



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/>

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The highlight for this year was the completion of the migration of our GAMEO website from Plone to MediaWiki. We went “live” with the new site on 3 September 2013. A few minor issues are still being corrected but Sam and I are very pleased with the result.

This is the first year that we operated under the umbrella of the Mennonite World Conference Faith and Life Commission. Len Rempel from the MWC office in Kitchener has been looking after our financial matters, including the issuing of receipts to donors. This arrangement has worked very well.

Statistics

	Dec. 2002	Dec. 2004	Dec. 2006	Nov. 2008	Nov. 2009	Oct. 2010	Sept. 2011	Dec. 2012	Oct. 2013
Visitors per Day	734	1,356	895	1,793	2,196	2,412	2,345	2,393	687
Bandwidth (Per Month in GB)				10.58	15.52	17.88	18.23	19.99	
Articles in GAMEO	2,304	2,458	5,578	12,501	14,504	14,739	14,880	15,327	15,441

In October 2013 the GAMEO site had a total of 21,292 visitors and 25,857 visits. The number of pages visited per visit was 2.21, and the average visit duration was 2 minutes and 13 seconds. The bounce rate (the percentage of visitors who enter the site and "bounce" [leave the site] rather than continue viewing other pages within the same site) was 69.7%.

In October 2013, a total of 57,050 pages were viewed. Unique pageviews were 46,226. The average time spent on a page was 00:01:50. 892 pages were viewed at least 10 times. Just under 6,800 of the articles were viewed at least twice.

The GAMEO website uses Google Analytics to track website usage. A variety of statistics are compiled. The following are a sample of the types of statistics compiled:

Visit Durations

Visit Duration	Visits	Pageviews
0-10 seconds	18,384	18,774
11-30 seconds	841	2,021
31-60 seconds	1,047	2,969
61-180 seconds	1,925	6,681
181-600 seconds	1,970	10,341
601-1800 seconds	1,329	9,680
1801+ seconds	361	6,584
Totals	25,857	57,050

Age

Age	% of Total Visits
18-24	27.50%
25-34	33.50%
35-44	15.50%
45-54	12.50%
55-64	5.50%
65+	5.50%

Language

Rank	Language	Visits	%
1	English	21,785	84.25
2	German	1,164	4.50
3	Dutch	565	2.19
4	French	378	1.46
5	Spanish	336	1.30
6	Russian	218	0.84
7	Polish	198	0.77
8	Portuguese (Brazilian)	141	0.55
9	Italian	109	0.42
10	Chinese (PRC)	70	0.27
11	Swedish	62	0.24
12	Chinese (Taiwan)	54	0.21
13	Hungarian	48	0.19
14	Czech	46	0.18
15	Korean	46	0.18

The Top 20 Articles for October 2013

Rank	Article	Views
1	Welcome to GAMEO	4,226
2	A-Z index	346
3	Smucker, Barbara Claassen (1915-2003)	301
4	Menno Simons (1496-1561)	294
5	GAMEO:Current events (there is no content on this page)	259
6	GAMEO:Community portal (there is no content on this page)	257
7	Anabaptism	218
8	Hutterian Brethren (Hutterische Brüder)	213
9	Müntzer, Thomas (1488/9-1525)	202
10	Recent Changes	202
11	Grebel, Conrad (ca. 1498-1526)	201
12	Beachy Amish Mennonite Fellowship	192
13	Molotschna Mennonite Settlement (Zaporizhia Oblast, Ukraine)	174
14	Münster Anabaptists	161
15	Old Colony Mennonites	160
16	Names (Mennonite)	158
17	Amish	154
18	Old Order Amish	151
19	Charles V, Holy Roman Emperor (1500-1558)	149
20	Old Order Mennonites	143

The Top 20 Articles for December 2012

Rank	Article	Views
1	Louis XIV, King of France	1,815
2	Russia	568
3	Germany	559
4	Amish	481
5	Medina County (Ohio, USA)	449
6	Schleitheim Confession (Anabaptist, 1527)	411
7	Menno Simons (1496-1561)	410
8	Bielefeld (Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany)	392
9	Calcutta (India)	379
10	Biblical Understandings Concerning Women and Men (Mennonite Church, 1975)	366
11	Charles V, Holy Roman Emperor (1500-1558)	336
12	Hutterian Brethren (Hutterische Brüder)	335
13	Napoleon I, Emperor of France (1769-1821)	328
14	Anabaptism	324
15	Molotschna Mennonite Settlement (Zaporizhia Oblast, Ukraine)	312
16	Münster Anabaptists	306

17	Old Order Amish	303
18	Revivalism	295
19	Beachy Amish Mennonite Fellowship	280
20	William I, Prince of Orange (1533-1584)	271

In comparing the October 2013 statistics with the December 2012 statistics, it is apparent that several articles ranked in the top 20 in December 2012 are no longer on the top 20 list. Articles that consistently make the top 20 include those that we would expect, such as Menno Simons, Amish, Old Order Mennonite, Anabaptism, and Hutterian Brethren. Articles that are no longer making the top 20 list include Louis XIV, Napoleon I, and William I of Orange.

The migration to the MediaWiki platform resulted in the loss of GAMEO's Google Page Rank of 6 (out of 10). Presently GAMEO is "unranked" which is normal for a new site. The loss of ranking would have reduced our position in Google searches, and will take a while to get back.

An indication that the site is moving up in the rankings in recent weeks is the fact that while the average number of visitors per day in October was under 700, the average in the last week of the month was closer to 1,000 a day.

Landing or Entrance Pages and Exit Pages

Landing pages are those on which visitors first land when they carry out a search and arrive at the GAMEO website. Exit pages are those last viewed by visitors before they left the website.

Landing Page	Visits	Exit
Welcome to GAMEO	2,517	1,218
Smucker, Barbara Claassen (1915-2003)	204	201
Menno Simons (1496-1561)	194	200
Müntzer, Thomas (1488/9-1525)	155	154
Names (Mennonite)	134	122
Charles V, Holy Roman Emperor (1500-1558)	119	120
Grebel, Conrad (ca. 1498-1526)	119	120
Atlantic Provinces (Canada)	114	105
Amish	113	108
Anabaptism	111	129
Münster Anabaptists	99	94
Dordrecht Confession of Faith (Mennonite, 1632)	96	96
Old Colony Mennonites	96	106
Old Order Amish	96	92
Beachy Amish Mennonite Fellowship	94	103
Molotschna Mennonite Settlement (Zaporizhia Oblast, Ukraine)	90	81
Kiss, Holy	87	87

Hutterian Brethren (Hutterische Brüder)	84	87
Old Order Mennonites	81	71
Luther, Martin (1483-1546)	76	79
Mennonite Confession of Faith, 1963	74	67
Manitoba (Canada)	71	62
Old Colony Mennonite Church (La Crete, Alberta, Canada)	70	71
Dress	69	68
Ammann, Jakob (17th/18th century)	68	66
Total	25,857	25,857

New Content

A total of 610 new articles were added to GAMEO from January to October 2013. These include 436 new Hutterite Colony brief articles (stubs) written by Bert Friesen, 69 new Polish (formerly Prussian) village articles added by Richard Thiessen, and 14 new Evangelical Mennonite Church articles written by Terry Smith. There are also a number of new biographies added by various Ontario authors.

A number of articles were revised, including several California congregational articles.

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. The pace has slowed to a trickle with some regional committees.

Other Statistics

Of the total number of visits in October, 5,190 (20.07%) were by visitors using a mobile device. Here is a list of the top 10 devices:

Rank	Device	Visits
1	Apple iPad	1,772
2	Apple iPhone	1,597
3	(not set)	189
4	Samsung GT-I9300 Galaxy S III	85
5	Apple iPod	82
6	Motorola MOTXT912B Droid Razr 4G	66
7	Amazon KFTT Kindle Fire HD 7	49
8	Samsung GT-I9500 Galaxy S IV	49
9	BlackBerry PlayBook	31
10	Google Nexus 7	26

Here is a list of the top 10 device brands:

Rank	Device Brand	Visits
1	Apple	3,451
2	Samsung	670

3	(not set)	189
4	Motorola	151
5	BlackBerry	128
6	Nokia	92
7	Amazon	87
8	LG	83
9	HTC	82
10	Google	59

Global AnabaptistWiki

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. Nearly all confessions and statements were transferred to the Global AnabaptistWiki site once GAMEO's transition to the MediaWiki platform was completed in September.

We will be viewing a proposal for a joint homepage that serves as a portal to both the GAMEO and the GlobalAnabaptistWiki sites. The following domain names have been reserved for use by the new joint homepage:

- globalanabaptist.org
- globalanabaptism.org
- globalanabaptism.com
- globalanabaptism.net
- globalanabaptism.info

Canadian Editorial Committee

Bert Friesen submitted the following report:

The Canadian editorial group consists of representatives of all the provincial groups. In 2013 the representatives were: Victor Wiebe (SK), Richard Thiessen (BC, managing editor), Richard Lougheed (PQ), Alf Redekopp (MB), Wesley Berg (AB), Linda Huebert Hecht (ON), Sam Steiner (associate managing editor), and Bert Friesen (chair).

This group coordinates activities and hears reports from all the provincial groups. This insures that priorities are followed and redundancies are avoided.

This group also works through templates that can then be used by all who are submitting English-language content. A film template is currently being drafted and reviewed along with a book template. The group also hopes to review a draft of an interdisciplinary article template, e.g. Mennonites and Criminal Justice.

This group receives funding support from the Mennonite Historical Society of Canada, of which it is a standing group.

Regional Editorial Committees

Alberta: Wesley Berg has written that one biographical article in progress (Frank Dyck) and one general article in progress (Alberta Women in Mission). Efforts have continued through announcements in the newsletter to encourage local historians to come forward.

British Columbia: Richard Thiessen submitted the following report:

For 2013 our regional editorial committee was comprised of David Giesbrecht, Dave Loewen, and Richard Thiessen.

In 2013 we continued adding names to our biography list. Our philosophy has been to include anyone in our list who lived in British Columbia at any time in their life. Naturally, this includes many who were also active in other regions of Canada.

The following were completed in 2013:

- Derksen, John H.
- Martens, Ron
- Neufeld, Victor

A number of other biographical and geographical articles are in process.

An exciting project for the committee has been work on developing an article on Mennonites and Criminal Justice in British Columbia. A sub-committee has been formed to work at identifying Mennonites involved in various aspects of criminal justice, including corrections, probation, and prison ministries. The goal is to use this article as a template for other Mennonite interdisciplinary articles, such as Mennonite and Medicine, Mennonites and Public Education, etc.

California: Corinna Ruth submitted the following report:

The GAMEO committee met on July 24 to discuss our progress. We have sent out letters to all the MC-USA and MB churches in California and received about 20 replies. So far, six congregational articles have been submitted. The churches have been given forms to fill out with information about their church. I will suggest that the committee members who volunteer to write the entries for the different churches also phone them to make personal contact. It has worked for me. Kevin Enns-Rempel has had a student helper work on membership data and years of ministry. That has been extremely helpful. We have done the groundwork, but writing the entries will be a challenge. The following data gives you an idea:

MC-USA - 31 churches in California

- 26 with no previous entry in GAMEO
- 2 updated in 2006 & 2009
- 3 more need updating

MB - Central California

- 40 with no entries
- 6 previous entries

Southern California

- 13 with no entries
- 1 previous entry

Northern California

- 17 with no entries
- 0 previous entries

Eastern Pennsylvania: Forrest Moyer submitted the following report:

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
- Ray Hacker – Eastern District interest

The committee generally communicates and reviews articles via email. There was no physical meeting in 2013. Several articles have been contributed to GAMEO since our last report in October 2012.

Submitted January 2013:

- 1) Agape Christian Church (Bath, PA) by Marty Sauder
- 2) Ambler Mennonite Church (Ambler, PA) by Gerald Benner
- 3) Centereach Mennonite Church (Centereach, NY) by Glenda Landis
- 4) Covenant Community Fellowship (Lansdale, PA) by Elaine Derstine
- 5) Living Hope Fellowship (Forksville, PA) by John Souder

Submitted April 2013:

- 6) Doylestown Mennonite Church (Doylestown, PA) by Lois Myers
- 7) Log Chapel Fellowship (Putnam, NY) by Dorothy Detweiler
- 8) Word of Joy Community Church (Collegeville, PA) by Jim Maust

Currently an article for Swamp Mennonite Church (Quakertown, PA) is in the editing phase and will be submitted to GAMEO before the end of 2013. A couple other articles stalled because of insufficient information and lack of response from authors.

No particular plans have been made for 2014.

Lancaster: Paul M. Zehr reported that the Lancaster GAMEO committee continues to meet twice a year. During the past year we sent in articles on the Beachy Amish and on Lancaster Mennonite Conference. An article on the Mid-Atlantic Mennonite Conference is nearly finished and will likely come sometime next year. Also, we are waiting for an article on the Amish in Lancaster County.

David Sauder has joined the committee and is helping with obtaining Lancaster Mennonite Conference congregational histories. Lois Ann Mast is working with the Atlantic Coast Mennonite Conference congregations to obtain articles for GAMEO.

Manitoba: Bert Friesen submitted the following report:

We have made progress this year in adding content.

1. Biographies were posted:

Mary Kornelsen	Marie Wiebe
Walter Quiring	Henry G. Claassen
Adolf A. Reimer	Anna G. Enns
Paulina Foote	Anna Elsie Fischer
Robert Unruh and Myrtle Goering	Jacob David Suderman
Unruh	David K. Schellenberg
Orlando Harms	Delbert Plett
Katharina Reimer Claassen	Erwn John Wright

2. Hutterite colony history stubs – some examples

- Big Stone Hutterite Colony (Dominion City, Manitoba)
- Rolling Acres Hutterite Colony (Eden, Manitoba)
- Rainbow Hutterite Colony (Ile des Chênes, Manitoba)

3. Other (the majority of these were written by Terry Smith, editor, The Messenger)

- J. J. Neufeld & Co.
- Lao Mennonite Church
- Messenger, The (Periodical)
- Westpointe Community Church (Grande Prairie, Alberta)
- Good News Community Church (Steinbach, Manitoba)
- Church of Living Water, The (Tillsonburg, Ontario)
- Straffordville E. M. C. (Ontario)
- ConneXion, The (Arborg, Manitoba)
- Saturday Night Church (Landmark, Manitoba)
- Stony Brook Fellowship (Steinbach, Manitoba)
- Fish Creek Christian Fellowship (Calgary, Alberta)
- Heartland Community Church (Landmark, Manitoba)
- Oak Bluff Bible Church (Manitoba)
- New Life Christian Fellowship (Stevenson, Ontario)
- Ebenezer Christian Church (Brandon, Manitoba)
- Reserve Fellowship Chapel (Sioux Valley Dakota Nation, Manitoba)
- Tabor Evangelical Mennonite Church (Taber, Alberta)

The group has also been reorganized. Alf Redekopp left the group. We are currently looking for a replacement. Also, with the reorganization of the Manitoba Mennonite

Historical Society, this group will formally affiliate with the provincial society. The group will be represented on the society's advisory council.

4. Plans for 2014

We plan to complete most of the biographies on our list and begin on updating congregational histories.

Ontario: Linda Huebert Hecht submitted the following report:

The four members of the GAMEO Ontario (Regional) Editorial Committee are:

- **Linda Huebert Hecht** of Waterloo and a member of the Mennonite Brethren Church, 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;
- **Sam Steiner** of Waterloo, GAMEO Asst. Managing Editor and Ontario writer for Swiss, Mennonite Brethren in Christ, and other Mennonites.

Our practice has been to meet in November or December so the committee will likely meet yet before the end of this year. We keep in touch throughout the year by email.

This past year, 2013, we have made good progress in adding Ontario biographies to GAMEO.

Our list of completed biographies has grown to over 120 and the number of persons for whom biographies still need to be written has been reduced to 88. In order to update our local constituency on newly added Ontario GAMEO biographies, I wrote two articles for our newsletter, *Ontario Mennonite History*. The article in the June 2012 newsletter, "New GAMEO biographies," highlighted biographies added in 2010 and 2011; the article in the October 2013 newsletter, "GAMEO Update," highlighted biographies added in 2012 and 2013. These biographies included: church pastors and bishops, missionaries and evangelists, educators, a photographer, 2 presidents of Conrad Grebel College and several businessmen. The women leaders included: a physician, a dean at Goshen College, a thrift shop pioneer (for Rockway Mennonite Collegiate) and Mennonite Central Committee workers.

We appreciate very much the work of our writers: Howard Bean, Ferne Burkhardt, Del Gingrich (of the Visitors Centre in St. Jacobs, Ontario), Virginia Hostetler, Maria Klassen, Earl Koch, Lucille Marr and Sam Steiner. We are still offering an honorarium of \$100 for each completed biography to all writers except those on our committee. Our budget will allow us to issue a total of 80 honorariums. To date 27 honorariums have been awarded to Ontario GAMEO writers, some of whom have written multiple biographies .

Quebec: Richard Lougheed submitted the following:

Zacharie Leclair has prepared several articles in French on Mennonite Brethren churches. These still need to be edited and translated into English. The goal is to have 5 or 6 articles

completed by the end of the year. We continue to make our priority to produce French articles which give a complete history.

Saskatchewan: Victor Wiebe has submitted several articles in 2013. Most of these have dealt with non-Saskatchewan topics, but they have been greatly appreciated.

Virginia: Paul Yoder submitted that following report: The Historical Committee of Virginia Mennonite Conference chose to promote the work of GAMEO and encourage local historians to submit articles a few years ago. As the Virginia contact person, I have submitted 5 congregational histories to Sam Steiner this year.

At the VMC Delegate Assembly this summer I again invited continued submissions, particularly from congregations. We also highlighted an upcoming book project for which Steve Nolt of Goshen College is being engaged.

In the coming year I plan to continue doing initial edits for submissions and working with Sam. Our Historical Committee has also spoken with Jim Bishop, retired from Eastern Mennonite University, about tailoring obituaries he has written over the years to meet GAMEO's format. We plan to follow up with him in the new year. Long-term plans also include approaching educators at Eastern Mennonite High School and EMU about targeting able students for writing in conjunction with course requirements.

2014 Plans

I have made tentative plans to visit the Pacific Northwest Mennonite Historical Society in 2014 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.

Sponsors

Sponsors are institutions and societies that choose to donate \$250 to GAMEO. In 2013, we invited 13 institutions and societies to donate \$250 to GAMEO, and we received positive responses from all of them, 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 British Columbia
- Mennonite Historical Society of Ontario

This represents an increase from 12 in 2012, although in past years we have had up to 17. I plan to contact additional educational institutions and societies later this year and in 2014.

Consulting Editors

This year we added Johannes Dyck from Germany to our list of consulting editors. I was able to call upon the expertise of Karl Koop, one of our consulting editors, to read through an unsolicited article on Christology submitted by J. Denny Weaver. Karl provided some very helpful comments.

I foresee active engagement with more of our consulting editors in 2014 as we begin to work through some theological and broader historical articles.

Editors

Susan Huebert has continued to be active throughout the year, going through articles in GAMEO and correcting spelling and grammatical errors. Others have had limited activity in 2013.

Publicity

We did not distribute any news releases this year, but will do so immediately following our management board meetings. 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
6 November 2013