
This biography and its earlier related volume, Ambassador to His People: C. F. Klassen and the Russian Mennonite Refugees (Kindred Productions, 1990), tell the story of three prominent Mennonites. While Cornelius F. Klassen is the subject of the earlier book, this biography brings readers into a close acquaintance with Mary Brieger Klassen, who was C. F. Klassen's wife, and with Erika Reimer Gurieva, the daughter of Mary's first husband, Jacob Reimer, and his first wife.

It Happened in Moscow is an engaging narrative involving war, revolution, divorce, family secrets, and a record of dedicated service. In 1993 Herb and Maureen Klassen---son and daughter-in-law of C. F. and Mary Klassen---were living in Moscow on a Mennonite Central Committee assignment. An unanticipated phone call from a woman they did not know began a long process of unraveling a well-kept Klassen family mystery, deeply rooted in the chaotic events of early twentieth-century Russia. The caller was Erica Reimer Gurieva, who stunned Herb Klassen with this question, "Do you have a brother Harold?"

In the 1920s, in response to the devastating Russian famine, Mennonite Central Committee had sent Arthur Miller to Moscow to coordinate relief efforts on behalf of North American Mennonites. Before long the new Mennonite Centre established in Moscow attracted a talented staff, including Jacob and Mary Brieger Reimer, C. F. Klassen, and Peter Froese. Mary served as Alvin Miller's secretary.

Readers learn from Maureen's engaging narrative that Mary Brieger was a talented Latvian national of German Lutheran heritage. She was a lover of the arts and fluent in several languages. In 1915, she married Jacob Reimer, who, having completed his training as an engineer in Germany, had...
Here's how it happened. 3:32 pm, October 23, 2017. Source: Meduza. Immediately following the attack, Felgenhauer was hospitalized at Moscow’s Sklifosovsky medical center. “When she got into the ambulance, Tanya was conscious and could walk, but it was obvious that she wasn’t in the best condition. They treated her for a cut on her neck,” Ekho journalist Olga Bychkova said. Venediktov later added that doctors did not believe Felgenhauer’s life was in danger. Irina Vorobyova, another Ekho host and one of Felgenhauer’s friends, later tweeted a statement by Sergey Petrikov, the director of the Sklifosovsky medical center: “Her condition is serious. She’s in the Discover Moscow. Something important happened almost ANYWHERE that you go, and you continually realize the significance of the city as you explore. Speaking of large, a map of the metro system will be your best friend as you try to navigate through the city. Luckily, the metro is inexpensive and takes you anywhere that you need to go. It seemed to me that a common theme in Moscow was that the beautiful creations from the Soviet era are under-appreciated. Massive buildings are left vacant or are used for random temporary purposes, and huge, impressive infrastructure is left out of guidebooks and travel websites. Aside from random buildings, monuments, and metro stations, there is an entire park in the art district devoted to soviet statues that used to be significant. It Happened in Moscow is memoir—the unfolding of a fascinating family discovery through Maureen Klassen’s eyes. In 1993 Maureen and Herb Klassen were working for Mennonite organizations in Moscow and were fluent in Russian and German. These things made them the perfect recipients for the information that Erika had gleaned in her search for family. Via Erika, the family learned the fate of Jacob (Mary’s first husband) and thousands of Mennonites who were hindered from or chose not to immigrate from Soviet Russia. Maureen Klassen's charitable depiction of the two main players in this tale (Mary