

HERITAGE POSTING

Newsletter of the Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society

No.37 June 2002

Rosenfeld Local History Workshop

by Joyce Friesen, Altona.

The Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society hosted a workshop on 13 April 2002 at the Rosenfeld Good Neighbour Centre. Eighty-one persons registered to hear the interesting and humorous stories that were told of some colourful characters of the former West Reserve.

Edward Enns of Winnipeg began the sessions with an account of his relative William 'Big Bill' Enns. Big Bill had worked at various jobs but was well known as a dragline operator. Mr. Enns noted, "He was known for his skill with this piece of equipment and was ready to verify that by loud and lengthy stories, punctuated with expressions that had my parents encouraging us children to play outside." Big Bill and his Olsch (as he called his wife) and family moved to various places but always returned to Altona. He wrote many reports and letters to the Steinbach Post, often poking fun at his Olsch and himself. His 'folksy' style of writing, encompassing humour, sarcasm, and teasing, was read by many. He also wrote with care and compassion, evident in his book 'Das verstossene Kind'.

The Ingenious Funk Brothers of Altona were portrayed by Ted E. Friesen. The bachelors Jake, Henry, and John, known as 'Fiddle Funke Junges' were meticulous carpenters, working long enough in a year to earn \$1,000 and then devoting time to their hobbies and interests. Having no formal education beyond grade school, they were self-taught in advanced mathematics, science, and astronomy, and were accomplished self-taught musicians, who played numerous instruments and loved classical music.

They loved mental challenges, creating many intricate puzzles and toys. Jake devised math and chess problems that were printed in magazines around the world. The brothers loved children, who were often the recipients of the Funk creations. Their natural desire for knowledge enriched their



Question period at the Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society local history workshop. Photo credit: Elmer Heinrichs.



Ed Enns related the life story of William "Big Bill" Enns.

Photo credit: Elmer Heinrichs.

simple lives.

Adolf Ens of Winnipeg presented glimpses into the life of Peter A. Elias, blacksmith and 'Diarist' of Hochfeld, whose interesting memoirs were helpful in recording the sequence of events of the Old Colony Church of the West Reserve. He was a defendant of his church but also quite critical of its leadership. Consequently he was often compelled to attend church on Thursday (Donnadach), a day of reckoning in the Old Colony Church. He went equipped with Scripture verses to back his views.

Stories of Ohm Diedrich Toews of Reinfeld were told by Peter Hiebert of Winnipeg. Ohm Toews, trained as a butcher and a baker, was the official sausage maker at hog butchering bees. Hiebert remarked, "Imagination is the highest kite you can fly" and Ohm Toews was a gentle man and an unconventional storyteller who certainly did 'fly his kite high', with stories that included the Winthunt, airplanes, Kaumfott Saulw, and much more.

Artist Jake Goertzen ended a delightful day with a brief presentation of his artwork and sculptures which were on display.

Correction

The last line of the **Book Review** on p.12, HP, No.36, March 2002 was inadvertently omitted. The last sentence therefore was incomplete. It should have read:

The story told in "*J. J. Thiessen, A Leader for His Time*" helps me understand why they felt this way about this leader.

Mennonite Historical Society of Canada

The Canadian Mennonite Encyclopedia Online (CMEO) project is progressing. The editorial board met recently in Winnipeg to discuss the progress of the project. There are now well over 2000 articles on the web site www.mmhs.ca. There are always more writers needed. The current area being worked on are biographies. Instructions are on the web site for writers. If you are interested in becoming a writer or being involved in the project please contact the editor (see below).

Manitoba News

- The Altona and District Research Centre held its annual general meeting on 1 May. Al Schmidt is the director of the Centre. Recent deposits in the archives there include papers from Friesen Corp. and the RM of Rhineland.
- The Altbergtal Heritage Group is working on three projects: writing a history of the community, renovating the old public school building as a heritage site in Altona, and cleaning up the old village cemetery.
- A Burwalde group is discussing the preparation of a Burwalde community history. For further information contact Ed Hoepfner.
- The old David Schellenberg farmstead at Cairn Corner near Gretna is being renovated as a bed and breakfast place. The descendants of the family have recently placed the headstone of the senior David Schellenberg at Cairn Corner.
- The Post Road Heritage Society, based in Emerson, is working on setting up an interpretive trail with the borders of the old Fort Dufferin. Parks Canada and other organizations, including our society, are discussing other development aspects related to the Fort.
- The Mennonite Heritage Village Museum is planning to install an audio of the information in the former Old Colony Church meeting house, once located in Chortitz, near Winkler, and now on the museum grounds.



The Altona MCC Thrift Store celebrates its 30th anniversary. It was 30 years ago that four ladies, representing the Altona Mennonite, Bergthaler Mennonite and Evangelical Mennonite Mission churches met early in 1972 to find ways of making the best use of donated goods, and turn proceeds over to MCC Manitoba.

Photo credit: Elmer Heinrichs

made by Jewish families to the Plum Coulee community, especially in the early decades of the town.

- Post Road tours continue this year. One has already taken place in May. Another one is planned for June. For details please keep checking the society web page under Events (www.mmhs.org)



The first Altona MCC thrift store in ca.1972 on 1st Ave. S.E. Photo credit: David G. Friesen



The 1999 store opening. (L-R) Doreen Sawatzky, D.G. Friesen, Jake Neufeld (president), Netty Stoesz. Photo credit: David G. Friesen

General Editor
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The Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society Newsletter, *Heritage Posting*, welcomes letters and reports pertaining to the historical interests of society members. Correspondence can be mailed to Bert Friesen, 169 Riverton Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba R2L 2E5, or e-mailed to the editor at editor@mmhs.org

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LOEWEN REUNION 2002

Descendants of Heinrich Loewen (1823-1908) and Sara Toews (1827-1889) who emigrated to Manitoba from Russia in 1876 are invited to a reunion on the weekend of July 13 & 14, 2002. The event will take place in Gretna, Manitoba at the Mennonite Collegiate Institute. Benno and Mary Loewen, will accept advance registrations by telephone at 204-327-5339 or by mail at Box 127, Altona, Manitoba R0G 0B0.

For more information, contact: Howard Loewen, 324 Victoria Crescent, Winnipeg, MB R2M 1X5 ph.204-253-0742 or 204-425-3449; email: loewphoe@mb.sympatico.ca or Dolores Harder, 36010 Spyglass Court, Abbotsford, B.C. V3G 2W7, ph. 604-557-0855; email: harder0855@home.com

You're Invited

Where - Chortitz, Manitoba

When - 28 July 2002, 2:00 p.m.

What - Cemetery Plaque Unveiling

Why - In Remembrance of our Forefathers

Johann W. Dueck Memories; Gretna, the MCI, and the West Reserve

by *Lawrence Klippenstein*

Johann Dueck was born in south Russia (later Ukraine) in the village of Gnadenthal, Molotschna settlement, on 12 March 1865 (Julian calendar). His father, Peter L. Dueck, was a school teacher from some years. As such the family lived for a time in Friedensfeld, and Blumenhof of the Borosenko colony not far from the city of Nikopol. They were members of the Kleine Gemeinde church there.

After moving to Manitoba's East Reserve in 1874, Johann's parents homesteaded in one of the first villages, Grünfeld, later known as Kleefeld, and located some kilometres southwest of Steinbach. After attending the private school till the age of fourteen, Johann went to work for the H. W. Reimer store in Steinbach. He was also able to acquire and operate a small business of his own on the side. In this connection he had contact with the publisher, John F. Funk of Elkhart, Indiana, from whom he

ordered books. Sometimes he wrote to Funk to ask for larger discounts on items which he ordered there.

In the fall of 1889, after working for a threshing crew for a while, Johann decided to take a trip to Gretna. There he hoped to visit a cousin who was getting ready to move to Kansas. They had been neighbours in Grünfeld for a time.

Here he met two "heavy-set men" who asked him if he would like to come and teach in the Gretna area. They had heard that he was capable of taking on such a job. "Until that time," Johann wrote in his memoirs, "I had hardly ever thought of becoming a school teacher, but this flattery of the aforementioned men I could not resist. So I agreed to their proposal right then and there to be their teacher at Neuanlage for \$25.00 a month including room and board.

I entered the teaching profession in November with nine pupils. I had to change room and board each month. I exercised myself in my calling so I could stay ahead of my pupils. In the interval of ten years (since he had finished the private school) much of it had been erased from my memory. Especially arithmetic. Here I was not on good terms with the common denominator.

Johann also included a funeral song in his memoirs of this period, composed, he said for his star pupil, David Schellenberg, who passed away in 1890. Of him Johann wrote, "He was such an innocent boy, so eager to learn. How intently he listened to Bible stories, also asking questions whenever something was not clear to him. Following his death, I often thought of the questions posed by this boy, who ripened so prematurely.

All the while I stayed there I had a book selling business at Otto Schulz's place in Gretna. Close to Christmas the sales would sometimes amount to \$80.00 a day. I sold the book business in Steinbach to H. W. Reimer.

How reluctant my pupils were to see me leave is shown in the poem that one of the students, Anna Klassen, gave me on the last day of school. That was in the year 1891, on 10 April. Johann then added the poem dedicated to himself by Anna at this departure to take over another school at Rosenort near Morris.

Johann noted further, "...I should mention that, although there were only nine pupils in the beginning of my teaching career, more and more joined the group, so that there were 16 pupils attending at the end of the last year. In the first year (meaning of his teaching - ed.) Mr. H. H. Ewert came from Kansas to take on the principalship of the Mennonite Educational Institute in Gretna.

The villagers of Neuanlage were definitely not in agreement with Ewert being in the school in Gretna, especially not the older people who tried to explain to me in eloquent speech the reasons for their view. Since I did not agree on various points regarding the school, I did not have a very good standing among them. (To be concluded)

BUS TOUR TO INTERLAKE AREA OF MANITOBA

There will be visits to the Kleinegemeinde darp of Mennville and the Kleinegemeinde and Old Colony area around Morweena.

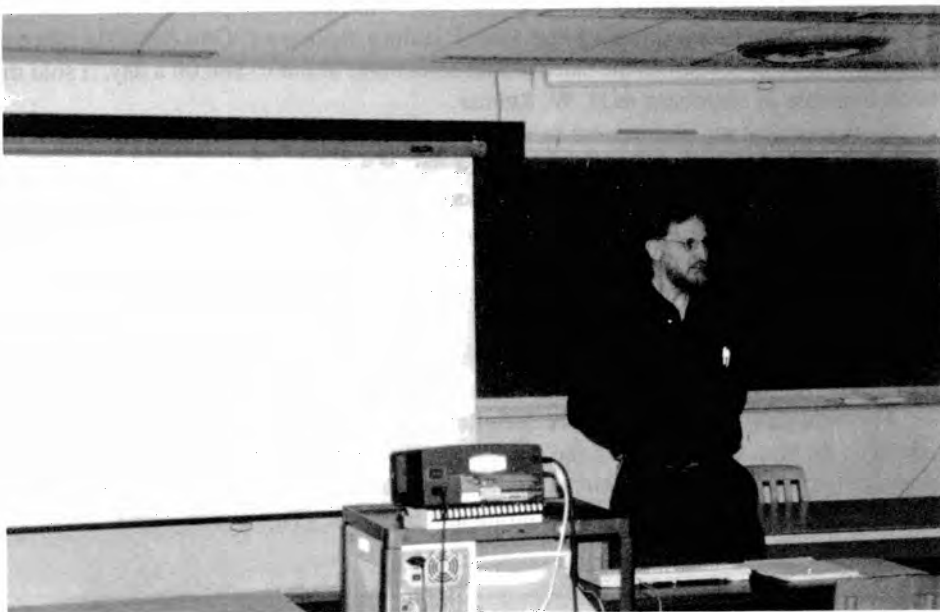
2002 September 28, Saturday, leaving Winnipeg at 08.00 hr. in the morning and returning around 18.00 hr. in the early evening.

Cost: \$35.00 for members of MMHS and \$45 for non-members (includes a noon meal at Mennville and a faspas at Morweena).

For more information call Conrad Stoesz at 204-669-6575 or Bert Friesen at 204-888-6781.



(L-R) Peter Letkeman, Mel Friesen, Mary Letkeman, Brandon U. Photo credit: Conrad Stoesz



Alf Redekopp, Brandon U. Photo credit: Conrad Stoesz

family lines. Mennonite Books had an appropriate assortment of books for sale as well as samples of Family history books.

Speakers Alf Redekopp, Bert Friesen, and Conrad Stoesz gave the basics on how to do your family tree, stories of Mennonites moving from Holland to Prussia, resources in Russia and Canada, plus glimpses on how they became interested in genealogy. All in a few broad strokes that clarified and livened up the historical landscape like Ted's paintings. They were informal presentations, fitting into the atmosphere created by the viewing of displays. They connected with the beginning researcher as well as giving background and helpful tips for the more advanced genealogist.

The committee members who organized this workshop in Brandon were Peter Letkeman and Shirley Bergen, Brandon, and Jake Sawatzky, Oak Lake. They were pleased how it connected different people. Friendships were formed. In fact, it seemed more like a family get-together than a workshop.



(L-R) Marianne Janzen, Shirley Bergen, Brandon U. Photo credit: Conrad Stoesz

Genealogy Workshop in Brandon

by Shirley B. Bergen

This MMHS workshop, ABC's Of Searching Family Roots, was held on 4 May 2002 at Brandon University. The attendance was small but the atmosphere was lively. One person came all the way from Swift Current, SK. The excitement of the presenters of displays was contagious. These included oil paintings by Ted Vensell based on 1929 photographs from Arnaud and Griswold taken by his father-in-law Peter Friesen. Aileen Raine of Boissevain showed her genealogy records and pictures. She travelled all the way to a cemetery in the United Kingdom to get data and through it got in touch with her living relatives. Heritage albums by Ann Krueger, Carolyn Campbell, and Nola Schellenberg in Creative Memory style gave genealogists ideas on how to display their history more attractively. Several other family trees led to the inevitable connection of



Conrad Stoesz, Brandon U. Photo credit: A.R.

MMHS News & Notes

The MMHS Board met at the Mennonite Heritage Centre on 26 Feb. 2002. The executive was elected for another term and board appointments were made to standing committees and as representatives to other organizations. After some discussion and evaluation of the annual general meeting, four resolutions arising out of the auditors report were acted on. These resolutions dealt with the implementation of central inventory control of society publications, receipting income for the Mexico museum and archives project in keeping with CCRA regulations, terminating the distribution agreement with Brandt Family Enterprises, and dealing with the financial assets of the society, which have been increasing. The meeting ended with each committee outlining some of its expectations and plans for the year 2002.

The society reorganized itself for 2002 as follows:

2002 Executive

President - Jake Peters
 Vice President - Roland Sawatzky
 Secretary - Paul Friesen
 Treasurer - Bert Friesen
 Member-at-Large -

Standing Committees

Research, Scholarship and Publication

Hans Werner, Paul Friesen, Lisa Friesen, Jake Peters, Abe Dueck, Esther Epp-Tiessen

Membership and Publicity

Ed Hoepfner, Elmer Heinrichs, Irene Kroeker, Bert Friesen

Genealogy

Alf Redekopp, Conrad Stoesz, Bill Schroeder, Evelyn Friesen, Bert Friesen, Richard Thiessen

Special Committees

Local History

Bert Friesen, Donovan Giesbrecht, David M. Friesen, Jake Peters, Dave Harms, Adolf Ens

Historic Sites and Monuments

Conrad Stoesz, Art Toews, Roland Sawatzky, Ed Hoepfner, Lawrence Giesbrecht, John Giesbrecht, Ron (Joe) Braun, Abe Ens, Ray Klippenstein

Summary of May 15, 2002 MMHS Board Meeting

The board of the Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society met at the Grace Mennonite Church, Steinbach, on 15 May 2002. The meeting was hosted by Evelyn Friesen, a member of the board.

Roland Sawatzky agreed to assume the position of vice president on the executive, leaving the position of member at large vacant. In addition to hearing reports from the standing committees as well as the Standing Committee Review Committee and discussing how to dispose of the old MMHS book stock being returned from Brandt Family Enterprises, the board took the following actions.

The final slate of committee members for the standing committees was ratified; a contingency fund was established for unforeseen expenditures, at the suggestion of the auditor; it was agreed to add donations received by the society to the contingency fund so that this funding would be available to the standing committees for their projects; a sponsorship policy that outlines how requests to the society for sponsorships are to be received and processed was endorsed; sponsorship of the Lena Church cairn project was supported; and Jacob Peters was appointed as the MMHS liaison with the Mexican Mennonite museum and archives board.

The next meeting of the board is scheduled for 10 Oct. 2002, at the Altona EMMC Church.



Conrad Stoesz viewing paintings based on photographs of the 1920s and 1930s by Peter Friesen done by Ted Vensel. These were displayed at the Brandon University genealogy workshop (see p.4).

Photo credit: Ted Vensel

Genealogy

The Early Mennonite Wolf Family in Prussia and Russia

by Glenn Penner

The purpose of this article is to piece together what we know, at present, about the first few generations of the Mennonite Wolf family in West Prussia and Russia, and make connections to those families who moved from Russia to North America in the 1870's.

Gottfried Wolf (1714 – 1794): the Wolf Stammvater?

There is very limited information on the Mennonite Wolf family for the early Prussian period (pre-1804). For example, the 1776 census of Mennonite families living in West Prussia includes only 2 Wolf families out of a total of about 2800.¹ By comparison there are 260 Wolfs listed in the 1772 census of all landowners in West Prussia.² If one were to include landless families this number would probably double. So it goes without saying that the vast majority of Wolfs in Prussia were not Mennonites. One of the two Mennonite Wolfs is Jacob *Wulff* who's family consisted of himself and his wife. He is listed as a laborer in the village of Heubuden and rented his property. The other is an unnamed *Wulff* who was a farmer in the village of Krebsfelde and owned his property. His family consisted of himself, his wife and two daughters. During the course of my research I have worked through about 110 microfilms of Prussian Mennonite, Lutheran and Catholic church records. Although there are many non-Mennonite Wolfs to be found, references to Mennonite Wolfs are very rare. So far I have found the following material. The records of the Mennonite church at Heubuden include the baptisms of Jacob Wolf in 1772 and Helena Wolf in 1773.³ The marriage of Jacob Wolf and Justina Harder is recorded on July, 21, 1776, the same year as the Mennonite census. The birth register later records the births of Christina (Justina) Wolf on Sep. 8, 1780 (in Heubuden) and Peter Wolf on Jan. 10, 1787. After this entry the name Wolf no

longer appears in the Heubuden church records.

The name Wolf also appears in the records of the Mennonite church of Elbing-Ellerwald.⁴ The diary of Ältester Gerhard Wiebe (1778-1795) includes the baptisms of Maria (June, 29, 1788) and Margaretha (June, 19, 1791) daughters of Gottfried *Wulf* of Krebsfelde. They were both baptized at Ellerwald. We can now identify the unnamed *Wulff* of Krebsfelde as *Gottfried Wulf*. The two daughters included in the census would be Maria (b. about 1768-9) and Margaretha (b. about 1771-2).

The 1772 land census includes three Gottfried Wolfs, one of which lived in Krebsfelde. Unfortunately most of the Mennonites who lived in Krebsfelde belonged to the Rosenort Gemeinde. The Rosenort Mennonite church records, which were started in 1772 were destroyed when the church burned down in 1812.⁵ Krebsfelde was also in the jurisdiction of the Lutheran churches of Fürstenau and Gross Mausdorf. There are records of Mennonite burials for these churches. The old *Verzeichnüss derer in Gross Mausdorff begrabenen Manisten* records the deaths of three unnamed *Wulff* children on Mar. 1, 1747, Oct. 21, 1749 and Oct. 24, 1751.⁶ At this point one could speculate that these children could be children or siblings of Gottfried Wolf. A later set of burial records clearly sorts this out.⁷ They record the death of "Gottfried Wolf" of Krebsfelde on Oct. 20, 1794 at 7 o'clock in the morning. He is stated as dying because he was 80 years old (i.e. of old age). He was buried on Oct. 24. The death of his surviving wife Margaretha *Wulfin* of Krebsfelde on Jan. 30, 1803 at 8:30 in the morning is also recorded. She was 64 years old and was buried on the 3rd of February. This easily makes Gottfried Wolf old enough to be the father of the *Wulff* children, of Jacob and Helena, and of Maria and Helena. The age of his widow indicates that she must have been his second wife and the mother of Maria and Margaretha. I suspect daughter Margaretha was named after her mother. We can now fit the family together as shown below. I believe that the older children, Peter and Helena, were baptized in the Heubuden church because they intended to marry people who were part of that Gemeinde. The families of Christina Harder (father Johann Harder) and Peter Willms (father Simon Willms) were already part of the Heubuden Gemeinde. I have been unable to find any record of a Mennonite Wolf living in West Prussia after 1803.

Immigration to Russia

All of the records that are currently available indicate that only one Mennonite Wolf family made the move from Prussia to Russia. This is the family of *Jacob Wolf*. There are no documents that directly tell us the Prussian village of origin for the Jacob Wolf family, but the ages of his children given in the Russian village lists match birth records from the Heubuden church books.³ Therefore we can identify him as Jacob Wolf of Heubuden, Prussia. Russian records provide the following details about the Jacob Wolf family. They moved to Schönhorst in the Chortitza Colony in 1789.^{8,9} By 1795 Jacob Wolf had died, his wife had remarried and his *Wirtschaft* (homestead) had passed on to his son Johann.⁹ In 1795 the family unit consisted of the Wolf siblings: Johann (age 17), David (11), Peter (9), Jacob (6) and Christina (15). In 1797 the household consisted of 4 males and 1 female.⁸ They possessed a house but no horses, cattle, sheep, or pigs. In 1801 the family consisted of Johann (23), Peter (16), David (17) and Christina (20).¹¹ It is noted that Johann did not have full ownership rights to the property. At this time they still did not possess any horses, cattle, sheep, pigs, harrows, wagons, plows or spinning wheels. By 1806 the owner of the property was Johann Wolf and the household consisted of 1 male (Johann) and 2 females (his wife Anna Peters and daughter Anna).⁹ The tables below combine all of the genealogical data available on the Jacob and Johann Wolf families.

The three Wolf daughters (of Gottfried Wolf) also made the trek to Russia. Helena Wolf married Peter Wilms and moved to Einlage, Chortitza Colony in 1789.^{8,9,11} He died before 1793 and she remarried to Jacob Vogt (1747-1803). Maria Wolf married Johann Neufeld of Krebsfelde (son of Jacob Neufeld). She died in Zlatopol, Chigirinsky Uezed, in the Kiev Gubernia (district) during the winter of 1803/4, on the way from Krebsfelde, Prussia to Russia.⁹ Her surviving family settled in Blumestein in the Molotschna Colony.¹² Margaretha Wolf married Johann Dyck (b. 1775).⁸ She seems to have remarried

(cont. on p.8)

Excerpts of the diary of Jacob Enns (1881-1957)

Trans. by Bert Friesen and Irene Enns Kroeker

Introduction by Irene Enns Kroeker

Jacob Enns lived a full and varied life. As a farmer, he owned land between the village of Blumengard and Hochfeld. Being central to both of these villages allowed him to set up a Post Office on his farmyard and he became postmaster in May 1909, closing in June, 1918. Jacob was also the Waisenvorsteher for the Chortitzer Church from 1925 to 1950. Well known among the villages of the East Reserve, he travelled extensively within the reserve, fulfilling his role as Waisenman with stern conscientiousness and an open heart. Jacob experienced great tragedy in his lifetime. His first wife died in childbirth, leaving him to care for a newborn baby. He remarried, only to have his second wife die when their infant daughter turned 7 months old. Jacob's third wife was the sister to his first wife. She died of cancer at the young age of 42. Jacob married once more to the widow of a minister within the Chortitzer Church. She brought with her three adopted children into this new family. She died in 1951, leaving Jacob a widower once more. At retirement, Jacob sold his farm to his son, and bought a house in Steinbach, living there with his two daughters until he died in 1957.

.....the 10th (May, 1947) Saturday, a nice day. Johan F. Kehler, from Herbert, Sask., and I travelled to Steinbach. My sons have been working on the land.

The 11th (May), Sunday at church. The youth have recited the catechism. It has rained slightly. D. S. Kehlers and their children D. St. Kehlers came for the noon meal. In the afternoon there was a good rain.

The 1st June 1947 Sunday at church. In the afternoon we had many guests: D. Schulz family, J. D. Toews family, Mrs. Harder, Jac. E. Funk family, Joh. K. Kraus family, Aron S. Kehler family, David S. Kehler family, Jac. A. Friesen family, Joh. K. Kehler family, and Franz K. Kehler family.

The 2nd Monday. ...H. H. Hildebrand was here and many others. My sons have begun ploughing fallow land.....

The 20th (July, 1947) Sunday at church. In the afternoon we went to the funeral. Two girls drowned in Red Rock Lake, Manitoba.

The 21st Monday..... My sons have cut wild oats among the wheat.....

1947 the 1st August. Friday. Peter has worked on the fallow land. In the afternoon we began harvesting barley and after the evening meal there was a thunderstorm with quite a bit of rain and wind and it rained in some places more than others.....

The 9th (August, 1947) Saturday. I travelled to Steinbach. The children have harvested barley and stoked it. It was very warm. In the evening the engaged couple, D. S. Kehlers, Jacob with his bride Helena Blatz.....

The 18th Monday. It is a nice day and is drying very well. No one has visited here. We have not had any rain all week and it has been very hot. We have harvested a lot of grain.

The 21st. Jacob has harvested his barley for the first time with the combine.

The 22nd Barley was combined at Abram's place.

23rd. Saturday. Combined for Jacob. We travelled in the afternoon to Chortitz in order to have X-rays taken and after the evening meal Jacob A. Friesens came here and after they left we travelled to Cornelius Enns's place in Niverville. They are both not doing well. She has edema (fluid in the joints).....

The 1st Sep. In the morning there was fog and it was very wet so that they could not begin thrashing right away. In the afternoon we went to the fruit orchard in Otterburne. They have thrashed at the P. D. Falk family. Jacob was at the Banmans with the combine.....

The 21st (Sept. 1947) Sunday at church. It was stormy all day. Now and then we even had a bit of snow blowing about. We have many guests because our Peter is a groom, his bride is Anna Funk from Halbstadt.

The 22nd Monday. There was rain now and then. My sons have been ploughing. H. H. Hildebrand was here and also the J. J. Stoesz family.....

1947 the 1st October. Wednesday. In the morning there was a brotherhood meeting at the church in Chortitz. The entire day it was dark and windy. My sons have ploughed. I travelled to Niverville to get my things from the auction.....

The 4th Saturday. Maria, Peter, and Anna were in bed. Jacob ploughed. I travelled to Pletts to get lumber in order to make a room in very good weather.

The 5th Sunday in church. In the afternoon the girls and I travelled to the Jacob H. Enns family in Waidenfeld. My wife is very sick in bed.....

Diaries

The 12th Sunday. In the morning it was very unsettled. In the afternoon we travelled to M. K. Kehlers for a party. Their son Erdman is a groom for Jean Wiens from Schönthal.

The 13th Monday. A nice day. H. H. Hildebrand was here along with Ohm H. G. Klippenstein and Ohm P. D. Falk, and some others. Toward the evening my sons set up the well machine. And our Peter and his wife moved here.....

The 19th (October) Sunday at church in Chortitz. It was communion. In the afternoon we travelled to D. S. Kehlers but they were not at home. Then we travelled to Joh. J. Wiebes but they were also not home. Then to Aron S. Kehlers.....

The 25th December, Thursday, the first day of Christmas. At church. In the afternoon we travelled to Jacob D. Toews and visited the old Mrs. Harder.

The 26th Friday. The second day of Christmas. Our children were here, the families P. J. Stoesz, A. F. Enns, D. S. Kehler, and Johan K. Kraus. There was nice weather....

The 6th (January 1948) Tuesday. Holy Epiphany. At church. In the afternoon widow P. Banman was here along with widow Jacob S. Kehler and Peter T. Toews family to visit.....



(L-R) Anna (Kehler) Enns (1893-1936), Jacob Enns (1881-1957).

Photo credit: Irene Kroeker

Wolf

(cont. from p.6)

to Cornelius Lepp (1783- 1815) sometime between 1805 and 1808. She and her family lived in Blumestein, Molotschna Colony in 1808 and in 1835.

The Next Generation

The Mennonite Wolf family name was potentially carried on by Jacob Wolf's four sons Johann (b. 1778), David (b. 1784), Peter (b. 1787) and Jacob (b. 1789). Jacob is missing from the 1801 census, and it is likely that he died sometime between 1797 and 1800. He does not appear in subsequent records. I have also not been able to find any record of David Wolf after 1801. A census of Chortitza Colony landowners for the year 1814 lists only Johann Wolf of Schönhorst, suggesting that his brothers were either dead or landless at the time.¹³ Brother Peter does appear in the 1835 census of the Molotschna Colony in the village of Wernersdorf. It is stated that he came from the Chortitza Colony in 1825. Several Schönhorst families seem to have moved to Wernersdorf in 1825.⁹ The family of Peter Wolf is outlined below.

Further Generations

The Wolf family name continues through the sons of Johann (1778 – 1848) and Peter (b. 1787).

A list of Chortitza Colony householders for the year 1848 includes the signatures of Johann (1778 – 1848) and his sons Johann (1804 – 70), David (1817 – 78) and Peter (1822 – 96), who all lived in Schönhorst.¹⁴ On Sept. 19, 1852 Johann Wolf's Wirtschaft (farm) went to his son Abraham (1814 – 78).¹⁵ The diary of Jacob Wall mentions a tornado going through the village of Schönhorst on June 17, 1836, which tore the rafters off the house of the Anwohner (landless) Jacob Wolf. This is probably Jacob (1811 – 66). Members of the Wolf family continued to live in the village of Schönhorst for the next 90 years. A census of 1920 lists Maria (Dyck) Wolf (b. Dec. 7, 1859), who was the widow of a Jacob Wolf, and their children.¹⁷ The Wolf name also appears frequently in the 1942 Dorfbericht for Schönhorst.¹⁸ Several Wolf families left Schönhorst for Canada in the 1870's. This includes all of the known surviving children of Johann (1809 – 70), David Wolf's son David (b. 1848), and Peter Wolf's son Peter (b. 1850).^{19,20}

The Peter Wolf family of Wernersdorf, Molotschna Colony can be found in the 1835 Molotschna Colony census and he is included in the 1847 voters list.²¹ Descendents of Peter Wolf can also be found in the Molotschna Colony school registers for the mid-to-late 1800's.²² Grandson Peter (Cornelius) Wolf (1847 – 1925) moved to Kansas in 1874.²³ A picture of his brother Cornelius (b. 1845), taken in Wernersdorf in 1898, can be found in the recently published book "Diese Steine".²⁴

Gottfried Wolf b. about 1714 d. Oct. 20, 1794 in Krebsfelde, Prussia. Records show that Gottfried Wolf lived in Krebsfelde in 1749, 1772 and 1776.

1st m. 1735-45 Margaretha b. about 1739 d. Jan. 30, 1803, Krebsfelde, Prussia

Children:

1. child b. 1747
2. child b. 1749
3. child b. 1751
4. Helena b. 1752-54 m. Peter Wilms, Jacob Vogt
5. **Jacob** b. 1753-55 d. 1789-95 m. July 21, 1776 Schönhorst, Chortitza, Russia to Christina Harder b. 1758 Prussia d. 18?? Chortitza Colony, Russia

Children:

1. Maria b. about 1770m. Johann Neufeld

2. Margaretha b. about 1773m. Johann Dyck, Cornelius Lepp
3. **Johann** b. June, 6, 1778 m. Anna Peters
4. Christina b. Sept. 8. 1780
5. David b. 1784
6. **Peter** b. Jan. 10, 1787
7. Jacob b. 1789

Jacob Wolf lived in Heubuden from 1776 to 1789. He moved to Russia in 1789 and lived in Schönhorst, Chortitza Colony until his death.

Johann Wolf b. June 6, 1778 Heubuden, Prussia d. Apr. 11, 1848
m. 1803 Schönhorst, Chortitza, Russia
Anna Peters b. July 28 Russia

Children:

1. Anna b. Feb.??, 1806
2. **Johann** b. Feb. 20, 1809 m. Elisabeth Friesen
3. **Jacob** b. Feb. 2, 1811 m. Justina Giesbrecht
4. **Abraham** b. Jan. 13, 1814 m. Maria Riediger
5. **David** b. June 13, 1817 m. Katherina Peters
- 2nd marriage Helena Niebuhr b. about 1799 d. 18??
6. **Peter** b. Apr. 22, 1822m. Sara Neufeld Elisabeth b. 1820's m. Peter Hildebrandt

Peter Wolf b. Jan. 10, 1787 Heubuden. d. before 1847, Prussia 1.m. Wernersdorf, Molotschna, Russia b. d. 1825-30

Children

1. Justina b. about 1815 m. Jacob Lingau
2. **Peter** b. about 1817
3. **Kornelius** b. about 1819 m. Katharina Kaethler
4. Helena b. about 1821
5. **Johann** b. about 1823
6. Maria b. about 1825 m. Jacob Kroeker

2nd marriage 1825-30 of Peter (1787-1847?)
Katharina b. about 1801 d. 18??

Children:

7. Anna b. about 1831
 8. Jacob b. about 1834
- Records show that the Peter Wolf family lived in Wernersdorf in 1825, 1835, and 1847.

(Cont. on p.9)

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History of Morden Bergthaler Mennonite Church

by Bert Friesen

The Canadian Pacific Railway built a station at the current town site of Morden in 1882. This caused the towns of Mountain City to the south and Nelson to the north to dissolve and move to Morden, which then became a thriving town by 1885. Mennonites lived in the surrounding area as early as 1876. By 1918 some moved into the town site. These Mennonites were from various conference backgrounds. Both Michael Klassen from Herold, near Morden, and C. Bergmann from Altona, much further to the east, gave leadership to this group during the 1920s. In 1928 the Bergthaler Church of Manitoba decided to start a more permanent work in Morden and sent Peter Epp that year. They met in rented facilities. The Mennonite Brethren decided to form their own congregation in 1930 and so in 1931 a Bergthaler congregation was formally organized under the leadership of Peter Epp with 30 charter members. In 1938 they built their own meeting house. In 1949 this building was expanded. The membership stood at 202 in 1954. In 1958 a new larger meeting house was completed. In 1970 there were 366 members and 360 in 2000. The leaders of the congregation were: Michael Klassen of Herold (1922-1934), Peter Epp (1924-1935), Jacob M. Pauls (1934-1952), Wilhelm Buhr (1938-1953), Johann Janzen (1938-1952), Abram Born (1954-1968), Jakob F. Pauls (1954-1971), Abram Neufeld (1968-1979), John Friesen (1970-1976), Otto Hamm (1978), Wm. Block (1979-1984), Abe Hiebert (1985-1990), Walt Braun (1991-1996), Rick Neufeld (1997-).



(L-R) Gladys Bruser, Gertrude Mitchell, Rose & Max Gladstone, Joe Gladstone; these are the oldest surviving children of pioneer Jewish settlers, Jonathan Buchwald, and Abe Suderman in Winkler, 26 May 2002.

Photo credit: Elmer Heinrichs



Morden Bergthaler Mennonite Church. Photo dated 1968. Photo credit: CMBC collection at MHC



Alf Redekopp (second from left) answers genealogy questioners, Steinbach. Photo credit: Conrad Stoesz



Ed Hoepfner (R) explains some genealogical facts to an interested participant at the genealogy workshop. Photo credit: Conrad Stoesz

Steinbach Family History Day

By Bert Friesen

On 9 March 2002 interested genealogists met at the Mennonite Heritage Village to exchange information and hear Henry Schapansky's addresses. Those addresses focused on Mennonite history and genealogy mainly about Prussia and Russia. The hall was filled

with displays of family trees, photographs, and other family genealogy information. This was reason for endless conversation, questions, possible solutions, and seeing if family lines intersected. Between this conversation and a hearty lunch there were two address.

The first address focused on the early Anabaptist history before 1566. In it Schapansky described the origin of the Flemish and Frisian division of the Anabaptists in the Netherlands which was then perpetuated in Prussia and Russia. Friesland was a lowland with a great deal of independence even though it was part of the Holy Roman Empire in the 16th century. Its peoples fostered strong individualism and had a strong family focus. Flanders was a more integrated part of the empire. It contained important economic and cultural centres with 'international' traders and artisans. There was excellent agricultural land. Into this context the reformation had a profound effect on first Friesland and then Flanders. The Anabaptists affected this area in the first half of the 16th century. The contrast between Flemish and Frisian peoples in the Anabaptist movement, Schapansky maintained, was an important factor in the division in 1566. He then went on to explain some of the surname origins in these two groups.

The second address was focused on the parallel reasons for migrations of Mennonites. He stated that each time the Mennonites migrated: a. to preserve Gemeinde and culture b. To flee war or other upheavals. Schapansky demonstrated these reasons to be the ones for the migration from the Netherlands to Prussia and then from Prussia to Russia.

The day stimulated much discussion and thought. It is an annual event sponsored by the Hanover Steinbach Historical Society.



Henry Schapansky (right) listens to more questions. Photo credit: Conrad Stoesz

Winkler Plaque Dedication Ceremony on Sunday, May 26 at Heritage Park

by Elmer Heinrichs and Bert Friesen

Winkler dedication ceremony recognizes early Jewish settlers

A ceremony and celebration was held with the dedication of a plaque to commemorate and memorialize the pioneer Jewish settlers of Winkler, Manitoba who arrived from eastern Europe to that community between the 1890's and the beginning of the First World War, 1914.

A commemorative cairn was unveiled at Winkler Sunday, 26 May 2002 recognizing the 15 Jewish families, who

Centre of Western Canada. According to Buchwald, nearly all descendants of the 15 original Jewish settlers in Winkler were represented at the ceremony.

The initial group of 15 families came to the Winkler area beginning about 1890 to 1914, and were among the first members of Winkler's business community. Initially, some of these Jewish merchants would ride from village to village and barter goods for farm produce.

Eventually they established thriving retail outlets in the newly-established village of Winkler. While there was a small but thriving Jewish community, complete with a synagogue, in Winkler in the early 1900s, few except historians remember other than the Gladstone name.

The Gladstone name was prominent in Winkler business, and the downtown facility known as the A.L.G. Professional Building began its life as the Gladstone Mall, named for its founder, Max Gladstone.

Max Gladstone and his brother Joe were both at the May 26 ceremony. While the event is of special interest to the direct descendants, others were also present.

A book about the first Jewish settlers in Winkler has been prepared by Buchwald, and was distributed after the ceremony.

The May 26 event included a reception, which followed the ceremony, in the civic centre.



Harold Buchwald, Winnipeg, at the Winkler Heritage Park.

Photo credit: Elmer Heinrichs

settled in Winkler at the turn of the previous century, says Winkler Heritage Society spokesperson Abe Suderman.

The project is spearheaded by the Winkler Heritage Society, and the town of Winkler which designated a plot of land at the corner of Main and Pembina Ave. as a heritage site. The stone is the other half of the stone installed in the Prairie Green park to commemorate the Hoffnungsfeld pioneers.

Members of the Jewish community were well represented at the stone's unveiling. The names of each of the Jewish families were engraved on the cairn.

Suderman has worked with Winnipeg lawyer Harold Buchwald of the Jewish Heritage



(L-R) Harold Buchwald, Joe Gladstone, Gertrude Mitchell unveiling the memorial plaque to the pioneer Jewish settlers of Winkler.

Photo credit: Elmer Heinrichs



Memorial plaque, Winkler Heirtage Park, Joe Gladstone (L), and Gladys Bruser (C).

Photo credit: Elmer Heinrichs

Book Review

Henry D. Rempel, *From Bolshevik Russia to America: A Mennonite Family Story*. (Pine Hill Press, Inc., by the author, 2001), Hdc., 366 pp., (US\$29.00).

by Lawrence Klippenstein

Memoirs of Mennonites from Russia and the Soviet have become a very special genre of research and writing in North America. Some will say the stories are really all more or less alike, and it can be conceded that many themes do reoccur. But each one is still one individual's account and telling of what has been experienced, and these are never identical. Rempel's story, as told here, is a case in point.

Henry's parents, Dietrich and Aganetha (Fast) Rempel, were part of a group of families who decided to leave the recently-formed Soviet Union and emigrate to the West if possible. They hoped to do this by travelling via the internationalized port of Batum on the Black Sea to Constantinople to ports in Western Europe and then on to the USA. Six families left their homes together on 6 April 1922. It turned out that about 300 people would be in the total body attempting the same trip.

The story is the sketch of an odyssey undertaken under great stress, enormous uncertainties, unimaginable deprivations, and with much loss in every way. That loss would include the death of eight of the eleven member Rempel family before any of them could leave Batum. That would eventually leave Henry with his two sisters, Agatha and Agnes, able to use the last coins sewed up in their clothes, to book passage to travel on and succeed in reaching their goal. By 20 October 1923 they had reached the homes of their Nebraska Mennonite sponsoring hosts in the town of York, where a very new chapter of life would open up immediately.

From Bolshevik Russia to America is based on a diary which Henry kept from ca. 1923-1928, and the memories of his sisters, along with other data which could be gathered by the writer. The book is remarkable for its details, and the dynamic of bringing the first hand reports of the three Rempels into one account. A rich collection of photographs, and some excellent maps, with other visuals, and one should not forget an excellent foreword by Dr. Paul Toews of Fresno, California, augment the account.

The author, who recently celebrated his 93rd birthday in Lawrence, Kansas, where he lives alone after the passing of his wife, Mariana, is quite frank about some of the negative attitudes of Nebraska Mennonites toward these new "Russian" immigrants. But he also acknowledges with great warmth those who could make their new experience positive, among them his own host parents, the C. D. Epps.

Henry himself took an early interest in education so his story is also that of the making of a psychologist. His marriage to Mariana Lohrenz of Hillsboro, Kansas, and the raising of their children, is naturally woven into the telling as well.

There is a touching poignancy in the words of the author's summary of it all: "Agatha, Agnes, and I have often looked back with gratitude at how it became possible for each of us to grow into a secure and mature adulthood as we made it through the years of adjustment to a new country with its unique societies, learned a new language, and became 'at home' with an extended family through the depression and WWII, establishing our families and enjoyed church and community activities, living lives of service to others ... remaining true to the ideals of our mother and father, and their Mennonite tradition and teachings."

One cannot begin to review details here. The volume has just been released from the publisher, is being distributed by the author's son-in-law and will be well worth its price, whatever that may be. The author, editors, and printers will have given us all something significant that is not just another immigrant story at all. It is a fresh testimony to courageous survival, enormous perseverance, energetic living, hard work and strong Christian faith which were all part of the lives of the Rempels who "made it", and

thankfully have taken the time to tell us how it really was.

This book may be ordered from Dr. Loring W. McAllister, 16368 South Swede Hill Drive, Afton, Minnesota 55001, USA; loringmcallister@earthlink.net

Book Notes

- *Das Verstossene Kind*, by William Enns, (Big Bill) has now been translated by Edward Enns and consists of 83 pages. This is the true and interesting story of a child being abandoned in a pig pen in Russia and adopted by a Mennonite family. This story was dramatized by Wilmer Penner recently. For copies contact Edward Enns at 115 Oakview Ave. Winnipeg, MB R2K 0R9 (204) 667-4718.

- Vol. 10/2000 of **Forschungen zur Geschichte und Kultur der Russlanddeutschen** includes an excellent article on the history and development of the Mennonite communities of the Amur region in eastern Siberia, Russia. The article entitled "Die Mennonitendörfer im Amurgebiet" was written by Dr. Manfred Klaube of Bockenem in Germany. Klaube has written several recent books on the Germans of Siberia. For comments on a recent visit to former Mennonite communities of Siberia, see several recent articles by Dr. Peter Penner in *Der Bote*. For information contact the editor, Isbrand Hiebert at ihiebert@mennonitechurch.ca

- Bill Klassen has completed *Jacob Niebuhr (1766-1835) Descendants*. This 456 page, hard cover book, contains vital statistics as well as a good amount of story based text. The book can be ordered from Bill Klassen 15 Eglemere Drive, Winnipeg, MB, R2K 4K3 for \$45 plus shipping and handling.

- *A Web of Memories: Chronicles of the Ancestors and Descendants of Jacob and Anna Martens*, by Anne Martens Braun of Winnipeg is a 116 page book with high quality photos and good story based text.

- 2002 marks the 125th anniversary of the first windmill in Steinbach. 2002 marks the beginning of the operation of the newly rebuilt windmill at the Mennonite Heritage Village. To commemorate both occasions, Frank Froese as donated prints of the new windmill. Only 250 prints have been made and are available at the museum gift shop.