

Erb Street Mennonite Church

*131 Erb Street West, Waterloo
Celebrating 150 years in 2001*

Cemetery Walk

*Erb Street and Fisher-Hallman Road,
Waterloo*



Enjoy your walk through time...

There are so many people buried here who one could write about... so many stories to tell. Who to choose? How to choose? How much to write?

Only a few have been profiled, but you'll read about more people in Erb Streets 150" anniversary history book Path of a People by Karl Kessler.

Many Erb Streeters of the 19" century are buried in the older cemeteries: First Mennonite, Kitchener and Martins Meeting House, King Street North, Waterloo.

Numbered Conestoga wagon signs , (1), (2), etc. will help you find the graves. On the back cover is a guide map showing the approximate location of signs.

(1) (2) and (3) are in the section closest to Erb Street; the rest are in the back section.

Erb Street Mennonite Church is celebrating 150 years from the time the meetinghouse was built at one corner of the cemetery. It began as the David Eby congregation whose members started meeting in the 1830s in Eby's farmhouse across the road. It was demolished when the Beechwood Plaza was built.

(1) Row 5

Clare Shantz 1914 - 1995
Nora Burkhardt 1915

Parents of John and Elizabeth.

Clare was born on a farm on where now are the Eastwood Collegiate and Sunnyside Home. With his parents he attended First Mennonite then Stirling Avenue churches and was fully involved in each as Sunday School teacher, song leader, male quartets, the Literary Society, Young Peoples Bible meetings etc. In 1941, at First Mennonite, he taught a Summer Bible School class of 57 which had been rather unruly” and, without assistants, managed beautifully.”

Also in the early 1940s, Clare attended Ontario Mennonite Bible School. **Nora** was cook here, making meals for an average of 125 - 150 students; three meals a day, seven days a week. They were married in July 1945 and in September that year Clare joined Nora as a member of Erb Street. He was chosen by lot and ordained as deacon in 1948, serving until 1980, then was deacon emeritus until his death. In the 1950s, Clare was a major organizer of the Boys Club. In 1960 Clare fell from a ladder, while working as a carpenter for C Hallman, and severed his spinal column. After months of adjustment and rehabilitation, he continued as service manager at C Hallman until retirement. Some of Clares many achievements – despite being restricted to a wheelchair – were getting the ramp built at Erb Street church, and building trailers designed for his special needs so that he and Nora could travel. Before Clare died, he and Nora were described as living life to the fullest” and being an inspiration to all whose lives have touched theirs.”

*A Brief History of the David Eby Church
Erb Street News September 1977*

(2) Row 3

Jesse B. Martin 1897 - 1974
Naomi Collier Martin 1903

Jesse was born into the Old Order community; ordained by the Mennonite Conference September 1925 for the Weber Church, Strasburg. In 1926 he and **Naomi** were married. J. B. assumed the pastorate of Erb Street in 1929 – living in the first Mennonite parsonage in Ontario, three blocks from the church and in 1947 was ordained as a bishop. He worked parttime in a dairy, and for 34 years taught at Ontario Mennonite Bible School (later the Bible Institute), being principal from 1957 - 1966.

During the Second World War, in November 1940, J. B. was one of a delegation of eight Mennonite leaders which sat down for discussion with senior officials of the Department of National Defence to negotiate with the federal government for alternate service for Mennonite young men. J. B. spent many months away from home, negotiating with government officials and visiting the young men in camps. In his absence, Naomi carried on -- at home and at church. She had to respond to the cares and concerns which came his way.”

In 1953 J. B. and Naomi spent six months visiting mission personnel in Belgium and France and helped set up a mission program in Jerusalem. He semiretired in 1964, preaching at various locations until 1972.

*A Brief History of the David Eby Church
Willing Service pg 137 about Naomi.
Waterloo County: An Illustrated History
J. B. s personal records are in the archives at Conrad Grebel*

(2) Row 3

Irvin C. Hallman 1874 – 1962
Elsie M. Stauffer Hallman 1874- 1937

Irvin bought the David Eby farm around 1903 and the Hallman's sold it by about 1980. The original David Eby farm covered all four corners at Erb West and Fisher-Hallman Rd, but in 1903 the Hallman Farm was where Zehrs is now.

(3) Row 7

Ida B. Stauffer Snider 1861-1947
Jacob S. Snider 1861 - 1947

Ida – who lived 98 years – is daughter of Noah K. Stauffer and Barbara Betzner.

Ida and Jacob are grandparents of the Snider sisters: Delphine Gingrich, Jean Fitzgerald, Carol Gimbel, Lucille Weber and Elizabeth Weber.

Ida was first president of the Waterloo women's Charity Circle in 1908. The Charity Circle was formed to sew clothes for needy Fresh Air" city children hosted for a week or two in the summer by rural or farm families. From 1908 to 1939 Ida served terms as vice-president, on the buying committee, president again, and on the quilt patch cutting committee. From 1918 to 1929 she served on the executive of the newly formed Ontario Sewing Circle. The of the Charity Circle was always an important part of her life.

Willing Service pg 13

(4) Row 6

Adah Frances Burkholder Weber 1880 - 1959
Noah S. Weber 1868 - 1963

Noah was ordained to the office of deacon in 1908 and served the Erb Street congregation for forty years. E. Clare Shantz succeeded him.

Adah grew up on a farm east of Markham; attended Toronto Bible College, then worked at the Toronto Mission and at the Mennonite Orphans' Home in West Liberty, Ohio. She had a gift as a public speaker, addressing the second Annual Meeting of the Ontario Women in 1919 and the Annual Meeting of the Women's Sewing Circle of the Mennonite Church North-America wide. In the late 1920s, Adah moved to Waterloo, married twice-widowed Noah Weber, attended Erb Street and taught a rather difficult Sunday School class of young girls. As the wife of the deacon, Adah always entertained the missionaries who came to Waterloo – for meals as well as overnight. When she died, she left behind a legacy of service and devotion.

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(4) Row 6

Emma B. Bauman Erb 1893 - 1988
Sister to Ilda and Fannie, daughter of Ira and Matilda

Emma was jointly responsible for starting the Junior Girls Charity Circle in 1916. She graduated from Toronto Bible College, worked at a Toronto children's hospital, at Daughters of the Empire Preventorium, an orphans home in West Liberty Ohio; returned to Waterloo in 1940, and in 1944 married Addison Erb. Emma was secretary-treasurer of W.M..C., taught children's Sunday School for decades, and Vacation Bible School as well.

Willing Service pg. 108

Erb Street News September 1976

(5) Row 1

Ira S. Bauman 1865 - 1935
Matilda Groff Bauman 1865 - 1949

The family moved from their farm to 128 Erb Street West, across from the church, in 1911 when the street wasn't yet paved. The girls had attended the David Eby Sunday School, Sunday night Young Peoples meetings and Singing Schools. Erb Street News September 1976

In the early 1920s Ira headed a committee responsible to place 1340 German/Russian Mennonite immigrants who came to Waterloo in 1924 – 600 were expected in the first group on July 19, but 800 plus arrived. Homes were found for everyone. The girls remember many meetings at their home, and all the time their father spent on the phone trying to find accommodations A Brief History of the David Eby Church

Matilda was a charter member of the Charity Circle; and sister to Levi Groff who started Sunday School (he's not buried at Erb Street).

(5) Row 1

Ilda Bauman 1898 - 1974

"Ilda Bauman, as Joseph Cramer's coworker, pioneered the work of the House of Friendship."

She developed an interest in Jewish evangelism and was one of a group of women who cooked soup and collected clothing to help immigrants, some of them Jews. Besides cooking at the new House of Friendship, she and Mr. Cramer also made numerous home and hospital visits, later speaking at churches, to women's groups and at services at the mission."

"Ilda had been the real manager of the place, and had been there since the very beginning" but after Mr. Cramer died, it seems not to have occurred to the committee that she might be considered" as the new director. An Advisory Committee released her. After her ten years

at the House of Friendship, she never again found a sphere of service in which to immerse her time and energies."

Willing Service pg. 105

A Mighty Flood of Justice, the Story of House of Friendship by Ferne Burkhardt

(5) Row 1

Fannie Bauman 1895 - 1988

Fannie worked in area homes and spent a lot of time with Emma.

(6) Row 2

Mariah Shantz Shantz (Snyder) 1872 - 1964
Cleason Shantz 1870 - 1920

Parents of Florence Shantz

The Shantz farm was where Globe Furniture and Canbar stood that now empty space between Silver Lake and Father David Bauer Drive. A Birds Eye View c1891 of the Town of Waterloo shows the Shantz farm. (Also shown is the house that is now the Underhill Residence on the corner of Erb and Victoria Streets [now Avondale Street]).

People visiting each other between Wilmot and Woolwich townships would stop at the Shantz home to water, feed and rest their horses.

Mariah attended the David Eby Church and Erb Street and from the beginning of the Charity Circle was very active, serving as president and vice-president. She hosted many Charity Circle meetings in her home, especially in the winter because they always had coal and the rooms were warm(Because Cleason was a teamster and had coal.) Mariah knitted socks, mitts, sweaters for conscientious objectors in the work camps, for MCC workers and for relief. From her large garden she gave produce to the orphanage and to needy families. In 1927 Mariah married **Abram Snyder 1866 - 1938**. (He is buried in row 5 between Addison Erb and Solomon Gehman.)

Cleason was very involved and active on boards and committees at Erb Street. He was a member of the Building Committee for the 1902 building at our present location. Cleason's father **Menno E. Shantz 1841-1920** (buried a little further up this row) was active in the first recorded business meeting in 1889.

Willing Service pg 31

(7) Row 3

Mary Ann Eby Cressman	1870 - 1941
Allen Cressman	1866 - 1935

Mary Ann, daughter of David B. Eby, was one of the last of pioneer David G. Eby's direct descendants to attend Erb Street. The rest scattered. She and Allan were caretakers of the David Eby meetinghouse in the 1890s.

(8) Row 4

Solomon B. Gehman	1841 - 1912
Angeline Shantz Gehman	1846 - 1928

Solomon was a prominent preacher of the revivalist period at the Detweiler Church (Roseville) with Noah Stauffer. Solomon and Noah preached at the controversial 1885 Prayer Meetings which contributed to the 1889 split with the Old Order. After retiring Solomon attended Erb Street and was buried here.

(9) Row 4

Mary Snider	1863 - 1930
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Mary's father Samuel donated land on Erb Street for 1 for the new church built in 1902. Her parents' graves are close to the end of this row.

Samuel S. Snider Sr.	1821 - 1912
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Anna C. Snider	1824 – 1890
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Mary lived on the Snider farm until the mid 1890s. It was just west of Waterloo where the Westmount Golf Club is.

In 1896 Mary was appointed matron of the Berlin (now Kitchener) Orphanage on the corner of King and Victoria Streets, resigning about 1927. In 1904 a baby boy was left on the steps of the orphanage. Mary looked after him, named him Edward and eventually adopted him. (Being a single woman, one wonders if she ran into any legal obstacles, or received encouragement from friends and colleagues.)

Mary was an active member of Berlin Mennonite Church (now First Mennonite) and in 1908 was involved in organizing the

Sisters' Aid (later called Ladies' Aid), and served on the executive. In the 1920s Mary was somewhat vocal during the dispute when the Conference pressured the congregation to discipline women who were wearing hats instead of the prescribed bonnet. ... she complained that an unfair distinction was being made between men and women in legislating dress regulations." !] When the women came under church discipline, Mary was one of the group which withdrew and organized an independent congregation – Stirling Avenue Mennonite church. In 1925 Stirling women organized a Women's Missionary Society with Mary elected president. We think she was also active in the Women's Christian Temperance Movement.

The forerunner of present day Mennonite Youth Fellowship (MYF) were Young Peoples Bible Meetings (YPBM) and before that, Edification Meetings. In the 1890s Mary was instrumental in organizing the first Edification Meetings. -

When her son Edward died suddenly of peritonitis in 1930, Mary was brokenhearted. She died the day of his funeral.

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(10) Row 1

Noah Hunsberger	1877 - 1958
Mary Ann Shantz Hunsberger	1881 - 1925
Minnie Witmer Hunsberger	1887 - 1987

Minnie lived to be 100 years.

Noah was pastor at the David Eby/Erb Street church from 1900-1920 then from 1923 to 1929, when J. B. Martin was called. Noah then pastored at various churches including the Baden Mission. A Brief History of the David Eby Church

(10) Row 1

Moses S. Hunsberger	1870 - 1953
Mary Horst Hunsberger	1867 - 1932
Mary Lebold Hunsberger	1899 - 1974

Moses was an evangelist and a revisionist, very active in the David Eby Erb Street Church, a Singing Schools leader and Sunday School teacher. He and Mary Lebold were grandparents to Tim Hunsberger.

(10) Row 1

Abraham J. Hunsberger	1834 - 1912
Elizabeth Shirk Hunsberger	1843 - 1924

Parents of Noah and Moses S.; grandparents of Albert, Gordon and Wilson Hunsberger.

Abraham was ordained deacon in 1892 for the David Eby field of labour" and was deacon until 1908. He was ordained at the same time as Jonas Snider (not buried here) who was pastor from 1892 - 1900 and bishop from 1895 - 1944.

A Brief History of the David Eby Church

(11) Row 3

David B. Eby	1827 - 1897
Lydia Eby	1831 - 1882

An additional acre of land, likely for the cemetery, was from David B. It is not certain which section it was, but probably the east section. David B.s father **David G. Eby** (not buried here) was one of the first settlers around Erb Street/[Fisher] Hallman Road. He donated the first plot – one-half acre – for the meetinghouse and thus it was named after him.

(12) Row 5

Joseph Stauffer	1802-1880
Rebecca Rosenberger Stauffer	1801 - 1882

Rebecca and Joseph have the earliest recorded dates of birth in the cemetery and were one of the cluster of pioneer families which cleared the land and farmed in the David Eby meetinghouse area.

(12) Row 5

Noah K. Stauffer	1842 - 1928
Barbara Betzner Stauffer	1844 - 1928

Noah and Barbara died within one day of each other.

Noah was the main preacher in the Strasberg area, circa 1876 to early 1900s and was a firebrand of a preacher! He started the controversial prayer meetings, in his home, which contributed to the division when Mennonites of Ontario (the Ontario Conference) split into two groups: Old Order and Old Mennonites. Noah was one of the first to preach regularly in English. He retired to Waterloo (like his colleague Solomon B. Gehman) and attended the Waterloo Mennonite Church [Erb Street].

(12) Row 5

George Rudy 1823 - 1901
Barbara Lichty Rudy 1825 - 1911

George and **Barbara** belonged to the cluster of early pioneer families in the vicinity of the David Eby meetinghouse. Georges brother Benjamin is Beryl (Rudy) Clemmers ancestor.

(13) Row 6

Jacob B. Erb 1808 - 1893 [name obscured]
Mary Clemens Erb 1814 - 1893

Jacob and **Mary** were another in the cluster of pioneer families which settled in the David Eby meetinghouse area and one of the founding families of the David Eby congregation. Alene Jewitt, one of their descendants, lived on the farm, near Erbsville, which stayed in the Erb family for about 130 years, until the 1960s when it was sold. Joe and Howard Weber are descendants still at Erb Street.

(14) Row 7 flat stone]

Magdalena B. Latschaw Shantz 1832 - 1856

Magdalena's is the earliest recorded death in the Erb Street cemetery. She is the first wife of **Isaac B. Shantz 1827-1885** who is buried next to her.

(15) Row 8

Malinda Snider Stauffer 1876 - 1962

Malinda was wife of Rev. Norman Stauffer; granddaughter of Samuel S. and Anna Snider She was a charter member of the Sewing Circle and founded the Junior Sewing Circle at Erb Street.

(16) Row 9

Magdalena "Lena" Weber Weber 1881 - 1974
Irvin B. Weber 1878 - 1974

Lena was born near Kurtzville, Ontario, then with her family, moved to Waterloo and became a member at the Waterloo Mennonite Church, later known as Erb Street. Lena was one of the earliest workers at the Toronto Mission and a member of the first committee of the Charity Circle organized in Waterloo, being elected as secretary-treasurer. Fees were 10 cents a meeting. The Toronto Mission was supported by the Waterloo Mennonites and especially by Lena. She had a large garden and did a great deal of canning and preserving – for her family and for others.

Lena and her husband Irvin transferred their membership to Stirling Avenue — a year or so after that division over the dress regulation – where she (and Irvin) taught youth and adult Sunday School. Lena sewed quilts, dresses and boys pants, and in 1944 she and her sister, Mrs. M. B. Shantz made 245 shirts for British relief from shirt factory patches.

On October 7, 1968 the women of Erb Street celebrated sixty years of organized meetings, quilting and sewing, and invited Lena as a special guest. She was one of the last surviving charter members.

Willing Service pg 25

(17) Rows 9/10/11

Marion Nafziger 1921 – 1946
Ruth Nafziger 1931 - 1948
Enos R. Nafziger 1892 - 1979
Elizabeth Erb Nafziger 1890 - 1947
Clara Snider Nafziger 1892 - 1972 Row 11
Elva Snider Nafziger Heintz 1920 - 2000 Row 9

Marion was a teacher at our Waterloo Mennonite Church Summer Bible School. Erb Street was often referred to as the Waterloo

Mennonite Church.] She graduated from nurses training at K-W Hospital in 1945; worked at Isolation Hospital in Toronto, then accepted an MCC assignment with the Relief Unit in Calcutta, sailing on April 27, 1946. Enroute, in Singapore on June 25, Marion became ill and was taken into Singapore and diagnosed with what was thought to be appendicitis. She was not allowed to continue due to her apparent illness and her companion was not allowed to remain in Singapore because she had no visa. After poor diagnosis and treatment of Marion's illness, she died on July . Marion's grave is in Bdadari Cemetery, four miles out of Singapore.

*Copies of various telegrams, official despatches and letters from MCC are in Conrad Grebel and Erb Street archives.
Willing Service pg 191*

Enos' wife Elizabeth and two daughters Marion and Ruth died within two years of each other.

Enos and Elizabeth moved to Waterloo and began attending Erb Street in 1938. In 1945 he built the house at 189 Erb Street West. During Elizabeth's illness, Elva Snider was employed to help the family.

Sometime after Elizabeth's death in 1947 Enos became involved in the MCC Committee programs and at the Clothing Depot behind the former Provident Book Store on King Street East, Kitchener. There he met Clara Snider (daughter of Jonas Snider) and they were married in 1949. Clara died in 1972.

Elva, for some of these years, had been in Germany on MCC assignments, then worked as Alumni Secretary from 1957 to 1973 at Goshen College, Indiana. Soon after she returned to Waterloo, in 1973, she and Enos were married.

Enos was an assistant Sunday School teacher for many years; served as Chairman of the Building committee during the major building renovation from 1949 - 1951 and helped in the late 70s when the basement was remodelled. He was then in his 80s and his strength often embarrassed those of lesser years." The church's kitchen

cupboards are Nafziger cupboards (Nafziger Formica counter tops were top-of-the-line" in Canada). The stage/choir risers were planned and built by Enos so they could be stored or assembled easily. [!]

Erb Street News March 1979

Elva, who was a sister to Verda Weber, was active in W.M.C., sometimes helped serve the Manna Meals for seniors, and liked to share stories. She saved and recycled beyond the usual; sewed ties into skirts, polished stones for jewellery. One year, Elva provided all the jars and yarn needed for Vacation Bible School crafts for 120 children.

In 1990 she married Manny Heintz. He died in 1991.

Information was taken from:

- Willing Service: Stories of Ontario Mennonite Women by Lorraine Roth
- A Brief History of the David Eby Church and Erb Street Mennonite at Waterloo, Ontario from 1851 - 1976 by Albert and Greta Hunsberger
- Erb Street News (These are available in our library and office archives.)
- Waterloo County: An Illustrated History by Geoffrey Hayes

A fervent thank you to:

- Karl Kessler for helping with this compilation, giving many hours and many details.
- Lorraine Roth and Albert and Greta Hunsberger for their books.
- Erb Street News editor, Alene Jewitt.
- My husband, Charlie for making the Conestogo wagon signs.
- Waterloo Wellington Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society for their 1989 Cemetery Transcript. It was invaluable and saved a lot of walking. Copies are sold at the Branch at Kitchener Public Library.
- Ray Brubacher for the cemetery map which also saved many steps.

This is not meant to be a historical document, but I have tried to be accurate. If there are errors, please let me know.

*Marion Roes
August 2001*

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