



# Global Anabaptist Mennonite Encyclopedia Online

A Joint Project of  
Institute for the Study of Global Anabaptism  
Mennonite Brethren Historical Commission  
Mennonite Central Committee  
Mennonite Church USA Historical Committee  
Mennonite Historical Society of Canada  
Mennonite World Conference

<http://www.gameo.org/>

## Management Board

**Bert Friesen**  
(Chair)  
[bfrie@mts.net](mailto:bfrie@mts.net)

**Jon Isaak**  
[jisaak@mbconf.ca](mailto:jisaak@mbconf.ca)

**John D. Roth**  
[johnr@goshen.edu](mailto:johnr@goshen.edu)

**Kenneth L. Sensenig**  
[kls@mcc.org](mailto:kls@mcc.org)

**Sam Steiner**  
(Assoc. Managing Editor)  
[samsteiner@gameo.org](mailto:samsteiner@gameo.org)

**John D. Thiesen**  
[mailto:jthiesen@bethelks.edu](mailto:mailto:jthiesen@bethelks.edu)

**Richard D. Thiessen**  
(Managing Editor)  
[richardthiessen@gameo.org](mailto:richardthiessen@gameo.org)

I am pleased to present my first report as Managing Editor of GAMEO. I joined this venture fairly early in its development (December 1997) and have enjoyed being involved in this project since that time. GAMEO combines my love for the Mennonite Church, its Anabaptist heritage, my “gift set” in terms of managing and organizing information, and my desire to tell the story of God’s work among those of the Anabaptist/Mennonite faith from all corners of our globe to a worldwide audience via the Internet.

I appreciate Sam Steiner’s willingness to serve as associate managing editor, particularly in connection with PeaceWorks, headquartered in Waterloo, Ontario.

This past year has not seen as much progress as we had anticipated regarding the migration to a new software platform – MediaWiki. Our IT company, PeaceWorks, was only able to put a transition team together for us in November. Work has now progressed, and we anticipate a completion date in 2013.

Finally, we were able to reach an agreement with Mennonite World Conference that GAMEO will come under the umbrella of the MWC Faith and Life Commission. As part of this agreement, all funds held in trust by the Mennonite Historical Society of Canada for GAMEO were forwarded to MWC at the end of October.

## Statistics

	Dec. 2002	Dec. 2004	Dec. 2006	Jan 2008	Nov. 2008	Nov. 2009	Oct. 2010	Sept. 2011	Dec. 2012
Visitors per Day	734	1,356	895	1,233	1,793	2,196	2,412	2,345	2,393
Bandwidth (Per Month in GB)				9.06	10.58	15.52	17.88	18.23	19.99
Articles in GAMEO	2,304	2,458	5,578	9,162	12,501	14,504	14,739	14,880	15,327

Our busiest month in 2012 was March, with 56,175 unique visitors, 82,330 visits (2,655.81 per day), 255,935 pages viewed, 1,225,175 hits, and 26.06 GB of bandwidth. The busiest months tend to be January to May and September to December – in other words, while classes are in session for both high school and especially college students.

The length of visits is interesting to note: 80.2% of the visits to the GAMEO site last 30 seconds or less. I would interpret this percentage to mean that for 80.2% of our visitors, our site probably is not providing them with the information for which they are looking. This percentage compares with 80.5% in 2011. The remaining 19.8% of our visitors are probably finding the information they need.

We continue to receive a significant number of visitors from outside North America. The top 12 are: Germany, Netherlands, Taiwan, Australia, Poland, Switzerland, France, Belgium, Mexico, and Moldova, Italy, and Russia.

The top 20 articles for December were:

1. Louis XIV, King of France – 1,815 views
2. Russia – 568 views
3. Germany – 559 views
4. Amish – 481 views
5. Medina County (Ohio, USA) – 449 views
6. Schleithem Confession (Anabaptist, 1527) – 411 views
7. Menno Simons (1496-1561) – 410 views
8. Bielefeld (Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany) – 392 views
9. Calcutta (India) – 379 views
10. Biblical Understandings Concerning Women and Men (Mennonite Church, 1975) – 366 views
11. Charles V, Holy Roman Emperor (1500-1558) – 336 views
12. Hutterian Brethren (Hutterische Brüder) – 335 views
13. Napoleon I, Emperor of France (1769-1821) – 328 views
14. Anabaptism – 324 views
15. Molotschna Mennonite Settlement (Zaporizhia Oblast, Ukraine) – 312 views
16. Münster Anabaptists – 306 views
17. Old Order Amish – 303 views
18. Revivalism – 295 views
19. Beachy Amish Mennonite Fellowship – 280 views
20. William I, Prince of Orange (1533-1584) – 271 views

These results are consistent with what we have found in previous years. We expect to see Russia, Germany, Menno Simons, Amish, and Hutterian Brethren in the list. There is no explanation as to why search engines rank our articles on Louis XIV, Napoleon, or Charles V so high in search results.

## **New Content**

A total of approximately 360 new articles were added to GAMEO in 2012, along with a number of “See” references for a total of 447 new entries. The majority of the new articles were added by the managing editor, including

- 110 geographical entries dealing with former Prussian villages;

- 13 congregational entries dealing with current Old Colony Mennonite congregations in Canada;
- 145 brief congregational entries dealing with conservative Mennonite congregations in the USA, including congregations from the Conservative Mennonite Conference and the Biblical Mennonite Alliance.

A total of 49 Mennonite Church BC congregational entries were added or replaced with new articles. Seven articles were submitted in both English and French by the Quebec regional editorial group. Several articles were submitted by Harlan Unrau dealing with New Mexico and Colorado topics, and 18 articles on Old Order Mennonite settlements were submitted by Jonathan H. Martin from the Lancaster regional editorial committee. Several articles from the German and Paraguayan Mennonite lexicons were translated by Hugo Friesen of Abbotsford and added to GAMEO as well. Many more of these will follow in 2013.

If articles contributed by the managing editor (including the MCBC congregational entries) are eliminated from the total, we are left with approximately 40 new articles that were contributed by the regional editorial groups, with nearly half coming from Jonathan H. Martin. Personally, I would have thought that we would see a much higher number of articles being submitted by the various regional editorial committees by now.

### **Visit with John Roth: Global AnabaptistWiki**

On 25 June I met with John Roth at Goshen College to further explore the integration of the Global AnabaptistWiki site with GAMEO, and to exchange notes regarding MediaWiki.

In our initial meetings with PeaceWorks, Sam and I come up with a number of questions regarding MediaWiki. I was able to run through these questions with John, and John was able to provide answers to a number of them.

John was also able to summarize the recent Mennonite World Conference meetings in Switzerland, held earlier in the spring. John's perspective was very helpful as we worked at finalizing our memorandum of understanding with MWC.

The Global AnabaptistWiki site has now taken over what was once called by GAMEO the Anabaptist Mennonite Ethereal Library. The Global AnabaptistWiki will now be the site that deals with primary documents, including confessions of faith, catechisms, and conference position statements. Although GAMEO continues to make the Anabaptist Mennonite Ethereal Library available, the plan is for this content to be only available on the Global AnabaptistWiki site once GAMEO's transition to the MediaWiki platform is complete.

John and I also agreed to reserve several domain names that our joint GAMEO/AnabaptistWiki introductory page can use, including the following:

- globalanabaptist.org
- globalanabaptism.org
- globalanabaptism.com

- [globalanabaptism.net](http://globalanabaptism.net)
- [globalanabaptism.info](http://globalanabaptism.info)

I had hoped by now to have a proposal to view regarding our joint homepage, but that has not yet happened. This will certainly happen in the first half of 2013 so that it is ready for the launch of GAMEO on the MediaWiki platform.

### **Regional Editorial Committees**

**Alberta:** Wesley Berg submitted two biographies for GAMEO in 2012, and is working at encouraging more participation in Alberta.

**British Columbia:** In 2012 the committee included David Giesbrecht and Richard Thiessen. A total of 49 new and completely revised congregational entries dealing with MCBC congregations were completed. These were all initially written for the MCBC 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary project in 2011. Five biographies were also completed as were two geographical articles. A goal in 2013 is to write new and revised articles for BC MB congregations, and to continue to work on geographical articles.

**California:** One of my goals for 2012 was to help establish a regional committee in California. In the spring I travelled to Fresno to meet with the board of the California Mennonite Historical Society. They invited me back in June, during the Mennonite Brethren Historical Commission meetings, which I was attending, to give a presentation on GAMEO to the society's membership at their AGM. The historical society board has now formed a GAMEO committee, chaired by Corinna Ruth. They will focus primarily on updating and creating new congregational entries for California.

**Eastern Pennsylvania:** Forrest Moyer is chair of the committee and reported the following:

The Eastern Pennsylvania GAMEO Committee was formed in mid-2009. Our purpose is "to contribute accurate and up-to-date articles to GAMEO on Eastern Pennsylvania topics". Our focus is material related to Eastern District and Franconia Conferences. At present, the committee members and assignments are: Forrest Moyer – conference articles, chair and primary editing; Richard Moyer – congregational articles; and Ray Hacker – Eastern District interest. It would be nice to have additional members on this committee, especially to collect articles related to local Mennonite institutions and biographies.

Several articles have been contributed to GAMEO by the Eastern PA committee since our last report in Oct. 2011.

Submitted December 2011:

- 1) *Clemens, Jacob C. (1874-1965)*, by John E. Lapp (edited from an earlier article)
- 2) *Eitzen, Allan (1928-2008)*, by Emily Ralph
- 3) *Longacre, Horace W. (1912-2009)*, by Emily Ralph

Submitted February 2012:

- 4) *First Mennonite Church (Norristown, PA)*, update by Stanley L. Freed
- 5) *Vietnamese Gospel Mennonite Church (Allentown, PA)*, by Luke S. Martin

Submitted March 2012:

- 6) *Allentown Mennonite Church (Allentown, PA)*, by Luke S. Martin
- 7) *Shalom Christian Fellowship (East Greenville, PA)*, by Richard A. Moyer

Submitted May 2012:

- 8) *Perkiomenville Mennonite Church (Perkiomenville, PA)*, by Richard A. Moyer

Currently eight congregational articles are in the editing phase and will be submitted to GAMEO in 2013.

**Lancaster:** Paul M. Zehr is chair of the committee. A few people have joined the committee, including David Sauder, who is working on congregational entries. John A. Lapp has retired to Goshen and is no longer on the committee. Paul also reports that an article on the Amish in Lancaster County is in the works.

**Manitoba:** Alf Redekopp submitted the following report:

The Manitoba GAMEO sub-committee members are Ernest Braun, Jim Suderman, Bert Friesen and Alf Redekopp. At a recent meeting we accepted the resignation of Henry Fast. One goal for this next year is to get some additional people to participate on the committee.

Content posted in 2012 from Manitoba Writers

- Abram and Sarah Esau (missionaries) by Ed Lenzman
- Gerhard G. Schmidt (teacher and churchman) by Anna Ens
- August Liebig (Baptist preacher who helped MB movement) by Abe J. Dueck
- Frank and Clara Buschman (missionaries) by Susan Huebert
- Henry D. Derksen (missionary) by Susan Huebert
- Franz & Schroeder (manufacturing company) by Susan Huebert
- G. A. Klassen & Neufeld (manufacturing company) by Susan Huebert

Content pending (to be posted in 2013)

Mary Kornelsen (teacher and principal) by Ernie Braun

Other Assignments & Articles

A number of people need to be reminded and encouraged to follow through on commitments. Priorities for 2013 will continue to be getting biographies written for people that have been identified for inclusion in GAMEO, and updating congregational entries. Our next meeting scheduled for April 2013 will focus specifically on congregational entries.

**Ontario:** Linda Huebert Hecht, chair, submitted the following report:

At present the Ontario GAMEO Committee has four members: Linda Huebert Hecht of Waterloo, chair; Fred Lichti of Listowel Ontario, representing the Amish community; John Reimer of the

Waterloo-Kitchener United Mennonite Church in Waterloo Ontario, secretary, representing Mennonites of Russian origin; and, Sam Steiner, GAMEO Asst. Managing Editor and Ontario writer for Swiss, Mennonite Brethren in Christ, and other Mennonites. We regret that Peter Hamm resigned his position as historian for Ontario Mennonite Brethren churches and on our committee. We hope the Ontario Mennonite Brethren Conference will soon appoint a new historian who will also help our work. We thank Peter for his contributions during his three years on this committee.

This year the committee met once, on December 5, 2012. The rest of the time our correspondence was by email. Our list of persons for whom to write biographies has grown again and presently stands at 99. Sam Steiner discovered quite a few people in the research for his book on Ontario Mennonite history whom we needed to add and Fred Lichti named a number of Amish people who merit a biography. Fred Lichti has also been active in soliciting new writers, for example, Del Gingrich from the St. Jacobs Visitors Centre who has already contributed six biographies and plans to write more. In short, in the coming year we hope to progress further in the writing of Ontario biographies.

Our list of completed biographies has grown in the past year as well, to over 100. Biographies added in 2012 were for: Abraham Regier, manager of the Niagara Township Credit Union, written by Maria Klassen from the Niagara region; six members of the Waterloo region Mennonite community: Roy S. Koch, Edward Snyder, John M. Martin, John H. Hess, Jessie Bearinger and David W. Martin, written by Del Gingrich; and Brethren in Christ leader Ross Nigh, written by Lucille Marr. Adding to the articles on Mennonite Brethren in Christ leaders, Sam Steiner wrote a biography for Cyrus N. Good, and edited and expanded two earlier ones for Samuel and Henry Goudie.

In response to the interest at the August 2011 meeting of our MHSO Board, I wrote an article, "New GAMEO biographies," highlighting those added in 2010 and 2011. It was published in the June 2012 issue of our society newsletter, *Ontario Mennonite History*. Brief comments were made about men likely known more widely, such as Beland Honderich, Milo Shantz, David Hunsberger, Ross Bender and Milton Good as well as persons perhaps less widely known outside Ontario, namely, Abram Wall, David Regier, Aaron Klassen, Arnold Baerg and Harold Groh and Dr. Iva Taves, Alice Snyder, Dean Viola Good and Cora Groh. All of these people were influential leaders with roots in various Ontario Amish and Mennonite groups.

Our present policy of giving honorariums of \$100 for each completed biography has involved more paperwork in responding to authors, but we are glad to offer these payments at this time and our volunteers I'm sure appreciate it. We hope it will encourage more writers to participate in GAMEO.

**Quebec:** Richard Lougheed reports the following:

Four individuals are working on articles in both English and French. We also have editors for English and French. We are continuing to pay our former student researcher who is producing and translating most of the articles. We are profiting from his pre-thesis defence time to give a big push.

We now have 8 French articles completed: 5 biographies, 2 congregations and one institution. All of these are also in English although in 2 cases the English article has not been updated. Zacharie writes in French and then Richard translates while Lucille and Richard write in English and Zacharie translates.

Many other congregational histories are ongoing, waiting for small updates or lengthy rewrites. We have basically finished the Mennonite congregations and are concentrating on Mennonite Brethren congregations as well as articles on Montreal and Quebec. 20 more articles are underway.

We are inserting variants of the GAMEO articles in the French magazine *Le Lien*.

Comments arising:

1. We realize that updating is essential before translating, our initial error.
2. The GAMEO format and templates have been most helpful
3. We have been in contact with Mennonites in France who have not yet seen the utility of writing GAMEO articles but after we finish with Quebec articles (probably in a few years) we will return to broader goals, especially making available Anabaptist articles in French.
4. There are problems with links in the short term as there are no French articles for certain links for the moment. All the articles on Quebec will have to have their links redone when we complete the 28 articles.
5. We have not had feedback yet on the French articles from local people but as articles show up with Google searches and as we include the up-to-date websites, this should change.

**Saskatchewan:** Victor Wiebe wrote several congregational entries in 2012, along with several articles dealing with non-Saskatchewan topics, such as a very interesting article on Postage Stamps.

**Virginia:** Paul J. Yoder has reported that a few congregational articles are currently being written, and the Virginia Mennonite Church Historical Commission, which is acting as the GAMEO Virginia Regional Editorial Committee, will be sending out a letter in January to member churches, requesting that GAMEO articles be written for each congregation. In 2012 a biography of John L. Horst, Sr. was submitted.

## **2013 Plans**

I hope to visit the Pacific Northwest Mennonite Historical Society in 2013 to try to enlist their assistance in creating a regional editorial committee in Oregon. I would also like to work at getting an active regional editorial committee going in both Saskatchewan and in Kansas.

## **Technical Issues / Redesign**

We continued to deal with hacking and the insertion of spam in 2012, due to security issues with our current software. Sam was able to monitor the situation and PeaceWorks continued to recommend changes to tighten up our security as best as we could.

In the past we have discussed the possibility of a fuller introduction to our website. Is this something we want to consider as we work on a redesign of our site? I have had some discussions with a local historian, Bruce Hiebert, who has also recommended that we focus on several introductory articles to help people, especially post-secondary students,

use the GAMEO site in their studies. Examples of the reading assignments that Bruce has put together for his courses will be made available for our meetings.

## **Relationships with Our Partners**

**Mennonite World Conference:** In November 2012, GAMEO was able to reach an agreement with Mennonite World Conference that GAMEO will come under the umbrella of the MWC Faith and Life Commission. As part of this agreement, all funds held in trust by the Mennonite Historical Society of Canada for GAMEO were forwarded to MWC at the end of October in anticipation of the formalizing of the agreement.

**Mennonite Central Committee:** In June 2012 we received word from J. Ron Byler of MCC U.S. that MCC Canada and MCC U.S. would both be represented in the future by one representative, and that Ken Sensenig will continue to serve as the MCC member on the GAMEO Management Board. We will continue to list MCC as Mennonite Central Committee as one of our partnering bodies, signifying that it is more than just a national MCC body being represented on our Management Board.

**Mennonite Church USA:** I received word a few weeks ago that the Mennonite Church USA Historical Committee no longer exists. However, I have been reassured by Marty Lehman, Associate Executive Director for Churchwide Operations, that Mennonite Church USA wishes to continue its relationship with GAMEO. During this transition time, she has asked that she be the contact person for the Church.

## **Herald Press**

In September 2011, Herald Press raised a question regarding the copyright status of our GAMEO DVD. They were aware that GAMEO had produced a DVD version and were not sure that the initial agreement between Herald Press and the Mennonite Historical Society of Canada allowed for the publishing of content from the *Mennonite Encyclopedia* in a format other than online.

In February 2012 Amy Gingerich, Director of Print Media from MennoMedia, proposed an updated licensing agreement between Herald Press and GAMEO.

The updated license clarifies that Herald Press holds all rights to the five-volume Mennonite Encyclopedia, outlines how content from these volumes that is used by GAMEO should be identified, limits the use of *Mennonite Encyclopedia* content to the GAMEO website and to DVD format, and specifies that GAMEO cannot charge any price for these articles on the Internet or in DVD format.

The future sale of GAMEO DVDs will require GAMEO to first contact Herald Press to negotiate a royalty to be paid from sales of the DVD, and GAMEO is required to contact Herald Press if it desires to publish in any other format.

We agreed to the proposed license and signed the license.

## **Sponsors**



Sponsors are institutions and societies that choose to donate \$250 to GAMEO. In 2012, we invited 15 institutions and societies to donate \$250 to GAMEO, and we received positive responses from 12 institutions and societies, including:

- Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart, IN
- Bethany College, Hepburn, SK
- Bethel College, North Newton, KS
- Bluffton College, Bluffton, OH
- Canadian Mennonite University, Winnipeg, MB
- Columbia Bible College, Abbotsford, BC
- Conrad Grebel University College, Waterloo, ON
- Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, VA
- Hesston College, Hesston, KS
- Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society
- Mennonite Historical Society of Alberta
- Mennonite Historical Society of Ontario

This represents an increase from 9 in 2011, although in past years we have had up to 17. In 2013 I plan to target more Mennonite historical societies as well as Mennonite high schools.

### **Consulting Editors**

No additional consulting editors have been added to the roster since 2011. At this point in time, we have not needed to consult with any of them. However, I foresee active engagement with at least some of them in 2013 as we begin to work through some theological and broader historical articles.

### **Editors**

Susan Huebert has been fairly active throughout the year, going through articles in GAMEO and correcting spelling and grammatical errors. John Thiesen was able to work through Harlan Unruh's articles dealing with Colorado and New Mexico, and Richard Loughheed worked with the Quebec articles. Others have had limited activity in 2012.

### **Publicity**

We did not distribute any news releases this year. The migration to a new software platform and launch of a newly designed website in 2013 will definitely need to be publicized.

### **Finances**

Our GAMEO finances are detailed on a separate statement.

Richard D. Thiessen  
Managing Editor  
15 January 2013