

Annual Report



2003

Annual General Meeting 2003

Date: May 8, 2004

Time: 8:00 PM

Place: Garden Park Tower, Abbotsford, B.C.

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Minutes of 2002 AGM - May 18, 2003
3. Directors' Report
4. Financial Statements - 2003

“It is **Moved** by Henry Martens, **Seconded** by Edward Hildebrand, that the financial transactions of the Society as detailed in the Financial Statements contained in the Annual Report be approved.”

5. Budget for 2004

“It is **Moved** by Henry Martens, **Seconded** by Peter Neudorf, that the Budget for 2004 as detailed in the Annual Report be approved.”

6. Election of Directors

“ It is **Moved** by Henry Neufeld, **Seconded** by Louise Price, that the persons listed below be elected as Directors of the Society for a term ending as indicated.”

Lora Sawatsky	2005
Ben Stobbe	2006
Ben Braun	2007
David Giesbrecht	2007
Helen Rose Pauls	2007
Richard Thiessen	2007

Mennonite Historical Society of B.C.

Minutes of the 2002 AGM

May 18th, 2003 at 5:00 PM
Central Heights Church, Abbotsford, B.C.

1. Moved by Henry Neufeld, seconded by Helen Rose Pauls that the Minutes of the 2001 AGM be held on May 11, 2002 be accepted as reported.

Motion Approved

2. Moved by Harry Pankratz, seconded by Peter Neudorf that the 2002 Annual Report as distributed be accepted and approved.

Motion Approved

3. Moved by Edward Hildebrand, seconded by Henry Martens that the Financial Statements for 2002 and the Budget for 2003 as printed in the Annual Report be accepted and approved.

Motion Approved

4. Moved by Richard Thiessen, seconded by Walter Bergen that the following Directors be elected for terms ending at the Annual General Meeting in the year indicated.

Edward Hildebrand	2006
Henry Neufeld	2006
John B. Toews	2006

Motion Approved

Board of Directors

- David Giesbrecht - Librarian, Regent College, Abbotsford
- Edward Hildebrand - Retired Executive, Vancouver
- John Konrad - Management Consultant, West Vancouver
- Henry Martens - Businessman, Abbotsford
- Peter Neudorf - Retired IBM Technician, North Vancouver
- Henry Neufeld - Social Worker, Delta
- Helen Rose Pauls - Teacher, Chilliwack
- Louise Price - Library Technician & Writer, Abbotsford
- Henry Rempel - Retired School Administrator, Chilliwack
- Ben Stobbe - Retired Public Service Manager, Victoria
- Richard Thiessen - Librarian, Columbia Bible College,
Abbotsford
- Dr. John B. Toews - Professor of Church History, Vancouver

Officers

- President - John Konrad
- Vice-President -
- Secretary - Edward Hildebrand
- Treasurer - Henry Martens

Directors' Report

2003 has been another year of growth. In terms of public participation, we have again seen a significant increase in the number of people visiting our centre. We have sponsored three well-attended public events, a genealogy workshop, and taken additional steps to improving communication with our members. We have also enjoyed increasing volunteer participation and again received enough financial support to maintain our programs. This report outlines our major achievements last year.

John Konrad, President

Major Events

Events bring the various members of the Mennonite Historical Society of B.C. together, and with many visitors, we enjoy learning more about our history, celebrating the past, and being together as an extended Mennonite family.

In 2003 MHS of BC held three major events:

February 22, 2003 "Into the Past" With picture and word, Winnipeg architect Rudy Friesen gave us an insight into the lives of our ancestors in Russia through a study of their sometimes distinctive architecture.

May 18, 2003 "Singing Along Life's Road" celebrated Mennonite music we sang for special occasions like baptisms, weddings, Easter and Christmas, and all the other milestones of our past journey of faith and worship. 900 people enjoyed an afternoon of stories and song in the Central Heights MB Church on a Sunday afternoon. MHSBC thanks special people from our community who helped plan this event: Holda Fast-Redekop, Henry Wiebe, John Klassen, Adelaide Epp, Dorothy Fast, together with MHSBC committee members John B. Toews and Helen Rose Pauls.

Oct. 19, 2003 - Annual Banquet "By the Skin of Our Teeth" was a lecture about Mennonites leaving Russia in the 1920's by Dr. John B. Toews. He presented his lecture to a sold out audience who also enjoyed a lovely meal catered by Peter Froese from Yarrow.

Events schedule for 2004:

Feb.21, 2004 "Umsiedler" with Dr. Heinrich Loewen

May 8, 2004 "Mennonites and Art" with Ray Dirks from Winnipeg.

Oct. 16, 2004 Annual Banquet with lecturer Dr. Harvey Dyck from Ontario speaking about Molotschna 2004, in the CBC gym

Committee: John B. Toews, David Giesbrecht, Hugo Friesen, Richard Thiessen, Helen Rose Pauls (Chair).

Special Projects

Memorial Wall

We invite all to visit our Memorial Wall that honour of Mennonite pioneers to British Columbia. There are now thirty-seven plaques on display. If you would like to add your parents or grandparents to this list, please consult our office.

Zaporozhje Project

Our Society has been a major contributor to the microfilming of some 120,000 pages of documents in the Zaporozhje Regional Archive and the Zaporozhje Communist Party Archive. This work has been done under the supervision of Dr. Harvey Dyck and has required sensitive negotiations and much persistence over a four-year period. These records have now been received. An English-language inventory and users' guide will be available this summer.

EWZ Project "*Einwanderungszentralstelle*"

When Mennonite refugees fled Russia ahead of the German retreat in 1943, they were registered as soon as they reached "German Soil". These files have survived and contain much valuable genealogical information. Cooperatively with other groups and individuals we have purchased microfilmed copies of these records. We now have 199 microfilms and expect another 50. Members and friends are welcome to view these films at the Archives.

Odessa Project

We have continued to co-fund with four other Mennonite archives the acquisition of records from the Odessa Archives. This past year we acquired 36 microfilms, along with a translated index through the auspices of Dr. Paul Toews of Fresno, and Dr. Tim Janzen of Portland.

John Konrad, Hugo Friesen

Board of Directors

As Chair of the board, I would like to acknowledge the contribution of each board member to the work of the Society. This is a volunteer board whose members devote considerable time and effort on your behalf.

Supporting our Board are Archivist Hugo Friesen and our wonderful staff of volunteers. Without their dedicated service the Society could not function.

John Konrad

The Archives

Volunteers and Visitors

The backbone of our Centre continues to be our active, knowledgeable and faithful group of 20 or more volunteers. They give approximately 100 hours per week of their time and energy on a year round basis. (See attached list). Of course, our secretary and office manager, Mary Ann Quiring, provides the continuity and assistance that is needed to keep things running smoothly.

Visitors to our Centre number over 2000 per year some of whom are researching their family history, their faith roots or borrowing books from our library and purchasing books, CD's or videos. In addition we receive many e-mail and telephone enquiries from more distant researchers.

Changes and Additions

- Our computers are networked making it easier to backup and transfer data.
- A Research room has been added where our microfilms are stored and also providing space for our microfilm reader and for research to be done.
- We have discarded and sold some obsolete and duplicate material in our downstairs storage room, thereby making space for seldom used books, conference yearbooks and periodicals and giving us more space for historical documents in our Archives room.

Acquisitions

- Genealogies and Family Histories now number about 230 and we have filed almost 700 Individual Histories.
- Our digital Photograph Collection has grown to well over 1000 plus a large number regular photos.
- A variety of documents, periodicals and other items have been added.

Books and CD's

- We sold about 69 Grandma CD's in 2003.
- Sales of "Singing Along Life's Road" videos amounted to 44, CD's 138 and cassettes 61.
- Total gross book, video, CD and cassette sales amounted to over \$16,000.

Projects

- Photograph identifying, scanning, indexing and displaying.
- Indexing of obituaries from various periodicals continued.
- Umsiedler lists are being edited and indexed.
- Reinlaender, Volume C, (from the Reinlaender Church Registers) family records are being indexed.

Events

- We had a booth at the MCC Relief Sale, Sept. 13-14. Although we were not allowed to sell books we used this as an opportunity to connect with people.
- Our Genealogy Workshop on Nov. 8 had an attendance of about 20 persons. Presenters were Tim Janzen and David Obee.

Volunteer List

Marie Doerksen
Grace Dolden
Mary Epp
*Hugo Friesen
Jake Geddert
Duane Goertson
Dolores Harder

Ed Hildebrand
Lydia Isaak
Ron Isaak
Agatha Klassen
*Jean Neufeld
**Jonathan Neufeld
Helen Nickel

Helga Rempel
*Erica Suderman
Richard Thiessen
Frank Toews
**Alexander Voth
Mary Willms
Mary Woelk

* - Supervision ** - Bible College Students

Hugo Friesen, Archivist

Newsletter

Roots and Branches. Our newsletter now has a name reflecting our purpose—roots to link us to the past, branches reaching to the future.

It has been exciting and gratifying to see members take the initiative and write articles for the newsletter. So far most of these initiatives have come from board members and volunteers, but hopefully the membership at large will soon become involved as well. It is important to record these stories now, for future generations. With all these contributions, it has been easy to fill the 16 pages of each issue with quality material.

New columns have been *Photo Gallery* and *What's in a Name*, and we hope to have a regular column on research tips. We will continue with regular articles on Mennonite communities in BC, profiles of board members, life stories of interesting people, books reviews, stories/letters from the past, and archival reports.

This year, the newsletter is coming out 3 times a year, 16 pages per issue. This cuts down the work of editing and mailing quite significantly, while maintaining the same number of pages as in previous years. We will evaluate this at the end of the year. The publishing/editing process has also been streamlined, and seems to be running more smoothly.

Thanks to all who have contributed, to Hugo and Jean Friesen for proof-reading, and to Mary Ann Quiring and office volunteers for the work they do.

Editorial Committee: Louise Price (Chair), Henry Neufeld, Helen Rose Pauls

Financial Support

Once again we like to thank our growing membership for contributing to the work of our Society. We believe that our work honours God as well as our forebears who served our community faithfully. We also acknowledge those members who made extraordinary donations last year and designated their gifts to special projects.

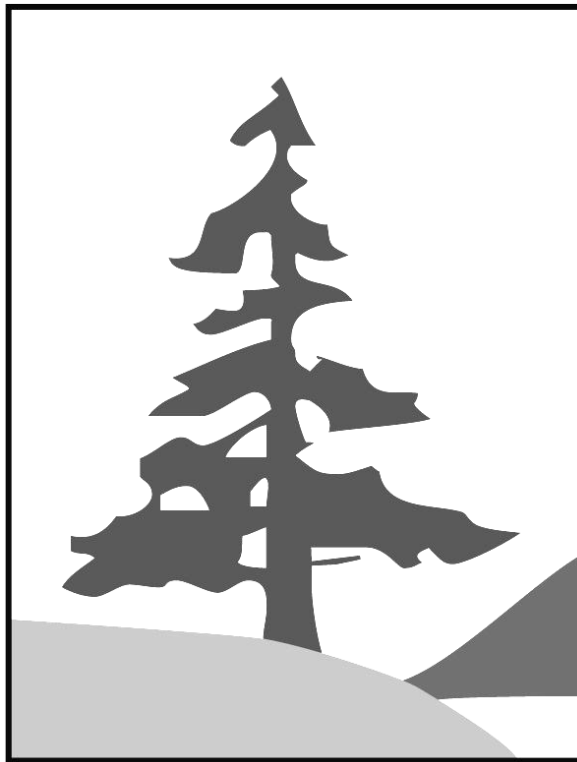
We encourage those who are able, to remember the Society in their planned giving. This may be done through a special one-time gift. Special gifts may be directed to specific projects, or to our Endowment Fund so that interest from this fund can contribute to our annual operating costs. Others may prefer to do this through a bequest in their wills.

John Konrad

Henry Rempel

In our December newsletter, we reported the death on October 1, 2003 of Henry Rempel after a courageous battle with cancer. Henry had a strong interest in Mennonite history and served on our board for over ten years. He was chair of our Events Committee for many years and planned lectures, musical and other events which tell the story of our people. His faith was evident in the way he lived and in his interaction with board members and volunteers. We will miss Henry as a board member and friend.

Financial Statements



Accountant's Report

To the Directors
The MHS of BC
Abbotsford, B.C.

I have reviewed the balance sheet of the Mennonite Historical Society of British Columbia as at December 31, 2003 and the Statement of Receipts and Expenditures for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the management and Directors of the Society.

I conducted a review to determine if the financial statements are free of material misstatement. I reviewed, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The financial statements have been prepared on a cash basis.

The financial statements present fairly the financial position of the Mennonite Historical Society of British Columbia as at December 31, 2003 and the results of operations for the year ended, in accordance with principles of cash accounting.

Original signed by,
Mel R. Tupper, CMA

Mel R. Tupper
Langley, B.C.
April 2, 2004

Financial Statements

Financial Report

Financial Statements for 2003 (with comparative statements for 2002) and a Budget for 2004 are included in this Annual Report for your consideration.

Comments:

Current Year

1. Current years Income shows significant increase in donations and Ticket sales due to several successful events including musical CD and Video.
2. We have significantly upgraded our Computers and Software.
3. Long term Endowment is shown at cost (\$170,366). Market value as at December 31, 2003 was \$200,893 (2002- \$169,698). This is an increase of \$31,195 for the year

Budget

1. The current projects item in the 2004 Budget includes another Phase of the Odessa document retrieval project.
2. We are accepting donations to the Molotschna' 04 project
3. The Board has introduced two scholarships of \$500 each to encourage high school and University students to become involved in Mennonite History and historical issues. These were not funded in the year 2003, however we intend to fund them in the current year.

Thanks to Mel Tupper for performing the Society's financial review for the 2003 year.

The Mennonite Historical Society of BC wishes to thank the Members who donated to the Society in 2003

Jake Abrahams	John & Erna Ens	Annalee Gunther
William Acorn	Martin Ens	Jacob & Lydia Gunther
Henry Adrian	David H. & Hedy Epp	Joseph & Sarah Hamel
Peter Adrian	Dick & Betty Epp	Abe & June Hamm
Katherine Allert	Elizabeth Epp	John & Elma Hamm
Linda Allert	George & Adelaide Epp	Walter A. Hamm
Anne L. Andres	Gilbert Epp	Agnes Harder
Janice Arndt	Hank & Elsie Epp	Ben & Jessie Harder
Elvira Baerg	Henry & Margaret Epp	Bernhard & Eleanore Harder
Jim Baerg	Lucy Epp	Don & Dolores Harder
Rudy & Hildegard Baerg	Mary Epp	Ernie Harder
Henry Banmann	Reinhard Epp	Esther Harder
Jake & Arline Barg	Susan Epp	Nick & Lena Harder
Gerd & Regina Bartel	Susan H. Epp	Sara Harder
H.P. & Waltraut Bartel	Abe & Katie Esau	Lillian Harms
Siegried & Edna Bartel	Helen Esau	Margarite Hazelwood
Ed & Dora Becker	Henry & Elizabeth Esau	John & Hilda Heidebrecht
BC Conference of MB Churches	Judy Evans	Peter & Sara Heinrichs
Gordon & Anne Bell	David & Lena Ewert	Albert & Peggy Hiebert
Irene Bergen	Herman & Anne Falk	Allan & Elizabeth Hiebert
Lydia Bergen	Abram A. Fast	Katharine Hiebert
Mary Bergen	Arthur & Dorothy Fast	Margaret Hiebert
Arthur & Rita Block	Frieda Fast	Sarah Hiebert
Erna Block	Henry & Linda Fast	Edward Hildebrand
J. Boese	Isaac & Mary Fast	Allan Hildebrandt
Walter & Vicky Boldt	John & Mary Fast	Edwin & Hedy Hintz
Jacob & Hilda Born	Abe Fehr	Art & Victoria Hoock
Mary Anne Boschman	Don & Doreen Fehr	Helmut & Selma Hooge
Ben & Marylue Braun	Rose-Marie Fleming	Richard & Betty Horch
Ed & Connie Braun	Helen Franz	Donna Hrynkiw
Heinz & Frieda Braun	Helene A. Franz	Abe & Helen Isaac
Helen Braun	Albert & Linda Friesen	Eric & Grace Isaac
Henry Braun	Anne Friesen	Helen Isaac
John & Adina Braun	David & Martha Friesen	Frank & Sally Isaak
John & Lydia Braun	Ed Friesen	Henry & Freda Isaak
Ron Braun	Ernest & Rita Friesen	John I. & Lou A. Isaak
James Brown	Everett & Emelie Friesen	Lydia Isaak
Henry Claassen	Frank & Dora Friesen	Ron Isaak
Anne Clark	Gary & Anne Friesen	Elma Jans
Daniel & Katherine Dahl	George & Sara Friesen	Helen Jantzen
Hilda Dahl	Helen Friesen	R. Jantzen
Robert Dahl	Hugo & Jean Friesen	Adolf & Elisabeth Janzen
Peter & Irene Defer	Jacob & Frieda Friesen	Benjamin & Martha Janzen
Frank & Kathe Derksen	Jacob & Mary Friesen	Ed Janzen
Peter & Mary Derksen	Jake & Erna Friesen	Gerald & Trudy Janzen
Peter Derksen	Rudy & Edith Friesen	Harold & Martha Janzen
Ruth Derksen-Siemens	Dodie Froese	Harry & Martha Janzen
Frank Dick	Frank Froese	Helmut & Louise Janzen
Jacob & Marie Dick	Mary & Egon Froese	Henry & Rose Marie Janzen
Lorne Dick	Werner & Susan Froese	Jake & Erna Janzen
Victor & Helen Dick	Anne Funk	John & Jo-anne Janzen
Harry & Agnes Doerksen	Elizabeth Funk	Nick & Agnes Janzen
Marie Doerksen	Henry & Hildegard Funk	Peter & Mary Janzen
Grace Dolden	Peter & Elizabeth Funk	Tim & Rachael Janzen
Paul & Erna Dreger	Susie Funk	Rudy & Gladys Janzen
Dave & Molly Driediger	Jake & Mary Geddert	Sally Janzen-Cui
Henry & Mary Dueck	Dave & Anne Giesbrecht	Paul & Lydia Jenkinson
Susan Dueck	David & Elizabeth Giesbrecht	Peter & Mary Kaethler
Louise Dueckman	Edward & Katie Giesbrecht	John & Elizabeth Kampen
Frank Dyck	Harry & Mary Giesbrecht	Peter & Susan Kehler
Frank & Ursula Dyck	Henry Giesbrecht	Peter & Susan Kehler
Harvey & Anne Dyck	Henry & Martha Giesbrecht	Louise & David Klaassen
Jack & Rose Dyck	Jake & Kay Giesbrecht	Tina Klaassen
Jacob & Mary Dyck	Peter & Katherine Giesbrecht	A.J. & Betty Klassen
Jake & Anne Dyck	Duane & Martha Goertson	A.P. & Jessie Klassen
Jessie Dyck	John & Janice Goertz	Agatha Klassen
John C. & Elvira Dyck	Jacob & Olga Goertzen	Anna Klassen
Richard & Katie Dyck	Mary Goertzen	Bob Klassen
Meta Enns	Rudy & Katherine Goerzen	David & Susie Klassen
Peter & Lydia Enns	Kathleen Good	Edith Klassen
Peter & Joan Enns	Henry & Martha Graewe	Helen M. Klassen
Alvin & Irene Ens	Bruce & Lois Guenther	Henry & Clara Klassen
George Ens	Elvira Guenther	Henry & Edna Klassen
Herb Ens	John & Sally Guggenheimer	Henry & Margaret Klassen

Herb & Maureen Klassen
 John & Irene Klassen
 Linda Klassen
 Mary Klassen
 Peter Klassen
 Peter & Katie Klassen
 William & Helen Klassen
 Henry & Louise Klippenstein
 Aron & Elfrieda Koehn
 Abe & Frieda Konrad
 Jacob & Helen Konrad
 John & Irmie Konrad
 John & Katherine Konrad
 Abe & Kay Koop
 Rudolf & Anna Koop
 Walter & Jean Koop
 Jacob & Susanne Kope
 Louise Kornelsen
 John & Elfrieda Krahn
 Henry & Elizabeth Krause
 Abe & Annie Kroeker
 Arthur Kroeger
 Cork & Elly Kroeker
 John & Velma Kroeker
 Keith Kroeker
 George & Nell Kroker
 Larry Latter
 Cornelia Lehn
 Helen Lescheid
 Peter & Erna Letkeman
 Dave Loewen
 Harry & Gertrude Loewen
 Helena Loewen
 Katie Loewen
 George Mackenzie
 Abe & Miriam Martens
 Ella Martens
 Henry & Elnora Martens
 Jacob & Helen Martens
 John & Gertrude Martens
 M. Martens
 Walter & Betty Martens
 Hilda Matthies
 H. & M. Matthies
 Sam & Daisy Megli
 Ann Marie Neudorf
 Jim Neudorf
 Peter & Helga Neudorf
 Henry & Tena Neufeld
 Ruben Neufeld
 Sue Neufeld
 Waldo & Elinor Neufeld
 Wilmer & Jean Neufeld
 Homer & Jean Neufeldt
 Margaret Neufeldt
 Neil & Herta Neumann
 David & Elizabeth Nickel
 David & Irene Nickel
 Margaret Nickel
 Peter & Susan Niebuhr
 David & Anne Nightingale
 Stanley & Marijke Olson
 Edgar & Frieda Pankratz
 Harry & Welma Pankratz
 Ernie & Helen Rose Pauls
 Dale Pehrul
 Carl & Eleanor Penner
 Elmer Penner
 Jake Penner
 R & I Penner
 Susan Penner
 Wilfred & Frieda Penner
 Abraham & Frieda Peters
 Frederick & Martha Peters
 Frank & Alfrieda Peters
 Henry & Ann Peters
 Henry & Helen Peters
 Mary Peters
 Melvin & Barbara Peters

Selma Peters
 Katie Peters
 Tina Peters
 William & Evelyn Peters
 Alvin & Irene Philippsen
 George & Tina Plenert
 Louise Price
 Dave Quiring
 Ernie & Mary Ann Quiring
 Tina Quiring
 Peter & Nancy Rahn
 Harold & Viola Ratzlaff
 Heinz & Edith Ratzlaff
 John & Selma Ratzlaff
 David & Lenora Redekop
 Jake & Hilda Redekop
 Elizabeth Redekop
 John & Doris Redekop
 John & Lorena Redekop
 Peter & Nettie Redekop
 Annie Regehr
 Ralph & Carol Regehr
 Gotthard & Marie Rehsler
 Marie Reimer
 Peter Reimer
 Alex & Hilda Rempel
 Dietrich & Dorothy Rempel
 Gerhardt & Helga Rempel
 Peter & K. Rempel
 Roland & Margaret Rempel
 Marie Riediger
 Susie Riediger
 Frieda Rogers
 Isaac Sawatsky
 Albert Sawatzky
 Roland & Lora Sawatzky
 Nettie Schellenberg
 John & Annie Schellenberg
 George & Karen Schmidt
 Mary Schmidt
 Abe & Margaret Schroeder
 Henry Schroeder
 Henry & Dora Schulz
 Bernie & Lou Siemens
 Alfred & Alice Siemens
 Jake & Marilyn Siemens
 Clarence & Rosemary Slater
 Walter & Jean Smetschka
 Deborah Stasiewski
 Sylvia Stopforth
 Edward & Ingrid Suderman
 Erica & Peter Suderman
 Frank & Anna Suderman
 John & Susie Suderman
 Henry & Freda Teichrob
 George Teichroeb
 Rosemarie Teichroeb
 Abe Thiessen
 Al & Kay Thiessen
 Bill & Anne Thiessen
 Clara Thiessen
 Daniel & Elizabeth Thiessen
 Dick & Maria Thiessen
 Dietrich & Marion Thiessen
 Elmer Thiessen
 Isaak & Agnes Thiessen
 Martha Thiessen
 Nicholas & Irene Thiessen
 Richard Thiessen
 Victor & Martha Thiessen
 Frank Toews
 John B. & Lillian Toews
 John & Eileen Toews
 Margaret Toews
 Neil Toews
 Peter & Lydia Toews
 Susan Toews
 Verner & Elizabeth Toews
 Henry & Luella Unger

Hugo & Martha Unger
 John & Mary Unger
 Walter & Laura Unger
 Peter & Karin Unger
 Anna Unruh
 Gerald Van Dyck
 John & Erna Van Dyck
 John & Lorna Van Dyck
 William & Edith Veer
 Vine & Branch Foundation
 Albert & Marge Voth
 Neil & Helga Voth
 Abram & Erika Voth
 Henry Voth
 Alex Wall
 Bruno Wall
 Helen Wall
 Henry & Nettie Wall
 John & Hilda Warkentin
 Justine Warkentin
 Evelyn M. Wedel
 Abe & Mary Wiebe
 Annie Wiebe
 Bill Wiebe
 Ed & Elfriede Wiebe
 Erma Wiebe
 Henry & Helen Wiebe
 Jacob Wiebe
 Katherine Wiebe
 Lorenz & Victoria Wiebe
 Martha Wiebe
 Walter & Helene Wiebe
 Walter & Susanne Wiebe
 William & Louise Wiebe
 Henry & Edelgard Wiehler
 Erwin & Isabelle Wieler
 Gary Wieler
 Elsie & Alvin Wiens
 Linda M. Wiens
 Margaret Wiens
 Peter & Tina Wiens
 R. & S. Wiens
 Eric & Dorothy Willems
 Nick & Betty Willems
 Matilda Williams
 Anne Willms
 John & Frances Willms
 Mary Willms
 Jacob & Erna Wittenberg
 Mary A. Woelk

