

MANITOBA MENNONITE

HISTORICAL SOCIETY



600 Shaftesbury Blvd., Winnipeg, MB R3P 0M4
1310 Taylor Ave., Winnipeg, MB R3M 3Z6

Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society
Annual General Meeting.

- 1) Annual General Meeting
 - a. Minutes of last AGM
 - b. Financial Reports
 - c. Outline of Procedures to Launch New Structure
 - d. Resolution to create Standing Committees:
 - i. EastMenn
 - ii. West Reserve
 - e. Resolution to admit to Affiliated Organization Status
 - i. Mennonite Heritage Village
 - ii. Plett Foundation
 - iii. GAMEO Manitoba
 - f. Resignation of existing Board
 - g. Adjourn to Constitute Advisory Council
- 2) Meeting of the Advisory Council
 - a. Standing Committee and Affiliated Organization Reports
 - i. EastMenn Committee
 - ii. West Reserve Committee
 - iii. Mennonite Heritage Village
 - iv. GAMEO Manitoba
 - v. Plett Foundation
 - b. Nominate Members to the Board (7)
 - c. Adjournment of Advisory Committee
- 3) Resumption of AGM
 - a. Election of Directors (4) to two year terms (3) to one year terms
 - b. Other Business
 - c. Adjournment
- 4) Inaugural Board Meeting
 - a. Election of President, Vice-President, Secretary (1 year term), Treasurer
 - b. Discussion on the need for additional committees
 - c. Date of next Board Meeting

Schedule 1										
	General	Local history	Genealogy	Pub. & Mark.	M. & P.	H. S. & M.	Eastmenn	Special Prj.	Total	Budget
Opening balance Jan 1, 2013	2,837.39	16,153.07	592.44	426.97	577.01	1,157.52	27,739.29	35.00	49,518.69	51,927.49
Income										
Donations	1,475.00								1,475.00	1,500.00
Membership dues (Note 2)	1,149.31				795.69				1,945.00	3,000.00
Interest	274.29						683.91		958.20	1,250.00
Workshops		1,820.00							1,820.00	450.00
Book sales		3,788.72	332.50	18.00			231.40		4,370.62	1,370.00
Other income			550.00		1.98	12,950.00		800.00	14,301.98	13,250.00
Total income	2,898.60	5,608.72	882.50	18.00	797.67	12,950.00	915.31	800.00	24,870.80	20,820.00
Expenses										
AGM & comm. mtgs.							262.33		262.33	250.00
Dues & Subscriptions	1,775.00								1,775.00	1,775.00
Plett award			550.00						550.00	600.00
Cost of book sales		1,478.67	225.42				51.61		1,755.70	401.56
Other printing and shipping		28.00			709.14				737.14	1,250.00
Liability insurance	695.50								695.50	650.00
Professional fees	588.50								588.50	550.00
Inventory write off									-	-
Special projects (Note 1)						10,087.00	625.08	1,800.00	12,512.08	17,500.00
Workshops		1,650.00							1,650.00	650.00
Office and storage (Note 3)	113.65				86.17				199.82	1,000.00
Total expenses	3,172.65	3,156.67	775.42	-	795.31	10,087.00	939.02	1,800.00	20,726.07	24,626.56
Surplus <deficit>	(274.05)	2,452.05	107.08	18.00	2.36	2,863.00	(23.71)	(1,000.00)	4,144.73	(3,806.56)
(less) Prior Yr. Unearned Revenue	(665.00)								(665.00)	
plus Unearned Revenue (Note 5)	225.00								225.00	
Ending balance - December 31, 2013	2,123.34	18,605.12	699.52	444.97	579.37	4,020.52	27,715.58	(965.00)	53,223.42	48,120.93
Schedule 1 (cont'd)										
Balances are comprised of:										
Bank and investments	2,123.34	16,056.61	283.96	426.97	579.37	4,020.52	23,026.57	(965.00)	45,552.34	
Accounts Receivable		1,765.00	332.50	18.00			135.00		2,250.50	
Books (see schedule 2)		783.51	83.06				4,554.01		5,420.58	Sch 2 & Note 4
Retained Earnings	2,123.34	18,605.12	699.52	444.97	579.37	4,020.52	27,715.58	(965.00)	53,223.42	

Note 1

Special Projects expenditures consist of: Human rights project and Bergthal School project

Note 2

Membership dues are first credited to: Membership and Publicity to cover the regular costs of maintaining members

Note 3

Office and storage costs consist of: office supplies and storage costs

Note 4

The asset value of the inventory will be decreased for any title five years after publication.

Note 5

Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society
Balance Sheet
As of December 31, 2013
Dec 31, 13

ASSETS

Current Assets

Chequing/Savings

Chequing	3,380.20
Plan 24 Account	1,754.31
Crosstown Share Capital	5.00
Surplus Shares	81.36
Total Chequing/Savings	5,220.87
Accounts Receivable	2,250.50
Total Accounts Receivable	2,250.50
Other Current Assets	
Inventory Asset	5,401.61
Undeposited Funds	5,863.00
Total Other Current Assets	11,264.61

Total Current Assets 18,735.98

Other Assets

General investment	10,633.46
Eastmenn Investment Account	23,853.98
Total Other Assets	34,487.44
TOTAL ASSETS	53,223.42

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

Other Current Liabilities

Unearned Revenue	225.00
Total Other Current Liabilities	225.00
Total Current Liabilities	225.00
Total Liabilities	225.00

Equity	52,279.02
Opening Bal Equity	-3,425.33
Retained Earnings	4,144.73
Net Income	
Total Equity	52,998.42

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY 53,223.42

Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society

Financial Statement

January - December 2013

Jan - Dec 13

Income

Adminstration

Investment interest	267.66
Total Adminstration	267.66
Donations	1475.00

Eastmenn comm.

Book sales	231.40
Investment interest	683.91
Total Eastmenn comm.	915.31

Genealogy Committee

Genealogy Book Series	332.50
Plett awards	550.00
Total Genealogy Committee	882.50

Historic Sites & Monuments Com.

Post Road project	737.00
Altbergthal school project	12,213.00
Total Historic Sites & Monuments Com.	12,950.00

Interest	6.63
----------	------

Local History Committee

Book Sales	3,788.72
Workshop	1,820.00
Total Local History Committee	5,608.72

M. & P. Comm.

US cur	1.98
Total M. & P. Comm.	1.98

Membership Dues

2013 Dues	1945.00
Total Membership Dues	1945.00

Publication & Marketing Committ

Book sales	18.00
Total Publication & Marketing Committ	18.00

Special projects

web redesign genealogy	800.00
Total Special projects	800.00
Total Income	24,870.80

Cost of Goods Sold

Cost of Goods Sold	1,755.70
Total COGS	1,755.70
Gross Profit	23,115.10

Expense	
Administration	
Corporation fee	25.00
Photocopies	89.60
Postage & Delivery	24.05
Total Administration	138.65
Eastmenn HC	
Heritage School sign project	270.80
Atlas project	354.28
Comm. mtg.	262.33
Total Eastmenn HC	887.41
Genealogy Comm.	
Plett award	550.00
Web design project	800.00
Total Genealogy Comm.	1,350.00
Historic Sites & Monuments Comm	
Altbergthal school project	9,350.00
Post Road project	737.00
Total Historic Sites & Monuments Comm	10,087.00
Insurance	
Liability Insurance	695.50
Total Insurance	695.50
Local History Comm.	
Village history project	28.00
Workshop	1650.00
Total Local History Comm.	1,678.00
Membership & Publicity Comm.	
HP Postage	130.20
HP Printing	578.94
WWW	86.17
Total Membership & Publicity Comm.	795.31
MHSC	
GAMEO	1,000.00
Membership dues	750.00
Total MHSC	1,750.00
Professional Fees	
Accounting	588.50
Total Professional Fees	588.50
Special project	
Photo database project	1,000.00
Total Special project	1,000.00
Total Expense	18,970.37
Net Income	4,144.73

Treasurer's Report
MMHS
FY2013

1. The revenues came in at close to the budget. The book sale revenues were slightly higher. Of continuing concern is the drop in revenue from membership fees. I think this reflects that we are an aging demographic group. It is for this reason that after nearly fifteen years we have decided to raise the membership fees to cover our ongoing obligations.
2. The expenditures came in also close to budget. With the higher book sale revenues, there was the higher offsetting cost of those sales. The flow through funds that were larger than our other financial activities were for the Bergthal School project. I anticipate that this will continue in 2014.
3. Our external consultant and I have reconciled and prepared these statements correcting any errors or omissions along the way. Although much of the work performed was similar to previous year's, we should not consider the work performed as an external audit, but more like an internal review. This reflects the changes in interpreting the regulations of the accounting association which allowed our external consultant to only state what he stated.
4. The proposed budget is a consolidation of the plans of our standing committees and affiliates who choose to use the MMHS treasury, as well as our collective obligations to our other associations nationally.

Recommendations:

1. That the MMHS reviewed financial reports be accepted.
2. That the MMHS reviewer/auditor for the FY2014 be Randy Wiebe.
3. That the MMHS proposed budget be accepted as presented.

Submitted by
Bert Friesen

To the Members of the Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society

As external consultant to the treasurer of the Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society, I provide routine accounting assistance, including, but not limited to, questions about preparation of journal entries, reconciliations, and adjustments to the statements. I provide support in the preparation of financial and supplementary reporting, insuring that relevant information is presented to the Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society.

Additionally, I provide support in the annual preparation of the Society's T3010 responding to any questions regarding the proper presentation of this Canada Revenue Agency required filing.

Finally, although at year-end I assist in the reconciliation of accounts, preparation of Financial Statements, I do not perform the procedures required to execute a review or audit engagement. As external consultant, my involvement cannot be viewed as an independent auditor providing assurance of the validity of the Financial Statements in accordance to Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

Signed

EastMenn Historical Committee Annual Report 2013

Members: Jacob L Peters (chair), Ernest N. Braun (secretary); Harold Dyck, Henry N. Fast, Ben Funk, Glen Klassen, Orlando Hiebert, Robert Dyck,.

The EastMenn Historical Committee functions independently but reports to the Board and AGM of MMHS via the Local History Committee – ongoing restructuring may change that slightly in 2014.

In spring Orlando Hiebert spearheaded the installation of commemorative signs for District Schools within the RM of Hanover. Twenty –four former school sites in the RM of Hanover were identified and owners contacted regarding the placement of attractive stainless steel signs. A Manitoba Hydro representative and several committee members accompanied Orlando to the sites to pound in the posts, to which Orlando later attached the sign. A copy of J. K. Schellenberg's *Schools: Our Heritage* is being placed with each site owner. Funding by D. F. Plett Research Foundation is gratefully acknowledged.

EastMenn Historical Committee has representation on the Chortitz Church Heritage Committee which over-see the restoration of the old Chortitz Church near Randolph. The title of the church building and site was transferred to the RM of Hanover in June, 2013, and Municipal Heritage Site status obtained by early 2014. That enabled the committee to pressure wash, scrape and prime the exterior of the building in the fall. A second coat will be applied in spring, and repair work will begin on windows and trim.

The RM of Hanover contacted EastMenn to assist in its Special Places Project, an initiative to identify heritage buildings in the municipality and document them. Members of the committee spent several days with the consultant traveling through all the townships to identify buildings, old village sites, and cemeteries. The report has been proofed and returned to the consultant for final adjustments. A copy will be placed with the RM office.

The committee's ongoing project is the publication of an historical atlas of the former Mennonite East Reserve, inspired in part by the *Atlas of Original Mennonite Villages on the East Reserve* published by John Rempel and Williams Harms in 1988. To that end, Glen Klassen and Ernest Braun visited the National Archives in Ottawa in late January 2014. The new Atlas will however be a hard copy coffee table book, in full colour, running to well over 200 pages, with survey and cemetery maps, school sites, early trails and other enhancements. While the format will be that of a coffee table book, the content is such that it will double as a definitive reference volume on the East Reserve and Scratching River. Arrangements for printing have been made with Friesens of Altona.

Submitted by E N. Braun, EHC secretary.

Local History Committee: Joe Braun, Altona; Eleanor Chornoboy, vice-chair, Winnipeg; Adolf Ens, chair and Board Representative, Winnipeg; Dave Harms, Altona; Jake E. Peters, Winnipeg; Alan Warkentin, Haskett, Secretary

Local History Committee Report 2013

Public School Teacher recognition

For many years the Local History Committee planned annual spring and fall events at which papers were presented on a wide variety of topics relating to Mennonite life and history in Manitoba. These meetings were designed both to promote research and to further public education in keeping with clauses 4.1 and 4.3 of the list of “purposes” of the MMHS. In 2013 the committee focused on one larger event: recognition of teachers who had served in multi-grade classroom settings in one or two-room schools in or near the former Mennonite West Reserve.

Joe Braun and Alan Warkentin of our committee recruited a very capable group to plan and execute this public recognition: Henry Unger, Rose Hildebrand, Marlene Plett, and Mary Loewen. About a hundred persons attended the celebration at the Bethel Bergthaler Church in Hochfeld on October 5. Peter D. Zacharias described the educational setting in Manitoba prior to the school consolidation era. Six former teachers then reflected on their own experiences on topics like: the permit teacher; the role of music, of sports, of religion; Christmas program and school picnic. Those excellent presentations evoked memories more than enough to stimulate discussions over the lunch hour.

The invitation to the event asked attendees to bring with them photographs, artifacts, documents and other memorabilia from their teaching days either for donation to the archives. (Purpose 4.5 of MMHS By-Laws) The sub-committee is looking at some form of follow-up of this event.

Publications

In 1994 the late John Dyck and William Harms launched projected a series of book-length publications reproducing source documents as well as research accounts of Mennonite life and history. The first volume in this series, the *Reinländer Gemeinde Buch*, soon sold out, providing finances for future books in this series. In May, 2013, the committee published the memoirs of Peter A. Elias as volume 6 of this series, under the title *Voice in the Wilderness*. An 1875 immigrant from Russia (Fuerstenland Colony), Elias was a farmer and blacksmith who had a keen interest in and commitment to the *Reinländer Gemeinde*, and tried his best to keep it true to its confession.

Henry Unger, a direct descendant of Elias, discovered a number writings by Elias to add to what had already been discovered by various archives. Together with the translator, Adolf Ens, they selected from the various Elias writings to provide a more or less continuous narrative covering the author’s lifespan (1843–1925). Fewer than a hundred copies (of a press run of 127) remain.

Outsider views of the West Reserve

Jake E. Peters and Eleanor Chornoboy are nearing completion of a collection of book chapters, periodical articles, government reports, and other items relating to the first fifty

years of the West Reserve settlement. All of these items contain observations – and sometimes assessments – of people who are “outsiders.” Apart from providing information from a wide range of perspectives – a Morden lawyer, a Russian prince, popular journalists, travelogue writers, a Northwest Mounted Police – the accounts are “real time” reports, not memoirs. And they are *outsider views*, reporting on many things which Mennonite letters to the editor of the time do not. It is hoped that the book will be published as volume 6 of the West Reserve Historical Series later this year.

Other involvements

Altona History Seekers: Dave Harms and Joe Braun continue to give primary leadership to this group, which annually runs four nights of historical presentations on a broad range of Mennonite history topics.

Bergthal School project: Joe Braum, along with John Giesbrecht of the Historic Sites and Monuments Committee, has played a key role in the relocation of the Altbergthal school building to a site in Neuberghal.

Adolf Ens
Committee chair

Genealogy Committee Report

MMHS

For 2013

The family history essay contest for Manitoba high school students was adjudicated. The Henry E. Plett awards went to two students, Jennifer Cyr and Adam Friesen, both from Steinbach Christian High School.

2013 was a transition year. We did not sponsor a genealogy workshop at the MHV, Steinbach. Our chair for many years, Alf Redekopp, left this committee when he moved to Ontario. The committee is now in the process of reorganizing and deciding on its priorities. There is a shift going on as to how genealogy projects are being done. Gradually, more original documents are being made accessible online. This requires a shift in how this committee will be involved in providing assistance in this process of using research sources and tools, and responding to new needs of researchers. We welcome any suggestions and involvement.

Bert Friesen

Report

Manitoba GAMEO group

For 2013

We have made progress this year in adding content.

1. Biographies were posted:

Mary Kornelsen

Walter Quiring

Adolf A. Reimer

Paulina Foote

Robert Unruh and Myrtle Goering Unruh

Orlando Harms

Katharina Reimer Claassen

Marie Wiebe

Henry G. Claassen

Anna G. Enns

Anna Elsie Fischer

Jacob David Suderman

David K. Schellenberg

Delbert Plett (written by Ralph Friesen, currently resident in BC put formerly from Manitoba)

Erwn John Wright

David H. Loewen

2. Hutterite colony history stubs – some examples

Big Stone Hutterite Colony (Dominion City, Manitoba)

Rolling Acres Hutterite Colony (Eden, Manitoba)

Rainbow Hutterite Colony (Ile des Chênes, Manitoba)

3. Other

J. J. Neufeld & Co.

Lao Mennonite Church

Messenger, The (Periodical)

Westpointe Community Church (Grande Prairie, Alberta) Terry Smith The Messenger editor

Good News Community Church (Steinbach, Manitoba)

Church of Living Water, The (Tillsonburg, Ontario)

Straffordville E. M. C. (Ontario)

ConneXion, The (Arborg, Manitoba)

Saturday Night Church (Landmark, Manitoba)

Stony Brook Fellowship (Steinbach, Manitoba)

Fish Creek Christian Fellowship (Calgary, Alberta)

Heartland Community Church (Landmark, Manitoba)

Oak Bluff Bible Church (Manitoba)

New Life Christian Fellowship (Stevenson, Ontario)

Ebenezer Christian Church (Brandon, Manitoba)

Reserve Fellowship Chapel (Sioux Valley Dakota Nation, Manitoba)

Tabor Evangelical Mennonite Church (Taber, Alberta)

The group has also been reorganized. Alf Redekopp left the group. We are currently looking for a replacement. Also, with the reorganization of the Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society, this group will formally affiliate with the provincial society. The group will be represented on the society's advisory council.

4. Plans for 2014

We plan to give priority to begin on updating congregational histories.

Submitted by

Bert Friesen