

# HERITAGE POSTING

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## GERHARD ENS (1922 - 2011)

by Lawrence Klippenstein

We need to take another moment these days to give tribute to one of the founders and long-time supporters of the Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society and Mennonite Heritage Village. Gerhard Ens, president-emeritus of the MHV board of directors, and long-time member of the MMHS board, passed away on Sunday, February 13, 2011 and was laid to rest on Friday, February 18. He was 88 years of age.

Gerhard had an early interest in passing on the Mennonite story and teaching the lessons it has for us all. Already in his first teaching years at the MCI from 1946 on, he became involved in a newly-formed Mennonite Historical Society of the Gretna-Altona area. He was soon connected with a special project of the Society, including persons like J. J. Siemens, the sponsorship of a four-volume history of Mennonites intended to help young men seeking CO status to understand their own history better. It was written by Paul J. Schaefer, also a teacher at the MCI. Both men, and others, had a growing vision about the Society, and began to work towards setting up a province-wide organization which would promote a wider interest in preserving Mennonite heritage. He was now also deeply engaged in teaching Mennonite history at the MCI.

At a meeting of these people in 1957 he publicly advocated the formation of such a group, and thus became a founding member of a Manitoba-wide Mennonite historical society in 1958. Among other things, that organization had the establishment of a Mennonite museum at the core of its vision for future agenda. That dream remained a firm central thread in Gerhard's life during the next fifty years.

MMHS had Gerhard on its board throughout that entire period, mostly as recording secretary but serving in other capacities as well. He was a strong executive member of the Mennonite Centennial Committee of 1973 - 1976. Already around 1972 he had begun what would become a thirty year long Low German Mennonite history lectureship on Radio CFAM. His first lectures, he once said, were essentially promotions for the Mennonite Heritage museum which had been opened at Steinbach in 1963. During these years Gerhard also wrote several Low German dramas, and short stories based on the events of Mennonite pioneering in Manitoba. Some of these have been transferred to CDs recently.

In 1979 MMHS decided it would be useful to form a



separate board for the museum because it had grown to be a very large project, Gerhard now continued his contributions as member (secretary still, at first) of the new museum board, eventually to become its president. He continued with his heritage work in a ten-year term of this leading role, till he retired from the board in 1997. He then carried on as president-emeritus, an honorary role he held for another ten years after which health problems made such involvement too difficult to sustain.

The recent renaming of the MHV Temporary Gallery as the Gerhard Ens Gallery is recognition of the pivotal position Gerhard Ens had in his quite remarkable heritage-building career, along with several others he pursued during his working years. The joint successes of MMHS and MHV could be celebrated as a fifty year enterprise in 2008.

A great deal is owed to Gerhard for his inspiration and guidance which MMHS and MHV have been and still are experiencing today. We thank God for his labours, and hope to build on them, both within the two heritage organizations and the community at large.

*Dr. Lawrence Klippenstein, formerly director of the Mennonite Heritage Centre in Winnipeg, remains active in the boards of MMHS and MHV.*

# The MHV Gerhard Ens Plaque and Gallery Project

by Lawrence Klippenstein

The construction in 1990 of a major addition to the Mennonite Heritage Village artifact building and other public service venues included two galleries, then named simply *The Permanent Gallery* and *The Temporary Gallery*.

The former venue offered significant room to mount a permanent pictorial exhibit expertly portraying the Mennonite story – a story which has been running for nearly 500 years, and which encompasses the world. The somewhat smaller Temporary Gallery became a setting for a range of exhibits and displays. It has been used a great deal over the past twenty years.

A group of more than 40 individuals gathered here on December 4, 2010, to commemorate the renaming of the space, now to be known as the Gerhard Ens Gallery, with a new plaque installed to point out why this change had been undertaken. Special guests on this occasion were artists Gail Sawatzky and Bev Friesen, both of southern Manitoba, who had mounted a new joint exhibit on “Mennonite Women Evolving” as their contribution to the celebration.

Under the leadership of MHV Curator Dr. Roland Sawatzky a brief program brought to mind the significant contributions of Gerhard Ens, during his fifty years of service with the Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society. During most of those fifty years, beginning in 1958, Ens paid special attention to promoting the founding and development of the Mennonite Heritage Village.

The newly-placed plaque in the Gallery tells this story to all visitors. The highlight of the proceedings was the unveiling of the plaque by Dr. Sawatzky and Waldy Ens, the youngest son of Anni and Gerhard. Visual and audio recordings of the occasion were prepared to enable Gerhard to enjoy them at home.

Fellow board member Lawrence Klippenstein spoke of intersecting at various points with historical work undertaken by Ens, not only with respect to the museum, but also dealing with other literary and cultural facets of MMHS initiatives. These included working with the



German-language newspaper, *Der Bote*, creating and guiding a program for the 1974 Manitoba Mennonite Centennial celebration, writing and publishing on historical themes, and Low German history lectures on Radio CFAM as well as other Historical Society activities until Ens' retirement from the Board in 1998.

It was a special privilege to have the Gerhard Ens family present for the occasion, although Gerhard himself was unable to attend due to health concerns. Members of the family were introduced as Waldy spoke of his father's strong and abiding interest in Mennonite heritage appreciation and preservation. He brought a warm expression of gratitude from the Ens family for making this gallery designation a reality.

**Interim Editors** – Maria Lodge, Adolf Ens, Loren Koehler

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

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## ***Heritage Posting Goes Electronic!***

Last November we offered you the choice of receiving your copy of *Heritage Posting* by e-mail in pdf form, thereby giving you the advantage of speedier arrival and full colour. At the same time you would save MMHS postage and handling.

About 65 subscribers chose this option. If you want to receive your next copy in electronic format, please respond by e-mail to our address in the box on page 2. Thank you. The editors.

# Mennonite Heritage Village — A Year in Review

by Maria Lodge

The year 2010 has come and gone, but many and varied aspects of the events of that year remain with us. In addition to the actual effects of those events, we also have memories that remain. Closely linked to such memories are the influences and the impact that others have had on us, and we, in turn, on them.

The activities at the Mennonite Heritage Village (MHV) during 2010 and the events that were hosted there, have without a doubt, had a lasting influence on all who participated in them.

As in other years, *Spring on the Farm* was the first major event at the Village with a range of pioneer demonstrations. The occasion, a joint venture with an annual Tractor Show, sponsored by the Southeast Implement Collectors, also included a tractor parade and various tractor games. Live entertainment added to the enjoyment of the occasion. With more than 1350 people in attendance, *Spring on the Farm* was an excellent way to celebrate the season and the pioneer experience.

*Canada Day* celebrations with some 1600 guests in attendance, helped to highlight the fact that in addition to honouring the experiences of pioneers of another era, Canada is also receptive to learning about cultures from around the world. Cultural displays from Colombia, Zimbabwe, and the Philippines were effective learning tools.

A tractor Trek Fundraiser event was held on July 3<sup>rd</sup>. It was a joint venture between MHV and Eden Foundation, and resulted in \$27,000.00 being raised. Thirty-one vintage tractors participated in a 40 kilometre ride through the countryside. Plans are already underway for another such event.

These celebrations were followed during the August long weekend by *Pioneer Days*, the biggest event of the year. A wide range of pioneer demonstrations helped to make the occasion a success as did a horse show by The Southeast Draft Horse Association. Plenty of good home cooked food, and entertainment by fourteen different groups added to the enjoyment of the weekend, which drew a crowd of over 6100 people.

Numerous harvest activities during *Fall on the Farm* on Labour Day helped to highlight the importance of these activities as pioneers prepared for winter. A petting zoo and inflatable bouncers made this event especially memorable for the children, and entertainment groups added to the festivities.



*Touch of Christmas*, the last key event of the year, once again provided opportunity to reflect on the meaning for the season. In addition to *The Living Nativity* enacted outdoors, the weekend also offered entertainment and refreshments for all.

In addition to these major events, MHV also hosted numerous other activities and exhibits.

*Just Food: the Right to Food from a Faith Perspective*, an exhibit produced by the Mennonite Committee on Human Rights was at MHV May 1 – July 4, 2010. The exhibit presents art from around the world and focuses on the right to food as a human right. Given that some of our own forebears knew about food shortages from personal experience, it is especially important for us to remember the importance of food, and the biblical imperative of doing justice, also in this context.

On July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2010 the tombstone of Jacob D. and Wilhelmine Reimer, was unveiled at MHV. The headstone was discovered in Wiesenfeld, Dnepropetrovsk Oblast, Ukraine in 2006 by descendents of Mr. & Mrs. Reimer. Jacob D. Reimer served as a minister in the early years of the Mennonite Brethren church, and Wilhelmine also made leadership decisions by hosting meetings in her own home during her husband's absence.

*Singing in Time: Mennonites and Music*, an exhibit running at MHV July 8 – October 30, 2010 included instruments and manuscripts Mennonites have used over a period of 500 years to produce music. Both religious and folk music were included in this exhibit.

An exhibit of paintings and photographs recalling life in Russia and Ukraine is currently running from August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010 to April, 2011. A further exhibit entitled *Mennonite Women Evolving* focused on paintings by two Manitoba women portraying the lives of Mennonite women over a period of several generations.

In addition to these numerous events and exhibits, MHV continued in its day to day activities, evolving and developing on various levels. The Auxiliary works diligently and untiringly at numerous projects, all of which help to support the work of the Mennonite Heritage Village, including attracting more visitors.

MHV could not function without its hard-working staff, and the work of its numerous volunteers, tirelessly attending to all the tasks that help to make the Mennonite Heritage Village the welcoming place it is. All of them deserve unconditional appreciation.

# The Local History Scene

by Adolf Ens

“Local history” research is best done locally! The MMHS is pleased at the large number of local committees, organizations and individuals digging in the records of the past, and helping others to understand their history better.

**Altona History Seekers** has organized four historical evenings during the month of March for over a decade. This year’s menu (Tuesday nights) features a range of topics, from funeral practices to local innovators like A. J. Thiessen and J. J. Siemens; MCC aid service, an overview of almost five hundred years of Hutterite history; the dynamics of church splits.

Recently the *Winkler Morden Voice* reported that Arnie Neufeld of the Winkler Heritage Society has by now compiled concise biographies to match about a quarter of the thousand tomb stones he has photographed. The “**Stones and Stories project**,” under the guidance of Neufeld and Bruce Wiebe, is drawing amateur historians into participation in this project.

Elmer Heinrichs, Altona-based reporter of various historical events for a variety of news outlets, has been educating the public for some years now through his brief Mennonite history “lessons” in his regular column *News in a Minute*.

These are but a few of the “projects” underway in our province. Please let us hear about others of which you are aware.

The **EastMenn Historical committee** has been hard at work gathering data on various aspects of the history of the former Mennonite East Reserve. They have matched some 2,000 aerial photos taken by the government in 1946 to a grid map of the ER; plotted GPS locations of all district schools and are seeking to erect a marker for each; located cemeteries and burial plots; tracing the natural waterways and recording the drainage systems made by humans. Mapping early trails and other aspects of the historical geography of the ER are still underway.

The goal of eventually producing some kind of **history of all pioneer villages** and settlements of the East and West Reserves is an on-going project of the Local History and EastMenn committees.

## Recent Publications

Maria Falk Lodge, *In Search of Memories, Tales from the Rosengard Gravel Ridge*, is a 208 page book published by the author in 2010. A sequel to *Tales from the Gravel Ridge* (2008), it is a compilation of stories occurring during the 1940s and 1950s that speak of adaptability on many levels by all members of the rural south-eastern Manitoba community of Rosengard.

A biographical novel, *Favoured among Women*, by Hedy Lenora Martens was published by CMU Press in late 2010. It is the first volume of a projected 2-volume work.

## Shantz’s Trek

by Maria Lodge

In a “News in a Minute” article on February 3, 2011, Elmer Heinrichs reminded his readers of the importance of Jacob Shantz’s Manitoba trek during the early 1870s. Shantz provided a valuable perspective on the First Nations and Métis population of Manitoba for Mennonite immigrants from Ukraine.

He provided the historical background to the Métis population in the context of intermarriage between English and Scottish employees of the Hudson Bay Company and First Nations women. He found them to be a civilized class of people and had experienced their hospitality. He also described the houses they constructed in great detail, and encouraged East European settlers to adopt this plan for their houses. Perhaps even more importantly, he observed that they had schools and churches in their settlements, and that nearly all could read and write.

Shantz also was of the opinion that the First Nations of Canada were quiet and inoffensive, and that they will keep a treaty to the letter when they have agreed to it. However, if a treaty is broken, Shantz is of the view that they will retaliate.

Given that the new Mennonite settlers in Manitoba in 1874 were not knowledgeable with regard to the native population of Canada, Shantz’s knowledge and reassurance must surely have been a source of comfort and reassurance for these new immigrants.

## Forthcoming Books

The MMHS Publication and Marketing Committee announces the forthcoming publication of *A History of the Chortitzer Mennonite Church of Manitoba, 1874-1914* by Dennis Stoesz. We are pleased that Dennis granted us the permission to publish his 1987 Masters of Arts thesis (submitted to the History Department of the University of Manitoba) as Volume 5 in the East Reserve Historical Series. The thesis grew out of the writer’s discovery of the Ältester Stoesz diary in 1973, a source which, combined with material provided by the Chortitzer Conference archives, enabled Stoesz to research the impact that the migration to Manitoba had on the church that had been transferred intact from the Bergthal Colony in New Russia to Manitoba in the mid 1870s.

The result is both a point-in-time description of the Chortitzer church and its institutions upon arrival, and an examination of the changes attendant upon the re-establishment of that church here in Manitoba up to 1914. Stoesz includes valuable appendices that will facilitate other research.

MMHS PMC announces that the CD accompanying *Settlers of the East Reserve* is back in stock. At this point the CD is only available (at \$10) with the purchase of the book (\$20).

# An Exhibit of an Evolution of Mennonite Women

by Maria Lodge

The Mennonite Heritage Village at Steinbach hosted the official opening of an exhibit in the newly named *Gerhard Ens Gallery* on December 4, 2010, presenting paintings by two Manitoba artists, Bev Friesen and Gail Sawatzky. Both women, each with a style unique to her, are truly creative in the range of subjects they pursue, and in the use of a variety of media for expressing their thoughts and ideas.

The exhibit *Mennonite Women Evolving* was at the Village from November 3, 2010 to March 1, 2011. This show is distinctive in that it portrays Mennonite women through various ages and stages in their lives, in ways that cause us to remember our mothers, our sisters, or possibly other women in our lives, in a range of circumstances. It may be that some of us recognize our own life experiences in those works of art.

These paintings do not seek to revise the past, or to embellish it, but rather show women in the day to day reality of the lives they lived. They reflect the limits under which those women lived both from a cultural and an economic perspective, and include the challenges that were theirs, along with the creativity and the joyfulness of their lives.

Perhaps the greatest value of these paintings lies in the historical record they create. They validate the life experiences and the remarkable adaptability and resiliency of Mennonite women of another era. That they resonate with many of us is testament to the effectiveness of the work of these artists. Their work can be viewed at [www.gailsawatzky.com](http://www.gailsawatzky.com) and [www.bevfriesen.com](http://www.bevfriesen.com).

## Altbergthal School Preservation Progress

by Lawrence Klippenstein

The application to Historical Resources Branch for funding assistance is now in the pipeline. There is talk about doing a May barbecue fundraiser at the present school premises in Altona. We feel we need \$20,000 (of which half is in) to get the new foundation and moving done, and that amount again to do the exterior renovations. Indoors more will be needed, of course.

In Altona and district more and more people are stepping up to be a part of the project. MMHS is looking at stronger involvement in its new budget. Another meeting of interested persons will be called in early April, the way things stand now. Feel free to direct your ideas, donations and address for more information and invitations to meetings to Joe Braun at [owltree@sdnet.ca](mailto:owltree@sdnet.ca) in Altona asap.

# MMHS President's Corner

March 6, 2011

by Conrad Stoesz

I admit that when I pick up a book, I usually skip over the "extraneous stuff" at the front: the preface, introduction, forward, dedication, and get to, what I usually consider the heart of the matter - chapter 1. However, I had one of those "ah ha moments" when I recently read the overview to Donald Kraybill's newest book *Concise Encyclopedia of Amish, Brethren, Hutterites and Mennonites*. In this section he provides the parameters to his book and gave me a new way of speaking about Mennonite groups.

We all talk about the various Mennonite groups, their beliefs, and practises. We try to understand them by devising frameworks and labels to help categorize their similarities and differences. These frameworks have to deal with theological understandings as well as how these beliefs are lived out in practical terms. I have found the framework I have usually used to be inadequate and at times unduly prejudiced. Kraybill provides a new paradigm; throughout his encyclopedia he places beliefs and practises along a traditional – assimilation continuum. He states that traditional groups maintain the locus of moral authority in the church body, have greater influence on clothing style, and tend to remove themselves from the larger society. Assimilated groups give moral authority to individuals and generally integrate into the larger society. These two extremes impact religious rituals, church organization, leadership, gender roles, education, political involvement, acceptance of technology etc. Whereas assimilated groups readily borrow traditions from various sources melding them into a new tradition, traditional groups attempt to maintain longstanding practises. It is not that assimilated groups have no tradition Kraybill points out, it is that they freely borrow from surrounding cultures rather than continuing with their native traditions. This traditional – assimilation framework can deal with belief and practise in a better way than my old framework and helps me recognize some of the underlying assumptions of various groups allowing for an enhanced understanding.

This experience has given me a new tool towards a fuller understanding of Mennonites, and I promise that next time I will - at least take a peek - at the stuff that comes before chapter 1.

# An Early Pre-nuptial Agreement

When the *Reinländer Mennonite Church* emigrated from Manitoba 1922 to 1925, its communal institutions went with them. That included the *Waisenamt* (Orphans Bureau) which regulated and administered inheritance matters. The document below was discovered by Bruce Wiebe, Winkler, who drew it to the attention of Jake E. Peters, grandson of Aron and author of the MHV booklet on the *Waisenamt*, who gave us permission to publish it.

Note the egalitarian principle in every aspect of the agreement, probably following the pattern of the *Waisenamt*. The first witness, Jacob J. Froese, later became the first bishop of the Manitoba Old Colony Church when it was revived a decade later. — Adolf Ens

Reinfeld, October 2<sup>nd</sup> 1925

The following contract reports what we, Aron and Elisabeth Peters, have agreed to and decided (before the wedding) in the presence of our children and witnesses, namely, when one or the other of us dies, the property owned by each of us before we were married shall be distributed to his or her legal (*rechtmässigen*) heirs.

**First:** My (Aron Peters) present property consists of 320 acres of land, together with homestead buildings, and \$1,500.00 in cash.

**Second:** My (Elisabeth Peters) present property consists of 160 acres together with the homestead buildings in the village, and \$2,129.27 in cash.

**Third:** Should the property increase while we remain alive, half of the increase shall be distributed. The same applies should the property have decreased.

To signify that this is considered right and proper, all have affirmed by signing with their own hand.

Aron Peters	Children	Jacob G. Peters
Elisabeth Peters		Helena Dyck Peter E. Neufeld
Witnesses:	Jacob J. Froese Franz Funk Cornelius Reimer	

**Note:** In addition to the property listed above, \$500.00 is still outstanding. If that should be received, it should be added to the cash listed for Aron Peters.

**Source:** *Aufnahmen und Theilungskontrakte für das Dorf Reinfeld anno 1999*. Originals were in the possession of Isaac Derksen Jr. in Reinfeld in 1991. Copy in MHCA, Winnipeg, vol. 4200.

## Financing the Year's Historical Activities

by Adolf Ens

Budgets can make for boring reading. However, a quick look at the total picture and at some highlights provides insight into the vigour with which some of our standing committees work.

Keep two things in mind as you read through this lay person's view of the financial health of MMHS. First, until ratification by the annual meeting, the figures reported here are unofficial. Secondly, much of the historical work done by Society members is done outside of committees, and hence seldom makes it into official financial statements.

Our assets to start the year are about \$70,000, roughly half of which consists of funds brought in by the EastMenn Historical Committee from the former Hanover Steinbach Historical Society. A further substantial amount represents book inventory.

The proposed budget for 2011 sees us spending roughly \$28,000 against income of about \$16,000. While this looks like a "deficit budget" of the kind governments annually bring down, in reality it is drawing on reserves carried forward from previous years. A non-profit organization is not supposed to accumulate assets too much larger than a year's operating costs. In that sense this "draw down" will be viewed positively by the auditors.

Here is an overview of the larger outlays anticipated by the budget:

- Membership in the Mennonite Historical Society of Canada, our share of the expenses involved with Global Anabaptist Mennonite Encyclopedia Online (GAMEO), and annual travel is budgeted at \$2,750.
- Administration costs are under \$1,000. *Heritage Posting* and other membership and publicity costs accounts for another \$3000.
- Both the Local History and the EastMenn Historical committees plan to publish a book this year so their combined budget is over \$7,000. Both are drawing on reserves.
- Historical Sites and Monuments Committee is budgeting for a \$2,000 contribution to the renovation and moving of the Altbergthal school building.

The primary source of annual income is from membership dues (about \$3,400 last year), contributions (\$2,400), and sale of books (\$2,500). This is a reminder to **renew your membership** for 2011 if you have not already done so. And while you are doing this, consider adding a donation.



**From lowly shack to elevated heights!****Prairie View Museum at Plum Coulee**

A 20-year dream has become a unique country museum! Today, at Plum Coulee, housed in the retrofitted Manitoba Pool grain elevator, the Prairie View Museum features stalls and booths on various themes.

Visitors can check out Dr. Hugh McGavin's Clinic, take a look at the Rosner Bronfman General Store, sit down in old style school benches and imagine a classroom of decades ago.

In 2011, the museum committee hopes to open up more bins for display booths to display treasures that have been donated. Hundreds return to see their old home-town during the community's Plum Festival August 19-21.

The pioneer kitchen and laundry room, complete with a natural dryer (clothes line) take up a corner of the lower level; and the antique furniture in the living room adds grace and elegance to that special room of a pioneer home!

Visitors will note a variety of themes in the exhibits: wildlife at the Game & Fish stall, the baseball and hockey displays in the "Stall of Sports Fame," farm tools, including a hand-operated cream separator. Pictorial displays on the wall commemorate significant events, like the "famous bank robbery."

It was back in the 1990s that some Plum Coulee

residents entertained an interest in starting a community museum. This sentiment received favorable response from other creative thinkers as the Plum Coulee Centennial of 2001 was fast approaching. That was enough of an incentive to form a Committee, hold discussions, and lay plans for preserving prairie antiques, specifically related to Plum Coulee.

To house articles, donated by many local people, as well as by descendants of the early pioneers, a small plywood "shack" was slapped together on a vacant lot on Main Avenue. A prime mover of the museum project was Mayor Harold Schulz, along with Aron and Mary Rempel, creative innovators like Nikki, and in the late 1990s, Linda Dyck, and others.

Later, the Plum Coulee Co-op grain elevator was acquired by the town, to save it from a demolition crew, and deputy mayor June Letkeman joined the committee. A crew of willing helpers cleaned, installed shelves, and gave artifacts from the "old shack" a new location to shine in the Prairie View Elevator!

Excitement was high for the Museum crew as they were able to finish the cleaning and the moving in the summer of 2010, in time to open on July 2<sup>nd</sup>.



Local historian Cleo Heinrichs and Plum Coulee heritage member Aron Rempel in Plum Coulee's Heritage View Museum with a pictorial display. — Photo by Elmer Heinrichs

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## Book Review

***At the Forks: Mennonites in Winnipeg.*** Author Leo Driedger. Published by Pandora Press, 2010, Kitchener, Ontario. 473 pp.

**Reviewed by Ken Reddig**

Winnipeg is considered the city with the largest Mennonite population in the world. Professor Leo Driedger has written a comprehensive study of Mennonites combining both history as well as sociological and analytical data of this large Mennonite population in the world.

Beginning with the inception of Mennonites as a community of believers emerging from the Protestant Reformation in Europe, Dr. Driedger follows the movement of those Mennonites who have become the major group populating Winnipeg over the past century. He briefly notes how these Mennonites moved through northern Europe and Eastern Europe, eventually making their way into Canada, residing in the province of Manitoba.

Discussing the fact that Mennonites became urbanized while in Europe, Dr. Driedger notes that some nevertheless remained rural in orientation and lifestyle. But it was with the second wave of Mennonites from Eastern Europe, Ukraine more specifically, that these 1920's immigrants more easily adapted to living in cities — in particular, Winnipeg, the largest city in the province.

Within Winnipeg Mennonites acculturated over the years. However, the biggest growth period occurred following World War II. Driedger describes the different groups, how and why they came, and how they established themselves in the city. With adaptation came both the loss of a form of the former community and the emergence of not only a new community but a community with organizations and institutions that advanced urbanization.

The statistical charts, census data and analysis thereof in the book are of particular use. Certainly useful for many students, organizations and writers, this book helps to answer questions, and provides concrete data as descriptors of the Winnipeg Mennonite community as it emerged into the complex community it is today.

But it is in the important breakdown of groups within the larger group that the book makes its greatest contribution. Assessing Mennonite involvement in church, education, the arts, professions and businesses to name but a few, this is easily the most comprehensive compilation of Mennonite involvement within these selected topics that I have ever seen for Winnipeg. Not only is it a quick resource, it is a loose reference guide to the who and the what within Mennonite Winnipeg. And also important is the fact that 50 years from now it will be this very book that will stand as a testament to a point in time among Mennonites in this one location that will be a reference point for future studies of urbanized Mennonites anywhere.

## Book Notes

**by Lawrence Klippenstein**

Dr. Al Hiebert of Steinbach has released his latest book, a family study titled *Hiebert Heritage to 2010: Wilhelm and Anna Hiebert Ancestors and Descendants* (2011, pb., 127 pp, \$ 20.00, \$25.00 with CD). Wilhelm and Anna, married in 1910, had a family of 12 children. Their roots were in the Bergthaler/Sommerfelder community of the former West Reserve south of Winkler, and lived their last years in Steinbach. This volume of 16 chapters includes six maps and six pages of coloured photos. To order contact aah1@mts.net The book will be on display and available at the MMHS Family History Day to be held at Mennonite Heritage Village on April 9.

The James Valley Book Centre at Elie, Manitoba, is coordinating the distribution of a new Hutterite directory titled *2011 Hutterite Directory*. It appears to cover all colonies in the USA and Canada. Using a color code, various communities are listed under the names of separate groupings like Dariusleut, Lehrerleut, etc. A separate section provides leadership listings for each colony. Financial support has been gained through recruitment of a very large number of advertisers. It is ring-bound in excellently printed 180 coloured pages at a retail cost of \$7.50. For further information and orders contact Patrick Murphy at luke631@mts.net

Victor Janzen, retired teacher and former editor of *Mennonitische Post* in Steinbach, has released an English version of his original German memoirs, now titled *From the Dniepr to the Paraguay River (2010)*. It tells his family story up to the first years of settlement in Paraguay after World War II. The family moved to Canada eventually in 1955. It is self-published in a 180-page paperback format. Many photos are included in the account. Copies are available at the Mennonite Heritage Village bookstore in Steinbach at info@mhv.ca and other Mennonite book selling locations.

Strictly speaking, the Francis Swyripa volume is not a "Mennonite" book. However, as one of the four main groups discussed, it refers to Mennonites constantly throughout its eight idea-packed chapters. *Storied Landscapes: Ethno-Religious Identity and the Canadian Prairies* (Winnipeg: U of M Press, 2010), with its 296 pp and a paperback binding, can be of great help to understand Mennonite self-awareness and its place in the context of the larger Canadian multi-grouped prairie community of immigrant origin. Dr. Swyripa is Professor of History at the University of Alberta. Contact the MHV bookstore at marigoldp@mhv.ca for more information and to purchase a copy.