



## Mennonite Historical Society of Canada Honors Historians with Award of Excellence

by Conrad Stoesz

The Mennonite Historical Society of Canada (MHSC) honoured two historians with the Award of Excellence at its meeting in Winnipeg, Jan. 20-21, 2017. The award for Helmut Huebert was accepted by his wife Dorothy because he passed away only two months previously. Although he was a distinguished orthopedic surgeon, his avocation was history, especially historical maps, said Jon Isaak, director of the Centre for Mennonite Brethren Studies. Referring to the meticulous work required for the ten books he published, Isaak said, "No effort was too large."

"Helmut was so pleased when people used his work," responded Dorothy Huebert.

The second Award of Excellence was presented to Lawrence Klippenstein who served for many years on the Mennonite Historical Society of Canada and as archivist at the Mennonite Heritage Centre in Winnipeg. "He is a pillar in the Mennonite historical community," said Conrad Stoesz, the present archivist, pointing out that Klippenstein began the *Mennonite Historian* periodical and has published many articles in English, German, and Russian.

The historical society also heard about ongoing projects. As a central place to find historical Mennonite photographs, the Mennonite Archival Image Database (MAID) has continued to grow and soon hopes to expand its offerings beyond images.

Mennonite historical societies and archives across Canada continue to make more resources available for all researchers. Through a collaborative project the 1,000-page Volume Four index of the *Mennonitische Rundschau* is now available from the Centre for Mennonite Brethren



(Left to right) Roy Loewen, Dorothy Huebert, Jon Isaak

Studies in Winnipeg. This German-language newspaper has been described as the Mennonite Facebook of 100 years ago. *Der Bote* newspaper is also being digitized so that it can be easily available to researchers. The Saskatchewan society reported that with the closing down of the *Valley News* they will be inheriting about 20,000 historical photographs.

The news at the MHSC gathering was not all positive. Korey Dyck, director of the Mennonite Heritage Centre and Gallery in Winnipeg, announced that due to the restructuring and downsizing at Mennonite Church Canada, the relationship between the Church and the Heritage Centre would be changing and that his position was ending. "Things are changing," said Dyck, "But this new plan will give [the Heritage Centre] a good life in a different model." He also expressed his regret that this would bring to an end his personal relationship with the historical society.

To celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Mennonite Historical Society of Canada, a special conference is planned for October 2018, called "A People of Diversity." The plan is to highlight the growth of diversity of Mennonites in Canada since 1970.

The executive committee of MHSC remains unchanged: Richard Thiessen, president; Royden Loewen, vice-president; Conrad Stoesz, treasurer; Alf Redekopp, secretary; Barb Draper, fifth member.

(More on Historians on Page 2)



(Left to right) Roy Loewen, Noreen Janzen, Lawrence Klippenstein, Nathan and Jamie Klippenstein

## Dr. Helmut Huebert



Dr. Helmut Huebert (b. February 23, 1935) has had a long and distinguished career in Winnipeg as an orthopedic surgeon, beginning in 1966. While orthopedics is clearly his vocation, Huebert is quick to call Mennonite history his avocation.

The particular aspect of Mennonite history in which Huebert has made the largest contribution is in producing maps — a topographical representation of people, places, and events. Together with mapmaker William Schroeder (1933

–2013), Huebert edited, annotated, produced, and published the extremely successful *Mennonite Historical Atlas* (1990, rev. 1996).

A total of ten books and atlases involving Mennonite history are credited to Huebert. The first two were published in 1986: a biography of his uncle, Kornelius Martens, and *Hierschau*, the story of the Molotschna village where his mother came from. Other publications include: *Events and People: Events in Russian Mennonite History and the People that made them happen* (1999), *Molotschna Historical Atlas* (2003), *Mennonite Estates in Imperial Russia* (2005, rev. 2008), *1937, Stalin's Year of Terror* (2009), *Mennonite Medicine in Russia: 1800–1930* (2012), *Crimea: The Story of Crimea and the Mennonites Who Lived There* (2013).

In the words of Huebert: “These history books and atlases do not represent dry, dusty pages to me, but show the lives and struggles of many people. My motivation is to make sure that their lives are not forgotten” (from “My Story,” Box 965, Centre for Mennonite Brethren Studies, Winnipeg).

Huebert served on the Historical Committee of the Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches from 1970 to 2003, much of this time as chair. This committee gave oversight to the Centre for Mennonite Brethren Studies in Winnipeg. At that time, he was also a member of the Historical Commission of the General Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches in North America, which developed a comprehensive plan for the four archival centres in the United States and Canada (Fresno, Winnipeg, Abbotsford, and Hillsboro).

In 2010, Huebert donated his collection of Russian Mennonite research to the growing Global Anabaptist Mennonite Encyclopedia Online (GAMEO). This gift is just one example of the many ways Huebert has generously supported the advancement of Mennonite studies.

Because of Dr. Helmut Huebert's extensive contribution to the promotion and study of Mennonite history, I nominate him for the society's 2017 award of excellence.

Jon Isaak, Director  
Centre for Mennonite Brethren Studies, Winnipeg

## Dr. Lawrence Klippenstein



Dr. Lawrence Klippenstein has been a pillar in the Mennonite historical community. During his tenure as director of the Mennonite Heritage Centre 1974 – 1997, Klippenstein played an integral role in the Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society and the Mennonite Historical Society of Canada by serving on committees and boards of these organizations. Klippenstein is an avid promoter of the

importance of the historical record. He spearheaded numerous commemorative events that brought history and people together. To promote the collecting and uses of archives, he began a newsletter in 1975, *Mennonite Historian*, that continues to today. He worked at bringing Mennonite Archivists and historians together with the NAMAL (North American Mennonite Archivists and Librarians) organization and publication. In addition to his role with the Mennonite Heritage Centre and the Mennonite Historical Society of Canada, he served with numerous other history related boards and committees such as the Mennonite Heritage Village and the Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society. In addition to his public history work, Klippenstein has written numerous academic and non-academic articles in books, journals, magazines, and newspapers in English, German, Russian and Polish languages.

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# The Waldheim House Restored

by Barry Dyck

The Waldheim House is the oldest building in our collection and the first to be brought to Mennonite Heritage Village (MHV). It came to us from the area south of Morden where the village of Waldheim was located many years ago. We are grateful to have a number of buildings from former West Reserve communities.



The 141 year-old Waldheim House gets a facelift.

The house was built by Julius and Katharina (Unrau) Dyck in 1876. We are pleased to have it in our collection and are thankful to have ongoing contact with members of the Dyck family. They have contributed valuable information to our file on the building.

In the summer of 2015 we were awarded a Canada 150 grant, which was supplemented by a number of generous commitments from other organizations and individuals, to assist with the restoration of the house. The first stage of the restoration started in the fall of 2016. All the old chinking was removed and the inside plaster walls were stripped. This allowed us to view the condition of the logs, inside and out, and replace those that had begun to decay. Then the logs were sprayed with preservatives, new chinking was placed between the logs, and the inside walls were again covered with plaster. This process is now virtually complete. Shortly we will begin work on the ceiling. Again, there are some materials that will need to be replaced.

We have contacted an experienced thatcher in Virginia, who is eager to put a real thatched roof on this house. Reeds are currently being harvested in Manitoba, and we hope to start work on this part of the project in June. If all goes well, we will have a thatching demonstration as part of our Canada Day festival.

The restoration of the old buildings is so challenging

because very few people have the necessary skills to do these restorations. If we don't do it, we lose the buildings, and they cannot be replaced.

## Third Annual German Christmas Carol Event in Chortitz

by Ernest N. Braun

On Saturday evening, December 10, approximately 150 people filed into the Chortitz Heritage Church at Randolph, quietly serenaded as they came by the strains of Christmas music played by the Esau Brothers family and friends ensemble. The main feature of the evening was the congregational singing of favourite German Christmas carols, led by five *Vorsänger* under David Wiebe's direction. Although the weather remained unusually cold, the church filled up and resounded with glad voices singing the old favourites, including a special rendition of *Der Friedensfürst*. Mrs. Helen Harder read the famous Luke story in Low German, and Reverend Cornie Martens told the audience what Christmas was like in this area in the 1930s. Special strings music by the Esaus evoked an aura of sound and sentiment that was probably new to the building yet already part of the faith tradition for hundreds of years. The evening closed with *Stille Nacht*, sung to lantern and candle light, and accompanied by the Esau group. Afterwards, home-made cookies and coffee encouraged people to stay and visit. The event was the third annual German Christmas event hosted by the Chortitz Church Heritage Committee. Dr. Corneil Blatz, chair of the committee, provided an update on the status of the restoration of the Heritage Site.



## Kleine Gemeinde Brandordnung Records Digitized

The KG Brandordnung Records consist of 8 ledgers containing all the KG records dating back to 1875. These have now been digitized courtesy of Peter K. Reimer and the resulting 8.1 Gigabyte file has been deposited at Mennonite Heritage Centre. Seven of the volumes are in the possession of Henry Fast and will be incorporated into the EMC Archives at MHC in due course. The location of the 8th volume is unknown, but it was non-professionally digitized earlier and is included in the file at MHC.

These records are like a village census of families, including the value of buildings and furniture for each hearth. They also contain a record of all claims due to fires or lightening. In addition, they show the total assessments of not only the KG participants but of all Mennonite villages in Manitoba and some in Saskatchewan, North Dakota and Minnesota.

## A New Partnership for the Mennonite Heritage Centre

The Mennonite Heritage Centre including its Archive and Art Gallery programs, is being reorganized under a new partnership and name.

Per the proposal, CMU will own and maintain the Mennonite Heritage Centre infrastructure with staff of both the Archives and Gallery integrated in CMU's human resources complement. Operational details within the partnership will be further clarified over the coming months between Mennonite Church Canada (MC Canada), Canadian Mennonite University (CMU), and the Center for Transnational Mennonite Studies (CTMS) at the University of Winnipeg culminating in a proposal for CMU to assume full ownership of the Mennonite Heritage Centre building, and programming of the faith-based Art Gallery, while the archives will be managed and funded by a three-way partnership of MC Canada, CMU, and CTMS. CTMS is a partnership between the University of Winnipeg's Chair in Mennonite Studies and the D. F. Plett Historical Research Foundation, Inc. The proposal was accepted by MC Canada's General Board at a January 13, 2017 meeting. The Mennonite Heritage Centre will be re-named to become "Mennonite Heritage Archives" (MHA) on June 1, 2017, the anticipated transfer date to the new partnership.

To facilitate the transition to the new structure, MC Canada will be releasing the current Archives program's staff. The full-time position of Director is being eliminated, while the archivist position is being expanded to full time as part of the new partnership. Further announcements for re-staffing the new MHA are pending. A committee representing the three partners will provide leadership to the MHA.

The partnership will seek to continue and to deepen the existing mandate of the Archives program, including present and future deposits to the collections of MC Canada and other Mennonite denominations. At the same time, it will expand the focus to include resources that document the transnational Anabaptist experience, including materials related to church communities in the

global south, the Mennonite sojourn in Russia, and the Low German Mennonites of the Americas.

The Archives program has a distinguished record of service to the church community for storing and indexing congregational, area church, and national church records. These records, such as baptismal and church membership information, also constitute a primary source of data for church and family researchers and genealogists. The program also receives donations of records from education faculty, church leaders, and others.

The operations of the Art Gallery will be assumed entirely by CMU on June 1, 2017.

The Art Gallery is a bridge between Mennonites and other faith communities, featuring visual arts that share our own faith story within our community as well as bringing the faith stories of other religious groups to the Mennonite community. While the Gallery is based in Winnipeg, travelling exhibits have been featured in congregations, campuses, and events such as MC Canada Assemblies and Mennonite World Conference.

"CMU recognizes the significant value of both the Mennonite Heritage Centre's Archives and Gallery as valuable resources for the Mennonite community," says Gordon Zerbe, Vice President Academic at CMU. "CMU has a strong commitment to deepening the existing and ongoing mandate of these programs."

"The new MHA will continue to serve our congregations as an important depository for their historic records. We encourage the continued and strong support of the MHA, not only through the contribution of congregational records, but also the financial support that makes this work possible," said Coreena Stewart, Chief Administrative Officer for Mennonite Church Canada.

"CTMS is committed to preserving and telling the evolving Anabaptist story," said Hans Werner, Executive Director, D. F. Plett Historical Research Foundation, Inc. "The archives are important in insuring that the rich transnational story of Mennonite faith, life and community can be told for generations to come".

### Mennonite Historical Society of Canada Board



Back row, left to right: Don Kroeker, David Neufeldt, Richard Lougheed, Barry Dyck, Bethany Leis, Korey Dyck, Karl Koop.

Middle row, left to right: Bert Friesen, Laureen Harder-Gissing, Alice Unrau, Laura Unger.

Front row, left to right: Conrad Stoesz, Alf Redekopp, Jon Isaak, Roy Loewen, Barb Draper. Missing Richard Thiessen, President.





*Altona History Seekers 2017*  
*presents*

**Five Thursdays: Mar. 2-30**  
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**March 2** *1920s Mennonite Migration to Mexico – Hans Werner*

**March 9** *Mennonite Pacifism in Russia – Lawrence Klippenstein*

**March 16** *Mennonite Village Governance & Institutions – John Friesen*

**March 23** *Present-day Paraguay and Bolivia: A Travelogue – Abe  
Giesbrecht*

**March 30** *Services for Resettling Low-German Mennonites in  
Manitoba – Tina Fehr Kehler*

**THIS IS OUR 16<sup>TH</sup> YEAR!**

For information contact: Ronald (Joe) Braun 324-6259  
or Dave Harms 324-8265

**Pre-registration not required – just show up.**

## **Heritage Posting has a New Editor**

*by Hans Werner*

This issue of *Heritage Postings* is the first under a new editor. Glen Klassen has taken up the role of editing the MMHS newsletter and we look forward to his contribution to this important task. Glen is a retired science professor who has a passionate interest in the history of Mennonite life in Manitoba. Glen has completed several important research and publication projects that have advanced the cause of preserving our history. Most recently, he was one of the authors and designers of the popular East Reserve Atlas and before that did some ground-breaking research into illness and health among East and West Reserve Mennonites. Glen's work on the East Reserve Atlas has equipped him with skills in all aspects of what it

means to edit, compile, and produce a newsletter. We welcome Glen into this new role and encourage you to provide him with a constant stream of news and interesting stories that keep all of us informed about how the shared project of preserving and keeping alive our history and sense of peoplehood is being pursued across the province.

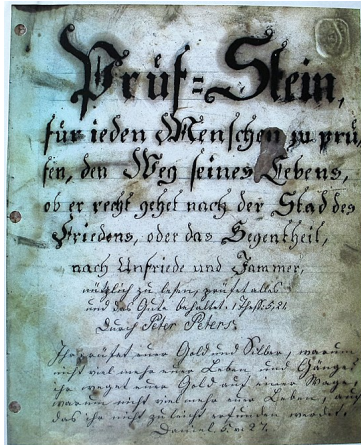
We also want to take this opportunity to sincerely thank Maria Falk Lodge, who has faithfully produced the newsletter for the last number of years. Being an editor is often a thankless task and getting material for each issue an ongoing challenge. Maria carried out her task with perseverance and dedication.

## Prufstein der Menschen

by Henry Fast

A hand written translation of an old Dutch manuscript was recently donated to the EMC archives by the Anton Kornelsen Fast family. This document, *Prufstein der Menschen*, was translated from Dutch to German sometime prior to 1873 by *Kleine Gemeinde* deacon, Isaac E. Loewen of Lindenau, Molotschna Colony, Russia. It was one of five devotional stories written by a sixteenth century Mennonite bishop, Peter Peters (1574-1651), and was considered to be worthwhile reading material among the *Kleine Gemeinde* of that day. By 1865 four of his books had been translated into German and brought to press by J.F. Steinkoop in Stuttgart, under the title *Ausgewählte Schriften*, but it did not include the book, *Prufstein*. Isaac Loewen, noting the value of the contents of the fifth book for the *Kleine Gemeinde*, took upon himself the arduous task of translating this volume. For some reason he did not have this volume printed but did, however, have his handwritten copy of 148 pages bound into a hard-cover book. This book today is still in remarkably good condition.

After the death of Isaac Loewen in 1873 this handwritten book was sold at auction to Peter L. Dueck whose wife was a granddaughter of Isaac Loewen. Peter, recognizing the value of this book, made room in his travel chest and took it with him on his journey to Canada in 1874. Peter and his family settled in the village of Gruenfeld (now Kleefeld). In 1890 *Kleine Gemeinde* minister Abraham Kornelsen bought this book for two dollars from the widow of Peter L. Dueck. Evidently this book now stayed in the possession of the Kornelsen family for a period of more than a 100 years. Anton Kornelsen Fast, a great grandson of Abraham Kornelsen was the last in line to be the custodian of this handwritten copy.



## Book Notes

by Lawrence Klippenstein

Most interesting reading on indigenous-Mennonite land relationships. Steve Heinrichs and Cheryl Woelk have written/edited *Yours, Mine, Ours. Unravelling the Doctrine of Discovery* as a discussion of this theme (Winnipeg: Mennonite Church Canada, 2016), pb., 163 pp., as a special issue of the periodical *Intotemak (The Clan)*. Contact toll free 1 866-888 6785 for more information.

Dr. Janis Thiessen, associate professor of history at the University of Winnipeg has published *Not Talking Union: An Oral History of North American Mennonites and Labour* (McGill-Queens University Press, 2016), pb., 232 pp. It is based on a series of oral interviews soliciting thoughts about labour unions from more than a hundred persons, and utilizing related materials. For further information contact the author at the University of Winnipeg, Winnipeg, Canada.

A volume titled *Peace and War. Mennonite Conscientious Objectors in Tsarist Russia and the Soviet Union Before World War II, and Other COs in Eastern Europe* (Winnipeg: Mennonite Heritage Centre, 2016), pb., 367 pp, 25.00 CND is now off the press. It is available in a CD Commemorative Centennial Edition, 1917-2017, and online also. The book is reviewed in this issue. For further information and to order contact lawklippenstein@shaw.ca

The “mammoth” 1394-page *Index to the Mennonitische Rundschau Vol.4, 1910-1919* (Winnipeg: Centre for MB Studies, 2016), hdc., \$130.00, created by indexer Bert Friesen of Winnipeg, can now be found in all major Mennonite libraries of North America and perhaps beyond. For further information on the new volume and earlier issues, contact jisaak@mbconf.ca. See also the Conrad Stoesz article on p. 76 of *Preservings*, noted above. *Mennonitische Rundschau* began publishing as a church paper in 1878, and terminated in Winnipeg in 2007.

Historical newsletters form an important part of our communication channel chains. I note four here (to check which ones you have “on tap”). First there is *The Blazer*, published by Canadian Mennonite University. The fall, 2016 issue is off the press. For copies contact Kevin Kilbrei, 1-877-231-4870. Next is *Mennonite Historian*, published by Mennonite Heritage Centre and Centre for MB Studies. December, 2016 which is mailed out. Contact Conrad Stoez, 1-204-888-6781 for more info. Third is *Village Voice*, published by Mennonite Heritage Village in Steinbach. Further info is available from barryd@mhv.ca. Fourth is *Happenings* from the office of Winkler Heritage Society. More info available from Marj Hildebrand at 1-204-325-8644.

# Book Review

by **Lawrence Klippenstein**

Mary Neufeld, *Prairie Pioneers. Schoenthal Revisited* (Winnipeg: Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society, 2016), pb. , 138 pp.

This volume now joins a growing list of published village and community histories of the former West Reserve in southern Manitoba. It has appropriately reached the public in the 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of this reserved area. Schoenthal was one of the twenty five or so Bergthaler villages, so-called, which ca. 1878-82 filled in the eastern half of the reserve left almost entirely vacant by the Reinlaender families who began to arrive from from the Bergthal settlement in South Russia (later Ukraine) and settle in the newly-opening West Reserve in 1875. The filling in with 25 villages came from a transmigration from the East Reserve.

The village founding date was around 1879 when it appeared on the east bank of Buffalo Creek, along with the nearby neighboring village communities of Altberghthal ( which also lay on the east bank of this creek) to the southwest, Schoenau to the west, Rosenfeld (later moved) to the north and Hochstadt to the east. The town of Altona on the new rail line of the time would join this cluster of what would be school districts, a mile to the southeast of Schoenthal. The exact locations of the family homesteads claimed by the first residents are carefully stitched into the account of the original, and other maps offer a useful broader geographical context for the new settlement.

The carefully revised map of the West Reserve, crafted by the book's layout artist, David Harms, dominates the introduction to the story. This chapter includes two other significant historical items: a previously unpublished pre-town-of-Altona map of the area west of town (including the reviewer's home community of Altberghthal), and an important map of Mennonite settlement lands of the West Reserve, once depicted thus by an Altona-born artist, Gerald Loewen (who did not leave his trademark on the map), shown existing within the borders of indigenous peoples' lands ceded to them via government decision under Treaty No. 1.

It is very needful historically and urgent to have this data included in the story as it is here. A bit of folklore has it that a buffalo-hunting drop used by Metis and indigenous peoples was once located on the creek bank right next to the current Siemens' property in the village, and further that a First Nations chief was buried in a native cemetery somewhere nearby.

An introduction to the first families of the community follows: Falks, Wiebes, Dycks (Duecks), Friesens, Funks, Unraus and Epps. Naming of church groups represented (Bergthaler to begin, changing then mainly to Sommerfelders), the clear, if brief sketches of the founding of the churches and the school, lead to an unfamiliar listing of important teachers (G.G. Neufeld, Cornelius W. Wiebe [later Dr.] and Nick G. Neufeld) along with Bergthaler, Sommerfelder and Rudnerweide ministers and community



leaders: J. J. Siemens (Berg.), Rev. David Schulz, (Berg.), Rev. Abram Bergen (first Bergthaler, then Sommerfelder) Rev. William H. Falk (first Sommerfelder then, Rudnerweider), and Rev. Peter A. Toews (Sommerfelder).

The theme of cemeteries (there are two, one now Reinlaender) is given space also, and then come Reflections, and notes on later life in the village, today a veritable suburb of Altona, though Schoenthal as such is not forgotten. My parents used to visit a Dyck family there from time to time, and my sister with her now deceased husband resided in one of the older home places there for a time. The First Nations chief's burial may have been close to the common border of the Schoenthal and Altberghthal, school districts near what was later the Siemens property.

A densely information-packed set of seven appendices must not be overlooked – documents and tables with names and salaries of teachers, a Sunday School register, extension of family names list, a preaching rotation list, and names of reeves and councilors. Footnotes and a bibliography offer a fine (and important) "academic" touch to what is otherwise a very well-written, most interesting and informative village story. Even pictures of some of the newer very modern homes on what was once Schoenthal district land find a spot before we come to the close. Visuals, e.g. charts and sketches, and photos actually abound in the book.

A model for doing more of the histories of communities still to be researched, written and published has been given us here. As we see, such studies do not have to be big cumbersome volumes, and do not have to try to include all details. In well-organized and well-told word portraits in a modest number of pages, these studies formulate what posterity deserves and will go back to again and again.

The author, Mary Falk Neufeld, is a retired school teacher and graduate of Brandon University, and a daughter of the late well-known minister, Rev. William H. Falk, whose biography she published several years ago as *A Prairie Pilgrim: Wilhelm H. Falk*.

## 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.

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— The editors.

# Book Review

Dr. Lawrence Klippenstein, *Peace and War, Mennonite Conscientious Objectors in Tsarist Russia and the Soviet Union before World War II, and other COs in Eastern Europe*, 2017, Winnipeg, MB. Self-published in limited spiral bound edition, and also available in CD format.

**Reviewed by John J. Friesen, CMU Professor Emeritus**

This book by Lawrence Klippenstein consists of a collection of essays on the topic of peace written during his long career as historian and archivist. In particular, the essays focus on the objection to war on the basis of religious conscience. This collection of essays, self-published in a limited edition, makes a significant contribution to understanding the witness to peace, and the history of conscientious objection to war in Russia/Soviet Union and in other Eastern European countries.

Part I includes chapters from Klippenstein's Ph.D dissertation which have not been published elsewhere. His dissertation was entitled, "Mennonite Pacifism and State Service in Russia: a case study in Church-State Relations 1789-1936," Minneapolis, 1984. Part II consists of articles which grew out of Klippenstein's research during 1984-86 when he was seconded by Mennonite Central Committee to Keston Institute, London England. (Keston Institute was established to study religious life in Eastern Europe during the communist era.) This research at Keston Institute focused on witnesses to peace and conscientious objection to war in various communist countries in Eastern Europe. Both parts of the book conclude with a bibliography. All articles are liberally footnoted.

The nine chapters in Part I begin with a general discussion of the Anabaptist Mennonite pacifist heritage, and then follow the Mennonite story from its beginnings in the Netherlands, to Poland where Mennonites negotiated their first exemption from military service, to Prussia where exemptions were difficult to acquire, and to Russia where Mennonites were again exempted. (Klippenstein uses the term pacifist, acknowledging that Mennonites have historically preferred the term non-resistance.)

The next four chapters deal with different episodes in the Mennonites' struggle to maintain a peace witness. Chapter two focuses on four letters written by the Prussian Mennonite delegate Johann Bartsch on his trip to inspect Russia, chapter three provides an eye witness account of the Mennonites' substantial non-military contribution to Russia's Crimean War effort, chapter four discusses the Russian government's termination, in the 1870s, of the exemption from military service which had been promised as being "for all time," and chapter five describes the launch of the forestry service as the alternative to military service.

Three chapters deal with Mennonites and war. Chapter six discusses Mennonites in Russia during World War I when the forestry service was transformed into a medical corps. Chapter seven deals with Mennonites' response to the violence of the Machno forces in the years 1918-1920 by forming a Mennonite militia, especially in the Molotschna settlement. Chapter eight provides insight from a diary by Jacob Janzen about Mennonite resistance to the

formation of a Mennonite militia.

Chapter nine concludes Part I with a discussion of the termination of the CO option within the Soviet Union in 1936 in Stalin's New Constitution.

The first essay in Part II provides a general overview of the struggles in Eastern European countries to gain exemption from military service. In chapter 11 the author discusses the valiant efforts in Hungary, during the years 1975-85, by Father Gyoergy Bulanyi, the leader of a basis Roman Catholic community, to gain exemption from military service. His greatest opposition came from the Hungarian Catholic bishops who feared reprisals from the government.

In chapter 12, Klippenstein deals with protests against military service in the Soviet Union and in the German Democratic Republic (GDR) during the post war era through to the mid-1980s. In the USSR, men from various pacifist backgrounds, like Jehovah Witnesses, Reform Baptists, True and Free Seventh Day Adventists, some Pentecostals, as well as Mennonites increasingly objected to bearing arms or swearing the military oath. The Soviet government sentenced objectors to lengthy prison terms. In the GDR, the government provided alternative service for conscientious objectors by creating non-combatant *Baueinheiten* (construction units) under military command. Those who demanded full exemption were given jail sentences.

Part II concludes with three short historical surveys of peace witness. The first discusses the emergence of peace movements in Poland in recent years. In the second essay, the author describes the Doukhobors' burning of their weapons in the Caucasus in 1895, and the local government's harsh response to this dramatic act of defiance. This repression caused about a third of the Doukhobors, 8,000 in total, to emigrate to Canada and settle in Saskatchewan. The third essay discusses the British Quakers' vigorous reengagement in the larger issues in British society after some years of disengagement. Specifically, Quakers made a concerted effort to prevent the Crimean War by publically challenging the British government to seek peace, and by sending a delegation to meet with the Russian Tsar Nicholas I to try to influence his policy. The author concludes that neither initiative bore much fruit.

The book ends with two personal reflections; one on biblical teachings about peace, and the other about the many new ways in which the message of peace is expressed today. Klippenstein suggests that a future edition of this book may follow, which would include photos, maps and an index.

In this book, Lawrence Klippenstein presents his conviction that a witness for peace can be a powerful force in society. In most of the articles, he discusses the issue in terms of exemption from military service. But it is clear that exemption from military service is rooted in a much broader view of biblical peace making. As such, Klippenstein's book can be an inspiration to many who value biblical pacifism, and see it as an important witness in a violent world.