

NOTES FROM THE ARCHIVES



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Canadian Moravian Historical Society, Edmonton Chapter
2303-38 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6L 4K9

Who are We?

Established in 1982, the Canadian Moravian Historical Society is an independent, not-for-profit registered organization with a volunteer board of directors. The Historical Society collects, examines, preserves and interprets historical material which is used to publish and disseminate the story of the Moravian Church in Western Canada and its contributions to Canadian history and culture.

Since its inception, the Society has published several books related to the Moravian Church history. In addition, the Society publishes the Canadian Moravian Historical Magazine on an annual basis. The magazine was first issued in May 1995, and includes a wide variety of subjects by many authors, all of which cover some aspect of church history. Back copies can be viewed at:

http://www.moravian.ca/docs/canadian_moravian_historical_mag.html

On behalf of the Board of Elders of the Canadian District, the Society is also responsible for operation of the Canadian Moravian Archives. The Archives contain records pertaining to church activity across the Canadian District, along with extensive material from Reverend Clement Hoyler, the founding pastor of the first Moravian congregations in Western Canada.

The Canadian Moravian Historical Society is sustained through membership fees, fundraising, donations and an annual synod-mandated stipend from the Board of Elders of the Canadian District. For more information about membership, or special programs and presentations about church history, contact: historical@moravian.ca

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Millwoods Community Church in Edmonton is the Home of the archives and vault.

Annual Dinner

The 32nd Annual Dinner Meeting of the Canadian Moravian Historical Society was held on April 12, 2014, at the Millwoods Community Church in Edmonton. The theme was "Canadian Participation in Alaska - Past, Present and Future."

The welcome was given by CMHS President, Laurie Ward. A roast beef dinner preceded the business meeting. Business meeting items included:

- The membership report identified 55 Society members, down from 57 the previous year.

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Annual Meeting - cont from page 1

- The annual financial report was distributed and approved.
- Elections for the Board were held. Existing Board members were all reconfirmed. Members are listed at the end of this newsletter.

During the intermission visitors were invited to view displays set up in the archives located in the basement of the Millwoods Church.

The program continued with a presentation by Joel Henkelman on the history of Canadian support of the mission efforts in Alaska. It included photos of Canadians that worked in Alaska over the years. Renata Vitt and Esther Vitt-Gonzales then led the attendees in "Jesus Loves Me" sung in Yupik. The final presentation was by Marion Perrin and included current support of the Alaska Mission by Canadians and plans for future Canadian work teams in Alaska.

The meeting was closed by CMHS President, Laurie Ward. Thanks to all the Board members for their efforts in making this annual meeting a great success.

100 Years Ago

Bruderheim

The annual church report for 1914 carried the first positive prediction by a pastor for the congregation. Pastor Gutensohn was willing to state: "...This congregation has a future. It will some day become a strong congregation unless something unforeseen happens, growth is slow but steady. It has been a year of encouragement."



Rev. Charles A. Gutensohn served as the Bruderheim pastor from July of 1913 through April 1926.

During 1914, the parsonage was renovated and the church interior was painted. The organ was replaced. The church was maintaining a farm to provide supplemental

income for the church. Sadly, it provided no additional revenue in 1914.

Rev. Gutensohn welcomed to the community Rev. B.M. Rafftesaeth, the new pastor of the Lutheran Church in Bruderheim. He had been trained at the Moravian Mission Seminary in Niesky, Germany and had served seven years as a Moravian missionary in Africa before entering the services of the Lutheran Church.

(From "They Came to Serve" by Kurt H. Vitt)



Bruderheim 1914 Confirmation Class

Let us know if you can identify any of the individuals. We would like to update the annotated copy of this photo with the correct names.

New Sarepta

The New Sarepta Moravian Church was founded 110 years ago, June 1904, at the home of Ludwig Henkelman.



Home of Ludwig Henkelman

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100 Years -New Sarepta - cont from page 2

By 1914 the church was established in its own building on a five acre parcel of land provided by August Harke. The building had been bartered to a church member for a cow. A settler had inadvertently built the structure on land owned by the Canadian Pacific Railway and had abandoned it. The new owner sold the building to the congregation for \$40.



Wedding of August and Lydia
n.e. Riewe Harke - 1909

It was moved to the land provided by August Harke and transformed into a chapel.



By 1914 the church had its fourth pastor, Rev. Reinhold Reimer. He had been serving the church since 1913. Rev. Reimer was an outdoorsman and enjoyed hunting and photography.

(From "In Celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the New Sarepta Moravian Church" by Bishop P.R. Henkelman)

Following is a photo of the Moravian Chapel and barn at New Sarepta, 1914. The lilac bush behind which the congregation stands was planted in 1913.



Canadian District Pastors - 1914

Bruderheim - Rev. Charles Gutensohn
 Bruderfeld - Rev. Emil Suemper
 Heimtal - Rev. Herman Schulze
 Calgary (Central Moravian) - Rev. Theodore Weingarh
 Edmonton (Strathcona) - Rev. Clement Hoyler
 New Sarepta - Rev. Reinhold Riemer
 Norwood - Rev. Clement Hoyler
 Pleasant Point, Sask - Roland Bahnsen
 Dundurn, Sask - Roland Bahnsen

Herrnhut Synod - 1914

A General Synod of the Moravian Church was held in Herrnhut, Germany in 1914. Rev. Clement Hoyler, left front in photo below, attended the Synod representing the new Canadian District.



Around the District

The Canadian Moravian Museum

The Canadian Moravian Museum is located in the old Bruderheim Moravian Church, Bruderheim, Alberta. Built in 1897, the log structure has been renovated and transformed into a museum to collect, record, preserve and exhibit objects and material of historical significance to the history of the Moravian Church in Western Canada with the intention to share this collection with the general public.

For information regarding hours and additional information contact Bob Voelker at: museum@moravian.ca



The Museum is located in Bruderheim, Alberta.

At Camp Van Es



The summer camp season has successfully concluded. A final summer event will occur on September 28th. Camp Sunday at Van Es will be held with a morning worship service followed by a BBQ potluck lunch. Included in the day of activities is the dedication of the new Unity Lodge. It replaces the Samuel Wedman Lodge which has been in use since 1971. Everyone is invited. Come enjoy the wonderful location and fellowship with friends.

Canada Women's Retreat

The Moravian Church in Canada will be holding its Canada Women's Retreat from October 17 - 19, 2014. The conference is titled: "In Good Company: Stories of Biblical Women" Rt. Rev. Bishop Kay Ward has accepted the invitation as keynote speaker. This exciting program will be held in the newly completed Unity Lodge, Camp Van Es. If you are interested in attending or would like more information please contact: lynne.henning@gmail.com

Following is a listing of the Canadian Moravian Historical Society (Edmonton Chapter) Board

President - Laurie Ward, wornout@telus.net
 Vice President - Ruth Humphreys, druth3@gmail.com
 Secretary - Sandra Smith, eesmith@telusplanet.net
 Treasurer - Donna Goodwin
 Directors - Kerry and Elaine Bloomer
 Darlene Poyser
 Robert Voelker
 Esther Vitt-Gonzalez
 BECD Representative - Vacant
 Archivist - Bill Brese
 780-440-3050, wbrese@interbaun.com
 Other - Joel Henkelman, jhenkelm@yahoo.com

There is a large amount of work to do at the archives. Following are areas in which the Board can use your help:

- + Sort and catalogue items donated to the archives.
- + Individuals with skills in use of computer software: Help is needed in the digitizing, editing, restoring and organization of old photos, slides and negatives donated to the archives.
- + We need individuals who will coordinate and work with Senior church members and groups willing to spend time identifying individuals and details in old photos. This will make the photos more valuable and of greater interest to following generations. The photos and database will then need to be annotated with the new information.

If you would like to help, please contact one of the board members.

Notes from the Archives

This is the first edition of our newsletter "Notes from the Archives." We would like to make this an ongoing, semi-annual publication. To do this we will need your help. Please let us know how you like the publication. What would you like to see in this newsletter? Our goal is to provide a document that is of interest and applicability to the greater Canadian Moravian community. If you have something you would like to see included or you would like to be involved in its publication, let Joel Henkelman or one of the other CMHS Board members know. To receive this publication in electronic format send us an email request.

Thanks for your help and support!