

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS and PREFACE

I wish to express sincere personal appreciation to the many people whose interest, encouragement and help made this book possible. I am indebted to my wife Elsie for secretarial work, and daughter Verna for the cover layout. It would be virtually impossible to name every person who has through co-operation in an interview, supplying information and suggestions etc. become involved in a book of this nature. Frequently the articles themselves make such acknowledgments whereas in others such acknowledgments are inherent in the material itself.

Many persons whose names are mentioned in these articles were not aware at the time of publication that these would eventually also be included in a book; for that matter, neither was I until fairly recently. However, as none of the material involving individuals is slanderous in nature--in fact, usually quite complimentary--I've taken the liberty of re-publishing them in book form without specifically asking each person's permission. With the exception of the portion on my children's family tree, the articles have of course already been published once in newspapers and magazines and individuals involved were usually aware and consented to that original publishing. As regards persons who supplied family tree information, this book took a vastly different form than formerly planned and described to some persons several years ago.

Although according to Article 12 of Chapter C-30 (commonly called the Copyright Act), specific permission is not required from newspapers and magazines involved for an author to re-publish his own articles in book form, I do however wish publicly to acknowledge appreciation to them for friendly advice, co-operation, and publishing them in the first instance. Especially I wish to express appreciation to and sincere respect for the Brandon Sun; in my opinion one of the finest daily newspapers in Canada. Others I wish also to acknowledge are: Western Producer, Winnipeg Tribune, Minnedosa Tribune, Mid-West News, Welsh News, Focus on Western Manitoba, The Shepherds' Din.

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Despite having written hundreds of letters and spent as many hours compiling and sorting data, the family tree section is far from complete. As Mennonites moved around a lot, were often viciously persecuted for their beliefs, lived in mid European countries which have undergone major upheavals through wars and revolutions, countless records were destroyed. Nevertheless, one invaluable book does list about two-thirds of all Mennonite families who emigrated to Russia from Prussia in the late 1700s and first half of 1800s. Unfortunately, names of wives and children are frequently omitted. A very real problem is to locate information back far enough so this book can be utilized. It would be most sincerely appreciated if anyone reading the family tree section of this book who spots an error, or possesses additional information would write me at Box 81, Minnedosa, Man. and this will be taken into account and acknowledged in my next book.

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