

MENNONITE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF BC

What we have heard and known we will tell the next generation. Ps. 78

February 1998

Heritage Lecture: The next lecture is scheduled for

Saturday, February 28, 1998 at 7:00 p.m. at

Garden Park Tower - #211-2825 Clearbrook Rd. Abbotsford.
(Parking at the west end of the Tower and plenty of parking on the first underground level using the ramp on the north side of the building).

Topic: **Inheritance Practices among Mennonites of Western Canada.**

Speaker: **Dr. Roydon Loewen**, Chair of Mennonite Studies, University of Winnipeg.

Roydon Loewen, Ph.D., from Steinbach, Manitoba, will discuss Mennonite inheritance practices in Russia and Canada. Loewen will trace the unique inheritance system among Mennonites. His research included a review of more than 700 wills left by Canadian Mennonites.

Please plan to attend and bring some friends. Refreshments will be served and donations to the work of the BC Mennonite Historical Society will be appreciated.

Open House

In August the Mennonite Historical office and archives moved to the new facilities in the Garden Park Tower at 2825 Clearbrook Road. The Golden Age Society, owners of Garden Park Towers, have scheduled opening ceremonies for Thursday, March 12, at 2:00 p.m.

Plan to attend this event and visit the Mennonite Historical Society facilities, check out some materials and talk with Board members.

Normal office hours are 9:00- 12:00 Monday to Friday. We invite you to visit the offices, browse through the materials, or consult with our receptionist, Loretta Krueger or archivist, Hugo Friesen.

Annual General Meeting

The Board is inviting the membership to the annual general meeting of the Mennonite Historical Society of BC to be held at the Garden Park Tower on May 9, 1998 at 4:00 p.m. Please plan to attend.

From the President of BC MHS:

Last year we travelled to the birthplace of our parents in Ukraine as part of the July Mennonite Heritage Cruise. Our group of 150 included those who fled with the retreating German army during the late stages of World War II, those whose parents emigrated in the 1920's, and descendants of those who had left the Ukraine in the 1870's. It was an emotional experience for all of us.

The first group visited remnants of their homes and villages; they relived the arrests of relatives and the trauma of their childhood war experiences. Those who left in the 1920's were able to understand the nostalgia our parents had for their way of life before their prosperous world came apart. The offspring of those who had left in the 1870's discovered their roots in a way no history book could describe. We were amazed to discover that we shared many of the same emotions through this common travel experience.

Now we appreciate why our parents were so devout in their faith. Through the loss of homes, possessions and family members they discovered that the only enduring values are based on God.

What a heritage to remember.
John Konrad

John Howard Yoder

Prominent Mennonite theologian John Howard Yoder passed away on December 30, 1997, at age 70. At the time of his death Yoder was teaching at Notre Dame University in Indiana. Yoder is best known for his 1972 book, *The Politics of Jesus*.

"There can be no such thing as a sifting of faith from culture. Culture is to faith as body is to soul; they can be distinguished but never separated. A faith removed from it's culture either dies or creates another culture; a culture robbed of its faith either dies or finds a substitute faith..."

John Howard Yoder quoted in Mennonite Life, March 1975.

North American Mennonite History Conference - May 7-9

"One People, Many Stories: Charting the Next Generation of Mennonite Historical Study in the United States and Canada" is the theme for a major conference at Columbia Bible College, May 7-9.

The conference will bring together scholars from North America and abroad.

In connection with this conference the BC Mennonite Historical Society will be hosting an evening banquet on Saturday, May 9, 1998, which will feature speaker Thereon Schlabach from Goshen College. More information on this event will be available in our next newsletter. BC Mennonite Historical Society Board members David Giesbrecht, Henry Rempel, and Lillian Toews along with Herman Falk will look after hosting details.

New at the Centre

We are grateful for contributions of materials to our archives. We appreciate Katherine and Peter Harder's work of organizing and recording material from the Greendale MB Church.

The Greendale material includes:
membership registers, 1931-1970
marriage registers
annual meeting minutes and reports
50th anniversary records

The original church was built in 1932 at a cost of \$225.00. Jacob and Susie Bergmann were the first couple married in the new church in 1933. Electricity was installed in 1935 at a cost of \$40.00. The name was changed from Sardis MB to Greendale MB Church in 1952.

The Internet

Internet subscribers may wish to visit the following websites. These sites contain data bases linked to other sites:

Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society -
www.mmhs.org/mmhs/mmhs.htm

Mennonite Heritage Centre -
www.mbnet.mb.ca/~mhc

California Mennonite Historical Society -
www.fresno.edu/affiliation/cmhs

If you are not an Internet subscriber you may use our facilities at the Archive Centre, Garden Park Tower, Abbotsford. There is no charge for this service, please phone ahead to ensure the terminal is available. 853-6177.

If you are planning to join the Internet at home, please consider the Abbotsford and Vancouver based provider RapidNet (855-7638) with local dial-up access in Abbotsford and Vancouver.

The Mennonite Historical Society is using this low cost provider and if you indicate to them or to us that you were referred by MHS, our Society gets a \$25.00 donation from RapidNet

Membership

A reminder to our readers: If you have not already done so, your membership for 1998 should be renewed by donation if you wish to continue to support the work of our society and remain on our mailing list.

Opportunity

We need more volunteers to assist in work at our office. Volunteers can work with donated material (reviewing, cataloguing, organizing) and assisting with reception (inquiries, assisting in locating materials).

Hugo Friesen coordinates the volunteers at the MHS office and will teach and assist volunteers. An interest in and familiarity with Mennonites is helpful. Knowledge of German is beneficial but not essential. Half a day a week would be a great help. Contact: **Hugo Friesen - 853-6177**

Family Histories in the Archives

THE MEMOIRS OF ANNA (BRAUN) BROWN, 1894-1984

Translated by Margaret (Brown) Froese, typed by Trudy (Froese) Voth, 2 volumes, 335 pages

This is Anna's life story. She begins with a first recollection of standing in a doorway in the sunlight at two years old. Her father was a school teacher who was forced to give up teaching in the late 1800's. They moved to the village of New York in new Russia. She provides a great deal of detail about her own teaching experience, the period of revolution, health problems of her sisters and her own and their medical care, their weddings and the emigration to Canada. The second volume covers her life in Saskatchewan and British Columbia. The story ends on July 25, 1976 when Anna is 82, alone and lonely.

