



Second Annual German Christmas at Chortitz

by Ernest N. Braun

On Saturday evening, December 12, 2015, for the second consecutive year, the old Chortitz Heritage Church in Randolph resounded with German Christmas carols as a capacity crowd joyfully celebrated the Advent season as Mennonite people have done over the centuries: with a *cappella* singing.

Led by four *Vorsänger* [Mennonite style song leaders] under the direction of Peter Ginter, the audience sang old German favourites from *Nun ist sie erschienen* to *Welch ein Jubel*, including a special rendition of *Der Friedensfürst* led by David Wiebe with an ensemble expanded by singers from the audience. A few English carols rounded out the program.

Prof. Willie Wiebe provided the featured special music on guitar and accompanied his wife Lin Wiebe, the soloist for the evening. At the end of the program, in the stillness and dusk of lamplight, Prof Wiebe also played the guitar while the audience sang *Stille Nacht*, as done originally by Joseph Mohr and Franz Gruber in 1818.

Those who came were greeted at the front door by the sight of an old-fashioned single-horse cutter festooned with kerosene lanterns. The cutter was supplied by Dr. Corneil Blatz, who is the chair of the sponsoring committee, the Chortitz Church Heritage Committee (CCHC), which administers the affairs of the Municipal Heritage Site owned by the Rural Municipality of Hanover. Dr. Blatz also provided a short update on the renovations being



An old-fashioned single-horse cutter at the front door of the church.

undertaken to preserve the site. Orlando Hiebert, also a member of the CCHC, was emcee. After the program, cookies and coffee encouraged reminiscing and fellowship.

The purpose of the event, beyond the simple celebration of Christmas, was to raise awareness of this unique Heritage Site, as a symbol of the faith that has marked Mennonites for centuries, and as a reminder of the pioneer era in Manitoba.



David Wiebe leads in singing *Der Friedensfürst*.

— Photos by Ernest N. Braun

Moving an Archives

by **Lawrence Klippenstein**

As I write this I am thinking of two collections once resting in EMC communities. One was a large pile literally of cheese factory files kept in an old shed for a number of decades by a Mr. Kornelson of Kleefeld, Manitoba. The other was the vast personal "attic collection" of the late Dick B. Eidse a local historian of Rosenort, Manitoba who "saved everything" and had done so all his life – but now needed to move. I heard about these collections in my active archives work days and thought they should not be destroyed.

So I visited Mr. Eidse one day and saw what he had in fact saved – it was as my Kurdish friends would describe "a lot" of something. I told him we would contact the then EMC archivist, David Schellenberg at the time to come and look and then archive anything they felt worth storing. And that did happen. Then I made another trip to look at the cheese factory files – very old, rat eaten (alas), literally, but again "a lot". I had the impression from Mr. Kornelson that as soon as someone would offer to take it all away, it could be picked up. I had come by so I got to arrange the pickup, and our then assistant archivist at Mennonite Heritage Centre, Jim Suderman, got the task (which he found positively challenging – really, genuine archivists are like that!) to create order of the total chaos of the pile and "archive" it. Jim did that. It came as well from a family in the EMC community as did the Eidse collection.

The EM conference had just begun to formalize its archival program at the time. David had the task of putting it all into shape, if I recall correctly. What was gleaned from those collections (we could not archive quite all of it!) is now part of the material moved by the Evangelical Mennonite Conference to the Mennonite Heritage Centre not long ago.

Fast forward to about nine years later soon after my wife LaVerna and I moved to Steinbach in 2007. Someone from the EMC archives committee asked if I might have time to help them work with their archives. I did not feel

quite up to that, but said I would be happy to give advice here or there if I could. I was learning to know Loren Koehler, then with the archives committee, and we were able to find some pleasant collegiality in the job all that involved. Soon I met another member of that committee, Robert Goertzen (I think it was) who took this discussion a step further. He told me one day they were full up with their archives space at the conference and were planning to move it somewhere else.

So I asked whether they had some options. He was wondering whether the Mennonite Heritage Centre might consider taking these materials. To that I replied "I am really no longer involved as staff with the MHC but the current archivist, Alf Redekopp, would no doubt be quite prepared to discuss possibilities of making such a move." Over the months that passed there were conversations, I learned. When I discovered that in fact agreement was being reached to make that move, I thought to myself, "Very nice".

To make this longish story short, and to finish let me share what an MHC staff member has written about that move:

"On Saturday, September 12, 2015, three members of the Evangelical Mennonite Conference (EMC) archives committee drove out to Winnipeg with two much weighted down vans. Inside the vans, most of the EMC collection of 383 boxes wrapped shut, using saran wrap, arrived at the Mennonite Heritage Centre (MHC). After five years of discussions, the EMC collection had arrived! With three additional staff members from MHC, it took just under two hours to bring in, organize, and verify that all boxes had arrived and were shelved in their original order.

A rich collection now made more physically accessible and available during working hours, the MHC staff has begun to assess the materials, and input the EMC's finding aids into the Heritage Centre database. In this way, we can more easily search for materials found in all the collections housed at the Mennonite Heritage Centre.

For archivists and researchers alike, it was a great day with people now having the ability to research a wider amount of material from across many Mennonite organizations".

I might add that I have been keeping my eyes on an important family collection from the Steinbach EMC milieu which I am trusting will one day be able to catch up with this move and come to rest there also. But we shall see. I am not the only one with interests in that collection (my late mother-in-law's), but I have gently made my opinions known about what to do with the materials ultimately; time will tell the rest.

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In Memoriam

Ted E. (Ted) Friesen

July 3, 1920 – February 18, 2016

Among many interests, and as part of a very productive life, Ted Friesen was also a historian. History was his favourite subject in school studies which he would very gladly have continued after high school, but he was needed in the family business. So he furthered that passion, which it truly was, in other ways wherever possible.

Ted was present at the founding meeting of the Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society in April, 1958. He strongly supported the idea of collaborating with the Mennonite Historical Society of Ontario in writing a multivolume history of Mennonites in Canada when that proposal came up. He was a strong supporter of Frank H. Epp and Ted Regehr when the newly organized Mennonite Historical Society of Canada (MHSC) worked on a project which, from 1974 on, became a three-volume set starting with **Mennonites in Canada. The History of a Separate People 1786 - 1929**. It was something not attempted before (but is quite possibly soon to be enhanced with an updating volume 4). Ted served as president of MHSC from 1982 – 1996 and remained a promoter of its work as long as he lived.

Ted also authored and assisted with publishing several historical works himself. He will certainly have assisted Esther Epp-Tiessen during the early 1980s in writing **Altona: The Story of a Prairie Town** (hdc, 372 pp). In 1988 he published **Altona Mennonite Church. 25th Anniversary 1962 – 1987** (hdc, 171 pp). Then, in 1990, he gave much valuable help to long-time Echo editor Vic Penner, in publishing **Altona. A Pictorial History** (hdc, 293 pp). After that in 1993, came **A History of D. W. Friesen. A Unique Company 1907-1993** (hdc, 79 pp) together with **David W. Friesen: A Tribute 1879-1951** (no date, pb, 22 pp), and again helped as co-author during 1999, in putting out the **Town of Altona, Millennium Diary** (hdc, 143 pp). It did not hurt historical groups to have Ted, vice president of Friesens, around any time publishing questions came up!

During these years he also compiled a series of genealogical works related to the Klippensteins of Neubergthal/Gnadenfeld, and published the key item, **The History and Genealogy of Johann (1845-1923) and Agatha (1843-1927) Klippenstein** (hdc, 140 pp, 1993).

Ted's footprint in history-making, writing and promoting is indeed found all over, and he will long be remembered by those who sought to accompany him in these important endeavours.

by Lawrence Klippenstein



Award recipients, Hugo Friesen, left and Ted Regehr, right, with Lucille Marr, President of MHSC.

Photo by Bert Friesen

Award of Excellence of the Mennonite Historical Society of Canada

The Mennonite Historical Society of Canada annually presents an "Award of Excellence" a practice which began in 2004. The award is given to a person who has made a significant contribution be it by way of research, writing, organization, or the dissemination of Mennonite historical knowledge.

The recipients of the 2016 award are Hugo Friesen and Ted Regehr. Both men have served the Mennonite constituency in a wide range of activities and achievements.

Among the many contributions made by Hugo Friesen is his considerable involvement with the organizing of a Mennonite Archive of British Columbia, as well as being the Archivist for the Mennonite Historical Society of BC from 1993-2005. It should be noted that Hugo's wife Jean has also volunteered extensively with the Archive. Hugo Friesen set a high standard of public service with his much-appreciated contributions at the MHSBC Archives, and has left a rich legacy of public service to the Mennonite community in the province.

Ted Regehr has also served the Mennonite community in Canada in many ways, including his position as president for the Mennonite Historical Society of Canada from December 1975 to December 1981. He has been active on the editorial board of the Global Anabaptist Mennonite Encyclopedia On-Line and an advisor to Mennonite Central Committee's Historical Committee. Ted joined the history department of the University of Saskatchewan in 1968, eventually becoming head of the department, and has published many books on Canadian history and Mennonite history.

Mennonite Historical Society Archives Committee Report

by Conrad Stoesz, Chair, January, 2016

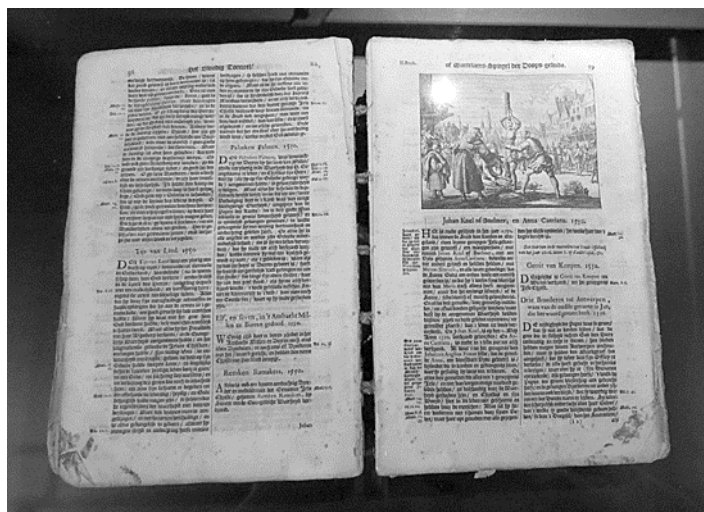
An archive is a foundational institution for any people group. Its mandate is to collect, preserve, and make accessible the documentary heritage of its community. For us in Mennonite Historical Society of Canada (MHSC), this is the Mennonite community.

We live in interesting times with at least three significant realities that challenge archives. First, the baby boomer generation is reaching an age where they are downsizing, moving to smaller homes, apartments, or seniors housing complexes. Many still have strong ties to rural life, to parents who remember hardships in this country and the old country. I have heard baby boomers lament that the next generation shows little interest in its heritage and looks to the archives to preserve its heritage. There will be a growing interest in depositing family records in our archives.

Second, our families and institutions are creating digital records at an amazing pace. Digital photographs, videos, spreadsheets, bulletins, minutes of meetings, databases, blogs, and Facebook formats and platforms are now common in most homes, businesses, and churches. Our archival institutions are not prepared to undertake the challenge of archiving digital records.

Third, these two large intake challenges facing us are compounded by the increasingly soft support for our Mennonite institutions of all kinds (schools, papers, missions, and archives) by the Mennonite community. Many denominational archival budgets are being trimmed. Some denominations are shipping their records to other archives for storage. Many archives have an aging volunteer pool, which is significant when the institution is run only by volunteers. Some denominations are cracking under the weight of new cultural paradigms, and a loss of financial support, while others see the archives as culturally irrelevant and a hindrance to their mission.

These factors - the aging baby boomers, digital records, and the weakening support for our Mennonite institutions -



An artifact on display in the museum; a second edition, published in 1685.

— Photo by Bert Friesen

make the task of archiving much more challenging. How are we to respond?

It is critical that we find new ways of collaborating. I am pleased with the success of Mennonite Archival Image Database (MAID). It is one example of collaboration and shows that while the digital reality poses significant challenges, it also allows for opportunities.

We need to do a better job of educating our communities about the value of archives, and the important role archivists play. Archives are poorly understood by society in general and therefore suffer. It is important that we find ways of advocating for the foundational role the archives play in our communities and societies. Our personal and corporate identities are “anchored in a strong historical sense that comes from the ability to experience continuity. Surely if you have nothing to look backward to, and with pride, you have nothing to look forward to with hope,” states historian Barbara L. Craig. Our libraries, archives, study centres, and their staff are essential to providing continuity of memory.

This is why MHSC is vital to the archives and to each of our communities. MHSC provides a starting point for collaboration, learning, and encouraging.



Notice:

Heritage Posting #82 published in November, 2015

Please note the following correction on page 8, column 1 of HP #82: The telephone number to call should you wish to order the book by Dr. Abraham Friesen entitled *Menno Simons: Dutch Reformer Between Luther, Erasmus and the Holy Spirit A Study in the Problem Areas of Menno Scholarship* is 1-888-795-4274

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.

Mennonite Historical Society of Canada Annual Meeting Held in Abbotsford

by Barry Dyck

The Mennonite Historical Society of Canada (MHSC) is made up of six provincially based Mennonite historical societies, Mennonite denominational conferences and their archives, Mennonite Central Committee, and several other Mennonite institutions such as The Chair of Mennonite Studies at the University of Winnipeg and Mennonite Heritage Village (MHV). MHSC members meet only once a year for a series of committee meetings, a board meeting and the Annual General Meeting. This year's meetings were held January 14-16 in Abbotsford, BC.

One of the key elements of these meetings is to share information about projects and activities of the various member agencies and institutions. A highlight this year was touring the new premises of the Mennonite Historical Society of BC, where we learned about the way they function and the initiatives they are busy with.

Other member organizations shared updates as well. The Global Anabaptist Mennonite Encyclopedia Online (GAMEO) is a website operated by the Faith and Life Commission of the Mennonite World Conference, with MHSC being one of the representatives on their



Mennonite Heritage Museum, Abbotsford, British Columbia.

Management Board. This online resource of Mennonite information, begun in 1996, now has some 16,000 articles.

The Archive Committee has been very busy during the last few years developing the Mennonite Archival Image Database (MAID) which is designed to store archival photos, also making them available in digital form for use in historical research projects. It now has approximately 12,000 images and can be found at www.archives.mhsc.ca.

In years past, the MHSC has commissioned the writing of three books in a series called "Mennonites in Canada." MHSC will now begin to explore the possibility of a fourth "Mennonites in Canada" volume to cover more recent history. The MHSC board made a decision to distribute remaining copies of the current books free of charge through the provincial societies.

Our meetings were held in the new Mennonite Heritage Museum in the heart of Abbotsford. This museum seeks to tell the Mennonite story going back to the 16th century with a specific focus on the contribution of Mennonites in British Columbia. The Mennonite Historical Society of BC Archives has also taken up residence in this facility. Lucille Marr of Quebec stepped down as President of MHSC after four years in that role, and Richard Thiessen of BC was elected to replace her. Next year's meetings will be held in Winnipeg.



Delegates to the meetings of the MHSC in Abbotsford, January, 2016.

— Photos by Bert Friesen

Centre for Mennonite Brethren Studies Serves *Heritage Posting* Readers

by Jon Isaak

The Centre for Mennonite Brethren Studies in Winnipeg (CMBS) (<http://cmbs.mennonitebrethren.ca>) is one of four archival centers operated by Mennonite Brethren in the US and Canada (www.mbhistory.org). The other three are in Fresno, California (on the campus of Fresno Pacific University), Hillsboro, Kansas (on the campus of Tabor College), and Abbotsford, British Columbia (part of the Mennonite Heritage Museum).

At CMBS Winnipeg, Director Jon Isaak and Archivist Conrad Stoesz offer research and archiving services to Mennonite Brethren Churches—their people and their leaders—and to interested members of the public in general. The Centre produces two “deliverables”: archival and interpretive resourcing.

1. *Archival resourcing* includes preserving and making accessible church records and resources (photos, minutes, reports, statistics, study papers, etc.). See <http://cmbs.mennonitebrethren.ca> for Canadian MB Church records and resources. See also <http://archives.mhsc.ca> for an online photo database curating photos from several Mennonite archives (new in 2015!).

2. *Interpretative resourcing* includes offering analysis on questions of theology and history as requested by individuals, congregations, and conference ministries.

A sampling of projects and initiatives that may interest readers of *Heritage Posting* includes the following:

- *Profiles of Mennonite Faith*, distributed quarterly to all MB Churches. These 900-word pamphlets feature stories of remarkable faith profiled by Mennonite men and women who overcame great odds to share their faith in Jesus. The archive of all 58 issues is curated at: www.mbhistory.org.
- Three *funded initiatives*. The parent organization of CMBS, the Historical Commission, offers three funded initiatives each year: an archival internship, research grants, and project grants. See www.mbhistory.org for

application details.

- *My Emigrant Father* by Katie Funk Wiebe is a memoir published by the Historical Commission in 2015. It is a riveting story of an emigrant, a pioneer, and a reluctant church leader. See www.kindredproductions.com to purchase your copy.
- *Mennonite Historian*, published quarterly in partnership with the Mennonite Heritage Center, Winnipeg, documents stories of historical and theological interest to Mennonites. Back issues (1975–2015) available online at www.mennonitehistorian.ca.
- *MB Herald* (1962–2015) and *Christian Leader* (1937–2015). Both of these periodicals have been digitized and are available on a searchable USB stick.

For more information on these services, contact: jon.isaak@mbchurches.ca or conrad.stoesz@mbchurches.ca or call toll free: 1-888-669-6575.

Rosenbach School Remembered

It was a beautiful Sunday afternoon in June of 2012, when about 80 people gathered at the former school site of Rosenbach School 4 miles north of Winkler, MB. They came to witness the unveiling of a newly placed cairn where the school once stood. A committee of former students had worked the previous winter to put the event together. They included Deb (Demke) Neufeld, Jake Olfert, Dennis Peters and James Peters.

The central part of the inscription on the cairn is the official seal of the Rosenbach S.D. # 880.

Local dignitaries who brought greetings included Art Petkau (Reeve of the RM of Stanley), Sam Berg (Garden Valley School Division Chair), Cameron Friesen (MLA for Morden Winkler). One former teacher, Alan Janzen, was also in attendance.

A prayer of dedication was spoken and we sang both *O Canada* and *God Save the Queen*.

After a time of picture taking and visiting, all were invited to neighbours Dennis and Amanda Peters for a BBQ and much more reminiscing.

We all left the event thankful for how this one room country school had influenced our lives for the better.



Commemorative cairn featuring a replica of the official seal of Rosenbach School.

— Photo by Charity Peters

Book Review

Book Review with a Party

by Lawrence Klippenstein

Mary Ann Loewen, ed. *Sons and Mothers: Stories from Mennonite Men* (Regina: University of Regina Press, 2015) pb. 144 pp., \$20.00.

We should begin with the party part on this review. The point is simply to let all readers know that this book, *Sons and Mothers*, and its editor (hopefully) will be featured at the next meeting of the MHV (Women's) Auxiliary. That feature will be shared at a 2.30 p.m. fahspa at the Mennonite Heritage Village on Sunday, May 29, 2016. The program is also to include, if plans work out, the *Mennonite Pioneer Woman* monologue created with great appeal by a member of the Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society, Eleanor Chornoboy. All are welcome to attend.

Sons and Mothers has already gained some popularity and sold out several orders at the museum and in other bookstores. Briefly described in summary, it is a collection of twelve essays written by men about relationships they have had growing up with their mothers. Needless to say this allows writers to tap a colossal total of stories and experiences to have learned from, and never to be forgotten.

Some of the stories shared here speak of close ties with a parent, others not so much. Among the titles featured are *Gifts from My Mother*, by Josiah Neufeld, *Queen of Clubs* by Lloyd Ratzlaff, *Open Gates* by Nathan Klippenstein, "heritage" by Christoff Engbrecht, *Mary Dyck's Vicarious Life*, by Howard Dyck, and seven others. Some of the stories show up in fairly straight narrative style, others as poetry, and still others in different kinds of creative forms. There is deep emotion in some of the stories, more rational statements of facts and realities in others, sometimes a lot hidden between the lines, others offered in open-faced recording of facts.

Space here does not permit for much by way of quotations. One author ends up with the words, "Maybe the world does not need God so much as everyone needs my mom". Another says, "My grandmother (also a mother) once said, it has to hurt if you want to look beautiful". "As a young boy the approval of my mother was particularly important to me," says another. Not an especially strong sample here, but in fact you need to read the twelve for yourself to get the meaning of the men.

Each essay includes a photo of mother and son (I mentioned to the party planners that the idea that admission for mothers would be to bring a son – but it was considered not practical, though admittedly it was a thought....). The covers have provocative designing, and the production as a whole is pleasing and well done. I got my copy as a birthday present signed, "To my father, love, your son. . ." I was touched.

Get the book and give it a read. It will make your day, and be a good move.

History Seekers/ Henry Engbrecht

by Joe Braun

History Seekers is a group of individuals in southern Manitoba, mainly the Altona area, interested in Mennonite history. Since 1999, the group has been getting together for a series of four lectures in late winter.

Organizers for the classes are Adolf Ens, Dave Harms, and Joe Braun. Topics cover a wide range: Mennonites in Canada, Russia, Europe, US, and South America; Mennonites and politics; church and community leaders; business and industry; arts and culture; and ongoing reporting from individuals working on the histories of villages in the West Reserve — 15 so far, 7 of which have published their histories in book form. Lecturers come from colleges, universities, churches, and businesses, and include amateur historians, authors, artists, Ph.D candidates, and community leaders.

One interesting presentation in 2015 came from well-known choral conductor and educator Henry Engbrecht. One of the topics he addressed, choral milestones in Manitoba, cited events such as the formation in 1914 of the Sokol Polish Choir; the creation of the Winnipeg Philharmonic Choir in 1923 and the Winnipeg Ladies choir in 1938; the 1936 performance of *Das Sühnopfer* (Karl Lowe) by the Menno Choir based at the First Mennonite Church, Winnipeg; Sängerkfest events in the 1950s; Canadian Mennonite Bible College performing Mendelssohn's *St. Paul* in 1955; the combined choirs of Canadian Mennonite Bible College and Mennonite Brethren Bible College singing the *Bach Christmas Oratorio* in 1965; and the formation of various ethnic singing groups in between. Engbrecht also paid credit to influential choral leaders, such as K. H. Neufeld, John Konrad, Ben Horch, George Wiebe, and William Baerg.

Discussing the values and benefits of choral singing, Engbrecht broke them down into five general categories: what it teaches the individual; the attributes it draws from participants; a choir's ability to equalize its members; the self-discovery it nurtures; and, of course, its main value, to feed the soul through the inherent beauty of music.

Another Poland Tour Soon

I am planning to take another Mennonite tour to Poland on July 4 – 17, 2016. Some of you may have been considering joining a Poland trip such as this. Many others have already enjoyed it as we have returned each year for some time now.

The story of Mennonites in Poland is a big chapter in the total narrative of nearly five centuries. Much of what we will see enroute here makes up the "footprint" of those who once resided there, but felt they needed to move on or were pressured to leave.

If you would like simply to find out more about the current plans to travel to Poland again please feel free to contact me at 1-204-326-2813.

Len Loeppky, Steinbach, MB

It's Time To Renew Your Membership!!

Just to remind you, if you have not renewed your 2016 membership in the Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society (MMHS), would you please consider doing so. We value your participation.

Our fees are as follows:

Regular (annual) - \$40.00

Student (annual) - \$15.00

Couples (annual) - \$65.00

Please also consider making a donation to our Society.

Remittances should be sent to:

**Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society,
600 Shaftesbury Blvd., Winnipeg, Manitoba R3P 0M4
or
1310 Taylor Ave., Winnipeg, Manitoba R3M 3Z6**

We wish to remind you that the Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society serves a vital function in the Mennonite community in Manitoba, given that its aim is to foster an understanding of, and respect for the history and beliefs of the Mennonite people.

MMHS is currently engaged in collecting West reserve village histories

In addition, The Mennonite Historical Society of Canada which includes board members from provincially-based Mennonite historical societies also has ongoing projects, among them:

- Photo database for access on the web which has just been launched, (see: <http://archives.mhsc.ca/>)
- Genealogy database (which is in the development stage)

The opening exhibit of

The *Alchemy of Life*

Margruite Krahn & Andrew Balfour, composer

Typoems Norman Schmidt

was held at the Mennonite Heritage Centre Gallery on January 31, 2016 with a live performance by the "Alchemy Ensemble"

The exhibit continues until March 26, 2016

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.

Book Notes

by Lawrence Klippenstein

Harold Jantz, founder of *Christian Week* some years ago, has edited *Good Seed Scattered: A Memoir and Writings of Leonard B Siemens*, printed by Olive Grove Printing in Winnipeg, and appearing in 2015 (172 pages, pb.) and available at Mennonite Heritage Village for \$35.00 (1-204 326- 9661). Page design of the book is by Kate Regier. Dr. Leonard Siemens, originally from Altona, spent many years as professor at the University of Manitoba, and also got involved in much volunteering and development work overseas.

Whimsical Edna, written by Violet Moore, and published in 2010, comes out of the enthusiastic circle of a writing group in Steinbach which calls itself *The Steinbach Inksters*. It has appeared as a paperback of 305 pp, and is described by the writer as "a novel based on my view of my mother Edna (Friesen Brandt, 1916-2006)". It is supplemented with numerous family stories "told around the supper table". Mennonite Heritage Village sells it for \$19.00 a copy.

Several smaller published items of recent date have highlighted the former West Reserve's 140th anniversary of Mennonite settlement in Manitoba. A self-guiding map for tourists can help to revisit this old main highway of the area, now known as the Post Road Memorial Trail. The map has been updated and republished by Abe Ens of Winkler, and is available from abeens@mymts.net The original edition was prepared for publication by the Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society ca 2001 by Conrad Stoesz and Lawrence Klippenstein. Last year MMHS also published an 8 page booklet titled *140 Years. The Coming of Mennonites to Manitoba 1874/75-2014/15*. It was compiled by Lawrence Klippenstein and included notes on the celebrations held last year at the village of Reinland and Fort Dufferin. For further info contact cstoesz@mennonitechurch.ca Also, Dave Harms of Altona has created a digital revised map of the West Reserve region. It was distributed at the 140th Reinland anniversary celebration. For further info contact wdharms@mymts.net

A very significant volume on Mennonites in tsarist Russia has been published in Toronto, ON by the University of Toronto Press. *Transformation on the Southern Ukrainian Steppe: Letters and Papers of Johann Cornies. Vol I 1812-1835* was translated from original documents by Ingrid Epp, and edited by Harvey L. Dyck and John R. Staples. It was published in 2016. The 632 - page volume is handsomely done in hardcover and carefully edited/written and will facilitate access to material not available in the Western world until now. At least two more volumes are expected for a series of three. For further info connect with www.utpublishing.com