a forestry camp in British Columbia created their own means of transportation for moving staff and equipment to new locations. Photo courtesy of Peter Dyck, Winkler, Manitoba.

We Can Celebrate Two CO Anniversaries

By Lawrence Klippenstein

The fall of 1980 and the spring of 1981 together mark two important anniversaries for Mennonite and Brethren in Christ conscientious objectors to military service.

Forty years ago in Canada the laws for conscription in World War II were coming into effect and Mennonites, Brethren in Christ, and other conscientious objectors wondered anxiously whether they would indeed be exempted. There had been several promises of exemption generations ago. During World War I however, objectors ran into difficulties, and special appeals were necessary to obtain the privilege.

At the outset of the second World War Canadian Mennonites could all agree on wanting exemptions again, but not on how alternative service might be offered. Several proposals were brought to officials in Ottawa. In the fall of 1940, a large delegation

met with the Department of National War Services to seek approval for a program of work in agriculture and forests.¹ They indicated interest also in first aid training so that their "boys" would be able to help in the event of epidemics or other emergencies arising from the war.

The deputy ministers remained hesitant, but a further meeting with the minister J.G. Gardiner, raised the hopes of the delegates. On December 24, 1940 when amendments to the regulations were announced, they included authorization for several forms of alternative service. Arrangements for implementation were made with the Department of Mines and Resources, especially the National Parks Branch. By June 1941, nearly 1000 young Mennonites and Brethren in Christ, as well as others were on duty in alternative service programs in Canada.

An initial four-month assignment mainly in national parks, or fighting forest fires, clearing dead wood, or building roads became in 1942, a task "for the duration" of the war. Later many were assigned to agriculture, and several hundred accepted the opportunity after September of 1943 to serve in ambulance work on the front lines. Sometimes tensions arose when men would take leaves without permission (go AWOL), or when boards doubted the sincerity of applicants and ordered them into military service, leading to imprisonment for men who refused.

The concern and sacrifice of earlier generations to uphold a peace stance, instead of taking up arms, will make this anniversary a significant memorial for many, a moment not to be forgotten as possible similar predicaments arise on the current world scene.

To celebrate a 40th anniversary in Canada might also include a centennial commemoration for Mennonites in Russia and the Soviet Union. As it happened, the final terms of the government exemptions agreement with Mennonite colonists in Russia during the 1870's were signed on September 19, 1880 (old style), and the first CO service units in that country came into being six months later.

More specifically, the call-up for Russian Mennonite young men became reality in November of 1880 when they had to report to the Tokmak recruiting office to obtain their service classification, and to prepare themselves for possible placement on April 1 the following spring.

As a result 58 men received assignments at the new forestry camp at Azov just north of Mariupol and 15 others at Veliko Anadol. All were from the districts of Halbstadt and Gnadenfeld in the Molotschna Colony. A minister, Jacob Epp, took on the task of camp chaplain, and Martin Huebert became "ekonom", or business manager, at Anadol.

In the pre-World War I period, the camp system ultimately came to include nearly a dozen localities, among them a mobile phyloxera unit to clean up the vineyards of the Crimea. The Russo-Japanese war in 1904-1905 drew several dozen Mennonites into front-line service as medical aides, and a physician, Nicolai Friesen lost his life due to disease.

The drafts of World War I called over 13,000 Mennonite men to the colours in Russia, with alternative service arrangements placing about half in medical work, and the rest in forestry or related services throughout the country.

During the Civil War and the Revolution hundreds of young Mennonites found themselves, for a time, in the self-defence units (*Selbstschutz*) of their colonies or else conscripted by the White as well as the Red army.

Continued negotiations with Soviet authorities made possible the exemptions from military duty for most Mennonites in the U.S.S.R. until about 1936 when these privileges virtually ceased, to end altogether with the Universal Military Service Law of 1939. However, exemptions from combat duty within the Soviet army have apparently occurred quite regularly since then to the present time.²

The Mennonite approach to providing alternative services to the state has certainly created problems and raised various questions which cannot be ignored. As one writer suggests, compromises which have occurred need to be recognized. The rhetoric of separateness, he notes in commenting on the record, served in the past only to disguise an insidious pact: governments would project Mennonite separateness and in turn Mennonites would be silent about government policy.³ "Too many nominal COs, and not enough true believers" said one of the Canadian camp workers years later.

Still, it was a learning experience for some. As another CO put it, "I realized that God had put me into this world to help others, and to love my neighbor as myself".⁴

Needless to say, the challenge to faithful Christian service and witness within a secular state, and within a wicked world, as the Scriptures describe it, is not easily answered even today.⁵

Notes:

1. These comments on Canadian CO service are based on William Janzen's recent article, "Alternative Service in Canada, Fortieth Anniversary of Conscription" in *Mennonite Reporter*, January 19, 1981, p. 5. Cf. also Les Derksen, "Service for Peace" in *That There Be Peace. Mennonites in Canada During World War II*, edited by Lawrence Klippenstein. Winnipeg, Manitoba, 1979, pp. 1-17.
2. For the Soviet period cf. Gerhard Penner, *Mennoniten Dienen in der Roten Armee* (Winnipeg, 1975), and Hans Rempel and George K. Epp, eds. *Waffen der Wehrlosen. Ersatzdienst der Mennoniten in der UdSSR* (Winnipeg, 1980).



This framed picture was placed in the archives by Rev. Henry Peters of Hanley, Saskatchewan. It depicts the Forestry Camp alternative service unit at Azov, in the Ukraine as made up in 1912. This camp was one of the first to be opened in the spring of 1881.

3. David Fransen, "New Mennonite Approaches to the State", *Mennonite Brethren Herald*, January 30, 1981, pp. 31-32.
4. "In Retrospect" from *That There Be Peace*, pp. 97-100.
5. The work of *Project Ploughshares*, and the newly invigorated peace study programs of several North American Mennonite colleges and seminaries, as well as such public discussion as the recent debate in *Der Bote* on the Russian Mennonite *Selbstschutz*, are efforts to speak to the issue once again.

For more information about *Project Ploughshares* write to Ernie Regehr, Conrad Grebel College, Waterloo, Ontario, N2L 3G6.

The books mentioned in the notes above are available at the Mennonite Heritage Centre, 600 Shaftesbury Blvd., Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3P 0M4.

Cataloging Completed

Deposits from the sources listed below have been catalogued at the Mennonite Heritage Centre archives since January

1981. The records of the Conference of United Mennonite Churches of Ontario have been microfilmed as well.

Canadian Mennonite Bible College
Personal Collections
Mennonite Central Committee (Canada)
Mennonite Central Committee (Manitoba)
Native Ministries (CMC)
Congregational Resources Board (CMC)
CMC - General Secretary
Elim Bible Institute (Altona)
Conference of Mennonites in Canada
Conference of United Mennonite Churches in Ontario
Mennonite Disaster Service (Manitoba)
Manitoba Mennonite Mutual Fire Insurance (Altona)
Mennonite Pastors' Fellowship (Winnipeg)
Canadian Interfaith Council
C.M.C. Congregations
The Pas Mission (CMC)
Bergthaler Mennonite Church - Finances

In process are the Henry Poettcker collection, more on Bergthaler finances and Fellowship Bookcentre records. It is hoped that remaining microfilm, photo, and tape collections can be catalogued this summer.

Our Donors' List

We want to express our appreciation to numerous individuals who have showed their support through recent donations to the Mennonite Heritage Centre. The list covers the period from January to March, 1981.

C. Blake Friesen — Clearbrook, B.C.
Ralph Friesen — Winnipeg, Manitoba
Helen Dyck — Rosthern, Saskatchewan
Keith Wilson — Winnipeg, Manitoba
Menno Klaus — Vineland, Ontario
H. Epp — Hague, Saskatchewan
P.A. Hiebert — Steinbach, Manitoba
C.J. Warkentin — Hershel, Saskatchewan
B. Ackermann — Vancouver, B.C.
Ed Pohranycky — Edmonton, Alberta
Otto Driedger — Regina, Saskatchewan
Helen Hiebner — Edmonton, Alberta
J.P. Nickel — Nanaimo, B.C.
Anita Bergen — Kitchener, Ontario
Walter Enns — Harrow, Ontario
Carl Bangs — Prairie Village, Kansas
Richard Friesen — London, England
H.T. Epp — Regina, Saskatchewan

The contributions of 1981 total \$362.00 so far.

Echo Verlag Books

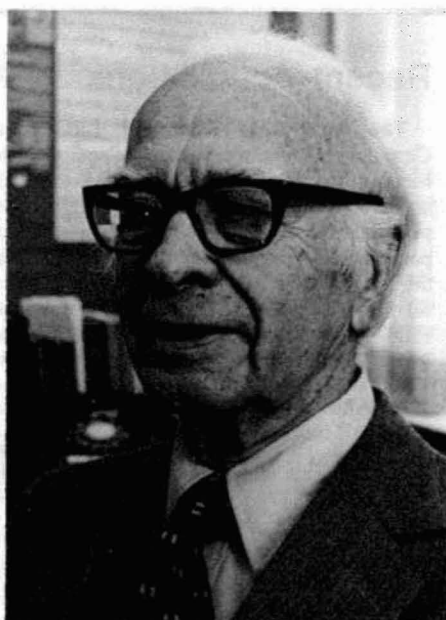
In 1944 Diedrich H. Epp, Arnold Dyck, and others founded the Echo Verlag to publish and distribute Mennonite books in Canada. Research, writing and publication among Canadian Mennonites received a healthy stimulus, with nearly two dozen titles reaching the public in the next several decades.

Unfortunately publishing did not automatically include sales. Finances sometimes remained a burden, as a stack of unmarketed volumes accumulated in basements and attics of authors and publishers alike. When Dyck sold his press at Steinbach, Manitoba and then later moved to Germany, a major source for the publishing firm was seriously diminished.

The termination of Dyck's work did not mean the end of his book distribution dream, however. There were others who were ready to help sell the printed materials which remained. Ella and Harry Friesen of Winnipeg took on major responsibilities in this respect.

Through recent contacts with Hedwig Knoop, a daughter of the late Arnold Dyck, arrangements have been made to place the remaining stock of the Verlag publications at the Mennonite Heritage Centre, which thus becomes the sole distributor of these materials.

A list of all remaining titles, with prices, is available on request. Please write to: Mennonite Heritage Centre, 600 Shaftesbury Blvd., Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3P 0M4.



*Dr. Cornelius Krahn professor emeritus at Bethel College and long-time historian at the Mennonite Library and Archives recently had his book **Dutch Anabaptism, Origin, Spread Life and Thought 1450-1600**, reprinted in paperback by Herald Press. It sells for \$18.00 (U.S.) or \$20.85 (Can.).*

Smith's Story of the Mennonites

by Cornelius Krahn

The *Story of the Mennonites* by C. Henry Smith was published first in 1920, under the title *The Mennonites*. In 1941, after Smith had written numerous other books, *The Mennonites* was revised and enlarged, and published under the title *The Story of the Mennonites*. It turned into a book of nearly nine hundred pages. It appeared that same year and was reprinted in 1945. The day before C. Henry Smith passed away in 1948 he contacted Cornelius Krahn to take over the responsibility of revising future editions of the *Story*. Three came out in 1950, 1957, and 1964.

Hardly any of the original Mennonite settlements in Russia remained intact. Many migrated to Canada and South America in large numbers. In Russia many were removed from their homes and survived in various new areas in northern and Asiatic territories. In recent years over 11,000 have been permitted to migrate to Germany. As a result of these migrations the number of Mennonites in various countries in North and South America has increased. Mennonites of a rural background have moved to the cities in large numbers. The adjustment to their environment is more rapid than it ever was before.

These are only a few factors that had to be taken into consideration in previous revisions of the *Story*. It applies particularly to the one that is now at the press and is expected to be available later in 1981. The forthcoming edition has undergone more changes than any of the previous ones. It has some charts, illustrations, and a bibliography.

It could be added that the first part of the *Story* was translated into German and published under the title: *Die Geschichte der Mennoniten Europas* in 1964. This book is still available at Faith and Life Press, Newton, Kansas and at the Mennonite Heritage Centre, 600 Shaftesbury Blvd., Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3P 0M4.

For Sale

Echo Verlag

Am Trakt (J.J. Dyck) \$ 3.00
 Kubaner Ansiedlung
 (C.P. Toews & H. Friesen) 3.00
 Die Mennonitischen Siedlungen
 in der Krim (H. Goertz) 3.00
 Johann Cornies (D.H. Epp) 3.00
 Heinrich Heese - Johann Philip Wiebe 3.00
 Memrik 3.00

By Arnold Dyck:

Koop enn Bua Foahre no Toronto
 (Pt. II) 3.00
 Koop enn Bua en Dietschlaund
 (Pt. II) 3.00
 Onsi Lied 3.00
 Welkoam Ope Forstei 3.00
 Warte Jahrbuch, 1943 and 1944 .ea. 3.00
 Verloren in der Steppe
 (Pts. II and III) ea. 3.00

Other Books:

Miracles of Grace and Judgement . 10.00
 Adventure in Faith (Bergthaler
 Church of Manitoba) Hdco. 8.00
 Geschichte der Mennoniten in Europa
 (C.H. Smith) Hdco. 8.00
 Aus Meinem Leben (J.H. Janzen) ... 2.00
 Wenn der Farmer Schriftleiter Wird
 (P.B. Wiens) Hdco. 8.00
 Nestor Machno. Leben Eines Anarchisten
 (V. Peters) 5.00
 - also available in English 5.00

Ältester Johann Funk (Mary Jeffery)
 Bergthaler. Hdco. 13.00
 That There Be Peace (L. Klippenstein, ed.)
 (on W.W.II COs in Canada) Hdco. 9.00
 Feldblumen (G. Loewen poems) 3.00
 Die Insel Khortitza (I.P. Klassen) pb. 7.00
 hdco. 8.50

Order from: Mennonite Heritage Centre,
 600 Shaftesbury Blvd., Winnipeg, Manitoba,
 R3P 0M4.

Note: Do not send money. We will bill you. Shipping and handling are extra to above at 50¢/book.

Russo-Ukrainian Mennonite Studies

A New Project Possible

More than 35,000 Russian Mennonites arrived in Canada during the three major immigration movements of the 1870s, the 1920s, and the 1940s. The "old country" of Russia, and now the Soviet Union therefore constitute a reality with a special place in the Mennonite past even today.

Not a few of the original newcomers, now well re-established, are concerned that the story of the Russian experience, so dramatic in many respects, and so live an influence in the Canadian one that followed, should not be forgotten in the years to come.

To aid this enterprise, a retired minister of the First Mennonite congregation in Winnipeg, Rev. Isaac P. Klassen, has donated the proceeds from his most recent book, *Die Insel Chortitza*, as well as the unsold copies, to the Mennonite Heritage Centre archives and research program in Russian Mennonite studies. About \$1,500.00 and nearly 600 copies of the book can thus become the core of an expanding resource to develop this field.

The aims of the project now underway are fourfold: a) to prepare an exhaustive listing of the existing published and archival holdings of Russian Mennonite - related materials in the Mennonite Heritage Centre library and archives, b) to add other items not now available in the present collection, c) to extend existing bibliographies of books, articles, dissertations, etc. published on Mennonites in Russia and the Soviet Union, d) to initiate various study projects which will explore untouched areas of Russian Mennonite research.

It is hoped that other interested persons may wish to contribute to the Russian studies fund, or to donate books, manuscripts, photographs, etc. which will build up the Russian Mennonite collection, and the project design as a whole. A special Advisory Committee has been set up to give further helpful suggestions, and to guide the project as it gets underway.

In this context it could be announced that the remaining stock of the Echo Verlag books, published by Arnold Dyck, has been acquired by the Mennonite Heritage Centre for distribution. A price and title list is available upon request.

Donations, manuscripts, and books should be mailed or delivered to:

Mennonite Heritage Centre
600 Shaftesbury Blvd.
Winnipeg, Man. R3P 0M4

Recent Acquisitions

The Mennonite Historical Library at Canadian Mennonite Bible College, and the Mennonite Heritage Centre have recently acquired a number of useful books and other publications for studying the Mennonite experience in Russia. Some of the Russian titles are quite rare, and especially important for information which our better-known English or German works do not include. Some earlier deposits are listed too.

Books and Manuscripts, etc.

Dueck, Johann W. *Historien und Begebenheiten aus fruherer Zeit und der Gegenwart* (1904). On the Kleine Gemeinde in Russia. In manuscript. Microfilm, in archives. Also photocopy.

Ens, Anna Epp, ed. *The House of Heinrich. The Story of Heinrich Epp (1811-1863) Rosenort, Molotschna and His Descendants*. Winnipeg, 1980. A family study. Hardcover edition.

Gleason, W.E. "The All Russian Union of Towns and All Russian Union of Zemstvos in World War I, 1914-1917", Ph.D. dissertation, 1972. Microfilm.

Hamm, Gerhard. *Nur zwanzig Kilometer. Eine Jugend in den russischen Waeldern*. Wuppertal, 1979.

Hamm, Oscar. *Erinnerungen aus Ignatjevo*. Saskatoon, 1980. Will be published in English also.

Ipatov, A.N. *Wer sind die Mennoniten?* Alma Ata, Kazakhstan, 1977.

Kamenskii, P.V. *Vopros ili Nedorazhumenie? K voprosy ob innostranich poseleniach na juga Rossii*. Moskva, 1895. (Problem or Misunderstanding? Concerning the Question of Foreign Settlements in south Russia). Photocopy.

Klibanov, A. *Mennonity*. Moscow, 1931. (The Mennonites). Microfilm in archives.



Rev. Isaac P. Klassen has also written a history of the Schoenwieser Mennonite congregations, *Dem Herrn Die Ehre* (Winnipeg, 1968). He has another publication enroute to the printers.

Lindeman, Karl E. *Zakony 2-ogo fevralia i 13-ogo dekabria 1915g... ikh vliianie na ekonomicheskoe sostoianie iuzhnoi rossii*. Moscow, 1916. (The Laws of 2 February and 13 December 1915... and Their Influence on the Economic Situation in Southern Russia). Photocopy.

Lindeman, Karl E. *Prekrashchenie zemlevladieniia i zemlepol' zovaniia poselian' sobstvennikov. Ukazy 2 fevralia i 13 dekabria 1915 goda i 10, 15 iulija i 19 avgusta 1916 goda i ikh vliianie na ekonomicheskoe sostoianie iuzhnoi rossii*. Moscow, 1917. (The Curtailment of Landownership and Land Use of Settler Owners. The Decrees of 2 February and 13 December 1915, and 10, 15 July and 19 August, 1916, and Their Influence on the Economic Situation in Southern Russia). Photocopy.

Long, James, ed. *The German Russians; A Bibliography*. Santa Barbara, CA., 1978.

Pisarevskii, Grigorii G. *Pereselenie prusskikh mennonitov v Rossii pri Aleksandre I. Rostov-on-Don, 1917*. (The Settlement of Prussian Mennonites in Russia During the Reign of Alexander I). Microfilm.

_____. *Iz istorii inostrannoi kolonizatsii v rossii v XVIIIv*. Moscow, 1909. (History of Foreign Colonization in Russia in the Eighteenth Century). Microfilm.

Reimer, Peter. *Wir waren mit dabei. Erinnerungen eines alten Kommunisten*. Alma Alta, Kazakhstan, 1977.

Reinmarus, A. (Penner). *Anti-Menno. Beitrag zur Geschichte der Mennoniten in Russland*. Moskau, 1930. Photocopy.

Stach, Ia. *Ocherki iz istorii i sovremenoi zhizni iuzhnorusskikh kolonistov*. Moskva, 1916. (Sketches from the History and Contemporary Life of the South Russian Colonists). Original.

Strempler, Ivan. *Selo menjaet oblik*. Frunze, 1971. (A Village Changes Its Face).

Toews, Aeltester Peter. *Sammlung... Zur Historie der Kleinen Gemeinde*. n.d. Typed manuscript in archives. Also microfilm.

Warkentin, J. *Kritisches zur Sowjetdeutschen Literatur*. Moskau, 1977.

Periodicals

Auf Zum Werk. Edited by Gustav Enns. Published in Moundridge, Kansas, U.S.A. Organ of the Russian Bible and Evangelization Society. Available - August 1921 (Vol. I-1) to January 1923, some gaps. Originals.

Dein Reich Komme. Edited by Jacob Kroeker. Published in Germany, Wernigerode am Harz, by "Licht im Osten". A monthly for the spread of the Gospel among the peoples of the East. Available 1921-1936. Incomplete set.

Der Botschafter. Edited by D.H. Epp. Published in Berdiansk, South Russia. Available 1906-1914, nearly complete. Microfilm.

Continued on page 7

About My Family, The Koslowskys

By Agatha Ratzlaff

When my parents emigrated to Canada in 1926, my mother's father and stepmother, Peter J. and Susanna (Ratzlaff) Koslowsky, remained in Russia. For a few years my mother was able to communicate with her parents through correspondence by mail, but with time the world's political condition was such that they could no longer maintain that communication. By the time I was born, my father's father and stepmother in Canada had both died, and I grew up without ever knowing even one of my grandparents. But our parents kept the memory of their parents alive for us children by telling us about them and teaching us to pray for my mother's parents in Russia each night.

When I was nine years old, I dreamt I

received a letter from my grandfather telling me he was still alive. I dreamt this was not a dream but was reality. However, when I awoke I realized it had been a dream after all, and I was so disappointed. Many years later, we heard through friends who had known our grandparents in Russia and were able to tell us of their last years of life. In comparing the date of my grandfather's death, I discovered he must have died around the time I had that dream. For many years I didn't understand the meaning of my dream, but I believe I understand it now.

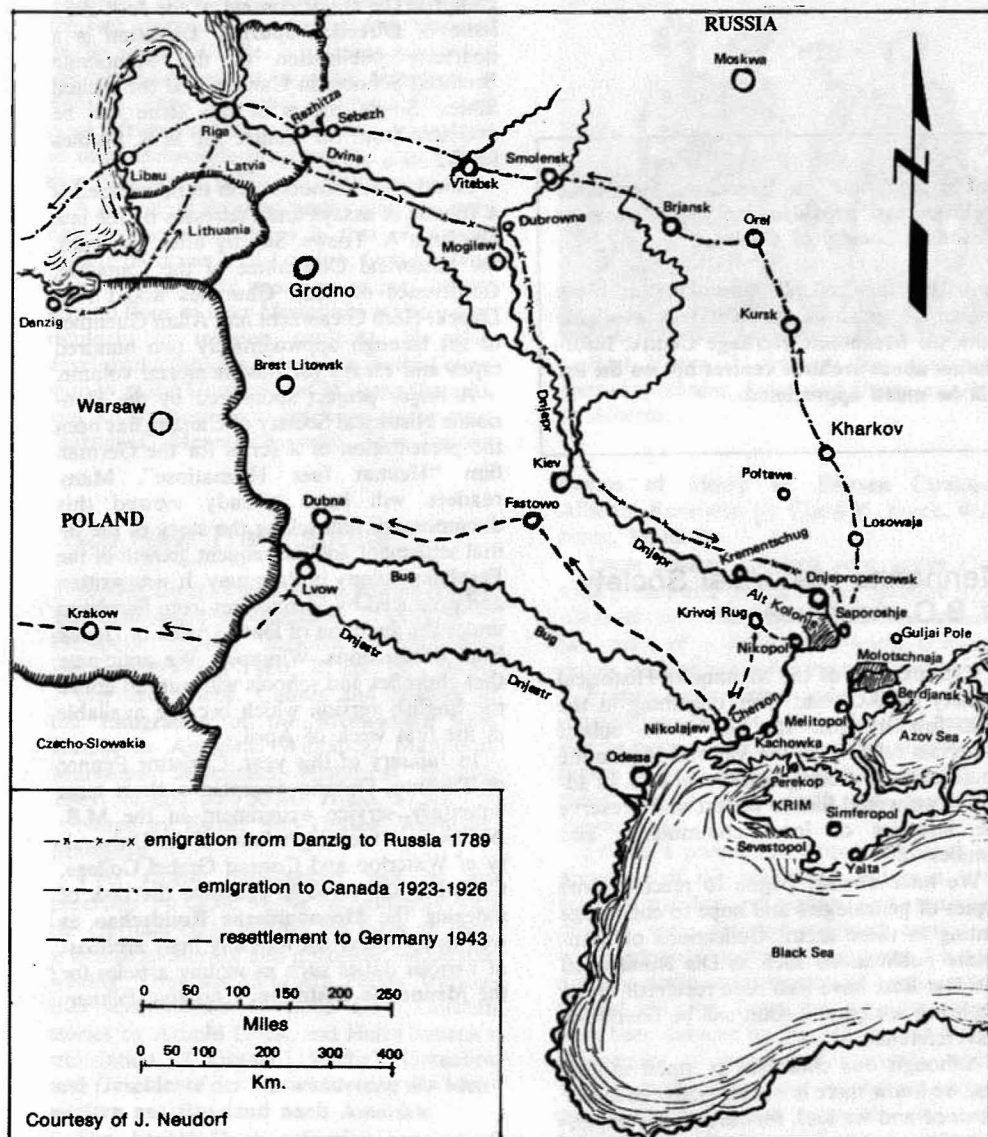
In the last few years I have been researching our family history and have gathered as much information about our ancestors as I could. Since my mother's

maiden family name is Koslowsky, I have been able to compile the following information concerning the Koslowsky family. In recording our family history, I am keeping the memory of my grandfather and other ancestors alive for future generations to appreciate. While I don't want to idolize our ancestors, I do want to honor them and express my gratitude for the heritage that is ours through our God-fearing parents and grandparents. I appreciate my Mennonite heritage.

The Koslowsky family had its origin in Poland. One of our earlier ancestors is said to have been a general in the Polish army, although I have no documented information on this. The earliest records available to me are those which I received from my uncle, the late Peter P. Koslowsky of Niverville, Manitoba, Canada; and from my mother's second cousin, Gerhard G. Koslowsky of Rosthern, Saskatchewan, Canada. From these two sources I have obtained the information of my great-great-grandparents, David and Anna (Willms) Koslowsky. From my mother I have received the information concerning my grandparents and great-grandparents, and from my cousins I have received that which relates to their individual families.

My great-great-grandfather, **David Koslowsky** (1769-1846), was born on February 2, 1769 in Zeyer, West Prussia, then Polish, two miles from the city of Elbing. The most outstanding accomplishment made by David Koslowsky is that he emigrated from Prussia to Russia on foot. He started out from the Danzig area in Prussia on September 28, 1803 and walked to Russia, arriving at Grodno on October 11, where he stayed with a Jakob Schmidt for the winter. On March 26, 1804 he left Grodno and arrived in Chortitz on May 31, 1804. In the beginning of August, 1804 he moved to Einlage, where he started a fishery business. He had arrived at his destination in less than a year's time. Einlage remained the home of the Koslowsky family for several generations.

On June 10, 1810 David Koslowsky married Anna Willms, born January 2, 1792 in Einlage, Chortitz, the daughter of Heinrich and Anna Willms. Heinrich Willms was born in 1757 in Littauen, Elbing, Prussia; and Anna was born in 1756, also in Littauen. David and Anna Koslowsky's marriage, which lasted for more than 35 years, was blessed with seven children: David, born July 20, 1812; Heinrich, born December 2, 1813; Anna, born February 5, 1822; Gerhard, born November 18, 1824; Johann, born August 20, 1827; Jakob, born April 29, 1831; and Maria, born March 23, 1833. David Koslowsky died January 2, 1846 in Einlage at the age of 77 years; and Anna died August 30, 1846 in Einlage at the age of 54 years. (to be continued)



Canadian Mennonite Archives

EM Conference Archives

The Evangelical Mennonite Conference (formerly Kleingemeinde) began gathering archival material in a central source around 1972 when it established its own office building in Steinbach, Manitoba. This building also had a small office safe which became the depository of a small amount of historical material.

This holding consisted mainly of statistical records of births, marriages, baptisms and deaths. There were also some "Waisenamt" records, and a number of old books.

With the construction of a new office complex in 1977 the Conference acquired a walk-in vault and much more room to store material. And bit by bit more material came in, but in no great amounts.

The issue recently come into greater focus when the Board of Education and Publication of the Conference decided to pursue the gathering of historical material more actively.

At the meeting of the Board on March 7, 1981 a student was hired to devote the summer months to gathering material, indexing and cataloguing, and conducting interviews. The Board felt this would be at least a start in the right direction. Later a more comprehensive approach may be utilized.

Among the latest acquisitions are the following:

1. Three photo copies of Aeltester Peter Toews' "Sammlung zur Historie der Kleinen Gemeinde der Mennoniten in der Molotschna".

2. A handwritten book containing results of ministerial elections and also copies of some significant letters relating to the events of 1880-81 when a large part of the Kleingemeinde left the church to join the Holdeman group.

3. Record books from the Steinbach E.M. Church.

4. John W. Dueck personal papers.

Dave K. Schellenberg

Saskatchewan MB Conference Archives

The archives at Bethany Bible Institute were constructed in 1978 as a joint project of the Bible institute and the Saskatchewan M.B. congregations. Collecting of materials began much earlier.

At present the archives contain the historical records of the Bethany Bible Institute, such as board minutes, building blueprints, official correspondence, school newspapers and yearbooks, student records, the library shelf list, and many other school-

related materials. They also hold some of the early records of the Herbert Bible School, now amalgamated with Bethany. In its possession too are some of the early records of the M.B. Mission of Saskatchewan and its predecessor, the Western Children's Mission. Then there are conference yearbooks - General, Canadian, Saskatchewan provincial and district, as well as some from other provinces.

In it also are stored the record books of a number of Saskatchewan M.B. churches now extinct, as well as the non-current record books of several of the present churches, and the others are invited to deposit theirs with us. Besides, it has in its collection also a brief outline on the historical development of most of the M.B. churches of the North Saskatchewan District, gleaned from church records and conference books some years ago.

George C. Geddert

The materials on Canadian Mennonite archives are provided by the Mennonite Historical Society of Canada.

A directory of all Mennonite archives known to exist in the world is available from the Mennonite Heritage Centre. Information about archives centres not on the list will be much appreciated.

Mennonite Historical Society of B.C. Archives

The archives of the Mennonite Historical Society of B.C. had their beginning in the past few months. Its aim is to collect materials relating to the various Mennonite conferences and congregations in B.C. In addition we would like to collect and preserve the histories of local communities and families.

We have already begun to receive some copies of genealogies and hope to encourage writing in these areas. Collections of Mennonite publications such as *Die Rundschau* and *Der Bote* have also been received. These are being sorted and soon will be bound for easy reference.

Although our collection is small at this time we know there is a great potential in our province and we look forward to the expansion of our holdings over the coming months and years. *Hugo Friesen*

Centre for M.B. Studies (Canada)

The Centre for Mennonite Brethren Studies in Canada is pleased to update readers on a variety of projects currently underway.

One of our goals at the Centre is that Mennonite Brethren Churches in each province accept the task of writing histories of their respective conferences. Anne Wiebe, a retired history teacher of the Kitchener area, is presently writing the Ontario Mennonite Brethren Conference's history. In Winnipeg, Rev. William Neufeld, former pastor of the North Kildonan M.B. Church, has been compiling information in order to write the history of the Manitoba Provincial Conference.

In late November, the Centre held a symposium dealing with "Influences on Mennonite Brethren Theology". Condensed versions of the five major papers presented will comprise the major content of the July 1981 issue of *Direction Journal*. *Direction* is a quarterly publication of the Mennonite Brethren Schools in Canada and the United States. Single copies of this issue will be available from the Centre for M.B. Studies for \$2.50 a copy.

Another publication soon to be released is a volume of essays and addresses by the late Dr. John A. Toews. Shortly after his death, the Historical Committee of the Canadian Conference of M.B. Churches asked Abe Dueck, Herb Giesbrecht and Allan Guenther to sift through approximately two hundred tapes and essays for this memorial volume.

A major project sponsored by the Mennonite Historical Society of Canada has been the presentation of a script for the German film "Heimat fuer Heimatlose". Many readers will have already viewed this documentary film telling the story of the initial settlement and subsequent growth of the Fernheim colony in Paraguay. It was written and produced by Mennonites from Fernheim under the direction of Dave Dueck of Dueck Film Productions, Winnipeg. We anticipate that churches and schools will want to utilize the English version which became available in the first week of April.

In January of this year, Christine Penner of Toronto, Ontario accepted a short term voluntary service assignment in the M.B. Archives. A recent graduate of the University of Waterloo and Conrad Grebel College, Christine has come to continue the task of indexing the *Mennonitische Rundschau* as well as to relieve the foolishly busy archivist of various duties such as writing articles for the *Mennonite Historian*. *Christine Penner*

Conrad Grebel College Archives

Three books have recently been donated to the Conrad Grebel College Library/Archives that are of particular interest. The Ephrata edition of the **Martyrs' Mirror** (1748/49) and a volume of writings by Johannes Gossner were donated by Agatha Nickel of Waterloo. Gossner was a German Lutheran who had many contacts with Mennonites, and was widely read by them. Waldemar Schroeder donated a fine copy of Bible stories published in Halbstadt in 1911.

An oral history project sponsored by the Multicultural History Society of Ontario that will have copies deposited at Conrad Grebel is being conducted by Louella Friesen, formerly of Winnipeg. She is studying the history of inter-Mennonite cooperation in Ontario, particularly the development of the Inter-Mennonite Conference (Ontario).

A large collection of materials gathered by the late Herman Enns was recently donated by his widow, Estelle. It includes minutes of the many committees on which he served, as well as more personal study notes and books from his library. Herman was active in inter-Mennonite projects, and the collection provides a goldmine of information.

A collection received earlier that has only recently been processed is that of Arnold Gingrich, formerly of London, Ontario, who died in 1970. Here again was a man on the ground floor of inter-Mennonite activity particularly in mission projects. He also developed a thriving Mennonite student community at the University of Western Ontario, and did not hesitate to reach out to the most "alienated" Mennonite youth. *Sam Steiner*

Two New Translations

Arnold Dyck. **Two Letters. Runde Koake. The Millionaire of Goatfield.** Translated by Elizabeth Peters. Steinbach, Manitoba: Derksen Printers, 1980, 70 pp., pb., \$4.50

Gerhard Wiebe. **Causes and History of the Emigration of the Mennonites from Russia to America.** Winnipeg, Manitoba: Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society, 1981, 73 pp., pb., \$5.00. Hdco. \$7.50.

Noted by Esther Epp-Tiessen, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Two recent publications will be appreciated by those whose unfamiliarity with the German language has cut them off from a wealth of literary and historical Mennonite writing. They are Elizabeth Peters' translation and edition of three Low German stories by Arnold Dyck, and Helen Janzen's translation of Gerhard Wiebe's **Ursachen und Geschichte der Auswanderung der Mennoniten aus Russland nach Amerika.**

The Arnold Dyck collection consists of **Two Letters** a very touching story about the experience of one woman who loses her lov-

ed ones through revolution and war; **The Millionaire of Goatfield**, a satire on the class structure of Mennonite society; and **Runde Koake**, an hilarious account of one bachelor-artist's attempt at baking. The second book is the Berghaler bishop's own reflections on the emigration of the Mennonites from Russia in the 1870's.

In both books, it is evident that the translators have taken care to produce a work that is true to the original German and yet one which reads well in the English language. The Peters' translation also benefits from the addition of three interpretive introductions. These two publications meet a much-felt need and deserve wide readership.

Poetry Collection



Poet Henry D. Friesen (far right) with sons (l-r) Abram, Jacob and Henry, ca. 1945 in Alberta.

Poems of Henry D. Friesen Coaldale, Alberta. Reviewed by Clara K. Dyck, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

These several hundred very active German poems are, on the whole, baroque style, although here the hope of the final stanzas has more of a joyous this-world upswing, rather than promises for the next world only.

Friesen deals with a wide variety of age-old religious themes which also find expression in more modern application, such as: an Indian grave, a hop-crop in B.C., insanity of autos racing with death, 'a game for "beans," etc.

Friesen's poems are strong, vigorous expressions of life with God and man. One senses a stability and realism, and even when dealing with emotion-weighted topics as widowhood, loneliness and tears, he does not bog down in introspection, sentimentality and self-pity. Tears, he considers, might have been induced by joy. He sees life from a perspective of hope and gratitude which mostly leads to positive resolutions. Many poems are prefaced or appended with scriptural mottos. His "morals" are unmistakable and while they are generally implicitly or symbolically presented in story-form first,

they are explicitly stated once more in conclusion.

There are loose sheets as well as twelve 16-page hand-written and typed, self-bound booklets, entitled "Knospen & Blueten," and also a 36-page copy published by the **Rundschau Publishing House** (n.d.). Many of these poems have also appeared in Mennonite periodicals such as **Die Mennonitische Rundschau**, and **Der Bote**.

Most poems are of one or two-page length. An 18-page Low German booklet deals with the depression, mother, home life and other themes. There are also several longer poems, e.g. a 28-page, 27-verse, "Song of the Soul"; "Mennogesang," pertaining to the fate of the Mennonites in Holland, Germany and Russia, and "Menno Amerika," which continues the story.

While this poetry contains some unusual syntax, rhyming for rhyming's sake, and may not be called "classic," much of it is well worth reading.

(continued from page 4)

Der Missionfreund. Eine Monatschrift. Edited by W. Fetler. Published in Riga, Latvia. Available January 1927 - January 1928. Organ of Russian Missionary Society. Originals.

Friedensstimme. Edited by A. Kroeker. Published in Halbstadt, South Russia. Available 1906-1914, 1917-1920. Nearly complete. Microfilm. 1917-1918 also original.

Fuers Christliche Haus. Published by J. and A. Kroeker. Published at Halbstadt. Available 1905 (also issues of 1902-1903 when it was titled **Christliches Jahrbuch**). Original.

Mennonitisches Jahrbuch. Edited by Heinrich Dirks and D.H. Epp. Published in Gross Tokmak and Berdiansk. Available 1903-1913. Complete run. Original.

Praktischer Landwirt. Edited by P.F. Froese and C.F. Klassen. Published in Moscow. Available 1925-1926. Complete run. Original.

Odessa Zeitung. Published in Odessa, South Russia. Available 1890-1914, with gaps. Microfilm.

Russian and Slavonic Bible Union Monthly. Edited by G.P. Raud. Published in Brooklyn, New York. Available January 1924 - December 1925, with gaps. Originals.

Schulblatt fuer die deutschen Kolonien in Russland. Edited by Matthias Schmidt. Published in Prischib, South Russia. Available October 1912 - March 1913. Originals.

Sejatel Istini! Edited by I.V. Neprash. Published in East Orange, New Jersey, ("The Sower of Truth"). A Russia Christian monthly. Available January 1925 - June 1927. Some gaps. Originals.

Unser Blatt. Edited by Jakob Rempel. Published in Moscow. Available 1925-1928. Complete run. Original, also microfilm.

Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society Report

Good membership response, the publication of a book, and about twenty helpful comments on the cemetery map project, were reported at the annual Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society meeting held on Saturday, March 21, at the Mennonite Heritage Centre in Winnipeg.

There had been no earlier opportunity for the 103 listed members of 1980 to meet as one body since the organization of Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society almost a year ago. With some as far away as British Columbia and St. Louis, Missouri, not all could make it for this occasion. The forty who did appreciated the experience, and undoubtedly will be back for more.

In reorganizing for the coming year the following took over as executive officers: Dr. Vic Doerksen, president; Doreen Klassen, first vice-president; Dr. Al Reimer, second vice-president; Ken Reddig, secretary; and

Esther Epp-Tiessen, a new Board member, treasurer. Dr. Adolf Ens, as past president, became chairman of the Board.

The Fine Arts committee reported an interest in helping with the projected Russian Mennonite film, and assisting with a display at the Mennonite Folklorama booth this summer. The Cairns Committee plans to catalogue, and possibly map extinct and current cemeteries in Mennonite communities of the province.

The morning sessions included also the announcement of a new publication, an English translation of Aeltester Gerhard Wiebe's *Ursache und Geschichte der Auswanderung der Mennoniten aus Russland nach Amerika* (1900). A manuscript was originally submitted by Helen Janzen, formerly of Gretna, and then of Winnipeg. The publication of the English edition was a project of the Research and Publication Committee, and made possible with the generous assistance of Derksen Printers in Steinbach.

In a final motion of the business meeting it was agreed that Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society would become a member of the Canadian Mennonite Historical Society, to join three other provincial Mennonite historical societies which have belonged since the national group emerged in 1974.

A presentation of Wiebe's book to the translator opened a seminar planned for the afternoon. In her response Ms. Janzen again expressed her feeling that we still had something to learn from the people whom Aeltester Wiebe represented in his day.

The Research Committee also

acknowledged the recent publication of Gerhard Lohrenz's *Stories From Mennonite Life* (Russian Mennonite settings), Elizabeth Peters' translated works of Arnold Dyck, *The Millionaire of Goatfield, Runde Koake and Two Letters*, and also the second corrected edition of P.M. Friesen's *The Mennonite Brotherhood in Russia 1789-1910*, printed by Christian Press of Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Adolf Ens concluded the day with a lecture on "Manitoba Mennonites and Education: The Early Years". He stressed the fact that Mennonites in the late 19th century had a functional approach to education. Its purpose, as they saw it, lay in preparing children for church and community life, and to provide a common level of understandings in the group as a whole.

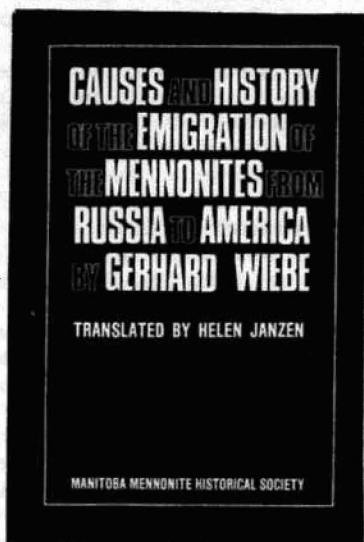
In outlining the major issues of Mennonite education in the first fifty years of Manitoba settlement, Ens noted their strong feeling that education of children should not be designated to agencies outside of the community itself, i.e. the home and the church. They claimed the right to teach religion in their schools, and used the "Privilegium" signed in 1873 as the basis for claiming these rights.

The educational controversies of 1919, which led to an exodus from Manitoba, were not so much over a concern to keep the German language, Ens suggested, as reflecting the Mennonites' desire to keep control over the education of their own children.

Persons interested in Society membership may write to Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society, 600 Shaftesbury Blvd., Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3P 0M4.

Note: The current paid-up membership is 118.

Available Now



The English translation of Gerhard Wiebe's *Ursachen und Geschichte der Auswanderung der Mennoniten aus Russland nach Kanada*. Translated by Helen Janzen.

Paperback: \$5.00

Hardcover: \$7.50

Postage included

Make cheques out to and mail to:

Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society
600 Shaftesbury Blvd.
Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3P 0M4.

The material on this page was provided by the Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society.



This building, still standing, was once used (ca. 1912) as a private school in the school district of Altberghthal, west of Altona, Man. The village of this district is now a century old having been settled originally in 1880-81. A recent family study of Aeltester Johann Funk, who lived there for many years, tells part of the story (cf. sale list, p. 3). Photo Credit: Bernie Wiebe