



Advisory Council and Annual Meeting

Saturday, April 20, 2024 @ Canadian Mennonite University

Advisory Council Meeting

- 1) Call to Order and Welcome
- 2) Approval of the Agenda
- 3) Minutes of the April 29, 2023 Advisory Council Meeting
- 4) Reports from Affiliated Organizations
 - a. Mennonite Heritage Village
 - b. Centre for Mennonite Brethren Studies
 - c. Mennonite Heritage Archives
 - d. Chair in Mennonite Studies
 - e. Plett Foundation
- 5) Reports from Standing Committees
 - a. EastMenn
 - b. WestMenn
 - c. Membership and Publicity
 - d. Heritage Posting
 - e. Media
 - f. Genealogy
- 6) Nominations to the Board
 - a. Terms Expiring
 - i. Conrad Stoesz
 - ii. Edward Krahn
 - iii. Graham Schellenberg
- 7) Other Business
- 8) Adjournment

Annual Meeting

- 1) Call to Order and Welcome
- 2) Adoption of the Minutes of the April 29, 2023 Annual Meeting
- 3) President's Report
- 4) Financial Report
- 5) Adoption of the Affiliated Organization and Standing Committee Reports
(as presented at the meeting of the Advisory Council)
- 6) Election of Directors
 - a. Nominations from the Advisory Council
 - b. Nominations from the Floor
- 7) Recommendations from the Advisory Council
- 8) Other Business
- 9) Adjournment

Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society Advisory Council Meeting

April 29, 2023
Neubergthal, Manitoba

Chair: Conrad Stoesz **Minutes:** Graham Schellenberg

1) Call to Order and Welcome

Susie Fisher (Neubergthal Heritage Foundation) welcomed guests and acknowledged that Neubergthal is located on Treaty One Territory. Conrad Stoesz called the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M.

2) Adoption of the Minutes of the 2022 Advisory Council Meeting

M/S/C Graham Schellenberg, Ben Nobbs-Thiessen, to adopt the minutes of the April 9, 2022 Advisory Council Meeting as circulated.

3) Reports from Affiliated Organizations

- a. Mennonite Heritage Village – no report (attached)
- b. Centre for Mennonite Brethren Studies – no report (attached)
- c. Mennonite Heritage Archives – Conrad Stoesz
 - The archive is busy with visitors, projects, and materials. Reached approximately 70,000 people online in 2022.
 - Unofficially launched collections.mharchives.ca, a digital archival database which currently hosts the *Steinbach Post*, *Conference of Mennonites in Canada Yearbook*, *CMBC Alumni Bulletin*, and some books published by the Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society.
 - Continued publishing the *Mennonite Historian* in collaboration with the Centre for Mennonite Brethren Studies. Past issues are available online.
- d. Plett Foundation – Jeremy Wiebe
 - Recently awarded another round of grants for historical projects.
 - *Preservings* focused on the 1920s emigration of Old Colony Mennonites from Manitoba and Saskatchewan to Mexico and Paraguay.
 - Commemorated the 1920s emigration with a series of webinars co-hosted with the Mennonite Heritage Village.
 - Revamped its website, which hosts a growing collection of resources.
- e. Chair in Mennonite Studies – Ben Nobbs-Thiessen

- The Centre for Transnational Mennonite Studies (CTMS) held its fall conference in October 2022 and Spring Lecture in April 2023.
- The 'Russlaender Mennonites: War, Dislocation, and New Beginnings' conference will take place in July 2023. The 2024 conference will focus on the 1870s emigration of Mennonites from Russia to Manitoba.
- The *Journal of Mennonite Studies* editorial team published two issues primarily focused on papers presented at the 'MCC at 100' conference in 2021.

4) Reports from Standing Committees

a. EastMenn – Ernie Braun

- Began developing the Peace Trail, a 55-kilometre-long walking and bike trail from the Mennonite Memorial Landing Site near Niverville, to the Mennonite Heritage Village in Steinbach.
- The first Annual Peace Trek took place on August 20, 2023. The event is a joint fundraiser by the Eden Foundation and the Mennonite Heritage Village.
- Hosted the unveiling of the Shantz Cairn on May 12, 2022 (Manitoba Day). Métis cart-builder Armand Jerome and EastMenn secretary Ernest Braun spoke to the occasion, with a cart standing next to the cairn to honour the role the Métis played in the earliest Mennonite immigration.

b. WestMenn – Andrew Klassen Brown

- Working on the West Reserve Atlas project, with help in digitizing the text, updating maps, and developing the layout. The committee plans to meet and dedicate more energy to this project in 2023.
- Mourned the passing of former member and chair, Lawrence Klippenstein, on March 18, 2022. Lawrence was a beloved historian, colleague, and friend and is deeply missed.

c. Membership and Publicity – no report

d. Heritage Posting – Conrad Stoesz and Ted Barg (on behalf of Glen Klassen.

- Three 12-page issues were distributed to members by e-mail and mail. The editorial team welcomes feedback, article submissions, and letters to the editor.
- Graham Schellenberg and Andrew Klassen Brown served as assistant editors. Ted Barg managed the layout.

e. Media – Conrad Stoesz

- Supported the development of *Conform: The Mennonite Migration to Mexico* (2022), produced by Refuge 31 Films.

- Working with Dale Hildebrand and Eleanor Chornoboy on a documentary commemorating the 1870s emigration of Mennonites from Russia to Manitoba.

- f. Genealogy – Conrad Stoesz (on behalf of Bert Friesen)
 - Supporting the Mennonite Historical Society of Canada’s genealogy committee by linking individual records in GRANDMA with images of the original sources.

5) Nominations to the Board

- a. Terms Expiring
 - i. Andrea Klassen
 - ii. Andrew Klassen Brown
 - iii. Sean Goerzen

- b. Nominated by Council
 - I. Andrea Klassen
 - II. Andrew Klassen Brown
 - III. Sean Goerzen

M/S/C Ernie Braun, Erin Unger, that nominations cease.

6) Other Business

Susie Fisher shared about the Neubergthal Heritage Foundation’s vision, mission, and ongoing work to develop the Neubergthal Commons.

Joe and Lois Braun shared details about their research on the West Reserve village/area of Kleinstadt/Hochstadt.

7) Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by general consent at 1:45 P.M.

Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society Annual General Meeting

April 29, 2023
Neubergthal, Manitoba

Chair: Conrad Stoesz **Minutes:** Graham Schellenberg

1. Call to Order

Conrad Stoesz welcomed guests and called the meeting to order at 1:45 P.M.

2. Adoption of the Minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting

M/S/C Graham Schellenberg, Andrew Klassen Brown, to adopt the minutes of the April 9, 2022 Annual General Meeting as circulated.

3. President's Report – Conrad Stoesz

- 2022 was another successful year. Member organizations, committees, and individual members made significant contributions.
- There are many important historical anniversaries between 2021 and 2016. MMHS is encouraging congregations, conferences, families, and communities to consider marking the 150th anniversary of the emigration of Mennonites from Russia to Manitoba.
- Collecting, preserving, and promoting history is central to identity. The war in Ukraine is about who defines the past, and cultural sites—archives, libraries, and museums—have been targeted because they shape identity. This is a reminder of the important work that members do in shaping identity.

4. Financial Report – Andrew Klassen Brown (on behalf of Sean Goerzen)

- Donations and membership renewals continue to fund *Heritage Posting*.
- MMHS is involved with the upcoming 'Memories of Migration: Russlaender Centenary Tour'; in particular, running the finances for the Saengerfest in July 2023.
- The increased capital being held in the MMHS bank account is mainly because of a few large donations for the Saengerfest.
- The general loss is attributed to yearly set contributions to the Mennonite Historical Society of Canada, as well as the GAMEO Project.
- The investment accounts continue to generate interest, and capital is available for special projects.

M/S/C Andrew Klassen Brown, John Giesbrecht, to adopt the Financial Report as circulated.

5. Adoption of the Affiliated Organization and Standing Committee Reports (as presented at the Advisory Council Meeting)

6. Election of Directors

- a. Nominations from the Council

- I. Andrea Klassen
- II. Andrew Klassen Brown
- III. Sean Goerzen

M/S/C Ernie Braun, Erin Unger, that nominations cease.

The nominees were elected by acclamation.

7. Recommendations from the Advisory Council

There were no recommendations.

8. Other Business

There was no other business.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by general consent at 2:05 P.M.

MMHS President's Report - 2023

The Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society consists of member organizations and individuals. 2023 was a remarkable year for the Society. MMHS partnered with the Mennonite Historical Society of Canada to help host commemorative events marking the 100th anniversary of the migration of Mennonites from Soviet Russia to Canada. MMHS supported the sold-out Saengerfest at the Concert Hall. Member organizations were busy with events as the planned train tour stopped in Winnipeg and drew in many people from around the province. Some highlights include the history conference hosted by The Centre for Transnational Mennonite Studies, a worship service and activities hosted by the Mennonite Heritage Village, and the Mennonite Heritage Archives hosted a tour, produced a commemorative calendar, and created 13 stories for radio audiences.

Our standing committees continue their work on projects and *Heritage Posting* came off the press with excellent content thanks to editor Glen Klassen, designer Ted Barg, and the many writers. Read the accompanying reports to read more about the work of the committees.

I would be remiss if I did not say a special thanks to Glen Klassen and Ted Barg for their work with *Heritage Posting*. Thanks also to Board member Hans Werner for his service to the Society. All three have contributed to MMHS and to the Mennonite community. Thank you for your work, expertise and sage advice. You will be missed as you take a break from MMHS activities.

This year (2024) marks the 150th anniversary of the Mennonites establishing communities in the province. Commemorating anniversaries and important events within a community is crucial for preserving and understanding the shared history and values that shape its identity. It provides an opportunity for community members to come together, reflect on the past, and consider the legacy they wish to leave for future generations. It also helps to keep the memory of key moments and individuals alive, which can be a source of inspiration and pride. Additionally, community commemoration can also serve as a way of educating and engaging the public and can be an effective tool for building stronger and more connected communities. Community commemoration is an essential aspect of preserving and celebrating the heritage and identity of a community.

MMHS and its member organizations are working on events to mark the 150th. MMHS board members encourage you and your community to consider a way of commemorating the 150th anniversary. Some ideas include planning a special service, or reunion, producing a publication, website, dramatization or play, establishing a cairn or plaque. For more ideas visit the Mennonite Heritage Archives at <https://www.mharchives.ca/how-to/churches/#bringing>

Conrad Stoesz, president, on behalf of the board.

Andrea Klassen (vice president), Sean Goerzen (treasurer), Hans Werner (secretary), Ed Krahn, Graham Schellenberg, Andrew Klassen Brown.



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www.mhv.ca

As 2023 began, Travel Manitoba forecasted that it would be a bounce-back year for tourism in Manitoba, with visitor numbers and spending to get closer to 2019 numbers. For Mennonite Heritage Village (MHV) this past year was that and more. People were elated to return to MHV throughout the year. Event days were all well attended and with much engagement.

Our new winter initiative 'Winter in the Village' is taking off as we see good attendance in late December. During a season of much eating, concerts, and indoor sitting, it is great to have an opportunity for the community to get outside together and enjoy some activity in the warm glow of our heritage village.

For the fourth year in a row, we drummed up approximately half a million in grants. In previous years MHV had approximately \$200,000 in grants annually. These grants help us with the upkeep of our heritage buildings, hire summer staff, develop new exhibits and panels, do extra programming and improve our operations.

In 2024 we are celebrating MHV's 60th anniversary as well as the 150th anniversary of Mennonites in Manitoba. From 1874 to 1877 around 7,000 Mennonites arrived in Manitoba which was the largest immigration of a people group to Western Canada at that time. We will do a campaign for these years, with the goal of completing a couple special anniversary projects (TBA) and improve our financial base.

Thank you for your interest and support of everything MHV!

Gary Dyck, Executive Director

CMBS Report 2023

by Jon Isaak

I enjoy my job as keeper of the CMBS Archives in Winnipeg, helping people make connections from the past to current events—the past always has something to say today.

Currently, I am a solo operator at three days a week, serving in my 13th year.

The bulk of my time is spent processing donated collections and updating, editing, and contributing to several Anabaptist-Mennonite online research resources.

Here's one example file processing: this fall, Winnie Warkentin and her grandniece, Jacy Young, made an appointment with me at the CMBS archives. They were coming to review the personal papers collection of Winnie's father, Isaac J. Warkentin (1885–1971), and make another contribution to the fonds. They arrived at the appointed time, and we sat together while they showed me six photo albums of images that Isaac had taken during his university studies in Winnipeg and then in Germany. By the end of the meeting, they agreed to donate the albums to CMBS for preservation.

I have now processed this accession and updated the online finding aid that lists the materials in the Isaac Warkentin fonds. From the CMBS website, viewers can see the extent of the remarkable collection. As an early adopter of photography, Isaac's photos offer a rare window into the life of a Mennonite university student prior to and during the First World War. Of special note is his experience as a civilian prisoner of war, something which is described more fully in the biographical sketch that is part of the online finding aid.

To view a sampling of the photos in Isaac's albums, one of which is below, see the Mennonite Archival Information Database (MAID), <http://archives.mhsc.ca/index.php/isaac-j-warkentin-photograph-collection>.

This photo achieved some notoriety recently as it is part of a publication by Jason Bell, *Cracking the Nazi Code: The Untold Story of Canada's Greatest Spy* (HarperCollins, 2023). In the book, Jason Bell narrates the story of Canadian Winthrop Bell (no relation) as an allied spy who had long been following the political scene in Germany, alerting the British of his intel—although a powerful fascist politician quietly worked to suppress his alerts.



As it turns out, Winthrop was one of the first to “crack the code,” as it were, as to Adolf Hitler's ultimate aims, long before they became clear to the world. Already, during the First World War, he had spent time in the same civilian internment camp with Isaac Warkentin! This is the photo that appears in the book and also in the photo albums that Winnie and Jacy donated to the archives.

To read the full description of the Isaac J. Warkentin fonds, see https://cmbs.mennonitebrethren.ca/personal_papers/warkentin-isaac-1885-1971/.

Turning to my other CMBS tasks, I can report that, once again, this has been a good publication year (our 49th!) for the *Mennonite Historian*, <https://www.mennonitehistorian.ca/>. This website functions as the digital repository for the quarterly magazine of Anabaptist-Mennonite historical articles and book reviews that I co-edit with Conrad Stoesz from the Mennonite Heritage Archives.

Then there is the *Global Anabaptist Mennonite Encyclopedia Online* or GAMEO website, <https://gameo.org/>, which continues to grow with over 17,000 articles currently online. I serve as management board chair.

More CMBS numbers (since last year):

- \$641 of *used Mennonite history books sold*—for the list of books for sale, see <https://cmbs.mennonitebrethren.ca/used-books/>;

- 2,258 images linked to the online photo database (with the help of two volunteers), *Mennonite Archival Information Database* or MAID (the CMBS total of viewable scans is 14,079 of 32,489), <https://archives.mhsc.ca/>;

- 9 Mennonite Brethren books scanned and uploaded to the *Internet Archive* (the total is now 120), <https://archive.org/details/@jonisaak/>.

The past has always had something to say today—and now so much more of it is available for analysis and meaning making.

Mennonite Historical Society of Canada, January 2024



This is a photo from the Ruhleben Internment Camp near Berlin, Germany, where Isaac was imprisoned from 1915 to 1918. Isaac (middle) stands with other Canadian prisoners, Winthrop Bell (left) and A.G. Lochhead (right). Photo credit: MAID CA CMBS NP205-01-17.

Mennonite Heritage Archives report
Mennonite Historical Society of Canada, January 2024.
Conrad Stoesz, Archivist

The past 12 months have recorded an average of 73 visitors a month at the Mennonite Heritage Archives (MHA), the highest average since numbers were available starting in 2002. This increase is due to more university classes using the archives, people feeling more comfortable visiting public spaces again, the Russlaender 100th anniversary, and ongoing promotion of MHA and its resources.

The archives benefits from a stable core staff, project workers, and volunteers. I am pleased that Graeme has chosen to continue with us after Selenna chose another career path following her maternity leave. Graeme works for MHA .8 FTE and .2 for the Gallery. Sara Dyck is a project worker who has been with us for almost 3 years now. We were fortunate to hire Isaiah Letkemann through the Young Canada Works program, which he started in August 2023. We also have CMU student, Cameron Wollman doing his practicum with us. Cam intends to become a teacher for the Hutterite community but also is considering becoming involved with the newly established Hutterite archives. In addition, we have several volunteers helping with a variety of tasks including data input, writing, scanning, translation, and transcription.

We installed three banks of mobile shelving in April 2023, and these are functioning well. These shelves were important since large donations from MCC and MC Canada have recently come. MHA offers archival storage and access services to a number of organizations including MCC Canada, MC Manitoba, EMC, EMMC, and Westgate Mennonite Collegiate. This year we added MCC Manitoba.

We are pleased to host CMU's new book scanner, which we have begun making use of. The scanner makes the digitization of books, fragile materials, and small-medium sized newspapers easier and higher quality.

In 2023 we launched our digital collections platform based on the archival and open source software Islandora. The public can sign in with a free account to access 27,000 pages of the *Steinach Post* 1913-1971 as well *CMC Yearbook*, and *CMBC Alumni Bulletin*. *Intotemak* is currently in progress.

MHA continues to aid in the development of the Mennonite Historical Library in collaboration with the CMU library. This year another 600 books were added to the CMU library via the archives.

The MHA continues to engage the public through various means including the *Mennonite Historian* together with the Centre for Mennonite Brethren Studies. The magazine is sent to most MC Canada, MB, EMC, and EMMC congregations in Canada. Other initiatives include *Canadian Mennonite's* "Moment from Yesterday" and *Mennonitische Post's* "Ein Bild aus unserer Geschichte," Facebook and Instagram. Season two of the 5 minute radio feature "Still Speaking: Stories from the Mennonite Heritage Archives" aired on three Goldenwest radio

stations this year. Thirteen episodes were created centred around the theme of the Russlaender centennial.

We continue to populate MAID with fonds descriptions and photos. On our home website we continue to post transcriptions and translations of materials. Resources added to the MHA website in the past 12 months include:

Publications: <https://www.mharchives.ca/publications/mha-publications/>

- *The Settlement Work of Dutch Mennonites in the Vistula Valley between Fordon and Weissenberg until the End of the 18th Century*, by Herbert Wiebe (1952). Translated and edited by Timothy H. Flaming (Cypress, California) and Glenn H. Penner (MHA, Winnipeg, Manitoba). June 2023.
- *On the Settlement of the Vistula Delta by the Mennonites*, by Karl-Heinz Ludwig (1961). Machine translated (DeepL) and edited by Glenn Penner and Erika Marand. Mennonite Heritage Archives. April 2023.
- *The History of the Village of Tiegenhagen (Prussia)*, by Erich Meyer. Translated by Elfriede Rempel. Mennonite Heritage Archives. 2023.
- *Heinrich Donner Diary (Tagebuch) (1774-1803), English Translation*. Translated by Elfriede Rempel and Glenn Penner. Mennonite Heritage Archives, Winnipeg, MB, Canada. Feb. 2023.
- *Heinrich Donner Diary (1774-1803), Additional Information*, by Glenn Penner.

Research: <https://www.mharchives.ca/resources/>

- Correspondence between the Dutch and Prussian Mennonite Congregations 1600 – 1800.
- 1828 Chortitza Colony Statistical Data.
- Peter Willer – Mennonite Architect, Engraver and Artist.
- Ministers/Preachers and Aelteste in the Fuerstenland Mennonite Congregation 1870 to 1926.
- 1789 Statistical Census of Mennonites in West Prussia

Presentations:

- January 2023 spoke to Bethel Mennonite Church adult Sunday school
- March 2023 spoke to Greg Bak U of M class on contested heritage re: conscientious objectors.
- Anabaptist History Today webinar regarding talking about faith.
- April 2023 spoke to Greg Bak archival studies class re: MAID.
- April 2023 presented “Was it Really About Education? The Sommerfeld/Bergthaler Split of 1893 Re-considered,” Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society AGM in Neuberghal, MB
- April 2023 part of a panel regarding Low German at the Germanic Linguistics Conference
- October 1, spoke at Charleswood Mennonite Church regarding Church splits.

- October 16, 1 hour web presentation to the Manitoba Genealogical Society re: Mennonite conscientious objectors in the Second World War.
- October 26, Art and Christianity class at MHA.
- Nov 14 + 16 presented to Brian Froese research and methods class about archives.

Report to MMHS

Jan.2024

Ben Nobbs-Thiessen

CHAIR IN MENNONITE STUDIES EVENTS:

Programming: As in previous years the Chair in Mennonite Studies continued to host programming in collaboration with the Plett Foundation through the Centre for Transnational Mennonite Studies. The CTMS website continues to be a very popular source for events news and registration <https://ctms.uwinnipeg.ca/> Recorded events subsequently appear on youtube at this link https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeW_R2RstRTnYg8VIng5srA/videos

The Andrew Wall documentary “Conform” is also available on the CTMS site and has more than 12K views.

CTMS Annual Lectures:

Earlier this month on April 3rd, we held our 8th annual CTMS lecture “From Occupation to Sanctuary: The Faith Politics of Latinx Freedom Movements, 1960s–1980s.” with Dr. Felipe Hinojosa from Baylor University. It was held in-person at the University Club along with a livestream. Dr. Felipe Hinojosa is a ground-breaking scholar of history, religion, and Latina/o and Chicana/o Studies, and the recently appointed John and Nancy Jackson Endowed Chair in Latin America & Professor of History at Baylor University. Dr. Hinojosa’s works include *Latino Mennonites: Civil Rights, Faith, and Evangelical Culture* and the recent *Apostles of Change: Latino Radical Politics, Church Occupations, and the Fight to Save the Barrio*.

Future Conferences:

Subjects, Settlers, Citizens: the 1870s Mennonites in Historical Context

Oct.4-5, 2024

This sesquicentennial conference considers the history and legacy of the “Kanadier” Mennonites, as they became known, from an interdisciplinary perspective. We invite contributions that: explore conditions that precipitated Mennonite emigration from imperial Russia in the 1870s; examine the nature of Mennonite participation in the settler-colonial project in Canada; and trace the evolution of Kanadier Mennonite culture, economies, politics, identity, and faith more broadly. Comparative analyses with other settler communities or those Mennonites who immigrated to the United States during the same period.

We have now reviewed applications for the conference and have accepted a full slate of conference papers (over two dozen!). Please mark your calendars and we look forward to greeting you at Convocation Hall in October as we reflect on the 150th anniversary of the Mennonite migration to Manitoba.

In preparation for the sesquicentennial and our fall conference, CTMS will be collaborating with MHV to hold a monthly speaker series in summer 2024. Stay tuned for further details.

TEACHING:

Undergraduate:

The Mennonite Studies program at UWinnipeg continues to attract stable enrolments in our survey courses (Mennonite Studies I and II). This winter Dr. Aileen Friesen taught a hybrid version of Mennonite Studies II (live in our UWinnipeg studio and online) with a substantial enrollment of over 40 students. I taught a 3000 level course “Environmental History and the Mennonites” with 22 students which looked a variety of themes from tree-planting and forestry service in the Russian Empire, water usage in southern Manitoba and Mexico, memories of the Dust Bowl in Kansas, attitudes towards sustainability, and ecological themes in Mennonite writing.

Doctoral Students: _

Jonathan Hildebrand - I serve as Jonathan’s co-advisor along with Dr. Adele Perry. Jonathan is in the third year of his PhD program in the History Department at the University of Manitoba. He continues to make substantial progress on a project focused on the environmental history of waterways in the West Reserve. He is now in the research phase of his degree during which he has been working in provincial archives, MHA, and recording oral histories in the West Reserve. He guest lectured in my Environmental History course and will present at our fall conference.

Arnoldo Vázquez Gómez – a PhD student at the Metropolitan Autonomous University in Mexico City has been based in Winnipeg working out of the CTMS office over the past 12 months. He has now returned to Los Mochis, Sinaloa as he prepares final revisions on his dissertation on globalization and Mennonite colonies in Mexico to be defended in November.

Publications:

The Journal of Mennonite Studies. Since my last report, JMS published issue 41.2 “Departing Canada, Encountering Latin America” which stems from a 2022 conference held at UWinnipeg. This issue of the journal included five peer reviewed papers on that subject as well as an additional two peer reviewed research papers and a slate of book reviews. An excerpt of the ToC is on the following page.

Currently in progress: is JMS 42.1 with papers stemming from our 2023 “Russlander Mennonites” conference.

JMS Forum:

Departing Canada, Encountering Latin America

Perspectives: An Analysis of the Historical Basis for Relations between Mennonite Settlers and the Enlhet in the Paraguayan Chaco, HANNES KALISCH	17
Trajichtmoakas, Parteras, and Midwives: 100 Years of Maternal Care in the Campos Menonitas of Chihuahua, Mexico, ABIGAIL CARL-KLASSEN	35
"At first it was hard" / "There was simply nothing there": Low German-Speaking Mennonite Women's Narratives of Migration between Mexico and Belize, DOREEN HELEN KLASSEN	53
Territory as Geosymbol: Mennonites, Rarámuris, and Mestizos in Cuauhtémoc, Chihuahua, PATRICIA ISLAS SALINAS	79
Mennonite Old Colony Schooling for Survival: Village Schools in the Community of Salamanca, Quintana Roo, Mexico, EMMA HOEBENS	93

Regular Research Papers

Low German Mennonite Migration: A Geopolitical Framework and History, BLAKE HAMM	111
Environmental Sustainability in the Mennonite Community: An Analysis of <i>Canadian Mennonite</i> (2003-2021), JOANNE M. MOYER, JULIA GESSHE, and HARRY SPALING	147

Plett Foundation Report 2023

Submitted by Aileen Friesen, Executive Director.

The Plett Foundation continues to be run by a board of directors chaired by Dr. Royden Loewen. The board meets twice a year to decide on foundation business. The Plett office is run by the executive director with support from the foundation's communications and finance officer (Jeremy Wiebe). It is also a partner in the Centre for Transnational Mennonite Studies at the University of Winnipeg.

Grant Program: The foundation accepts applications to its grant program twice a year. This year, the foundation awarded over \$80,000 in grants. Many grants were related to the upcoming 150 anniversary of the arrival of Mennonites to Canada, including Dale Hildebrand's documentary, Mennonites Heritage Village, MMHS, and others.

Fellowship Program: The foundation continues to support visiting displaced Ukrainian scholar Nataliya Venger.

Mennonite Heritage Archives: The foundation continues to fund CTMS's partnership with CMU and MC Canada in administering the archives.

Plett Library Access Network: The foundation planted another library in Mexico in support of literacy and historical knowledge among Mennonite communities.

Mennonite History for Young People: The foundation made available pdf copies of this series on its website.

Centre for Transnational Mennonite Studies: The foundation continues to provide financial and labour support to CTMS's outreach programs such as the Journal of Mennonite Studies, the CTMS conference and annual lecture.

Preservings: We produced two issues of Preservings: Issue #46: The Making of the Russlaender and Issue #47: When the Russlaender met the Kanadier.

EastMenn Historical Committee –

The focus of the previous year was on further development of the Peace Trail. Funding was requested from the Plett Foundation (successful) and from Trails Manitoba (unsuccessful). Other applications have been sent out. Major time and effort has been spent on addressing issues such as due diligence related to safety, permitting, to be compliant with Manitoba Laws and Regulations.

Part of the process is to establish MOUs with Municipal Governments the Peace Trail crosses, along with private landowners the trail runs beside. The permitting required for Highways Manitoba will be an onerous process. These have all caused the moratorium on activating the trail itself, until these issues are addressed.

The committee has been working on further developing the web site, and to establish our first MOU with the town of Niverville and the RM of Hanover. Plans are being developed for interpretation signage in the Town of Niverville, along with future projects at Points of Interest

We have developed a Drive the Peace Trail (both on the web and in print) to link the WayPoints, and Points of Interest. This will be officially launched on June 1st Trail Day in Manitoba.

Members of the committee did attend the Trails Manitoba one day talks in Winnipeg.

The Historical Atlas of the East Reserve is now out of print. We have sought funding to re-print this very popular publication as a bridge until we are able to determine how we might best be able to digitize the publication and host it. Our emphasis for this issue is to try and get the Atlas into educational settings, in school resource centres, and church libraries. Where it would be a useful tool in experiential learning.

Our heavy emphasis on the Peace Trail has been at the expense of some of our other initiatives. Last fall we did not have a Heritage Lecture, other ideas and projects have also fallen by the side.

We also face other challenges; we are heavy reliant on volunteers and we have an aging volunteer base. Some have had to step back to health or family health issues.

We are attempting to address this by again undertaking events, such as the Drive the Peace Trail event, and the October 20th Heritage Lecture. We are working towards recruiting new members for both the EastMenn Historical Committee, and the Peace Trail Working Group during these events. Some new members have already stepped forward and we look forward to more.

We hope these events will attract future volunteers. At these events we will also be promoting Membership in our parent body, the Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society

In closing we would like to express thanks for the yeoman's work by volunteers in helping to preserve our collective heritage for this and future generations, across Manitoba.

WestMenn Historical Committee Report 2023

The WestMenn Historical Committee has had an exciting year, receiving a lot of funding and support, which has allowed us to put some much-needed time and energy into our projects. We also met in-person for the first time since the pandemic, which has helped generate renewed excitement among committee members.

We received grants from the Plett Foundation for our West Reserve Atlas project and for updating/replacing the old and weathered Post Road signs, as well as from the Altona Community Foundation for a historical sign at the site of the old Blumenhof school. We are very grateful for their support of our projects.

WestMenn seeks to forge partnerships with interested people and groups, and to facilitate connections between them when possible. For more information about the committee, its projects, and to contact, please check out the WestMenn page on the Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society website: <https://mmhs.org/about/committees/westmenn/>

Andrew Klassen Brown
Chair of the WestMenn Historical Committee

Heritage Posting

2023 Annual Report

The Heritage Posting editorial team had a productive year in 2023, successfully publishing issues 104, 105, and 106. Each edition continued to serve our community by sharing relevant news, presenting thorough research articles, and providing insightful book reviews that foster a deeper understanding of our heritage.

In February 2024, following the release of issue 107, the MMHS board of directors appointed Graham Schellenberg as editor of Heritage Posting. Graham has welcomed Joanne Bergen as West Reserve correspondent and Erin Koop-Unger as East Reserve correspondent.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Glen Klassen and Ted Barg, who have retired as editor and layout designer, respectively. Both Glen and Ted made invaluable contributions over the years, committing decades to promoting news, events, and research from our community.

Heritage Posting operations continue to rely heavily on the dedication of volunteers at MHA, who assist with mailing and distributing each edition. Additionally, Andrew Klassen Brown is maintaining the membership list.

The next edition of Heritage Posting will be released in June 2024. As the editorial team looks to the future, we welcome any events, news, or research you'd like to share with us. Please submit your content to hp@mmhs.org.

Graham Schellenberg

Editor, Heritage Posting

MMHS Media Committee report

MMHS has partnered with film Producer Dale Hildebrand, originally from Halbstadt and now living in Toronto, to produce a documentary focusing on the migration of Mennonites to Manitoba. The documentary will cover reasons for leaving Imperial Russia in the 1870s, the trip across the Atlantic, and the first years settling in Manitoba. We have received funding from the province, the Plett Foundation, and private companies and individuals. We are expecting to have a screening at Pioneer Days at the Mennonite Heritage Village in August followed by other screenings as communities request it.

The MMHS board has also taken on a book project with Ralph Friesen to help mark the 150th anniversary. Ralph has produced a book length manuscript focusing on the depression era in Steinbach. Funding has been secured from the Plett Foundation and an anonymous donor, with MMHS contributing the final \$5,000. Hans Werner is leading the readers' committee. We are aiming for a September or October launch.

MMHS is planning bus tours of the Mennonite reserves to help mark the 150th anniversary. Details are still being worked on at time of writing this report.

Conrad Stoesz and Hans Werner

MANITOBA MENNONITE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Balance Sheet

December 31, 2023

Assets

Current assets:

Cash	\$	1,555
Eastmenn Investment account		18,202
General Investment account		10,531
Book sales receivable		246

\$ 30,534

Liabilities and Equity

Current liabilities:

Accounts payable	\$	500
Unearned membership dues		900

1,400

Equity

29,134

\$ 30,534

MANITOBA MENNONITE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Statement of Earnings and Equity

Year ended December 31, 2023

General Revenue:	
Donations	\$ 1,815
Memberships	886
Interest	1,367
Total General Revenue	4,068
General Expenses:	
Heritage posting	2,141
General office costs	31
Peace trail costs	75
AGM costs	963
Fees and donation	1,175
Total General Expenses	4,385
Net loss	(317)
Russlaender Centennial Income	76,540
Russlaender costs	(71,015)
Russlaender profit taken as administrative fee	5,525
East Mennonite:	
Community events	930
Chortitz Church donation	(500)
MHV rental	(491)
Net loss	(61)
Genealogy:	
Book sales	247
Expenses	(470)
Net loss	(223)
150 Film:	
Revenue	27,000
Costs	(27,035)
Net Loss	(35)
Net income for the year	4,889
Equity, beginning of year	24,245
Equity, end of year	\$ 29,134

Committee Income and Retained Earnings									
31-Dec-23									
	General	Memberships & Publishing	Russlaender Centennial	150 Film	Westmenn HC	Genealogy	Eastmenn HC	Peace Trails	Total
Closing Balance, December 31, 2022	3,936	(889)			15,218	792	8,997	(3,246)	24,808
Transfer balance to General	(4,135)	889						3,246	-
Reconcile balance to actual balance sheet	(563)								(563)
Opening balance, January 1, 2023	(762)	0	-	-	15,218	792	8,997	0	24,245
Income									
Donations	1,815		76,540	27,000					105,355
Membership dues (Note 2)		886							886
Interest	1,367								1,367
Other income							930		930
Book sales						247			247
									-
Total Income	3,182	886	76,540	27,000	-	247	930	-	108,785
Expenses									
Dues & Subscriptions	1,175								1,175
AGM costs	963								963
Donation							500		500
Other printing and shipping		2,141							2,141
Special projects (Note 1)	75		71,015	27,035		470			98,595
MHV rental							491		491
Office & Storage	31								31
									-
Total Expenses	2,244	2,141	71,015	27,035	-	470	991	-	103,896
Surplus <Deficit>	938	(1,255)	5,525	(35)	-	(223)	(61)	-	4,889
Ending balance – 2023 December 31	176	(1,255)	5,525	(35)	15,218	569	8,936	0	29,134