



WennoGESpräch

Menonite Historical Society of Ontario

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The Breslau Mennonite Church: a brief history

by Margaret Good and Sam Steiner

The town of Breslau, east of Kitchener but still in Waterloo Township, in the mid-19th century grew on land originally owned by John Yund (Lot 114 of the German Company Tract). Lot 115, just south of the eventual town, was the site where the Kressmann (later Cressman, later still Breslau) Mennonite congregation took root.

One of the first Pennsylvania German Mennonites to settle in that area was John Brech (1792-1842) who came to Canada in 1806 and moved on to part of Lot 109 soon after his marriage to Catharine Betzner in 1815. Daniel Erb was the first German Company owner of Lot 115, and he sold it to John Cressman, Sr. in 1816. John and Anna Cressman had come to the Freeport area of Waterloo County in 1807, where John died in 1818. His eldest son, John Jr., purchased the 448 acre lot from his father's estate in 1822, but likely moved to Lot 115 soon after his marriage in 1818.

In 1823 John sold 200 acres from the northern half of the lot to his 21 year old brother, Nicolaus, who presumably planned to farm that portion. In August, 1828, Nicolaus traveled to Pennsylvania to "take himself a wife." However he fell ill, and died in Pennsylvania in September of that year. It is likely after this that the youngest Cressman daughter, Anna, together with her husband, Christian Snyder, took over the Nicolaus Cressman property.

L.J. Burkholder writes that preaching services were held in a school house on this site soon after 1826, but does not give supporting documentation for this assertion. Burkholder obtained much of his information from Ozias Snyder, grandson of Christian Snyder, but this is not recorded in Snyder's written material. Certainly preaching services could have commenced in homes or an area school house at this time, though few schools are documented in Waterloo Township at that early date.

In 1834 the Benjamin Eby congregation in Berlin (now First Mennonite Church in Kitchener) outgrew the log meetinghouse built in 1813. The building was disassembled, moved to the Christian Snyder farm, and reassembled on an acre of land that was deeded in 1837 by Snyder to the congregation's first trustees, Abraham S. Clemens, Elias Bowman and John Brech. The selling price was one pound, and it was stipulated the property must be used



Margaret Good

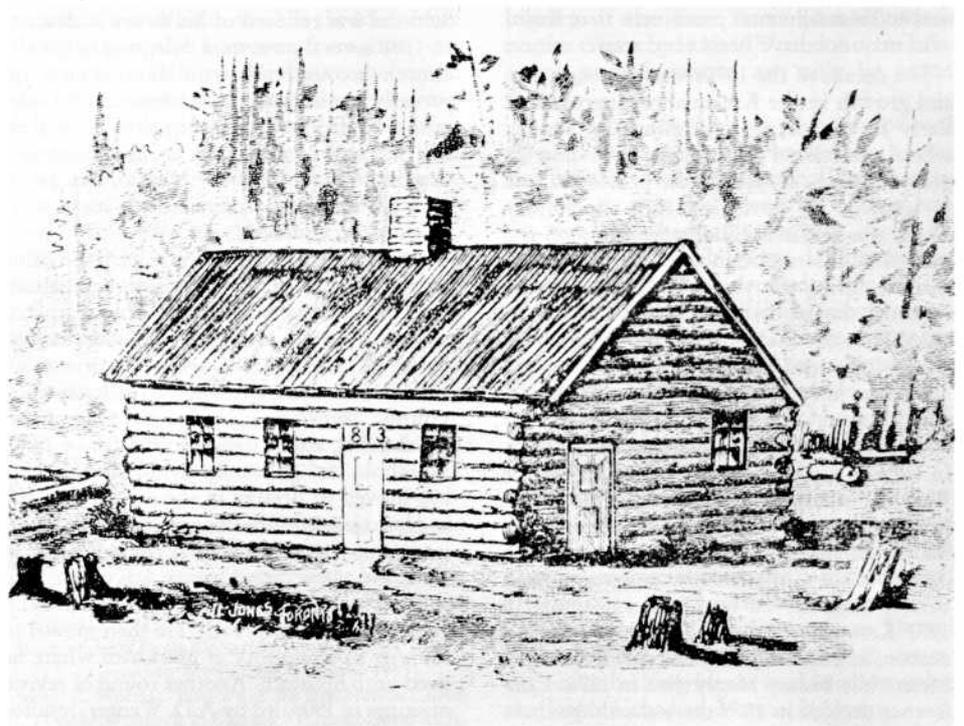
solely for "a meeting house, school house and burying ground for the Menonist and Tunker congregations."

The reference to the Brethren in Christ is interesting. This was a time when the Tunkers were thriving in Waterloo County, having been organized into a district in 1833. They did not at that time have meetinghouses, and continued to meet in homes or barns for some decades. The Tunkers are not mentioned later deeds.

The congregation, referred to as Kressmann in the early *Calendars of Appointment*, added to the original acre in 1858, 1870 and 1964, and ended with around five acres.

In 1837 preaching services were held every four weeks, the usual pattern in the conference at that time. In 1867 services came biweekly, and in 1894 the meetinghouse was used every week, including some evenings.

The first building (1834-1856) brought from Berlin where it had been the Benjamin Eby meetinghouse



The log building was taken down in 1856 and a larger meetinghouse was erected. The log building was again recycled, becoming a residence for the local brickmaker, Fred Schaefer. The new brick building had two entrances with a lobby for the women, a long bench behind the pulpit, hat racks on the men's side, and raised seats towards the back. The description is not unlike Old Order Mennonite meetinghouses today. Outdoor sheds closed on three sides gave protection to the horses. This building served until 1908.

The minister during the early years of the congregation was Joseph Hagey (1810-1876), who was ordained in 1839, and later ordained bishop in 1851. He lived between the Kressmann and Hagey (near Preston) congregations, and probably served in both communities since during those years services in the two areas were scheduled on different Sundays. He was an effective speaker, and was known for his short sermons.

In 1867 preaching services were held biweekly and the load on Joseph Hagey with his bishop responsibilities must have been heavy. Jacob Woolner, Sr. (1826-1917) was thus ordained as minister. Woolner was born in England, but raised in a local Mennonite family from the age of six because of the death of his mother ten days after the family's arrival in Bridgeport, Ontario after the trip from England. He is called an "able speaker and good worker" by Ezra Eby.

Jacob Kolb (1781-1869) and Abraham S. Clemens (1790-1867) were the earliest deacons in the congregation. Kolb, a gunsmith by trade, came to Canada in 1819 or so, and settled on the west side of the Grand River in 1826. He was likely ordained as deacon while still living in Pennsylvania. We also do not know when Abraham Clemens was ordained, but he did attend conference in 1842 which indicates he was ordained prior to that time. He was one of the original trustees of the congregation. Clemens was known for his regular visitation and is much more prominent than Kolb, who may not have been very active.

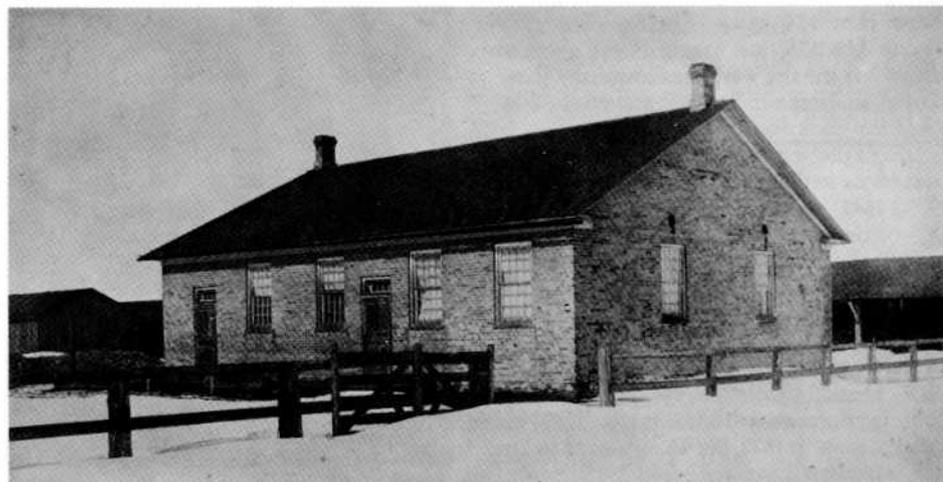
The decade of the 1870s was one of change and growth in the Kressmann congregation. Early in the decade a community Sunday school was started in Breslau, a town now 20 years old since the railroad had provided a base for growth. At least until 1876 the Sunday school was held in a schoolhouse, but soon was moved to the meetinghouse. Sunday school thrived during the years; Oscar Burkholder reported the highest enrolment was 219 in 1935. The early leaders of this movement were Isaac Moyer and Philip Moyer.

Changes in congregational leadership also occurred during this period. Elias E. Weber (1834-1909) had been ordained deacon in 1867. In 1874 he was ordained as a minister for the Weber and Hagey congregations. Jacob Z. Kolb (1832-1919) was then ordained as deacon for the congregation. After the death of the deacon at the Christian Eby congregation in Berlin, Kolb served both congregations. In 1877 Kressmann's decided to again ordain a deacon, in this case John Schiedel (1832-1916). Meanwhile Bishop Hagey died in 1876. Conference decided in 1879 there should be three bishops in Waterloo County, and Elias Weber

was ordained, joining Amos Cressman and Abraham Martin, the other bishops in the district.

Tensions came with the division in the conference that saw the development of the group that became known as the Mennonite Brethren in Christ in 1883. By 1882 there was an organized group meeting in Breslau, and Breslau lost a few members to the new group. This breach healed over the years. By 1935 a joint Summer Bible School was held, and today cooperative efforts continue between the Mennonite and Mennonite Brethren in Christ (now Missionary) congregations.

The imminent division within conference that saw the formation of the Old Order Mennonites also did not bypass Kressmann. In 1885 there was a group of 30 applicants for baptism resulting from evening meetings held in homes north of Waterloo. Conservative bishop Abraham Martin refused to baptize them, and later Elias Weber baptized them at Kressmann.



The Kressmann Mennonite meetinghouse, 1856-1908

Sometime at the end of the 1880s John Schiedel was relieved of his duties as deacon. In 1888 several men were delegated to get the church accountbook from him, which apparently was in disarray. In due course Schiedel withdrew from the congregation, moved to the St. Jacobs area, and was recognized as a deacon by the Old Order Mennonites. Jacob Z. Kolb returned to Kressmann in 1890 to again serve as deacon.

In the wake of the tensions the 1890s came a new burst of vitality in the congregation. Jacob Z. Kolb and George Clemens invited evangelist John S. Coffman to conduct revival meetings. He did so during the winter of 1890/91, resulting in 20 to 30 confessions. A young minister, Isaac A. Wambold (1862-1954), was ordained in the fall of 1890. Wambold had grown up in the Zurich area, but moved to Breslau in the early 1880s and had been active in the congregation. Under his leadership prayer meetings were begun in 1891, and a new meetinghouse was constructed in 1908. He developed voice problems in 1912, and was unable to preach. He then moved to his wife's community at Markham where he lived until his death. Another round of revival meetings in 1905, led by A.D. Wenger, resulted in another spurt of growth.

Thus it can be said that Isaac Wambold brought the now Cressman Mennonite Church literally and philosophically into the 20th century. He was the first minister to speak regularly in English and he introduced much of the church program that extended beyond the Sunday morning worship services, which started being conducted weekly in 1894.

The bishop of the congregation became non-resident in 1895 when Elias Weber requested the ordination of another bishop, probably because his own load had become heavy after the withdrawal from conference of Abraham Martin. Jonas Snider (1858-1944) was ordained by Weber at the Cressman meetinghouse in November 1895.

In 1907 the congregation faced the decision of repairing the old church house, or building a new one. At a special meeting in March 1907, 75% favored planning for construction of a new building. The old building was dismantled beginning in March 1908, and the new

structure erected. \$2000 was subscribed before construction ended; total costs of \$3500 were paid within four years. The new building was 20 feet south and west of the old building.

As in 1890, there was another significant transition in 1912. Deacon Jacob Z. Kolb was elderly, and Isaac Wambold was no longer able to preach. Jacob Woolner Jr. had been ordained in 1897 to assist in Elias Weber's district. In 1912 he was offered Isaac Wambold's position, but declined. There were difficulties in the congregation at this time, and in 1913 the conference appointed a committee to resolve

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the differences, after Oscar Burkholder had begun his duties as the new minister.

Oscar Burkholder (1886-1956) was born and raised in the Stouffville, Ontario area. As a young man he worked for several years on the farm of his uncle, Ozias Snyder, and in fact made a spiritual commitment while attending the Cressman church. He returned to the Markham area, and was ordained in July 1912. The Cressman congregation issued Burkholder an invitation to minister, and he began his long tenure at Cressman in January 1913. Moses Heckendorn (1863-1944) was ordained as deacon in 1912.

Burkholder was well known for his scripturally based sermons. He was an clear, effective teacher, and was associated for many years with the Ontario Mennonite Bible School. He also preached widely throughout the Mennonite Church, both in Ontario and the United States. At least part of the reason for the outside engagements was to earn additional support for his family. Urie Bender's *Four earthen vessels* describes in some detail the financial hardships faced by the Burkholder family. This was a source of some tension with the congregation over the years. In 1949 Burkholder was ordained as a bishop.

Nathaniel Bergey (1887-1943) served on several occasions for periods up to a year during Burkholder's tenure of service. The dates of this service are not clear.

A number of new programs started during the Burkholder years. A sewing circle was organized in March 1918 for "helping in the line of mission work." Mrs. Aaron Betzner was the first president. One of the first projects was to aid the Belgium and France relief work as the war neared an end in 1918. The WMSC program continues to the present, with Mennonite Central Committee the recipient of most of the work.

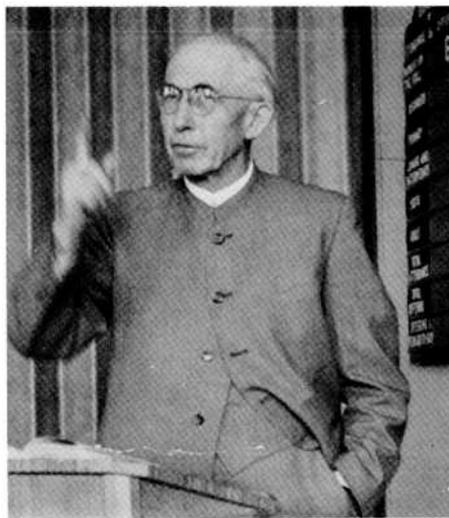
Young People's Bible meetings were active through the years; they were usually held every second Sunday evening, with participation by many of the lay people.

The first foreign missionary to go out from the Cressman congregation was Elvin Snyder (1900-), who with his wife, Mary, went to Argentina in 1928. They have also served in Puerto Rico and other Spanish-speaking communities. Their service helped focus interest at Cressman in the Latin America mission work.

Life in the congregation during these years was typical of many congregations. The 1931 annual meeting agreed "that in order to obtain better order during the hour of worship the parents keep their children in the same seat as they themselves sit." And in 1934 a motion passed "that because of the congested seating capacity at the rear of the brethren's side we urge the parents and as many others as conveniently can to move forward several seats at time of entering."

In 1934 Alson Cressman (1885-1951) was ordained as deacon, replacing Moses Heckendorn who was becoming more elderly and unable to serve. Alson's son, Horace, (1917-), was ordained in 1948 and continues to serve to the present time.

As might be expected, when Oscar Burkholder retired after 41 years of service,



Oscar Burkholder, pastor at Cressman from 1913-1954

a number of changes took place in the church. Carl Rudy (1927-), who was ordained in 1953 and a great-great grandson of Christian Snyder, served as pastor from 1954-1960. During his tenure the congregation began to use church bulletins (1955) and created a church council (1957). Some renovations took place in the church basement to improve the Sunday school facilities and to add a side entrance. In 1960 the Mennonite Youth Fellowship (MYF) program was instituted and continues to the present. In 1958 the church instituted a formal budget; prior to that time offerings each Sunday had been designated to a particular purpose.

After Rudy decided to attend Goshen College in 1960, Albert Martin (1926-) from the Zurich area was installed as pastor in July, 1961. He was appreciated by the congregation and gave inspiring messages. He resigned in 1965. Laurence Martin (1936-) and his wife, Marilyn, then served until 1971 when Laurence was called to work at the Mennonite Publishing House. Laurence, from the Cedar Grove congregation in Markham, also served the Bloomingdale congregation this time. Several major changes also occurred during Martin's period of leadership. In 1968 Cressman became the Breslau Mennonite Church, and major renovations were again carried out on the church structure.

Pastors since 1971 have included Donovan Smucker (interim pastor 1971-1973), Dennis Cressman (1973-1979), Doug Snyder (interim pastor part of 1979) and Ervin & Marian Wiens since January, 1980. Each brought a wealth of experience and has made a strong contribution to the congregation.

Presently the membership is 136, and the 1983/84 budget totals \$88,500.

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(Margaret Good is the congregational historian at Breslau Mennonite Church; Sam Steiner is editor of *Mennogespärch*.)

This article was prepared in recognition of the sesquicentennial of the congregation's first building.

REVIEW

Daniel S. Iutzi, Jacob R. Bender : *servants of God and the church* by Hugh Laurence and Lorraine Roth (Waterloo : Historical Committee of the Western Ontario Mennonite Conference, 1984), 66 pp., \$3.75.

Hugh Laurence and Lorraine Roth have made an important addition to historical understanding of the Western Ontario Mennonite Conference in the 20th century. Daniel Iutzi and Jacob R. Bender provided leadership to the East Zorra Amish Mennonite Church from World War I through World War II, and their influence extended far beyond the congregation. They helped to shape the conference identity of the Amish Mennonites in Ontario, to integrate revivalism into the Amish religious context, and to model gradual change as the world continued to press in on the Amish Mennonite community.

The audience for Daniel S. Iutzi, Jacob R. Bender already will be versed in Western Ontario Mennonite history. Indeed the authors presuppose familiarity with Fred Lichti's *A history of the East Zorra (Amish) Mennonite Church, 1837-1977*, and much of the congregational context can only be found there.

The initial chapters provide exceptional detail on the family background of both Iutzi and Bender, through analysis of land, census and will records. This provides a fuller, better context than one usually finds in biographies of church leaders. Unfortunately, it also makes for very detailed reading at the outset of the book. It might have been possible to place some of this information into appendices, though that would have increased the risk that casual readers would entirely overlook the important family context provided. Maps and photographs are also significant resources in the volume.

The writing style is narrative, with an occasional anecdotal section. The scholar would wish for greater documentation and a less cautious interpretation on the personalities and relationships between the two men.

Notwithstanding these reservations, Daniel S. Iutzi, Jacob R. Bender is one of the many important building-blocks used in constructing the larger Canadian Mennonite story.

— Sam Steiner

The Christian Eby District

a 1902 history
by Samuel S. Bowman

Berlin April 1902

I, the undersigned Samuel S. Bowman Minister of the Gospel and Pastor of the Mennonite Church of this district, now called the Christian Eby Church or district (being the Fifth and youngest son of Benjamin Bowman who came from Pennsylvania to Waterloo county Canada in the year 1812) and Grand Son of Joseph Bechtel he being the first Mennonite Preacher in this county who came from Montgomery county Pennsylvania with his family in the year 1802. Settled on the East side of the Grand River near the place where the Town of Preston now is, and where the River Speed runs into the Grand River. My mother maidens name Susanna Bechtel then being 5 years old.

Benjamin Eby who was born in Lancaster county Pennsylvania on the 2. day of May 1785 came the first time to Canada on the 24. day of May in the year 1806, arrived here what is now called Berlin on the above date. He then purchased his land on the East side what is now the Town of Berlin. This Church yard and a part of this Burial place was a part of his farm. On the 4. day of November of the same year, he in company with others set out for home back to Pennsylvania, the mode of traveling in those days was on horseback. On February 25. 1807 he was married to Mary daughter of Jacob Brubaker, she died of Cholera at Berlin August 12, 1834. In the year 1807 he and his wife in company with others came back and arrived here on the 21. day of June; on the 30. of the same month he took possession of his farm. On the 27. day of November 1809 he was ordained as a Minister of the Mennonite Church. On October 11. 1812 he was ordained as Bishop, he then had charge of the field and meetings on the west side of the Grand River, and my said Grand Father Joseph Bechtel on the East side. In the year 1813, the first Mennonite Church in the Dominion of Canada was built on this Church yard being built of Logs for which he gave the land free namely the said Benjamin Eby; the Church then being called the Benjamin Eby Church of the Mennonites this was the first Church in Berlin. As the membership grew larger from time to time a larger frame meeting-house was then Built in the year 1834 = 40 by 60 feet in which about 500 persons could be seated; at a cost of 880 dollars in cash and 220 dollars besides in labor of the subscribers; This meeting-house stood nearly 68 years; Then as the said meeting-house had settled down in the middle, the ceiling cracked, three of the corner posts badly rotted and some of the Tiebeam tenants about rotted off, and the roof not so good; it was considered by some of the Church members that some thing must be done; and for this reason a meeting was called to be held on the 16. day of December 1901 to take into consideration what is best to be done, that is to repair the



Samuel S. Bowman (1834-1924)

old or built a new house; it was then unanimously decided that to what two thirds agree should be done; and as not all the mem[bers] being present, it was decided to call another meeting to be held on the 26. day of December 1901 at this meeting the resolutions of the first meeting were adopted; then at this second meeting 46 voted for a new house and 6 for repairing the old meeting-house; some did not vote at all. It was then decided to build a new Brick house 40 by 72 feet, 15 feet high between floor and ceiling with a basement in below 8 feet high.

A building committee was then chosen of 5 members namely; Wendel Shantz son of Samuel Y Shantz[,] John Schmitt son of the late preacher George Schmitt[,] Simeon Brubaker son of Samuel and grand son of the late Deacon John Brubaker[,] Menno Cressman son of Samuel Cressman deceased[,] Benj. Shoemaker deacon of this Church & Son of George Shoemaker deceased. An advisory committee was then Chosen; namely Bishop Elias Weber, Preacher Samuel S. Bowman, Pre. Eli Hallman, John Woolner, Enos Shantz, Eli Shantz, Joseph C. Snyder, and Isodore Snyder.

The old meeting-house was sold to David Betzner on the first day of March 1902 for 100 Dollars.

The first person buried on this cemetery was George Schmitt who was killed by a falling tree on the farm then occupied by John Kraft; then owned by Abram Moyer for quite a number of years. The second person buried on this cemetery was Emanuel Erb on the 22. day of March 1814 he being a Brother to the later Preacher Moses Erb. The last funeral Services held in the old Meeting-house was on the 8. day of March 1902 by the burial of Brother Jacob D. Shoemaker aged 102 years 3 month and 11 days, he being the last Brother that lived who helped to pay the old meeting-house. The last meeting and Preaching in the old meeting-house was held on the 9. day of March 1902. After singing 2 German Hymns, the Deacon Benjamin Shoemaker read a passage of Scripture of the Gospel of John, the opening remarks and prayer was then made by preacher Samuel S. Bowman. Then Bishop Daniel Wismer who is now about 83 years old

About the author

Samuel S. Bowman (1834-1924), the author of this brief history and membership list, was a minister at the Christian Eby, now First Mennonite, Church in Kitchener from 1878 until his death. He was a founder of the Mennonite Aid Union, and served as its secretary until his ordination. As a young man he served as a school teacher, followed the carpentry trade for some years, and farmed throughout his life. He was secretary of the annual conference of the Mennonite Conference of Ontario for some years, and as such compiled the annual **Calendar of Appointments**.

This piece was written after the 1834 building was dismantled (March 1902) and prior to the completion of the new brick building (July 1902). The article is particularly noteworthy for its description of a Sunday service and some of the disciplines taught by the church. The original spelling and punctuation has been retained as much as possible. The original manuscript is in the Moses Bowman (1819-1898) Collection in the Conrad Grebel College Archives. — S. Steiner

References: Burkholder, L.J. **A brief history of the Mennonites in Ontario** (s.l.: Mennonite Conference of Ontario, 1935), p. 280.

Calendar of Appointments of the Mennonite Church of Ontario for the year July 1st, 1925 to June 30th, 1926, pp. [14-15].

"Bowman." *Gospel Herald* 17 (Dec. 11, 1924), p. 736.

preached for about 15 minutes. Samuel S. Bowman then preached on prayer for about 30 minutes his text being Math. 15:25 Lord help me Lord help me; then Pre. Wendel Hallman Minister of the River Brethren denomination made a few remarks and endorsed what had been said; Then preacher Noah Stauffer rose up and spoke about 10 minutes he said that he can heartily endorse what had been said, then spoke on nonresistance then led in Prayer; Then singing God be with us till we meet again; after benediction by S.S. Bowman The Sunday School was opened by the Superintendent Enos Doll. The old meeting-house was then taken down and removed in the 3rd week in March 1902. This new meeting-house is given out by the Building committee by contract as follows

Mr. Cowan Carpenter work & material to it	1560
Mr. Pinke Mason work & material to it	860
Mr. Kern Painting & material to it	130
Bricks	440
Stones 130 dollars; Furances 200 dollars	330
Seats	450
Total	3770

I expect it will run up to 4000 Dollars by the time every thing is finished it is contracted that this that Church is ready for divine worship on or about the 15. of July 1902.

Bishop Benjamin Eby died June 28. 1853.

The following Ministers ordained from time to time for this district.

Christian Eby ordained February 26. 1854 being the 5th son of Bishop Benjamin Eby lived on his Fathers Farm; about this time the Church here was called the Christian Eby Church from that time until now. I suppose when the new Church is finished it will be called the Mennonite Church at Berlin. The said Christian Eby died November 5. 1859. Abraham C. Weber was ordained Dec. 22. 1850 for the David Eby district; but moved to the East side of this Christian Eby district in the year 1855 who then had charge of this district after the decease of said Christian Eby, died July 6. 1874.

Moses Erb ordained April 14-1854 for the Martin & Snyder districts of Labor; in the year 1860 he moved on the farm of said Christian Eby from that time labored in this district Died in August 1901.

Samuel S Bowman ordained February 2. 1878.

Samuel Eby the first Deacon of this district ordained in the year 1809-Died Jan. 25. 1844. John Brubaker the second Deacon of this district came from Pennsylvania in the 1816 settled on a farm a little East of Berlin Died Oct. 10. 1875.

Joseph E. Snyder [Schneider] Born at Berlin 1810 held the office of Deacon at this Church for a number of years.

Benjamin Shoemaker the present Deacon ordained in the year 1890.

Joseph Hagey was ordained to the office of Bishop Oct. 11. 1852 had charge of the Churches on the East side of the Grand River and the Christian Eby & Weber Churches on the West side of said Grand River. Died about the year 1875. Elias Weber Grand son of said Bishop Benjamin Eby was ordained Bishop after the death of said Joseph Hagey for the same field of Labor in the year 1879. Daniel Wismer ordained minister for the Cressman district in the year 1864 moved to the state of Kansas in the year 1877 moved back to Berlin in the year 1887 was ordained Bishop in Kansas as shortly before he moved back to Berlin,

he officiates where ever necessary and required through out the Churches in this county and also in the counties of Lincoln, Welland, Elgin, Haldimand and Bruce.

Eli Hallman ordained Minister in June in the year 1897. Preaching where ever required holding series of Meetings through out the Mennonite Churches in Ontario.

The following are the Church members living at present in this district

Daniel Wismer & wife
 Samuel S Bowman & wife
 Eli Hallman & wife
 Benj. Shoemaker & wife
 Widow Nancy Otterbein
 Ephraim Brubaker
 Ada Hoover
 David Schuh & wife
 John Dettweiler
 Widow John Hallman
 Moses Clemens & wife
 Wife of Aron Clemer
 Wife of David Musselman
 Jonas Bowman & wife
 Charles Imburg & wife
 Ellen Hokens
 Samuel Eby & wife
 Widow Moses Erb
 Widow Isaac Oberholtzer
 Isaac Oberholtzer her son
 Mary & Lydia Weber
 Menno Cressman & wife
 Israel Cressman & wife
 Daniel Schneuker & wife
 Samuel Gingrich
 Benjamin & Lovina Schuh
 Wendel Shantz & wife
 Susanna & Loida Shantz
 Widow Moses H Snyder
 Widow Samuel Y Shantz
 Mary Martin
 Sareah & Lovina Weber
 Barbary Sherh
 Hannah Stauffer
 Rebecca Jantz
 Wife of Moses Betzner
 Lizzie Betzner
 Sally Horst
 Widow John Shiry
 Marian Shiry
 Widow of John Wile
 Enos Doll & wife
 Eli Shantz & wife
 Widow Levi Cressman
 Henry Shantz & wife
 Ananias Shantz & wife
 Alvina Shantz

Isodore Snyder
 Tilman Bowman & wife
 David Eby & wife
 Jo Schmitt & wife
 Frank Hertel & wife
 John Moss & wife
 Cyrus Weber & wife
 Christian Clemens & wife
 John Woolner & wife
 Almira Woolner
 John Devit & wife
 George Weber & wife
 John Schmitt & wife
 Herman Schmitt & wife
 Lucinda & Jonathan Schmitt
 Nina Cressman
 David Toman
 Widow John Richert
 Loui Ernst & wife
 Abram Cressman & wife
 Edgar & Ida Cressman
 Widow Snyder
 John & Sarah Erb
 Enos Shantz
 Henry Feik & wife
 Aran Shantz & wife
 John Shantz & wife
 Titus, Alvina and
 Malinda Shantz
 Mary Weber
 Frantz Moyer & wife
 Elias Kolb & wife
 Daniel Weber & wife
 Adline Weber
 George Weber & wife
 Ephraim Weber
 Josiah Weber & wife
 Widow Ludwig Zeller
 Adam Moyer & wife
 Magdalena Weber
 Samuel Snyder & wife
 Widow Eli Shantz
 Ester & Magdalena Shantz
 Cyrus Cressman & wife
 Magdalena & Susanna
 Cressman
 Noah Cressman & wife

Isaih Cressman & wife
 Cleason Toman & wife
 Manassa & Russel Toman
 Willie Bachert & wife
 Ervin Shantz
 Joseph Snyder & wife
 Jacob Snyder & wife
 Widow Abram Clemer
 Susie Eby, Hannah Schuh
 Esra Bowman & wife
 David Betzner & wife
 Mary Snyder

Allan Shantz & wife
 Simeon Brubaker & wife
 Martin Weber & wife
 Allan Cressman & wife
 Solomon Woolner & wife
 Jacob Good & wife
 Christian Brubaker & wife
 Jacob Brubaker
 Leah Good
 Daniel Good & wife
 Widow Reist

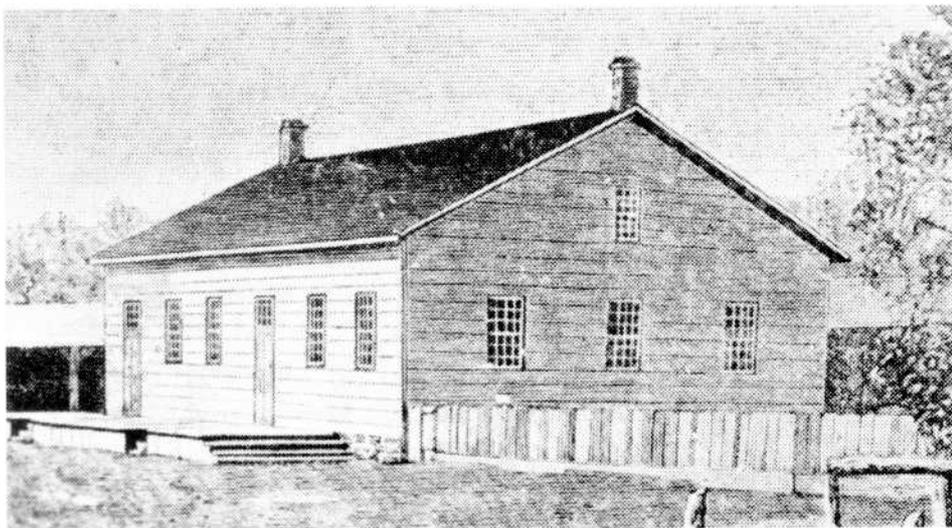
Total number of members in this district 186.

All Sisters have a Prayer head covering namely a white cap during Public Worship 1 Corinthians 11 Chapter and are earnestly entreated and requested by the Ministry not to dress after the fashions of the world, Romans 12: 1 Timothy 2. Chapter: 1 Peter 3. and many other Scripture passages. No member is allowed to belong to any secret society and are earnestly entreated and requested to keep away from Theatres, Opera houses, and Circus Shows and all such worldly amusements. Our Brethren are not to have Badges put on to them when pall bearers at Funerals.

No one is received into Church membership except first strictly examined and confess to have experienced a change of heart, and deny all works of darkness, and promise by the help of God to be true to the teachings of Jesus Christ and his Apostles unto death.

There are 16 Churches of the Mennonites in this county, where regular public worship is held and also Sunday Schools in all except one. We have 2 half yearly conferences in each year at this Church, at which all our Churches of this county are represented; and a yearly Conference in each year at which all our Churches in Ontario are represented. And a Sunday school conference once a year generally on Witmonday; and a Bible conference for the 3 last years. The number of Sunday School Scholars at this Church was about as follows for the 2 last years, namely: 300 Enrolled; average attendance 115: Teachers 11: No. of visitors during a year 474: Largest number of Scholars present on one Sunday 261: Enos Doll Superintendent for the 2 last years: Menno Cressman Superintendent for 5 years before & Isodore Snyder for 5 years before Cressman; Henry Shantz Secretary treasurer & care taker. My hearts desire and Prayer to God is that whosoever shall find these papers, will live a Holy and Godly life in this world and when done upon earth, meet me in Heaven above in the new Jerusalem in the city of the redeemed.

Samuel S. Bowman



The Christian Eby meetinghouse that had a cracked ceiling, bad roof and rotted posts in 1902

According to the Census taken in the year 1901 and Statements given in Public Papers The population of the Dominion of Canada is 5,371,051: Province of Ontario 2,182,917. Population of the city of Toronto 225,000. Population of the Town of Berlin 9872 of the Town of Waterloo 2 miles North west of Berlin 4500: Bridgeport 2 miles north of Berlin about 250. Breslaw 4 miles East of Berlin about 250. Preston 7 miles South East of Berlin 4300. Galt 11 miles South East of Berlin 9200. The Grand Trunk Railway passing through Berlin

(continued on page 6)

Genealogy continued

Your form should include more spaces for children. This form has been shortened here to conserve space. The same is true for the form reproduced in the previous issue.

Return to: _____

DESCENDANT _____ Occupation _____

Born _____ Place _____ Died _____

Married _____ Place _____ Buried _____
(place)

SPOUSE _____ Occupation _____
(maiden name in case of wife)

Born _____ Place _____ Died _____

Parents _____ Buried _____
(of spouse) (place)

(mother's maiden name) _____

Other marriages _____
(of descendant)

(of spouse) _____

Religious Affiliation _____

Address _____
(if deceased, list place(s) of residence)

CHILDREN:	Date & place of birth	Date of death & place of burial
1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____

Remarks: _____

Please list adopted children, but indicate they are adopted.
Each adult child, employed and/or away from home, should fill in one of these forms.

“Images of Imperial Russia”

May 9-10, 1984

Conrad Grebel College, Waterloo

Wednesday, May 9

- 2:00- 4:00 Arrival and Faspá
- 4:00- 5:30 Keynote address: “Through the eye of a needle: wealth and the Mennonite experience in Russia” — James Urry, University of Wellington, New Zealand
- 5:30- 7:00 Free time and displays
- 7:00- 8:30 **Banquet (\$10/person** — reservations to Sam Steiner, Conrad Grebel College)
“Mennonite attempts to settle in the Antipodean Arcadia” — James Urry
“Russian Mennonite Voices” by Toronto Mennonite Center (songs, readings, etc.)

Thursday, May 10

- 8:30-11:30 Session I
 - A. “Soviet Scholarship and Interpretation of Mennonite History: A Review of the Literature” — Walter Sawatsky, European Director, Mennonite Central Committee
 - B. “Mennonite Response to the 1905 Revolution: Analysis of the Mennonite Press” — Len Friesen, University of Toronto
- 12:00- 1:00 Lunch
- 1:00- 3:30 Session II
 - A. “Russian Servitor and Mennonite Hero: Light and Shadow in images of Johann Cornies” — Harvey Dyck, University of Toronto.
 - B. “Mennonite Pacifism in Russia: A Case Study in Church-State Relations” — research report by Lawrence Klippenstein, Canadian Mennonite Bible College.
 - C. Panel Discussion: “Agenda of Scholarship in Russian Mennonite Studies”
- 4:00 Adjournment

Sponsored by Institute of Anabaptist and Mennonite Studies, Conrad Grebel College. There will be art and book displays during the conference, including the Henry Pauls and Woldemar Neufeld collections.

The Genealogy Committee

is sponsoring a

Spring Public Meeting

at

Conrad Grebel College Boardroom

on

April 23, 1984

7:30

Sam Steiner will speak on the genealogical resources in the Conrad Grebel College Library and Archives.

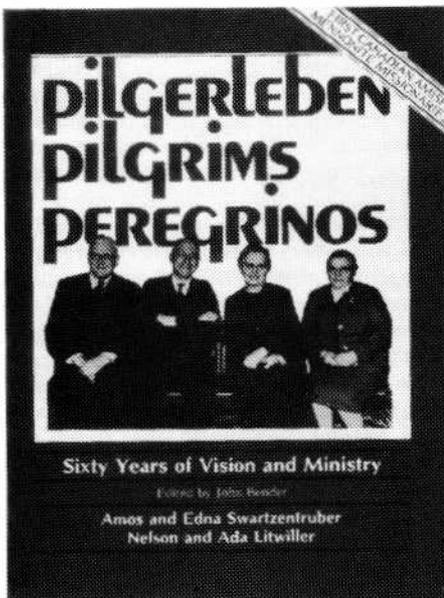
After the talk there will be a tour of the college archives.

ALL ARE WELCOME

60 Years of Vision and Ministry

The Western Ontario Mennonite Mission Board is planning a celebration — "60 years of Vision and Ministry" to mark the 60th anniversary of the departure of Amos and Edna Swartzentruber (in 1924) and Nelson and Ada Litwiller (in 1925) for Argentina. A service in honor of the Litwillers is planned for April 8 at the Steinhmann Mennonite Church. It is hoped that a commemorative booklet featuring both families will be completed by that time.

The afternoon and evening program will include reflections by Orley Swartzentruber of Princeton, New Jersey, storytelling by the congregation, interviews of Nelson and Ada Litwiller, and a sermon by Nelson Litwiller — at age 86!



Pilgerleben, Pilgrims, Peregrinos is available for purchase at \$5.00.

MENNONITE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF ONTARIO ANNUAL MEETING AND TOUR

June 9, 1984

at the Blenheim Retreat Centre

9:30 Registration and Coffee

10:00 Opening meditation

Historical resume:

"Evidence of Change in Mennonite communities in the Township of North Dumphries, Blenheim and Blanchford.
Annual reports and election of Board.

Noon — Lunch will be served by Nith Valley WMSC

1:30 Field trip with suitable commentary
will include communities discussed in morning.

Lunch and bus fare \$12. By reservation only.

Morning departure will be from Waterloo to accommodate with the bus company's boarding restrictions.

Details will follow in Mennonite Reporter.

1984 Heritage Seminar

"Telling the Story of Our Heritage"

Session 1, was held on Tuesday evening, March 20th, at the Erb Street Mennonite Church Fellowship Hall. Seventy four people registered. The meeting was addressed by Dr. John Ruth, Vernfield, Pa.; Arnold Cressman, Mount Pleasant, Pa.; and Wilmer Martin, Waterloo. All speakers are active in the Tourmagination program.

Session 2 will be held on Monday evening, April 30th, 7:30 p.m. at the Brubacher House, Columbia St., Waterloo. (Take lane west of Columbia Icefields entrance).

Topic: "Preparing to Share Our Story at the Brubacher House"

Resource persons:

Dorothy C. Bean, Ida Habermehl, Lorraine Roth, Lorna L. Bergey.

This will be an introductory session for those interested in serving as a volunteer in the Brubacher House program.

I would like to become a member of the Mennonite Historical Society of Ontario. I will be informed of all Society events, will be eligible to serve on the various committees of the Society, and will receive *Mennogespräch* as part of my membership.

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ POSTAL CODE _____

ACTIVITIES _____

Memberships:
Student - \$3.00
Regular - \$10.00
Additional memberships
at same address
(one mailing) - \$5.00
Sustaining - \$15.00

Mail to: Secretary, Mennonite Historical Society of Ontario
c/o Conrad Grebel College
Waterloo, Ontario N2L 3G6