

Time Line of Anabaptist History

1524: Hans Hut refuses to have his infant child baptized; subsequent banishment from the region of all who did not support infant baptism

January 21, 1525: First adult baptism in Zurich

February 1525: First imprisonment of Anabaptists in Zurich

Palm Sunday, 1525: Conrad Grebel participated in a mass baptism involving approximately 200 people in St. Gall

May 1525: First Anabaptist martyr, Hippolytus Eberle, executed in Schwyz

May 1525: Climax of Peasants' War at Franckenhausen

1526: Anabaptists begin coming to Strausborg because of its relative tolerance

January 5, 1527: First execution of an Anabaptist by a Protestant government, Felix Mantz in Zurich

February 1527: Conference at Schleitheim (on the Swiss-German border); considered by some to be the true beginning of Anabaptism

May 1527: Nikolsburg Disputation between Hut and Hubmaier; Hut's group came to be known as "staff-bearers, Hut's as "sword-bearers"

August 1527: "Martyrs' Synod" with Denck, Hut, and other leaders to discuss the role of the "end times" in their preaching

August 20, 1527: Ferdinand I of Austria issues a mandate against heretics, leading to persecution of Anabaptists in that region

Spring 1528: "Staff-bearers" who had broken fellowship with larger Anabaptist group in Nikolsburg ordered to leave by Leonhard of Liechtenstein; approximately 200 adults pooled their resources and traveled to Austerlitz (this group eventually became the Hutterites)

Mid-1530's: Austerlitz group had fully developed idea of community of goods

1530: Commonly accepted date for beginning of Anabaptism in the Netherlands

June 24, 1535: City of Munster, held by Jan van Leiden

October 10, 1535: mandate issued against Anabaptists in Belgium; another issued Jan. 24, 1539, and another December 14, 1541; persecution is severe and many flee

1535-36: 25 Dutch Anabaptists brought to trial in England

January 30, 1536: Menno Simons makes public his commitment to Anabaptism and goes into hiding with the help of the peaceful Anabaptists

1556: In Northern Germany, Menno Simons and his followers employ strict use of the ban and a group that comes to be known as the Waterlanders splits off in protest

January 17, 1568: Waterlander Mennonites meet at Emden where they agree on twenty-one points on which to base their work together

1574: Death of last Anabaptist martyr in Belgium; 1,500-2,500 killed in all

January 26, 1577: Prince Williams orders that Mennonites should not be forced into military service

February 25-May 17, 1578: Reformed representatives and Flemish Mennonites debate 14 points in Emden; the debates last for 124 sessions.

1601: Mennonites legally tolerated in Altona, Germany

1632: Dordrecht Confession of Faith

1642: King Wladislaw IV of Poland pronounces an edict that favors Mennonites in his lands

1644: Quakers emerge

1644: earliest records of Anabaptists in the United States (New York)

1651: *Gemeinde-Ordnungen*, a statement of community regulations, instituted among the Hutterites by Andreas Ehrenpreis; it is still used in the communities today

1660: *Martyr's Mirror* by T. J. van Braght is published

1664: Edict of toleration issued in the Palatinate; Anabaptists from several regions pass through here

1671: Swiss persecution of Anabaptists; also 1691 and 1711

October 6, 1683: Mennonites and Quakers from Germany settle in Germantown, PA

1694-1697: Jacob Amman and his followers, mostly from Alsace, split with Mennonites from Switzerland; Amman's followers come to be known as the Amish

1705-1725: Some Mennonites join the Dunkards (Church of the Brethren)

1712: Amish face expulsion order from French government

1725: Dutch Mennonites establish an organization to facilitate sending relief money and supplies abroad

1735: An Anabaptist seminary is founded in Amsterdam

July 24, 1788: first group of Mennonites reach Russian encampment at Dubrovna

1860: General Conference Mennonite Church is formed

1871: Heinrich Dirks is the first missionary sent by the Amsterdam Mennonite Missionary Society; he goes to Sumatra

1874: Russia passes universal military service law; Mennonites were granted an alternative service provision

1873-1884: wave of Dutch-Prussian-Russian Mennonites settle in Midwestern US

1880: a visionary group led by Claasz Epp, Jr. flees into the wilderness

1898: Mennonite General Conference is organized; this group was also known as Old Mennonites and later came to be known as the Mennonite Church

1905: the Evangelical Mennonite Church forms, trying to overcome divisions among Mennonite Brethren

1917: Bolshevik Revolution in Russia makes life more difficult for Russian Mennonites

1920: Mennonite Central Committee is organized to respond to requests for aid from famine-ravaged Mennonites in Russia

1920's: a large group of Russian Mennonites immigrate to Canada

1927: Harold S. Bender publishes first issue of *The Mennonite Quarterly Review*

October 1, 1928: Soviet's first five-year plan is initiated and prompts many Mennonites to leave USSR

1943: Bender's speech on "The Anabaptist Vision"

February 1, 2002: the General Assembly of the Mennonite Church and the General Conference Mennonite Church officially merged to create Mennonite Church USA; Canadian Mennonites had organized a similar merger a few years earlier