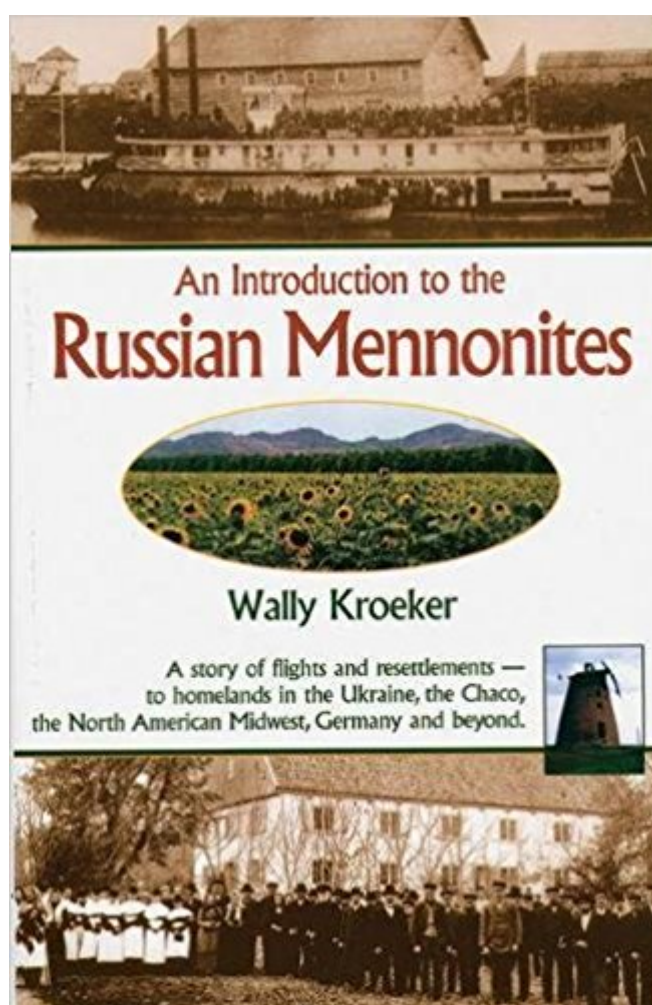


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# Introduction To Russian Mennonites: A Story Of Flights And Resettlements-- To Homelands In The Ukraine, The Chaco, T



## Synopsis

Menonites in Russia? Invited by Catherine the Great to farm the Russian steppes -- in exchange for exemption from military service -- Menonite emigrants from Polish Prussia and The Netherlands made their home in Russia. Some remain today; many more eventually left for North and South Americas and Europe. Nearly all retain memories and stories from that place -- unbelievable prosperity for some; unspeakable terror for many; church tensions; struggles between the landed and the landless; exquisite clockmaking, storytelling, musicmaking, and food. Himself a Russian Menonite, Kroeker heads into the history, but also the later movement of these people to the U.S. and Canada. Are they at all distinctive today? What has drawn some to the cities and professions, and others to the rural prairies? What about those in Europe, and those still in the former Soviet Union? Kroeker tells it all with vibrancy -- the overview and the memorable details. Includes dozens of historic and contemporary photographs. Skyhorse Publishing, as well as our Arcade imprint, are proud to publish a broad range of books for readers interested in history--books about World War II, the Third Reich, Hitler and his henchmen, the JFK assassination, conspiracies, the American Civil War, the American Revolution, gladiators, Vikings, ancient Rome, medieval times, the old West, and much more. While not every title we publish becomes a New York Times bestseller or a national bestseller, we are committed to books on subjects that are sometimes overlooked and to authors whose work might not otherwise find a home.

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## Customer Reviews

Wally Kroeker grew up in southern Manitoba with one foot on the farm and one in the city. He descends from two different streams of Russian Mennonites. His paternal ancestors emigrated from the Chortitza Colony, Russia, to southern Manitoba in 1876. His mother migrated as a child from the Molotschna Colony, Russia, in 1925. He has spent more than 35 years as a reporter and editor, specializing in business and religion. He began his career with the Regina (Saskatchewan) Leader-Post and later served as editor of the Saskatchewan Business Journal and as business writer and assistant city editor of the Winnipeg Tribune. He was assistant editor of Moody Monthly (Chicago) and for 10 years was editor of The Christian Leader, the magazine of the U.S. Mennonite Brethren Church. Since 1985 Kroeker has been director of publications for Mennonite Economic Development Associates (MEDA) and editor of its magazine, The Marketplace. His freelance articles have appeared in nearly a hundred business and religious publications. He is author of God's Week Has Seven Days (Herald) and co-author of Faith Dilemmas for Marketplace Christians (Herald). Kroeker studied journalism at Northwestern University in Chicago and completed his undergraduate degree in religious studies at Tabor College, Hillsboro, Kansas. He has a Master of Arts degree in theology from the Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary, Fresno, Calif. He and his wife Millie have two sons, Scott and Joel.

A complete and thorough review of my heritage starting with my Grandfather born in South Russia, immigration to Canada as a young boy, and then living with him during WW2 while my father was in the Navy. Bought a book for each of my four children and found their response was overwhelming. Both my great-grandfather and grandfather were mentioned in the book living in Steinbach, Manitoba. To know your heritage is a wonderful thing but most important is sharing it with my children and grand-children.

It's a very easy read. The details listed matched up with the stories past down from my Russian immigrant ancestors.

Easy to read. Clear and well written. Could expand in some areas, but gives a good overview. I would recommend it as an introduction for a novice.

This is very interesting!

I have recently come into many papers that list some of my familys history this book will be very

helpful in filling in some of the missing pieces.

Wally Kroeker has written a short work about Russian Mennonites. It does give some factual information about the history, but fails to adequately explain the faith behind the works. Mr. Kroeker tends to view the tenets of the Anabaptist faith as cultural peculiarities. This book might be a good inexpensive work, but Mr. Kroeker needs to spend a considerable amount of time with the Old Colony or the more conservative Kleine Gemeinde to get a better grasp of exactly WHY they do the things they do. That's what's missing!

Very interesting.

Among the many strands of the Christian faith are the Anabaptists:

“rebaptizers” who believed that baptism should be a voluntary step for adult Christians. Coming under intense persecution in their native lands, many moved first to the Vistula region of Poland, and later to the Russian Ukraine. During the twentieth century, these Mennonites came under pressure from the Russian government, and many moved on to such far off lands as Germany, Canada, the United States, Mexico and Paraguay. In this fascinating book, Mennonite author and journalist Wally Kroeker traces the Mennonites in Russia from their beginnings, through their “golden age,” the destruction of their communities, their flight to other parts of the globe, and where they are today. The book ends with a wonderful “Readings and Sources” section, which gives the reader many other books that he or she can follow up with. Overall, I found this to be a great book.

Admittedly, the book does not examine the Russian Mennonites’ faith or religious practices, but it does give an excellent overview of their history. I suppose that if I were asked to write a title for this book it would be, “A Short History of the Russian Mennonites.” This is a great book that I am glad that I bought. It was very nicely put together, including many wonderfully clear pictures. I am building up a small library of books on the Russian Mennonites that I plan to hand on to my descendants, and this is a treasured part of it. I highly recommend this book to anyone interested in learning about the Russian Mennonites. By the way, three other great books that I would recommend are “Forever Summer, Forever Sunday” by Peter Gerhard Rempel which has many excellent pictures from the Russian Mennonite golden age, “A Mennonite Family in Tsarist Russia and the Soviet Union, 1789-1923” by David G. Rempel in which an eyewitness records the

destruction of the Russian Mennonite communities, and "Leaving Anabaptism" by Calvin Wall Redekop which follows the religious evolution of one group of Russian Mennonites in North America.

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