



# DISCOVERY

February 2017

## Exploring Your Personal History

by Conrad Stoesz

Who am I? Do you ever ask yourself that question? Part of the answer includes where you came from—not only your past but your family’s past. It is one of those things we cannot choose but are given, so why not find out more!

### Where to start

Start simple. List when and where you were born. Then list when and where your parents and grandparents were born. At your next family gathering, take the opportunity to ask some questions of your relatives. In many families, there is that one “crazy” aunt or uncle who has done some family research, or is the keeper of the family story. No gatherings planned? Consider contacting family by phone or email to get the information you’re looking for.

### Document your sources

As you gather materials, be sure to document where your information is coming from. List the source (book, interview, document etc.) and where that source is. If it is an interview or conversation, document the date as well. You will be surprised how easy it is to forget where some information came from and trust me, there will be a point when you ask yourself, “Now how do I know that?” Or “Yes I saw that somewhere—but where!?” Listing your sources is crucial.

### Gather stories

As you are doing your research, you may want to create a family tree—a visual representation of you and your direct ancestors (parents, grandparents, etc.). Think of this tree as a skeleton. To bring it to life you need stories. These can be family traditions, supporting documents, obituaries, photos, books, articles, etc.

### Keep hard copies

As people amass materials, some look for help in organizing and sharing their results beyond a three-ringed binder. There are web sites and computer programs that can help you. But these e-resources should be seen as a tool, not a replacement for keeping your hard copy information. There is something special about holding grandpa’s birth certificate or great aunt Helen’s favorite, and badly stained cook book. Computer files get corrupted, hard drives crash, files get accidentally deleted, web site memberships lapse but the hard copy is more secure. TM

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See FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH RESOURCES **p2**

Our friend, and TourMagination tour leader, Robert J. Suderman (Jack) launched his new book *Re-Imagining the Church* in January 2017. Available at [www.wipfandstock.com](http://www.wipfandstock.com)



Suderman provides insightful and thought-provoking perspectives to what it means to be the church. To be a people “called out” to participate together in God’s activity in the world, and to create programs and structures needed for effective ministry are two sides of the same coin. This book is for dreamers and bureaucrats alike.

– Tom Yoder Neufeld



**TourMagination**  
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Helping Mennonites and other Christians explore, experience, and expand their world.

[www.tourmagination.com](http://www.tourmagination.com)

## Family History Resources

- > **GRANDMA** (Genealogical Registry and Database of Mennonite Ancestry) [www.grandmaonline.org](http://www.grandmaonline.org)
- > **SAGA** (Swiss Anabaptist Genealogical Association) [www.saga-omii.org](http://www.saga-omii.org)
- > **Find A Grave** [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com)
- > **GAMEO** (Global Mennonite Encyclopedia Online) [www.gameo.org](http://www.gameo.org)
- > **Records of Mennonites in Prussia, Russia, Canada and beyond** [www.mennonitegenealogy.com](http://www.mennonitegenealogy.com)
- > **MAID** (Mennonite Archival Image Database) [www.archives.mhsc.ca](http://www.archives.mhsc.ca)
- > **Dutch, German, Swiss Mennonite DNA project** [www.mennonitedna.com](http://www.mennonitedna.com)
- > **Listing of genealogical sources for Low German Mennonites** [www.timjanzen.com](http://www.timjanzen.com)

## More Resources

- > *Mennonite Historical Atlas* (Kindred Productions)
- > Census data, obituaries, immigration lists, church registers
- > Published family histories (see public libraries, college and Bible school libraries, Mennonite universities, provincial or state archives and the various Mennonite archives)

SEE MORE RESOURCES at [www.tourmagination.com/research\\_tools](http://www.tourmagination.com/research_tools)

## Upcoming Heritage Tours

- > St. Petersburg, Moscow & the Mennonite Story in Ukraine, May 6-18, 2017 AND Spring 2018
- > Discover Prague & the Mennonite Sojourn in Poland, June 19-29, 2017
- > 300th Anniversary Swiss-German Mennonite Heritage Tour, Aug. 12-24, 2017
- > Great Trek Discovery (Central Asia), May 2018



Audrey Voth Petkau and her husband Terry on the Spain/Portugal River Cruise in 2016.

# Making Time for Friends & Family

As a new year begins, I thank God again for the many blessings in my life—including family and friends.

In 2016, I was grateful for the wonderful outpouring of support from friends when I became the sole owner of TourMagination. So many people emailed or called letting me know they were behind me. Professionals offered assistance while others gave encouragement.

It takes work to nurture relationships but it's worth the effort. A small thing that I do to keep in touch with my immediate and extended family members is send them a note on their birthdays—by text, email, or Facebook. It's not a lot but it makes them feel valued.

I am also intentional about keeping up with friends. I go out with friends for lunch regularly, have people over for dinner, and host a book club. I love creating community.

I believe that when you socialize it makes space for important discussions. That's one of the reasons each year I plan a tour

for people who have travelled with me in the past.

Last year, I took a group on a Spain/Portugal river cruise. It was my pleasure to introduce these friends to each other and watch connections blossom as they shared time and activities. This year I am very excited to invite family and friends once again to join us on a European Christmas Markets cruise. In previous years, I've taken travel friends to Antarctica and Iceland. Many of them still keep in touch with me and each other.

I am a much richer person for the people who I meet when I travel. Getting to know tour guides, fellow travellers, MCC workers, MEDA in-country staff, and locals in the countries we visit, has changed the way I see the world. Travelling has made me more open-minded and open-hearted. I wish the same for TourMagination travellers—that you might experience the global community with friends.

All the best in 2017. I hope you make plenty of time for friends and family this year. <sup>TM</sup>

Audrey

# 2017/2018 TOURS

*On our tours, expect an enriching cultural experience as you interact with locals, learn with Christian leaders and knowledgeable in-country guides, and build community with like-minded travellers.*

**MANY BRAND  
NEW TOURS!**



Glendalough, Ireland  
Photo Credit: Claire Gribbin

## Guide to tour symbols



Heritage



Holy Land



Cruise



Natural Wonders



Cultural Learning



### **St. Petersburg, Moscow & the Mennonite Story in Ukraine, with Leonard Friesen**

May 6-18, 2017 FILLING FAST  
From USD \$4,316; CAD \$5,395

Explore the modern and historic culture of St. Petersburg and Moscow. Experience the Mennonite story in Ukraine as you visit the historic colonies of Chortitza and Molotschna.



### **Explore the World of Paul in Greece & Italy, with Tom Yoder Neufeld**

May 19 – June 1, 2017  
From USD \$3,785; CAD \$4,936

Learn about the cultural contexts that shaped the Apostle Paul, his message, and his congregations. See locations of interest in Greece and Italy including Rome and Pompeii.



### **AMBS Reformations Old & New: Cathedrals & Museums (London, Paris & Berlin), with Allan Rudy-Froese**

July 14-26, 2017  
From USD \$3,899

Guided by Allan Rudy-Froese, AMBS Assistant Professor, explore European faith and art—past and present—in London, Paris, and Berlin. Discuss, reflect, worship, & enjoy light-hearted fun.



### **Celebrating 500 Years of the Reformation & Life of Luther, with Dr. Bob Kelly (Lutheran Scholar) SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY TOUR**

May 12-21, 2017  
From USD \$2,632.50

Reflect on the life and transformational message of Martin Luther and other reformers as you visit important sites in Germany. Also enjoy historic European architecture and beautiful scenery.



### **Discover Prague & the Mennonite Sojourn in Poland, with John Sharp**

June 19-29, 2017  
From USD \$3,150

Reflect on the centuries-long settlement of Mennonites in Poland as you visit villages and sites along the Vistula Delta. See stunning architecture, modern & historic sites in Prague, Krakow, Warsaw, & Gdansk.



### **Arctic Wonders & Peoples of Manitoba, with Darrel Toews**

July 26 – Aug. 3, 2017  
From USD \$4,396; CAD \$5,495

See Beluga whales, polar bears, and other wildlife in Churchill, Manitoba. Also learn about the Native Canadians of Manitoba and the thousands of Mennonites who settled in this province.

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# 2017 TOURS

 **European 300th Anniversary Swiss-German Mennonite Heritage Tour, with John Ruth**

August 12-24, 2017  
SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY TOUR  
From USD \$3,016; CAD \$3,770

Don't miss this opportunity to travel with engaging storyteller John Ruth as he guides you to discover your Anabaptist roots in Germany, Switzerland, and France.

 **Guatemala Loving & Learning Tour, with Katrina Janzen & Drew Unruh**

August 18-26, 2017  
From USD \$1,856; CAD \$2,320

Explore ancient ruins, historic churches, and colourful markets in the centre of the Mayan heartland. Serve with a faith-based NGO for a few days. Experience the vibrant faith of Guatemalan Christians.

 **Sights, Sounds & Sacred Spaces of Ireland, with Bob & Margaret Nally**

September 11-21, 2017  
From USD \$2,875; CAD \$3,595

Discover Celtic Christian spirituality. Encounter the heart and spirit of the Irish as you walk pilgrim routes, see incredible landscapes, and enjoy traditional music and stories.

 **France Gardens & Gastronomy Tour, with John & Kelly Schroeder**

September 14-22, 2017  
From USD \$3,676; CAD \$4,595

Feast your senses on the autumn glory of gardens in the Loire Valley. Stay in charming towns and savour mouth-watering cuisine highlighting unique local French produce.

 **MEDA Social Impact & Safari Tour to Tanzania, with MEDA staff member Helen Loftin**

September 22 – October 2, 2017  
From USD \$4,396; CAD \$5,495

Experience the vibrant culture and incredible wildlife in Tanzania with like-minded travellers. Learn about how MEDA is partnering with Tanzanians on creative solutions to social problems.

 **India in Focus: Photography & Cultural Adventure Tour, with Jim Pankratz & Al Doerksen**

October 15-28, 2017  
Pushkar Extension  
Oct. 28 – Nov. 1, 2017  
From USD \$3,052; CAD \$3,815

Explore the vivid colours, cultures, and religions of India with avid photographers. Take photos or just enjoy the incredible sights. Dialogue with locals.

 **Glory of Russia, with Leonard Friesen**

October 2017, Dates and Price TBA

Len Friesen, a professor of Russian history, can't wait to take you on a deeper exploration of this centuries-old culture as you visit modern and historic sites in St. Petersburg, Moscow, and beyond.

 **Christmas Markets on the Rhine, with Audrey Voth Petkau & Terry Petkau**

December 2-9, 2017 BOOK SOON  
From USD \$2,998; CAD \$3,624

Marvel at cities dressed in holiday splendour. Reflect on Christ's birth as we visit historic cathedrals, sing carols, and see nativity scenes. Shop for unique gifts at Christmas Markets. Optional post-cruise extension available in Lucerne and Zurich, December 9-13.

## COMING IN 2018

 **Land of Penguins: Antarctic Peninsula Adventure, with Audrey Voth Petkau & Terry Petkau**  
**LIMITED AVAILABILITY**

January 1-14, 2018  
From USD \$7,993

Lean back in awe and wonder as you take in the enormity of glaciers and mountains. Observe and learn about the hardy wildlife—including penguins, seabirds, seals, and whales.

 **Fresh Perspectives on the History, Church, & People of Cuba, with Jack & Irene Suderman**

January 2018  
PRICE & DATES TBA

 **Peace Pilgrim Walk with Jesus; Tour leader Nelson Kraybill**

May 15-25 2018  
From USD \$3,280; CAD \$4,100

Reflect on the promises Jesus fulfilled and how he pointed toward forgiveness, love—even of enemies—healing, and crossing boundaries. Walk stretches of the Jesus Trail and other paths familiar to our Lord.

 **St. Petersburg, Moscow & the Mennonite Story in Ukraine, with Leonard Friesen**

Spring 2018  
PRICE AND DATES TBA

 **Great Trek Discovery, with John Sharp**

May 2018  
PRICE AND DATES TBA

 **European Anabaptist Heritage, with John Sharp**

July 2018

 **A Rare Beauty: South Africa Tour, with Leonard & Mary Friesen**

August 2018  
PRICE AND DATES TBA

## COMING IN 2020

**Oberammergau Passion Play Tours**



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