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Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society Annual General Meeting, April 26, 2014

by Conrad Stoesz and
Eleanor Chonoboy

Close to forty people arrived at the Neuberghthal community centre for the annual meeting of the Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society (MMHS) on April 26, 2014. A scrumptious lunch of bread and soup was provided. A short walk, good for digestion, was next on the schedule. Participants walked south down the tree lined street of this National Historic site. The trees are a distinctive feature of the pioneer Mennonite street villages that dotted the Manitoba prairie and help to give Neuberghthal a "special sense of place" to this day.

Participants stepped out of the cool wind and into the 110 year old school building that was recently moved to the Neuberghthal site, near the community cemetery. Joe Braun gave a detailed explanation of how the buildings that had been moved to the former Eddy Schmidt yard in the village of Neuberghthal were being restored and how the exteriors were refurbished to reflect their historical integrity.

Lawrence Klippenstein provided the group with a short presentation on the Altbergthal school. The preservation of the 1904 Altbergthal school classroom building is a project related to the MMHS Historic Sites Committee. In November, 2012 the building found a permanent new home at the National Historic Site in the Village of Neuberghthal. The school building had been moved from Altbergthal to New Hope where it functioned as a school for approximately twenty years. It was subsequently moved to Altona where it remained until it could be moved to Neuberghthal with the support of MMHS and a great deal of local advocacy.

Renovations to the building are continuing, spearheaded by Wilf Hiebert of Altona, and donations are still needed to finish its restoration. MMHS members enjoyed inspecting the plaster and lath on the wall and wandering the "halls", including the upstairs. Braun and Klippenstein thanked MMHS and its members for the advocacy and support in saving the building which was threatened with demolition, and finding a new home for it.

The building is now being used as an educational



Inside the old school house, with Lawrence Klippenstein making a point,

— Photo by Bert Friesen

building by the Alternative Energy Program of the local high school, W.C. Miller in Altona. Braun explained that while many people enjoy the conveniences of technology, many younger people are keenly interested in learning about gardening, along with the preparation and preservation of food as practiced by their ancestors.

The will is to use the house and yard to teach interested learners how to bake bread in an outdoor bake oven, to garden like Grandma did, and preserve food for the long Manitoba winters, as was done when Mennonites first arrived in Manitoba. Conversations and compromises continue to be made, balancing the historic flavour of the building, with the necessary flexibility to serve the educational needs in today's world.

There is much optimism that the school building will indeed be a site for sustainable education, reflecting its evolution from a one room country school teaching catechism, Bible stories, reading, writing and arithmetic to teaching students about caring for the environment that we have been given.

While the tour featured the restoration of an old structure for new purposes, the afternoon saw the

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Fiftieth Anniversary Celebrations of Mennonite Heritage Village

The Mennonite Heritage Village (MHV) is celebrating its 50th anniversary, and to underscore this celebration Barry Dyck, the Executive Director of MHV gave a Media Release on March 28, 2014, highlighting some significant events, both past and present, as follows:

In 1964, the Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society was incorporated for the purpose of conducting and publishing research in areas of Mennonite History, as well as preserving and exhibiting artifacts for the ongoing interpretation of stories and experiences of the Russian Mennonites. While the current name "Mennonite Heritage Village (Canada) Inc." surfaced somewhat later, we view that 1964 incorporation event as our formal beginning. Therefore we are now celebrating our 50th anniversary throughout 2014.

On March 22, Mennonite Heritage Village recognized the "founders" and "builders" of the organization with an evening of reflection, music and socializing. Approximately 200 guests came to enjoy music by the Eastman Male Choir, reflections by Eric Friesen, long-time broadcaster and native of Altona, Manitoba, and special recognition given to 22 individuals by historian and former MHV board member John J. Friesen.

Choir director Ed Hildebrand introduced each musical offering with a short story, putting it into the context of the 1960's. Eric Friesen, son of MHV founder Ted Friesen, provided inspiration and encouragement to continue the important work of preserving our history, so that we will



Appetizers in the Private School, photograph from the Mennonite Heritage Village collection

have answers when our grandchildren and great-grandchildren ask, "What do these stones mean?" (Joshua 4:6)

After cake and coffee, provided by the MHV Auxiliary, John J. Friesen paid tribute to our MHV founders and builders. Of the 22 individuals recognized, Ted Friesen was the only one able to attend. Three other surviving members were unable to be present. During each tribute, family representatives of these early board members were asked to stand.

The signature event of our 50th Anniversary celebrations took place July 5th and 6th. The weekend began with *Schmeckfest Jubilee*, a fundraising gala featuring traditional cuisine as guests strolled through the Outdoor Village. A Dessert Bar and entertainment by world-class improvisational violinist Rosemary Siemens, originally from southern Manitoba, was featured in the Auditorium. Sunday included a worship service, guided tours of the Village, singing together in a traditional Saengerfest and eating together around the *Faspa/Vesper* table.

Further celebratory events will take place throughout the year and will be posted in our Calendar of Events on our website at www.mhv.ca.



Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society

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Stories of Fires at Mennonite Heritage Village

by Lawrence Klippenstein

Mennonite Heritage Village Story Night April 4, 2014 Part II: The Mortgage Burning

This bit is about the mortgage burning held at Mennonite Heritage Village (MHV) on May 31st, 1998. I had joined the Board only months earlier. Right away we were introduced to the huge fund raising campaign underway. It had been designed to raise enough funds to fully pay off a huge mortgage of 1.2 million dollars. MHV had managed to accrue that debt from the overrun costs of building a very fine, state of the art expansion of the section we are sitting in today.

After eight long years this target was finally reached and a big celebration seemed in order. As the custom was, burning the mortgage document would be the centerpiece of that celebration. Everyone seemed elated. One person I know of had a small reservation. I can confess today I was that person. I will explain why.

Well over 200 people had gathered in front of the General Store that day in May. There they would watch that evil enemy, the mortgage contract, be tossed into the fire box flames of the big steamer engine which was standing by.

After several big blasts of the steamer whistle the group joined in a hymn of thanksgiving. After some brief remarks by the service leader, the outgoing board chair, Gerhard Ens, with three grandchildren, Lynette, Sarah and Gerald at his side, stepped forward, added some personal remarks in his own words, and then ceremoniously tossed a large roll of white paper into the open flaming fire pot of the steamer. The document was consumed in moments.

The new board chair then offered words of tribute to all those who had helped to get this monkey off MHV's back (my terminology, not Gerhard's). After a few further comments by several others, a closing prayer and three more whistle blasts the steamer slowly lumbered back to its parking place down the street.

The mortgage smoke hung in the air for a few minutes and then drifted off never to be seen again. You could almost hear a sigh of relief, and everyone seemed happy, except, as I said, one person was not quite with it. But I will explain.

Now a few general closing words about burning documents as a cultural phenomenon. At that time I had just retired from my job as archivist at the Mennonite Heritage Centre in Winnipeg. Hence I can now tell you that archivists on the whole silently shudder deep down inside when discussion of actually burning documents comes up. Each one wonders how much important irretrievable historical information is going up in smoke this time. The archivists maintain that virtually every document of any kind except totally blank pages have such information.

When it comes to mortgage burning some ask would it not be just as useful to burn a duplicate and keep the original tucked away in a file for posterity? I failed to make an issue of this when I came to the board earlier in the year. I sensed some of the board members had already

begun to hum under their breath, *Burn Baby, Burn*. It seemed wrong then for a rookie board member to disturb the mood. Burning something would be a crowd pleaser, of course.

In other words, if you should want to make my day even tonight, come and tell me, "Fret no more. No one knew, not even Gerhard and his grandchildren, least of all the onlookers, that he actually burned a duplicate of the mortgage document that day in May, and not the real thing. For a small fee the MHV director, also still quite new on the job, was willing to loan us the original a few days earlier so we could make a duplicate and have it burned as scheduled. The original is now safely stored in a secret vault, with only one or two people privy to the location."

However, for another small fee, my secret source has let me know I can be told where that vault is today, and be assured that all is well.

Needless to say, I am not holding my breath. However, at the very least you should all know that archivists, even very senior retired ones, also have their crazy dreams.

The original account of this event was written up by Doris Penner in Preserving our Heritage, Vol. 6, 1998, pp. 1, 3. Additional photos are found in the photo album cabinet of the lounge at MHV.

(Continued from page 1)

emergence of a new structure to serve old purposes. After we filed back into the community centre, acting chair, Hans Werner lead the annual general meeting, which saw the historical society move further along the road of transition. A small number of organizations were invited by the executive to be affiliated members of MMHS. These include the Plett Foundation, Chair Of Mennonite Studies, GAMEO - Manitoba chapter, Mennonite Heritage Village, East Menn Committee, and West Menn (formerly West Reserve Local History Committee, which has merged with the MMHS Historic Sites and Monuments Committee).

The terms of all board members of the MMHS had now expired; consequently 7 new board members were elected by the representative groups that had been invited to join the society; formerly it was individual members who elected board members. New board members are: Bert Friesen, Eleanor Chornoboy, Jake L. Peters, Hans Werner, Abe Ens, Peter Priess, and Conrad Stoesz. This was followed by reporting from the affiliated groups.

The new board met while MMHS members were treated to a tour of Marguerite Krahn's home.

The Board has elected the following officers. President – Hans Werner, Treasurer – Bert Friesen, Secretary – Eleanor Chornoboy. At a following meeting two new members were added to the MMHS roster of affiliated groups, namely Mennonite Heritage Centre and Centre for Mennonite Brethren Studies. *Heritage Posting* was named as a standing committee of the board with Maria Lodge as editor. It remains to be seen how well this new structure will serve MMHS, its members and activities.

Celebrating 225 Years of Mennonites in Russia

by Lawrence Klippenstein

As you read this issue of Heritage Posting, descendants of Germans from Russia, living in the USA have just completed a celebration of life during their 225 years in Russia. An extended program of papers and presentations were prepared for the Spokane, Washington meeting in which participants looked back to the first year of their move from Danzig and Prussia to New Russia in 1789. They speak of themselves as Black Sea Germans, many of them members of Lutheran and Catholic congregations.

Actually more than a thousand Mennonites were among those who moved to the Black Sea area at that time. The first ones to settle down created the settlement of Chortiza across the Dnieper River from Alexandrovsk. Later they called it the Old Colony. Josephstal near Ekaterinoslav was among the first settlements of the other Germans in the region. Eric Schmalz, the editor, of their journal, *Heritage Review*, hopes to reprint a piece on the Mennonite land scouts Johann Bartsch and Jakob Hoepfner published earlier in a journal called *The Polish Review*.

Some Mennonite descendants of the Chortiza settlements and also others hope to meet for a similar gathering in Winnipeg and Steinbach in Manitoba. Sessions are projected for Winnipeg possibly at the Mennonite Heritage Centre, for Saturday afternoon,

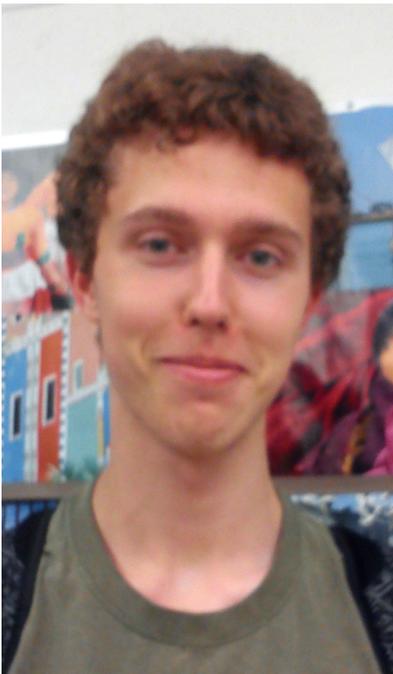
November 15, 2014, and for the Mennonite Heritage Village at Steinbach in the evening of the same day. Papers for the workshop have already been assigned but some remain to be confirmed. They will include a presentation by Dr. Mark Jantzen of North Newton, Kansas (i.e. Bethel College in Newton), dealing with the background of the emigration of 1789.

A local tour guide, Len Loeppky has promised a power presentation on his recent tour of Poland and Ukraine. Dr. Peter Letkemann has offered something on music and church life in very early Chortitza. We are looking at doing something on Georg Trappe, the government agent who helped with the emigration, in a paper by Ed Hoepfner. A revised version of the Bartsch and Hoepfner paper mentioned above may be brought in also. It is hoped that some special choirs will also be able to take part.

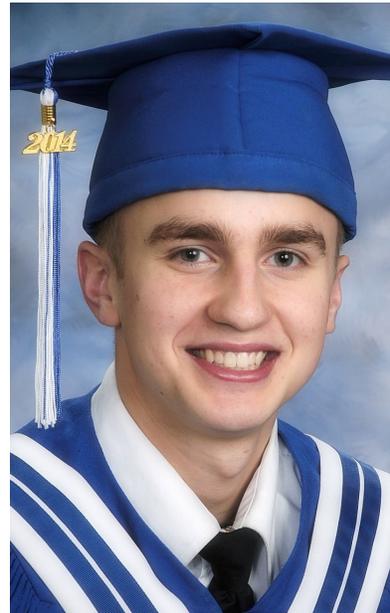
You are invited to mark your calendars for the November 15th celebration. Perhaps in the meantime you will find ways to add something in your own places, homes, churches, etc. to link up with this commemorative occasion. As well you will find most interesting titles, some quite new, in Mennonite book sale outlets – Mennonite Heritage Centre, Centre for MB Studies, Mennonite Heritage Village and others. Join us if you can!

The Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society Plett Essay Contest

The winning entries for the 2014 Plett Essay Contest are as follows:



The first prize goes to Samuel Goertzen, for his essay "The Life and Times of Heinrich J. Adrian." Goertzen, who graduated from Morden Collegiate in June, 2014, began his research for an assignment in his History of Canada class in grade 11. He developed an interest in learning more about his great-great grandfather and that side of his family, and this interest prompted him to conduct additional research, culminating in his winning entry.



The second prize was awarded to KC Harder, graduating from Steinbach Christian High School in June, 2014. Harder, the winner of numerous school awards, was student president during the past school year. The title of his essay is "Beauty from Ashes." KC will be attending the Bethel School of Supernatural Ministry in Redding, California.

The Hidden Handwriting on David's Headstone

by Lawrence Klippenstein

I became acquainted with a place called Cairn Corner in 1971 when we found ourselves living in Gretna, Manitoba, after several years of graduate work at the University of Minnesota. I soon discovered the program of the Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society, with its plans developing to celebrate the centennial (1874-1974) of Russian Mennonites coming to Manitoba. Given that I had majored in history, my interest was piqued.

That celebration drew attention to the above-mentioned spot where Manitoba Mennonites had placed a large cairn remembering the 1874 pioneers and later newcomers from south Russia (Ukraine) to Manitoba at a 75th anniversary of the first arrivals. In 1972 Cairn Corner became better known to the community when the headstone of a well-known local pioneer, Rev. Heinrich Wiebe, was moved from a field plot near the former Edenburg to the former Neuanlage at Cairn Corner.

Among the former owners of that corner lot had been one David Schellenberg who was much involved in placing the first (largest) cairn at that corner. The homestead languished unoccupied for 2 decades or more, before being purchased by David's great-great-grandson Tony Klassen. It is still undergoing repairs and renovations.

Descendants of the original Schellenbergs met in 1987 in Gretna and visited the site of what had once been the village of David's residence, that is, the village of Neuanlage. As a result another cairn was added to the memorials placed there previously. This article picks up a story from there on. A descendant, now resident in Winnipeg, Bob (Schellenberg) Strong, shared it with me some time ago.

"A number of years ago, in the course of researching my ancestors, I met a third cousin, Ed Schellenberg (1928-2012), then living in Steinbach, Manitoba. One spring he asked for my help in locating the grave of my great grandfather, David Anton Schellenberg of Puchtin (?), south Russia, who brought his family to Manitoba, and who died on 11 August 1911 in Gretna, Manitoba. David was a brother of Ed's great grandfather, Johann Schellenberg. Ed did not know I still had relatives in Gretna, who might provide information he had failed to find. We agreed to contact our cousin, the late Margaret Guenther Lundin then living in Gretna, who said she knew the location of a private burial plot on the family's original homestead. Margaret (Guenther) Lundin is the great aunt of Tony Klassen.

On our arrival and after tea, she suggested we take a look at an old gravestone uncovered at that site long ago, and which, she said, still remained unidentified and leaning against a private garage not far from her home in Gretna. So, on our way to locate that plot, we stopped in at the residence where the unidentified headstone reportedly still existed. The owner was glad to show the way, and reported it had been there when they bought the property, and likely long before that. No one had been able to read words still faintly visible on the engraving.



Memorial Plaque, and gravestone of David Anton Schellenberg.

— Photo by Clarice Klassen, and submitted by Donna and Tony Klassen

As we examined the allegedly undecipherable text, I noted that the only really readable letter at this point was either an "S" or a "G". We were about to go on our way, not able to do more in the reading, when the owner unexpectedly and unbidden, stood beside the weather beaten stone so her shadow fell directly on the unreadable text. Suddenly the letters were clearly readable. Imagine our excitement and surprise when we read there the words: David Anton Schellenberg, (1832-1911), dates of the very person whose gravesite we were on the way to locate. It could be added here that the private plot had in fact been ploughed over many years ago and no other evidence of the grave's existence has been found anywhere".

As Bob tells the rest of the story, the extended family was quickly notified about the find and a decision was reached very soon to remount the headstone, and to do so at Cairn Corner, at the intersection of Highway (then) 14A and the Post Road running east and west at that location. That was a spot on his great grandfather's land which extended south to the Canada-US border. Ed Schellenberg believed he and others in the family had found the approximate location of that private family cemetery before he passed away.

A year after the find the family secured permission from the Rural Municipality of Rhineland to place the headstone at Cairn Corner which then happened at the time of their family reunion in Gretna. The text on the very senior David Schellenberg's headstone has since been restored and is more legible today. (A bronze plaque describes the inscription on the marker.)

It should be noted that there is no connection between the 1987 reunion and the headstone, which was not discovered until many years later.

The Broesky Family Headstone



Descendants of Jacob F. and Aganetha Broesky at the headstone unveiling ceremony -- Gretna, Manitoba, June 14, 2014. — Photo was taken by Karen Broesky Martens.

by Lois Braun

On a cool, windy, overcast morning, thirty-five souls, consisting of several generations of the Jacob and Aganetha Broesky family, gathered at the Gretna Cemetery beside the graves of their grandparents and the two children who had died in infancy. A few words were spoken, Margruite Krahn sang a French prayer *a capella*, and a lovely hand-made quilt was lifted from the headstone it had concealed.

For the past eight months or so, a trio of cousins – Lois Nickel Braun, Jim Toews and Rita Buhr Wiebe – had been working on this project: to create a new headstone commemorating Jacob F. Broesky and Aganetha Wiebe Broesky and their sixteen children. Jacob was the son of Johann Vetrovski Broeski and Anna Rempel Friesen. Aganetha was from the Niverville area. The cousins solicited donations from the family, designed the stone, and planned the unveiling event. The ceremony took place on Saturday, June 14. There were about thirty more cousins who couldn't make it to the event.

A special guest who attended the unveiling was second cousin Karen Broesky Martens, daughter of Peter, granddaughter of Abram. She became known to the Gretna branch of the Broesky family when she began contacting them about the genealogy project/book that her father Peter has been spearheading.

The old headstone is quite graceful, made even more so when great-great-grandchild Caitlin Froese enhanced it with a touch of paint. The front of the new headstone restores the *Broesky* spelling (which is the spelling Jacob used), and includes motifs suitable to the couple's interests – carpentry for him, music for her – as well as an appropriate epitaph. On the back of the headstone is a list of all the children, their birth and death dates, and their spouses' names. Only one child of Jacob and Aganetha is still living: ninety-four-year-old Agatha Nickel Tapper.

Besides the solemn moments, there was much laughter, because the Broesky clan is a festive and irrepressible bunch, and following the formalities at the cemetery, the group all continued on to the farmyard of Cousin Rita and David Wiebe. This was once the home of Agnes Buhr Penner, who was the most unsinkable Broesky of them all. Her house has been renovated and expanded, and nicely accommodated this large gathering. Rita served home-made noodle soup and *somma borscht*, and everyone contributed sandwiches and desserts. The cousins spent the afternoon catching up, looking at old photos, and reviewing the story of who they are, where they came from. They celebrated their common bonds, their history, the traits they share, and that they care about one another. The day may have been grey and a bit chilly, but their hearts were light and warm.

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You now have 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.

Many subscribers have chosen 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.

Book Reviews

Prussian Mennonite Book Reviews

by Lawrence Klippenstein

Four recently published volumes dealing with Prussian Mennonite history and culture, along with celebrations of the 225th anniversary of the emigration of Mennonites from Prussia to New Russia in 1789, have combined to push our theme to the fore. Two of these works come as translations from German versions sometimes difficult to locate, and more often passed by because of restricted language access. The other two constitute new research with deeper probing of the common historical narrative they represent.

The translations now offer very helpful windows to Prussian Mennonite thought and theology. One is an important 1873 Prussian Mennonite study entitled *Geschichte der wehrlosen taufgesinnten Gemeinden von den Zeiten der Apostel bis auf die Gegenwart*, written by Martin Klaassen (1820-1881), now available as *A History of the Defenseless Anabaptists from the Time of the Apostles to the Present* (Saskatoon, Sask. Mennonite Historical Society of Saskatchewan, 2014). The translators are Dr. Walter Klaassen and his wife, Ruth.

Another newly translated volume is the book by Johann Wilhelm Mannhardt (1831-1880) published in 1863 as *Die Wehrfreiheit der altpreussischen Mennoniten* which is off the press now as *The Military Service Exemption of the Mennonites of Provincial Prussia* (North Newton, Kans.: Bethel College, 2013). Anthony Epp is the translator of this title, with editing and annotation assistance given by Dr. Mark Jantzen and John D Thiesen. The original author's name appears in the title of the translated version simply as Wilhelm Mannhardt.

Both of these volumes provide very useful surveys of Prussian Mennonite traditional views on the centrality of nonresistance, or complete exemption from military service, as a tenet of biblical faith. Mannhardt's volume comes with the distinction of illustrating aspects of the way in which leadership thinking about the matter changed as time went on, with Mannhardt himself doing a nearly total flip flop of position to become a supporter of military service for Mennonites, and using his treatment as a way of explaining at least in part how this happened for him.

It is clear that the rise to dominance of German nationalism in Prussia/Germany was a major causal factor of this transition. In the end most Prussian Mennonites who chose not to emigrate followed in the Mannhardt footsteps right up to the end of Mennonite residence in Prussia/Germany during WWII. It would be worth comparing with our transitions to "what is in our national interest" thinking in our day.

The earliest volume in this book quartet, Peter J Klassen's *Mennonites in Early Modern Poland and Prussia* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2009), provides the broader Prussian/German context for the other three. It especially dwells on the way in which the shift from basic Polish government of Mennonite regions to that of the militaristic Prussian administrations, affected these areas. The focus on conflicting loyalties, already a

major thrust of Peter Klassen's work, points to the military issue as an ever mounting problem which led up to the first major emigration of Prussian Mennonites to New Russia in 1789.

This theme is then fleshed out in very revealing detail by Mark Jantzen's study, *Mennonite German Soldiers: Nation, Religion and Family in the Prussian East, 1772-1880* (Notre Dame, IN, Notre Dame University Press, 2010). With its very thorough searching of numerous relevant archival collections, and clarifying of many formerly obscure points of the narrative, it must now rank as the most thorough work on what constituted the "military service question" for Prussian Mennonites up to and beyond the emigration of 1789. One is made to think a moment about the "Mennonite soldiers" of the *Selbstschutz* days in south Russia (Ukraine) over a century later.

Limited space does not permit a more analytical, critical review of the study here, (something attempted by this author in the March, 2011, issue of *Mennonite Historian*). Prussian Mennonite resistance to the pressures exerted by government policies in the various spheres of social, economic and religious life is carefully examined in the study.

All of these works together are waiting for a more thorough look at the over all theological and ecclesiastical changes which took place in the centuries of Prussian Mennonite community development, to be sure. However the salient issues of what it was that propelled people enjoying a very settled and for many a fulfilling way of life, to do it all over again in New Russia, can now be more clearly discerned.

A commemoration of this new beginning in New Russia, with serious reflection on what succeeded, and what did not, is a good thing. Perhaps it will enable us to dream new dreams, which never quite came to fruition at the time of those new beginnings, that were still connected to the issues which the Prussian/Russian story put forward more than two centuries ago. Recalling has the potential for bringing about renewal, and renewal can result in regeneration and reconstruction, which all of us need from time to time.

David Schellenberg Family Reunion Ahead

by Bob Strong

A reunion of the David Anton Schellenberg family descendants is scheduled for August 29-31, 2014. The place of meeting will be the Altona Curling Club in Altona adjacent to the Sunflower Park. Donna and Tony Klassen, living at the current location of the David Schellenberg homestead at Cairn Corner near Gretna are offering to host a waffle brunch at their home on the Sunday, August 31. About 30 families are expected to join the group. Please send notice of your intention to attend, or requests for more information to Bob Strong, bob.strong@mymts.net or phone 1-204-694- 4238. Contact Bob also for his online genealogical database (about 400,000 mostly Mennonite names) or Mennonite Recipe site, if interested.

Book Notes

by Lawrence Klippenstein

NEW! Friends of the *Mennonitischer Sprachverein* this spring published *The Mennonite German Society (Mennonitischer Sprachverein) 1952-2003* written by Vic Kliewer and assisted by Vic Janzen, of Winnipeg and Steinbach, respectively. An excellent preservation of society records, supervised by Vic Janzen, last secretary of the organization, made this task much easier. Formatted in a spiral-bound 82-page paperback version, the book sells for \$10.00 plus postage if mailed. All records of the organization have been deposited in the archives of the Mennonite Heritage Centre in Winnipeg.

A 220-page volume, *The Journey: The Story of God's Leading and Protection on the Road from Neu Schoensee to Steinbach, Manitoba, Canada*, written by Abe Plett, of Steinbach, Manitoba, is a publication of 2013. It has appeared in paperback, is well-illustrated, and gives credit to a supportive family and friends for "making it happen." The author is a member of the Mennonite Brethren congregation in Steinbach. Available from the author at 204 326 2411.

Readers will not be disappointed in what is offered in the 2014 publication of *Journal of Mennonites Studies* edited by Dr. Royden Loewen of the Chair of Mennonite Studies at the University of Winnipeg. Its main chapters derive from a 2012 study conference themed "Mennonites, Human Rights and State Power." Two dozen book reviews are also included as well as an *In Memoriam* column for Dr. Gerhard Rempel (1934-2014) by Dr. James Urry. Dr. Rempel had retired to Florida in 1999 and in his legacy left, among other writings, an unpublished book-length manuscript on "Mennonites and

the Nazi regime in Ukraine". For further information contact the editor at r.loewen@uwinnipeg.ca

Dr. Royden Loewen's volume *Village Among Nations: "Canadian" Mennonites in a Transnational World, 1916-2006*, is a 2013 publication from the University of Toronto Press. The 301-page book, paperback format, pulls together the far-flung story of "conservative" *Kanadier* Mennonites who, in order to remain true to their faith convictions, left their Canadian homeland for residence in other, notably Latin American, countries, and in numerous cases returned to Canada later on. Cost: \$35.00 CND.

Another immigrant story is found in a tribute to Heinrich Braun, originally from Gruenfeld, Baratov Schlachtin colony, in south Russia who emigrated from there to Canada in 1923, and ended up finally in the village of Blumenort near Steinbach. This 147-page paperback volume was printed by the Word Alive Press in Winnipeg and published by the family in 2014. Many letters from family members in Russia, translated by Henry's daughter, Helen Braun Fast, are included in the book. It sells for \$15.00 CND.

Memoirs are also the content of *I Remember: The Story of Otto Klassen*, trans. from German by Jacob Klassen (Winnipeg, Man.: Klassen Publishing, 2013) pb., 235 pp. \$20.00 CND.

All titles mentioned above are available (unless noted otherwise) at the Village Bookstore of the Mennonite Heritage Village. Contact roxannem@mhv.ca or natashial@mhv.ca



James Kostuchuk, Manitoba Historical Society President (sponsoring agency), the Honourable Philip S. Lee – Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba, Ernest N. Braun (recipient).

— Photo by Michelle Bouvier, Winnipeg, provided by Manitoba News Media Services

Ernest Braun Recognition

Ernest Braun of Niverville, Manitoba, was one of five Manitobans to receive the Lieutenant Governor's Award for Historical Preservation and Promotion on Thursday, May 8, 2014. The award is presented in consultation with the Manitoba Historical Society.

Mr. Braun (or Ernie as he's frequently referred to) has been engaged in preserving the heritage of Mennonites in southeastern Manitoba for over twenty years. He has been actively involved in various capacities with a number of historical societies including the Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society.

Ernie's activities are far-reaching, from compiling an inventory of early aerial photographs of the region, to being a regular presenter at Family Roots Days at the Mennonite Heritage Village. For those of us with an interest in the history of the one-room rural schools, his engagement in deploying markers at the site of 21 of those former school houses in his municipality is especially significant.