



## Lieutenant Governor Janice Filmon presents History Award to Maria Lodge

By Ernest N. Braun

During a late afternoon ceremony at Government House on Tuesday, May 15, Lieutenant Governor Janice Filmon honoured Maria Falk Lodge as one of five recipients of the annual *Historical Preservation and Promotion Award*, an award presented to Manitobans “for their prolonged, meritorious service in the preservation and promotion of the province’s history and heritage” (MHS website). The awards, which have been given annually since 2011, are sponsored by the Lt. Gov’s office and administered by the Manitoba Historical Society on the basis of nominations from the public. To date 40 Manitobans have received the award. At the ceremony Maria was accompanied by her husband Bernie Lodge, their children and several guests.

The award process consists of a nomination filed on behalf of the nominee by a disinterested person, preferably without the knowledge of the nominee (not possible in this case as Bernie was instrumental in gathering the necessary document support for the nomination). The nomination requires a nomination form listing the nominee, reasons for the nomination, and the name and contact information of the nominator, as well as three letters of support from persons with knowledge of the achievements of the nominee. Finally, the nomination requires supporting documents giving detailed information about work done by the nominee in the area of historical preservation and promotion of local history. Deadline for the nomination each year is February 28.

A selection committee appointed by MHS and coordinated by Dr. Gordon Goldsborough, Professor at University of Manitoba and MHS webmaster, evaluates all the nominations and arrives at a consensus on the top five. Goldsborough notes that really all of the nominations are usually deserving of the award and it is a challenge to select just five. This year there were 17 nominations.

Maria Lodge is well-known in the Southeast for her articles on Rosengard which have appeared in *The Carillon* for about 25 years, totalling 1200 articles. These create a “virtual” Rosengard as it was in 1930-50s. She will also be familiar to the wider Mennonite community as a Board Member of Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society, and as the editor of *Heritage Posting* for five years. A career corporate lawyer, Maria has also published two books of her Rosengard articles (*Tales from the Gravel Ridge* and *In Search of Memories*), has served as an advocate for the recognition of the historical contributions made by women, both locally and in the wider world, and



**Maria Lodge (left), former editor of *Heritage Posting*, receives the *Historical Preservation and Promotion Award* for 2018 from Lt. Gov. of Manitoba, Janice Filmon (right).**

— Photo by Michele Bouvier at Photography by Michele

has promoted local Ukrainian (her husband Bernie Lodge has Ukrainian roots in Dauphin area) and Mennonite history in her articles and live presentations over many years. Moreover, in 1998 to commemorate the historical significance of the Hudson Bay - Fort Garry route taken by almost all of the early Europeans in Manitoba, Maria and Bernie, with the help of four others retraced the historical Hayes River system by canoe from Norway House to York Factory, portaging and “lining” as needed to get past rapids along the way. They covered the 600 km distance in 15.5 days. Maria wrote a two-part report that was published in *The Carillon* in August 1999. In her portfolio are other advocacy themes, among them an article on the treatment of mental health patients in the early days, namely being housed in jails with convicted criminals, as well as the contributions of immigrant women over time. Maria’s articles, although set in history, also reference current

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contexts which offer significant parallels and insights, suggesting again that one can really only understand the present by knowing the past. Other published materials noted in the nomination are a commemoration of the Rosengard District School #2168 and a series of articles on "Vacations on a Shoestring" featuring accessible vacations within Manitoba.

In her speech, Lt.-Gov. Janice C. Filmon highlighted the importance of the work that amateur historians are doing to record and preserve the history of the province, and expressed her pleasure at being able to recognize that work through the awards. Dr. Goldsborough introduced each recipient by providing a summary of their qualifications, and the Lt.-Gov presented the award to each personally.

The ceremony concluded with entertainment by Elisabeth Sadler (soloist) and accompanist Robert Turnbull (guitar), and a light buffet style luncheon.



Manitoba's Government House, the site of the awards ceremony.

— Photo by E. N. Braun

## Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society

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

**Editor** — Glen Klassen

**Contributing Editor** — Lawrence Klippenstein

**Layout Editor** — Ted Barg

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Correspondence can be mailed to: mmhsph@gmail.com

HP Circulation Manager: heritage.posting@gmail.com

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## Dr. Aileen Friesen Receives Appointments

We are very pleased to announce Dr. Aileen Friesen's appointment as Mennonite historian at the University of Winnipeg and Executive Director of the D. F. Plett Historical Research Foundation Inc. As such she will also serve as co-director of the new Centre for Transnational Mennonite Studies at the University, and work closely with the Mennonite Heritage Archives.

Dr. Friesen comes to her new position with a wealth of research experience, especially in Russia. Her work on 19<sup>th</sup> century migrations in, within and out of Russia, is of particular interest to the Plett Foundation. Aileen has a book in press on faith and settlement in Siberia, and is the editor the newly released, *The Russian Mennonite Story* (by Paul Toews with Aileen Friesen).

Since earning her doctorate in Russian history at the University of Alberta, she has held a number of post-doctoral fellowships, including ones at the University of Illinois, the University of Winnipeg (Plett Fellowship) and Conrad Grebel University College (J. Winfield Fretz Fellowship).

Dr. Hans Werner notes that "I am very pleased to be able to hand off to a gifted and energetic young scholar like Aileen. She will continue developing the Plett Foundation program and research the history of the 1870s migrants to Manitoba, especially their background in Russia."

Dr. Friesen will focus her teaching on Mennonite and European history at the University of Winnipeg, and work closely with the Chair in Mennonite Studies. At the Plett Foundation she will edit the *Preservings* magazine, promote the *Mennonite History for Young People* series, oversee the Plett Fellowships and other research linked to the Plett Foundation mandate.

The 2018 issue of *Preservings* will be focusing on the theme "Family History." If you have an interest in researching and writing an article about your family's past, we encourage you to submit your article, along with photos, for consideration for this year's issue. Please submit the article in Microsoft Word, with photos as separate attachments. The deadline for submissions is August 20. Articles should be emailed to Aileen Friesen at [ai.friesen@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:ai.friesen@uwinnipeg.ca).

Royden Loewen, *Board Chair*,  
D. F. Plett Historical Research Foundation  
Director, Centre for Transnational Mennonite Studies



Dr Aileen Friesen, new Director of the Plett Foundation and Editor of *Preservings*



A PARTNERSHIP OF THE CHAIR IN MENNONITE STUDIES AND THE D. F. PLETT HISTORICAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION, INC.

**THE CENTRE FOR TRANSNATIONAL MENNONITE STUDIES**




**THIRD ANNUAL LECTURE**

**MAY 17, 2018**  
 7:00 PM [Reception to follow]  
 2M70 MANITOBA HALL  
 U OF W

Dr. Rebecca Janzen  
 Assistant Professor  
 University of South Carolina



**HOW HAVE LOW GERMAN MENNONITES BEEN VIEWED BY THEIR MEXICAN NEIGHBOURS?**

Mexican archival photographs, documents, and television tell us much about the Mennonites – their conflict with Indigenous people, their struggle over land, their relationship with violent drug cartels. In the process, these sources also ask us how we decide who belongs in a society.

# Unexpected Connections

## Mennonites in Mexican Media

The photographs above were taken in Nuevo Casas Grandes, Chihuahua, Mexico. The mural depicts a timeline of the history of that city from the indigenous people to Spanish conquerors to Mennonites.

 THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

Poster for the May 17, 2018 Event at the University of Winnipeg. Note the interesting mural from Nuevo Casas Grandes, Chihuahua, that depicts the history of the city from the Indigenous people to Spanish conquerors to, as you can see, Mennonites (the woman has been a bit graffitied, as you can see).

— Poster courtesy of Rebecca Janzen

## The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual CTMS Lecture

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Centre for Transnational Mennonite Studies Lecture was hosted at the University of Winnipeg on May 17, 2018. Dr. Rebecca Janzen, Assistant Professor at the University of South Carolina delivered the lecture, entitled “Unexpected Connections: Mennonites in Mexican Media.” She discussed what Mexican archival documents, photographs, and television can tell us about Mennonites in Mexico – their conflict with Indigenous people, their struggle over land, their relationship with violent drug cartels – and in the process, also asked how we decide who belongs in a society. In the photo she discusses the role and portrayal of Mennonite characters in the Mexican TV show “Los Héroes del Norte.”

— Photo by Andrea Dyck





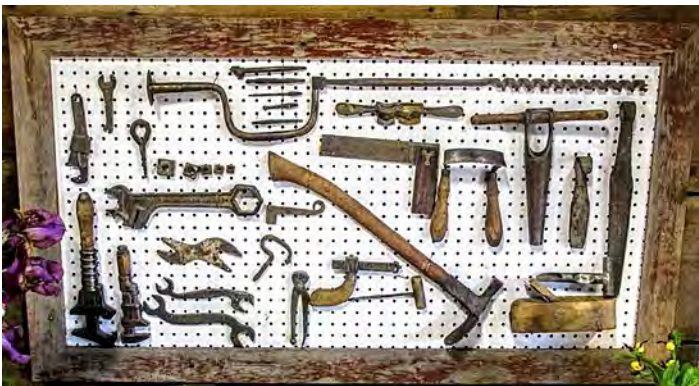
## Fort Dufferin Heritage Day, June 3, 2018

(based on an article by Don Plett in the June 7th issue of *Southeast Journal*.)

On June 3 the Post Road Heritage Group put on an event at the Fort Dufferin Interpretive Centre which it maintains. There is a 1.6 km walking trail and a building with many artifacts and historical pictures. Fort Dufferin came into being in 1872 when it housed the Boundary Commission. In 1874 it was used by the North West Mounted Police, and after that it became an immigration centre. More than 18,000 immigrants passed through its doors between 1875 and 1879.



A model of one of the passenger and freight steamboats, the *SS Dakota* which plied the Red River in the days of Mennonite emigration to the West Reserve ca. 1875-78. Built by Tina and Len Pappel.



Tools dug up at the Fort Dufferin excavations and displayed on June 3.

— Photos were sent courtesy of Jake Rempel of Halbstadt, MB.



Exhibits at the Open House in the Interpretive Centre



A special service held at the Altbergthal cemetery at the time of the 125th anniversary celebration of the Bergthaler Congregation of Altona in August, 2007. The headstones of Aeltester Johann Funk and his wife Louise are still in their original places about in the centre of the burial memorials still upright there today. Last year (2017) was the centennial of the death of Rev. Johann Funk, first bishop of the Bergthaler Mennonite church of Manitoba.

— Lawrence Klippenstein



# Burwalde: Memories of a Village on the East Reserve

By Linda Hiebert

In the late 1920's a second wave of Mennonites left Russia and a group of them settled in the village of Burwalde in the East Reserve. It was located 7 miles southwest of Steinbach and approximately 20 families lived there. It was a diversified village of Ukrainians, Lutherans, MBs, EMBs, GCs, Sommerfelders, and CMCs. There was a general store (run first by the Toews family then later by the Wiebe family), a cemetery, a blacksmith shop (operated by Peter Riesen) and an immigration house on the Riesen farm. Mrs. A. Unger was the midwife and medical person to go to when emergencies happened.

The mail and parcels were delivered to the Gerhard and Agatha Enns farm, a mile north of the village. Carruthers School was a mile south and Bristol School two miles north. People who lived on the west side of Burwalde Creek had to travel on the driveway of the Johann Harms farm, past the buildings and follow the road to the wooden bridge which was later replaced by a stone crossing. This would take them to Burwalde's Main Street, which was later named Bristol Road and then Rd 32E.

Church services were held at Carruthers School and were led by Peter Riesen. In 1940 a group of families decided that they wanted to build a church. Some of them were former General Conference people who had become members of the Mennonite Brethren Church. They held baptisms in the creek which ran through the village. Johann Harms donated a parcel of land (NE-5-6-6E) for

the church location. Everyone got involved. The women raised money by sewing blankets and having a raffle draw; the farmers brought 6 teams of horses with large scoops to dig out the basement; men and teenage boys donated their time and money to do the building. The concrete was all made manually and used for the foundation and basement walls. The church had a balcony and a small foyer with a woodstove. The caretakers were the David Thiessen and Johann Harms families. Funerals and anniversaries were held in the church and on the yard. Sunday night was the social event of the week in the village when youth from all denominations were brought together. There was music (violins, accordions and harmonicas), trios, quartets, and choirs. Peter Gerbrandt was the choir director and minister along with the other ministers, Franz Heier and Peter Riesen. Johann and Sara Harms were the deacons. Neighboring Mennonite Brethren families from Barkfield and Rosengard became members of the Burwalde M.B. Church.

In 1948 the Emmanuel Mission Church (later Emmanuel Free Church) of Steinbach engaged Peter Gerbrandt as their paid pastor and so the Burwalde Church was left no choice but to close its doors. The times changed as automobiles took over the horse and wagon and young people left the farms to seek other employment. M.B. families from Burwalde, Rosengard and Barkfield joined the Steinbach M.B. Church. The church building was

*(Continued on page 6)*



**Burwalde ladies sewing circle.**

**Front: Mrs. Wiebe, Sara Harms, Helen Pauls, Agatha Enns, ?, Marie Gerbrandt, Sara Voth.**

**Back: Mrs. Unger, Mrs. Buhler, Mrs. Reimer, Mrs. Funk, Helena Riesen, Katharina Froese.**

— Photos courtesy of Lydia (Harms) Reimer.

**Some of the construction crew who built the church:**

**David Thiessen, Gerhard Enns, Johann Harms, Jacob Voth, Henry Reimer, Abram Froese, Walter Gerbrandt, Frank Harms, Harold Gerbrandt.**



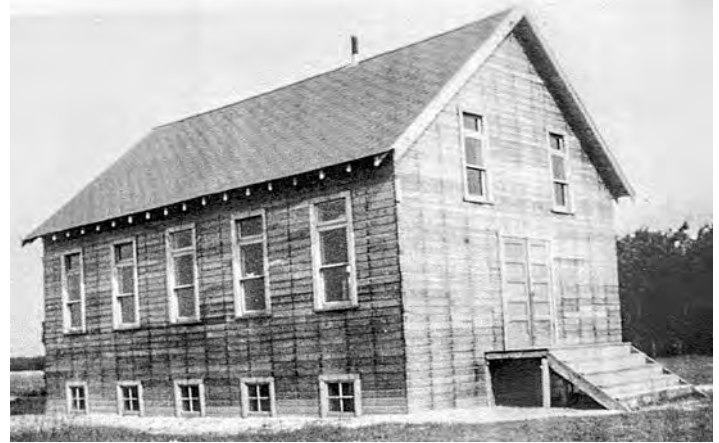
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sold to the Steinbach Chortitzer Mennonite Church, and later resold to the Steinbach United Church. Today a part of the original sanctuary still stands in Steinbach.

Some of the families that attended the M.B. Church in Burwalde were Johann and Sara Harms, Gerhard and Agatha Enns, Franz and Anna Heier, Nikolai and Helena Thiessen, Abraham and Katharina Froese, Jacob and Sara Voth, Peter and Marie Gerbrandt, David and Helena Thiessen, Peter and Helena Riesen, Henry and Helen Pauls, the William W. Buhler family, the Jacob Willems family, Mr. and Mrs. A. Unger and the Jacob Reimer family. On special occasions Peter and Maria Klassen from Barkfield would make the journey to attend. Rev. Wilhelm & Sara Schroeder and Cornelius and Katarina Falk and their families from Rosengard would also come. Rev. Schroeder would also preach on occasion.

The cemetery is located half a mile south of the village. It was established in the late 1880s when the first group of Mennonites arrived in Burwalde. It was never registered with the Hanover municipality. As a result there are many unmarked graves with the exception of eight visible grave stones still standing. The Froese family which arrived in the 1890s had been a prosperous farming family and could afford to make headstones for their family which are still standing. Johann and Sara Harms were the deacons, and they took it upon themselves to help make arrangements for the deceased. Johann had a special wagon made for his team of horses to carry the coffin. He built the coffins and picked up the deceased. His wife washed, dressed and prepared the bodies. Their daughters Lydia, Annie, and Margaret made paper flowers for the coffins. The teenage boys of Burwalde were responsible to dig the graves. There were times when they dug graves and came upon older graves because these were not marked. The cemetery also served as a neutral place to bury loved ones who did not belong to any denomination. Many times the services were held at the cemetery with the village families showing up to support the outsiders. Recently the names of 15 people have been confirmed as having been buried in the cemetery.

The fourth volume in the *Mennonite History for Young People* series is called *Leaving Russia* and is now for sale at \$9.99. Rosabel Fast's lucid and impeccable presentation combined with Anikó Szabó's stunning design will delight young and old readers. It is the story of the immigration of Old Colony Mennonites from Imperial Russia to Manitoba in the 1870s, and about how they settled here. The D.F. Plett Historical Research Foundation is to be commended for producing this outstanding series at reasonable cost.



**Burwalde Church (East Reserve)**

Many events, including church, school, threshing season, fall butchering, ladies sewing circle, births, deaths, and weddings, brought this village together. Today it has disappeared like so many other villages. Only a handful of people are still living who lived in that place. Their stories are priceless. They remind us of who we are and the sacrifices they made to make our lives better.

## Two Burwaldes

by Harold J. Dyck

The East Reserve village of Burwalde had a counterpart in the West Reserve. Since the two were established by different immigrating groups from Russia, they might seem unconnected apart from the shared name. But there are some interesting parallels.

The name itself is not common in Mennonite settlements, although it can also be found in Mexico and Bolivia. The original village of Burwalde was in Chortitza Colony, but it appears to have been named after the old Polish village of Baerwalde, in which a notable Mennonite population developed. Whether that village was originally named for its forest bears or an early resident named Baer is hard to say, but it has been plausibly speculated that the name Burwalde may be a Low German corruption (*Boarwoolt?*) of that name. The “wald” part of the name, meaning forest, probably explains its infrequent use, since the Mennonites preferred open land suitable for cultivation. Both the ER and WR Burwaldes were established on land at least partly wooded.

Both Burwaldes missed the opening round of settlement in their respective reserves. In the West Reserve, Burwalde was established in 1878, several years after the initial burst of village formation. Its proximity to woodlands, desirable for home and barn construction, made it valuable for the reserve, even if the best farmland lay further south. Much slower was East Reserve settlement to expand into the wooded swampland before its Burwalde came to be recognized as a village in about 1885.

Both Burwaldes were situated on the margins of their reserves, both straddled township lines and both were

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## WestMenn Historical Committee Report

by Lawrence Klippenstein

Half a dozen projects have been the agenda for WMHC so far this year. They include: (a) upgrading the Mennonite Post Road Memorial Trail of the former WR, along with promotion of its use, (b) elaboration of a plan to establish a Historic Sites self-guided Museum Trail, (c) sustaining the ongoing research and publication of village histories (now focussed on giving assistance to a Rosenfeld publication—to come off the press in October), (d) helping to keep MMHS as a whole connected with independent local projects, (e) correlating general planning with the work of EastMenn Historical Committee (now working on a GPS locations map of all the villages of the two former Mennonite Reserve, and the marketing of a new East Reserve historical atlas, and a cairn for Jacob Y. Shantz, pioneer developer of both Reserves, (f) marketing earlier publications of the West Menn Committee, and as well as (g) giving thought to publishing a revised West Reserve historical atlas (with the Harms and Rempel edition now out of print), and (h) completion of a short history of MMHS, begun some years ago.

Addition of several additional members to the committee is a work in progress. The committee is looking forward to its next meeting on June 27. Current members of the committee include Eleanor Chornoboy, Albert Falk, John Giesbrecht, Lawrence Klippenstein, Jake Peters and Peter Priess.

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intersected by a creek. In the ER, Burwalde extended from 6-6E southward into 5-6E. The cemetery was south of the creek. In the WR, Burwalde's main village street lay east to west in 3-5W, while a shorter street formed a T with it in 3-4W. Dead Horse Creek, with its wooded banks, meandered eastward through a large swath of the village lands.

Both villages found survival difficult. The WR village of Burwalde lasted only six years. Former villagers moved out to their homesteads or west to what is now Saskatchewan, selling out to other Mennonite and English settlers. In the ER, Burwalde also suffered departures to Saskatchewan and later to Paraguay. Ukrainian settlers took over some of the homesteads.

In the WR, Burwalde reinvented itself, not so much as a village *per se*, but as a community that adjusted to its pluralistic setting. The Burwalde School District, with both English and Mennonite board members, was created in 1888 and became a center for community life. Canada's first Mennonite Brethren Church was established in Burwalde in 1888.

In the ER, sparked by new Mennonite immigration from Russia in the 1920s, Burwalde felt for a while like a real village again. Carruthers School District formed in 1928. Here, too, a Mennonite Brethren congregation with its own church was established. When the village declined again, the church building was moved to Steinbach.

## EastMenn Historical Committee - 2018 AGM Report,

by Ernest N. Braun, EHC secretary

Members: Jacob L Peters (chair), Ernest N. Braun (secretary), Glen R. Klassen, Henry N. Fast, Orlando Hiebert, Harold J. Dyck, Ben D. Funk.

EastMenn Historical Committee is a Standing Committee with two representatives on the MMHS Advisory Council, and one representative on the MMHS Board.

The EastMenn Historical Committee hosted its second Local History Lecture at the Mennonite Heritage Village auditorium at 7:30 PM on Saturday, May 6, 2017. The theme of the event was "The Family". Main speaker, Professor Val Hiebert of Providence University College, presented a paper entitled: ***Changing Perspectives of Marriage & Family throughout the History of the Church to the Present*** providing an insight into the way "family" came to be defined over time. The event also featured two shorter lectures on the topic of the family. Daphne Thiessen presented a paper on *Food and Spirituality*, and Ernest Braun presented a powerpoint overview of the *Chortitzer Mennonite Waisenamt*. Barry Dyck of MHV welcomed the audience to the venue, Jake Peters served as emcee, and Glen Klassen introduced the speakers.

The commemorative signs for the second phase of the sign placement for the former District Schools of East Reserve area were installed at the last fifteen heritage school sites in August of 2017. Funding by D. F. Plett Historical Research Foundation is gratefully acknowledged.

Glen Klassen and Ernest Braun created KMZ files (with GPS coordinates) for all East Reserve villages and place-names for York University in Toronto for use in identifying Prof John Warkentin's collection of photos. A future project might be to add information, photos and links to each of the KMZ files and produce a DVD.

Although entirely not in our mandate, the Mennonite Landing site saw some action this summer as the Crow Wing Trail Association as well as the Seine-Rat River Conservation District placed new signs on the site without consultation with either Orlando Hiebert or Royden Loewen who hold the lease to the property.

EastMenn Historical Committee continues to have representation on the Chortitz Church Heritage Committee which over-see the restoration of the old Chortitz Church near Randolph. This year two public events were held: a Pentecost Service at Chortitz on June 3, featuring Acts 2 in nine languages that Russian Mennonites have spoken over the centuries. The second event was the fourth annual German Christmas at Chortitz was held on December 9, with a quartet providing special music. Negotiations for transfer of ownership of the Heritage Site to the RM of Hanover are ongoing.

Work on a cairn at the Schanzenburg Sheds/cemetery has been on hold.

The committee as a whole met twice this year.



# Mennonite Heritage Village 2018 Report

by Barry Dyck,  
Executive Director

The year began with two major capital projects underway. The Summer Pavilion, a new facility for events and programs, was under construction. The Waldheim house, our oldest building (1876), was in the middle of a major restoration. Both projects were successfully completed later in the year. Several other projects were also completed: The windmill received a comprehensive maintenance checkup by a Dutch millwright; the makeup-air unit on the roof of the Village Centre was replaced; and many of our indoor and outdoor lights were upgraded to LED bulbs and fixtures.

Curatorial staff designed and installed a new exhibit addressing our 2017 theme, *Storyed Places*. Whereas students from the Steinbach Regional Secondary School have been developing exhibits for us for several years already, two classes from Landmark schools also contributed to our theme this year. Visitors to our gallery were invited to create a storied map of Steinbach. In spring we also hosted the Manitoba Museum's exhibit *Nice Women Don't Want the Vote* in our Gerhard Ens Gallery. Our Main Gallery saw the addition of an electronic world map showing the locations of Mennonite populations around the world.

In addition to making waffles and catering for a variety of events, the MHV Auxiliary presented the film *The Last Objectors* at the annual spring Film Night, collaborated with a local community quilting guild to present the *Threads of Time Quilt Show*, and staged a wonderful evening of multi-ethnic story telling around the theme *Celebrating 150 Years of Immigration*.

Our Annual General Meeting in March saw two new board members elected to our Board of Directors. Jeremy Peters and Matt Wieler, two local businessmen, began their first terms of service on the board and have already begun to contribute. They provided significant input toward some changes to our membership offering and policy.

The Steinbach and Area Garden Club not only continued to volunteer many hours to maintain both flower and vegetable gardens at MHV, they also re-landscaped the west side of the Auditorium with fresh topsoil and a variety of new plantings.

Our Fundraising Department again managed several successful events and a strong sponsorship program. The two new events initiated in 2017 were the *Heritage Classic Car Show* and the *Trip Raffle*, the latter ongoing till November 2018.



***The Art of Mennonite Clocks* is an exhibition of Mennonite Wall Clocks and their stories spanning more than two centuries. It is produced in partnership by Mennonite Heritage Village (MHV) and the Kroeger Clocks Heritage Foundation (KCHF) and is on display at MHV until April 2019. Read an exhibition review by MHV curator Andrea Dyck and view a preview of the exhibit at <https://www.kroegerclocks.com/2018-exhibition>.**

— Photo by Jerry Grajewski

This past year saw a number of staff transitions at MHV. Dora Penner decided to retire after several years as our Food Services Manager, and Yuliya Asraf stepped in to take her place. Alexandra Kroeger, our Assistant Curator, moved on, and Jenna Klassen has taken on her role. Anne Toews chose retirement after numerous years as our Program Director. A new manager for that department will be introduced in the new year.

On July 1, approximately 5,000 guests joined us to celebrate Canada's 150th anniversary. The City of Steinbach graciously loaned us their Canada 150 mural to be part of this celebration and to enhance our summer education program. Our Pioneer Days weekend took on a new glow with Friday-night fireworks, sponsored by Richardson Pioneer.

On the second weekend in June, we focused attention on collectors and lovers of vintage tractors. The annual Tractor Trek fundraiser, done in collaboration with the Eden Foundation, took place on Saturday, and the Southeast Implement Collectors staged their Tractor Show on Sunday.

In spring we partnered with the Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society as we hosted a second annual lecture evening. This year's topic was *Food, Family and Spirituality*. Plans are currently underway for the 2018 edition of this event.

Many Protestant denominations celebrated the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in 2017. At MHV, we were delighted that St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church chose us as their venue for a reformation celebration. Our Auditorium was full that evening.

We are grateful for the wonderful community initiatives we were able to be a part of, for all the blessings our guests and our constituency brought us, and for the things we were able to contribute to our community. We anticipate that 2018 will bring different but equally rich experiences and offerings.



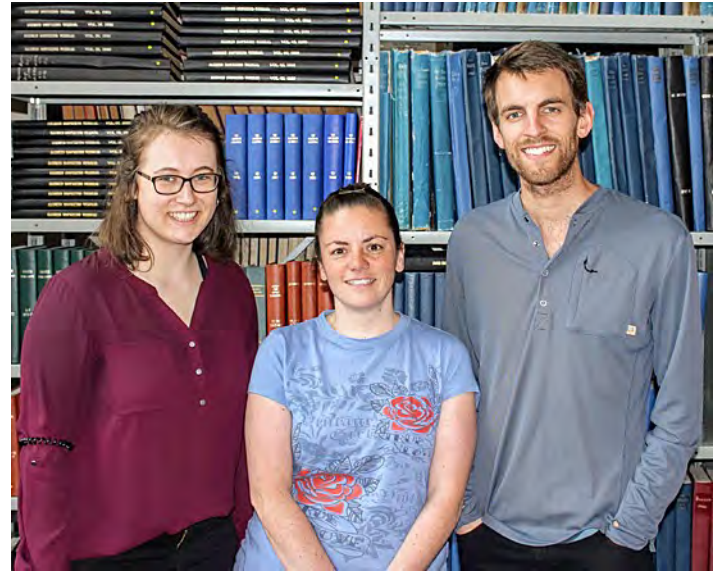
# MHA – Keep on moving! 2018 AGM Report

by **Conrad Stoesz**

This spring has been full of activities at the Mennonite Heritage Archives. As a sign of our success, our upper vault is nearing capacity in its current formation. We are pleased that Canadian Mennonite University (CMU) has provided us with a second vault, roughly 1700 square feet of space. And thanks to a grant from Winnipeg Foundation, the first set of mobile shelving was installed in March, with room to expand. This set of shelving will accommodate just under 500 large boxes. We have also received a new photocopier that greatly enhances our capacity to photocopy, print, and scan. Thank you CMU!

On May 2 we officially welcomed three new people. Selenna Hildebrand is taking over the administrative assistant position while Connie Wiebe is on leave. Krista Zerbin is doing her CMU practicum at the archives and Gallery and has been a welcomed resource for us. We were successful in obtaining a grant for a summer project this year and we hired Jordan Zimmerly.

As part of Jordan's CMU practicum in early 2016, Jordan combed through the Mennonite Pioneer Mission / Native Ministries files looking for references to day schools. The Mennonite Pioneer Mission (MPM) was invited by the communities of Pauingassi (1955) and Bloodvein (1963) in Northern Manitoba to establish a school in their communities. Initially the mission workers doubled as teachers but soon the work load proved too much so in 1958, MPM began an association with the federal



**New workers at MHA: Selenna Hildebrand, Krista Zerbin, and Jordan Zimmerly.** — Photo by Conrad Stoesz

Department of Indian Affairs to financially support the schools. In 1960, Edna Dalke was hired as the first full time teacher. In 1970, the on reserve schools in Bloodvein, operated by the Catholics and Mennonites, amalgamated.

Today Jordan is scanning these documents as a response to Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which looked into the residential school experience. The Commission created a document with 94 "calls to action," some of which pertain to archives. Recommendation 77 calls upon community archives to work collaboratively with the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation (A national digital archive based in Winnipeg that houses records related to residential schools) to "identify and collect copies of all records relevant to the history and legacy of the residential school system, and to provide these to the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation.(NTCR)" While we do not hold residential school materials, the NTCR has expressed interest in day school materials. The MHA is partnering with Mennonite Church Canada's Indigenous and Settler Relations office for this project. The project will also provide copies of the scanned documents to the communities of Pauingassi and Bloodvein where the day school were.

On May 3, Conrad attended the annual Red River Heritage Fair in Winnipeg for students in grade 4-11 with his display on Canada's conscientious objectors. Conrad reports that he is starting to hear students say "Oh, we took this in school," which is a very positive sign.

The new partnership with the Centre for Transnational Mennonite Studies and CMU has brought more students into the archives. On May 7, CMU professor Irma Fast Dueck, brought her Christian worship class to view and discuss our big 16<sup>th</sup> C Catholic music book from Spain. If you want to learn how the book got to our archive see the article in the September 2003 issue of the Mennonite Historian

## Report of Bergthal School Committee, 2018 AGM

by **Lawrence Klippenstein, Committee Chairperson**

Some major more or less final additions to the Bergthal school at Neuberghthal bring this project almost to completion. To begin with a quite modern spacious washroom has been added ready for use by people meeting at the school and others - picnic shelter, general campus activities, etc. It is attached to the west end of the school building as situated now and connects under roof with the rest of the building.

The final finish of work on the floor completes renovations on the main floor. Storm windows have been added to the window sections also. Some deposits of materials such as school books, a desk and chair, etc have been received and placed in storage for now.

All this means that the entire building is now outfitted for four- season use, and ready for accommodating modest sized groups from here on. Some activities there of recent date include a lecture on genealogy by Conrad Stoesz of the Mennonite Heritage Archives (cstoesz@cmu.ca.)

Total financial outlay for the school project is now somewhat above \$100,000 (already received), with bills payable around 5000.00.

Questions re booking space should be directed to Ray Hamm, rmhamm@icloud.ca or Joe Braun atowltree@sdnet.ca

# Centre Mennonite Brethren Studies, Winnipeg, Annual Report for 2018 AGMs (MHSC and MMHS)

by Jon Isaac

CMBS is one of four archival centres in North America offering research and archival services to MB Churches, their leaders and their people, for the mission of God that we share. CMBS produces **two “deliverables”**: archival and interpretive resourcing.

**Archival resourcing** includes preserving, describing, and making accessible church records and resources (photos, minutes, reports, statistics, study papers, etc.).

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

In 2017, CMBS kept busy cataloguing new acquisitions, writing file descriptions, presenting lectures, editing manuscripts, publishing the *Mennonite Historian*, and responding to genealogical and historical queries from users.

**Seven developments** are especially noteworthy and capture well the profile of CMBS in 2017.

## 1. Young Canada Works Heritage Grant secured.

CMBS was fortunate to get a YCW grant from the Canadian government in 2017. The grant made it possible to hire Canadian Mennonite University graduate student **Andrew Brown** (pictured at left) as a two-day-a-week archival assistant for the year. Andrew has been busy processing the backlog of archival files from churches and conferences, describing and posting the file lists on the Centre's website—tasks which supplement well his Mennonite Studies course work at CMU.

**2. Supplied images for publication.** Final preparations are underway for a commemorative book, *The Russian Mennonite Story: The Heritage Cruise Lectures*, documenting Prof. Paul Toews's long-standing contribution to understanding better the Mennonite experience in Russia. Toews was well known for guiding Mennonite Heritage cruises to Ukraine before his passing in 2015. **Dr. Aileen Friesen** (pictured at right) is the book's editor. CMBS was responsible for making high-resolution scans of over 40 photographs from its photographic collection for reproduction in this book scheduled for publication in 2018.

**3. Publication rights transferred.** On November 21, 2016, **Dr. Helmut T. Huebert** (pictured at left) passed away. In 2017, he was recognized with the Mennonite Historical Society's Award of Excellence for his many publications documenting Mennonite estates, families, and villages. The *Mennonite Historical Atlas* and *Moltschna Historical Atlas* that he published under the label Springfield Publishers continue to sell well. This summer the family generously transferred to CMBS the publication rights for all Springfield publications.

**4. E-commerce initiative launched.** At the last MHSC meeting (January 2016), CMBS agreed to transport the remaining stock of the three-volume set called *Mennonites in Canada* from Altona to Winnipeg and facilitate sale and shipping of these valuable volumes. Thanks to historian-coder Jeremy Wiebe, an attractive website was created with an e-commerce dimension and the books are selling at a steal-of-a-deal, \$5/each (see <https://www.mennonitesincanada.ca>). By year's end, a total of 375 volumes have been sold. The remaining inventory is 167 (Vol 2) and 172 (Vol 3). Clearly, a

great success!

**5. MB Herald USB drive updated.** The 2017 update brings the number of indexed and searchable MBH issues on the USB drive to 1,347. Those who have already purchased the drives can have them updated at no charge, other than shipping their drive to CMBS. One discovery is that the Zoom Search Engine works best if the default internet browser is set to Microsoft's **Internet Explorer**. Both Edge and Firefox no longer allow the search bar to automatically appear in the left-hand column. In this case, the older browser works better! I suspect this is due to the constant back-and-forth evolution of software, hardware, and internet interface—I'm trying to squeeze a few more years of usefulness out of the Zoom Search Engine (version 6) from 2011.

**6. Images uploaded to Mennonite Archival Image Database (MAID).** In March 2015, MAID was launched (<http://archives.mhsc.ca>). It is a collaborative venture between Canadian and American Mennonite archives and historical societies. CMBS has 26,292 image descriptions (metadata) uploaded to the site. Volunteers spent about 30 hours a month this year scanning and linking the images to the preloaded metadata. We also corrected and edited the photo descriptions at the same time. Currently, there are **5,365 images linked to those 26,292 records**; that's more than 1,500 digital links made in 2017. At this rate, it will take several years to complete the scanning and linking.

**7. Doing more with less.** CMBS, like all church institutions today, is having to find ways to carry on, as denomination funding continues to be reduced. So far, we've been able to respond in creative ways. Happily, we've managed to carry on printing/distributing the quarterly publication, *Mennonite Historian*. The collaborative project I share with Conrad Stoesz and the Mennonite Heritage Archives, Winnipeg, remains a great source of satisfaction. And, we are told, it is a much-valued magazine documenting articles of Mennonite historical interest. We will continue doing more with less.

**Two items of more sobering nature are the following:**

This past summer **CMBS said farewell** to half-time archivist **Conrad Stoesz**, who left to take a full-time archivist role at Canadian Mennonite University, heading up the reconfigured and renamed Mennonite Heritage Archives. While I will miss Conrad a great deal, I do celebrate with him the career advance that his appointment at CMU represents.

At the November Special General Meeting of the Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches held in Abbotsford, BC, the 2018 budget was approved by delegates. It is a **downsizing budget** that reduces funding to conference ministries/services, including CMBS, given the declining financial support from member churches. The executive board decided to build a ministry/service budget, starting in 2018, based on anticipated income from member churches, without any supplement from conference investment interest income, ending a practice that denominational ministries have enjoyed since the 1980s. The result is that, starting in 2018, CMBS will be open three days a week and I will become its only employee at part-time (0.60 FTE).



# Who is Louis Riel? Manitoba Day, 2018

by *Lawrence Klippenstein*

There is a heritage trail alongside the Red River, beginning at the Riel monument on the riverbank south of the Legislative Building and continuing up to the Forks. It crosses the river over the Riel Esplanade bridge into St. Boniface where the burial site of Riel can be seen today. I felt that a small Manitoba Day celebration could be had by walking this trail. The invitations went out very late so responses were sparse. We did not get to do the one-time Métis St. Boniface part of the trail. We need to do that most significant section of the Trail also some day.

My son and I decided on Manitoba Day (May 12) to see what this trail has to say to us. It begins on the river bank just south of the Legislature. Its bookend there is the Louis Riel monument with a pleasantly terraced walk to the river's edge. It has only the name "Riel" on it, with the premier's frock now replacing the agonizing symbolism of agony and torture depicted by the first edition of that statue.

We found informative plaques for John Norquay, a very early (but not first) premier of the province, and a tribute to an important Roman Catholic church leader of Riel's heyday, but nothing on the role of Riel as first premier of Manitoba. All that data is of course handily offered by Google, I found – but not in a public plaque of recognition here. We wondered why we could not find a sentence or two at least about the political role of Riel in the birthing of Manitoba as a province. Or did we miss the plaque? If so, we will need to go back and take a look.

Someone helped us take some photos there. We compared these images with the traditional sketch of an Anabaptist martyr, Dirk Willems. Both men were trying to do something very positive, but were both executed for their efforts. And both were strong in Christian faith, one Protestant, the other Catholic.

I recalled that around the year 2000 Manitoba Mennonites placed a plaque in the Legislative Building, beside its south doorway, as a tribute to pioneer immigrants who had come from southern Russia, later Ukraine. The plaque is still there, but a locked door kept us from having a look.

Heading toward Main St. we tried to pay a visit to 61 Carlton, the headquarters of the



**Lawrence and Nathan Klippenstein visit Riel on Manitoba Day.**

— Photos by Nathan Klippenstein

Manitoba Historical Society but it was closed on Saturday. In the same area there is a famous local museum, Dalnavert House, once belonging to Hugh McDonald, the eighth premier of Manitoba. Though only open briefly each week, it fits right into the story.

Next we stopped at the Fort Garry Gate Garden, not in bloom yet, but nicely laid out as a place to visit again when the flowers show up in all their glory. The Fort had a very important part in the early days of the Manitoba story and the recent restoration, while not a replica of what once was, tells the story we can contemplate there. A re-enactment of the visit of the 1873 Mennonite delegates from Russia, held in 1973, began at this place. The Honourable Ed Schreyer was the Manitoba premier at that time. This was the locality where the first Mennonites landed in 1874. The treaty arrangements with local indigenous residents were, of course, completely unknown to the newcomers, but thankfully descendants are now being taught to note that this was and remains Treaty No 1 territory.

## Heritage Posting Report, 2018 AGM

by *Glen Klassen, Editor*

Heritage Posting is the official newsletter of the MMHS. In 2017 there were three issues (March, June, November) with a total page of 32 pages. Articles included news, local history stories, and book reviews. Contributors included Conrad Stoesz, Lawrence Klippenstein, Jon Isaak, Barry Dyck, Ernest Braun, Henry Fast, Hans Werner, John J. Friesen, Edith Wiebe, Eleanor Chornoboy, Jake Buhler (Sask), Marlene Reimer, Clara Toews, Glenn Penner, Lois Braun, Elmer Heinrichs, Harold J. Dyck and Glen Klassen. We thank these writers for their willingness to contribute. Many of these are repeat performers.

The full-colour web version of the newsletter is becoming more and more popular. I thank Ted Barg for his creative layouts. All of the colour photographs have to be processed for the print edition so that they come out clearly in black and white.



**Statue of Louis Riel at the Manitoba Legislature**

# THE WORD in Chortitz

by Ernest N. Braun

Saturday evening June 9, 2018 saw the Chortitz Heritage Church in Randolph again live with people and music as about 60 people came to participate in the program hosted by the Chortitz Heritage Church Committee.

The evening began with a prelude by an 8-member strings group which later played an assortment of German, English and Russian songs as a special feature. This local group led by three Esau brothers, Waldemar, Roman and Victor, and including other family members and their music students, produced a vibrant sound hard to equal anywhere in Manitoba. Frank Wiebe led the congregation in singing of favourite German hymns.

Emcee Pastor Rob Martens provided an introduction to the evening which featured a short lecture by CMC Bishop Dave Reimer on the main theme: *Sola Scriptura* - Scripture alone as first articulated by Martin Luther during the Reformation. Bishop Reimer noted that this doctrinal position became the focal point for the splintering of the Catholic church into two camps, Catholic and Protestant. Then the latter further splintered into smaller groups, one of which was the Anabaptists. Menno Simons, a former Catholic priest, then established still another subgroup within the Anabaptist movement, the Mennonites. Luther also translated the Bible into the language of the people and eliminated the dependence on the Pope and priests, and therefore also restricted the flow of money to the Vatican, a precedent that later prompted the King of England to do the same.

The presentation ended with the sober reminder that the question of whether sole authority is vested in the Holy



**The  
WORD  
in Chortitz**

*Sola Scriptura*

CMC Bishop David Reimer

**Saturday, June 9, 7:00 PM**  
at Chortitz Heritage Church in Randolph

**Music: String Ensemble**  
Congregational singing [in German]

**Everybody  
Welcome!  
Free Admission**

Note: Maximum occupancy 180 persons

Chortitz Church  
Historic Site  
←

— Poster courtesy of Ernest N. Braun

## 2018 Recipients of Lt. Gov. Award for Historical Preservation and Promotion

**Gerald 'Gerry' Clark** (Flin Flon): teacher turned Flin Flon's unofficial historian, founding member /chair of the Flin Flon Historical Society.

**Wally Johannson** (Gimli); history teacher turned MLA and member of Manitoba Heritage Council, chair of Gimli Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee.

**Christopher Kotecki** (Winnipeg); career archivist at Manitoba Archives, published writer, and active presenter at local, national, and international conferences on noted historical topics.

**Maria Lodge** (Winnipeg) see main article

**Donald Peake** (Flin Flon); founding member and unofficial archivist of the Flin Flon Heritage Project which is cataloguing and digitizing archival materials collected at the Flin Flon Public Library. *Source: MHS website*

Scriptures has not been settled for all time. Today there are three positions that challenge that doctrine: those who believe that church tradition should govern spiritual and ethical decisions, those who take the post-modernist stance where the Scriptures are merely one alternative, and those who believe that the Scriptures are superceded by the Holy Spirit who informs each individual personally without regard to the written Word.

Dr. Corneil Blatz provided an update on the changes in the ownership model of the Heritage Site, namely a new Memorandum of Understanding with the Rural Municipality of Hanover which allows for municipal ownership in 5-year renewal intervals while the day-to-day affairs continue to be run by the Chortitz Heritage Church Committee. Plans are also afoot to build a shelter and erect signage.

The program was followed by refreshments, rhubarb plautz and coffee, as people mingled and visited afterward.



# The History Seekers of Altona

By Joe Braun

In its 18<sup>th</sup> year now, the History Seekers lecture series was better than ever. Our small but enthusiastic committee began planning the 2018 lecture series in early February. What's been so great over the years is the willingness of the presenters, when we call them up, to participate and to share their hard-earned knowledge with our audience. They never fail us, and although bad weather has sometimes resulted in last-minute cancellations, our guest speakers have always managed to rearrange their schedules to accommodate an alternative date. Luckily, 2018 had no such postponements.

On Mar. 1, Art Wiebe, amateur historian and keeper of Rosenfeld's Facebook page, presented his latest findings as his team prepares to publish the town's history book in fall. He was joined by Lois Braun, who is editing the book. She read various captivating excerpts from the upcoming book, including a Winnipeg *Tribune* journalist's description of his sojourn at the rather questionable Rosenfeld Hotel, c. 1958. Following their report, Al Schmidt and company gave a talk on the importance and workings of the Altona and District Archives.

A real treat for the audience on Mar. 8 was Gordon Goldsborough's theme on abandoned grain elevators in Manitoba. During his slideshow, Goldsborough summarized the history behind various elevators and discussed their unique features and their fates. After coffee break, he touched on some of his favourite abandoned Manitoba sites, explaining how he discovered and photographed them. We've already asked him back again for next year.

Eleanor Chornoboy's topic on Mar. 15 was "Mennonite Women: Comparing the Russländer and Kanadier Experience." We learned how different the two groups were, both in Russia, and again upon their arrival in Manitoba. In the second half of her presentation, Chornoboy appeared in 1920s costume modeling as a domestic. These single young immigrant girls found themselves in new surroundings and a new job in Winnipeg, often with no family nearby for emotional support.

Mar. 22 brought us Prof. Royden Loewen of the University of Winnipeg's Mennonite Studies, who recently completed a project called, *Seven Points on Earth*. Researchers spread throughout the globe to interview and film Mennonites farming in Java, Zimbabwe, Siberia, Bolivia, Holland, Canada, and the United States. The theme investigates what part faith plays in the vocation of farming for Mennonites of various cultures. Loewen showed the film by Paul Plett that came out of that research and those experiences.



**The Rosenfeld Ladies Aid, 1930s, on an outing at the Peter D. Berg farm, submitted by his grandson, Wes Berg.**

— Photo probably taken by P. D. Berg

Then on Mar. 23, Dr. Donald Stoesz of Bowden, Alberta, presented his research on the conditions that led up to the Mennonites of the West Reserve splitting into two groups: the Bergthaler Mennonite Church and the Sommerfeld Mennonite Church. This included biographies and descriptions of some of the leaders involved: Johann Funk, Abraham Doerksen, David M. Stoesz, and Cornelius G. Stoesz.

The final lecture of the 2018 season was given by Joseph Wiebe, Assistant Professor of Religion and Ecology at University of Alberta, Augustana. His topic was, "The influence of settler colonialism on environmental imagination and religious identity."

"This project is a case study of how one agrarian community perceived indigenous people during settlement in North America. It tells the story about the role indigenous people played in the settlement narratives Mennonites constructed as they were adapting their religious identity to the prairie landscape."

At all of these two-hour sessions, audience reception was positive and interactive. This annual event began with only five people in attendance at the first lecture back in 1999. That quickly burgeoned into an average attendance of 20-25, and the last few years we've been averaging 55-65. 89 folks turned out for one lecture this year. The committee is excited to start thinking about possibilities for next year's History Seekers event!

## ***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.

# Dirk Willems statue commissioned for Mennonite Heritage Village

by Abe Warkentin

(Steinbach, Manitoba) - A peace exhibit committee has commissioned Manitoba sculptor Peter Sawatzky to build a bronze statue of martyred Anabaptist Dirk Willems. The monument is expected to be a concrete way of recognizing the Anabaptist ideals of peacemaking.

The life-size statue to be completed in 2018, will be the focal point of a new peace exhibit at Mennonite Heritage Village in Steinbach. The Mennonite Heritage Village is a world-class museum attracting 40,000 visitors per year from around the world.

Sawatzky is renowned for various sculptures, including the Seal River Crossing, a 29-foot-long sculpture of nine caribou in downtown Winnipeg as well as a 21-foot York boat in Selkirk.

Willems was one of around 4,000 martyrs killed in Europe in the 1500s for their understanding of the practice of baptism (among other charges). Holding to the doctrine that one should only be baptized upon confession of faith, they re-baptized adult believers and refused to baptize infants. Willems became known for rescuing his captor after breaking out of prison and was burned at the stake near his home village of Asperen, The Netherlands on May 16, 1569.

The commissioning of the bronze, life-size statue involves something of a leap of faith for the committee, according to Peace Exhibit Committee chair Elbert Toews. The sculpture and base alone will run over \$100,000 and

the completed peace exhibit, which will include an interpretive centre and cairn to recognize Mennonite conscientious objectors, will cost several hundred thousand dollars more. Donations are being solicited and can be sent directly to Peace Project, Mennonite Heritage Village, Attention Al Hamm, 231 PTH 12 North, Steinbach, Manitoba R5C 1T8.

"In 2025 it will be 500 years since Anabaptist history started in Zurich, Switzerland," says committee member and historian Harvey Plett. He notes the movement spread rapidly throughout Europe despite strong resistance from the established churches and states.

The Willems monument was felt by the committee to be the perfect, iconic image of the spirit of the martyrs. Willems was imprisoned in a residential castle turned prison and escaped by letting himself out of a window with a rope made of knotted rags. Emaciated from his imprisonment, he did not break through the ice surrounding the castle but his heavier pursuer broke through.

Willems, hearing his guard's call for help, turned back and rescued him. The guard wanted to release him but the mayor ordered his recapture and imprisonment.

Willems was sentenced to execution by fire on May 16, 1569, says Plett, but because a strong east wind blew that day, the kindled fire was driven away from the upper part of his body as he stood tied to the stake. People in the neighboring town of Leerdam heard him exclaim over and over: "O my Lord, my God!" The judge or bailiff, present at the execution, heard Willems and ordered the executioner to kill him quickly.

A Mennonite delegation to the Vatican gave Pope Benedict XVI a framed picture of Willems saving his persecutor in October, 2007. Pope Benedict spoke of a common understanding of non-violence and active peacemaking at the heart of the gospel and a continuing search for unity.

Anabaptists include Mennonites, Hutterites, Amish and various other Christian groups who believe in the separation of church and state, adult baptism and non-resistance. Today there is a renewed Anabaptist movement in Europe and other parts of the world.

The Peace Exhibit Committee placed a monument honouring conscientious objectors on the Mennonite Heritage Village grounds in 2016. The MHV's mission statement is: "to preserve, exhibit, for present and future generations, the experience and story of the Russian Mennonites and their contributions to Manitoba."



**Jan Luyken engraving of Dirk Willems saving his captor from drowning published in *Martyrs' Mirror*, 1685.**



**Sculptor Peter Sawatzky working on the Dirk Willems statue in his studio.** — Photo courtesy of Peter Sawatzky



# Conchies at Savanne 1945

We have a friend in Mr. Blair  
Who sends us here and sends us there.  
One fateful day it was decreed  
That to Savanne we should proceed.

Dan "the faithful" with his truck  
Hied us off and wished us luck,  
Bade us farewell in the city  
Half with envy, half with pity.

At seven-thirty in the night  
We found ourselves set for the flight  
Within an overheated car  
At mercy of the CPR

We sped across Ontario's hills  
Though darkness veiled her lakes and rills  
And in between our fitful naps  
We munched aunt Katherine's ginger  
snaps.

Expectantly we neared the place  
Misgivings plain on every face.  
The trainman shouted "next Savanne"  
Soon down we floundered thirteen men.

Pulp-cutting was to be our lot  
For tools, an axe and saw we got.  
Though doubtful was our task, and new  
Intent we were our best to do.

From dawn till dusk we toil and sweat  
Enormous appetite we get.  
When tired of cutting, piling sticks  
We go for supper sharp at six.

And in due-time we leave the place  
Contentment shows on every face.  
Then 'round the bunkhouse stove we crowd  
To praise the cook with voices loud.

Gus, the foreman, so they say,  
He stands around and draws his pay,  
His English has a foreign ring,  
His wife does all our laundings.

For wise of wise philosophy,  
Our mustached friend Pete Doell we see.  
With radio and comedy,  
Pete Teichroew is the remedy.

Friend Bartel cuts two cords a day  
He eats and talks the blues away.  
Van Pappen drives the V8 truck  
He says with skill, we say with luck.

The driver of the cat at night  
Made noises weird which gave us fright.  
Then Herman Isaac took a notion  
To put an end to such commotion.

A character is David Dueck  
He sometimes slow, he's sometimes quick.  
His governor has no control  
He sits and dreams of his payroll.

Jake Bartel is the second cook  
The flunkies tremble at his look.  
Honest Abe, our bull-cook friend  
Solves cross-word puzzles without end.

Peter Koetler is a heavy-weight  
The scales report two seven eight.



**The Mennonite Heritage Archives' display table featuring the experience of Canada's WWII conscientious objectors.**

— Photo courtesy of Conrad Stoesz

George Mantler large of heart and figure  
Has actions small, ambitions bigger.

Our cheerful Ed with muscles brawn  
Fared forth to work with hope one dawn,  
And started with his usual speed  
To carefulness he gave no heed.

Applied his axe onto a root  
It slipped and slashed both flesh and boot.  
Doc Sproule sewed up the laceration  
Result: two weeks on compensation.

Bill Isaac has a clever wit  
For making poems he is a hit.  
He thinks up verses overnight  
Worthy of a copyright.

Ask for hasty coy advice  
Unrau gladly gives it twice.  
He rolls his eyes and twists his nose  
Even as we now compose.

Half a cord is Kroeker's quota  
He can't be moved for one iota.  
He's wasted many a precious day  
While others earn their meager pay.

Johnny Pauls without a question  
Teems with many an odd suggestion.  
John Loewen has another trait  
His look is apt to aggravate.

There's Dueck and Penner, Skidders fine  
George Brandt is barely home on time.  
Kornelsen, Peters, Wiebes and Plett  
Are working hard but getting fat.

There's Unger, Janzen, Harder, Friesens  
And Hild'brandts here for different  
reasons.  
And other men of brawny backs  
Complete our line of lumberjacks.

On Sunday morning as a rule  
We have our time for Sunday School.  
We join in groups around the table  
And sing some hymns as best we're able.

Then bow our heads for word of prayer,  
And ask the Lord to meet us there.  
Then read and learn from work of scripture,  
And talk of Christ the perfect picture.

During the war in the 1940s many young Mennonite men opted for alternate service as conscientious objectors. Some spent the time at a lumber camp at Savanne, Ontario. Some of them spent spare time composing rhymes to lampoon their bosses and companions but also to record camp life. Marilyn Heinrichs has preserved one such creation from her father's papers. He was John R. Dueck from Blumenort (ER) who later became an EMC minister. He may have written these verses himself or, as one of the verses suggests, they may have come from the pen of Bill Isaac.

**NOTE:** These are only selected verses from the 40-verse original. If you would like to see the whole poem, please email me at [grklassen@gmail.com](mailto:grklassen@gmail.com).

## Book Notes

by **Lawrence Klippenstein**

A coffee table edition of the late Dr. Paul Toews, ed. by Dr. Aileen Friesen, *The Russian Mennonite Story. The Heritage Cruise Lectures* (Winnipeg: The Centre for Transnational Studies, 2018), pb, 106 pp, \$40.95, was launched on June 6, 2018, at Mennonite Heritage Archives in Winnipeg. This book may be reviewed in a later issue of this newsletter. It is an edited version of Russian Mennonite history lectures as presented on the river cruise tours to Ukraine directed by Marina and Walter Unger. The final cruise is scheduled for July later this year.



Leonard G. Friesen, ed. *Minority Report: Mennonite Identities in Imperial Russia and Soviet Ukraine Reconsidered 1789 – 1945* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2018), hdc., 338 pp. This book appeared as a *Festschrift* for Dr. Harvey Dyck, Emeritus Professor of History at the University of Toronto. The ten contributors include a number of Russian and Ukrainian scholars, with translated essays, along with those of Western colleagues of Dr. Dyck. Dr. Friesen is Professor of History at the Wilfred Laurier University, Waterloo, ON. For further info you may contact him at [lfriesen@wlu.ca](mailto:lfriesen@wlu.ca)

Glen Klassen, *Hope Healing and Community: Celebrating 50 Years of Eden*, (Winkler: Eden Health Care Services, 2018). This volume is reviewed elsewhere

in this issue. Dr. Glen Klassen, retired University of Manitoba professor, is currently editor of *Heritage Posting*. The book is available at Commonword bookstore via [info@commonword.ca](mailto:info@commonword.ca), \$30, or [edenhealthcare.ca/news/book-release-hope-healing-community](http://edenhealthcare.ca/news/book-release-hope-healing-community), \$35 including shipping.

The current issue of *Village Voice*, the newsletter of Mennonite Heritage Village, edited by Andrea Dyck and Patricia West, is available at the MHV office through [barryd@mhv.ca](mailto:barryd@mhv.ca).

Steve Heinrichs, ed. *Unsettling the Word. Biblical Experiments in Decolonization* (Winnipeg: Mennonite Church Canada, 2018), hdc., 300 pp. Sixty contributors have offered comments on how the Bible needs to be read so it can apply appropriately to indigenous-settler relations in Canada. For further info contact [info@commonword.ca](mailto:info@commonword.ca) or call 1-204-487-3300.

### Coming soon:

The Rosenfeld book, introduced in more detail in HP recently, is expected to be off the press in October later this year. For further updating contact Rosenfeld Book Committee at [owltree@sdnet.ca](mailto:owltree@sdnet.ca)

### Also at the press are:

*Sketches from Siberia: The Life of Jacob D Sudermann*, by Werner Toews, of Winnipeg, MB

*140: Scrapbook Windows on the West Reserve*, from the WestMenn Historical Committee of the MMHS

A revised edition of the Low German Dictionary compiled by professor emeritus Dr. Jack Thiessen and Ernest Braun of Niverville.

## Book Review

Glen Klassen, *Hope, Healing and Community* (Winkler: Eden Health Care Services, 2018) sc, 224 p. **Reviewed by Dr. Chris Summerville, Executive Director, Manitoba Schizophrenia Society**

"Hope, Healing and Community" are the most appropriate words to describe the life and work of Eden, especially the dedicated and passionate staff, board members, churches and volunteers who collaboratively built this "Garden of Eden" for a people so often forgotten, oppressed, ghettoized, alienated, stigmatized and discriminated by the world we live in. The pictures, art, testimonies, first-hand stories and the hundreds of names listed in the book illustrate how God manifests His kingdom (community) of "*hecedh*" to those needing hope, healing, and community due to mental health problems, homelessness and social deprivation. *Hecedh* is the Hebrew word often translated as "lovingkindness" "mercy," "kindness," and "goodness." The word is rooted in the idea of "to bend or bow oneself," "to incline oneself"; hence, "to be gracious or merciful." That's Eden! That's at the heart of all those who have contributed to Eden's success.

