

HERITAGE POSTING

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HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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April 2008

MMHS celebrates 50th anniversary

by Bert Friesen

The first in a series of celebrations took place at Canadian Mennonite University, Winnipeg, on Saturday, 15 March 2008. The program included six papers on various topics.

The first paper was presented by Arnold Reimer about his father entitled, "John C. Reimer and his Museum Vision". John C. Reimer was a visionary. Because he wanted to preserve and promote the Mennonite heritage, he was most interested in gathering, preserving, and displaying artifacts and heritage buildings. This vision led to the eventual formation of a museum and heritage village. He was not as interested in writing or telling the story verbally; he left that to others who were already involved in that task.

John J. Friesen presented the story of the two foci of the historical community in Manitoba. The 'word' people began with the publication, in the 1940s, of the Anabaptist history. This brief history was to be used mainly as a tool to educate the youth, both for curricula purposes, and for church/CO status purposes. These were the four booklets, "Woher? Wohin? Mennoniten!" The fourth of this series, in 1953, was published by a group referring to itself as the Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society. This was a first usage of that name. Friesen dealt with other aspects of publication efforts, especially in connection with the centenary celebrations.

Meanwhile, the 'artifacts' people formed the museum group which in the 1960s became the heritage village/museum organization. The writing of the history of the Mennonites in Canada series, eventually led to the re-formation of the Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society in 1979.

"Heritage Hunter: MMHS in My Life, 1946-2008" was the paper presented by Lawrence Klippenstein on his personal reminiscences. He recalled his involvement in



Lawrence Klippenstein presenting his paper

— Photo by Bert Friesen

various projects such as cairn building and preservation. He also worked on the 125th celebrations of the coming of the Russian Mennonites to the East and West Reserves in Manitoba.

There was also the AGM session of the society. Reports were heard, organizational matters for decisions were dealt with expeditiously. The reports will be posted on the web site.

Adolf Ens talked about his participation in MMHS publication ventures. He covered the 'word' people's efforts in recording the Manitoba story. This began with the "Woher? Wohin? Mennoniten!" series as referred to above, to the current genealogical primary source material publications. Other series included translations of previous works such as the writings of Arnold Dyck and the Echo Verlag series. A full bibliography will be made available upon request from Ens. He summarized the type of writing done as:

- re-publication and translation of primary source material;
- contemporary stories in short pieces;
- artistic and literary writing;
- publication of proceedings of symposia and workshops.

Al Hamm presented the Mennonite Heritage Village

(Continued on page 2)

Connecting To The Canadian Museum for Human Rights

by Anna Ens

Legislation was passed just recently creating the Canadian Museum for Human Rights (first conceptualized by Dr. Israel Asper and the Asper Foundation in 2003) as a crown corporation. Centrally located at The Forks in Winnipeg, it will be the only national museum outside of Ottawa. The Museum's mission is to advance understanding and support for human rights in Canada and throughout the world.

The MMHS sponsored the formation of a Mennonite Committee on Human Rights. This group has met a number of times to work out its aims and objectives as they relate to the Canadian Museum for Human Rights.

The main objectives of the Mennonite Committee on Human Rights are: to engage the Mennonite constituency and participating organizations in reflection on the intersection of Anabaptist-Mennonite faith and human rights thinking and practice, and to offer a Mennonite perspective to the Canadian Museum for Human Rights in the development of its exhibits and programs.

In an attempt to achieve in a little measure the first objective, a six-month (once a month) continuing education course entitled "Human Rights through a Mennonite Lens" was offered at CMU this past winter. About 25 people participated. The course was taught collaboratively by theologian Paul Doerksen, history and Bible teacher at Mennonite Brethren Collegiate Institute, and human rights attorney Ismael Mvingi, instructor in Conflict Resolution Studies at Menno Simons College.

Working at the second objective, initially meant trying to be in touch with the planners of the Museum and monitoring the developments. Our committee believes that

our Mennonite understandings of peace and reconciliation, our global connections with communities where human rights are violated, our responses to mistreatment, and the stories of persecution and human rights abuses arising out of our own history could all make important contributions to the Canadian Museum for Human Rights.

Convinced that the Canadian Museum has high potential to influence future generations to find hope and healing, the committee in early March submitted a concept paper to the Museum's Advisory Board expressing interest in the Museum and its mandate and affirming it as a Centre of Learning.

The paper—endorsed, in addition to the organizations involved in the committee, by the Canadian Foodgrains Bank; the Mennonite Historical Society of Canada; the Mennonite Heritage Village; the Chair of Mennonite Studies, University of Winnipeg; the Mennonite Heritage Centre Gallery; Peace and Conflict Studies, Conrad Grebel College — outlines who the Mennonites are, refers to some of their historical experiences with human rights violations, admits that Mennonites have sometimes violated the rights of others, and gives examples of Mennonite involvement in support of human rights. The entire paper can be found at <http://www.cmu.ca/news/MCHRsubmission.html>.

The present committee is comprised of the following:

- Canadian Mennonite University – Paul Redekop
- Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society – Anna Ens
- Mennonite Central Committee Canada - Esther Epp-Tiessen, secretary
- Mennonite Central Committee Manitoba – Peter Rempel, co-chair
- Members-at-large - Judith Dueck, co-chair, Eliakim Sibanda, Wendy Kroeker.

To keep updated on the Committee's work, check out its website: <http://mennosforhumanrights.org>

(Continued from page 1)

story since the formation of MMHS in 1979. The highlight of their activities was the building of a new artifacts building in the 1980s. In 2000 a fire destroyed the windmill which was rebuilt within a year. The number of heritage buildings has been expanded; the artifacts keep being accumulated and displayed in a timely fashion.

The final presentation was a summary of the history of the organization. Garry Enns reviewed the precedent organizations which led to the development of the 'word' organization and then the 'artifacts' organization. He is currently writing a brief booklet on the subject.

The attendance was surprisingly low for a mid-March Saturday in Winnipeg for the first event in the 50th anniversary celebration year. Further events will be announced in a timely fashion.

General Editor — Susan Brandt

Managing Editor — Gilbert Brandt

Layout Editor — Ted Barg

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 Susan Brandt, 600 Shaftesbury Blvd., Winnipeg, Manitoba R3P 0M4, or e-mailed to the editor at: sbrandt@brandtfamily.com

Website: www.mmhs.org

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EMMC Homecoming Weekend

by Marjorie Hildebrand

The Winkler Evangelical Mennonite Mission Church Homecoming was held September 15-16. It began with afternoon sports and activities at the neighbouring J. R. Walkof School and a songfest in the evening. A number of former singing groups performed. One men's quartet, which began when the men were teenagers, had not sung together for 52 years, but they sang as though they had not missed a beat!

The Sunday morning worship service at 600 Southview Drive, attended by about 500, witnessed the unveiling of the book "Winds of Change", a 70-year history of the church, researched and written by Jerry Hildebrand. The morning worship service included a 60-voice mass choir, with former members returning from different provinces and states. Jerry Hildebrand gave the message.

The afternoon saw a second unveiling, a 4'x8' quilted wall hanging designed by quilt designer Myra Harder and quilted by her mother Betty Klassen, a professional quilter. This beautiful mural depicts the faces of the six lead pastors the congregation has had over its 70-year history: Isaac P.F. Friesen, Ben D. Wiebe, Harry Bergman, Ron Adrian, John Driedger, and the present pastor, Dale Dueck. They were all present except Isaac P.F. Friesen who passed away in 1986.

The two-hour presentation of the drama "Every Time I Feel the Spirit", written and directed by Ellie Reimer, was presented in the afternoon. It brought to life the beginnings of the church in ten scenes portrayed by the 75-member cast. A second showing for the general public was presented in the evening and was well attended.



The afternoon saw the unveiling of a 4'x8' quilted wall hanging designed by quilt designer Myra Harder and quilted by her mother Betty Klassen, a professional quilter. This beautiful mural depicts the faces of the six lead pastors the congregation has had over its 70-year history: Isaac P. F. Friesen, Ben D. Wiebe, Harry Bergman, Ron Adrian, John Driedger, and the present pastor, Dale Dueck. They were all present except Isaac P. F. Friesen who passed away in 1986.



At the Saturday evening *Saengerfest* this men's quartet, which began when the men were teenagers but had not sung together for 52 years, sang as though they had not missed a beat!



Author Jerry Hildebrand signing a copy of his book "Winds of Change" for John Friesen's copy.

— Photos by Marjorie Hildebrand



The afternoon brought to the audience the two-hour presentation of the drama "Every Time I Feel the Spirit" written and directed by Ellie Reimer. It brought to life the beginnings of the church in ten scenes portrayed by the 75-member cast. A well-attended second showing was presented in the evening,

GENEALOGY — The Mennonite Wieler Family: Part IV

by Glenn Penner*

Conclusion of family lists:

M01

Martin Wieler b. ca 1721 West Prussia
d. Jan. 29, 1779 Krebsfeld, WP¹³

2nd m.

Catharina b. ca. 1735
d. Jan. 21, 1794 Krebsfeld, WP¹³

Children:

Johann b. ca 1750 d. Dec. 14, 1766¹³

Bernhard b. ca 1755 m. Anna Neufeld (1784)⁶

Martin b. ca 1762 m. Christina Rempel

Abraham b. ca 1764 d. Feb. 20, 1779¹³

Johann b. ca 1767
bapt. 1785³⁰

1772: Krebsfeld Nachbar 11/33/10/00 Owned 22.5 Morgen of land.¹

1776: Krebsfeld Haeker 11/42/00 Eigenthümer¹⁷

1789: "Witwe Willerin" she owned 27 Morgen and 150 Ruten of land.¹⁸

M02

Martin Wieler b. before 1725 West Prussia
m. d. Apr. 12, 1758 Ellerwald, WP¹⁶

Anna Dyck b. before 1725
d. Dec. 17, 1758 Ellerwald, WP¹⁶

Children:

Magdalena b. d. Nov. 15, 1746¹⁶

Jacob b. Oct. 19, 1747²³

m. Magdalena Reimer (1786)²³

This family is known to have lived in Ellerwald (Trift unknown) from before 1747 until 1758. **Jacob** is **Ja02**.

M03

Martin Wieler b. ca 1762 Krebsfeld, WP
m. d. 1827-29 Fürstenauerfeld, WP

Christina Rempel b. ca 1772 West Prussia
d.

Children:

Catharina b. ca 1793 m. Franz Harder (1817)¹³

Gertruda b. ca 1796 bapt. 1816³⁰

Martin b. ca 1798 bapt. 1818³⁰

Judith b. ca 1799 bapt. 1819³⁰

Johann b. Mar. 29, 1803

m. Caroline v. Riesen (1828)

Christina b. Oct. 15, 1795

m. David Woelke (1827)¹³ bapt. 1814

2.m. Dietrich Loepp (1830)¹³

Gerhard b. Dec. 1804 d. Apr. 28, 1806¹³

Helena b. Jul. 1807 d. Aug. 30, 1807¹³

Helena b. ca 1808 bapt. 1826³⁰

Gerhard b. May 19, 1810

m. Anna Guenther bapt. 1829³⁰

Peter b. Nov. 1811 d. Feb. 6, 1812¹³

Maria b. Nov. 1813 d. Jan. 8, 1814¹³

Martin Wieler was the son of **M01**.

This family lived in Fürstenauerfeld, West Prussia from before 1803 until at least 1827. They are listed in the 1811 census in Fürstenau, West Prussia.¹⁹

There is a problem in that the ages given for daughter Justina/Christina at the times of her marriages suggest a birth year of about 1805. This is inconsistent with her known birth date and baptism year.

Nicolas (Claas/Klaas) Wieler

Although there appear to have been only 2 or 3 Nicolas Wielers in West Prussia in the late 1700s it is, at this point, impossible to separate them into family units.

The first recorded Nicolas Wieler was Nicolaus Wieler whose daughter's death is found in the burial register of the Fürstenau Lutheran church (Oct. 4, 1722).¹³ The Brandregister shows that in 1727 he owned 1 Hufen of land in nearby Blumenort.¹² He is likely the ancestor or a close relative of the later Nicolas Wielers of the Gross Werder region.

The 1772 census of West Prussia includes 2 Nicolas Wielers: Claas Wieler of Schöneberg was a Weber (weaver) age 44, with wife Sara age 44, and children Heinrich (1/4), Sara (9) and Elisabeth (6). Claas Wieler of Altendorf was listed as a "Hackenbüdner, Krug. auch Holzhändler" (he ran a general store and inn and sold wood). He is listed with his wife, one male servant and 2 female servants, but no children.¹

The 1776 census of Mennonites includes only one Claas Wieler. He was living in Altendorf with his wife, 2 sons and one daughter. This is likely the same Claas Wieler listed there in 1772. Claas Wieler of Schöneberg seems to be missing from the 1776 census.¹⁷ He is probably the same Claas Wieler of nearby Schönsee, who died on Jan. 6, 1808.²⁸ The deaths of two of his sons are recorded in the Schöneberg Catholic burial register: unknown son (d. Jan. 1755) and son Nicolas (d. Jan. 25, 1756, age 25 days).⁴³ According to the marriage register of the Ladekopp Mennonite church widower Clas Wieler married Anna Peters on Nov. 9, 1794. The birth register records the birth of a daughter, Anna, on Oct. 18, 1795. Anna (Peters) Wieler remarried on Aug. 12, 1810 to Carl Froese, who died on Oct. 18, 1811.²⁸

Neither of these Nicolas Wielers are found in the 1789 Mennonite land census.¹⁸

Below are references from 1780 to 1815 to children of Claas or Klaas Wieler:

Baptisms:³⁰

1. 1790 daughter Margaretha of Lakendorf, (born about 1770)
2. 1792 son Heinrich of unknown village, (born about 1772)
3. 1801 surviving son Peter of Tiegenhof, (born about 1781)

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

4. 1805 daughter Anna of Tiegenhof, (born about 1805)
 5. 1815 surviving son Jacob of Blumenort, (born about 1795)

(the estimated birth year is based on an average age of baptism of 20 years)

Marriages:¹⁰

1. Mar. 28, 1813 surviving daughter Margaretha of Blumenort to Jacob Penner.
 2. June 27, 1813 surviving daughter Anna of Blumenort to Gerhard Penner.
 (both Penner boys were sons of Jacob Penner of Czatkau)

Deaths:⁴⁴

Jan. 26, 1815 Agnetha, daughter of the late Claas Wieler, Einwohner of Gross Mausdorf, and his surviving widow Anna Wieler, age 28 (b. ca 1787).
 Obviously some connections can be made but, at this point, it is not possible to separate out the two (or possibly 3) Nicolas Wieler families.

P01

Peter Wieler b. before 1715
 m. d. June 23, 1758 Nassenhuben, WP^{23,37}
 b.
 d. Mar. 24, 1754 Ellerwald, WP¹⁶

Children:

Katharina b. ca 1737 m. Abraham Wiens (1760)²³
 bapt. 1757²³
 Judith b. ca 1744 m. Johann Penner (1763)²³
 Daughter b. d. Aug. 28, 1754¹⁶
 Either Peter Wieler moved from Ellerwald to Nassenhuben sometime between 1754 and 1758 or two Peter Wielers have been combined in this family.

P02

Peter Wieler b. ca 1737
 m. 1770 – 1774 d. June 11, 1786 Ellerwald 4 Tr., WP¹⁶
 unknown b. ca 1719
 d. Oct. 2, 1774 Ellerwald 4 Tr., WP¹⁶

It is unlikely that there were any children from this marriage.

2nd m. 1774 – 76

Judith Fast b. June 16, 1748 West Prussia
 d. Mar. 2, 1796 Ellerwald 3 Tr., WP

Children:

Judith b. ca 1776 d. May 1, 1777¹⁶
 Maria b. 1777 d. Apr. 7, 1778¹⁶
Peter b. Oct. 25, 1778 m. Catharina v. Bergen (1810)⁹
 Judith b. ca 1780
 m. Cornelius Rempel (1809)⁶ bapt. 1799
 Johann b. ca 1783 d. Mar. 29, 1785¹⁶
 Sara b. ca 1785 m. Wilhelm Thiessen⁶
 Katharina b. 1787 m. Michael Thiessen⁶
 This family lived in Ellerwald 4th Trift in 1772 and 1776. They moved to the 3rd Trift sometime between 1778 and

1785. Son Peter moved to Russia in 1803.⁹
 1772: Ellerwald 4th Trift, owned 15 Morgen of land.¹
 1776: Ellerwald 4th Trift, Landwirt, 11/01/10 Eigenthümer.¹⁷

P03

Peter Wieler b. Aug. 1, 1758 Elbing, WP²⁰
 m. Feb. 11, 1781 d. Jan. 14, 1816
 Ellerwald 1st Trift, WP²⁰
 Elisabeth Thiessen b. unknown d. unknown
 Children:

Elisabeth b. Dec. 20, 1781²⁰ bapt. 1799
 Bernhard b. ca 1784 d. Oct. 14, 1797¹⁵
 Eva b. Sep. 11, 1786 d. Nov. 6, 1786¹⁵
 Peter b. d. Sep. 24, 1789¹⁵
 Heinrich b. d. Oct. 16, 1792¹⁵
Isabrandt b. ca 1804 bapt. 1824⁶
 Helena b. 1805 bapt. 1826⁶

He was the son of Bernhard Wieler **B06** and was baptized in 1778.⁶

He lived in Ellerwald 1st Trift in 1811 and was referred to as a Tagelöhner (day laborer).¹⁹

P04

Peter Wieler b. 1770 West Prussia
 m. about 1791 d. about 1830 Ladekopp, WP
 unknown b. ca 1771 West Prussia
 d. Apr. 9, 1809 Ladekopp, WP

Children:

Franz b. ca 1792 d. July 27, 1797
 Peter b. ca 1794 d. May 8, 1831
 bapt 1814
 Martin b. Aug. 10, 1796 d. Oct. 12, 1846
 bapt. 1816
 Agatha b. Aug. 10, 1796 m. Johann Harder (1847)
 bapt. 1816
 Catharina b. Nov. 10, 1800 d. Oct. 15, 1834
 bapt. 1818
 Justina b. July 16, 1804 d. May 11, 1835
 bapt. 1822

2nd m. Jan. 23, 1810

Helena Bergen b. ca 1781
 d. May 18, 1843

Peter Wieler appears to have lived in Ladekopp from about 1795-7 until his death. He likely came from a congregation other than Ladekopp. He is not mentioned in the Ladekopp records before 1796. Helena v. Bergen likely came from the Heubuden church. Their marriage is also recorded in the Heubuden church books.

Children Martin and Agatha were twins.

The source of all of the above information on this family is the Mennonite church records of Ladekopp, West Prussia.²⁸

P05

Peter Wieler b. ca 1771 West Prussia
 m. Mar. 27, 1794⁶ d.
 Margaretha Wieler b. d.

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

Children:

Margaretha b. ca 1798 bapt. 1818⁶

Peter b. Nov. 11, 1802²⁰ bapt. 1821⁶

He was the son of Albrecht Wieler **A101**.

His marriage took place in Stutthof, West Prussia and he likely lived there until his death.

P06

Peter Wieler b. 1772 Königsberg, EP

m. d. Mar. 13, 1814 Königsberg, EP

Sara Woelk b. Apr. 4, 1779 Königsberg, EP

d. Mar. 2, 1849

Children:

Sara b. July 17, 1805

Catharina b. July 17, 1805 m. Johann Sudermann (1825)

Susanna b. ca 1803 bapt. 1823

He was the son of Johann Wieler (**Jo11**) of Königsberg, East Prussia. He was a Gewürzhändler who lived in Neuen Graben in Königsberg. In 1812 he purchased Nr. 20, Totengasse, in Königsberg. Daughters Sara and Catharina were twins. Sources for this family are references 25, 26, and 36.

Z01

Zacharias Wieler b. before 1730

m. d. between 1751 and 1772.

Unknown b. unknown

d. unknown

Children:

Daughter b. d. May 9, 1751¹⁶

Daughter b. d. June 7, 1751¹⁶

Lived in Einlage in 1751 but is not there in the 1772 or 1776 censuses.

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 .

It's 30% OFF!

This is just a suggestion that you consider giving the book, *Building Communities: The Changing Face of Manitoba Mennonites*, by John J. Friesen, as a gift, or put it on your list. The earlier arrangements noted below are still in effect. The suggested price of the book is \$32.50. In our partnership with CMU Press we negotiated a 30% discount for all MMHS members. To obtain this reduced price you will, however, have to order the book from CMU Bookstore (you are responsible for shipping and handling charges), or pick it up at the bookstore in person. You will also need to let the clerk know in advance that you are a current member of MMHS. You may purchase multiple copies to use as gifts for your children, grandchildren and friends. We hope you enjoy the book, and take some pride in sharing the legacy that it portrays.

If you have any questions please feel free to send me an email message at j.peters@uwinnipeg.ca.

Jake Peters, Chair

MMHS Publication and Marketing Committee

Can You Help?

Elmer Heinrichs interviewed a senior, Margaret Nikkel, from his church, who said her mother (Katherine Wiens) grew up in Hochstadt, east of Altona. She told Margaret that Hochstadt had been referred to as Hartenstein, before it was named Hochstadt.

Has anyone come across a Hartenstein? Does it really refer to a place-name, or was it a word used to describe how someone felt about a particular place, perhaps a place one is fond of?

Can anyone shed any light on this local mystery?

Contact: Elmer Heinrichs at: eahein@mts.net

Legends an Legacy

This book was published in December 2007. A cloth-bound book, it has 353 pages and pictures in colour. It contains stories about the 1919-21 land search, the Mexico Mennonite 75th anniversary, Heide reunions and family legacy. Available from S. Harms at sharms@mts.net



Book Notes

by Gilbert G. Brandt

The books listed in this issue of Heritage Posting provide a variety of reading material. Some are Manitoban in focus, others are Canadian, and still others are international. We trust that you will take note, purchase and read. As you become aware of titles that we have missed, please notify the editors and provide details for future listings.



The Encyclopedia of Manitoba,

edited by Ingeborg Boyens

All aspects of the province's history, arts, politics, geography, business, and sports are explored in almost 2,000 entries and essays, each written and researched by expert Manitobans. From Cindy Klassen to K-Tel, Lord Selkirk to Louis Riel,

Bothwell Cheese to Chip & Pepper...anything and everything of importance to Manitobans is celebrated within the encyclopedia's pages. We are including this major work because it provides information about Manitoba Mennonites in general and a number of specific individuals. ISBN:978-1-894283-71-7 (2007 - Great Plains Publications) Hardcover, 814 pages Price \$99.95



The Sovereign's Daughter

by Susan May Warren and Susan K. Downs

The Future of Russian Nobility Rests in the Hands of a Mennonite Merchant
Using the Bolshevik Revolution as the impetus to this superb inspirational historical tale Susan May Warren and Susan K. Downs provide an interesting

look at the turmoil of 1917 Russia. The key couple makes for a fascinating story as they flee for their lives heading from royalty to a Mennonite farm while revolutionaries pursue them. Each learns the hard way how difficult it truly is to trust God when you don't understand why bad things are happening to good people. Historical and inspirational fans will fully appreciate this fine saga.

ISBN: 1597899836 (2008 - Barbour Pub Inc) Paperback, 288 pages



Half in the Sun by Elsie Neufeld, Robert Martens, Leonard Neufeldt

An Anthology of Mennonite Writing
Several factors contribute to the broad range of this first-of-its-kind anthology: its multi-genre nature; the intentional mix of new, recently emerging, established and prize-winning writers; and the fact that a number of the authors are Prairie transplants whose work continues to be

influenced by ties to that region's geography, politics and local cultures. This anthology ends the collective invisibility

of British Columbia's Mennonite writers in a very decisive way.

ISBN: 1553800389 (2006 - Ronsdale Press) Paperback, 200 pages, Price \$21.95



Changing Paradigms

by Paul Redekop, Howard Zehr

Punishment and Restorative Justice

"How can we make restorative justice a way of life? How does it apply to our lives and institutions? In this refreshing book, Paul Redekop helps to answer this by taking restorative justice further - to restorative discipline and restorative living in general." - from the foreword by Howard Zehr.

ISBN: 0836193873 (2008 - Herald Press) Paperback, 293 pages, Price \$18.99



What We Believe Together by Alfred Neufeld

Today, more than 1.5 million Christians are members of Mennonite-related churches. They are scattered in 67 countries. They trace their history to the Anabaptist movement, a part of the 16th century Radical Reformation in Europe. So what beliefs do these heirs of the free-

church movement, only loosely connected to each other, hold in common today? This book offers a fresh and up-to-date look at the core beliefs, and the practices that have developed from them, held by Mennonites-related groups around the world today.

ISBN: 1561486264 (2008 - Good Books) Paperback, 160 pages, Price \$9.95



Demons, Lies and Shadows by Pierre Gilbert

Gilbert's major contribution is to show how the main ideas by "specialists" on spiritual warfare emerge more from ancient Babylonian, Canaanite and Egyptian beliefs than from the Bible. Gilbert makes a compelling case, largely from the foundational biblical view of God in the world (Genesis 1-3) and rightly insists that

demons, which he believes are real, have minimal powers. The work, conversational in tone, benefits from the author's doctoral research on curses, his rich grasp of Scripture and his knowledge of the pertinent literature

ISBN: 1894791177 (2008 - Kindred Productions)

Paperback, Price \$18.95

Gerhard Ens receives Award of Excellence

by *Conrad Stoesz*

Gerhard Ens spent most of his life in public service within the Canadian and Manitoba Mennonite communities. Ens was honored in late January at the annual meeting of the Mennonite Historical Society of Canada. He received the Award of Excellence for his life-long advancement of Mennonite History as a minister, teacher, editor, historical society/museum promoter, German and Low German broadcaster.

Ens began his career as a teacher in the village of Gnadenfeld, Manitoba where he taught 60 children in 8 grades in a one-room school. During the Second World War, as a committed conscientious objector, he opted for alternative service. He worked as an orderly in a mental hospital. He returned to teaching at the Mennonite Collegiate Institute, in Gretna, Manitoba, where he served for 31 years. For ten of those years he served as principal.

Ens was a founding member of the Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society in 1958 and sat on the board of the Mennonite Heritage Village Museum from 1958-2004. In 1972 he was asked to produce a Low German radio broadcast to promote the centennial of Manitoba Mennonite settlement in Manitoba. Very quickly this 15-minute program was lengthened to 30 minutes. Ens continued broadcasting for 34 years. He was never paid for his broadcasts. In total he aired over 1400 programs on three radio stations.

In 1977 he moved to Winnipeg and began editing *Der Bote*, a Canadian based, German language paper. Having been ordained in 1957, Ens was asked to become a lay minister at the Sargent Avenue Mennonite Church. For 30 years he preached and taught the German Bible study.

Upon acceptance of the award Ens said this award was special for him. Commenting on his Low German broadcasting Ens said; "Mennonites of the Low German persuasion have no homeland in Europe they call their home. Low German has become a home where people can move in and out and express themselves".



Gerhard Ens is congratulated by an attendee.

— Photos by Conrad Stoesz

The Mennonite Historical Society of Canada and its committees held four days of meetings at the Mennonite Heritage Centre in Winnipeg where representatives informed each other of their projects and continued their joint work with the Global Anabaptist Mennonite Encyclopedia Online (www.gameo.org). The aim of this ambitious venture is to provide reliable information on Anabaptist-related (Amish, Mennonite, Hutterite, Brethren in Christ) topics, including history, theology, biography, institutions and local congregations. Secular topics from an Anabaptist perspective and full-text source documents are also included. Since its inception in 1996 it has gained the support of organizations like MCC and Mennonite World Conference.

Conrad Stoesz
Centre for MB Studies/Mennonite Heritage Centre