

Mennonite Heritage Archives

Finding Aid - Marta Goertzen-Armin fonds (PP)

Generated by Mennonite Heritage Archives on October 07, 2024

Language of description: English

Mennonite Heritage Archives

610 Shaftesbury Blvd.

Note: Mailing address is 500 Shaftesbury Blvd.

Winnipeg

Manitoba

Canada

R3P 2N2

Telephone: 204-487-3300 EXT 345

[Email: cstoesz@mharchives.ca](mailto:cstoesz@mharchives.ca)

<https://www.mharchives.ca/>

<https://archives.mhsc.ca/index.php/marta-goertzen-armin-fonds>

Marta Goertzen-Armin fonds

Table of contents

| | |
|--|---|
| Summary information | 3 |
| Administrative history / Biographical sketch | 3 |
| Scope and content | 3 |
| Notes | 4 |
| Access points | 4 |
| Collection holdings | 4 |

Summary information

| | |
|--|--|
| Repository: | Mennonite Heritage Archives |
| Title: | Marta Goertzen-Armin fonds |
| Reference code: | PP |
| Date: | 1974 - ? (creation) |
| Physical description: | 2 cm of textual records |
| Language: | English |
| Language: | German |
| Language: | Low German |
| Dates of creation, revision and deletion: | Description created by Sara Dyck, February 2021. |

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Marta Goertzen-Armin was born to the Goertzen family on their farm in Chortitz, Manitoba in 1923. She married James Jay Armin in 1941, and they eventually moved to Toronto due to his job. The couple had four children; Marta first began sketching in order to illustrate their school projects. When the children had all grown up and moved out, Marta travelled to New York and attended the Brooklyn Museum Art School to study drawing, painting, and design. When she returned to Toronto, she studied at the Toronto Artists Workshop. After undergoing open heart surgery later in her life, Marta began sketching with her left hand, with the aim of strengthening muscles that had weakened. Marta and James eventually moved into the Elm Grove Living Centre in Toronto, Ontario, where they lived together until James' death in 2008. Marta died the following year in 2009.

Scope and content

This fonds consists of sketches and handwritten commentaries describing Marta's childhood on a rural Manitoba farm in the late 1920s and early 1930s, during the Great Depression; they were drawn over a period of fifteen years as a form of physical therapy. Marta arranged her artwork by which of the four seasons the subjects of her art fell into.

Notes

Immediate source of acquisition

Adele Armin

Finding aids

Inventory file list available

Note [General]

Accession No. 2019-051

Other notes

- **Publication status:** Published
-

Access points

- Goertzen-Armin, Marta, 1923-2009 (subject)
 - Drawings (documentary form)
 - Photographs (documentary form)
 - Chortitz (West Reserve, Manitoba) (place)
 - Schanzenfeld (Manitoba) (place)
-

Collection holdings

File: PP-6491-20 - Spring

Title: Spring

Reference code: PP-6491-20

Date: 1977 - 1983 (date of creation)

Physical description: 15 sketches

Publication status:

Published

Item: PP-6491-20-6491-20-1 - Villagers' location

Creator: Goertzen-Armin, Marta, 1923-2009

Title: Villagers' location

Reference code: PP-6491-20-6491-20-1

Date: 1977 - 1983 (date of creation)

Scope and content: A sketch of a map showing the locations of families and buildings in the village of Chortitz, Manitoba (West Reserve) in the 1920s and 1930s. Includes one copy.

Physical description: 20 x 25 cm: [b&w]

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Drawings (documentary form)
 - Chortitz (West Reserve, Manitoba) (place)
-

Item: PP-6491-20-6491-20-2 - Manure pressing

Creator: Goertzen-Armin, Marta, 1923-2009

Title: Manure pressing

Reference code: PP-6491-20-6491-20-2

Date: 1977 (date of creation)

Scope and content: Sketch of a family pressing manure into bricks in front of their housebarn, circa 1933.

"Manure Pressing in Spring. Chortitz by Winkler, Manitoba circa 1933"

Physical description: 30 x 22.5 cm: [col.]

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Drawings (documentary form)
 - Manure bricks (subject)
 - Chortitz (West Reserve, Manitoba) (place)
-

Item: PP-6491-20-6491-20-3 - Small view of Marta's home with some neighbourhood

Creator: Goertzen-Armin, Marta, 1923-2009

Title: Small view of Marta's home with some neighbourhood

Reference code: PP-6491-20-6491-20-3

Date: 1977 - 1983 (date of creation)

Scope and content: Sketch of Marta Goertzen's yard where she grew up in Chortitz, Manitoba, showing her house and parts of the neighbors'.

"Abram F, Goertzen's place; my home 1934 in Chortitz by Winkler Manitoba"

Physical description: 23 x 20 cm: [b&w]

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Drawings (documentary form)
 - Housebarn (subject)
 - Chortitz (West Reserve, Manitoba) (place)
-

Item: PP-6491-20-6491-20-4 - Large view with text

Creator: Goertzen-Armin, Marta, 1923-2009

Title: Large view with text

Reference code: PP-6491-20-6491-20-4

Date: 1979-1981 (date of creation)

Scope and content: Sketch of a panoramic view of Marta Goertzen's childhood farm in Chortitz, Manitoba.

"Our Canadian prairie Mennonite village home recalled and drawn from memory of 1930 or so..."

Physical description: 30.5 x 22.5 cm: [b&w]

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Drawings (documentary form)
 - Housebarn (subject)
 - Chortitz (West Reserve, Manitoba) (place)
-

Item: PP-6491-20-6491-20-5 - Barefoot

Creator: Goertzen-Armin, Marta, 1923-2009

Title: Barefoot

Reference code: PP-6491-20-6491-20-5

Date: 1983 (date of creation)

Scope and content: Sketches of children playing barefoot outside their houses.

"We dash home: "Daddy, Daddy, may we go barefoot this afternoon (too)? The other children do!" "You don't say! What nonsense! The earth isn't even thoroughly thawed out yet!" "Who goes barefoot?" asks Greet. "Well...!" "Don't tell me you want to become such snotpots too!" Not even "barefoot-in-the-shoes", not yet..."

Physical description: 28 x 21.5 cm: [b&w]

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Drawings (documentary form)
 - Chortitz (West Reserve, Manitoba) (place)
-

Item: PP-6491-20-6491-20-6 - Mary Bueckert visit

Creator: Goertzen-Armin, Marta, 1923-2009

Title: Mary Bueckert visit

Reference code: PP-6491-20-6491-20-6

Date: 1982 (date of creation)

Scope and content: Sketches of Marta's family in their home.

"Mary Bueckert from across the street has brought a honey pail of chicken soup. "Well, you finally got a little boy! What's his name then?" "Naturally Abe after his father!" "And have you found a kitchenmaid already?" "Yes: Frank Kauenhofens Margaret!" Our little brother Abe, Abram Leonard is born May 22 1927"

Physical description: 30 x 23 cm: [b&w]

Publication status:

Published

Item: PP-6491-20-6491-20-7 - Chick by the stove

Creator: Goertzen-Armin, Marta, 1923-2009

Title: Chick by the stove

Reference code: PP-6491-20-6491-20-7

Date: 1978 - 1981 (date of creation)

Scope and content: Sketches of Marta and another girl playing with baby chicks in front of the stove in their house.

"We enjoy the baby chicks coming out in spring! Lisa and I have to teach them to peck up crumbs and drink water. At first they cheep fearfully! Then, when we cover them in their big cardboard box

behind the stove, they nestle together. With now and then a cheep, they sleep... We call them like this: cheep-cheep-cheep!"

Physical description: 29 x 22 cm: [b&w]

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Drawings (documentary form)
 - Chortitz (West Reserve, Manitoba) (place)
-

Item: PP-6491-20-6491-20-8 - Sunday visit

Creator: Goertzen-Armin, Marta, 1923-2009

Title: Sunday visit

Reference code: PP-6491-20-6491-20-8

Date: 1980 (date of creation)

Scope and content: Sketches of a family travelling by horse and wagon to visit relatives in Schanzenfeld on a Sunday circa 1929.

"Dressed in Sunday best, past Wielers fence, we're off to visit grandmother! "TKL," goes father, and Toots trots easily, two miles off to Schanzenfeld... "Come my goslings! Have you missed me already too?" calls Grandmother in greeting"

Physical description: 27.5 x 21.5 cm: [b&w]

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Drawings (documentary form)
 - Chortitz (West Reserve, Manitoba) (place)
 - Schanzenfeld (Manitoba) (place)
-

Item: PP-6491-20-6491-20-9 - Mother dies

Creator: Goertzen-Armin, Marta, 1923-2009

Title: Mother dies

Reference code: PP-6491-20-6491-20-9

Date: 1982 (date of creation)

Scope and content: Sketches of the funeral of Marta's mother.

"Our mother dies March 6, 1928. The aunts want to divide us among them, but father says no. "I'll keep them together..." Those village women who do that, have washed mother and put on her white dying-dress. The aunts have put mother's own red, pink, and white geraniums 'round her."

Physical description: 30 x 23 cm: [b&w]

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Drawings (documentary form)
 - Funeral rites & ceremonies (subject)
 - Chortitz (West Reserve, Manitoba) (place)
-

Item: PP-6491-20-6491-20-10 - The funeral

Creator: Goertzen-Armin, Marta, 1923-2009

Title: The funeral

Reference code: PP-6491-20-6491-20-10

Date: 1982 (date of creation)

Scope and content: Sketches of the burial and funeral of Marta's mother.

"At the cemetery we wing, pray, and the minister "thanks off". Then he scatters the first handful of earth on the coffin... Village women brought butter and milk together yesterday to make the rolldough. This they carried to other women and took some themselves for baking. While we are at the cemetery, they set the coffee table: rolls, coffee and sugar cubes. The men eat first, then the women and the children."

Physical description: 30 x 23 cm: [b&w]

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Drawings (documentary form)
 - Funeral rites & ceremonies (subject)
 - Chortitz (West Reserve, Manitoba) (place)
-

Item: PP-6491-20-6491-20-11 - Father comforts

Creator: Goertzen-Armin, Marta, 1923-2009

Title: Father comforts

Reference code: PP-6491-20-6491-20-11

Date: 1982 (date of creation)

Scope and content: Sketches of a family in their rural house in Chortitz, Manitoba.

""There now, Mary, you can soon stop crying already. Mother has no more pain. You and Tina can sleep on the big bed. We're living in the whole house now. When we moved here Mother was not strong. That's why we used only the front room and the parlour. Abe is at Aunt Mary's for now." Mary says she can hear mother at night still rocking on the rocking chair."

Physical description: 30 x 23 cm: [b&w]

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Drawings (documentary form)
 - Chortitz (West Reserve, Manitoba) (place)
-

Item: PP-6491-20-6491-20-12 - Birthday

Creator: Goertzen-Armin, Marta, 1923-2009

Title: Birthday

Reference code: PP-6491-20-6491-20-12

Date: 1977 - 1983 (date of creation)

Scope and content: Sketches of Marta's family celebrating a birthday in their home.

"Happy Birthday! After supper Tina and Mary secretly get a pillow. This is how we do it: we put the birthday child on it and tug his ears, one after the other: once for every year and an extra tug to grow on! We put up a mock defence but really quite enjoy it!"

Physical description: 28 x 22 cm: [b&w]

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Drawings (documentary form)
 - Birthdays (subject)
 - Chortitz (West Reserve, Manitoba) (place)
-

Item: PP-6491-20-6491-20-13 - Nobody home

Creator: Goertzen-Armin, Marta, 1923-2009

Title: Nobody home

Reference code: PP-6491-20-6491-20-13

Date: 1979 (date of creation)

Scope and content: Sketch of a portion of a housebarn in rural Manitoba.

"Driving a long way by horse and buggy to visit some people, no telephones you know, and they weren't home, their door open, we went in, made ourselves some Fasma, thinking they'd be along by the time we were done. When it was time to go we left a sign we'd been there, the way people would to us if they'd come and we were away. This was taken in great good humour and there'd be much slapping on shoulders and laughter next time we'd meet."

Physical description: 21 x 27.5 cm: [b&w]

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Drawings (documentary form)
 - Housebarn (subject)
 - Chortitz (West Reserve, Manitoba) (place)
-

Item: PP-6491-20-6491-20-14 - The band

Creator: Goertzen-Armin, Marta, 1923-2009

Title: The band

Reference code: PP-6491-20-6491-20-14

Date: 1977 - 1983 (date of creation)

Scope and content: Sketch of a band playing music, likely at a wedding.

Physical description: 22.5 x 15.5 cm: [b&w]

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Drawings (documentary form)
 - Music (subject)
 - Chortitz (West Reserve, Manitoba) (place)
-

Item: PP-6491-20-6491-20-15 - The wedding

Creator: Goertzen-Armin, Marta, 1923-2009

Title: The wedding

Reference code: PP-6491-20-6491-20-15

Date: 1977 - 1983 (date of creation)

Scope and content: Sketch of a wedding taking place outdoors in rural Manitoba.

Physical description: 22.5 x 15.5 cm: [b&w]

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Drawings (documentary form)
 - Chortitz (West Reserve, Manitoba) (place)
-

File: PP-6491-21 - Summer

Creator: Goertzen-Armin, Marta, 1923-2009

Title: Summer

Reference code: PP-6491-21

Date: 1974-1989 (date of creation)

Physical description: 15 sketches

Publication status:

Published

Item: PP-6491-21-6491-21-1 - small Grandmother's yard with children

Creator: Goertzen-Armin, Marta, 1923-2009

Title: small Grandmother's yard with children

Reference code: PP-6491-21-6491-21-1

Date: 1987 (date of creation)

Scope and content: Sketch of a family and their housebarn in Chortitz, Manitoba circa 1930

Physical description: 28 x 21.5 cm: [b&w]

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Drawings (documentary form)
 - Housebarn (subject)
 - Chortitz (West Reserve, Manitoba) (place)
-

Item: PP-6491-21-6491-21-2 - Greta gathers hops

Creator: Goertzen-Armin, Marta, 1923-2009

Title: Greta gathers hops

Reference code: PP-6491-21-6491-21-2

Date: 1979 - 1999 (date of creation)

Scope and content: Sketches of a woman making yeast by hand in her yard
"Greet makes yeast: swirl honey and hops+ and flour in a crock with warm water and hang it in the back boxelder for fermenting. Every day she checks, swirls and smells until it is 'ripe'. Then she takes it down and uses a bit of it each time to set the yeast sponge for bread-making. Lisa and I have to upend manure sod (mennonite coal) for further drying...
+rather the water from boiling hops..."

Physical description: 21.5 x 28 cm: [b&w]

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Drawings (documentary form)
 - Hops (subject)
 - Chortitz (West Reserve, Manitoba) (place)
-

Item: PP-6491-21-6491-21-3 - Bucket of water

Creator: Goertzen-Armin, Marta, 1923-2009

Title: Bucket of water

Reference code: PP-6491-21-6491-21-3

Date: 1980 - 1982 (date of creation)

Scope and content: Sketches of a woman playing a joke on her husband on their farm in Chortitz, Manitoba

"Once mother had called father to come and eat many times. Yet still he stood talking over the back fence with neighbour Schellenberg. Then she sneaked up behind him and dumped a bucket of water over his head! People still laugh over it!"

Physical description: 28 x 23 cm: [b&w]

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Drawings (documentary form)
 - Chortitz (West Reserve, Manitoba) (place)
-

Item: PP-6491-21-6491-21-4 - small Sunday afternoon

Creator: Goertzen-Armin, Marta, 1923-2009

Title: small Sunday afternoon

Reference code: PP-6491-21-6491-21-4

Date: 1979 - 1999 (date of creation)

Scope and content: Sketch of a group of children playing in the woods by the cowfence in their rural village in Manitoba

"On Sunday afternoons there's time to go to the woods or play in the cowfence. When the big girls ask us to go with them it's a special occasion. This time they're showing us how to hold dandelions under our chins to see if we like butter. They turn and nudge us away from and into the sun, each in turn. Annie and Helen, Agnes, Susie and Margaret; Abe, Betty and me, themselves Mary Tina and Tina who all like butter!

Physical description: 23 x 20.5 cm: [b&w]

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Drawings (documentary form)
 - Chortitz (West Reserve, Manitoba) (place)
-

Item: PP-6491-21-6491-21-5 - small Sunday afternoon continued

Creator: Goertzen-Armin, Marta, 1923-2009

Title: small Sunday afternoon continued

Reference code: PP-6491-21-6491-21-5

Date: 1979 - 1999 (date of creation)

Scope and content: Text describing the continuation of children spending a Sunday afternoon.

"is as homely as her sister Mary pretty, and those angular features that look so good on Jacob don't on her. Distinctive she is, but it would take a Leonardo to notice it, and we don't know that yet. "Children, come for coffee," Margaret Kauenhofen calls, hurrying us to finish. The three Penners live next door, Annie, Helen and Tina, and go home. Susie Thiessen goes home, next door but one, and takes Nettie and Mary Froese, the Thiessens cousins along. Margaret and Agnes, mine and Betty's freidns respectively, stay. That makes us nine at table. During the week we've moved cooking and eating utensils into the summer kitchen where it's cool. Mary's made a cake and Margaret her usual large white buns. We spread butter and tangy cranberry jam, drink our coffee half milk. The smells are good, on Saturday we've cleaned the coffee kettle, Sunday we start fresh, each day we add some grounds through the week, simmered over breakfast and in between... taken to the fields in a narrow neck crock, picnics at work. The kitchen's fairly fly-free. On Saturdays and whenever delicious borscht and frying ham smell attract them, we chase out flies. Margaret is good at it, taking a dirty towel, shooing high and low like a whirling dervish to the open screen door and beyond, out, out, out!"

Physical description: 23 x 20.5 cm: [b&w]

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Drawings (documentary form)
 - Chortitz (West Reserve, Manitoba) (place)
-

Item: PP-6491-21-6491-21-6 - small Sunday afternoon ending

Creator: Goertzen-Armin, Marta, 1923-2009

Title: small Sunday afternoon ending

Reference code: PP-6491-21-6491-21-6

Date: 1979 - 1999 (date of creation)

Scope and content: Sketch of children playing near and swimming in a creek near their homes, continuing to spend their Sunday afternoon,

"At our place and at Thiessens we talk at table. Penners don't. They are a large family, I think twelve. Maybe that's why they don't often eat elsewhere. They are a "brought together" family. Mr. Penner has lost one, no, two wives, they died, no other separations or divorce exist, and had children by each, Mrs. Penner had a family too and now they have Annie and Helen together. A boy baby in their old age dies soon after birth.

After Faspa it's time to get the milk cows home. We and Thiessens share a fence just outside Chortitz. It's always fun to do this. Sometimes Abram Thiessen and Jake Froese come too. Otherwise we seldom play outside, boys and girls, except in school hours. The boys may decide to strip and plunge into the creek, one hand between their legs, one over mouth and nose. We scream with excitement along with the boys 'tho at a respectable distance and guess who remembers the cows? On Sunday other village children come and it's great fun. They take a running leap to make the muddy water splash, no matter cows do their thing in it too."

Physical description: 23 x 20.5 cm: [b&w]

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Drawings (documentary form)
 - Chortitz (West Reserve, Manitoba) (place)
-

Item: PP-6491-21-6491-21-7 - Russian Mennonite Borscht

Creator: Goertzen-Armin, Marta, 1923-2009

Title: Russian Mennonite Borscht

Reference code: PP-6491-21-6491-21-7

Date: 1984 (date of creation)

Scope and content: Sketch of a woman and her children gathering ingredients and preparing borscht "Russian Mennonite Borscht (from the oral tradition): Simmer about 4 lbs. beef, mutton, or pork, with lots of bone until almost done, salt to taste, of course. Add a head of cabbage and about 4 onions, all medium sliced or chopped, three long stems dill, and a small handful of parsley. When done, add about twelve or so juicy ripe tomatoes and keep simmering until these are done. Served with sweet or sour cream: Umm-hmm!"

Physical description: 28 x 21.5 cm: [b&w]

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Drawings (documentary form)
 - Food preparation (subject)
 - Chortitz (West Reserve, Manitoba) (place)
-

Item: PP-6491-21-6491-21-8 - Flea methodology

Creator: Goertzen-Armin, Marta, 1923-2009

Title: Flea methodology

Reference code: PP-6491-21-6491-21-8

Date: 1982 - 1999 (date of creation)

Scope and content: Sketches of Marta and her siblings dealing with fleas in their bedclothes. ""Look how the beasts hide themselves in the seams! There - you must be quicker than they - get 'em between your thumbnails and squish them before they hop away!" says Greet. No one seems to know where these fleas come from that spread through the village now and then. Some say from the hay, some say from Mexico. We chuckle at those who still wear old-fashioned clothes. We call their high collars flea collars because they hide the telltale red dot flea bites!"

Physical description: 28 x 21.5 cm: [b&w]

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Drawings (documentary form)
 - Chortitz (West Reserve, Manitoba) (place)
-

Item: PP-6491-21-6491-21-9 - First bra

Creator: Goertzen-Armin, Marta, 1923-2009

Title: First bra

Reference code: PP-6491-21-6491-21-9

Date: 1981 (date of creation)

Scope and content: Sketch of Marta and her sister playing dress-up in the pantry of their home
"All Beginnings

Mary beckons me to the pantry, "Close your eyes: Surprise!" She has basted together a "brassiere" for me, of flour sacking, and dyed it pink with beets; I look so funny with it on, we "sneeze" out into laughter."

Physical description: 28 x 21.5 cm: [b&w]

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Drawings (documentary form)
 - Chortitz (West Reserve, Manitoba) (place)
-

Item: PP-6491-21-6491-21-10 - Cow in the garden!

Creator: Goertzen-Armin, Marta, 1923-2009

Title: Cow in the garden!

Reference code: PP-6491-21-6491-21-10

Date: 1979 - 1999 (date of creation)

Scope and content: Sketches of a cow breaking into the family's garden, and the family chasing it out again

"Greet calls: "Children, come fend off! Yellow (one)'s in the garden! That old beast! That sneak-thief! She needs a ladder hung on her again!" We drive her out gently so she won't panic and trample yet more underfoot. Such a ladder is used only on young stock, and that only rarely..."

Physical description: 28 x 21.5 cm: [b&w]

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Drawings (documentary form)
 - Cattle (subject)
 - Chortitz (West Reserve, Manitoba) (place)
-

Item: PP-6491-21-6491-21-11 - Today is hot

Creator: Goertzen-Armin, Marta, 1923-2009

Title: Today is hot

Reference code: PP-6491-21-6491-21-11

Date: 1979 - 1999 (date of creation)

Scope and content: Sketches of a family working in the fields and stopping to eat
"Today it is hot! En route to hoe potatoes in the field we stop in the garden to eat a lovely cantaloupe: this way they taste best! The flies are biting again: that means rain, we say..."

Physical description: 30.5 x 23 cm: [b&w]

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Drawings (documentary form)
 - Chortitz (West Reserve, Manitoba) (place)
-

Item: PP-6491-21-6491-21-12 - No rain, watering fields

Creator: Goertzen-Armin, Marta, 1923-2009

Title: No rain, watering fields

Reference code: PP-6491-21-6491-21-12

Date: 1980 (date of creation)

Scope and content: Sketch of a family watering their crops by hand
""Well, if it doesn't rain soon..." then father hauls a drum of water by stoneboat to the fields. So it won't slop over too much he toes a rope over a piece of canvas that covers it. We children like going the back way through cowfences and woods. We're watering the sunflower and potato patch."

Physical description: 28 x 21.5 cm: [b&w]

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Drawings (documentary form)
 - Farms (subject)
 - Chortitz (West Reserve, Manitoba) (place)
-

Item: PP-6491-21-6491-21-13 - Fire!

Creator: Goertzen-Armin, Marta, 1923-2009

Title: Fire!

Reference code: PP-6491-21-6491-21-13

Date: 1982 (date of creation)

Scope and content: Sketch of a house on fire, and the community rallying to put it out with buckets of water

"The dogs are suddenly barking like crazy, horses neigh, cows bellow, and there's a banging at the window. "At old Frank Groening's is fire and pass on the word!" Father jumps out of bed, runs across the yard to Penners... and so the news goes through the village. People run, call to each other, some with lanterns, buckets.. there's pouring water, carrying out what can be saved, thanking God no one is hurt. Next morning so much is brought together, Greet says, "Groenings are better off after the fire than before!""

Physical description: 30 x 23 cm: [b&w]

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Drawings (documentary form)
 - Chortitz (West Reserve, Manitoba) (place)
-

Item: PP-6491-21-6491-21-14 - When the sun is two hands high

Creator: Goertzen-Armin, Marta, 1923-2009

Title: When the sun is two hands high

Reference code: PP-6491-21-6491-21-14

Date: 1979 - 1980 (date of creation)

Scope and content: Sketch of a girl judging the time of day in order to bring the cows in from the fields

"When the sun is two hands high it's time to bring the cows home."

Physical description: 28 x 21.5 cm: [b&w]

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Drawings (documentary form)
 - Cattle (subject)
 - Farms (subject)
 - Chortitz (West Reserve, Manitoba) (place)
-

Item: PP-6491-21-6491-21-15 - Grandmother's sorrel soup

Creator: Goertzen-Armin, Marta, 1923-2009

Title: Grandmother's sorrel soup

Reference code: PP-6491-21-6491-21-15

Date: 1987 (date of creation)

Scope and content: Sketch of a woman and two girls in the yard in front of their housebarn
"Grandmother's Sorrel Soup

Simmer smoked pork with bay leaf and peppercorns until done, then add cubed potatoes and coarsely cut greens - sorrel, onion, parsley, dill. When done add heavy clotted cream. Now, two generations later, whole milk yogurt does quite well too!

Sketches from a Canadian prairie Mennonite village childhood.

Picking sorrel in Grandmother Katharina Fehr Neufeld Reimer's backyard, Schanzenfeld

Coming to Canada from Russia at twelve in 1874, Grandmother Katharina Fehr married widowers John Neufeld and "Ütroopa Reima" successively, 1881-1901 and 1904-1923. Besides numerous step and even step-step children she bore twelve of her own of whom, however, only five survived to have families half the size of hers. Her only child by Ütroopa* Reima, a son, was Watkins salesman in the Mennonite villages of southern Manitoba for many years.

*Auctioneer

Among other favourite foods grandmother made were yeast-raised P#pân#. Spice buns they are called in some recipes now. She used to bake them on large darkened pans and keep them covered with tea towels in the pantry by the backdoor. It was a most welcoming aroma to greet us in. Translated from her intuitive homemade yeast and honey sweetened one can still come close:

Crumble and sprinkle a fresh Fleischman's yeast cake into warm honey-sweetened water, stir in unbleached white flour, add a bit of salt, stir until batter slips off mixing spoon. Wait until bubbly, then stir in corn oil, pepper, and cinnamon with caution, keep adding flour while kneading to soft dough. Let rise covered in warm place, shape into buns, let rise again and bake in rather slow than fast oven..."

Physical description: 21.5 x 28 cm: [b&w]

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Drawings (documentary form)
 - Food preparation (subject)
 - Baking (subject)
 - Chortitz (West Reserve, Manitoba) (place)
 - Schanzenfeld (Manitoba) (place)
-

File: PP-6491-22 - Autumn

Creator: Goertzen-Armin, Marta, 1923-2009

Title: Autumn

Reference code: PP-6491-22

Date: 1979 - 1984 (date of creation)

Physical description: 7 sketches

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Drawings (documentary form)
 - Chortitz (West Reserve, Manitoba) (place)
-

Item: PP-6491-22-6491-22-1 - Ons Weit es Riep!

Creator: Goertzen-Armin, Marta, 1923-2009

Title: Ons Weit es Riep!

Reference code: PP-6491-22-6491-22-1

Date: 1984 (date of creation)

Scope and content: Sketches of Marta's family going out to their wheat fields in a wagon and stopping for lunch

"Our wheat is ripe! The weather fine, the water in the barrel begins plish-plashing here in the back of the feedwagon. Lisa and Abe would rather come to the fields...

"Well, shall we break early for lunch?" in the fields everything tastes better! Cold potatoes, meat, bread with pickled cucumbers..."

Physical description: 28 x 21 cm: [b&w]

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Drawings (documentary form)
 - Chortitz (West Reserve, Manitoba) (place)
-

Item: PP-6491-22-6491-22-2 - Stooking the wheat

Creator: Goertzen-Armin, Marta, 1923-2009

Title: Stooking the wheat

Reference code: PP-6491-22-6491-22-2

Date: 1981 (date of creation)

Scope and content: Sketch of a woman and a young girl stooking wheat in their fields circa 1933

Physical description: 28 x 21.5 cm: [b&w]

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Drawings (documentary form)
 - Farms (subject)
 - Chortitz (West Reserve, Manitoba) (place)
-

Item: PP-6491-22-6491-22-3 - Father's labour-saving device

Creator: Goertzen-Armin, Marta, 1923-2009

Title: Father's labour-saving device

Reference code: PP-6491-22-6491-22-3

Date: 1979 - 1984 (date of creation)

Scope and content: Sketch of Marta and her father moving hay into the loft of the barn using a haysling her father rigged

"Among the interesting labour-saving devices father makes is the haysling, designed to hoist hay into the loft. Already in the fields where we load long rows of raked hay, he lays the network of rope in two sections, one on the bottom of the rack, the other of the half-full, clicking the iron coupling dead centre, saying "don't step on it"!

My job today is trampling down and pitchforking it as evenly as I can in between the huge forkfuls father cascades up. It looks like rain. "Is the centre firm?" he calls, "if it isn't, the load will slide out before we get home." Then he comes up to check, sinking to his knees all over, even in the centre! Ah, it's only the beginning: I can't step on it. He arranges and locks the upper section, "Don't step on it;" jumps down and proceeds as before, only now higher and higher. I'm scared to go close to the edge and he tells me not to be such a "rabbits foot", "Here, take it," he calls, I try, but half of it falls back on him. "You musn't be such a fullgeshat stocking," he says, looking at the clouds bearing down from the Pembina Hills...

We get the load in just before the shower! After Faspa we hoist it into the loft, me guiding Maude and Charlie, our most docile horses, diagonally across the large yard. They're pulling a rope attached via pulleys to the rail high along the loft. The top half goes in alright but the bottom one opens! "Whoa" father calls from the hole in the side of the loft though I can tell well enough by the change in tension in the rope and the horses who've gone through this often stop by themselves. But someone has to say something at prospect of getting it up by fork. Looking down on the pile spilled just between rack and loft, he scratches his head shoving his sweat-soaked hat askew, "Schweinarie!" (Schwein is pig. Piggery!)

Margaret comes to the rescue, pitching almost as big forkfuls up as father, and Betty and I carry, push and slide it along the smooth-worn wide plank floor to the back. It smells good, the sun-drenched hay, they dry well-beamed loft, and the freshness left by the shower, spilling in through the hole into the half-light, when our eyes adjust to it. Father comes up and says it's good, and Margaret "Hurry down, it's time to get the cows home!"

Physical description: 30.5 x 23 cm: [b&w]

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Drawings (documentary form)
 - Farms (subject)
 - Housebarn (subject)
 - Chortitz (West Reserve, Manitoba) (place)
-

Item: PP-6491-22-6491-22-4 - Stuffing straw beds

Creator: Goertzen-Armin, Marta, 1923-2009

Title: Stuffing straw beds

Reference code: PP-6491-22-6491-22-4

Date: 1982 (date of creation)

Scope and content: Sketches of a family collecting straw and using it to stuff mattresses to sleep on circa 1930

"Stuffing our straw beds circa 1930.

Here in the strawloft it is scary; it is only of wide-spaced branches laid. One must step straddle-legged not to slide through!

How sweet the sleep then on such a high fresh-smelling flax strawbed..."

Physical description: 28 x 21.5 cm: [b&w]

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Drawings (documentary form)
 - Furniture (subject)
 - Chortitz (West Reserve, Manitoba) (place)
-

Item: PP-6491-22-6491-22-5 - October school

Creator: Goertzen-Armin, Marta, 1923-2009

Title: October school

Reference code: PP-6491-22-6491-22-5

Date: 1982 (date of creation)

Scope and content: Sketches of children having lessons in a schoolhouse, and leaving when the day is over

"October 10, 1930 I turn seven. On the 11th I start school. The first half hour we have German Primer and the last half Bible stories... in between 9:00 and 3:30 we do everything the government requires.

By Bible story time we're getting very sleepy. Miss Warkentin (the boys say forkentine) rads about

Abraham and Sara. I force my eyes open to stay awake in the third grade. I wave my hand up. "Yes, Martha?" "Will we be in the Bible too one day?"

Physical description: 28 x 22 cm: [b&w]

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Drawings (documentary form)
 - School (subject)
 - Chortitz (West Reserve, Manitoba) (place)
-

Item: PP-6491-22-6491-22-6 - Finally an ice cellar

Creator: Goertzen-Armin, Marta, 1923-2009

Title: Finally an ice cellar

Reference code: PP-6491-22-6491-22-6

Date: 1983 (date of creation)

Scope and content: Sketch of a newly-built ice cellar by a corner of Marta's family's housebarn circa 1395

"Finally we have an ice-cellar! It is built somewhat like a semlin. Other summers we hung our cream and butter in the well for cooling. If then sometimes the big cream can accidentally spilled, we'd have to pump out the whole well!

Milk buckets on a post - to drip (dry)

Circa 1935"

Physical description: 28 x 21.5 cm: [b&w]

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Drawings (documentary form)
 - Housebarn (subject)
 - Sod houses - Canada (subject)
 - Chortitz (West Reserve, Manitoba) (place)
-

Item: PP-6491-22-6491-22-7 - Na jo, Pembina Hills

Creator: Goertzen-Armin, Marta, 1923-2009

Title: Na jo, Pembina Hills

Reference code: PP-6491-22-6491-22-7

Date: 1979 (date of creation)

Scope and content: Sketch of cows in a field with a small shed in the background, on the Manitoba prairies

"Well... the Pembina Hills still rise. Our hen-barn, a few of the many giant poplars, the gate; other cows and heifers stand, and stare at one, and do not see, and do not hear, what I: our former Goertzen stead, bedwelt, betoiled, bewept, beloved..."

Physical description: 30.5 x 23 cm: [b&w]

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Drawings (documentary form)
 - Cattle (subject)
 - Chortitz (West Reserve, Manitoba) (place)
-

File: PP-6491-23 - Winter

Creator: Goertzen-Armin, Marta, 1923-2009

Title: Winter

Reference code: PP-6491-23

Date: 1978 - 1985 (date of creation)

Physical description: 12 sketches

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Drawings (documentary form)
 - Chortitz (West Reserve, Manitoba) (place)
-

Item: PP-6491-23-6491-23-1 - Semlin

Creator: Goertzen-Armin, Marta, 1923-2009

Title: Semlin

Reference code: PP-6491-23-6491-23-1

Date: 1982 (date of creation)

Scope and content: Sketches of the original semlin that Marta's grandmother's family lived in when they moved to Canada

"Semlin-living

The Benjamin Fehr family move to Canada in 1874

This is how they lived during the first years:

Their Katherina becomes my grandmother! The Frank Goertzen, Neufeld, Penner grandparents (1874-75) likewise:

One digs three feet or so into the ground, stacking the sod for walls, lays branches to form and hold up the roof.

Physical description: 30.5 x 23 cm: [b&w]

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Drawings (documentary form)
 - Sod houses - Canada (subject)
 - Chortitz (West Reserve, Manitoba) (place)
-

Item: PP-6491-23-6491-23-2 - Semlin sketches

Creator: Goertzen-Armin, Marta, 1923-2009

Title: Semlin sketches

Reference code: PP-6491-23-6491-23-2

Date: 1978 - 1985 (date of creation)

Scope and content: Sketches of a semlin like the one Marta's grandmother's family lived in "Two more early sketches of (earlier) Mennonite Architecture as my (Marta's) great-grandparents lived in their first years in Canada. The parents could not afford a separate "Semlin" for their animals, chickens, etc. and partitioned their habitat to accommodate. Also it was late in the season and so, timewise, it was not possible to put up even a rougher version for them. Circa 1874
Who could have predicted us descendants of the Semlin generation would ever get to live in such a fine penthouse apartment as we do in only a century plus, thanks to you, Vic and Rosemarie, with some sold input by Geschwister Vern and Frieda, and Mary who set up a hospitality tradition here that permeates the whole community. Bravo! Circa 1874"

Physical description: 21.5 x 28 cm: [b&w]

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Drawings (documentary form)
 - Sod houses - Canada (subject)
 - Chortitz (West Reserve, Manitoba) (place)
-

Item: PP-6491-23-6491-23-3 - Tina and I

Creator: Goertzen-Armin, Marta, 1923-2009

Title: Tina and I

Reference code: PP-6491-23-6491-23-3

Date: 1979 (date of creation)

Scope and content: Sketch of Marta and her sister as children on a Sunday afternoon walk on their property in rural Manitoba circa 1929

"Chortitz circa 1929

Tina and I going home for Faspa from a Sunday afternoon walk over the snowdrifts in the cowfence. Fix, our dog, comes to meet us."

Physical description: 28 x 21.5 cm: [b&w]

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Drawings (documentary form)
 - Chortitz (West Reserve, Manitoba) (place)
-

Item: PP-6491-23-6491-23-4 - Wash Day in Winter

Creator: Goertzen-Armin, Marta, 1923-2009

Title: Wash Day in Winter

Reference code: PP-6491-23-6491-23-4

Date: 1980 (date of creation)

Scope and content: Sketches of a woman collecting snow to prepare washwater to do laundry with "Snow gives good soft washwater.

The water-barrel needs busy filling.

For lunch Greet quickly makes noodles and uses the water for starching.

Letting freeze makes white. (bleaches)

Afterwards, in the attic, (to) finish drying."

Physical description: 28 x 23 cm: [b&w]

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Drawings (documentary form)
 - Laundry (subject)
 - Chortitz (West Reserve, Manitoba) (place)
-

Item: PP-6491-23-6491-23-5 - Corner patterns

Creator: Goertzen-Armin, Marta, 1923-2009

Title: Corner patterns

Reference code: PP-6491-23-6491-23-5

Date: 1978 - 1985 (date of creation)

Scope and content: Sketches of patterns from a drawing book that was used as embroidery patterns
"Mrs. Penner has a drawingbook. She loans it out; even though we trace from it until the best pictures nearly fall out!

Corner patterns for headshawl embroidery"

Physical description: 28 x 21.5 cm: [b&w]

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Drawings (documentary form)
 - Embroidery (subject)
 - Chortitz (West Reserve, Manitoba) (place)
-

Item: PP-6491-23-6491-23-6 - Government Worker

Creator: Goertzen-Armin, Marta, 1923-2009

Title: Government Worker

Reference code: PP-6491-23-6491-23-6

Date: 1983 (date of creation)

Scope and content: Sketch of Marta's father and a government worker hauling ice in the winter
"This winter we have a government worker, Jacob, eldest son of the widow, Mrs. Fred Thiessen, from the village end. The government pays Jakob a few dollars a month, and something to father for providing the work and for his food. He eats with gusto (doesn't fuss), is always friendly, and helps willingly enough. We like this arrangement! Here he helps father haul ice from the (woods)creek..."

Physical description: 26.5 x 21.5 cm: [b&w]

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Drawings (documentary form)
 - Chortitz (West Reserve, Manitoba) (place)
-

Item: PP-6491-23-6491-23-7 - Mice!

Creator: Goertzen-Armin, Marta, 1923-2009

Title: Mice!

Reference code: PP-6491-23-6491-23-7

Date: 1984 - 1985 (date of creation)

Scope and content: Sketches of a family cutting chop and discovering mice in a stack of oatsheaf
"Towards spring once, when cutting chop, we found one oatsheaf stack (was) riddled with mice. What a squeaking, squirming and scampering - ranging from naked new-borns to stunned old ones! At first our barnyard cats leaped, startled, about among them. But soon, not knowing which ones to follow, bewildered quite, they turned tail and fled...
When the cats fled from the mice!!"

Physical description: 28 x 21.5 cm: [b&w]

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Drawings (documentary form)
 - Chortitz (West Reserve, Manitoba) (place)
-

Item: PP-6491-23-6491-23-8 - Chores before bedtime

Creator: Goertzen-Armin, Marta, 1923-2009

Title: Chores before bedtime

Reference code: PP-6491-23-6491-23-8

Date: 1982 (date of creation)

Scope and content: Sketches of a family completing chores before going to bed for the night
""...Watch carefully now. We have quite enough cups without "ears"! says Greet to Tina and Lisa. They are washing dishes. Mary is sweeping. Abe and I can go along to help gather eggs. "Hurry so you can play before bedtime."
"Going to sleep with the chickens" is a good expression! We keep the young chickens separate until they're able to get up on the roost. A few hens always get startled and come flying down with a big to-do! In the nests it is dark.

Left hand drawing"

Physical description: 28 x 21.5 cm: [b&w]

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Drawings (documentary form)
 - Chickens (subject)
 - Chortitz (West Reserve, Manitoba) (place)
-

Item: PP-6491-23-6491-23-9 - After supper

Creator: Goertzen-Armin, Marta, 1923-2009

Title: After supper

Reference code: PP-6491-23-6491-23-9

Date: 1981 (date of creation)

Scope and content: Sketches of a family around the dinner table and in the cow barn at night
"After supper
Before bedtime"

Physical description: 30.5 x 23 cm: [b&w]

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Drawings (documentary form)
 - Chortitz (West Reserve, Manitoba) (place)
-

Item: PP-6491-23-6491-23-10 - Pee before bed

Creator: Goertzen-Armin, Marta, 1923-2009

Title: Pee before bed

Reference code: PP-6491-23-6491-23-10

Date: 1979 (date of creation)

Scope and content: Sketches of children going to the bathroom in the cow barn before going to bed
""Now quick: go and pee and then to bed!" says Greet
In Winter we go behind the cows - big eyed and slow - because of the scary shadows...
At night alone on the pot"

Physical description: 28 x 21.5 cm: [b&w]

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Drawings (documentary form)

- Chortitz (West Reserve, Manitoba) (place)
-

Item: PP-6491-23-6491-23-11 - Church Interior

Creator: Goertzen-Armin, Marta, 1923-2009

Title: Church Interior

Reference code: PP-6491-23-6491-23-11

Date: 1978 (date of creation)

Scope and content: Sketch of a church service inside a rural Mennonite church

"This church stood in Chortitz and is now in the Mennonite Museum in Steinbach Manitoba
We children sat on the crossbench"

Physical description: 20.5 x 20 cm: [b&w]

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Drawings (documentary form)
 - Church (subject)
 - Chortitz (West Reserve, Manitoba) (place)
 - Steinbach (Manitoba) (place)
-

Item: PP-6491-23-6491-23-12 - Old Colony church

Creator: Goertzen-Armin, Marta, 1923-2009

Title: Old Colony church

Reference code: PP-6491-23-6491-23-12

Date: 1978 - 1985 (date of creation)

Scope and content: Sketch of the outside of an old colony Mennonite church in Chortitz, Manitoba

"OLD COLONY MENNONITE CHURCH

CHORTITZ BY WINKLER MANITOBA

NOW: MENNONITE MUSEUM, STEINBACH

1) Men's entrance from north with collection box inside lobby 2) Women's, Minister's, Foresänger
entrance with Stäftjes (small rooms) 3) and 4) for their use."

Physical description: 19.5 x 10.5 cm: [b&w]

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Drawings (documentary form)

- Church (subject)
 - Chortitz (West Reserve, Manitoba) (place)
 - Steinbach (Manitoba) (place)
-

File: PP-6941-24 - Other Sketches

Creator: Goertzen-Armin, Marta, 1923-2009

Title: Other Sketches

Reference code: PP-6941-24

Date: 1974 - 1989 (date of creation)

Physical description: 4 sketches

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Drawings (documentary form)
 - Chortitz (West Reserve, Manitoba) (place)
-

Item: PP-6941-24-6491-24-1 - When the sun is two hands high

Creator: Goertzen-Armin, Marta, 1923-2009

Title: When the sun is two hands high

Reference code: PP-6941-24-6491-24-1

Date: 1974 - 1989 (date of creation)

Scope and content: Sketch of a girl judging the time of day in order to determine when to bring the cows home

"When the sun is two hands high"

Physical description: 20 x 25.5 cm: [b&w]

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Drawings (documentary form)
 - Chortitz (West Reserve, Manitoba) (place)
-

Item: PP-6941-24-6491-24-2 - Figures

Creator: Goertzen-Armin, Marta, 1923-2009

Title: Figures

Reference code: PP-6941-24-6491-24-2

Date: 1974 - 1989 (date of creation)

Scope and content: Sketches of various figures, possibly done as practice

Physical description: 20.5 x 26.5 cm: [b&w]

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Drawings (documentary form)
 - Chortitz (West Reserve, Manitoba) (place)
-

Item: PP-6941-24-6491-24-3 - House interior

Creator: Goertzen-Armin, Marta, 1923-2009

Title: House interior

Reference code: PP-6941-24-6491-24-3

Date: 1974 - 1989 (date of creation)

Scope and content: Sketch of a family and the interior of a rural Mennonite house in Manitoba

Physical description: 29.5 x 22 cm: [b&w]

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Drawings (documentary form)
 - Chortitz (West Reserve, Manitoba) (place)
-

Item: PP-6941-24-6491-24-4 - Semlin sketch fragments

Creator: Goertzen-Armin, Marta, 1923-2009

Title: Semlin sketch fragments

Reference code: PP-6941-24-6491-24-4

Date: 1974 - 1989 (date of creation)

Scope and content: Fragments of sketches of a semlin, probably based on the one Marta's grandmother's family lived in once

Physical description: 21.5 x 28 cm: [b&w]

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Drawings (documentary form)
 - Sod houses - Canada (subject)
 - Chortitz (West Reserve, Manitoba) (place)
-

File: PP-6491-25 - Administrative piecesCreator: Goertzen-Armin, Marta, 1923-2009Title: Administrative piecesReference code: PP-6491-25Date: 1983-1989 (date of creation)Physical description: One sketch and one photographPublication status:

Published

Access points:

- Drawings (documentary form)
 - Photographs (documentary form)
 - Chortitz (West Reserve, Manitoba) (place)
-

Item: PP-6491-25-6491-25-1 - Title PageCreator: Goertzen-Armin, Marta, 1923-2009Title: Title PageReference code: PP-6491-25-6491-25-1Date: 1983-1989 (date of creation)Scope and content: Handmade title page for Marta's sketches about her childhood on a rural Mennonite farm in Chortitz, Manitoba

"WHEN THE SUN

IS TWO

HANDS HIGH

SKETCHES

FROM MY CANADIAN PRAIRIE

MENNONITE VILLAGE CHILDHOOD

MARTA GOERTZEN

1923-2008"

Physical description: 20 x 25 cm: [b&w]

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Drawings (documentary form)
 - Chortitz (West Reserve, Manitoba) (place)
-

Item: PP-6491-25-6491-25-2 - Marta Goertzen-Armin

Creator: Goertzen-Armin, Marta, 1923-2009

Title: Marta Goertzen-Armin

Reference code: PP-6491-25-6491-25-2

Date: 1983 (date of creation)

Scope and content: Photograph of Marta Goertzen-Armin presenting something at a podium; possibly she's presenting her collection of sketches titled 'When The Sun Is Two Hands High'

Physical description: 9 x 12.5 cm: [col.]

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Goertzen-Armin, Marta, 1923-2009 (subject)
 - Photographs (documentary form)
-