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# Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society

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NUMBER 18

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 1995

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## Molotschna 1835 Census

Work has been completed on the translation of the 1835 Molotschna census from Russian to English. The Genealogy Committee of the Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society decided to translate the 1835 census after Henry Fast of Steinbach completed his initial translation in 1994. Fast's translation was an admirable attempt, considering the fact that he did not have any knowledge of the Russian language. However, the committee felt that a

second translation by individuals with a thorough knowledge of the Russian language would be preferred.

The committee was able to enlist the aid of the following translators: Margarete Bergmann, Elisabeth Driedger, Gerhard Dyck, Hilda Epp, Ella Federau, John Franz, Lily Kliwer, Victor Kliwer, Arthur Kroeger, Franz Pauls, Agnes Roesler, Katie Rose, Gerhard Thiessen, Peter von Kampen, Helen

Voss and Helen Wiebe. Nettie Neufeld translated the German comments added later.

Photocopies of the English translation are now available at the Mennonite Heritage Centre and the Centre for M.B. Studies, both in Winnipeg. Individuals may also purchase a complete copy of the 1835 Molotschna census in English. The price is \$40.00 in Canada and \$45.00 elsewhere, including postage.

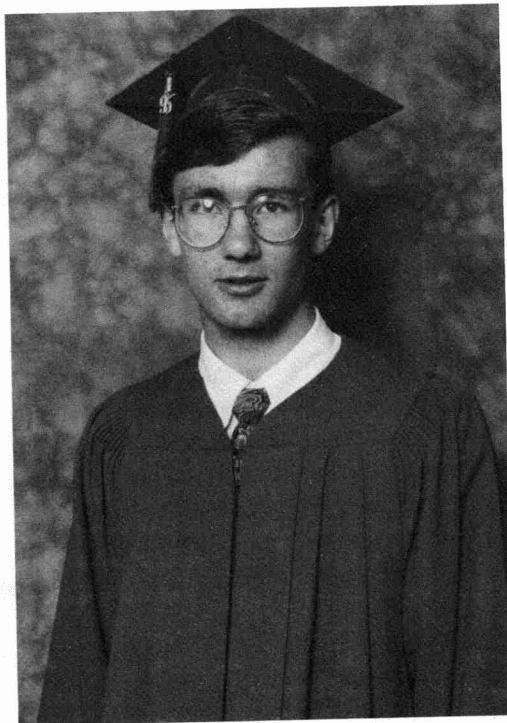


Translators with Margaret Kroeker, committee member (standing): Hilda Epp, Arthur Kroeger, Helen Voss, Gerhard Dyck, and Ella Federau

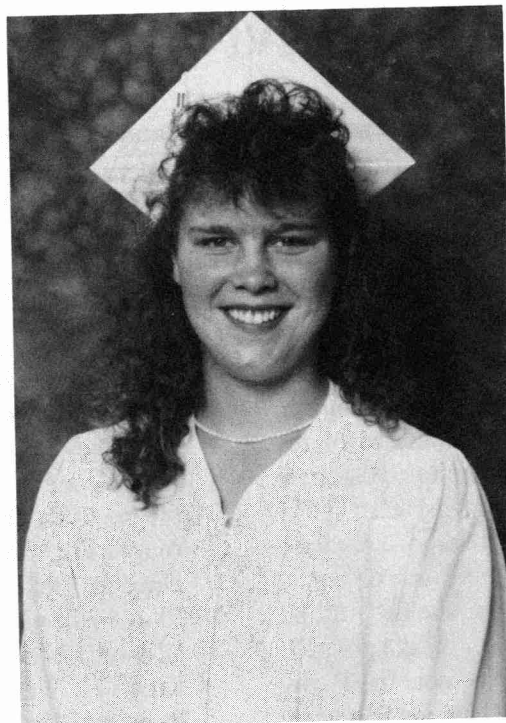
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The MMHS Newsletter is published semi-annually by the Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society. It welcomes letters and reports pertaining to the historical interests of society members. Correspondence should be mailed to the MMHS Newsletter, Centre for M.B. Studies, 169 Riverton Avenue, Winnipeg, MB R2L 2E5

## Henry E. Plett Memorial Award



**Lydell Brandt**



**Audrey Ginter**

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The Genealogy and Family History Committee of the Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society awarded the Henry E. Plett Memorial Award to Lydell Brandt and Audrey Ginter of the Steinbach Christian High School at the June 25, 1995 school graduation service. The award is given annually to two Manitoba high school students

for research and documentation of a Mennonite Family History. Lydell was awarded the first prize of \$100 for his essay "*The Friesen Family*." The second prize of \$50 was awarded to Audrey Ginter for her essay entitled "*My Friesen Roots*." The annual award by MMHS has been made possible through the generous contribution

of Delbert and Doreen Plett of Steinbach, Manitoba.

The committee welcomes contributions from any Manitoba high school student. Please deliver completed Mennonite Family History projects to Alf Redekopp at the Mennonite Heritage Centre or the Centre for M.B. Studies.

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## Historic Sites and Monuments Committee

Earlier in the year the MMHS Board agreed to the creation of a new committee, chaired by Lawrence Klippenstein. The new Historic Sites and Monuments committee will work to maintain current historic sites and foster interest in the creation of additional historic sites and monuments.

The committee has inquired about the possibility of putting up highway signs for the Red River landing sites at Niverville and

Emerson. The initial response from government officials has been positive, and the committee will pursue this matter further.

July 15 marked the 120th anniversary of the landing of the West Reserve Mennonites at Fort Dufferin. The committee was able to encourage the organizers of the Altona Centennial to include the site as part of the organized tours, and the site was also visited by other groups during the summer. The

1874 Landing Site park is receiving a number of visitors and the Historic Sites and Monuments Committee is hoping to meet soon to discuss further developments for the site.

The committee is currently working on several projects, including the possibility of publishing a booklet on Mennonite plaques and cairns in Manitoba, and helping to organize a committee to develop the Altberghal School Museum in Altona.

## Local History Committee

The Local History Committee has been quite busy this year working on the *West Reserve Settlement Register 1880*. The forthcoming publication will include the following: the West Reserve Settlement Register in original form; in alphabetical listing of the families

listed in the settlement register with cross-referencing to church registers and ship lists, along with detailed annotations; the assessment records of 1882 by village, together with village maps; a profile of ministers of the *Reinländer Gemeinde* in Manitoba from 1875 to 1922; and

passenger lists of Mennonite immigrants to Canada from 1880 to 1905. No publication date has yet been set. The committee is continuing to sell copies of the *Reinländer Gemeinde Buch*, published a year ago.

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## The Return of the MMHS Newsletter

Many of you may be surprised to see this issue of the Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society Newsletter. Publication of the society's newsletter was suspended after the Number 17 was published in June 1993. At that time the editorial committee of the *Mennonite Historian*, which had been carrying the newsletter as an insert to Manitoba readers, agreed to the society's request to incorporate the newsletter into its publication. It was hoped that other provincial historical societies would do the same, thereby allowing each provincial society the opportunity to inform others across Canada about various projects and events. After a

number of issues, the editorial committee of the *Mennonite Historian* decided to terminate the incorporation of the society's newsletter. The Manitoba society was the only society providing articles for the *Historian*, with the result that the content of the publication was becoming too heavily focused on Manitoba events. The *Mennonite Historian* editorial committee also felt that there was a danger in the publication becoming too fragmented, thereby negatively affecting the ability of the editors to produce a quality publication.

With this issue the society has resumed publishing its own newsletter and it plans to produce

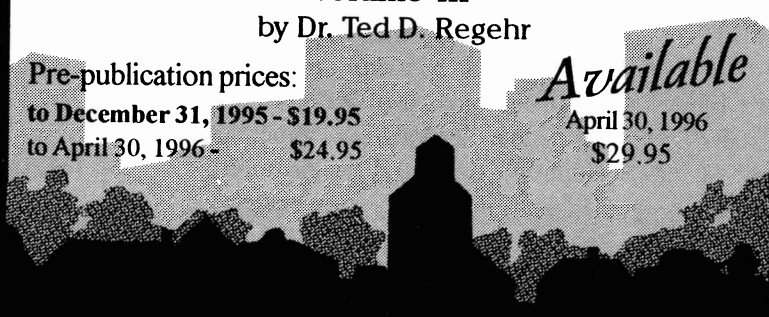
two issues annually. Members of the society are encouraged to submit articles and letters of interest to the society. The newsletter is edited by Richard Thiessen, chair of the Membership and Publicity committee, and articles can be sent to him at Concord College, 169 Riverton Avenue, Winnipeg, MB R2L 2E5.

This newsletter is also being sent to members of other Mennonite provincial societies in conjunction with the notice regarding the pre-publication prices for *Mennonites in Canada Volume III*. All readers are encouraged to take advantage of the reduced price for this volume, which will be available April 30, 1996.

# MENNONITES IN CANADA <sup>1940</sup><sub>1970</sub>

Volume III  
by Dr. Ted D. Regehr

<p>Pre-publication prices:</p> <p>to December 31, 1995 - \$19.95</p> <p>to April 30, 1996 - \$24.95</p>	<p><i>Available</i></p> <p>April 30, 1996</p> <p>\$29.95</p>
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To order please contact: Ted Friesen, Box 720, Altona, MB R0G 0B0  
Phone: (204) 324-5018 Fax: (204) 324-1333

## Recent Discoveries in the former Soviet Union

Several discoveries of archival documents in the former Soviet Union have created much excitement amongst Mennonite researchers in Manitoba. At the May 2 Board of Directors meeting held in Winkler, Richard Thiessen reported on some e-mail correspondence he has had with an archival studies student in Moscow by the name of Peter Rempel.

Rempel has come across a number of Mennonite documents in the State Archives of Dnepropetrovsk region (in the city of Dnepropetrovsk, Ukraine), where there is a fund of the Ekaterinoslav bureau of foreign settlers of the Southern Kraj (Southern Region) of Russia (Fund Nr. 134). This fund contains the documents of years 1781 - 1857, concerning the colonies of Mennonites, German Catholics, German Lutherans, Greeks, Bulgarians and other foreigners who lived in Ekaterinoslav and Tavricheskaya gubernia's (provinces). The documents concerning Chortitza and Molotschna colonies are mainly from the years 1795-1816.

According to Rempel, the most interesting files of this fund, which contain the lists of Chortitza Mennonites, are the following: # 18 - Nominal list of Mennonites of all Chortitza colonies (in Russian). For every family member the name, surname, the age and profession are listed for 1795; # 21 - the list of Chortitz settlers who have received a loan in 1797; # 26 - nominal lists of newly arrived settlers in 1798; # 169 - the list of Mennonites of Chortitz colonies in 1807; # 206 - the full list of all Chortitza Mennonites (in German): name, surname and age of all family members, and economical showings for 1808; # 405 - the same data for 1814; # 491 - index of the revisions lists of all Chortitza colonies (in Russian) - only the names and

surnames of the heads of families for 1816; # 498/b, vol. 3 - the full list of all Chortitza Mennonites (in German): name, surname and age of all family members, and economical showings for 1816; and # 752 - register of births of Chortitza colonies, by colonies and dates, for 1822; # 980 - the list of outstanding Mennonite households (in Russian) for 1834.

Peter Rempel has also come across a number of Mennonite documents in the State Archive of Zaporozhye region. The documents are mainly of the middle and the end of 19th and of 20th century. An example of the types of materials located include: Fund Nr. 12, inventory 2, files Nr: # 101 - revisions book of Schoenwiese: first names and age of all family members for 1816; # 246 - revisions book of Schoenwiese: first names and either age or the year of birth of all family members for 1850; # 273 - revisions book of Schoenwiese: first names and either age or the year of birth of all family members for 1858 (the data for other colonies are also available for 1816, 1850 and 1858). Files without a fund number: "Lists of birth records of German population in Higher-Chortitz area": (birth date, names, surnames and patronymics of parents, village, parish) for 1896-1911; "Total family lists" for many villages: (names and surnames of husband and wife, marriage date, names and surnames of their parents, date and place of birth, date and place of baptism, information about the moving of a family, and the same information about all children) end of 19th century - 1920s. Fund Nr. 121, inventory 1, file # 79 - the census of the German population of Chortitz volost (region): (name, surname, patronymic, birth date and profession of the head of the family; names and birth dates of the other

family members) for 1920.

Rempel reports that these documents are not listed in reference guides to the archives, and that he has learned about them mainly from unpublished internal inventories and from personal contacts with the archives staff. He also stated that these documents are being processed, inventoried and entered into a computer. When this work is done, they will publish some of these documents.

Individuals from Winnipeg have regular contact with Peter Rempel, and it is certain that more documents will be uncovered in the near future.

### Annual Meeting and Banquet

Manitoba Mennonite  
Historical Society

Saturday, January 13,  
1996

Redekopp Hall  
Concord College  
Annual Meeting: 5:00  
Banquet: 6:30

Presentations by: Al  
Reimer, Harry Loewen  
and Victor Doerksen

Tickets for the banquet are \$15.00. Please call Richard Thiessen at 669-6583 or 338-3893 to reserve tickets. Reservations should be made by January 4, 1996.