



Heritage Posting

No. 61

August 2008

Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society

MMHS Board and Committees Continue Programs and Projects

By Elmer Heinrichs

THE MANITOBA Mennonite Historical Society is marking its fiftieth anniversary this year. The Board, its executive (named elsewhere in this issue) and all committees are engaged in projects which fall in their various domains, as they pertain to rural and urban Manitoba Mennonite history.

The anniversary is running co-jointly with the Mennonite Heritage Village at Steinbach. The MHV museum had been a major project of the Society from its beginning, and then became an independent organization around 1979. The Museum dates its actual physical beginning back to 1964.

Celebrations began at the Canadian Mennonite University in Winnipeg in March. The program there included a mini-conference seminar in which several speakers from each organization reflected on their shared history of experiences since 1958. On 22 June an evening program of singing and reflections at the Heritage Village continued the celebration with its feature of Crystal Springs Hutterite and Manitoba Sommerfeld Mennonite choirs, along with congregational singing.

The 300 person audience also heard a historical item presented by Verna Reimer Reitmeier, written by her uncle, Arnold Reimer, who was unable to attend. It dealt with the role of the late John C. Reimer, Arnold's father, in shaping the vision of establishing a Mennonite museum in the province.

An anniversary event may yet follow somewhere in the former West Reserve in the fall. Some thought is being given also to publishing papers of the seminar of 15 March, and the collection of a complete set of board meeting minutes for both organizations, which has not been accomplished so far.

With the 2008 board and executive newly constituted, committees have been gearing up to pursue a program for 2008-2009. Some committees still hope to recruit additional members. A list of board members appears elsewhere in this issue.

The Local History and Historic Sites and Monuments committees, along with the EastMenn Committee in the former East Reserve, plan to map and photograph all historic plaques, cairns and historic buildings/sites in Manitoba. The first phase will centre on the areas covered by the former East and West Reserve communities. Winnipeg has been designated as the second phase, and later phases are to cover the entire province. The goal is to make this information available in published format and also online with the Society's website.

The Society is also collaborating with the EastMenn Committee to



This Mennonite Heritage Village float won first prize in the Hanover Agricultural Fair parade held in Grunthal on 16 August. It was also featured in the Pioneer Days parade at Steinbach on 1 August, and at the Kleefeld Honey Festival on 23 August.

Photo source: Connie Johnson and Erin Plett, MHV

publish a fourth volume in the East Reserve Historical Series this fall. An MMHS local history workshop is scheduled for this fall as well.

The Genealogy Committee is overseeing the MMHS contribution to a transliteration project which has set out to transliterate all existing Prussian Mennonite church registers. This involves the transcribing of texts written in one writing system (say, the Gothic German) into another writing system (say, English script) or system of rules for such practice. The currently available registers are available only on microfilm held by certain archival centres. From a digitized microfilm copy various involved groups are transferring the data, letter by letter, bit by bit, hopefully to create a more accessible format this way.

Groups from Saskatchewan and Manitoba are taking part in this project. The Manitoba section is working on the Danzig Mennonite Church register, and family books. The first draft of the family books is nearly complete. The goal is to make this information as widely accessible as possible.

The Plett historical writing contest for high school students has been held, and the winners are announced elsewhere in this issue. A wider involvement of schools in the project would be warmly welcomed.

The Membership and Publicity committee currently needs replacement for all persons formerly in the committee – five would be ideal. **Heritage Posting**, the newsletter of MMHS, has been faithfully served by editors Gilbert and Susan Brandt, with Bert Friesen assisting, and with their moving on, now has Lawrence Klippenstein of Steinbach, as interim editor. The appointment of a permanent editor is pending. MHV has recently been assisting with membership solicitation.

An exchange of newsletters between the boards of MMHS (**Heritage Posting**) and MHV (**Village Review**) took place in June. MMHS membership has declined in recent years, and a one-time

(Continued on page 2)

MMHS Board *(Continued from page 1)*

high of 200 may be something to shoot for again. The MMHS web-site redesign project is proceeding and expected to be completed soon. It is also expected that the testing phase of a beta site will begin shortly.

The fall months, coming after a summer rest, should offer many areas of involvement in projects of both MMHS and MHV, for which more information is available in this issue also.

MMHS Board Members

The MMHS board is now very nearly constituted with full membership. As of this date the following are committed to serve 2008-2009.

Executive

Conrad Stoesz, Winnipeg, board chair
Ken Reddig, Pinawa, vice-chair
Hans Werner, Winnipeg, secretary
Bert Friesen, Winnipeg, treasurer, Historic Sites chair
Eleanor Chornoboy, Winnipeg, member at large

Committee chairpersons and standing members

Abe E. Ens, Winkler
Evelyn Friesen, Steinbach
Lawrence Klippenstein, Steinbach
Alf Redekopp, Winnipeg, genealogy chair
Marianne Janzen, Winnipeg,
Anna Ens, Winnipeg
Jake E. Peters, Winnipeg

Next Board Meeting

The next MMHS board meeting is scheduled for 20 October 2008 at 7:30 p.m., tentatively at the Mennonite Heritage Village in Steinbach. Agenda will include committee reports, review of board structure and review of the future of Heritage Posting. Call cstoesz@mennonitechurch.ca for more details.

Guest Editor - Lawrence Klippenstein

Contributors - Elmer Heinrichs, Doris Penner, Lawrence Klippenstein, Glenn Penner, Loren Koehler, Ernie Braun, Bert Friesen, Conrad Stoesz.

The Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society newsletter, *Heritage Posting*, welcomes letters, reports and historical notes from society members and other readers.

Correspondence can be mailed to Lawrence Klippenstein, 102-388 First St., Steinbach, Manitoba R5G 0C7 or emailed to lawrenceklippenstein@mts.net

For membership info contact Bert Friesen at bfriesen@mts.net

Website: www.mmhs.org

ISSN 1491-2325

Neubergthal Notes



Martin Klippenstein of Neubergthal, the artisan, crafting "A Mennonite Couple" on his front yard. Photo credit: Neubergthal Notes, Summer, 2008, p.4.

Neubergthal Heritage Foundation Board Members

Larry Hamm (Chair)	Jennifer Giesbrecht (Secretary)
Ken Hamm (Vice Chair)	Norma Giesbrecht
Peter Klippenstein (Treasurer)	Karen Martens



Ed Falk (left) at the open house of the new archives sponsored by the Winkler Heritage Society. Signing the guest book is Lois Thiessen and looking on are Mary Ellen Neufeld and Gertrude Peters. The archives welcomes especially documents and records, paper and otherwise, pertaining to the Winkler community. For further information contact Ellie Reimer at 1-204-325-7701 or write to WHS, 185 Main St., Winkler, MB, R6W 1B4, or Marjorie Hildebrand at wiebhl1@mts.new.

Photo credit: Heritage Happenings, Vol. 2, Issue 2, April - June, 2008, p.10.

Corrections

In the April, 2008, issue of *Heritage Posting* note

On pg. 1 the outline under the photo should read *Al Hamm presenting his paper*

In the first column paragraph 3 should read*Mennonite Historical Society*..., not *Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society*.

In col. 2 paragraph 2 should read...*the Manitoba Mennonite story*....

Our apologies for the slip-ups!

Local History

Both of these articles will appear in a longer version in Volume 4 of the East Reserve Historical Series to be published later this fall.

Schoenwiese – East Reserve

by Loren Koehler

THE East Reserve (ER) village of Schoenwiese (literally “beautiful meadow”) has not received much attention in writings on early Manitoba Mennonite villages. As with many other Mennonite settlements in Manitoba, it was named after a village in the Old Colony (Chortitza) of south Russia. It is one of fifteen other locations given that name in various Mennonite settlements (such as the former West Reserve in Manitoba) around the world. This sometimes creates confusion in trying to figure out which Schoenwiese people have in mind in reports and correspondence of various kinds.

Schoenwiese, ER, existed until the early 1900s on Section 16 Township 7 Range 5 East, or about two miles northwest of present-day Randolph (formerly Chortitz). The families living in this village lived in Sections 9, 15 and 16. Maps of the East Reserve disagree as to the physical orientation of the village, i.e. whether it lay on a diagonal line, or straight north-south. Some also erroneously refer to its location as Schoenthal which was in fact located two miles to the north.

Eight out of thirteen of the homesteading families in Schoenwiese made their Atlantic voyage enroute from Bergthal colony, south Russia, to Canada on the S.S. Peruvian No. 47. It arrived in Quebec City on 27 July 1874. Most of these families were related to each other in some way or other.

The 1881 insurance records for the village clearly show how the value of insured property dropped during the time of the emigration of Mennonites from the East Reserve to the West Reserve in 1878-1882. Seven families, cited in this study as “temporary” residents, left the community during these years. These temporary families included those of Jacob T. Wiens, widow Helena Funk Goertzen, Jacob Kehler, Martin K. Kehler, Jacob N. Buhr, Abraham B. Rempel and Johann F. Buhr.

Those staying on included the families of Johann N. Funk, Abraham F. Goertzen, Cornelius A. Goertzen, Peter N. Funk, and later Diedrich T. Penner and Johann Dyck.

Loren Koehler is currently the conference archivist for the Evangelical Mennonite Conference, headquartered in Steinbach.



Helena Kehler Rempel and Abram Rempel, originally resident at Schoenwiese in the East Reserve and then resettled, from ca 1880 on, in the village of Altona. Photo credit: Lawrence Klippenstein, Steinbach, MB

Friedrichsthal- East Reserve

by Ernie Braun

OF the many villages established on the East Reserve by Mennonites in the 1870s and later, Friedrichsthal was particularly short-lived. Although it was a substantial settlement with its own school in 1876, by 1881 all the original villagers had moved on, and by the 1920s no vestige of its existence remained.

Today the location for this former village is difficult to find. Even the dirt on which the buildings once stood has been removed when the site was strip-mined for gravel. No information about the fate of those early buildings has come to light. Many of them were no doubt primitive structures. Those which were more substantial may have been moved, in some cases to other nearby communities. Some may have been dismantled and moved to new locations in the West Reserve. A number of these families left the original site in the transmigration of 1878-1882 to resettle out west.

What is left today near the centre of Section 5 Township 6 Range 5 East is a shallow crater a few hundred feet wide and about a quarter mile in length lying somewhat on a diagonal running northwest-southeast on the NW and SW quarters of the section.

The *Brottschuld* records of 1876 list about 16 settler families as belonging to Friedrichsthal. Many of these families had their roots in a village by the same name which had been founded in the Bergthal colony of south Russia in the early 1850s. Almost all of them were related to the two patriarchal families by blood or marriage – bearing names like Sawatzky, Harder, etc. The Federal Census records of 1881 list nearly all of these settlers as already residing on the West Reserve (in Altbergthal and other villages) with only one family having chosen to remain on the East Reserve. The only two families associated with Friedrichsthal in the Henderson Directory of 1881 (published in the summer of 1880), are Johann Abrams and Bernhard Friesen (likely b.1843).

Perhaps a reason for the early demise of the village can be inferred from a note in the 1878-9 Henderson Directory regarding this area: “Contains no timber, and is not well adapted to agricultural purposes”.

Ernie Braun is a former teacher from Niverville and currently a member of the EastMenn Committee in the Steinbach area.

Pembina Threshermen’s Museum Reunion

by Elmer Heinrichs

The Pembina Threshermen’s Museum has celebrated 40 years of its life this year. On 5-6 September long-time supporters and many guests visited the Museum conveniently located between Morden and Winkler on Highway 3.

A parade of old tractors and antique vehicles took centre stage as it has in earlier years. Old-fashioned delicious harvest meals were back, also steam engine threshing, flour making, corn grinding, etc., with children’s rides and other live entertainment – as always.

A church service in the Roseisle United church building, located on the grounds, was new this year. The building was moved there 30 years ago. Former congregational members had been invited back for a reunion to attend the service held on Sunday, 7 September.

Further information about the museum is available at Ph. 1-204-822-5369 or Pembina Threshermen’s Museum, Box 1103, Winkler, MB R6W 4B2.



Plett award winners Kathryn Boschmann (right) and Brett Smith (left). Photo and data credit: Alf Redekopp, Mennonite Heritage Centre, Winnipeg, MB

Plett Memorial Award Winners

THE Genealogy Committee of MMHS is pleased to announce the winners of this year's Henry E Plett Memorial Award for writing a family history.

First prize was awarded to Kathryn Boschmann (right) at student at the MCI in Gretna, MB. Her paper was titled, "Survival in the 20th Century: The Story of My Oma and Her Family." Oma was Adina Schroeder (1922 -) born in the Ukraine, and who came to Canada after WWII.

Second prize was awarded to Brett Smith (left) a student at W.C. Miller Collegiate in Altona, MB. Her paper was titled "Grandma Smith". It is the family story of Thelma (Gustafson) Smith (1906-1996), long-time resident of Gretna, MB.

We thank all the colleges and high schools, and their students, who have been involved in our contest over the years. More entries will be warmly welcomed. Contact Alf Redekopp at aredekopp@mennonitechurch.ca for further information.

Ron Plett Records Arnold Dyck Works

by Doris Penner

ASTENBACH man has released his third set of Arnold Dyck's Low German stories on compact disc (CDs). Ron Plett read from his recorded work at a launch held at the Mennonite Heritage Village on March 19. The current recording on five CDs zeros in on Dyck's *Koop enn Bua Foare no Toronto* (Koop and Bua Visit Toronto). They are available for purchase at the museum bookstore (info@mhv.ca) or 1-204-326-9661) or *Mennonitische Post* (1-204-326- 6790) in Steinbach.

Plett's fascination with Dyck's writing began as a child. He would listen for hours to his father reading Low German stories. Koop came alive as a dour conservative farmer with a "sour cucumber" face, while Bua, the lively commander of their travels, was interested in everything and always right. Wiens, the *Russ-laenda* (Russian Mennonite) had to take the butt of Koop's jokes (make that scorn). These three typically traveled with Toews, a quiet individual whose pipe kept him from speaking when he did have something to say. Inevitably there were stories, and given Dyck's imagination, there would be quite a lot of fun.

About 12 years ago, Ron began to read Arnold Dyck at house parties. He also found himself on stage at Wilmer Penner's *Low German Pottlock* evenings.

Plett began his recording about five years ago when he did a four-disc set on *Koop en Bua opp Reise* (Koop and Bua Go Traveling). Two years later he launched *De Millionaea fon Kosefeld* (The Millionaire from Goatfield).

The CDs have had a wide audience since many people find listening to Low German easier than reading it. People enjoy the wry humour, as well as the subtle but serious lessons taught by Dyck's stories. Plett admits the recent recording may not have quite the humour of earlier ones, but there is plenty of comedy when simple but decent "bush farmers" like Koop and Bua meet sophisticated—and a bit artificial—Torontonians on their own ground.



Ron Plett of Steinbach, Manitoba, reading from the writings of Arnold Dyck, in this instance, *Koop enn Bua foahre no Toronto*.

Photo credit: Doris Penner, The Carillon, Steinbach, MB.

Low German Event in Osler, Sask.

Over 250 people met on 7-8 March in the Osler Mennonite Church in Saskatchewan to listen to all sorts of expressions of writing and speaking in the Low German language. The Mennonite Historical Society of Saskatchewan sponsored the program at its annual meeting this past spring.

A feature power point presentation by Chris Cox showed how the language has developed, and adapted to various cultures along the way. Rich metaphors embedded in Low German proverbs and expressions were brought by Jake Buhler, president of MHSS. A trio of brothers including Jake shared Low German songs, and Jake M. Fehr from Swift Current read a number of original poems.

Genealogy

The Mennonite Wieler Family: Part V

*We are publishing here the concluding portion of the Wieler genealogy prepared by Glenn Penner of Guelph, Ontario, which has appeared in recent issues of **Heritage Posting**. Our warm thanks go to Glenn for putting this together for our interested readers. We hope readers will feel free to consult with Glenn on questions raised by what has been offered us in these articles. — The Editor*

*by Glenn Penner**

Wielers in Russia

What follows is a summary of the Wieler families who are thought to have moved from West Prussia to Russia.

This summary is set up according to the following format:

First Name (YOB – YOD) Grandma database #
 Father's name and village in West Prussia
 Year of immigration; sources (PR¹¹, BHU⁴⁵)
 Russian census documentation
 Comments

1. Abraham (1800 – 1855) GM#311339
 Son of Abraham (Ab04) of Ellerwald, WP
 1832; BHU 376
 Not in 1835 Molotschna census.
 He likely moved to the Chortitza Colony.
 Known Wieler descendants in Canada.
2. Cornelius (???? – ????) GM#415051
 Son of Bernhard (B07) of Ellerwald, WP
 1818; BHU 365
 Not in 1835 Molotschna census.
 No known living Wieler descendants.
3. Heinrich (1760 – bef. 1801) GM#197186
 Son of Bernhard (B06) of Spitalskamp, WP
 1795 – 1797; BHU 248, PR 16.
 Chortitza 1797 census.
 No known living Wieler descendants.
4. Heinrich (1771 – ????) GM#46959
 Son of Heinrich (Hr4) of Halbstadt, WP
 1804; BHU 326, PR 92.
 Blumenort, Molotschna 1808 & 1835
 No known living Wieler descendants.
5. Jacob (1794 – 1855) GM#55032
 Son of Klaas (of Blumenort, WP?)
 Probably 1818 or 1819; not in BHU or PR
 Molotschna 1835.
 Known living Wieler descendants.
6. Johann (1771 – ????) GM#127055
 Son of Johann (Jo06) of Ellerwald, WP
 1804; BHU 353, PR 94.

Chortitza, Chortitza 1816.

Known living Wieler descendants.

7. Johann (1758 – 1802) GM#197280
 Son of Heinrich (Hr06) of Haberhorst, WP
 1787-1789; BHU 211,240.
 Neuenburg, Chortitza 1795. Chortitza, Chortitza 1801.
 Known living Wieler descendants.
8. Johann (1801/3 – ????) GM#417701 & 802299
 Son of Martin (M03) of Fuerstenau, WP
 1835; BHU 377.
 Not in any Russian census.
 No known living Wieler descendants.
9. Klaas (1761 – 1810) GM#145158
 Son of Heinrich (Hr03 or HR06)
 1788-89; BHU 264
 Rosenthal, Chortitza 1801 & 1808.
 No known living Wieler descendants.
10. Klaas (1780 – ????) GM#529118 & 818029
 Father and origin unknown
 Between 1801 and 1809
 Schoenhorst, Chortitza 1809 (vaccination list), 1814 & 1816.
 No known living Wieler descendants.
11. Martin (???? – ????) no GM#
 From Mausdorf, WP
 1819; PR 131
 Not in any Russian sources (source is Prussian and he may not have immigrated).
 No known living Wieler descendants.
12. Peter (???? – ????) no GM#
 From Ellerwald
 1819; PR 131
 Not in any Russian sources (source is Prussian and he may not have immigrated).
 No known living Wieler descendants.
13. Peter (1778 – 1850) GM#187168
 Son of Peter (P02) of Ellerwald 4 Tr.
 1803; PR 67 & 68 (counted twice?)
 Krongarten 1811; Nieder Chortitza 1814 & 1816.
 Known living Wieler descendants.
14. Peter (???? – ????) no GM#
 Father and origin unknown
 1827 (single person); <http://www.mennonitegenealogy.com/russia/emigrant.htm>
 Not in any Russian sources (source is Prussian and he may not have immigrated).

Note: I am aware of living Wieler descendants for only 5 of the 14 Wieler families that may have immigrated to Russia. I would be interested in any information on living Wieler descendants of the other families.

Results of DNA Analysis on Several Wieler Men

As discussed in part I of this series it is not possible to document a connection between the earliest Mennonite Wielers.

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

However, if there are known male descendents of these men, it is possible to connect these families by DNA analysis. The most useful DNA for this purpose is Y-DNA, which is passed on from father to son, as are traditional European family names. Men from the following ancestry have been tested:

2 descendents of Cornelius Wieler (1740 – 1789); **C01**

2 descendents of Johann Wieler (1727 – 1790); **Jo06**

1 descendent of Johann Heinrich Wieler (1758 – 1802) **Jo07**

1 descendent of Abraham Wieler (1741 – 1805); **Ab03**

1 descendent of Jacob Klaas Wieler (1794 – 1855); see section on Nicolas Wieler

The Y-DNA results for the first 5 men are a very close match. The descendent of Abraham Wieler is also a close match. On the other hand the DNA results for the descendent of Jacob Klaas Wieler do not match the others. That the match between the first 4 men is so close is not unexpected. Both Cornelius (**C01**) and Johann Wieler (**Jo06**) lived in the Elbing/Ellerwald region and are very likely descended from Johann Wieler (d. 1682), the first Mennonite Wieler in the area. The close match of the descendent of Johann Heinrich Wieler implies that this family has it's origins in the Elbing/Ellerwald region and is also descended from Johann Wieler (d. 1682). There are 3 reasons why the Y-DNA of the descendent of Jacob Klaas Wieler does not match the other Wieler men. The first is a possible illegitimacy somewhere along the male line of this family. Illegitimate births among unmarried females are recorded in West Prussian church register and are extremely rare. Illegitimate births to married women were likely to be even less likely. Another unlikely possibility is that somewhere along the line a male child was adopted by a Wieler family and took on the Wieler family name. Church registers show that Mennonites very rarely adopted children from outside the faith. Church registers and government documents also indicate that adopted children usually kept their original family names. The third possibility is that the Mennonite Wieleers are descended from two, unrelated ancestors. It seems unlikely that the large number of Wieler men who would have been born around 1700 or earlier were all descended from Johann Wieler of Ellerwald. DNA testing of more Wieler men is definitely needed in order to properly address this.

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).

*Contact information:

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

References:

1. West Prussian Land Census of 1772. For an index by family name see: <http://pixel.cs.vt.edu/library/land/wprussia>
The units of land area are hufen (hufen), morgen and ruten (ruten). A hufen of land is 30 morgen and a morgen is equal to 300 ruten (rods). In modern units 1 hufen = 16.8 hectares = 41.5 acres.

2. Horst Penner, *Die ost- und westpreußischen Mennoniten*. 1978.
3. Horst Penner. *Ansiedlung mennonitischer Niederländer im Wiechseimündgebiet von der Mitte des 16. Jahrhunderts bis zum Beginn der preussischen Zeit*. 1963.
4. Frank Wiehler, *Wiehlerchronik*. 2000
5. Detailed maps of West Prussia can be found at:
<http://www.mapy.eksploracja.pl/news.php>
6. The diaries of Gerhard Wiebe and other Ältester of the Elbing/ Ellerwald Mennonite church can be found in microfilms #279 & 281 at the Mennonite Heritage Centre (MHC), Winnipeg.
7. Horst Penner. *Peter Willer*. Mennonitische Geschichtsblätter. Volume 27, page 50. 1970.
8. Adalbert Goertz. *Familiennamen der Danziger Reformierten (I: St. Elisabeth)*. Ostdeutsche Familienkunde. 1985. 387-403.
9. Grandma database version 4.11. Available from the Mennonite Historical Society of California.
10. Mennonite Church Records of Tiegenhagen, West Prussia. LDS# 555796
11. Peter Rempel. *Mennonite Migrations to Russia (1788- 1828)*. Winnipeg, 2000.
12. Glenn Penner. The Complete Brandregister of 1727. http://www.mmhs.org/prussia/Brandregister_1727.htm
13. Lutheran Church Records of Fürstenau, West Prussia. LDS # 208100-208104.
14. Lutheran Church Records of Gross Mausdorf, West Prussia. LDS # 208146-208151.
15. Glenn Penner. Mennonite Deaths in the Evangelical Church Records of Elbing St. Annen (1713-1799) http://www.mmhs.org/prussia/Elbing_Deaths_1713-1799.htm
16. Lutheran Church Records of Elbing/Neuheide, West Prussia. LDS # 245607 & 251161. Glenn Penner. Mennonites Deaths in the Evangelical Church Records of Elbing - Neuheide, Part 1 (1730-1769); Part 2 (1770-1786). http://www.mmhs.org/prussia/Elbing_Deaths_1730-1769.htm http://www.mmhs.org/prussia/Elbing_Deaths_1770-1786.htm
17. Glenn Penner. *The Complete 1776 Census of Mennonite in West Prussia*. http://www.mmhs.org/prussia/1776_West_Prussia_Census.htm
18. Adalbert Goertz. The 1789 Land Census/General-Nachweisung of West Prussian Mennonites. http://www.mennonitegenealogy.com/prussia/1789_Land_Census_West_Prussian_Mennonites.htm
19. Adalbert Goertz, *Mennonites in the Elbing Territory: Census of 1811*. <http://www.mmhs.org/prussia/elbing2.htm>
20. Elbing Mennonite Family Registers. Mennonite Heritage Centre microfilm #278 & 281. <http://www.tabor.edu/direct/asset/show/12>
21. Lutheran Church Records of Zeyer, West Prussia. LDS #208454 – 208460. Glenn Penner. Mennonite Deaths in the Zeyer Lutheran Church Records 1785- 1815. <http://www.mmhs.org/prussia/zeyerdeaths.htm>
22. Glenn Penner. *Mennonites in the Catholic Burial Register of Tiegenhagen, West Prussia (1757-1770)*. From LDS film #462758. http://www.mmhs.org/prussia/Tiegenhagen_Burials_1757-1770.htm

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

23. Mennonite (Flemish) Church Records of Danzig, West Prussia. LDS# 548788.
24. This is the same source as reference 21.
25. Deutsches Geschlechterbuch. Vol. 68, 1930, p. 511-669.
26. Koenigsberg Mennonite church records. Mennonite Heritage Centre microfilm #79. Also see: <http://www.tabor.edu/direct/asset/show/14>
27. The Dutch Namlijsts are discussed in the Mennonite Encyclopedia, Vol. III p. 804. Some of these lists are currently being published in Mennonite Family History by Adalbert Goertz.
28. Mennonite Church Records of Ladekopp, West Prussia. LDS # 555792. Mennonite Heritage Centre microfilm #285.
29. Heubuden Church Records. Mennonite Heritage Centre, Winnipeg, Manitoba, microfilms # 78 & 284. For the early births, marriages, deaths and baptisms see: <http://www.bethelks.edu/jthiesen/prussian/heubuden.html> and http://www.mmhs.org/prussia/Heubuden_Baptisms_1770-1799.htm
30. The Gross Werder Baptismal Register can be found in LDS film # 1344013. The first part of this register, divided into the 4 Gemeinden, can be found on the MMHS web site. Rosenort: http://www.mmhs.org/prussia/Rosenort_Baptisms_1782-1795.htm
Ladekopp: http://www.mmhs.org/prussia/Ladekopp_Baptisms_1782-1804.htm
Tiegenhagen: http://www.mmhs.org/prussia/Tiegenhagen_Baptisms.htm
Bärwalde: http://www.mmhs.org/prussia/Baerwalde_Baptisms.htm
The later, combined, register can be found at: http://www.mmhs.org/prussia/Gross_Werder_Gemeinde_Baptisms_1814-1823.htm
31. Mennonite Church Records of Orloffelfelde, West Prussia. Mennonite Heritage Centre microfilm # 286.
32. Lutheran Church Records of Neuteich, West Prussia. LDS #208232.
33. Lutheran Church Records of Jungfer, West Prussia. LDS #208168.
34. Lutheran Church Records of Lichtfeld, West Prussia. LDS #245652
35. Tim Janzen. *Chortitza Colony Vital Records: 1801-1813* (Odessa Archives, Fund 6, Inventory 1, Files 65, 98, 780). <http://www.mmhs.org/russia/vital.htm>
36. Adalbert Goertz: Mennonites in the Koenigsberg District, East Prussia <http://www.mennonitegenealogy.com/prussia/k2.htm>
37. Lutheran death Register of Nassenhuben, West Prussia (1727 - 1816). LDS #286045.
38. Lutheran Church Records of Gross Lichtenau, West Prussia. LDS #208152
39. The source for the marriage year is a family Niessen family history written by Don Niessen (page 28). Unfortunately there is no other information available about this book.
40. Henry Schapansky. *The Old Colony (Chortitza) of Russia*. Rosenort, 2001.
41. Herman Thiessen files. Microfilm copies of these files are available at most Mennonite archives.

42. Herman Thiessen, Martin Thiehsen und seine Nachkommen 1737-1977.
43. Glenn Penner, *Mennonite Deaths in the Catholic Church Records of Schöneberg, West Prussia (1749-1761)*. http://www.mennonitegenealogy.com/prussia/Schoeneberg_Deaths_1749-1761.htm
44. Lutheran Church Records of Marienau, West Prussia. LDS #208208.
45. Benjamin H. Unruh. *Die niederländisch-niederdeutschen Hintergründe der mennonitischen Ostwanderung im 16, 18, und 19. Jahrhundert*. Karlsruhe, 1955.

Four Run Historic 101K

by Elmer Heinrichs

ON 3 May, in frigid Manitoba weather, Albert Martens of Steinbach, and three associates, participated in a 101k Run to honour his 101-years old mother, Susanna, of Eastview Place in Altona.

In the context of an extensive marathoning experience, Martens put it this way: "Maybe the *Run 101* is my version of the *Amazing Race*. The race was born out of my desire to do a 24-hour run. Having completed several tough ultra marathons in Europe, Africa and the USA, I thought I should do a 24-hour run to complete my running resume".

Doing this in honour of his mother, on Mother's Day, as it were, and putting it all into a historical setting, he noted the connection between many Mennonites moving from the East Reserve to the West Reserve over a century ago, just at the time that Susanna and her parents arrived in Manitoba.

Susanna, daughter of Cornelius Voth and his wife, Susanna Kliever, came to the East Reserve in Manitoba, Canada, on the S.S. Borussia on 25 July 1878. They came from Heinrichsfeld,

(Continued on page 8)



Back (l-r): Gil Maynard (crew from St. Malo), Sean Stanton and his wife Jacquie Stanton (crew from Winnipeg), Ashley Penner (crew) Rhonda Wohlgemuth (crew from Landmark), and Albert Martens (runner from Steinbach). **Front (l-r):** Dr. Paul Piplani (runner from Phoenix), Walter Unrau (runner from Mitchell), Dale Wohlgemuth (runner from Landmark), and mother Susan Martens (Altona, Eastview Place) Photo credit: Elmer Heinrichs, Altona, MB.

Four Run *(Continued from page 7)*

Puchtin area, in south Russia, and eventually settled in Silberfeld village on the West Reserve.

This village was established around 1879 southeast of Altona, with other homesteaders from the East Reserve. "We wanted to run this route of roughly 101 kilometres along the migrating path taken by our forebears to find a better family life and better land on *Yantsied* (the other side – of the Red River)", Martens remarked.

It was a tough run. There were blistered feet, sometimes a blurred route, and a cold wind to deal with. At destination a fish fry provided a celebratory end to the day.

One of the runners, Dr. Paul Piplani, who had come in from Phoenix, Arizona, USA, summed it up with these words, "This was about more than making miles. It was about "Queenie", who reached a most venerable age with dignity...It was about her example of peace, contentment, love and care. She has lived to be 101 due to her hard work and her strong faith in the Lord. There are few people and families like this around".

Gallery in the Park Opens in Altona

by **Elmer Heinrichs**

A SPECIAL event that came along with the Manitoba Sunflower Festival held in Altona on 25-28 July, hit the Winnipeg Free Press headlines on Saturday that weekend.. It was the opening of the Gallery in the Park, an art house and sculpture garden which has already been dubbed "a major new tourist attraction in Manitoba". The centre of the total exhibit is the century or more old Schwartz House, once a men's dormitory at Elim Christian Education Centre, and then restored for a bed and breakfast before it gained its unique place in the new Park.

The project includes a fine area designated for future garden development, a new parking lot, a gallery for local and out-of-town artists, including on the first round persons like Ken Loewen, Margruite Krahn, Norman Schmidt, Steve Penner and Joanne Harder, all from Altona, a sculpture garden, featuring work by well-known Manitoba sculptors like Peter Sawatzky originally from Altona, Leo Mol from Winnipeg, Deb Zeller of Minneapolis and others. The garden includes two ponds connected by a channel and a six-foot (20 metre) fountain at the opposite end of the garden. Schwartz House is located just west of the Millenium Centre and across the street to the north of the Altona park.

Funding for the new Park came from Friesens of Altona, as a major contribution, private donations from local business men, the town of Altona, and foundations such as the Thomas Sill Foundation and Richardson Foundation. The grounds were designed by Gary Hillerman of Hilderman Thomas Frank and Cram Landscape Architects in Winnipeg.

Over 500 people took part in the opening celebration. It is

expected that the Gallery will be open to the public regularly from 1-8 p.m., Tuesday to Saturday. Admission is free – a tour of two hours is expected to be the time needed for an adequate look-around. For further information contact Odia Reimer at OdiaR@friesens.com or 1-204-324-5805.



The Schwartz House at Gallery in the Park in Altona. The town is located about 75 miles south and west of Winnipeg on Highway 30. Turn right off Highway 75 on Highway 14, and then south on PR 30 at Rosenfeld.

Photo credit: Bert Friesen, Winnipeg, MB.



A painting by Margruite Hiebert Krahn of Neuberghthal, now mounted in the Gallery.

Photo Credit: Bert Friesen, Winnipeg, MB

Mennonite Heritage Village

The materials of this special MHV insert for HP have been submitted by Executive Director Bob Strong, and prepared for this commemorative issue by the editor.

Brief history

A 50th anniversary celebration of Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society has included Mennonite Heritage Village because a museum was among the first projects put forward at the founding meeting in 1958. Acquisition of land for construction began in the early 1960s. MHV sees its starting year as 1963-64. An artifacts building designed by Norman Reimer opened its doors in 1967. John C Reimer played a major role in getting the project going and became the first curator. J.J. Reimer of Winnipeg chaired the MMHS board to give significant leadership to the project for a dozen years at the outset. Gerhard Ens then of Gretna, Gerhard Lohrenz of Winnipeg, Ted Friesen of Altona, and Victor Peters, also of Winnipeg, were among the prime movers of the Society in those early years. It is expected that a suitable commemorative plaque will be placed at MHV to mark this important milestone.

Happenings in 2008

An *asado* (beef rib barbecue) dinner featuring a group of musicians and dancers from Paraguay, and held on 31 July, became the kick-off for MHV Pioneer Day activities in early August. More than 250 persons attended the event. The performance group, chaired by Heinrich Wiebe, formerly of Loma Plata, Paraguay, and more recently, Winnipeg, drew large crowds at the Winnipeg Folklorama Paraguay Pavilion which followed only days later.

Pioneer Days (August 1-4) brought its usual crowd of thousands to the MHV despite some drizzles and weekend competition from other events. Music groups continued to draw sizable groups to the big tent, and the restaurant had an especially busy day on Monday though very active all through the weekend. Final income figures for the four days remained to be tallied. MHV has been drawing

40-45 thousand visitors annually during the past several years. So far in 2008, visitors have come from at least 750 communities in 48 countries, 42 American states, and 11 Canadian provinces and territories.

New at MHV this year were a **beekeepers' exhibit** in the temporary gallery, an upgraded menu in the Livery Barn Restaurant which, under the very efficient direction of Dora Penner, has done increased business this year, a special *Saengerfest* (song festival) led by Kyle Friesen of the Main St. Evangelical Mennonite Church in Steinbach, a number of new books in the bookstore (which is now on-line), and a flea market, formerly held at Rusty's west of Steinbach, of nearly a hundred vendors located by the duck pond and the new bridge in the southwest corner of the museum grounds. The *Story of the Mennonites* permanent exhibit continues to draw many visitors also.

Dr. Roland Sawatzky of Winnipeg completed a very successful five-year term of service as curator at MHV, and has gone on to become the executive director/manager of the Costume Museum of Canada in Winnipeg. He continues in a consultative role for his successor at MHV (see staff member list elsewhere in this issue).

The annual theme *Fahspa*, sponsored in early May by the MHV Auxiliary, featured "*The Mehl Sakk (flour sack)*" in an interesting program on 6 May. It recalled the central place held by flour sacks in the household economy of pioneer Mennonite families. Read a fine much fuller report on the event in the May issue of **Village Review** (available from MHV upon request, or get it on the **web** at www.mhv.ca).

A large barn donated by the Jacob Peters family, formerly of Vollwerk, near Mitchell west of Steinbach, is now under reconstruction at the museum. It has been joined to the Waldheim House moved to MHV from the former West Reserve village of Waldheim a number of years ago. The Peters family is supporting the maintenance and renovation of this building.

An excellent **wildlife photography exhibit** by Dennis Fast of Kleefeld, and a launching dinner drew a number of interested persons to an event earlier in the spring. Framed photographs are for sale, along with a pictorial publication in the bookstore. Call 1-204-326-9661 for further information.

(Continued on page 10)

Mennonite Heritage Village Review is published twice a year by MHV. It is edited by Doris Penner of *The Carillon* in Steinbach, MB. For further information contact Doris at dpenner@thecarillon.com or info@mhv.ca. Sample copies can be ordered from those email addresses or obtained at the front desk of the MHV main building.

Village Review

VOL. 4 NO. 1

May 2008



MHV (Continued from page 9)

A capacity crowd, consisting mostly of current and past members of the Ste. Elizabeth Mennonite congregation, attended a commemorative service in the MHV newly-restored Lichtenau Mennonite Church building in July. The group made a generous donation towards ongoing maintenance and repairs when needed.

Fall on the Farm, held on Labour Day, again drew about 1000 persons, possibly somewhat less than last year due to some rain, but with involvement in all activities which, according to program director Anne Toews could be held as planned. Good fellowship was enjoyed all the more in the Livery Barn Restaurant and a pig roast drew nearly a hundred folks to finish up the day. Many antique tractors and other farm machinery are among the artifacts currently held at the Museum.

MHV Staff

Bob Strong, Executive Director
Anne Toews, Program Director
Rebecca Plett, Curator
Marigold Peters, Office Manager
Dora Penner, Food Services Manager
Erin Plett, Education Program Coordinator
Receptionist volunteers
Edna Klassen, Bookkeeper
Ray Wahl, Facilities Manager



MHV Board of Directors

Gerhard Ens, President Emeritus
Al Hamm, Steinbach, President
Anne Friesen, Steinbach, Vice-President
Veronica Klassen, Steinbach, Secretary
Evelyn Friesen, Steinbach, MHV Auxiliary Chair
John J Friesen, Winnipeg, Fund-Raising Committee Chair
Rudy P Friesen, Winnipeg
Don Janzen, Steinbach
Elsie Janzen, Grunthal,
Lawrence Klippenstein, Steinbach, PR Committee Chair
Kevin Pankratz, Steinbach
John Rempel, Winnipeg
Gary Snider, Steinbach, Finance Committee Chair
Peter Thiessen, Winnipeg

Other

Doris Penner, Editor of *Village Review*
Victor Bergman, Auditor – Deloitte and Touche

Special Tour Announcement

Dr. John Sharp, historian and former archivist at the Mennonite Archives, in Goshen, Indiana will be at the Museum on Wednesday, 24 September to present a talk on "Come Trek to Central Asia". It's about the Mennonites who moved to Central Asia in 1880-81 to await the Second Coming of Christ. Come for 7.30 p.m. Admission is free.



Dr. Roland Sawatzky, former curator of MHV, overseeing an archaeological "dig" on the C. Plett farm in the extinct village area of Blumenhof of the East Reserve. The U of M students involved were headquartered at MHV for their six-week project. A fuller account of the undertaking appeared in *The Carillon* of 19 June 2008, on p. 5A.

Photo credit: Doris Penner, *The Carillon*, Steinbach, MB.

MHV UPCOMING EVENTS

10 October, Friday: Sam Wayne Reimer, of Vancouver, B.C., with family connections in Steinbach, will read from his new book, *Grey Matter Graffiti*, and sign copies for sale. Time: 7:30 p.m. Free admission.

8 November. Craft sale. Call 1-204-326-9661 to reserve a table

23 November (Sunday). Grey Cup Celebration Dinner. A delicious buffet prepared by the MHV Auxiliary. Serving starts at 12.00 noon. Pay at the door.

5-6 December. Touch of Christmas/Nativity. Experience the true meaning of Christmas and celebrate the season!



The staff at the Livery Barn Restaurant of the Mennonite Heritage Village. L-r: Carla, Daniela, Chrystal, Myra, Madysn, Dora. Not on the photo: Carly, Greta, Erna.

Photo credit: Myra, Livery Barn Restaurant, MHV.

Book Notes (Continued from page 12)

A new book by Sam Wayne Reimer, formerly of Steinbach, and now Vancouver, will be launched at McNally Robinson, Grant Park Plaza, Winnipeg, at 6 p.m. on Monday, 6 October 2008. The paperback volume is entitled *Grey Matter Graffiti*. Rob Peters, of Circle Graphics in Winnipeg, has designed and produced the volume, printed at Friesens in Altona.

A short family album-sketch in paperback titled *Peter H. and Maria Klippenstein: A Short Sketch of their Life and Work* depicts the coming of their parents to the East Reserve and then moving to the West Reserve where they settled with their own family of 13 children. Authored by Lawrence Klippenstein, and published by "The Cousins", it consists of 36 pages of story and photos. It is available for \$18.00 plus postage. Contact lawrenceklippenstein@mts.net.

Margaret Morris and Grace Wohlgemuth, with assistance from Lloyd Penner, have edited *Aron M and Maria Penner Family Book 1887-2006* (St., Anne, MB: by the family, 2006), pb., 233 pp. It provides a very valuable insight into the life experiences of a large family basically rooted in a Church of God in Christ Mennonite (Holdeman) community, i.e. the school districts of North Greenland, South Greenland and Montezuma northwest of Blumenort near Steinbach, MB. For copies contact Lloyd Penner, Box 1658, Stetler, AB, T0C 2L0 or 1-403-742-7676.

Along with its celebration of a 125th congregational anniversary, the Altona Bergthaler Mennonite Church has published *Bergthaler Church of Altona: Celebrating 125 Years 1882-2007* (Altona, MB: the congregation, 2007), hdc., 100 pp., and edited by Al Schmidt, et al. It is dedicated to Margaret and Menno Funk, long-time deacons in the congregation and descendants of Aeltester Johann Funk who was ordained bishop in 1882 to serve a group out of which the Bergthaler congregation emerged around 1892.

Elmer Heinrichs continues to publish a Mennonite history column in *News in a Minute* published in Altona, MB. He has recently written a piece on the early history of the village of Schoenau west of Altona. It will be appearing in the next issue of *Heritage Posting*. To get samples of *News in a Minute* contact Elmer at eahein@mts.net or phone him at 1-204-324-6826.

Neubergthal Notes continues to appear as a publication of the Neubergthal Heritage Foundation. The June issue features wash day and other life-in-the-village articles about the past of that community. To contact the office of NHF email NHF1@mts.net or phone 1-204-324-1567. For tours of this community, use the same numbers.

The journal, *Rhubarb*, edited by Victor and Garry Enns, features the theme "Mennonite Mavericks: My Uncle Henry" in its spring issue, Number 17, 2008. It is a 48-page paperback publication of the Mennonite Literary Society and can be purchased for \$8.00 at the Mennonite Heritage Village bookstore. Contact info@mhv.ca or call 1-204-326-9661.

Margaret Loewen Reimer, formerly with *The Canadian Mennonite*, has reissued, in a fourth edition, *One Quilt, Many Pieces: A Guide to Mennonite Groups in Canada* (Scottsdale, PA and Waterloo, ON: Herald Press, 2008), pb., 139 pp., \$14.00. Contact MHV at info@mhv.ca or 1-204-326-9661.

A History of Mennonite Gardens and Orchards in Russia and Manitoba, written by Mary Ruda Fuchs, has been published by Mennonite Heritage Village, Steinbach, Manitoba (pb., 34 pp., \$5.00). Order through email or phone as noted above.

Jacob M. Fehr, author of several books in Low German has now published *Waagon Raeda: Low German Poems and Stories* (Swift Current, SK; by the author, 2008), pb., 101 pp., \$12.00. To order call 1-306-778-9126.

No. 26 of *Windows on the West Reserve* has just come off the press. It also commemorates the 50th anniversary featured in this issue of HP. To get copies of WWR, contact lawrenceklippenstein@mts.net Earlier issues are still available in hardcopy for cost of copying and mailing.

Book and DVD Launch.

You are invited to a launch of the book **Remember Us: Letters from Stalin's Gulag (1930-37)** and to see the documentary film, **Through the Red Gate** (www.gulagletters.com) by Ruth Derksen Siemens. The event takes place on **9 November 2008 at 7 p.m.** at the **Springfield Heights Mennonite Church**, 570 Sharron Bay, Winnipeg, Manitoba. **Admission Free.** *Sponsored by the Mennonite Heritage Centre in Winnipeg.*

An Academic and Educational Conference

Title: *Mennonites and Money: Wealth and Poverty Past and Present*

Dates: 9-10 October 2008

Place: University of Winnipeg, Eckhardt Grammate Hall

Registration: No pre-registration required. Admission free.

For further info: Call Dr. Royden Loewen, 1-204-786-9391 or email r.loewen@uwinnipeg.ca

If interested in the **Journal of Mennonite Studies**, in which selected papers of the conference will be published, contact the editor, Dr. Loewen at address given above. Back copies of the **Journal** are still available.

Book Reviews and Notes

Verna Martens, *Beyond Our Wildest Dreams: Beginnings in Blue Creek* (Portage La Prairie, MB: by the author, 2007), pb., 352 pp., \$20.00 CND

Reviewed by Lawrence Klippenstein

Several months ago a number of Manitoban Mennonites and others travelled south to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Mennonite congregational life at Blue Creek in Belize, a former British colony but now an independent country in Central America. This volume tells the story of how a missionary couple, Jake and Verna Martens, from southern Manitoba, began a missionary career in the Blue Creek area, and how in time they became leaders in forming a congregation of the Evangelical Mennonite Mission Conference in 1966-67. The Martens had first come to Belize in 1958 to assist in the missionary work of Gospel Missionary Union, a move which coincided with the coming of a number of Old Colony families intending to begin a new settlement in the Blue Creek area.

The Martens family transition to the Blue Creek area came with a concern to assist families who had run into difficulties with their Old Colony community due to hesitancy about supporting some of the regulations governing that community. For the hesitants it meant excommunication, and the loss of ministries from their leaders in the very early pioneering period of Old Colony settlement at Blue Creek.

Very movingly but simply this volume describes the struggles of making that transition of resettling at Blue Creek, and of finding a foothold with the excommunicated families whom the Martens were hoping to assist in their new situation. Travelling was extremely difficult in wet weather particularly, large parts of the area were jungle, building materials were not easy to get, and shopping in distant towns added to problems of re-establishing their family in their own home (they had lived in a missionary house provided by GMU during their years with that mission), and creating a Bible study and worship pattern which could be appreciated by the former Old Colony families who did in fact accept the Martens with open arms.

It was sometimes also problematic to explain their moves and plans to their supporting EMMC board back in Canada because conditions were so different and the needs so unique and at times so overwhelming. Verna and Jake however moved ahead with a deep faith in having received God's call for this work, great determination, ingenuity in dealing with primitive settlement conditions, a parallel concern for their own family's wellbeing and with a strong compassion for any and all around them who would appeal for assistance in its many forms and situations. The many stories of hurdles to overcome and how it could be achieved have to be read to appreciate the sacrifices and sometimes very strenuous labour, and great patience too, which the Blue Creek ministry involved.

For the final period of their life at Blue Creek the Martens terminated their leading ministry in the congregation and established a farming business there. Dealing with jungle clearing was a new experience, but again their project succeeded quite well. They also had become involved in setting up a clinic, a Coop store and a credit union, and continued to serve in the church but not in leadership. By 1981 they made their decision to return to Canada and see where God might lead them next.

In January, 1982 they made their move and another chapter of their life would begin in Manitoba, at Portage La Prairie as it turned out.

Their connections with Old Colony people could not prevent confrontations and conflict with those who felt that the Martens venture was not in the interest of the Old Colony church, to say the least. The story of these dealings is told with great sensitivity and considerable understanding of what leaving a church and joining another meant for the excommunicated families, and for the church leadership which had to watch this happen.

The writing style makes for easy and fascinating reading. The strong emotions that went with many of the difficulties must often be sought between the lines. It will have been difficult to decide which stories should go in, and which would have to wait for another book. There is never any wringing of hands about problems in this volume. The book includes a number of very excellent photos reproduced in colour, but a map or two of the colony itself would make it a little easier to follow the story as it unfolded at Blue Creek. We hope this volume will get a wide readership – it deserves nothing less.

The book may be obtained from Albert Martens, at 1-204-346-1345, aemart@mts.net or Box 21028, Steinbach, MB, R5G 1S4.



View from the Blue Creek Church overlooking the main road, cemetery, credit union and store. Photo credit: Verna Martens, Portage La Prairie, MB

Book Notes

by Lawrence Klippenstein

In the time remaining till the Mennonite World Conference meets in Paraguay in 2000, it will be very useful to read Gerhard Ratzlaff's *One Body Many Parts. The Mennonite Churches in Paraguay*. It is a paperback volume of 207 pages, translated from the German edition by Jake K Balzer of Calgary, AB, and published in 2008 by the author. Copies may be purchased from the MHV Book Store in Steinbach. The price is \$15.00 plus cost of mailing. Call 1-204-326-9661 or email info@mhv.ca

Persons with a farming background will enjoy the folksy stories of Linda Penner in her new book *Fence Posts*. The author writes from experiences of growing up in a Holdeman family, living through the Depression years and going on to finding a writing career in later years of her life. The paperback volume of 208 pages can be ordered from the **Mennonitische Post** bookstore in Steinbach. Call 1-204-326-6790 or email: mennopost@mts.net

(Continued on page 11)