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Historical Atlas of the East Reserve

by Barry Dyck

The *Historical Atlas of the East Reserve*, edited by Ernest N. Braun and Glen R. Klassen, was launched on Saturday, October 17, 2015, at 7:00 P.M. at the Chortitz Heritage Church in Randolph, Manitoba.

It is truly fitting that the old Chortitz Heritage Church, a building having been declared a Municipal Heritage Site by the Rural Municipality of Hanover, was chosen as the venue for the launch of such an historic book. This publication explores the eight townships of the former Mennonite *East Reserve*, consists of early maps of the vicinity, and includes a chapter devoted to each Township. Eventually the area contained sixty villages; these are explored in various ways, including by means of historical photographs, and documentation such as original surveys, aerial photographs, and homesteader information, to reference but a few.

If you're like me, the mention of a "historical atlas" likely conjures up images of very old, difficult-to-recognize, black-and-white maps bound in a nondescript soft cover. The authors of the newly published *Historical Atlas of the East Reserve* have set out to wipe that image from our minds and have achieved a degree of success in doing so. This became evident at the launch of this beautiful full-colour volume.

The old Chortitz Church at Randolph was filled to



Glen Klassen handing a copy of the Atlas to David Schroeder, son of the late William Schroeder, a great Mennonite cartographer to whom the editors were indebted for maps and information.

— Photos by Harold J. Dyck, Winnipeg

capacity as members of the Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society launched its latest publication. This hardcover book looks like it will be more suited to coffee tables than to dusty archival shelves. Its 256 pages are filled with colourful maps and charts, beautiful photographs, and narratives telling many stories of villages that once existed in the Rural Municipality of Hanover, many of which have disappeared and are merely a dot on a map today.

The evening was chaired by Jake Peters, Chair of the EastMenn History Committee of the Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society. Ernest Braun of Niverville, Glen Klassen of Steinbach, and Harold Dyck of Winnipeg – the three people who produced the atlas – each addressed the audience briefly with stories about the book's production. Dr. John Warkentin, Professor Emeritus at York University in Toronto (and interestingly one of the founders of the Mennonite Heritage Village) took time to congratulate the authors, editors and committee for their fine work. Signed copies were presented to a number of contributing individuals and organizations.

The evening ended with a lot of visiting around coffee and cookies, as well as the opportunity to purchase a book and have it autographed. The public will find these books for sale at Village Books and Gifts at the Mennonite Heritage Village, at Die Mennonitische Post in Steinbach, and at the Mennonite Heritage Centre on the campus of Canadian Mennonite University in Winnipeg.



Hans Werner handing complimentary copies of the Atlas to Ernest Braun and Glen Klassen, editors.

The 140th Anniversary of the West Reserve: A Reinland Celebration

by *Lawrence Klippenstein*

The village of Reinland, in what became the West Reserve of Mennonite settlement in Manitoba, established homes as early as in 1875, and grew to a somewhat regular population of about 20 families as time went on. Its early settlement included mainly families from Fuerstenland and Chortitza in the Old Colony (Chortitza) in south Russia (later Ukraine).

These families disembarked in July, 1875, at the dock of Fort Dufferin north of Emerson on the Red River. After several weeks of reorientation the group selected village sites in the western part of what became the second reserve of Mennonite settlement in the province. They started eighteen villages in 1875 and a number of additional ones in the years following. This new group of immigrants built their first church in Reinland in 1876. The building is still in use today, though renovated. It had been a centre of the original settlement of so-called Reinländer, and on July 18th, 2015 served as a venue for celebrating 140 years of its existence. A major change for the community took place in the mid 1920s when most of the Reinländer Mennonite Church families moved to Mexico. Many of the homesteads were then purchased by Mennonite families coming to Canada from the Soviet Union in the 1920s.

The Reinland event brought several hundred persons to this get-together. A morning activity included a parade of antique farm and other equipment of the community, and included preparations for the dedication of the renovated cemetery. The well-established Ens farmstead housebarn dating construction back to the pioneering years had been opened to the public early on in the day.

An afternoon program completed the cemetery tribute to pioneers who had passed on, and brought several speakers and a men's choir to the podium. Rev. Peter Zacharias of the local congregation spoke about founding years, while author Eleanor Hildebrand Chornoboy, a



A new cairn commemorating the West Reserve settlement was unveiled at Fort Dufferin by the Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society (MMHS). (L-R) Conrad Stoesz - Vice Chair of MMHS, Abe Ens - Chair of WestMenn History Committee of MMHS, and Dick Remus - Past Chair of Post Road Heritage Group.

— Photos by Lori Penner

member of the Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society (MMHS) board, did an “autobiography” of a Mennonite grandmother who could recall high points and some not so high from the early years. The MMHS had been privileged to focus Part II of the program in a manner that could represent all Mennonites of the province.

The involvement of MMHS brought a “book sale shack” to the premises. Of special interest to many was the launch of a 2015 publication titled *The Outsiders' Gaze: Life and Labour on the Mennonite West Reserve 1874 to 1922*. It is compiled and edited by Jacob E. Peters, Adolf Ens and Eleanor Chornoboy. A newly-published church membership register of the Evangelical Mennonite Mission Conference (earlier *Rudnerweide Mennoniten Gemeinde*), prepared by Martha Martens of Winkler, made its appearance there as well.

While most of the businesses of the village have moved to Winkler, the community retains vitality and energy through people continuing to move in, again including a number of immigrant families from Germany, and earlier the former Soviet Union.



Eleanor Chornoboy looks back at "The Role of Women in Pioneer Years".

Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society

600 Shaftesbury Blvd., Winnipeg, Manitoba R3P 0M4
1310 Taylor Ave., Winnipeg, Manitoba R3M 3Z6

Editor — Maria Falk Lodge

Circulation Manager — Loren Koehler

Layout Editor — Ted Barg

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:

Maria Falk Lodge	Loren Koehler
143 Ravine Drive	25 Coral Cres.
Winnipeg, MB R2M 5N1	Steinbach, MB R5G 2C9
mmhsph@gmail.com	heritage.posting@gmail.com

Website: www.mmhs.org

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Fort Dufferin and the 140th Celebration (2015)

by Lawrence Klippenstein

On July 16, 2000, a large crowd gathered in a spacious tent at Fort Dufferin for a “first” — a celebration of the arrival in late July, 1875, of the first Mennonite families in what would soon be known as the “West Reserve”. An “East Reserve” had been founded the year before when the 1874 arrivals came in late July that year as the first Russian Mennonites to settle in Manitoba. That led to setting up a cairn near Gretna (now Cairn Corner) in 1950 “so we would not forget”. The tradition of memorial meetings for these historical moments has a firm foundation now.

Retelling these events formed the program focus of the assembly of nearly 400 persons on September 13 at Fort Dufferin on the Red River just north of Emerson earlier this year. A joint effort for planning this gathering by the Sommerfelder Mennonite *Gemeinde* of Manitoba and the Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society came to fruition, and God helped graciously to make it happen as it did.

Here is how John Giesbrecht of Altona later described the proceedings: “We gathered at 2.30 p.m. in the afternoon that day to reflect on our people’s story as we listened to excerpts from the *Lange Wiesz* (lit. slow melody) and other songs of thanksgiving to God. Then Rev. Peter Zacharias, serving as minister for many years, and now resident in Winkler, brought one of the key spoken presentations. He had chosen the theme: “Why did They Leave Their Home Country: Moving from South Russia (later Ukraine) to Manitoba, Canada?”

The second presenter was Rev. Abe Wiebe, speaking on the topic “The Unrest that Led Our People to East Paraguay in 1948, and their Return to Canada”. Conrad Stoesz, chairperson of MMHS, and archivist at the Mennonite Heritage Centre, then addressed the topic “The Importance of Fort Dufferin During the 1875-1879 period of immigration”. Eleanor Hilderbrand Chornoboy of Winnipeg filled in a very important part of the picture of the move with her talk on “The Role of Women During the Pioneer Years”.

We could also take part in the unveiling of the commemorative cairn recently placed on the west bank of the Red River here at the Fort close to where the immigrant ships of 1875 – 1879 had landed to unload passengers and their baggage. It is a tribute to the courage and contributions of all immigrants of various national groups, Mennonite and others, who arrived here during those years.

Fahspa, of course, was not forgotten (really a potluck including *Reeshtji* (roasted bread) and coffee. Altogether it was a great occasion to reflect on these significant elements of our Mennonite historical journey”.

Credit for the Giesbrecht account goes to Barry Dyck who included it in Village News, sponsored by Mennonite Heritage Village, for The Carillon, published in Steinbach of the former East Reserve, for the week following the celebration. Warm thanks go to John and Barry for helping to preserve the story.

Dr. Harry Loewen: 1930-2015.

The first Chair in Mennonite Studies, Dr. Harry Loewen, (Professor Emeritus) died on September 16, 2015, in Kelowna, British Columbia, after a lengthy struggle with cancer. Born in 1930 in the Soviet Union, Loewen came to Canada as a refugee after the Second World War and led a life of service and scholarship until his death. He served the University of Winnipeg as Professor of History and inaugural holder of the Chair in Mennonite Studies from 1978-1996. He was a founding editor of the *Journal of Mennonite Studies*, organized annual symposia in the field, and lectured at educational institutions throughout North and South America as well as in Europe during his distinguished academic career. An accomplished scholar of German, Russian, and Mennonite literature and history, Loewen authored and edited fourteen books, the last of which, a lengthy study of Martin Luther, he completed during the course of his illness. That study was published by WLU Press earlier this year and launched at an event at Mosaic Books in Kelowna. A memorial service was held at the First Mennonite Church in Kelowna on October 9, 2015. Dr. Loewen leaves behind many friends and colleagues, past and present, at The University of Winnipeg.

Reflection by Royden Loewen, Chair in Mennonite Studies, University of Winnipeg

Harry Loewen (1930-2015), the founding Chair in Mennonite Studies, author of numerous books, a beloved colleague to many of us, and a loving husband to Gertrude and father and grandfather will be missed. Harry accomplished a great deal in his life, but more importantly he was an inspiration to many young scholars, as teacher, publisher and writer for many decades. His ability to reach both popular and academic audiences has been remarkable. He has written on a wide range of topics, including comparing 16th Century Anabaptism and Lutheranism, early 20th century work on Mennonites in the Soviet Union, and his own story of coming to Canada with his widowed mother. He also addressed more contemporary topics such as Mennonite literature, and Mennonite identity with his collection, 'Why I am a Mennonite.' Harry has shown a commitment to scholarship in many other ways: as the founding Chair in Mennonite Studies (1978-1995) he pioneered the idea of teaching Mennonite history in public spaces and as the founding editor of the *Journal of Mennonite Studies* (1983-1995) he also pioneered a platform for Mennonite scholars in Canada to engage in valuable academic discourse. Harry has always been a friendly and engaging scholar. Perhaps most importantly, he has always been an inspiration to the generation that followed him.

Mennonite Heritage Village Introduces Development Initiative

by *Barry Dyck*

Mennonite Heritage Village (MHV) recently announced a development initiative that will provide new facilities at the museum and will also strengthen existing structures. *Foundations for a strong Future* is a campaign that will ensure MHV's trajectory of progress on a strong foundation established over the last 50 years.

Foundations for a Strong Future is based on fundamental values of Faith, Family and Community, all prominent in Mennonite History. It was the faith of 16th century Anabaptist reformers that gave rise to a unique people-group known as Mennonites, who in time developed distinct cultures. The culture of the Russian Mennonites has always placed high value on faith, family and community.

The 'Foundations' campaign is geared to serving the constituency in multiple ways. The leading element is The Summer Pavilion, a three season, open building that will replace the existing tent providing space for our Education Program, corporate and family meetings and picnics, overflow seating and washrooms for the Livery Barn Restaurant, and a venue for festival entertainment.

This campaign will also invest in existing structures. The Waldheim House, our oldest building and the first one to be moved to this site, will have its log structure and its thatched roof restored, both key elements in preserving this valuable artifact. Our Village Centre, the main building containing the galleries, storage rooms, lab, meeting rooms and offices is 25 years old and in need of new climate-control equipment. These systems are required to maintain the necessary climatic conditions for the preservation of our irreplaceable artifacts.

The campaign also includes debt elimination, endowment fund enhancement and additional restoration projects in the Village. The constituency is invited to invest in this development initiative. Inquiries can be directed to Barry Dyck at 204-326-9661 or barryd@mhv.ca.



Waldheim House West Wall.

— Photo Mennonite Heritage Village

Importance of Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society (MMHS) and the Role of its Board

by *Bert Friesen, member of the executive*

MMHS has evolved over its history. It began as primarily a collector and preserver of artifacts which were eventually put on display at the Mennonite Heritage Village (MHV). The 100th anniversary of the coming of the Russian Mennonites to Manitoba prompted a reflection and analysis of the past history. It was soon after that time that the decision was reached to form two organizations. One would emphasize the work with artifacts and the other with the word.

The current MMHS is the organization of the word. It has concentrated on telling the story of the Mennonite experience in Manitoba by publishing books, monographs, newsletters, and events.

MMHS continues this emphasis to this day. We are preserving these stories for future generations. Readers will be aware that a recent publication continues this goal. It is the historical atlas of the East Reserve, which preserves and makes accessible knowledge that we previously did not have in this format. It meets our goal of preservation and accessibility of this story.

It should be noted though, that this format for accessibility may be nearing an end. New technologies are challenging us to rethink how we meet our goals, especially accessibility. We will continue to preserve knowledge by hard copy printing, and we have done that well.

The organization of how we tell stories and meet our goals has also evolved. We began as a more centralized organization with a governance model centred on a board and committees. We have now become a more loosely associated organization. It is more a confederation of interest groups which work rather independently of each other.

The role of the board is now changed to be more in the nature of a facilitator. The board brings all the interest groups together to share information. It still fulfills a fiduciary role and sets general policies so that all are within the mission parameters of the organization.

The strength of the organization is its flexibility. We continue to evolve. We do this in order to best fulfil our mission in the changing times we work in and will continue to do so.

Artwork Honouring CMU professor's contribution

WINNIPEG, June 11, 2015 – Canadian Mennonite University President Cheryl Pauls and representatives from southern Manitoba's Hutterite community unveiled a new artwork honouring a CMU professor last week.

Unveiled on Wednesday, June 3 in CMU's new library, the artwork was commissioned by the Hutterian Brethren Education Committee in honour of John J. Friesen, Professor Emeritus of History and Theology, for his contribution to the Hutterite community.

Between 2000 and 2014, Friesen taught a number of Old Testament, Anabaptist, and Hutterite history courses to several hundred Hutterite teachers, pastors, and young people from across southern Manitoba, South Dakota, and Minnesota.

The painting, created by Victor Kleinsasser of the Crystal Spring Community near Ste. Agathe, MB, depicts a group of Hutterites speaking with Friesen after one of their classes together.

Jesse Hofer, a CMU alumnus and member of the Hutterian Brethren Education Committee, said the painting represents the important relationship that has developed between Mennonites and Hutterites since Friesen taught his first course to Hutterites.

"The artistic contribution is a sign of our commitment to build and grow this relationship into the future," Hofer said.



John J. Friesen (third from left) and CMU President Cheryl Pauls with members of the Hutterian Brethren Education Committee at the art unveiling.

— Photos by CMU

In addition to the artwork, the Hutterites made a \$10,000 donation in Friesen's name to help fund Marpeck Commons, the new library, learning commons, and bridge at CMU. Nearly 20 colonies contributed to the donation.

The Hutterian Brethren Education Committee surprised Friesen with the gift November 1, 2014 after he taught his final course with the Hutterites.

Speaking at the unveiling, Friesen thanked the Hutterian community for its generosity and hospitality, as well as the opportunity to teach them for 14 years.

"I learned so much from your communities, and in the process, made many friends," Friesen said.

He added that ultimately, the event was not about him, but about the Hutterites.

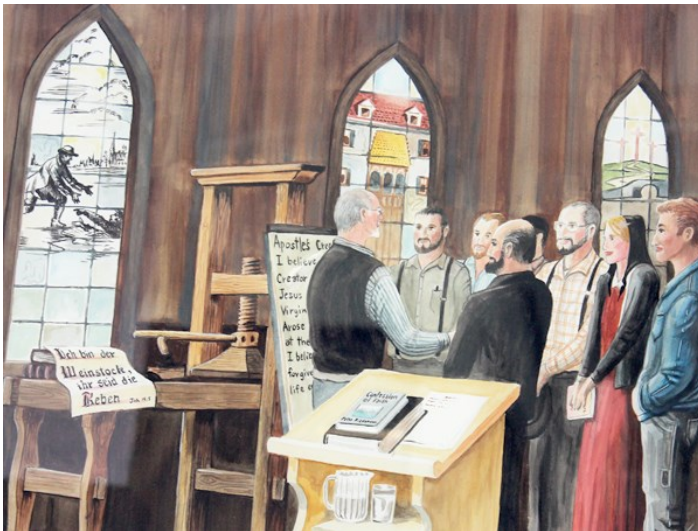
"With the unveiling of this painting, you're signalling I think publicly that you are continuing to embrace, incarnate, and communicate your rich spiritual heritage of communal living," Friesen said.

"In a society that is highly individualist, economically and socially, you provide a successful alternative communal model. In a society that is consumer-oriented, you in many ways conserve resources through sharing and communal ownership. In a society that relegates faith into ever-smaller areas of private life, you're committed to having faith permeate and shape all areas of your life. To me, this event signals that you do not want your heritage to become a revered relic of the past, but a rich resource for the future."

CMU President Cheryl Pauls expressed her gratitude to the Hutterian community for its support and noted that at least four Hutterites have studied at CMU in recent years.

"Thanks also for your lives of faithfulness — to God, to one another, to the land, and to ways of discerning God's word together through time," Pauls said. "Thanks also for the ways you remember to live generously through time, to share again with one another and for sharing with us."

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A close-up of the painting by Victor Kleinsasser presented to CMU from the Hutterian Brethren Education Committee. The painting, created by Victor Kleinsasser of the Crystal Spring Community near Ste. Agathe, MB, depicts a group of Hutterites speaking with Friesen after one of their classes together.

A Quiet Interlude during “Fall on the Farm”

by Evelyn Heide

A group of Menno followers met over coffee at Mennonite Heritage Village Museum, during “Fall on the Farm” on 7 September, 2015 for a quick, quiet look at *Menno Simons: Dutch Reformer between Luther, Erasmus and the Holy Spirit. A Study in the Problem Areas of Menno Scholarship*. The publication by Dr. Abraham Friesen, *professor emeritus* is a 446 page paperback, published by Xlibris in May, 2015.

The content of the book is a challenging exposure to the new theologies of the Reformation, especially as their formulators – Luther, Melanchthon, Muentzer, Erasmus and about a dozen other leading lights of the Reformation provided a context for Menno’s theology to get its definitive shape at the same time.

In 2025 many churches will be celebrating the 500th anniversary of the birth of *Anabaptism* which also brought Mennonite practices of faith to the fore. At that time this volume and possibly numerous others will be calling us to consider again what it was all about, and whether it is relevant to our times even yet. Menno died in 1496, the year 2016 being the 520th anniversary of his passing.

For further information on the book, please see Book Notes.



Left to right: Evelyn Heide, Ernie Braun, Ed Hoepfner, Lawrence Klippenstein, Abe Warkentin.

— Photo by Evelyn Heide

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Pauls added that Marpeck Commons—the building within which the new CMU library is located—takes its name from Pilgrim Marpeck, a 16th century Anabaptist leader who brought together his faith and everyday life through his work as a civil engineer.

“The name of this building signifies through time that the vision here at Canadian Mennonite University extends far beyond us and reaches for something that learns from the community and isn’t about particular individuals in our own time,” Pauls said. “Thanks for the ways the Hutterian community remembers that through time and helps to sharpen the vision of CMU... We look forward to ongoing relationships and conversations with you.”

The Hutterian Brethren originated as the Austrian branch of the Anabaptist movement of the 16th century. Absolute pacifism and community of goods are key practices for the Hutterites, who live in rural communities made up of 50 to 150 people.

CMU’s relationship with the Hutterite community is ongoing. Harry Huebner, Professor Emeritus of Philosophy and Theology, will teach an introduction to philosophy course to members of the community in southern Manitoba beginning this summer.

Canadian Mennonite University issued the press release on the occasion of the unveiling of a new work of art in June, 2015.

Mennonite Heritage Village Honoured

The Mennonite Heritage Village (MHV) was honoured at the annual awards banquet of the Association of Manitoba Museums with an Award of Excellence in the Research and Publications category. The award was in recognition of the excellent research, design and production work of MHV staff in the creation of *A Collected History: Mennonite Heritage Village*, co-authored by Dr. Roland and Andrea Dyck.



Heritage Posting To Your E-mail!

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

Jacob E Peters, Adolf Ens, and Eleanor Chornoboy, compilers., and editors. *The Outsiders' Gaze, Life and Labour on the Mennonite West Reserve 1874 – 1922* (Winnipeg: Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society, 2015), pb., 198 pp., \$30.00 plus tax CND.

Reviewed by Lawrence Klippenstein

Mennonites moving to Canada from south Russia in the 1870s left behind a cultural and socio-economic context very different from their new host country. They knew they would need to relate to people from a different background, including above all a language quite foreign to them. Most of them were not looking forward to all the newness which in fact did face them when they got to Manitoba.

It can be assumed, and there is evidence for it, that the resident Canadians of the time were also not all really waiting to welcome them with open arms. But there were some who were not frightened or worried about the newcomers. They had received many others earlier. These included some who would seriously try to become acquainted with them, and in fact, did not hesitate to help these “Russian Mennonites” to begin to feel at home after they arrived.

And once the Mennonites were here and had settled down somewhat these folks reached out more and more to see how the immigrants were getting along. This book brings together, for the first time, a whole lot of such “observer” comments and even quasi-formal studies highlighting the real efforts to get to know their new neighbours from abroad.

Twenty two longer and some shorter such commentaries, each with an introduction by the editors, are part of this panorama of “gazers” if you like, or onlookers who took a look early on in the settlement era at how the new “Canadian” Mennonites were doing. As expected these observations range from almost unmitigated praise and wonderment about the achievements of these immigrants, to hints of suspicion, to mild and not so mild criticisms, illustrating clearly that some of the strangeness of the Mennonites would sometimes be genuinely difficult to understand and appreciate (Mennonites have not come to fully understand each other either- even yet!). We need only to examine our own responses to non-English speaking immigrants arriving now in large numbers to appreciate the challenge of “bridging” which these cultural, social and personal encounters brought with the move from there (wherever) to here - Canada allegedly among the most friendly peoples of the world.

A few of the commentators have appeared in reading and literature before - E. Cora Hind, J.F. Galbraith, John F Funk, Jacob Y Shantz, Inspector Andrew Willows, and J. S. Woodworth with one or two others, might come to mind, perhaps. The others of the twenty two found here are newcomers for most readers this book will have in our midst.

They mention “uncleanliness” once or twice, and one person explains this could come from the housebarn style of life for some people not familiar with them at all. The

strictness of community leaders others noticed were foreign to Canadians then, and, we could comment, are, for many of us, still so today.

But there is great admiration again and again for progress in agriculture, for community togetherness, for family discipline, even shrewdness and thoroughgoing thriftiness, growth and development in all sorts of ways, etc. Some repetition in such a compilation is unavoidable, but the perspective offered by the outsiders can definitely counteract in a good way the “over-inwardness” Mennonites are sometimes charged with (not being sufficiently aware of new neighbours they accrued here in moving in).

The volume comes in fine dress, and is well-edited. A question perhaps might arise as to why a book on the West Reserve, as this is, would not simply choose 1875 for its starting point since there was no “West Reserve” before then. Photos are sometimes somewhat fuzzy, details of maps and charts sometimes too small to read comfortably but these are really minor points.

One could take a larger step of encouragement here and mention the possible merit of beginning the book with a short history of the West Reserve. This would then backstop the several bits of erroneous fact that the “gazers” pass along here in their comments. A few more footnotes , perhaps even regular bibliography, might have served the same purpose. We applaud this effort , and to use the words of Oliver Twist from another culture – “I want more”.



Ernest N. Braun & Glen R. Klassen, eds., *Historical Atlas of the East Reserve. Illustrated.* Steinbach: Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society (EastMenn Historical Committee), 2015) hdc. 256 pp, \$50.00

Reviewed by Lawrence Klippenstein

Anyone from the area covered by this study will find it really hard to put this volume down. Appropriately it pays tribute to its forerunners East Reserve map makers, John Rempel and Bill Harms

But *Historical Atlas of the East Reserve* rises to a new level of presentation and information provided on its topic, frequently quoting Dr. John Warkentin of Toronto in his study of southern Manitoban Mennonite historiogeography, *The Mennonite Settlements of Southern Manitoba*, who also contributed the foreword to *Historical Atlas*.

The Mennonite families who moved from south Russia to Manitoba beginning 140 years ago in 1874, were granted eight townships of land by the government of Canada somewhat east and south of Winnipeg. Only a little more than half of this land was at least marginally fertile and actually suited for farming. Numbering some 3500 persons they settled on this land in villages and hamlets. The majority of the families put down roots on northern or

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Book Notes

by Lawrence Klippenstein

The new volume, *Menno Simons: Dutch Reformer Between Luther, Erasmus and the Holy Spirit A Study in the Problem Areas of Menno Scholarship* by Dr. Abraham Friesen of Fresno, CA, has now reached our desk. It comes in paperback format with 397 pages as a 2015 publication from Xlibris, printed by Edwards Brothers, Malloy, New Jersey, USA. To order contact 1-888-795-427. The year 2016 will be the 520th anniversary of the birth of Menno Simons.

A new book by the late Dr. Harry Loewen of Kelowna, BC *Ink Against the Devil: Luther and His Opponents* was launched in Kelowna this past spring. The book, a 335 page hardcover volume was published by Wildred Laurier University Press on May 29, 2015. Dr. Loewen was a long-time director of the Chair in Mennonite Studies at the University of Winnipeg, who had retired to Kelowna a number of years ago. He passed away on September 16, 2016. A celebration of the 500th anniversary of the beginning of the Protestant Reformation will be held in 2017. Watch for further announcements. A colloquium highlighting these two volumes on “Martin and Menno” would be a worthwhile project to consider for the next several years.

A CD version of some 350 page volume titled *Mennonite Pacifism and Service in Tsarist and Soviet Russia 1789-1939 (2015)* by Dr. Lawrence Klippenstein of Winnipeg is to be made available this fall. It will include

several additional essays on conscientious objectors (COs) active in other eastern European countries and a meditation titled *A Perspective on the Peace Teachings of the Bible*. It will be issued in commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the witness of Conscientious Objectors of Canada which began in 1941, hence the period of commemoration of 1941-2016. The erection of a memorial marker dedicated to this spot in history is a discussion in progress at the Mennonite Heritage Village museum in Steinbach, Manitoba.

Mary Ann Loewen's *Sons and Mothers: Stories from Mennonite Men*, a 144 page paperback, published by University of Regina Press earlier this year was launched on October 3 at McNally Robinson in Winnipeg. Twelve essays on the topic have been edited by Mary Ann to comprise a unique collection of essays “written from the heart.” The book sheds a loving new light on a relationship both timeless and universal – that of mother and son. Mary Ann, a resident of Steinbach, Manitoba, teaches Academic Writing at the University of Winnipeg. To contact the publisher call 1-306-595-4758.

Turnstone Press of Winnipeg has recently released a collection of novelist Armin Wiebe's “bits and pieces” under the title *Armin's Shorts, pb., 289 pages*. It includes what its title says – short writings from Armin, gathered over the 30 years of his writing and publication career. To contact the press for further info call 1-204-947-1555.

(Continued from page 7)

central townships, with far fewer on the southern townships because of swamps, trees and stony land which dominated that part of the area.

The authors of this atlas claim to have walked basically every square yard of this area to explore the history of the individual townships and provide an up to date sketch, with considerable detail of what had been the important features of each township and how they developed in their early years — and what remains as “footprints” of those efforts and designs for making a livelihood in their new homes.

The ER Atlas actually opens with an introduction on geographical developments that go back to the Ice Age and earlier, followed by a survey of various earlier maps which show context and efforts to create East Reserve maps, mostly by Mennonite authors. Central to this version of mapping the East Reserve at this point is the placing of homesteaders' names on all of the eight townships, outlining in colour the land held by initial settlers of each section of the East Reserve region.

Special landmarks remaining in each section are included in the book together with an enormous amount of incidental information for each of the township settlements (villages). The inclusion of recently furnished aerial

composite views of each township forms a kind of base formation key to the whole area. A great deal of checking of details is apparent throughout.

The use of colour delineations and expert photos of landscape and areas of special beauty greatly enhance the text. The effort to put forward a coloured newly researched map (p.79) of the ER is most laudable — though absolute accuracy in placement of the villages, say the authors, is not something they would want to claim straight out! It is the closest we have so far though. And I simply could not find one village name misspelled.

We invite you:

- To give us your thoughts and ideas on material you would consider important to readers of Heritage Posting, the newsletter of The Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society;
 - Submit your own reports, articles, memoirs, book reviews, or the like, for us to consider including in our newsletter;
 - Please send your thoughts or queries in this regard to the following email address <mmhshp@gmail.com>
- Thank you. We look forward to hearing from you.