

MENNONITES OF NIAGARA

Interviewee: Alex Schroeder  
Interviewer: A. Marshall  
Language: English  
Topics Covered:

Own Experience In The Early Years

He came to Canada (Saskatchewan) in the fall of 1950 because their sponsor was there. He was with his wife and two daughters. He came to Virgil area in the spring of 1950. He worked on farms, for construction companies, and for lumber companies. He joined the Niagara Credit Union. He now worships in the Niagara Mennonite Church. They went to the Board of Colonization in Saskatchewan, and the Niagara Credit Union in Virgil when they needed assistance. Leaders in the church were ministers, elders, lay preachers, and deacons. Mr. Regier is considered a leader in the financial area. Newcomers accepted the leadership structure and organizations that were already here.

Arrival and Integration Of Newcomers

He believes the sense of community had weakened with the new waves of immigration partly due to prosperity.

Kind and Degree of Organizations

The Board of Colonization no longer exists. MCC now takes care of those matters. Niagara Credit Union used to be just Mennonites. Now everyone is welcome. Mennonite Historical Society now exists. There was more participation in the organizations in the past than there is now. The Mennonite Brethren consider the United Mennonite to be more worldly. The differences are not great. Ethnic ties are disappearing, because of assimilation and prosperity.

Ethnic Persistence

Young peoples' sense of Mennonite identity is not strong but it is improving, because the trend away from the church is changing. He believes that Mennonites will stick to the conscientious objectors concept. The traditional language will be lost due to assimilation. Traditional food is already international.

Individual's Background

Born: Poland, 1910

They came to Canada because they had nothing left in Poland due to World War II. The Board of Colonization had organized transportation for the immigrants and lent them the money to come. Their sponsors were Mennonite. Language was a problem. Several displaced persons came to Canada at the same time. The different customs and language made the Schroeders feel uncomfortable when they first arrived in Saskatchewan.