



Family Roots Day

by Mavis Dyck

Genealogy enthusiasts braved the treacherous road conditions to make their way to Winkler for the 2007 Roots Day, 3 March 2007. Approximately 60 people participated in the events of the day. There were 16 display tables covering a variety of topics such as: family genealogy, village history, diaries, maps, computer assisted research, as well as displays of the Winkler Heritage Society and the Mennonite Heritage Centre of Winnipeg.

The power point presentation of the new Volume 5 *Reinländer (Old Colony) Gemeinde Buch 1880-1903* presented by Alf Redekopp was a highlight for the morning session. The Winkler Bible Book Store display table provided an excellent opportunity for guests to browse and purchase many of the research books mentioned in Alf's presentation.

After a delicious lunch, served by the Coop Catering Service, the Annual General Meeting of the Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society (MMHS) was held. Reports from the many MMHS committees were discussed and accepted by the membership. The business session was concluded with everyone praying the Lord's Prayer, a fitting reminder for us to express our united purpose and goals as Christians on this earth. Two special members of the Society, Lawrence Klippenstein and Bruce Wiebe, were awarded an honorary lifetime membership in the MMHS for their many years of dedicated service in finding and preserving our heritage for future generations. Alf Redekopp shared a detailed report of Lawrence Klippenstein's work and Adolf Ens gave us an overview of Bruce Wiebe's contributions. Reporter Jennifer Unrau of Golden West Broadcasting was present to interview both recipients. "Congratulations to both of them from all of us!"

Just before the afternoon coffee break, 17 year-old Bryton Moen surprised the audience with his family history dating



Honoree, Lawrence Klippenstein, being congratulated by Alf Redekopp, his introducer. Photo credit: Ken Reddig



Honoree, Bruce Wiebe, at the AGM, responding to his citation. Photo credit: Alf Redekopp

800 years prior to the birth of Christ. His display created a buzz of questions and curiosity!

The evaluation sheets received at the end of the busy day indicated satisfaction in the opportunity to browse, network, and glean information from the displays as

(cont. on p.2)



(L_R) Ken Reddig, Lawrence Klippenstein, Henry Fast, Ernest Braun, and Adolf Ens, MMHS members at the AGM, 2007. Photo credit: Alf Redekopp



Bryon Meon, presenting his family history. John Giesbrecht and Anna Ens, Executive committee members are at the presiding table. Photo credit: Alf Redekopp

MENNONITES IN NORTH KILDONAN

Taken from the North Kildonan council minutes

- North Kildonan was incorporated as a rural municipality on January 1, 1925. (Mennonites began to settle in North Kildonan in 1928)
- April 1932: The Mennonite Church asks if they can make a cemetery on land south of Springfield Road. In May of 1932 the land south of Springfield Road is rejected as a cemetery site.
- November 1933: A petition was received from the residents living on McKay and Edison asking for another well as there is only one well on each street. Residents are told they must form a local improvement district and pay the entire cost themselves.
- June 1936: There are complaints about pasturing of cows on the south side of Kingsford.
- January 1937: A man on horseback falls into an old private well on Oakland. The horse has to be lifted out of the well.

General Editor (Interim) - Bert Friesen

Managing Editor - Susan Brandt

Editorial Committee

Elmer Heinrichs, Gilbert Brandt, Bert Friesen, Marianne Janzen, Susan Brandt

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, 600 Shaftesbury Blvd., Winnipeg, Manitoba R3P 0M4, or e-mailed to the editor at editor@mmhs.org

ISSN 1491-2325

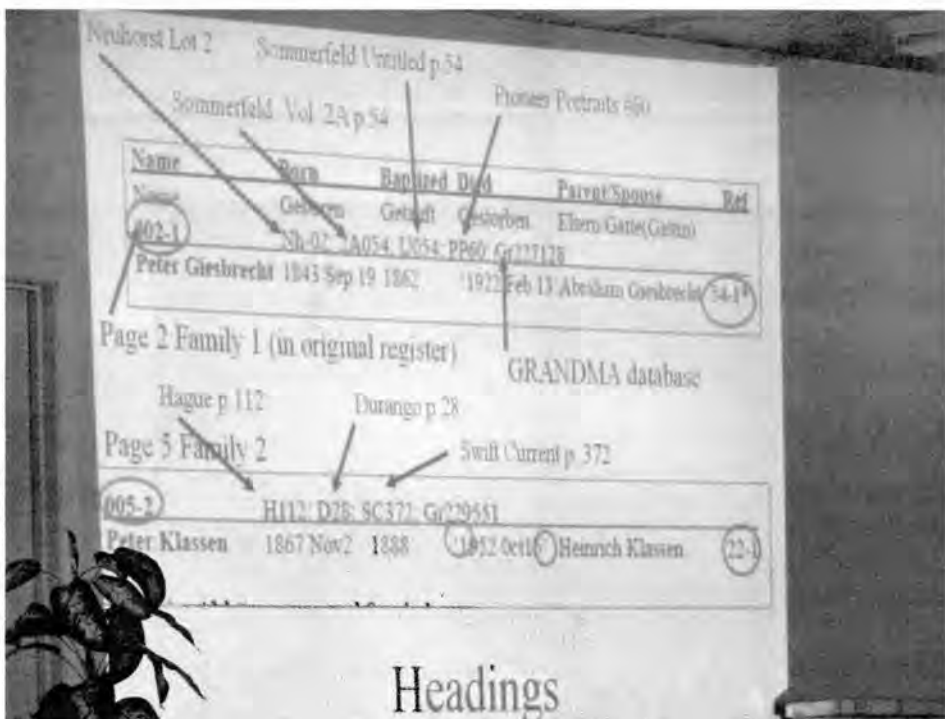


Illustration of how to use the Reinländer (Old Colony) Gemeinde Buch. Photo credit: Mavis Dyck

Roots Day

(cont. from p.1)

well as the presentations. There was also a request for a workshop designed for "beginning" genealogists, which could include the introduction to research tools now available, such as computer programmes as well as the variety of books. Interested persons should contact Alf Redekopp at the Heritage Centre or the editors (as indicated on the masthead, on this page). Looking forward to a grove of "Family Trees"!

THE POWER OF PEACE

An Evening of Anabaptist stories

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God."

An evening of songs and powerful Anabaptist stories of radical faith impacted those who attended this presentation Sunday evening Feb 18, at Grace Mennonite Church in Winkler.

Both song and storytelling are compelling forms of communicating. Both were professionally used at the Power of Peace special evening. The program began with the Hutterite Chamber choir entering the sanctuary singing "Jubilate Deo". Other fitting songs interspersed throughout the presentations included "Da Nobis Pacem, Domine (Grant us Peace, Lord)"; "We Shall Walk Through the Valley in Peace"; and "Haleluyah Pelotsa rona", an African Freedom hymn. The congregation joined the choir, directed by Kenny Wollman, in singing "Peace Like a River", and "How Can I Keep from Singing".

After the opening welcome remarks and prayer by Bernie Leopky, the story tellers stepped forward. There was an aura of reverence and silence as Bud Kehler faced the sanctuary full of people to begin the Johannes Klaassen story. "Johannes was born in Bessie, Oklahoma on February 2nd, 1895. He was the fourth child of Michael Klaassen and Margaretha (nee Janzen). Michael Klaassen was a minister in the Herold Mennonite Church in Bessie. The Klaassen family, as did many generations before, and many after, took seriously the teachings of Jesus as recorded in the New Testament. This included the teachings from the Sermon on the Mount and loving your enemies."

Suspension built up as Kehler told of WWI, conscription, and imprisonment of those who refused to wear the military uniform and take up arms. Among these was Johannes Klaassen. He was sentenced to 25 years in prison. After some time, Johannes was transferred to Leavenworth Prison in Kansas. It was here he spent the last days of his life. On October 17, 1918, Johannes Klaassen died of the "Spanish Flu."

It was only a few weeks later, a day before the end of WWI, that the Mennonites of Bessie learned that their lives were in danger. Within hours they were on a train to Canada. Rosthern,

Saskatchewan was where they spent their first winter in Canada, and the following year they settled five miles north of Morden, Manitoba, where they established the Herold Mennonite Church. Here Michael Klaassen served as minister until his death in 1934.

All was silent in the sanctuary when Kehler made his closing statement: "Today, Michael's great-great-grandson stands before you facing a general public that is increasingly ostracizing those who speak out against the war Canadian soldiers are involved in, in Afghanistan. A great-great-grandson who wonders which generation is going to be the next to face the question, 'Will you put on the uniform?' I give thanks to God, it wasn't mine."

Dora Maendel kept the audience equally spellbound as she told the story of Hutterites on Alcatraz, or How the Hutterites Came to Canada. Like the Mennonites, the Hutterites are peace-promoting people. Their story in North America also begins during WWI when conscription was practiced in the US. When their young men refused to wear the military uniform and take up arms, they were imprisoned, harassed and tortured. Maendel told the story of four men, three brothers and one brother-in-law of the Hofer family. They were shown no sympathy, only harassment, beatings, and persecution. In Alcatraz they were placed in the dungeon, which was below sea level and therefore held the worst cells on that prison island, and made life miserable. Cold, humid, smelly, a minimum of bread and water, no creature comforts such as clothes and blankets, but only their underwear, and only a blanket for six hours at night. WWI ended in 1918, and that same year the Hutterites moved to Canada. Letters written during the years of persecution are still extant and kept in archives for future generations to read and learn about their ancestors' faith and commitment to God.

Another war engages the world in arms, this time WWII. More persecution and imprisonment of Canadians whose faith and trust in God gave them the courage to refuse to join the military, but rather ask for alternative service in the country. The name Sam Martin comes to the fore, and his story was told by Jerry Hildebrand. Sam Martin of Alberta, was willing to lay down his life for peace. He was arrested in 1944 and sent to prison in Lethbridge. Because of his mechanical skills, he was given conditional release to serve as a mechanic. But he was still not a free man. Throughout all the persecution and harassment he received, Martin maintained a respectful attitude and remained steadfast in his faith in God.

The final story of the evening was an account of the Amish response to violence in their Pennsylvania tragedy in 2006. Again story-teller Bud Kehler stepped on stage to give a vivid description of this most recent event. The Amish, like the Hutterites and the Mennonites, believe that "war and violence is not the way" to respond to any tragedy. In his closing comments, Kehler said, "The fact that we are astonished (at the Amish response) illustrates how hard it is to truly live according to the teachings of the Bible." He then pointed out four distinctions that guide a person to live according to the teachings of Christ, namely "Character is important" which takes a lifetime of teaching and practice; "Community is important" – drawing strength from God and from each other; "Peace and Reconciliation" is God's way; and fourthly: "We are to love each other as God has loved us." Kehler maintained, "In the end the Amish had made their own impact on the world in the name of Christ."

This program was sponsored by the Evangelical Anabaptist Fellowship, the Ad Hoc Committee on World War II Conscientious Objectors, and the Baker and Fairholme Community Hutterian Brethren.- *Cleo Heinrichs*

DID YOU KNOW that a picturesque stream called Water Mill creek used to wind its way from the south east across Henderson Highway, Irving Place and the Bergen cut-off. Much of it has been filled in because of the Rowandale housing development, the Co-op shopping Center and the building up of individual lots. At one time there was a water mill called Matheson Grist Mill located on this creek. The grindstones from this mill are now lying on Essar Avenue opposite the Municipal offices [1400 Henderson Highway]. They were found in the creek behind Grandview Avenue with an elm tree growing through one of them. In September of 1965 the North Kildonan Parks Board erected these two old mill stones at Edison Park [Edison and Henderson]. - *Marianne Janzen*

Manitoba summer events

Rich rewards within 100 kilometres of home

Communities in Manitoba are again celebrating the year and highlighting their past through events, programs and celebrations marking their rich, often vibrant history. Mennonites, now in Manitoba over 130 years, are marking their heritage with historic anniversary events.

It will be another summer of family reunions, community get-togethers and centennials, people will meet for fairs and festivals; churches, like Altona Bergthaler Mennonite, now in its 125th year, will mark anniversaries, and the MB church conference marks 100 years in Winnipeg.

May 21: "Spring on the Farm" at Mennonite Heritage Village, 231 PTH 12 North, Steinbach, Info. toll-free 1-866-280-8741.

* * *

June 1-3: Weekend Mennonite Brethren festivities Friday-to-Sunday, opening celebration Friday at Heritage Baptist Church, 621 College Ave. Winnipeg begins at 7:30 p.m. with an evening program of dramatic historical vignettes, story-telling and singing.

A historical tour Sat., June 2 at 1 p.m. centres on MB church beginnings; with a visit to sites important to the early MB history in Winnipeg; departing from the Elmwood MB Church.

A "Dream Manitoba" celebration banquet is set for 6 p.m. at a location to be determined. It will be an opportunity to look back and to look forward, bringing the past and future together.

Sunday's centennial celebration (3 p.m.) at Elmwood MB Church will include music, historical vignettes, story-telling and worship. It will be followed by 'Faspa'. An artifacts table will offer attendees an opportunity to bring and display their mementos.

* * *

June 1: Manitoba Heritage Day at the Pembina Threshermen's Museum, near Winkler. 1-204-325-7497.

June 2: Blumenort Fair Day, Blumenort Park. Info. Coun. Bob Brandt, 1-204-326-6892.

June 8-9: Niverville Olde Tyme Country Fair at Niverville. Info Jeff Stott, 1-204-388-4600.
<http://www.nivervillefair.com>

June 15-16: Winnipeg Festival & Relief Sale, at Canadian Mennonite University; (15) 5-9 p.m., (16) 8 a.m. breakfast to 3 p.m. 1-204-261-6381.

June 30, July 1: Haskett Reunion, Haskett school grounds, Haskett, Man. Info. Abe Wieler, 204-325-6957. www.Hasketthomecoming.com - E-mail: hasketthomecoming@mts.net

July 1: Canada Day Festivities at Mennonite Heritage Village, 231 PTH 12 North, Steinbach, Info. toll-free 1-866-280-8741.

July 27-29: Manitoba Sunflower Festival, Free pancake breakfast, great Mennonite food, lots to see and hear in the arts, and plenty of sports. Altona Centennial Park, Altona, Man. Ph 1-204-324-9005

July 25-28: Manitoba Threshermen's Reunion & Stampede, Manitoba Agricultural Museum; Austin, 1-204-637-2354,

Aug. 3-6: Pioneer Days, Mennonite Heritage Village, 231 PTH 12 North, Steinbach. Info. toll-free 1-866-280-8741.

Aug. 10-12: Harvest Festival and Exhibition at Winkler, Man. Free family fun. Stanley Agricultural Exhibition begins Aug. 9, and runs simultaneously with the Winkler festival.

Aug. 17-19: Plum Festival, at Plum Coulee, . Crackles and waffles breakfast, water activities, and tours of Prairieview Elevator. Info June Letkeman, 1-204-829-2317

Aug. 17-19: Hanover Ag Society Parade & Fair (Rodeo begins Aug, 16), Grunthal Fair Grounds, Info. Coun. Henry Funk, 1-204-326-2724.

Aug. 25: Kleefeld Honey Festival, Kleefeld Sports Grounds. Info. 1-204-377-4296 or Coun. Clif Bakx, 1-204-377-4014.

Aug. 25-27: Morden Corn & Apple Festival, Morden, Man. Free stage entertainment, corn on the cob, apple cider. Web site: 1-204-822-5630 Morden. www.Mordenmb.com. E-Mail: chamber@mordenmb.com

Sept. 3: "Fall on the farm" at Mennonite Heritage Village, 231 PTH 12 North, Steinbach, Info. toll-free 1-866-280-8741.

Sept. 7-8: Pembina Threshermen's Reunion, west of Winkler, Man. Farming and harvesting practices of long by-gone years. Old-Tyme Meals by Valley Harvest Maids. Info. 1-204-325-7497.

Sept. 8-9: "Hot Spot" Festival at Gretna Park. Info Town of Gretna, 1-204-327-5825 or 1-204-327-5578.

Friesens Corporation is celebrating 100 years in 2007. The company began as a store and post office in 1907, operated by the founder of the company, D.W. Friesen. To commemorate they will convert the Schwartz House, north of Centennial Park to an art gallery with a sculpture garden on the grounds of the building.
- *Elmer Heinrichs*

MMHS News & Notes

The Board for the Society for 2007 is:

Janis Thiessen - President
 Ken Reddig - Vice-President
 Hans Werner - Secretary
 Bert Friesen - Treasurer
 John Giesbrecht - Exec.comm.
 member-at-large

Shirley Bergen
 Gilbert Brandt
 Mavis Dyck
 Anna Ens
 Lawrence Giesbrecht
 Marianne Janzen
 Royden Loewen
 Jake E. Peters
 Bill Schroeder

Genealogy Committee

Alf Redekopp
 Bill Schroeder
 Mavis Dyck

Publication and Marketing

Hans Werner
 Jake Peters
 Janis Thiessen

Membership and Publicity

Gilbert Brandt
 Bert Friesen
 Susan Brandt
 Marianne Janzen

Local History

Adolf Ens
 Dave Harms
 Joe Braun
 Martha Martens
 John Penner
 Mary Bueckert
 Bert Friesen
 Henry Fast
 Jake E. Peters
 Marlene Plett

Historic Sites and Monuments

Peter Priess
 Roland Sawatzky
 Ed Hoepfner
 Lawrence Giesbrecht

The genealogy committee is working on a cooperative project with the Mennonite Historical Society of Saskatchewan. The project is to transliterate/transcribe the *Danzig Flemish Gemeinde Buch*. There are two sections to this book: the family register and the church register. The family register is a listing of families in this *Gemeinde* beginning in the 17th century. The church register lists births, marriages, baptisms, and deaths also beginning in the 17th century. The intention is for the Saskatchewan group to do the church register and the Manitoba group to the family register.

To accomplish this task in Manitoba we are seeking volunteers. If you are interested in this project, and have some time and skills to assist in this work, please contact the editors, as indicated on the masthead on page 2.

It has been decided to redesign the society web site. In order to accomplish that it has been decided that we need to hire a professional designer. This will incur costs. We are requesting our members to consider a special donation for this project. A donation form is enclosed for this purpose.

John Giesbrecht
 Abe Ens

Finance Committee

Bert Friesen
 Tim Epp
 Rita Fast

CO committee

David Schroeder
 Conrad Stoesz
 Adolf Ens

Oral history

Shirley Bergen



Northend M.B. Church on College Ave., Winnipeg. Photo credit: researched by Marianne Janzen at the CMBS

Genealogy

This is the first in a series of articles on the Wieler family.

The Mennonite Wieler Family

by Glenn Penner
gpenner@uoguelph.ca

A. Introduction

1. The Wieler Family Name

The most commonly used variation of this well known, but relatively uncommon, family name among those of Mennonite descent is Wieler or Wiehler. In North America a few families have anglicized the name to Wheeler while some have taken to pronouncing the name in the English fashion such that it sound like the well known English name Wiler. Others have reversed the "ie" so that the pronunciation of the name is not a burden to the English speaking population. Throughout this series of articles I will use the most common spelling employed over the centuries by Mennonites (or those of Mennonite descent): *Wieler*.

The family name Wieler (and its Germanic variations) was by no means unique to the Mennonites when it first appeared among them in northern Poland, which later became West Prussia. As a result separating the Mennonite from non-Mennonite Wielers in West Prussian records is a serious challenge. Because of this, some Mennonite Wielers may be missed during the course of gathering information from Prussian sources and some non-Mennonite Wielers may have slipped in (particularly if they lived in predominantly Mennonite villages). Another problem is that there are many variations of this family name found in documentation from Prussia and Russia. Some examples are Wieler, Wiehler, Willer, Wuhler and Wueler. Two interesting variations of this name are and Wielert and Willert. These are interesting because two other Mennonite family names also appear in the early West Prussian records with -t endings: Penner and Kroeker. The reason for the -t ending is unclear to me at this point. In the 1772 census of West Prussia there were about 40 families with the above variations of the Wieler family name.¹ Less than half of these can be identified as Mennonite and about half can be clearly identified as non-

Mennonites (see later).

According to the late Prussian Mennonite historian Horst Penner, Wieler derives from the Swiss name Wyler.^{2,3} This is highly speculative. We really do not know the true origins of the Mennonite family name Wieler. There is considerable discussion of the origin and meaning of the family name in the Wiehler Chronicle.⁴ According to this book a certain Franz Fieler who signed a land-lease for the village of Oloffersfelde in 1639 was a Wieler. This is speculation based on coincidence and there is no evidence to support this claim.

2. The Earliest Mennonite Wielers

The first record we have of a Mennonite Wieler is from a document originally found in the Elbing State Archives of West Prussia. This document records that Hans Wieler, the owner of 85 Morgen of land in the village of Ellerwald, paid taxes for the years 1652 to 1682. Ellerwald was not a typical village. It was divided into Trifts (German – Triften). Each Trift was originally a cattle track. The Ellerwald was divided into 5 Triften. These tracks eventually became roads and the region alongside each road was given a Trift number starting with the first Trift to the south. Very detailed maps of this region can be found on the Internet.⁵ According to the abovementioned document Hans Wieler's widow paid taxes from 1682 until 1695 and his son Berend paid the tax from 1695 to 1729. According to Gerhard Wiebe (1725 – 1796), who kept a diary during the time that he was *Ältester* of the Elbing/ Ellerwald Mennonite Gemeinde (1778 – 1795), Hans Wieler was the ancestor of all the Mennonite Wielers.⁶ He states: "On July 23, 1713 Abraham Jansson became a minister (Prediger) and Behrend Wieler from the countryside became a deacon (Diakon). ... Behrend Wieler lived in Ellerwald on the old Nogat. He was a son of Hans van Wieler, who was the first of this name in this locality and also a progenitor (*Stammvater*) of all Wielers of our religion".

At around the same time that Hans Wieler was living in Ellerwald, Mennonite Peter Willer is recorded as living in Danzig. Peter Willer was a *Baumeister* in the city of Danzig from about 1660 on. In the 1650s he was employed in Amsterdam and later in Warsaw. He was married to the widow of the brandy distiller and Mennonite Peter Kinn. She died on Aug. 1, 1671. He continued to live in Danzig until his death in January of 1700. Unlike the other Wielers of the Danzig/West Prussia regions, who belonged to the Flemish churches, Peter Willer belonged to the Frisian Mennonite church. He also appears to have had relatives in the Frisian congregation of the Klein Werder. Shortly after his death relatives Albrecht Schroeder and Behrend Holtzrichter lodged a complaint with the Danzig city council with respect to claiming the contents of Willer's house.⁷ Although it is mentioned that Peter Willer had children at the time of his wife's death there is no evidence that later Mennonite Wielers are descended from him. Indeed the children mentioned at the time of Mrs. Willer's death could have been from her first marriage to Peter Kinn.

The third pre-1700 reference to a Mennonite Wieler is found in records of the St. Elisabeth Reformed Church of Danzig.⁸ The baptismal register records that on April 12, 1695 Johann and Zacharias Wieler, sons of the Mennonite Jacob (and Anna) von Wieler were baptized. It is unknown why Jacob Wieler, a Mennonite, had his sons baptized in the Reformed church. So far we are unable to connect this family with any later Mennonite Wielers.

Finally it should be noted that one should not confuse the Mennonite surname Wieler with the very rare Mennonite surname Weier. This appears to have been done in the GRANDMA database.⁹ The Mennonite Weiers are descended from Abraham Weier/Weyer (1750 – 1808), a Lutheran from Einlage, West Prussia, who was baptized into the Tiegenhagen (Flemish) Mennonite Church in 1796.¹⁰ He later lived in Tiegenhof. His son Abraham (b. 1782) later immigrated to the Molotschna colony in Russia.¹¹

3. Wielers in the early 1700s

a) The *Brandordnung* of 1727.

The *Brandordnung* was a fire insurance register which covered a large area of the Gross Werder region of West Prussia. This register names inhabitants of Germanic origin who insured their buildings against fire damage. Although the men found in this list are predominantly Mennonite there is no way of determining who was or was not a Mennonite without the use of other sources (see later). The following are listed in the *Brandordnung*¹²:

Klaas Wieler Blumenort	1 Hufen
Hinrich Wieller Klein Mausdorferweide	1 Hufen
Michel Willer Ladekopp	15 Morgen
Isebrand Wiehler Marianau	3 Hufen 11 Morgen

One Hufen (about 41 Acres or 16.6 hectares) is equal to 30 Morgen. 1 Morgen = 300 Ruten

All of the villages listed above had significant populations of Mennonites.

b) Church Registers

During the early years in Poland (later West Prussia) Mennonites were not allowed to have their own cemeteries. They had to bury their dead in Lutheran or Catholic cemeteries, and were required to pay a fee in order to do so. As a result there are a few Lutheran and Catholic burial registers which include Mennonites. The following pre-1750 burials of Mennonite Wielers are found in the burial registers of the Lutheran parishes of Fuerstenau, Gross Mausdorf, Elbing/St. Annen and Elbing/Neuheide.

Fuerstenau¹³:

Mar. 12, 1720 Jacob Wielers Hacker from Jungfer child
 Mar. 3, 1722 Michaelis Wielers daughter
 Oct. 4, 1722 Nicolaus Wielers daughter
 Jan. 30, 1729 Heinrich Wieler
 Mar. 15, 1729 Heinrich Wielers child

Gross Mausdorf¹⁴:

Oct. 28, 1729 Peter Wieler Krebsfeld [relationship unknown] age 1 year and 8 weeks
 Apr. ??, 1745 Mennonite Wieler Kleinmausdorf
 May 28, 1748 Isebrand Wieler son Peter [no location]

Elbing/St. Annen¹⁵:

July 19, 1725 Heinrich Wieler son
 June 14, 1727 Johann Wieler son
 Apr. 3, 1729 Behrent Willer
 May 22, 1729 Heinrich Wilerts wife

Elbing/Neuheide¹⁶:

Mar. 13, 1737 Mrs. Wielert Ellerwald
 Feb. 1, 1739 Heinrich Wielerts child 18 weeks old
 Feb. 17, 1739 Johann Wielerts son
 Jan. 8, 1740 Johann Wielerts child Anna
 Dec. 1, 1740 Heinrich Wielerts daughter Magd.
 Mar. 8, 1743 Heinrich Wieler Klein Wickerau son Heinrich
 Jan. 26, 1746 Johann Wielerts daughter Magdalena
 Mar. 13, 1746 Bahrent Wieler daughter
 Nov. 15, 1746 Marten Wieler Ellerwald daughter Magdalena
 Aug. 14, 1748 Hans Wieler daughter Catharina
 Nov. 18, 1749 Johann Wieler son of Ellerwald

B. Wielers in Early West Prussian Census and Village Lists

In addition to the 1727 *Brandordnung* there are 4 pre-1820 West Prussian lists that are useful for Mennonite genealogists. The Wielers found in those lists are extracted below.

a) The 1772 West Prussian Census¹

First name	Location	Family	Land	Occupation
Albrecht	Ellerwald 4	not given	17.5M	Nachbar
Cornelius	Weichselmunde	rented a small cottage with wife and 1 son		
Johann	Ellerwald 1	not given	1H/10M	Wirt
Peter	Ellerwald 4	not given	15M	Wirt
Isaac	Neunhuben	not given	3H/5.5M	Schultz/Nachbar

Isebrand	Marienau	11/00/11/32	not given	Nachbar
Behrent	Elbingsche Laachenhauser	1M/1W/2S/3T	0	no information
Claas	Schoenberg	11/01/02/00	0	Weber
Hinrich	Neustaedterwald	11/10/02/00	0	Mietsgaertner
Jacob	Ellerwald 1	not given	5M	Wirt
Jacob	Kerbshorst	11/04/01/00	2.5M	Nachbar
Jacob	Thiergarterfeld	11/10/01/00	0	Tischler
Johann	Ellerwald 5	not given	25M	Wirt
Klaas	Altendorf	11/00/00/12	0	
Hackenbuedner, Kruger & Holzhaendler				
Berend	Ellerwald	not given	20M	Wirt
Behrend	Klein Wickerau	11/00/10/32	1H/5M	Nachbar
Abraham	Klein Wickerau	11/01/00/21	1H	Nachbar
Marten	Krebsfeld	11/33/10/00	22.5M	Nachbar

Note that Mennonites were usually not designated in this census. Therefore some of the families listed here may not have been Mennonite. These families were listed because they lived in villages where there were significant Mennonite populations and/or the family head had a first name that was common in the Wieler family. It is also possible that some Mennonite families were missed.

The family column has the following format: men, women/sons over 12, sons under 12/daughters over 12, daughters under 12/male servants, female servants.

H = Hufen, M = Morgen, Nachbar/Wirt = landowner, Schultz = Mayor, Weber = Weaver, Mietsgaertner = rented small plot of land, Tischler = furniture maker, Hackenbuedner & Kruger = operated small store and inn, Holzhaendler = woodseller.

b) The 1776 West Prussian Mennonite Census¹⁷

First Name	Location	Occupation	Family	Landowning	Status
Abraham	Klein Wickerau	Lw.	1/1/1/0/1/0		E
Abraham	Ellerwald 4	Lw.	1/1/1/0/0/0		E
Albrecht	Ellerwald 4	Lw.	1/1/0/0/0/0		E
Berend	Ellerwald 3	Arb.	1/1/2/1/0/1		E
Berend	Hospitalkampe	Lw.	1/1/2/3/0/0		E
Berend	Klein Wickerau	Lw.	1/1/0/0/2/2		E
Claas	Altendorf	Lw.	1/1/2/1/0/0		E
Cornelius	Lichtfelde	Malzer	1/1/1/2/0/0		E
Hans	Ellerwald 1	L.	1/1/3/1/0/0		E
Heinrich	Kalthof	L.	1/1/2/0/0/0		Mi.
Heinrich	Reinland	Arb.	1/1/0/3/0/0		Mi.
Heinrich	Haberhorst	Weber	1/1/1/0/0/0		E
Heinrich*	Halbstadt	Arb.	1/1/2/2/0/0		Mi.
Isebrand	Klein Mausdorf	L.	1/1/1/0/0/2		E
Isebrand	Marienau	L.	1/1/1/1/0/0		E
Jacob	Ellerwald 1	Lw.	1/0/0/0/0/0		E
Martin	Krebsfelde	Haker	1/1/4/2/0/0		E
Peter	Ellerwald 4	Lw.	1/1/0/1/1/0		E

* Last name given as Willer, all others given as Wieler. Lw = Landwirt (land owner/farmer), Arb. = Arbeiter (laborer), Weber = weaver, L. = Landmann (farmer), Maelzer = malter, Haeker = proprietor of a general store, E = Eigenthumer (owned their residence), Mi. = Mieter (renter).

c) The 1789 West Prussian Mennonite Land Census¹⁸

First Name	Location	Land	Comments
Abrah.	Ellerwald 4. Tr.	17.5M	
Abrah.	Ellerwald 4.Tr.	10M	
Behr.	Nogathau	1H/15M	(Concession 1785)

Berh. Ellerwald 2.Tr.	17.5M	(Concession 1785)	m.	d. Nov. 29, 1812 ¹⁶
Bernh. Drausenkampe	not given	(30 year lease)		
Cornel.* Lichtfelde	17M		Catharina Reimer	Ellerwald I, WP ¹⁶ b. ca. 1755 – 57
Frantz City of Elbing	not given			d. Oct.27, 1812 ¹⁶
Heinr. Klein Mausdorf	2H/15M			Ellerwald I, WP ¹⁶
Jacob Ellerwald 1.Tr.	5M		Children:	
Joh. Zeiervorderkampen	15M	(hereditary lease since 1787)	Isebrandt	b. Apr. 1782
Joh. Ellerwald 1.Tr.	1H/5M			
Peter City of Elbing	not given	(renter)		
Widow Krebsfelde	27.5M			d. May 27, 1782 ¹⁶

* Last name Willert, all others given as Wieler.

d) *The 1811 Census of Mennonites in the Elbing Territory*¹⁹

Location	Name or Relation (age or ages)
Fuerstenau	Martin (49), wife (30), sons (13,8,2), daughters (19,16,15,9,3)
Klein Mausdorf	Heinrich (67), wife (52), son (9), daughter (28)
Ellerwald 1	Abraham (61), wife (56), son (16), daughter (22)
Ellerwald 1	Comelius (43), wife (56), daughters (23,22,21)
Ellerwald 1	Peter (51), wife (56), daughters (9,6)
Ellerwald 2	Widow (45), sons (25,8), daughters (23,19,15,12)
Ellerwald 3	Johann (41), wife (61), daughters (8,6)
Ellerwald 4	Johann (45), wife (55), sons (29,25,17), daughters (21,19)

C. Family Lists

The following are family lists which have been constructed from all pre-1820 West Prussian sources available to the author. The list is arranged according to the first names of the heads of the households which were established around 1800 or earlier. The names of the household head as well as sons who were known to have lived to maturity and likely went on to have children of their own are highlighted in bold type.

Ab1

Abraham Wieler b. Aug. 19, 1740²⁰
m. d. May 16, 1796²⁰ Klein Wickerau, WP²⁰
Agatha Dyck
b. ca. 1743
d. Jan. 7, 1817¹⁶ Ellerwald I¹⁶

Children:

Franz

b. ca 1762
bapt. 1782⁶ m.(1786)⁶ Sara Wiens

Johann b. Dec. 23, 1783²⁰ Ellerwald 4²⁰
bapt. 1803⁶ m. (1809)⁶ Agnetha Penner

1772 Klein Wickerau 11/01/00/21 (1 Hufen) listed as Wiener
1776 Klein Wickerau 11/10/10 E
1789 not found
See reference 20 Volume 2, page 31.

Ab2

Abraham Wieler
b. ca. 1750 – 54

(The following children as listed as heirs (Erben) and were of age (mundig) at the time of Catharina (Reimer) Wieler's death in 1812)¹⁶:

Maria	b. before 1790	
Anna	b. Mar. 25, 1793	m. (1813) ⁶ Peter Dyck bapt. 1810 ⁶
Johann	b. before 1790	
Isebrandt	b. Sep. 29, 1792	Ellerwald 1 bapt. 1812 ⁶ m. Anna Schmidt

1811 Ellerwald I: Abraham age 61, wife age 56, son age 16, daughter age 22.

Ab3

Abraham Wieler b. ca 1741
m. d. Oct. 25, 1805¹⁵ Ellerwald IV, WP¹⁵
Agneta Epp b. Mar. 1742
d. Mar. 8, 1799¹⁵ Ellerwald IV, WP¹⁵

Children:

Son b. June 9, 1770 d. June 13, 1770¹⁵

Helena b. Feb. 1777 d. Mar. 20, 1777 (1M)¹⁵

Abraham b. ca 1773 m. Maria Wieler
bapt. 1793⁶

1772 not found
1776 Ellerwald IV 11/10/00 E
1789 (one of two Abraham Wielers in Ellerwald IV)
Lived in Ellerwald 4 in 1770 and 1777

Ab4

Abraham Wieler b. ca 1773 West Prussia
m. 1797 - 99 d. Nov. 29, 1807¹⁵ Ellerwald IV, WP¹⁵
Maria Wieler b. ca 1778
d. July 8, 1805¹⁵ Ellerwald IV, WP¹⁵

Children:

Abraham b. Sep. 11, 1800²⁰ m. (1825)^{6,20} Agatha Dyck
Bapt. 1821⁶

Franz b. Dec. 15, 1799 d. Dec. 21, 1799²¹

Maria b. May, 21, 1801 d. June 5, 1801¹⁵

Maria b. Oct. 6, 1802 d. Oct. 10, 1802

II m. Apr. 27, 1806⁵
Catharina Loewen b. d.

Children:

Catharina
b. Apr. 1807 d. Sep. 7, 1807¹⁵

Abraham was the son of Abraham Wieler (**Ab3**).
Reference 20: Vol. 2, p.44 states that son Abraham moved to
Russia in 1832.

Ab5

Abraham Wieler b. bef 1737
d. aft 1759

Children:

Agnes b. 1757 d. Nov. 7, 1759²²

Lived in Petershagen, West Prussia in 1759.

AI1

Albrecht Wieler b. ca 1728
d. Mar. 14, 1794¹⁶ Klein Wickerau
[wife] m. b. d.

Children:

Maria b. ca 1776 d. Jan. 22, 1778¹⁶

Heinrich b. d. July 29, 1778¹⁶

Isebrand b. Apr. 1782 d. May 27, 1782¹⁶

Heinrich b. 1781 d. Dec. 5, 1782¹⁶

Johann b. 1780 d. May 1, 1783¹⁶

Peter b. ca 1771 m. (1794) Margaretha Wieler⁶
bapt 1791⁶

1772 Ellerwald 4 17M 150R

1776 Ellerwald 4 Lw. 11/00/00 E

Not in 1789 Mennonite land census

Lived in Ellerwald 4 from before 1772 until about 1791 – 94
when he moved (retired?) to Klein Wickerau.

An01

Anton Wieler b. ca 1718
d. May, 7, 1760²² Petershagen, WP
[wife] b. d.

Children:

Child b. d. Sep. 9, 1746²²

Anton b. ca 1755 d. Sep. 10, 1758²²

Lived in Petershagen, West Prussia between 1746 and 1760.

Ar1

Arend Wieler b. before 1700
d.

Children:

Maria b. ca 1726 d. July 1, 1776¹⁶

Daughter Maria died in Kerbshorst, WP.

Family lists will be continued in the next installment of this
series.

Note: The last installment of this series on the Wieler family will
report on the results of the Wieler DNA Project. If you are a
male Wieler and are interested in participating please contact
the author* or Erwin Wieler (Surrey, BC; ph: 604-535-2406;
email: eowieler@pacificcoast.net).

All references will appear at the end of the last installment.

* Contact information: Glenn Penner, 306 – 27 Cardigan St.
Guelph, ON, N1H 7V6. email: gpenner@uoguelph.ca.



Cairn in a park at Edison/Henderson in North Kildonan,
commemorating the arrival of Mennonites in 1928. Photo credit:
researched by Marianne Janzen at the CMBS.

ON THE HOME FRONT

Haskett homecoming 2007 (OR) Haskett homecoming set (OR) Coming home to Haskett

Haskett, Man. is marking its centennial with a homecoming June 30 to July 1, and everyone is welcome, especially all interested former and present residents of Haskett and the trading area. Haskett is located 12 miles south and 2 miles west of Winkler.

The two-day community event will include reminiscing, music, food, worship, walking and riding tours and much more. Haskett today includes the former villages of Eichenfeld, Kronsfield and Gruenfeld, all established by Mennonite immigrants long before the Haskett townsite began in 1907.

Historian Alan Warkentin notes that Haskett has seen many changes in its day and at one time boasted of three stores, an International Harvester implement dealership, three lumberyards, blacksmith shops, two grain elevators, two bulk fuel stations, repair shops and others.

And being a border town, the Canada Customs was here, located in the same building as the Great Northern railway station. Many pupils and teachers passed through the doors of this two-room school house, with Sunday school classes and evening programs held here as well.

The creation of the town of Haskett occurred when the train came through in 1907. The Manitoba Development Company Ltd., purchased the land from the previous owner, Mr. Bernhard B. Krahn. Peter Klassen, a direct descendant of Mr. Krahn, is fittingly the homecoming coordinator. The town plan document is dated July 6, 1907, with Mr. G.W. Potter listed as the Secretary of the company, and Mr. C.J. (sometimes called "John") Haskett as the President.

Mr. Haskett was an entrepreneur who never lived in Haskett. The company purchased two other prospective town sites in Manitoba on the Great Northern Railway line - Bergman, halfway between Gretna and Plum Coulee, and Kronsart, between Plum Coulee and Roland. Since the future Haskett was the site of the Customs and had considerable prospects of growing into a town, Mr. Haskett gave it his name, although his address after 1908 was in Iowa.

The area of the Haskett town site is approximately 40 acres and is shaped like a triangle because the train tracks came in at an angle from Walhalla, North Dakota going to Morden.

At its peak in 1930 Haskett downtown consisted of 18 homes, with another 38 in the area. Total population of downtown and area was estimated at 280.

One of the stores was owned by a Jewish merchant Sam Ashkin, and after 1936 Peter J. Janzen bought an empty store, and a son Jake Janzen, ran the store. After 1938 the post office was relocated into the

Janzen store

Two grain elevators were situated here. McCabe's was built in 1910, and the Lee and Sons elevator in 1920. Train service continued to 1936 when McCabe's was torn down, while the Lee and Sons elevator was later sold to J.P. Riediger and Sons, Morden, and operated as a depot, with grain trucked to Morden until 1955.

Some interesting and well known people with Haskett connections are: former teacher Frederick Philip Grove, the author; another former teacher Dr. John K. Friesen of the D.W. Friesen family at Altona who became a noted educator and recipient of the Order of Canada; Morden businessman David A. Fehr; John E. Buhler, of Buhler Versatile and other businesses and charities; Leonard Buhler, president of Campus Crusade; Gus Konkel, president of Providence College, Jake Janzen of Janzen Pontiac Buick, Winkler; George G. Elias, former champion barley grower, independent political commentator, and the resident who lived longest in Haskett, and Dr. Peter Letkeman, former Professor and Dean of Science at Brandon University.

If you have any items of historical interest of Haskett - especially photos, stories, or information of past homes or residents of Haskett or of the former villages -, please connect with Alan Warkentin of the history committee at 204-325-8453 or at haskett4me@hotmail.com.

The Haskett committee of Dr. Peter Letkeman, John Wieler and Alan Warkentin is working on a history book and various historical displays. For more event information, try the website www.hasketthomecoming.com or call planning committee chair Abe Wieler 204-325-6957. - *Elmer Heinrichs*



These stores were on Edison and now Roch. The proprietors were Mennonites of North Kildonan, the Tom Boy store was a Nicholas Dueck family operation.
Photo credit: researched by Marianne Janzen at CMBS



Notes

(cont. from p.12)

prepared by Gerhard Ens of Winnipeg, his father and former editor of **Der Bote**.

The set is entitled **The Low German Short Stories of Gerhard Ens**. Most of the stories included touch on the theme of Christmas or more generally Mennonite pioneer life in Western Canada, and were prepared for the Low German Mennonite history lectures which the senior Gerhard delivered on station CFAM in Altona over a period of more than thirty years. For further information contact cstoesz@mennonitechurch.ca at the Mennonite Heritage Centre.

- The Winkler Heritage Society has launched a new series of its newsletter, formerly called **Legacy Links**. It is now entitled **Heritage Happenings**, and edited by Ellie Reimer, the new president of the Society. The first issue was dated January-March, 2007, and the newsletter will appear four times a year. To contact Ellie email enreimer@mts.net

- Henry Fast of Steinbach is the author of **1874-1910 Gruenfeld (Now Kleefeld): First Mennonite Village in Western Canada** (Steinbach, MB: by the author, 2006), hdc., 370 pp. \$35.00. It is well illustrated, with useful maps included. For further information and to order contact aredekopp@mennonitechurch.ca

- A CD version of a genealogical study entitled **A Time For Everything: Descendants of Isbrandt and Catrina Klippenstein** is now available. The book has been compiled by Linda Klippenstein, Diana Klippenstein and Marilyn Klippenstein with a foreword by Peter Klippenstein – all about the Saskatchewan Klippensteins, we are told. It has over 400 pages, and you can contact Albert Klippenstein in Brandon at albert.bk@mts.net or at 3606 Van Horne Ave., Brandon, MB R7B 3H5 for further information.

- A second volume in the **Global Mennonite History Series** came off the press in 2006. It is entitled **Testing Faith and Tradition** with a focus on the continent of Europe. It is published by Pandora Press of Kitchener, Ontario, Canada, along with Good Books, of Intercourse, PA, USA, and is edited by John A Lapp and C. Arnold Snyder. Nine authors have contributed to its nine

chapters comprising 323 pages in paperback. The publishers can be reached at Good Books: 800/762 7171, and Pandora Press: 519/578 2381. You can also check with your local Mennonite bookstore for further information.

Retelling the old, old story

It was a delight to hear noted Canadian novelist Sandra Birdsell tell her "Mennonite" story Tuesday evening, March 20 at the University of Winnipeg.

Sandra, of both Metis and Mennonite extraction, gave us the inside story of how she came to write her novel, **The Russlaender**. From an historical viewpoint it was quite fascinating to hear her talk about her research.

She noted how she grew up knowing little about her Russian Mennonite background. As a novelist she became interested and she retraced her background with solid research in Mennonite historical literature and archives. For an archivist it is good to hear an artist talk about the importance of collected and preserved documents as being able to inspire the artist to get within the story, imagine the reality.

She surprised us with her story of the importance of museums. After doing all the research, and having the basic story intact, Sandra was still looking for the "voice" within her novel. The voice which would carry the story she had to tell.

The inspiration for finding the voice was the museum. The Mennonite Heritage Village in Steinbach, Manitoba in fact. Here she would visit and walk through and around the buildings to catch the spirit for what she was trying to tell. She even went so far as to ask whether she could spend the night in one of the old buildings—again seeking a vision for the voice that would carry the story.

From her story it became clear that you can read, study books and archival documents to conceptually understand a story. The facts of events can be retraced, but they often have no presence; we can't go back in time to experience them. We do need that other element that is frequently missing. We need a museum, a living/working museum that can literally carry us back into time experientially. A museum where we can relive the experience of the past. Museums are the closest we can come to recreating the past. They can become the event. They become the memory. They connect integral moments within our conceptual history and meld it with newly acquired experiential moments.

Tuesday night Sandra taught us that we, as Russian Mennonites in Manitoba, are indeed fortunate to have excellent libraries, archives and a first class museum with which everyone—including artists—can experience and get in touch with their past. - *Ken Reddig*



The Southend M.B. Church at William and Juno in Winnipeg. Phot credit: researched by Marianne Janzen at the CMBS.



Book Review

Martha Martens, John Penner, and Mavis Dyck, eds. second ed., **Reinländer (Old Colony) Gemeinde Buch 1880-1903** (Winnipeg: Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society, 2006), sc., 502 pp.

In 1994 John Dyck and William Harms edited the Reinländer Church membership register for the years 1880-1903 under the title of Reinländer Gemeinde Buch. The work was a popular and heavily used resource for many Mennonite genealogists. When the first edition sold out there was still demand for the volumes. As a result, the Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society decided to enhance and reissue.

The new work is the product of dedicated labour by Martha Martens, John Penner, and Mavis Dyck. They have added much vital information on hundreds of families. More importantly still, the work provides very useful cross references to the *1880 Village Census of the West Reserve*, *GRANDMA*, *the Red River Valley Echo*, "Pioneer Portraits", *The Sommerfeld Gemeinde Buch* as well as numerous Reinländer (Old Colony) church sources. The ease of identifying relevant information is astonishing. I'm sure genealogists will find other interesting lines of research to which they can apply the time they saved.

The new volume also has a very useful indexing system. The spellings of Mennonite names have all been standardized in the index but in the body of the register they are left as the recorder entered them. The volume has indices for both female and for male parents. Hence tracing in maternal lineage is made much easier.

At the end of the book there are a few other miscellaneous aids such as a list of villages, a membership summary (including some migration data), a list of late (1880-1903) immigrants families and a list of sources.

A few quibbles about an otherwise excellent work must be mentioned. The editors lacked historical sensitivity on two counts. First, they did not treat correctly the people who were identified as Mennonite Brethren in the original register by the designation "FOTS". The designation has in some cases been treated as a genealogical rather than as church membership designation. Secondly, the editors have in at least one case added erroneous family data from *GRANDMA*, and in the process snarled the genealogy beyond repair for the starting genealogist.

In conclusion, the book is attractive, accessible, inexpensive, and (despite the increase in information) less bulky than its predecessor. The editors deserve our thanks for completing this big project. It required great devotion and persistence. I'm certain every time someone uses the book in research they will be grateful.

- Jake E. Peters

Publication Notes

By Lawrence Klippenstein

• *Die Mennonitische Post* has published a collection of essays by Mary Friesen entitled **Miteinander und fuer Einander: Hinweise fuer ein gesundes Familienleben**. It is advertised for \$8.95 CND. For further details contact *Die*

Mennonitische Post at 204-326-6790 or email mennopost@mts.net

• Mennonite Church Manitoba has published a book of 50 sermons, entitled **A Sower Went Forth...**, preached by retired pastor Jacob F. Pauls of Winnipeg. It celebrates 50 years of ministry by the author. A book launch for the volume was held at MCM late in 2006. The paperback volume has 316 pages, and includes a CD with one of the sermons preached by Rev. Pauls. Proceeds from the sale of the book are being channeled to the Jake and Dorothy Pauls Pastoral Leadership Training Fund set up by MCM. It is hoped that \$50,000.00 can be raised for this fund, with over half in by now. For more details on the book, or to order, contact office@mennochurch.mb.ca

• An album of the "56ers", couples married in 1956, mostly from the Evangelical Mennonite Church in Steinbach, was produced at their joint 50th anniversary in October, 2006. The album, entitled **...1956 Weddings – EMC**, was edited by Lydia Loewen of Winnipeg in a 48-page spiral-bound paperback edition. For further information contact Lydia at 5 Pheasant St., Winnipeg, MB, R3T 1V5 or call 453 0357.

• In 2006 Amalia Enns and Elenore Janzen of St. Catherines, Ontario, edited and had published with Pandora Press in Kitchener, Ontario, a work entitled **Hope is our Deliverance: The Tragic Experience of a Mennonite Leader and His Family in Stalin's Russia**. It is the story of *Ältester* Jacob Rempel of Gruenfeld in the Baratov- Schlachtin colony in Ukraine. It is in paperback, with 320 pages, priced at 32.00 CND, and available at the Mennonite Heritage Centre. Contact aredekopp@mennonitechurch.ca

• Dr. Gerhard J Ens of the University of Alberta History Department recently released a five CD set of short stories

(cont. on p.11)