

Appendix III

Chronology of Events (1525-1968)

European Origins

- 1525-Founding of Swiss Brethren movement by Conrad Grebe] in Zurich, Switzerland
- 1527-Adoption of Schleithem Confession of Faith in Switzerland
- 1536-Conversion of Menno Simons from Catholic faith to Anabaptism
- 1632-Adoption of Confession of Faith at Dordrecht, Holland
- 1693-1711-Division in Switzerland and South Germany led by Jakob Ammann

In Colonial Pennsylvania

- 1683-First Mennonite arrived at Germantown, Pennsylvania, from Holland
- 1708-First baptism and first Lord's Sapper at Germantown Church
- 1710-Pequea settlement in present Lancaster County, Pennsylvania

1725-First Mennonite conference held in America at Germantown, Pennsylvania, where the

Dordrecht Confession of Faith was adopted as the official confession of American Mennonites

- 1727-First Mennonite work to be printed in the New World appeared in Philadelphia under the title of *The Christian Confession of the Faith of the Harmless* (Nonresistant) *Christians in the Netherlands, known by the name of Mennonites*
Amish names begin to appear on ship lists at Philadelphia
- 1742-First American edition of the *Ausbund*, oldest hymnbook of the Swiss Brethren, printed by Christopher Saur at Germantown, Pennsylvania
- 1748-German *Martyrs Mirror* printed for American Mennonites by the Seventh-Day Baptists at the Ephrata Cloisters
- 1749-Jacob Hertzler, first Amish bishop to come to America, arrived
- 1755--Lancaster area Mennonites petition the Pennsylvania Assembly protesting possible military implications of the Declarations of Allegiance, Fidelity, and Abjuration required upon naturalization of German immigrants
- 1757-Hostetler family massacred by Indians at Northkill settlement near Hamburg, Berks County, Pennsylvania
- 1775-Mennonites joined with Tankers (now Church of the Brethren) to petition the colonial General Assembly of Pennsylvania to grant freedom of conscience and to allow them "to be helpful to those who are in need and distressed circumstances. ..."
- 1786-Death of Jacob Hertzler

Westward Pioneering

- 1783-Northwest Territory ceded by England to the United States

1787-Northwest Ordinance passed by Congress, an act of far-reaching importance for the settlement of the Midwest

- 1790's-Amish settled in Mifflin County, Pennsylvania, from Berks, Chester, and Lancaster counties

- 1796-Jacob Nessly purchased land in Middleton Township of Columbiana County, Ohio
- 1799-Martin Landis purchased a tract of land in Fairfield County, Ohio
- 1803-Ohio became the seventeenth state of the Union
- Henry Stemen moved to Fairfield County, Ohio, from Greene County, Pennsylvania
- 1808-Mennonite congregation established in Trumbull County, Ohio
Amish from Somerset County, Pennsylvania, began to settle Holmes County, Ohio
- 1809-First Amish discipline recorded in America; result of conference of leaders likely in southeastern Pennsylvania
- 1815-Mennonites under Abraham Ziegler purchased property from Harmony Society near Zelienople, Butler County, Pennsylvania, for \$100,000
Mennonite congregation organized in Columbiana and Mahoning counties, Ohio
- 1817-Wayne County Amish settlement established in eastern Ohio
Brubaker's congregation organized in Ashland County, Ohio; later became extinct
Bishop Jacob Nold settled near Leetonia, Ohio, in Columbiana County and began spiritual ministry to pioneer congregations
- 1819-Swiss Mennonites established Sonnenberg congregation in Wayne County, Ohio
- 1820's-Mennonites arrived in Seneca County; settlement later became extinct
- 1825-Amish from Alsace in France founded Beech congregation in Stark County, Ohio
- 1829-Mennonite settlers from Bucks County, Pennsylvania, moved to Medina County, Ohio
- 1830-Blanchard congregation founded in Putnam County, Ohio, by Swiss Mennonites
- 1833-Amish moved from Pennsylvania to Long Green Valley in Maryland
Guilford congregation organized in Medina County, Ohio
Publication at Osnaburgh (now East Canton) in Stark County, Ohio, of Menno Simon's *Zeugnisse der Wahrheit* by Henrich Kurtz
- 1834-First session of Ohio Mennonite Conference; location not known
Amish from Alsace and Montbeliard in France established community in Fulton County, Ohio
Martins congregation formed in Wayne County, Ohio
- 1835-Mennonites settled in Wood County, Ohio, but community did not survive
Publication of a daily devotional book, *Kleines Hand-Buechlein*, at Osnaburg, Stark County, Ohio, by Heinrich Kurtz
- 1839-Publication of *Die Ernsthafte Christenpflicht* and *Ein Unparteyisches Gesang-Buch* at Canton, Stark County, Ohio, by Peter Kaufmann and Co.
- 1840's-Amish from Mifflin County, Pennsylvania, settled in Lawrence County_ in western part of the state
- 1843-Amish from Mifflin County, Pennsylvania, began to settle in Cham-

400 / Chronology of Events

- paign and Logan counties of western Ohio
 Settlement in Williams County began by Mennonites from eastern Pennsylvania; declined after first generation
- 1843-1845-Likely dates for the earliest surviving minutes of the Ohio Mennonite Conference
- 1846-Reformed Mennonites organize congregation in Clark County, Ohio
- 1848-Mennonites settled in Clark County, Ohio
- 1849-John M. Brenneman ordained bishop in Fairfield County, Ohio
- 1852-Division among Holmes County Amish on question of outdoor baptism in streams
 Ephraim Hunsberger founded General Conference Mennonite settlement at Wadsworth in Medina County, Ohio
- 1855-Death of Bishop Henry Sternes
- 1857-Amish Mutual Aid Plan organized in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania
- 1859-First Sunday school founded in Holmes County, Ohio; lasted only a few years
 John Holdeman of Wayne County, Ohio, began preaching with emphasis on experiential religion; later founded Church of God in Christ, Mennonite
- 1861-Beginnings of American Civil War
 Arrival of Mennonite refugees in Mahoning County, Ohio, from the state of Virginia in the Confederate States of America
 Republication of Christopher Dock's *Schulordnung* in Columbiana County, Ohio, by Bishop Jacob Nold
- 1862-First session of Amish *Diener Versammlungen* (conferences) in Wayne County, Ohio; last session in 1878
- Movements and Schisms of Late Nineteenth Century*
- 1863-Publication of *Christianity and War*, a sermon by John M. Brenneman of Allen County, Ohio, as a response to the Civil War
 First permanent Sunday school founded by David Plank in Logan County, Ohio
- 1864-*Herald of Truth*, a monthly religious paper published in English and German, appeared and was widely read in Ohio communities
- 1865-End of Civil War
- 1866-Henry Egly forms separate congregation with emphasis on holiness; beginning of Defenseless Mennonite Church which became Evangelical Mennonite Church in 1948
 Ohio Mennonite Conference approved Mennonite Sunday schools
- 1872 Jacob Wisler organized a separate conference in Wayne County, Ohio, on the basis of opposition to Sunday school and other innovations
- 1882-Conestoga and Millwood congregations in eastern Pennsylvania built meetinghouses twelve years after division in local Amish churches
- 1885-John S. Coffman reported visiting Allen, Hancock, Wayne, Medina, Holmes, Fairfield, Perry, and Hocking counties in evangelistic interests
- 1889-First young people's meeting at Oak Grove Church in Wayne County, Ohio
 Mennonite Book and Tract Society formed at Orrville, Ohio

- 1890-Bible conferences began in local congregations in Ohio
- 1890's-Ohio Normal University at Ada attended by Menno S., Albert, Joseph, and Reuben Steiner; A. I. Yoder, C. K. Hostetler, I. W. Royer, John Hilty, J. B. Smith, Paul Whitmer, Christ Hilty, Frank Thut, I. L. Eby, John and Noah Blosser
- 1893-First Eastern Amish Mennonite Conference held at Smithville, Ohio
Sunday school conference at Zion Church, Bluffton, Ohio
- 1895-Death of Bishop John M. Brenneman
First Ohio Mennonite Sunday School Conference held at Salem Church, Wooster, Ohio
- 1896-A. D. Wenger began evangelistic meetings in Ohio churches
Orphanage opened in Wayne County, Ohio, for six children
- 1897-Preliminary meeting of General Conference Planning Committee was held at Pike Church near Elida, Ohio, and attended by Ohio bishops D. C. Amstutz, Benjamin Gerig, John Burkholder, Michael Horst, J. M. Shenk, and David Plank
- 1898-Mennonite General Conference formally organized
Sunday school started at Millwood Church in Pennsylvania

Founding of Missions and Institutions

- 1899-Death of Evangelist John S. Coffman
Mennonite Board of Charitable Homes organized at Marshallville, Ohio
Old People's Home founded at Rittman, Ohio
Sunday school started at Conestoga Church in Pennsylvania
- 1900-Orphanage moved from Wayne County to West Liberty, Ohio
- 1904-Mission founded in Canton, Ohio
- 1905-The M. C. Lehman departed for India as missionaries
- 1906-Death of Bishop John K. Yoder of Wayne County, Ohio
- 1907-Mennonite Board of Missions and Charities founded at Rittman, Ohio
Young people's meetings begun at Conestoga Church in Pennsylvania
- 1908-Youngstown Mission founded by churches in Mahoning and Columbiana counties
- 1912-Canton Bible School founded
Death of David Plank of West Liberty, Ohio
First formal proceedings on merger of Ohio Mennonite Conference and Eastern Amish Mennonite Conference
- 1913-First Bible conference at Conestoga Church in Pennsylvania
- 1914-First Bible conference at Millwood Church in Pennsylvania

World War I Events

- 1915-Eastern Amish Mennonite Conference at Belleville, Pennsylvania, expressed concern to President Wilson about possible involvement of United States in European war
- 1916-Repeated concern by conference conveyed to President Wilson regarding European war
- 1917-Upon United States entrance into war, Ohio Mennonite Conference and Eastern Amish Mennonite Conference reaffirmed nonresistant position, counseled respect for government

402 / Chronology of Events

Holmes County Amish interviewed Senator Atlee Pamerene in Washington in behalf of nonresistant people.

1917-1918-Draftees from church communities go to military camps

1918-Resolution passed by Ohio Mennonite Conference favoring a conference mission board

1919-Seventeen Ohio Mennonite and Amish young men of draft age begin reconstruction work in France

General Conference of Mennonites in France in reconstruction work meets at Clermont-en-Argonne

Crisis and Reunion

1920-First meeting of Ohio Mennonite Mission Board at Oak Grove Church in Wayne County, Ohio

1923-1924-Goshen College closed for academic year

1924-First issue of *The Christian Exponent* published at Wooster, Ohio (January)

Fundamentals conference at Archbold, Ohio (February)

1927-Merger of Ohio Mennonite Conference and Eastern Amish Mennonite Conference to form Ohio Mennonite and Eastern Amish Mennonite Joint Conference

1932-Ohio churches formed statewide literary society organization at Dalton, Ohio

1934-First Young People's Institute sponsored by Ohio Mennonite Sunday School Conference, held at Beech Church in Stark County, Ohio

1941-West Fallowfield Mennonite School founded at Atglen, Pennsylvania

World War II Events

1937-Mennonite representatives present peace position to President Roosevelt
Churches support relief in towns devastated by Spanish Civil War

1940-Society of Friends, Church of the Brethren, and Mennonites present memorandum to President Roosevelt with proposals for alternative service for conscientious objectors in case of military conscription (January 10)

Selective Training and Service Act in Section 5 (G) provides for alternative service (September 16)

1941-Conscientious objectors begin alternative service in Civilian Public Service camps under Selective Training and Service Act (October)

Seven Mennonite-operated CPS camps opened by end of year (May to December)

Pearl Harbor bombed and United States entered World War II (December)

1941-1946-Seven hundred and thirty-two draftees conscripted from Ohio and Eastern Mennonite Conference congregations; four hundred and eighty-three render alternative service in camps, mental hospitals, and on farms

Churches engage in relief activities

Since World War 11

- 1946-Monterey congregation organized in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, by O. N. Johns
- 1947-*Ohio Mission News Bulletin* appeared with Stanford Mumaw as editor
Camp Ebenezer founded in Holmes County, Ohio, for children from Negro area in Chicago
- 1948-Brook Lane Psychiatric Center opened at Hagerstown, Maryland, with support of Ohio and Eastern Mennonite Conference congregations
Declaration by Ohio Mission Board opposing anti-Semitism and affirming "love and respect for our fellowmen regardless of race, creed, or color"
- 1949-*Ohio Mission Evangel* succeeded *Ohio Mission News Bulletin*
- 1950-Tel-Hai Camp founded near Honey Brook, Pennsylvania, for city children
- 1951-Evangelistic meetings by George R. Brunk at Orrville, Ohio
- 1952-Christian Laymen's Tent Evangelism organized at Kidron, Ohio
- 1953-*Ohio Evangel* succeeded *Ohio Mission Evangel* with David Hostetler as editor
Ohio Mennonite Camp Association founded in Wayne County, Ohio
- 1955-Conference name changed from Ohio Mennonite and Eastern Amish Mennonite Joint Conference to Ohio and Eastern Mennonite Conference
- 1956-New constitution adopted by Ohio and Eastern Mennonite Conference at the Midway Church, Columbiana, Ohio
- 1961-Central Christian High School opened at Kidron, Ohio
- 1963-Oaklawn Psychiatric Center founded at Elkhart, Indiana, with support of Ohio Mennonite churches
- 1964-Neil Avenue Mennonite Church, Columbus, Ohio, admitted to both
Ohio and Eastern Mennonite Conference and the Central District Conference of the General Conference of North America
- 1965-First joint meeting of Ohio and Eastern Mennonite Conference with Christian Workers' Conference
- 1966-First meeting of Ohio and Eastern Mennonite Conference in an urban center, Cleveland, Ohio
- 1967-Mission congregation at Fairview Park, Ohio, sponsored by Ohio Mission Board and Central District Mission Board of General Conference Mennonite Church