

FINAL REPORT OF THE  
MEXICAN MENNONITE ORAL  
HISTORY PROJECT

by Ron Sawatsky

September 1<sup>9</sup>79

Presented to the  
Multicultural History Society  
of Ontario

## A. Introduction To The Project

As indicated in the project proposal, Mennonites from Mexico were to be interviewed. These Mennonites are primarily from a subgroup of the 1870's migration from Russia to Canada; their most common designation is Old Colony Mennonites. In the 1920's large numbers of this group migrated to Mexico from Manitoba and Saskatchewan; in the 1950's some of them began to return to Canada, particularly to Ontario. The largest numbers came to Ontario in the 1960's and early 1970's.

## B. Methodology, General Observations and Findings

During the course of the project, 48 interviews were recorded on cassette tape. In addition, many other informal conversations were held daily as potential informants were encountered in the course of a day's work. Of the 48 interviews, 10 were conducted in the Leamington/Wheatley area, 5 in the Kitchener area, 1 in the Niagara Peninsula and the remainder in the area between Aylmer, Tilsonburg and Port Rowan. These four areas correspond to the four major areas in Ontario where the Mennonites from Mexico have settled. The line of questioning in the interviews can be broadly categorized as centering in two areas. The first area concerned the personal history of the individual being interviewed. The interviewee's background in Mexico was traced. Social, economic, educational and occupational factors in the person's life in Mexico were explored. The reasons for emigration to Ontario generally emerged once this background was completed. Attention was also given to the actual process of emigration. Details of the trip, experiences at customs and problems with immigration or citizenship papers were also explored. The subsequent life in Ontario was investigated particularly with regard to social, economic, educational and occupational experiences. The second broad area of investigation involved the religious factors. The history of the churches in Mexico and Ontario was traced. Details of the formation of the different churches in Ontario were given special attention.

Further informal information gathering was facilitated by personal involvement at two Immigration Inquiry sessions in London, Ontario. Detached observation of the counselling of new arrivals from Mexico and of those whose papers were in process was also valuable exposure. These activities were made possible through the generous assistance of staff persons working for Mennonite Central Committee of Ontario.

Of the forty-eight interviews conducted, twenty-six were either in total or in part in the Low German. It should be noted here that facility in the English language on the part of the Mennonites from Mexico was somewhat higher than at first anticipated. The interviews can be further analyzed with reference to the church affiliation of those interviewed. All except 2 of the interviewees were of Mennonite origin. Eleven were Old Colony Church adherents; eighteen were members of or associated with the Evangelical Mennonite Mission Conference; three were Soomerfelder Mennonite Church members; two were members of the Evangelical Mennonite Church; five persons were connected with the United Mennonite Church; three were Mennonite Brethern members; three were adherents to the Gottes Gemeinde and one belonged to the Open Bible Baptist Church (Independent Baptist).

The length of time that the interviewees had lived in Canada varied significantly. The interviewer was able to interview the first Mennonite from Mexico who came to Ontario in 1952. A family that had arrived in May 1979 was the most recent of the immigrants that were interviewed.

The project has made possible a more accurate estimate of the population of the Mennonites from Mexico in Ontario. Earlier their numbers were thought to be around 8000 (men, women and children). As a result of the interviews, the population estimate is more accurately placed at between five and six thousand. The interviewer has further determined that persons of Mexican Mennonite origin are involved in at least ten different Mennonite and non-Mennonite church groups. During the course of the interviews, the origins of six of these groups were investigated in some detail. In each case,

key persons actually involved in the formation of these groups were interviewed. Cooperation in the interview process was excellent.

Persons to be interviewed were generally selected only upon the recommendation of other individuals who were acquainted with the potential informants. Special mention must be made of the excellent support given by Rev. David And Helen Friesen of Aylmer in the interviewee selection process. Their wide acquaintance among these people proved to be an invaluable resource.

As with most projects of this type, there were several major disappointments or difficulties. First of all, the number of documents or photographs collected was less than anticipated. There may be several reasons for this. The Mennonites from Mexico have only recently begun to make widespread use of the camera. Thus, there are few existing photographs. In Mexico, the use of the camera was, in fact, discouraged. Old documents or books were also not numerous, often because they had been left behind in Mexico and never been retrieved. During the course of the project, it also became apparent that in some ways the Mennonites in Mexico are virtually a pre-literate society. Oral traditions are particularly strong but the written materials are not. Even in Ontario, the Old Colony and Sommerfelder Churches have few congregational records. Little information, other than the yearly church census figures, is recorded and filed.

Two written sources that were located are worthy of mention in this report. Five of the Old Colony Mennonite Bishops in Manitoba Saskatchewan and Mexico have had some of their writings published. Four of these volumes were located and copied. Two of them are fairly well known in Mennonite circles, but the others are rare.

A second written source was perhaps the most significant and exciting discovery of the whole project. The private diary of Jacob J. Peters was located. The diary, written in longhand Gothic German, consists of four volumes encompassing the years 1915 to 1934. Although the originals were returned

to the Peters family, the diaries were copied on microfilm at Conrad Grebel College. The diary is especially noteworthy since the author was a school teacher in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Mexico. The years covered in the diary are very important years in the history of the Old Colony Mennonites.

A second frustration in the project was the inability of the interviewer in the locating of non-church-going Mexican Mennonites for interviews. Seemingly these persons make little or no contact with the other immigrants from Mexico and thus simply seem to disappear!

A third frustration was the distances that had to be covered in the interview process. The methodology of an introductory visit, followed by another visit for the interview, was soon abandoned because of time limitations and also in an attempt to keep the transportation costs within the budget. Generally an introductory phone call followed by the actual interview was the extent of the contact.

### C. Conclusion

This project on the Mennonites from Mexico is a good beginning in the preservation of historical data regarding this group of people. It could likely form the core of a deeper study of this ethnic/religious minority. Further research in other parts of Canada, particularly Manitoba and Saskatchewan, and also in Mexico would be necessary to adequately cover the full range of sources. It has become evident to the interviewer that a major historical/sociological study of the Mennonites from Mexico is certainly warranted. The religious groups that have been mentioned in this report need to be studied not in isolation from each other, but as part of a larger religious minority movement in order that the full extent of the conscious and unconscious interaction between these groups can be identified. The interviewer would suggest that the oral history project has researched the Mennonites from Mexico to the extent necessary to achieve a reasonably accurate understanding of the Ontario movement only. The oral history and traditions

of Ontario need to supplemented with further research of the written and oral sources in other geographical areas.

D. Summary Financial Report

Travel, Lodging and Supplies

Month of May	406.91
" June	553.85
" July	664.10
" August	211.28

TOTAL	<u>1836.14</u>
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Salary

4 months @ \$900/month	3600.00
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TOTAL PROJECT COST	<u><u>\$5436.14</u></u>
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(Projected budget was \$6230.00)

Ron Sawatsky  
September 17, 1979

129 Erb St. W  
Waterloo, Ontario  
N2L 1T7

phone: 519-886-0279

# The Multicultural History Society of Ontario

5 Hoskin Ave., Toronto, Ontario M5S 1H7

## IDENTIFICATION FORM

Submission Form No. 009130

Name Henry (Hein) Banman

Maiden name \_\_\_\_\_

Address 69 Forest Ave.

Telephone 773-9780

Aylmer, Ontario N5H 1A5

Date of birth March 27, 1912

Place of birth Wymark, Saskatchewan

Town/City

State of origin

Ethnic group Mexican Mennonite

Religious identity Mennonite

Size of hometown Small village

Age at time of departure Aged 10 when to Mex.

Occupation before emigration \_\_\_\_\_

Brief description of migration route. Note prior continental and trans-atlantic migrations. (mode of transportation to port, port, date of embarkation, port of arrival, etc.)

To Mexico in 1922 via train and then return in 1954 via automobile.

Returned to Ontario rather than Sask.

Names of ship, shipping lines, steamship agents, travel agents, inns, etc. \_\_\_\_\_

Date of arrival in North America 1st in 1954 Permanent in 1962.

First residences in Canada (location, with kin or countrymen, size of accommodation) \_\_\_\_\_

Around Aylmer, Ontario.

First occupations in Canada (names of employers, ethnic origins of fellow employees) \_\_\_\_\_

Tobacco & vegetable laborer with his family.

Information about spouse (name, date of marriage, spouse's place of birth and ethnic identity) \_\_\_\_\_

Anna Klassen, Born September 7, 1912 at Swiftcurrent, Saskatchewan.

Married July 30, 1933 in Cuauhtemoc, Mexico.

Information about children and other kin 8 children - oldest is 45 & youngest is 27.

Other remarks Banman grew up as Old Colony Mennonite. Upon arrival in Ontario he remained Old Colony for several years and then changed to the Evangelical Mennonite Mission Church in Aylmer.

NAME OF PERSON INTERVIEWED: BANMAN Henry  
Surname Given Names

DATE OF INTERVIEW: May 17, 1979 LENGTH OF INTERVIEW: 1 hour & 45 minutes

PLACE OF INTERVIEW: ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ (interviewee's home) 69 Forest Ave., Aylmer.

LANGUAGE USED: Low German NUMBER OF TAPES 2

INTERVIEWER(S): Ron Sawatsky

OTHERS PRESENT: Anna Banman (wife of interviewee)

SUMMARY OF CONTENTS: Tape 1, Side A: Early memories of Manitoba and Saskatchewan - Cornelis<sup>4</sup> Banman, the father - Banman family moves to Mexico and later father moves back to Manitoba - Anna's parents to Mex. in 1927 - details of the move - move into the Swift Plan - deaths in family from eating "bad pork" - Anna's first 15 years in Saskatchewan - compulsory education in the 1920's - schools and the flag - the school question today - Henry and Anna's courtship - Tape 1, Side B: laborer in Mexico, wages - financial problems one of the reasons for move to Ontario - the Old Col. church of Mexico described - baptism and marriage - memorizing the catechism - details of marriage - Swift Plan and the rotating ministers - use of the Confession of Faith in baptismal instruction - understanding of doctrine and catechism - books in the home such as Bible, Martyr's Mirror, Mennon Simons Writings, Hymnbook - christian teaching in the home - Tape 2, Side A: 1952 Henry works in Saskatchewan for 4 months - several summers in Ontario 1959, 1961 and 1963 - reasons for summers in Ontario - 1965 to Ontario via California! - working as illegal aliens in Calif for 5 months - to Ontario ahead of the law! - first impression and experiences in Ontario - language problems - racial prejudice - early days of the Old Colony in Ontario - beginnings of church from Manitoba - early experiences among the Ont Old Col. - relations to Mex Old Col. - differences between Old Col. Ontario and Mexico - use of Unser Taglich Brot by Banmans -

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DATE OF SUBMISSION: Aug 1979

AT. SUBMISSION REPORT No.:

Mennonite Archives of Ontario

Mennonites from Mexico Oral History Project finding aid

CODE NO.

Hist. Menn. 4-3



ACQUISITIONS SUMMARY - INDIVIDUALS

ETHNIC GROUP - Mennonite from Mexico

DONOR'S NAME & ADDRESS - Henry Banman, 69 Forest Ave., Aylmer, Ontario  
N5H 1A5

MSR # - 009130

CONTENTS - (Unrestricted) (all were copied)

- 1- "ABC Buchstabier und Lesebuch" 1953 edition, also known as the "Fibel"
- 2- Catechism of the General Conference Mennonites in Mexico 1966 edition
- 3- Catechism of the Old Colony Mennonites of Mexico 1954 edition
- 4- "Von Russlands Steppen nach Amerikas Goldfeldern" by Don P. Unger 1921
- 5- Starks Handbuch

(Xeroxed copies of the above are held in the Archives at Conrad Grebel College)

EXTENT -

PAGES 750 approx.  
ITEMS 5

TAPES - 2 -Log Form # 7348

PHOTOGRAPHS -

NAME OF PERSON INTERVIEWED: (Rev. John Banman)

Banman

Rev. John

Surname

Given Names

DATE OF INTERVIEW: June 11, 1979

LENGTH OF INTERVIEW: 2 hours &amp; 15 minutes

PLACE OF INTERVIEW: 75 Scoothmere Crescent, London, Ontario N6E 1Z9

LANGUAGE USED: English

NUMBER OF TAPES 3

INTERVIEWER(S): Ron Sawatsky

OTHERS PRESENT: Neta Banman (wife of interviewee)

SUMMARY OF CONTENTS: Tape 1, Side A: Biographical data - memories of childhood in Mex - Neta's family to Manitoba in 1951, to Ont in 1956 - John to Ontario in 1957 - the first families who settled in Ont - John & Neta courtship - parent's occupations in Mex - transporting & sales of machinery from US to Mex - Tape 1, Side B: Baptism and Marriage in the OC in Ont June 1960 - the role of Jake Neudorf in OC begin in Ont - married by Rev Peter Harder - Matheson experiment - involvement of John & Neta in Ont OC church - details of the death of son Michael & "crossroads" in their life - John's election as OC vorsteher - Tape 2, Side A: role of vorsteher in OC church - the "sunday school" in OC - John attempts to initiate Bible studies among the OC - John asked to quit as vorsteher - left church in 1969 in fall - Henry Peters relationship to Jacob <sup>Wiesb</sup> and OC church and the EMMC - Tape 2, Side B: Details of John's release as vorsteher - differences between Mex & Ont OC churches re: cars, dress, use of the bann, education - education today and reasons for OC move to Mex in 1920's - EMMC church membership by the Banmans - the English church split in Aylmer - issues within the church today: language, eschatology, soteriology and leadership - Tape 3, Side A: the background to the Henry Peters story - Peters elected as OC minister while still Kleingemeinde member - beginning of the Sommerfelder church - relations to Peter Dyck of

Banmans - details of Sommerfelder split ~~XXX~~ in 1976 and formation of EMC church at Mt Salem

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Mennonites from Mexico Oral History Project finding aid

Hist. Map 22.3

MAT. SUBMISSION REPORT No.:

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# The Multicultural History Society of Ontario

5 Hoskin Ave., Toronto, Ontario M5S 1H7

## IDENTIFICATION FORM

Submission Form No. 009196

Name Rev. John Banman Maiden name \_\_\_\_\_

Address 75 Scotchmere Crescent Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

London, Ontario N6E 1Z9

Date of birth June 25, 1939 Place of birth Swift Plan, Mexico

Town/City State of origin

Ethnic group Mennonite from Mexico Religious identity EMMC

Size of hometown \_\_\_\_\_ Age at time of departure \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation before emigration \_\_\_\_\_

Brief description of migration route. Note prior continental and trans-atlantic migrations. (mode of transportation to port, port, date of embarkation, port of arrival, etc.)

Names of ship, shipping lines, steamship agents, travel agents, inns, etc. \_\_\_\_\_

Date of arrival in North America Several times after 1956, permanent in 1959

First residences in Canada (location, with kin or countrymen, size of accommodation) \_\_\_\_\_

First occupations in Canada (names of employers, ethnic origins of fellow employees) \_\_\_\_\_

farm laborer - tobacco & tomatoes

Information about spouse (name, date of marriage, spouse's place of birth and ethnic identity) \_\_\_\_\_

Neta Klassen, born April 5, 1941 in Manitoba Plan, Mexico

Married at Springfield, Ontario on June 26, 1960

Information about children and other kin 2 male aged 16 & 18, a third child was killed in an accident in 1968.

Other remarks Early family history of John is contained in an interview with his father Heinrich (Hein) Banman.

NAME OF PERSON INTERVIEWED: Driedger Elfrieda  
Surname Given Names

DATE OF INTERVIEW: July 9, 1979 LENGTH OF INTERVIEW: 45 minutes

PLACE OF INTERVIEW: RR 5, Leamington (interviewee's home)

LANGUAGE USED: English NUMBER OF TAPES 1

INTERVIEWER(S): Ron Sawatsky

OTHERS PRESENT: None

SUMMARY OF CONTENTS: Tape 1, Side A: Biographical data - recollection of formal and informal first contacts  
with Mexican Mennonites - nurses training - MCC service in Leamington as assistant to the public health  
services unit - Eleanor Mathies assignment with MCC in public health work in ~~ESSEX~~ <sup>Elgin</sup> County - Elfrieda's  
continuing involvement in advocacy work as assistant to David Friesen - Immigration and Citizenship Depts  
details of laws and involvement in paperwork with these departments - General impressions of the immigrants  
as they arrive from Mexico and settle - Tape 1, Side B: School problems - truancy supported by the  
parents - general impressions of health concerns - sense of spiritual awareness of the people - some  
have strong commitment and others not as strong - mindset from Mexico that enters into the persons .

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Mennonite Archives of Ontario Mennonites from Mexico Oral History Project finding aid Hist. Mss. 223

MAT. SUBMISSION REPORT No.: MEN-9294-DRI CODE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

# The Multicultural History Society of Ontario

5 Hoskin Ave., Toronto, Ontario M5S 1H7

## IDENTIFICATION FORM

Submission Form No. 009294

Name Elfrieda Driedger Maiden name \_\_\_\_\_

Address RR 5, Leamington, Ontario N8H 3V8 Telephone 526-7144

Date of birth 1928 Place of birth Leamington, Ontario

Town/City State of origin

Ethnic group Canadian Religious identity General Conference Mennonite

Size of hometown \_\_\_\_\_ Age at time of departure \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation before emigration \_\_\_\_\_

Brief description of migration route. Note prior continental and trans-atlantic migrations. (mode of transportation to port, port, date of embarkation, port of arrival, etc.)

Names of ship, shipping lines, steamship agents, travel agents, inns, etc. \_\_\_\_\_

Date of arrival in North America \_\_\_\_\_

First residences in Canada (location, with kin or countrymen, size of accommodation) \_\_\_\_\_

First occupations in Canada (names of employers, ethnic origins of fellow employees) \_\_\_\_\_

Information about spouse (name, date of marriage, spouse's place of birth and ethnic identity) \_\_\_\_\_

Information about children and other kin \_\_\_\_\_

Other remarks Elfrieda continues to assist the Mennonites coming in from Mexico with their paperwork at immigration and citizenship departments. She has also worked for 15 months as a volunteer for Mennonite Central Committee in Leamington.

# The Multicultural History Society of Ontario

5 Hoskin Ave., Toronto, Ontario M5S 1H7

## INTERVIEW LOG FORM

No. 7333

NAME OF PERSON INTERVIEWED: DUECK Rev. Cornelius F.  
Surname Given Names  
 DATE OF INTERVIEW: May 30, 1979 LENGTH OF INTERVIEW: 40 50 minutes  
 PLACE OF INTERVIEW: RR 6, Aylmer, Ontario N5H 2R5  
 LANGUAGE USED: English NUMBER OF TAPES 1  
 INTERVIEWER(S): Ron Sawatsky  
 OTHERS PRESENT: None

SUMMARY OF CONTENTS: Tape 1, Side A: Personal history of C.F. Dueck - To Ontario in September 4, 1976 -  
EMC beginnings in Ontario - role of the EMC Board of Missions - EMC members in Mt. Salem Church are  
mainly former Sommerfelder - the role of Henry R&X Peters - split in the Ontario Sommerfelder church  
in May or June 1976 - the role of R&X Peter Dyck - Summers Corner school for services in September  
1976 - rental of church 5 miles west of Port Burwell - De Fasco Co. buys the property - purchase of  
2 room school in Mt. Salem on Hwy # 40 - Size of congregation over the ~~xxxx~~ Three years - relation  
of the group to the larger EMC conference - future expansion by EMC's - general impression of Dueck of  
the Mexican Mennonites - new outlook of the people - no. of members in group, 15 at beginning now 21 members  
Tape 1, Side B: the church executive of the local church consists of the pastor, Henry Peters and Henry  
Klassen - Sunday School and Young Peoples (end)

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Mennonites from Mexico Oral History Project finding aid

MAT. SUBMISSION REPORT No.: MEN-9141-02

CODE NO. A

Hist. Mss. 233

# The Multicultural History Society of Ontario

5 Hoskin Ave., Toronto, Ontario M5S 1H7

## IDENTIFICATION FORM

Submission Form No. 009141

Name Rev. Cornelius F. Dueck Maiden name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address RR 6, Aylmer, Ontario N5H 2R5 Telephone 7 73-8569

Date of birth March 10, 1920 Place of birth Rosenort, Manitoba  
Town/City State of origin

Ethnic group Mennonite Religious identity Mennonite (EMC)

Size of hometown \_\_\_\_\_ Age at time of departure \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation before emigration \_\_\_\_\_

Brief description of migration route. Note prior continental and trans-atlantic migrations. (mode of transportation to port, port, date of embarkation, port of arrival, etc.)

Names of ship, shipping lines, steamship agents, travel agents, inns, etc. \_\_\_\_\_

Date of arrival in North America \_\_\_\_\_

First residences in Canada (location, with kin or countrymen, size of accommodation) \_\_\_\_\_

First occupations in Canada (names of employers, ethnic origins of fellow employees) \_\_\_\_\_

Information about spouse (name, date of marriage, spouse's place of birth and ethnic identity) \_\_\_\_\_

Information about children and other kin Rev. Dueck is the first fulltime minister to be sent to Ontario by the Evangelical Mennonite Conference (EMC) of Steinbach, Manitoba. Their members at Mt. Salem, Ontario are all Mennonites formerly from Mexico.

Other remarks \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF PERSON INTERVIEWED: HYEKX DYCK Cornelius  
Surname Given Names  
DATE OF INTERVIEW: May 29, 1979 LENGTH OF INTERVIEW: 2 hours  
PLACE OF INTERVIEW: RR 1, Port Rowan, Ontario (interviewee's home)  
LANGUAGE USED: Low German NUMBER OF TAPES 2  
INTERVIEWER(S): Ron Sawatsky  
OTHERS PRESENT: Wife of interviewee (Sarah)

SUMMARY OF CONTENTS: Tape 1, Side A: Biographical Data - births in Manitoba - , Marriage in 1934 - memories of Manitoba and Saskatchewan - reasons for migration to Mex - the migration to Mex - pioneering in Mex-land division in Mex - the rubber tire controversy in Mex - Bishop Isaak M. Dyck difficulty in regulating the people - Tape 1, Side B: First churches in Mex - Isaak Dyck described - lives of several other OC Bishops also discussed - Johannes Friesen, Johan Loepky, Johann Wiebe - Bishop Dyck described as unifying factor within the OC churches - election of ministers in the OC tradition - schools in Mex - textbooks discussed - level of understanding of Catechism discussed - other books used in Mex by the family - courtship of Cornelius and Sarah - marriage and first years of life together  
Tape 2, Side A: land problems in Mex - reason for coming to Canada related to these problems - came directly to Ont and work in tomatoes & tobacco - life in Ont - 1st impressions of Ont - school for the children in Ontario - changes in curriculum since 1960 - were the parents right when they left Canada for Mexico? - Tower of Babel interpreted as God's instruction for races to be kept separate - the Ontario Old Col. church from 1960 (history) - role of Peter Harder - Tape 2, Side B: Peter Harder continued - relation to Manitoba Old Col - ordination of Ministers and purchase of church buildings -

Bishop Henry Reimer - function of deacon, vorsteher, vorsingers - propagation of melodies in Choralbuch  
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MAT. SUBMISSION REPORT No.: MEN-1142-09 Mennonites from Mexico Oral History Project finding aid

CODE NO. 223

Hist.Mss



# The Multicultural History Society of Ontario

5 Hoskin Ave., Toronto, Ontario M5S 1H7

## IDENTIFICATION FORM

Submission Form No. 009142

Name Cornelius Dyck Maiden name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address RR 1, Port Rowan, Ontario Telephone 586-2318

Date of birth February 11, 1910 Place of birth Schanzenfeld, Saskatchewan  
Town/City \_\_\_\_\_ State of origin \_\_\_\_\_  
Ethnic group Mennonites from Mexico Religious identity Old Colony Mennonite  
Size of hometown \_\_\_\_\_ Age at time of departure 15 to Mex. 50 to Ontario  
Occupation before emigration farmer

Brief description of migration route. Note prior continental and trans-atlantic migrations. (mode of transportation to port, port, date of embarkation, port of arrival, etc.)

By truck to Ontario from Mexico

1926 Mr Dyck to Mex.

1922 Mr Dyck to Mex.

Names of ship, shipping lines, steamship agents, travel agents, inns, etc. \_\_\_\_\_

Date of arrival in North America May 3, 1960

First residences in Canada (location, with kin or countrymen, size of accommodation) \_\_\_\_\_

Port Rowan area

First occupations in Canada (names of employers, ethnic origins of fellow employees) \_\_\_\_\_

Laborer in tomato and tobacco farm~~xx~~

Information about spouse (name, date of marriage, spouse's place of birth and ethnic identity) \_\_\_\_\_

Sarah Dyck, July 7, 1917 born in Rosengard, Manitoba

Married on July 21, 1934

Information about children and other kin 14 children (oldest is 43 & youngest is 18)  
7 female and 7 male.

Other remarks Mr. Dyck is the oldest Vorsinger in the Old Colony churches  
of Ontario. He ~~was~~<sup>is</sup> retired.

NAME OF PERSON INTERVIEWED: Dyck Peter  
Surname Given Names

DATE OF INTERVIEW: July 12, 1979 LENGTH OF INTERVIEW: 1 hour and 15 minutes

PLACE OF INTERVIEW: RR 2, Wheatley (interviewee's home)

LANGUAGE USED: Low German NUMBER OF TAPES 2

INTERVIEWER(S): Ron Sawatsky

OTHERS PRESENT: None

SUMMARY OF CONTENTS: Tape 1, Side A: Biographical data - childhood in Mex - parents were very poor for many years - Peter worked in retail stores for a number of years - reasons for the move to Ont - (relations in Ont, easier to make living, migration to Bolivia from Mex) - details of the M move to Ont - details of making immigration papers - language difficulties on arrival in Ont - places of employment in Ont - Tape 1, Side B: the education question - did the parents do the right thing by moving to Mex - start of OC in Wheatley - Cornelius Giesbrecht school at Goatsworth - 1st families who participated in OC church - purchase of the present property in 1966-67 - new church building dedicated in 1975 - the role of the vorsteher in the church - (Dyck is vorsteher) - the ordination of the ministers in the Ont OC - ministers names listed - bishop Henry Reimer, Jakob Giesbrecht, Jacob Wiebe and Henry Peters have left the church - population of Old Colony members in the Wheatley area - the move to Seminole - background to the move - Henry Reimer's ideas regarding the world's - investigation of land in Illinois - land there too expensive Tape 2, Side A: people from Mex called Reimer to inform of land availability in Seminole - 3 persons sent to explore the possibilities - Peter Dyck elected to go also but refuses because of his own suspicions that the venture was not a good one - further details of the arrangements and actual move - Reimer leaves secretly - liked Reimer a lot as bishop - not as happy with the new bishop (Quiring) .

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MAT. SUBMISSION REPORT No.:

Mennonites from Mexico Oral History Project finding aid

Hist. M. 2.3

CODE NO.

# The Multicultural History Society of Ontario

5 Hoskin Ave., Toronto, Ontario M5S 1H7

## IDENTIFICATION FORM

Submission Form No. 009297

Name Peter Dyck

Maiden name \_\_\_\_\_

Address RR 2, Wheatley, Ontario

N6P 2P0

Telephone 825-7424

Date of birth September 28, ~~1878~~ 1938

Place of birth Manitoba Plan, Mexico - Campo 2

Town/City

State of origin

Ethnic group Mennonite from Mexico

Religious identity Old Colony

Size of hometown \_\_\_\_\_

Age at time of departure \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation before emigration \_\_\_\_\_

Brief description of migration route. Note prior continental and trans-atlantic migrations. (mode of transportation to port, port, date of embarkation, port of arrival, etc.)

Names of ship, shipping lines, steamship agents, travel agents, inns, etc. \_\_\_\_\_

Date of arrival in North America April 22, 1965

First residences in Canada (location, with kin or countrymen, size of accommodation) \_\_\_\_\_

Aylmer area - then moved to Wheatley within the first year

First occupations in Canada (names of employers, ethnic origins of fellow employees) \_\_\_\_\_

Farm laborer, then in grocery store and finally a factory

Information about spouse (name, date of marriage, spouse's place of birth and ethnic identity) \_\_\_\_\_

Anna Neufeld born December 7, 1939 on Nord Plan, Mexico - Campo 41

Married September 1958 in Mexico

Information about children and other kin \_\_\_\_\_

8 children - oldest is 17 and youngest 4.

Other remarks Dyck is the Vorsteher in the Wheatley Old Colony church.

NAME OF PERSON INTERVIEWED: Epp Henry  
Surname Given Names

DATE OF INTERVIEW: July 31, 1979 LENGTH OF INTERVIEW: 50 minutes

PLACE OF INTERVIEW: 702 - 125 Indian Rd, Kitchener (interviewee's home)

LANGUAGE USED: English NUMBER OF TAPES 1

INTERVIEWER(S): Ron Sawatsky

OTHERS PRESENT: Susan Epp ♀ (wife of interviewee)

SUMMARY OF CONTENTS: Tape 1, Side A: (0:00) Biographical data - life before marriage of Henry - Susan life before marriage - summer work in Ontario - (5:00) marriage in Mayfeld, Manitoba- activities after marriage - places lived in - (10:00) move to Leamington in 1969 - details of places of employment - (15:00) EMMC church in Leamington beginning with Jake Hoepners - Hoepner donates part of his property for church - (20:00) details of first services even before Epps arrived - United Mennonite Educational Institute used for Sunday services - also Hillman United church on Wednesdays - (25:00) size of group while at UMEI - 65 to 70 persons - other names of attenders - Tape 1, Side B: (0:00) details of building the present EMMC church building - Epps leave EMMC church when Gordon Browns arrive - Epp involved in founding and running of Sun Parlour Christian Mens Association - (5:00) work of the Association - later church involvement of Epps at New Testament Church - (10:00) to Kitchener in 1977 - details - reasons for move - assist Susan's parents, Peter Buhlers - The split away group in 1976-77 - reasons for split were theological, and practical - (15:00) split details continued - .

### FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

DATE OF SUBMISSION: \_\_\_\_\_

MAT. SUBMISSION REPORT No.: MEN-9304-EPP CODE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

Mennonite Archives of Ontario Mennonites from Mexico Oral History Project finding aid Hist. Ms. 233

# IDENTIFICATION FORM

Submission Form No. 009304

Name Henry Epp

Maiden name \_\_\_\_\_

Address 702 - 125 Indian Rd., Kitchener, Ontario

Telephone 893-5137

N2B 2S8

Date of birth September 27, 1934

Place of birth Waldheim, Saskatchewan

Ethnic group Canadian Mennonite

Town/City

State of origin

Religious identity EMMC

Size of hometown \_\_\_\_\_

Age at time of departure \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation before emigration \_\_\_\_\_

Brief description of migration route. Note prior continental and trans-atlantic migrations. (mode of transportation to port, port, date of embarkation, port of arrival, etc.)

Names of ship, shipping lines, steamship agents, travel agents, inns, etc.

Date of arrival in North America \_\_\_\_\_

First residences in Canada (location, with kin or countrymen, size of accommodation)

First occupations in Canada (names of employers, ethnic origins of fellow employees)

Information about spouse (name, date of marriage, spouse's place of birth and ethnic identity)

Susan Buhler born August 2, 1936 in Aberdeen, Saskatchewan

Married September 9, 1956 in Mayfeld, Saskatchewan

Information about children and other kin

6 children - oldest is 22 and youngest 6

Other remarks Epps have been involved with Mennonites from Mexico since 1969 when they came to Leamington. They were one of the key families in the Leamington EMMC since its inception.

NAME OF PERSON INTERVIEWED: \_\_\_\_\_ FLAMING Henry D.  
Surname Given Names

DATE OF INTERVIEW: July 18, 1979 LENGTH OF INTERVIEW: 50 minutes

PLACE OF INTERVIEW: RR 4, Leamington (interviewee's home)

LANGUAGE USED: English NUMBER OF TAPES 1

INTERVIEWER(S): Ron Sawatsky

OTHERS PRESENT: None

SUMMARY OF CONTENTS: Tape 1, Side A: (0:00) Biographical data - family history from Russia to Canada - becomes teacher 1966 and principal 1967 - (5:00) 1st contact with Mex Mennos - while farming - more direct contact as school principal - General impressions of the people - re: educational concerns - (10:00) problems in school such as not taking home homework or truancy with the sanction of the parents - (15:00) conflict of farmers vs the school for attendance during harvest time - acculturation of Mex Mennos - (20:00) high school may not be necessary but trade school may - (25:00) education concerns is a major problem when working with the Mex Mennos - need for mutual understanding between teachers and parents - Tape 1, Side B: - 1976 meeting with school officials and Old Colony leadership - Flaming the interpreter - (5:00) absentee rate of students is a major problem - only want to go to school until age 12 - homework completion is bad - persons not achieving full potential - (10:00) observations of personal piety - alcohol and smoking are also problems - (15:00) example of how irregular school attendance causes space allocation problems - childrens allowance now longer contingent on school attendance - discipline among these children never a problem - (20:00) people seem to be becoming more settled in lifestyle recently .

## FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

DATE OF SUBMISSION: Sept 79.

Mennonite Archives of Ontario Mennonites from Mexico Oral History Project finding aid Hist. Mss. 2.3

MAT. SUBMISSION REPORT No.: MEIN-9299-F217 CODE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

# The Multicultural History Society of Ontario

5 Hoskin Ave., Toronto, Ontario M5S 1H7

## IDENTIFICATION FORM

Submission Form No. 009299

Name Henry D. Flaming Maiden name \_\_\_\_\_

Address RR 4, Leamington, Ontario N8H 3V7 Telephone 326-7596

Date of birth December 4, 1931 Place of birth Oklahoma

Town/City State of origin

Ethnic group Mennonite Religious identity General Conference Mennonite

Size of hometown \_\_\_\_\_ Age at time of departure \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation before emigration \_\_\_\_\_

Brief description of migration route. Note prior continental and trans-atlantic migrations. (mode of transportation to port, port, date of embarkation, port of arrival, etc.)

Names of ship, shipping lines, steamship agents, travel agents, inns, etc. \_\_\_\_\_

Date of arrival in North America To Ontario on 1936

First residences in Canada (location, with kin or countrymen, size of accommodation) \_\_\_\_\_

First occupations in Canada (names of employers, ethnic origins of fellow employees) \_\_\_\_\_

Information about spouse (name, date of marriage, spouse's place of birth and ethnic identity) \_\_\_\_\_

Information about children and other kin \_\_\_\_\_

Other remarks Flaming is a public school principal who has had considerable involvement with the Mennonites from Mexico regarding education.

NAME OF PERSON INTERVIEWED: XXXX Friesen Corny  
Surname Given Names

DATE OF INTERVIEW: August 24, 1979 LENGTH OF INTERVIEW: 50 minutes

PLACE OF INTERVIEW: RR 3, Port Rowan (interviewee's home)

LANGUAGE USED: Low German NUMBER OF TAPES 1

INTERVIEWER(S): RonSawatsky

OTHERS PRESENT: None

SUMMARY OF CONTENTS: Tape 1, Side A: (0:00) Biographical data - birth in Manitoba - early memories of Mex -  
parents very poor - parents reason for leaving Manitoba was over the language issue - colony schools in  
Mex - (12:00) before and after marriage employment and residences - lumber business - to Ont in 1956 -  
return after 2 years - back again to Ont following year - (10:00) lumber business described - (15:00)  
first employment in Ont and buying of farm - construction wages and hours - (20:00) 1st wife's death from  
breast cancer - (25:00) Start of the Old Colony church in Ont - details of ministers and church building  
locations, etc. - Peter Harder described - Tape 1, Side B: (0:00) more on Harder - Matheson settlement-  
Friesens join EMMC in 1965 - (5:00) courtship and marriage to 2nd wife - (10:00) why few Mex Mennos have  
joined MB and GC churches - (15:00) Friesen's involvement in the Port Rowan MB church - comments on his  
children at the Open Bible Baptist Church - theological concerns for the group - (20:00) more on OBB Church.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

DATE OF SUBMISSION: Sept 79MAT. SUBMISSION REPORT No.: MEN-9306-FR1 CODE NO.



# The Multicultural History Society of Ontario

5 Hoskin Ave., Toronto, Ontario M5S 1H7

## IDENTIFICATION FORM

Submission Form No. 009306

Name Corny Friesen Maiden name \_\_\_\_\_

Address RR 3, Port Rowan, Ontario Telephone 586-2325

Date of birth March 5, 1919 Place of birth Schönwiese, Manitoba

Town/City State of origin

Ethnic group Mennonites from Mexico Religious identity former Old Col now Mennonite Brethern

Size of hometown \_\_\_\_\_ Age at time of departure \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation before emigration \_\_\_\_\_

Brief description of migration route. Note prior continental and trans-atlantic migrations. (mode of transportation to port, port, date of embarkation, port of arrival, etc.)

Names of ship, shipping lines, steamship agents, travel agents, inns, etc. \_\_\_\_\_

Emigrated to Mexico in 1923

Date of arrival in North America Dec 3, 1956 and also 1958

First residences in Canada (location, with kin or countrymen, size of accommodation) \_\_\_\_\_

First occupations in Canada (names of employers, ethnic origins of fellow employees) \_\_\_\_\_

Information about spouse (name, date of marriage, spouse's place of birth and ethnic identity) \_\_\_\_\_

Helen Klassen born August 7, 1925 (second wife m)

Married Sept 10, 1971 in Ontario

Information about children and other kin \_\_\_\_\_

Children from the first wife only - 12 children (8 male and 4 females)  
oldest is 38 and youngest is 16

Other remarks Friesen is virtually the only Mex Mennonite who has joined the  
Mennonite Brethern in Ontario.

NAME OF PERSON INTERVIEWED: FRIESEN Rev. David D.  
Surname Given Names  
DATE OF INTERVIEW: June 4, 1979 LENGTH OF INTERVIEW: 55 minutes  
PLACE OF INTERVIEW: ~~XX~~ 50 Talbot St., Aylmer, Ont. (Ontario Mennonite Immigrant Advisory Committee office)  
LANGUAGE USED: English NUMBER OF TAPES one  
INTERVIEWER(S): Ron Sawatsky  
OTHERS PRESENT: None

SUMMARY OF CONTENTS: Tape 1, Side A: Brief personal history of Friesen - how Friesen became involved in immigration and citizenship concerns among the Mexican Mennonites in Ontario - The legalities of the work with Mexican Mennonites and the complexity of the present situation - 1947 the hinge year regarding birth abroad - changes in the law over the last 20 years - example of one family not qualifying for ~~XXXXXX~~ landed immigrant status - the appeal board - refugee status -  
Tape 1, Side B: Example of Santa Rita - land expropriation at Santa Rita - what constitutes a refugee? - OMIA6 Committee - started 1977 - committee make-up - (EMMC, OC, GC, MB, MCC,) - OMIA6 staff persons are 1 full time and 1 part time - success and failure rate of Friesen is 97%! - More families coming to Ontario than to the other provinces (reasons) - paper work needed in Mexico - deportation vs. voluntary departure - people working in Mexico regarding paperwork of immigrants - End.

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DATE OF SUBMISSION: \_\_\_\_\_

MAT. SUBMISSION REPORT No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Mennonite Archives of Ontario Mennonites from Mexico Oral History Project finding aid

CODE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

Hist. Mss. 22.3

# The Multicultural History Society of Ontario

5 Hoskin Ave., Toronto, Ontario M5S 1H7

## IDENTIFICATION FORM

Submission Form No. 009192

Name Rev. David D. Friesen

Maiden name \_\_\_\_\_

Address 107 Moore, Aylmer, Ontario

N5H 2Z4

Telephone 773-5865

Date of birth November 29, 1925

Place of birth Hague, Saskatchewan

Ethnic group Canadian Mennonite

Town/City

State of origin

Religious identity Mennonite -- EMMC

Size of hometown \_\_\_\_\_

Age at time of departure \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation before emigration \_\_\_\_\_

Brief description of migration route. Note prior continental and trans-atlantic migrations. (mode of transportation to port, port, date of embarkation, port of arrival, etc.)

Names of ship, shipping lines, steamship agents, travel agents, inns, etc. \_\_\_\_\_

Date of arrival in North America Came to Ontario from Saskatchewan in 1965

First residences in Canada (location, with kin or countrymen, size of accommodation) \_\_\_\_\_

First occupations in Canada (names of employers, ethnic origins of fellow employees) \_\_\_\_\_

Information about spouse (name, date of marriage, spouse's place of birth and ethnic identity) \_\_\_\_\_

Helen Regier born November 10, 1927 at Hochfeld (Hague), Saskatchewan.

Married October 7, 1945 in Saskatchewan

Information about children and other kin \_\_\_\_\_

Other remarks First EMMC workers in Ontario. Began working with immigration & citizenship papers in 1966. Presently employed with OMIAC full in immig. and citiz. paper work. Very broad contacts among the Mennonites from Mexico.

# The Multicultural History Society of Ontario

43 Queen's Park Crescent East, Toronto, Ontario M5S 2C3

## ACQUISITIONS SUMMARY – INDIVIDUALS

**ETHNIC GROUP:** Mennonites from Mexico

**DONOR'S NAME & ADDRESS:** OMIAC - Rev. David D. Friesen, 107 Moore, Aylmer,  
Ontario, N5H 2Z4

**MSR No.** 009192

**CONTENTS:**

Files of closed cases from Ontario Mennonite Immigrant Advisory Committee

- 1 - Jacob Reddecopp and family
- 2 - Jacob Epp and family
- 3 - Heinrich U. Neufeld and Family
- 4- Otto Wiebe

**EXTENT:**

1 inch thick

**PAGES:**

**ITEMS:** four manila envelopes

**TAPES:** 1 cassette tape- Log #7339

**PHOTOGRAPHS:**

NAME OF PERSON INTERVIEWED: \_\_\_\_\_ Friesen \_\_\_\_\_ Rev. David D.

Surname Given Names

DATE OF INTERVIEW: June 12, 1979 LENGTH OF INTERVIEW: 1 hour and 45 minutes

PLACE OF INTERVIEW: 107 Moore, Aylmer (interviewee's home)

LANGUAGE USED: English NUMBER OF TAPES 2

INTERVIEWER(S):            Ron Sawatsky

OTHERS PRESENT: Helen Friesen (wife Of interviewee)

SUMMARY OF CONTENTS: Tape 1, Side A: Biographical data - Marriage and personal activities until 1965 - also summary of activities from 1965 to 1979 - first contacts in Ontario in 1965 - details of the founding of the EMMC church work in Aylmer at the Crossley-Hunter Church - some of the prominent Mexican Mennonite church members in the early years - Tape 1, Side B - details of the services in the Crossley-Hunter church - the move to the present location on Hwy #3 east of Aylmer - Rev. Isaac P. F. Friesen's involvement in Vineland before Aylmer began - the start of the EMMC church at Leamington - details of location, style and attendance of early services - names of those first involved - arrival of Jake Hoepfners - Tape 2, Side A: More relevant details of Leamington start - Port Rowan started in the same period - contacts with the MB's and GC's in the area - school building on Jake Reimer's property used by group - purchase of present building and other details of development of the church - Kitchener beginning - the invitation by Jake Peters (brother to Isaac Peters, Wpg) - names of people involved - location of services and rental of Roseville Church - Beginnings of the English church of the EMMC in Aylmer - Neil Sawatsky arrival in 1974 - some details of the group dynamics and the split from the EMMC - beginning of the Sommerfelder church in Ont - Beginning of the EMC in Ont - Tape 2, Side B - general comments of OLD Col & EMMC relation over the years - changes in the Mex Mennos over the years - general comments re: life-  
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY: style and acculturation to Canadian life.

DATE OF SUBMISSION: \_\_\_\_\_

# The Multicultural History Society of Ontario

5 Hoskin Ave., Toronto, Ontario M5S 1H7

## IDENTIFICATION FORM

Submission Form No. 009199

Name Rev. David D. Friesen

Maiden name \_\_\_\_\_

Address 107 Moore, Aylmer, Ontario N5H 2Z4

Telephone 773-5865

Date of birth November 29, 1925

Place of birth Hague, Saskatchewan

Canadian  
Ethnic group Mennonite

Town/City

State of origin

Religious identity EMMC

Size of hometown \_\_\_\_\_

Age at time of departure \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation before emigration \_\_\_\_\_

Brief description of migration route. Note prior continental and trans-atlantic migrations. (mode of transportation to port, port, date of embarkation, port of arrival, etc.)

Names of ship, shipping lines, steamship agents, travel agents, inns, etc. \_\_\_\_\_

Date of arrival in North America Came to Ontario from Saskatchewan in 1965

First residences in Canada (location, with kin or countrymen, size of accommodation) \_\_\_\_\_

First occupations in Canada (names of employers, ethnic origins of fellow employees) \_\_\_\_\_

Information about spouse (name, date of marriage, spouse's place of birth and ethnic identity) \_\_\_\_\_

Helen Regier born November 10, 1927 at Hochfeld (Hague), Saskatchewan

Married October 7, 1945 in Saskatchewan

Information about children and other kin \_\_\_\_\_

Other remarks This is the second interview with Friesen. Topic of the interview is Friesen's personal history and early involvement as workers for the EMMC of Ontario. Covers the history of EMMC beginning in Ontario as well as several of the other groups such as Old Colony, etc.

# The Multicultural History Society of Ontario

5 Hoskin Ave., Toronto, Ontario M5S 1H7

## INTERVIEW LOG FORM

No. 7079

NAME OF PERSON INTERVIEWED: Friesen Rev. Isaac P. F.  
Surname Given Names

DATE OF INTERVIEW: August 8, 1979 LENGTH OF INTERVIEW: 50 minutes

PLACE OF INTERVIEW: Interviewee's home

LANGUAGE USED: Low German NUMBER OF TAPES 1

INTERVIEWER(S): Ron Sawatsky

OTHERS PRESENT: None

SUMMARY OF CONTENTS: Tape 1, Side A: Biographical data - Rev. Friesen's experiences in 1958 in Vineland, Ontario - United Mennonite church wishes EMMC to come in to the area to set up church among non-church going Mennonites from Manitoba - (5:00) details of the visit to Vineland - Bishop Wichert - (10:00) Friesen comes back for evangelistic meetings in March of 1958 - other details of time spent there - (15:00) the role of Jake Neudorf in the start of Old Col church in Ont - (20:00) start of EMMC church in Ont - Role of Isaac Peters - Gospel Message radio program - IPF Friesen & John D Friesen come in for a series of meetings in Nov 1969 - (25:00) details of meetings - Leamington and IPF Friesen contact there - details  
Tape 1, Side B: Leamington was April 1968 - further details of contact - (5:00) Start of Belize EMMC work - letter in the Bote asking for messages to be sent - this in January 1965 - Feb 1966 Friesen and Jake Neudorf go to Blue Creek and have meetings - Jacob Peters and John Dyck primary contacts - (10:00) details of the meetings - background to the rubber tire controversy and split in the groups - Jake Martens of GMU enters the scene and begins to work at Blue Creek - (15:00) John D. Friesen and Jacob H. Friesen ~~xxxxxx~~ sent for baptism - baptized 4 persons - problems with the Manitoba Old Colony and their efforts in competition with EMMC -

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DATE OF SUBMISSION:                       
Mennonite Archives of Ontario Mennonites from Mexico Oral History Project finding aid Hist. Mss. 223

MAT. SUBMISSION REPORT No.: MEN-9308-FRI CODE NO.

# The Multicultural History Society of Ontario

5 Hoskin Ave., Toronto, Ontario M5S 1H7

## IDENTIFICATION FORM

Submission Form No. 009308

Name Rev. Isaac P. F. Friesen Maiden name \_\_\_\_\_

Address 179 8th St., Winkler, Manitoba R0G 2X0 Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth September 1, 1904 Place of birth Winkler, Manitoba

Town/City State of origin

Ethnic group Canadian Mennonite Religious identity EMMC

Size of hometown \_\_\_\_\_ Age at time of departure \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation before emigration \_\_\_\_\_

Brief description of migration route. Note prior continental and trans-atlantic migrations. (mode of transportation to port, port, date of embarkation, port of arrival, etc.)

Names of ship, shipping lines, steamship agents, travel agents, inns, etc. \_\_\_\_\_

Date of arrival in North America \_\_\_\_\_

First residences in Canada (location, with kin or countrymen, size of accommodation) \_\_\_\_\_

First occupations in Canada (names of employers, ethnic origins of fellow employees) \_\_\_\_\_

Information about spouse (name, date of marriage, spouse's place of birth and ethnic identity) \_\_\_\_\_

Information about children and other kin \_\_\_\_\_

Other remarks Rev. Friesen was one of the first Mennonites from Manitoba who made contact with the newly arriving Mexican Mennonites as they came to Ontario.



NAME OF PERSON INTERVIEWED: Friesen Mrs. Nettie (George)

DATE OF INTERVIEW: July 5, 1979 LENGTH OF INTERVIEW: 1 hour & 20 minutes

PLACE OF INTERVIEW: RR 2, Wheatley (interviewee's home)

LANGUAGE USED: Low German NUMBER OF TAPES 2

INTERVIEWER(S): Ron Sawatsky

OTHERS PRESENT: None

SUMMARY OF CONTENTS: Tape 1, Side A: Biographical data - early memories of life in Mex - husband's birth in Saskatchewan - Nettie born in Mexico 1925 - marriage to George and details of movements within Mex after that - arranged to have papers for immigration completed before leaving Mex - made full plans to move to Ont 3 times before actually going! - arrived in Clear Creek in 1957 - difficulties of the first year in Ont - kinds of employment (tomatoes, cucumbers and tobacco) - move to Chatham after 1 yr - language difficulties at first - from Chatham to Leamington area - some knowledge of the start of the OC church in Ont - Tape 1, Side B: details of living in the Leamington area since 1961 - details of the death of husband, George, from heart trouble - died May 28, 1976 - further details of start of Old Col in Ont - start of meeting in Giesbrecht school (OC) - purchase of present property by the OC - the beginning of the EMMC work in Leamington area described - role of Rev Isaac P. F. Friesen and Henry Peters - the first three families - details of the first meetings held by the EMMC - Henry Reimers (later OC Bishop) were one of the first families to attend - left abruptly for return to OC church - Tape 2, Side A: Friesens remain as only family that stayed with X EMMC - criticisms from their relatives - details of arrival of Jake Hoeppners and rental of UMEI - comments on the immigration of the Mennonites

from Mex to Ont.

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DATE OF SUBMISSION: \_\_\_\_\_

Mennonite Archives of Ontario

Mennonites from Mexico Oral History Project finding aid

Hist. Mss. 29.3

MAT. SUBMISSION REPORT No.: MEN-9207-FRI CODE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

# IDENTIFICATION FORM

5 HOSKIN AVE., Toronto, Ontario M5S 1H7

Submission Form No. 009207

Name Mrs. Nettie (George) Friesen

Maiden name Friesen

Address RR. 2, Wheatley, Ontario NOP 2P0

Telephone 825-717

Date of birth October, 12, 1927

Place of birth Blumenhof, Swift Plan, Mex

Ethnic group Mennonite from Mexico

Town/City

State of origin

Religious identity now EMMC was Old Colony

Size of hometown

Age at time of departure

Occupation before emigration

Brief description of migration route. Note prior continental and trans-atlantic migrations. (mode of transportation to port, port, date of embarkation, port of arrival, etc.)

Names of ship, shipping lines, steamship agents, travel agents, inns, etc.

Date of arrival in North America July 28, 1957

First residences in Canada (location, with kin or countrymen, size of accommodation)

First occupations in Canada (names of employers, ethnic origins of fellow employees)

Information about spouse (name, date of marriage, spouse's place of birth and ethnic identity)

George Friesen born in 1917 in Saskatchewan, died May 28, 1976

Married in Mexico December 15, 1946

Information about children and other kin 11 children - oldest is 31 & youngest is 12

Other remarks Friesens were one of the founding families of the EMMC church at Leamington.

NAME OF PERSON INTERVIEWED: Giesbrecht Peter Sr.  
Surname Given NamesDATE OF INTERVIEW: June 20, 1979 LENGTH OF INTERVIEW: 45 minutesPLACE OF INTERVIEW: RR 1, Aylmer, (interviewee's home)LANGUAGE USED: Low German NUMBER OF TAPES 1INTERVIEWER(S): Ron SawatskyOTHERS PRESENT: None

SUMMARY OF CONTENTS: Tape 1, Side A: (0:00) Biographical data - memories of Manitoba - chidhood in Mex -  
(5:00) marriage - occupation and places lived after - (10:00) move to Nord Plan and also to the Mountains  
- first x to Manitoba for 1½ years and then to Ont - (15:00) first employment in Ont - wages - (20:00)  
children in public school - houses lived in - buys land for farming - (25:00) cucmber farming - Start  
of the Old Col church in Ont - Peter Harder life history - Rainy River settlement - Matheson -  
Tape 1, Side B: Harder continued - role of Jake Neudorf - 1961 election of ministers and deacon -  
Henry Peters role and disagreements - (5:00) Peters continued - other ministers elected - Jakob  
Giesbrecht to Paraguay - (10:00) details of Gies.in Paraguay - (15:00) Seminole settlement - future  
of Old Col in Ont - English in the Church - the role of Sunday School in preservation of the German -.

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DATE OF SUBMISSION: se 28/79

Memorite Archives of Ontario

Memorites from Mexico Oral History Project finding aid

Hist.Mss.223

MAT. SUBMISSION REPORT No.: MLN-9205-GIE CODE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

# The Multicultural History Society of Ontario

5 Hoskin Ave., Toronto, Ontario M5S 1H7

## IDENTIFICATION FORM

Submission Form No. 009205

Name ☒ Peter Giesbrecht Sr.

Maiden name \_\_\_\_\_

Address RR 1, Aylmer, Ontario N5H 2R1

Telephone 866-3646

Date of birth January 9, 1917

Place of birth Kronsthal, Gretna, Manitoba

Town/City

State of origin

Ethnic group Mennonite from Mexico

Religious identity Old Colony

Size of hometown \_\_\_\_\_

Age at time of departure \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation before emigration \_\_\_\_\_

Brief description of migration route. Note prior continental and trans-atlantic migrations. (mode of transportation to port, port, date of embarkation, port of arrival, etc.)

Names of ship, shipping lines, steamship agents, travel agents, inns, etc. \_\_\_\_\_

1923 to Mexico with parents.

Date of arrival in North America May 17, 1955 arrive Winkler, October 12, 1956 to Ontario

First residences in Canada (location, with kin or countrymen, size of accommodation) \_\_\_\_\_

In Ontario lived in the Aylmer area.

First occupations in Canada (names of employers, ethnic origins of fellow employees) \_\_\_\_\_

Farm laborer ~~from~~ for several years & has worked in tobacco factory  
~~for~~ for the last few years.

Information about spouse (name, date of marriage, spouse's place of birth and ethnic identity) \_\_\_\_\_

Nettie Klassen, June 22, 1919 born in Blumenfeld, Manitoba

Married January 16, 1938 on Manitoba Plan, Mexico.

Information about children and other kin 10 living - 14 total  
oldest is 40 and youngest is 20.

Other remarks Giesbrecht is deacon of the Old Colony churches in Ontario.

NAME OF PERSON INTERVIEWED: \_\_\_\_\_

Giesbrecht

Rev. Peter P.

Surname

Given Names

DATE OF INTERVIEW: July 25, 1979

LENGTH OF INTERVIEW: 1 hour

PLACE OF INTERVIEW: 29 Gildner (interviewee's home)

LANGUAGE USED: English

NUMBER OF TAPES 1

INTERVIEWER(S): ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Ron Sawatsky

OTHERS PRESENT: Anne Giesbrecht (interviewee's wife)

SUMMARY OF CONTENTS: Tape 1, Side A: (0:00) Biographical data - birth through marriage summarized - teaching school in Manitoba and British Honduras (Belize) - to Aylmer - reasons for going - (5:00) replace David Friesen - Peter teaches English at Fanshawe - (10:00) size of church in 1972 - church from 150 to 300 increased seating area - English church seen as answer to the space problem - (25:00) candidates for minister in English church - Neil Sawatsky chosen details - (20:00) relations between German and English groups - theological dispute arises - details of Sawatsky breakaway - (25:00) general comments regarding the split - effects on the original group - Houghton Center and Dave Dyck's role in begin - also Leamington

Tape 1, Side B: (00:00) Kitchener start - role of Ontario Field Council in EMMC Ont - details of Giesbrecht move to Kitchener in 1978 (5:00) to Seminole for 2 months - the split in Kitchener came after Aylmer split and was connected thru personalities - (10:00) more details of the Kitchener split - Aylmer Bible School history and philosophy of - (15:00) Orwell school purchase - teachers and curriculum of Bible school - size of classes - (20:00) General impression of Mex Mennonites - language facility - the area (Chihuahua vs Durango) important - Durango almost a different culture - (25:00) lifestyle concerns family life - father the authority figure - economics - education.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

DATE OF SUBMISSION: \_\_\_\_\_

MAT. SUBMISSION REPORT No.: MEN-9300

Mennonites from Mexico Oral History Project finding aid

CODE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

Hist. Mss. 223

# The Multicultural History Society of Ontario

5 Hoskin Ave., Toronto, Ontario M5S 1H7

## IDENTIFICATION FORM

Submission Form No. 009300

Name Rev. Peter P. Giesbrecht Maiden name \_\_\_\_\_

Address 29 Gildner St., Kitchener, Ontario Telephone 774-4369

Date of birth May 5, 1922 Place of birth Altona, Manitoba  
Town/City State of origin

Ethnic group Canadian Mennonite Religious identity EMMC

Size of hometown \_\_\_\_\_ Age at time of departure \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation before emigration \_\_\_\_\_

Brief description of migration route. Note prior continental and trans-atlantic migrations. (mode of transportation to port, port, date of embarkation, port of arrival, etc.)

Names of ship, shipping lines, steamship agents, travel agents, inns, etc. \_\_\_\_\_

Date of arrival in North America \_\_\_\_\_

First residences in Canada (location, with kin or countrymen, size of accommodation) \_\_\_\_\_

First occupations in Canada (names of employers, ethnic origins of fellow employees) \_\_\_\_\_

Information about spouse (name, date of marriage, spouse's place of birth and ethnic identity) \_\_\_\_\_

Anne Bergmann born October 3, 1929 in Altona, Manitoba

August 28, 1949 marriage

Information about children and other kin \_\_\_\_\_

Other remarks Giesbrecht was pastor of the Aylmer EMMC Church from 1970 to 1978.

NAME OF PERSON INTERVIEWED: Giesbrecht Bill (William H)  
Surname Given Names

DATE OF INTERVIEW: July 4, 1979 LENGTH OF INTERVIEW: 50 minutes

PLACE OF INTERVIEW: RR 3, Leaminton (interviewee's home)

LANGUAGE USED: English NUMBER OF TAPES 1

INTERVIEWER(S): Ron Sawatsky

OTHERS PRESENT: Tina Giesbrecht (wife of interviewee)

SUMMARY OF CONTENTS: Tape 1, Side A: (0:00) Biographical data - background to arrival in Ontario in 1968 - arrangements to move from Steinbach - details - (5:00) Reasons for move to Ont - work with Jake Hoeppners - (10:00) others who moved from Man to Ont - details of first visit in area - (10:00) first housing and employment - (20:00) details of later employment - size of EMMC in Leamington at beginning - role of Henry Epps - (25:00) details ~~xxx~~ of Bill's church involvement - Gordon Brown's arrive 1971 - John Driedger takes over after Browns leave - Tape 1, Side B: John Driedger start Aug 1977 - church building details - 1st at UMEI - evenings at Hillman United Church - 1972 move to new building - (5:00) present size of group - details of church building and the land as donated by Jake Hoeppner - how church relates to EMMC at present - (10:00) purchase of new pews - assistance given by GC and MB churches of Leamington - present membership (40) - role of George Konrad - (15:00) relations of EMMC to OC church - details of changes as observed - (20:00) theological issues in these relations - beginnings of English service in Leamington EMMC .

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

DATE OF SUBMISSION: Sept 79

Mennonite Archives of Ontario

MAT. SUBMISSION REPORT No.:

Mennonites from Mexico Oral History Project finding aid

CODE NO.

Hist. Mss. 22.3

MEN-9292-OK

## IDENTIFICATION FORM

Submission Form No. 009292

Name Bill Giesbrecht

Maiden name \_\_\_\_\_

Address RR 3, Leamington, Ontario N8H 3R6Telephone 326-701Date of birth born in 1932Place of birth Steinbach, ManitobaEthnic group Mennonite

Town/City

State of origin

Religious identity EMMC

Size of hometown \_\_\_\_\_

Age at time of departure \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation before emigration \_\_\_\_\_

Brief description of migration route. Note prior continental and trans-atlantic migrations. (mode of transportation to port, port, date of embarkation, port of arrival, etc.)

Names of ship, shipping lines, steamship agents, travel agents, inns, etc. \_\_\_\_\_

Date of arrival in North America Moved to Ontario in August 1969 to assist EMMC church

First residences in Canada (location, with kin or countrymen, size of accommodation) \_\_\_\_\_

First occupations in Canada (names of employers, ethnic origins of fellow employees) \_\_\_\_\_

Information about spouse (name, date of marriage, spouse's place of birth and ethnic identity) \_\_\_\_\_

Mrs. Tina Giesbrecht

Information about children and other kin \_\_\_\_\_

Other remarks Giesbrecht is chairman of the church council at the Leamington Evangelical Mennonite Mission Conference church.



NAME OF PERSON INTERVIEWED: \_\_\_\_\_

Hamm

Diedrich (Richard)

Surname

Given Names

DATE OF INTERVIEW: May 29, 1979

LENGTH OF INTERVIEW: 1 hour

PLACE OF INTERVIEW: RR 5, Langton, Ontario NOE 1G0 (interviewee's home)

LANGUAGE USED: Low German

NUMBER OF TAPES 1

INTERVIEWER(S): Ron Sawatsky

OTHERS PRESENT: Wife of interviewee - Elizabeth

SUMMARY OF CONTENTS: Tape 1, Side A: Early personal memories of Mexico and even Manitoba - Manitoba as recounted by the parents - parent's occupations and early financial difficulties of families - Dick & Elizabeth married in 1958 - School days in Mexico - learning the Gatchism (understanding) - preparation for marriage - how they met - difficulties in Mexico regarding making a living - first time to Ontario in 1965 April to October - back to stay in 1966 - first housing in Ontario - small wages and very poor - buying first house - from Port Rowan to Glen Neyer - employment as janitor and bus driver for the last 7 years - children now in public schools - memories of Old Colony Church in Mexico -

Tape 1, Side B: role of the ministers in OC in Mex. - rubber tires issue - 1968 Hamms begin to attend EMMC in Port Rowan - EMMC & MB cooperation thru Jake Reimer - Bishop Jacob Friesen of Altona were the first EMMC workers in Port Rowan - Hamms first actual contact with EMMC - John D. Friesen revival meetings - Frank Zacharias of Plum Coulee 1969 to Oct 1970 working in Port Rowan EMMC - Dave Dycks to help 1970-71 - 1971 two years with no EMMC services at Port Rowan - 1973 David D. Friesens arrive - EMMC felt more "at home" than the MB or GC churches - Friesens leave in Dec 1977 and Jake Pauls now minister - 1974 rent church near Pt Burwell - relation to EMMC - education in Ontario - Dick's mother to Bolivia - land distribution among immigrants to Bolivia - Hamms going for a visit to Bolivia

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

DATE OF SUBMISSION: Aug 1979

Mennonite Archives of Ontario

Mennonites from Mexico Oral History Project finding aid

Hist.Mss.223

MAT. SUBMISSION REPORT No.: MEN-9143-HAMM

CODE NO.

# The Multicultural History Society of Ontario

5 Hoskin Ave., Toronto, Ontario M5S 1H7

## IDENTIFICATION FORM

Submission Form No. 009143

Name Diedrich Hamm Maiden name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address RR # 5 Langton, Ontario NOE 1G0 Telephone 875-2818  
Date of birth October 22, 1940 Place of birth Campo 17, Cuauhtemoc, Mexico  
Town/City \_\_\_\_\_ State of origin \_\_\_\_\_  
Ethnic group Mennonite from Mexico Religious identity Old Colony Menn in Mex.  
EMMC in Ontario  
Size of hometown \_\_\_\_\_ Age at time of departure 25  
Occupation before emigration \_\_\_\_\_

Brief description of migration route. Note prior continental and trans-atlantic migrations. (mode of transportation to port, port, date of embarkation, port of arrival, etc.)

Via pickup truck (14 passengers!) thru USA to Ontario

Names of ship, shipping lines, steamship agents, travel agents, inns, etc. \_\_\_\_\_

Date of arrival in North America 1st- April 1965, 2nd- February 1966

First residences in Canada (location, with kin or countrymen, size of accommodation) \_\_\_\_\_

Around Port Rowan

First occupations in Canada (names of employers, ethnic origins of fellow employees) \_\_\_\_\_

Handlaborer in Tomato and Tobacco growing.

Information about spouse (name, date of marriage, spouse's place of birth and ethnic identity) \_\_\_\_\_

Elizabeth Klassen born May 27, 1941 in Swift Plan, Mexico

Married September 14, 1958

Information about children and other kin 8 children (oldest 19 - youngest 7)

6male & 2 female

Other remarks Hamms were among the first regular attenders at the EMMC  
church at Houghton Center.

NAME OF PERSON INTERVIEWED: \_\_\_\_\_

Harms

John B.

Surname

Given Names

DATE OF INTERVIEW: May 16, 1979

LENGTH OF INTERVIEW: 1 Hour &amp; 15 minutes

PLACE OF INTERVIEW: RR 1, Aylmer (home of interviewee)

LANGUAGE USED: Low German

NUMBER OF TAPES 2

INTERVIEWER(S): Ron Sawatsky

OTHERS PRESENT: Elizabeth Harms (wife of interviewee)

SUMMARY OF CONTENTS: Tape 1 Side A- (0:00) Birth in Manitoba, early experiences (4:00) 1924 to Mexico- experiences on trip (7:00) early life in Mexico, Rev. Peter Harms (father) Old Colony minister in Manitoba Plan, Swift Plan and Durango (12:00) Mrs. Harms birth & early remembrances (15:00) visit of Mexican Agricultural minister (18:00) education and schools in the Colonies (20:00) Courtship and wedding (24:00) first home & occupation & children (26:00) 1958 first time to Ontario (X29:00) Why to Ontario, conditions in Mexico. Side B- (0:00) Kleingemeinde & Old Colony in Mexico (5:00) leaving Mexico (10:00) Manitoba for 3 months (12:00) Aug. 1966 arrive Ontario, employment and land purchase (14:00) tomato & cucumber growing (20:00) language difficulties (24:00) Harms reading & writing - concern for children's education (29:00) Church in Ontario - EMMC - Dave Friesens

Tape II Side A- (0:00) EMMC beginning in Aylmer 1966 (4:00) Changes in lifestyle from Mexico (6:00) ethnic discrimination in Canada- buying land (10:00) dishonesty vs. honesty of Mexicans and Mexican Mennonites- different mindsets (14:00) problems in church result from cultural misunderstanding (15:00) end.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

DATE OF SUBMISSION: \_\_\_\_\_

Mennonite Archives of Ontario

Mennonites from Mexico Oral History Project finding aid

Hist.Mss.22.3

MAT. SUBMISSION REPORT No.: \_\_\_\_\_

MEN-9127-1122

CODE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

IDENTIFICATION FORM

Submission Form No. 009129

Name John B. (Bergman) Harms

Maiden name

Address RR 1, Aylmer, Ontario N5H 2R1

Telephone 773-9684

Date of birth February 5, 1919

Place of birth Reinland, Manitoba

Town/City

State of origin

Ethnic group Mennonite from Mexico

Religious identity Mennonite

Size of hometown

Age at time of departure July 1924 to Mexico

Occupation before emigration

1966 to Ontario via Manitoba

Brief description of migration route. Note prior continental and trans-atlantic migrations. (mode of transportation to port, port, date of embarkation, port of arrival, etc.)

Names of ship, shipping lines, steamship agents, travel agents, inns, etc.

Date of arrival in North America 1966 to Ontario from Mexico

First residences in Canada (location, with kin or countrymen, size of accommodation)

Around Aylmer, Ontario

First occupations in Canada (names of employers, ethnic origins of fellow employees)

Tobacco and vegetable ~~war~~ laborer with his family

Information about spouse (name, date of marriage, spouse's place of birth and ethnic identity)

Elizabeth Reimer, born October 6, 1921 at Gnadenthal, Manitoba.

Information about children and other kin 6 male children Oldest 35(?) - youngest 20(?)

Other remarks Became successful in tomato and cucumber growing. Children are relatively well educated with at least four having post-secondary education.

NAME OF PERSON INTERVIEWED: Jacobsh Rev. Joseph  
Surname Given Names

DATE OF INTERVIEW: June 26, 1979 LENGTH OF INTERVIEW: 45 minutes

PLACE OF INTERVIEW: German Church of God, Aylmer.

LANGUAGE USED: English NUMBER OF TAPES 1

INTERVIEWER(S): Ron Sawatsky

OTHERS PRESENT: None

SUMMARY OF CONTENTS: Tape 1, Side A: 01 (0:00) personal history - beginning of the Gottes Gemeinde (GG) in Aylmer as an outreach from Kitchener GG - start in 1972 - (5:00) size of GG church in Aylmer at start - no official membership is explained - (10:00) Summary of theological distinctives of GG -1- non-formal membership -2- holy life -3- (15:00) born again concept -4- baptism and footwashing -5- amillennial eschatology -- explanation of fundamentals of GG ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ amillennial position - (20:00) important dates in GG church history (history of the movement) the Pope the Antichrist - genesis of the group in 1880's in USA - ~~xx~~ the spread of the church in Europe and back to Canada - Tape 1, Side B: (0:00) the headquarters in Anderson, Indiana and also Alberta - Missionary activity of the group - role of the Mission Board in extending the church - missionaries in Mexico among the Mexican Mennonites - church and school in Swift Plan - (5:00) organization of the local congregations - other theological positions of GG -eg: anti-charismatic - (10:00) 97% of Aylmer church is Mex Mennonite - constitution of church - future work .

## FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

DATE OF SUBMISSION: \_\_\_\_\_

Mennonite Archives of Ontario MAT. SUBMISSION REPORT No.: MEN-9204-JAC Mennonites from Mexico Oral History Project finding aid CODE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

Hist. Mss. 28.3

# The Multicultural History Society of Ontario

5 Hoskin Ave., Toronto, Ontario M5S 1H7

## IDENTIFICATION FORM

Submission Form No. 009204

Name Rev. Joseph Jacobsh

Maiden name \_\_\_\_\_

Address 9 Bradley Ave., Aylmer, Ont. N5H 2Y4

Telephone 773-5554

Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_

Place of birth \_\_\_\_\_

Poland

Town/City

State of origin

Ethnic group \_\_\_\_\_

Religious identity \_\_\_\_\_

Size of hometown \_\_\_\_\_

Age at time of departure \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation before emigration \_\_\_\_\_

Brief description of migration route. Note prior continental and trans-atlantic migrations. (mode of transportation to port, port, date of embarkation, port of arrival, etc.)

Names of ship, shipping lines, steamship agents, travel agents, inns, etc. \_\_\_\_\_

Date of arrival in North America To Canada from Germany in 1950.

First residences in Canada (location, with kin or countrymen, size of accommodation) \_\_\_\_\_

First occupations in Canada (names of employers, ethnic origins of fellow employees) \_\_\_\_\_

Information about spouse (name, date of marriage, spouse's place of birth and ethnic identity) \_\_\_\_\_

Information about children and other kin \_\_\_\_\_

Other remarks Rev. Jacobsh is the minister of the German Church of God at Aylmer. About 97% of his congregation are persons who were Mennonites in Mexico.

# The Multicultural History Society of Ontario

5 Hoskin Ave., Toronto, Ontario M5S 1H7

## INTERVIEW LOG FORM

No. 7076

NAME OF PERSON INTERVIEWED: Janzen Bill  
Surname Given Names

DATE OF INTERVIEW: August 25, 1979 LENGTH OF INTERVIEW: 1 hour and 40 minutes

PLACE OF INTERVIEW: 106 ALLEN St. ,Waterloo, Ont

LANGUAGE USED: English NUMBER OF TAPES 2

INTERVIEWER(S): Ron Sawatsky

OTHERS PRESENT: None

SUMMARY OF CONTENTS: Tape 1, Side A: Biographical data - parents and grandparents relation to the Old Col in Hague - (5:00) details of lives of grandfather Janzen and Also grandmother Wiebe re: consideration of moving to Mexico - Bill's parents almost move to Quellen Colonie - (10:00) Details of Bishop Johann Loepky and several migrations to Mexico - Bill and contact with OC and GC in youth - (15:00) father teaches Sunday School in OC - curriculum in SS - (20:00) - details of post high school education of Bill (25:00) series of contacts with Mex Mennons after 1973 - Tape 1, Side B: Start of service program to Mex Mennos in Ont by MCC - formation of OMIAC - members listed - (5:00) hiring of staff people - (10:00) study of AEP Appeal Board and its humanitarian powers - changes in access to the Board - Eleanor Mathies (15:00) Elfrieda Driedger also staff persons - the scope and mandate of OMIAC - (20:00) example of immigration officials using discretionary powers to the benefit of a number of cases - this a significant development - (25:00) 13 families receive citizenship certificates - Tape 2, Side A: OMIAC mandate continued - education and health care are two incomplete areas - (5:00) discussion of lack of adequate relation between OMIAC and its constituency (MCC Ont) - (10:00) explanation of laws re: immigration and citizenship (15:00) problem of quasi-legal border crossing - (20:00) other legal areas like marriage - (25:00) General comments about the OC church of Ont - Tape 2, Side B: Lifestyle concerns in Ont - acculturation and assimilation - church goers vs non-church goers

DATE OF SUBMISSION: 28/79  
Mennonite Archives of Ontario

Mennonites from Mexico Oral History Project finding aid

Hist.Mss.22.3

MAT. SUBMISSION REPORT No.: MCN-9305-JAN

CODE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

# The Multicultural History Society of Ontario

5 Hoskin Ave., Toronto, Ontario M5S 1H7

## IDENTIFICATION FORM

Submission Form No. 009305

Name Bill Janzen Maiden name \_\_\_\_\_

Address 63 Sparks St., Ottawa, Ste 803 K1P 5A6 Telephone 238-7224

Date of birth December 17, 1943 Place of birth Hague, Saakatchewan

Town/City State of origin

Ethnic group Canadian Mennonite Religious identity General Conference (Canadian)

Size of hometown \_\_\_\_\_ Age at time of departure \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation before emigration \_\_\_\_\_

Brief description of migration route. Note prior continental and trans-atlantic migrations. (mode of transportation to port, port, date of embarkation, port of arrival, etc.)

Names of ship, shipping lines, steamship agents, travel agents, inns, etc. \_\_\_\_\_

Date of arrival in North America \_\_\_\_\_

First residences in Canada (location, with kin or countrymen, size of accommodation) \_\_\_\_\_

First occupations in Canada (names of employers, ethnic origins of fellow employees) \_\_\_\_\_

Information about spouse (name, date of marriage, spouse's place of birth and ethnic identity) \_\_\_\_\_

Information about children and other kin \_\_\_\_\_

Other remarks Bill has grown up in close contact with the Mex Mennonites  
His later work with Mennonite Central Committee has further involved  
him in many aspects of the immigration and citizenship work among these  
people.



NAME OF PERSON INTERVIEWED: Klassen Isaac  
Surname Given Names

DATE OF INTERVIEW: June 13, 1979 LENGTH OF INTERVIEW: 1 hour and 15 minutes

PLACE OF INTERVIEW: RR 4, Langton, (interviewee's home)

LANGUAGE USED: English NUMBER OF TAPES 2

INTERVIEWER(S): Ron Sawatsky

OTHERS PRESENT: None

SUMMARY OF CONTENTS: Tape 1, Side A: Biographical data - reasons for coming to Ont - Old Col schools compared to Ont public school - (10:00) improvement of economic condition of Klassen family in Ont - Starting to farm - marriage - (10:00) courtship and marriage - youth in Ont Old Col church - (15:00) Isaac ~~xxx~~ tries (unsuccessfully) to start youth night for Catechism study, ministers are not approving - (20:00) details of church building purchases at Springfield and Walsingham - (25:00) history of Walsingham church - details of the rotating ministry in Old Col - Tape 1, Side B: Jacob Giesbrecht to Paraguay - reasons for the Move - (5:00) general comments regarding the type of people who have come to Ont - suggests that the immigration will continue - (10:00) use of the barn in the Mex and Ont churches - the move to Seminole (15:00) details of some of the negotiations - the role of Henry Reimer (bishop) - 12 to 15 families left Ont For Seminole - (20:00) role of the vorsteher - church business meetings - (25:00) further details of vorsteher position - OMIAC and Isaac's involvement - the purpose and effect of OMIAC - Tape 2, Side A: value of OMIAC work among Mex Mennos - problem of self-help concept and its implementation - (5:00) others involved in paper work - the need for fulltime persons in the work stressed - (10:00) future of the immigration (more will come) - relation to Manitoba Old Col of Ont Old Col.

## FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

DATE OF SUBMISSION: SE 28/79

MAT. SUBMISS Mennonite Archives of Ontario REPORT No.: M6N-9146-KLA Mennonites from Mexico Oral History Project finding aid CODE NO. Hist.Mss.22.3

# The Multicultural History Society of Ontario

5 Hoskin Ave., Toronto, Ontario M5S 1H7

## IDENTIFICATION FORM

Submission Form No. 009146

Name Isaac Klassen

Maiden name \_\_\_\_\_

Address RR 4, Langton, Ontario NOE 1G0

Telephone 875-2343

Date of birth October 16, 1951

Place of birth Cuauhaatemoc, Mexico

Town/City

State of origin

Ethnic group Mennonite from Mexico

Religious identity Old Colony

Size of hometown \_\_\_\_\_

Age at time of departure 10

Occupation before emigration \_\_\_\_\_

Brief description of migration route. Note prior continental and trans-atlantic migrations. (mode of transportation to port, port, date of embarkation, port of arrival, etc.)

Names of ship, shipping lines, steamship agents, travel agents, inns, etc. \_\_\_\_\_

Date of arrival in North America September 3, 1961

First residences in Canada (location, with kin or countrymen, size of accommodation) \_\_\_\_\_

Port Rowan - Port Burwell area

First occupations in Canada (names of employers, ethnic origins of fellow employees) \_\_\_\_\_

Farm laborer and factory worker

Information about spouse (name, date of marriage, spouse's place of birth and ethnic identity) \_\_\_\_\_

Eva Hamm born August 26, 1951 in Cuauhtemoc, Mexico

Married February 7, 1971 at Springfield, Old Colony Church

Information about children and other kin \_\_\_\_\_

3 children - oldest age 7 and youngest age 3.

Other remarks Isaac is vorsteher at the Walsingham Old Colony church.

NAME OF PERSON INTERVIEWED: Konrad George B.  
Surname Given NamesDATE OF INTERVIEW: July 26, 1979 LENGTH OF INTERVIEW: 45 minutesPLACE OF INTERVIEW: RR 3, Wheatley, Ontario NOP 2P0LANGUAGE USED: English NUMBER OF TAPES 1INTERVIEWER(S): Ron SawatskyOTHERS PRESENT: None

SUMMARY OF CONTENTS: Tape 1, Side A: (0:00) Biographical data - family history from Russia - farming operation in Leamington - 1st contact with Mex Mennos on the farm - beginning of involvement with Leamington EMMC as choir director -(5:00) further involvement in the church - OMIAC - how became a member of committee - (10:00) analysis of role of OMIAC and its programs - (15:00) general impressions of Mex x Mennos - example of two families - (20:00) lifestyle and money matters - (25:00) local populous reaction to Mex Mennos - OMIAC future & the need for workers as specialists in immigration and citizenship - Tape 1, Side B: (0:00) OMIAC cont - interaction between EMMC and UM churches in Leamington - (5:00) details of George's involvement in the interaction - eg: pews project - (10:00) some negative feedback from friends in UM church - Konrad on Old Col vs EMMC theology and understanding. (15:00)

## FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

DATE OF SUBMISSION: \_\_\_\_\_

MAT. SUBMISSION REPORT No.: MEN-9302-KOM CODE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

# The Multicultural History Society of Ontario

5 Hoskin Ave., Toronto, Ontario M5S 1H7

## IDENTIFICATION FORM

Submission Form No. 009302

Name George B. Konrad

Maiden name \_\_\_\_\_

Address RR 3, Wheatley, Ontario NOP 2P0

Telephone 825-7930

Date of birth February 3, 1922

Place of birth Molotschna Colony, Russia

Town/City

State of origin

Ethnic group Russian Mennonite

Religious identity General Conference Mennonite

Size of hometown \_\_\_\_\_

Age at time of departure \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation before emigration \_\_\_\_\_

Brief description of migration route. Note prior continental and trans-atlantic migrations. (mode of transportation to port, port, date of embarkation, port of arrival, etc.)

Names of ship, shipping lines, steamship agents, travel agents, inns, etc. \_\_\_\_\_

Date of arrival in North America To Canada in 1926 from Russia

First residences in Canada (location, with kin or countrymen, size of accommodation) \_\_\_\_\_

First occupations in Canada (names of employers, ethnic origins of fellow employees) \_\_\_\_\_

Information about spouse (name, date of marriage, spouse's place of birth and ethnic identity) \_\_\_\_\_

Information about children and other kin \_\_\_\_\_

Other remarks Konrad is involved with the EMMC Church in Leamington and also is a member of OMIAC.

NAME OF PERSON INTERVIEWED: (Ms. Elsa Koop) Koop Elsa  
Surname Given Names

DATE OF INTERVIEW: July 26, 1979 LENGTH OF INTERVIEW: 55 minutes

PLACE OF INTERVIEW: RR 3, Wheatley, Ontario (interviewee's home)

LANGUAGE USED: English NUMBER OF TAPES 1

INTERVIEWER(S): Ron Sawatsky

OTHERS PRESENT: None

SUMMARY OF CONTENTS: Tape 1, Side A: (00:00) Biographical data - personal history - (5:00) Elsa's philosophy of life - 1st contact with the Mex Mennos - St. Clair College - (10:00) English As A Second Language (ESL) at 2 St Clair - (15:00) 3 levels of ESL - (20:00) details of other classes in the program of South Essex Community Council - (25:00) getting Old Colony support for the programs - 165 persons involved in the activities -  
Tape 1, Side B: (0:00) driver's handbook course - Elsa's relation to Old Col leadership - Bishop Quiring - (5:00) general impressions of the people - morality, finances, clothing, assimilation, theological issues - (10:00) sense of religious piety - new comers from Mexico the strong conservative force in the church - (15:00) non-Mennos response to Mex Mennos - future of the Essex Community Council programs - "teachers on wheels" program in the homes - sources of funding for the programs.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

DATE OF SUBMISSION: Sept 1979MAT. SUBMISSION REPORT No.: MEN-9301-Koop

Hist. Mss. 22.3

CODE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

# The Multicultural History Society of Ontario

5 Hoskin Ave., Toronto, Ontario M5S 1H7

## IDENTIFICATION FORM

Submission Form No. 009301

Name Ms. Elsa Koop Maiden name \_\_\_\_\_

Address RR 3, Wheatley, Ontario NOP 2P0 Telephone 825-7955

Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_ Place of birth \_\_\_\_\_

Town/City \_\_\_\_\_ State of origin \_\_\_\_\_

Ethnic group Canadian Mennonite Religious identity Mennonite Brethern

Size of hometown \_\_\_\_\_ Age at time of departure \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation before emigration \_\_\_\_\_

Brief description of migration route. Note prior continental and trans-atlantic migrations. (mode of transportation to port, port, date of embarkation, port of arrival, etc.)

Names of ship, shipping lines, steamship agents, travel agents, inns, etc. \_\_\_\_\_

Date of arrival in North America \_\_\_\_\_

First residences in Canada (location, with kin or countrymen, size of accommodation) \_\_\_\_\_

First occupations in Canada (names of employers, ethnic origins of fellow employees) \_\_\_\_\_

Information about spouse (name, date of marriage, spouse's place of birth and ethnic identity) \_\_\_\_\_

Information about children and other kin \_\_\_\_\_

Other remarks Ms. Koop has had considerable involvement in community service work for the Mennonites from Mexico who are in the Wheatley/Leamington area. The interview details the kinds of services that have been made available through the work of Ms. Koop.

NAME OF PERSON INTERVIEWED: ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

LOEWEN

Abe

Surname

Given Names

DATE OF INTERVIEW: May 15, 1979

LENGTH OF INTERVIEW: 2 hours

PLACE OF INTERVIEW: RR 1, Aylmer, Ontario (Interviewee's home)

LANGUAGE USED: Low German

NUMBER OF TAPES 1

INTERVIEWER(S): ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Ron Sawatsky

OTHERS PRESENT: No others present.

SUMMARY OF CONTENTS: TAPE 1 SIDE A- Birth & early days in Mex. Parent's general store in Rubueo. (4:00) 1952 to Ont. via Manitoba- why leave (7:00) Role of Jacob Fehr of Steinbach in move to ~~Mexico~~ Ont. (10:00) Trip to Ontario- 1st employment- 1957 to Matheson & 1958 back to Aylmer (10:00) 1964 - 69 activities (13:00) tomatoes & cucumbers growing (14:00) more on Matheson - history of settlement & end of settlement (15:00) contact with Old Mennonites in Elmira - start of Old Colony in Ont. (25:00) early contact with Old Colony of Manitoba (29:00) 1960 Henry Wiebes start Sunday School in Old Col. Wiebe is GC of Dunnville. EMMC start in Aylmer with Dave Friesens in 1965. SIDE B- Sunday School in the Old Col. (2:00) 1965 Loewen to EMMC, start of EMMC (5:00) siblings- where they are now (9:00) 1st housing in Ont, marriage follows, land purchase (12:00) difficulties of immigration, citizenship and language (15:00) 1st employment -problems re education, reading & writing (18:00) language problems (20:00) Schools in Mexico and Ontario (27:00) visits back to Mexico and Belize- feelings and changes. END.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

DATE OF SUBMISSION: *Aug 1979*

MAT. SUBMISSIC REPORT No.:

*MEN-8127-40* Mennonites from Mexico Oral History Project finding aid

CODE NO.

Hist.Mss.228

# The Multicultural History Society of Ontario

5 Hoskin Ave., Toronto, Ontario M5S 1H7

## IDENTIFICATION FORM

Submission Form No. 009127

Name Mr. Abe Loewen

Maiden name \_\_\_\_\_

Address RR. 1, Aylmer, Ontario

Telephone 773-2801

N5H 2R1

Date of birth February 15, 1938

Place of birth Chihuahua, Mexico

Ethnic group \_\_\_\_\_

Mexican

Mennonite

Town/City \_\_\_\_\_

State of origin \_\_\_\_\_

Religious identity \_\_\_\_\_

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

Size of hometown \_\_\_\_\_

Age at time of departure \_\_\_\_\_

14

Occupation before emigration \_\_\_\_\_

N/A

Brief description of migration route. Note prior continental and trans-atlantic migrations. (mode of transportation to port, port, date of embarkation, port of arrival, etc.)

Travelled to Ontario from Mexico via Manitoba (by car)

Names of ship, shipping lines, steamship agents, travel agents, inns, etc. \_\_\_\_\_

Date of arrival in North America \_\_\_\_\_

First residences in Canada (location, with kin or countrymen, size of accommodation) \_\_\_\_\_

First occupations in Canada (names of employers, ethnic origins of fellow employees) \_\_\_\_\_

Tobacco farm labor and vegetable farm work.

Information about spouse (name, date of marriage, spouse's place of birth and ethnic identity) \_\_\_\_\_

Margaret Peters,

born

married July 9, 1961

in Ontario.

Information about children and other kin \_\_\_\_\_

5 children - oldest 16 & youngest 6.

Other remarks Loewen grew up Old Colony Mennonite in Mexico. In Ontario, after

initially making contact with the O. C., then became Evangelical  
Mennonite Mission Conference member in Aylmer. Loewen is likely  
one of the first to come (with his PA parents) from Mexico to



NAME OF PERSON INTERVIEWED: NEUKAMM Emil  
Surname Given Names

DATE OF INTERVIEW: June 5, 1979 LENGTH OF INTERVIEW: 40 minutes

PLACE OF INTERVIEW: RR 1, Aylmer, Ontario, (interviewee's home)

LANGUAGE USED: English NUMBER OF TAPES 1

INTERVIEWER(S): Ron Sawatsky

OTHERS PRESENT: None

SUMMARY OF CONTENTS: Tape 1, Side A: Biographical data - history of Emil's tobacco farming - (5:00) Emil able to speak High German to Mex Mennos - as Deputy Reeve , Emil able to give some assistance in paper problems - (10:00) ways in which Emil gives assistance - (15:00) general comments re: quality of Mex Menno workers - lack stability and have "wanderlust" - (20:00) comments regarding observances of church holidays, - awareness of Mex Menno history and theology is rather informal - feels that they need more education and a sense of the value of education- (25:00) differences among the Mex Mennos noted -  
Tape 1, Side B: people in the area have some negative opinions of Mex Mennos but proportionately more than any other minority group - average earning capabilities of workers on tobacco farm - (5:00) some families can make as much as \$10,000+ - housing is generally not a problem .

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

DATE OF SUBMISSION: 8/28/79

MAT. SUBMISSION REPORT No.: M6N-9194-NEU CODE NO.

# The Multicultural History Society of Ontario

5 Hoskin Ave., Toronto, Ontario M5S 1H7

## IDENTIFICATION FORM

Submission Form No. 009194

Name Emil Neukamm

Maiden name \_\_\_\_\_

Address RR 1, Aylmer, Ontario N5H 2R2

Telephone 773-8895

Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_ Place of birth Lithuania

Town/City

State of origin

Ethnic group Canadian of German descent

Religious identity Lutheran

Size of hometown \_\_\_\_\_

Age at time of departure \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation before emigration \_\_\_\_\_

Brief description of migration route. Note prior continental and trans-atlantic migrations. (mode of transportation to port, port, date of embarkation, port of arrival, etc.)

Names of ship, shipping lines, steamship agents, travel agents, inns, etc. \_\_\_\_\_

Date of arrival in North America 1948 from Lithuania

First residences in Canada (location, with kin or countrymen, size of accommodation) \_\_\_\_\_

First occupations in Canada (names of employers, ethnic origins of fellow employees) \_\_\_\_\_

Information about spouse (name, date of marriage, spouse's place of birth and ethnic identity) \_\_\_\_\_

Information about children and other kin \_\_\_\_\_

Other remarks Mr. Neukamm is a tobacco grower in the Aylmer area who has employed numerous of the Mennonites from Mexico over the years. He

is also deputy reeve for the Malahide District.

NAME OF PERSON INTERVIEWED: Penner Martin  
Surname Given Names

DATE OF INTERVIEW: May 22, 1979 LENGTH OF INTERVIEW: 1 hour & 50 minutes

PLACE OF INTERVIEW: RR 1, Aylmer (interviewee's home)

LANGUAGE USED: Low German NUMBER OF TAPES 2

INTERVIEWER(S): Ron Sawatsky

OTHERS PRESENT: Wife of interviewee and oldest son John (age 15)

SUMMARY OF CONTENTS: Tape 1, Side A: Biographical data - early memories of Mexico - parents born in Manitoba - farming in Manitoba - reasons for migrating to Mexico - the "land problem" in Santa Rita Colony - negotiations regarding land with the Mexican govt - relations with Mexican campesinos - reasons for coming to Ontario - Tape 1, Side B: Income tax paid by the Mennonites in Mexico - description of the Santa Rita Colony - Sommerfelders and Old Colony in Santa Rita - immigration to Bolivia of other colony members - Penners first impressions of Ontario - travel from Mexico and visas at border - role of the Kleinegemeinde Church in Santa Rita - schools in Mexico - Kl. Gem. teachers more competent than most other teachers - Story of the murder of members of a Bueckert family in Mexico to illustrate problems of Mexico - Tape 2, Side B: Bueckert family continued - police actions in Mexico - Review of the different locales where Mexican & Mennonites have migrated to - Bolivia, Oklahoma, Kansas, California, - future hope of the Penner family now that they are in Canada - Tape 2, Side B: Application for refugee status - Martin desires to learn English and gett ahead - Courtship and marriage of the Martin Penners - comments about Bishop Isaak M. Dyck who married them - life shortly after marriage - first places of residence in Santa Rita, Mexico .

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

DATE OF SUBMISSION: Aug 1979MAT. SUBMISS ☐ REPORT No.:

Mennonites from Mexico Oral History Project finding aid

Hist. Ms. 223

CODE NO. MEN-7731-PEN

# The Multicultural History Society of Ontario

5 Hoskin Ave., Toronto, Ontario M5S 1H7

## IDENTIFICATION FORM

Submission Form No. 009131

Name Martin Penner Maiden name \_\_\_\_\_

Address RR 1, Aylmer Ontario N5H 2R1 Telephone None

Date of birth August 5, 1940 Place of birth Cuauhtemoc, Mexico

Ethnic group Mexican Mennonite Religious identity Mennonite

Size of hometown \_\_\_\_\_ Age at time of departure 38

Occupation before emigration farmer

Brief description of migration route. Note prior continental and trans-atlantic migrations. (mode of transportation to port, port, date of embarkation, port of arrival, etc.)

Arrived in Ont. May 5, 1979 Trip via pickup truck through the USA.

Names of ship, shipping lines, steamship agents, travel agents, inns, etc. \_\_\_\_\_

Date of arrival in North America May 5, 1979 One prior visit in 1972 ( 4 days)

First residences in Canada (location, with kin or countrymen, size of accommodation) \_\_\_\_\_

Live in rented house near Aylmer - are waiting for citizenship papers to be completed.

First occupations in Canada (names of employers, ethnic origins of fellow employees) \_\_\_\_\_

No work permit as yet.

Information about spouse (name, date of marriage, spouse's place of birth and ethnic identity) \_\_\_\_\_

Elizabeth Rempel born November 23, 1938 in Cuauhtemoc, Mexico.

Also a Mennonite.

Information about children and other kin Have 7 children - 2 male & 5 female

Oldest is 15 & youngest is 6.

Other remarks Penner is one of the most recent immigrants. Legal technicalities have prevented their immediate acceptance as Canadian citizens even though the parents were born in Canada. OMIAC is trying to have them accepted under refugee status and thus complete their papers. They are the first who will be ~~XXXX~~ attempted in this way. Penners were forced to leave their land in Mexico.

NAME OF PERSON INTERVIEWED: \_\_\_\_\_

PETERS

CORNELIUS F.

Surname

Given Names

DATE OF INTERVIEW: May 16, 1979

LENGTH OF INTERVIEW: 1 hour & <sup>55</sup>~~30~~ minutes

PLACE OF INTERVIEW: 44 Water St., Aylmer. (Interviewee's home).

LANGUAGE USED: Low German

NUMBER OF TAPES 2

INTERVIEWER(S): Ron Sawatsky

OTHERS PRESENT: Anna Peters (interviewee's wife)

SUMMARY OF CONTENTS: Tape 1 Side A- (0:00) Birth early memories of Manitoba & Saskatchewan- Jacob Peters as school teacher (father) (5:00) reasons for leaving Canada (7:00) selling land & trip preparations (14:00) conditions on train (16:00) the delegations to S.A. (18:00) first days in Mexico, first business of Jacob Peters (24:00) relations with Mexicans (26:00) Jacob J. Peters teacher in Mexico and working for Mexican government and selling prescription glasses. SIDE B- (0:00) Glasses etc. continued. (7:00) April 30, 1934 Jacob Peters shot & killed- detailed account (15:00) Mexican police & treatment of crime (25:00) marriage of Cornelius and Anna 1935 (27:00) first home (29:00) move to Penu Pratus - stay there until 1954. TAPE 2 SIDE A- Life at P. Pratus, reasons for move to Canada, relations to the Old Colony (6:00) 1954- 1½ year visit to Canada, travel by truck (46 people!) experiences on the trip (12:00) arrival- housing (15:00) GC's in Vineland help- Jacob Braun of Port Rowan helps (20:00) tobacco work (22:00) back to Mexico- banned by OC (23:00) 1958 again in Ontario- housing and work, live in Copenhagen (26:00) present work (28:00) Relation to Old Colony church, begin of Old Colony in Ontario SIDE B- (0:00) early contact with Manitoba Old Col. (7:00) Bishop Froese baptism (8:00) "Durango" group to Rainy River (10:00) 1st O.C. ministers ordained (15:00) Relation of O.C. to

Man. and Mex. (16:00) education in Ontario (19:00) Ont. vs. Mex. life (22:00) location of other Mex. FOR OFFICE USE ONLY: Mennos in NA & SA (25:00) end.

DATE OF SUBMISSION: \_\_\_\_\_

Mennonite Archives of Ontario

Mennonites from Mexico Oral History Project finding aid

Hist. Mss. 2.3

MAT. SUBMISSION REPORT No.: \_\_\_\_\_

CODE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

## IDENTIFICATION FORM

Submission Form No. 009128

Name Cornelius F. Peters

Maiden name \_\_\_\_\_

Address 44 Water St.Telephone 773-8560Aylmer, Ontario N5H 1G9Date of birth November 11, 1913Place of birth Blumenthal (Hague), Saskatchewan

Town/City

State of origin

Ethnic group Mennonite from MexicoReligious identity Mennonite

Size of hometown \_\_\_\_\_

1922 to MexicoAge at time of departure 1954 return to Ontario

Occupation before emigration \_\_\_\_\_

Brief description of migration route. Note prior continental and trans-atlantic migrations. (mode of transportation to port, port, date of embarkation, port of arrival, etc.)

Emigrated to Mexico via train thru USA. Return to Canada by automobile again via USA.~~XX~~Lived in Neuhorst, Campo 13, Cuauhtemoc, 1935-39.Then in Penus(?) Praetus 1939-54 (north of Neuhorst).Date of arrival in North America May 1954 to Ontario. (Pnt. 1954)

First residences in Canada (location, with kin or countrymen, size of accommodation) \_\_\_\_\_

First occupations in Canada (names of employers, ethnic origins of fellow employees) \_\_\_\_\_

Tobacco and vegetable laborer with his children.

Information about spouse (name, date of marriage, spouse's place of birth and ethnic identity) \_\_\_\_\_

Anna Wiebe, born January 15, 1915, at Neuhorst, Manitoba.Married January 20, 1935.Information about children and other kin 5 children - 3 male & 3 femaleOldest is 43- youngest is 26.Other remarks Jacob<sup>I</sup> Peters (father to Cornelius) kept diaries. Was a school teacher in Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Mexico as well as having several other occupations at various times.

ACQUISITIONS SUMMARY - INDIVIDUALS

ETHNIC GROUP - Mennonite from Mexico

DONOR'S NAME & ADDRESS - Cornelius F. Peters, 44 Water St., Aylmer, Ontario  
N5H 1G9

MSR # - 009128

CONTENTS - (unrestricted) (microfilmed at Conrad Grebel College Archives)  
1- 4 diaries of Jacob Peters (Father to Cornelius)

EXTENT - 3 inches    PAGES  
                             ITEMS 4

TAPES - 2 tapes- Log Form #7350

PHOTOGRAPHS -

NAME OF PERSON INTERVIEWED: \_\_\_\_\_

PETERS

Cornelius K.

Surname

Given Names

DATE OF INTERVIEW: June 13, 1979

LENGTH OF INTERVIEW: 2 hours

PLACE OF INTERVIEW: MCC Office in Aylmer (50 Talbot St)

LANGUAGE USED: English with some Low German

NUMBER OF TAPES 2

INTERVIEWER(S): Ron Sawatsky

OTHERS PRESENT: None

SUMMARY OF CONTENTS: Tape 1, Side A: Biographical data - life in Mex before marriage - Cornelius' father generally on the fringes of the <sup>colony</sup> social system in Mex - Cornie visits many different churches in Mex - baptized in 1956 in Manitoba by Sommerfelder just before Rhäneländer split away - 1954 to Ont 1st time - 1955 came to Ont permanently - Cornie goes into to hauling fruit & tomatoes - visited Mex and met future wife - Mary come to Canada with her family - baptism and marriage by the Sommerfelders in Manitoba - early life after marriage - money shortage - different jobs - Tape 1, Side B: Begins farming in cucumbers - tortilla business in Aylmer in 1974 - Details re the start of the OC church in Ont - role of Henry Wiebe, Jake Neudorf, Isaac Peters - details of brother Isaac's marriage and connection with Jake Neudorf and John D. Friesen - Tape 2, Side A: 1964 Gottes Gemeinde begins to come to Aylmer for Sunday services in homes - Peters finds the Crossley/Hunter church and allows EMMC to use it - details of EMMC beginning in Ont - relation of David Friesen and Henry Peters - Cornie is unhappy with David Friesen - goes to Gottes Gemeinde in 1969 - Peters theory of Man/Wife relations when a couple comes out of the OC church! - Tape 2, Side B: details of Gottes Gemeinde start in Aylmer - several locations of meeting & build new building - the doctrines and teaching of the Gottes Gemeinde - explanation of Henry Peters disagreement with Jacob

Wiebe in OC church & role of Bishop Penner of Man - details of Henry Peters movements since 1963.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

DATE OF SUBMISSION: \_\_\_\_\_

Mennonite Archives of Ontario

MAT. SUBMISSION

REPORT No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Mennonites from Mexico Oral History Project finding aid

Hist. Mss. 2.3

CODE NO. \_\_\_\_\_



# The Multicultural History Society of Ontario

5 Hoskin Ave., Toronto, Ontario M5S 1H7

## IDENTIFICATION FORM

Submission Form No. 009200

Name Cornelius K. Peters Maiden name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address RR 1, Aylmer, Ontario N5H 2R1 Telephone 773-8114

Date of birth February 2, 1934 Place of birth Kansas area, Mexico  
Ethnic group Mennonite from Mexico Religious identity Grew up Old Colony, baptized by Manitoba Sommerfelders, now attending Church of God.  
Size of hometown \_\_\_\_\_ Age at time of departure \_\_\_\_\_  
Occupation before emigration Farmer and trucking in Mexico

Brief description of migration route. Note prior continental and trans-atlantic migrations. (mode of transportation to port, port, date of embarkation, port of arrival, etc.)

To Ontario on pickup truck via USA.

Names of ship, shipping lines, steamship agents, travel agents, inns, etc. \_\_\_\_\_

Date of arrival in North America July & August 1954, permanent February 1955

First residences in Canada (location, with kin or countrymen, size of accommodation) \_\_\_\_\_

First occupations in Canada (names of employers, ethnic origins of fellow employees) \_\_\_\_\_  
Factory and farm labor, later worked in road construction, purchased considerable amount of farm land around Aylmer after some years.

Information about spouse (name, date of marriage, spouse's place of birth and ethnic identity) \_\_\_\_\_  
Mary Dyck born May 11, 1940 in Kronsthal, Mexico  
Married July 14, 1957 around Winkler, Manitoba.

Information about children and other kin \_\_\_\_\_  
4 children - oldest is 21 and youngest is 14

Other remarks One of the early immigrants from Mex. Has considerable knowledge regarding the Old Colony and EMMC origins in Ontario.

NAME OF PERSON INTERVIEWED: Peters Heinrich (Henry)  
Surname Given Names

DATE OF INTERVIEW: June 27, 1979 LENGTH OF INTERVIEW: 1 hour and 50 minutes

PLACE OF INTERVIEW: interviewee's home near Mapleton, Ontario

LANGUAGE USED: Low German NUMBER OF TAPES 2

INTERVIEWER(S): Ron Sawatsky

OTHERS PRESENT: None

SUMMARY OF CONTENTS: Tape 1, Side A: (0:00) Biographical data - father Jacob J. Peters - memories of father - (5:00) ~~xxx~~ family lives among the Kleine Gemeinde in "Kansas" area - Henry likes the KG - (10:00) Henry remembers David Harder as teacher - (15:00) other school teachers - has own father for teacher - (20:00) further interesting details of father - father's murder by Mexican - details of courtship (25:00) and marriage of Henry and Susanna--Tape 1, Side B: 1942 to 1956 details of life during - farming and land purchases in Mex - (5:00) Coming to Ontario - how hear of Ont - details of trip - reasons for moving - (10:00) details of arrival in Ont - did not come as poor people to Ont - first housing and employment on tobacco farm - (15:00) language problems - working for farmer - (20:00) back to Mex for 2½ yrs - (25:00) children in Kl Gem school - problems with the Old Col Bishop and excommunication - Tape 2, Side A: explanation of Peters dispute with Old Col - (5:00) Peters and rubber tire controversy with Old Col - Bishop David Reimer tries to reconcile - (10:00) Peters join ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Kleine Gem - Peters return to Ont - Start of Old Col church in Ont - (15:00) Peter Harder leaves Aylmer Old Col - details of minister election - (20:00) ordination of Peters and source of conflict with Rev Wieb and Deacon Giesbrecht - (25:00) Peters leaves Old Col for EMMC - details of EMMC start - Tape 2, Side B: (5:00) Peters in Belize - (5:00) Peters works with Sommerfelder break away and start EMC church - (10:00) Matheson settlement -

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY: (15:00) details of settlement and church - (20:00) Sunday School in the Old Col and Henry

DATE OF SUBMISSION: Wiebes - (25:00) now at EMC church as chairman of Church council .

# The Multicultural History Society of Ontario

5 Hoskin Ave., Toronto, Ontario M5S 1H7

## IDENTIFICATION FORM

Submission Form No. 009202

Name Heinrich Peters

Maiden name \_\_\_\_\_

Address Box 62, Aylmer, Ontario N5H 2R8

Telephone 773-2816

Date of birth April 22, 1922

Place of birth Neuhorst(Gretna), Manitoba

Town/City

State of origin

Ethnic group Mennonites from Mexico

Religious identity Presently EMC

Size of hometown \_\_\_\_\_

Age at time of departure \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation before emigration \_\_\_\_\_

Brief description of migration route. Note prior continental and trans-atlantic migrations. (mode of transportation to port, port, date of embarkation, port of arrival, etc.)

Names of ship, shipping lines, steamship agents, travel agents, inns, etc. \_\_\_\_\_

Date of arrival in North America Jan to Nov 1956 visit, 1960 permanent.

First residences in Canada (location, with kin or countrymen, size of accommodation) \_\_\_\_\_

Port Rowan and Aylmer areas.

First occupations in Canada (names of employers, ethnic origins of fellow employees) \_\_\_\_\_

Work as farm laborer on tobacco farm.

Information about spouse (name, date of marriage, spouse's place of birth and ethnic identity) \_\_\_\_\_

Susanna Peters born January 7, 1923 at Kronsthal (Gretna), Manitoba

Married January 25, 1942 in Mexico.

Information about children and other kin \_\_\_\_\_

11 children with 9 still living - oldest is 35 and youngest is 12.

Other remarks Peters was one of two ministers first elected by the Old Colony Mennonites in Ontario. He was involved in the EMMC start in Aylmer.

Also was involved in the start of the EMCs in Mt. Salem. Has considerable information of early Ontario church politics among the new immigrants.

NAME OF PERSON INTERVIEWED: Peters Jake  
Surname Given Names  
DATE OF INTERVIEW: July 3, 1979 LENGTH OF INTERVIEW: 1 hour  
PLACE OF INTERVIEW: RR 5, Langton (interviewee's home)  
LANGUAGE USED: English NUMBER OF TAPES 1  
INTERVIEWER(S): Ron Sawatsky  
OTHERS PRESENT: Christine Peters (wife of interviewee)

SUMMARY OF CONTENTS: Tap# 1, Side A: Biographical data - births in Mexico - early memories - parents economic situation not good - Klassens borrowed \$500 from Dave Peters in order to get in to Canada - parents had worked for rich Mexican farmers but returned to the colonies before being banned - Peters family comes to Canada - came for two years in 1956 & return to Mexico - permanently to Ont in 1961 - courtship and marriage of Jake and Christine - 2nd marriage in the Aylmer EMMC church - details of wedding - move to Kitchener immediately after marriage - remain in Kitchener for 8 years after that - return to the "country" in 1975 - employment in Kitchener and at Langton - No involvement in the beginning of the OC in Ontario - Tape 1, Side B: Relation of Mrs. Dave Peters to Rev Jacob Wieb - when the EMMC started in 1965, Jake Peters began to go there almost from the start - Uncle Henry Peters was part of the reason for this - at Neil and Lois Sawatsky's wedding, Jake approached Rev John D. Friesen for assistance in the Kitchener area re: church work - Nov 1969 church began in Sun Beam Camp on Doon Blair Rd. - David Friesen came in to assist - Other locations of worship before renting the Roseville Mennonite church - Arrival of Bill Stoesz in May 1970 - details of the first years at Roseville - Peter Buhlers and Peter Giesbrechts serve church and move it to Rosebank - internal organization of the church in the first years - the split off of several families in 1976 + recent data on Houghton Center church.  
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

DATE OF SUBMISSION:

Mennonite Archives of Ontario

MAT. SUBM. ON REPORT No.:

Mennonites from Mexico Oral History Project finding aid

CODE NO.

Hist.Mss.22.3

## IDENTIFICATION FORM

Submission Form No. 009208

Name Jake Peters

Maiden name \_\_\_\_\_

Address RR 5, Langton, Ontario NOE IGOTelephone 875-286Date of birth March 15, 1947Place of birth Pinos Pratus, Mexico

Town/City

State of origin

Ethnic group Mennonite from MexicoReligious identity Old Colony now EMMC

Size of hometown \_\_\_\_\_

Age at time of departure \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation before emigration \_\_\_\_\_

Brief description of migration route. Note prior continental and trans-atlantic migrations. (mode of transportation to port, port, date of embarkation, port of arrival, etc.)

Jake came to Ontario in 1956Returned to Mexico in 1958Returned again to Ontario (permanently) in 1961.

Names of ship, shipping lines, steamship agents, travel agents, inns, etc. \_\_\_\_\_

Date of arrival in North America 1961 to Ontario from Mexico Ø (permanently)

First residences in Canada (location, with kin or countrymen, size of accommodation) \_\_\_\_\_

Aylmer area

First occupations in Canada (names of employers, ethnic origins of fellow employees) \_\_\_\_\_

Farm laborer at first. After several years worked in road and building construction.

Information about spouse (name, date of marriage, spouse's place of birth and ethnic identity) \_\_\_\_\_

Christine Klassen born April 13, 1949 in Manitoba Plain, MexicoMarried June 18, 1967 at the Aylmer EMMC church.

Information about children and other kin \_\_\_\_\_

Have 4 children - oldest is 11 and youngest is 7.Other remarks Peters was the one who initiated the founding of an EMMC church at Kitchener.

NAME OF PERSON INTERVIEWED: \_\_\_\_\_ Q uiring \_\_\_\_\_ Rev. Cornelius R.  
Surname Given Names

DATE OF INTERVIEW: July 10, 1979 LENGTH OF INTERVIEW: 1 hour and 45 minutes

PLACE OF INTERVIEW: RR 3, Leamington (interviewee's home)

LANGUAGE USED: Low German NUMBER OF TAPES 2

INTERVIEWER(S): Ron Sawatsky

OTHERS PRESENT: Mrs. Quiring (wife of interviewee)

SUMMARY OF CONTENTS: Tape 1, Side A: (00:00) Biographical data - memories of childhood in Mex - (5:00)  
attendance in Colony schools - reasons for coming to Ont - (10:00) becoming landed immigrants - detail  
of land holding of Quiring in Mex before emigration - 2 (15:00) after initial problems at border coming  
into Ont, they enter in Manitoba - work in Steinbach area - (20:00) first employment in Ont- details of  
purchase of present property and construction of house, etc. - farming and working in factory in Windsor  
(25:00) becoming minister in Old Col in 1970 and bishop in Nov 1978 - details of ministerial and bishop'  
tasks - comments on Henry Reimer - Tape 1, Side B: (0:00) Reimer continued - Quiring philosophy o f  
counselling and church administration - (10:00) worldliness defined - the problem of the bann from Mex -  
(15:00) Quiring philosophies continued - sermon preparation explained - diff between Ont and Mex -  
attitudes to clothing - (20:00) sermon preparation cont - German vs English in church services - (25:00)  
ministers who have left Old Col in Ont - youth the future church - Leamington OC beginnings - Tape 2,  
Side A: (0:00) church building & locations and size - (5:00) the bann from Mex continued - (10:00)  
Quiring and wages and employment in Ont - David Friesen and OMIAC work - (15:00) present conditions in  
Ont OC - question re: belief, baptism and salvation - the fear of God - (20:00) blaspheming God (25:00)  
faith and works - missions - Tape 2, Side B: Comments on Jake Hoeppner! - (5:00) EMMC relations (10:00)  
 FOR OFFICE USE ONLY: books used by Quiring - collecting for sermon preparation.

DATE OF SUBMISSION: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mennonite Archives of Ontario

Mennonites from Mexico Oral History Project finding aid

Hist. Mss. 223

MAT. SUBMISSION REPORT No.: \_\_\_\_\_

MEN-9295-401.

CODE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

Quiring

# The Multicultural History Society of Ontario

5 Hoskin Ave., Toronto, Ontario M5S 1H7

## IDENTIFICATION FORM

Submission Form No. 009295

Name Rev. Cornelius R. Quiring

Maiden name \_\_\_\_\_

Address RR 3, Leamington, Ontario

Telephone 326-9798

Date of birth February 27, ~~1878~~ 1931

Place of birth Manitoba Plan, Mexico

Town/City

State of origin

Ethnic group Mennonite from Mexico

Religious identity Old Colony Mennonite

Size of hometown \_\_\_\_\_

Age at time of departure \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation before emigration \_\_\_\_\_

Brief description of migration route. Note prior continental and trans-atlantic migrations. (mode of transportation to port, port, date of embarkation, port of arrival, etc.)

Names of ship, shipping lines, steamship agents, travel agents, inns, etc. \_\_\_\_\_

Date of arrival in North America To Manitoba in 1966 and to Ontario in 1967

First residences in Canada (location, with kin or countrymen, size of accommodation) \_\_\_\_\_

Steinbach, Manitoba - moved to Leamington after a year

First occupations in Canada (names of employers, ethnic origins of fellow employees) \_\_\_\_\_

Industrial laborer and farm laborer

Information about spouse (name, date of marriage, spouse's place of birth and ethnic identity) \_\_\_\_\_

Klassen born June 9, 1931 in Manitoba Plan, Mexico

Married October 8, 1950 in Mexico

Information about children and other kin \_\_\_\_\_

16 children - 15 living - oldest is 26 and youngest is 7

Other remarks Quiring was elected as Bishop of the Old Colony Mennonites in Ontario in November of 1978. Has been an Old Colony minister for almost 10 years.

# The Multicultural History Society of Ontario

5 Hoskin Ave., Toronto, Ontario M5S 1H7

## INTERVIEW LOG FORM

No. 7344

NAME OF PERSON INTERVIEWED: Reimer Rev. Peter J.  
Surname Given Names

DATE OF INTERVIEW: June 14, 1979 LENGTH OF INTERVIEW: 45 minutes

PLACE OF INTERVIEW: RR 3, Port Rowan (interviewee's home)

LANGUAGE USED: Low German NUMBER OF TAPES 1

INTERVIEWER(S): Ron Sawatsky

OTHERS PRESENT: None

SUMMARY OF CONTENTS: Tape 1, Side A: Biographical data on Rev Reimer - birth in USSR and move to Canada in 1926 - early experiences of Reimer in ministry - the history of the Port Rowan MB church - contacts with the Mennos from Mex - working with the 1st families - 1968 the beginning of the Port Rowan EMMC - role of David Friesen, Dave Dyck, etc - meeting between MB and EMMC - school owned by Jake Reimer used for services - weddings of Mex Mennos performed by Reimer - John Bueckert wedding - attending an OC funeral in 1959 or 60 - relations to the OC church by Reimer - Tape 1, Side B: funeral of Mex Menno in the EMMC described - Reimer meets OC minister Peter Driedger - Reimer's involvement at the Aylmer EMMC from 1968 to 1973 - Reimer has little info of OC origins - Reimer helping with David Friesen in Houghton Center EMMC - Reimer's meeting with Jacob Giesbrecht (OC minister now in Paraguay) discussion of theological issues between Reimer and Giesbrecht - Kleingemeinde Bishop of Mexico visits in Ontario .

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

DATE OF SUBMISSION:

Mennonite Archives of Ontario

Mennonites from Mexico Oral History Project finding aid

Hist. Mes. 28.3

MAT. SUBMISSION REPORT No.:

*Aug 1979*  
*# MEN-9197-i-E1*

CODE NO.



# The Multicultural History Society of Ontario

5 Hoskin Ave., Toronto, Ontario M5S 1H7

## IDENTIFICATION FORM

Submission Form No. 009197

Name Rev. Peter J. Reimer Maiden name \_\_\_\_\_

Address RR 3, Port Rowan, Ontario NOE 1M0 Telephone 586-3051

Date of birth October 16, 1902 Place of birth Tiegenhagen, South Russia

Ethnic group Russian Mennonite Religious identity Mennonite Brethern

Size of hometown \_\_\_\_\_ Age at time of departure \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation before emigration \_\_\_\_\_

Brief description of migration route. Note prior continental and trans-atlantic migrations. (mode of transportation to port, port, date of embarkation, port of arrival, etc.)

Names of ship, shipping lines, steamship agents, travel agents, inns, etc. \_\_\_\_\_

Date of arrival in North America Left Russia Dec. 8, 1925, arrive P. Rowan March 8, 1926

First residences in Canada (location, with kin or countrymen, size of accommodation) Port Rowan

First occupations in Canada (names of employers, ethnic origins of fellow employees) Farmer

Information about spouse (name, date of marriage, spouse's place of birth and ethnic identity) Wife born October 17, 1902 also in Russia.

Information about children and other kin \_\_\_\_\_

Other remarks Reimer is an MB minister N(now retired) who had one of the first contacts with the Mennonites from Mexico ~~whx~~ in the 1950's as they began to come to Ontario. Helped in establishing the Port Rowan EMMC group.

NAME OF PERSON INTERVIEWED: Sawatsky Rev. Ben W. Sawatsky  
Surname Given NamesDATE OF INTERVIEW: August 20, 1979 LENGTH OF INTERVIEW: 1 hour & 25 minutesPLACE OF INTERVIEW: 106 Allen St. W., Waterloo, OntarioLANGUAGE USED: English NUMBER OF TAPES 2INTERVIEWER(S): Ron SawatskyOTHERS PRESENT: None

SUMMARY OF CONTENTS: Tape 1, Side A: Recollection of EMMC beginnings in Ontario - entrance of David D. Friesen  
others who also came to give assistance - church building details - role of Henry Peters - reasons for  
Peters leaving EMMC - Port Rowan beginnings - role of the MB's of Port Rowan in the start - location  
of church services - ~~xxx~~ Frank Zacharias the first workers - Rev Jacob H Friesen second worker - role  
of Dave Dyck of Aylmer - purchase of the Houghton Center Church from the BIC when David Friesen's take  
over the work - Reasons for Dave Fräesens leaving Aylmer - purchase of Houghton Church - ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~  
entrance of Jake Pauls in Nov '77 - Leamington start: Jake Hoepfner's first workers - other assistance -  
building of church - Tape 1, Side B: - further details of building - Hoappner and personality and leader  
-ship ~~xxx~~ style clash - entrance of Gordon Browns - John Driedger background and takeover of the church-  
Kitchener start : role of Dave Friesen - Roseville Church - entrance of Bill Stoesz's - details of the  
Stoesz years - problems result from Stoesz departure - Peter Buhlers entrance - Aylmer English Church  
break away - details of power struggle in German group - Neil Sawatsky selected as pastor - the break -  
the reasons for the break re: baptism, eschatology and eternal security - role of Aylmer Bible School in  
the events - ~~xxx~~ Tape 2, Side A: - English church continued - Kitchener break away described - the Aylmer  
Bible School details of operation and scope and philosophy of operation .

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

DATE OF SUBMISSION: \_\_\_\_\_

MAT. SUBMISSION REPORT No.: MLN-9307-SAW CODE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

# The Multicultural History Society of Ontario

5 Hoskin Ave., Toronto, Ontario M5S 1H7

## IDENTIFICATION FORM

Submission Form No. 009307

Name Rev. Ben W. Sawatsky Maiden name \_\_\_\_\_

Address 125 Sterling Ave., Winnipeg, Manitoba Telephone 253-2429  
R2M 2R8

Date of birth January 26, 1913 Place of birth Altona, Manitoba  
Town/City State of origin

Ethnic group Canadian Mennonite Religious identity EMMC

Size of hometown \_\_\_\_\_ Age at time of departure \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation before emigration \_\_\_\_\_

Brief description of migration route. Note prior continental and trans-atlantic migrations. (mode of transportation to port, port, date of embarkation, port of arrival, etc.)

Names of ship, shipping lines, steamship agents, travel agents, inns, etc. \_\_\_\_\_

Date of arrival in North America \_\_\_\_\_

First residences in Canada (location, with kin or countrymen, size of accommodation) \_\_\_\_\_

First occupations in Canada (names of employers, ethnic origins of fellow employees) \_\_\_\_\_

Information about spouse (name, date of marriage, spouse's place of birth and ethnic identity) \_\_\_\_\_

Information about children and other kin \_\_\_\_\_

Other remarks Rev. Sawatsky is the moderator of the Evangelical Mennonite Mission Conference and has been extensively involved in the EMMC church work in Ont.

5 Hoskin Ave., Toronto, Ontario M5S 1H7

## No. 785

Surname

Given Names

LENGTH OF INTERVIEW: 45 MINUTES

LANGUAGE USED: English

NUMBER OF TAPES 1

OTHERS PRESENT: None

**SUMMARY OF CONTENTS:** Tape 1, Side B: Biographical data - Memories of childhood - to Ontario 1956 - details of education in Canada - (5:00) coming to Aylmer English EMHC church - conflict with EMHC Ministers Association - (10:00) theological issues re: eternal security and Immersion baptism - details of ~~withdrawing~~ points of view with EMHC - the conflict becomes more serious - (15:00) Ontario 2<sup>nd</sup> Field Council and eschatology motion - (20:00) Neil no longer wish to remain with EMHC - (25:00) English church votes to withdraw from EMHC - dividing of the treasury with the German church - statistics of church attendance from 1975 to 1977 - amalgamation with Elgin Baptist Temple - Tape 1, Side B: details of the union of the two separate churches into one, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Open Bible Baptist Church - constitution and statement of faith (5:00) details of present church operation - other persons involvement in church leadership - the Church School - (10:00) Statistics - SS 210 to 265 attendance - bussing in children - the church school philosophy - make-up of church membership about 50% Mexican Mennonites.

## DATE OF SUBMISSION: \_\_\_\_\_

Mennonite Archives of Ontario  
MAT. SUBMIS N REPORT No.:

Mennonites from Mexico Oral History Project finding aid

CODE NO. Hist.Mss.223

Hist.Ms8.22.3

# The Multicultural History Society of Ontario

5 Hoskin Ave., Toronto, Ontario M5S 1H7

## IDENTIFICATION FORM

Submission Form No. 009201

Name Rev. Neil Sawatzky Maiden name \_\_\_\_\_

Address 77 Maple St., Aylmer, Ontario N5H 2Z1 Telephone 773-5197

Or: Open Bible Baptist Church, Hacienda Road, Aylmer, Ontario

Date of birth January 21, 1947 Place of birth Cuauhtemoc, Mexico

Ethnic group Mennonite from Mexico Religious identity Independent Baptist

Size of hometown \_\_\_\_\_ Age at time of departure age 9 to Ontario

Occupation before emigration \_\_\_\_\_

Brief description of migration route. Note prior continental and trans-atlantic migrations. (mode of transportation to port, port, date of embarkation, port of arrival, etc.)

Names of ship, shipping lines, steamship agents, travel agents, inns, etc. \_\_\_\_\_

Date of arrival in North America 1956 to Ontario from Mexico

First residences in Canada (location, with kin or countrymen, size of accommodation) \_\_\_\_\_

First occupations in Canada (names of employers, ethnic origins of fellow employees) \_\_\_\_\_

Information about spouse (name, date of marriage, spouse's place of birth and ethnic identity) \_\_\_\_\_

Lois Friesen, born January 16, 1950

Married

1969

Information about children and other kin \_\_\_\_\_

3 children - oldest is 6 and youngest 6 months

Other remarks Sawatzky was the first pastor of the Aylmer EMMC English Church.  
He and most of the members severed their ties with the EMMC to form  
an independent congregation in 1976.

NAME OF PERSON INTERVIEWED: ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ Schroeder Aaron  
Surname Given Names

DATE OF INTERVIEW: July 5, 1979 LENGTH OF INTERVIEW: 45 minutes

PLACE OF INTERVIEW: 9 Maple St., Leamington (interviewee's home)

LANGUAGE USED: Low German NUMBER OF TAPES 1

INTERVIEWER(S): Ron Sawatsky

OTHERS PRESENT: / Margaret Enns (wife of interviewee)

SUMMARY OF CONTENTS: Tape 1, Side A: Biographical data - Schroeder trying to forget as much about his life in Mex as possible! - worked with father in printing business - Margaret's family were village herdsman - very poor - the Enns family was one of the first families to come to Ont from Mex - the Schroeders moved to Matheson in 1958 - Aron work in bush - difficult to make a living - details of the Matheson ~~sett~~ settlement - ~~EA~~ Aaron's parents also later move to Rainy River - details of the Rainy River group - the affiliation with the Rhineländer of Manitoba - George Krahn minister in Rainy River who helped to influence affiliation with the Rhineländer - details of Aaron & Margaret's life after marriage - to Aylmer & Tilbury & Leamington - Aaron's places of employment in Ontario - now working for Chrysler Comp - ~~Tap~~ Tape 1, Side B: further details of Aaron and Margaret life - church involvement - attend the Old Col in ~~SPRINGFIELD~~ Pt. Burwell - also started to attend the Wheatley OC but then came in contact with Jake Hoepfner of the EMMC - attend EMMC at UMEI - Aaron's participation in the EMMC church board - thoughts of Mex today - only would return to visit or to minister .

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

DATE OF SUBMISSION: Aug 1979

Mennonite Archives of Ontario

Mennonites from Mexico Oral History Project finding aid

Hist. Mss. 22.3

MAT. SUBMISSION REPORT No.: MEN-9293-SCF

CODE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

# The Multicultural History Society of Ontario

5 Hoskin Ave., Toronto, Ontario M5S 1H7

## IDENTIFICATION FORM

Submission Form No. 009293

Name Aaron Schroeder

Maiden name \_\_\_\_\_

Address 9 Maple St., Leamington, Ontario

Telephone 326-9411

Date of birth September 1, 1939

Place of birth Durango Colony, Mexico

Town/City

State of origin

Ethnic group Mennonite from Mexico

Religious identity now EMMC was Old Colony

Size of hometown \_\_\_\_\_

Age at time of departure \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation before emigration \_\_\_\_\_

Brief description of migration route. Note prior continental and trans-atlantic migrations. (mode of transportation to port, port, date of embarkation, port of arrival, etc.)

Names of ship, shipping lines, steamship agents, travel agents, inns, etc. \_\_\_\_\_

Date of arrival in North America May 21, 1954 , January 1, 1957

First residences in Canada (location, with kin or countrymen, size of accommodation) \_\_\_\_\_

Aylmer, Ont area

First occupations in Canada (names of employers, ethnic origins of fellow employees) \_\_\_\_\_

Farm laborer

Information about spouse (name, date of marriage, spouse's place of birth and ethnic identity) \_\_\_\_\_

Margaret Enns born January 31, 1941 in Durango, Mexico

Married July 24, 1960 in Matheson, Ontario in Old Colony church.

Information about children and other kin \_\_\_\_\_

8 children - oldest is 18 & youngest is 6

Other remarks Margaret is the daughter of Jacob Enns who came to the Port Rowan area with the Cornelius Peters in early 1950's.

NAME OF PERSON INTERVIEWED: \_\_\_\_\_ Toews \_\_\_\_\_ John A. \_\_\_\_\_  
Surname Given Names  
DATE OF INTERVIEW: \_\_\_\_\_ July 12, 1979 \_\_\_\_\_ LENGTH OF INTERVIEW: \_\_\_\_\_ 45 minutes \_\_\_\_\_  
PLACE OF INTERVIEW: \_\_\_\_\_ RR 4, Leamington (interviewee's home) \_\_\_\_\_  
LANGUAGE USED: \_\_\_\_\_ English \_\_\_\_\_ NUMBER OF TAPES \_\_\_\_\_ 1 \_\_\_\_\_  
INTERVIEWER(S): \_\_\_\_\_ Ron Sawatsky \_\_\_\_\_  
OTHERS PRESENT: \_\_\_\_\_ None \_\_\_\_\_

SUMMARY OF CONTENTS: Tape 1, Side A: Biographical Data - size of farming operation - number of Mex Mennos employed is not constant depending on the season - 1st contact with Mex Mennos in 1965 - (5:00) general info on kinds of work done for Toews - (10:00) tomatoes handpick vs machinepick - approx wages of family of 10 - (15:00) work permit situation - several families forced to return to Mex last summer - (20:00) housing for workers - (25:00) worker efficiency and reliability - the alcohol problem - smoking -  
Tape 1, Side B: indications of religious commitment level among the people - struggles encountered by those who are newly arrived in Ont re: church, etc - (5:00) general impressions of these new immigrants - example of one family - (10:00): lifestyle concerns - acculturation and assimilation - (15:00) "money" not really a problem for most - John Wall and few comments about his life - Wall a Mex Mennonite folk hero!

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DATE OF SUBMISSION: \_\_\_\_\_ 50 28/75 \_\_\_\_\_

Mennonite Archives of Ontario

Mennonites from Mexico Oral History Project finding aid

Hist. Ms. 223

MAT. SUBMISSION REPORT No.: \_\_\_\_\_ MEN - 9296 - 105 \_\_\_\_\_ CODE NO. \_\_\_\_\_



# The Multicultural History Society of Ontario

5 Hoskin Ave., Toronto, Ontario M5S 1H7

## IDENTIFICATION FORM

Submission Form No. 009296

Name John A. Toews Maiden name \_\_\_\_\_

Address RR 4, Leamington, Ontario N8H 3V2 Telephone 326-9246

Date of birth 1946 Place of birth Leamington, Ontario

Town/City State of origin

Ethnic group Canadian Mennonite Religious identity General Conference Mennonite

Size of hometown \_\_\_\_\_ Age at time of departure \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation before emigration \_\_\_\_\_

Brief description of migration route. Note prior continental and trans-atlantic migrations. (mode of transportation to port, port, date of embarkation, port of arrival, etc.)

Names of ship, shipping lines, steamship agents, travel agents, inns, etc. \_\_\_\_\_

Date of arrival in North America \_\_\_\_\_

First residences in Canada (location, with kin or countrymen, size of accommodation) \_\_\_\_\_

First occupations in Canada (names of employers, ethnic origins of fellow employees) \_\_\_\_\_

Information about spouse (name, date of marriage, spouse's place of birth and ethnic identity) \_\_\_\_\_

Information about children and other kin \_\_\_\_\_

Other remarks Toews is a vegetable grower in Leamington who has employed numerous Mennonites from Mexico on his farm.

NAME OF PERSON INTERVIEWED: \_\_\_\_\_

VOTH

Heinrich S.

Surname

Given Names

DATE OF INTERVIEW: June 5, 1979

LENGTH OF INTERVIEW: 55 minutes

PLACE OF INTERVIEW: RR 2, Copenhagen, Ontario (interviewee's home)

LANGUAGE USED: Low German

NUMBER OF TAPES 1

INTERVIEWER(S): Ron Sawatsky

OTHERS PRESENT: Maria Voth (wife of Heinrich Voth)

SUMMARY OF CONTENTS: Tape 1, Side A: Parents origins in Russia - Heinrich born in Silberfeld, Manitoba - Maria born in Didsbury, Alberta - life in Alberta - Memories of Manitoba - why to Mexico? schools, military service - the move to Mexico via train from Gretna - pioneering in Mexico - arrival in the Santa Clara (Sommerfelder) Colony - early difficulties in agriculture in Mexico - Schools in Mexico, curriculum same as Old Col. - Heinrich and Marie courtship - married in 1930 - land purchases after marriage - left Santa Clara in 1935, to Schoenthal, 1948 or 1949 moved to Aldama - Tape 1, Side B ; Aldama is NE of Chihuahua about 180 kms from Santa Clara - communal farm experimnt but failed, no one there now - 1950 return to Santa Clara - 1966 Heinrich Xalone to Ontario - brings family in 1967 - life in Ont - employment etc. - Start of Sommerfelders in Ont. - 1968 several Old Col. people write to Somm. Bishop in Manitoba - Ministers elected after several months were Jacob Friesen and Peter Dyck - size of group in Ontario is about 30 families - Manitoba Bishop still serves the group twice a year - no relations to the Mex. Somm. - differences between OC and Somm in Ontario and Mex - Bishop Abram Doerksen in Mexico - the succession of bishops in Mexico - names of Mex bishops given - Entry of Voth family to Ont. - schools in Ont - language problems not many - Jakob Giesbrecht (66 minister to Paraguay) comments on

Giesbrecht move.

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DATE OF SUBMISSION: \_\_\_\_\_

Mem. to Archives of Ontario

MAT. SUBMISSION REPORT No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Aug 1979

MEN-9193-1007

Memorabilia from Mexico Oral History Project finding aid

CODE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

Hist. Mss 223

# The Multicultural History Society of Ontario

5 Hoskin Ave., Toronto, Ontario M5S 1H7

## IDENTIFICATION FORM

Submission Form No. 009193

Name Heinrich S. Voth S = Spenst Maiden name \_\_\_\_\_

Address RR 2, ~~EX~~ Copenhagen, Ontario N5H 2R2 Telephone 773-7210

Date of birth April 15, 1913 Place of birth Gretna, Manitoba (Silberfeld)  
Town/City State of origin

Ethnic group Mennonite from Mexico Religious identity Sommerfelder Mennonite

Size of hometown \_\_\_\_\_ Age at time of departure Age 9 to Mexico  
53 to Ontario

Occupation before emigration \_\_\_\_\_

Brief description of migration route. Note prior continental and trans-atlantic migrations. (mode of transportation to port, port, date of embarkation, port of arrival, etc.)

November 1922 to Mexico. (Part of the larger Manitoba Mennonite migration to Mexico) 1966 & 1967 to Ontario. Moved in permanently to Ontario in 1967.

Names of ship, shipping lines, steamship agents, travel agents, inns, etc. \_\_\_\_\_

Date of arrival in North America Summer of 1966 & permanently in 1967 in Ontario.

First residences in Canada (location, with kin or countrymen, size of accommodation) \_\_\_\_\_  
Around Aylmer, Ontario.

First occupations in Canada (names of employers, ethnic origins of fellow employees) \_\_\_\_\_  
Hand laborer in agricultural work in tobacco and tomatoes.

Information about spouse (name, date of marriage, spouse's place of birth and ethnic identity) \_\_\_\_\_

Maria Dueck born October 15, 1910 at Didsbury, Alberta.  
Married February 19, 1930.

Information about children and other kin \_\_\_\_\_  
Nine children - oldest is 48 and youngest is 25.

Other remarks Voths were likely among the first Sommerfelders from Santa Clara to move to Ontario.

NAME OF PERSON INTERVIEWED: \_\_\_\_\_

VOTH

John D.

Surname

Given Names

DATE OF INTERVIEW: June 12, 1979

LENGTH OF INTERVIEW: 1 hour &amp; 20 minutes

PLACE OF INTERVIEW: RR 5, Aylmer, Ontario, (interviewee's home)

LANGUAGE USED: Low German

NUMBER OF TAPES 2

INTERVIEWER(S): Ron Sawatsky

OTHERS PRESENT: None

SUMMARY OF CONTENTS: Tape 1, Side A: Biographical data - geographical characteristics of Chihuahua, Mex - (5:00) School in Mex Colonies - cheese factory work - (10:00) relations with the Mexicans - (15:00) the problem of rich and poor in Mex - courtship and marriage - (20:00) process of making cheese is described - (25:00) residences through 1969 - to Ontario - difficulties with immigration papers - trip to Ont - Tape 1, Side B: arrival in Kitchener - studying English at Fanshawe College - move to Aylmer - employment in Ontario - now at Clark Equipment - (10:00) Sommerfelder church start in Ont in 1969 - minister election - relation to Manitoba Somm - (15:00) start of EMC from Sommerfelder breakaway group - (20:00) Stats - about 32-35 families with 60 baptized - another minister election but not accept it - (25:00) rental of church building from the Baptists - diff between Old Col and Somm in Ont is very minimal - Tape 2, Side A: Sunday School building across the road - curriculum in Sunday School - (5:00) role of the deacon in Somm church - communion assistance + service - (10:00) difference between Somm in Ont and Mex - use of music that is sung more quickly - (15:00) the vorsingers who they are - Dave Klassen, Sr. how he came to Ont and Rev. Jacob Friesen history - (20:00) Jakob Giesbrecht to Paraguay - others to Paraguay - .

## FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

DATE OF SUBMISSION: SE 28/79

MAT. SUBMIS. REPORT No.: M6N-9145-VOT

Mem. Ontario Archives of Ontario

Mem. Ontario Archives of Ontario from Mexico Oral History Project finding aid

CODE NO.

Hist. Mss. 223

# The Multicultural History Society of Ontario

5 Hoskin Ave., Toronto, Ontario M5S 1H7

## IDENTIFICATION FORM

Submission Form No. 009145

Name John D. Voth Maiden name \_\_\_\_\_

Address RR 5, Aylmer, Ontario N5H 2R4 Telephone 773-3788

Date of birth October 2, 1942 Place of birth Santa Clara, Chihuahua, Mex.  
Town/City State of origin

Ethnic group Mennonite from Mexico Religious identity Sommerfelder

Size of hometown \_\_\_\_\_ Age at time of departure 27

Occupation before emigration farmer & cheese factory laborer

Brief description of migration route. Note prior continental and trans-atlantic migrations. (mode of transportation to port, port, date of embarkation, port of arrival, etc.)

Thru the United States via pickup truck with 10 passengers.

Names of ship, shipping lines, steamship agents, travel agents, inns, etc. \_\_\_\_\_

Date of arrival in North America March 15, 1969

First residences in Canada (location, with kin or countrymen, size of accommodation) \_\_\_\_\_

Around XX Aylmer, Ontario - for a short time in Kitchener  
at first.

First occupations in Canada (names of employers, ethnic origins of fellow employees) \_\_\_\_\_

Factory worker in Kitchener & then farm laborer in tobacco & tomatoes

Information about spouse (name, date of marriage, spouse's place of birth and ethnic identity) \_\_\_\_\_

Susan Berg born October 26, 1938 in Manitoba, Canada

Married in Mexico August 26, 1965

Information about children and other kin \_\_\_\_\_

7 children aged 13 to 6 - 4 year old died during trip to  
Mexico in January of 1979.

Other remarks Voth is the deacon of the Sommerfelder Church at Aylmer.

He is the son to Henry S. Voth who was also interviewed.

43 Queen's Park Crescent East, Toronto, Ontario M5S 2C3

№ 009145

NAME OF RESEARCHER: Ron Sawatsky

DATE OF SUBMISSION: June 13, 1979

[illegible]

REMARKS: Photo-copies of the written material are housed in the Conrad Grebel College Archives.  
Originals were returned to the owner.

# The Multicultural History Society of Ontario

43 Queen's Park Crescent East, Toronto, Ontario M5S 2C3

## ACQUISITIONS SUMMARY - INDIVIDUALS

**ETHNIC GROUP:** Mennonites from Mexico

**DONOR'S NAME & ADDRESS:** John D. Voth, RR 5, Aylmer, Ontario N5H 2R4

**MSR No.** 009145

### CONTENTS:

- 1- "Waisenverordnung der Sommerfelder Mennoniten Gemeinde in der Provinz Chihuahua, Mexico"- 1966 edition
- 2- "Wichtige Documenten den Mennoniten Gegeben Bei Aus Rusland Nach Canada Wandern" 1872

**EXTENT:**

**PAGES:** 36  
**ITEMS:** 2

### TAPES:

2 cassette tapes - Log # 7337

Mennonite Archives of Ontario

### PHOTOGRAPHS:

Mennonites from Mexico Oral History Project finding aid

Hist.Mss.22.3

NAME OF PERSON INTERVIEWED: WALL Aron S.  
Surname Given Names  
DATE OF INTERVIEW: July 30, 1979 LENGTH OF INTERVIEW: 55 minutes  
PLACE OF INTERVIEW: RR 2, Elmira (interviewee's home)  
LANGUAGE USED: Low German NUMBER OF TAPES 1  
INTERVIEWER(S): Ron Sawatsky  
OTHERS PRESENT: None

SUMMARY OF CONTENTS: Tape 1, Side A: (0:00) Birth in Durango, Mex - parents born in Saskatchewan - parents economic status in Mex was very low - work away from home at age 9 - (5:00) places lived in Durango - the Zacatecas settlement - (10:00) difficulties of pioneering - reason why move to Ont by Walls - citizenship secured in Mex already - details of paper work done by Joseph Knelsen - (15:00) details of move to Ontario - first employed as painter in Leamington area - secure a job in Elmira area after 6 months - (20:00) details of work in Elmira and Kitchener area - other Mex Mennos in the area of Elmira & Kit - (25:00) names of other families from the Durango colony in the Kitchener area - Old Colony Church population in Kitchener area is 26 families - Start of Roseville OC church in 1972 - details -  
Tape 1, Side B: (0:00) 1975 Old Col start again at the Seventh Day Adventist Church south of Kit on Westmount Rd - details - Summer 1977 stop again - spring 1978 move into Roseville Mennonite church as EMMC vacate it (5:00) details of arrangements with church owners - possibility of purchase - average attendance 10 to 15 families - Aaron's term as vorsteher - previous vorstehers and succeeding - (10:00) duties of a vorsthher - finances within the Old Col church at Roseville - Immigration and citizenship paper work of Aaron - details - (15:00) OMIAC involvement - (20:00) Bolivia move? - Seminole migration-

## FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

DATE OF SUBMISSION: \_\_\_\_\_

Mennonite Archives of Ontario  
MAT. SUBMISSION REPORT No.: \_\_\_\_\_MEN-9303-WALL  
Mennonites from Mexico Oral History Project finding aid

CODE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

Hist.Mss.22.3



# The Multicultural History Society of Ontario

5 Hoskin Ave., Toronto, Ontario M5S 1H7

## IDENTIFICATION FORM

Submission Form No. 0 09303

Name S. Aron Wall Maiden name \_\_\_\_\_

Address RR 2, Elmira, Ontario N3B 2Z2 Telephone 669-8056

Date of birth January 9, 1940 Place of birth Durango, Mexico

Town/City State of origin

Ethnic group Mennonite from Mexico Religious identity Old Colony Mennonite

Size of hometown \_\_\_\_\_ Age at time of departure \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation before emigration \_\_\_\_\_

Brief description of migration route. Note prior continental and trans-atlantic migrations. (mode of transportation to port, port, date of embarkation, port of arrival, etc.)

Names of ship, shipping lines, steamship agents, travel agents, inns, etc. \_\_\_\_\_

Date of arrival in North America July 1967

First residences in Canada (location, with kin or countrymen, size of accommodation) \_\_\_\_\_

Leamington, Ontario for 1½ years & then Elmira

First occupations in Canada (names of employers, ethnic origins of fellow employees) \_\_\_\_\_

Painter and factory worker

Information about spouse (name, date of marriage, spouse's place of birth and ethnic identity) \_\_\_\_\_

Margaretha Reimer born November 1936 in Durango, Mexico

Married July 21, 1957 in Campo 7 by Rev. Peter Wall

Information about children and other kin \_\_\_\_\_

6 children - oldest is 20 and youngest is 9

Other remarks Wall has been Vorsteher of the Old Colony Church at Kitchener.

He has also been heavily involved in immigration and citizenship paperwork.

NAME OF PERSON INTERVIEWED: (Aaron N. Wieb) Wieb Aaron N.  
Surname Given Names

DATE OF INTERVIEW: May 28, 1979 LENGTH OF INTERVIEW: 1 hour & 30 minutes

PLACE OF INTERVIEW: RR 1, Eden, Ontario NOJ 1H0 (Interviewee's residence)

LANGUAGE USED: Low German NUMBER OF TAPES 2 cassette

INTERVIEWER(S): Ron Sawatsky

OTHERS PRESENT: Wife & children also Jacob Rempel and Mrs. Rempel of RR 6, Aylmer (also recent immigrant)

SUMMARY OF CONTENTS: Tape 1, Side A: Biographical data - memories of childhood in Mexico - parents were very poor - colony schools - reasons for the move to Canada by the Wiebs - courtship and marriage of the Wiebs - comments about Bishop Isaak M. Dyck - Tape 1, Side B: the present bishop (Heinrich Dyck) not as appreciated as Isaak M. Dyck - review of bishops of Nord Plan & Swift Plan - Swift Plan move to Bolivia and entry of the Rhineländer of Manitoba - differences between Old Col., Kleinemeinde, in Ont and Mex - general reasons for people moving to Ont from Mex - Mennonites relations to Mexican nationals - how Wiebs heard of Ont - Tape 2, Side A: details of the trip to Manitoba and then to Ont - realized that there were more possibilities for employment in Ontario - Bill Janzen of MCC Ottawa confirms wisdom of move to Ontario for help in making citizenship papers - Wiebs describe their own personal difficulties in working with their papers for the family - description of first housing in Ontario - Jacob Rempel describe their own situation as being similar to that of the Wiebs - language difficulties upon arrival in Ontario - Old Colony church of Ont described - singing in the church (solo wiese) Tape 2, Side B: several comments regarding Aaron's brother Jacob (Ont Old Colony minister)

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

DATE OF SUBMISSION: Aug 1979

Mennonite Archives of Ontario

Mennonites from Mexico Oral History Project finding aid

Hist. Mes. 2.3

MAT. SUBMISSION REPORT No.: MEN-9140-WIE

CODE NO.

# The Multicultural History Society of Ontario

5 Hoskin Ave., Toronto, Ontario M5S 1H7

## IDENTIFICATION FORM

Submission Form No. 009140

Name Aaron N. Wieb

Maiden name \_\_\_\_\_

Address RR 1, Eden, Ontario NOJ 1H0

Telephone 866-5542

Date of birth May 2, 1928

Place of birth Cuauhtemoc, Chih, Mexico

Town/City

State of origin

Ethnic group Mennonite from Mexico

Religious identity Old Colony Mennonite

Size of hometown \_\_\_\_\_

Age at time of departure 50

Occupation before emigration Farmer

Brief description of migration route. Note prior continental and trans-atlantic migrations. (mode of transportation to port, port, date of embarkation, port of arrival, etc.)

By pickup truck (11 passengers!) to Winkler, Manitoba. Stayed two months in Manitoba and then on to Ontario. Are still attempting to get citizenship papers.

Names of ship, shipping lines, steamship agents, travel agents, inns, etc. \_\_\_\_\_

Date of arrival in North America April 15, ~~1978~~ 1978

First residences in Canada (location, with kin or countrymen, size of accommodation) \_\_\_\_\_

Around Aylmer

First occupations in Canada (names of employers, ethnic origins of fellow employees) \_\_\_\_\_

Hand laborers in Vegetable and tobacco farms.

Information about spouse (name, date of marriage, spouse's place of birth and ethnic identity) \_\_\_\_\_

Sarah Janzen, born November 30, 1926, Cuauhtemoc, Chih, Mexico

August 29, 1954 married.

Information about children and other kin 9 children, 6 males & 3 female (oldest is 24 & and youngest is 9.

Other remarks Has large family register which he copied from father's register in Mexico.

43 Queen's Park Crescent East, Toronto, Ontario M5S 2C3

NY 009140

NAME OF RESEARCHER: RON SAWATSKY

DATE OF SUBMISSION: MAY 28, 1979

[illegible]

REMARKS: Wieb family register copied and returned. Copy on file at Conrad Grebel College Archives.

NAME OF PERSON INTERVIEWED: \_\_\_\_\_

Wieb

Surname

Rev. Jacob

Given Names

DATE OF INTERVIEW: June 18, 1979

LENGTH OF INTERVIEW: 2 hours and 40 minutes

PLACE OF INTERVIEW: RR 6, Aylmer (interviewee's home)

LANGUAGE USED: Low German

NUMBER OF TAPES 3

INTERVIEWER(S): Ron Sawatsky

OTHERS PRESENT: None

SUMMARY OF CONTENTS: Tape 1, Side A: Wieb's personal history - to Mex in 1926 - school in Man & Mex - rote learning not enjoyable - employment of various kinds in Mex - cheese factory, well drilling and share cropping with Dave Klassen (brother-in-law) - wished to return to Canada - knew of the Abram Loewens in Ont. - 1955 May to Horndean (for 1 year) - 1956 May to Ontario - Tape 1, Side B: Dave Klassen also moved to Copenhagen - Wieb working in tobacco factory for 8 months of the year - 1st families in Ont listed - beginnings of the Old Col. church in Ont - details given - role of Bishops Froese and Penner of Manitoba - Peter Harder first worker for Old Col. - 13 families start church in 1958 - group moves to Rainy River in 1960 with Harder - Nov. 1960 minister election of Jacob Wieb and Henry Peters also deacon Peter Giesbrecht Sr. - the role of Henry Peters and Jake Neudorf - 1962 Isaac Peters and Jake Neudorf visit among Old Col. in Ont, - 1963 Neudorf leaves OC for EMMC - Henry Peters joins forces with Neudorf and I. Peters - Tape 2, Side A: Details of the Henry Peters and the Old Col. - Origins of the Sommerfelden church in Ont - Springfield OC church purchased 1963 - role of Henry Wiebes of Dunnville - membership stats given 1962 were 122 baptized members and 1978 were 800 members baptized. Tape 2, Side B: Matheson settlement - 66 minister elections in Ont - Bishop Reimer and Seminole - Bishop Quiring - Tape 3, Side

A: the OC church in Ont philosophy and future - Side B: EMC start in Ont & Henry Peters EMC membership.  
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

DATE OF SUBMISSION: Aug 1979

MAT. SUBMISSION REPORT No.:

Menonite Archives of Ontario

Menonites from Mexico Oral History Project finding aid

CODE NO.

Hist. Mss. 223

MEN-7198-00E

# The Multicultural History Society of Ontario

5 Hoskin Ave., Toronto, Ontario M5S 1H7

## IDENTIFICATION FORM

Submission Form No. 009198

Name Rev. Jacob Wieb Maiden name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address RR 6, Aylmer, Ontario N5H 2R5 Telephone 773-5281

Date of birth August 17, 1916 Place of birth Kronsthal, Gretna, Manitoba  
Town/City State of origin  
Ethnic group Mennonites from Mexico Religious identity Old Colony  
Size of hometown \_\_\_\_\_ Age at time of departure \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation before emigration \_\_\_\_\_

Brief description of migration route. Note prior continental and trans-atlantic migrations. (mode of transportation to port, port, date of embarkation, port of arrival, etc.)

1926 (age 10) the Wiebs moved to Mexico. May 15, 1955 Jacob moved to Manitoba again and May 31(approx), 1956 moved to Ontario.

Names of ship, shipping lines, steamship agents, travel agents, inns, etc. \_\_\_\_\_

Date of arrival in North America 1955 to Manitoba and 1956 to Ontario

First residences in Canada (location, with kin or countrymen, size of accommodation) \_\_\_\_\_

First occupations in Canada (names of employers, ethnic origins of fellow employees) \_\_\_\_\_

Information about spouse (name, date of marriage, spouse's place of birth and ethnic identity) \_\_\_\_\_

Justina Martens born September 21, 1917

Married on December 19, 1937 in Mexico.

Information about children and other kin \_\_\_\_\_

5 children - oldest is 40 and the youngest is 26

Other remarks Wieb is one of the two ministers first elected in the Old Colony

Church of Ontario. He is an excellent source of detailed information regarding the early days of the Old Colony in Ontario.

**43 Queen's Park Crescent East, Toronto, Ontario M5S 2C3**

ME 009198

NAME OF RESEARCHER: Ron Sawatsky

DATE OF SUBMISSION: June 18, 1979

Description of Material (Please provide general break-down)	No. PCS.	Language Material is in	Mat. Available		Name & Address of Donor/Lender/Interviewee
			As Donation	On loan for Copying	
A. WRITTEN MATERIAL:					
1- Statistics of Old Colony of Ont	1	German		X	Rev. Jacob Wieb
1962 thru 1978					RR 6, Aylmer, Ontario
					N5H 2R5
					phone: 773-5281
B. PHOTOGRAPHS:					
C. TAPES:				Interview Log Form No.	
One cassette tape interview	3	Low German		7347	

REMARKS: Copied and filed at Conrad Grebel College Archives

NAME OF PERSON INTERVIEWED: Wiebe Bernhard H.  
Surname Given Names

DATE OF INTERVIEW: June 6, 1979 LENGTH OF INTERVIEW: 1 hour & 15 minutes

PLACE OF INTERVIEW: RR 1, Port Burwell (interviewee's place of residence)

LANGUAGE USED: ~~Low~~ Low German NUMBER OF TAPES 2

INTERVIEWER(S): Ron Sawatsky

OTHERS PRESENT: Helena Wiebe ( wife of interviewee)

SUMMARY OF CONTENTS: Tape 1, Side A: (00:00) Biographical data - memories of Mexico - (5:00) school - courtship and marriage - after marriage occupations - 1958 to Belize - details of migration from Mex - (10:00) how the land in Belize was initially explored and then settled - (15:00) rubber tire controversy in Belize - formation of dissident settlements and groups - (20:00) land, crops and climate in Belize - details of Jake Dyck group - (25:00) Shipyard settlement - several bishops ordained - Manitoba vs Mex Old Col groups in Belize - Tape 1 Side B: (0:00) split in the Jake Dyck group 1960 - (5:00) relations between Jake Dyck group and EMMC - Hsrms group emigrated to Bolivia - (10:00) problems of settling in Belize (15:00) cement block making (20:00) role of EMMC in Belize - 1st workers - (25:00) EMMC cont. - Wiebe's papers already completed in 1950's in Mexico - Tape 2, Side A: immigration papers cont. - (5:00) details of coming to Canada - will return to sell property in Bel - (10:00) Language facility in Ont - (15:00) migration from Belize to Bolivia - details of which group and how many - (20:00) other places ~~XXXXXX~~ such as Costa Rica and Australia have been considered - details of attendance at EMMC in Belize and xOnt - compare Jake Dyck group and EMMC - (25:00) problems in pioneering in Belize re: the marketing of crops, etc.

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DATE OF SUBMISSION: SC 28/79

Mennonite Archives of Ontario Mennonites from Mexico Oral History Project finding aid

MAT. SUBMISSIC REPORT No.: MEN-9195-WIE CODE NO. 223 Hist. Mss. 223



# The Multicultural History Society of Ontario

5 Hoskin Ave., Toronto, Ontario M5S 1H7

## IDENTIFICATION FORM

Submission Form No. 009195

Name Bernhard H. Wiebe Maiden name \_\_\_\_\_

Address RR 1, Port Burwell, Ontario NOJ 1T0 Telephone 874-4602

Date of birth January 17, 1926 Place of birth Manitoba Plan, Chihuahua, Mex.  
Town/City State of origin

Ethnic group Mennonite from Mexico Religious identity Old Colony/EMMC

Size of hometown \_\_\_\_\_ Age at time of departure \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation before emigration \_\_\_\_\_

Brief description of migration route. Note prior continental and trans-atlantic migrations. (mode of transportation to port, port, date of embarkation, port of arrival, etc.)

Wiebe was born in Mexico. In 1958 he moved to Belize and in 1978  
he and his family came to Canada.

Names of ship, shipping lines, steamship agents, travel agents, inns, etc. \_\_\_\_\_

Date of arrival in North America Arrived Manitoba May 7, 1978 & to Ontario August 1978

First residences in Canada (location, with kin or countrymen, size of accommodation) \_\_\_\_\_

First occupations in Canada (names of employers, ethnic origins of fellow employees) \_\_\_\_\_

Information about spouse (name, date of marriage, spouse's place of birth and ethnic identity) \_\_\_\_\_

Helena Hiebert born January 6, 1928, Manitoba Plan, Chihuahua,  
Mexico. Married June 1947

Information about children and other kin 9 children - oldest 32 and youngest 10

Other remarks Wiebe was one of the first to migrate to Belize from Mexico.  
He is one of the few who have come to Canada from Belize.

NAME OF PERSON INTERVIEWED: Wiebe Henry

Surname

Given Names

DATE OF INTERVIEW: June 26, 1979 LENGTH OF INTERVIEW: 1 hourPLACE OF INTERVIEW: RR 1, Lowbanks, Ont. (interviewee's home)LANGUAGE USED: English with some Low German NUMBER OF TAPES 1INTERVIEWER(S): Ron SawatskyOTHERS PRESENT: Annie Wiebe (wife of interviewee)

SUMMARY OF CONTENTS: Tape 1, Side A: Biographical data - review of places lived and worked after marriage - (5:00) first contact with Mex Mennonites - begin to hold Sunday School with people near Tilsonburg - format of the Sunday School - (15:00) singing with the children - involvement of other Mennonites from Ont in the work of Wiebes - (20:00) impressions of the founding of the Old Col church - minister election etc. - (25:00) Wiebes work with Old Col from 1959 to 1963 - further details of the Sunday School - other teachers such as Isaac Peters - sizes of the group during the 5 years - from 30 at start to 60 or 70 at end -

Tape 1 Side B: Isaac Peters as teacher - also Helen Wiebe (daughter of Jacob Wiebe) (5:00) financial arrangements of Wiebe's assistance to Old Col - (10:00) places of meeting in houses and then in the Port Burwell school - role of Jake Neudorf in Ont - (15:00) the Bishop from Manitoba comes in - (20:00) role of Peter Harder as the first minister of Old Col - (25:00) general impressions of the Old Col - big families and earn much money and spend it too! - theologically conservative - formality of the sermons and church services.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

DATE OF SUBMISSION: SE 28/79

Mennonite Archives of Ontario

Mennonites from Mexico Oral History Project finding aid

Hist.Mss.22.3

MAT. SUBMISSION PORT No.: MEN-9206-WIE CODE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

# The Multicultural History Society of Ontario

5 Hoskin Ave., Toronto, Ontario M5S 1H7

## IDENTIFICATION FORM

Submission Form No. 009206

Name Henry Wiebe

Maiden name \_\_\_\_\_

Address RR 1, Lowbanks, Ontario NoA 1K0

Telephone 416-774-3910

Date of birth August 21, 1928

Place of birth Chortitz Colony, Ukraine, USSR  
Town/City State of origin

Ethnic group Re: Mexican Mennonites

Religious identity formerly GC now Brethern In Christ.

Size of hometown \_\_\_\_\_

Age at time of departure \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation before emigration \_\_\_\_\_

Brief description of migration route. Note prior continental and trans-atlantic migrations. (mode of transportation to port, port, date of embarkation, port of arrival, etc.)

Names of ship, shipping lines, steamship agents, travel agents, inns, etc. \_\_\_\_\_

Date of arrival in North America Came to Manitoba in June 1948, to St. Catherines in

First residences in Canada (location, with kin or countrymen, size of accommodation) 1950s/

First occupations in Canada (names of employers, ethnic origins of fellow employees) \_\_\_\_\_

Information about spouse (name, date of marriage, spouse's place of birth and ethnic identity) \_\_\_\_\_

Annie Wiebe born in the Ukraine in 1930.

Married in 1957 in Canada.

Information about children and other kin \_\_\_\_\_

Other remarks Wiebes were the first to conduct Sunday School among the Old Colony in Ontario. This was ~~the~~ one of the early contacts that the new immigrants from Mexico had with other Mennonites in Ontario.

# The Multicultural History Society of Ontario

43 Queen's Park Crescent East, Toronto, Ontario M5S 2C3

## ACQUISITIONS SUMMARY — INDIVIDUALS

**ETHNIC GROUP:** Mennonites from Mexico

**DONOR'S NAME & ADDRESS:** Henry Wiebe, RR 1, Lowbanks, Ontario NOA 1K0

**MSR No.** 009206

### CONTENTS:

#### Photographs:

- 1- May 1959- Old Colony Sunday School that the Wiebes taught while still at the "house". Photo was taken within the first month of Wiebes teaching period.
- 2a- Wedding of Abe Loewens on July 9, 1961. Photo of the wedding reception. Loewens seated at far end of table.
- 2b- Also wedding of Abe Loewens. Other faces are visible at the table. Wedding took place at Aylmer, Ontario.
- 3- Old Colony Sunday School photos. This was probably taken in 1962. The location is at the ~~WENTWORTH~~ school building near Fort Burwell that the Old Colony had purchased. Note Isaac Peters in center rear of photo. He was assisting Wiebe as a teacher at the time of the photo. Mrs. Annie Wiebe (holding a child) is standing on the right rear of the picture.

**EXTENT:**

**PAGES:**

**ITEMS:**

**TAPES:**

**PHOTOGRAPHS:** four photos

One cassette tape - Loc # 7640

Mennonite Archives of Ontario

Mennonites from Mexico Oral History Project finding aid

Hist.Mss.22.3

NAME OF PERSON INTERVIEWED: Wiebe Jacob  
Surname Given Names  
DATE OF INTERVIEW: June 28, 1979 LENGTH OF INTERVIEW: 1 hour and 20 minutes  
PLACE OF INTERVIEW: 80 North St. W., Tilsonburg (interviewee's home)  
LANGUAGE USED: Low German NUMBER OF TAPES 2  
INTERVIEWER(S): Ron Sawatsky  
OTHERS PRESENT: Anna Wiebe (wife of interviewee) *(Restricted)*

SUMMARY OF CONTENTS: Tape 1, Side A: Biographical data - memories of Manitoba - reasons for leaving for Mex - pioneering in Mex - the train trip to Mex - 1st impressions of Mex - 1930 Wiebe family moves among the Sommerfelders - courtship and marriage of Jacob and Anna - work for Redekop in Cuahatemoc store - the Redekop family today - Wiebe goes into his own retail grocery store in Cuauhtemoc - to Manitoba in 1954 - Tape 1, Side B: 1st employment in Manitoba - back to Mex for winter - return in 1955 - to Ont (Vineland) - to Tilsonburg at Tobacco Marketing Board for 2 years - at Aylmer tobacco factory for 15 winters - retire 1975 - involvement in the start of the OC church in Ont - role of Manitoba OC and Ont GC - Jake neudorf, Bishop Jacob Froese, Bishop Penner, Henry Wiebes, Peter Harder, - the group leaves for Rainy River with Peter Harder - details group at R. R. - Matheson settlement - reasons for move - the role of Henry Peters in OC and his relations with Jacob Wieb, Bishop Froese and Penner - H. Peters attempt to return to the OC as a minister - Tape 2, Side A: Start of the Sommerfelder church in Ontario result from the problems in OC church - 15 families start the group - Ministers Jacob Friesen and Peter Dyck not agree! - Dyck leaves with Henry Peters to join the EMC group and Friesen leaves for Paraguay - Sommerfelders have no minister - group dynamics of Sommerfelder church - Sunday School in OC & Somm - Henry Wiebes - Johann P. Wall of Durango discussed - Sommerfelder bishops who searched for land also mentioned.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

DATE OF SUBMISSION: Aug 1979

Mennonite Archives of Ontario

MAT. SUBMISS. REPORT No.:

MEN - 9209 - MR Mennonites from Mexico Oral History Project finding aid

CODE NO.

Hist. Mes. 22.3

# IDENTIFICATION FORM

Submission Form No. 009209

Name Jacob Wiebe (Tilsonburg)

Maiden name \_\_\_\_\_

Address 80 North St. W., Tilsonburg, Ontario N4G 1C2

Telephone 842-66

Date of birth January 13, 1911

Place of birth Blumenort, (Gretna), Manitoba

Ethnic group Mennonite from Mexico

Town/City

State of origin

Religious identity Now EMMC, earlier Old

Size of hometown \_\_\_\_\_

Age at time of departure Colony & Sommerfelder

Occupation before emigration \_\_\_\_\_

Brief description of migration route. Note prior continental and trans-atlantic migrations. (mode of transportation to port, port, date of embarkation, port of arrival, etc.)

Names of ship, shipping lines, steamship agents, travel agents, inns, etc.

1922 to Mexico from Manitoba

1954 to Manitoba

Date of arrival in North America

1955 to Manitoba & then Ontario

First residences in Canada (location, with kin or countrymen, size of accommodation)

First occupations in Canada (names of employers, ethnic origins of fellow employees)

farm laborer and construction

Information about spouse (name, date of marriage, spouse's place of birth and ethnic identity)

Anna Sawatsky born January 18, 1912 in Gretna, Manitoba

Married October 28, 1934 in Santa Clara Colony, Mexico (Sommerfelder)

Information about children and other kin

9 children - 7 living now ~~xxxxx~~ oldest is 42 and youngest is 27

Other remarks One of the early immigrants who helped to get the Old Colony Church started in Ontario. Also one of the founders of the Sommerfelder Church in Ontario.

NAME OF PERSON INTERVIEWED: Wiebe Jacob D.  
Surname Given Names

DATE OF INTERVIEW: July 17, 1979 LENGTH OF INTERVIEW: 40 minutes

PLACE OF INTERVIEW: RR 4, Leamington (interviewee's home)

LANGUAGE USED: Low German NUMBER OF TAPES 1

INTERVIEWER(S): Ron Sawatsky

OTHERS PRESENT: Anna Wiebe (wife of interviewee)

<p>SUMMARY OF CONTENTS: <u>Tape 1, Side A: (0:00) Biographical data - memories of Mexico - made Canadian papers in 1952 in Mexico - (5:00) arrival in Canada at Manitoba and then to Ont after 1½ years - arrived in Leamington and received assistance from the Russian Mennos - employment places - (10:00) employment continued - Start of Old Col church in Wheatley - 1964 fall Wieb and Peters come in from Aylmer - (15:00) meetings in the houses - participants listed - Coatsworth school - to the present location about 1966 - (20:00) Reasons for leaving school - buildings used on present church property - (25:00) Wiebes leave Old Col in 1975 - Sunday School among the Old Col - Wiebe the first teacher - philosophy if the SS - Wiebe and Peter Driedger were selected as ministers in spring 1966 - 1969 in fall 6 other men elected -</u></p> <p><u>Tape 1, Side B: (0:00) Bishop Penner of Manitoba was elected in 1958 - details of the church building and property acquisition of the Wheatley Old Col Church - (5:00) comments regarding the immigration laws of Candda - end.</u></p>

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

DATE OF SUBMISSION: Sept 79

MAT. SUBMISSIO: MEN-9298 WIFE Mennonite Archives of Ontario Mennonites from Mexico Oral History Project finding aid CODE NO.   Hist. Mss. 22.3

# The Multicultural History Society of Ontario

5 Hoskin Ave., Toronto, Ontario M5S 1H7

## IDENTIFICATION FORM

Submission Form No. 009298

Name Jacob D. Wiebe Maiden name \_\_\_\_\_

Address RR 4, Leamington, Ontario N8H 3V7 Telephone 326-4357

Date of birth March 1, 1930 Place of birth Manitoba Plan, Mexico

Town/City State of origin

Ethnic group Mennonite from Mexico Religious identity former OC now EMMC attender

Size of hometown \_\_\_\_\_ Age at time of departure \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation before emigration \_\_\_\_\_

Brief description of migration route. Note prior continental and trans-atlantic migrations. (mode of transportation to port, port, date of embarkation, port of arrival, etc.)

Names of ship, shipping lines, steamship agents, travel agents, inns, etc. \_\_\_\_\_

Date of arrival in North America To Ontario from Mexico in 1964

First residences in Canada (location, with kin or countrymen, size of accommodation) \_\_\_\_\_

First occupations in Canada (names of employers, ethnic origins of fellow employees) \_\_\_\_\_

Information about spouse (name, date of marriage, spouse's place of birth and ethnic identity) \_\_\_\_\_

Anna Klassen born February 23, 1931 Mexico

Married August 19, 1951 in Mexico

Information about children and other kin \_\_\_\_\_

7 children - oldest is 27 and youngest is 13

Other remarks \_\_\_\_\_



# The Multicultural History Society of Ontario

5 Hoskin Ave., Toronto, Ontario M5S 1H7

## INTERVIEW LOG FORM

No. 7637

NAME OF PERSON INTERVIEWED: \_\_\_\_\_

Wiebe

Ramon P.

Surname

Given Names

DATE OF INTERVIEW: June 25, 1979

LENGTH OF INTERVIEW: 40 minutes

PLACE OF INTERVIEW: 50 Talbot St., Aylmer (MCC office)

LANGUAGE USED: English

NUMBER OF TAPES 1

INTERVIEWER(S): Ron Sawatsky

OTHERS PRESENT: None

SUMMARY OF CONTENTS: Tape 1, Side A: (0:00) biographical data - early memories of life in Mex - marriage and courtship - (5:00) from time of marriage to coming to Ont - occupation and living conditions - (10:00) changes in Mex over the last 5 or 10 years - first impressions of Ont - (15:00) immigration and citizenship details - work in tobacco factory and Ford Motor of St. Thomas - (20:00) language difficulty was minimal - wife and children language facility - (25:00) information on farming methods in Mex - the church in Mex ie rubber tire controversy - Tape 1, Side B: (0:00) church attendance in Ont is with the Gottes Gemeinde - has tried Old Col and EMMC - (5:00) differences between Gottes Gem and EMMC - the future in Canada - dreams of owning own farm - economic theory of Ramon .

### FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

DATE OF SUBMISSION: SE 28/79

Mennonite Archives of Ontario

Mennonites from Mexico Oral History Project finding aid.

Hist. Mss. 233

MAT. SUBMISSION REPORT No.: MEN-9203-WIE

CODE NO.

# The Multicultural History Society of Ontario

5 Hoskin Ave., Toronto, Ontario M5S 1H7

Submission Form No. 009203

## IDENTIFICATION FORM

Name Ramon P. Wiebe Maiden name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address 12 Rogers Rd., Aylmer, Ont N5H 2V9 Telephone 773-5896

Date of birth June 29, 1949 Place of birth Nord Plan, Chihuahua, Mexico  
Town/City State of origin

Ethnic group Mennonite from Mexico Religious identity now Gemeinde Gottes former Old Colony

Size of hometown \_\_\_\_\_ Age at time of departure \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation before emigration \_\_\_\_\_

Brief description of migration route. Note prior continental and trans-atlantic migrations. (mode of transportation to port, port, date of embarkation, port of arrival, etc.)

To Ontario via the USA

Names of ship, shipping lines, steamship agents, travel agents, inns, etc. \_\_\_\_\_

Date of arrival in North America 1971

First residences in Canada (location, with kin or countrymen, size of accommodation) \_\_\_\_\_

Aylmer in rented housing

First occupations in Canada (names of employers, ethnic origins of fellow employees) \_\_\_\_\_

Tobacco factory worker & Ford Motor Comp.

Information about spouse (name, date of marriage, spouse's place of birth and ethnic identity) \_\_\_\_\_

Margaretha Wall born August 18, 1953 in Swift Plan, Chihuahua, Mex.

Married July 27, 1970

Information about children and other kin 4 children - oldest is 8 and youngest is 3

Other remarks \_\_\_\_\_

# The Multicultural History Society of Ontario

5 Hoskin Ave., Toronto, Ontario M5S 1H7

## INTERVIEW LOG FORM

No. 7644

NAME OF PERSON INTERVIEWED: \_\_\_\_\_ Wiens \_\_\_\_\_ Werner F.

Surname

Given Names

DATE OF INTERVIEW: June 28, 1979 \_\_\_\_\_ LENGTH OF INTERVIEW: 40 minutes

PLACE OF INTERVIEW: RR 2, St. Williams (interviewee's home)

LANGUAGE USED: English \_\_\_\_\_ NUMBER OF TAPES 1

INTERVIEWER(S): Ron Sawatsky

OTHERS PRESENT: None

SUMMARY OF CONTENTS: Tape 1, Side A: Biographical data - details of farm operation in Port Rowan area - employment of Mennonites from Mexico in tomato and cucumber harvest - number of employees - difficulties in procuring stoop workers - how contact is made with workers - housing for workers - average earnings of a family - Problems of Wiens with Mexican Menno workers - rootlessness of people and reliability - impressions of Mexico gleaned by Wiens from workers - lifestyle in Mexico carried over to Ont - on a different concept of time - religious holidays - sense of religious piety of the people - Tape 1, Side B: the legalism of the Church of Mexico - Wiens notes differences in lifestyle from the different locations in Mexico - assimilation and acculturation of the workers - alcoholism and tobacco problems .

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DATE OF SUBMISSION: SE 28/79

Mennonite Archives of Ontario

Mennonites from Mexico Oral History Project finding aid

Hist. Mes. 22.3

MAT. SUBMISSIO. REPORT No.: MEN-9210-WIC \_\_\_\_\_ CODE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

# The Multicultural History Society of Ontario

5 Hoskin Ave., Toronto, Ontario M5S 1H7

## IDENTIFICATION FORM

Submission Form No. 009210

Name Werner F. Wiens Maiden name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address RR 2, St. Williams, Ontario NOE 1A0 Telephone 586-2626

Date of birth 1930 Place of birth Watrous, Saskatchewan

Ethnic group Canadian -(Re:Mexican Mennonites) Town/City \_\_\_\_\_ State of origin \_\_\_\_\_  
Religious identity Mennonite Brethern

Size of hometown \_\_\_\_\_ Age at time of departure \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation before emigration \_\_\_\_\_

Brief description of migration route. Note prior continental and trans-atlantic migrations. (mode of transportation to port, port, date of embarkation, port of arrival, etc.)

Names of ship, shipping lines, steamship agents, travel agents, inns, etc. \_\_\_\_\_

Date of arrival in North America \_\_\_\_\_

First residences in Canada (location, with kin or countrymen, size of accommodation) \_\_\_\_\_

Moved to Ontario from Saskatchewan in 1944

First occupations in Canada (names of employers, ethnic origins of fellow employees) \_\_\_\_\_

Information about spouse (name, date of marriage, spouse's place of birth and ethnic identity) \_\_\_\_\_

Information about children and other kin \_\_\_\_\_

Other remarks Wiens is one of many farmers in south-western Ontario who employ Mennonites from Mexico on their tomato and cucumber farms. The interview with Wiens gives the employer's point of view.

# The Multicultural History Society of Ontario

5 Hoskin Ave., Toronto, Ontario M5S 1H7

## INTERVIEW LOG FORM

No. 7336

NAME OF PERSON INTERVIEWED: Woelk Peter

Surname

Given Names

DATE OF INTERVIEW: May 31, 1979 LENGTH OF INTERVIEW: 1 hour and 50 minutes

PLACE OF INTERVIEW: RR 3, Port Rowan, Ontario (interviewee's home)

LANGUAGE USED: Low German NUMBER OF TAPES 2

INTERVIEWER(S): Ron Sawatsky

OTHERS PRESENT: Helena Woelk (wife of interviewee)

SUMMARY OF CONTENTS: Tape 1, Side A: Biographical data - memories of Durango, Mex - very poor economic conditions in the family - Peter's difficulty with the Old Col church in Zacatecas - problems with housing alcohol and tobacco use in Mex - ministers in Durango - courtship and marriage of the Woelks - Tape 1, Side B: residences after marriage - occupations - Woelk shoots friend in hunting accident in Mex - details of the move to Zacatecas from Durango in 1965 - lived as poor family for a number of years - preparations to go to Ont - arrival in 1974 in Ont - first employment & residences - wages paid for tomato and cucumber work - travels back to Mex - details of Herman Janzen (son-in-law) disaster in Elmira - Tape 2, Side A: hurried travel back from Mex after being notified of deaths - Walsingham Old Col church - singing in Ont compared to Mex churches - excommunication for the move to Ontario - How Woelks hear of Ont? - taking out membership with the Old Col in Ont - problem of the bann from Mex - education in Ont - also language difficulties for parents - adjustment and culture shock in Ont - Tape 2, Side B: details of making of cheese in Mex - migrations from Mex to Paraguay, Belize and Bolivia explained and discussed possible moves to Costa Rica - young people rebelling in the Durango Colony in Mex -

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DATE OF SUBMIT: Sept 28 1979 Mennonite Archives of Ontario Mennonites from Mexico Oral History Project finding aid Hist. Ms. 23.3

MAIL Q144-1106

CODE NO

# The Multicultural History Society of Ontario

5 Hoskin Ave., Toronto, Ontario M5S 1H7

009144

## IDENTIFICATION FORM

Submission Form No. \_\_\_\_\_

Name Peter Woelk Maiden name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address RR 3, Port Rowan, Ontario NOE 1MO Telephone 586-2096

Date of birth November 22, 1933 Place of birth Hochfeld, Durango, Mexico  
Town/City State of origin

Ethnic group Mennonite from Mexico Religious identity Old Colony

Size of hometown \_\_\_\_\_ Age at time of departure 41

Occupation before emigration \_\_\_\_\_

Brief description of migration route. Note prior continental and trans-atlantic migrations. (mode of transportation to port, port, date of embarkation, port of arrival, etc.)

July 13, 1974

Names of ship, shipping lines, steamship agents, travel agents, inns, etc. \_\_\_\_\_

Date of arrival in North America 1974

First residences in Canada (location, with kin or countrymen, size of accommodation) \_\_\_\_\_

First occupations in Canada (names of employers, ethnic origins of fellow employees) \_\_\_\_\_

Information about spouse (name, date of marriage, spouse's place of birth and ethnic identity) \_\_\_\_\_

Helena Klassen, September 23, ~~1933~~ 1933

Married September 14, 1953

Information about children and other kin \_\_\_\_\_

17 children (11 living) oldest is 24 - youngest is 3

Other remarks \_\_\_\_\_