



Preserving Our Heritage

HISTORICAL ARTIFACT RECEIVED

The year 1998 saw a number of good quality artifacts donated to the Mennonite Heritage Village. Curator Daryl Friesen has had difficulty keeping up with cleaning, decontaminating, and filing the information relating to the donated items.

For an artifact to have unique value, particularly in a museum setting like ours, it is important that its history can be traced and people named that owned or made use of the item.

With this in mind we are featuring a few items that were donated to the Mennonite Heritage Village in 1998.

We received a unique gift on October 30, 1998 from Anton Hoepfner, Austin, Manitoba, who is related to the Jacob Hoepfner whose monument we have on the village grounds. It is a long gun made by the British East India Co. with the dragon design. The donor's father, Peter A. Hoepfner, received the gun from his great uncle Jacob Hoepfner, and it is believed to be over 200 years old.

The gun barrel was shortened by 6 inches to allow for packaging and arrived in Canada from the Ukraine in the 1880s. Anton Hoepfner has used the gun on one occasion in the last few years.



Brother-in-law Dave Kauwenhofen poses with Anton Hoepfner and the gun in front of the Jakob Hoepfner Monument. Jakob Hoepfner along with Johann Bartsch inspected the Ukraine in 1786-1787 and consulted with Catharine the Great regarding settlement in South Russia. The Hoepfner monument was erected on the island of Chortitza in the Dnieper River in 1890. It was taken apart in Russia and shipped to Canada in March 1993. It consists of a tombstone and a large granite obelisk. The memorial was received from the Soviet government through the efforts of Rev. Gerhard Lorenz, and relocated to the MHV grounds in the summer of 1973.

The Board of Directors of the Mennonite Heritage Village museum spent an enjoyable Saturday on November 15, developing a Mission Statement and doing some planning for the future. Assisting the board was Gary Hannaford of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Manitoba who served as our facilitator. We were grateful for the expert way in which he led us through the process and for the fact that he generously donated his time and expertise to the museum at no charge.

There was a lot of discussion and a really excellent exchange of ideas. The greater part of the morning was spent in deciding what we wanted our Mission Statement to say and there were also many suggestions for future plans. The suggestion was made that we needed to review the master site plan for the museum. Senior board members insisted that such a plan already existed

but the best efforts of museum staff and board members have been unsuccessful in turning it up. A special Board meeting will be held in January to work on a new site plan.

— John Peters





From the President

We've heard a lot about the new millennium during the last few months and we know that in less than one year we will be entering it. The idea of beginning the next century seems to have spurred on a lot of people to plan ahead with new enthusiasm and vigor, whether it be for their personal life or for the organizations of which they are a part.

As a Board we realize that while there is intense excitement for the future there also seems to be a heightened awareness of, and appreciation for, our heritage. We sense that people are looking back to simpler times and a slower pace of living with deep nostalgia. We also anticipate that the museum will continue to play an ever-increasing role in educating the younger generations about their roots. In view of these understandings, we want to plan for the next few years in a reasoned and logical way. To that end we spent some time as a Board in mid-November developing a Mission Statement and generally planning and discussing other things vital to the future of the museum. One thing that arose from that planning session was the expressed need to develop a master site plan for the museum. The Board will be meeting again on a Saturday in January to work on this project specifically.

Both these projects are not things to be taken lightly. A Mission Statement sets out in black and white the very reason for the existence of an organization. By developing a Mission Statement, the organization may make itself vulnerable to criticism by those who feel that it does not reflect their personal views of what the museum should be doing. The same holds true for a master site plan. The ideas of a few people forming the basis for major decisions can always be open to challenge. That is why we need the input of our membership and those people who feel they have a vested interest in the workings and continued success of our museum. That is why we need YOU to attend the annual general meeting in March. Not only will you have an opportunity to elect members to the Board, you will have the opportunity to tell us what you think of our Mission Statement and the way in which we manage the affairs of the museum. You will also have the opportunity to take a look at our proposed master site plan and give us your ideas. We need your input and so we strongly encourage you to attend and give us your suggestions and support. You will be notified of the time and location of the meeting by direct mail. We are looking forward to seeing you there!

John Peters, President



From the Executive Director

1999 will be an exciting year at Mennonite Heritage Village. Among the many events being planned will be a celebration of the International Year of Older Persons (IYOP). This will be an opportunity to give thanks and to remember the many ways in which our elders benefit our lives and communities.

Through our families and traditional culture, Mennonites have sought to maintain a high respect for elders. Within our churches and communities we have struggled to resist the societal trend that has often treated elders as burdens, people who can be pushed out of the way and discarded conveniently. In exact opposite measure our experience as a people has been that our parents and grandparents carry a treasure store of wisdom. Their experiences, varied skills and remembrances can benefit and give guidance to their children's lives.

Two of the most influential people in my own life are my grandparents (Oma and Opa) who, now in their mid-90's, inspire me in many ways. Oma, who grew up in the "forever Sunday" Mennonite village life of Tsarist Russia shares stories of the gardens, fine homes, music, visits to neighbors, schools and extensive family relations. She also takes time to tell of the revolution, anarchy, and suffering of the hungry time. Her story tells how God awakened the Mennonites in North America to the plight of those dying in Ukraine. (It was the food, tractors and seed sent to Russia that saved many from the crushing famine of 1921.) Oma's thankfulness for this still shines through in acts of caring, her support for Mennonite Central Committee's relief and development work and a strong desire to pass on to her grandchildren the legacy of her life experience. Her stories and example of generosity and community service inspire me to respond to life's opportunities in a similar way. I am discovering that respect for my elders yields a double bonus - an appreciation for a rich heritage and a realization that our past can shine a bright light into our uncertain future.

How can I help my children to appreciate the older persons in my community and family? First, I need to show them that I respect and care for the elders I have contact with. Secondly, I must give them opportunities to meet and get to know some of the inspiring elders in their community. Finally, I need to support and foster an exchange between the generations in our schools, churches and public institutions.

In the coming year I ask you to consider how you can strengthen or rekindle the ties you have with your children or elders. Let us find ways to ensure that the next generation grows up with the stories and elder role models that they need. In 1999 I welcome you to bring your family to Mennonite Heritage Village where you can join us in the discovery of a rich history and a promising future.

Come, remember, share and celebrate.

Gary Snider

Preserving Our Heritage

is a newsletter published 4 times a year by
Mennonite Heritage Village (Canada) Inc.
P.O. Box 1136
Steinbach, Manitoba, Canada R0A 2A0

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Desktop Production - Rudy Nikkel

Printed by Derksen Printers Limited

MORE ARTIFACTS...



Daniel Pilkey, Winnipeg, Man. donated this 1940s Underwood Standard Typewriter on August 16, 1998. It is a number 5, Serial #2108684-5. Birk's Jewellers used this typewriter in their repair shop until the mid 1980s. It was fully operational until Birk's closed their location at the corner of Smith and Portage Avenue in Winnipeg. Also donated at the same time was this 1950s Birk's Jewellers scale. The scale was manufactured by Daube & Hopken Manufacturers, 39 Carleton Avenue, Jersey City, New Jersey. Daniel Pilkey worked for Birk's during the 1970s and 1980s.



This wood bowl with lid was made by George Enns of St Catharines, Ontario. The unique part is that the wood came from a 700 year old oak tree that was brought to Canada from the Ukraine. The donor was John Froese, St. Catharines, Ontario; August, 27, 1998.



This 1930s phone box and handset were used at the J.R. Friesen garage in Steinbach. J.R. Friesen was the first auto dealer in western Canada and kept up to date with the latest communication modes as well as those relating to transportation. These items and a few others were received by Tony Hiebert, Mitchell, Man. who in turn donated them to the MHV September 28, 1998.

Daryl Friesen

EXHIBIT REPORT

Our 1998 main exhibition entitled "The Dream Chasers"— An Intriguing Glimpse at Steinbach's First Doctors was extremely well received by the public. The exhibit runs until late February, 1999, and anyone who has not yet seen this exhibit is encouraged to come and see this comprehensive display of medical books, journals, letters/correspondences, and certificates/documents as they relate to the work of Doctors Mr and Mrs Schilstra in Steinbach.

To give a little insight on the exhibit, here are a few lines.

Alexander and Anna Schilstra, along with their two children, first came to Steinbach in 1909 after practicing in Gretna, Man. for five years. After a brief stay of two years, they moved to Chemainus, B.C. for health reasons. Here Dr Schilstra practiced medicine in surrounding Indian Reservations for four years, before beginning his service in the Medical Corps during World War I.

When he was discharged in 1919, the Schilstras were asked by their Steinbach acquaintances to move back to Steinbach to serve the area. The husband and wife team accepted the offer and became prominent figures in the community of Steinbach. They spent their remaining years in Steinbach. Anna passed away March 14, 1942 at the age of 71; Alexander died November 26, 1962 at the age of 90.

Daryl Friesen



Part of Drs Alexander and Anna Schilstra's exhibit.

NOTICE

The 1999 Annual Family Memberships are now available.

New this year:

Single Membership \$30.00

Family Membership \$45.00

Valid for admission to the Mennonite Heritage Village throughout the year.

Der Winter

*Der Herbst ist schon vergangen schier
Mit vielen bunten Grüßen;
Nun steht der Winter vor der Tür
Mit schneebedeckten Füßen!*

*Schneeflocken rieselt er, schneeweiß,
Malt gern an Fensterscheiben;
Verwandelt Flüsse, Seen in Eis
Und möchte lange bleiben!*

*Zwar zieht sein Regiment sich lang
In grimmig kalten Tagen;
Doch, liebe Jugend, sei nicht bang,
Er ist ja zu ertragen!*

*Seht, wär' der Winter nicht so kalt,
Der Schneesturm nicht ein Treiben,
Wir würden sicher nicht so bald
Mit Lust die Hände reiben.*

*In froher Hoffnung auf die Zeit
Der holden Frühlingsblüten,
Die alle Menschen hochofrennt
Stets gern im Herzen hüten!*

von Peter Kroeger



Dinner Theater Sellout again

The annual *Sposz Mott Senne* dinner theater filled with laughter as Mennonites came together again to laugh in the Low German language. Ann Funk's play portraying *Groszmame* trying to sell 1000 computer books that she ordered via telephone from a hot shot salesman was hilarious. Then the fabulous singers performing was truly exciting. One must thank Wilmer Penner, the producer, for his dedicated concern that the Mennonite community here on the East Reserve get the opportunity to laugh in *plautdietsch* every year.



The cast of "De Woare Komputer Leiw"



The singers, Struk en Steena, were dressed like Menno Movie Stars.



'PRESERVING OUR HERITAGE' SUPPORTERS

Individuals, corporations, and foundations express their support to the Heritage Village and the work it does in preserving our faith and culture by contributions. The commitment of our supporters gives the MHV the stability and viability to pursue this goal. Without you this would not be possible. Following is a complete list of donors to our "Preserving Our Heritage" campaign (1998). A gracious thank you is extended to each one of you. Your contributions have paid off our mortgage.

\$200,000 - PLUS

Province of Manitoba
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\$100,000 - \$199,000

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NOTES FROM THE MHV AUXILIARY

AN AFTER-CHURCH DINNER



In the company of friends, at tables set with pumpkins and ribbons and pumpkin tortes and little breads and all the fixings of a turkey dinner our guests are obviously enjoying their meals. The annual fund raiser on November 15th was indeed a great success thanks to the commitment of Auxiliary members and the hard work of many others who helped.



Ed Wiebe, in his long white apron, sorts out the mountains of cutlery after the banquet. Cleanup is a major task in these less than adequate facilities. We appreciate all the helping hands.



Susan Dueck is seen breaking dozens and dozens of eggs to which she will add a large bag of flour, then mix it all to just the right consistency. Using the equipment in the Livery Barn Restaurant which had already been shut down, we spent a day making noodles to accompany the Chicken Soup that is requested most by visitors during "A Touch of Christmas".



Dora Penner graciously volunteered to plan the Dinner and is pictured filling a dinner plate for Lawrence Klippenstein who along with his wife Laverna had motored out from Winnipeg to lunch at the Village Center. Lawrence recently joined the MHV Board of Directors and presently serves as a member of the Cultural Committee.

& PEPPERNUTS!



Laden with all the fancy home-baked treats of Christmas, these tables attracted their regular customers at the moment the doors opened for our December Bake Sale. Marshmallow cookies, *peppernuts*, fruit cakes, colored popcorn, *schmaundt kuake* and countless other traditional goodies had been generously contributed from many home kitchens. Toots Dyck and Mary Warkentin are ready for the opening sales.

& SUCKA ZWIEBACH...



Wally Rempel takes time out from the lineup of volunteers while Helen Kehler and Daryl Friesen take their shift at the serving table.



Anne Schultz, Rose Wiebe and Nellie Ginter are watching the water come to a boil in the huge pot as they prepare to dunk the dried noodles.



The aroma of *Sucka Twiebach*, fresh from the oven, permeated the halls of the Village Center during the Christmas attractions. Nellie Ginter is seen treating her grandchildren to the popular, little double buns, dipped in cream and sugar which she has just finished baking.

FROM SCRAPS...



This stunning innovation, made entirely from discarded bits of fabric, is the work of our Village Quilters and was entitled "Christmas in the Village". Liesbeth Neufeldt of Laird Sask. held the winning ticket of this lovely hanging quilt. We are grateful to Debbie Kehler for donating the lovely Petit Point and to Henry Fehr who framed it. Mary Lee of Winnipeg was the lucky winner of this second prize. And, the beautiful Christmas centerpiece, arranged by Katie Toews, was won by Darlene Fulmore who had come to Steinbach on a Bus Tour.

ACROSS THE WORLD THEY GO!

A return communiqué from Jerusalem recently arrived after shipping a precious, custom-made quilt to Israel! Dr. Alfred Seyman was, in his words, "positively delighted" to receive the quilt. His visit to the Village this past summer left him with many great impressions and ended with a very special quilting request.

The Quilters are presently engaged in a colorful, "Royal Nine Patch" which will be sent to New York City. The visiting gentleman admitted that buying a quilt at MHV had been the farthest thing from his mind last summer. However, he became quite inspired by the meticulous stitching in the Quilting Room - resulting in the present project.

TOWARD 2000

At the dawning of a new Millennium, we anticipate exciting new projects that might have special significance this year, and, as always, we welcome your fresh ideas. Join us!

*Evelyn Friesen, Pres.
MHV Ladies Auxiliary*

Volunteer Opportunities at MENNONITE HERITAGE VILLAGE

Carpenters & Crafters – Individuals with a variety of skills and interests to help restore building exteriors, give advice on carpentry projects, set up antique tool displays, build display fixtures, touch-up or repair antiques, repair site fixtures, interact with visitors, exemplify the Christian life.

Gardeners – People who enjoy caring for plants, tend existing gardens, help to plan new gardens, work with heritage seed varieties, learn about and explain pioneer gardening, assist in planting garden related displays and events, interact with visitors, show Christ's love.

Automotive Enthusiasts – Tune-up vehicles, do regular maintenance, plan restoration projects, research into early cars and trucks, identify sources for parts, seek vehicles for donation, help plan parades and displays, enjoy talking about cars with visitors, walk in Christ's steps.

Farmers – People who know or would enjoy knowing old farm ways and work. Help to restore old farm equipment, set up the old granary and seed cleaning mill, repair and update the animal pens and demonstration area, assist with agricultural displays and events, show and tell with visitors, live in the light of Christ.

Other Opportunities:

Tailors and Seamstresses	Tin Smith Apprentice
Miller's Apprentice	Tour Guides
Actors or Interpreters	Painters
School Program Helpers	Musicians

If you are interested in any of the above opportunities
please contact:

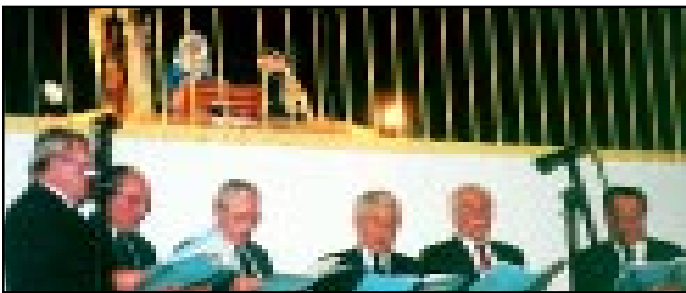
Rose Wiebe, Volunteer Coordinator
Mennonite Heritage Village Ph. 326-9661

A TOUCH OF CHRISTMAS



Daryl Friesen retrieved several artifacts from storage to achieve this nostalgic view of the old cutter. As well, his arrangement of the dimly lit manger was a fitting backdrop to the evening concerts held in the Auditorium during the Yuletide celebrations at the Village Center.

IN THE (MILKING) PARLOR?



They are Sons of Cornelius, and explained that their singing career had begun in Cornelius Plett's dairy barn! In beautiful harmony they touched the hearts of their listeners with "Welchen Jubel, Welche Freude" and many other old German carols which they remembered singing as they had gathered in the living rooms of their aunts and uncles at Christmas.



Under the direction of Wanda Wiebe from Grunthal School, the crystal clear voices of Grades 3-5 sang out the message of Christmas in a well filled auditorium. Those present would surely have agreed that there is something sweet about hearing the Christmas story from the lips of children.



The Grade 6s from Elmdale School were bused out to the Village Center to take part in the afternoon concert. Craig Cassils, a gifted composer of music who teaches this class, is seen conducting the group in singing Noel.

As always, at the Museum, all students who took part in the Christmas program were treated to a *Tutje* (a small bag of nuts and candy).



Youngsters from Suncrest Hutterite Colony presented the story of Jesus' birth in song and long, well-memorized recitations. Their program ended with the staging of a nativity scene that filled the room with the awe and wonder of the first Christmas.



This group from St. Michael's Ukrainian Church at Sarto came to tell of the Ukrainian traditions of Christmas which, according to Gayle Swynar, is "their most beloved celebration."

Abiding by the Julian calendar, their festivities begin on the eve of January 6th and include long remembered symbols and traditions such as the *Kolache* – a bread with a candle in the center – which represents Christ as the Light of the world.



Gary Snyder (right) is seen mingling with friends of the Museum. His closing remarks at the evening concert reminded everyone that though our Christian traditions may vary "all of these point us to Christ."

Evelyn Friesen

COMPANY OF 100

Listed below are members of the Company of 100. These members have donated or pledged \$10,000 before the year 2000. Of this, 50% goes to cover operating expenses and 50% goes into a trust fund for future funding.

<i>L. Peter Barkman Family Foundation</i>	<i>Manitoba Mennonite Mutual</i>
<i>Beatrice Foods</i>	<i>MHV Ladies' Auxiliary</i>
<i>Dr. Peter C. Bergen</i>	<i>Harold & Verdeen Neufeld</i>
<i>Big Freight Systems Inc.</i>	<i>A.D. Penner</i>
<i>Eugene & Helen Derksen</i>	<i>Ernie & Linda Penner</i>
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The donors names are listed on a wall plaque which still has space available for your name.

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2nd Annual

BROMMTOPP '99

**Low German Event of the Year
Friday February 5, 1999**

will be an evening of entertaining
'op plautdietsch' like you've never seen before.

The evening will begin with some bromming by Dennis and Gerald Reimer. After dinner the fabulous Plautdietsche Saenga 'Jereeschte Tweeback' will sing Mennonite from Doreen Klassen's book "Singing Mennonite". The musical group, which consists of the world renown Henriette Schellenberg and CMBC renown husband Rudy, Steinbach famous Ed and Millie Hildebrand (who still have friends all over dating back to the 60s), Winnipeg famous Gary and Dorothy Froese, as well as the author of the book *de Klosche*. This talented group of singers has come out of retirement to "sing Mennonite". The talented and gifted Saskatchewan-born George Richert will be the Master of Ceremonies for the Evening. The Low German evening will deal with childhood, village/farm life, the naughty 'Gause-schlinjels', courtship/love, and church life.

This event will take place at:

Fort Garry Place

Grand Ballroom, 5th floor

83 Garry Street

Winnipeg, MB

Reserved Tickets are available at:

Bonaventure Travel Ruth 488-6653

Mennonite Heritage Village 204 326-9661

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 1999

March to September - "Menno Simons: Image, Art & Identity" - A major exhibit that explores the image of Menno Simons in both fine art and popular culture. Special viewing hours can be arranged by appointment.

May 24 - "Spring on the Farm" - Pioneer farm demonstrations, young farm animals, black-smithing demonstrations, games for all ages.

June 12 - "Antique Farm Equipment Show" (tentative date) - Farm equipment collectors and admirers gather from across southern Manitoba. Demonstrations, displays, rare parts sale, old time music and food.

July 1 - "Canada Day Festivities" - Instrumental and choral music celebrating Mennonite culture and faith, special displays, lots of ethnic food!

July 30,31, Aug. 1&2 - "Pioneer Days '99" Our major annual event featuring a wide variety of pioneering demonstrations and special events. Friday - parade, Saturday - threshing, food, demos, Sunday - services, music, games, Monday - threshing, demos, music, soapbox race.

September 6 - "Fall on the Farm" - Horse and steam-powered fieldwork (harvesting), family games, baking and demonstrations. Special pioneer breakfast at 8:00 a.m., "faspas" meal by the Museum Ladies' Auxiliary.

November 6 - Annual "Sposz Mott Senne" Plays - Dinner theatre with lots of Low German humour.

Dec. 3&4 - "A Touch of Christmas" - A traditional Christmas program featuring the region's best children's choirs, artists and musicians. Bake and craft sale, carols, sleigh rides, and special displays.

*Other Events as Announced
(rates may vary during special events)*

NOTICE

The 1999 Annual Family Memberships are now due.

The new rates include single membership rates for the first time. Although the family remains a strong unit, one must touch base with reality. Due to the number of singles requesting a discount, we are offering single memberships for \$30, family memberships for \$45. All admissions to grounds for regular events are free with membership. The new admission rate for 1999 also applies to those that are non-members. They are:

Students \$3.00

Adults \$5.00

Seniors \$4.00

Family \$15.00

Volunteers entertain guests



The Senior Harmonica choir finds time to entertain museum guests. The men entertained a senior's group from the USA in late October while they were having a luncheon. Later they visited and exchanged stories.

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