

# *Their Mark: Their Legacy*

*by Irene Klassen*

**Now Available!**

***Their Mark: Their Legacy*** is a collection of biographical essays  
of Alberta Mennonite Leaders

published by Mennonite Historical Society of Alberta

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## **Elders**

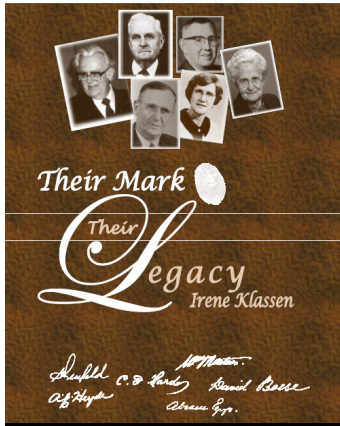
Cornelius D. Harder (1866-1946)  
Wilhelm Martens (1892-1976)  
Otto Bartel (1884-1966)  
Peter W. Dyck (1900-88)  
David A. Heidebrecht (1883-1957)  
Peter Heidebrecht (1917-99)  
David P. Janzen (1882-1965)  
Cornelius G. Neufeld (1901-95)  
John Neufeld (1905-93)  
Jacob D. Nickel (1898-1977)  
Clarence J. Ramer (1905-87)  
John J. Sawatzky (1900-86)  
Peter P. Schellenberg (1887-1982)

## **Ministers**

Leonard Adrian (1899-1967)  
David Boese (1899 -1991)  
David William Braun (1931-93)  
Frank W. Dyck (1903-80)  
Peter P. Dyck (1874-1957)  
Abram C. Epp (1894-1971)  
John Friesen (1927-2004)  
Elmer Hamm (1920-87)  
Rudy Janssen (b. 1923)  
Daniel Janzen (1885-1965) 85  
Heinrich Janzen (1880-1959)  
Jacob A. Klassen (1897-1976)  
Abram Koop (1915-93)  
John P. Loewen (1908-2003)  
David P. Neufeld (1919-82)  
Jacob Henry Neufeld (1907-81)  
Abram Paetkau (1889-1960)  
Wilhelm G. Pauls (1902-90)  
John P. Penner (1891-1974)  
David Regehr (1901-89)  
Peter Regehr (1899-1960)  
Bill Thiessen (b. 1934)  
Peter Aron Unger (b. 1918)  
John Unrau (1916-61)

## **Deacons, Choir Leaders ...**

David H. Paetkau (1903-72)  
Gerhard Bartel (b. 1929)  
Helen Willms Bergen (1925-2003)  
Peter (1905?-1982) & Anna Epp (1910-98)  
C. Blake Friesen (b. 1918)  
Henry Goerzen (b. 1928)  
Anne Harder (b. 1924)  
Sara Lehn Harder (b. 1912)  
Jacob J. Klassen (1900-74)  
Agatha Koop (1899-1991)  
Anne Peters Neufeld (1931-2004)  
Louise Neufeld (1916-2006)  
Maria Pauls (1901-96)  
John (b. 1928) & Katie Penner (b. 1928)  
Frieda Peters (b. 1918)  
Clara Froese L. Reimer (1911-2003)  
Maria Tiessen (1890-1978)



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Mennonites have been referred to as a migrating or wandering people. They emigrated from their points of origin in Switzerland to Holland and to Prussia, and across the continent because of efforts to repress their faith. They continued to emigrate from Prussia to Russia again because of repression and perhaps in search of a better life that was promised them. They emigrated from Russia and Switzerland to North America and points elsewhere, again due to repression and seeking a better life.

These groups were made up of individuals and each individual has a different story, yet each one felt the need to preserve their heritage and their faith.

Alberta was a new frontier; the leaders that arose had different gifts with varying personalities, and the meshing blending and harmonizing of their ideals was not always easy. Each one of these leaders leaves behind his or her own legacy, a mark in the history of Mennonites in Alberta.



### *The Author:*

Irene (nee Epp) Klassen grew up in the Chinook-Sedalia area in southeastern Alberta. She has attended Calgary First Mennonite since its beginning, has held various congregational roles including congregational historian since 1975. Throughout her life, she has been an active participant in many community and Mennonite-related activities. She is involved in Alberta Women in Mission and was their President. She is also a Mennonite central Committee volunteer. She is a Lifetime member of the Mennonite Historical Society of Alberta. Irene has been the Alberta Correspondent for the Mennonite reporter and published two books, *Poesy and Ponderings* (1999) and *Pieces and Patches of my Crazy Quilt* (2000).

Irene and John live in Calgary and enjoy their four children (and spouses), six grand-children (and one spouse), and two great grandchildren.