

**Profile**  
**Of The**  
**Mennonite**  
**Kleine Gemeinde**  
**1874**

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### **The Mennonite Kleine Gemeinde Historical Series**

**Volume One: History and Events. Writings and Maps pertaining to the History of the Mennonite Kleine Gemeinde from 1866 to 1876.**

**Volume Two: The Golden Years. The Mennonite Kleine Gemeinde in Russia (1812-1849).**

**Volume Three: Storm and Triumph. The Mennonite Kleine Gemeinde (1850-1875).**

**Volume Four: Profile of the Mennonite Kleine Gemeinde 1874.**

**Prospective Volume Five: Pioneers and Pilgrims. The First Decade of the Kleine Gemeinde in Manitoba and Nebraska, 1874-1884.**

## Profile of the Mennonite Kleine Gemeinde 1874.

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## Introduction

I am pleased to introduce **Profile of the Mennonite Kleine Gemeinde 1874**. This work identifies the almost two hundred families of this denomination emigrating from Imperial Russia during the 1870's, and provides related genealogical, socio-economic and historical reference materials. This compilation will allow the descendant of the Kleine Gemeinde or associated Molotschna group to refer to the known sources pertaining to any particular member at the time of emigration.

I am grateful to Henry Fast, Steinbach, Manitoba, for allowing me to include his seminal study of the Jansen, Nebraska, and Meade, Kansas, Kleine Gemeinde in this collection. In the course of his research he has uncovered valuable primary source material and made extensive use of the information available in pioneer periodicals such as **Die Mennonitische Rundschau**. His detailed work complements comparable material on the Manitoba branch of the Kleine Gemeinde with the result that a relatively complete and therefore more useful reference work can be published at this time.

The personal accounts of various pioneer figures published as chapters 10 to 15 are important primary sources providing first hand information pertaining to the emigration from Czarist Russia and the subsequent pioneer years in North America. These biographical writings have been translated into English and are published here for the first time.

The family studies published as chapters 16 to 23 supplement the genealogical material contained in the previous portions of the book. Almost all descendants of the Kleine Gemeinde, and a good percentage of the Molotschna Mennonites, will be related in some way to one or more of these prominent families whose contribution to the Russian Mennonite experience deserves to be highlighted. Each study traces the Prussian roots of the family and documents its subsequent fortunes in the Molotschna Colony, South Russia, as well as later in Manitoba, Alberta, Kansas, Nebraska and elsewhere. These family sketches should serve as a starting point for family historians who may wish to undertake more detailed research on their particular ancestors.

The collecting and cataloguing of the Kleine Gemeinde **Schrifttum** is still underway and therefore it is not possible to provide a definitive listing at this time. Nevertheless a tentative bibliography of genealogical sources is included here to enhance access to these materials for genealogists and family historians.

The present work culminates much of the research and gathering of source material which I began some ten years ago. It will complement the maps and more interpretative writing contained in the previous three volumes of this study and complete the same as a functionable reference work on the Mennonite Kleine Gemeinde and related denominations. A considerable body of primary source material focusing on the first decade of the Kleine Gemeinde in Manitoba and Nebraska has also been gathered. Whether the same can ever be translated and published as a fifth volume in this series remains unknown at the present time.

I also thank those who have generously provided encouragement, source material and other assistance over the years whose names have been detailed throughout the four volumes. It is my prayer that this work will stand as a lasting tribute to the founders of the Kleine Gemeinde and the faith which they embodied.

D. Plett

September 26, 1987

# *Part One.*

## *The Manitoba Kleine Gemeinde*

### **Chapter One.**

### **Genealogy Register**

**By Aeltester Peter Toews**

A Genealogy Register of all the families and individuals known in Russia as the Kleine Gemeinde of Mennonites who immigrated to America in 1874 and 1875, and in fact mainly to Manitoba; and also continued from thenceforth, the Genealogy Register, of all the families belonging to the Kleine Gemeinde in Manitoba.

One generation passes away, and another generation cometh. Ecclesiastes 1: 4. Herr Gott! Lasz unsre Namen, Ins Lebensbuche Stehn; und lasz mit die zusammen, Uns einst dein Antlitz sehn. Die hier schon ueberwunden, Und angeschrieben stehen. Im Lebensbuch gefunden, Meine Gott lasz es gescheh'n! AMEN.

Peter Toews

Notice. N.B.: This book was prepared for a definite purpose, and in fact by virtue of the following necessity; since I, as Aeltester in the years 1872 to 1873, was frequently required by the authorities in Ekatharinoslaw and other places, to give written evidence, as to when one or the other person was born, and whether of Mennonite parents — when baptized, and with whom (by name) married - and so on. In addition, it also occurred that a certain form was forwarded to me, which set out the wording "in accordance with the church records, and certified by the Seal of the Church". This made it necessary for me to undertake the preparation of this book and also to obtain a Gemeinde Seal, in order that I could satisfy such requirement in good conscience. The forgoing will serve as information. "P. Toews"

Notation: The name in the middle of each family name is the name of the father, and is inserted in order that the descendency can better be quickly determined, as there are so many similar names. N.B. The place of residence of everyone, until Family No. 123, is recorded where they have last resided in Russia: thereafter it is recorded where they settled upon arriving in Manitoba or after their marriage. N.B. This register of names was prepared in the year 1873, prior to the emigration; and consequently in the case of a number of families, the children who were already married, are not recorded with the parents, and instead are recorded with the spouse with whom they belong; that is if they are members of the Gemeinde.

N.B.: An alphabetical register of names will be found at the rear of the book, for the easier location of all the relevant family names in this book. Those names which are not recorded in the register at the rear of the book, and which are only found in the other index, are those who together with their dependents, were not standing under my leadership at the time, 1896. A number of names have been entered in the register in the rear of the book, in order that the time of the birth of their descendants can better be located - as with every registration of marriage, and death, the date of birth is required. The name can be found in the Registration books (which were referred to us by the Manitoba Government) for Births, Baptisms, Marriages, and Deaths, in accordance with the reference numbers; and the reader is directed to the same. "P. Toews"

EXPLANATORY NOTES by Delbert F. Plett: The place of residence in Russia listed after the name of the family head is the last place of residence in Russia. The reader is reminded that almost all families have had a previous place of residence in one of the Molotschna villages. In some cases the date of Baptism was not recorded by Aeltester Toews with only the notation made that the individual was a baptized member of the Gemeinde. In this case the "yes" is used to denote the same. The translator has made every effort to reproduce this Genealogy Register exactly like the original in every detail. Where dates were incomplete or where dates have been added from other sources, this is indicated by such dates being underlined. Birth dates and other important dates should be carefully checked as at least until the time of the immigration to America they are given in the older Julian Calendar, which is 13 days behind the Gregorian calendar currently in use in North America.

The reader is also reminded that the families recorded in this genealogy register are only those who came to Manitoba under the leadership of Aeltester Toews. At least 36 families of the Heubodner Mennonite Kleine Gemeinde under the leadership of Aeltester Abraham L. Friesen proceeded directly to Janzen, Nebraska, where they settled. In addition, a number of former families of the Mennonite Kleine Gemeinde also settled in Gnadenau, Kansas. A number of family heads had been overlooked by Aeltester Toews. These are mainly older people residing with their children and likely considered by Aeltester Toews as part of the family they were residing with. A number of these families have been referred to in the footnotes in order to make the record as complete as follows. This very much highlights the fact that the emigration of most of the Anabaptist-Mennonite groups from Russia in 1874, was the emigration of complete social units, i.e., in contrast to the more traditional Western Canadian immigrant groups which frequently consisted largely of able-bodied men out to seek their fortune in the new world.

It is also noteworthy that in the years following the completion of the *Genealogy Register*, Aeltester Toews has from time to time added details of special occurrences to the record of some of the families. These have been included verbatim in this publication. His special index of families under his supervision also includes their place of residence in 1896. Where possible this information has been added to the record of the individual family as it may be of assistance to locating some family members. Also, the fact that a particular individual was included in this special index has been denoted by the symbol <sup>(1)</sup>. The reader should also take note that spellings as given by Aeltester Toews have been preserved as much as possible, notwithstanding that common usage now is different e.g. "Ensz" is commonly written as "Enns". It is also noted that the script has been edited in minor details and the material has been somewhat revised, but only to the extent necessary to make the work easier to follow and to understand.

The *Genealogy Register* of Aeltester Toews is truly a priceless record and is of far more value than meets the eye of the casual observer. The most important element of a Gemeinde are its individual family groups as the same largely determine the strengths and weaknesses of the whole body. The some 150 families listed account for about three quarters of the population of the Mennonite Kleine Gemeinde in Russia prior to the 1874 emigration; and consequently, the *Genealogy Register* truly profiles the larger and more substantial part of this Gemeinde at this most crucial time. With the addition of explanatory footnotes and references, the *Genealogy Register* should serve the reader as a key to the further study of the Mennonite Kleine Gemeinde, both in Russia and also in America.

The annotation of the Toews Genealogy Register was prepared in 1983. Additional information gathered since that time has been included in the footnotes to the Quebec Ship Lists (Chapter Two) so as to make this work as up to date as possible. For the sake of convenience the Toews Genealogy Register will sometimes be referred to as TGR. D. Plett February 14, 1987

### Family No. 1 Johann (Johann) Warkentin from Hochfeld <sup>1</sup>

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Johann Warkentin <sup>2</sup> (1)	June 6, 1817	May, 1836	Nov. 6, 1838	Dec. 9, 1886
Wife Anna (nee Loewen) <sup>3</sup>	Nov. 10, 1819	May, 1838	Nov. 6, 1838	Sept. 17, 1874

Comments: Earlier the family lived in Blumstein, Molotschna. In 1875 the family immigrated to Manitoba. J. Warkentin married for the second time to the widow Gerhard Doerksen.<sup>4</sup> Johann Warkentin (1817-1886) died in Blumenhof, Manitoba. Children listed are: Aganetha, born May 27, 1857, and baptized on October 24, 1875; Elisabeth, born October 15, 1859, and baptized on September 9, 1877.

<sup>1</sup> Hochfeld was located north of the Borosenko Settlement in South Russia. See *History and Events* (Steinbach, Manitoba: 1982), page 145.

<sup>2</sup> See Peter Isaac, *Stammbuch Meine Voreltern* (Stern, Alberta: self-published, 1915). (All references in this book are to the English edition (published in 1980 and printed by Prairie View Press, Rosenort, Manitoba) at pages 24-26. See also *Plett Picture Book* (Steinbach, Manitoba, 1981), pages 10, 18, 21-23, 31, 53, 60, 86. This family was quite well to do in Russia and in Blumenhof, Manitoba.

<sup>3</sup> Anna Loewen (1819-1874) was the daughter of Isaac Loewen (1787-1873) from Lindenau, Molotschna Mennonite Colony, South Russia. See Dr. Solomon Loewen, *The Descendants of Isaac Loewen* (Meade, Kansas, Peter E. Loewen, 1961), Anna Loewen/Johann Warkentin section for a listing of descendants. (See also Family No. 4).

<sup>4</sup> See family No. 130. The maiden name of Mrs Gerhard Doerksen was Helena Dueck.

### Family No. 2 Johann (Johann) Warkentin from Hochfeld

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Johann Warkentin <sup>5</sup> (1)	Feb. 1, 1845	May, 1864	Feb. 19, 1867	Oct. 19, 1908
Wife Maria Goossen <sup>6</sup>	Feb. 15, 1848	Jan. 14, 1867	Feb. 19, 1867	Mar. 18, 1888

Comments: Immigrated to Manitoba in 1875, Blumenhof. John L. Warkentin married for the second time to the widow of Johan Hiebert from Gruenfeld, on *September 12*, in the year 1891. Children listed are: Johan (I), born December 18, 1867; Anna, born July 16, 1871; Maria, born February 22, 1874 and died in 1874; Isaac, born December 26, 1875 and died March 25, 1876; Maria, born August 12, 1877. In 1896 Johann L. Warkentin (born 1845) was resident in Kansas and his son Johann (born 1867) was resident in Gruenfeld, Manitoba.

<sup>5</sup> Son of Family No. 1. See Peter Isaac, *op. cit.*, page 57. The reader should note an error in the English edition in that the words "a son to" in the fifth line on page 57 should be deleted.

<sup>6</sup> Maria Goossen, (1848-1888) was a daughter of school teacher Gerhard Goossen (1811-1854) and Minna Plett (1815-1864). For a listing of their descendants see John R. Goossen, et. al., *Gerhard Goossen Family Book*, (Rosenort, Manitoba: Prairie View Press, 1980), pages 8-9, 12-13, and 114-162. See also Peter Isaac, *op. cit.*, pages 55-57, who deals with the earlier history of all the Pletts listed in this Genealogy Register, and who were descendants of Johan Plett (1765-1833). Minna Plett (1811-1864) was a daughter of this Johan Plett (1765-1833). See also Family No. 70.

### Family No. 3 Isaak (Johann) Warkentin from Hochfeld

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Isaak Warkentin <sup>7</sup> (1)	Feb. 1, 1845	May, 1864	Dec. 20, 1864	Jan. 6, 1929
Wife Katharina Penner <sup>8</sup>	Dec. 2, 1840	May, 1859	Dec. 20, 1864	Feb. 15, 1920
Foster Son				
Heinrich Bartel <sup>9</sup>	May 23, 1867			
Foster Daughter				
Maria Goossen <sup>10</sup>	Sept. 22, 1868			



Comments: Immigrated to Manitoba in 1875. His wife, K. Penner was the widow of a P. Siemens. They had no children and lived in Blumenhof. Mrs. Warkentin (nee Penner) died in Texas. In 1896 foster son Heinrich Bartel <sup>(1)</sup> was resident in Hochstaedt (N.9). In 1896 Isaak L. Warkentin (born 1845) was resident in Blumenhof, Manitoba.

<sup>7</sup> Isaac L. Warkentin was the well-known Dr. Warkentin from Blumenhof, Manitoba. See *Plett Picture Book*, op. cit., pages 10, 18, 21-23, 31, 53, 60 and 86. Also see Abe Warkentin, *Reflections on our Heritage* (Steinbach, Manitoba: Derksen Printers, 1971) at pages 222-223.

<sup>8</sup> Katharina Penner was the daughter of Peter Penner (1816-1884), Family No. 11. See Cornelius J. Friesen and Peter J. Penner, *The Peter Penner Genealogy*, (Roblin, Manitoba; self-published, 1973), pages 1 and 65. The Isaac L. Warkentin family raised the Aron Penner (Family No. 131) children as foster children except Peter who was brought up at the home of Peter B. Toews (Family No. 161).

<sup>9</sup> For a listing of his descendents see, Jacob Bartel, et al., *Heinrich Bartel 1834-1867 Family Book* (Steinbach, Manitoba, self-published, 1972), pages 15-29.

<sup>10</sup> She was a daughter of Rev. Gerhard P. Goossen (1836-1872). See John R. Goossen, op. cit., pages 10 and 80-89, for a listing of her descendents.

#### Family No. 4 David (Isaak) Loewen from Hochfeld

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
David Loewen <sup>11</sup> <sup>(1)</sup>	April 24, 1836	May, 1855	Nov. 6, 1855	June 7, 1915
Wife Anna Reimer <sup>12</sup>	Oct. 29, 1835	May, 1855	Nov. 6, 1855	Aug. 11, 1901

Comments: David Loewen was a son of Isaac Loewen (I) (1787-1873) who was the grandfather, and great-grandfather of all the Loewens recorded in this book, who immigrated to Manitoba and belonged to the Kleine Gemeinde. Isaac Loewen (1787-1873) lived in Lindenau and died in Heuboden at the age of 83 years.<sup>13</sup>

The place of residence of David Loewen was Hochstaedt, Manitoba where he also resided in 1896. His wife, nee Anna Reimer, died on a trip while visiting in Texas at the age of 65 years and 9 months. David Loewen died in Kansas of a heart attack.

Children listed are: Heinrich <sup>(1)</sup>, born April 4, 1859; Isaac <sup>(1)</sup>, born Nov. 23, 1860; David <sup>(1)</sup>, born September 25, 1862; Jakob <sup>(1)</sup>, born April 18, 1871; Margaretha, born August 4, 1856, and baptized October 24, 1875; Anna, born October 27, 1864; Helena born November 22, 1872; Susana, born June 21, 1876; Elisabeth, born October 15, 1875, and died in October of 1878. In 1896 Heinrich R. Loewen (born 1859) was resident in Kansas. In 1896 Isaac R. Loewen (born 1860), David R. Loewen (born 1862) and Jacob R. Loewen (born 1871) were resident in Hochstadt, Manitoba.

<sup>11</sup> He was the son of Isaac Loewen (1787-1872). See Dr. Solomon, op. cit., David Loewen section, for a listing of his descendents.

<sup>12</sup> She was a daughter of Heinrich Reimer (1791-1884), Family No. 64. See Heinrich Rempel, *Seelentiste* (unpublished manuscript, courtesy of Dr. Abram P. Toews, Ferguson, Missouri).

<sup>13</sup> For a brief biography of Deacon Isaac Loewen (1787-1873) and each of his thirteen children who got married and established a family, see *Plett Picture Book*, op. cit., pages 8-11.

#### Family No. 5 Peter (Johann) Isaac from Hochfeld

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Peter Isaac <sup>14</sup> <sup>(1)</sup>	Nov. 14, 1846	May, 1866	Nov. 1871	Sept. 29, 1923
Wife Katharina Friesen <sup>15</sup>	Oct. 6, 1848	May, 1868	Nov. 20, 1871	Nov. 23, 1905

Comments: Left for America on June 18, 1874. Resident in Manitoba. Katharine Friesen is his second wife and no children are alive of the first marriage. On January 10, 1893, Peter Isaac and his family moved to Texas where they were resident in 1896. David Isaac, son of Peter Isaac, was married to a daughter of D. Thiessens. David Isaac died in Rosenort, Manitoba, May 24, 1912. His sickness, physically as well as spiritually, was very severe with an excep-

tional typhus fever.

Children listed are: Peter, born October 19, 1872; David, born 1874; Katherina, born April 19, 1876 and a daughter born February 10, 1878.

<sup>14</sup> He was the author of the *Stammbuch*. (See Peter Isaac, *op. cit.*, pages 24-40), and the son of Johann Isaac and Anna Plett (see Family No. 47).

<sup>15</sup> Her family was from the Old Colony (Chortitz) in Russia. She was employed at the home of Heinrich Reimer (Family No. 63), in Blumenhof, South Russia at the time of her marriage. See Peter Isaac, *op. cit.*, pages 26-27, and 40-41.

### Family No. 6 Johann (Cornelius) Janzen from Heuboden

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Johann Janzen <sup>16</sup>	Oct. 27, 1840	May, 1860	Nov. 11, 1862	May 15, 1905
Wife Margaretha Penner <sup>17</sup>	July 13, 1844	May, 1862	Nov. 11, 1862	<u>Oct. 1, 1889</u>

Comments: Left for America on May 29, 1874. Resident in Blumenhof <sup>18</sup>, Manitoba. Children listed are: Cornelius, born October 20, 1863; Johann, born September 29, 1869; Margaretha, born April 6, 1868; Katharina, born March 7, 1873; Sara, born June 4, 1876, and died October 9, 1876; Elisabeth, born July 12, 1878.

<sup>16</sup> Johann Janzen was the son of Cornelius Janzen (1812-1864) and Sara Siemens (1809-1885). They were also the parents of: i) *Katherina*, (1838-1890) married to Jacob Klassen (1832-1898). See Bernhard H. Doerksen and Mrs Elisabeth Rempel, *Genealogy of Jacob Classen, 1792* (Meade, Kansas, self-published, 1970), courtesy of Mrs. Corn. K. Unger, Steinbach, Manitoba; ii) *Sara* (1843-1892) married to Rev. Cornelius L. Friesen (1841-1923); iii) *Elizabeth* (1845-1909) Married Isaac Loewen (1845-1926). See Family No. 8; iv) *Aganetha* (1850-1888)), married to Heinrich Ratzlaf (Family No. 80). From *Cornelius P. Janzen Writings*, courtesy of Mennonite Village Museum, Steinbach, Manitoba. The widow Cornelius Janzen (nee Sara Siemens) apparently lived in Janzen, Nebraska with her daughters Katharina and Sara. However David L. Plett in his *Sterbe Register* has recorded that she died in Blumenhof, Manitoba. Probably she was visiting her children in Manitoba. This *Sterbe Register* was a frequent source for a missing date of death.

<sup>17</sup> She was a daughter of Peter Penner (1816-1884). For a listing of their descendents, see Cornelius W. Friesen, et. al., *op. cit.*, pages 67-82. See Family No. 11.

<sup>18</sup> The Johann Janzen family first settled in the Scratching River Settlement, near Morris, and then moved to Blumenhof a year or two later.

### Family No. 7 Peter (Jakob) Toews from Rosenfeld

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Peter Toews <sup>19</sup> (1)	Jan. 7, 1831	June, 1850	Dec. 30, 1851	<u>Oct. 28, 1922</u>
Wife Anganetha				
Barkman <sup>20</sup>	June 6, 1828	June, 1847	Dec. 30, 1851	<u>June 18, 1899</u>
Widow Anna Toews (nee Wiebe) <sup>21</sup>	1801		<u>Aug. 19, 1826</u>	<u>Aug. 1, 1881</u>

Comments: Peter W. Toews (No. 7)<sup>22</sup> is a son of Jakob Toews (1), who died in February, of the year of 1873 (January 18, 1873) in Blumenhof. Peter W. Toews and family left for America on June 18, 1874. They are resident in Blumenort, Manitoba. In 1896 Peter W. Toews (born 1831) and his sons Peter B. Toews (born 1859) and Johann B. Toews (born 1865) were resident in Greenland, Manitoba. Children listed are: Jakob (1), born February 21, 1855, and baptized October 24, 1875; Peter (1), born January 19, 1859, and baptized August 4, 1878; Johann (1), born March 18, 1865; Gertruda, born July 20, 1857, and baptized August 20, 1876; Margaretha, born November 26, 1860, and baptized August 4, 1878; Katharine, born September 15, 1863.

<sup>19</sup>See Aeltester Peter Toews, *Cornelius Toews (1737-1800) Genealogy*, as continued by Cornelius L. Toews (1981, Victor Goossen, Rosenort, Manitoba) page 3 for a listing of his children.

<sup>20</sup> She was the sister to Peter K. Barkman (1826-1917), Family No. 15. See Peter M. Barkman, *Familien-Verzeichnis des Martin J. Barkman*, (Ruekkenaue, Sued Ruszland; Jacob G. Barkman, 1900). See also Waldon A. Barkman, Chairman, *Genealogy of Jacob Barkman, 1825-1975*, (Steinbach, Manitoba: self-published, 1975), pages 8-10 for an English translation of this book.

<sup>21</sup> Her husband, Jacob Toews, was born on February 23, 1805 and was the father of Peter W. Toews (1831-1922), Family No. 7. Jacob Toews was an uncle to Aeltester Peter P. Toews (Family No. 66). The widow of Jacob Toews is known to have lived with her children Peter W. Toews in Blumenort, Manitoba and presumably also died there.

<sup>22</sup> See Johann B. Toews, *Memoirs (1978, Prairie View Press; Rosenort, Manitoba)*, page 5.

### Family No. 8 Isaac (Isaac) Loewen from Rosenfeld

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Isaac Loewen <sup>23</sup>	Jan. 2, 1845	May, 1864	Feb., 1865	Aug. 16, 1926
Wife Elisabeth Janzen <sup>24</sup>	Jan. 17, 1845	May, 1864	Feb., 1865	Mar. 19, 1909

Comments: Left for America in May, 1874. Resident in Rosenort, near Morris, Manitoba. Mrs. Loewen died of a heart attack on March 19, 1909. Children listed are: Isaac, born March 1, 1869; Johann, born March 21, 1869; Cornelius, born November 21, 1871; Elisabeth, born 1875 and died on October 6, 1876; Peter, born July 5, 1878.

<sup>23</sup> Son of Isaac W. Loewen (1815-1856) who was the oldest child of Isaac Loewen (1787-1875). See Dr. Solomon Loewen, op. cit., Isaac W. Loewen section, pages 1-5, for a listing of descendants. See also Family No. 4.

<sup>24</sup> She was the sister to Johann Janzen (1846-1905), Family No. 6.

### Family No. 9 Franz (Daniel) Wiens from Rosenfeld

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Franz Wiens <sup>25</sup>	Sept. 15, 1802	May, 1824	Nov., 1832	May 31, 1881
Wife Elizabeth Neumann	June 26, 1814	May, 1831	Nov., 1832	Oct. 15, 1896
Elizabeth Wiens		Aug. 13, 1872		

Comments: Left for America on June 4, 1874. In 1876, Franz Wiens and his family moved to Nebraska. Children listed are: Peter, born August 15, 1849, and baptized August 13, 1872; Franz, born September 5, 1851, and baptized August 13, 1872; Jakob, born March 9, 1861. Elizabeth Wiens (baptized in 1872) is a daughter of the deceased Isaac Wiens, formerly of Rosenfeld (Borosenko).

<sup>25</sup> For a listing of descendants see Martha Goering, *Franz Wiens (1801-1881) Genealogy*, (Burrton, Kansas: self-published, 1968), 161 pages.

### Family No. 10 Gerhard (Gerhard) Schellenberg from Rosenfeld

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Gerhard Schellenberg <sup>26 (1)</sup>	Dec. 1, 1827	May, 1847	Dec. 25, 1847	Nov. 28, 1908
Wife Elizabeth Warkentin	April 29, 1819	June 2, 1840	Dec. 25, 1847	July 15, 1905
Foster son				
Jacob Bartel <sup>27</sup>	1865			
Foster Daughter				
Katherina Goossen <sup>28</sup>	1865			

Comments: Left for America on June 4, 1874. Resident in Rosenfeld, Manitoba. Mrs. Schellenberg died in Rosenfeld, after five days of suffering on account of a heart attack. She had achieved an age of 86 years and a little over two months. In 1896 Gerhard Schellenberg (born 1827) was resident in Rosenfeld, Manitoba. Children listed are: Gerhard, born December 23, 1851, and baptized on October 24, 1871, married on October 12, 1876; Margaretha, born December 6, 1861 and died in 1875.

<sup>26</sup> Jacob Z. Wiebe, *Schellenberg Genealogy* (Garden City, Kansas: unpublished manuscript, page 5.) Courtesy of Mr. David K. Schellenberg. See also Jakob G. Friesen, et al., *The Family of Jakob Regehr 1832-1906*, (Kleefeld, Manitoba, self-published, 1960), pages 3-14, for a listing of the descendants of Gerhard Schellenberg (1827-1908) by his only son Gerhard Schellenberg (1852-1932). See Family No. 138.

<sup>27</sup> For a listing of his descendants see Jakob Bartel, et al., *op. cit.* pages 1-15.

<sup>28</sup> She was a daughter of Rev. Gerhard P. Goossen (1836-1872), (Family No. 50), who died in Gruenfeld, Russia, on September 1, 1872. For a listing of descendants see John R. Goossen, *op. cit.*, pages 9-10, and 73-79.

### Family No. 11 Peter (Peter) Penner from Rosenfeld

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Peter Penner <sup>29</sup> (1)	Feb. 13, 1816	May, 1835	Feb. 4, 1871	April 28, 1884
Wife Elizabeth Friesen <sup>30</sup>	Oct. 29, 1841	May 15, 1860	Feb. 4, 1871	Feb. 23, 1881

Comments: Left for America on June 18, 1874. Manitoba, Blumenort. Children listed are: Anna, born December 7, 1871; Helena, born February 5, and died August 30, 1874; Justina, born February 1, 1874, and died November 14, 1874; Klaas, born November 12, 1875; Helena, born March 29, 1877 and Jacob, born September 26, 1879. Children listed of a previous marriage are: Aron (1), born March 30, 1852 and baptized October 24, 1875, and married on January 1, 1875; Isaac (1), born January 28, 1860; Heinrich, born November 17, 1866; Elisabeth, born February 28, 1865; Maria, born March 4, 1869. In 1896 Isaac (born 1860) is living in Greenland.

Margaretha Harder	1820	Oct. 26, 1896
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Comments: Margaretha Harder was the daughter of Isaac Harder who died in Rosenfeld on September 26, 1870. Margaretha Harder died in Gruenfeld, Manitoba on October 26, 1896, at the age of 76 years. As she was weak, both physically and spiritually, she had remained single. Important Note: She was entitled to an inheritance with respect to which she was taken advantage of by her siblings. One of her brothers (by the name of Peter) did not release her inheritance to her at the time of the immigration to America. When her brother was found murdered on or by a railway, the not insignificant inheritance came to her here in Manitoba.

<sup>29</sup> For a listing of descendants see Cornelius W. Friesen and P. J. Penner, *The Peter Penner Genealogy 1816* (Roblin, Manitoba, self-published, 1973), 284 pages.

<sup>30</sup> She was the daughter of Cornelius F. Friesen (1810-1892) see family No. 56.

### Family No. 12 Abraham (Peter) Penner from Rosenfeld

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Abraham <sup>31</sup>	Dec. 2, 1847	June, 1867	Aug. 13, 1869	Oct. 7, 1918
Wife Margaretha Reimer <sup>32</sup>	July 3, 1852	1869	Aug. 13, 1869	Feb. 10, 1920

Comments: Left for America on July 18, 1874. Manitoba, Blumenort. Children listed are: Elisabeth, born August 13, 1870; Margaretha, born May 8, 1872, and died on September 19, 1874; Abraham, born in 1874; Peter, born January 23, 1877; Klaas, born March 1, 1879; Johann, born December 3, 1879.

<sup>31</sup> Son of Peter Penner (1816-1884), Family No. 11. For a listing of descendants see Cornelius W. Friesen, et. al., *op. cit.* pages 83-41.

<sup>32</sup> She was a granddaughter of Klass Reimer (1770-1837), the founding Aeltester of the Mennonite Kleine Gemeinde. For a listing of descendants see, John C. Reimer, Chairman, *Familienregister der Nachkommen von Klaas und Helena Reimer*, (1958, self-published, Steinbach, Manitoba) page 287-315. Her father was Abraham F. Reimer (1808-1892), Family No. 31.

### Family No. 13 Martin (Peter) Penner from Rosenfeld

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Martin Penner <sup>13</sup>	Nov. 25, 1849	Oct. 24, 1871	Dec. 11, 1871	Aug. 6, 1928
Wife Anganetha Toews <sup>34</sup>	April 1, 1854	Oct. 24, 1871	Dec. 11, 1871	June 26, 1928

Comments: Left for America on June 18, 1874. Blumenort, Manitoba. In 1896 Martin Penner lived in Greenland, Manitoba. Children listed are: Peter, born April 4, 1876, and died October 9, 1877; Aganetha, born November 9, 1877.

<sup>33</sup> For a listing of descendants see, Cornelius W. Friesen, et. al., *op. cit.*, pages 143-190. He was the son of Peter Penner, Family No. 11

<sup>34</sup> She was a daughter of Peter W. Toews, Family No. Seven. See Aeltester Peter Toews, *Genealogy of Cornelius Toews (1737-1800), (As continued by Cornelius C. Toews)*, *op. cit.*, page 3.

### Family No. 14 Cornelius (Peter) Penner from Rosenfeld

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Cornelius Penner <sup>35 (1)</sup>	May 27, 1854	Aug. 13, 1872	Dec. 9, 1873	Sept. 25, 1899
Wife Anganetha Dykk <sup>36</sup>	May 4, 1855	Oct. 21, 1873	Dec. 9, 1873	Mar. 30, 1890

Comments: Left for America on June 15, 1874. Blumenort, Manitoba, Mrs. Penner died in the winter of 1890-1891. Penner married for the second time to Ann Isaac<sup>37</sup>, the daughter of Johann Isaac, of Gruenfeld. Children listed are: Peter, born November 24, 1876; David, born November 3, 1878. In 1896 Cornelius Penner (born 1854) was resident in Blumenort, Manitoba.

<sup>35</sup> For a listing of descendants see, Cornelius W. Friesen, et. al., *op. cit.*, pages 215-230. See also Peter Isaac, *op. cit.*, page 21, for a description of his death.

<sup>36</sup> If any reader has information regarding this family the writer will very much appreciate the reference.

<sup>37</sup> She was the daughter of John Isaac (1836-1920), see Family No. 47. See Peter Isaac, *op. cit.*, page 21, for more information on the Isaac Family.

### Family No. 15 Peter (Jakob) Barkman from Rosenfeld

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Peter Barkman <sup>38</sup>	March 9, 1826	May, 1846	Jan. 18, 1848	Jan. 5, 1917
Wife Anna Toews <sup>39</sup>	Aug. 9, 1827	May, 1843	Jan. 18, 1848	Aug. 5, 1881

Comments: Left for America on July 21, 1874<sup>40</sup> - Steinbach, Manitoba. Children listed are: Peter, born January 26, 1861; Johann, born April 16, 1862; Aganetha, born August 8, 1859 and baptized on August 4, 1878.

<sup>38</sup> For a listing of descendants see, Mrs. Marie Doerksen and Mrs. Margaret Klassen, *Genealogy of Peter K. Barkman, 1926-1977*, (1977, self-published, Blumenort, Manitoba), 96 pages. See also, Waldon A. Barkman Chairman, *op. cit.*, Pages 8-11. He was the son of Jacob Barkman (1794-1875). See Peter M. Barkman, *op. cit.* page 2 and Waldon A. Barkman, *op. cit.* pages 8-11.

<sup>39</sup> She was a sister to Peter W. Toews (1831-1922), Family No. 7. See Aeltester Peter Toews, *Genealogy of Cornelius Toews, (1737-1800)*, *op. cit.*, page 3.

<sup>40</sup> Also immigrating to America was Jakob Barkman, the father of Peter K. Barkman (1826-1917) above; and Mrs. Peter Toews (nee Anganetha Barkman), see Family No. 7; and Mrs. Johan Koop (nee Katherina Barkman), see Family No. 61; and a son Jacob K. Barkman (1820-1902), who did not immigrate to America (See *Familienbuch* of Mrs. Peter B. Klassen (Courtesy of Anna Klassen), and who was to have been quite well to do in Russia. This Jacob K. Barkman had a daughter. Elisabeth (Mrs. Peter B. Friesen) who also immigrated to Manitoba in 1874. See Family No. 39.

*Grandfather Jacob Barkman* was born June 17, 1794, married in 1818, and died on December 4, 1875 at the home of his children Peter W. Toews in Blumenort (Courtesy of Rev. and Mrs. Bernard P. Doerksen).

**Family No. 16 Jakob (Peter) Barkman from Rosenfeld**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Jakob Barkman <sup>41</sup>	Nov. 2, 1848	May, 1868	Sept. 21, 1869	July 11, 1935
Wife Anganetha Giesbrecht <sup>42</sup>	Feb. 18, 1848	May, 1867	Sept. 21, 1869	Nov. 26, 1918

Comments: Left for America on June 2, 1874 - Steinbach, Manitoba. Children listed are: Jakob born October 6, 1872, and died October 26, 1874; Peter, born August 5, 1876.

<sup>41</sup> He is the son of Peter K. Barkman (1826-1917), Family No. 15. For a listing of descendants see Mrs. Marie Doerksen and Mrs. Margaret Klassen, op. cit. pages 2-39.

<sup>42</sup> She was the daughter of Gerhard Giesbrecht (1816-1863) and the sister to Wilhelm Giesbrecht (1849-1917), Family No. 78; and the sister to Gerhard Giesbrecht (1846-1907), Family No. 106. See *Familienbuch*, unpublished writing (Courtesy of Rev. and Mrs. Bernhard P. Doerksen).

**Family No. 17 Johann (Jakob) Friesen from Nikolaithal, Gersonschen Prov.**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Johann Friesen <sup>43 (1)</sup>	May 17, 1853	Mar. 18, 1873	Jan. 27, 1874	Oct. 5, 1937
Wife Anna Barkman <sup>44</sup>	June 13, 1854	Mar. 18, 1873	Jan. 27, 1874	Jan. 24, 1923

Comments: Left for America on July 21, 1874 - Steinbach, Manitoba. In 1896 Johann Friesen was resident in Hochstaedt. Children listed are: Jacob, born January 25, 1875; Peter, born February 12, 1876; Anna, born January 1, 1878; Katharina, born November 23, 1879.

<sup>43</sup> For a listing of descendants see, Jakob A. Friesen and Frank F. Wiebe, Family Tree Jakob K. Friesen 1822-1875, (1969, self-published, Mount Lehman, B.C.), pages 17-30. Johann Friesen (1853-1937) was the son of Jakob Friesen (1822-1875), Family No. 102.

<sup>44</sup> She was the daughter of Peter K. Barkman (1826-1917), Family No. 15.

**Family No. 18 Peter (Klaas) Brandt from Rosenfeld**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Peter Brandt <sup>45</sup>	June 11, 1848	May, 1866	Jan. 22, 1867	June 29, 1930
Wife Katharina Thiessen <sup>46</sup>	Dec. 21, 1846	May, 1866	Jan. 22, 1867	Dec. 3, 1916

Comments: Left for America on June 18, 1874. Moved from Manitoba to Nebraska in 1875. Children listed are: Johann, born February 25, 1868; Peter, born March 15, 1872; and Heinrich, born July 17, 1873.

<sup>45</sup> For a listing of descendants see, Aeltester David P. Reimer, Editor, *Brandt Reunion, July 21, 1962, and Family Tree, 1963* (Self-published, Blumenort, Manitoba), pages 62-76. This family apparently settled in Blumenort, Manitoba in 1874.

<sup>46</sup> She was the daughter of Johan Thiessen (1813-1888) and Katharina Friesen (1820-1884) who was a sister to Abraham M. Friesen, Family No. 73. See Abram P. Friesen, et. al., *The Von Riesen-Friesen Genealogy 1756-1966*, (Blumenort, Manitoba: self-published, 1966), pages 26-43. This Johan Thiessen (1813-1888) who had settled in Nebraska in 1874, married for the third time to the widow of Abraham R. Friesen (nee Agatha Kornelsen), see Family No. 123. For further details see *Familienbuch* of step-son Abraham K. Friesen (1881-1963) (Courtesy of Harry S. Friesen, Winnipeg, Manitoba).

**Family No. 19 Peter (Peter) Unger from Rosenfeld**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Peter Unger <sup>47</sup>	Jan. 27, 1841	May 13, 1860	Aug. 20, 1861	Sept. 29, 1896
Wife Justina Friesen <sup>48</sup>	Nov. 14, 1836	May 19, 1857	Aug. 20, 1861	Sept. 10, 1905

Comments: Left for America on June 18, 1874 - Blumenhof, Manitoba. Children listed are: Johann, born April 17, 1866; Cornelius, born March 5, 1873; Maria, born August 6, 1862; Justina, born June 17, 1864; Elisabeth, born February 14, 1871; Peter, born September 20,

1875; Anna, born April 20, 1878.

<sup>47</sup> Peter Unger (1841-1896) was the step-son of Jacob Wiens, of Neukirch. See Helene Jahnke, *Stammbuch der Groszeltern Klaas Friesens*, 1929, unpublished, page 4. (Courtesy of Harry S. Friesen, Winnipeg, Manitoba). For a history and genealogy of the Peter H. Unger (1841-1896) family see, Jacob U. Klassen, Edward Brandt, et. al Editors, *Peter H. Unger 1844-1896* (Steinbach, Manitoba 1983).

<sup>48</sup> She was the daughter of Cornelius F. Friesen (1810-1892), Family No. 56. See Helene Jahnke, *op. cit.* See also *Plett Picture Book, op. cit.*, page 96.

### Family No. 20 Peter (Peter) Enns from Rosenfeld

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Peter Enns <sup>49</sup> (1)	Jan. 25, 1822	May, 1842	Jan. 30, 1845	April 15, 1896
Wife Agathe Bold <sup>50</sup>	May 24, 1825	June, 1842	Jan. 30, 1845	Mar. 31, 1899

Comments: Left for America on June 4, 1874 - Manitoba. In 1896 Peter Enns was resident in Steinbach, Manitoba. Children listed are: Agatha, born September 23, 1863.

<sup>49</sup> His father was Peter Enns, Minister in Neukirch. The Peter Enns (1822-1896) family had only one daughter, who was married to John T. Barkman. See Peter Isaac, *op. cit.*, page 14. See also Marie Doerksen and Margaret Barkman, *op. cit.*, pages 35-96. See also *Seelenregister für Johan und Susanna Barkman 1896 Unpublished manuscript.* (Courtesy of Mennonite Genealogy Inc., Winnipeg, and Walter Barkman, Steinbach, Manitoba.)

### Family No. 21 Heinrich (Jakob) Wiebe from Rosenfeld

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Heinrich Wiebe <sup>50</sup> (1)	April 3, 1851	Dec. 6, 1870	Oct. 21, 1871	Dec. 14, 1876
Wife Anna Toews <sup>51</sup>	Feb. 14, 1853	Dec. 6, 1870	Oct. 21, 1871	<u>Nov. 22, 1935</u>

Comments: Wiebe came to his death in the night of December 13th to 14th, 1876. He was frozen to death near Blumenhof as they were returning from the forest.<sup>52</sup> Children listed: Jakob, born October 13, 1872. Peter, born December 31, 1873. Anna, born January 26, 1876. In 1896 son Jacob<sup>52</sup> (born 1872) was resident in Greenland, Manitoba and son Peter (born 1873) was resident in Steinbach, Manitoba.

<sup>50</sup> He was the son of Jakob Wiebe (1799-1856) of Schoenau. See Rev. Frank P. Wiebe, *Jakob Wiebe 1799-1856* (Mount Lehman, B.C.; self-published, 1966) pages 73-93. His mother was Justina Friesen (1816-1856) a sister to Cornelius F. Friesen (1810-1892) of Blumenort (Family No. 56) See Helena Jahnke, *op. cit.*

<sup>51</sup> Anna Toews (1853-1935) was the daughter of Peter W. Toews (1831-1922), Family No. 7. She married for the second time to Isaac De Veer. See Aeltester Peter Toews, *Cornelius Toews (1737-1800) Genealogy, op. cit.*, page 3. See Family No. 26.

<sup>52</sup> For an account of the death of Heinrich Wiebe (1851-1876) and also additional information about the Jacob Wiebe (1799-1856) Family, see *History and Events, op. cit.*, pages 89-91 and 130-131. See also the Roy Loewen, *Blumenort, A Mennonite Community in Transition* (Blumenort Historical Society, Blumenort, Man.), for additional information about the Wiebe family and other families who settled in the Blumenort, Blumenhof and Heuboden villages in Manitoba.

<sup>52</sup> <sup>a</sup>. For additional history regarding this family and that of son Jacob T. Wiebe (born 1872), see Jacob T. Wiebe, *Autobiography of Jacob T. Wiebe, 1872-1965* (Greenland, Manitoba. self-published, 1965), 12 pages. See also, Edwin Wiebe and Edwin Penner, *The Jacob T. Wiebe Family Book* (Rosenort, Manitoba. Lark Printing, 1976), 61 pages. The latter is an example of a simple, but well done, fact-filled family history.

a listing of descendants see Jakob G. Friesen and Rev. Frank P. Wiebe, *op. cit.*, pages 1-3. Dietrich Friesen (1849-1901) was the first school teacher in Gruenfeld, Manitoba, and had also been a teacher in the village of Rosenfeld, Borosenko, South Russia. See *History and Events, op. cit.*, page 123.

<sup>58</sup> Katharina Friesen (1849-1895) was the daughter of Cornelius F. Friesen (1810-1892), Family No. 56.

### Family No. 25 Gerhard Siemens from Annafeld

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Gerhard Siemens <sup>59</sup>	Aug. 18, 1805	May 15, 1825	Sept. 1, 1831	Mar. 15, 1877
Wife Gertrude Thiessen <sup>60</sup>	Oct. 15, 1808	May 15, 1828	Sept. 1, 1831	

Comments: To America on July 18, 1874, Manitoba. He achieved the age of 71 years and 7 months. Children listed are: Sara, born December 10, 1853 and baptized on March 18, 1873.

<sup>59</sup> Little is known about the Kleine Gemeinde Siemens families. Again! Any information would be welcome. Was Gerhard Siemens (1805-1877) the father to Gerhard Siemens (1834-1906), Family No. 26? The fact that Aeltester Peter Toews has placed them together would make it appear so. Aeltester Toews had originally recorded the name of the father of Gerhard Siemens (1805-1877) as Gerhard and then crossed over the name.

<sup>60</sup> Even the David L. Plett, *Sterbe Register*, unpublished (Courtesy of Mr. John D. K. Plett) from which most death dates which Aeltester Toews had not recorded, have been found, has no record of her death nor that of her husband Gerhard Siemens (1805-1877).

### Family No. 26 Gerhard (Gerhard) Siemens from Steinbach

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Gerhard Siemens <sup>61</sup>	May 9, 1834	May, 1855	July 8, 1873	Nov. 16, 1908
Wife Aganetha Klassen <sup>62</sup>	July 8, 1848	May, 1867	July 8, 1873	Feb. 18, 1890

Comments: To America on July 18, 1874, Rosenhof, Manitoba. Children of a prior marriage: Peter, born March 12, 1867. His deceased mother was born a Harder. Gertrude, born December 21, 1872. Her deceased mother was born a Plett.<sup>63</sup> Aganetha Janzen, born January 21, 1872, died in 1874. She was the daughter of Cornelius Janzen, the first husband of Anganetha Klassen. Step-children, i.e. The children of mother, nee Harder are: Isaac Devehr<sup>(1)</sup>, born October 23, 1856, and baptized on January 17, 1878.<sup>64</sup> Elisabeth DeVerr born September 18, 1860 and baptized January 31, 1879. Children of the third marriage are listed as follows: Gerhard, born May 23, 1876. David, born April 6, 1878.

<sup>61</sup> Probably the son of Gerhard Siemens (1805-1877) Family No. 25. See Footnote 59.

<sup>62</sup> She was the daughter of delegate David Klassen (1813-1900) Family No. 82.

<sup>63</sup> Daughter of Cornelius Plett (1820-1900), Family No. 70.

<sup>64</sup> Isaac Devehr later married the widow of Heinrich Wiebe, Family No. 21. Also see Family No. 149.

### Family No. 27 Franz Kroeker from Steinbach

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Franz Kroeker <sup>65</sup>	Aug. 6, 1827	1848	Aug. 29, 1861	Aug. 8, 1905
Wife Margaretha Plett <sup>66</sup>	Oct. 15, 1842	1861	Aug. 29, 1861	Dec. 9, 1920

Comments: To America on July 21, 1874, Steinbach, Manitoba. Franz Kroeker died at the age of 78 years less eleven days. Children listed are: Cornelius, born June 28, 1862. Margaretha, born September 13, 1863. Sara, born February 23, 1871.

<sup>65</sup> He was the son of Franz Kroeker (1799-1853). See Jakob B. Friesen (1854-1911) *Familien-*



## Family No. 22 Johan (Johann) Esau from Rosenfeld

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Johan Esau <sup>53</sup> (1)	Nov. 16, 1832	May 20, 1855	May 24, 1864	Oct. 3, 1904
Wife Margaretha Rempel <sup>54</sup>	Mar. 16, 1833	May 31, 1853	May 24, 1864	Oct. 9, 1907

Comments: Left for America on June 4, 1874. Rosenfeld, Manitoba. Johan Esau died in Blumenort, Manitoba having suffered from diarrhea. In 1896 Esau was resident in Rosenfeld. Children listed are: Johan, born February 15, 1860 of an earlier marriage.

<sup>53</sup> Johan Esau was the second Brantealtester of the Mennonite Kleine Gemeinde Brandordnung in Manitoba. See Peter F. Unger, *Memoirs and Chronicle*, Unpublished Manuscript, Volume three, page 9 (Courtesy of Rev. Abe P. Unger). If any reader should have more information about the John Esau family the writer would very much appreciate the reference. In their retirement years, the Esaus apparently lived in Blumenort. See *History and Events, op. cit.*, page 80.

<sup>54</sup> She was a daughter of Abraham Rempel (1798-1878). See David L. Plett *Sterbe Register, op. cit.*, page 1.

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Abraham Rempel <sup>55</sup>	May, 1798	May 5, 1818	June 4, 1839	Sept. 12, 1878

<sup>55</sup> Abraham Rempel was a well read and well-to-do farmer formerly of the Molotchna village of Margenau. (See Peter L. Dueck, 1866 Diary (Unpublished Manuscript, courtesy of Mrs. Katherina Wiebe, Steinbach, Manitoba). He died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. John Esau (Family No. 22) in Rosenfeld. (See David L. Plett, *Sterbe Register, op. cit.*, page 1). He was the father of: 1) the second wife of Peter Penner (1813-1884) Family No. 11; 2) the wife of Cornelius F. Friesen (1810-1892) Family No. 56; and 3) the second wife of Rev. Cornelius L. Plett (1846-1935) Family No. 71. He also had a son Martin Rempel whose widow (Family No. 143) settled in Rosenort, Manitoba, in 1876. (Established from various references in the *Cornelius L. Plett Diaries 1895-1922*). (Courtesy of Marie Heinrichs, *Ulyses*, Kansas). There may have been additional children.

## Family No. 23 Johann (Abraham) Friesen from Rosenfeld

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Johan Friesen <sup>56</sup>	June 12, 1852	Aug. 13, 1872	Aug. 24, 1872	1920
Wife Helena Siemens <sup>56</sup>	Mar. 30, 1843	June, 1863	Aug. 24, 1872	

Comments: Left for America on May 29, 1874. Moved from Manitoba to Nebraska. Children listed are: Johann, born May 9, 1872. Helena, born October 24, 1873. Gertrude, born August 27, 1875. Sara, born February 8, 1877. Katharina, born June 29, 1878.

<sup>56</sup> He was the son of Abraham Friesen (1807-1891) and a brother to Abraham S. Friesen (1848-1916) Family No. 37. See *History and Events, op. cit.*, pages 49, 51, 53, 74, 75. See Johan P. Friesen, *Genealogy Register*. Unpublished.

<sup>56</sup> The writer would appreciate receiving any information which anyone might have regarding this family.

## Family No. 24 Dietrich (Jakob) Friesen from Rosenfeld.

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Dietrich Friesen <sup>57</sup> (1)	Mar. 8, 1849	May 31, 1869	May 12, 1870	Aug. 18, 1901
Wife Katharina Friesen <sup>58</sup>	Dec. 25, 1849	May 10, 1869	May 12, 1870	June 22, 1895

Comments: Left for America on May 29, 1874, Manitoba. D. Friesen died in Steinbach of brain paralysis. In 1896, D. Friesen was resident in Steinbach, Manitoba. He was 52 years of age. Children listed are: Jakob, born July 3, 1874. Cornelius, born August 24, 1876.

<sup>57</sup> Dietrich Friesen (1849-1901) was the son of Jakob Friesen (1822-1875), Family No. 102. For

*buch* unpublished. (Courtesy of Mrs. Cornelius K. Unger (nee Margaret Classen), Steinbach, Manitoba.

<sup>66</sup> She was the daughter of Cornelius S. Plett (1820-1900), Family No. 70. See *Plett Picture book, op., cit.* pp. 33-39 for additional information regarding this family. Franz Kroeker was a leading pioneer farmer in Steinbach, Manitoba.

### Family No. 28 Peter (Peter) Toews from Steinbach

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Peter Toews <sup>67</sup>	Mar. 18, 1838	Pentecost 1858	June 9, 1860	May 9, 1882
Wife Elisabeth Reimer <sup>68</sup>	Oct. 20, 1843	June 2, 1860	June 9, 1860	Dec. 3, 1918

Comments: To America on July 18, 1874. Steinbach, Manitoba. Children listed are: Elisabeth, born November 9, 1861, Anna, born September 23, 1863; Katharina, born June 1, 1866; Maria, born December 17, 1869. Peter, born January 1, 1872. Abraham, born March 19, 1874. Margaretha born December 7, 1876. Klaas, born March 7, 1879.

<sup>67</sup> For a listing of his descendants see Dr. Abram P. Toews, *The Chronology of the Toews Family*, 1967, (Self-published, Ferguson, Missouri), pages 1-165. There is no known relationship between this Toews family and the Cornelius Toews (1737-1800) Family i.e. All the other Toews referred to in this book are descendants of Cornelius Toews (1737-1800).

<sup>68</sup> She was a daughter of Abraham F. Reimer (1808-1892), Family No. 31.

### Family No. 29 David Thiessen from Steinbach

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
David Thiessen <sup>69 (1)</sup>	Jan. 8, 1834	Pentecost 1854	Sept. 24, 1856	June 2, 1906
Wife Anganetha Gerbrandt <sup>36</sup>	April 2, 1833	Pentecost 1852	Sept. 24, 1856	Feb. 13, 1912

Comments: To America on July 21, 1874. Resident near Morris, Manitoba. David Thiessen died of dropsy at the age of 72 years and 4 months and some days. The wife of the above D. Thiessen died of weakness of old age. She achieved an age of 78 years, 10 months and some days. Children listed are: David, born May 16 1858 and baptized on September 9, 1877; Gerhard <sup>(1)</sup>, born January 9, 1860; Heinrich <sup>(1)</sup>, born January 20, 1865. Married on March 17, 1889; Peter <sup>(1)</sup>, born September 21, 1869; Elisabeth, born July 29, 1861 and baptized on August 3, 1879; Maria, born December 8, 1862. Katherina, born October 7, 1867; Helena, born September 14, 1876. In 1896 David Thiessen (born 1834) was resident near Morris, Manitoba, as were also his sons Gerhard, Heinrich and Peter.

<sup>69</sup> Again we request any information the reader may have and be willing to share. For a listing of the descendants of this family see, Henry Thiessen, *Thiessens Book, 1833-1972*, unpublished, 174 pages. (Courtesy of Mr. Jacob I. Bartel, Steinbach, Manitoba.) David F. Thiessen settled in Blumenort, Manitoba in 1874 and later moved to Rosenhof, near Morris, Manitoba.

### Family No. 30 Johann (Abraham) Reimer from Steinbach

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Johann Reimer <sup>70</sup>	June 3, 1848	May 28, 1867	June 29, 1869	Mar. 23, 1918
Wife Anna Warkentin <sup>36</sup>	June 13, 1844	May 30, 1863	June 29, 1869	Aug. 10, 1880

Comments: To America on July 18, 1874. Steinbach, Manitoba. Children listed are: Elisabeth, born July 20, 1871 and died on November 5, 1874. Abraham, born July 23, 1873 and died 1874. Anna, born December 18, 1875. Elisabeth, born June 4, 1876. Helena, born May 13, 1879.

<sup>70</sup> A son of Abraham F. Reimer (1808-1892) Family No. 31.

**Family No. 31 Abraham (Klaas) Reimer from Steinbach**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Abraham Reimer <sup>71</sup>	Feb. 19, 1808	June, 1828	Feb. 26, 1835	April 11, 1892
Wife Elisabeth Rempel <sup>72</sup>	June 11, 1814	June, 1834	Feb. 26, 1835	July 8, 1893

Comments: To America on July 18, 1874.

<sup>71</sup> He was the oldest son of Klass Reimer (1770-1837) who was the founding Aeltester of the Mennonite Kleine Gemeinde. The mother of Abraham F. Reimer (1808-1892) was Helena Friesen (1787-1846) who was a sister of Abraham Friesen (1782-1849), the second Aeltester of the Mennonite Kleine Gemeinde. For a listing of the descendants of Klass Reimer (1770-1837) see, John C. Reimer, Chairman, *Familien register von Klaas und Helena Reimer, op. cit.*, pages 1-403.

<sup>72</sup> Elisabeth Rempel (1814-1893) was the twin sister of Peter Rempel, whose daughters married Abraham L. Dueck (1841-1899), Family No. 59; and Jakob L. Dueck (1839-1893) Family No. 118. See Heinrich Rempel, *Seelenliste, op. cit.*, Abraham F. Reimer (1808-1892) and three of his children settled in the village of Blumenort in 1874. Four other children and their families settled in the village of Steinbach, Manitoba. See Abe Warkentin *Reflections of our Heritage* (Steinbach, Manitoba, Derksen Printers, 1971) for additional information on the Reimer family and other families who settled in Steinbach, Manitoba.

**Family No. 32 Klaas (Klaas) Brandt from Steinbach**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Klaas Brandt <sup>73</sup>	Mar. 12, 1845	June 16, 1865	June 16, 1868	Feb. 23, 1901
Wife Margaretha Friesen <sup>74</sup>	Oct. 18, 1835		June 16, 1868	Apr. 31, 1933

Comments: To America on July 18, 1874. Rosenort, Manitoba. Children listed are: Klaas, born on May 19, 1873; Peter, born July 3, 1878. Also listed are: step-son Isaac Harms, born April 25, 1859; step-daughter Anna Harms, born December 8, 1862. Also listed is Katherina Friesen<sup>74</sup>, born April 11, 1845 and baptized in 1866.

<sup>73</sup> For a listing of his descenants see, Aeltester David P. Reimer *Brandt Reunion, op. cit.*, pages 51-61. He is a brother to Peter Brandt, Family No. 18. For additional information regarding the Klass Brandt family and other families who settled in the Rosenort, Manitoba area; see Lenore Eidse, Ed., *Furrows in the Valley* (Morris, Manitoba, R.M. of Morris, 1981), at pages 321-476.

<sup>74</sup> Is she a sister to Mrs. Klaas Brandt (nee Margaretha Friesen)? The latter apparently was a daughter of an Abraham Friesen. Death Certificate courtesy of R.M. of Morris, March 22, 1983.

**Family No. 33 Heinrich (Klaas) Brandt from Steinbach**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Heinrich Brandt <sup>75</sup>	Jan. 23, 1838	May, 1858	June 24, 1873	Sept. 15, 1909
Wife Katharina Warkentin <sup>76</sup>	Aug. 16, 1850	Dec. 6, 1870	June 24, 1873	Aug. 4, 1888

Comments: To America on July 21, 1874 - Rosenort, Manitoba. Children listed of the first marriage are: Anna, born March 6, 1860 and baptized on September 9, 1877; Maria, born May 7, 1863. Heinrich, born September 11, 1867. Children listed of the second marriage are: Klaas, born January 5, 1876. Cornelius, born October 12, 1876.

<sup>75</sup> He was a brother to Klaas Brandt, Family No. 32. For a listing of his descendants see, Aeltester David P. Reimer, *ibid*, pages 11-46. This writer has no information as to the ancestry of his first two wives. Regrettably the study of maternal ascendants has often been too much ignored.

**Family No. 34 Cornelius Fast from Steinbach**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Cornelius Fast <sup>76 (1)</sup>	June 12, 1840	Pentecost 1860	Feb. 16, 1873	Feb. 23, 1927
Wife Helena Vehr <sup>77</sup>	Feb. 20, 1850	1869	Feb. 16, 1873	Mar. 14, 1893

Comments: To America on July 18, 1874. Manitoba. Children listed of the first marriage are: Peter, born March 18, 1863. Cornelius, born April 21, 1864. Jakob, born March 27, 1867. Helena, born September 30, 1865. Susana, born February 1, 1870. Children listed of the second marriage are: Isaac, born January 26, 1876. In 1896 Cornelius Fast (1840-1927) was resident in Manitoba. His son Peter Fast<sup>(1)</sup> was resident in North Dakota.

<sup>76</sup>For information as to his family and descendants see, Margaretha Reimer, *Familien Register Von Witwe Peter P. Reimer* (1965, self-published, Steinbach, Manitoba), page 38-45. His father was Cornelius Fast (1813-1857). See also Peter Isacc, *op. cit.*, page 14. See also Kerry Fast, *The Fasts*. Unpublished Essay, Blumenort, Manitoba, 10 pages, for additional information. (Courtesy of Henry Fast Steinbach Bible College).

<sup>77</sup> Apparently she was from the Old (Chortitzer) Colony and was the daughter of Jacob and Maria Fehr. See Kerry Fast, *op. cit.*

### Family No. 35 Klaas (Abraham) Reimer from Steinbach

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Klaas Reimer <sup>78</sup>	Dec. 12, 1837	1857 2nd day of Pentecost		<u>Feb. 6, 1906</u>
First Wife Katharina Wilms <sup>27</sup>	April 24, 1837	1857 2nd day of Pentecost	Oct. 21, 1857	Mar. 3, 1875
Second Wife Helena Warkentin <sup>36</sup>	Sept. 11, 1852		<u>Mar. 30, 1875</u>	<u>Dec. 1, 1884</u>
Third Wife Margaretha Klassen <sup>26</sup>	Feb. 27, 1864		<u>Mar. 19, 1885</u>	<u>July 5, 1918</u>

Comments: To America on July 18, 1874. Resident in Steinbach, Manitoba. Klaas Reimer died in Steinbach at an age of 68 years. He left behind a family rich in numbers from three successive wives. Children listed of the first marriage are: Abraham, born May 15, 1860 and baptized in 1879; Klaas, born November 19, 1861; Heinrich, born January 7, 1864; Peter, born December 30, 1867; Johann, born January 20, 1870; Cornelius, born October 28, 1872; Elizabeth, born October 21, 1858, and baptized on August 20, 1876, and Katharina, born July 3, 1866. Children listed of the second marriage are: Gerhard, born February 7, 1876; Jakob, born June 29, 1877; Bernhard, born November 1, 1878.

<sup>62</sup> Son of Abraham F. Reimer (1808-1892) Family No. 31. The writer would greatly appreciate any further information as to the wives of Klaas R. Reimer (1837-1906).

### Family No. 36 Peter (Abraham) Reimer from Steinbach

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Peter Reimer <sup>79</sup>	Dec. 17, 1845	1865 Pentecost	July 8, 1873	Nov. 10, 1915
Wife Maria Plett <sup>80</sup>	Dec. 17, 1850	Jan. 1, 1871	July 8, 1873	<u>Oct. 6, 1934</u>

Comments: To America on July 21, 1874. Blumenort, Manitoba. Peter Reimer was a Minister of the Kleine Gemeinde. Children listed of the first marriage are: Elisabeth, born June 17, 1870. Children listed of the second marriage are: Maria, born June 30, 1875; Peter, born June 27, 1877.

<sup>63</sup> Son of Abraham F. Reimer (1808-1892) Family No. 31.

<sup>64</sup> She was a daughter of Cornelius Plett (1820-1900) Family No. 70.

**Family No. 37 Abraham (Abraham) Friesen from Steinbach**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Abraham Friesen <sup>61</sup>	Jan. 16, 1848	May, 1867	Dec. 14, 1867	Nov. 25, 1916
Wife Katharina Reimer <sup>62</sup>	Apr. 30, 1850	May, 1867	Dec. 14, 1867	Aug. 24, 1912

Comments: To America on July 18, 1874 - Steinbach, Manitoba. Children listed are: Abraham, born May 24, 1869; Klaas, born October 23, 1870; Peter, born January 9, 1872; Johann, born October 11, 1873 and died 1874; Johann, born May 13, 1876; Jakob, born October 31, 1878.

<sup>61</sup> He was the son of Rev. Abraham Friesen (1807-1891), who was a brother of Johan Friesen (1808-1872) the third Aeltester of the Mennonite Kleine Gemeinde. See also Family No. 23. See also *History and Events, op. cit.*, pages 74-75. Abraham S. Friesen (1848-1916) was a leading entrepreneur in the village of Steinbach, owning one of the first steam engines in Western Canada. See Abe Warkentin, *op. cit.*, pgs 82-87.

<sup>62</sup> She was a daughter of Abraham F. Reimer (1808-1892), Family No. 31.

**Family No. 38 Peter Buller from Steinbach**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Peter Buller <sup>63</sup>	Jan. 25, 1836	June, 1856	Dec. 5, 1861	Sept. 26, 1902
Wife Anna Wiens <sup>64</sup>	Aug. 14, 1843	June, 1861	Dec. 5, 1861	

Comments: To America on July 18, 1874. P. Buller and family moved to Nebraska in 1875. Children listed are: Franz, born August 4, 1862; Peter, born April 1, 1864; Jakob, born May 22, 1868; Johann, born April 2, 1872; Elisabeth, born April 18, 1870.

<sup>63</sup> I have no information about ascendants of Peter Buller. Any assistance would be gratefully accepted.

<sup>64</sup> She was a daughter of Franz Wiens (1802-1881) Family No. 9

**Family No. 39 Peter (Abraham) Friesen from Steinbach**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Peter Friesen <sup>65</sup>	Feb. 3, 1838	May, 1858	Aug. 15, 1860	Jan. 27, 1900
Wife Elisabeth Barkman <sup>66</sup>	Nov. 21, 1841	May, 1859	Aug. 15, 1860	Sept. 15, 1917

Comments: To America on July 18, 1874. Neuanlage, Manitoba. Children listed are: Peter, born November 1, 1867; Jakob, born June 22, 1870; Katharina, born April 1, 1863; Elisabeth, born September 21, 1872; Abraham, born December 21, 1874; Margaretha, born November 26, 1876.

<sup>65</sup> He was the son of Abram W. Friesen (1812-1889) and grandson of Abraham Friesen (1782-1849), the second Aeltester of the Mennonite Kleine Gemeinde. See Bert Friesen, *Family tree of Abraham von Riesen 1752-1810*, unpublished diagram.

<sup>66</sup> She was a daughter of Elisabeth Braun and Jacob Barkman. Courtesy of R.M. of Hanover death records filed September 15, 1915. According to the *Familienbuch* of Mrs. Peter B. Klassen (Courtesy of Anne Klassen, Steinbach, Manitoba) her grandfather Jacob Barkman (1794-1875) (See Family No. 15) had recorded that his son Jacob Barkman was born on February 10, 1820 and died December 1, 1902. This Jacob Barkman (1820-1902) was the father of Elisabeth Barkman (1841-1917) who married Peter Friesen (1838-1900).

**Family No. 40 Peter (Isaac) Loewen Sawitzki**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Peter Loewen <sup>67 (1)</sup>	Jan. 25, 1825	1845	Jan. 6, 1874	Aug. 26, 1887
Wife Elisabeth Devehr <sup>68</sup>	April 4, 1823	1841	Jan. 6, 1874	

Comments: To America on July 21, 1874. Peter Loewen died at Hochstaedt. He had been married four times; the last time with a widow Esau. His sons moved to Kansas. Isaac <sup>(1)</sup> of the first

marriage and Peter <sup>(1)</sup> and Jacob <sup>(1)</sup> of the second marriage. The second wife of son Jacob, namely, Anna (nee Toews) died on January 26, 1913, of the dropsy, after prolonged suffering. In 1896 son Peter (born 1865) was living in Nebraska, and son Jacob (born 1862) was living in Kansas (No. 2)

Children listed of the second marriage are: Jacob, born October 11, 1862; Peter, born December 8, 1865. Step-children by Katharina Esau (nee Devehr), are listed as follows: Jakob Esau <sup>(1)</sup>, born December 2, 1865. In 1896 he was resident in Nebraska. Justina Esau <sup>89</sup> <sup>(1)</sup>, born August 21, 1864. She was already deceased in 1896.

<sup>87</sup> He was a son of Isaac Loewen (1787-1873), and a brother to David Loewen (1836-1915), Family No. 4. See Dr. Solomon Loewen, *op. cit.*, for a listing of descendants. See *History and Events.*, *op. cit.*, pages 38, 73, 104 and 132 for additional information.

<sup>88</sup> Aeltester Peter Toews had listed the last wife of Peter Loewen as Katharina Devehr; however, see Jacob G. Friesen and Frank P. Wiebe, *Family Tree of Jakob Regehr 1832-1906*, (1969, self-published, Mount Lehman, B.C.), page 17, where it is stated that Elizabeth Fehr (Mrs Wilhelm Esau) was the mother of Justina Esau, born September 2, 1864, and that this widow Wilhelm Esau, nee Elisabeth Fehr (1823-1908), married widower Peter Loewen (1825-1887). Also the ship records show that at the time of emigration in 1874, the wife of Peter Loewen (1825-1887) was an Elisabeth. Therefore the writer has concluded that the listing by Aeltester Toews was intended to refer to the previous wife of Peter Loewen (1825-1887) who was a widow Katherina Siemens (see Dr. Sol. Loewen *op. cit.*, Peter Loewen Section, page 5). It would seem correct that the maiden name of this Katherina Siemens was also Devehr as the matter of Peter Loewen marrying his wife's sister was quite an issue in the Kleine Gemeinde at the time.

<sup>89</sup> Justina Esau (1864-1890) married Jacob T. Regehr (1861-1916). See Jacob G. Friesen et. al., *ibid*, pages 17-28.

#### Family No. 41 Isaak (Peter) Loewen from Heuboden

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Isaak Loewen <sup>90</sup> <sup>(1)</sup>	Jan. 4, 1850	Feb. 28, 1871	Dec. 6, 1873	<u>Mar. 2, 1925</u>
Second wife Katharina Friesen <sup>91</sup>	Mar. 17, 1854	May 15, 1873	Dec. 6, 1873	<u>Mar. 15, 1925</u>

Comments: To America on July 21, 1874. Hochstaedt, Manitoba. They moved to Nebraska in 1891 where they were also resident in 1896.

Children listed are: Katharina, born February 23, 1875; Isaac, born June 12, 1876; Peter, born November 7, 1877; Heinrich, born May 16, 1879.

<sup>90</sup> He is the son of Peter Loewen (1825-1887), Family No. 40.

<sup>91</sup> She was the daughter of Heinrich Friesen (1827-1876), Family No. 112.

#### Family No. 42 Abraham (Johann) Isaak from Gruenfeld

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Abraham Isaak <sup>92</sup> <sup>(1)</sup>	Dec. 18, 1852	Oct. 21, 1873	Dec. 26, 1873	<u>Mar. 10, 1938</u>
Wife Margaretha Loewen <sup>93</sup>	Mar. 4, 1855	Oct. 21, 1873	Dec. 26, 1873	<u>Sept. 28, 1930</u>

Comments: Left for America on June 4, 1874. Manitoba. Resident in Manitoba in 1896. Children listed are: Peter, born November 20, 1874; Johann, born February 25, 1877; Anna, born 1879

<sup>92</sup> He was the son of Johann Isaak (1809-1863) and Anna Plett (1813-1887) and also a brother to Peter Isaac the author of the *Stammbuch*. See Peter Isaac, *op. cit.* pages 41-43. See also Family No. 47.

<sup>93</sup> She was the daughter of Peter Loewen (1825-1887), Family No. 40. See also F. L. Isaac and Dan F. Isaac, *Family Tree of Abraham Isaak, 1852-1938*. (Kleefeld, Manitoba, self-published, 1970), 30 pages, for a listing of descendants.

**Family No. 43 Cornelius (Johan) Toews from Gruenfeld**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Cornelius Toews <sup>94</sup> <sup>(1)</sup>	June 11, 1836	1857	Sept. 12, 1867	Feb. 21, 1908
Wife Anna Bartel <sup>96</sup>	Oct. 4, 1838	1856	Sept. 12, 1867	Jan. 29, 1918
Widow Bartel <sup>95</sup> <sup>(1)</sup>	Mar. 30, 1802	1819		Dec. 12, 1877
Daughter Katherina <sup>(1)</sup>	Dec. 25, 1827	1847		Feb. 1, 1901

Comments: To America on May 29, 1874. Manitoba. Cornelius Toews died in Greenland. In 1896 he was resident in Steinbach.

Children listed of the first marriage<sup>95a</sup> are: Johan <sup>(1)</sup>, born September 28, 1858, and baptized on August 3, 1879; Cornelius <sup>(1)</sup>, born March 15, 1862. The latter married Anna, nee Loewen, who died at the age of 47 years, one month and some days, of typhus fever, at Stern, Alberta, on February 6, 1912. Children listed of the second marriage: Maria, born December 26, 1865; Anna, born August 17, 1868; Peter <sup>(1)</sup>, born May 20, 1874; Katharina, born February 27, 1876. Susanna, born 1878; and Elisabeth. In 1896, son Cornelius F. Toews (born 1862) was resident in Hochstaedt, Manitoba. In 1896 son Johan F. Toews (born 1858) was resident in Steinbach, Manitoba.

<sup>94</sup> He was the son of Johann Toews (1793-1873) and Maria Plett (1811-1895) and a brother to Aeltester Peter Toews. (See Aeltester Peter Toews, *Cornelius Toews (1737-1800) Genealogy, op. cit.*, page 1.) He served as a delegate to North America in 1873. For a listing of his descendants see, Cornelius L. Toews and Rev. Frank P. Wiebe, *Cornelius P. Toews (1836-1908)* (Steinbach, Manitoba: self-published, 1973), 85 pages. Maria Plett (1811-1895) was a sister to Cornelius Plett (1820-1900), Family No. 70.

<sup>95a</sup> The first wife of Cornelius Toews (1836-1908) was Elisabeth Friesen who was the daughter of Klaas Friesen (1813-1856), who was a brother to Cornelius F. Friesen (1810-1892). See Family No. 56.

<sup>95</sup> It appears that widow Bartel may be the mother of Mrs. Cornelius P. Toews (nee Anna Bartel). Regrettably Aeltester Toews has made no definitive indication in this regard.

**Family No. 44 Johann (Johann) Toews from Gruenfeld**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Johann Toews <sup>96</sup> <sup>(1)</sup>	Sept. 10, 1826	1846	Aug. 5, 1856	Oct. 26, 1895
Wife Anna Warkentin <sup>97</sup>	May 4, 1831	1851	Aug. 5, 1856	Oct. 16, 1900

Comments: To America on May 29, 1874. Gruenfeld, Manitoba. Children listed are: Peter <sup>(1)</sup> born January 12, 1866; Heinrich <sup>(1)</sup>, born June 19, 1867; Cornelius <sup>(1)</sup>, born June 17, 1871; Jakob <sup>(1)</sup>, born October 4, 1873; Helena, born June 10, 1863; Anna, born May 30, 1869. In 1896 son Peter (born 1866) was resident in Steinbach, Manitoba. In 1896 sons, Heinrich (born 1867), Cornelius (born 1871), and Jacob (born 1873), were resident in Gruenfeld.

<sup>96</sup> He was a son of Johan Toews (1793-1873) and his first wife Elisabeth Harder (1800-1834) and a half-brother to Cornelius Toews (1836-1908), Family No. 43. For a listing of the descendants of Johan Toews (1826-1895) see, Aron C. Toews, *Johan Toews, 1829-1895, Family Register*, (Linden, Alberta, self-published, 1972), 126 pages. Elizabeth Harder (1800-1834) was a sister to Johan Harder, who married Elisabeth Plett (sister to Cornelius Plett (1820-1900), Family No. 70) and who were the parents of Johan Harder (1811-1876). Aeltester of the Orloff-Halbstaedt Gemeinde in the Molotschna during the troubled 1860s. (See Menno S. Harder, *The Harder Book* (North Newton, Kansas, 1952). Also see Johan Harder (1836-1930) *Family History and Genealogy*, unpublished. (Courtesy of Dr. Leland Harder, Elkhart, Indiana).

<sup>97</sup> Mrs. Cornelius P. Doerksen, Steinbach, Manitoba recalls that Anna Warkentin (1831-1900) was to have been a sister to Martin Warkentin, Family No. 96.

**Family No. 45 Jakob (Isaak) Regehr from Gruenfeld**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Jakob Regehr <sup>98</sup> <sup>(1)</sup>	Jan. 27, 1832	1851	Nov. 15, 1852	Nov. 13, 1906
Wife Anna Toews <sup>99</sup>	July 16, 1832	1851	Nov. 15, 1852	<u>Dec. 3, 1893</u>

Comments: To America on May 29, 1874. Settled in Rosenfeld, Manitoba where he also resided in 1896. Jakob Regehr later moved to Kansas where he died. Children listed are: Jakob <sup>(1)</sup>, born January 19, 1861, and baptized in August on 1879. He died of dropsy and kidney failure on July 26, 1916, at the age of 55 years. His third wife, nee Klassen, died on August 21, of the same year. She died a misfortunate death through poisoning by Arsenic. Son Johann <sup>(1)</sup>, born December 1, 1865. Son Johan (born 1865), died leaving a widow and a son, John, to survive him. Daughter Annie, born October 28, 1858, and baptized on August 20, 1876. Maria, born April 13, 1863. In 1896, son Jacob T. Regehr (born 1861), was resident in Hochstaedt.

<sup>98</sup> For a listing of his descendants see Jacob G. Friesen and Rev. Frank P. Wiebe, *Family Tree of Jakob Regehr, 1832-1906*, 1969, (Mount Lehman, B.C.: self-published, 1969), page 17.

<sup>99</sup> She was a daughter of Johann Toews (1793-1873) and Elisabeth Harder (1800-1834) and a sister to Johan Toews (1826-1895), Family No. 44.

**Family No. 46 Cornelius (Isaak) Loewen from Gruenfeld**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Cornelius Loewen <sup>100</sup> <sup>(1)</sup>	Jan. 11, 1827	1847	Oct. 22, 1853	Nov. 10, 1893
Wife Helena Bartel <sup>101</sup>	Jan. 15, 1833	1851	Oct. 22, 1853	Oct. 23, 1876

Comments: To America on June 2, 1874 - Manitoba. Cornelius Loewen died in Steinbach as a widower, after prolonged suffering, at the age of 66 years and 10 months. He had been married for a second time with the widow of the deceased Jakob Barkman. (See Family No. 98). Children listed are: Cornelius, born October 10, 1863; Isaac, born December 6, 1865; Johan, born May 25, 1876, and died April 1, 1879.

<sup>100</sup> Son of Isaac Loewen (1787-1873) and a brother of David Loewen, Family No. 4. For an extract from the Diary of Cornelius Loewen (1827-1893) see, Gerhard F. Giesbrecht, *Memoir of Gerhard F. Giesbrecht*, 1966, (self-published, Steinbach, Manitoba,), pages 15-16. This is an extract describing the journey from Gruenfeld, South Russia to Manitoba. See also *Plett Picture Book*, *op. cit.* for various other quotations from the diary.

<sup>101</sup> She was apparently a sister to the second wife of delegate Cornelius F. Toews (nee Anna Bartel). See Family No. 43. From an interview with Mr. Ben P. Wiebe, Steinbach, Manitoba, 1980.

**Family No. 47 Johann (Johann) Isaak from Gruenfeld.**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Johann Isaak <sup>102</sup> <sup>(1)</sup>	Oct. 14, 1836	1856	Apr. 18, 1865	Apr. 2, 1920
Wife Elizabeth Wiebe <sup>103</sup>	Apr. 1, 1846	1864	Apr. 18, 1865	Oct. 1, 1926

Comments: Moved to America June 2, 1874. Gruenfeld, Manitoba. Johann Isaac died at the age of 83 years. In 1896, he was resident in Gruenfeld, Manitoba. Children listed are: Johan <sup>(1)</sup>, born April 15, 1870; Anna, born October 8, 1867; Elisabeth, born August 3, 1874; Margaretha, born February 8, 1877; Jakob, born December 31, 1879. Son Johan W. Isaac, born 1870, was resident in Gruenfeld (No. 16) in 1896. Foster-son Franz Goossen<sup>103 a</sup>, was born October 26, 1862.

<sup>102</sup> For additional information see Peter Isaac, *op. cit.*, pages 21-23.

<sup>103</sup> She was a daughter of Jakob Wiebe (1799-1856). For a listing of descendants see, Frank P. Wiebe, *op. cit.*, pages 59-73. For additional information see *History and Events*, *op. cit.*, pages 80, 89, 103-104.

<sup>103 a</sup> See Family No. 50.



Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Widow Johann Isaak (nee Anna Plett) <sup>104</sup> (1)	Nov. 12, 1813	1831	1831	<u>Mar. 29, 1887</u>
Daughter Helena	Apr. 23, 1858	Aug. 20, 1876	Mar. 4, 1877	

<sup>104</sup> She was the widow of Johan Isaac (1809-1864). See Peter Isaac, *op. cit.* for additional information. Anna Plett was a sister to Cornelius Plett (1820-1900), Family No. 70.

#### Family No. 48 Abraham (Isaak) Loewen from Gruenfeld

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Abraham Loewen <sup>105</sup> (1)	Feb. 13, 1833	1852	Jan. 1, 1870	<u>Mar. 20, 1886</u>
Susanna Ratzlav <sup>106</sup>	1846	1861	Jan. 1, 1870	<u>Nov. 23, 1905</u>

Comments: Left for America on June 2, 1874. Abraham Loewen was a Minister in the Kleine Gemeinde. He died in Gruenfeld. Children listed of the first marriage are: Son Abraham, born October 29, 1856. Baptized August 20, 1876 and married on March 4, 1877; Margaretha, born January 1, 1860. Baptized on August 4, 1878 and married on February 11, 1879; Helena was born March 4, 1862; Anna, born October 6, 1863. Children listed of the second marriage are: Susanna, born September 9, 1873. Died; Susanna, born August 8, 1874; Maria, born August 10, 1876; Johann, born May 5, 1878. The widow of Abraham Loewen (nee Susanna Ratzlav) later married H. Reimer<sup>107</sup>; and then for the third time to Peter Isaac.<sup>108</sup> They had moved to Alberta and she died after they had scarcely been there a few weeks.

<sup>105</sup> He was a son of Isaac Loewen (1787-1873) and a brother to David Loewen, Family No. 4

<sup>106</sup> For additional information, see Peter Isaac, *op. cit.* pages 39-40.

<sup>107</sup> See Family No. 65.

<sup>108</sup> See Family No. 5.

#### Family No. 49 Johann (Johann) Toews from Gruenfeld

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Johann F. Toews <sup>109</sup> (1)	Feb. 25, 1853	Mar. 18, 1873	Mar. 25, 1873	<u>Oct. 20, 1915</u>
Wife Elisabeth Geerki <sup>110</sup>	Aug. 2, 1845	Mar. 18, 1873	Mar. 25, 1873	<u>June 25, 1924</u>

Comments: Moved to America on May 29, 1874. Manitoba. In 1896 Johan F. Toews (born 1853) was resident in Greenland where he died. Children listed are: Johann, born May 17, 1874; Johan Toews (born 1874), married the daughter of Johann Enns from near Morris, Manitoba; Johan Toews (born 1874), was resident at Greenland, Manitoba in 1896. He died of cancer of his eye in August of 1914. Also a son Jacob.

<sup>109</sup> He was the son of Johann Toews (1828-1895), Family No. 44. His mother Katharina Friesen (1831-1856), was the first wife of Johan H. Toews (1826-1895), and was a sister to Johan Friesen (1807-1872), who was the third Aeltester of the Mennonite Kleine Gemeinde. See *Johan P. Friesen, Genealogy Register* (unpublished manuscript) from the John E. Friesen collection, Blumenort, Manitoba. (Courtesy of Rev. Jac. P. Friesen and Roy Loewen).

<sup>110</sup> She was of Catholic origin and joined the Mennonite Kleine Gemeinde in Borosenko. See Aeltester Peter Toews, *1872-1878 Diary*. Perhaps she was working as a maid for one of the Kleine Gemeinde farmers as it was common for them to have employees from the Old Colony or elsewhere.

**Family No. 50 Gerhard (Gerhard) Goossen from Gruenfeld**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Widow of Gerhard Goossen <sup>(1)</sup> (Nee Anna Klassen <sup>710</sup> )	Jan. 27, 1839	1857		<u>Feb. 16, 1927</u>

Comments: Gerhard Goossen was called to the Ministry in the year 1866 and died in Gruenfeld on September 1, 1872. The daughters Katharina <sup>712</sup> and Maria <sup>713</sup> and son Franz <sup>(1)</sup> <sup>714</sup> are in the care of others. This family left for America on May 29, 1874. Manitoba. Children listed are: Peter <sup>(1)</sup>, born August 23, 1870. Anna, born April 26, 1858, and baptised on October 24, 1875. Gerhard <sup>(1)</sup>, born September 30, 1859 and baptised on August 3, 1879.

<sup>710</sup> Her first husband was Gerhard P. Goossen (1836-1872) - a Molotschna school teacher, farmer, and influential and gifted young minister. He was the son of Gerhard Goossen (1811-1854) and Minna Plett (1815-1864). See John F. Goossen *op. cit.*, for a listing of descendants. Minna Plett (1815-1864) was a sister to Cornelius S. Plett, Family No. 70. The widow of Gerhard Goossen (nee Anna Klassen) married for the second time to Johan Hiebert, Family No. 119.

<sup>712</sup> In the care of the Gerhard Schellenberg Family No. 10.

<sup>713</sup> In the care of the Isaac L. Warkentin Family No. 3.

<sup>714</sup> In the care of the Johan Isaac Family No. 47

**Family No. 51 Heinrich (Peter) Wohlgemuth from Gruenfeld**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Heinrich Wohlgemuth <sup>(1)</sup> <sup>715</sup>	April 27, 1849	1868	Nov. 7, 1875	March 4, 1899
Wife Katharina Plett <sup>716</sup>	Feb. 20, 1854	1875	Nov. 7, 1875	<u>Jan. 18, 1944</u>

Comments: Moved to America on June 2, 1874 - Blumehof, Manitoba. Children listed are: Cornelius born September 22, 1876 and died October 7, 1876. Heinrich, born October 3, 1877. Cornelius, born November 6, 1879. In 1896 Heinrich Wohlgemuth was resident in Blumenhof, Manitoba.

<sup>715</sup> For a listing of descendants see Mr. and Mrs. John R. Wohlgemuth, *The Peter Wohlgemuth Genealogy*, (1805-1963), (Peabody, Kansas; Self-published 1963) 61 pages. Heinrich Wohlgemuth was originally from Poland. He had apparently worked for Kleine Gemeinde Farmers at first in the Crimea and later for Cornelius Plett (1820-1900) in Borosenko, and later for Cornelius Loewen, in Gruenfeld. See Cornelius Loewen Diary. Courtesy of Mennonite Genealogy Inc., Winnipeg, Manitoba.

<sup>716</sup> She was a daughter of Cornelius Plett (1820-1900), Family No. 70. see *Plett Picture Book op. cit.*, for the family history.

**Family No. 52 David Unger from Nikolaithal**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
David Unger <sup>717</sup> <sup>(1)</sup>	Nov. 18, 1830	1857		
Wife Maria Warkentin <sup>76</sup>	Nov. 25, 1825	1845	Mar. 10, 1857	

Comments: Moved to America on May 29, 1874. David Unger moved from Manitoba to Oregon in 1890. Children listed of the first marriage are: Abraham, born August 19, 1854 and baptized on October 24, 1875. Children listed of the second marriage are: David <sup>(1)</sup>, born September 10, 1861; Jacob <sup>(1)</sup>, born January 16, 1863; Judith, born August 16, 1858. In 1896 David Unger (born 1830) and his son Jacob Unger (1863) were resident in Oregon. In 1896 son David Unger (born 1861) was resident in Hochstaedt.

<sup>717</sup> The writer again appeals for any information which the reader may have regarding this family. The 1881 R. M. of Hanover assessment records show a David Unger family to be living in the Mennonite Kleine Gemeinde settlement of Heuboden. See also *History and Events, op. cit.*, pages 65 and 68. Here it is also noted that a Wilhelm Vogt <sup>(1)</sup>, resident of Steinbach, Manitoba, in 1896, is also referred to in the special index.

**Family No. 53 Gerhard (Heinrich) Friesen from Schoenfeld (Crimea)**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Gerhard Friesen <sup>118</sup> <sup>(1)</sup>	Feb. 3, 1852	May 1, 1871		1922
Wife Maria Wiebe <sup>39</sup>		Feb. 28, 1871	June 10, 1873	

Comments: Left for America on July 18, 1874. Manitoba. Later to North Dakota. In 1896 Gerhard Friesen was resident in North Dakota. Children listed are: Maria, born February 14, 1875, and died August 27, 1876; Gerhard, born July 2, 1876; Maria, born February 11, 1878; Heinrich, born April 27, 1879. Sons Gerhard <sup>(1)</sup> and Heinrich <sup>(1)</sup> were resident in North Dakota in 1896.

<sup>118</sup> He was the son of Heinrich Friesen (1827-1877), Family No. 112.

**Family No. 54 Jacob (Jacob) Wiebe from Annafeld**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Jacob Wiebe <sup>119</sup>	Mar. 9, 1829	May 15, 1849;	May 13, 1856	Feb. 19, 1901
Wife Anna Isaak <sup>120</sup>	April 31, 1832	May, 1851	May 13, 1856	Jan. 15, 1896

Comments: Left for America on July 18, 1874. Blumenort, Manitoba. Jakob Wiebe died at the age of nearly 70 years. Children listed are: Johann, born April 25, 1862; Peter, born March 24, 1874; Anna, born October 28, 1868; Elisabeth, born July 25, 1875.

<sup>119</sup> He was a son of Jakob Wiebe (1799-1856) See Rev. Frank P. Wiebe *op cit.*, pages 7-25 for a listing of descendants.

<sup>120</sup> She was a daughter of Johan Isaac (1809-1863). See Family No. 47. This was one of the numerous families which had originally moved to Markuslandt on rented land, and they later moved to Borosenko. See Peter Isaac, *op. cit.*, pages 17-19, for additional information of this family.

**Family No. 55 Jacob (Jacob) Enns from Annafeld**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Jacob Enns <sup>38</sup> <sup>(1)</sup>	Feb. 24, 1843	May 28, 1862	Dec. 24, 1865	June 11, 1917
Wife Maria Cornelson <sup>121</sup>	April 3, 1844	May 20, 1862	Dec. 24, 1865	Oct. 12, 1913

Comments: Left for America on July 21, 1874. Manitoba. Later to Nebraska. In 1896 Jacob Enns was resident in Nebraska. Children listed are: Maria, born June 27, 1869; Anne, born January 2, 1877.

<sup>121</sup> She was a daughter of Gerhard S. Kornelsen Family No. 122. See *Kornelsen Family Records*, Unpublished Family Study, by Harry S. Friesen, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

**Family No. 56 Cornelius (Klaas) Friesen from Annafeld**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Cornelius Friesen <sup>122</sup>	Nov. 25, 1810	June 8, 1830	Mar. 21, 1840	Feb. 16, 1892
Wife Maria Rempel <sup>123</sup>	Oct. 26, 1819	May 12, 1839	Mar. 21, 1840	Mar. 3, 1897

Comments: Left for America on July 21, 1874. Blumenort, Manitoba. Children listed are: Cornelius, born March 14, 1852; Marten, born February 12, 1856 and died March 6, 1876; Maria, born February 21, 1844 and baptized May 12, 1863; Anna, born January 26, 1848 and baptized on May 10, 1869; Margaretha, born March 31, 1854 and baptized on May 20, 1874; Helena, born February 12, 1859; Susanna, born January 24, 1864.

<sup>122</sup> This family of Friesens, to my knowledge, was not related to the other Kleine Gemeinde Friesens who were descendants from Abraham von Riesen (1756-1810). For more information about Cornelius Friesen (1810-1892) and his family see Helene Janke, *op. cit.*, Mrs. Peter H.

Unger (Family No. 19) was his daughter. Also Mrs. Peter Penner, Family No. 11. Cornelius F. Friesen (1810-1892) was a veteran Mennonite Kleine Gemeinde school teacher teaching in various Molotschna schools from 1837-1864 when the family moved first to Markuslandt and later to Annafeld, Borosenko. (Courtesy of an unpublished family study by Harry S. Friesen, Winnipeg, Manitoba).

<sup>123</sup> She was a daughter of Abraham Rempel (1798-1878). See Family No. 22. Considerable additional information regarding this family will be found in the history of the Blumenort Community by Roy Loewen, *op. cit.*

### Family No. 57 Cornelius (Gerhard) Goossen from Annafeld

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Cornelius Goossen <sup>124 (1)</sup>	Nov. 30, 1839	May 15, 1860	Feb. 7, 1871	Jan. 18, 1916
Wife Katharina Barkman <sup>125</sup>	Aug. 4, 1854	Dec. 6, 1870	Feb. 7, 1871	Dec. 5, 1912

Comments: Left for America on July 18, 1874. Steinbach, Manitoba. Mrs. Goossen died unnoticed overnight and was found dead. Cornelius Goossen died of the weakness of old age in Winnipeg at the place of his children, P. Esaus. In 1896 Cornelius P. Goossen was resident in Steinbach, Manitoba. Children listed are: Cornelius<sup>(1)</sup>, born June 16, 1876; Heinrich, born October 26, 1874, Katharina, born January 14, 1879. In 1896, son Cornelius Goossen (born 1876) was resident in Steinbach (N. 18)

<sup>124</sup> A son of Gerhard Goossen (1811-1854) See John R. Goossen *op. cit.*, pages 8 and 105-106 for a listing of descendants. See Family No. 50.

<sup>125</sup> She was a daughter of Rev. Jacob Barkman (1825-1875) who drowned in the Red River. For a listing of descendants see Waldon A. Barkman, *op. cit.*, pages 11-14. See Family No. 98.

### Family No. 58 Martin Klassen from Annafeld

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Martin Klassen <sup>126</sup>	Feb. 23, 1822	May 23, 1840		
Wife Margaretha Toews <sup>127</sup>	Mar. 18, 1829	May, 1849	Nov. 23, 1854	July 26, 1913

Comments: Martin Klassen has renounced the Gemeinde in the month of May. Martin Klassen moved to Kansas from Manitoba in 1875. After his death there, his widow married Gerhard Buschman. After she had been a widow for many years she died of weakness of old age. She had attained the age of 89 years. Children listed of the first marriage are: Elisabeth, born May 7, 1852 and baptized on March 18, 1873. Children listed of the second marriage are: Jakob, born January 17, 1857; Peter, born September 11, 1859; Cornelius, born August 4, 1871; Anna, born October 15, 1855; Margaretha, born October 2, 1862; Katherina, born July 14, 1868.

<sup>126</sup> John P. Friesen has noted in his *Genealogy Register, op. cit.*, that Martin Klassen immigrated to America in the fall of 1874 together with Gerhard Warkentin. (See Family No. 114) With this clue and a detailed search of the Quebec Passenger Lists, 1873-1878 (Courtesy of Lawrence Klippenstein/Mennonite Heritage Centre, Winnipeg), the writer was able to ascertain that this family had traveled to Canada on the S.S. Polynesia, arriving in Quebec on November 9, 1874. This confirms the information received from Mrs. Jane Friesen, Fresno, California, in 1980, that this family was believed to have come to Gnadenu, Kansas, via Manitoba.

<sup>127</sup> She was a sister of Peter W. Toews (1831-1922). See Aeltester Peter Toews, *Cornelius Toews (1737-1800) Genealogy op. cit.*, page 3. Also see family No. 7. The first wife of Martin Klassen was Elisabeth Toews (born 1821) a daughter of Johan Toews (1793-1873) and a half sister to Aeltester Peter Toews. (Family No. 66) and a full sister to Johann Toews (1826-1895) (Family No. 44). See Aeltester Peter Toews. *Cornelius Toews Genealogy (1737-1800) op cit.*

**Family No. 59 Abraham (Johann) Dueck from Annafeld**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Abraham Dueck <sup>128</sup>	Feb. 16, 1841	June 4, 1861	Feb. 27, 1862	July 18, 1899
Wife, Elisabeth Rempel <sup>129</sup>	Oct. 4, 1842	June 4, 1861	Feb. 27, 1862	Nov. 17, 1901

Comments: Left for America on July 21, 1874. Gruenfeld, Manitoba. He was the Aeltester of the Kleine Gemeinde at the time of his death. He died in Gruenfeld, of a kidney disease at the age of 58 years. Children listed are: Johan, born November 19, 1863; Abraham, born February 13, 1866; Elisabeth, born August 14, 1867; Maria, born April 29, 1874; Helena, born July 4, 1876; Heinrich, born February 13, 1878.

<sup>128</sup> For a listing of his descendants and a family history see, Peter H. Dueck et al, *Abraham L. and Elizabeth Dueck and their descendants* (1965, Self-published, Kleefeld, Manitoba), 78 pages. Johan Dueck (1801-1866), the father of Abraham Dueck (1841-1899), had been a leading minister of the Mennonite Kleine Gemeinde in Russia. For more history of this prominent family see *History and Events, op. cit.*, pages 85-87 and 127-128.

<sup>129</sup> She was a niece of Mrs. Abraham F. Reimer (1814-1893), Family No. 31. See Heinrich Rempel, *Seeliniste, op. cit.* Her father Peter Rempel (1814-1872) was a twin to Elisabeth Rempel (1814-1893), the wife of Abraham F. Reimer (1808-1892). See Family No. 31.

**Family No. 60 Klaas (Cornelius) Friesen from Annafeld**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Klaas Friesen <sup>130</sup>	Nov. 6, 1838	May, 1859	April 23, 1861	July 15, 1922
Wife Maria Devehr <sup>98</sup>	Mar. 5, 1842	May 15, 1860	April 23, 1861	May 10, 1916

Comments: To America on July 21, 1874. Steinbach, Manitoba. <sup>131</sup> In 1896 Klass Friesen was resident in Steinbach, Manitoba. Children listed are: Cornelius, born 1869; Maria, born April 15, 1875; Jacob, born April 10, 1878.

<sup>130</sup> He was a son of Cornelius Friesen (1810-1892) Family No. 56.

<sup>131</sup> For additional information on this family, and other families who established the village of Steinbach, Manitoba, see Abe Warkentin, *op. cit.* A brief history of the Klaas Friesen family is found at page 39. See also John C. Reimer, Chairman; *75 Gedenkfeier, op. cit.*, page 129, for a picture of the Mennonite house-barn which this family built in 1880. Regrettably this building was demolished in 1960 by a developer. The structure had been an excellent example of early Manitoba-Mennonite architecture.

**Family No. 61 Johann Koop from Neuanlage**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Johann Koop <sup>132</sup>	Feb. 4, 1831	1851	Nov. 8, 1853	Jan. 25, 1897
Wife Katherina Barkman <sup>133</sup>	April 4, 1832	1850	Nov. 8, 1853	July 28, 1923

Comments: To America on June 2, 1874. Neuanlage, Manitoba. Children listed are: Jakob, born June 11, 1858, and baptized August 4, 1878; Johann, born May 31, 1863; Peter, born January 7, 1870; Katharina, born January 24, 1857, and baptized May 20, 1874; Anganetha, born October 12, 1859, and baptized August 4, 1878; Gertrude, born November 25, 1861, and baptized on August 4, 1878; Helena, born February 8, 1865; Maria, born June 10, 1868.

<sup>132</sup> For a listing of his descendants see Mr. and Mrs. Peter Martens, et al, (*The Koop Family Register, (1801-1975)*, (1975, self-published, Blumenort, Manitoba), 296 pages. Apparently, Johan Koop (1826-1897) was a substantial farmer in Russia, having many Russian workers. Mrs. Koop in her later years frequently related of how poorly the Russian and Mennonite employees were treated by other Mennonites (i.e. other than in the Kleine Gemeinde which had an absolute policy against the mistreatment of employees, whether Russian or Mennonite).

<sup>133</sup> She was the sister of Peter K. Barkman, (1826-1917) Family No. 15, and a daughter of Jacob Barkman, (1794-1875).

**Family No. 62 Peter (Isaac) Loewen from Neuanlage**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Peter Loewen <sup>134</sup>	Aug. 29, 1853	Aug. 13, 1872	Dec. 24, 1872	Nov. 16, 1917
Wife Anna Koop <sup>135</sup>	Dec. 6, 1854	Aug. 13, 1872	Dec. 24, 1872	<u>Oct. 2, 1890</u>

Comments: To America on June 2, 1874. Neuanlage, Manitoba. Children listed are: Katherina, born November 12, 1874; Anna, born May 1, 1876; Johann, born September 11, 1877; Maria, born February 6, 1879.

<sup>134</sup> Son of Isaac W. Loewen (1815-1856) who was the oldest brother to David Loewen (1836-1915) Family No. 4. For a listing of descendants of Peter W. Loewen (1859-1917) See Dr. Solomon Loewen *op. cit.*, Isaac Loewen Section.

<sup>135</sup> She was a daughter of Johan Koop (1831-1897) see Family No. 61.

**Family No. 63 Heinrich (Heinrich) Reimer from Blumenhof**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Heinrich Reimer <sup>136 (1)</sup>	Feb. 8, 1818	Yes	July 9, 1860	Feb. 25, 1876
Wife Margaretha <sup>137</sup> Warkentin	Sept. 1, 1841	Yes	<u>July 9, 1860</u>	April 11, 1913

Comments: Left Russia for Manitoba on May 4, 1875. Reimer's widow, nee Warkentin, later married Johann L. Plett.<sup>138</sup> She died April 11, 1913, in Blumenhof, Manitoba. Children of Heinrich Reimer (1818-1876) are listed as follows: Johann<sup>(1)</sup>, born March 29, 1861; Isaac<sup>(1)</sup>, born August 2, 1864; Aron<sup>(1)</sup>, born March 17, 1866; Jakob<sup>(1)</sup>, born October 27, 1873; Anna, born Aug. 28, 1871. Sons, Peter<sup>(1)</sup> and Abraham<sup>(1)</sup>, born September 14, 1875. In 1896 Johan W. Reimer (born 1861) is resident in Blumenhof, Manitoba. In 1896, Jakob W. Reimer (born 1873) is resident in Hochstaedt, Manitoba. In 1896, son Isaac W. Reimer (born 1864) is resident in Greenland, Manitoba. In 1896, son Aron W. Reimer (born 1866) is resident in Steinbach.

<sup>136</sup> He was the son of Heinrich Reimer (1791-1884) Family No. 64. In 1874 he served as a delegate with Cornelius Plett (1820-1900) and Aeltester Peter Toews to meet with Governor-General Todtleben. See Peter Toews, *1872-1878 Diary*. See *Plett Picture Book, op. cit.*, for additional information about this family. Also see Roy Loewen, *op. cit.* For additional information about the families who settled in the village of Blumenhoff, Manitoba. Rev. Abraham B. Klassen, in his *Life's Experiences, op. cit.*, page 82, reports that Heinrich Reimer (1818-1876) was married three times. The first marriage was to a Margaretha Enns, who died on November 28, 1842. His second marriage was to Helena Friesen who was a sister to Aeltester Johan Friesen (1803-1872). Apparently these Friesens were known as the "large" or "big" Friesens. The third marriage of Heinrich Reimer (1818-1876) was to Margaretha Warkentin. In the special index Peter Toews has also referred to a Peter J. Friesen<sup>(1)</sup>, who resided in Blumenhof in 1896, and who is listed under Family No. 63.

<sup>137</sup> She was a daughter to Johan Warkentin (1817-1886) Family No. 1.

<sup>138</sup> See Family No. 70 and 147.

**Family No. 64 Heinrich Reimer from Blumenhof**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Heinrich Reimer <sup>139 (1)</sup>	May 9, 1791	Yes		<u>July 12, 1884</u>
Wife Helena Loewen <sup>140</sup>	Feb. 12, 1806	Yes		Nov. 13, 1879

<sup>139</sup> There is no known relationship to Abraham F. Reimer, Family No. 31. For a listing of the children of Heinrich Reimer (1791-1884) see Heinrich Rempel, *Seelenliste, op. cit.* He was also the father of Mrs. David Loewen (nee Anne Reimer), Family No. 4. He was also the grandfather of the wife of Abraham L. Dueck (1841-1899) (Family No. 59), as his daughter Elisabeth Reimer (1815-1879) was the wife of Peter Rempel (1814-1872). A brief memorial, written by Heinrich Reimer (1791-1884) to his granddaughter Maria Brandt, is found in *History and Events op. cit.*, pages 128-130.

<sup>140</sup> She was the widow of Rev. Johann Dueck (1801-1866) and the mother of Abraham L. Dueck (1841-1899), Family No. 59; Johann L. Dueck (1833-1894) Family No. 117; etc. See *History and Events, op. cit.*, pages 85-88.

### Family No. 65 Heinrich (Heinrich) Reimer from Blumenhof

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Heinrich Reimer <sup>141</sup> <sup>(1)</sup>	Sept. 2, 1845	1864	Feb. 10, 1865	March, 1900
Wife Katharina Sawatzki <sup>146</sup>	Oct. 6, 1846	1864	Feb. 10, 1865	

Comments: To America on June 2, 1874. Manitoba. <sup>141</sup> <sup>a</sup> Children listed are: Katharina, born March 10, 1866, and died March 31, 1917; Margaretha, born August 24, 1874, and died November 27, 1877; Heinrich, born September 25, 1876, and died November 17, 1877; Maria, born November 27, 1878. In 1896 Heinrich Reimer (born 1845) was resident in Gruenfeld, Manitoba.

<sup>141</sup> He was the son of Heinrich Reimer (1818-1876) by his second marriage to Helena Friesen (1823-1859), who was the youngest sister of Aeltester Johan Friesen (1808-1972). See Johan P. Friesen, *Familienbuch*, unpublished, *op. cit.*, see also *History and Events, op. cit.*, pages 53, 65, 77 and 131. Heinrich Reimer (1845-1900) married for the second time to Susanna Ratzloff, the widow of Rev. Abraham Loewen; Family No. 48.

<sup>141</sup> <sup>a</sup> Blumenort, Manitoba. Heinrich Reimer (1845-1900) was the first minister to be elected by the East Reserve Mennonite Kleine Gemeinde at a Ministerial Election held on January 22, 1876.

### Family No. 66 Peter (Johann) Toews from Blumenhof

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Peter Toews <sup>142</sup> <sup>(1)</sup>	July 24, 1841	June 4, 1861	Nov. 12, 1863	Nov. 2, 1922
Wife Anna Warkentin <sup>143</sup>	Feb. 12, 1843	1862	Nov. 12, 1863	<u>Mar. 12, 1925</u>

Comments: Left for America on May 3, 1875. Arrived on the Rat River in Manitoba on June 29, 1875. Four children had already died in Russia. Three children died in America. Children listed are: Peter <sup>(1)</sup>, born May 29, 1874. Johann, born October 12, 1876, and died February 18, 1877; Maria, born December 17, 1877; foster son, Isaac Wiens <sup>(1)</sup>, born May 5, 1865; foster daughter, Anna Broeski <sup>(1)</sup>, born July 6, 1869. In 1896 Peter Toews (born 1841) was resident in Gruenfeld, Manitoba. In 1896 son P. P. W. Toews (born 1874) was also resident in Gruenfeld, Manitoba. In 1896 foster son Isaac Wiens (born 1865) was also resident in Gruenfeld, Manitoba.

<sup>142</sup> Aeltester Peter Toews. His father <sup>(1)</sup> (1793-1873) was an older brother to Jakob Toews (1805-1873) See Family No. 7.

<sup>143</sup> She was a daughter of Johann Warkentin (1817-1886) and Anna Loewen (1819-1874) See Family No. 1.

Widow Johan Toews  
(nee Maria Plett)<sup>144</sup>

Mar. 30, 1811 Yes Sept. 2, 1835 1895

Comments: Johan Toews <sup>(1)</sup> died on May 15, 1873, at the age of 79 years. Daughter Maria was born on December 15, 1854, and was baptized on August 19, 1872. Maria died on December 3, 1918, in Reedley, California.

<sup>144</sup> Maria Toews (nee Plett) was a sister to Cornelius Plett (1820-1900). See Family No. 2, 47, 50, 70, 72, etc. She settled in Gnadenau, Kansas, in 1875, together with her children, the Johan P. Goossens. See Peter Toews, *1872-1878 Diary, op. cit.* See also Peter Isaac, *op. cit.*, pages 54-57.

**Family No. 67 Peter (Johann) Dueck from Blumenhof**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Peter Dueck <sup>145</sup>	Oct. 15, 1842	1862	Jan. 1, 1871	Jan. 15, 1887
Wife Susana Loewen <sup>146</sup>	Oct. 7, 1852	Dec. 6, 1870	Jan. 1, 1871	<u>April 6, 1918</u>

Comments: To America on June 2, 1874. Greunfeld, Manitoba. Children listed of the first marriage are: Johann, born March 11, 1865; Peter, born March 29, 1870. Children listed of the second marriage are: Heinrich, born March 21, 1873, and died on August 13, 1874; Susana, born April 29, 1976; Helena, born February 16, 1878; Elisabeth, born December 26, 1879.

<sup>145</sup> He was the son of Rev. Johann Dueck (1801-1866) and a brother to Abram, Johann and Jakob, listed in this book. For a listing of descendants by his first wife, see Rev. Frank P. Wiebe, *op. cit.*, pages 51-58. See also *History and Events, op. cit.*, pages 85-126 for interesting accounts of life in Russia by his son Johan W. Dueck. Peter L. Dueck was one of the veteran Kleine Gemeinde school teachers, having taught in the village of Gnadenthal, in the Molotschna. Later he also taught in Friedensfeld, and in Blumenhof, Borosenko; as well as in Gruenfeld, Manitoba.

<sup>146</sup> She was a daughter of Peter Loewen (1825-1887). See Family No. 40.

**Family No. 68 Johann (Isaak) Loewen from Blumenhof**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Johann Loewen <sup>147 (1)</sup>	Dec. 29, 1823	1843	June 24, 1845	Dec. 2, 1881
Wife Anna Dueck <sup>148</sup>	June 18, 1825	1844	June 24, 1845	<u>April 6, 1887</u>

Comments: Left Russia for Manitoba<sup>149</sup> on May 4, 1875. Children listed are: Isaac, born July 31, 1857, and died on March 29, 1876; Peter<sup>149 a (1)</sup>, born June 6, 1860; Johann, born March 27, 1862; Abraham, born March 19, 1864; Cornelius, born November 17, 1866. In 1896 son Peter Loewen (born 1860) was resident in Morris, Manitoba.

<sup>147</sup> He was a son of Isaac Loewen (1787-1873) and a brother of David Loewen (1836-1915). See Family No. 4. Johann Loewen later became a deacon in the Scratching River Kleine Gemeinde. See *History and Events, op. cit.*, page 87.

<sup>148</sup> She was a daughter of Rev. Johan Dueck (1801-1866) and a sister to Peter L. Dueck (1842-1887), see Family No. 67; and a sister to Abraham L. Dueck, Family No. 59.

<sup>149</sup> In Rosenhoff, Manitoba.

<sup>149 a</sup> For a listing of his descendants see, Willie Toews, *P. D. Loewen Family Ledger 1889-1970* (Linden, Alberta, self-published, 1970), 14 pages.

**Family No. 69 Peter (Johann) Hiebert from Blumenhof**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Peter Hiebert <sup>150 (1)</sup>	Sept. 7, 1846	1865	Jan. 31, 1871	<u>Oct. 27, 1917</u>
Wife Anna Loewen <sup>151</sup>	Dec. 17, 1850	Jan. 1, 1871	Jan. 31, 1871	<u>July 6, 1877</u>
Second wife Anna Goossen <sup>152</sup>	April 26, 1858	Oct. 24, 1875	Nov. 4, 1877	<u>Nov. 20, 1910</u>

Comments: From Russia to Manitoba in 1875. Later to Kansas. In 1896 Peter Hiebert was resident in Kansas. Children listed of the first marriage are: Johann, born April 19, 1872. Children listed of the second marriage are: Peter, born September 20, 1878.

<sup>150</sup> He was a son of Johan Hiebert (1816-1890). For a listing of descendants see, Albert H. Hiebert and John H. Toews. *The Family of Johann Hiebert* (Hillsboro, Kansas. Self-published, 1975), 121 pages. See Family No. 119.

<sup>151</sup> She was a daughter to Johann Loewen (1823-1881). See Family No. 68.

<sup>152</sup> She was the daughter of Rev. Gerhard P. Goossen (1836-1872). See Family No. 50.



**Family No. 70 Cornelius (Johann) Plett from Blumenhof**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Cornelius Plett <sup>153 (1)</sup>	Sept., 1820 <sup>154</sup>	1840	Oct. 26, 1841	Nov. 18, 1900
Wife Sara Loewen <sup>155</sup>	Sept. 12, 1822	1841	Oct. 26, 1841	Mar. 23, 1903

Comments: From Russia to Blumenhof, Manitoba, in 1875. He died of Typhus fever at the age of 80 years and a few days more than a month. N. B. Uncle Plett went to visit his son Johann who was sick with Typhus. He took his leave of the son by hand shake and kiss, without regard to the turning away in religious views of the son. He also became sick of Typhus and died two days after his son, and was buried in the same grave, beside his son, one day after the burial of the son. Aunt Plett died at the age of 80 years and 6 months and was buried on the 26th of March, in Blumenort, Manitoba.

Children listed are: Johan<sup>(1)</sup>, born October 17, 1855, and baptized on August 20, 1876; Peter, born February 6, 1858, and baptized August 4, 1878; Abraham, born May 6, 1859, and baptized August 4, 1878; David, born October 8, 1863; Jakob, born December 12, 1864; Katherina, born February 6, 1854, and baptized on October 21, 1873.

<sup>153</sup> Cornelius Plett (1820-1900) was a brother to: (a) the widow of Johan Toews (nee Maria Plett), see Family No. 66; (b) The widow of Johan Isaac (nee Anna Plett), Family No. 47; (c) The widow of Rev. Klaas Friesen (nee Karolina Plett), see Family No. 72; (d) And Minna Plett who was married firstly to Gerhard Goossen (1811-1854) and secondly to Aeltester Heinrich Enns. See Families No. 125, 50, 57. His oldest sister had married Johan Harder (of Blumstein, Molotschna), who were the parents of Johan Harder (1811-1876) who was the Aeltester of the Halbstadt-Orloff Mennonite Gemeinde during the 1860's to his death. Cornelius Plett (1820-1900) was the son of Johan Plett (1765-1833). See Peter Isaac, *op. cit.*, 49-61. See also Gerhard J. Thielman and Aeltester David P. Reimer. *Plettentag.... July 2, 1945, 1945.* (Self-published, 1945 Blumenort), 52 pages. Also Aeltester David P. Reimer and Gerhard J. Thielman. *Familien register der Nachkommen von Groszeltern Cornelius und Sarah Plett.* (1953, self-published, Blumenort, Manitoba), 140 pages. See also *Plett Picture Book, op. cit.*, 161 pages.

<sup>154</sup> Cornelius Loewen (1827-1893), Family No. 46, lists the birthdate of his brother-in-law Cornelius Plett, as October 1, 1820.

<sup>155</sup> She was a daughter of Isaac Loewen (1787-1873) and a sister to David Loewen (1836-1915) See Family No. 4

Widow Isaac Plett (nee Maria Brandt) <sup>156</sup>	Sept. 23, 1842	1861	Nov., 1863	June 27, 1927
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Comments: Children listed are: Isaac, born May 27, 1867.

<sup>156</sup> She was a sister to Peter R. Brandt (Family No. 18), Klaas R. Brandt (Family No. 32) and Heinrich R. Brandt (Family No. 33). Her husband, Isaac L. Plett, had died in Friedensfeld, South Russia, on July 27, 1871. He had apparently been a successful farmer.

**Family No. 71 Cornelius (Cornelius) Plett from Blumenhof**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Cornelius Plett <sup>157</sup>	Oct. 17, 1846	1865	Mar. 23, 1873	Jan. 3, 1935
Second wife Helena Rempel <sup>158</sup>	Dec. 12, 1843	1862	Mar. 23, 1873	Nov. 23, 1913

Comments: From Russia to Blumenhof, Manitoba, in 1875. Children listed of the first marriage are: Heinrich, born June 11, 1870; Sarah, born November 7, 1871. Children listed of the second marriage are: Helena, born August 15, 1875; Cornelius, born June 30, 1879.

<sup>157</sup> He was a son of Cornelius Plett (1820-1900). See Family No. 70. His first wife, Sara T. Enns was a daughter of Aeltester H. Enns. See Family No. 125.

<sup>158</sup> She was a daughter of Abraham Rempel (1798-1878), see Family No. 22. She was a sister to Martin Rempel whose widow settled in Rosenort in 1876. See Family No. 141.

**Family No. 72 Klaas (Abraham) Friesen from Blumenhof**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Klaas Friesen <sup>159</sup>				Oct. 12, 1871
Karolina Friesen (nee Plett) <sup>160</sup>	March, 1823	1840	June 20, 1843	<u>Feb. 11, 1887</u>

Comments: Left for America, Manitoba (Blumenort) on June 2, 1874. In 1877 the widow Friesen and her family moved to Nebraska where she died. Children listed are Heinrich, born August 14, 1857; David, born November 4, 1860; Anna, born December 23, 1849. Daughter Anna married widower Klaas Koop and died in Nebraska on October 27, 1912 at the age of 63. At the time of her death her husband was 87 years old. Anna was baptized on December 6, 1870. Maria, born July 21, 1862; Klaas Friesen, born February 2, 1854 and baptized on March 18, 1873.

<sup>159</sup> He was the son of Abraham von Riesen (1756-1810). For a listing of the descendants of Klaas Friesen see Abram P. Friesen, *et al.*, *The Von Riesen-Friesen Genealogy 1756-1966*, (1966 self-published, Blumenort, Manitoba), 240 pages. Klaas Friesen (1793-1870) served the Menonite Kleine Gemeinde as a deacon and Minister from 1826 until shortly before his death i.e. for over 40 years. See also Peter Isaac, *op. cit.*, pages 19, and 64-66. The reader is asked to note that the words "after living with" should be inserted just prior to the last two words in the eighth line from the bottom on page 19.

<sup>160</sup> She was a sister to Cornelius Plett (1820-1900). See Family No. 70. The widow Klaas Friesen (nee Karolina Plett) married for the second time to Isaac Harms (1811-1892), the father of Johan Harms (Family No. 92) and Peter Harms (Family No. 93).

**Family No. 73 Abraham (Klaas) Friesen from Blumenhof**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Abraham Friesen <sup>161</sup>	Dec. 6, 1834	1854	June 4, 1856	Aug. 10, 1908
Wife Margaretha Isaak <sup>162</sup>	Dec. 12, 1833	1853	June 4, 1856	<u>Feb. 1, 1919</u>

Comments: Left for America on July 18, 1874. Blumenort, Manitoba. Abraham Friesen died at the age of 73 years. His widow died in Greenland at the age of 85 years. Children listed are: Johan, born January 3, 1860 and baptized Aug. 3, 1879; Abraham, born May 29, 1862; Klaas, born February 7, 1868. Isaac, born November 6, 1870; Peter<sup>(1)</sup>, born November 21, 1873; Margaretha, born November 2, 1864. In 1896 Peter I. Friesen was resident in Blumenhof.

<sup>161</sup> He was the son of Klaas Friesen (1793-1871). See Family No. 72.

<sup>162</sup> She was a daughter of Johan Isaac (1809-1863) and Anna Plett (1813-1887). See Family No. 47. Also see Peter Isaac *op. cit.*, pages 15-20 and pages 60-66. Also see the Blumenort Community history by Roy Loewen.

**Family No. 74 Cornelius (Klaas) Friesen from Blumenhof**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Cornelius Friesen <sup>163</sup>	May 18, 1844	1863	April 20, 1869	Aug. 8, 1899
Wife Agatha Klassen <sup>164</sup>	April 26, 1848	1867	April 20, 1869	April 12, 1902

Comments: Left for America on June 2, 1874. Blumenort, Manitoba. He died of inflammation of the intestines. His wife widow Friesen died instantaneously at the table. Blumenort, Manitoba. Children listed are: Agatha, born July 13, 1871; Anna, born July 15, 1874; Margaretha, born June 30, 1876; Cornelius, born September 11, 1877; Johann, born December 18, 1878.

<sup>163</sup> He was the son of Klaas Friesen (1793-1871). See Family No. 72. Cornelius P. Friesen served as a school teacher in Blumenort and Blumenhof from 1874 until his death in 1899. See Peter Isaac, *op. cit.*, page 60-61.

<sup>164</sup> She was a daughter of Martin Klassen (born 1822). (See Family No. 58) by his first wife Elisabeth H. Toews (born 1821-1852), who was a sister to Johan H. Toews. See Family No. 44.

**Family No. 75 Johann (Klaas) Friesen from Blumenhof**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Johann Friesen <sup>165</sup>	Oct. 20, 1847	1866	Dec. 2, 1869	Dec. 18, 1920
Wife Maria Eidse <sup>166</sup>	Sept. 15, 1848	1869	Dec. 2, 1869	Mar. 4, 1934

Comments: From Russia to Manitoba in 1875. Children listed are: Maria, born October 5, 1870; Anna, born January 9, 1873 and Helena, born March 17, 1878.

<sup>165</sup> He was a son of Klaas Friesen (1793-1871). See Family No. 72. It can be seen from his writings that he was a genealogist of considerable capability and talent. He settled in the Scratching River settlement and for a time also lived in the village of Blumenort, Manitoba. For additional information about the Johan P. Friesen family see Junia Loewen, *Johan P. Friesen Family*, unpublished research paper, Steinbach Bible College, 1982, 26 pages.

<sup>166</sup> She was a sister to Abraham E. Eidse. See Family No. 134. Her parents were Abraham Eidse (1811-1893) and Anna Enns (1817-1864). Anna Enns (1817-1864) was a sister to Aeltester Heinrich Enns (1807-1881), Family No. 125.

**Family No. 76 Peter (Jakob) Wiebe from Blumenhof**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Peter Wiebe <sup>167 (1)</sup>	Mar. 31, 1835	1856	Sept. 15, 1857	July 14, 1902
Wife Elisabeth Toews <sup>168</sup>	Oct. 18, 1838	1857	Sept. 15, 1857	Mar. 20, 1912

Comments: Left for America on June 4, 1874. Blumenort, Manitoba. Peter Wiebe died in Greenland, Manitoba. Mrs. Wiebe died in Needles, British Columbia. Children listed are: Peter<sup>(1)</sup>, born April 11, 1860 and baptized on August 3, 1879; Johann Wiebe<sup>(1)</sup>, born October 20, 1865; Jakob<sup>(1)</sup>, born June 3, 1868; Elisabeth, born November 20, 1873; Anna, born January 13, 1874. In 1896 Peter Wiebe (born 1835) and his son Jacob Wiebe (born 1868) were resident in Greenland, Manitoba and his son Johan Wiebe (born 1865) was resident near Morris, Manitoba.

<sup>167</sup> He was the son of Jakob Wiebe (1799-1854) and a brother to Henry Wiebe (1851-1876). See Family No. 21. He was the senior deacon in the Blumenhof Mennonite Kleine Gemeinde at the time of the immigration to Manitoba. (See *History and Events*, *op. cit.*); and a leading community figure in Blumenort, Manitoba, during the pioneer years.

<sup>168</sup> She was a daughter of Jakob Toews (1805-1873) and a sister to Peter W. Toews. See Family No. 7.

**Family No. 77 Abraham (Abraham) Reimer from Blumenhof**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Abraham Reimer <sup>169</sup>	Sept. 3, 1841	1860		May 25, 1891
Second wife Maria Reimer <sup>170</sup>	Aug. 3, 1847	1866	Oct. 14, 1866	Aug. 20, 1916

Comments: Left for America on June 2, 1874. Blumenort, Manitoba. Children listed of the first marriage are: Abraham, born July 5, 1862; Klaas, born October 24, 1864. Children listed of the second marriage are: Elisabeth, born October 1, 1867; Heinrich, born February 10, 1869 and died October 14, 1874; Peter, born August 14, 1870; Johann born August 22, 1872; a son, born May 1874; Heinrich, born June 27, 1876; Maria, born September 7, 1878.

<sup>169</sup> He was the son of Abraham F. Reimer (1808-1892). See Family No. 31. He was also one of the leading pioneer figures in Blumenort.

<sup>170</sup> She was the daughter of Heinrich Reimer (1818-1876). (See Family No. 63), by his second marriage to Helena Friesen (1823-1859), who was a sister to Johan Friesen (1808-1872), the third Aeltester of the Mennonite Kleine Gemeinde. See Family No. 64.

**Family No. 78 Wilhelm (Gerhard) Giesbrecht from Blumenhof**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Wilhelm Giesbrecht <sup>171</sup> <sup>(1)</sup>	July 4, 1849	Jan. 1, 1871		July 8, 1917
Wife Elisabeth Harms <sup>36</sup>	Oct. 1, 1854	Aug., 1872	Jan. 6, 1873	May 11, 1874
Second Wife Katharina Friesen <sup>172</sup>			Jan. 10, 1875	<u>Oct. 22, 1938</u>

Comments: Left for America on June 2, 1874. Steinbach, Manitoba. Wilhelm Giesbrecht died in Steinbach of stomach cancer. In 1896 W. Giesbrecht was resident in Steinbach, Manitoba. Children listed of the first marriage: Gerhard, born April 4, 1874 and died August 9, 1874; Children listed of the second marriage are: Wilhelm, born November 26, 1875; Jakob, born December 21, 1876, died January 29, 1877; Gerhard, born February 13, 1878.

<sup>171</sup> He was the son of Gerhard Giesbrecht by his second wife Aganetha Thiessen (1825-1912). See Gerhard F. Giesbrecht, Memoir of *Gerhard F. Giesbrecht* (1960, self-published, Steinbach, Manitoba), page 11.

<sup>172</sup> She was a daughter of Jakob K. Friesen (1822-1875). See Family No. 102.

Widow of Gerhard Giesbrecht <sup>(1)</sup> (nee Aganetha Thiessen)	July 8, 1825	1844		June 7, 1912
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Comments: The widow Giesbrecht<sup>173</sup> died of weakness of old age at the age of 87 years. Children listed are: Elizabeth, born April 29, 1855, and baptized in October 1875; Jakob, born June 18, 1861.

<sup>173</sup> Her husband Gerhard Giesbrecht (1816-1863) was also the father of Gerhard Giesbrecht (1846-1907), by his first wife, Eva Ratzlaf. See Family No. 106. Other children of the second marriage were: a) Aganetha, Mrs. Jakob T. Barkman (Family No. 16); b) Margaret, Mrs. Jakob S. Friesen (Family No. 103). (Courtesy of Mrs. Irene Toews, Vermilion, Alberta, who is researching the history of this Giesbrecht Family).

**Family No. 79 Cornelius (Abraham) Eidse from Neuanlage**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Cornelius Eidse <sup>174</sup> <sup>(1)</sup>	Aug. 26, 1840	1860		<u>Oct. 30, 1914</u>
Second wife Helena Loewen <sup>175</sup>	Feb. 24, 1855	Oct. 21, 1873	Feb. 10, 1874	<u>Oct. 28, 1886</u>
Foster son David Friesen				

Comments: Left for America on June 2, 1874. Rosenort near Morris. They moved to Texas in 1892. Children listed of the first marriage are: Cornelius, born October 5, 1867; Aganetha, born June 21, 1865. Children listed of the second marriage are: Anna, born July 1, 1875; Helena, born January 14, 1878; Abraham, born September 12, 1879. In 1896, Cornelius Eidse was resident in Texas.

<sup>174</sup> He was a son of Abraham Eidse (1811-1875) and Anna Enns (1817-1864) and a brother to Abraham E. Eidse. See Family No. 134. His first wife was Katharina B. Klassen (1843-1873), the daughter of delegate David Klassen (1813-1900). See Family No. 82.

<sup>175</sup> She was a daughter of Johann Loewen (1823-1881). See Family No. 68.

**Family No. 80 Heinrich (Heinrich) Razlaw from Heuboden**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Heinrich Razlaw <sup>176</sup>	Mar. 6, 1848	1867	Aug. 18, 1868	<u>June 6, 1922</u>
Wife Aganetha Janzen <sup>177</sup>	May 23, 1850	1868	Aug. 18, 1868	<u>Dec. 16, 1881</u>

Comments: Left for America on May 29, 1874. Moved to Nebraska in 1875. Children listed are: Heinrich, born October 14, 1869; Cornelius, born May 16, 1871.

<sup>176</sup> He was the son of Heinrich Ratzloff and Anna Harms. See Heinrich Ratzloff, *Experiences of my Youth and later Life*, unpublished manuscript, page 1 (Courtesy of Peter J. Wiens, Ottawa/Mennonite Heritage Centre).

<sup>177</sup> She was a sister to Johann Janzen, Family No. 6. From the Cornelius P. Janzen writings (Courtesy of the Mennonite Village Museum, Steinbach, Manitoba).

Widow Ratzloff<sup>176</sup> June 18, 1808 Oct. 25, 1874  
Nee Anna Harms

<sup>178</sup> The David L. Plett *Sterbe Register* has the notation that the widow Ratzloff apparently was the first adult to die in Manitoba from among the Mennonite Kleine Gemeinde.

<sup>178</sup> She was a sister to Isaac Harms, the father of Jacob and Peter Harms. (See Families No. 92 and 93). See Heinrich Ratzloff, *op. cit.*, and Johan K. Esau, *The Esau Family Tree* (unpublished manuscript) page 12 (Courtesy of Victor Goossen, Rosenort). She was the widow of Peter Dueck and together they were the parents of Peter Dueck (1837-1931). See Family No. 95.

### Family No. 81 Peter Kroeker

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Peter Kroeker <sup>179</sup>	June 20, 1840	1860	Aug. 2, 1860	Apr. 15, 1915
Wife Margaretha Braun <sup>180</sup>	Mar. 22, 1841	1860	Aug. 2, 1860	<u>Mar. 1, 1919</u>

Comments: Left for America on June 2, 1874. Rosenort, Manitoba. Peter Kroeker died in the village of Rosenort, after almost a year of suffering. He had attained an age of almost 75 years. Children listed are: Margaretha, born July 25, 1866; Anna, born July 12, 1876; Franz, born January 17, 1879.

<sup>179</sup> He was a brother to Franz Kroeker. See Family No. 27. He was a Minister of the Mennonite Kleine Gemeinde at the time of the emigration from Russia. Aeltester Toews has not recorded the last place of residence in Russia.

<sup>180</sup> She was a daughter of Isaac Braun (1815-1859) and Margaretha Loewen (1817-1883). Margaretha Loewen (1817-1883) married for the second time to Jakob Friesen (1820-1880). See Family No. 86. Mrs. Franz Froese (Family No. 91) was her sister.

### Family No. 82 David Klassen from Heuboden

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
David Klassen <sup>181</sup>	Aug. 30, 1813	1830	Oct. 31, 1835	Oct. 12, 1900
Aganetha Brandt <sup>182</sup>	Nov. 14, 1816	1835	Oct. 31, 1835	Sept. 13, 1904

Comments: Moved to America on June 2, 1874. Rosenort, Manitoba. Children listed are: Peter, born September 20, 1852 and baptized in 1872; Jakob, born March 17, 1858 and baptized on January 17, 1878; Helena, born December 18, 1861 and baptized on January 31, 1879. Grandchildren, namely, children of Aeltester Johan Friesen who died (in 1872) in Rosenfeld, are listed as follows: Johan Friesen, born July 7, 1857 and baptized on December 18, 1875; Aganetha, born April 11, 1863; Maria, born February 23, 1869.

<sup>146</sup> For a listing of his descendants see Gertrude Klassen, et al. *The Family Book of David and Anganetha Klassen 1813-1900*, (1974, self-published, Rosenort, Manitoba), 357 pages. In 1873 he was the delegate to America for the Heubodner Mennonite Kleine Gemeinde. Regrettably, no information has to date been found regarding the parents of David Klassen (1813-1900).

<sup>182</sup> Was she possibly an aunt to Peter R. Brandt, (Family No. 18)? Again, any information on this point would be greatly appreciated.\*

\*In his memoirs Rev. Abraham B. Klassen reports that his mother was born in Russia in the village of Neukirch. He also reports that his father, David Klassen, was born in West Prussia in Pietzihndorf and came to Russia in 1833. Their oldest daughter, Elizabeth B. Klassen, who became the wife of Johan Friesen, the third Aeltester of the Kleine Gemeinde, was born in RUECKENAU.

**Family No. 83 Klaas (Jakob) Wiebe from Heuboden**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Klaas Wiebe <sup>183</sup> (1)	Sept. 19, 1842	1862	Sept. 15, 1863	Dec. 18, 1925
Anna Harms <sup>184</sup>	Aug. 6, 1844	1863	Sept. 15, 1863	May 19, 1918

Comments: Moved to America on May 29, 1874. In 1875 Klaas Wiebe moved to Nebraska where he was still resident in 1896. Children listed are: Isaac, born December 2, 1862; Klaas, born October 5, 1872; Anna, born May 11, 1867; Justina, born May 12, 1870.

<sup>183</sup> He was the son of Jakob Wiebe (1799-1858) and a brother to Heinrich Wiebe (Family No. 21) and to Peter Wiebe (Family No. 76). See Rev. Frank P. Wiebe. *op. cit.*

<sup>184</sup> Anna Harms (1844-1918) was the daughter of Isaac Harms (1811-1891) and Anna Sawazki (1809-1877). Anna Sawazki (1809-1877) was the daughter of Cornelius Sawazki (1781-1840) and Anna Friesen (1785-1857). Anna Friesen was a sister to Klaas Friesen (1793-1871) (Family No. 72) and to Abraham Friesen (1782-1849), the second Aeltester of the Mennonite Kleine Gemeinde. See H. Friesen, *Familienregister*, pages 8 and 35. Thus Anna Harms (1844-1918) would have been a sister to Johan and Peter Harms (See Families No. 92 and 93).

**Family No. 84 Jacob Kroeker from Heuboden**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Jacob Kroeker <sup>185</sup>	Apr. 20, 1836	1856		June 22, 1913
Wife Maria Klassen <sup>186</sup>	Nov. 15, 1837	1860	July 7, 1857	Sept. 26, 1919

Comments: Left for America on June 2, 1874. Rosenhof, Manitoba. Children listed are: Jakob, born April 10, 1860; David, born August 21, 1865; Anganetha, born June 4, 1861 and baptized on January 31, 1879; Elizabeth, born December 28, 1863; Maria, born December 7, 1875.

<sup>185</sup> He was a brother to Peter Kroeker (Family No. 81) and Franz Kroeker (Family No. 27). He was elected Aeltester of the Manitoba Kleine Gemeinde on January 21, 1883. He had originally been elected a deacon in the Heubodner Mennonite Kleine Gemeinde in 1873. See *History and Events, op. cit.*, page 56.

<sup>186</sup> She was a daughter of delegate David Klassen (1813-1900). See Family No. 82.

**Family No. 85 Johann (Johann) Klassen from Heuboden**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Johann Klassen <sup>187</sup> (1)	Nov. 15, 1838	1859	Oct. 22, 1861	
Wife Maria Friesen <sup>188</sup>	Sept. 11, 1843	1860	Oct. 22, 1861	

Comments: Left for America on May 29, 1874. Manitoba. In 1896 Johann Klassen was resident in Steinbach, Manitoba. Children listed are: Jakob, born December 10, 1870, and died July 5, 1874; Maria, born October 22, 1862; Margaretha, born February 15, 1864; Anna, born August 2, 1873; Johann, born February 23, 1877; Sara, born December 3, 1878.

<sup>187</sup> Johann Klassen (born 1838) was the son of Johan Klassen (1811-1887) and Maria Harms. Maria Harms was a sister of Isaac Harms who married for the second time to Carolina Plett (See Families No. 72, 83, 92 and 93). The mother of Heinrich Razlaw (1848-1922) (Family No. 80), namely Anna Razlaw (1808-1874), was also a sister to Mrs. Johann Klassen (nee Maria Harms). Johann Klassen (1811-1887) and his wife also came to Manitoba and died and are buried in Steinbach, Manitoba. There are probably also other families who came to Manitoba who are not listed by Aeltester Toews in this Register. See Johan K. Esau, *The Esau Family Tree 1840-1933*, (1933, self-published, Hilsboro, Kansas), page 12. See also Family No. 108 where a Mrs. Jo. Klassen (nee Harms) is listed.

<sup>188</sup> She was the daughter of Jakob Friesen, (1820-1888) by his first marriage to Margaret Toews (1819-1860). See Family No. 86. Margaret Toews was a sister to Johan Toews (1826-1895). See Family No. 44.

**Family No. 86 Jacob (Johann) Friesen Heuboden**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Jacob Friesen <sup>189</sup> (1)	Sept. 10, 1820	1838	Dec. 29, 1860	<u>Apr. 26, 1888</u>
Second wife Margaretha Loewen <sup>190</sup>	Aug. 29, 1817	1836	Dec. 29, 1860	<u>Feb. 2, 1883</u>

Comments: Left for America on June 2, 1874. Rosenort, near Morris, Manitoba. Children listed are: step-daughter Elisabeth Braun<sup>154</sup>, born July 23, 1846, and died on October 31, 1892. Also listed is a foster-daughter, Florentine Katherina Broeski<sup>(1)</sup>, born August 4, 1864.

<sup>189</sup> Jakob Friesen (1820-1888) was a brother to Johan Friesen (1808-1872), the third Aeltester to the Mennonite Kleine Gemeinde. Their father Johan Friesen (born 1763, see B. Unruh, *Ostwanderung*, (Karlsruhe, Deutschland; self-published, 1955) page 308) was the senior Minister of the Molotschna Grosz Flemisch Mennonite Gemeinde in 1820. (See Aeltester Peter Toews, *Sammlung, op. cit.*.)

<sup>190</sup> She was a daughter of Isaac Loewen (1787-1873) and a sister to David Loewen (1836-1915). See Family No. 4. Her first marriage was to Isaac Braun (1815-1869).

<sup>191</sup> The father of Elizabeth Braun was Isaac Braun (1815-1869) the first husband of Margaretha Loewen (1817-1883). See Dr. Sol. Loewen, *op. cit.*, Margaretha Loewen/Isaac Braun Section.

**Family No. 87 Jacob (Jakob) Friesen from Heuboden**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Jacob Friesen <sup>192</sup> (1)	Nov. 10, 1845	1864	Oct. 18, 1867	Oct. 11, 1903
Wife Elisabeth Rempel <sup>193</sup>	Jan. 6, 1845	May 12, 1863	Oct. 18, 1867	

Comments: Left for America on June 2, 1874. Rosenort, Manitoba. Children listed are: Jakob, born September 18, 1873; Elisabeth, born October 3, 1865; Margaretha, born June 28, 1870; Maria, born May 4, 1872; Jakob, born September 19, 1875; Gerhard, born September 2, 1877; Anna, born July 22, 1879. In 1896 Jacob Friesen (born 1845) was resident in Rosenort, near Morris, Manitoba.

<sup>192</sup> He was the son of Jakob Friesen (1820-1888), (Family No. 86) by his first marriage to Margaret Toews (1819-1860). Margaret Toews (1819-1860) was a sister to Johan Toews (1826-1895), see Family No. 44. See Aeltester Peter Toews, *Cornelius Toews (1737-1800) Genealogy, op. cit.*, page 1.

<sup>193</sup> She was a daughter to Gerhard Rempel, Jansen. Regrettably, no further information on this family could be located at the present time.

**Family No. 88 Johann (Jakob) Friesen from Heuboden**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Johann Friesen <sup>194</sup>	Aug. 17, 1849	1868	Feb. 14, 1871	<u>1909</u>
Wife Anna Warkentin <sup>195</sup>	Feb. 3, 1851	Dec. 6, 1870	Feb. 14, 1871	<u>1909</u>

Comments: Left for America on May 29, 1877, Rosenort, Manitoba. Children listed are: Johann, born September 14, 1873; Anna, born January 7, 1872; Margaretha, born November 20, 1876; Maria, born March 4, 1878; Martin, born November 19, 1879.

<sup>194</sup> He was a brother to Jakob Friesen (born 1845) (Family No. 87) and a son of Jakob Friesen (1820-1888). See Family No. 86.

<sup>195</sup> She was a daughter of Martin Warkentin. See Family No. 96. See Lenore Eidse, *Furrows in the Valley* (1981, R.M. of Morris, Manitoba) page 395.

**Family No. 89 Abraham (Jakob) Friesen from Heuboden**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Abraham Friesen <sup>199</sup> (1)	April 6, 1854	Aug. 13, 1872	June 3, 1873	
Wife Kornelia Harms <sup>200</sup>	April 24, 1853	May 18, 1873	June 3, 1873	

Comments: To America on June 2, 1874, Manitoba. Children listed are: Kornelia, born in August of 1874; Gerhard, born on October 21, 1877. The Abraham T. Friesen family was living in Hochstaedt, Manitoba in 1896. Son Gerhard H. Friesen<sup>(1)</sup> was also resident in Hochstaedt, Manitoba in 1896.

<sup>199</sup> He was a son of Jakob Friesen (1820-1888). See Family No 86. Any information as to the dates of death and present whereabouts of this family will be appreciated.

**Family No. 90 David (Johann) Hiebert from Heuboden**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
David Hiebert <sup>197</sup> (1)	Feb. 21, 1853	Mar. 18, 1873	Aug. 26, 1873	July 3, 1903
Margaretha Friesen <sup>198</sup>	Apr. 20, 1854	Aug. 13, 1872	Aug. 26, 1873	Mar. 19, 1909

Comments: Left for America on May 29, 1874 - Manitoba. Later to Nebraska. The widow D. Hiebert died in Hochstaedt, Manitoba. In 1896 David Hiebert was resident in Nebraska. Children listed are: Johan, born October 5, 1875. Johan suffered from epilepsy of which he later also died. Anna, born August 16, 1877; David, born August 3, 1879.

<sup>197</sup>He was a son of Johann Hiebert (1816-1890). See Family No. 119.

<sup>198</sup> She was the daughter of Klaas Friesen (1813-1856) and Katharina Loewen (1818-1857). Klaas Friesen (1813-1856) was the brother to Cornelius F. Friesen (1810-1896), Family No. 56. Katharina Loewen (1818-1857) was the daughter of Isaac Loewen (1787-1873) and sister to David Loewen (1836-1915), see Family No. 4.

**Family No. 91 Franz Froese from Heuboden**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Franz Froese <sup>200</sup> (1)	May 31, 1825	1844	June 12, 1862	Jan. 20, 1913
Wife Anna Braun <sup>199</sup>	May 1, 1844	1862	June 12, 1862	Aug. 27, 1908

Comments: Left for America on June 2, 1874, Rosenort, Manitoba. Mrs. Froese died in Rosenort at the age of 64. She was buried on September 1, 1908. Franz Froese died of weakness of old age and was buried on January 25, 1913. In 1896 F. Froese was resident in Rosenort, near Morris, Manitoba.

Children listed are: Franz, born November 11, 1870; Anna, born June 22, 1863; Elisabeth, born July 27, 1865; Margaretha, born July 18, 1867; Maria, born October 2, 1872; Katharina, born April 22, 1874; Katharina, born November 6, 1875; Jakob, born May 15, 1878.

<sup>199</sup> She was the daughter of Isaac Braun (1815-1859) and Margaretha Loewen (1817-1883). See Family No. 86. See also Peter Isaac, *op. cit.*, page 47, where there is a reference to a John Regehr, who was a cousin to the Franz Froese children of Rosenort, Manitoba.

**Family No. 92 Johann (Isaac) Harms from Heuboden**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Johann Harms <sup>200</sup>	Dec. 3, 1839	1859	June 12, 1860	Dec. 5, 1884
Margaretha Loewen <sup>201</sup>	June 12, 1841	1860	June 12, 1860	Mar. 16, 1878

Comments: Left for America on May 29, 1874. Johan Harms moved to Nebraska in 1875. Children listed are: Johan, born December 22, 1867; Anna, born February 17, 1867; Margaretha, born December 29, 1869; Maria, born January 16, 1872; Elisabeth, born November 11, 1873.

<sup>200</sup> He was the son of Isaac Harms (1811-1891) and Anna Sawazki (1809-1877). See Family No 83 for additional information regarding his parents.



<sup>207</sup> Apparently the daughter of Isaac Loewen (1819-1856), see *Plett Picture Book, op. cit.*, page 9. However, this family is not listed in the *Loewen Book*. Isaac Loewen (1819-1856) was the son of Isaac Loewen (1787-1873) and brother to David Loewen (1836-1915). See Family No. 4.

### Family No. 93 Peter (Isaac) Harms from Heuboden

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Peter Harms <sup>202 (1)</sup>	June 24, 1849	1869	Oct. 19, 1869	
Wife Anna Friesen <sup>36</sup>	Mar. 10, 1849	1869	Oct. 19, 1869	

Comments: Left for America on May 29, 1874. Peter Harms moved to Nebraska in 1875. Children listed are: Isaac, born February 10, 1874. In 1896, Peter Harms (born 1849) was resident in Nebraska.

<sup>202</sup> He was a brother of Johann Harms. See Family No. 92. Any information as to the subsequent history of this family will be appreciated.

### Family No. 94 Gerhard (Peter) Harms from Heuboden

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Gerhard Harms <sup>203 (1)</sup>	Nov. 12, 1849	1868	Mar. 7, 1871	
Wife Maria Braun <sup>36</sup>	July 26, 1850	Dec. 6, 1870	May 7, 1871	Oct. 28, 1878

Comments: Left for America on June 2, 1874. Rosenort, Manitoba. Children listed are: Maria, born September 15, 1875. In 1896 Gerhard Harms (born 1849) was resident near Morris, Manitoba.

<sup>203</sup> Peter Harms, the father of Gerhard Harms (born 1849), is possibly the brother to Isaac Harms (1811-1891). See Family No. 92. Johan K. Esau, *op. cit.*, page 12, lists brothers Johan, Isaak, Peter, and Jakob. Who are the sons of Johann Harms? A Rev. Johan Harms was a minister of the Nebraska Mennonite Kleine Gemeinde in 1881. See *Plett Picture Book, op. cit.*, page 24. It is evident that the Harms family was a significant and leading family in the Mennonite Kleine Gemeinde and that a detailed family study is very much needed.

### Family No. 95 Peter (Peter) Dueck from Heuboden

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Peter Dueck <sup>204</sup>	Aug. 19, 1837	1856	Nov. 27, 1860	Aug. 24, 1931
Wife Margaretha Friesen <sup>205</sup>	Mar. 4, 1840	1858	Nov. 27, 1860	

Comments: Left for America on May 29, 1874. Rosenort, Manitoba. Children listed are: Heinrich, born September 9, 1861; Jakob, born June 8, 1868; Anna, born November 1, 1863; Margaretha, born November 1, 1863; Maria, born December 2, 1870; Peter, born March 2, 1872; Johan, born January 6, 1875; Helena, born June 20, 1879.

<sup>204</sup> There is no relationship of this Dueck family to that of Rev. Johan Dueck (1801-1866) whose sons were Johan, Jakob, Abraham and Peter listed in this book. Any additional information about the parents of Peter Dueck (1837-1931) will be very much appreciated. The writer would refer the reader to the writing of Heinrich Ratzloff, *op. cit.*, page 1, who mentions that his mother (nee Anna Harms) was the widow of a Peter Dyck, who had a son Peter Dyck which must then be this Peter H. Dueck (1837-1931).

<sup>205</sup> She was the daughter of Jakob Friesen (1820-1888), (See Family No. 86) by his first marriage to Margaret Toews (1819-1860). Margaret Toews (1819-1860) was a sister to Johan Toews (1826-1896). See Family No. 44. Does anyone have the date of death of Mrs. Margaretha Dueck (born 1840)?

**Family No. 96 Martin (Gerhard) Warkentin from Heuboden**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Martin Warkentin <sup>206</sup>	Sept. 8, 1824	1845	Dec. 8, 1846	
Wife Anna Dueck <sup>207</sup>	Aug. 20, 1827	1846	Dec. 8, 1846	Mar. 10, 1892

Comments: Left for America on May 29, 1874. Rosenort, Manitoba. Children listed are: Heinrich, born May 7, 1868; Agatha, born November 2, 1860, and baptized on January 31, 1879; Elisabeth, born February 4, 1872. Also listed is Elisabeth Warkentin who is a baptized member of the Gemeinde.

<sup>206</sup> It appears that Martin Warkentin (born 1824) and Heinrich Warkentin (Family No. 121) are brothers. Both of their fathers are listed as being a Gerhard Warkentin. See also footnote No. 253 a.

<sup>207</sup> On July 12, 1982, Mr. Johan F. Warkentin stated to this writer that his grandmother Anna (nee Dueck) Warkentin was a sister to Peter H. Dueck, Family No. 95. See also Heinrich Ratzloff, *op. cit.*, page 1. Mr. John F. Warkentin, also recalled that his grandfather, Martin Warkentin, was a brother to Mrs. Johan Toews (nee Anne Warkentin). Family No. 44.

**Family No. 97 Heinrich (Abraham) Friesen from Rosenfeld**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Heinrich Friesen <sup>208</sup>	May 2, 1836	1855	Apr. 22, 1856	1900
Wife Helena Friesen <sup>209</sup>	Oct. 7, 1835	1855	Apr. 22, 1856	Feb. 26, 1911

Comments: Left for America on May 29, 1874. In 1875 H. Friesen moved to Nebraska. Children listed are: Abraham, born January 7, 1857; Heinrich, born September 2, 1860; Peter, born June 21, 1863; Johann, born January 30, 1866; Jakob, born November 25, 1868; Gerhard, born July 12, 1871; Isaac, born November 20, 1873; Helena, born July 7, 1858.

<sup>208</sup> He was a son of Abraham W. Friesen (1812-1889) and Elizabeth Brandt. Abraham W. Friesen (1812-1889) was the son of Abraham Friesen (1782-1889) the second Aeltester of the Mennonite Kleine Gemeinde. See J. Friesen, *op. cit.*

<sup>209</sup> She was the daughter of Abraham Friesen (1807-1891) who was a brother to Johan Friesen (1808-1872), the third Aeltester of the Mennonite Kleine Gemeinde. See J. Friesen, *op. cit.*, i.e. She was a sister to Abraham S. Friesen (1848-1916); Johan Friesen (1852-1920), Family No. 22; and Elisabeth Friesen, the first wife of Peter R. Reimer, Family No. 36.

**Family No. 98 Jacob (Martin) Barkman from Friedensfeld**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Jacob Barkman <sup>210 (1)</sup>	Jan. 30, 1824	May 2, 1842	June 5, 1858	June 8, 1875
Wife Katharina Thiessen <sup>211</sup>	Dec. 2, 1829	May 4, 1847	June 5, 1958	Aug. 5, 1889

Comments: Jakob Barkman was called to the Ministry. To America on July 21, 1874. Barkman and Jakob K. Friesen (Family No. 102) drowned in the Red River. Children listed are: Martin, born November 18, 1853, and baptized on August 13, 1872. Jacob <sup>(1)</sup>, born January 23, 1856, and baptized on October 24, 1875; Johann <sup>(1)</sup>, born March 14, 1858, and baptized on August 20, 1876; Cornelius, born April 27, 1861, and baptized August 3, 1879; Anganetha, born July 23, 1863; Anna, born August 21, 1865, and died in 1874; Maria, born December 30, 1867; Margaretha, born December 8, 1870 and died in 1875. Also listed is a step-daughter, Helena Warkentin, born on September 11, 1852, and baptized on October 24, 1871. She was married in 1874.

<sup>210</sup> Jakob Barkman (1824-1875) was a son of Martin Barkman (1792-1872), who was a brother to Jakob Barkman (1794-1875), whose son was Peter K. Barkman (1826-1917). Family No. 15. For a listing of descendants of Jakob Barkman, (1824-1875) see Waldon A. Barkman, *Genealogy of Jakob Barkman 1825-1975*, (1975, self-published, Steinbach, Manitoba), 99 pages.

<sup>211</sup> Apparently she was a widow Warkentin. She married again to widower Cornelius Loewen (1827-1893). See Family No. 46. The step-daughter Helena Warkentin must be her daughter. Any information about her family would be welcome.

**Family No. 99 Peter (Peter) Penner from Friedensfeld**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Peter Penner <sup>212</sup> (1)	July. 14, 1839	1859	Sept. 11, 1860	Oct. 11, 1916
Wife Helena Penner <sup>213</sup>	June 30, 1840	1858	Sept. 11, 1860	<u>Jan. 18, 1908</u>

Comments: Immigrated to America in the spring of 1875, and went to Kansas. After one year they came to Manitoba. Here they became residents of Blumenort, Manitoba, and later in Greenland, Manitoba. Mrs. Penner died of dropsy. Penner married again on *May 17, 1908*, to a widow Elisabeth Friesen (nee Rempel)<sup>214</sup>. Children listed are: Helena, born September 4, 1861; Anna, born May 19, 1865; Elisabeth, born August 31, 1868; Katharina, born January 2, 1871; Margaretha, born January 15, 1873; Peter<sup>(1)</sup>, born 1875; Jakob<sup>(1)</sup>, born May 6, 1877; Maria, born May 2, 1879. In 1896, Peter Penner (born 1839) was resident in Greenland, Manitoba. In 1896 his sons Peter P. Penner and Jacob P. Penner were also resident in Greenland.

<sup>212</sup> He was the son of Peter Penner (1816-1884). See Family No. 11. His mother was Margaretha Harms (1818-1846), a daughter of Johan Harms, and probably a sister of Isaac Harms (1811-1891). See Johan K. Esau, *op. cit.*, page 12. It appears possible that Peter Penner (1816-1884) joined the Mennonite Kleine Gemeinde when he married into the Harms family in 1837.

<sup>213</sup> She was a sister to Peter P. Penner (1826-1894) who married Elizabeth Loewen (1829-1906) (a sister of David Loewen (1836-1915), See Family No. 4). See Peter Isaac, *op. cit.* page 5. A grandson of Mrs. Peter H. Penner (nee Helena Penner) (1840-1908) recalls that she was a sister to the Jacob Penner, the wealthy farmer living in Friedensfeld, Russia, (See *History and Events*, *op. cit.*, pages 85-87). Interview with Mr. Ben D. Penner, Steinbach, Manitoba, in summer of 1981. Other Penner families in the Mennonite Kleine Gemeinde and possibly related are: Jacob Loewen (a brother to David Loewen, Family No. 4) was married to an Anna Penner (1822-1907). Her father apparently was a Peter Penner, (Courtesy of Dr. Solomon Loewen, Kansas); the late Rev. Henry F. Isaac (1887-1982) Meade, Kansas, recalled that the maiden name of his paternal grandmother, Mrs. Dietrich Isaac, was Anna W. Penner (1981 letter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry F. Isaac to this writer.) Peter M. Friesen (a son of Klaas Friesen, Family No. 72) was married to a Katherina Penner (1830-1868). That the latter two are even related, or related to the foregoing is of course pure conjecture. Again, this is a family which is obviously in need of a detailed study.

<sup>214</sup> This appears to be the widow of Jacob Friesen, Family No. 87.

**Family No. 100 Johann (Johann) Hiebert from Friedensfeld**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Johann Hiebert <sup>215</sup> (1)	Nov. 27, 1843	1864	Feb. 19, 1867	Dec. 9, 1923
Wife Maria Loewen <sup>216</sup>	Aug. 11, 1847	1867	Feb. 19, 1867	<u>April 20, 1936</u>

Comments: To America on July 21, 1874. Johann Hiebert moved to Kansas in 1875. In 1896, Johan Hiebert was resident in Oklahoma. Children listed are: Johann, born February 13, 1868; Jakob, born June 4, 1870.

<sup>215</sup> He was the son of Johan Hiebert (1816-1890). Family No. 119.

<sup>216</sup> She was the daughter of Jakob Loewen (1820-1901) who was a brother to David Loewen (1836-1915). See Family No. 4.

**Family No. 101 Peter (Peter) Friesen from Mariafeld**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Peter Friesen <sup>217</sup>	Aug. 12, 1842	1861	Nov. 28, 1865	Jan. 31, 1904
Wife Maria Isaak <sup>218</sup>	Feb. 18, 1840	1859	Nov. 28, 1865	<u>Jan. 24, 1908</u>

Comments: Left for America on June 6, 1874. Moved directly to Nebraska from Russia. Peter Friesen died in Jansen, Nebraska. Mrs. Friesen died in the hospital in Goessel, Kansas. Children listed are: Peter, born May 6, 1867.

<sup>217</sup> He was the son of Peter W. Friesen (1815-1892), who was a son of Abraham Friesen (1782-1849) the second Aeltester of the Mennonite Kleine Gemeinde. The mother of Peter Friesen (1842-1904) was Helena Reimer (1816-1870), a sister to Abraham F. Reimer (1808-1892) Family No. 31.

<sup>218</sup> She was the daughter of Johan Isaac (1809-1864) and Anna Plett (1813-1887). See Family No. 47. See Peter Isaac, *op. cit.*, page 24.

**Family No. 102 Jacob (Johann) Friesen from Nikolaithal, Kherson Province**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Jacob Friesen <sup>219</sup> (1)	Nov. 11, 1822	1843		June 5, 1875
Katherina Schierling <sup>36</sup>	June 7, 1820	1841	Dec. 14, 1846	Oct. 10, 1909

Comments: Left for America on July 21, 1874. Jacob Friesen drowned in the Red River near Winnipeg. His surviving widow died at the age of 89 years, 4 months and 3 days. She died of senility. Children listed are: Katherina, born September 19, 1855 and baptized on May 20, 1874. Margaretha, born March 12, 1858 and baptized on August 20, 1876. Maria, born May 15, 1860 and baptized on August 4, 1878. Susanna, born on June 2, 1863 and baptized on June 20, 1874.

<sup>219</sup> He was a son of Johan Friesen (1789-1840) who was a brother to Klaas Friesen (Family No. 72), and to Abraham Friesen (1782-1849), the second Aeltester of the Mennonite Kleine Gemeinde. For a listing of his descendants see Jakob G. Friesen and Frank P. Wiebe. *Family Tree of Jakob K. Friesen, 1822-1875*, (1969, Self-published, Mount Lehman, B.C.), 82 pages.

**Family No. 103 Jacob (Jakob) Friesen from Nikolaithal, Kherson Province**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Jacob Friesen <sup>220</sup> (1)	Oct. 31, 1850	1870		Nov. 26, 1921
Margaretha Giesbrecht <sup>221</sup>	Oct. 26, 1852	Oct. 24, 1871	Jan. 30, 1872	<u>Dec. 15, 1936</u>

Comments: Moved to America on July 21, 1874. Steinbach, Manitoba. Children listed are: A daughter born September 22, 1874. Katharina, born April 10, 1876. A son born June 20, 1877. Gerhard, born June 3, 1879.

<sup>220</sup> He was a son of Jakob K. Friesen, see Family No. 102.

<sup>221</sup> She was a daughter of Gerhard Giesbrecht (1816-1863) and Aganetha Thiessen (1825-1912) (Courtesy of Rev. and Mrs. Bernard P. Doerksen, Blumenort, Manitoba) She was a sister to Wilhelm T. Giesbrecht (Family No. 78), and to Gerhard Giesbrecht, Family No. 106.

**Family No. 104 Heinrich (Wilhelm) Fast from Nikolaithal, Kherson Province**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Heinrich Fast <sup>38</sup> (1)	July 26, 1826	1847		June 22, 1890
Scharlotte Loepf <sup>36</sup>	April 14, 1828	1847	July 23, 1850	<u>Oct. 8, 1887</u>

Comments: Moved to America on July 21, 1874. Steinbach, Manitoba. Children listed are: Cornelius, born December 22, 1857 and baptized on August 20, 1876. Sarah, born May 9, 1864 and baptized on August 3, 1879. Heinrich born October 23, 1865.<sup>222</sup>

<sup>36</sup> If any reader has information regarding this family the writer would very much appreciate the reference. P. Toews was not sure of his father's name.

<sup>222</sup> He resided in the village of Kleefeld, Manitoba, where many of his descendants are still residing today.

**Family No. 105 Johann Broeski from Gruenfeld**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Johan Broeski <sup>223</sup> <sup>(1)</sup>		May 20, 1874		
Second wife Anna Friesen <sup>224</sup>	1848	Yes	1874	

Comments: Left for America on June 2, 1874. Two of his children were given into foster homes. Children listed of his first marriage are: Elizabeth <sup>(1)</sup>, born October 11, 1868. Children listed of the second marriage are: Johan, born December 23, 1875. Maria, born June 20, 1877. Cornelius, born December 24, 1878. In 1896 Johan Broeski was resident in Manitoba.

<sup>223</sup> Additional information regarding the family of Johan Broeski is to be found in the Blumenort History book by Roy Loewen. Johan Broeski was to have been employed by Kleine Gemeinde farmers, in the Borosenko area. e.g. Cornelius Loewen, in Gruenfeld.

<sup>224</sup> She was a daughter of Cornelius Friesen (1810-1892) Family No. 56.

**Family No. 106 Gerhard (Gerhard) Giesbrecht from Gruenfeld**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Gerhard Giesbrecht <sup>225</sup> <sup>(1)</sup>	Aug. 6, 1846	1866		Nov. 17, 1907
Anna Cornelson <sup>226</sup>	Oct. 20, 1851	Jan. 1, 1871	1871	Feb. 4, 1885

Comments: Moved to America on July 21, 1874. Steinbach, Manitoba. Giesbrecht later entered into a second marriage with Anganetha Eidse, the daughter of Cornelius E. Eidse.<sup>227</sup> He died in Greenland, Manitoba at the age of 61 years and about 3 months. His funeral was held on November 21, 1907. In 1896 Gerhard Giesbrecht (born 1846) was resident in Steinbach, Manitoba. Children listed are: Gerhard <sup>(1)</sup>, born January 24, 1872. Heinrich <sup>(1)</sup>, born November 9, 1873. Wilhelm <sup>(1)</sup>, born April 3, 1878. In 1896 son Heinrich K. Giesbrecht (born 1873) was resident in Greenland, Manitoba. In 1896 son Wilhelm was resident in Steinbach, Manitoba.

<sup>225</sup> He was the son of Gerhard Giesbrecht (1816-1863) and Eva Ratzloff. See Waldo Giesbrecht and Delma Friesen, *G. K. Giesbrecht Family Reunion*, (1967. Self-published, Ulysses, Kansas), Page 56. Therefore he was a half-brother to Wilhelm T. Giesbrecht. Family No. 78. Eva Ratzloff was the daughter to Adam Ratzloff and was an aunt to Heinrich Razlav, (1848-1867) (Family No. 80) See H. Razlav, *op. cit.*, page 1.

<sup>226</sup> She was a daughter of Gerhard S. Kornelson (1816-1894) and Maria Enns (1821-1871) See Family No. 122. Maria Enns (1821-1871) was a sister to Heinrich Enns (1807-1881) Family No. 125.

<sup>227</sup> Editors Notes: In the special index Aeltester Toews also refers to a Peter Giesbrecht <sup>(1)</sup> who in 1896 is resident in Osterwik, near Winkler, Manitoba. He does not seem to fit into No. 78. In the same category is a Cornelius Giesbrecht <sup>(1)</sup> who is resident in Nebraska in 1896.

**Family No. 107 Peter Baerg from Annenfeld, Crimea**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Peter Baerg <sup>228</sup> <sup>(1)</sup>	Nov. 17, 1817	Yes		July 31, 1901
Susanna Neuman <sup>96</sup>	Jan. 30, 1820	Yes		

Comments: Left for America in May of 1874. Peter Baerg died of the dropsy at the age of 83 years 8 months and 13 days. Children listed are: Peter<sup>229</sup>, baptized on August 20, 1876. Anna, baptized on September 9, 1879. Sara<sup>230</sup>. In 1896 Rev. Peter Baerg was resident in Blumenort, Manitoba. His son Peter Baerg <sup>(1)</sup> was resident in Hochstaedt.

<sup>228</sup> He was one of the leading figures in the establishment of the Krimmer Kleine Gemeinde in 1864. After the secession of Aeltester Jacob A. Wiebe in 1869, he took over the leadership of this Gemeinde. See also *History and Events op. cit.*, various pages. Rev. Baerg married for the second time to the widow of Heinrich Friesen, Family No. 112.

<sup>229</sup> Peter Baerg (born 1856) married Margaretha T. Loewen (1860-1945), the daughter of Rev. Abraham Loewen, Family No. 48.

<sup>230</sup> Sara Baerg (1864-1941) married John Koop (1863-1935) the son of Johan Koop, Family No. 61.

**Family No. 108 Heinrich Esau from Annenfeld, Crimea**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Heinrich Esau <sup>231</sup> (1)	Aug. 1, 1830	Yes		1899
Wife Anna Klassen <sup>232</sup>	Oct. 30, 1833	Yes		Aug. 15, 1902

Comments: Left for America in May of 1874. Manitoba, Heuboden. Later moved to Oregon where he died. In 1896 Heinrich Esau was resident in Oregon. The widow, Mrs. Esau died at the age of 69 years. She was buried at the Greenland House of Assembly on Sunday, August 17, 1902. Children listed are: Heinrich, Abraham, Johann, Maria, Margaretha and Peter, born June 6, 1874. In 1896 son Johan K. Esau<sup>(1)</sup> was resident in Greenland, Manitoba. In 1896 sons Abraham K. Esau<sup>(1)</sup> and Peter K. Esau<sup>(1)</sup> were resident in Oregon. Also listed are Mrs. Johan Klassen (nee Harms)<sup>233</sup> and Mrs. Maria Harms (nee Klassen)<sup>36</sup>. Both of whom came to America in May of 1874 and have both died. They were both baptized members of the Gemeinde.

<sup>231</sup> He was the son of Heinrich Esau (1792-1859) who moved from Holland to Sparrou, Molotschna in 1828. See Johan K. Esau *op. cit.*, page 3 for the history of this family.

<sup>232</sup> She was a sister to Johann Klassen (1838- ) (See Family No. 85). This very much illustrates the fact that the emigration of the Mennonite Kleine Gemeinde from Russia was the emigration of a complete society, including all the senior citizens, handicapped, and disabled. This is what makes the feat so remarkable. By comparison the other prairie settlers were usually robust young men out to seek their fortune, who need not worry about ill health and looking after older people. The same of course holds true for the Bergthaler Gemeinde on an even larger scale.

<sup>233</sup> She appears to have been the wife of Johan Klassen (1811-1887) the parents of Johan Klassen, Family No. 85.

**Family No. 109 Cornelius Cornelzen from Hoffnungsberg, Crimea**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Cornelius Cornelzen <sup>233b</sup>	Nov. 26, 1835	Yes		May 21, 1896
Wife Katherina Dueck <sup>36</sup>		Yes		

Comments: Moved to America in May of 1874. Manitoba<sup>234</sup>. Children listed are: Cornelius, Jacob, Barbara, Maria, born February 18, 1878, Abraham, born November 25, 1879.

<sup>233b</sup> He was the son of Abraham S. Kornelson (1806-1880) and a brother to Abraham Kornelson (1845-1893), Family No. 110. Their mother Helena Eidse, born 1806, was a sister to Abraham Eidse (1811-1893) See Family No. 134. See Lenore Eidse, *op. cit.*

<sup>234</sup> The family settled in Rosenort, Manitoba. See Lenore Eidse, Editor, *op. cit.*, page 418-419.

**Family No. 110 Abraham Cornelzen from Hoffnungsberg, Crimea**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Abraham Cornelzen <sup>233b</sup>	Feb. 23, 1845	Yes		May 17, 1893
Maria Wiens <sup>234c</sup>	Dec. 27, 1846	Yes	1865	Sept. 17, 1927

Comments: Left for America in May of 1874. Resident in Heuboden, Manitoba. Cornelzen died an abrupt death on account of a blow on the head by a horse. Children listed are: Jakob, Helena, Abraham, born March 11, 1874 and died January 15, 1877. Cornelius, born June 12, 1876. Maria, born September 12, 1877. Abraham, born June 6, 1879.

<sup>233b</sup> He was the son of Abraham S. Kornelsen (1806-1880). See G. U. Kornelsen and V. H. Kornelsen, *Familienregister der Nachkommen von Abraham E. und Maria Kornelson* (Belize, C.A., self-published 1969). Pages 2-3. Abraham E. Kornelsen was later elected as a deacon in the East Reserve Kleine Gemeinde.

<sup>234c</sup> See G. U. Kornelson *op. cit.*, She was the daughter of Jacob Wiens (1813-1893) and Katharina Wall (1825-1870).

<sup>235</sup> Editors notes: The widow of Abraham E. Kornelson married for the second time to the widower Rev. Cornelius L. Friesen from Nebraska.

**Family No. 111 Johann (Peter) Esau from Annenfeld, Crimea**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Johann Esau <sup>36 (1)</sup>	<u>ca. 1828</u>			Jan. 11, 1906

Comments: To Gruenfeld, Manitoba in 1875. Johann Esau died of repeated heart attacks at the age of 77 years, 11 months and 5 days. In 1896 Johann Esau was resident in Gruenfeld, Manitoba.

**Family No. 112 Heinrich Friesen from Zagradowski (Tiege), Kherson Province**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Heinrich Friesen <sup>36</sup>	May 12, 1827	Yes		July 1, 1877
Katharina Schellenberg <sup>236</sup>	Aug. 25, 1824	Yes	April 12, 1849	<u>May 4, 1901</u>

Comments: Emigrated from Russia in the fall of 1875 and arrived in Manitoba in June of 1877. H. Friesen died of consumption at the age of 50 years. Mrs. Friesen died in Blumenort at the age of 76 years after she had been married to Rev. Peter Baerg (Family No. 107) for a number of years. She was buried on May 7. Children listed are: Jacob, born January 6, 1862<sup>237</sup>. Elisabeth, born February 18, 1864. Maria, born January 6, 1867. Son Jacob (born 1862) was resident in Nebraska in 1896.

<sup>236</sup> She is a sister to Gerhard Schellenberg (1827-1908). See Family No. 10.

<sup>237</sup> The death certificate of son Jacob S. Friesen (born 1862) (Founder of The Steinbach Post) states that he was born in Landskron, South Russia. Any information about the parents of Heinrich Friesen (1827-1877) will be very much appreciated.

**Family No. 113 Heinrich (Heinrich) Friesen from Zagradowski (Tiege), Kherson Province**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Heinrich Friesen <sup>238</sup>	April 23, 1850	May 2, 1871		<u>Feb. 2, 1933</u>
Aganetha Evert <sup>36</sup>	Feb. 15, 1849	Yes	May 28, 1873	

Comments: Children listed are: Heinrich, born June 1, 1874. Gerhard, born November 13, 1877

<sup>238</sup> He was the son of Heinrich Friesen (1827-1877) Family No. 112.

**Family No. 114 Gerhard (Peter) Warkentin from Fischau, Molotschna**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Gerhard Warkentin <sup>36 (1)</sup>	<u>Dec. 1848</u>	Yes		July 31, 1900
First wife Anna Enns <sup>239</sup>	April 28, 1852	Jan. 1, 1871	Dec. 1872	May 29, 1874
Second wife Justina Eidse <sup>240</sup>	<u>July 9, 1851</u>		Feb. 21, 1876	

Comments: Moved to America on July 18, 1874, Manitoba<sup>241</sup>. Later moved to Nebraska. He died in an Insane Asylum, in Lincoln, Nebraska. In 1896 Gerhard Warkentin was resident in Nebraska. Children listed of the first marriage are: Heinrich, born April 1874 and died on July 18, 1874. Children listed of the second marriage are: Justina, born June 21, 1878.

<sup>239</sup> She was a daughter of Aeltester Heinrich Enns (1807-1881) See Family No. 125.

<sup>240</sup> She was a daughter of Abraham Eidse (1811-1893) and Anna Enns (1817-1864) and a sister to Cornelius E. Eidse (1840-1914) (Family No. 79) and Abraham E. Eidse (Family No. 134).

<sup>241</sup> He came to America in the fall of 1874, together with Martin Klassen, see Family No. 58.

**Family No. 115 Abraham Klassen from Prangenau, Molotschna**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Abraham Klassen <sup>242</sup>	Sept. 9, 1828	Yes	1851	1906
Wife Helena Martens		Yes	1851	

Comments: Moved to Manitoba in 1874 and in 1875 from here to Kansas.

<sup>242</sup> He was a leading minister of the Molotschna Mennonite Kleine Gemeinde for a number of years prior to the immigration to America. Regretfully nothing further is known about this Rev. Abraham Klassen except that he joined the Krimmer Mennonite Brethren in Kansas. Hopefully more information can be obtained about this very important family.

**Family No. 116 David (David) Klassen from Neuanlage**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
David Klassen <sup>243</sup>	April 9, 1845	Yes		Mar. 17, 1919
Wife Helena Reimer <sup>244</sup>	Sept. 17, 1846	Yes	May 28, 1868	May 9, 1883

Comments: Moved to America on June 2, 1874. Manitoba. Children listed are: Helena born August 13, 1875.

<sup>243</sup> He was the son of David Klassen (1813-1900) the 1873 delegate for the Heubodner Mennonite Kleine Gemeinde. See Family No. 82.

<sup>244</sup> She was a daughter of Klaas Reimer (1812-1874) who was a brother to Abraham F. Reimer (1808-1892) See Family No. 31.

**Family No. 117 Johann (Johan) Dueck from Alexanderkron, Molotschna**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Johann Dueck <sup>245 (1)</sup>	Jan. 3, 1833	1853	Oct. 7, 1877	May 24, 1894
Third wife Anna Thielmann <sup>246</sup>	Sept. 18, 1843	1862	Oct. 7, 1877	Mar. 12, 1882
Fourth spouse Kornelia (nee Buschman) <sup>247</sup>	1837			1915

Comments: To Gruenfeld, Manitoba, in May of 1875. Johann Dueck died in Gruenfeld of a kidney disease. Children listed of the first marriage are: Johan <sup>(1)</sup>, born July 22, 1856 and baptized on August 20, 1876. In 1896 Johan Dueck (born 1856) was resident in Kansas. He died in Kansas on March 15, 1918. Children listed of the second marriage are: Maria, born May 20, 1863. Elisabeth, born January 21, 1865. Children listed of the third marriage are: Anna, born March 25, 1870; Katharina, born January 2, 1873; Jakob <sup>(1)</sup>, and Helena, born April 28, 1875. Daughter Helena (born 1875) married John G. Warkentin and died in child birth on January 22, 1908, in Greenland. She was survived by 8 children, the youngest two daughters were twins. Margaretha, born June 8, 1878.

<sup>245</sup> He was the son of Rev. Johann Dueck (1801-1866) and a brother to Abraham, Jakob, and Peter L. Dueck listed in this register. For a listing of the descendents of John L. Dueck, see John D. Bartel, *Johan L. Dueck Genealogy* (1980, unpublished, R.R. 1, Steinbach, Manitoba) 62 pages. See also History and Events, *op. cit.*, pages 85-88.

<sup>246</sup> She was a sister to Jakob Thielmann (1841-1894). For additional information about this Thielmann Family see *Plett Picture Book, op. cit.*, pages 45-51.

<sup>247</sup> She was a widow of Cornelius Toews (1829-1884), whose father Cornelius (born 1802) was an uncle to Johan Toews (1826-1895) Family No. 44.



**Family No. 118 Jacob (Johann) Dueck Gnadenthal, Molotschna**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Jacob Dueck <sup>248</sup>	June 13, 1839	1859	Dec. 18, 1854	Oct. 27, 1893
Wife Maria Rempel <sup>249</sup>	Feb. 16, 1841	1859	Dec. 18, 1854	Mar. 18, 1917

Comments: From Russia to Manitoba in 1875, Gruenfeld. Jakob Dueck died after a lengthy suffering of a kidney disease. Mrs. Dueck died after a prolonged suffering. Children listed are: Johann, born December 1, 1860; Peter, born August 17, 1862; Jacob, born January 6, 1865; Maria, born July 28, 1871; Heinrich, born August of 1873; Elisabeth, born November 23, 1876; Bernard, born May 23, 1879.

<sup>248</sup> He was a brother to Johan L. Dueck (Family No. 117), Abram L. Dueck (Family No. 59) and Peter L. Dueck (Family No. 67). For a listing of the descendants of Jakob L. Dueck, see Bernhard P. D. Reimer, *et al.*, *Stammbuch der Voreltern Jakob und Maria L. Dueck*, (Kleefeld, Manitoba, self-published, 1955), 55 pages. Jacob L. Dueck (born 1839) also served as a minister in the East Reserve Kleine Gemeinde. The reader is also referred to Ben P. D. Reimer, *Index to Obituaries in the Familienfreund 1934 - June 1981* (Blumenort, Manitoba, self-published, 1981), 27 pages, which is an invaluable index to the information contained in the obituaries published in the *Familienfreund*.

<sup>249</sup> She was a sister to Mrs. Abraham L. Dueck (Family No. 59) and a daughter of Peter Rempel (1814-1872), who was a brother of Mrs. Abraham F. Reimer, (see Family No. 31) See H. Rempel, *Seelenliste, op. cit.*

**Family No. 119 Johann Hiebert from Alexanderwohl, Molotschna**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Johann Hiebert <sup>250 (1)</sup>	May 13, 1816	1837	Mar. 8, 1838	Jan. 18, 1890
First wife Eva Knelsen <sup>26</sup>	May 10, 1820	1835	Mar. 8, 1838	Nov. 5, 1875
Second wife Anna Goosen(nee Klassen) <sup>251</sup>	Sept. 30, 1839	Yes	Mar. 12, 1876	Feb. 16, 1927

Comments: Moved to Manitoba in May of 1875. Children listed of the first marriage are: Margaretha, born March 17, 1860, and baptized October 9, 1877. Children listed of the second marriage are: Helena, born May 19, 1878.

<sup>250</sup> For a listing of his descendants see Albert H. Hiebert and John H. Toews, *The Family of Johan Hiebert 1816-1975*, (1975, self-published, Hillsboro, Kansas), 125 pages.

<sup>251</sup> Her first husband was Rev. Gerhard P. Goossen (1836-1872), see Family No. 50. Any information as to the parents of Anna Hiebert (nee Klassen) would be most appreciated.

**Family No. 120 Johann (Heinrich) Enns Fischau, Molotschna**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Johann Enns <sup>252 (1)</sup>	1850	May 19, 1869	Oct. 1871	Sept. 4, 1917
Wife Maria Hiebert <sup>253</sup>	Dec. 24, 1850	Jan. 1, 1871	Oct. 1871	July 15, 1900

Comments: To Manitoba in May of 1875. He was called to the Ministry in December, of 1875. He died at the age of 66 years, 8 months and some days. Apparently his death was instantaneous of a heart attack. John Enns had been a widower for many years and had been rather weak for the last years. On the date of his death he had been busy cleaning up a threshing place, to which he had driven with a horse. The horse returned home with Johan Enns dead. He was sitting in the wagon seat, with the reins in his hands and the blanket over his knees. Children listed are: Johann; Heinrich, born October 31, 1875; Peter, born October 7, 1877. In 1896 Johan T. Enns was resident in Rosenort.

<sup>252</sup> He was a son of Aeltester Heinrich Enns (1807-1881) Family No. 125 and his second wife Sara Toews (1828-1855). Her father Cornelius Toews (born 1802) was an uncle to Johan Toews, Family No. 44.

<sup>253</sup> She was a daughter of Johann Hiebert (1816-1890), Family No. 119.

**Family No. 121 Heinrich (Gerhard) Warkentin from Lichtenau**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Heinrich Warkentin <sup>253 a</sup>	Dec. 31, 1833	1853	April 20, 1855	Mar. 8, 1888
Wife Justina Enns <sup>254</sup>	Aug. 16, 1828	1848	April 20, 1855	<u>April 9, 1895</u>

Comments: From Russia to Manitoba in 1875. Children listed are: Heinrich, born January 22, 1856, and baptized December 18, 1875; Johan, born June 23, 1859, and baptized on January 31, 1878; Justina, born January 22, 1856, and baptized December 18, 1875; Anna, born June 23, 1859, and baptized January 31, 1879; Elisabeth, born March 17, 1868; Susana, born December 13, 1869.

<sup>253 a</sup> In a discussion on March 2, 1983, Mrs. William Staerk, Steinbach, Manitoba, recalled that Heinrich D. Warkentin (the son of Martin Warkentin) was her father's first cousin. This would mean that Heinrich Warkentin (Family No. 121) and Martin Warkentin (Family No. 96) were brothers.

<sup>254</sup> She was a sister to Aeltester Heinrich Enns, (1807-1881) Family No. 125. The Heinrich Warkentin family settled in Rosenort, Manitoba. See Helen Friesen, *Kith and Kin D. Friesen Family Record*, page 23. (Courtesy of David K. Friesen, Steinbach, Manitoba).

**Family No. 122 Gerhard Cornelsen from Lichtenau, Molotschna**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Gerhard Kornelsen <sup>255</sup>	Feb. 28, 1816	1834		<u>Aug. 14, 1894</u>
Second wife Cornelia (nee Warkentin) <sup>256</sup>	Dec. 26, 1822	1841	Oct. 15, 1872	<u>Oct. 11, 1892</u>

Comments: From Russia to Manitoba 1875. Children listed of the first marriage are: Gerhard, born May 16, 1857, and baptized on August 20, 1876; Heinrich, born April 28, 1860. Step children listed are: Jakob, born August 27, 1856; Johann, deceased; Sarah, born April 14, 1858, and baptized on January 31, 1879.

<sup>255</sup> He was a brother to Abraham S. Kornelsen (1806-1893) and the son of Abraham Kornelsen (1769-1831) and Agatha Schellenberg (1778-1858). See Abram K. Friesen *Familienbuch*, unpublished. (Courtesy of Henry S. Friesen). The first wife of Gerhard S. Cornelsen (1816-1894) was Maria Enns (1821-1871) who was a sister to Aeltester Heinrich Enns (1807-1881), Family No. 125. Gerhard S. Cornelsen, was a veteran Mennonite Kleine Gemeinde school teacher in the Molotschna. See a letter by Aeltester Isaac Peters, Henderson, Nebraska, in the Mennonite Rundschau, 17 August, 1892, Volume 13, Number 33. (Courtesy of Dennis Stoesz, Winnipeg, Manitoba.) The 1883 R.M. of Hanover Assessment Records show the Gerhard S. Cornelsen (born 1816) family to be living in Lichtenau, near Steinbach, Manitoba.

**Family No. 123 Abraham (Cornelius) Friesen from Lichtenau**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Abraham Friesen <sup>256</sup>	Feb. 16, 1846	1865	May, 1868	Sept. 16, 1884
Wife Agatha Cornelsen <sup>257</sup>	April 2, 1846	1865	May, 1868	<u>Mar. 3, 1897</u>

Comments: From Russia to Manitoba in 1875, Blumenhof. Abraham Friesen became sick on his return from a journey to Greta. He got off the train in Morris assisted by the Conductor. He drove home the next day where he became really sick and died. The above is related by sources distant to this incident. Children listed are: Maria, born October 1869; Agatha, born October 3, 1875, and died February 10, 1876; Agatha, born March 23, 1878.

<sup>256</sup> He was the son of Cornelius Friesen (1810-1892) see Family No. 56. He was a school teacher in Lichtenau, Molotschna.

<sup>257</sup> She was a daughter of Gerhard S. Cornelsen (1816-1894) See Family No. 122.

**Family No. 124 Epfraid Ballan from Lichtenau, Molotschna**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Epfraid Ballan <sup>258</sup>	Nov. 21, 1822	1866	May 20, 1863	
Second wife				
Floretina (nee ) <sup>258</sup>	1834	1866	May 20, 1863	

Comments: Remained in Russia.<sup>258</sup> Resident in the Colony Lichtenau, Molotschna. Children listed are: Johann, born November 25, 1856; Dorethea, born September 9, 1852; Justina, born December 27, 1858.

<sup>258</sup> Apparently a Kleine Gemeinde family which had also decided to leave their home for America but changing their minds at the last minute, or perhaps intending to emigrate a year or two later. As happened with a number of others this was then postponed and finally never happened.

**Family No. 125 Heinrich Enns from Fischau, Molotschna**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Heinrich Enns <sup>259</sup> <sup>(1)</sup>	July 19, 1807	1827		May 29, 1881

Comments: Left for Manitoba on May 4, 1875. Children listed of the third marriage are: Jacob <sup>(1)</sup>, born July 19, 1856, and baptized on December 18, 1875, and married C. Rempel who died on July 31, 1904, at Rosenort, near Morris. In 1896 he was resident in Rosenort, near Morris, Manitoba. Son Heinrich <sup>(1)</sup>, born October 1, 1859. In 1896 Heinrich (born 1859) was resident in Rosenhoff, near Morris, Manitoba. In 1896 son Jacob P. Enns was resident in Rosenort.

<sup>259</sup>He was the son of Cornelius Enns (1782-1831) of Fischau. Heinrich Enns served as the fourth Aeltester of the Mennonite Kleine Gemeinde from the years 1866-1868. His third wife was the widow Gerhard Goossen (nee Minna Plett) who was a sister to Cornelius Plett (1820-1900), see Family No. 70. See Peter Isaac *op. cit.*, pages 55-58. See also Family No. 50. His second wife Sara Toews, was the daughter of Cornelius Toews, an uncle to both Aeltester Peter Toews (Family No. 66), and to Peter W. Toews (Family No. 7).

**Family No. 126 Cornelius (Johann) Friesen from Lichtfelde, Molotschna**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Cornelius Friesen <sup>260</sup> <sup>(1)</sup>	Jan. 4, 1832	1855	Oct. 1, 1857	Dec. 27, 1911
Wife Maria Hiebert <sup>26</sup>	April 9, 1832	1855	Oct. 1, 1857	1919

Comments: From Russia to Manitoba in 1875. Children listed are: Klaas, born August 7, 1858, and baptized January 31, 1879. Cornelius, born October 1, 1867; Johann, born May 14, 1871; Peter, born October 15, 1874; Margaretha, born June 27, 1869. In 1896 Cornelius Friesen (born 1832) was resident in Winkler, Manitoba. Son Klaas <sup>(1)</sup> (born 1858) was resident in Rosenort, near Morris, Manitoba.

<sup>260</sup> He was a brother to Jakob K. Friesen (1822-1875), See Family No. 102. For a listing of his children and some of his further descendants see Helen Friesen, *Kith and Kin D. Friesen Family Record* (Part I, 1966, self-published).

**Family No. 127 Aron Esau from Steinrich<sup>261</sup>, in Manitoba**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Aron Esau <sup>26</sup>		Yes	1874	1909
Wife Sara Siemens		Yes	1874	

Comments: Aron Esau together with his son died the death of drowning near Herbert, Saskatchewan. Children listed are: Aron born June 10, 1876. Gertrude, born March 5, 1878.

<sup>261</sup> Aeltester Toews has added the notation that this family originally came from Kronsthal, Russia.

## Family No. 128 Gottlieb Janke

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Gottlieb Janke <sup>262</sup>	May 25, 1854	Yes	Nov. 21, 1875	
Wife Margaretha Friesen <sup>263</sup>	April 12, 1854	Yes	Nov. 21, 1875	April 4, 1877

Comments: From Russia to Blumenort, Manitoba. (Later Blumenhof).

<sup>262</sup> Gottlieb Janke was the son of Johan Janke (1818-1900), who immigrated to Russia in 1873. Although a Lutheran, Gottlieb Janke apparently found employment with the Kleine Gemeinde farmers in the Borosenko area, and left for Manitoba together with a group of Mennonite families on June 1, 1874. See Helene Janke, *Stammbuch Der Grosseltern* Klaas Friesen, *op. cit.*, page 5, also Harry S. Friesen, unpublished study of the Cornelius F. Friesen (Family No. 56) family.

<sup>263</sup> She was a daughter of Cornelius Friesen (1810-1892), see Family No. 56.

## Family No. 129 Dietrich (Peter) Isaak from Fischau, Russia

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Dietrich Isaak <sup>26</sup>	Jan. 27, 1831	1853		
Wife Anna Esau <sup>36</sup>	Nov. 9, 1840	1860		

Comments: From Russia in May of 1875. To Rosenfeld, Manitoba. Children listed are: Justina<sup>262 a</sup>, born July 15, 1866; Anna<sup>263 a</sup>, born June 15, 1868.

<sup>262 a</sup> She married Jakob W. Bartel (1864-1947). See Jakob Bartel *et al op. cit.*, pages 1-15. (See Family No. 3).

<sup>263 a</sup> She married Aeltester Jakob R. Dueck (1866-1924). See Bernard P. D. Reimer, et al, *op. cit.*, page 28 (Family No. 118).

## Family No. 130 Gerhard (Bernhard) Doerksen from Fischau, Russia

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Gerhard Doerksen <sup>264</sup>	May 20, 1825	1846	June 16, 1853	Dec. 15, 1882
Wife Helena Dueck <sup>265</sup>	Aug. 27, 1833	1852		June 5, 1910

Comments: Settled in Hochstaedt, Manitoba. Children listed are: Anna, born 1855, and baptized 1874. Helena, born 1862. Gerhard, born 1866. Bernhard, born 1870. Abraham, born 1872, and died.

<sup>264</sup> According to the Peter Toews *1872-1878 Diary*, the Gerhard Doerksens were accepted into the Mennonite Kleine Gemeinde together with their daughter Anna, also Mr. and Mrs. Dietrich Isaac, (Family No. 129) and Gottlieb Janke (Family No. 128) on October 3, 1875.

<sup>265</sup> She was distantly related to Cornelius Friesen (1810-1892) (Family No. 56) See Gerhard Doerksen *Familienbuch* unpublished (Courtesy of Rev. and Mrs. Bernard P. Doerksen), and Helena Janke, *op. cit.* The widow Gerhard Doerksen (nee Helena Dueck) married for the second time to Johan Warkentin (Family No. 1), and for the third time to Johan Janzen (Family No. 6).

## Family No. 131 Aron (Peter) Penner Blumenhof, Manitoba

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Aron Penner <sup>266 (1)</sup>	Mar. 30, 1852	Oct. 24, 1875	Jan. 1, 1876	Sept. 2, 1892
Wife Anganetha Warkentin <sup>267</sup>	May 27, 1852	Oct. 24, 1875	Jan. 1, 1876	July 6, 1876
Second wife Gertrude Toews <sup>268</sup>	July 20, 1857	Aug. 2, 1876	Sept. 17, 1876	May 3, 1892

Comments: From Russia to Blumenhof, Manitoba, in 1875. Penner was killed by lightning Children listed are: Aganetha, born July 5, 1877; Peter, born November 14, 1878.

<sup>266</sup> He was a son of Peter Penner (1816-1884) See Family No. 11.

<sup>267</sup> She was a daughter of Johan Warkentin (1817-1886) See Family No. 1.

<sup>268</sup> She was a daughter of Peter W. Toews, Family No. 7.

**Family No. 132 Heinrich (Jacob) Friesen from Heuboden**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Heinrich Friesen <sup>269</sup>	Mar. 26, 1851	1869	Sept. 2, 1875	Dec. 1, 1910
Wife Anna Klassen <sup>270</sup>	<u>July 10, 1855</u>	1872	Sept. 2, 1875	<u>Dec. 27, 1892</u>

Comments: From Russia to Rosenhoff, Manitoba. Children listed are: Heinrich, born January 13, 1875; David, born May 29, 1876; Aganetha, born March 21, 1878; Jacob, born November 3, 1879.

<sup>269</sup> He was a son of Jakob W. Friesen (1808-1889) who was a son of Abraham Friesen (1782-1849), the second Aeltester of the Mennonite Kleine Gemeinde. See Mrs. Jakob F. Isaac, *Friesen Genealogy*, unpublished, 2 pages. (Courtesy of Peter B. Dueck, Fisher Branch, Manitoba). Heinrich L. Friesen was a brother to Aeltester Abraham L. Friesen (1831-1917) of the Heuboden Mennonite Kleine Gemeinde according to the brother-in-law Rev. Abraham B. Klassen, *op. cit* page 65, Heinrich L. Friesen was born in the village of Blumstein.

<sup>270</sup> She was a daughter of delegate David Klassen (1813-1900) Family No. 82.

**Family No. 133 Martin (Jacob) Barkman**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Martin Barkman <sup>271</sup>	Nov. 18, 1853	Aug. 13, 1872	Oct. 24, 1875	Feb. 8, 1896
Wife Anna Doerksen <sup>272</sup>	1855	1874	Oct. 24, 1875	<u>Oct. 10, 1937</u>

Comments: Resident in Hochstaedt, Manitoba. Children listed are: Gerhard, born December 4, 1876, and died January 8, 1877; Martin, born May 6, 1878.

<sup>271</sup> He was the son of Rev. Jakob Barkman (1824-1875). See Family No. 98.

<sup>272</sup> She was the daughter of Gerhard Doerksen (1825-1882). See Family No. 130.

**Family No. 134 Abraham (Abraham) Eidse**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Abraham Eidse <sup>273</sup>	<u>April 10, 1857</u>	Dec. 18, 1875	<u>April 6, 1879</u>	July 16, 1930
Wife Helena Klassen <sup>274</sup>	Dec. 18, 1861	Jan. 31, 1879	<u>April 6, 1879</u>	Nov. 5, 1938

Comments: Resident in Rosenhof, Manitoba.

**Also Listed Are:**

Justina Eidse	July 24, 1851	Dec. 18, 1875	Feb. 1876	
Abraham Eidse <sup>(1)</sup>	Aug. 26, 1811	Yes		<u>April 9, 1893</u>
Heinrich Eidse <sup>(1)</sup>	Oct. 3, 1859	Jan. 31, 1879		

Comments: In 1896 Heinrich Eidse was resident in Rosenhoff, near Morris, Manitoba.

<sup>273</sup> He was the son of Abraham Eidse (1811-1893) and Anna Enns (1817-1864). The latter was a sister to Aeltester Heinrich Enns (1807-1881), Family No. 125. \*According to Rev. Abraham B. Klassen, in *Life's Experiences* his brother-in-law Abraham E. Eidse was born in the village of Fischau.

<sup>274</sup> She was a daughter of delegate David Klassen. Family No. 82.

**Family No. 135 Jacob (Peter) Toews**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Jacob Toews <sup>275</sup>	Feb. 21, 1855	Oct. 24, 1875	Jan. 25, 1876	<u>May 7, 1938</u>
Wife Margaretha Loewen <sup>276</sup>	Aug. 4, 1856	Oct. 24, 1875	Jan. 25, 1876	<u>Feb. 14, 1948</u>

Comments: Resident in Blumenort, Manitoba. Children listed are: David, born October 12, 1876; Peter, born July 19, 1878.

<sup>275</sup> He was the son of Peter W. Toews (1831-1922) See Family No. 7. For a family history and a listing of descendants see, Family Register Committee, *Jacob B. Toews Family Register 1855-1938* (Swallowell, Alberta, self-published 1982) available from Mr. Frank T. Barkman, Swallowell, Alberta. This book is an excellent example of a good, solid family history. For an earlier genealogy of this family see, Frank and Winnie Barkman. *Jacob B. Toews Family Register 1855-1938* (Swallowell, Alberta, self-published, 1973), 37 pages.

<sup>276</sup> She was the daughter of David Loewen (1836-1915) See Family No. 4.

### Family No. 136 Johann (Johann) Friesen

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Johann Friesen <sup>277</sup>	July 7, 1857	Dec. 18, 1875	July 2, 1876	Jan. 21, 1934
Wife Justina Warkentin <sup>278</sup>	Feb. 4, 1856	Dec. 18, 1875	July 2, 1876	June 7, 1943

Comments: Resident of Rosenhof, Manitoba. Children listed are: Johann, born April 15, 1877, and died February 14, 1878; Justina, born November 29, 1878.

<sup>277</sup> He was the son of Johan Friesen (1808-1872), the third Aeltester of the Mennonite Kleine Gemeinde.

<sup>278</sup> She was the daughter of Heinrich Warkentin (1833-1888) Family No. 121.

### Family No. 137 Peter (David) Klassen

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Peter Klassen <sup>279</sup>	Oct. 2, 1852	Yes	Dec. 26, 1874	June 7, 1930
Wife Katharina Koop <sup>280</sup>	Feb. 6, 1857	Yes	Dec. 26, 1874	Aug. 6, 1947

Comments: Resident in Blumenort. Children listed are: Johann, born January 21, 1876; Katharine, born May 10, 1877; Anganetha, born March 20, 1879.

<sup>279</sup> He was a son of delegate David Klassen, Family No. 82.

<sup>280</sup> She was a daughter of Johann Koop (1831-1897), Family No. 61. According to brother-in-law Abraham B. Klassen, *op. cit.*, page 55, she was born in the village of Margenau.

### Family No. 138 Gerhard (Gerhard) Schellenberg

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Gerhard Schellenberg <sup>281 (1)</sup>	Jan. 4, 1852	Yes	Oct. 12, 1876	Oct. 31, 1932
Wife Anna Regehr <sup>282</sup>	Nov. 9, 1858	Yes	Oct. 12, 1876	Nov. 23, 1938

Comments: Resident in Rosenfeld, Manitoba. Children listed are: Elisabeth, born November 3, 1879. In 1896 Gerhard Schellenberg (born 1852) was resident in Rosenfeld.

<sup>281</sup> He was the son of Gerhard Schellenberg (1827-1908) Family No. 10.

<sup>282</sup> She was the daughter of Jakob Regehr (1832-1906) Family No. 45.

### Family No. 139 Jacob (Heinrich) Enns

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Jacob Enns <sup>283</sup>	July 14, 1856	Dec. 18, 1875	Dec. 31, 1876	Aug. 1, 1942
Wife Katharina Rempel <sup>284</sup>	Sept. 27, 1854	1873	Dec. 31, 1876	July 31, 1904

<sup>283</sup> He was the son of Aeltester Heinrich Enns (1807-1881) Family No. 125.

<sup>284</sup> She was the daughter of Marten Rempel. Family No. 141.

**Family No. 140 Jacob (Jacob) Toews from Neuanlage, Russia**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Jacob Toews <sup>285</sup> (1)	Oct. 30, 1836	1856	Nov. 7, 1857	Oct. 16, 1920
Wife Katharina Wiens <sup>36</sup>	Aug. 15, 1835	1857	Nov. 7, 1857	Nov. 22, 1905

Comments: From Russia to Manitoba in 1874. Rosenort on the Scratching River. Later to North Dakota. Mrs. Toews was on a visit to her children, Mr. and Mrs. Jakob Toews, in Hochstaedt, when she died at the age of 70 years and three months. She was already ailing when she arrived on her visit. Children listed are: Jakob (1), born August 16, 1858, and baptized on January 17, 1878; Peter (1), born November 1, 1863; Abraham, born August 16, 1863; Klaas, born February 7, 1873; Isaak, born June 11, 1876; Maria, born January 6, 1860, and baptized January 31, 1879; Katharina, born September 22, 1861; Anna, born March 29, 1866; Margaretha, born September 1, 1879. In 1896 Jacob Toews (born 1836) and his son Jacob Toews (born 1858) are both living in North Dakota. In 1896 son Peter W. Toews<sup>286</sup> (born 1863) was living in Rosenort, Manitoba.

<sup>285</sup> He was the son of Jakob Toews (1805-1873), and a brother to Peter W. Toews (1831-1922). See Family No. 7. For a listing of descendants see Larry Toews and Mrs. Agnes Wiebe, *Family Record of Jakob Wiebe Toews 1836-1920* (Pisek, North Dakota, self-published 1980), 64 pages.

<sup>286</sup> For a listing of his descendants, see Willie Toews, *P. W. Toews Family Ledger 1887-1969* (Linden, Alberta, self-published, 1969), 8 pages.

**Family No. 141 Martin Rempel<sup>287</sup> from Margenau, Russia**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Widow Katharina Rempel <sup>288</sup>	June 11, 1826	Yes		June 1, 1900

Comments: Came from Russia in 1876 - Rosenort on the Scratching River. Children listed are: Jakob, born May 10, 1856, and baptized on January 17, 1878. Peter, born January 18, 1858, and baptized on January 17, 1878. Cornelius, born May 2, 1862. Gerhard, born August 5, 1867. Heinrich, born March 19, 1871. Maria born June 26, 1860 and baptized on January 31, 1879. Elisabeth, born June 22, 1864.

<sup>287</sup> Martin Rempel apparently was a brother to the second wife of Rev. Cornelius L. Plett, (Family No. 71), nee Helena Rempel (1843-1913). See Cornelius L. Plett, *Diary, May 18, 1895*. Thus Martin Rempel, who died in Russia in 1874, was a son of Abraham Rempel (1798-1878). See Family No. 22. Rev. Abraham B. Klassen who married a daughter of Martin Rempel (born January 14, 1823 and died on April 19, 1874) reports in his *Familienbuch (Life's Experiences)*, *op. cit.*, page 82, that his father-in-law was born in the village of Margenau. Klassen goes on to report that his mother-in-law, Mrs. Martin Rempel was born in the village of Muntau.

<sup>288</sup> She was apparently a sister to Johan Koop (1831-1897), Family No. 61. This is based on interviews with Mr. Jacob D. Rempel, Rosenort, and Mrs. Abram C. Penner, Landmark, in 1981. See also David L. Plett, *Sterbe register, op. cit.*, where he describes the Martin Rempel children as his wife's cousins.

**Family No. 142 Johann (Martin) Rempel from Margenau, Molotschna**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Johann Rempel <sup>289</sup>	Oct. 12, 1851	1871	Jan. 8, 1876	
Wife Maria Peters <sup>36</sup>	Apr. 3, 1847	1868	Jan. 8, 1876	

Comments: Came from Russia in 1876. To Rosenort, on the Scratching River. Children listed are: Jakob, born February 24, 1877; Katharina, born October 18, 1878.

<sup>289</sup> He was a son of Martin Rempel. See Family No. 141

### Family No. 143 Abraham (David) Klassen

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Abraham Klassen <sup>290</sup> (1)	July 31, 1850 <sup>291</sup>	1869		Dec. 26, 1935
Wife Anna Rempel <sup>292</sup>	1849	1868	Sept., 1870	Oct. 18, 1877
Second Wife Elizabeth Warkentin <sup>293</sup>	Oct. 15, 1859	Sept. 9, 1877	Dec. 6, 1877	July 8, 1922

Comments: From Russia in 1876. To Rosenhof on the Scratching River. In 1896 Abraham Klassen was resident in Rosenhof, near Morris, Manitoba. Children listed of the first marriage are: Katharina, born January 6, 1875. Children listed of the second marriage are: Abraham, born 1878.

<sup>290</sup> He was a son of delegate David Klassen (1813-1900), Family No. 82. See his memoirs for interesting descriptions of pioneer life in Manitoba and Alberta.

<sup>291</sup> Aeltester Toews has here made the notation that July 31 would be August 2 here in America.

<sup>292</sup> She was a daughter of Martin Rempel. See Family No. 141.

<sup>293</sup> She was a daughter of Johan Warkentin (1817-1886), Family No. 1.

### Family No. 144 Johann Dueck

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Johann Dueck <sup>294</sup>	July 22, 1856	Aug. 20, 1876	Oct. 7, 1877	Mar. 15, 1918
Wife Margaretha Hiebert <sup>295</sup>	Mar. 17, 1860	Sept. 9, 1877	Oct. 7, 1877	Sept. 2, 1936

Comments: Resident in Gruenfeld, Manitoba.

<sup>294</sup> He was the son of Johan L. Dueck (1833-1894). See Family No. 117.

<sup>295</sup> She was a daughter of Johan Hiebert (1816-1890). See Family No. 119.

### Family No. 145 Johann (Cornelius) Plett

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Johann Plett <sup>296</sup> (1)	Oct. 17, 1855	Aug. 20, 1876	Feb. 20, 1877	Nov. 16, 1900
Wife Katherina Warkentin <sup>297</sup>	Sept. 1, 1841		Feb. 20, 1877	Apr. 1, 1913

Comments: Resident in Blumenhof, Manitoba. Johann Plett died of typhus fever. The widow Plett died in Blumenhof, Manitoba, at the age of 71 years, and 7 months, less 2 days. Children listed are: Margaretha, born November 27, 1877. In 1896, Johan L. Plett (born 1855) was resident in Blumenhof, Manitoba.

<sup>296</sup> He was the son of Cornelius Plett (1820-1900). See Family No. 70.

<sup>297</sup> She was the daughter of Johann Warkentin (1817-1886). Family No. 1. Her first husband was Heinrich Reimer (1818-1876). Family No. 64.

### Family No. 146 Abr. Schellenberg

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Abr. Schellenberg <sup>298</sup>				
Wife Margar. Esau <sup>298</sup>		Yes		

Comments: Resident in Gruenfeld. Children listed are: son Jacob, daughter Margaretha, son Abraham, born December 31, 1877.



### Family No. 147 Abraham (Ab.) Loewen

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Abraham Loewen <sup>299</sup> (1)	Oct. 23, 1856	Aug. 20, 1876	Mar. 4, 1877	Sept. 4, 1944
Wife Helena Isaak <sup>299</sup>	Apr. 23, 1858	Aug 20, 1876	Mar. 4, 1877	June 30, 1945

Comments: Gruenfeld, Manitoba. Children listed are: Abraham, born December 14, 1877 and died January 18, 1879; Anna, born July 10, 1879. In 1896, Abraham Loewen (born 1856) was living in Hochstaedt, Manitoba.

<sup>299</sup> He was the son of Abraham Loewen (1833-1886). Family No. 48.

<sup>299</sup> She was the daughter of Johann Isaak (1809-1886) and a sister to Johan Isaak (1836-1920). See Family No. 47. See Peter Isaak, *op. cit.*, pages 43-44.

### Family No. 148 Johann Wiebe

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Johann Wiebe <sup>300</sup>				
Wife Maria Neufeld <sup>30</sup>				

Comments: Resident in Steinbach, Manitoba. Children listed are: Johan, Heinrich, Maria<sup>301</sup> and Anna, born May 6, 1878.

<sup>300</sup> This family moved to Lanigan, Saskatchewan in 1906 and to Oregon in 1910. This must have been the family which operated a treadmill in the village of Blumenhof, Borosenko; and which is listed as one of the pioneer families in Steinbach, Manitoba. See *History and Events*, *op. cit.*, pages 99 and 151.

<sup>301</sup> She married Abram K. Plett (1884-1955), the son of Abraham L. Plett, Family no. 152.

### Family No. 149 Isaac Devehr

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Isaac Devehr <sup>302</sup> (1)	Oct. 23, 1856	Jan. 17, 1878		Nov. 6, 1925
Wife Anna Toews <sup>303</sup>	Feb. 19, 1853	Dec. 2, 1870		<u>Nov. 22, 1935</u>

Comments: Resident in Blumenort, Manitoba.

<sup>302</sup> He was the step-son of Gerhard Siemens (1834-1876). See Family No. 26 .

<sup>303</sup> She was the widow of Heinrich Wiebe (1851-1876). See Family No. 21.

### Family No. 150 Johann (Cor.) Toews

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Johann Toews <sup>304</sup> (1)	Sept. 28, 1858	Aug. 3, 1879	Nov., 1879	Apr. 7, 1931
Wife Sara Fast <sup>30</sup>	Sept. 21, 1861	1879	Nov., 1879	<u>Nov. 5, 1927</u>

Comments: Gruenfeld, Manitoba. In 1896 Johan F. Toews was resident in Steinbach, Manitoba.

<sup>304</sup> He was the son of delegate Cornelius P. Toews (1836-1908). See Family No. 43.

### Family No. 151 Peter (Cor.) Plett

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Peter Plett <sup>305</sup>	Feb. 6, 1858	Aug. 4, 1878	Feb. 27, 1879	Oct. 19, 1944
Wife Margaretha Koop <sup>306</sup>	Oct. 12, 1859	Aug. 4, 1878	<u>Feb. 27, 1879</u>	<u>April 4, 1883</u>

Comments: Resident in Blumenhof, Manitoba.

<sup>305</sup> He was the son of Cornelius Plett (1820-1900). See Family No. 70.

<sup>306</sup> She was the daughter of Johann Koop (1831-1897). See Family No. 122.

**Family No. 152 Abraham (Corn.) Plett**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Abraham Plett <sup>307</sup>	May 6, 1859	Aug. 4, 1878	Nov. 21, 1879	Oct. 15, 1934
Gertrude Koop <sup>308</sup>	Nov. 25, 1861	Aug. 4, 1878	<u>Nov. 21, 1879</u>	<u>June 2, 1943</u>

Comments: Resident in Blumenhof, Manitoba.

<sup>307</sup> He was the son of Cornelius Plett (1820-1900). See Family No. 70

<sup>308</sup> She was the daughter of Johan Koop (1831-1897). See Family No. 61.

**Family No. 153 Gerhard Cornelson, Junior**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Gerhard Cornelson <sup>309</sup>	May 16, 1857	Aug. 20, 1876	Jan. 13, 1878	Feb. 2, 1933
Wife Elisabeth Giesbrecht <sup>310</sup>	Apr. 29, 1855	Oct. 23, 1875	Jan. 13, 1878	<u>Jan. 2, 1910</u>

Comments: Resident in Eigenfeld. Mrs. Cornelson died in Steinbach, Manitoba.

<sup>309</sup> He was the son of Gerhard S. Kornelson (1816-1894). See Family No. 122.

<sup>310</sup> She was a daughter of Gerhard Giesbrecht (1816-1863) and a sister of Wilhelm Giesbrecht (1849-1917). See Family No. 78 and 106.

**Family No. 154 Jacob (David) Klassen**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Jacob Klassen <sup>311</sup>	Mar. 17, 1858	Jan. 17, 1878	Mar. 30, 1878	Mar. 25, 1936
Wife Maria Rempel <sup>312</sup>	June 26, 1860	Jan. 31, 1879	Mar. 30, 1878	<u>May 18, 1921</u>

Comments: Resident in Rosenhof, Manitoba.

<sup>311</sup> He was a son of delegate David Klassen (1813-1900). See Family No. 82.

<sup>312</sup> She was a daughter of Martin Rempel. See Family No. 141.

**Family No. 155 Jacob (Jacob) Barkman**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Jacob Barkman <sup>313 (1)</sup>	Jan. 28, 1856	Oct. 24, 1875	Sept. 8, 1878	May 23, 1899
Wife Maria Friesen <sup>314</sup>	May 15, 1860	Aug. 4, 1878	Sept. 8, 1878	<u>Mar. 30, 1942</u>

Comments: Resident in Steinbach, Manitoba. Children listed are: Katharina, born July 18, 1879.

<sup>313</sup> He was the son of Jacob Barkman (1824-1875). See Family No. 98.

<sup>314</sup> She was the daughter of Jakob K. Friesen (1822-1875). See Family No. 102.

**Family No. 156 Johann (Jacob) Barkman**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Johann Barkman <sup>315 (1)</sup>	Mar. 14, 1858	Aug. 20, 1876	Jan. 6, 1878	Oct. 20, 1937
Wife Margaretha Friesen <sup>316</sup>	Mar. 12, 1858	Aug. 20, 1876	Jan. 6, 1878	<u>Jan. 20, 1946</u>

Comments: Resident in Steinbach, Manitoba. Children listed are: Johann born June 27, 1879.

<sup>315</sup> He was the son of Rev. Jakob Barkman (1824-1875). See Family No. 98.

<sup>316</sup> She was the daughter of Jakob K. Friesen (1822-1875). See Family No. 102.

**Family No. 157 Peter Baerg, Junior**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Peter Baerg <sup>317 (1)</sup>	Nov. 3, 1856	Aug. 20, 1876	Feb. 11, 1879	Jan. 23, 1933
Wife Margaretha Loewen <sup>318</sup>	Jan. 1, 1860	Aug. 4, 1878	Feb. 11, 1879	<u>Jan. 11, 1945</u>

Comments: Resident in Gruenfeld. In 1896 Peter Baerg, Junior, was resident in Hochstaedt.

<sup>317</sup> He was the son of Rev. Peter Baerg (1817-1901) and Susanna Neuman (1820-1891). See Family No. 107.

<sup>318</sup> She was the daughter of Abraham Loewen (1836-1886) and Helena Thiessen (1834-1869). See Family No. 48

**Family No. 158 Jacob (M.) Rempel**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Jacob Rempel <sup>319</sup>	May 10, 1856	Jan. 10, 1878	Mar. 23, 1878	
Wife Aganetha Kroeker <sup>320</sup>	June 4, 1861	Jan. 31, 1879	<u>Mar. 23, 1878</u>	<u>Jan. 3, 1919</u>

Comments: Resident in Rosenort.

<sup>319</sup> He was the son of Marten Rempel. See Family No. 141.

<sup>320</sup> She was the daughter of Aeltester Jakob M. Kroeker (1837-1913). See Family No. 84.

**Family No. 159 Peter (M.) Rempel**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Peter Rempel <sup>321</sup>	Jan. 18, 1858	Jan. 17, 1878	1879	<u>Dec. 26, 1918</u>
Wife Maria Toews <sup>322</sup>	June 26, 1860		1879	<u>Nov. 12, 1937</u>

Comments: Resident in Rosenort. Children listed are: Peter, born November 29, 1879 and died December 4, 1879.

<sup>321</sup> He was the son of Martin Rempel. See Family No. 141.

<sup>322</sup> She was the daughter of Jakob Toews (1836-1920). See Family No. 140.

**Family No. 160 David (David) Thiessen**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
David Thiessen <sup>323</sup>	May 6, 1858	Yes		July 27, 1882
Wife Elizabeth Devchr <sup>324</sup>	<u>Sept. 13, 1860</u>	Yes		<u>Oct. 10, 1940</u>

Comments: Resident in Blumenort and presently in Rosenort.

<sup>323</sup> He was the son of David F. Thiessen (1834-1906). See Family No. 29.

<sup>324</sup> She was the daughter of the first wife of Gerhard Siemens (nee Harder). See Family No. 26.

**Family No. 161 Peter (Peter) Toews**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Peter Toews <sup>325</sup>	Jan. 19, 1858	Yes	Nov. 24, 1878	Aug. 11, 1945
Elisabeth Reimer <sup>326</sup>	Oct. 2, 1858	Yes	Nov. 24, 1878	<u>Sept. 4, 1886</u>

Comments: Resident in Blumenort.

<sup>325</sup> He was the son of Peter W. Toews (1831-1922). See Family No. 7.

<sup>326</sup> She was the daughter of Klaas R. Reimer (1837-1906). See Family No. 35.

**Family No. 162 Isaac (Peter) Penner**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Isaak Penner <sup>327</sup> <sup>(1)</sup>	Jan. 28, 1860	Yes	1879	Oct. 24, 1924
Wife Margaretha Toews <sup>328</sup>	<u>Oct. 8, 1860</u>	Yes	1879	<u>Aug. 30, 1933</u>

Comments: Resident in Blumenort. In 1896 Isaac Penner was resident in Greenland, Manitoba.

<sup>327</sup> He was the son of Peter Penner (1816-1884). See Family No. 11.

<sup>328</sup> She was the daughter of Peter W. Toews (1831-1922). See Family No. 7.

**Family No. 163 Heinrich (Peter) Penner**

Name	Birthdate	Baptized	Married	Died
Heinrich Penner <sup>329</sup>	Nov. 17, 1866		Jan. 17, 1887	Apr. 25, 1925
Wife Maria Friesen <sup>330</sup>	<u>Jan. 18, 1867</u>		Jan. 17, 1887	Feb. 18, 1910

Comments: Mrs. Penner died in Greenland, Manitoba.

<sup>329</sup> He was the son of Peter Penner (1816-1884). See Family No. 11.

<sup>330</sup> She was a daughter of Heinrich Friesen (1827-1877) and Katharina Schellenberg (1824-1901). See Family No. 112.



# Chapter Two

## Quebec Ship Lists 1874-1875

This chapter reproduces the passenger ship lists of the Kleine Gemeinde families emigrating to Manitoba in 1874-1875. The records reproduced here are based on the transcriptions prepared by Adolf Ens, Canadian Mennonite Bible College, Manitoba, Canada, in 1974. Careful comparison was made with the original microfilms in order to make the work as accurate as possible. (See Adolf Ens and Rita Penner, "Quebec Passenger Lists of the Russian Mennonite Immigration, 1874-1880", Mennonite Quarterly Review, XLVIII, October 1974, Number 4, 527-531.) Additional information about the families listed is recorded under the appropriate family no. in chapter one.

### 1. S.S. Austrian No. 40 July 17, 1874

Name	Family No.	Occ/Sex	Name	Family No.	Occ/Sex	
D	(1) Klassen	82	l	Johan	Quiring	c/m
Ang	"	82	w	G	"	c/m
P	"	82	c/m	A	"	c/f
J	"	82	c/m	A	"	c/f
Helen	"	82	c/f	Kath	"	c/f
Johan	(Friesen)	82	c/m	Ab	Klassen	l
Ang	(Friesen)	82	c/f	Barb	"	w
Maria	(Friesen)	82	c/f	Kath	"	c/f
D	Klassen	116	l	P	(4) Esau	l
He	"	116	w	Anna	(5) "	w
D	"	116	c/m	P	"	c/m
Ang	"	116	c/f	Jacob	"	c/m
Hen	Friesen	132	l	Kath	"	c/f
Ann	Friesen	132	w	M	"	c/f
Jacob	Kroeker	84	l	Anna	"	c/f
M	"	84	w	Isaac	(6) Braun	l
J	"	84	c/m	M	"	w
D	"	84	c/m	J	"	c/m
A	"	84	c/f	K	"	c/f
E	"	84	c/f	P	Redekob	l
Jakob	Friesen	87	l	Ann	"	w
E	"	87	w	P	"	c/m
E	"	87	c/f	Corn	(7) Toews	43
M	"	87	c/f	Anna	"	43
Maria	"	87	c/f	Johan	"	43
Jacob	"	87	c/m	Corn	"	43
Jacob	Toews	140	l	Maria	"	43
Kath	"	140	w	An	"	43
P	"	140	c/m	Widow	(8) (Bartel)	43
A	"	140	c/m	Cath	(Bartel)	43
C	"	140	c/m	Johan	Toews	44
Cath	"	140	c/f	Ann	"	44
Anna	"	140	c/f	P	"	44
Jacob	"	140	c/m	Heinrich	"	44
M	"	140	c/f	Corn	"	44
Wilhelm	(2) Vogt		l	Jacob	"	44
Anna	"		w	Helen	"	44
Peter	"		c/m	Anna	"	44
Heinrich	"		c/m	John	Toews	49
Wilhelm	"		c/m	Eliz	"	49
Johann	Nikkel		l	Jacob	(9) Regehr	45
Marie	"		w	Ann	"	45
Johan	(3) Quiring		l	J	"	45
Ang	"		w	Johan	"	45
Hen	"		c/m	Ann	"	45

Name	Family No.	Occ/Sex	Name	Family No.	Occ/Sex	
Maria	"	45	Eliz	"	10	w
Widow	(10) Goosen	50	Ger	"	10	l
Gerard	"	50	Jacob	(Bartel)	10	c/m
Anna	"	50	Marg	(Schellenberg)	10	c/f
Peter	"	50	Kath	(Goossen)	10	c/f
Corn	Loewen	46	Jacob	Barkman	16	l
Helena	"	46	Aganetha	"	16	w
Cornelius	"	46	Jacob	"	16	c/m
Isaak	"	46	Peter	Ens	20	l
John	Isaak	47	Agatha	"	20	w
E	"	47	Ag	"	20	c/f
Johan	"	47	Hen	Wiebe	21	l
An	"	47	Anna	"	21	w
Franz	(Goossen)	47	Jacob	"	21	c/m
Widow	Isaac	47	Pet	"	21	c/m
Helen	"	47	P	(15) "	21	c/m
Abram	Isaak	42	Dietrich	Friesen	24	l
Magt	"	42	Kath	"	24	w
Ab	Loewen	48	Johan	(16) Esau	22	l
S	"	48	Marg	"	22	w
A	"	48	Johan	(17) "	22	l
M	"	48	A	(18) Rempel	22	w
H	"	48	Eliz	Broeski	105	c/f
An	"	48	Johan	Friesen	23	l
S	(11) "	48	Helen	"	23	w
David	(12) Unger	52	Johan	"	23	c/m
M	"	52	Helen	"	23	c/f
A	"	52	Heinrich	Reimer	65	l
D	"	52	Kath	(20) "	65	w
J	"	52	Kath	"	65	c/f
Judith	"	52	P	Dueck	67	l
P	Loewen	62	Susanna	"	67	w
Anna	"	62	Johann	"	67	c/m
Johan	(13) Koop	61	Peter	"	67	c/f
K	"	61	Hen	"	67	c/m
J	"	61	Cor	Friesen	74	l
Johan	"	61	Ag	"	74	w
P	"	61	Ag	"	74	c/f
Kath	"	61	Wittwe	Friesen	72	w
Aganetha	"	61	Claus	"	72	l
Gertrude	"	61	Henrich	"	72	l
Helena	"	61	David	"	72	l
M	"	61	Anna	"	72	s
Isaak	Loewen	8	Maria	"	72	c/f
Elias	"	8	Pet	Wiebe	76	l
Isaak	"	8	Eliz	"	76	w
Johan	"	8	Jacob	"	76	l
Corn	"	8	Pet	"	76	c/m
Henrich	Friesen	97	Johan	"	76	c/m
Helena	"	97	Eliz	"	76	c/f
Abram	"	97	Anna	(21) Toews	7	w
Henrich	"	97	Abram	Reimer	77	l
P	"	97	Maria	"	77	w
J	"	97	Abram	"	77	c/m
G	"	97	Claus	"	77	c/m
I	"	97	Henrich	"	77	c/m
Helena	"	97	Peter	"	77	c/m
Franz	Wiens	9	Johan	"	77	c/m
Eliz	"	9	Eliz	"	77	c/f
Peter	"	9	Pet	(22) Kroeker	81	l
Frank	"	9	Margt	"	81	w
Jacob	"	9				
Ger	(14) Schellenberg	10				

Name	Family No.	Occ/Sex	Name	Family No.	Occ/Sex		
M	"	81	c/f	Klaus	"	83	c/m
Pet	"	81	c/m	Anna	"	83	c/f
Jacob	"	81	c/m	Justina	"	83	c/f
P	(23) Harms	93	l	Hen	(29) Wolgemuth	51	l
Anna	"	93	w	Jo	Breski	105	l
Isaak	"	93	c/m	Da	Hiebert	90	l
Johan	Harms	92	l	Margt	"	90	w
M	"	92	w	Hen	Ratzlav	80	l
J	"	92	c/m	Ang	"	80	w
Anna	"	92	c/f	Hen	"	80	c/m
M	"	92	c/f	Corn	"	80	c/m
Maria	"	92	c/f	Wittwe	Ratslav	80	w
Eliz	"	92	c/f	Pet	(30) Dueck	95	l
Jacob	(24) Friesen	86	l	Marg	"	95	w
Margt	"	86	w	Hen	"	95	c/m
Eliz	(Braun)	86	c/f	Jacob	"	95	c/m
Cath	(Broski)	86	c/f	P	"	95	c/m
A.T.	(25) Friesen	89	l	M	"	95	c/f
Cornelia	"	89	w	Anna	"	95	c/f
Gerhd	(26) Harms	94	l	Maria	"	95	c/f
Maria	"	94	w	Martin	Warkentin	96	l
W	Giesbrecht	78	w	Anna	"	96	w
G	"	78	c/m	Henrich	"	96	c/m
Widow	Giesbrecht	78	w	Agatha	"	96	c/f
Jacob	"	78	c/m	Elis	"	96	c/f
Elis	"	78	l	Elis	"	96	c/f
Peter	Baerg	107	l	Johan	Friesen	88	l
Susanna	"	107	w	Anna	"	88	w
Anna	"	107	s	Johan	"	88	c/m
Sarah	"	107	c/f	Anna	"	88	c/f
Peter	"	107	l	J	(31) Klassen	85	l
Henrich	Esau	108	l	Maria	"	85	w
Anna	"	108	w	Jacob	"	85	c/m
Henr	"	108	c/m	Maria	"	85	c/f
Abraham	"	108	c/m	Margt	"	85	c/f
Johan	"	108	c/m	Anna	"	85	c/f
Maria	"	108	c/f	D	DeFehr	l	l
Margt	"	108	c/f	Maria	"	w	w
Corn	(27) Cornelson	109	l	David	"	c/m	c/m
Kath	"	109	w	Johan	"	c/m	c/m
Cor	"	109	c/m	Isaak	"	c/m	c/m
Jacob	"	109	c/m	Jacob	"	c/m	c/m
Barbara	"	109	c/f	Maria	"	c/f	c/f
Abram	Cornelson	110	l	Kath	"	c/f	c/f
Maria	"	110	w	Maria	"	c/f	c/f
Jacob	"	110	c/m	Johann	Neudorf	l	l
Helena	"	110	c/f	Anna	"	w	w
Corn	Eidse	79	l	Abram	"	c/m	c/m
Helena	"	79	w	Franz	"	c/m	c/m
David	(Friesen)	79	l	Anna	"	c/f	c/f
Cor	Eidse	79	c/m	Ang	"	c/f	c/f
Ang	"	79	l	Cath	"	c/f	c/f
Franz	Froese	91	l	Hen	(32) Menah	l	l
Anna	"	91	w	Elis	"	w	w
Franz	"	91	c/m	Elis	"	s	s
Mt	(28) "	91	c/f	Johan	(33) Jantzen	6	l
Eliz	"	91	c/f				
Anne	"	91	c/f				
Maria	"	91	c/f				
Claus	Wiebe	83	l				
Anna	"	83	w				
Isaak	"	83	c/m				



### 3. S.S. Peruvian No. 47 July 27, 1874

Name	Family No.	Age	Occ.
Peter	Toews	7	43 l
Ang	"	7	46 w
Jacob	"	7	19 l
Peter	"	7	15 l
Johan	"	7	9 c
Gertrude	"	7	16 s
Margt	"	7	11 c
Kath	"	7	10 c
Esabelle	(34) "	7	29 s
Martin	Penner	13	24 l
Ang	"	13	20 w
Peter	Penner	11	58 l
Eliz	"	11	42 w
Aaron	"	11	22 l
Isaac	"	11	14 l
Heinrich	"	11	7 c
Eliz	"	11	9 c
Maria	"	11	5 c
Anna	"	11	2 c
Helena	"	11	1 i
Marga	Harder	11	53 w

Name	Family No.	Age	Occ.
Justina	11	1	i
Peter	Brandt	18	27 l
Kath	"	18	28 w
Johan	"	18	6 c
Peter	"	18	2 c
Henrich	"	18	1 i
Peter	Unger	19	33 l
Justina	"	19	37 w
Johan	"	19	8 c
Corn	"	19	1 i
Maria	"	19	11 c
Justina	"	19	4 c
Eliz	"	19	3 c
Cornelius	Penner	14	20 l
Ang	"	14	19 w
Peter	Isaac	5	27 l
Kath	"	5	25 w
Peter	"	5	1 i
David	"	5	1 i

### 6. S.S. Hibernian No. 63 August 27, 1874

Name	Family No.	Age	Occ.
Peter	Friesen	39	36 l
Elisabeth	"	39	32 w
Peter	"	39	6 c
Jacob	"	39	3 c
Kath	"	39	10 c
Eliz	"	39	c
Gerhard	Friesen	53	22 l
Maria	"	53	21 w
Ab	Penner	12	26 l
Margt	"	12	22 w
Eliz	"	12	3 c
Marg	"	12	2 c
Ab	"	12	1 i
Johan	Reimer	30	26 l
Anna	"	30	30 w
Ab(died)	"	30	1 i
Eliz	"	30	2 c
Class	Reimer	35	36 l
Kath	(35) "	35	37 w
Abraham	"	35	12 c
Claus	(36) "	35	11 c
Henrich	"	35	10 c
Peter	"	35	6 c
Johan	"	35	5 c
Cornelius	"	35	3 c
Eliz	"	35	15 s
Kath	"	35	7 c
Abr	Reimer	31	66 l
Eliz	"	31	59 w
Gerhard	Siemens	26	40 l
Aganeth	"	26	35 w
Isaak	(Devehr)	26	17 l
Peter	Siemens	26	7 c
Eliz	(Devehr)	26	12 c

Name	Family No.	Age	Occ.
Aganeth	(Janzen)	26	2 c
Gertrude	Siemens	26	1 c
Peter	Toews	28	34 l
Elisabeth	"	28	30 w
Peter	"	28	2 c
Eliz	"	28	11 c
Anna	"	28	10 c
Katherina	"	28	8 c
Maria	"	28	3 c
Abraham	"	28	1 i
Ab	(37) Friesen	37	25 l
Kath	"	37	24 w
Abraham	"	37	5 c
Claus	"	37	3 c
Peter	"	37	1 i
Peter	(38) Buller	38	38 l
Anna	"	38	30 w
Franz	"	38	11 c
Peter	"	38	10 c
Jacob	"	38	6 c
Johan	"	38	2 c
Elizth	"	38	4 c
Inft	"	38	1 i
Cornelius	(39) Fast	34	33 l
Helena	"	34	33 w
Cornelius	"	34	9 c
Helena	"	34	8 c
Susanna	"	34	4 c
Gerhard	Siemens	25	68 l
Gerdt	"	25	66 w
Sarah	"	25	19 s
Claus	(40) Brandt	32	29 l
Margt	(41) "	32	30 w
Isaak	(Harms)	32	15 l
Anna	(Harms)	32	12 s

Name	Family No.	Age	Occ.
Claus	Brandt	32	1 i
Cath	Friesen	32	29 w
Abram	Friesen	73	39 l
Margt	"	73	40 w
Johan	"	73	14 l
Abrah	"	73	11 c
Klaus	"	73	6 c
Isaak	"	73	3 c
Peter	"	73	1 i
Margt	"	73	9 c
Jacob	Foehr	65	1 l
Helena	"	65	w
Johan	"	18	1 l
Dietrich	"	14	c
Bernhardt	Bergen	26	1 l
Cath	"	21	s
Jacob	"	1	i
Jacob	Wiebe	54	44 l
Anna	"	54	41 w
Johan	"	54	11 c
Peter	"	54	1 i
Anna	"	54	4 c
Abrah	(42) Klassen	115	45 l
Helena	"	115	41 w
Johanna	"	115	19 l
Gerhard	"	115	14 l

Name	Family No.	Age	Occ.
Jacob	"	115	12 c
Dietrich	"	115	8 c
Peter	"	115	3 c
Helena	"	115	15 s
Anna	"	115	9 c
Aganetta	"	115	6 c
Peter	(43) Joost	46	1 l
Adelenjendi	"	42	w
Peter	"	22	1 l
Henrich	"	20	1 l
Maria	"	16	s
Klaas	"	14	1 l
Adeljundi	"	11	c/f
Helena	"	8	c
Martin	"	5	c
Jacob	"	3	c
Catherina	"	1	i/d. at.s.
David	Unruh	57	1 l
Helen	"	46	w
David	"	21	1 l
Henrich	"	20	1 l
Abraham	"	15	1 l
Andreas	"	10	c/m
Helena	"	11	c
Eva	"	7	c
Maria	"	3	c

7. S.S. Austrian No. 65 August 31, 1874

Name	Family No.	Age	Occ.
Peter	(44) Braun	33	1 l
Kath	"	42	w
Peter	"	6	c
Kath	"	10	c
Anna	"	8	c
Elizth	"	1	i
Wittwe	"	76	wdd
Peter	Barkman	15	48 l
Anna	"	15	46 w
Peter	"	15	12 l
Johan	"	15	10 c
Anna	"	15	20 s
Angth	"	15	14 s
Widower	Barkman	15	80 widower
Peter	Reimer	36	28 l
Maria	"	36	23 w
Elis	"	36	5 c
David	(45) Thiessen	29	40 l
Angth	"	29	40 w
David	"	29	15 l
Gerhard	"	29	12 l
Heinrich	"	29	9 c
Peter	"	29	4 c
Elizth	"	29	10 c
Maria	"	29	9 c
Kath	"	29	6 c

Name	Family No.	Age	Occ.
Franz	Kroeker	27	46 l
Margth	"	27	31 w
Cornelius	"	27	11 c
Margth	"	27	10 c
Sarah	"	27	3 c
Heinrich	(46) Brandt	33	36 l
Kath	"	33	33 w
Heinrich	"	33	7 c
Anna	"	33	12 s
Maria	"	33	11 c
Wittwe	Plett	70	31 wid
Isaak	"	70	7 c
Cornelius	Friesen	56	63 l
Maria	"	56	54 w
Cornelius	"	56	22 l
Martin	"	56	18 l
Maria	"	56	28 s
Anna	"	56	25 s
Margareth	"	56	20 s
Helena	"	56	16 s
Susanne	"	56	10 c
Cornelius	Goosen	57	34 l
Katherina	"	57	22 w
Abraham	Dueck	59	32 l
Elisabeth	"	59	31 w

Name	Family No.	Age	Occ.	Name	Family No.	Age	Occ.		
Johan	"	59	10	c	Jacob	Friesen	102	51	l
Abraham	"	59	7	c	Katharina	"	102	52	w
Elisabeth	"	59	6	c	Johan	"	102	20	l
Aganetha	"	59	1	i	Katharina	"	102	18	s
Claus	Friesen	60	35	l	Margareth	"	102	16	s
Maria	"	60	31	w	Maria	"	102	12	s
Cornelius	"	60	11	c	Susana	"	102	10	c
Klaas	"	60	4	c	Jacob	Friesen	103	24	l
Jacob (46) Barkman	"	98	56	l	Margareth	"	103	22	w
Katherina	"	98	44	w	Abraham	Eidse	134	63	l
Martin	"	98	20	l	Abraham	"	134	17	l
Jacob	"	98	18	l	Heinrich	"	134	15	l
Johan	"	98	16	l	Justine	"	134	23	s
Cornelius	"	98	12	l	Isaac (49) Lowen	"	41	23	l
Helena	"	98	21	s	Katharina	"	41	20	w
Aganeth	"	98	10	c	Heinrich (50) Fast	"	104	47	l
Anna	"	98	8	c	Charlotta	"	104	46	w
Maria	"	98	6	c	Cornelius	"	104	16	l
Margareth	"	98	3	c	Heinrich	"	104	8	c
Gerhard	Giesbrecht	106	28	l	Sarah	"	104	12	s
Anna	"	106	23	w	Johan (51) Hiebert	"	100	32	l
Gerhard	"	106	2	c	Maria	"	100	29	w
Heinrich	"	106	1	i	Johan	"	100	6	c
Peter	Loewen	40	49	l	Jacob	"	100	4	c
Elizabeth (47)	"	40	51	w	Johan	Wiebe	148	32	l
Jacob	"	40	11	c	Maria	"	148	23	w
Jacob (Esau)	"	40	8	c	Johan (61)	"	148	10	c
Peter (Loewen)	"	40	8	c	Maria	"	148	5	c
Justina (Esau)	"	40	10	c	Heinrich	"	148	1	i
Aron (48)	"	40	20	l	Josep (52) Ruchjek	"			
Jacob	Ens	55	30	l	Franz (52) Rayman	"			
Maria	"	55	29	w	David (52) Paules	"			
Maria	"	55	4	c					

### 8. S.S. Polynesia No. 98 November 9, 1874

Name	Family No.	Age	Occ.	Name	Family No.	Age	Occ.		
Martin (60) Klassen	58	53	l	Elizabeth	"	58	21	s	
Margaretha	"	58	43	w	Anna	"	58	18	s
Jacob	"	58	16	l	Margaretha	"	58	10	c
Peter	"	58	11½	c	Catherina	"	58	5	c
Cornelius	"	58	1	i	Gerhard	Warkentin	114	25	l

### 9. S.S. Prussian No. 21 June 18, 1875

Name	Family No.	Age	Occ.	Name	Family No.	Age	Occ.		
Peter	Toews	66	33	l	Maria	"	75	4	c
Anna	"	66	32	w	Johan	Loewen	68	51	l
Isaak	"	66	9	c	Anna	"	68	41	w
Anna	"	66	5	c	Isaak	"	68	17	l
Peter	"	66	1	i	Peter	"	68	14	l
Heinrich	Reimer	63	57	l	Johan	"	68	13	l
Margth	"	63	33	w	Abraham	"	68	10	c
Johan	"	63	14	l	Cornelius	"	68	8	c
Isaak	"	63	10	c	Heinrich	Reimer	64	83	l
Aaron	"	63	9	c	Helena	"	64	69	w
Jacob	"	63	1	i	Peter	Hiebert	69	28	l
Johan	Friesen	75	27	l	Anna	"	69	24	w
Maria	"	75	26	w					

Name	Family No	Age	Occ	Name	Family No.	Age	Occ.		
Johan	"	69	2	c	Johan	"	4	c	
Cornelius	Plett	70	54	l	Peter	"	2	c	
Sarah	"	70	52	w	Helena	"	1	i	
Cath	"	70	21	s	Heinrich	Ensz	125	67	l
Johan	"	70	19	l	Jacob	"	125	18	l
Peter	"	70	17	l	Heinrich	"	125	15	l
Abm	"	70	15	l	Johan	Ensz	120	24	l
David	"	70	11	c	Maria	"	120	24	w
Jacob	"	70	10	c	Johan	"	120	1	i
Cornelius	Plett	71	28	l	Heinrich (55) Warkentin	121	41	l	
Helena	"	71	31	w	Justina	"	121	46	w
Heinrich	"	71	4	c	Heinrich	"	121	19	l
Sarah	"	71	3	c	Justina	"	121	19	s
Johan	Warkentin	1	57	l	Johan	"	121	15	l
A	"	1	17	s	Anna	"	121	15	s
Eliz	"	1	10	c	Elis	"	121	7	c
Johan	Warkentin	2	30	l	Susana	"	121	5	c
Maria	"	2	27	w	Gerhard	Cornelzen	122	59	l
Johan	"	2	7	c	Cornelia	"	122	52	w
Anna	"	2	3	c	Jacob	"	122	18	l
Isaak	Warkentin	3	30	l	Gerhard	"	122	17	l
Cath	"	3	34	w	Heinrich	"	122	14	l
Heinrich	(Bartel)	3	7	c	Sarah	(56) Harms	122	18	s
Maria	(Goossen)	3	6	c	Abm	Friesen	123	29	l
David	Loewen	4	39	l	Agatha	"	123	29	w
Anna	"	4	39	w	Maria	"	123	5	c
Margth	"	4	18	s	Abm (57) Schellenberg	146	31	l	
Heinrich	"	4	15	l	Margth	"	146	30	w
Isaac	"	4	14	l	Jacob	"	146	5	c
David	"	4	11	c	Margth	"	146	1	i
Anna	"	4	10	c	Cornelius	Friesen	126	43	l
Jacob	"	4	3	c	Maria	"	126	43	w
Helena	"	4	2	c	Claas	"	126	16	l
Johan	Dueck	117	42	l	Cornelius	"	126	7	c
Anna	"	117	39	w	Johan	"	126	3	c
Johan	"	117	18	l	Margereth	"	126	5	c
Maria	"	117	11	c	Peter	"	126	1	i
Elizth	"	117	10	c	Andreas (58) Schmitt	45	l		
Anna	"	117	5	c	Anna	"	32	w	
Cath	"	117	2	c	Anna	"	10	c	
Jacob	"	117	1	i	Helena	"	8	c	
Helena	"	117	1	i	Maria	"	4	c	
Jacob	Dueck	118	35	l	Peter	"	1	i	
Maria	"	118	35	w	Diedrich	Isaak	129	44	l
Johan	"	118	14	l	Anna (59)	"	129	34	w
Peter	"	118	11	c	Kristine	"	129	8	c
Jacob	"	118	10	c	Anna	"	129	6	c
Heinrich	"	118	1	i	Aaron (58) Reimer	23	l		
Maria	"	118	3	c	Johan	Esau	111	47	l
Johan (53) Hiebert	119	58	l	Gerhard	Doerksen	130	50	l	
Eva	"	119	54	w	Helena	"	130	42	w
Margth	"	119	14	s	Anna	"	130	20	s
Abm (54) Hiebert	36	l	Helena	"	130	11	c		
Helena	"	33	w	Gerhard	"	130	9	c	
Eva	"	10	c	Bernhard	"	130	5	c	
Abraham	"	6	c						

- 1 He was the son of Abraham Klassen who died in January 1813 in Tiegerweide, Prussia, about 8 months before David Klassen (1813-1900) was born. Mrs. David Klassen, nee Aganetha Brandt, was the sister to Klass Brandt (father of Heinrich R. Brandt, *Toews Genealogy Register* No. 33) and Mrs. Abr. Friesen, nee Elizabeth Brandt (b 1813).
- 2 John Dyck, 48 Coral Crescent, Winnipeg, has done considerable research on the families of Wilhelm Vogt (b 1843), Johan Nickel (b 1852), John Quiring (b 1836), and Abraham Klassen (b 1849). The wives of Vogt, Nickel and Klassen were all Quirings and probably some are sisters to Johan or possibly cousins. Johan Quiring gave his birthplace as Nieder Chortitz. In 1861, he resided on the Judenplan (together with his wife's parents Gerhard Wiebes), and in 1863 they lived at Borsenko. These four families settled together in the village of Chortitz in the East Reserve in 1874 (section 10-7-5E) from where they moved to Edenburg (near Gretna) on the West Reserve in approximately 1879. In 1889, the Johan Quirings and Wilhelm Vogts moved to Dallas, Oregon. (courtesy John Dyck)
- 3 The ship records of Aeltester Peter Toews (see *Die Bergthaler Mennoniten (Mennonite Post, Steinbach, 1985)*, pp 50-52) show that this John Quiring family consisted of four adults and five infants at the time of leaving Liverpool. The ship records of arrivals in Quebec city show four adults and four children. Possibly a child died during the voyage.
- 4 Peter Esau (b 1832) was a brother to Heinrich Esau, see *Toews Genealogy Register* No. 108. He had another brother Abraham Esau (b 1837) who married Margaretha Hemson and settled in Kansas in 1875, evidently near Inman. See Dr. D. A. Haury, *Index to Mennonite Immigrants in U.S. Passenger Lists* (MLA, North Newton, Kansas, 1986), Ship #53.
- 5 Peter Esau (b 1832) was married to Anna Braun (d 1883) the daughter of Isaac Braun and Anna Harms (1796 - ) who was a sister to Isaac Harms, father of Johan Harms, *Toews Genealogy Register* No. 92. It appears that the Peter Esau family or at least his widow (his second wife) may have lived near Lowe Farm, Manitoba. See *Esau Family Register*, Chapter 13. Anna Braun was a sister to Isaac Braun travelling on the same ship. (Courtesy H. Fast)
- 6 Isaac Braun (1844-1901) was a brother to Peter Braun #2415 on the S.S. *Austrian* as well as Anna Braun (d 1883) the first wife of Peter Esau. Isaac Braun (1844-1901) was married to Maria Doerksen (1843-1904) the daughter of Jacob Doerksen, Blumengart, Chortiza. The Isaac Braun (1844-1901) family settled in Edenburg (near Gretna) where they are entered in the Bergthaler Church Book of Johan Funk (Courtesy L. Klippenstein, Mennonite Heritage Centre, Winnipeg, Manitoba).
- 7 Again the Toews records(or Liverpool records) show one more child than the Quebec records. *The Genealogy Register* shows a son Peter born in May 1874, and therefore one concludes that this baby was simply counted with the mother on disembarking in Quebec City.
- 8 The Quebec simply list a "Boral" here. The Genealogy records show widow Bartel and daughter Katherine with the family of delegate Cornelius Toews and so on the assumption that the widow Bartel and her daughter Katherine were also travelling with the Cornelius Toews family the record has been changed accordingly. This would seem to reconcile the three different sources.
- 9 Jacob Regehr (1832-1906) had one brother Isaac Regehr and a sister Anna Regehr (1822-1900). His father Isaac Regehr had a half sister Maria Devehr (d 1915) and a half brother Johan Regehr. From the family records of Gerhard R. Schellenberg (courtesy of Frank Fast, Kleefeld, and H. Fast, Steinbach, Manitoba). The Jacob Regehr (1832-1906) family bought a Wirtschaft in Hierschau in 1863 and may have been related to some of the Regehr families there. See H. Huebert, *Hierschau*, (Springhill Publishers, Winnipeg, 1986).
- 10 It seems that in Toews/Liverpool records the widow of Rev. Gerhard P. Goosen is simply recorded as being part of the family of Jacob Regehr. Her parents were Franz Klassens, see Johan K. Esau. Chapter 13, cf.
- 11 The reader should be warned that transcriptions from the microfilms of the Quebec Ship records are extremely difficult. In case of any uncertainty or conflict of sources the originals should always be consulted. In this case we find record of a daughter Susanna born in 1873. Assuming that she is still alive on July 15, 1874, then this baby would be the seventh member of this family, but who then died in the next week or so as her younger sister is also called Susanna.
- 12 He originated from Furstenlandt. Courtesy H. Fast
- 13 Johan Koop (1831-1897) was the brother to the widow Martin Rempel, nee Katherina Koop, *Toews Genealogy Register* No. 141. In 1899, her son Gerhard wrote the Rundschau, that his mother, who was born in 1826 in Muntau lost her father of an early age and her mother had remarried for the second time to Abr. Rempel. See *Toews Genealogy Register* No. 22. At the age of 16, she had married her stepbrother Martin Rempel and they lived in Morgenau, (Courtesy of H. Fast).
- 14 The Liverpool records show the Gerhard Schellenberg family with only 4 members. i.e. the foster children have not been included. She was the daughter of Cornelius Warkentin (1777-1847) who emigrated to Russia in 1818 and settled in Blumstein, Molotschna. His father had been quite well-to-do in Prussia and quite committed to the Orthodox Mennonite faith but son Cornelius was against the Kleine Gemeinde. Elizabeth Warkentin (1819-1905) remained true to her grandfather's faith joining the Kleine Gemeinde, but her sister, Anna Warkentin (1824-1909), who married Heinrich Willms, also turned against the faith of the fathers and adopted a separatist pietist belief. For the story of this family see John B. Wiens, *Taunty Willmsche*, (Regehrs Printing, Winnipeg, Manitoba).
- 15 The Quebec records do not seem to be very accurate with respect to whether an individual was an infant (less than one year old), a child (between 1 year and 12 years), or an adult (over 12 years), or even between male and female. This could be Peter Fast (son of Cornelius Fast, TGR, Family No. 347), the foster son of Heinrich Wiebe. It is impossible to decipher the name from the Quebec list.

- 16 The Liverpool records refer to the family of Johan Esau as 4 adults and child. If one includes A. Rempel and Eliz. Broeski as part of the J. Esau family then this would be correct.
- 17 Johan Esau (1832-1904) had a brother Cornelius Esau in Kansas, who died on September 20, 1890, at the age of 53 years and 5 months. See David L. Plett, *Sterbe Register*, op. cit.,
- 18 The only Rempel to come to Manitoba with the Kleine Gemeinde in 1874/75 is the widower Abram Rempel. Although the Quebec records actually list a "wife", "W. Rempel" the "W" would stand for widow just as well as widower. The listing as wife is puzzling. Nevertheless, this writer would conclude that the reference here is to Abram Rempel (1798-1878). See also *Toews Genealogy Register* No. 141.
- 19 Deleted
- 20 She was the daughter of Abram Sawatzky (1809-1882) who settled in Jansen, Nebraska in 1874 (See Chapter 23 cf.)
- 21 Just the name Anna Toews is very little to go on to make a positive identification. But she must be the mother of Mrs. Peter Wiebe. In the *Genealogy Register* Anna Toews is listed with her son Peter W. Toews.
- 22 The *Genealogy Register* only show 2 children for this family in 1874; namely, Margaretha and Peter.
- 23 Peter Harms was married to Anna Friesen, a sister to Mrs. David Hiebert (nee Marg. Friesen), *Toews Genealogy Register* No. 90.
- 24 The family unit according to the Toews/Liverpool lists consisted of 3 adults and 1 child which corresponds to Family No. 86 including step-daughter Elizabeth Braun and foster daughter Katherine Broeski.
- 25 Abram T. Friesen died in Rosenort in 1908. His widow moved to Swallowwell, Alberta, where she died in 1938. They also had a daughter Sara (1880), Mrs. Jakob D.R. Loewen, and son Jakob H. Friesen (b 1882) married Elizabeth Rempel. Cornelia Harms (1853-1938) was the daughter of Peter Harms of Sparrow, Molotschna, by his second wife Cornelia Warkentin (1822-1892), who married for the second time to widower Gerhard S. Kornelson, *Toews Genealogy Register* No. 122. (Courtesy H. Fast)
- 26 Gerhard Harms was the son of Peter Harms of Sparrow, Molotschna. It is believed that Peter Harms of Sparrow was the son of Johan Harms (b 1771) who settled in Blumstein in 1804. If this is correct then his mother was Anna Neudorf born in 1794 the second wife of Johan Harms. This couple had a son Peter born in 1806. Little else is known about Peter Harms other than that he was resident for a time in the village of Sparrow. This village was located in the Molotschna Mennonite Colony in South Russia and was founded in 1838.
- Peter Harms was married twice but the name of his first wife is unknown. Two children of this marriage grew to adulthood and founded families. The oldest child was Gertrude Harms who married Johan von Niessen, believed to have been of the Chortitz Old Colony in Russia. This couple emigrated to America in 1875, settling in Rosenort, Manitoba, where she died in 1906.
- The second child was a son Peter whose wife's first name was Gertrude. A couple of the appropriate names and ages are shown as resident in Liberty Township, Marion County, in the 1880 Census and are believed to be the children of Peter Harms Sr.
- Peter Harms Sr. married for the second time to Cornelia Warkentin who was born December 26, 1822. Four children were born of this marriage. The oldest child Gerhard Harms was married to Maria Braun a sister to Mrs. Franz Froese and Mrs. Peter M. Kroeker of Rosenort, Manitoba. The Gerhard Harms family settled in Rosenort, Manitoba in 1874
- Daughter Cornelia Harms was born in 1853. She was married to Abraham T. Friesen (1854-1908). Abraham T. Friesen was a teacher all his life. See footnote 25. Son Jakob Harms, born in 1857, was regarded as being somewhat "slow" and never married. He died at the home of Abram K. Eidse in 1918. The youngest daughter Sara Harms was born in 1858. She was married to Isaac D. Friesen, the son of Abram W. Friesen of Jansen, Nebraska. If it is correct that Peter Harms Sr. was the son of Johan Harms (b 1777) then Sara Harms married her cousin's son.
- Mrs. Peter Harms, nee Cornelia Warkentin, married for the second time to Gerhard S. Kornelson, veteran school teacher in the village of Lichtenau, Molotschna. The couple emigrated to Manitoba in 1875, where they settled in the village of Lichtenau, one mile west of Steinbach in the East Reserve. At this time the Kornelson sons, Heinrich and Gerhard, as well as the step-children Jakob and Cornelia Harms were still at home. Cornelia Warkentin Harms Kornelson died October 11, 1892.
- This listing of the children of Peter Harms of Sparrow is based on a 1976 family record of great-grand daughter Gertrude Janzen, Blumenort, Manitoba. Courtesy of Mr. & Mrs. Corn. N. Janzen, Blumenort, Manitoba.
- 27 Mrs. Cornelius Kornelson, nee Kath. Dueck, was the daughter of Peter Dueck (1801-1842) Blumstein, Molotschna. He married Anna Harms (1808-1874), a daughter of Johan Harms (b 1771) and the couple had four children who had families, namely: Mrs. Martin Warkentin, *Toews Genealogy Register* No. 96; Maria H. Dueck, the second wife of Abr. W. Friesen of Jansen, Nebraska; Peter H. Dueck, *Toews Genealogy Register* No. 95; and Agatha H. Dueck the second wife of Johan L. Dueck, *Toews Genealogy Register* No. 117. See Dick B. Eidse, "The Dueck Story 1789-1894", Unpublished paper, 1984 for additional information. Anna Harms (1808-1874) married for the second time to Heinrich Ratzlaff, the father to H. Ratzlaff, *Toews Genealogy Register* No. 80.
- 28 Again difficulty in deciphering but as all the other names correspond the questionable transcription must be Magaretha.
- 29 His parents and brothers and sisters evidently joined the Krimmer Mennonite Brethren in the Crimea and emigrated to Gnadenu, Kansas with this group in 1874.
- 30 See footnote 27.
- 31 In the Rundschau, Jan. 8, 1896, son John H. Klassen writes that he has visited cousin Jacob Harms, Mountain Lake; uncles Jacob Klassen and Isaac Klassen, Hillsbro; cousin Peter Harms, Jansen; and cousin Johan Friesen. (Courtesy H. Fast)
- 32 Impossible to decipher. Could also be Mensch, etc.

- 33 The family is mentioned in the Liverpool records consisting of two adults and four children, but it is not mentioned in the Quebec records.
- 34 No other records mention her. Perhaps she is a maid?
- 35 Rev. P.J.B. Reimer reports that his father's first wife was the sister to Heinrich R. Brandt's second wife, and that both sisters were cousins to H.R. Brandt's (*Toews Genealogy Register* No. 33) first wife.
- 36 In a letter to the Rundschau, of March 7, 1894, son Klaas W. Reimer asks for the address of his wife's uncle Johan Warkentin. His wife was the daughter of Heinrich R. Brandt, *Toews Genealogy Register* No. 33. He also asks for the addresses of his uncles Johan and Cornelius Willms, who were brothers of his mother, nee Katherine Willms. The third wife of Klaas R. Reimer appears to have been Margaretha, the daughter of Johan Klassen, *Toews Genealogy Register* No. 85. After his death, she moved to Delmany, Saskatchewan, with her children where she died in 1918. See John C. Reimer, op. cit., 54
- 37 The Peter Toews/Liverpool records show that this family consisted of two adults and four children. Possibly a death at sea?
- 38 The Peter Toews/Liverpool records show two adults and five children for this family.
- 39 Because the ages of this family listed correspond exactly with the corresponding name in family No. 34, this appears to be a definite identification. However the family also had a son Peter (b 1863) and Jakob (b 1867). Are they possibly travelling with other families? See also Margaretha Reimer (nee Fast), *Familien Register von Witve Peter P. Reimer* (Steinbach, Manitoba; self-published, 1965) pp 36-45. See footnote 15.
- 40 The Toews/Liverpool ship records show a Klaas Reimer family with five adults and one child. This must be an error.
- 41 Klaas Brandt (1845-1901) was married to Margaretha Friesen (1835-1933). According to the death certificate of the R.M. of Morris, she was the daughter of an Abram Friesen. In a letter to the Rundschau of February 10, 1892, Margaretha Brandt, Morris, asks for information about her brother Abram Friesen of Nikopol. She was married for the first time to Isaac S. Harms, a brother to Johan Harms, *Toews Genealogy Register* No. 92. Her son Isaac Harms (b 1859) married his second cousin Anna F. Dueck, a daughter of Peter H. Dueck, *Toews Genealogy Register* No. 95.
- 42 Abraham Klassen (b Sept. 9, 1828) was married to Helena Martens. See *Storm and Triumph*, op.cit., 58 for a brief biography. In 1875, the family moved to Alexanderfeld near Gnadenu, Kansas. Other Kleine Gemeinde from Manitoba who settled here were Johan Hiebert (*Toews Genealogy Register* No. 100) and Abraham Hiebert. This information courtesy of Ray Wiebe, Witchita, Kansas, in a letter of Jan. 10, 1987. According to Dr. Ray Wiebe, Alexanderfeld was the Kleine Gemeinde stronghold in Marion County and home of the Alexanderfeld Church of God in Christ, Mennonite. See *History of the Congregations*, op.cit., 38-39.
- 43 Through fortuitous happenstance this writer is able to identify this family as one which allied itself with the Kleine Gemeinde emigration from Russia. Peter Jost was a well-to-do farmer from the village of Prangenu, Molotschna, who had also served as Schulz of this village for some time. According to family records the Jost family was one of 18 pioneer families to establish the village of Steinbach, Manitoba. Because of the harsh environment the Jost family left the settlement in the spring of 1875 and settled in Alexanderfeld, near Gnadenu, Kansas. See C.L. Zeisset, *A Mennonite Heritage, A Genealogy of the Suderman and Wiens Families* (Lincoln, Nebraska, self-published, 1975) pages 59-64.
- 44 Peter Braun (b 1840) was the son of Isaac Braun and Katherina Harms (b 1796). The Peter Braun family moved to Jansen, Nebraska. He was a brother to Isaac Braun (1844-1901). See footnote 6.
- 45 David Thiessen (1834-1906) had a sister who was married to Abr. Isaac (b 1840) who died in California sometime prior to 1915. See Peter P. Isaac, op. cit., 6. See *Rundschau* July 18, 1906 where Heinrich P. Enns, Rosenort, writes of the death of David F. Thiessen, who was born to his parents David Thiessens, near Neukirch on the Schmidten Chutor. Married widow Jacob Dueck from Landskronne. The family lived 6 years in Neukirch near the old school. They lived one summer in Blumstein and in 1863 moved to Markuslandt, where they lived three years. In 1866, they moved to Steinbach, in Borsenko, and in 1874 to Blumenort, Manitoba.
- 46 The wife of Rev. Jacob R. Barkman, nee Katherina Thiessen (1829-1889) was the mother of Mrs. Heinrich R. Brandt, nee Katherina Warkentin (1850-1889). Apparently mother and daughter were buried at the same time. See *Toews Genealogy Register* No.33 and footnote no. 35. (See letter of Abraham F. Reimer to Martin Barkman of January 26, 1889 courtesy of Ernest R. Goosen Estate, op. cit.). According to a letter in the Rundschau of 1891, Johan Thiessen, a brother to Katherina Thiessen, was living in Russia. (Courtesy Henry Fast).
- 47 In the Genealogy Register she is listed as Katherine. Dr. Sol. Loewen, op. cit., Peter Loewen section page 5, lists her as Elizabeth.
- 48 This writer cannot identify this Aron, age 20. But the Toews/Liverpool records also show this family unit with seven members.
- 49 An excellent example of the value of the Toews/Liverpool records as the Quebec records listed the family head as Jakob Loewen. The Toews/Liverpool records show an Isaac Loewen whose age, name of spouse, corresponds to the Quebec records and the *Toews Genealogy Register*.
- 50 Daughter Sara Fast married John F. Toews, *Toews Genealogy Register* No. 150.
- 51 Johan Hiebert moved to Alexanderfeld, Kansas. See footnote 42.
- 52 These families have no known connection with the Kleine Gemeinde but were listed on the Toews/Liverpool records and so are inserted here
- 53 Moved to Kansas.
- 54 Abraham Hiebert is the son of Johann Hiebert (Family No. 119). Apparently they were not members of the KG and do not appear in the Genealogy Register. This family moved to Alexanderfeld near Gnadenu, Kansas, shortly after arrival in Manitoba. See Albert H. Hiebert, op.cit., page 15.

- 55 He was a brother to Mrs. Johan Toews, *Toews Genealogy Register* No. 44. In a letter to the Rundschau of 1898, the widow of Johan Toews (nee Anna Warkentin) writes that her father was Gerhard Warkentin, whose brothers Peter, Hans, Martin and Heinrich were all formerly resident in Blumstein. Her mother's sister, Mrs. Hans Thiessen, is living in Munsterburg. Her father Gerhard Warkentin lived in Prangenau and later in Lindenau. (Courtesy H. Fast). The Gerhard S. Kornelson papers include correspondence from a Heinrich Warkentin (b 1799) who appears to be the uncle to the widow Johan Toews. It would appear that he is the son of Martin Warkentin who settled in Blumstein in 1804. See *The Golden Years*, op.cit. 154.
- 56 The daughter of Cornelia Warkentin by her first marriage to Peter Harms. See footnote 26.
- 57 Abraham Schellenberg (d 1926) was the foster son and nephew of Abraham Schellenberg of Tiege. He also had a sister, a Mrs. Klassen alive in the United States of America in 1899. His first wife was Margaretha Esau, a niece of Johan Esau, of Rosenfeld the Brandaeltester. *Toews Genealogy Register* No. 22. (Courtesy of H. Fast)
- 58 Presently unidentified.
- 59 Anna Isaac (nee Esau) born Nov. 9, 1840, was the sister to Johan Esau (1832-1904) of Rosenfeld, Manitoba. *Toews Genealogy Register* No. 22. They were the children of Helena Peters (1807-1859) and Johan Esau (June 20, 1805-May 21, 1855) of Fischau, Molotschna. See Unrau, op. cit., 310 and 338. See also, *Abschrift von Familienereignissen des Johan Esau, Fischau, Russland*, Unpublished Journal, 57-70. (Courtesy of Henry Fast/Elsie Kliever). Johan Esau (1860-1940) son of Johan Esau (1832-1904) married Maria F. Unger (1862-1894), daughter of Peter H. Unger, *Toews Genealogy Register* No. 19.
- 60 Martin Klassen (b February 23, 1822) appears to be the son of Martin Klassen born in Tiegenhagen, Prussia, in 1771. According to the 1880 Census Record for Marion County, Kansas, Martin Klassen (b. 1822) was born in Prussia. B.H. Unruh (op.cit., 382) has record of a Martin Klassen born in Tiegenhagen in 1771 who immigrated to Molotschna in 1841. He was married to Agatha Harder of Tiegenhagen, born 1796, and their children as of 1841 are listed as follows: Catherina 24, Agatha 21, Martin 20, Helena 18.
- In a letter to the author of January 18, 1987, Glen Penner, Winnipeg, Manitoba, reports the following information from the Tiegenhagen Gemeinde Records: Date June 30, 1818; "Martin Claassen of Tiegenhagen married Agatha Harder, Johan Harders' surviving daughter from Walldorf." Classified as "Wittwer mit Jungfrau". Births; "October 4, 1820 daughter Agatha; February 23, 1822 son Martin; September 12, 1823, son Dirk; and November 10, 1825, daughter Helena." Dateline December 14, 1817; "Martin Claassen of Tiegenhagen wife Catherina born Toews died 57 years old." According to the Grosswerder Baptism Register; "Agatha, the surviving daughter of Johan Harder, Waldorf, was baptized in the Tiegenhagen church on June 26, 1814."
- The fact that the previously known birth date of Martin Klassen of February 23, 1822, corresponds exactly with the Tiegenhagen Records seems to be a definite identification.
- The interconnections of the various Klassen families in the Kleine Gemeinde has long been a puzzle for genealogists. Many of the older people that were contacted in the late 1970's stated that Martin Klassen (b 1822) was related to David Klassen (1813-1900) but were not sure of the connection. Since it has now been established that delegate David Klassen was the son of Abram Klassen who died in Tiegerwiede, Prussia, in January 1813 (see footnote 1), it is possible to work on the thesis that Abram Klassen and Martin Klassen Senior were brothers or at least cousins.
- In several of his extant letters delegate David Klassen refers to Jakob Klassen, believed to be Jakob Klassen (1832-1898) of Jansen, Nebraska, as cousin. Jakob Klassen (1832-1898) was the son of Jakob Klassen (1792-1869), and if this information is correct, Jakob Klassen Senior would be a brother to Abraham Klassen (d 1813) and Martin Klassen (b 1771).
- In a letter of 1887 delegate David Klassen also refers to the death of "our aged cousin Johan Klassen". This must refer to Johan Klassen (1811-1887) who lived in Steinbach, Manitoba. see chapter 13. Johan Klassen (1811-1887) was the son of Peter Klassen (1789-1862).
- The foregoing information appears to support the thesis that Abram Klassen (died 1813), Jakob Klassen (1792-1869) and Peter Klassen (1789-1862) were brothers. Martin Klassen born 1771 may have been an older brother or an uncle. This is an interesting hypothesis for further study as it would connect the Klassen lines in the Kleine Gemeinde.
- 61 Son Johan Wiebe, born Jan. 6, 1864, at Sparrau, Molotschna, married Anna Harder, born Nov. 9, 1864, at Schoenfeld. The family lived in Portland, Oregon, where Johan Wiebe died April 25, 1952, and Mrs. Wiebe died March 28, 1948. Information courtesy of Helen Hiebner, 9743-64 Ave., Edmonton, Alberta.





# Chapter Three

## Shantz List

The *Shantz List of Manitoba Mennonite Immigrants, 1874-1880*. Jacob Shantz was a significant agent in aiding the Mennonite settlement in Manitoba of 1874-1880. He made an investigative trip to Manitoba in 1873 and negotiated with governmental authorities about their needs. He kept a list of the arriving immigrants in order to assess their needs and to report their situation to his fellow Mennonites. These records form a valuable comparison to the Quebec Passenger lists and therefore the lists of Kleine Gemeinde immigrants of 1874-1876 are included here.

### 1874 Molotchner (moved to the East side of the Red River)

Klaus Wiebe (3½)  
Jacob Wiebe (4)  
Peter Brant (3)  
Cornelius Fast (3½)  
Widow Isaac (2)  
David Unger (5)  
Peter Ernst (2½)  
Gehrhart Friesen (2)  
Peter Berkman (4)  
Jacob Berkman (1)  
Johan Friesen (2)  
Jacob Berkman (2)  
Jacob Ernst (2)  
France Kreker (3)  
Jacob Berkman (8)  
Henry Brant (4)  
Cornelius Gosen (2)  
Johan Reimer (2½)  
Martin Penner (2)  
Cornelius Friesen (6½)  
Heinrich Wiebe (3)  
Peter Wiebe (5)  
Peter Töws (6½)  
Johan Koop (7½)  
Peter Löwen (2)  
Abraham Reimer (2)  
Abraham Reimer (5)  
Peter Reimer (2½)  
Abraham Penner (3)  
Peter Penner (8)  
Klaus Friesen (5½)  
Gerhard Simons (3)  
Johan Friesen (2)  
Heinrich Reimer (2½)  
Cornelius Friesen (2½)  
Cornelius Cornelson (3)  
Abraham Cornelson (2½)  
Cornelius Löwen (3)  
Johan Breske (1)  
Peter Unger (3½)  
Klaus Friesen (3)  
Wilhelm Giesbrecht (1)  
Jacob Friesen (4)  
Jacob Friesen Jun (2)  
Johan Calsen (3)  
Heinrich Esau (4)  
Peter Esau (2)

David Dück (2)  
Peter Friesen (3½)  
David Thiessen (6)  
Abraham Isaac (2)  
Isaac Löwen (2)  
Johan Isaac (6½)  
Cornelius Töws (6½)  
Johan Töws (2)  
Johan Töws old (4½)  
Peter Dück (3)  
Abraham Dück (3½)  
Gerhard Gosen (3)  
Peter Bark (4½)  
Abraham Löwen (5)  
Johan Esau (4½)  
Gerhard Schellenberg (5)  
Jacob Regier (5)  
Peter Löwen (5)  
Gerhard Giesbrecht (2½)  
Abraham Friesen (5)  
Heinrich Fast (4½)  
Peter Töws (5)  
Widow Giesbrecht (3)

### 1874 Molotchner (moved to the West side of the Red River)

Cornelius Eidse (4)  
Abraham Eidse (4)  
Jacob Kroeker (5)  
David Klassen (2)  
Heinrich Friesen (2)  
Gerhard Simons (4½)  
Abraham Klashen (7)  
Johan Harms (3½)  
Peter Harms (2)  
Klaus Brant (4)  
Peter Yost (7½)  
Widow Rutzloff (1)  
David Unrau (7)  
Peter Buller (4)  
France Wins (4½)  
Martin Warkentin (4)  
Johan Friesen (3)  
Peter Dück (4)  
Jacob Friesen (3)  
Jacob Töws (6)  
Heinrich Friesen (5½)  
Isaac Löwen (3)  
Heinrich Rathslöo (2½)

Johan Janson (3½)  
Gerhard Harms (2)  
Jacob Friesen (3½)  
Peter Kröker (3)  
Abraham Friesen (2)  
Franz Fröse (3½)  
David Hiebert (2)  
David Klashen (7)

### 1875 Molotchner (June 21)

Peter Tows -Leader (3)  
Heinrich Reimer (4)  
Johan Friesen (2)  
Johan Löwen (6)  
Heinrich Reimer (2)  
Peter Hiebert (2)  
Cornelius Plett (7)  
Johan Warkentin (3)  
Johan A  
Johan Warkentin (2½)  
Isaac Warkentin (2½)  
David Löwen (6)  
Johan Dück (4½)  
Jacob Dück (4)  
Johan Hiebert (3)  
Abraham Hiebert (3)  
Heinrich Ens (3)  
Johan Ens (2)  
Heinrich Warkentin (7)  
Gerhard Cornelson (6)  
Abraham Friesen (2½)  
Abraham Schellenberg (2½)  
Cornelius Friesen (4)  
Andreas Schmith (3)  
Gerhard Dörksen (4½)  
Aaron Penner (1½)  
Johan Esau (1)  
Isaac Dietrich (1)

### 1876 Molotchner (Not Kleine Gemeinde)

Jacob Harder (4½)  
Hermann Wall (2)  
Margareth Penner (3)  
Agatha Peters (2½)  
Cornelius Wiebe (3½)  
Johann Schröder (3½)  
Heinrich Dück (2½)  
Gerhard Dück (2½)  
Claus Dück (3½)

Aaron Thiessen (2½)  
 Cornelius Wiebe (8½)  
 Abraham Klashen (4½)  
 Gerhard Klashen (3½)  
 Heinrich Dück (widow)(2½)  
 Jacob Hamm (3)  
 Peter Abraham -Leader (4)  
 Heinrich Abraham (6)  
 Johann Schellenberg (3)  
 David Stobe (2)  
 Heinrich Kötler (2)  
 Peter Abraham (2)  
 Abram Dück (2)  
 Jacob Rempel (2)

Cornelius Haines (4½)  
 David Peters (5)  
 Gerhard Klashen (2)  
 Herman Dück (6)  
 Jacob Gerhard (4)  
 Johan Wiebie (6½)  
 Jacob Friesen (4½)  
 Peter Harder (4)  
 Peter Ebb (4)  
 Peter Dück (3)  
 Peter Tows (4)  
 Isaac Funk (4)  
 Johan Newfeld (2½)  
 Abraham Friesen (5)

Aaron Dück (2)  
 Cornelius Dück (3½)  
 Henry Falk (2)  
 Peter Köhler (4½)  
 Henry Duerksen (2)  
 Johann Schröder (5)  
 Widow Unger (2)  
 France Sawatzki (2)  
 Jacob Doerksen (1)  
 Peter Martins (2)  
 Peter Löwen (2)  
 Peter Wall (3½)  
 Martin Klassen (7½)  
 ? Warkentin (1)

**From John F. Funk Notes. July 28,1874**

First Russian Colony going to Manitoba arrived in Toronto on Sunday Morning the 19th, July 1874. Men, women and children numbered 327 souls, four children born and four died on the way. Clergyman: Clasen & Toews. Capital about \$60,000.

Branch of 2nd colony arrived in Toronto bound for Manitoba on the 30th day of July 1874, numbering 290 souls. Clergyman: Cornelius Friesen. Capital about \$8000.

Balance of 2nd colony arrived on the 31st of July, evening bound for Manitoba numbering 504 souls. Clergyman: Wiebe. Capital \$25,000.

Frantz Thiesen left 2 scythes and one hand saw in Liverpool, expected to be brot by John Klippenstein and forwarded to Berlin to the above name Frantz Thiesen.

**Russian Mennonites having emigrated to Manitoba**

<i>Date when arrived in Toronto</i>	<i>No. of Families</i>	<i>Souls</i>	<i>Amount of Money</i>
July 19 1874	65	327	\$63,000
July 30	58	290	8,000
July 31	100	504	30,000
Sept. 24	24	120	23,000
Sept. 30	23	116	20,000
June 27 1875	28	140	23,000
July 3	135	664	68,000
July 7	96	480	40,000
July 15	111	555	27,000
July 22	195	998	64,000
July 29	72	362	20,000
June 21 1876	42	214	30,470
June 26	44	224	11,000
June 29	48	244	20,000
July 12	14	68	
July 20	14	78	
August 1	82	511	5,800
July 1 1878	48	270	
July 8 1879	33	207	60,000
August 4 1880	14	69	7,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1246	7741	\$116,747

Source: Clarence Hiebert, *Brothers in Deed to Brothers in Need*, (Faith and Life Press, Newton, Kansas 1974), 469 pages

# Chapter Four

## R.M. of Hanover Tax Records

### 1883/1884

The tax records of the Rural Municipality of Hanover constitute one of the richest sources of information regarding the pioneers who settled that area, then known as the Mennonite East Reserve, in 1874-1875. These pioneers had ample experience in the functioning and administration of local government, having been virtually autonomous in such matters under the Russian Czars, and reestablished their own system of local government on arrival. In 1881 this independent Gebietsamt system was replaced by a municipal government established under Provincial law.

Accordingly it is no accident that a rich legacy of information has been preserved from this pioneer period. In fact, these records would enable the village historian to establish the identity of the property owners resident in each village for most years between 1881 and 1906. The tax records for 1883 and 1884, the last years prior to the adoption of the Provincial reporting format, are by far the most informative in terms of the amount of biographical detail provided. The information regarding the Kleine Gemeinde villages has been extracted and reproduced in the present chapter and provides in-depth socio-economic data for these pioneers. The reader should note that in accordance with the system followed among the Mennonites in Russia, ministers and deacons were not subject to tax other than for landholdings in excess of the basic homestead allotment of 160 acres.

The value of property as set forth in the 1883/1884 tax rolls is determined as follows: Cultivated acreage at \$1.00 per acre (C); Pasture land at \$0.50 per acre i.e. The amount shown is one half of the actual acreage (P); Buildings at one-half of actual value (B); Furniture at one-half of actual value (F); Horses at \$40.00 ea. (H); Oxen at \$30.00 ea. (O); Cows at \$15.00 ea. (c); Yearlings at \$8.00 ea. (y); Calves at \$5.00 ea. (k); Sheep at \$1.00 ea. increasing to \$2.00 ea. in 1884 (s); Pigs at \$1.00 ea. (p);

Machinery is appraised at its actual value and is recorded under the following headings: Steam engine or steam mill (S); Threshing machine (T); Feed crusher (f); Grass mower (m); Hay rakes (r); Grain cleaner (g); Wagons (w); Plows (x); Harrows (a); Sleighs (l); Please note the abbreviation symbol for each type of property listed in brackets after each category.

Oct. 3, 1883 Blumenort	C	P	B	F	H	O	c	y	k	s	p	S	T	f	m	r	g	w	x	a	l	TOTAL
Peter P. Wiebe	29	65	250	150	3	3	2	3						1/2	1/2	1/2	1	2	1	1		578 1/2
Peter Penner, Sr.	54	133	500	500	4 1/2	7	6	9	5	300		1		1/2	1	1	1	3	2	1	2	1426
Peter Wiebe, Jr.	29	65			1																	134 1/2
Corn. Penner	28	106	300	125	1	2	1	1	2					1/2	1/2	1	12.50	1	2	1	1	537
Martin Penner	10	70																				45
Peter Reimer	10	70																				45
Isaac Penner	20	70	200	100	2 1/4	1	2	3						1	1/4	1/2		1	2	1		622
Heinrich F. Reimer	30	65	300	125	2 1/4	2	3	3	3					1	1			1	2	1	2	572 1/2
Abram Reimer	30	185		50		1		1														256
Abram Penner	35	102	100	150	2	3	1	2	4					1	1/4	1/2		1	1	1	1	657 1/2
Jacob P. Wiebe	44	138	300	125	3	2	4	1	3	2				1	1/2	1/2	1/2	2	2	2	1	967 1/2
Peter H. Penner	21	69	300	150	2	6	2	4	3									2	2	1	1	589 1/2
Corn. P. Friesen	12	74	150	150	1	2	2	1	3									1				325
Abram M. Friesen	30	145	250	130	4	2	1	1	3					1	1/4			1	2	2	1	662
Isaac DeVeer	22	69	200	100	2	4	2	1	3									1	2	1		446
Jacob S. Friesen	16	72	125	150	2	2	1	3										1	2	1		339 1/2

	C	P	B	F	H	O	y	k	s	p	S	T	f	m	r	g	w	x	a	l	TOTAL	
Corn. F. Friesen	18	71	123	150		2	5	3	3	2							1	1	1	1	404½	
Peter W. Toews	36	142	475	250	2	3	2	3	5	300			1	1	1		1	2	1	2	1095½	
Peter B. Toews	20	70	250	100		2	3	1	4								2	1	1	1	490	
<b>1883</b>																						
<b>Blumenhof</b>																						
Gottlieb Jahnke	33	63	150	125	2	2	1	3	1	2			1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	709	
Peter H. Unger	35	62	225	200		4	3	2	2	3			1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	552	
Johan Janzen	48	136	350	200	4	8	4	4	3				½	1	¼	¼	2	2	1	2	1017	
Cornelius S. Plett	50	135	500	200	4	6	5	1	2				¼	50	25	10	10	65	18	8	1064	
Johan L. Plett	100	190	400	250	4½	6	2	5	4				¼	80	25	20	6	75	25	16	1154	
Hein. Wohlgenuth	35	62	200	100	2½	2	2	2	2				¼	40	70	10	2	30	20	8	600½	
Cornelius Plett, Jr.	35	62	250	150	3¼	5	1	5	2				¼	40	50	10	2	20	5	8	667½	
Peter L. Plett	30	65	200	50	3¼	2	1	2	1				¼	40	50	10	2	2	1	1	564	
Abram L. Plett	35	62	150	50	2	3	1	2	2				¼	40	50	10	6	30	15	2	510½	
Johan Warkentin	30	65	1300	400	3	2	13	5					½	30	18	4	5	30	18	8	1468	
Is. L. Warkentin	30	65	500	150	3	8	3	5	2				½	100	70	6	2	40	10	8	965	
Jo. L. Warkentin	40	60	500	200	4	4	1	3					⅓	100	85	6	2	50	15	8	976	
Johan W. Reimer	24	68	200	50	2	2	2	2					¼	40	70			2	1	1	543	
Aron Penner	25	62	150	200	3	1	1						½	10	2			1	1	1	474½	
<b>1883</b>																						
<b>Neuanlage</b>																						
Johan Koop, Sr.	84	118	875	500	5¼	2	4	2	4	4			1	1	1	1	1	2	2	4	3	
Johan Koop						3	4	3					200	?	25	6	3	40	20	4	20	
Peter Klassen	33	63	300	150	2¼	2	2	4	3				1	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	558½	
Peter Friesen	35	62	300	150	2	2	5	2	1	2			1	10				1	1	1	542½	
Jacob Koop	25	67		50	2	1												1	2	1	284½	
Peter W. Loewen	35	62	375	150	3	4	3	2	3									1	2	1	625	
<b>1883</b>																						
<b>Steinbach</b>																						
Johan Wiebe	37	61½	100	50	3½	2	1	4	2	4			50			12	25	7½	5			
Klass Reimer	60	130	375	400	4½	17	6	5	8	1300	175		25	12.5	12	75	10	3	2	10	3291	
Johan Friesen	13	73½	150	25	2	2	1	2	3				½	15	10	4		20	10	2	496½	
Jacob Barkman	10	35	25	12½	2	3	1	2					25	12.5				25	10		287	
Peter Barkman	2	1	175	50	1	2	2	2										15	8	2	335	
Johan Barkman	28	69	187	87	2	4	2	2	2									25	15	2	602	
Cornelius Loewen	40	60	225	150	3½	4	3	4	4				½	7	25	6		35	15	5	821	
Cornelius Barkman	80				2	3															185	
Johan Reimer	38	61	150	50	3½	5	4	5	3				15	25	12			25	10	6	672	
Abram Reimer, Jr.	14	113	200	25	2	1	1	2										10	15		459	
Wilhelm Giesbrecht	24	68	37	37	2	4	1	2	3				½	10	4			2	15	30	1	349
Klaas Friesen	30	65	25	75	2	4	3	4	3				25	12				15	8	5	427	

	C	P	B	F	H	O	c	y	k	s	p	S	T	f	m	r	g	w	x	a	l	TOTAL	
Franz Kroeker	125	177	350	175	7	2	10	6	6	5				<sup>2</sup> 155	10	12	12	60	30	10	40	1730	
John Barkman	15	32	25	25	2	2	1			1				<sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> 12				25	10	5	4	273	
Heinrich Brandt	40	60	200	100	2	4	2	3		6				<sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> 7	25	6		25	4	5	10	658	
Peter Barkman		100								1			2									117	
Ab Reimer		100								1	5	2										120	
Abram S. Friesen	35	62	337	125	4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	5	3	2		6	375			140	15	10		30	10	5	<sup>2</sup> 25	1665	
Gerhard Giesbrecht	30	65	37	37	2	2	3	2	2	3				<sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> 10	<sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> 4			20	10	5	2	435	
Jacob Friesen	25	67	75	37	2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	2	1	1		2				<sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> 15	12			25	5	3	<sup>2</sup> 15	415	
Died Friesen	10	155		37	2	2	2							<sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> 12				5			5	345	
Cornelius Goossen	15	32	37	37	2	1	1	1		2				30				<sup>2</sup> 25	20	2	15	324	
Widow P. Toews	18	71	75	50		2	3	2	2	3				<sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> 15				20	8	5		396	
Jacob Barkman		120	25	25	1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	2	2	1		2				12				25	4	2	3	329	
Cornelius Loewen Jr.	80					2	1							<sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> 15								170	
Widow Is. Plett	80	25	50			2	3	2	2	2								30		12		330	
Klaas Reimer Jr.	20					2	1												10			105	
Johan Wiebe Jr.						2	1	1														80	
<b>TOTAL</b>																						15474	
Heinrich Fast	25	107	250	125	4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	2	2	3		5				40	25	12		<sup>2</sup> 30	15	8	15	899	
Johan Toews	15	72	25	8	2	1	1												12	8		240	
<b>TOTAL</b>																						1139	
<b>1883</b>																							
<b>Lichtenau</b>																							
Gerhard Kornelson Sr.	19	70	125	100	2	3	5	3	3	2				25	25	10		<sup>2</sup> 25	12	2	25	725	
Gerhard E. Kornelson Jr.	19	70	50	25		3	4	1	3	2									20	10	1	4	374
Abram R. Friesen	16	72	75	75	2	2	3	4	2	2				25				<sup>2</sup> 30	10	1	4	462	
Wit Giesbrecht	80	18	37			2	2	1	2	1												245	
<b>TOTAL</b>																						1806	
<b>1883</b>																							
<b>Grunfeld (Kleefeld)</b>																							
Peter L. Dueck	13	73	150	400	2	2	3	3	3	3			200	<sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub>	<sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	<sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub>		<sup>2</sup> 20	12	8	<sup>2</sup> 5	1136	
Johan H. Toews	48	136	100	100		5	3	2	2	4				25	12			<sup>2</sup> 35	12	2	2	712	
Cornelius P. Toews	30	65	200	50	2	2	6	8	4					50	15	12		50	10	8	20	817	
Abram Loewen	24	68	125	100	2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	5	2	3	3					<sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> 12	<sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> 20	<sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> 10		30	15	8	4	615	
Johan L. Dueck	40	220	400	100	6 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	7	3	5	4					50	30	15		<sup>3</sup> 50	<sup>2</sup> 35	<sup>2</sup> 10	20	1338	
Johan Toews	60	130				2	3	2	3	2								50	10	2	2	392	
Abram Schellenberg	18	76	250	100	2	2	4	2	5	2				175	30	10	10	40	12	1	20	785	
Johan Dueck Jr.	24	68	200	75	2	1	2	1		2								<sup>2</sup> 25	10	8	2	540	
Johan Esau	18	71	50	50	2	3	1											35	10	1	20	385	
Johan Hiebert	40	140	300	75	3	5	2	3	4							8		<sup>2</sup> 30	10	2	5	830	
Abram L. Dueck	26	67	150	100	2	2	6	3	5	2				<sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub>	<sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub>			35	8	1	4	684	

	C	P	B	F	H	O	y	k	s	p	S	T	f	m	r	g	w	x	a	l	TOTAL
<b>Franz Ens</b>		80		50		2	2	1	2												238
<b>Peter Bearg</b>	22	104	100	75	2	2							$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	10	25	12	8	8	511
<b>Johan Isaac</b>	26	67	200	125	2½	5	3	3	6	6			$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	4		20	8	1	6	741
<b>Abram Loewen</b>	22	69	150	50	2½	5	1	1					$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	10	30	8	8		537
<b>Jacob Dueck</b>	26	227																			253
<b>TOTAL</b>																					10719
<b>1883</b>																					
<b>Rosenfeld</b>																					
<b>Johan Esau</b>	30	145	150	100	2	2	4	2	4	3					15		2	2	2		795
<b>Isaac Loewen</b>	22	69	132	87	2	4	2	3	2					25			25	10	3	7	554
<b>Jacob Regehr</b>	38	61	150	100	2½	4	3	3	3					25	15		2	2	2		659
<b>Gerhard Schellenberg</b>	22	64	150	125	2	1	2	2	1	2				30	25	15	10	40	10	5	669
<b>Gerhard Schellenberg Jr.</b>	22	69	100	50	3	1	1	1	2								20	5	3	3	445
<b>1883</b>																					
<b>Gnadenort (Hochstadt)</b>																					
<b>Peter Loewen</b>	50	175	75	150	4	7	4	6	7	4				35	25	12		50	8	8	1009
<b>Isaac Loewen</b>	20	110	25	100	2	10	3	3	1	4					5			40	16	8	618
<b>Abram Friesen</b>	20	30		75	1	1	1	3							10			10	5	8	213
<b>Jacob Harms</b>	20	30		25	2½													40	10	3	228
<b>David Unger</b>	30	145	150		2	2	5	4	3	5				50	15		2	2	60	12	742
<b>Gerhard Friesen</b>	35	62	150		2	4	2	1	5						25	15		2	30	15	516
<b>David Loewen</b>	65	207	400		5½	1	5	2	5	4	9			300	15	25	12	5	50	12	1562
<b>Jacob Toews</b>	38	141	150		2½	4	3	3	4									2	40	10	582
<b>Klaas Reimer</b>	38	61	150		2	2	2	1	1	3	2				15	3			10	5	468
<b>TOTAL</b>																					5940
<b>1883</b>																					
<b>Heuboden</b>																					
<b>Heinrich Esau</b>	27	146	150	150	2	2	7	4	4	2				40	12			40	12	8	894
<b>Joh. Broske</b>	20	70	50	50	2	2	5	4	3	1				40	25	12	12	20	6	2	486
<b>Martin Barkman</b>	16	152	50	25	3	2	7	1	2	6	2				25	12		10	10		591
<b>Heinrich Friesen</b>	12	154	50	25	2	6	3	4	5	5					25	12		2	10	8	536
<b>Abram Kornelson</b>	16	112																			128
<b>Julius Redinzel</b>	10	75																			87
<b>TOTAL</b>																					2722
<b>Oct. 4, 1884</b>																					
<b>Neuanlage</b>																					
<b>Peter Klassen</b>	36	93	250	75	2½	4	4	2	3				$\frac{1}{2}$	300	50	50	10		2	2	1116
<b>Peter Loewen</b>	33	95	237	75	3	5	2	3	2										20	15	721
<b>Jacob Koop</b>	35	93	150	75	2	3	2	2					$\frac{1}{2}$	100					25	15	642
<b>Peter Friesen</b>	36	93	150	75	2	2	3	1	2	5				10					20	7	601
<b>Johan Koop</b>	30	97	137	50	1	5	1	3	1										20		474
<b>Johan Koop</b>	32	96	300	250	2½	3	5	4	2					50	10	5	50	15	2	2	1117
<b>TOTAL</b>																					4672

Oct. 29, 1884

Blumenort	C	P	B	F	H	O	y	k	s	p	S	T	f	m	r	g	w	x	a	l	TOTAL		
Peter Toews	40	290	250	100	2	5	6	3	6				300	50		15	25	25	3	3	2	1482	
Cor. Penner	30	157	125	75	2	3	1	1	6				300	250	15	15	25	15	8	10		1179	
Abram Friesen	40	230	125	100	2	2	1	2	3				100	15	8		20	12	2	8		791	
Isaac Penner	28	99	125	38	2½	3	1								15	20	15	8	10			508	
Abram Reimer	20	150																				170	
Peter Reimer	10	52																				62	
Heinrich Reimer	30	97	160	38	3	4	3	1	7					15		20	8	8	15			597	
Peter Wiebe Jr.	32	96		20	2½	2	1	2						½	17		25	8	2			327	
Peter Penner Sr.	55	198	250	200	3½	8	4	5	2					10		35	15	8	15			1105	
Jacob Wiebe	40	230	150	62	4	2	3	2	3				½	½		2	2					816	
Abram Penner	38	151	150	75	2	3	3	3					½	½	½	8	25	8	1	5		828	
Peter Wiebe Sr.	35	93	162	75	3	2	2	3	4				½	½		25	20		3	10	5	639	
Isaac Devehr	20	105	75	40	2	3	1	3	3								20	8	8	15		442	
Peter Penner Jr.	25	105	150	100	3½	6	4	4	½			100					2	2	30	15	8	15	964
Johan Friesen	20	105	75																			200	
Klaas P. Reimer	18	47	100	50		3	3	1	3								25			15		404	
Corn. F. Friesen	20	105	100	75		4	3	2	2	1							10	10	1			513	
Martin Penner	10	52																				62	
Peter Toews	20	105	75	50	2½	2	1										2	35	8	1	15	434	
Corn. P. Friesen	14	109	75	75	1	1	1	2	2							10						358	
David Klassen				62	1	1	1	1	2							20				5		145	
<b>TOTAL</b>																						12042	

1884

Blumenhof

Peter Unger	35	93	150	75	1	4	4	1	2	4				15	10		8		2			630	
Aron Penner	26	100	100	50	2	2	1	1					½	50	¼	4	2	35	8	8	15	469	
Corn. L. Plett	23	102	150	75	2	2	1	2							12	35	15	8	10	10		568	
David L. Plett	30	97			2	3	2	3	4				½	30	¼	25	15		20	7		384	
Johan L. Plett	90	275	200	125	5	5	5	4	8				¼	60	100	15	12	3	3	2	1	1291	
Johan W. Reimer	30	97	100	25	2	2	2	1	3				½	30	¾			40	8	1	10	499	
Isaac Warkentin	26	100	250	75	3	2	5	4	4	2			½	70	50	30	¼	20	8	8	15	965	
Peter L. Plett	29	98	100	50	2½	2	3	2	1				¼	30	¼	15	½	8	25	8	8	5	566
Johan Warkentin	38	91	250	100	3	3	3	1	5				½	70	¾	6	¼	25	8	8	10	893	
Johan Warkentin	28	99	150	100	4	1	5	5	4	3	4		¼	4	15			40	8	8	5	792	
Gottlieb Jantky	44	87	75	62	3½	4	1	3	2					100	10		15	25	8	8	10	659	
Joh Janzen	52	201	250	100	4	12	4	7	6				½	70	12	8	¼	2	2	2	2	1196	
Cor. Plett	30	97	150	75	4	4	10	5	3				¼	30	25	10	¼	25	8	8	6	786	
Abr. L. Plett	30	97	100	25	4½	3	1	3	2				¼	30	25	15	½	35	15		10	539	
H. Wolgemuth	28	99	175	50	3	2	3	2	4				½	30	¾	10	¼	25	14	8	10	675	



	C	P	B	F	H	O	y	k	s	p	S	T	f	m	r	g	w	x	a	l	TOTAL	
Village Land	360																				360	
TOTAL																					11227	
<b>1884</b>																						
<b>Heuboden</b>																						
Abr. Kornelson	50	262	180																		180	
Hein Esau	30	187	150	50	2	4	8	4	6	18	4	10	15	2		40	8	8	5	927		
<b>1884</b>																						
<b>Steinbach</b>																						
Cor Loewen	45	86	300	100	4	4	4	4	4	100	10	10	8	2		25	8	2	5	955		
Corn Barkman	120			2																	150	
Jacob Friesen	24	102	200	75	3	2	3	2	4	15	5	4	4	25	6	8	10				652	
Hein Brandt	40	90	200	100	3	4	3	4	50	30	8	20	1	10						773		
Abr. P. Reimer	20	165	200	25	2	3	1	1	2	50						4	5	1	15	625		
Klaas Friesen	34	94	150	100	2	3	3	1	4	10	10	25	10	8	3						617	
Corn. Goossen	17	47	150	100	2	2	1	1	3	25	40	20	12	2	10						549	
Joh Wiebe	37	92	100	50	3	3	4	2	3	15	15	25	8	3						522		
Jacob Barkman	8	54	25	37	2	2	2	3	25	10	45	5	10							270		
Peter Barkman	2	1	1675	50	1	1	1	5						70	6						1812	
Jacob Barkman	11	51	25	37	1	2	2	1	2	10						20						292
Franz Kroeker	115	273	450	175	7	11	6	8	5	30	100	30	10	8	3	3	2	3	25	1843		
Abr. Friesen	30	97	587	125	2½	5	2	1	15	100	10	10	60	8	1	8						1248
Cor Loewen	120			12	2	2	1	1	2						4						261	
Wid. Peter Toews	25	101	75	50	2	3	2	4	3						10	8	1	10				424
Joh Reimer	37	92	425	50	2½	4	4	6	5	10	20	10	25	8	1	5						909
Klaas Reimer	60	375	575	900	4	1	4	13	30	15	10	5	100	15	8	20	4	3	2	2486		
Gerhard Giesbrecht	30	97	37	37	2	3	2	3	4	5	4	20	8	1	2						402	
Klaas Reimer	10	142	125	25	2	4	1	2						25	8						462	
Isaak Plett	35	213	200	50	3	5	4	3	2	30						25	8	8	8	791		
Joh Barkman	28	216	187	87	2	2	3	2	2	20	15	20	8	1	10						811	
Peter Barkman	150	200	25	2	2	5															412	
Abr. Reimer	150	100	20	1	1	2															292	
Joh Barkman	18	46	25	37	2	2	1	3	500	10	25	5	1	3							787	
Johan Friesen	120	150	75	2	1															395		
TOTAL																					18787	
Johan Toews	13	110	125	1	1	1	4															328
Hein Fast	25	161	250	125	5	5	3	4	15	15	15	45	10	8	5						992	
TOTAL																					1820	

1884														TOTAL							
Lichtenau	C	P	B	F	H	O	y	k	s	p	S	T	f		m	r	g	w	x	a	l
Gerh. Kornelson	19	105	125	100	2	5	6	3	3	2			25	25	10		20	15	8	10	723
Widow Giesbrecht		120	37	25		2	2	2	2	1										10	290
Gerh. Kornelson	18	106	50	25	2	2	2	5	2	5				13			10	8	1	3	454
Widow Ab. R. Friesen	16	108	75	75	1	4	5	3					20	12			20	6	1	3	464

1884														TOTAL								
Hochstadt																						
Jacob B. Toews	31	336	150	25	2½	5	3	3	2				¼	¼		2	40	8	8	10	860	
David Loewen	90	532	500		7½	1	5	5	3	5	7		¼	¾				2	3	2	2	16150
Isaac Loewen			50	25		3	2	2	3												198	
Peter Loewen	50	262	75	150	4½	1	8	7	5	2	4		½	10	10		2	30	8	8	20	1188
David Unger	45	216	150		2	2	9	2	4	1			½	10	10		2	40	8	8	5	904
Gerhard Friesen	35	213	150		2	3	1	1	5					10	10		2	25	15	8	15	779
Abr. Friesen	25	41	50	50	1½	1	1	1	2						10		15		8	5	286	
Isaac Loewen	20	165	40	100	2½	5	5	3	3	2				30	10		2	30	8	8	20	669
Jacob Harms	25	41	25	25	2	1	1	1										25	8	8	10	267
Jacob Regier	10	112		25	2½	3	3	1	1				½	10				5	8	15	338	
TOTAL																					4413	

1884														TOTAL								
Rosenfeld																						
Johan Esau	21	104	150	100	2	3	4	5	2					20	30	15		40	8	5	677	
Johan Esau	9	113	40	37		2	1		1										8	10	293	
Gerhard Schellenberg	18	106	100	50	2	2	3	4	2								2	30	8	1	10	479
Gerhard Schellenberg	18	106	150	125	2	3	2	2	2					20	30	10	10	2	32	8	5	668
Jacob Regehr	35	93	150	100	2½	4	2	2	3				½	10	30	15		2	35	8	15	688
Derk Isaac	22	103	137	87	2½	5	3	3	2					30	10		2	35	8	1	5	654
Jacob Bartel				50		2	1	1													135	
TOTAL																					3596	

Johan Broeske	20	105	75	50	1	5	4	3	2	6				20	25	10	10	15	8	1	4	515
Martin Barkman	16	228	50	25	2½	4	5	3	3	2	2			10	30	10		25	8	1	743	
Hein Friesen	12	231	50	25	2½	7	3	6	5					25	10			25	8	2	10	537
Franz Ens		120		50		2	5	1	2											1	323	

1884														TOTAL									
Grunfeld (Kleefeld)																							
Johan Hiebert	40	210	300	75	5	2	8	2	6	4			¼	54	10	5	2	2	30	16	8	2	1170
Abr. Dueck	27	99	150	100	2	2	7	5	6	4	200		½	5	5			20	6	1	10	942	
Peter Dueck	14	109	150	400	2	1	7	3	4	4			½	5	5			10	8	8	10	982	
Abr. Schellenberg	18	106	250	100	3	5	3	3	4					214	25	10	10	2	2	2	2	1059	
Abr. Loewen	26	100	125	100	3	4	3	3	3				½	5	10	5		20	8	8	1	619	

	C	P	B	F	H	O	y	k	s	p	S	T	f	m	r	g	w	x	a	l	TOTAL	
Joh Toews	50	197	100	100	2	3	4	2	2	5			20			25	15	2	2	8	778	
Joh Toews	50	202	50			1	1	1	2	3					10		25	5	2	5	415	
Joh Isaak	28	99	200	125	3	5	2	3	4	9			10	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{4}$		10	8	8	8	758	
Joh Esau	20	105	50	50	2	1	1	1					30	$\frac{1}{2}$	5		20	5	1	8	424	
Ab Loewen	21	104	150	50	3	2	1	3	4				108	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{3}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	5	25	6	8	2	666
Julius Redinzel			5	12		2	2	2	4								10	8			139	
Joh Dueck	50	322	350	100	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	5	5	5	6				64	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{3}{4}$		3	3	2	1	1436	
Jacob Dueck	26	340																			366	
Corn Toews	20	105	200	50	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	6	6	4	4				10	$\frac{1}{8}$	$\frac{1}{5}$		2	35	8	8	10	753
TOTAL																					10510	
Franz Goossen		50																				
Abram Isaak		320																				

# Chapter Five

## The Scratching River Settlement

The Kleine Gemeinde settlers in the Scratching River settlement, present day Rosenort, were not as fortunate as their brethren in the East Reserve, R.M. of Hanover, in terms of the amount of information collected and preserved at the municipal level. Although the R.M. of Morris, in which the Scratching River settlement is located, was formed in 1880, the first years for which any records are available is 1887. These follow the provincial reporting format and contain only the name of the property owners and the homestead quarter registered to their names.

Fortunately the Mennonite Pioneers themselves maintained additional records, such as Brandordnung (mutual fire insurance system) and village accounts which can add insight into the daily life of this period. Accordingly the first section of this chapter consists of Brandordnung records maintained by David Klassen (1813-1900) who had also served as the first Schulz of the village of Rosenhof in the pioneer settlement.

Section two consists of two lists published in *Die Mennonitische Rundschau* (courtesy of Henry Fast) which provide a list of the residents of both Rosenhof and Rosenort for 1882. An additional list published in 1881 reports the acreages seeded and yields for the village of Rosenhof for that year. Section three extracts the tax records of the R.M. of Morris regarding the Mennonite settlers in the Scratching River area. A search of homestead records for the quarter section listed for each farmer can yield considerable additional information on the early financial progress of individual families.

### Section 1 — Brandordnung/ Fire Insurance Coverage David Klassen - Brand Aeltester

Rosenhof		January 1, 1880			December 31, 1881		
Name	No.	Bldgs	Contents	Feed	Bldgs	Contents	Feed
Hiebert, Peter	1	400	150	100	450	150	100
Eidse, Cornelius	2	350	300	200	350	300	200
Kroeker, Jakob	3	250	250	150	500	250	150
Siemens, Gerhard	4	250	300	200	400	300	200
Friesen, Johan	5	350	100	100	650	200	100
Friesen, Heinrich	6	300	200	100	600	200	100
Klassen, David	7	450	300	200	750	300	200
Klassen, Jakob	8		200			200	
Loewen, Johan	9	650	300	200	950	300	200
Warkentin, Hein.	10	550	200	200	800	300	200
Eidse, Abraham	11	400	200	200	600	200	200
Warkentin, Gerhard	12	50	100	50	50	100	50
Eidse, Abraham	13		200		250	200	100
Friesen, David	14		100		100	150	50

Rosenort		January 1, 1880			December 31, 1881		
Name	No.	Bldgs	Contents	Feed	Bldgs	Contents	Feed
Enns, Jakob	1	250	250	150	250	250	150
Warkentin, Martin	2	225	200	125	425	200	125
Friesen, Johan	3	150	175	75	150	175	75
Dueck, Peter	4	400	200	125	400	200	125
Friesen, Jakob	5	200	200	150	200	200	150
Toews, Jakob	6	400	200	200	400	200	200
Windmill		1500					
Loewen, Isaac	7	350	200	150	350	200	150
Rempel, Wittwe	8	525	350	200	325	350	100
Rempel, Martin	9		100			150	
Friesen, Abraham	16	75	200	25			
Huebert, David	17	200	125	125	200	125	125
Enns, Johan	18	350	200	150			

Enns, Heinrich Sr.	19	250				
Enns, Heinrich Jr.	19				175	
Harms, Jakob	24	100			100	
Harms Sara		100			100	
Klassen, Johan	100	100		300	200	
Friesen, Johan P.	150	175	75	150	175	75
Rempel, Jakob	200			200	100	

## Section 2 Rundschau Records

### March 15, 1882 - Names of Persons in Rosenort and Rosenhof

<b>Rosenort:</b>	<b>Living North of Rosenort:</b>
Heinrich Enns	Abraham Friesen
Jakob Rempel	Jacob Harms
Jakob Ens	David Thiessen Jr.
Johann Friesen No. 4	
Martin Warkentin	<b>Rosenhof:</b>
Johann Friesen No. 6	David Thiessen Jr.
Peter Dueck	Gerhard Warkentin
Isaac Loewen	Abraham Eidse
Jakob Friesen No. 9	Heinrich Eidse
Jakob Toews No. 10	Abraham Eidse Sr.
Jakob Toews No. 11	Widow Joh Klassen
Peter Rempel	David Klassen Jr.
Johann Klassen	Abraham Klassen
Widow M. Rempel	David Klassen Sr.
Johann Rempel	Cornelius Eidsen
Martin Rempel	Peter Hiebert
Gerhard Harms	Peter Loewen
Jakob Friesen No. 18	David Friesen
Peter Kroeker	Jacob Klassen
Franz Froese	Heinrich Friesen
David Hiebert	Johann Friesen
Johann Enns	Gerhard Siemens
Klaas Brand	Jakob Kroeker Sr.
Klaas Friesen	Jakob Kroeker Jr.
Cornelius Friesen	
Peter Isaac	
Cornelius Cornelson	
Gerhard Goosen	
Heinrich Dueck	
Isaac Harms	
Cornelius Rempel	

### November 15, 1881 Rosenhof Acreage and Yield

	Wheat		Oats		Barley	
	acreage	bushel	acreage	bushel	acreage	bushel
Ab Eidsen	31	667	35	1059	3	71
Heinrich Warkentine	48	814	40	972	½	19
Johann Loewen	59	977	31	1037	6	246
David Klassen Jr.	14	236	18	599	--	--
Ab Klassen	8	159	17	731	3	67
David Klassen Sr.	33½	668	32½	1308	¼	7
Heinrich Friesen	18	308	18	450	4	108
Johann Friesen	29	293	18	524	5	86
Gerhard Siemens	20	391	15	626	10	212
Jakob Kroeker	30½	543	23	868	6½	155
Kornelius Eidsen	43	810	28	908	6	156
Peter Hiebert	18	356	15	677	6	164
David Thiessen	6	90	6	125	3	75
Gerhard Warkentine	12	206	9	244	5	120
Ab Eidsen Jr.	12	242	10½	410	2½	58
<b>Total</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>6823</b>	<b>347</b>	<b>10629</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>1544</b>

(Information Courtesy of Henry Fast, Steinbach, Manitoba)

**Section 3 R.M. of Morris Tax Records 1887**

Roll No.	Name	Property Description
267	David Friesen	NW¼ 16-5-1E
268	Henry Eidse	SW¼ 16-5-1E
269	John Friesen	NE¼ 17-5-1E
270	Abram Eidse	SE¼ 17-5-1E
271	Cornelius Eidse	W½ 17-5-1E
275	Henry Friesen	NW¼ 19-5-1E
276	Jacob Kroeker	NE¼ 19-5-1E
277	Gerhard Siemans	SW¼ 19-5-1E
278	David Thieson	SE¼ 19-5-1E
279	Abram Klasson	NW¼ 20-5-1E
280	Mrs. Loewen	NE¼ 20-5-1E
281	Jacob Kroeker, Jr.	SW¼ 20-5-1E
282	Gerhard Siemans	SE¼ 20-5-1E
283	Isaac Loewen	NW¼ 21-5-1E
284	John Loewen	NE¼ 21-5-1E
285	John Warkentine	SW¼ 21-5-1E
286	David Klasson	SE¼ 21-5-1E
287	Heinrich Warkentine	NW¼ 22-5-1E
288	Peter Loewen	NE¼ 22-5-1E
289	Jacob Klasson	SW¼ 22-5-1E
290	Peter Hiebert	SE¼ 22-5-1E
302	Heinrich Warkentine	S½ 28-5-1E
304	Gerhard Warkentine	NE¼ 28-5-1E
305	Abram Eidse	NW¼ 28-5-1E
306	David Thieson, Sr.	NE¼ 29-5-1E
307	William Hespler	E½ 30-5-1E
308	Peter Toews	NW¼ 30-5-1E
309	Gerhard Thieson	SW¼ 30-5-1E
310	Peter Dick	NW¼ 31-5-1E
311	Gerhard Harms	NE¼ 31-5-1E
312	Martin Warkentine	SW¼ 31-5-1E
313	Peter Rempel	SE¼ 31-5-1E
314	John T. Friesen	NW¼ 32-5-1E
315	Mrs. Mary Remple	NE¼ 32-5-1E
316	Jacob Toewes	SW¼ 32-5-1E
317	Frank Froeze	SE¼ 32-5-1E
318	Henry Enns	NW¼ 33-5-1E
319	John T. Friesen	NE¼ 33-5-1E
320	Mrs. John Remple	SW¼ 33-5-1E
321	Cornelius Kornelson	SE¼ 33-5-1E
434	Isaac Harms	NW¼ 4-6-1E
435	John Friesen	NE¼ 4-6-1E
436	Peter Kroker	SW¼ 4-6-1E
437	David Thieson, Sr.	SE¼ 4-6-1E
438	Jacob Friesen, Jr.	SW¼ 5-6-1E
439	Claus Friesen	NE¼ 5-6-1E
440	Jacob Friesen, Sr.	NW¼ 5-6-1E
441	Jacob Toewes	SE¼ 5-6-1E
442	John Enns	NW¼ 6-6-1E
443	Gerard Goosen	NE¼ 6-6-1E
444	Cornelius Friesen	SW¼ 6-6-1E
445	Heinrich Dick	SE¼ 6-6-1E
448	Cornelius Kornelson	SW¼ 7-6-1E
449	Cornelius Eidse	SE¼ 7-6-1E
521	Isaac Loewen	NW¼ 1-6-1E
522	Jacob Enns	NE¼ 1-6-1E
523	Klaus Brandt	SW¼ 1-6-1E
524	Peter Isaac	SE¼ 1-6-1E



# *Part Two.* *The Nebraska Kleine Gemeinde*

## **Chapter Six.** **The Kleine Gemeinde in the United States of America**

**by Henry Fast**

### PREFACE

My interest in the Kleine Gemeinde in the United States of America developed out of a need to acquire more information about this group for a Mennonite History course taught in the collegiate division of the Steinbach Bible College. Since a number of students at the collegiate have a Kleine Gemeinde background, it seemed only logical that the students have at least some knowledge of this group. However, very little information was available, especially the early history. I have attempted to record this history and to identify the early pioneers among the Kleine Gemeinde of the United States of America.

The scope of the research is limited to the study of those Kleine Gemeinde who came directly from Russia during the 1870's. This group first settled in Jefferson County, Nebraska, in 1874 and moved to Meade County, Kansas in 1906-1908. Excluded from this study is the Kleine Gemeinde church in Satanta, Kansas. The members of this group immigrated from Canada in the 1920's and returned to Canada in the 1940's. One of the Steinbach Bible College collegiate students, Garth Doerksen, wrote a research paper in 1983 on this group.

I am indebted to the board of the Steinbach Bible College for allowing me sabbatical leave in 1984-85 during which time I was able to gather most of the research material. I thank, too, the following historical archives who have been most helpful in supplying primary research material: E.M.C. Archives, Steinbach, Manitoba; Center for Mennonite Brethren Studies, Winnipeg; Mennonite Heritage Center Archives, Winnipeg; Mennonite Library and Archives, North Newton, Kansas; Tabor College, Hillsboro, Kansas; The Archives of the Mennonite Church, Goshen, Indiana; Manitoba Provincial Archives, Winnipeg, Manitoba; Nebraska State Archives, Lincoln, Nebraska.

My cousins, Levi and Alvin Isaac, sons of former Bishop Jacob F. Isaac, and their aunt, Mrs. H. F. Isaac, have made available to me old Kleine Gemeinde church records and letters. These documents were invaluable in putting together the story of the Kleine Gemeinde. I thank my aunt, Mrs. A. B. Friesen, for her kind hospitality during our frequent visits to Jansen, Nebraska. As well, I thank Cor. Friesen of Meade for guiding me through the old Kleine Gemeinde settlement in Meade.

I thank, also, Delbert Plett for the encouragement he has given to me and for generously loaning to me his micro-film reader as well as various documents pertaining to the U.S.A. Kleine Gemeinde. Finally, I am grateful to typists Martha Hiebert and Laura Penner for deciphering my initial manuscript and bringing it to legible form.

I do not consider the following pages to be an exhaustive history of the Kleine Gemeinde in the U.S.A. Obviously, financial limitations curtailed the number of personal contacts which I would have liked to make. My hope is that this brief study may awaken an interest in others and that this contribution to this interesting history may help us to better understand the Kleine Gemeinde in the U.S.A.



## SECTION ONE INTRODUCTION

### THE KLEINE GEMEINDE IN RUSSIA

#### **Aeltester Klaas Reimer**

The story of the Kleine Gemeinde begins in the Mennonite colony of Molotschna in southern Russia. This colony was first opened to settlement in 1805 by Prussian Mennonite immigrants. Among these early immigrants was a young Mennonite preacher, Klaas Reimer.

Klaas, an ordained minister, emigrated from Prussia because of the spiritual state of the church in that country and at the advice of his father-in-law. The Reimer family arrived in the Mennonite colony of Chortitza in 1804, where they stayed for several months before moving on to the colony Molotschna. Here too, Klaas was disappointed with the spiritual condition of the church, especially with the church aeltester, Jakob Enns.

Enns personified much that Reimer could not harmonize with the Word of God. Evidently, the aeltester had a terrible temper which on occasion was expressed by violent behavior and uncontrolled speech. He once instructed four of his church members to physically summon an "erring brother" to a brotherhood meeting. It seems that the threshold of the door was too small to accommodate the reluctant brother and he was badly hurt. Rather than being repentant of such unchristian behavior, Enns only boasted of greater threats to those who crossed his path.

Reimer, however, held to a clear distinction between civil and church discipline. In fact he severely criticized his fellow Mennonites for taking part in civil punishment. This was contrary to the non-resistant principle practiced by their forefathers. Reimer was also critical of the generally low moral state of the Mennonite church. He advocated church discipline only according to the Scriptures. With these differences of opinion a small group of Mennonites in the Molotschna began separate worship services in 1812 under Klaas Reimer's leadership. These became known as the Kleine Gemeinde.

In 1814 this small group of believers chose by lot, Klaas Reimer to be their aeltester. The lot was supervised by Aeltester Heinrich Janzen of Schonwise, but H. Janzen refused to install Reimer into the position.<sup>1</sup> Consequently Reimer was installed as aeltester by fellow minister Kornelius Janzen. Reimer remained in this office until his death in 1837.

#### **Aeltester Abraham Friesen**

The aeltester chosen to succeed Reimer, was his brother-in-law, Abraham Friesen. Friesen was elected as a deacon in the Ohrloffter church in 1817, and came over to the Kleine Gemeinde in 1818. His position as deacon was recognized by his new church. In 1823, with 17 brethren voting, he was elected into the ministry and in 1838 he was elected to be the new aeltester.<sup>2</sup> At the time of his death in 1849 the voting records indicate 85 brethren voting at a ministerial election. This gives an indication of how the church grew numerically during Friesen's term in office.

There also seems to have been much progress in verbalizing their faith during this era. Abraham Friesen wrote a short article "Eine Kurze Beschreibung" in 1820, defending the Kleine Gemeinde's position on modesty and the non-use of tobacco. Another article "Eine Einfache Erklärung uber Einige Glaubenssatze der sogenannten Kleine Gemeinde," written in 1838 outlines, under five separate points, why the Kleine Gemeinde separated from the larger church and the reason for their separated walk.

Probably the best known article written during this time is "Verstand und Vernunft," by Heinrich Balzer in 1833. The tract is a philosophical treatment of the difference between understanding and reason. Human reason, he says, will only lead away from God, and he warns the Mennonite reader to beware of the trends in education and lifestyle that are creeping into their midst. Instead he challenges the people to seek after Godly understanding as found in Scripture, which will lead to a simple faith and a humble walk with God.

Certainly Balzer's prophetic warnings explain to a degree the succeeding Kleine Gemeinde history. During the following hundred years the Kleine Gemeinde did not encourage higher education, although a basic education was deemed necessary and compulsory. Besides the Bible, the members were encouraged to read anabaptist literature such as Menno Simon's writings, *Martyrs Mirror*, and others. However, any natural tendency to be too inventive, too curious of world events, or too involved in matters of politics was frowned on.

It should be noted though, that in the Molotschna, the Kleine Gemeinde were living in villages together with other Mennonites. At least nine different villages in which Kleine Gemeinde lived are listed in an 1846 deacon election record.<sup>3</sup> Their children attended the same elementary school as other village children. There were even a number of Kleine Gemeinde teachers in charge of these schools.<sup>4</sup> One distinctive difference from the other villagers was the uniform dull blue color of Kleine Gemeinde buildings and houses.<sup>5</sup> It was only between the years 1863-1874 that the majority of the Kleine Gemeinde separated themselves geographically from the larger Mennonite group. In 1863 a six year rental agreement was signed with "Edlemann Markus" for a large tract of land near the Dneiper River.<sup>6</sup> A few years later the Kleine Gemeinde bought a piece of land known as the Borosenko Colony.<sup>7</sup> At the time of the 1874 emigration only a few Kleine Gemeinde still lived in the Molotschna.

### **Aeltester Johann Friesen**

Aeltester Abraham Friesen died on July 1, 1849. This time, however, the Kleine Gemeinde had an ordained aeltester to take his place. The church had elected Johann Friesen in 1847 as aeltester and he had been duly installed by Abraham Friesen before his death. Johann was a nephew of Abraham Friesen.

The years of Johann Friesen's leadership were troublesome times for the Kleine Gemeinde. In attempting to maintain a church "without spot or wrinkle" one deacon and two ministers were removed from office in the years 1845-1849.<sup>8</sup> Particularly troublesome for the new aeltester was the conflict with Minister Peter Thiessen, who on December 25, 1849, read a prepared statement to the brotherhood stating his difference with the church.<sup>9</sup> The content of his paper are not recorded, but the results were that Thiessen was voted out of his ministerial office and later also out of the church fellowship. He was reinstated on November 5, 1850.<sup>10</sup> Fourteen years later the Thiessen family again was involved in differences with the church because of Abraham Thiessen, a son of Peter Thiessen, who was removed from the church fellowship in February of 1864. This was the beginning of a split in the Kleine Gemeinde which was not finally healed till 1882 in North America.

The catalyst that precipitated the split was centered around Abraham Thiessen. He was one of the men in the Molotschna who was leading the fight to force the colony administrators to divide colony land among the landless. Since there was considerable opposition to this from the well-to-do farmers of the colony, who were renting this land for their own profits, the matter was also brought to the attention of the regional Russian officials. Evidently, because of Thiessen's rather strong involvement in things which the Kleine Gemeinde saw as an embarrassment to their being "die stille im Lande," and because of some personal shortcomings, Thiessen was excommunicated.

However, a technicality in procedure gave cause for concern. Thiessen had been told that his case would be discussed at a prearranged Sunday where he could then be present to defend himself. Yet for some reason his case had been presented to the brethren a Sunday before that designated. The brethren felt that the issues were of such nature that a decision could not be postponed, and voted to excommunicate him immediately. Consequently, Thiessen, taking exception to this lack of protocol, disrupted the Kleine Gemeinde Sunday church service a number of times.<sup>11</sup> Some other members of the Thiessen family renounced their membership in the Kleine Gemeinde at this time and joined another Mennonite church.<sup>12</sup>

In December of 1865 and January of 1866 a number of ministerial and brotherhood meetings were held regarding the reinstating of Abraham Thiessen into church fellowship. It is not clear from Kleine Gemeinde documents what brought about this change in attitude to Thiessen. Probably there were a number of brethren that thought the church had not dealt correctly with him. This prompted a letter to Aeltester Johann Friesen from Minister Heinrich Enns, saying that he did not have confidence in Friesen's leadership anymore and advised him to resign from his office of aeltester.<sup>13</sup> Since Friesen did not resign, the Kleine Gemeinde split into two, with H. Enns leading one group and Johann Friesen remaining with the other. On January 23, 1866, Abraham Thiessen was again accepted as a member in the Friesen group.

### **Geographic Separation**

As has been noted, the Kleine Gemeinde members began moving out of the Molotschna Colony in 1863. Certainly a major reason for this move was the difficulty of acquiring land

in the mother colony. Another reason seems to be connected with a new requirement of the Mennonites in the Molotschna to be responsible for the transport and lodging of suspected criminals as they were escorted through the colony. John F. Harms explains this as follows.

"In the year 1865 the Russian government made a change in the laws governing suspected criminals who were sent from Melitopol to Tokmak for a preliminary hearing. Up to this time, suspected criminals had been treated as guilty, and had been forced to walk, hand-cuffed, and under strict guard. Through the adoption of a 'Friedens-richter', things became more humane and these people were to be transported. This became the obligation of the Molokaner village, Astrachanka, and the Mennonite village of Kleefeld and Furstenwerder. The government called this Non-armed Police Service, but to some of us this was very doubtful, particularly to the members of the Kleine Gemeinde. These rather moved to rented land, where they would not be obligated to perform this duty. The other land owners reasoned, man should obey the government, we can at least give it a try . . .'"<sup>14</sup>

The first group of Kleine Gemeinde to move out of the Molotschna rented a piece of property from nobleman, Markus. This property was situated on the east side of the Dnieper River just north of the Chortitz Colony. Bishop Peter Toews gives an account of the beginning of this settlement in a letter of reminiscing to the readers of the *Mennonitische Rundschau* in 1913.

"Fifty years ago this summer, I a youth, was allowed to make my first extended trip by my parents. They will have seen the need of a vacation after my first conversion experience whereby I also had become physically exhausted. The mentioned journey was made in the accompaniment of old Mr. Isaac Harms and his son Cornelius. The latter is still living as an 80 year old in California. The purpose of this trip was to look for land.

At first we were interested in the newly available land of Furstenland near the village Snamenka on the Dnieper River. As we travelled through the named village, we marvelled at the well tended vineyards of the Russians. Such vineyards were not at that time seen among us Germans in the Molotschna. Gardening and tree culture have always been my hobby. In my thoughts I often think of the various fruits in my parents garden in Fischau. The position of this fruit tree or that one is still clear in my memory. The mentioned journey now continued. At Nikopol we crossed the Dnieper River, then on to the Old Colony. We found night lodging in the village of Schoenberg at the 'Vorsteher der Landwirtschaft', who was also in charge of the new Furstenland settlement. While Father Harms stayed in the good room at these friendly folks, the younger Harms and I made our bed on the hay in the barn (Scheune). We slept well, never dreaming of all the experiences of the next fifty years.

Since this account is not only written for the interest of my personal friends I will continue the story of our trip. At Einlage we again crossed the Dnieper River and continued to the so-called Markusland. There, Harms and the nobleman (Markus) agreed on a rent contract that was to be in effect for 6 years. That same fall the village Friedrichsthal was settled and the following spring Andreasfeld. I was one of the first settlers in the latter village.

I married Anna Warkentine of Blumstein in the fall of 1863 and after Pentecost, 1864, we moved from Fischau where I had grown up, to Andreasfeld, together with other settlers. Here we stayed only a few years, then we moved to the purchased parcel of land known as Borsenkoland, near Nikopol. Our parents moved with us. We stayed here till the emigration of 1875 . . .'"<sup>15</sup>

Peter Toews continues the account of the Borsenko settlement in another article in the *Rundschau*.

"A majority of the Kleine Gemeinde moved to Borsenko from Molotschna during the next few years, and settled near Nikopol on the Dnieper River in a number of villages. Our village was called Blumenhof. So within a few years (1864-1866) the Gemeinde lived in four different areas: Molotschna, Krim, Markusland and Borsenko. It is in the latter place that the main group gathered. However, a small group subordinated themselves to the Orhloff Gemeinde through the ordination of Aeltester A. Friesen who also moved to Borsenko. Later this group was the continuation of the Kleine Gemeinde and is presently found in Meade, Kansas.

From the Gemeinde in the Krim a group followed Aeltester Jacob Wiebe and C. Enns

and through immersion baptism founded the so-called Krimmer Mennonite Brethren Gemeinde. My mother and two sisters eventually joined this church in Kansas. The rest of the three separate groups of former Aeltester Johann Friesen (who died during this time) were reconciled and built a church in Blumenhof.

An account of these splits and the reasons for these are given in my book *History of the Kleine Gemeinde*. Our church paper, *Botschafter der Wahrheit*, also contains some information, so I will not write any more on the subject in this article . . ."<sup>16</sup>

As Toews' letter indicates at least two segments of the church split moved to the Borsenko colony. It may seem strange that with such deep differences on interpretation of church discipline they would immediately choose to move next to each other. However, since the intent to purchase the Borsenko property was made prior to the split, they may not have had much choice in the matter. There was also always the possibility that the erring brethren would see the error of their ways and that reconciliation would be possible. Whatever the reason, a small group of Kleine Gemeinde with their Aeltester Abraham L. Friesen lived together with the larger segment of the Kleine Gemeinde in the Borsenko Colony.

#### **Abraham L. Friesen and the Heubodner Kleine Gemeinde**

At the time of the 1866 split, H. Enns left Johann Friesen's group, taking the majority of members with him. Voting records at this time indicate that about 47 brethren remained with aeltester Johann Friesen. This was reduced to only a few families when some members reunited with the larger Enns group and about 26 families separated from Friesen to form their own branch of the Kleine Gemeinde. Abraham L. Friesen explains as follows:

"In the spring of 1868, Aeltester Johann Friesen excommunicated us two ministers, Peter Friesen and Abraham Friesen and the two deacons Klaas Friesen and Jacob Friesen because of diversities of opinions. Since a majority of the church members agreed with us, we could do no other but accept them. On May 7 we had aeltester election. The votes were as follows:

Peter Friesen, Tiege	5 votes
Abraham Friesen, Heuboden	21 votes

Twenty-six brethren voted at this election. On May 4, 1869, aeltester Johann Harder from Blumstein installed me into the office of aeltester." Abraham L. Friesen"<sup>17</sup>

The Heubodner Gemeinde grew slowly over the next few years. Nevertheless, during this time two deacon and minister elections were held. Since it was tradition that the ministers were only elected from the ranks of the deacons, we often have a deacon vote preceding the ministerial vote. Following is a record of two such elections.

August 24, 1869 - "A ministerial election was held on August 24, 1869 in order to elect one minister. However, first a brother was elected as deacon.

Cornelius Friesen, Heuboden	19 votes
Ab Reimer, Heuboden	1 vote
David Klassen, Heuboden	4 votes
Jakob Kroeker, Heuboden	3 votes
Gerhard Rempel, Rosenfeld	1 vote
Peter Heidebrecht, Blumenhof	1 vote

The same day, from a slate of 3 deacons; Klaas Friesen, Jakob Friesen and Cornelius Friesen, one minister was elected.

Klaas Friesen	1 vote
Jakob Friesen	1 vote
Cornelius Friesen	27 votes"

April 10, 1873 - "A deacon election was held on April 10, 1873. The votes are as follows:

Jakob Klassen, Steinbach	12 votes
Cornelius Eidse, Neuanlage	3 votes
Jakob Kroeker, Heuboden	17 votes
David Klassen, Heuboden	1 vote" <sup>18</sup>

The relationships between the Gruenfelder<sup>19</sup> and Heubodner Gemeinde seems to have been cordial. When the Gruenfelder Aeltester H. Enns resigned in 1868, he was replaced by Peter Toews in 1870. Peter Toews and A. L. Friesen jointly made several trips together for the purpose of seeking clarification of their threatened privileges. There also seems to have been a serious attempt in the early 1870's to bring about reconciliation between these two groups, but this

was not finalized at the time of the emigration.

### Emigration

One of the privileges that had been promised to the Russian Mennonites on emigrating from Prussia was the promise to them and their descendents of an exemption from military service in perpetuity. This privilege was increasingly being challenged by the Russian media, who saw these German speaking people as a foreign element on Russian soil receiving privileges not granted to other Russian citizens. Acting on this criticism, the government decided to abolish this exemption. Together with other Mennonite groups, both the Gruenfelder and Heubodner Kleine Gemeinde made petition to the government to request consideration in reversing these new laws. Since these changes could not be promised the Kleine Gemeinde began seriously to consider emigration.

On April 14, 1873, the Heubodner Kleine Gemeinde sent their delegate David Klassen, together with Cornelius Toews of the Gruenfelder Kleine Gemeinde to America to search for a new home. They travelled by ship from Nikopol to Odessa, and by rail to Hamburg. From here they took a steamship to New York. At Fargo they joined the other delegates from other Mennonite groups also planning emigration. Together this group of delegates travelled to Manitoba to look at the possibilities of settling here. Both Toews and Klassen as well as the Bergthaler delegates chose Manitoba as their homes on August 7, 1873.

Preparation now got underway to emigrate. As indicated, the Heubodner delegate David Klassen had chosen Canada as their church's future home. However, between the time of the report of the delegate to the church and the actual immigration, a change in destination was decided on. We can only speculate on the reasons.

It is possible that Aeltester A. L. Friesen was uneasy about settling again in near proximity to the Gruenfelder Kleine Gemeinde. Evidently, problems and suspicions that had hindered total reconciliation a year earlier were not forgotten. While basically adhering to the same doctrine and practice, the Heubodner group was somewhat less inclined to accept other influences. This is shown in the fact that eight years later only a few of A. L. Friesen's group joined the Holdeman church, whereas about half of the Manitoba Gruenfelder Kleine Gemeinde joined, including their Aeltester, Peter Toews.

Another reason for A. L. Friesen choosing America may have been the climate. Agents for the American railways were quick to point out to prospective immigrants the advantages of a more moderate climate in the south as compared to the severe climate of Manitoba. That the American agents had some success with Friesen's group is seen in the dispatch of Canadian emigration agent Jacob E. Klotz, to his superior in Ottawa.

“ . . . I now beg to draw your attention to the intrigues that are being perpetrated against Canada in the matter of the Menonites emigration to Manitoba. A few days ago Mr. Falck showed me a letter written to his firm by Mr. David Klaassen, (one of the parties that contracted with the Canadian Govt.) and from this letter I learn that of the 47 families Mr. Klaassen had under his direct leadership 30 families have been dissuaded remaining at a certain place from where they intend sending a deputation to Manitoba to investigate said Province and await report of such deputation before proceeding there en masse. The remaining 17 families appear to remain true to their first intentions and Mr. K. thinks that after having a letter of explanation from me he may be able to bring back some of the deserters.

The treatment on English Steamers was pictured to them in the blackest of colours and the route from Quebec to Manitoba was also pictured to them as very horrible and this vile talk has found credulous people to accept such as truth. I have immediately after reading said letter written very lengthy on the subject--as regards the treatment on the English Steamers, and concerning the trip from Quebec to Fort Garry and also explained the reason why certain parties spoke in such vile terms against English Steamers and why they denounce the idea of Menonite emigration to Canada. My letter will be read by a number of Menonites and have every reason to believe it will have a good effect and more particularly since they withheld for explanation from me. These parties intriguing against us being such interested in the German Line of Steamers, in American Railways and land Agents must find it rather difficult to dissuade even through means mentioned the Menonites from their intentions in going to

Manitoba, and these interested parties have struck on a new idea:-- viz; Yesterday morning I received a letter from Mr. C. Toews his brother also writing a long letter, and learn from these the vile and base means used by our opponents to dissuade the Menonites from going to Manitoba. Besides using the means above enumerated they make these poor people believe that the Religious Liberty they are so anxious to obtain cannot be found in Canada. These Agents who- ever they are are so base and impious as to tell the Menonites that the English Govt. has never yet kept their word in any promise made, and would not keep promise with Menonites. They are also made to believe that the main features of the route through Canada to Manitoba and of Manitoba itself are privation, starvation and great bodily danger on account of Indians who are represented to the Menonites to be in the war path constantly and massacre the white man wherever he is to be found. That I have refuted all these statements not as untruths, but as base lies you can be assured. I have mentioned to Mr. Toews that if he substitutes the words "The west of the United States" for the word Canada or Manitoba in this Indian story that it will then not be far from the truth, since all the bloodshed and massacre between Indians and white men has been in the western States. I have referred Mr. Toews for the substantiation of my assertion to New York and Chicago papers not many months old. I have also mentioned that the United States Govt. have not many months since sent a large army to the west to protect the settler and his property. My letter to Mr. Toews I am satisfied will have the desired effect since he begs information and explanation of me.

The Passports have not yet been received by the Mennonites.

By the foregoing you will notice that the prospects of getting the Menonites or a large share of them are not so favourable as anticipated a few months ago. With careful and diligent work we may yet obtain our object and the Hon. Minister of Agriculture may rest assured that everything in my part will be done to obtain said project. Anything in this matter of importance occurring I will at once communicate to the Department. It may be necessary or advisable for me to go to Russia concerning these Mennonites, but of course, cannot venture to go unless by consent of the Hon. Minister of Agriculture. I would therefore kindly ask you to place this matter before the Hon. Minister of Agriculture and cable me the decision. I would of course never think of going amongst the Mennonites in South Russia unless absolute necessity demanded such . . .<sup>20</sup>

Certainly, another influence that persuaded A. L. Friesen to settle in Nebraska was Cornelius Janzen. Janzen was a Mennonite grain merchant from Berdyansk who had been exiled from Russia in 1873 because of Janzen's strong activities in promoting Mennonite emigration. The Janzens first settled in Canada at the invitation of Jakob Schanz. However, during these months Cornelius Janzen and his son Peter travelled extensively in the American West, and saw this country as being most favorable for large Mennonite settlements. Consequently, he promoted this area to various Mennonite groups, one of which was A. L. Friesen's group. A. L. Friesen's father was a cousin to Mrs. Cornelius Janzen.

Preparations for the emigration were varied. Before passports could be obtained, all debts to outside parties had to be liquidated. Debts to church members were transferred to America. Even then, passports were slow in coming. Their land was sold and household goods disposed of by public auction. With so many people from one area moving, the prices realized were low. Miller indicates that three men were chosen to be in charge of the group's money of \$80,000.<sup>21</sup> These men were John P. Thiessen, Jacob Fast and Peter L. Friesen. The latter died in Breslau while on his way to Hamburg.

About 30 families of A. L. Friesen's group left Borsenko in the middle of June of 1874. They travelled by river boat from Nikopol to Cherson, and from Cherson to Odessa on a large ship. From Odessa to Hamburg the group travelled by rail. At Hamburg they stayed in a guest house where they met a group from Peter Toew's church on their way to Canada. In Hamburg they embarked on the S.S. Hammonia bound for New York.

### End-notes to Section One

1. Heinrich R. Dueck, *Wahlliste Kopie und Vorfälle der sogenannte Kleine Gemeinde*, (Kleefeld: 1915).
2. Ibid.
3. Ibid.
4. One of these was Bernhard Fast, the grandfather of M. B. Fast, editor of the *Mennonitische Rundschau*, who taught in the village of Rosenort. (September 20, 1905, *Mennonitische Rundschau*). For a more extensive list of teachers, see Delbert Plett *The Golden Years*, (Steinbach, Manitoba, 1985), p. 131-133.
5. P. M. Friesen, *The Mennonite Brotherhood in Russia*, (Christian Press, Winnipeg), p. 198.
6. *Mennonitische Rundschau*, July 9, 1913.
7. Ibid.
8. These were Minister Bernhard Fast of Rosenort, Minister Peter Thiessen of Schonau, and Deacon Isaac Loewen of Lindenau.
9. Heinrich R. Dueck, *Wahlliste Kopie und Vorfälle der sogenannte Kleine Gemeinde*, (Kleefeld, 1915).
10. Ibid.
11. Ibid. It should be noted that excommunicated members were not to come to church service in their separated condition. A. Thiessen, disrupted services on February 14, 1865 in Tiege and on March 28, 1865 in Fischau.
12. Ibid. At least one member of the Thiessen family, namely Abraham's brother Peter, joined the Halbstadter church and for a year served as "Kirchen vorsteher" there.
13. Peter Toews, *Sammlung aus Historie der Kleine Gemeinde der Mennoniten an der Molotschna*.
14. John F. Harms, *Eine Lebensreise*, (Hillsboro, Kansas, 1943).
15. *Mennonitische Rundschau*, July 9, 1913.
16. *Mennonitische Rundschau*, March 6, 1918.
17. Ab. L. Friesen, *Wahlliste*, courtesy Levi Isaac, Hugoton, Kansas.
18. Ibid.
19. Abraham L. Friesen refers to H. Enns's group as the "Gruenfelder Gemeinde."
20. Public Archives of Canada, Department of Agriculture, Number 10701, as found in Clarence Hiebert, *Brothers in Deed to Brothers in Need*, Faith and Life Press, Newton, Kansas, 1974.
21. Paul Miller, *A Case Study of Jansen, Nebraska*, unpublished thesis, Lincoln, Nebraska, 1953.

## SECTION TWO

### THE KLEINE GEMEINDE IN JANSEN, NEBRASKA

#### Search for Land

The steam ship *Hammonia* out of Hamburg docked in New York on July 17, 1874 with approximately 30 *Kleine Gemeinde* families. Two more families arrived on July 22 on the S.S. *Frisia* and joined the others at Clarence Center. Waiting to greet these families on their arrival were Cornelius Janzen and his son Peter. As related earlier Mrs. Cornelius Janzen was a relative to Alctester Abraham L. Friesen. The Janzens, themselves, were only very recent immigrants to the U.S.A. They had just settled at Mount Pleasant, Iowa, before Cornelius and his son Peter left to greet the new arrivals in New York.

The Janzens found temporary quarters for the *Kleine Gemeinde* families among the Mennonites in Clarence Center, New York, a small village 30 miles east of Buffalo. <sup>1</sup> They remained here during summer, helping with the harvest. Here, too, they experienced their first extensive contact with their spiritual brethren in North America. Later, Jacob Krehbeil, a preacher at Clarence Center, was invited to preach in the Heubodner Church in Jansen. <sup>2</sup>

Meanwhile, the *Kleine Gemeinde* sent a number of men with Peter Janzen to inspect available land in Kansas and Nebraska. There is some discrepancy in the various accounts as to the number of men that accompanied Peter Janzen in the search for suitable land. According to Reimer and Gaeddert, *Exiled by the Czar*, three delegates joined Peter in the trip west. However, two different newspaper accounts indicate that seven men accompanied Janzen. The two accounts follow.

“MORE RUSSIANS--We had the pleasure yesterday, of meeting Mr. Peter Jansen who is here with seven Russians, who are in this country for the purpose of securing locations for a colony of sixty farmers, who expect to leave the old country shortly. This makes the fourth colony that has left Russia for this country. These are the regular Mennonites and Mr. Jansen says these now encamped upon the Fair Grounds are not regular Mennonites, but have some of the distinguishing features of that class of people. Mr. Janzen and his father came to this country ten months ago, and settled at Mt. Pleasant, Iowa. They were forced to leave the country on account of the elder Jansen having advised his country men to leave the country, rather than engage in the wars of the nation, as the Czar attempted to compel them to. Though so short a time in this country Mr. Jansen has become almost thoroughly Americanized, and has a fluent command of the language. He is an intelligent gentleman in whose hands the interests of his country men will no doubt be safe.”<sup>3</sup>

“MENNONITES--On Monday evening a party of eight Russian Mennonites arrived here and put up at the Pacific House. We repaired to the hotel at supper time to interview them and found that they were under the lead of Mr. Peter Jansen, himself a Mennonite, but so much Americanized that his consanguinity with his companions would not be suspected. The latter were a rather elderly looking lot of men, of dark complexion and large stature. They were not greatly different in appearance from the majority of German immigrants who come to this country, although they bore about their persons evidences of being somewhat better off in worldly goods.

We had a short conversation with Mr. Jansen, who although he has been in America but ten months, speaks very good English. He informed us that his seven companions represent a colony of 200 persons, all Mennonites who lately arrived in this country from Southern Russia and are now temporarily stopping in Indiana. They sent out these seven men to locate the colony, and as soon as this is done they will come on. They want about 15,000 acres of land, and are now on their way to look at lands owned by the B.&M. Co. in the neighborhood of Plymouth Colony, Jefferson Co. Mr. Jansen said he had traveled over all the western States, but he had not seen so fine a country as this of the Big Blue Valley. He had no doubt they should take lands here.

In answer to inquiries, he said the 400 Russians now at Lincoln are not Mennonites, but Communists. The Russians situated near Sutton were of still another faith, although they are all non-combatants and Protestants. The Mennonites and those of Kindred faith went to Russia from Prussia 93 years ago, and hence they are of Germanic stock. During late years the Emperor of Russia had tried to force them to adopt the creed



of the Greek Church and the Russian language and to bear arms, on account of which persecutions they had emigrated to this country. There are about 60,000 of them altogether, most of whom will probably follow those now here. They are principally wheat raisers, and it is their belief that this country will afford them every opportunity to follow their calling with success.

The party went out to Plymouth Colony Tuesday morning. Our real estate men should have an eye on them, as from their habits of thrift they will make valuable settlers.”<sup>4</sup>

The delegates were shown the lands in Kansas owned by the Santa Fe Railroad and the Burlington and Missouri River Railroad lands in Nebraska. They chose to negotiate for 15,000 acres of land that was owned by the B. & M. Rail Road near Fairbury, Nebraska. The chosen tract of land was rolling, prairie land with good soil. The lack of trees for building and fuel was not a great problem for immigrants coming from the Steppes of southern Russia as they had learned to prosper in a similar climate and environment. At first it seemed that there might be a problem in finding good water, but the railroad commissioner, A. E. Touzolin, brought in experienced well drillers who soon drilled twelve wells at depths of 100 to 150 feet with a good supply of water.<sup>5</sup>

On August 11, 1874, a Memorandum of Agreement was drawn up and signed by B.M.R.R. Land Commissioner, A. E. Touzalin, and Jakob Fast and Peter Heidebrecht of the Kleine Gemeinde.

#### Memorandum of Agreement

”*Memorandum of Agreement* between A. E. Touzalin, Land Commissioner of the Burlington and Missouri River Railroad Company in Nebraska, as first party, and Abraham Friesen, Peter Heidebrecht and Jacob Fast, now of Clarence Centre, Erie County, New York, representing about forty families of the Mennonite People now of Clarence Center, New York, as second party.

The party of the second part agrees to buy and the party of the first part agrees to sell, not less than fifteen sections of land in Town 3 north, and Range 3 east of the sixth principal meridian, in Jefferson County, Nebraska.

The party of the first part agrees to make discount from the regular appraised prices of the company as follows: On cash purchases, or when two-thirds of the principal is paid the remainder of the principal bearing interest at the rate of ten per cent per annum, a discount of forty per cent, from that portion of land sold on ten years credit . . . The party of the second part, however, waiving all claims of any and every character for improvements.

The party of the first part further agrees that the rate to be paid from Chicago to Beatrice as Railroad fare shall be \$10.25 (ten dollars twenty-five cents) for each adult; also that the fare paid by land buyers not more than thirty in number from Chicago, shall be refunded: also that the rate of freight on horses, cattle and household goods shall be from Chicago to Plattsmouth \$55.00 (fifty-five dollars); from Burlington, Iowa to Plattsmouth \$40.00 (forty dollars), and on the B. & M. R.R., in Nebraska, one half of the regular rates, per car load; also that for two Mennonites who act as agents for the society, passes shall be provided between Chicago and Beatrice for one year; also, that the remaining sections in Town 3, Range 3 east, as well as the west half of sections 18 and 19 in Town 4, Range 3 east shall be reserved for the Mennonite People until May 1st, 1875, the cost of the said reservation to be borne by the second party; also that the first party shall assist the second party in securing the east half of southeast quarter of Section 33, Town 3, Range 3 east, the northeast quarter of Section 21, Town 3, Range 3 east; also that an agent of the railroad Company shall be sent to Clarence Center to assist the Mennonite people in coming forward to Nebraska; and also that the use of the Plymouth School House, owned by the B.&M. R.R. Company shall be given to the aforesaid Mennonite people for two weeks as a residence.

August 11th 1874

A. E. Touzalin, Land Comm.

Jacob Fast

Peter Heidebrecht”<sup>6</sup>

The cost per acre to the Kleine Gemeinde was between \$3.51 to \$3.75 an acre. The two sources of information differ as to the exact price. Reimer and Gaeddert state the cost at \$3.75 and acre; payable in six annual installments with six percent interest on the deferred payment.<sup>7</sup> An article in the *Beatrice Express* says that they bought the land for \$3.51 an acre cash, which was 40 percent off the company's usual cash rate.<sup>8</sup>

Obviously the group of Kleine Gemeinde were in a better financial situation than their brethren in Manitoba. It has been mentioned that their pooled resources were \$80,000. This compares with \$30,000 that 162 Berghaler families brought with them to Manitoba in 1874.

Shortly after the arrangements to purchase had been made, the Kleine Gemeinde group proceeded to travel to Nebraska from their temporary stay in Clarence Center. They passed through Mount Pleasant on August 21 and arrived in Plattsmouth in the evening of August 22 en route to Lincoln. They arrived in Beatrice on August 23 in the evening and took up quarters in the city. "Some of them went out to the fair building, and occupied it, while the balance were bestowled in a building near the bridge."<sup>9</sup> They stayed in Beatrice for approximately a month till temporary buildings could be erected and prepared for winter. The *Beatrice Express* of September 10, 1874, further describes the first few weeks.

"The colony here, which consists of 28 families, comprising about 120 souls, are now busily at work preparing to build on their lands in Jefferson County. A few days ago Mr. Jansen went to St. Joe with a few of them and bought material, implements, horses and cattle for the whole outfit. They will build frame barns this fall, which they will use for dwellings through winter, and next season will build substantial dwelling of brick and stone. They bought at St. Joe about 5,000 feet of lumber, 53 horses, 87 head of oxen, 20 Studebaker wagons and a few other farming implements. The most of their smaller utensils, as well as supplies, they buy of Beatrice merchants. Mr. Jansen says they are especially well pleased with their Studebaker wagons, which they consider the best wagon examined. Their horses are a fair lot, though rather small for heavy work. Their purchasing trip was made very pleasant, and cheap, too, by the kindness of Mr. Atwell, the general passenger and freight agent of the St. Joe and Denver road, to whom they feel under great obligations.

The lands bought by the Russians lie in town three, range three, Jefferson Co., and although they have been given a few days more to make their individual selections, the whole tract bargained for amounts to 15,000 acres. This they got for \$3.51 an acre, cash down, which is 40 percent, off of the companies' usual cash rates. The lands, which are south of Cub Creek, have been described to us by residents of Jefferson County as first-class in soil and location; and the Russians themselves are entirely pleased with them. The grasshopper business does not discourage them in the least, which is a fact American newcomers should consider and ponder upon. They bring some money with them, which helps to make a good start, but they are a hardworking, frugal class, and can manage to live and prosper under circumstances that would seem discouraging to our farmers.

These Mennonites (not Memonites, as we have here-to-fore spelled the name) derived their name from the leader of the religious act to which they belong--Menno, a German, as are all his followers. They call themselves 'Defenseless christians,' the term referring to that feature of their religious belief which prohibits them to bear arms. As we said in a previous article, persecution drove them from Germany to the shores of the Sea of Agof, in Russia, 93 years ago, and from thence the despotic attempts of the Czar to Russianize them is sending them to this country. There are about 40,000 of them (not including the Germans on the Crimea of other religious sects), and Mr. Jansen thinks they will nearly all seek this country. The first attempt at encouraging immigration was by our informant's father, who was for 12 years German Council at one of the principal ports of the Crimea. For his interest in his people's welfare he was exiled by the Czar, and with his sons, came over to this country and took up his residence at Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, where he now resides.

Mr. Jansen junior has had the advantage of a thorough German education, and speaks and writes English fluently also. He says he is not in the employ of the B. & M. Co. in locating his persecuted countrymen, but is acting only for the interest of the latter. He has travelled through Canada, Minnesota, Dakota, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas and other western States, and says his candid opinion is, that the Southeastern part of

Nebraska is the best agricultural region he has yet seen. He informs me, that the colony here also travelled through Kansas before locating, but found nothing to suit them as well as their lands in Jefferson County. They express a strong admiration for Mr. Touzalin, the land commissioner of the B. & M. whose many acts of kindness and straightforward way of dealing with them, won their respect."<sup>10</sup>

### The Villages

An early pioneer and historian, Martin B. Fast, describes the *Kleine Gemeinde* settlement in Jefferson County, Nebraska in an 1881 edition of the *Mennonitische Rundschau*.<sup>11</sup> He lists the following villages: Rosenort, Rosenhof, Heuboden, Blumenort, Rosenthal, Rosenfeld and Jansen Ranch. The Jansen Ranch was situated just east of the other villages and consisted of a number of tenant houses and a school for workers at the ranch.<sup>12</sup> A later study on Jansen and area adds Neuanlage, a seventh village, to the list.<sup>13</sup>

The farms in these villages were laid out in long rectangular fields ranging in size from 60 to 160 acres. Since these strips were often a mile in length, it allowed the residents to build along both sides of a section line and form rather compact communities. This method of land division is contrasted to the more common quarter section divisions practiced by their neighbors. As well, it contrasts with the type of settlements practiced by their *Kleine Gemeinde* brethren, who moved to the Manitoba East Reserve. In Manitoba the village pattern as used in Russia was continued. The 160 acre homesteads were shared jointly by a village group, who would then choose a suitable village site on any of these sections.<sup>14</sup> Later when these villages disbanded, and the people moved to their own registered properties, some obvious difficulties were encountered. Since the Nebraska *Kleine Gemeinde* members lived on their own registered property and farmed the same, the transition to the quarter section farm was more easily accomplished.

The two villages of Rosenort and Rosenhof are of particular interest. They covered a distance of four and one half miles along an east-west direction of the section line just north of present day Jansen. Often this street was referred to as the "Russian lane" or the "Russian settlement." A school house which also served as a church was built in the village of Rosenort shortly after the *Kleine Gemeinde* settled there, and seems to have been used by all the villages. The *Kleine Gemeinde* built a church in the village of Heuboden in 1883 which may also have been used as a school. The names of the Mennonite pioneers settling in the "Russian lane" are recorded for us by M. B. Fast.

"From the east on the north side: Peter Thiessen (This family came in 1875), Jacob Fast, A. R. Friesen, P. F. Krause, School Dist. 59, Franz Wiens, Diet. Isaac Jr., David Wiens (later K.M.B. church), Joh. F. Krause, Peter E. Friesen, Rev. Klaas Friesen, Abraham Thiessen, Peter Heidebrecht Sr., John P. Thiessen, Peter Heidebrecht Jr., John Heidebrecht, Mrs. Bartel Flaming, Abr. S. Friesen.

On the south side: Jacob Bartel, Jacob Heidebrecht, Johann Barkman, Martin Barkman, Peter Isaac, Peter Reimer, Abraham Reimer, Peter R. Friesen, Wilhelm Thiessen, Abram B. Friesen (wheel-wright), Bernhard Ratzloff, Diet. Isaac Sr., Ab. Isaac, Peter F. Warkentine, Johann Rempel, Nick. B. Friesen, J. W. Fast."<sup>15</sup>  
Martin B. Fast also recorded the names of the settlers in the other villages.

"Rosenfeld: Johann Thiessen Sr., Peter Brandt, Johann F. Thiessen, Franz Kroeker, Johann S. Friesen, Peter Fast, Klaas Koop.

Blumenort: Isaac Harms, Peter Harms, Klaas Wiebe, Johann Harms, Heinrich Ratzloff, Klaas Friesen.

Heuboden: Kornelius Friesen, Rev. Jacob Friesen (*Kleine Gemeinde*), Heinrich Friesen (well driller), Abram Friesen, Jacob Friesen (Krim), Gerhard Rempel Jr., Gerhard Rempel Sr., Abram L. Friesen (eldest), Jacob Klassen (deacon), and Peter Braun.  
Rosental: Peter S. Friesen, Johann B. Wiens, Peter Hildebrandt, Jacob Enns Sr. (later John H. Thiessen), Franz Enns, Jacob Enns Jr."<sup>16</sup>

According to M. B. Fast, all the Mennonites settling in these villages in Jefferson County, Nebraska, during 1874-1877 were from the *Kleine Gemeinde* church except for three families.<sup>17</sup> An influx of *Kleine Gemeinde* immigrants from Manitoba who found the harsh Canadian winter too long and cold added to the group of approximately 35 families who settled in Jefferson County in 1874. Among those coming from Manitoba in the years 1875-1877 were: Klaas Wiebes, John Harms, Peter Harms, H. Friesens, Peter Brandts, Peter Buhlers, John S. Friesens, Jacob

Enns, and Heinrich Ratsloffs.<sup>18</sup>

A count of the families listed above indicates that the Kleine Gemeinde church should include approximately 60 families at the end of 1877. However, a record of a January, 1877 ministerial election indicates that only 40 brethren were present.<sup>19</sup> Since the Kleine Gemeinde took their church responsibilities, including their presence at ministerial elections, very seriously, it seems that there may have been somewhat less than 60 families belonging to the church at that time. Possibly there was some dissatisfaction among some church members as early as 1876.

### **The Immigrants Through the Eyes of a "Yankee"**

Each wave of immigrants to a new country brings with them some peculiarities of their culture from the country of their origin. The Kleine Gemeinde in Nebraska were no exception. The established settlers in Jefferson County observed these new-comers from Southern Russia with some interest and curiosity. Fortunately, a few accounts record their impressions of these Russian-German settlers. The first account describes the settlers in Jefferson County and gives a very favorable impression. The second account is a general impression of the Russian settlers and their trading habits and is not specifically directed toward the Kleine Gemeinde.

### **A FORMER FAIRBURIAN LOOKS BACK**

**By A. V. Pease**

#### **In, Around and About a Drug Store**

"It is very interesting to recall the many foreigners who had settled in Jefferson County fifty years ago. Yes more than sixty years ago they had come to make their homes in the land of promise. There were numerous English, Irish, Scotch, German, Norwegians, Swedes, Danes, Bohemians, Swiss Germans, Austrian Germans, a few Welsh and an occasional Frenchman.

All were looking for freedom and opportunity. They brought their luggage, their religious beliefs, their social customs, and some few household goods. Very much to their credit, let it be said that with few exceptions they prospered and became substantial citizens.

It was regrettable, but true, that the Yankee settlers were somewhat inclined to look askance at these foreigners, but time proved to the Yankees that the foreigners' thrift and industry made him prosperous, while many of the Yankees moved farther west to find cheaper land.

By far, the most successful of all these foreigners' settlements in Jefferson County was the so called Russian settlement in the vicinity of Jansen. It was not composed of Russians, but of pure Germans who had migrated about 1700 from Germany to Russia hoping to find religious freedom and freedom from military service. They settled near the sea of Azov, not far from Odessa.

In 1871 Czar Alexander I, received the agreement made by Catherine the Great and gave these Mennonites ten years to migrate or also serve in the army. As a result a large number of them migrated to America. The most of those who settled in Jefferson County, reached their destination late in the summer of 1874. At that time my father was working in the lumber yard of Smith and Hole, as there was insufficient business in the drug store to keep two men busy.

Only one or two of the Russian Germans spoke English, Peter Jansen and Jacob Bartel. Hence it was necessary to learn German in order to secure the lumber business of these immigrants and father learned German and sold them the greater portion of their lumber. It was quite a lot of business in those lean days of business.

I was tremendously interested in these (to me) strange foreigners and loafed near by when they were buying lumber or setting up their wagons and other farm machinery. I think it will be of some interest to name as many of these sturdy thrifty pioneers as I can recall for their descendants are among the best citizens now in Jefferson County. I recall these men: David Fleming and his step son Jacob Bartel, good old Jacob Ens, little old Peter Warkentine, who talked vociferously and rapidly, Peter P. Thiessen, John P. Thiessen and Abraham P. Thiessen, three brothers who differed much from each other, M. B. Fast and his father. M. B. Fast married a daughter of Peter P. Thiessen about 1886. With my father and mother I attended his wedding. It was a double wed-

ding for Peter Thiessen's son John, married a daughter of Jacob Ens. There was N. B. Koop, A. L. Friesen, Henry B. Friesen, Abraham B. Friesen and Jacob B. Friesen, brothers, three quite large fleshy men; Gerhardt Rempel, quite a young man, Peter, John and Jacob Heidebrecht and their fine old father, Peter Braun, the blacksmith, John B. Wiens, Henry Loewen, little Geo. Friesen who has just passed away, Wilhelm Thiessen, David Thiessen, both of these latter very scrupulous in all their dealings. Old man Sawatsky and his son Frank. They were of real Russian blood but had joined the Mennonite church.

Peter and John Krause, Peter Buller who operated a threshing machine, Jacob Klassen, Jacob Krause, John Fast, Jacob Fast, Peter Hildebrand, Jacob Hildebrand, Peter Isaac, Diedrich Isaac and Abraham Isaac, brothers; Jacob Reimer, Abraham Reimer, Peter and Jacob Brandt.

In all, there were about forty families who came at first and some few who came later. They were almost without exception good men who kept their promises and paid their debts. Their church required them to do these things and they obeyed the church mandates.

They were good farmers and soon transformed the treeless prairie into a row of homes embowered in trees. They added tremendously to population of Jefferson County. They were devoted to their religious faith and quickly made friends with one who held religious belief. They were not at all reluctant to ask directly about one's religious faith. On more than one occasion I have been asked by some of them, 'What is your communion?', 'Do you love God?', 'What is your church?'

They quickly learned that father was a man of the church and treated him with friendliness and respect. They were not all reluctant to buy merchandise on time and with one exception always paid as promised. This one man paid after threat of suit but, being ashamed to come in person, he sent John P. Thiessen to pay the account. The most of the older generation used a little alcoholic drink in some form but never to excess. They strongly condemned the man who frequented the saloons.

When they built their first homes on the prairie, they built the house and barn contiguous, joined by a covered passageway. It made for comfort in doing the chores in all weather. I have since that time noticed that in the state of Maine the Yankees follow the same practice.

There were mechanics among them for they hired little outside labor. I remember quite well that they built a few of their old country, two-wheeled wagons or carts. These carts had flaring bodies and shafts for one horse. They looked very odd to us Yankees. They were most excellent farmers and grew the most of their living on the farm. They were eager for pleasant surroundings and at once planted trees and flowers about their homes and along the roadside. The Jansen road soon became a mecca for the Americans to visit. The houses were mostly placed fronting the road and the farms were long and narrow extending back from the road. It was a custom brought from the old country.

They were a simple, friendly, hospitable people in those days and their descendants have assumed an important place in the life of Jefferson County today.

I will always have a distinct remembrance of the double wedding I attended about 1886. Martin B. Fast and Miss Thiessen and John Thiessen and Miss Ens were the contracting parties and the ceremony was quite impressive and the good things to eat even more so. Some months ago Martin Fast called on me here in Los Angeles and we recalled the wedding day and its ceremonies.

These Russian Mennonites are a fine people and Jefferson County is fortunate to have them among its citizens."<sup>20</sup>

#### The Russians and How They Trade

"Since the sale of cattle, horses, etc., to the Russians last Wednesday, all manner of practical jokes are being perpetrated upon them. It is well-known to almost all of our citizens that the Russians, as a class, are industrious and able-bodied men with lots of 'filthy lucre' that they have made by hard work and they dislike very much to part with it. Their mode of asking the price of animals and making bids upon them is very novel, indeed, to what they call 'yan gees.' For instance, one of our citizens offered

them a pair of seven year old mares, harness and wagon, supposed to be worth about \$425, for \$200; after examining the horses carefully for about an hour, they left and returned with five others, who, after consultation, offered the owner \$125 for the outfit. Yesterday afternoon, there was standing in front of Sovereign's barber shop a horse saddled and bridled; a Russian walked into the shop and asked Lon the price; the knight of the razor promptly replied \$10. Off went the Russian for some of his friends, and they made a thorough examination of the animal, and concluded that they would give six dollars for him, providing Sovereign would throw in the saddle and bridle. The horse was worth about \$125.

Charley Smith, of Plattsmouth, came up last Wednesday with a drove of horses to sell to the Russians. Among the number he had a very pretty mare which he offered to them at \$125; they offered and he refused \$75. Charley, for a joke, offered the animal to another of the party for \$50; after examining the horse for nearly an hour the party offered \$25. Charley couldn't stand this any longer, so with a broad sweep of his brawny arm he gently let rest the palm of his hand upon that man's cheek, remarking; 'Dog-gone-you, get away from here and let me go to a white man's country, I've got enough of this.' ''21

### **The Pioneers**

This section is included in order to give a brief biographical sketch of the first settlers in Cub Creek Precinct, Jefferson County. All of these had some connection to the Kleine Gemeinde church, either through baptism or because their parents or grandparents had belonged to the church. The information for these sketches come from newspaper obituary notices, letters, cemeteries, genealogy lists, and census reports.<sup>22</sup> Presently, however, there is insufficient data on some of the pioneers to include them in this list. For the same reason, some sketches are very brief. Hopefully, this attempt will help other researchers fill in missing information in their research.

**Johann Barkman (Feb. 2, 1827 - Oct. 10, 1879)**

Katherina Bergman (1834 - 1916)

Johan Barkman was born to Anna Regier and Martin Barkman (1796 -1872). The Johan Barkmans together with the Martin Barkmans, migrated to Jansen, Nebraska, and settled in the village of Rosenort. The Barkmans were cousins to the Barkman clan who settled in the East reserve of Manitoba. A brother P. M. Barkman settled in Kansas.

**Martin Barkman (Aug. 11, 1821 - Sept 2, 1894)**

Margaretha Reimer (Jan. 14, 1819 - Sept 30, 1874)

Elizabeth Thiessen (ca. 1842 - July 21, 1881)

Katherina Bergman Barkman (1834 - 1916)

Martin, the older brother of Johan, typifies the hardships and tragedies often occurring in a pioneer situation. His wife Margaretha passed away a few months after their arrival in America. He remarried Elizabeth Thiessen, daughter of Johan Thiessen (1813-1888), who died a few years later following childbirth. The young baby was cared for by Martin's sister, Mrs. Franz Kroeker, but was found dead in bed a few months later. Martin lost through death two wives and six children during the first seven years in America.

Martin had evidently been a successful sheep farmer in Ruckenaus, Russia prior to the emigration. He was equally successful in Jansen. Besides grain and sheep culture, Martin showed his varied interests by planting a large fruit garden, containing apple, cherry, apricot, plum, pear and mulberry trees. He and his wife were able to return to Russia for a visit in 1883.

A Katherina Barkman writes a letter in the *Rundschau* inquiring about the health of Uncle Jacob Bergman of Schoensee. She gives her address as Martin Barkman, Fairbury, Jefferson County, Nebraska. She is likely the widow of Johann Barkman.

**Peter Braun (1840-Jan. 19, 1904)**

wife ? (1832-July 13, 1901)

There is very little information on the Braun family. However, one source indicates that his parents were Isaac Braun and Katherina Harms. Also, two letters appearing in the *Rundschau* may give some information. A Peter Braun writes a letter from Glen Elder, Kansas. He indicates his birthplace as being Blumstein, Russia. He was born in 1840. He, together with his family, had lived in Friedensfeld prior to immigrating to America in 1874. Their property

in Russia had been sold to R. R. Gross, who also took them to Nikopol. He had a brother Johan Braun that lived in Blumstein. Johan Brauns' second daughter married a Gerhard Penner. He also had a sister, Mrs. Jacob Doerksen living in Fischau. Some of her children moved to America. Another brother Jacob Braun lived in Neuendorf. This may be the same Jacob Braun that immigrated to Nebraska, worked as a blacksmith in Fairbury, and then returned to live in Russia.

A brother, Isaac Braun, immigrated to Manitoba in 1874 and lived near Gretna, Manitoba. The Peter Brauns visited the Isaac Brauns in 1901. During this visit Isaac Braun passed away. On the way home to Kansas Mrs. Peter Braun passed away in Nebraska at her daughter Anna's place. Peter Braun took the body of his wife to Kansas for burial. Some of this information comes from a letter written by Heinrich Ratsloff (1848-1922). Heinrich and Peter were cousins, ie. their mothers were sisters.

Peter Braun's wife is likely an Esau as she was the cousin to Brandaeltester Johann Esau of Rosenfeld, Manitoba.

Since the Brauns lived in Glen Elder, where Reformed Mennonites lived, we can assume that this family joined this group.

**Peter Buller (June 25, 1836 - Sept. 26, 1902)**

Anna Wiens (Aug. 14, 1842 - May 21, 1887)

Peter Buller married Anna Wiens, daughter of Franz Wiens (1802 - 1881) in 1861. The couple first immigrated to Manitoba in 1874 and moved to Nebraska in 1875. In Jansen, Peter farmed as well as being involved in business ventures. They became members of the K.M.B. Peter had a brother Jacob living in the Dakotas.

**Peter Brandt (June 11, 1848 - June 29, 1930)**

Katherina Thiessen (Dec. 21, 1846 - Dec. 3, 1916)

Peter was the son of Klaas Brandt of Tiegenhagen, Molotschna. His mother was a daughter of Heinrich Reimer (1791-1884) of Gruenfeld Manitoba. Peter's parents died while he was young and so from the age of 8 he was raised by Aeltester Johann Friesen. He married Katherina Thiessen, daughter of Johann Thiessen (1813-1888) of Konteniusfeld, Russia in 1867. Here they lived one year and then moved to Borsenko, and in 1874 to Manitoba. In 1875, with several other families they moved to Janzen, Nebraska. By the year 1899, Peter had a farm of 320 acres and as he indicates in a letter to the *Rundschau*; "physically and materially I have no complaints."

The Brandts had 15 children. A daughter Elizabeth married widower Heinrich R. Dueck of Kleefeld, Manitoba. I learned to know her as my grandmother.

**Jacob Brandt (March 23, 1858 - May 21, 1924)**

Maria Enns (ca. 1853 - 1894)

Karoline Flaming (Sept. 13, 1872 - 1924)

Jacob was the half brother of Peter Brandt. His father was Klaas Brandt and his mother was Maria Fast, a sister to Jacob Fast (1831-1885). He was born in Tiegenhagen, Molotschna and since his parents died when he was a child he was raised by his uncle Jacob Fast with whom he also came to Jansen. In 1879 he became a member of the Kleine Gemeinde church and also was joined in marriage to Maria Enns. Later in the same year they joined the K.M.B.

After Maria's death Jacob married Karoline Flaming on May 31, 1894. In the same year he joined the M.B. church.

**Jacob Enns Sr. (1817 - Aug. 22, 1889)**

Maria Driedger (1821 - Dec. 24, 1891)

In Russia the Enns made their home in the village of Pordenau. They immigrated to Manitoba in 1874, but shortly thereafter moved to Jansen. A daughter, Mrs. Peter Hildebrandt, had settled there with her husband. Financially the Enns were well off. At his death each child received 208 acres as inheritance. Jacob had a step father, N. Janzen who was a "weisen vorsteher." The Ennses likely joined Peter's church.

**Franz Enns (1855-1928)**

Maria B. Reimer (1865-1905)

Franz was the son of Jacob Enns Sr. Maria was the daughter of Klaas Reimer (1812-1874) and Maria Bartel (1843-1921). In 1900 the Franz Ennses sold their land which they had inherited from Franz's father and moved to Kansas.

**Jacob Enns Jr. (1843 - June 11, 1917)**

Maria Kornelson (1844 - Oct. 12, 1913)

Jacob was the son of Jacob Enns Sr. Maria was the daughter of the Gerhard Kornelsons of Lichtenau, Russia, who later moved to Manitoba. Her father was a well known school teacher and "Brand-aeltester."

Jacob and Maria were married in 1865 and lived in Annafeld till the migration of 1874. Their first destination was Manitoba, but they left shortly for Jansen, Nebraska where they bought a farm in the village of Rosenthal. In 1880 the Ennses were rebaptized and joined the K.M.B.

**Jacob Fast (1831 - May 7, 1885)**

Margareta Friesen (1831 - Feb. 11, 1926)

Prior to the immigration of 1874 Jacob lived in Ohrloff, Molotschna and in the Borsenko Colony. He married Margareta, daughter of Klaas Friesen (1793-1870) and Margaretha Mathies (1792-1843) in 1858. Jacob was one of the signers of the agreement to purchase 15 sections of land from the B.&M. R.R. He was the brother to John W. Fast, Mrs. Peter Thiessen, and Mrs. Peter Heidebrecht.

Margareta celebrated her 90th birthday in 1921 at her daughter, Mrs. George Rempel's place. She was at that time the oldest resident of Jansen.

**Johan W. Fast (1837 - 1921)**

Katerina Letkeman (Feb. 11, 1837 - Jan. 27, 1917)

At the time that Johan and Katerina immigrated to Nebraska in 1877 Johan was a teacher in Gnadenheim, Russia. He had been educated in both the German and Russian languages. He continued this occupation in America, teaching both in Nebraska and in Kansas till the age of 65. Katerina was born in Alt Halbstadt and married Johan in March 17, 1857 in Ladekop.

Johan was also a minister of the gospel, serving first in Peter's church and later in the M. B. church. He died in Mountain Lake, Minnesota with the funeral service in the Mountain Lake M. B. church.

Johan's mother was the sister to Manitoba Aeltester Peter Toews' wife's grandmother.

**Peter Fast (1831 - Dec. 17, 1916)**

Aganetha Barkman (1838 - June 24, 1899)

Peter was the son of Bernard Fast of Rosenort, Russia, a distant relative of the other Fast clan in Jansen. Bernard had been a teacher and for a time was a minister in the Kleine Gemeinde. Aganetha was a sister to Martin and Johan Barkman. Cornelius Fast, a brother to Peter was a minister in the "Forstei dienst" in Russia.

The Peter Fast family arrived in Jansen in 1877. It seems that they worshipped with the Kleine Gemeinde for a few years and then joined Peter's church. However, when the K.M.B. came in 1880, the Fast family was rebaptized and joined that group. Peter was elected to be a minister of the K.M.B. and by 1881 had started a Sunday School. His son, Martin B. Fast, became the well known editor of the *Mennonitische Rundschau*.

Peter died at the home of his children, the J. J. Thiessens in Reedly, California.

**David Flaming (1815 - 1883)**

Maria Lohrenz ( )

Agatha Fast Bartel (1828 - Aug. 10, 1896)

David Flaming lived in Rudnerweide, Molotschna, prior to moving to Nikolaithal, "Furstenland." Evidently, his first wife passed away before he immigrated to America with children Anna (Mrs. P. S. Friesen), Maria (Mrs. John W. Wiens), Katherina (Mrs. Jacob Bartel) and Elizabeth (Mrs. H. Ratzloff). In Nebraska he married widow Agatha Fast Bartel on Nov. 12, 1875.

Agatha Fast was born in Blumstein to John Fast and Elizabeth Warkentine. She married Jacob Bartel of Marianwohl who passed away after 17 years of marriage. From this union six children were born, but only two sons, John and Jacob Bartel survived. Agatha remained a Kleine Gemeinde member, though her funeral was conducted by Isaac Peters in the Peters' church.

**Abraham B. Friesen (1833 - March 22, 1903)**

Helena Kroeker ( )

Katherina Isaac (1844 - Dec. 4, 1909)

Abraham, also known as "Radmacher" Friesen was the son of Abr. W. Friesen (1812-1889) and Elizabeth Brandt. Katherina was the daughter of Diedrich Isaac (1819-1879) and Anna Penner. She was born in Ohrloff, Russia and then moved to Paulsheim with her parents. She married widower A. B. Friesen on May 20, 1865. They came to Nebraska with the first group of Kleine Gemeinde immigrants and settled in the village of Rosenort.



**Abraham F. Friesen (May 15, 1807 - May 20, 1891)**

Helena Siemens (February 15, 1812 - September 1, 1888)

Abraham was one of the "Neukirche" Friesens, and the brother of the third Kleine Gemeinde aeltester, Johan Friesen. He married Helena Siemens August 19, 1830. Abraham was elected as a minister in the Kleine Gemeinde on January 5, 1846, and served till 1872 when, because of certain conflicts, he withdrew from Peter Toews's church of the Kleine Gemeinde. It is not known if he was accepted as a minister in A. L. Friesen's church. The 1880 Nebraska census records list Abraham and his wife as living with their children, the Heinrich B. Friesens in Jansen.

**Abraham L. Friesen (1831 - 1917)**

Anna Duecken (1833 - 1904)

Helen Friesen (1835 - 1911)

Abraham L. Friesen was the son of Jacob W. Friesen (1808-1889) and Aganetha Loppen. He married Anna Duecken in 1853 and settled in Tiede, Molotschna. Later they moved to Heuboden, Borsenko. A. L. Friesen was elected into the ministry in 1864 and when a group of Kleine Gemeinde separated from the remainder of Johan Friesen's group he was elected as the aeltester. In 1874 he led approximately 35 Kleine Gemeinde families to Jansen. Two daughters were born to the Friesens but both died at a young age. Subsequently, they fostered the following children; Anna Wiens (1847- ), Cornelius Wiebe (1854- ), Aganetha Friesen (1860- ), Gerhard Friesen (1862- ), Margaretha Giesbrecht (1852- ), and Johan E. Friesen (1884- ).

About six months after the death of Anna, Aeltester Friesen married widow Helena Friesen of Steinbach, Manitoba. She was the widow of Heinrich B. Friesen. The Friesens moved with the rest of Kleine Gemeinde to Meade, Kansas in the early nineteen hundreds.

**Abraham W. Friesen (July 20, 1812 - Sept. 9, 1889)**

Elizabeth Brandt (1828- )

Maria Dueck

Abraham W. Friesen was the son of the second Kleine Gemeinde, Aeltester Abraham Friesen. Elizabeth and Maria evidently both passed away prior to the great migration of 1874. An Abraham Friesen is listed as coming to America on the S.S. Turinga with sons Jacob (14), Claus (15), and Gerhardt (4). Little has been written about A. W. Friesen except that he had severe eye problems. He died in Jansen in 1889.

**Abraham S. Friesen (1850- )**

Abraham was the son of Johan Friesen and Maria Schierling. He was also a nephew to Jacob Friesen of the East reserve, Manitoba who drowned in the Red River in 1875. Abraham never married and eventually moved to Buhler, Kansas. In 1935 he had reached the age of 85 years.

**Abraham T. Friesen (March 29, 1852 - Oct. 29, 1916)**

Margareta Thiessen (Feb. 9, 1848 - Feb. 12, 1905)

Abraham was the son of Klaas Friesen (1818-1871) and Margaretha Braun. He married Margareta, a daughter of the Johan W. Thiessens' (1813-1888) in 1872. Shortly after the Friesens came to Jansen in 1874 they left the Kleine Gemeinde church and joined the Reformed Mennonite church. Because of Christian conviction, Abraham did not insure his buildings, and consequently when a fire destroyed his barn in 1904 he received no compensation.

**Heinrich B. Friesen (1835 - 1900)**

Helena S. Friesen (1835 - 1911)

Heinrich was the son of Abram W. Friesen (1812-1889) and Elizabeth Brandt. He married Helena Friesen on April 22, 1856. She was the daughter of Abraham Friesen (from the Neukirchen Friesens) and Helena Siemens. Nine children were born to them. The Friesens likely joined the Peter's church in Jansen. After Heinrich's death Helena married a second time to Aeltester Abraham L. Friesen on July 26, 1904.

**Isaac B. Friesen (Sept. 14, 1858 - March 25, 1929)**

Katharina J. Klassen (Feb. 28, 1860 - Aug. 13, 1937)

Isaac was born in Russia to Klaas Friesen (1818-1871) and Margaretha Braun. He married Katherina, daughter of Jacob Klassen (1832-1898) and Katherina Jansen (1838-1890) on December 26, 1879. Isaac was involved in the carpenter and windmill trade as well as being a successful farmer. The Friesens joined the Reformed Mennonites in 1887.

**Jacob W. Friesen (1808 - June 17, 1889)**

Aganetha Loppen (1808 - June 4, 1881)

Anna Penner Isaac (1819 - )

Jacob W. Friesen was the son of the second Kleine Gemeinde Aeltester Abraham Friesen. On March 7, 1829, he married Aganetha Loppen of Blumstein. One of their sons, Abraham L. Friesen became an aeltester of the Kleine Gemeinde. Jacob was elected as a deacon on October 26, 1852. In 1881 Aganetha died of a stroke while she was in the garden. In September of the same year Jacob married the widow of Diedrich Isaac (1819-1879).

**Jacob B. Friesen (1854-1911)**

Margareta Sawatzki Friesen (1852-1924)

Jacob B. Friesen was the son of Abraham W. Friesen and Elizabeth Brandt. He married Margareta on April 11, 1875. She was the widow of Peter L. Friesen who died in Germany in 1874 enroute to America. The Friesens moved to Meade, Kansas in the early nineteen hundreds.

**Jacob L. Friesen (Jan. 5, 1837 - Dec. 21, 1901)**

Maria Enns ( )

Elizabeth Friesen (1847 - March 21, 1880)

Jacob L. Friesens was the son of the Jacob W. Friesen's. His wife died during childbirth in 1880. Their infant daughter Elizabeth died a few months later. An older daughter Aganetha was raised by foster parents, Abraham L. Friesens. Jacob Friesen had been married previously to Maria Enns.

**Johan S. Friesen (1852 - 1920)**

Helena Siemens (1843 - )

Johan Friesen was born in Neukirk, Molotschna at "Feurstelle" #4. His parents were Kleine Gemeinde minister Abraham Friesen and Helena Siemens. Helena, Johan's wife was the daughter of Gerhard Siemens of Grosweide, Russia. She had a brother Gerhard Siemens who lived in Manitoba and a sister, Mrs. Aron Esau who also lived in Manitoba, later in Colorado. The Friesen married in 1872 and immigrated to Manitoba in 1874. They lived here 5 years before they moved to Jansen, Nebraska.

**Klaas D. Friesen (Aug. 17, 1858 - Jan. 26, 1923)**

Aganetha Friesen (1860 - Dec. 30, 1903)

Klaas D. Friesen is likely the son of Abraham W. Friesen and his second wife Maria Dueck. Aganetha was the daughter of Jacob L. Friesen, but was raised by the Abraham L. Friesens, her foster parents. The couple was married in October of 1879 in the Rosenort school house near Jansen by Aeltester Abraham L. Friesen.

**Klaas R. Friesen (Sept 13, 1857 - Oct. 9, 1922)**

Aganetha Barkman (Oct. 31, 1858 - July 3, 1931)

Klaas R. Friesen was the son of Peter W. Friesen and Helen Reimer. Aganetha was the daughter of the Johan Barkmans. They were married on June 23, 1881. The Friesens joined Isaac Peters church where Klaas also was elected into the ministry. Their home, just north of the town of Jansen, was later purchased by their youngest son Abraham. Previously it had been the homestead of Peter W. Friesen and so has been in the same family for over a hundred years. The Friesen's small pioneer home, together with its straw burner stove, is still standing on the farmstead. It is presently used for storage.

**Kornelius L. Friesen (March 12, 1841 - Feb. 20, 1923)**

Sarah Jansen (June 23, 1843 - April 25, 1892)

Maria Wiens Cornelson (Dec. 27, 1846 - Sept. 17, 1927)

Kornelius L. Friesen was the son of Jacob W. Friesen and Aganetha Loppen. Sarah was the daughter of Cornelius Jansen (1812-1864) and Sarah Siemens (1809-1885). Kornelius and Sarah were married in Russia in 1862. Seven years later Kornelius was elected into the ministry of the Kleine Gemeinde church. They came to Jansen in 1874 and settled in the village of Heuboden. After the death of Sarah, Kornelius married the widow of Abraham Cornelson of the East Reserve, Manitoba. Together they moved to Meade, Kansas in the year 1906.

**Peter R. Friesen (Aug. 24, 1842 - Jan. 31, 1904)**

Maria Isaak (Sept. 26, 1840 - Jan. 24, 1908)

Peter, born in Tiege, Molotschna, was the son of Peter W. Friesen and Helen Reimer. He married Maria, daughter of Johan Isaak and Anna Plett in 1864. She was also the sister to the Holdeman minister Abraham Isaak of Kleefeld, Manitoba. The Friesens lived in Jansen till Peter's death. Then Maria moved to Kansas where she died in an Old Folk's home. Likely they belonged to the K.M.B.

**Peter S. Friesen (1851 - )**

Anna Flaming (Nov. 14, 1852 - Aug. 1896)

Peter S. Friesen was the son of Johan Friesen and Maria Schierling. Peter's parents also came to America, but settled near Halstead, Kansas, and belonged to the "Hebronsgemeinde". Peter was therefore the brother to Jacob S. Friesen of Halstead who was married to Elizabeth Fast, the sister to Heinrich L. Fast of Kleefeld, Manitoba.

Anna was the daughter of David Flamings.

**Peter W. Friesen (Dec. 15, 1815 - Dec. 29, 1892)**

Helen Reimer (Oct. 30, 1816 - Jan. 8, 1870)

Elizabeth Fast Krause (1819 - 1883)

Peter was the son of Abraham Friesen and Catherina Wiebe. He married Helen, daughter of Aeltester Klaas Reimer in 1836. The Friesens lived in Tiege until 1870 when they moved to Kramido, near Nikopol. They came to Jansen in 1874. Peter was elected into the ministry in 1861. When Aeltester Johan Friesen excommunicated him in 1868 he joined together with Abraham L. Friesen to form a separate Kleine Gemeinde group. After the death of his wife Helen he married the widow of Johan Krause, formerly of Schoenau.

**Isaac Harms (Jan. 10, 1811 - Sept. 4, 1891)**

Anna Sawatzki (Sept. 17, 1809 - April 6, 1877)

Karolina Plett Friesen (1827 - Feb. 11, 1887)

Maria Fast (June 27, 1851 - March 15, 1936)

Isaac Harms married Anna Sawatzki in September 10, 1832 in Russia. It is likely that the Harms moved from the Molotschna colony to Markusland prior to immigrating to Nebraska in 1874. They were joined in Jansen in 1875 by sons Peter and Johan. By 1882 Isaac was farming 640 acres together with his children, however, he rented his part to his sons at one third share.

After the death of Anna, Isaac married the widow of Klaas Friesen in October 21, 1877. There is evidence that Isaac married once more, to a young widow, Maria Fast, and moved to Manitoba. A letter is extant which indicates that Harms incurred debts in Manitoba which were paid by the Kleine Gemeinde church in Manitoba. He died in Manitoba in 1891.

**Johan Harms (Dec. 3 1839 - Dec. 5, 1884)**

Margaretha Loewen (June 12, 1841 - Mar. 16, 1878)

Helena Friesen (ca. 1858 - )

The Johan Harms came to Manitoba in 1874 but stayed only one winter before moving to Nebraska. Johan was the son of Isaac Harms and Anna Sawatzki. According to the 1880 census records, Johan remarried shortly after Margaretha passed away, to a girl almost twenty years younger than he. In 1877 Johan was elected as a minister of the Kleine Gemeinde church. He accompanied Aeltester A. L. Friesen to Manitoba in February of 1882 to help reorganize the Kleine Gemeinde after the Holdeman split.

**Peter Harms (June 24, 1849 - Nov. 1, 1924)**

Anna Friesen (Mar. 10, 1849 - Nov. 15, 1918)

Peter and Anna also immigrated to Manitoba in 1874 and then resettled in Jansen, Nebraska in 1875. Peter was the son of Isaac Harms, and Anna was the daughter of Klaas Friesen (1813-1856) and Katherine Loewen (1818-1857). When Anna's parents died at a relatively early age, Anna went to live with her uncle, the Kornelius Loewens.

The Peter Harms moved to Inman in 1901, to Meade in 1908 and to Montezuma, Kansas in 1916. They were members of the Holdeman church.

**Peter Heidebrecht (Oct. 2, 1815 - Sept. 3, 1896)**

Aganetha Fast (Dec. 25, 1823 - Jan. 20, 1896)

Peter Heidebrecht was a son of a Peter Heidebrecht. In Russia he had a sister Maria, married to a Paul Rogolsky. Aganetha was a sister to Johan W. Fast. The Heidebrechts were married on October 27, 1846 in Blumstein, Molotschna. In 1868 they moved to Markusland, but stayed there only one year. They then moved to Borsenko where they bought about 400 des. of land from nobleman Borsenko. Here they raised grain and sheep. In 1874 they came to Jansen, Nebraska after staying for four weeks at Clarence Center, New York. They remained in the Kleine Gemeinde church till their death.

**Peter F. Heidebrecht (Aug. 27, 1847 - Feb. 2, 1915)**

Katherina Reimer (Aug. 31, 1845 - Oct. 6, 1929)

Peter F. Heidebrecht was the son of Peter and Aganetha Heidebrecht. Katherine was the daughter of Klaas Reimer (1812-1874) and Katherina Friesen (1817-1864). After their marriage in 1867 they moved with Peter's parents to Markusland in 1868 and in 1869 to the village of Blumenhof in Borsenko. They came to Jansen, Nebraska in 1874. Katherine was remarried after

Peter's death to Cornelius L. Plett in 1915.

**Johan F. Heidebrecht (June 20, 1849 - July 11, 1897)**

Agnes B. Friesen (Dec. 20, 1850 - April 11, 1925)

Johan was a son of the Peter Heidebrechts. Agnes (Aganetha) was the daughter of the Ab. W. Friesens. In 1894 they are still listed as members of the Kleine Gemeinde. After Johan's death Agnes married widower Peter P. Isaac. She died in Jansen, Nebraska. Her funeral was in the Ebenezer church.

**Peter Hildebrandt (ca. 1844 - )**

Anna Enns (ca. 1846 - Oct. 13, 1930)

Peter came from the Old Colony village of Einlage. He married Anna Enns, daughter of Jacob Enns (1817-1889) and Maria Driedger (1821-1891) and moved to the village of Andresfeld in the colony Markusland. They came to America on the S. S. Cimbria in 1874. In 1889 the Hildebrandts took a trip to Russia. No children are listed in the 1880 census records.

**Diedrich Isaac Sr. (ca. 1819 - Sept. 28, 1879)**

Anna Penner (ca. 1819 - )

The Isaac clan came to America in 1874 in the S.S. Hammonia. A few years after their arrival, Diedrich passed away. It is said that he suffered for seven years on apoplexy. Anna was remarried in 1881 to widower Jacob W. Friesen. Her parents were Peter Penner and Catherina Lepp. She was a sister to Peter Penner (1816-1884) Blumentort, Manitoba.

**Abraham P. Isaac (Sept 10, 1845 - Jan. 26, 1923)**

Margaretha Friesen (Dec. 12, 1848 - Dec. 9, 1920)

Abraham Isaac was the son of Diedrich and Anna Isaac. Margaretha was the daughter of Abraham W. Friesens. After farming in the Jansen area for a number of years Abraham went to Colorado in 1892 to look for land. Evidently he was well pleased since he homesteaded half a section there. However, drought brought them back to Jansen in 1897. Newspaper accounts also list an Abraham Isaac from Jansen looking at land in Oklahoma and in Canada. When the Kleine Gemeinde moved to Meade the Isaacs also moved. It should be noted that for a number of years the Isaacs belonged to Peters church, but were later again accepted into the Kleine Gemeinde. Abraham died while on a visit to Jansen in 1923, but was buried in Meade, as is his wife. The Abraham Isaacs were the parents of Aeltester Jacob F. Isaac.

**Diedrich P. Isaac (Jan. 28, 1846 - )**

Katherina Rempel (Sept. 8, 1847 - 1897)

Diedrich was the son of Diedrich Isaac and Anna Penner. Katherina was a sister of school teacher Heinrich Rempel of Kleefeld, Manitoba. The Diedrich Isaacs moved quite often and seemed to be in some financial difficulties. Newspaper reports read of them living in Montana, Colorado and Minnesota. From the letters of his brother-in-law Ab. L. Dueck of Kleefeld, Manitoba, we also note that Diedrich was not in fellowship with the church. In May of 1884 Katherina with children Abraham, Katherine and Anna came to Manitoba for a visit. She passed away shortly after their family had returned to Jansen from Montana.

**Peter P. Isaac (ca. 1842 - 1918)**

Helena R. Friesen (March 17, 1845 - Aug. 21, 1893)

Agnes Friesen Heidebrecht (Dec. 20, 1859 - Apr. 11, 1925)

Peter was the son of Diedrich and Anna Isaac. Helena was the daughter of the Peter W. Friesens. She was born in Tiede, Molotschna, but later moved with her parents to Marienfeld near Nikopol. They were married on November 10, 1863, but had no children. Likely the Isaacs belonged to Isaac Peters' church. After Helena's death Peter married the widow of John F. Heidebrecht.

**Jacob Klassen (July 22, 1832 - Aug. 31 1898)**

Katherina Janzen (Aug. 27, 1838 - Sept. 3, 1890)

Elizabeth Friesen Rempel (Dec. 26, 1840 - Jan. 11, 1922)

Jacob Klassen (Klassen) was a son of Jacob Klassen (1792-1869) and Helena Reinert (1801- ). He married Katherine Janzen on August 18, 1857, in Russia. Jacob was elected as a deacon in the Kleine Gemeinde church in Jansen on January 24, 1877 and served in this office till his death. After Katherina's death Jacob married the widow of Gerhard Rempel on October 20, 1890.

**Klaas Koop (1825 - Sept. 21, 1916)**

Katherina Barkman (1830 - Nov.24, 1879)

Anna Friesen (Dec. 27, 1849 - Oct. 27, 1912)

Widower Klaas Koop, formerly of Landskrone, Molotschna, married Katherina Barkman, a sister of Johan Barkman (1827-1879). She passed away a few years after their arrival in Jansen. Four children were born from this union. Klaas remarried in early 1882 to Anna Friesen, daughter to Klaas Friesen (1793-1870) and Karolina Plett (1823-1887).

It seems that Klaas was the only member of his family to come to America. Letters in the *Rundschau* speak of a brother Cornelius Koop living in Landskrone, later in Orenburg; a brother Isbrand, who died in Gnadenhein in December of 1909; brother Peter and Johan in Landskrone; and a sister Maria, married to a Peter Weiss of Samara, Russia.

Likely, the Koops joined Peters' church.

**Johan F. Krause (Oct. 12, 1855 - July 26, 1931)**

Anna Friesen (Sept. 8, 1855 - Feb. 3, 1915)

Sarah Friesen ( )

Johan was a cousin to Peter Fast (1831-1916). He married Anna Friesen in 1875 in Jansen, Nebraska. In writing his wife's obituary in 1915, Johan F. Krause states that she was a member of the Reformed Mennonite church for about 25 years. Her funeral was conducted in the K. M. B. church with a Reformed Mennonite minister Edwin Stouffer officiating. On December 30, 1916, John F. Krause married Sarah Friesen in Peters' church.

**Peter F. Krause (Apr. 26, 1842 - Jan. 25, 1909)**

Margaret Thiessen (1849 - )

Peter F. Krause was the brother of Johann. He was born in Ladekopp, Russia and married Margaret Thiessen of Schoenau in November 15, 1866. Margaret was the daughter of a former Kleine Gemeinde minister, Peter Thiessen. In 1874 the Krauses settled in Jansen. They moved to Montana in 1890, but shortly returned again to Jansen. In 1892 they moved to Butler County, Kansas, where he bought a 320 acre farm. They joined the K. M. B. in 1880. Seventeen children were born to them.

**Franz Kroeker (Mar. 1, 1835 - Apr. 15, 1913)**

Anna Barkman (Oct. 13, 1840 - Nov. 10, 1905)

Franz Kroeker was born in Tiegerweide, Molotschna. He was married to Anna Barkman on March 1, 1869. Anna, born in Ruckenau was the sister to Johan Barkman (1827 - 1879). It is not known if Franz had close relatives in America. He did have a sister, Mrs. Gerhard Peters in Russia.

Franz and Anna came to America in 1876. Since Franz's funeral was held in the Ebenezer church, it is reasonable to assume that they became members there.

**Heinrich Loewen (Feb. 9, 1862 - May 18, 1935)**

Margaretha Friesen (Feb. 21, 1869 - Mar. 19, 1897)

Maria Wiens Doerksen (1858 - May 31, 1904)

Margaretha Hiebner (Jan. 26, 1862 - Nov. 29, 1930)

Katherine Friesen Hiebner ( )

Heinrich, the son of Heinrich Loewen (1830 - June 2, 1863) was born in Tiegenhagen, Molotschna. His mother, a sister of Jacob Fast (1831-1885), died the same year that Heinrich was born. When his father was killed by lightening a year later Heinrich was adopted by his uncle Jacob Fast, with whom he also came to Jansen. Here Heinrich grew to manhood and married Margareta Friesen, a daughter of the Peter W. Friesens.

After her death Heinrich married widow Maria Wiens Doerksen. Maria's father was Heinrich Wiens, formerly of Fischau. She moved with her parents to Inman, Kansas where she married widower Martin Doerksen. Evidently, when Maria married Heinrich, their combined families totaled 14 children. Later 4 more children were born to this union.

Heinrich married two more times. With his third wife he moved to Meade in 1907. Many of the Loewen clan still live in this vicinity.

Heinrich was elected into the Kleine Gemeinde ministry on January 31, 1892. However, it seems that he resigned from this position after preaching only a few sermons. He died of cancer in 1935.

**Bernard Ratzloff (1835 - Jan. 13, 1918)**

Catharina Penner (ca. 1841 - 1877)

Susanna Thiessen (Nov. 6, 1853 - Oct. 12, 1917)

The Bernard Ratzloffs came to America in 1876 on the ship S.S. Vanderland from Friedensdorf, Russia. Here Bernard had been a carpenter for 30 years. Shortly after they settled in Jansen, Catherina passed away. Bernard then married Susanna Thiessen, daughter of

Johan W. Thiessen (1813-1888). Bernard may not have had close relatives in America. A brother Heinrich lived in Neuschoensee, Russia. His parents were Benjamin Ratzloff and Helen Buller.

**Heinrich Ratzloff (Mar. 6, 1848 - June 6, 1922)**

Aganetha Janzen (May 23, 1850 - Dec. 16, 1881)

Elizabeth Flaming (Nov. 12, 1859 - Feb. 2, 1941)

Heinrich, born in Blumstein, Russia, was the son of Heinrich Ratzloff (1820-1864) and Anna Harms ( -1874). Aganetha was a sister to Mrs. Kornelius L. Friesen. The Ratzloffs came to Manitoba in 1874 and moved to Nebraska in 1875. A few months after Aganetha's death he married Elizabeth Flaming, a daughter of David Flaming (1815-1883).

Heinrich was elected as a Kleine Gemeinde minister in February 24, 1885, but he left this church in 1888 and joined Isaac Peters' church. Here too, he served as a minister. Except for a few years living in Steinbach, Manitoba, they lived in Jansen, Nebraska. In the 1880 census, Sara Jansen, the mother of Aganetha is listed as living with the Ratzloffs.

**Abraham F. Reimer (May 26, 1834 - July 11, 1905)**

Anna Eidse (Sept. 18, 1842 - Apri. 17, 1922)

Abraham Reimer was the son of Klaas Reimer (1812-1874) and Katherine Friesen (1817-1864). He married Anna Eidse on November 2, 1862. She likely was the daughter to Abraham Eidse, formerly of Fischau. The Reimers farmed in Jansen all their lives but evidently did not prosper materially as did others. Because of his frail health during the time of the Kleine Gemeinde move to Meade, he did not make the move. His funeral was held in the K.M.B. church with Jacob J. Friesen of Meade officiating.

**Heinrich F. Reimer (Mar. 8, 1858 - Nov. 7, 1923)**

Katherina Barkman (Mar. 20, 1858 - Aug. 14, 1943)

Heinrich was the son of Klaas Reimer and Katherina Friesen. He came to America in 1875 with his stepmother. On February 5, 1880, he married Katherina Barkman, daughter of Johan and Katherina Barkman. Katherina had been baptized by Johan Harder in Russia in 1872. The Heinrich F. Reimers moved to Meade in 1908.

**Jacob F. Reimer (June 15, 1854 - May 6, 1937)**

Anna Barkman (Dec. 30, 1869 - Oct. 19, 1948)

Jacob was the son of Klaas and Katherina Reimer. Anna was the daughter of Johan and Katherina Barkman. She was born in Ruckenau, Russia, and was baptized by Isaac Peters in 1880. In 1881 she joined the Kleine Gemeinde and was married to Jacob on March 24, 1881. Jacob was elected as a deacon in 1900. In 1908 the Reimers joined the Kleine Gemeinde in their move to Meade. They moved again in 1924 to Mexico. Here Jacob died in 1937. Anna returned to Meade in 1941 and lived at her children's home. She died in Meade in 1948.

**Peter Reimer (1844 - Oct. 7, 1878)**

Peter was the son of Klaas and Katherina Reimer. He never married and died in Jansen at the age of 34 years.

**Mrs. Maria Bartel Reimer (July 27, 1843 - 1921)**

Maria Bartel was born in Kronsgarten, Molotschna on July 27, 1843. She was baptized by Aeltster Johan Friesen and shortly thereafter married widower Klaas Reimer, the son of the first Kleine Gemeinde aeltster. So at the age of 22 she became the mother of nine children. Another nine children were born to Klaas and Maria. After her husband died on October 15, 1874, she and her children moved to Jansen, Nebraska.

**Gerhard Rempel Sr. (ca. 1817 - Jan. 8, 1888)**

Maria Warkentine ( )

Elizabeth Friesen (1840 - 1922)

The Gerhard Rempels came to America in 1876 from Mariawohl, Russia and settled in Jansen, Nebraska. Gerhard was the uncle to Heinrich Rempel of Kleefeld, Manitoba. After Gerhard's death Elizabeth married Jacob Klassen (1832 - 1898).

**Gerhard Rempel (1844 - Nov. 29, 1879)**

Katherina Friesen (1845 - May 14, 1903)

Gerhard Rempel was the son of Gerhard Rempels (1817-1888). Katherina was the daughter of the Abraham W. Friesens. They were married in September 22, 1863 and came to Jansen with Gerhard Rempel Sr. in 1876. Gerhard died in 1879 through a tragic accident involving horses and hay wagon. Katherina was left to care for a large family of eight.

**Johan Rempel (1853 - Feb. 10, 1904)**

Helena Friesen (ca. 1855 - )

Johan was also a son of Gerhard Rempel (1817-1888). They came to Jansen in 1876. In 1893 the family moved to Colorado, but came back to Jansen in 1899.

**Abraham Sawatzki (April 9, 1807 - July 24, 1882)**

Margaretha Friesen (June 10, 1811 - April 3, 1831)

Katharina Enns (June 18, 1805 - Sept. 15, 1848)

Katharina Kroeker (Feb. 3, 1824 - Sept. 30, 1900)

Abraham and his third wife, Katharina, came to America in 1874 on the S.S. Hammonia. Katharina was the sister of the Kleine Gemeinde aeltester, Jakob M. Kroeker, of Manitoba. Evidently after Abraham's death she moved to Manitoba. She passed away in Steinbach, Manitoba, at her brother Franz Kroeker's place.

**Abraham P. Thiessen (Nov. 1, 1838 - May 7, 1889)**

Anna Heidebrecht (ca. 1857 - )

Abraham was the son of a former Kleine Gemeinde minister Peter Thiessen (1808-1873) and Margaretha Friesen (1810-1879). He is best known for his land reform activities in Russia during the 1860's. For these activities he was finally sent to prison in Siberia in 1874. He escaped two years later and made his way to Jansen, Nebraska. Since his first wife had previously passed away, Abraham sent his only son Johan to America with his brother Peter Thiessen. When Abraham came to America he married Anna Heidebrecht, daughter of Peter Heidebrecht (1815-1896). Aeltester Abraham L. Friesen performed the ceremony. In the fall of 1877 Abraham visited the Kleine Gemeinde of the East Reserve in Manitoba and tried to persuade them to move south, even offering free transportation to those who wished to move. He was under the impression that the Canadian brethren had less freedom than that offered to immigrants of the U.S.A. For his efforts Abraham received only a very cool reception and returned to Nebraska after a few days.

Abraham tried to promote the silk culture in America, but with only limited success. In 1884 he went to New York to hire immigrant workers for Nebraska. One of these, John Glen, later became a Kleine Gemeinde.

However, he did not forget the plight of the landless Mennonites in Russia. In 1887 he returned to Russia once more to speak for the poor and oppressed. The Russian government expelled him before he could achieve his purpose. He died in Jansen, Nebraska in 1889.

**Johann P. Thiessen (July 7, 1852 - Oct. 19, 1920)**

Aganetha Heidebrecht (1852 - 1933)

Johann P. Thiessen was born in Schoenau, Molotschna to Peter and Margaretha Thiessen. Here he obtained a limited education in German and Russian languages in a country school. He married Aganetha Heidebrecht, daughter of the Peter Heidebrechts in 1871. In 1874 the family joined the first expedition of 35 families of Kleine Gemeinde to Jansen. The Thiessens established a home a mile west of Jansen and lived here till 1899 when he became a resident of Jansen. Johann was engaged in the implement business at Fairbury prior to the establishment of Jansen. When Jansen was founded, he and his nephew John A. Thiessen were engaged in the hardware and implement business. He became the first postmaster of Jansen. Later he sold his interests in the store business and together with Peter Buller Sr. he was engaged in the lumber business. He had an interest in the Jansen State Bank, was Treasurer and Manager of the Farmers' Co-Operative Telephone Co. and was Head Secretary of the Mutual Protective Association. He served two consecutive terms in the Nebraska State Legislative from 1907-1911. During World War I, Johann Thiessen served as Chairman of the Counsel of Defense.

His funeral was held at the family residence. Rev. J. K. Enns of Garden City, Kansas, made introductory remarks in German, and was followed by Rev. J. K. Schellenberger of Cotten University, Lincoln.

**Peter P. Thiessen (June 7, 1832 - July 27, 1898)**

Elizabeth Fast (Aug. 30, 1826 - Feb. 21, 1898)

Peter P. Thiessen was born in Schoenau, Molotschna to Peter Thiessens. At age nineteen he joined the Kleine Gemeinde church and also married Elizabeth Fast. Elizabeth Fast was born in Blumstein, Molotschna. In her youth she lived with her parents in Katerinoslov. Her father constructed mills. She learned humility by working as a servant girl at various farms.

After their marriage they lived for two years with Peter's parents and then moved to Neuhalbstadt. Here they joined the Halbstadter church in 1865, where Peter also served as

“Kirchen-Vorsteher” for a year. Under the preaching of B. Harder, they experienced a revival in 1870 and began home devotions. However, at this time they did not tell people of their experience.

Economically, the Thiessens seem to have prospered. They built a large house in Neuhalbstadt and owned a flour mill and an iron and lumber business.

On October 5, 1875 they left Russia with two other Mennonite families to come to America. Since in their mind the Kleine Gemeinde in Jansen were too narrow in their practices they joined the Prussian Mennonite church in Beatrice. As more people moved to Jansen in 1877-1878 a church was organized there by Isaac Peters. Thiessens, too, joined this church. However, in 1880 they describe a revival experience as “a train coming from heaven,” and they were rebaptized by immersion and joined the Krimer Mennonite church.

Peter was elected into the ministry of the K.M.B. in 1881 and served in this office till his death. In 1883 he made an extended trip back to Russia. The purpose of this trip seems to have been to relate to relatives and friends the new found joy he had experienced.

In their old age they sold their farm and built a small house on their children’s yard.

**Johan W. Thiessen (Dec. 17, 1813 - Aug. 20, 1888)**

Anna Friesen (1814 - 1843)

Katherina Friesen (Nov. 1, 1820 - Nov. 21, 1884)

Agatha Kornelson Friesen (1846 - 1897)

Johan Thiessen was born in Rosenort, Molotschna. He married Anna Friesen in 1833. Seven children were born of this union before Anna died in 1843. Johan married the second time with Katherina Friesen. Thirteen children were born to this union. His third marriage was to widow Agatha Kornelson Friesen of Manitoba in 1885. Agatha Kornelson was raised in Lichtenau, Russia and was first married to an Abraham R. Friesen in 1865. The Friesens moved to Manitoba where her husband was a school teacher.

Prior to coming to America in 1874 Johan had lived in Ruchenau for 5 years and Con-teniusfeld for 24 years. On January 8, 1884 Johan dispersed his farm machinery, cattle and many household goods by auction. He moved to Manitoba in 1885 and died there in 1888.

**Johan F. Thiessen (Mar. 16, 1840 - Aug. 14, 1917)**

Anna Doerksen (May 13, 1844 - Dec. 25, 1908)

Johan was the son of Johan W. Thiessen (1813-1888) and Anna Friesen (1814-1843). He came with his family to America in 1875. He is described as being a peaceful and much respected citizen. He was elected as a deacon in Isaac Peters church in 1879, but shortly thereafter joined the K.M.B., where he also served as deacon.

**Wilhelm Thiessen (ca. 1842 - )**

Sarah Thiessen (1858 - 1925)

Wilhelm’s father may have been a Jacob Thiessen from Schoenau. He had two brothers, Jacob and Peter, living in Hierschau, Russia as well as a brother David in Jansen, Nebraska. Sarah was the youngest daughter of former Kleine Gemeinde minister Peter Thiessen of Schoenau. She was obviously the second wife of Wilhelm, because at the age of 22 she had a son age 14.

The Thiessens joined Isaac Peters’ church where Wilhelm was also elected into the ministry in January of 1879. They lived in Jansen till 1904, when they sold their farm to Heinrich Loewen and moved to Litchfield, Nebraska. Here they bought a farm of 160 acres for \$3500. Later the Thiessens moved to Saskatchewan to be near their children.

**Klaas Wiebe (Sept. 19, 1842 - Dec. 18, 1925)**

Anna Harms (Aug. 6, 1844 - May 19, 1918)

Klaas, the son of Jacob Wiebes married Anna Harms, daughter of Isaac Harms (1811-1891) in September 15, 1863. They immigrated to Manitoba in 1874, but left the following year to settle in Jansen, Nebraska.

**Franz Wiens (Sept. 15, 1802 - May 31, 1881)**

Elizabeth Wiens (June 16, 1814 - Oct. 15, 1896)

Franz and Elizabeth were married in 1832. Prior to immigrating, they lived in Marianthal, Friedensruh, and Borsenko. They first immigrated to Manitoba in 1874 and then to Jansen in 1876. Franz died of cancer in 1881. Elizabeth then moved in with her children, Peter and Susanna Buller.

## **Pioneer Structures**

Because of the lateness of their arrival, most of the pioneers lived in primitive shelters in



the winter of 1874-75. Some may even have tived in sod huts during the first winter. Shortly, however, more substantial buildings were erected. These were functional in design, but not as elaborate and expensive as those they had in Russia. Two particular designs are worth mentioning that were unique to the Russian Mennonite immigrants. The first was the house-barn unit and the other was what became known as the Mennonite Grass Burner.

### **The House-Barn**

The house-barn unit had its origin among the Russian Mennonites prior to their emigration to Russia. Simply stated, it was a building that housed both animals and people and was often seen by non-Mennonite neighbors as being somewhat uncultured and crude. There were, of course, many variations of this type of structure. Sometimes the living area, particularly the kitchen, was directly joined to the barn and access to the barn involved merely opening the kitchen door. In other types the living area was separated from the barn by a summer kitchen and a walkway. In this case entry to the barn would only be gained through at least two or three passage ways, with a subsequent decrease of barn odor in the house. This type of structure, of course, had a great advantage in winter time. Less time had to be spent out of doors while doing chores. It also conserved heat in both the barn and the house, neither of which was well insulated during the early years.

### **The Grass Burner**

The "Mennonite Grass Burner" was a furnace set in the center of the family dwelling which was used to prepare food as well as to provide heat during the winter. Its design was such that a variety of different fuels could be used. In a prairie setting, such as Nebraska, a common fuel was a dried manure and straw mixture, but the oven would of course also burn wood, etc. The straw-manure mixture was cut into six inch blocks and allowed to dry till it could be handled easily and was without odor. The following account of how to construct a "Mennonite Grass Burner" was found in an early edition of the Nebraska *Ansiedler*.

"The material to build the oven is usually coarse sand which contains no limestone. This is mixed with two parts of yellow clay till a good texture is attained. The mixture is then placed in a form 4" x 6" x 12". The resulting bricks are dried in the sun from six to ten days . . .

We are giving directions for an oven six feet long, twenty-eight inches wide and seven and a half feet high. Lay the foundation of the oven on the ground with a wall of bricks six inches thick and twelve to fourteen inches above the floor of the house. Fill the space between the walls with earth and overlay the top with bricks. This is the floor of the furnace.

From the floor upwards lay the bricks on their end so that the walls are only four inches thick. The oven is divided into three parts or compartments. The first part, or fire place, is two feet high. This is separated from the second compartment with a floor of cast iron plates which are secured to the sides of the oven. This compartment should not be higher than two feet above fire floor in order that the fire is close enough to the kettle. The plates are one quarter inch thick, 9 inches wide and twenty-one to twenty-four inches long. This second compartment which is used as a cooking stove should be 14 to 16 inches high. The heat from the bottom compartment passes through a one foot space at one end of the oven and circulates over on top of the cooking chamber so that both top and bottom have heat. The top compartment contains a chamber which has hinged openings on both sides. These can be opened to allow more heat to enter the rooms.

The top of the oven is criss-crossed with iron bars overlaid with sheet metal. Bricks are placed on top of these bars and finished with a mortar prepared with two parts sand and one part clay. This mortar, mixed to these exact specification is used throughout the construction. The total cost of the oven is about 8 to 10 dollars."<sup>23</sup>

### **Early Farming**

Both the rich and the poor needed to rely on either horses or oxen to break up the virgin prairie soil. As noted previously, these animals had been purchased prior to their arrival in Jefferson County.

The first crop was harvested in 1875. Even those Kleine Gemeinde from Manitoba who

arrived in June were able to raise a potato and vegetable crop. As is usually the case when immigrant farmers start in a different country they try their previous proven methods of farming. Here too a similar pattern was followed in that the Mennonite pioneers seeded mainly what the locals called "Odessa Wheat"<sup>24</sup> which they brought with them from Russia. Gradually, they diversified into crops like maize and corn, which were not as susceptible to rust.<sup>25</sup>

Sheep farming was seen quite early as being an attractive addition to grain farming. In fact, Peter Janzen bought his extensive property in Jefferson County with the view that adjacent scrub land would be available for some time as free grazing land for his sheep. At the height of his operation his ranch kept twenty to twenty-five thousand sheep.<sup>26</sup> A writer in the 1881 *Rundschau*, however, cautions farmers about going into sheep farming. He advises them to contact Johan Thiessen, P. Heidebrecht, or Martin Barkman, all having had extensive sheep raising experience in Russia.<sup>27</sup> Eventually, with the poor land being sold and fences going up, sheep raising lost its attractiveness. Nevertheless, in the earlier years it was an industry that provided the Mennonite farmer with much needed cash.

### **Silk Industry**

Silk was also an industry that the Mennonites had some experience with in Russia and as a consequence they tried silk culture in Nebraska as well. Abraham Thiessen seems to have been the main promoter of this industry. As early as 1881 he was promoting the sale of mulberry trees in anticipation of future profits. However, he realized immediate profits of over \$500 that year from the sale of such trees. Shortly thereafter, A. Thiessen, who was described as a seller of silk, bought a Seidenhaspel (silk bobbin) which had been made by a Mr. Bose of York Co., Nebraska, and began producing silk. In early 1882 he displayed some silk at the state fair as noted in the following newspaper account.

"Abraham Thiessen, Fairbury, received a diploma at the last state fair in Omaha for the first Nebraska raised and spun silk. The interest for silk culture has greatly increased all over the country. This is shown by the great demand for the Russian Mulberry Tree. About 80,000 trees were sent out of Jefferson County last year and the requests this year look as promising."<sup>28</sup>

Even though this industry seems to have had a promising beginning it could not compete with the silk industry of the far east and soon vanished. At the time of Abraham Thiessen's death in 1889 little of this industry remained, except the mulberry trees.

### **Other Crops and Fruits**

The search for different cash crops caused the Mennonite farmers of Jefferson County to experiment with a variety of fruit trees. Though no report of any significant commercial fruit culture has been recorded, we do know that some individual farmers grew a great variety of fruit in their gardens. One of these, Martin Barkman, reports in 1883, that his garden contains 180 apple trees, 190 peach trees, 35 apricot trees, 8 plum trees, 35 cherry trees, 4 pear trees, and 40 mulberry trees. The Peter W. Friesen farm, now owned by the widow of A. B. Friesen, just north of Jansen, still has a healthy pear tree, the seed of which is said to have come from Russia.

### **Mutual Aid**

In the fall of 1874 the Kleine Gemeinde of Jefferson County, together with the Mennonites in York County, Nebraska, and the Mennonites in Kansas established a Mutual Aid Association to help unfortunate members who lost buildings, grain, or livestock due to fire or lightning. The rules and regulations of this association were patterned after that used in Russia. Except for a small initial registration fee no dues were assessed the members until some fire or lightning damage occurred among the association members. Only then was each individual member assessed a fee in relation to the previously assessed value of his insured property. By 1910, however, a yearly fee was assessed. During the first 36 years of operation the assessed dues averaged less than 15 cents per year per hundred dollars insured.

To facilitate the collection of fees most villages in a district elected a "Brand-schultz" and the district elected a "Brand-aeltester." These men would also be responsible to see that fire regulations were followed and to assess any local fire damage. They were elected for three year terms. The first "Brand-aeltester" of the Kleine Gemeinde community in Jefferson County was Johan W. Thiessen (1813-1888). He was followed by Johan P. Thiessen (1852-1920) who also

gives the following account of the association.

“Jansen, Nebraska, March 4, 1910.

Dear Martin and family. First a friendly greeting. We held a special meeting of the Mennonite fire insurance company in Jansen on Feb. 19, 1910, and I was asked to be responsible to forward the decisions and the reasons for the meeting to the *Rundschau*. In order for the reader to better understand the situation I will first give a short overview of the history of our local fire insurance.

As soon as we arrived in Jefferson County, Neb., in the fall of 1874, we realized the necessity of making some arrangements in this area, like we were used to in Russia. The same realization also occurred in Kansas and York Co., Neb. However, before this was acted on, one of our brethren had the misfortune of a fire destroying his home. While we were fighting the fire, where I also was present, we discussed the urgency of this matter and shortly thereafter we elected a “Brand-aeltester” by name of Johan Thiessen, formerly from Konteniusfeld, South Russia. At the same time decisions in this matter were made in Kansas and York Co., Neb. Through correspondence and meetings it was soon arranged to form an association together with York Co. and the Kansasers. Articles were written and accepted, as much as possible after the model we had in South Russia.

However, here in America, a few of our brethren soon settled in small towns, and while it was not expressly forbidden and since we were not alert enough, these were registered in our fire insurance. Before long a fire in a town in Kansas caused such great damage that the rural people became discouraged in having to pay for this. When, after much difficulty, we were able to pay for this fire, we immediately had a meeting and we, together with York County brethren, separated from the brethren in Kansas and formed our own organization, with the condition that henceforth no town dweller would be allowed to be a member. This was included as an article in our constitution. Later, from time to time, the issue of accepting members from town was raised by various brethren, particularly by younger brethren who had not experienced the devastating results. Finally, in 1905, we, as well as other member associations, were invited to a meeting by “Brand-aeltester” Johan Doell of York Co., Neb. regarding this matter as well as other important matters which, because of changing situations, needed discussion. At this meeting, which Br. R. B. Koop and I attended as representatives of this area, the old rules were read one by one, discussed and changed as we jointly agreed on. When we came to article 20, which says that no town dweller is to be a member, the discussion became lively, because certain brethren wanted to again allow them in. But the majority of the older brethren were, according to my thinking, completely against this. I have always been against this because I certainly think that the farmers get the short end of the deal when a fire in windy weather breaks out in town where people live close together. Much greater damage is done in town than can ever happen on a farm.

I want to note, though, that if I was thinking only of myself, I would not be against this rule, since I am now living in town and can insure my buildings for less than half of what it would cost in the English insurance companies. However, for farmers it should never be different than it is now written in article 20.

I have now had the position of “Brand-aeltester” in this country for 15 years, and often town people have come to me and said that they live so far apart that there is no more risk in town than on a farm. Yet, because it was expressly forbidden, no action could be taken. However, because of these requests, I made a resolution that article 20 be modified to allow towns people where buildings were at least 150 feet from other buildings to be signed up. This was accepted with a majority of votes and has worked up to now, and according to my thinking, nothing should be changed.

I will now give the reason for our special meeting. On January 10, 1910, I received an unexpected letter from “Brand-aeltester” Johan Doell of York County, indicating that they had agreed (without first notifying the members in other districts) to include town people who live at least a block from the business district and if the town has a steel water tower 100 feet high and 10 feet wide. Further, they elected a committee of three to discuss the matter with us, and to persuade us to agree with their decision. I also received a letter from this committee in regards to this matter. Since I did not

want to act independently, I invited our members as well as the committee and the "Land-aeltester" of York Co. to a meeting as mentioned above. The committee, however, did not show up, but 45 members were present. The following five points were discussed and adopted unanimously.

1. That we do not accept a revision of article 20.
2. That we keep our insurance money here as it has been done for 35 years.
3. That we keep the 5 cents per hundred dollars insured for new registrations to be paid to the -"Brand-aeltester" for his trouble. They want us to send the money to them.
4. It was unanimously agreed that the brethren in York Co. had no right to change the constitution without first notifying the members in other areas. Even though they have 400,000 dollars property insured, the members in other areas have 600,000 dollars. If they had only followed the motto, Rom. 12, which is inscribed on the cover of our constitution they would not have proceeded with this action.
5. It was unanimously agreed, under these circumstances, to separate from them and not to tempt them in the future with this motto.

Also note that the brethren in Kansas agree with us and unanimously voiced the same at a special meeting they called. The last statement that I have on hand gives the following information regarding our fire insurance association.

York and Hamilton Counties, Neb.	433,605
Jefferson Co. Neb.	122,000
Litchfield, Neb.	15,815
Cope, Clo.	31,280
Mt. Lake, Minn.	33,425
Reedly, Calif.	11,580
Langham, Sask.	126,670
Enid, Okla.	21,385
Imman, Ks.	15,290
Munich, N. Dak.	135,655
Meade, Ks.	17,190

Therefore, together with Meade Co. Kansas we have approximately 139,000 dollars insured. If there are any brethren who are not ready to acquiece and to accept these evil changes and who want to join with us and keep the good old rules, they are welcome under the following conditions.

First, that they elect a "Brand-schultz" or district secretary and then to make sure that no one insures his property for more than 2/3 of its actual worth. Also since we have some cash on hand, that they contribute their share to the fund, i.e. 15 cents per hundred dollars insured and 5 cents per 100 dollars for registration. These funds can be sent to the undersigned. If complete districts wish to join us, then they have the right to withdraw their cash from the head office at York County, Neb. Anyone who wants more information can write to the undersigned.

John P. Thiessen

Head-secretary of the Mennonite Fire Insurance Association

Jefferson Co. Neb."<sup>30</sup>

### The Town of Jansen

In 1886 Peter Jansen bought 40 acres each from Peter Isaac and Martin Barkman to establish a town, later named Jansen in his honor.<sup>31</sup> This was the same year that the Rock Island Railroad began the survey of its line from Beatrice to Fairbury.<sup>32</sup> However, seven years prior to this Martin B. Fast writes that a railroad is being planned and the line will run alongside Rosenort and Rosenhof, 4 to 10 rods on the south side.<sup>33</sup> Also in 1880 Peter Fast reports that the line was already started and people are anticipating work on the line, and looking for better markets for their produce.<sup>34</sup> Obviously, here is an example of rumor preceeding the event by a good number of years.

There is little evidence that the Kleine Gemeinde were apprehensive concerning the establishment of a town or the coming of the railroad. Maybe Peter Jansen's attempt to prevent the sale of liquor in town calmed their fears of the "world" crowding in on them. When the original deeds were granted each contained the following clause: "Intoxicating liquors shall not be manufactured, sold or given in any place of public resort as a beverage on said premises and in case this condition be broken or violated this conveyance shall be null and void."<sup>35</sup> Yet the

good intentions of P. Jansen were foiled when the first bar opened outside the town limits of Jansen shortly after the first lots were sold in town. Also in 1896 through some legal technicality a saloon opened within the town limits. Attempts were made from time to time to remove the saloon but with only limited success.<sup>36</sup> Newspaper reports of these early years indicate that Jansen had its share of noise and brawls due to the presence of the saloons.

The development of the town of Jansen brought with it other temptations for the Mennonite young people. Travelling medicine shows visited the town and "led many young people astray."<sup>37</sup> Also the proliferation of fire arms coming in with the new influx of settlers brought in by the railroads were of some concern to the older generation. A correspondent writing to a newspaper in 1892 reports the following.

"Johan Friesen, son of Peter Friesen, shot himself in the hand with a revolver. Had he listened to his parents he would not have had a revolver and therefore would not have shot himself. A doctor removed the bullet from the hand."<sup>38</sup>

### **Crude Customs**

Considerable attention is given by correspondents to newspapers in the 1890's about the behavior of Mennonite young people in Jefferson County. This behavior was cause for real concern among the older people of the community, but it seems that they could do little to change the behavior as long as the young people were not church members. However, not all of the uncouth behavior came from the off-spring of Kleine Gemeinde members, as certain customs continued to prevail even after the Kleine Gemeinde moved from the Jansen area.

Two words that the correspondents used to describe the first crude custom were "Poltern" and "Spektakel."<sup>39</sup> Both words refer to making a noise or creating a fracas. They were used to describe crude festivities that followed in the evening of a wedding celebration. A mob of young people would surround the house where the young couple was staying and proceed to create a fracas by various means. Hens and geese were persuaded to add to the clamor of shooting and shouting. They would only stop this behavior when the occupants of the house would "reward" them with money and "good words." No one seems to have been exempt from the initiation. When teacher Jacob Wiebe returned from Kansas after the Christmas holidays with his new bride and were the guests of M. B. Fasts, they were subjected to the "Spektakel." Mr. Fast was determined not to give in to this noisy rabble. However, when his chimney was plugged with straw, he too came up with the required money.<sup>40</sup> It is not clear whether this custom originated in Russia and was "refined" in Nebraska or if the Mennonite young people borrowed this custom from their English neighbors. Certainly, this custom seemed strange to a recent Mennonite arrival from Manitoba who moved to Nebraska in 1892.

A second custom that emerged in the Mennonite community almost certainly was borrowed from their American neighbors. Though the word "Halloween" is not used, one correspondent writes that on the last day of October "young America again did its thing."<sup>41</sup> It seems that considerable activity had occurred that night. In this correspondence the writer does not give his name.

### **Schools**

Very little information is presently available regarding early education in the Jansen area. We can only assume that the method of education followed the pattern established in Russia, which was also practiced by the Kleine Gemeinde in Manitoba. The following news items of Jansen appeared in the *Mennonitsche Rundschau* over a number of years.

June 5, 1880 - School begins in October in Rosenort. A teacher is needed to give instruction in English and German. Contact Peter Thiessen.

December 9, 1885 - The German school in Rosenort opened with 25 students. The teacher is new immigrant Joh. Wiens. His son Johan teaches in Heuboden with 12 students. Previously Minister Peter Fast instructed students in German. English is also taught.

Dec. 19, 1888 - The children are going to English school. While we are not pleased with English only, the private school is too expensive. Maybe after New Year German will be taught.

July 14, 1899 - No local teacher has a certificate. The three teachers that have certificates come from Kansas.

March 20, 1901 - J. W. Fast has rented a house to teach German school. K. F. Janzen who undertook to teach for 7 months decided to move to Oklahoma.

July 8, 1903 - School district #59 is planning to build a new school.

January 27, 1904 - The school in district #59 is now complete. H. H. Wiebe teaches the first class. Helen Thiessen teaches the second class. There are 75 students.

September 14, 1904 - School began on September 5. Teaching in district #59 are H. Wiebe and Helen Thiessen. Teaching in district #67 is D. Thiessen. J. Thiessen is in the same school as last year.

The Manitoba German newspaper *Der Nordwesten* also carried a few news items concerning the Jansen school.

December 16, 1892 - School teacher Johan Fast is sick and the German school is closed. I. E. Loewen teaches in Blumenort, six miles north of here.

March 24, 1892 - Isaac E. Loewen had "school pruefung" on March 10.

- Johan Fast had "school pruefung" on March 15.

It was evident that in the early years German, as well as English, was taught in the district schools. Possibly, part of the school year was conducted in English and the other part in German. Religion was taught in Rosenort district #59 at least up to 1898. A *Biblische Geschichten* book is extant which is labeled as belonging to district #59. The schools in Heuboden and Blumenort were likely private Kleine Gemeinde schools.

### The Kleine Gemeinde Church Life in Jansen

The Kleine Gemeinde church in Nebraska for some time retained the name of the "Heubodner Gemeinde." This was perpetuated by the fact that the aeltester, Abraham L. Friesen, settled in the village of Heuboden where also the first Kleine Gemeinde church was later built. The total ministerial at the time of the immigration were Friesens. Ministers Peter W. Friesen (1816-1892) and Cornelius L. Friesen (1841-1923) were, respectively, the uncle and brother of the aeltester. The deacon, Jac. W. Friesen (1808-1889) was the father of the aeltester.

In 1877 the Heubodner Gemeinde held its first deacon and ministerial election in Nebraska.

"On Jan. 24, 1877, a minister and deacon election was held and the votes for deacons are as follows:

Johan Harms	37	elected
Jakob Klassen	16	elected
Peter Hildebrand	15	
Heinrich Ratzloff	6	
Gerhard Rempel	2	
Jacob Friesen, Jr.	1	
Peter Braun	2	
Ab. Reimer	1	

"From three deacons, Jacob Friesen, Johan Harms, and Jacob Klassen one is to be elected as minister:

Johan Harms	37
Jacob Klassen	3

Forty brethren voted at this election."<sup>42</sup>

Serious problems arose in the Heubodner Gemeinde shortly after the 1877 election which resulted in members leaving the Kleine Gemeinde and joining Isaac Peters' church.

Isaac Peters (1826-1911) had been elected to the ministry in 1866 and in 1867 he was elected aeltester in the Pordenau Gemeinde in Russia. He immigrated to the Henderson, Nebraska area where he continued his ministry. Because of various differences with the local church, he, together with two other ministers and 58 members, split from the church in Henderson and built a separate church one mile from this town. They organized in 1882 and called themselves the Ebenezer Gemeinde. The Jansen church, however, for years was simply known as Peters' Gemeinde or Peters' church.

The reason for a number of Kleine Gemeinde joining Peters' church seems to have centered on the issue of working on Sunday. Miller writes the following account of what is likely an oral tradition.

"One of the divisions in Jansen occurred because of misunderstanding between the

elder Abraham L. Friesen and others in his congregation. The issue was climaxed in his experience with the new reaper he had purchased. He was the first of his church to have a reaper. It was common at this time for the farmers to borrow and lend equipment where they could be of benefit to each other. This interaction was most common among the members within any particular church. Elder Friesen's reaper was in great demand as could be expected. So great was the demand that he felt justified in cutting his grain one Sunday afternoon so that his neighbors could use it sooner. He tried to justify it on the basis of brotherly love. The incident caused misunderstanding and resulted in a division.<sup>44</sup>

A statement by M. B. Fast supports Millers account.

"Misunderstanding developed among the Kleine Gemeinde and the church divided. The reason was that members had harvested grain on Sunday, as well as some other issues on which the members could not agree. The aeltester, Isaac Peters, came from York County and established another church there. The conditions for acceptance to join were: Not to work on the fields on Sunday, own no firearms, and refrain from the use of tobacco.<sup>45</sup>

On December 5, 1878, 39 baptized believers joined Isaac Peters' group.<sup>46</sup> While many of these came from Abraham L. Friesen's group, some evidently had not as yet officially joined with any group. Two examples are Peter Fast and Peter Thiessen, both of whom later joined the K.M.B. A ministerial election was held in January of 1879. Elected as ministers were Johan W. Fast and Wilhelm Thiessen, and elected as deacon was John F. Thiessen.<sup>47</sup>

In many ways Peters' understanding of doctrine and teaching was similar to that of the Kleine Gemeinde. He rejected baptism by immersion and the doctrine of the Millennium, but held fast to the doctrine of non-resistance.<sup>48</sup> In practice he differed from the Kleine Gemeinde. He placed a greater emphasis on the new birth experience through repentance and the knowledge of sins forgiven, and "recognized all evangelical means to this end; live preaching, indoctrination of youth, study of the Bible and congregational prayer meetings."<sup>49</sup> It is interesting to note though, that the first Sunday school in the Jansen area was not begun by Peters' church but by the K.M.B.

The Krimer Mennonite Brethren first organized in the Jansen area in 1880. Brethren Jacob Wiebe and Johan Harder from Marion County, Kansas, came at the invitation of a few families and conducted services. On April 11, 1880, three couples and one youth were baptized in the Blue River near Fairbury.<sup>50</sup> A communion service followed in the Rosenort school house. Repeated visits were made during the following months by J. Wiebe and other ministers from the K.M.B. in Kansas. The *Rundschau* had the following news items from Jansen.

June, 1880 - "Johan Harder and Abraham Klassen from Gnadenu baptizd two people here today."

Aug., 1880 - "Aeltester Jacob Wiebe and the aeltester of the River Brethren, Jesse Engel were guests in the Jansen area. On Aug. 1, seven persons were baptizd by J. Wiebe."

Nov., 1880 - "Jacob Klassen, Kansas, baptizd ten persons in the river on Nov. 7."

Mr. B. Fast indicates that by the end of 1880, 34 persons were baptized and received into the K.M.B. church.<sup>51</sup> A minister election on January 1, 1881, resulted in Peter Thiessen and Peter Fast being called into the ministry.<sup>52</sup> Again it seems that most of the original members of the Jansen K.M.B. had their roots in the Kleine Gemeinde. This is not surprising, as many of the K.M.B. in Kansas as well as their aeltester, Jacob Wiebe, had at one time been Kleine Gemeinde members in Russia.

Another church that gained members at the expense of the Kleine Gemeinde was the Herrs Gemeinde. This church, also known as the Herrites, Reformed Mennonites, or New Mennonites, originated from a division of the Swiss Mennonites in Pennsylvania in 1812 under the leadership of John Herr.

They considered themselves to be the only true church and therefore also practiced a closed communion. In 1878 a minister of this church, Eli Herr, came to Jansen to preach his gospel.<sup>53</sup> Evidently five couples and the wife of another couple joined the church by being rebaptized. They were not organized as a church, neither did they have their own preacher. In 1880 this little group received a visit from "Uber-aeltester" Johan Chor.<sup>54</sup> The small flock, however, seems to have been well indoctrinated. They would not attend weddings or funerals of non-Herr Gemeinde people. They maintained that only theirs was the correct way. Millar relates an incident that illustrates their exclusive behavior.

“Upon inquiring about this group, several incidents occurring in Jansen were related to the investigator. One was regarding a family in which the wife joined the Reformed Mennonites and the husband remained in the Kleine Gemeinde. The husband died and funeral services were held in the Kleine Gemeinde. The belief was so strong regarding affiliation or participating with outside groups that the wife refused to attend the funeral of her husband. This refusal on the part of the wife was very definite and it was only after the insistence by the older children and the use of physical force by an older son that the mother yielded. She had to be put into the buggy, and after arriving at church she was again determined not to enter the church building until the son again forced her to go in with him.”<sup>55</sup>

Finally, Johan Holdeman also came to the Jansen area to preach. The main theme of his message was that only one baptism is valid.<sup>56</sup> Though he spoke with great urgency only a few persons joined his church. These also were rebaptized, but no Holdeman church was organized, neither was a minister elected.

In a review of the Jansen churches in September, 1881, M. B. Fast lists the membership of the K.M.B. at 34, Peters' church at approximately 20, and the New Mennonites at 8 members.<sup>57</sup> As has been mentioned, most of these had their roots in the Kleine Gemeinde tradition. While a few opted for a narrower and more legalistic church like the New Mennonites, the majority of those leaving chose a church that allowed and demanded a greater expression of the Christian faith. Most of these did not show a great reluctance to be rebaptized.

For the K.M.B. the mode of baptism was forward immersion and such was a condition for joining their church. While they did not profess to be the one true church, they nevertheless had strong suspicions about the regeneration of many Kleine Gemeinde members. One of their ministers, Peter Thiessen, is an example of their new experienced freedom in Christ. His spiritual pilgrimage had led him from the Kleine Gemeinde to the Halbstader church in Russia, and in America from the Beatrice Prussian Mennonite church to Peters' church and finally to the K.M.B. He joined the latter after a religious experience which he described as “a train coming from heaven.”<sup>58</sup> Consequently, he took every opportunity to preach the word.

The New Mennonites and the Holdeman each emphasized theirs as being the true church, thus invalidating any baptism other than their own. Neither of these churches were successful in soliciting members from the Kleine Gemeinde after 1880, maybe because neither of these churches had a resident minister in Jansen.

In a letter to Peter Toews, Holdeman aeltester in Manitoba, Abraham L. Friesen likens the churches seeking converts from the Kleine Gemeinde as spirits invading the church. The following paragraphs are an excerpt of this letter.

“First, concerning the spirit of the church of John Herr: He saw the decline of the old M. Church and believed in his time (about 1812) to be the only one left in whom the Spirit remained. He was called, with the help of God, (as he wrote in his booklet) to again rebuild that which had fallen. He wrote that they were all living in decay and practicing spiritual adultery with each other. Therefore, he had to practice avoidance. Then, if I am not mistaken, he refused to recognize the baptism of the church at that time. He, together with his followers, began by baptizing each other. Outside of their baptism they do not recognize any other, even up to this day, and they consider themselves to be the only church of God, etc.

Secondly, concerning the spirit of the church of Joh. Holdeman, who came from the same church which John Herr, a confused babbler, left in 1812. He believed that he could prove (through a direct call of God) that the Spirit of God was present in the old Gemeinde until approximately 1868 when he established a new Gemeinde. He recognized his baptism which he received in the old Gemeinde as valid and as occurring through the Holy Spirit. Yet, those who were baptized by the same aeltester after he left, he did not consider to be valid, because he claimed that the Holy Spirit left the Gemeinde with him and is presently residing on him. He related this to me personally. So he did not recognize anyone who was not able to trace his lineage from the past to the present through churches (Gemeinden) like the Waldenses. I have not yet heard if he has found any church he recognized as belonging to this lineage in spite of his effort to find such, not even the Herren Church, who, like his church, were called into being by dreams and visions. These two churches, both of which claim to have Christ's spirit, disagree with each other to the extent that they do not recognize



the other as belonging to the church of God. They both rebaptize each other's members who came over to their church and lifted themselves higher than the other.

Thirdly, the spirit of Wiebe's church is here. He believes and maintains, without any basis, that baptism by immersion is the only correct baptism that is pleasing to the Lord. And he (the spirit) is of such high origin that he has taken it upon himself to immerse all those who have been baptized by pouring. Oh, what great pride! Where does he remain with his exclusive baptism, when thousands of martyrs were baptized by pouring in houses and other places. They declared to their persecutors that their received baptism was an unchangeable holy baptism based on the regulations of the Holy Scriptures, and they showed such joy in God that they gave their lives; for God was with them. These were under the altar after they had been strangled because of the Word of God and because of the witness that they bore (Rev. 6:9) and are now awaiting the crown of righteousness that the righteous Judge will give on that day to all that love his coming.

These three spirits go out to gather others to themselves, yet act against each other. Even though there are others of the same kind, these three are mentioned because they are encamped by us, and are zealous to cause our brethren to fall away, so that they will run after them."<sup>59</sup>

The above letter indicates that A. L. Friesen had a good analysis of the situation that was happening to his church. Obviously, however, he was not able to persuade many of his members of some of the incongruities that they were accepting.

Meanwhile the Kleine Gemeinde in Manitoba were also experiencing a challenge to their doctrine and tradition. For some time their Aeltester Peter Toews had been in contact with Johan Holdeman. Letters had been exchanged and Peter Toews visited the Holdeman Church in Kansas. The result was an invitation for Holdeman to visit the Manitoba churches. In November, 1881, Holdeman and Mark Seiler began preaching among the Manitoba Kleine Gemeinde. By early 1882 about half the members, including Aeltester Peter Toews had been rebaptized and joined the Holdeman group. Holdeman returned home on January 12, 1882, but left fellow minister Mark Seiler to continue the work. This left the remaining Kleine Gemeinde in Manitoba without an aeltester and only with one elderly minister, Peter Berg, in the more populated East Reserve, and two ministers, Peter Kroeker and Jacob Kroeker, in the Scratching River area.

Consequently, the Manitoba Kleine Gemeinde requested Aeltester A. L. Friesen of Jansen to come up and help reorganize the church. This was accomplished in February 1882 when Aeltester A. L. Friesen, his wife, and Minister Johan Harms visited the Manitoba churches. Minister elections were held, both in the East Reserve and in the Scratching River area, with a total of three ministers and two deacons being elected. These men were installed by Aeltester Friesen. However, at this time no aeltester was elected from among the Manitoba brethren.

Aeltester Friesen, together with some other brethren, returned to Manitoba on January 7, 1883. Once more deacon and minister elections were held, but now the church also elected an aeltester, Jacob Kroeker. It is assumed that a formal union between the Nebraska and the Manitoba Kleine Gemeinde occurred at this time. In both visits to Manitoba, Aeltester Friesen was called on to baptize a number of young people, seeking to identify with the church.

The church in Jansen was also slowly recovering from the severe upheavals of the late 1870s. Young people were still joining the church. On December 12, 1880, A. L. Friesen baptized 6 persons in the Rosenort school house.<sup>60</sup> There also seems to have been a continual transfer of membership between the Peters' church and the Kleine Gemeinde. Neither of these churches rebaptized transferred members. It is not clear, however, if the person who left one Gemeinde to join the other was subject to discipline from his previous Gemeinde.

After sharing the Rosenort school house for a number of years with the other churches in the Jansen area, the Kleine Gemeinde constructed their first church building in 1883 in the village of Heuboden, near the residence of the aeltester. The Sunday morning services were then alternated between Heuboden and Rosenort.

Spiritually too, the church was making some progress. In 1885 there was a need to increase the ministerial. Two deacons and one minister were elected.

"On the 24th of February, 1885, a deacon and minister election was held with the following results.

First, for two deacons:

Ab. F. Friesen	35	votes
Heinrich Loewen	1	
Heinrich Ratzloff	41	
Heinrich Reimer	6	
Peter S. Friesen	1	

On the same day, from the three deacons, Jacob Klassen, Heinrich Ratzlaff, and Ab. F. Friesen, one minister was elected.

The votes were as follows:

Jacob Klassen	2
Heinrich Ratzloff	34
Ab. F. Friesen	6

Forty-two members voted at this election."<sup>61</sup>

Three years after his election the new minister, Heinrich Ratzloff, had a sharp disagreement with the eldest Ab. L. Friesen, and he, together with a number of members, left the Kleine Gemeinde and joined Isaac Peters' church. A. L. Friesen interprets the division as follows:

"In 1888 Heinrich Ratzloff, with a good part of the church members, went over to Isaac Peters' Gemeinde. Because of his improper behavior, the church removed him from his position as minister."<sup>62</sup>

Another account gives greater details as to the problems that had arisen in the Gemeinde. Again these problems seem to have their source in some liberties that the eldest had allowed himself. These were expressed in a letter that Heinrich Ratzloff sent to the Gemeinde in Manitoba. Unfortunately, this letter has not been preserved, but a copy of the reply by Gerhard Schellenberg is extant.<sup>63</sup>

"Dear brother Heinrich Ratzloff. We sincerely send greetings to you and your family. May the peace of God through Jesus Christ give you the correct wisdom and understanding according to Job 28:28.

After I read the letter to the brotherhood; first the letter from Aeltester Ab. Friesen, and then the letter from you, I reflected on how often the evil spirit lays traps and snares for mankind in order to lead our vain souls into depravity. I was reminded of how in a previous letter you described the condition of this person or that person in their lost state. This awful description made me reflect on my own soul, yet how much more awful will it be for those who experience this. Yet man cannot fully comprehend this for himself or explain it to others.

I am also thinking about the fact that you may be choosing the wrong path. It is said that you have attracted one part of the church to your side in order to lead them out or cause a split. May our loving God in the will of Jesus guard you in this, The apostle Paul writes in I Cor. 1:10, 'Now, I beseech you brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.' To the Philippians in the first chapter he says; 'Stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel.' Also in Romans 12 he writes in the similar vein, 'Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits. Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.'

And this agrees with the first commandment that our loving Savior gave to us. 'Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy mind, and shall love thy neighbor as thyself.' Matt. 22.

A division, however, brings with it hostility, which then brings slander and all kinds of evil between good friends and brothers. Furthermore, it destroys the perfect bond of love. Therefore, beloved brother, together with those who read this letter, forgive me for these words as I often blame myself for contributing too much to the previous divisions. (These did not occur because of conscience sake.) I can speak from experience and heartfelt sorrow and can say with the beloved Martyr Jakob de Roore, 'What is easily torn apart may be difficult to heal later on.' He writes because this has brought many a simple soul into ruin. Therefore, I too, in my weakness (which beloved brother, you are aware of) have always counselled unity in my infrequent letters. I cannot thank

the grace of God sufficiently for allowing us to be reconciled in love with you people out there. And how often have we not mutually strengthened each other in the faith, both in person and by letter. Though I can hardly consider myself as one of those that has strengthened anyone. But I do have love and am afraid that I may somehow lose it. Therefore, beloved brother, I am also writing to you and pray that you may accept this from me in love and that you may test with God's Word what I have to say. As far as I can critically determine from your letter you and your followers have no reason to secede from the Gemeinde. You ask in your letter if Aeltester Friesen also has acknowledged his faults. That he has. Namely, about the 'Kuhprozess' and going to the 'Komiedien Bude.'<sup>64</sup> About these two points he has written openly and in great detail. But, also, he writes that he is sorry for what he did and will not repeat such actions, which he also acknowledged as wrong. In this mind he presented his faults to the brethren and the brethren at that time forgave him and did not leave or abandon him. So I am convinced that you have no reason to separate from him. The letters which I have received from him regarding you and your case are written in love and compassion. But your problem or mistake that you are supposed to have committed have not been fully explained to us, which on my part I am not anxious to know.

Yet, it is strange that when you were asked by our ministerial here to explain yourself you did not do so and that they cannot acknowledge you as a minister over there. So, as your weak fellow brother (one who has because of sin been in the same situation as you) I want to give you counsel through this letter. I do this on account of the Lord's holy name and on account of your soul's salvation. May you humble yourself before the Lord and the church, through which you were called and elected to this important service, and as the least of them allow yourself to be judged. There is security in this, beloved brother.

Let us consider Moses and Saul. Both had sinned against God through disobedience. Moses did not give God the glory as he ought to have at the waters of Meribah, Numbers 20, and could therefore not remain a leader of God's people and church. Yet we do not find that he remained disobedient to the Lord. In this he has been a good example to us. When the Lord spoke to him, that they (namely Moses and Aaron) 'had not believed me to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them.' verse 12.

In humility he subjected himself to the judgment of God, and did not seek his own glory but commanded his people to be faithful and obedient to the Lord and to keep his commandments for the rest of their lives. (Deut. 5:11)

Moses has been a good example to all those who have become unworthy of their position, as the apostle Paul says, 'for whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning.' (Rom. 15:4)

Completely different is the case of Saul, whom the Lord, through the prophet Samuel, anointed king. When, contrary to the command of the Lord, he kept back that which was forbidden and thought thereby to please the Lord with an offering, Samuel spoke to him. 'Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, he has also rejected you from being king (1 Sam. 15:23). Furthermore Samuel said to Saul, 'The Lord has torn the kingdom of Israel from you this day, and has given it to a neighbor of yours, who is better than you. And also the Glory of Israel will not lie or repent; for he is not a man, that he should repent,' but Saul, instead of humbling himself before the Almighty God, and willingly abdicating from the high position that the Lord through the prophet had given him, reacted against the command and with hatred sought to kill King David in order to keep the kingdom for himself. And so his last years were worse than the first.

He was responsible for committing murder and the shedding of innocent blood. We read of the righteous Ahimelech together with 84 men who wore the linen ephod and other men, women, children and sucklings whom Saul had killed in Nob on account of David. Finally, after being mentally disturbed he died a miserable death (1 Samuel 31:5-6), and has become an example of a disobedient man. Therefore, let us allow this to be a warning to us, than we can, with the help of the Lord, perform our required tasks only imperfectly.

How can we, without God's Spirit and will, do anything right.

Absolutely nothing, dear brother! Therefore, I beg of you, fear God and humble yourself before him, and let go of your pride, and give God the glory. Do not take on yourself such a burden that you cannot carry without the help of the Lord. Then our loving Lord himself spoke, 'for whoever would save his life will lose it; and whosoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it' (Mark 8:35). Beloved brother, if we could only save our souls and attain eternal life. Yet, if we follow the council of our Lord Jesus Christ we can attain it. For he says, 'learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart; and you shall find rest in your souls' (Matt. 12:29). Now in conclusion I say to you and those with you the words of the beloved apostle, 'Let us therefore fear, lest a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it' (Heb. 4). With this may God be pleased. Gerhard Schellenberg, Rosenfeld, 1888.'

From the limited documentation available concerning this split it could well be that the two accusations against the aeltester were merely the catalyst that accelerated the division. The fact that Ratzloff had a good number of members supporting him, precludes a near unanimous brotherhood decision to remove him from office. More likely this decision was reached in the ministerial. Neither is it at all clear what the grounds for dismissal of Ratzloff were. Earlier history indicates that ministers were at times removed from office for what we today might consider very minor errors in judgment. Probably Ratzloff's criticism of the Aeltester Friesen was the improper behavior that precipitated this split.

The cow episode as referred to in Schellenberg's letter also caused a temporary split with their Manitoba brethren. From letters<sup>65</sup> written by minister Peter W. Friesen to Manitoba we piece together the following story. Evidently A. L. Friesen was involved in a dispute about the ownership of a cow. The cow may have been stolen or bought and not paid for. Friesen was asked to sign a document indicating that the cow was his. On being assured that the document contained only this affirmation, Friesen agreed. To his dismay, he soon discovered that his signature had instigated court proceedings. Not only was he asked to testify but also a few brethren in the church were subpoenaed for jury duty. Friesen felt that he had been deceived in signing the document and tried to remove himself from these proceedings. However, the damage had been done, a Kleine Gemeinde aeltester had gone to law.

The situation was considered serious enough that Aeltester Jacob Kroeker and a number of other brethren visited Nebraska in March, 1888, regarding this issue. Unfortunately, things could not be settled to the wishes of the Manitoba brethren and in 1889 Kroeker sent a letter of intent to separate, to the Nebraska Kleine Gemeinde.

Meanwhile, the Nebraska brethren also had a complaint against the Manitoba Kleine Gemeinde. In 1886 money had been collected in Manitoba to help certain Russian Mennonite families who had moved to Asia. The money was intended to help these families to immigrate to America. The Nebraska Kleine Gemeinde had also been invited to contribute, which they gladly did. When, however, the recipient families in Asia changed their mind about emigration a considerable amount of collected money needed to be disbursed to other needy people or to be returned to the donors. The Nebraska Kleine Gemeinde requested that their contributions be sent back to their church. For reasons not completely known this was not done.

The committee that looked after this money was not only of Kleine Gemeinde origin but also included a representative each from the Bergthaler and Holdeman churches of Eastern Manitoba. When the Kleine Gemeinde committee member, Peter L. Dueck, passed away in 1887, he was replaced by Johan Esau. Esau, it seems, was not forceful enough in acting on the Nebraska request to return the money and was therefore considered responsible by them. At the advice of the Nebraska brethren he withdrew from the committee. The final account of disbursements of the committee was given in the *Rundschau* and does not include Esau's name as one of the committee. An excerpt of the letter to the *Rundschau* follows. It should be noted that the K.M.B. (Peter Fast) received back their money.

Hochstadt, December 30, 1895 - In the year 1886, a call came from those in Asia asking for aid in emigration from there to Manitoba.

So a committee organized for this purpose collected \$1270 and immediately sent part of this money to Leonhard Dueck and Wilhelm Giesbrecht in Asia. However, since these had now decided not to come, the Gemeinde Vorsteher here made the decision to help others with this money who wished to emigrate to Manitoba.

“The following families received help:

Leonard Dueck, Asia	
Wilhelm Giesbrecht, together	250.00
Abraham Doerksen, Russia	193.70
Peter Klassen, Russia	13.00
Bernhard Friesen, Russia	350.00
Abraham Kroeker, Russia	250.65
Abraham Giesbrecht, Russia	172.00
Returned to Peter Fast, Neb.	65.00
Total	1,294.35

Signed: Cornelius Stoesz  
David Loewen”<sup>66</sup>

The years 1887 to 1906 were relatively quiet years for the Kleine Gemeinde in Nebraska. In 1892 a deacon and minister election was held. A. L. Friesen’s “Wahlliste” records the following:

“On January 31, 1892, a deacon and minister election was held First an election for a deacon:

Jacob Reimer	1 vote
Heinrich Loewen	19 votes
Jacob J. Friesen	4 votes
Heinrich Reimer	1 vote

The same day a minister election was held from a slate consisting of deacon Jacob Klassen and Heinrich Loewen.

Heinrich Loewen	22 votes
Jacob Klassen	3 votes

Loewen was only installed on February 7 since he had some hesitation about accepting this position. Twenty-five members voted at this election.”<sup>67</sup>

Evidently Heinrich Loewen preached, or read, a sermon only a few times before he resigned from the ministry.

In the summer of 1893 the Kleine Gemeinde of Manitoba and Nebraska were officially reunited as one Gemeinde. While A. L. Friesen does not mention this occasion in his register, it is noted in the “Wahlliste” of the Manitoba group.

“After we had been divided for some time with the Nebraska group because of various differences, the two brethren from there, Aeltester Ab. Friesen and Minister Kornelius Friesen, came to us in July, 1893, and reconciled us to them. We trust the Lord’s blessing may rest on this union.”<sup>68</sup>

Subsequently, a list of the Nebraska Kleine Gemeinde membership was recorded in Minister Abraham L. Dueck’s book of copied letters.<sup>69</sup>

“List of the members in Nebraska, 1894:

Aeltester Abrah. L. Friesen	John Heidebrechts
Minister Kornelius Friesen	Peter Heidebrechts sen. (both died)
Heinrich Loewens	Abrah. K. Friesens
Korn. J. Friesen	Jakob Reimers
Jakob J. Friesen	Heinrich Reimers
Klaas B. Reimer	Abrah. Reimer
John L. Harms (died)	Abrah. E. Reimers
Gerhard E. Friesens	Abrah. B. Friesens
Klaas D. Friesens	Abrah. F. Rempels
Deacon Jakob Klassens sen.	Gerhard F. Rempels
Jakob J. Klassens	Widow Jah. Fast
Widow Kornel. J. Klassen	Widow Gerhard Rempel
Joh. J. Klassen	Abrah. R. Friesen, single
Widow Agatha Flamming (died)	Maria P. Friesen, single
Mrs. Peter Heidebrecht jr.	Bernhard Ratzlof
John Glen (Polander)	

Some of the above names appear again on a deacon and minister election of 1896.

“A deacon and minister election held on January 7, 1896. An election for a deacon is held first.

Jacob J. Friesen	16	votes
Jacob Reimer	2	
Johann Klassen	4	
Jacob J. Klassen	6	
Korn. Klassen	1	
Klaas D. Friesen	1	

The same day from the two deacon candidates, Jacob Klassen and J. J. Friesen, a minister was elected.

Jacob J. Friesen	25	votes
Jacob Klassen	5	

Thirty members voted at this election."<sup>70</sup>

A small increase in membership occurred in November 23, 1898, when a few families from Inman, Kansas, joined themselves to the Nebraska Kleine Gemeinde. There were Jacob and Maria Peters, Johan and Katherina Harder, and Martin T. and Katherina (Harder) Doerksen. Martin T. Doerksen later was elected to the ministerial and also influenced the Kleine Gemeinde to move to the Meade, Kansas, area. Abraham L. Friesen gives further details in a letter to Gerhard Schellenberg of Rosenfeld, Manitoba.

"I also want to inform you that, through God's leading, three couples from Inman, Kansas, have joined our Gemeinde, namely: Jak. Peters, age 73 years, formerly from Fischau, Russia; Joh. Harders, in their 60's. He comes originally from Tiege. She is a Wien's daughter from Lindenau, later from Lichtfelde. She is the aunt to Mrs. Cor. Friesen. Further, Martin Doerksens, a young couple, your deceased church brother, Geo. Doerksen's, friend. She is a daughter to the above named Harders.

The reason for them leaving "Toews' Gemeinde" (Aeltester Toews' son from Pordenau) was because of various new trends, like voting at civil elections, Sunday school, new types of song, etc., which people today are emulating.

Already a year ago the above named M. T. Doerksen had visited Is. Peters' Gemeinde in Nebraska. He also visited at brother Cor. Friesens and they agreed on spiritual things. But in Peters' Gemeinde he did not find what he had been promised in Peters' writing in the *Rundschau*. This fall the Cor. Friesens visited the Doerksens (Mrs. Doerksen is the cousin to Mrs. Friesen) and had further discussions. They also asked brother Cor. Friesen to preach. They were sufficiently one in spirit and following their inner feelings they allowed us to send our Statement of Faith to them. They called us to conduct a service and for further discussions. So brother Corn. Friesen and I went there on November 17 for visitations. We conducted three church services and on the 4th celebrated Holy Communion with them . . ."

In the beginning of 1900 the Gemeinde again decided to conduct deacon and ministerial elections. These elections were to include the Kansas brethren.

"A deacon and minister election was held on January 30, 1900. An election for two deacons was held first.

Jacob J. Klassen	16
Jakob Reimer	14
Martin Doerksen	21
Cornelius J. Friesen	4
Johann Klassen	2
Heinrich Reimer	3
Gerhard Rempel	1
Klaas D. Friesen	1

This election was to have been held together with the Kansas brethren. However, since the letter of invitation to appear here for the election was not received by them and since Martin Doerksen Kansas, received the majority of the vote an installation service had to be postponed to March 20. Because a minister from Kansas had been elected and since the ministerial here was so small we decided to accept another deacon with the majority of votes and conduct an election for a minister. The votes on January 30 for one minister was as follows.

Martin Doerksen, Kansas	15	votes
Jacob J. Klassen	13	votes

In the first vote, then, Martin Doerksen was elected minister and Jakob J. Klassen

as deacon. When the Kansas brothers arrived here on March 17 a ministerial election was slated for March 20. The two candidates were deacons Jakob Reimer, who had been accepted as a deacon on the basis of the first vote, and Jakob J. Klassen. The votes were as follows.

Jacob J. Klassen	20 votes
Jakob Reimer	13 votes

Therefore, elected into the ministry were Martin T. Doerksen, Kansas, and Jakob J. Klassen, Nebraska, and elected as deacon was Jakob Reimer. These brethren were installed by me on March 25 at a church service. A. L. Friesen<sup>72</sup>

In 1899 the Nebraska Kleine Gemeinde, together with their Manitoba brethren, developed and adopted a position paper on Kleine Gemeinde doctrine and practice. The meeting was held in Blumenort, Manitoba, and the resolutions were adopted and published in a pamphlet in 1901.

#### **Ministerial Conference of 1889**

“On July 1, 1901, the conference resolutions which were adopted on the basis of God’s Word in Blumenort, Manitoba, on July 1, 1899, by the total ministerial of the Kleine Gemeinde, were revised and improved with the addition of scripture references as follows:

First: Concerning political involvement and all that it may entail, it is resolved on the basis of the following scripture passages not to hold any office, nor to vote. It is not proper to help someone to perform a duty which for conscience sake you yourselves cannot do. Matt. 7:12, John 6:15,18,36, and The Creed of the Book of Martyrs - 1600, page 328, article 27. Furthermore, according to Christ’s own words, ‘no one can serve two masters.’ Therefore, it is contrary to God’s word and his will to hold offices both in the Kingdom of God and in worldly positions. These are at odds one against the other according to Matt. 20:25, Mark 10:42, Luke 22:25, Matt. 6:24, Luke 16:13, and 2 Cor. 6:15.

Secondly: On the basis of God’s words our members are not permitted to attend services led by other ministers except for those worship services recognized and attended by our ministerial. Christ has so often and earnestly warned us that there are those that will come in his name and will lead many astray. Against such, we are to be on our guard. Matt. 7:15-21, John 5:43, 2 Thess. 2:2, 2 Tim. 3, Rev. 20:8-9, Rev. 13:13-14. We especially need to guard against those that are leaving or have left us. 2 Tim. 4:14; Book of Martyrs, page 246, chapter 2; Menno, chapter 1, page 102.

Thirdly: On the basis of God’s word we do not recognize marriages not performed in the Lord. By attending these weddings our church members show support and thereby encourage such transgressions. Marriage, the apostle says, is to be performed only in the Lord. 1 Cor. 7:39, 2 Cor. 6:14.

Fourthly: We believe that Sunday school as well as singing practice, particularly the four-part harmony practice, will do us more harm than good. They will lead us away from the simplicity in Christ. 2 Cor. 11:13, 1 Tim. 4:8, Amos 5:23. We do not, therefore, allow our members or their children to attend Sunday schools as they are presently conducted, neither the above mentioned singing practices. Since the available curriculum does not agree with our confession, it will lead us astray by portraying a show of holiness in that both God and lustful nature is served. This is serving two masters. Matt. 6:24.

Fifthly: We consider portraits and photographs to be unscriptural. First, they serve to honor mortal and worldly-minded men; secondly, they lead to idolatry according to Book of Wisdom 14:15-17; and thirdly, they lead to adultery and non-christian marriages. Ezk. 23:14, etc. Consequently, we consider these unscriptural and an abomination and should be resisted just like idolatry. 1 Sam. 15:23, Eph. 5:5, Num. 4:15,16,23. Also, according to the above scripture passages, we consider it unscriptural to allow a picture to be taken of oneself, or to send such photographs to each other. This is against God’s Word, Ezk. 23:14 as is already indicated above. Neither should these be displayed on the walls of rooms for the honor of mortal and worldly-minded men, since they lead to the lust of the eye and the pride of life, which is not of the ‘Father, but of the world,’ 1 John 2:6. Read Peter Peters’ writings in his book, pages 165, 170, 263, 299, and 301, new ed., which we consider to be based on the Word of God. Read also Dietrich Philips, page 210 and 211, concerning portrait worshippers.

Sixthly: Except for an ordinary sermon, we do not consider it scriptural to adopt the new practices in our funeral services. This is in accord with the writings in the pamphlet of our churches' beginning (*Eine Einfache Erklarung uber Einige Glaubenssaetze der sogenannten Kleine Gemeinde, 1845 - A. Friesen*), which indicates that these practices were not used by the early Christians but were begun by papal influence. We do not accept as scriptural the singing, prayer and preaching at the graveside as practiced these days, Matt. 6:5-7, Jer. 6:16, Book of Martyrs chapter 1, p. 180 and 251 in the year 1218, also page 218. If someone, however, says that 'we are not praying for the dead, etc,' we reply with the words of the apostle Paul, 'abstain from all appearance of evil.' 1 Thess. 5:22.

The total ministerial has endorsed the above with their own signatures.

Aelt. A. L. Friesen, Nebraska

Aelt. Jacob Kroeker, Manitoba

Aelt. Peter Dueck, Manitoba

Minister Peter Reimer, Manitoba

Minister Cor. Plett, Manitoba

Minister Peter W. Loewen, Manitoba

Minister Peter Kroeker, Manitoba

Minister Joh. R. Friesen, Manitoba

Minister Abraham Eidse, Manitoba

Minister Cor. L. Friesen, Nebraska

Minister Jacob J. Friesen, Nebraska

Minister Jacob J. Klassen, Nebraska

Minister M. T. Doerksen, Kansas

Deacon Peter Plett, Manitoba

Deacon Jacob R. Dueck, Manitoba

Deacon Joh. R. Dueck, Manitoba

Deacon Jacob Reimer, Nebraska"

To what extent the resolutions mirror the thinking of the Nebraska group is not clear. The East Reserve churches of Manitoba were in the process of changing leadership during the time of the conference in 1899. Aeltester A. L. Dueck died on July 18, 1899, a few weeks following the conference. It is not likely that he had significant impact at this conference. The new aeltester, Peter R. Dueck, was not elected until July 17, 1901, which was a few weeks after the articles were officially adopted. His name is, however, listed among the aeltesters signing the document. It is reasonable to assume that A. L. Friesen as senior aeltester would at least have given some direction to the content of the resolutions.

It is clear, though, that the articles discussed dealt with issues of that day and were directed particularly at areas where other local churches seemed to take greater Christian liberties. Both the Manitoba as well as the Nebraska Kleine Gemeinde had suffered numerical losses by the fact that their members were attracted to the preaching and practices of other churches. The resolutions were an attempt to stop this migration. Both the Sunday school and singing practice were seen by the Kleine Gemeinde ministerial as tools that would mar the thinking of their young people and would ultimately lead them astray. Also, keeping their members away from other church services seemed to be a solution to the serious problem of new ideas, doctrines and practices entering the church.

The resolutions of 1899 are also of interest in what they do not refer to. No reference is made in the articles concerning dress, jewellery or styles. Obviously, the ministerial saw no threat to their Gemeinde in this area. All the churches that were competing for their members were united in practicing a very conservative life style. Therefore, no written statement seemed necessary to say what each group saw as an integral part of the Christian walk.

Certainly, the resolutions of 1899 determined the doctrine and practice of the Kleine Gemeinde for years to come. These resolutions demanded from the members a considerable amount of isolation from other Mennonite groups. This isolation was more difficult for the Nebraska Kleine Gemeinde than for the more numerical and geographical separated Manitoba group. To consolidate the conservative teaching of the church, a number of books and pamphlets were reprinted at this time.



## Publications

The major work republished in 1901 was Peter Peters' "Ausgewahlte Schriften." This book contains a collection of five articles written by a Dutch Mennonite minister in the seventeenth century. The first four articles had been translated into German by 1865 and printed by J. F. Steinkopf, Stuttgart, likely under the sponsorship of the Russian Kleine Gemeinde. The forward to the 1901 edition, which includes article five, was written by Aeltester A. L. Friesen. He concludes his forward as follows:

"With the sincere desire that the Lord may add his blessing and that the book may be read and applied in true simplicity according to the word of God, Jer. 5:16, 'Stand you in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and you shall find rest in your souls.' It is my wish that this book may be a good road map for all the true-hearted, whose reason has to be captivated by the obedient Christ, and may it bring rest to their souls. Amen.

Your weak minister in the gospel, A. L. F."<sup>73</sup>

Another book by Peter Peters, "Die Himmlische Hochzeit" was also popular among the Kleine Gemeinde. The *Rundschau* had the following news item regarding the book. "Aeltester Ab. Friesen is having a book, originally written by Peter Peters in the Dutch language, published at our press. Now, for the first time, it is published in German. The book will be ready in a few weeks."<sup>74</sup> It is not clear who translated this work or article five in the "Ausgewahlte Schriften" from the Dutch into the German. A note included in "Die Himmlische Hochzeit" says the following: "Translated from the Dutch by a lover of the truth in 1904."

Two other booklets printed shortly after the 1899 conference are "Eine Einfache Erklarung uber Einige Glaubenssatze der sogenannten Kleine Gemeinde, Wohlmeinend aufgesetzt von einem treuen Diener am Wort des Herrn im Jahre 1845," printed by Himmels Manna Druckerei, Quakertown, Pa. in 1901; and "Eine kurze Beschreibung des Aeltesten Abraham Friesen in Ohrloff an der Molotschna, Sud Russland anno 1820," printed by Paul Springer, Beatrice, Neb., 1904. Both of these booklets are likely printed under the sponsorship of A. L. Friesen and were distributed among many Kleine Gemeinde families.

A third booklet found in many Kleine Gemeinde homes was "Verstand und Vernunft" by Heinrich Balzer. While the publisher and the date are not given, the two short articles added to Balzer's work suggest a similar concern as do some of the previous publications. The two articles are: "Christen sollten nicht laut lachen" and "Der ausserliche Schmuck verboten."<sup>75</sup> Again the emphasis seems to be on a serious, simple, and separated life style. To maintain this life style demanded a considerable effort and sacrifice on the part of the Kleine Gemeinde church.

The publication endeavours of A. L. Friesen were not done in isolation of the Manitoba church. In fact, their participation was necessary for the venture to be financially viable. It is evident from the following excerpt of a letter written to A. L. Friesen from Aeltester A. L. Dueck of Gruenfeld, Manitoba, that the Kleine Gemeinde did not expect a large readership beyond their own borders.

"At the time I received your letter, Jacob Kroekers and H. Friesens from Rosenhof, Morris, were here for a visit. Your letter arrived on Jan. 18, and on Jan. 22 it was read to the church at Blumenort. A brotherhood meeting followed in which we discussed your little booklet concerning our fore-fathers' separation (Ausgang). About 220 copies are required here and 50 copies at Morris (Jenseit), so we thought we would order a total of 300 copies, which you may already know.

Concerning the Peter Peters' book, some brethren here thought it might be advisable to print these in Leipzig, Germany, because they have a better quality paper and if fewer copies are made they may be cheaper there. Even then, unless Aeltester Joh. Wiebe's church also takes part, it is unlikely that we can use so many copies. Aeltester Jak. Kroeker will ask them if they wish to cooperate and will inform you. If they refuse to take part then it is doubtful that we can use 500 copies."<sup>76</sup>

## The Decision to Move to Meade

The concern for their young people was the motivating factor that forced the Kleine Gemeinde church to consider a colonization program in the early nineteenth hundreds. Basically, two concerns were evident. When Peters' church also started Sunday School in 1890, followed by "Jugend Verein," the Kleine Gemeinde young people were attracted to these activities. These methods of Christian nurture, however, were viewed with suspicion and seen as dangerous by

their elders and gave cause for concern.

The other concern centered around the economic problem of securing land for the next generation. It was becoming more and more difficult for a beginning farmer to compete with the established farmers for the short supply of available farm land. Renting was equally difficult. A Jansen correspondent writing to a German newspaper in 1894 writes, "It is difficult to find work or to rent land. The well-to-do are renting all available land. Some with 160-320 acres are still renting up to 100 acres or more."<sup>77</sup>

This situation had not improved by the early nineteenth hundreds. Jacob F. Isaac writes that "renting of land was getting to be a problem" and "land was getting high in price." To solve this problem a brotherhood meeting was called. Jacob F. Isaac recalls the following.

"I remember very clearly when the first meeting was called. When the idea of colonization was presented to the congregation some people were almost shocked, especially those that had farms. The matter, however, was not dropped, but prayerfully discussed. At the close of the first meeting, many of those present became more concerned. The idea of colonizing to help our young people became an earnest matter and with God's help moved ahead. The congregation was called together many times and believe me when I say that our elderly brethren and ministers were very much concerned that a new colonization might be the Lord's will.

The congregation approved, with about 90 percent, the motion to look for a new location. A committee was organized and sent out to various places; Canada, Colorado, and Kansas. Kansas was found the most suitable place to colonize, and the movement was started in 1906."<sup>78</sup>

It is said that Martin T. Doerksen was instrumental in suggesting Meade, Kansas, as a suitable place.<sup>79</sup> He made a deal with real estate man, Mr. Fulingen and Charlie Paine of Hutchinson in which he traded his one quarter section of land in Inman, Kansas, for six quarters of land southeast of Meade.<sup>80</sup> The first families of the Jansen Kleine Gemeinde that moved in 1906 settled on these six quarters.

#### **End-notes of Section Two, "The Kleine Gemeinde in Jansen, Nebraska"**

1. *The Jansen News*, October 21, 1920.
2. *Mennonitsche Rundschau*, November 20, 1880.
3. Daily State Journal, Lincoln, Nebraska, August 4, 1874, as found in Clarence Hiebert, *Neighbors in Deed to Neighbors in Need*.
4. Beatrice Express, Beatrice, Nebraska, August 6, 1874. as found in Clarence Hiebert, *Neighbors in Deed to Neighbors in Need*.
5. Reimer & Gaeddert, *Exiled by the Czar*, Mennonite Publication Office, Newton, Kansas, 1956.
6. Paul Millar, *A Case Study of Jansen, Nebraska*, unpublished thesis, Lincoln, Nebraska, 1953.
7. Reimer, & Gaeddert, *Exiled by the Czar*.
8. Beatrice Express, Beatrice, Nebraska, September 10, 1874, as found in Clarence Hiebert, *Neighbors in Deed to Neighbors in Deed*.
9. Ibid.
10. Ibid.
11. *Mennonitsche Rundschau*, September 1, 1881.
12. For a complete description of the ranch, see Paul Millar, *A Case Study of Jansen Nebraska*, p. 82.
13. Paul Millar, *A Case Study of Jansen, Nebraska*, op. cit.
14. Though the land was shared jointly, each farmer was allotted various parcels of land which he seeded and harvested as his own. Pasture land and the wood lot were shared by all.
15. M. B. Fast, *Mitteilungen*, Wahrheitsfreund, Inman, Kansas, 1935.
16. Ibid.
17. Ibid, page 30.
18. Heinrich Ratzloff, *The Genealogy of the Descendants of Heinrich Ratzloff*, Regher Printing, Winnipeg, Canada.
19. A. L. Friesen, *Wahlliste*.
20. This is a newspaper article found among the papers of Aelt. Jac. Isaac, courtesy of Levi Isaac, Hugoton House.
21. Daily State Journal, Lincoln, Nebraska, October 11, 1874, as found in Clarence Hiebert, *Brothers in Deed to Brothers in Need*.

22. I am indebted to Delbert Plett, Steinbach, Manitoba, for making available to me extensive genealogy lists as well as the 1880 census report of Cub Creek Precinct, Nebraska.
23. *Nebraska Ansiedler*, July, 1878.
24. *Nebraska Ansiedler*, May, 1879.
25. *Mennonitische Rundschau*, September 1, 1881.
26. Paul Miller, *A Case Study of Jansen, Nebraska*, p. 85.
27. *Mennonitische Rundschau*, January 1, 1881.
28. *Mennonitische Rundschau*, February 1, 1882.
29. *Mennonitische Rundschau*, May 15, 1883.
30. *Mennonitische Rundschau*, March 23, 1910. See also January 11, 1911, and January 10, 1912.
31. Paul Miller, *A Case Study of Jansen, Nebraska*, p. 107.
32. *Ibid*, page 47.
33. *Nebraska Ansiedler*, July, 1879.
34. *Ibid*, March, 1880.
35. Paul Miller, *A Case Study of Jansen, Nebraska*, page 130.
36. *Nordwesten*, Winnipeg, Manitoba, May 26, 1893, and June 2, 1893.
37. *Ibid*, July 24, 1894.
38. *Ibid*, December 16, 1892.
39. *Ibid*, September 29, 1893.
40. *Ibid*, January 18, 1894. Also a correspondent writing to the April 18, 1902, *Rundschau* says the following concerning the activities after the wedding of Maria Fast and Jac. M. Friesen, "This evening the activities were particularly bad, as 'Young America' conducted themselves like wild beasts."
41. *Mennonitische Rundschau*, November 19, 1902.
42. Abraham L. Friesen, *Wahlliste*.
43. *Mennonitische Rundschau*, November 26, 1927.
44. Paul Miller, *A Case Study of Jansen, Nebraska*, p. 191.
45. M. B. Fast, *Mitteilungen*, p.34.
46. *Nebraska Ansiedler*, January, 1879.
47. *Ibid*, February, 1879.
48. *Mennonite Encyclopedia*, Vol. IV, p. 153.
49. *Ibid*.
50. M. B. Fast, *Mitteilungen*, p. 36. Note that in the May, 1880, *Ansiedler* the correspondent says "2 couples and 3 youth were baptized."
51. *Ibid*, p. 36.
52. *Ibid*, p. 36.
53. *Nebraska Ansiedler*, May, 1880.
54. *Ibid*.
55. Paul Miller, *A Case Study of Jansen, Nebraska*, p. 214.
56. *Nebraska Ansiedler*, December, 1879.
57. *Mennonitische Rundschau*, September, 1881.
58. *Mennonitische Rundschau*, March 9, 1898, and August 10, 1898.
59. Letter written by A. L. Friesen to Peter Toews in 188?. Courtesy Delbert Plett, Steinbach, Manitoba.
60. *Mennonitische Rundschau*, January 20, 1881.
61. A. L. Friesen, *Wahlliste*.
62. A. L. Friesen, *Wahlliste*.
63. Gerhard Schellenberg was a former Kleine Gemeinde minister who had been removed from office because of straying across a property line while cutting hay. He, however, seems to have had considerable influence in the Kleine Gemeinde church. G. Schellenberg was the writer's great grandfather.
64. A "Kuhprozes," literally interpreted would be a lawsuit regarding a cow. The "Komiedien Bude" likely refers to a vaudeville performance.
65. Courtesy: Delbert Plett, Steinbach, Manitoba.
66. *Mennonitische Rundschau*, January 15, 1896. See also: June 23, 1886; November 17, 1886; December 22, 1886; March 9, 1887.
67. A. L. Friesen, *Wahlliste*.
68. H. R. Dueck, *Wahlliste*.

69. A. L. Dueck, book of letters. Courtesy: Dietrich Dueck, Belize, E.M.C. Archives and Roy Loewen, Blumenort.
70. A. L. Friesen, *Wahlliste*.
71. A. L. Dueck, book of Letters.
72. A. L. Friesen, *Wahlliste*.
73. Peter Peters, "Ausgewahlten Schriften," *Mennonitischen Verlagshandlung*, Elkhart, Indiana, 1901.
74. *Mennonitische Rundschau*, August 15, 1906.
75. Translated: "Christians should not laugh aloud" and "Outward adornment is forbidden."
76. A. L. Dueck's book of letters. This is an excerpt of a letter written to A. L. Friesen on February 22, 1899.
77. *Nordwesten*, February 5, 1894.
78. J. F. Isaac. A historical sketch presented at an E.M.B. Sunday school class in Meade, Kansas, in 1948. Courtesy: Levi Isaac, Hugoton, Kansas.
79. Daniel J. Classen, *Kleine Gemeinde Church at Meade, Kansas*, an unpublished manuscript in the Historical Library, Bethel College, Newton, Kansas.
80. Mrs. Jacob S. Friesen, as found in *Pioneer Stories of Meade County*, 1974.

## SECTION THREE

### THE KLEINE GEMEINDE IN MEADE, KANSAS

#### Colonization

Several previous attempts at colonization by the Mennonites from Jansen had proven unsuccessful. In the spring of 1897 nine families moved to Montana, but all returned that same fall in discouragement.<sup>1</sup> Earlier, some families moved to eastern Colorado, but most of these also returned after suffering serious hardships. The move to Meade County, Kansas too, entailed the normal pioneer hardships. Yet, this time the total church was committed to the move. Consequently, a new Kleine Gemeinde community was soon established on the Kansas plains.

The first families leaving for Meade were Peter F. Rempels, Jacob B. Friesens, Rev. Cor. L. Friesens and A. J. Friesens.<sup>2</sup> These loaded their belongings, including livestock and machinery, onto railroad cars in September of 1906 and in a few days arrived at Meade. A son of P. F. Rempel recalls the first days.

"In the beginning of life in Meade County, I remember it was something like this: I was just nine years old when we came here in September, 1906 from Jefferson County, Jansen, Nebraska.

When we arrived in Meade on the train, our families stayed at the Southern Hotel (which now is the Mary Drinnen House). We were waiting for the men folks--coming on the immigration cars, which carried the livestock, horses, machinery, etc. They arrived and we had to reassemble the machinery, etc. We then prepared to go to our land on the prairie, about twenty miles southeast of Meade. We started at one o'clock in the afternoon and angled across country, following trails. We drove the cattle in front of the caravan and proceeded slowly. It became dark before we arrived at the Ranch house (Webb Ranch) where the Ira Scott family lived, however they moved out in a few days. Of course, we did not know where we were exactly. So we stopped here on the prairie, had only kerosene lanterns for light, unloaded only what we needed. We milked the cows, but had no way to strain the milk. We had the milk and swieback for supper. My grandfather Cornelius L. Friesen would not drink the milk because it had not been strained. They spread the quilts on the buffalo grass and we all slept there. The coyotes howled and they sounded bad. Grandfather sat up all night watching for coyotes, snakes or ranch cattle, with a pitchfork in one hand, and rocking the baby's cradle with the other. When we awoke in the morning, to our surprise, we were within a mile or a mile and a half of the Ranch House. In fact, we had pitched camp right in the center of my father's (P. F. Rempel) land.<sup>3</sup>

Another five families: A. H. Friesens, Henry F. Isaacs, Ab. E. Reimers, John Glens, and Peter F. Isaacs moved in December of 1906.<sup>4</sup> Martin T. Doerksen of Inman, Kansas, also spent some time that fall in building a barn and seeding some winter wheat, but he did not move to Meade until 1907.

The main group of Kleine Gemeinde came in 1907. These included: Jacob F. Isaac, Jacob S. Friesen, John F. Isaac, Jacob J. Friesen, Henry F. Reimer, Jacob F. Reimer, John Bartel, K. B. Reimer, John M. Classen, Cornelius J. Classen, George J. Classen, and Henry Loewen.<sup>5</sup> Others who are mentioned as living in Meade in 1907 are John J. Friesen, Jacob Bartel, H. S. Friesen, Isaac Cornelson, John Cornelson, Jac. R. Friesen, Ab. P. Isaac, Peter P. Isaac, Ab. L. Friesen, and Jac. R. Friesen.

#### The Early Years

As one peruses the daily activities of one of these early pioneers one is amazed at how quickly virgin prairie soil was changed into a productive farm. During the first year barns and houses were built, range land was plowed with horse power, and crops of Kaffir corn and winter wheat were seeded. The usual pattern seems to have been for the barn to be constructed first. This became the temporary living quarters for the family while the basement was dug for the house. The basement was constructed of cement blocks and plastered. Substantial houses were constructed and completely finished with moldings, curtains, and paint. Cement, wood and hardware had to be freighted in from Meade by horse and wagon. Gravel and sand seems to have been available locally. Land was surveyed, fences were erected, wells were drilled and wind-mill pumps were set up. All of this was accomplished during the first year, and yet the pioneers

had time to help others and to spend many of their evenings visiting each other.<sup>6</sup>

Church services were begun immediately in individual "homes." Since Rev. C. L. Friesen accompanied the first group, a minister was readily available to conduct the worship service. As more people arrived it became necessary to construct a dual purpose building for church and school. The decision to build was evidently made in the Sunday evening of June 2 at a brotherhood meeting.<sup>7</sup> On September 4, 1907, Jacob F. Isaac returned from Meade with 1264 ft. of lumber for the church building.<sup>8</sup> Construction began a few days later on the south side of the settlement, using voluntary labor, and the building was finished by the end of September. J. F. Isaac does not mention at which date the building was first used for church service or when school began. Kleine Gemeinde practices of that day did not place much emphasis on official dedication of buildings.

The church services during these early years in Meade were still conducted in the traditional manner. The singing, from the *Gesangbuch*, was led by an elected song leader. His job was to begin each verse at a reasonable pitch and to lead in the melody, since these books carried no notes. At the beginning of the service the bishop together with the ministers would enter the church from the preacher room. The bishop would lead the procession to the middle of the church and speak the blessing. They would then proceed to the podium which was situated on the side of the church. Often the ministers and song leaders would arrange themselves on the podium according to seniority. The bishop sat nearest to the pulpit and the newest elected songleader farthest from the pulpit. Congregational prayer was silent prayer in a kneeling position facing away from the podium. The end of the prayer was signaled by the shuffling of shoe soles as the leading minister rose to his feet. After a lengthy introduction by one of the ministers, the main message was presented by another minister or the bishop. This message was read and would be about an hour in length.

Typical Sunday dress for the early Kleine Gemeinde in Meade could best be described as modest and drab. The men wore dark suits with no ties. The women wore long dark dresses with dark head covering usually shawls. While there was non-conformity to the world there was also an obvious conformity to church practices and traditions.

The old ways, however, did not satisfy the sons and daughters of the Kleine Gemeinde pioneers. Some quickly discovered the pleasures of this world (the tavern in Meade) and made no pretense of belonging to the faith and tradition of their forefathers. Others showed their dissatisfaction with the status quo by some rather immature behavior. Two stories are told about how they tried to effect change.

The south church was a long narrow building arranged in the traditional manner with the pulpit on the side rather than the end. Evidently, one day, the Young People decided to "modernize" the furniture arrangement without consulting the leadership. Consequently, on an evening before a morning worship service, they busily proceeded to move the podium and pulpit to one end of the church and also rearranged the benches accordingly. This modernization was of course a complete surprise to the ministers and congregation who arrived Sunday morning for the worship service.<sup>9</sup> Their reaction, unfortunately, is not recorded.

The second incident involved the singing. To show their displeasure at the slow pace of the melody in the congregational singing, the Young People alternated their participation to every other verse. However, in the verses that they decided to join, they sang loud and fast, in effect taking away the lead from the song leader. If this behavior was repeated regularly or if any changes were effected has not been recorded.<sup>10</sup> Certainly, worship was not enhanced.

Change, however, came slowly to the Meade Kleine Gemeinde church. In part this was due to the mutual encouragement of the leadership in both Canada and Kansas to keep and foster the old traditional ways and to look with suspicion on any change in worship patterns. Any desire to change was usually suspect of promoting pride. A Manitoba Kleine Gemeinde minister, writing to Bishop A. L. Friesen in 1901, includes in his letter the fear that people will chose the broad way to destruction. He adds that "the new practices of memorized preaching, singing, prayer, Sunday school, and Bible study have the appearance of godliness. Yet, when these are accompanied by the lust of the eye, lust of the flesh, and the pride of life, how can God be pleased with these."<sup>11</sup> With such encouragement from fellow-ministers no one was quick to initiate any changes in his own church. It seems that the resistance to change was at least as much due to the fear of men as it was to the fear of God.

## Elections

Meanwhile, the Kleine Gemeinde church in Meade saw the need to elect more men into the ministry. Both the aelteser, A. L. Friesen, and his brother Cornelius L. Friesen had served in the ministry prior to their immigration to Jansen, so there was an evident need to elect some younger men. The first election in Meade was held on October 22, 1911.

“A deacon and minister election was held on October 22, 1911.

First three deacons were elected.

Gerhard J. Classen	22	deacon
Jacob F. Isaac	23	deacon
Abraham J. Friesen	1	
Johann B. Reimer	8	
Johann W. Kornelson	7	
Johann J. Classen	13	deacon
Johann J. Friesen	1	
Peter F. Rempel	2	
Heinrich H. Friesen	2	
Johann F. Isaac	5	
Cornelius J. Friesen	2	
Cornelius J. Classen	2	
Klaas B. Reimer	2	

The same day two ministers were elected from the three deacon candidates.

Jacob F. Isaac	20	minister
Gerhard J. Classen	25	minister
Johann J. Classen	15	

Thirty members voted at this election. Three brethren were missing. The three were ordained to the ministry on Oct. 29 by Ab. L. Friesen.”<sup>12</sup>

Jan. 11, 1914, and Jan. 18, 1914

“On January 11, 1914, a deacon election was held. The votes are as follows:

Johann Reimer	17
Abr. P. Reimer	8
Heinrich H. Friesen	5
Heinrich F. Isaac	3
Abr. J. Friesen	1
Joh. W. Kornelsen	2

On Jan. 18 a minister election was held. Candidates are the deacons Johann Classen and Johann Reimer. The votes are as follows:

Johann Reimer	33
Johann Classen	10

Johann Reimer was elected to the ministry and installed into this office on the same day.”<sup>13</sup>

November 23, 1914

“An altester election was held on November 23, 1914. The votes are as follows:

Cornelius Friesen	33
Gerhard J. Classen	13
Jacob F. Isaac	31
Johann B. Reimer	3

Jacob F. Isaac was elected and installed into this office on November 29 by Peter R. Dueck from Manitoba.”<sup>14</sup>

It should be noted that in three years there was a significant increase in church membership; from 33 voting brethren in 1911 to 50 brethren in 1914. In fact, there was a steady number of members added to the church through baptism during the next decade.

Members baptized 1915 - 1924<sup>15</sup>

1915 - 7 baptized	1920 - 13 baptized
1916 - 2 baptized	1921 - 1 baptized
1917 - 10 baptized	1922 - 5 baptized
1918 - 10 baptized	1923 - 5 baptized
1919 - 8 baptized	1924 - 5 baptized

## The 1920's

In the 1920's some significant change did occur in the Meade Kleine Gemeinde church. Recognizing a need to supplement religious training for their children a Sunday school was started shortly after World War I. Some impetus for this was also due to the fact that instruction in the German language was discontinued in the schools during the war. So the Sunday school served as a vehicle for instruction in the German language as well as to give religious instruction.

The exact year of the first Sunday school is not known to the writer, but Jac. F. Isaac notes that on January 6, 1924, Sunday school teachers were elected for the coming year. These were John F. Isaac, Peter J. Friesen and Gerhard T. Classen.<sup>16</sup> In comparison the first Sunday school among the Kleine Gemeinde in Canada only started in 1926.

In describing the Sunday school in Meade, Daniel Classen says:

"The first Sunday schools were held on Sunday afternoons; but in order to save on transportation, which was difficult by horse and buggies, Sunday school was held before the morning worship service. Sunday school, however, was only for the children of school age. The older people sat and visited until the worship service began. The age limits were gradually increased until finally everyone took part.

For the children in the first four grades, the primary emphasis was upon learning to read the German language. The older children used German Bible story books as text with the emphasis still largely upon language. The adults used only the Bible as text material until about the 1930's when the Holdeman Sunday school Quarterlies were introduced."<sup>17</sup>

Another significant change is illustrated by a comment recorded by Jac. F. Isaac on January 20, 1926. "Today, for the first time, the sisters were present at a brotherhood meeting, and I believe with good results."<sup>18</sup> Up to this time all church related decisions had been made by the men only. Since the occasion or purpose for having the women at this particular brotherhood meeting is not recorded one can only speculate on the reasons for their presence. Since the meeting was in January it could have had something to do with electing Sunday school teachers. Nevertheless, we see here a remarkable break with tradition. Again, no similar practice was seen in the Manitoba churches until much later.

It was also in the early 1920's that a mild case of immigration fever again hit the Kleine Gemeinde in both Canada and the U.S.A. Among the Sommerfelder and Old Colony churches of Manitoba active plans were formulated and carried out to resettle in Paraguay and Mexico because of government intervention in their schools. The Kleine Gemeinde, too, sent a delegation to Mexico in August of 1922 to investigate the prospects of purchasing land. The delegation included men from the Meade Kleine Gemeinde church. Evidently, the desire to emigrate was quite weak among most of the Kleine Gemeinde and no major migration occurred. However, in Meade a number of families made the decision to move to Mexico. The following left in September of 1924: Rev. M. T. Doerksens, Rev. J. J. Friesens, Jacob Reimers, Henry D. Friesens, and A. E. Friesens.<sup>19</sup>

That two ministers accompanied this small group of immigrants to Mexico might indicate spiritual concern for those establishing new homes. More likely, it indicates that the more conservative, older element of the Meade Kleine Gemeinde ministerial felt that a further retrenchment from the world was necessary. However, at this time no mass immigration followed. Within a few years some of the immigrants and their descendents returned to America. Those families that stayed eventually were absorbed by the Old Colony church in Mexico.

### More Elections

"Today, April 21, 1919, a deacon and minister election was held for the purpose of electing one minister. The first election is for a deacon.

Henry H. Reimer	9
Henry F. Isaac	18
John W. Cornelson	3
Abr. J. Friesen	7
John J. Friesen	5
Abr. P. Reimer	2
Henry N. Friesen	1
Peter J. Friesen	1
Jacob E. Loewen	1
	58



On the same day a minister was elected.

Henry F. Isaac	38
John M. Classen	20
	58

Henry F. Isaac was elected to the ministry and was installed into his office on May 4, 1919, by the laying on of hands, by me a weak servant."<sup>20</sup>

Jan. 17, 1924

"Today, Thursday, a minister election was held here in the village. First two deacons were elected by the brotherhood as the following votes indicate.

Henry H. Friesen	19
Peter J. Friesen	8
Geo. I. Classen	17
Peter L. Classen	34
Henry H. Reimer	11
John R. Classen	11
Corn. J. Classen	1
John L. Classen	2
Jacob R. Classen	1
John F. Isaac	4
Johann I. Friesen	1
Abe H. Friesen	1
Isaac W. Loewen	1
Jacob J. Bartel	1

The same day a minister elected from the two deacon candidates, namely Peter L. Classen and Henry H. Friesen. The votes are as follows:

Peter L. Classen	28
Henry H. Friesen	27" <sup>21</sup>

### Charity

When the deacon John M. Classen died on July 23, 1923, the aeltester, Jakob F. Isaac, temporarily took charge of church money. From July 29, 1923 to February 3, 1924, he kept a very detailed and accurate account of all income and expenses. The total income for July 29, 1923 to Jan. 1, 1924, was \$460.01 and the expenses were \$436.80. The offering on any particular Sunday was seldom over \$2.00 except for special projects. During the five months indicated above most of the money was collected and distributed for one of their hospitalized members. For such immediate needs the members gave generously.

While there is no indication, from the brief financial account, that the church had a worldwide view of mission or relief work, individuals in the church did support such projects. The aeltester himself, during 1924-1926, records contributions made to the Red Cross, Chicago Mission, Northern Bible Society, missionary Henry Bartel of China plus many gifts to needy individuals.<sup>22</sup>

### The 1930's

Two trends seem to emerge in the Meade Kleine Gemeinde church in the 1930's. The first is a numerical stagnation in church membership, the other involves a conflict on how one's faith should be practiced. It is the latter trend that no doubt had a bearing on church growth and the eventual disintegration of the Meade church.

The following table indicates church membership and baptisms from 1934 to 1941 in the three main Kleine Gemeinde areas--Steinbach, Morris, and Meade.<sup>23</sup>

	Steinbach		Morris		Meade	
	Membership	Baptized	Membership	Baptized	Membership	Baptized
1934	631	n/a	273	n/a	187	11
1935	666	20	283	14	184	0
1936	692	46	298	15	176	8
1937	727	41	322	22	188	15
1938	778	49	324	5	188	9
1939	811	40	334	22	199	12
1940	871	52	362	23	183	10

The Meade church compared quite favourably with the percentage of baptisms per membership with the other two Kleine Gemeinde groups. However, the number baptized did not reflect an increase in church membership. In part this is due to members moving away from Meade to places like Oregon and Louisiana, but certainly also due to members transferring membership to other churches.

Letters to the editor of the *Christliche Familienfreund* show a growing divergence in the thinking of the Meade Kleine Gemeinde members. On the one hand there is a complaint that the ministers are not speaking out against modern trends in dress, etc. like they used to do. On the other hand, a number of Meade Young People write about their experiences at the Meade Bible School. They write about prayer meetings, seeking and knowing the Lord's will for their lives and serving the Lord in song and testimony, etc. Traditionally, such overt expressions of faith were suspiciously viewed as pride. Now a growing number of the younger members saw these as evidence of spiritual life. The ministerial, especially the bishop Jacob F. Isaac, was hard pressed to give leadership during this time of transition in the church.

These problems, however, were not unique to the Meade Kleine Gemeinde. The Manitoba churches too, were wrestling with the influx of new ideas and practices that were invading the church. It was again time for the church to come up with a united voice and give clear direction to its members on practicing the christian life. Consequently, a ministerial meeting was called for October , 1937 in Meade, Kansas, at which the ministers and deacons of all Kleine Gemeinde congregations gathered to discuss and answer questions pertaining to the christian walk.

### 1937 Conference

The resolutions adopted at the Meade conference were published in a pamphlet in a question and answer form. These were later summarized in the *Sesquicentennial Jubilee* book published by the Evangelical Mennonite Conference in 1962.<sup>24</sup>

1. No member has the right to leave the church for the purpose of avoiding church discipline.
2. Although music is not forbidden in the Bible, it is believed to be more pleasing to God not to use musical instruments, including gramophones and radios.
3. Singing-practice might be acceptable but only the hymn melodies from the old Mennonite Hymnary should be practiced and sung in unison.
4. Higher education was dangerous. However, since we required public school teachers with high school education, all young men who wanted to become teachers should be permitted to attend high school, but they should first apply to the church, and all those in whom the church would have the necessary confidence would then be introduced by the church to the School Board or the principal of that school. In the introduction the peculiarities of the Kleine Gemeinde were to be emphasized. This was to apply to the attendance of a Bible School as well.
5. In regards to evangelization it was decided that our scattered groups and individual families even from other denominations should be visited, if they were otherwise neglected by other churches.
6. It is decided to act very cautiously and examine every case separately, where people from other churches applying for membership, claim not to have been converted at the time of baptism or having been baptized by an unconverted elder.
7. Members who have confessed secret sins which have nothing to do with the public need not be openly proclaimed to the brotherhood.
8. In regards to entertainment it is all right for children to play ball e.g., but that believers should not take part in such games.
9. After three unsuccessful admonitions an erring member should be excommunicated.
10. In regards to photography it is stated that one should not take delight in one's self and that the exhibition of such photographs on pieces of furniture or on the walls should be looked at as unbecoming.
11. In regards to life insurance they definitely opposed it, but that they recommended to establish a protective church society, which would give mutual protection in case of accidents and deaths within the church.
12. All in favour of a uniform headcovering for the sisters in the church.
13. Great caution is to be practiced in regards to inviting ministers from other denominations to preach in our churches.

14. There was no answer to the question what to do when a brother feels a call from God to the ministry and the brotherhood has not called him.
15. The words "only" (einziger) and "visible" (sichtbar) should be struck out from Article 6 in the doctrinal statement "Glaubensartikel."
16. When circumstances warrant it, even ministers should have the right to baptize candidates.
17. Mixed bathing of males and females is regarded as indecent.
18. Premeditated avoidance of attending communion for a length of time should, after considerable patience and examination, be punished with excommunication.
19. Frivolous behaviour at brotherhood assembly should be met with an admonition based on references which refer to vain conversation and jesting.
20. In regards to attending communion it was to be emphasized that everyone should self-examine himself whether he was worthy to attend or not.
21. About the question whether excommunicated members should be allowed to attend church service, the resolution states that there are differences of opinion about this, and that they want no split because of these differences.
22. Because of the growing attendance at weddings in private dwellings, it is recommended that a brother or preferably a minister be invited to preside over the festivities in a more solemn way.
23. When the circumstances warrant it, a deacon should also preach.

### **Disintegration**

These resolutions did not have the desired result for the Meade church. While the resolutions certainly gave expressions to the thinking of the Kleine Gemeinde ministerial, the tone of the document was too legalistic. Then too, the awakening responsibility for evangelism was not sufficiently addressed. Instead of unity, division and dissatisfaction were occurring in the Meade church.

Much of this dissatisfaction seems to have been directed at the bishop, Jacob F. Isaac, though no definite accusation against him is recorded. Numerous letters were exchanged with the Manitoba ministers regarding the search for a solution to this disunity. Finally, the situation developed to the point that a small group of men approached the bishop and asked him to resign.<sup>25</sup> This he could not do on the basis of his understanding of scripture. A bishop was called to his office by God through a majority vote of the brethren and the responsibility that went with this office was not to be easily ignored. Some other way would have to be found.

An attempt by Manitoba Kleine Gemeinde ministers to effect reconciliation was not successful. Heinrich R. Dueck, of Manitoba, was asked to present a series of messages in August of 1942. These were appreciated and even concluded with a communion service, but the situation could not be saved.

Meanwhile, attendance at the Sunday morning worship services declined as more and more members began to attend the local E.M.B. church. Eventually this church building became so crowded that more people could not be safely accommodated. It also seems that at this time the E.M.B. was not interested in absorbing a large number of Kleine Gemeinde into their church.

Finally, in February, 1943, a petition was circulated among the Kleine Gemeinde members. "We, the undersigned, hereby agree that church services be started in the North Church beginning on the 21st of February, 1943, under the direction of the local E.M.B. church."<sup>26</sup> The petition received 75 signatures. This group asked Rev. H. R. Harms, of the E.M.B., to serve as their spiritual leader. In 1944 they adopted the name of Emmanuel Mennonite Church.

Effectively, this terminated the Kleine Gemeinde experience in Meade. Most former Kleine Gemeinde members either joined the newly established Emmanuel Church or the local E.M.B. church. Evidently, a few members remained loyal to their old church to the extent that they never changed membership. The bishop, Jacob F. Isaac and his family began worshipping at the E.M.B. church and eventually also joined the same.

## Conclusion

As one looks back over seventy years of Kleine Gemeinde existence in the U.S.A. one notes a continuous struggle for survival among this small group. Shortly after their immigration they were bombarded by various "voices" saying, "Come join us." Within a space of three years, Isaac Peters of the Peters' Gemeinde, Jacob Wiebe of the Krimmer, John Holdeman, and ministers from the Herren Gemeinde visited the Kleine Gemeinde community. All were seeking to win converts from the Kleine Gemeinde. Each, however, had their own interpretation of true Christian faith and doctrine.

Both the Holdeman and the Herren people claimed to be the only true church. Each believed that they alone had taken the Spirit with them when they left the "Old" Mennonite church. They both were able to persuade some Kleine Gemeinde to be rebaptized and to join them. Neither, however, recognized the other as having the "Spirit."

Peters and Wiebe had much greater success in attracting converts. They advocated a greater expression of Christian faith as evidence of repentance. One could estimate that somewhat less than one half the members of the Kleine Gemeinde joined one of the four groups during the early years.

The Kleine Gemeinde faced their second crisis in the years 1888-1893. This time, the division occurred from within. Minister Heinrich Ratsloff left with a good part of the church members after a disagreement with Aeltester A. L. Friesen. At the same time this precipitated a temporary "split" with the Manitoba church. It does not seem that there was any doctrinal issue at stake during these years, rather we see an unwillingness to forgive and forget.

Probably the greatest show of unity among the Kleine Gemeinde occurred during their immigration to Kansas. There was a willingness among those that were prosperous to resettle in order that the younger members would have greater opportunities. Of course, the idea of maintaining their doctrine and practice was also a strong consideration.

The factors that led to the final demise of the Kleine Gemeinde are certainly varied. It is difficult to say whether any one event or one reason was at fault. The pressures of World War II exasperated the situation, as travel between Manitoba and Kansas was curtailed. Direct communication between the ministers could have alleviated much misunderstanding and mistrust among the Kansas brethren. Though many letters were exchanged during those years, they may have only fueled the problem.

The leaders that had brought them out from Russia had passed from the scene. The new leadership was unable to cope with the wide variance of ideas within the church membership. Many of these new ideas were motivated by the Bible school in Meade and were a mixed blessing. While it alerted young people to the spiritual needs of the world around them, it also seems to have been weak in teaching love, patience, and tolerance. Finally, it seems, it was their inability to wait for change that culminated in the final solution; to tear down and begin on a new foundation.

### *End-notes to Section III—The Kleine Gemeinde in Meade*

1. M. B. Fast, *Mitteilungen*, Wahrheitsfreund, Inman, Kansas, 1935.
2. Mrs. Jacob S. Friesen as found in *Pioneer Stories of Meade County*, 1974.
3. *Ibid.*
4. *Ibid.*
5. *Ibid.*
6. Jacob F. Isaac diary, courtesy: Levi Isaac, Hugoton, Kansas.
7. *Ibid.*
8. *Ibid.*
9. This episode is confirmed by three different sources.
10. This episode was related by a Manitoba Kleine Gemeinde minister who visited the Meade church.
11. Letter written by minister Peter Reimer to A. L. Friesen. Courtesy: Levi Isaac.
12. A. L. Friesen, *Wahlliste*.
13. C. L. Friesen, *Wahlliste*.
14. *Ibid.*
15. Meade *Gemeinde Buch*, courtesy: Levi Isaac.

16. Ibid.
17. Daniel J. Classen, *The Kleine Gemeinde of Meade, Kansas*, an unpublished manuscript in the Historical Library, Bethel College, Newton, Kansas.
18. *Meade Gemeinde Buch*.
19. *Jansen News*, Jansen, Nebraska, September 18, 1924.
20. *Meade Gemeinde Buch*, recorded by Jac. F. Isaac.
21. Ibid.
22. Ibid.
23. *Familienfreund*, Steinbach, Manitoba.
24. P. J. B. Reimer, as found in *The Sesquicentennial Jubilee*, Deluxe Printing, Steinbach, Manitoba, 1962.
25. Daniel J. Classen, *The Kleine Gemeinde of Meade, Kansas*.
26. Ibid.

# Chapter Seven

## Ship and Tax Lists

The majority of the Janzen, Nebraska, Kleine Gemeinde arrived in New York Harbour on July 17, 1874, on board the S.S. Hammonia. They had travelled in the company of some seventy Hutterite families thereby continuing an association between the groups which went back almost thirty years.

The Krimmer Mennonite Brethren seceded from the Kleine Gemeinde in 1869. Over half of this group were genetically related to the Kleine Gemeinde and therefore the listing of the Krimmer Mennonite Brethren families who arrived in New York harbour aboard the S.S. City of Brooklyn on July 15, 1874 is also included here. For a more detailed listing of these and other ships carrying Kleine Gemeinde people, refer to D. A. Haury, *Index to Mennonite Passenger Ship Lists, 1872-1904*, (North Newton, Kansas, 1986), 224 pp.

The earliest public record available for the Kleine Gemeinde settlement at Jansen, Nebraska, is the 1878 tax list for Jefferson County. A total of sixty families are listed in the settlement at this together with the amount of their personal property tax assessment.

### *S.S. Hammonia* Hamburg & Harve Dep., New York Arr. July 17, 1874

Bartel, Agatha (46)	Isaak, Dietrich (55) farmer	Friesen, Abraham (40) farmer
Jacob (16) child	Anna (55) wife	Catha (30) wife
Joh (9) child	Dietr (7) son	Abraham (15) child
Barkman, Martin (53) farmer	Heidebrecht, Peter (58) farmer	Helene (9) child
Margo (55) wife	Aganetha (52) wife	Hrch (5) child
Friesen, Cornelius (32) farmer	Heidebrecht, Peter (26) farmer	Peter (11m) infant
Sarah (28) wife	Catha (26) wife	Catha (1m) infant
Cornelius (9) child	Aganeta (11m) infant	Sawatzky, Abraham (67) farmer
Jacob (6) child	Peter (1m) infant	Catha (43) wife
Anna (7) child	Heidebrecht, Johann (24) farmer	Abraham (9) child
Aganeta (6m) infant	Heidebrecht, Aganeta (23)	Franz (8) child
Janzen, Sarah (60)	Heidebrecht, Jacob (16) farmer	Anna (4) child
Friesen, Jacob (39) farmer	Heidebrecht, Anna (15)	Sawatzky, Sarah (18)
Elisabeth (25) wife	Heidebrecht, Elisabeth (9) child	Walter, Jacob (39) farmer
Anna (17) child	Heidebrecht, Isaac (8) child	Catha (29) wife
Isaac (15) child	Thiessen, Joh (60) farmer	Elise (9) child
Jacob (2m) infant	Catha (53) wife	Catha (8) child
Reimer, Abraham (34) farmer	Jacob (19) child	Sara (4) child
Anna (30) wife	Peter (15) child	Brandt, Jacob (16) farmer
Claas (9) child	Elisabeth (31) child	Loewen, Hrch (9) boy
Abraham (8) child	Susanna (21) child	Friesen, Margr (22)
Anna (6) child	Marie (13) child	Adrian, Hrch (51) farmer
Catha (4) child	Krause, Peter (32) farmer	Sara (50) wife
Helena (2) child	Margr (26) wife	Peter (20) child
Catha (3m) infant	Margr (6) child	Jacob (17) child
Isaak, Peter (31) farmer	Elis (5) child	Sara (15) child
Helene (28) wife	Peter (3m) infant	Joh (8) child
Marie (7) daughter	Anna (3m) infant	Elisab (7) child
Friesen, Isaak (40) farmer	Isaak, Abraham (29) farmer	Adrian, Hrch (23) farmer
Marie (32) wife	Magr (28) wife	Helene (21) wife
Anna (8) child	Abr. (5) child	Hrch (3m) infant
Marie (7) child	Anna (3) child	Jeschke, Caroline (50)
Isaak (5) child	Dietrich (3m) infant	Johe (23) child
Helene (3) child	Friesen, Peter (59) farmer	Wilhe (13) child
Elisabeth (10m) infant	Elisabeth (56) wife	Auge (9) child
Thiesen, Johann (22) farmer	Abraham (26) child	Wolf, Moritz (14)
Aganeta (21) wife	Claas (17) child	Harms, Joh (36) farmer
Aganeta (11m) infant	Marga (14) child	Dora (32) wife
Peter (1m) infant	Joh (20) child	Aug (7) son
Isaak, Dietrich (27) farmer	Jacob (18) child	Friesen, Agneta (65) lady
Catha (26) wife	Catha (20) child	Friesen, Jacob (66) farmer
Dietrich (3) son		Becker, Catha (22)
Peter (9m) infant		

Harems, Isaac (63) farmer  
 Anna (64) wife  
 Fast, Jacob (42) farmer  
 Margr (42) wife  
 Margr (9) child  
 Agneta (5) child  
 Jacob (3) child

Friesen, Abraham (42) farmer  
 Anna (40) wife  
 Catha (11m) infant  
 Eggebrecht, Marie (61) lady

Loewen H.J. (58) farmer  
 Marie (57) wife  
 Johann (3) wife  
 Marie (11m) infant  
 Sara (1m) infant  
 Adrian, Catherine (9) child

## *S.S. City of Brooklyn* Liverpool Dep., New York Arr. July 15, 1874

Friesen, Martin (50) laborer  
 Maria (49) wife  
 Jacob (12) child  
 Martin (10) child  
 Nicolai (7) child  
 Peter (4) child  
 Klassen, Dietrich (38) miner  
 Katherine (39) wife  
 Dietrich (14) laborer  
 Martin (12) child  
 Cornelius (8) child  
 Heinrich (3) child  
 Klassen, Margaret (15) spinster  
 Wolgemuth, Gerhard (27) farmer  
 Justine (28) wife  
 Gerhard (3) child  
 Marie (2) child  
 Elisabeth (1) child  
 Friesen, Johan (24) laborer  
 Kornelia (18) wife  
 Flanning, Peter (29) miner  
 Emilia (29) wife  
 Abraham (7) child  
 Peter (5) child  
 Johann (3) child  
 Caroline (1) child  
 Wiens, Abraham (28) laborer  
 Agneta (36) wife  
 Annie (12) child  
 Peter (10) child  
 Abraham (8) child  
 Gerhard (4) child  
 Wolgemuth, Mrg (40) wife  
 Helene (25) spinster  
 Elisabeth (16) spinster  
 Wm (14) laborer  
 Franz (9) child  
 Cornelia (6) child  
 Johanna (4) child  
 Wiebe, Jacob (37) miner  
 Juliani (40) wife  
 Katherine (12) child  
 Jacob (3) child  
 Johanna (1) infant  
 Harms, M (31) wife  
 Harder, John (51) mason  
 Eliz (35) wife  
 Johanna (12) child  
 Eliz (11) child  
 Abraham (8) child  
 Isbrand (7) child  
 Heinrich (3) child  
 David (1) child  
 Flanning, Johann (34) farmer  
 Kach (30) wife  
 Abraham (8) child  
 Johan (5) child  
 Hein (3) child  
 Marie (2) child

Boxhman, Gerhard (47) joiner  
 Juliane (42) wife  
 David (16) laborer  
 Justine (11) child  
 Marie (8) child  
 Ann (1) child  
 Gerhard (1) child  
 Schallenberg, Aaron (40) child  
 Annie (27) wife  
 Anne (5) child  
 Marie (1) child  
 Bekker, Abraham (31) farmer  
 Sarah (29) wife  
 Bernard (1) child  
 Sarah (5) child  
 Helen (3) child  
 Janzen, Franz (37) laborer  
 Kath (28) wife  
 Anna (7) child  
 Kath (5) child  
 Franz (3) child  
 Helene (1) child  
 Janzen, Peter (25) miner  
 Agatha (19) wife  
 Cornelan, Jacob (25) laborer  
 Marie (30) wife  
 Marie (1) infant  
 Harms, Jacob (35) laborer  
 Marie (33) wife  
 Kath (8) child  
 Marie (5) child  
 Aganetha (3) child  
 Flanning, Andreas (26) farmer  
 Kath (22) wife  
 Kath (1) infant  
 Barkennan, Peter (28) miner  
 Anne (30) wife  
 Anne (8) child  
 Martin (6) child  
 Jacob (3) child  
 Peter (2) child  
 Johann (1) infant  
 Wohigemuth, Peter (30) mason  
 Helene (28) wife  
 Peter (8) child  
 Abraham (8) child  
 Marie (6) child  
 Hein, Franz (24) laborer  
 Helene (18) wife  
 Warkentine, Peter (35) miner  
 Justine (33) wife  
 Katherine (11) child  
 Peter (10) child  
 Johann (9) child  
 Justine (3) child  
 Helene 91) child  
 Susanne (1) child  
 Shierling, Gerhard (33) laborer  
 Helene (30) wife

Riediger, Abraham (65) Mason  
 Agneth (56) wife  
 Flanning, Jacob (20) laborer  
 Daniel (18) laborer  
 Klassen, Johann (59) laborer  
 Marie (60) wife  
 Block, David (27) miner  
 Katherine (33) wife  
 David (9) child  
 Aganetha (6) child  
 Heinrich (3) child  
 Abraham (1) child  
 Cornelson, Abraham (64) joiner  
 Mrs. (65) wife  
 Wiens, Peter (44) farmer  
 Elize (37) wife  
 Daniel 914) laborer  
 Marie (12) child  
 Jacob (7) child  
 Susanne (5) child  
 Peter (3) child  
 Elizabeth (1) child  
 Berg, Peter (28) miner  
 Anna (23) wife  
 Peter (2) child  
 Andreas (1) child  
 Wahl, Frdk (43) joiner  
 Louise (32) wife  
 Adeline (17) spinster  
 Alex (15) laborer  
 Emelie (4) child  
 Pauline (5) child  
 Louise (1) child  
 Pankratz, Andreas (41) plumber  
 Cath (43) wife  
 Cath (16) spinster  
 Marie (12) child  
 Abraham (10) child  
 Andreas (8) child  
 Angtthe (4) child  
 Margeret (3) child  
 Ratzlaff, Heinrich (22) painter  
 Kath (20) wife  
 Schmidt, Georg (28) laborer  
 Block, Jean (1) child  
 Friesen, Heinrich (1) child

## 1878 TAX LIST FOR JEFFERSON COUNTY

1. Brand, Peter	\$249.00
2. Barkman, Martin	\$209.00
3. Bartel, Jacob	
4. Braun, Peter	\$468.00
5. Buller, Peter	\$128.00
6. Enns, Jacob	\$521.00
7. Friesen, Peter	\$147.00
8. Friesen, Abraham	\$20.00
9. Friesen, Jacob	\$137.00
10. Friesen, Abraham	\$72.00
11. Friesen, Abraham	\$70.00
12. Fleming, David	\$537.00
13. Friesen, Peter	\$227.00
14. Fast, Johann	\$138.00
15. Fast, Peter	\$159.00
16. Friesen, Abraham	\$12.00
17. Fast, Jacob	\$661.00
18. Friesen, Heinrich	\$187.00
19. Friesen, Peter	\$255.00
20. Friesen, Abraham	\$980.00
21. Friesen, Abraham	\$216.00
22. Friesen, Jacob	\$157.00
23. Friesen, Klaas	\$105.00
24. Friesen, Jacob	\$86.00
25. Friesen, Cornelius	\$222.00
26. Friesen, Abraham	\$145.00
27. Hildebrand, Peter	\$535.00
28. Harms, Issac	\$182.00
29. Harms, Peter	\$179.00
30. Harms, Johann	\$210.00
31. Heidebrecht, Peter	\$2,641.00
32. Heidebrecht, Johann	\$363.00
33. Heidebrecht, Peter Jr.	\$305.00
34. Isaac, Dietrich	\$200.00
35. Isaac, Abraham	\$130.00
36. Isaac, Dietrich	\$25.00
37. Isaac, Peter	\$245.00
38. Jansen, Peter	\$2,895.00
39. Kopp, Klass	\$204.00
40. Krause, Peter	\$24.00
41. Klassen, Jacob	\$358.00
42. Krause, Johann	\$109.00
43. Rempel, Johann	\$112.00
44. Ratzlaff, Bernard	\$97.00
45. Reimer, Abraham	\$137.00
46. Reimer, Jacob	\$20.00
47. Reimer, Peter	\$175.00
48. Rempel, Gerhard	\$196.00
49. Rempel, Gerhard	\$22.00
50. Ratzloff, Heinrich	\$152.00
51. Thiessen, Johann	\$251.00
52. Thiessen, Johan	\$375.00
53. Thiessen, Peter	\$725.00
54. Thiessen, Abraham	\$80.00
55. Thiessen, Johann	\$425.00
56. Thiessen, Wilhelm	\$260.00
57. Wiens, Johann	\$182.00
58. Wiens, David	\$141.00
59. Wiens, Peter	\$67.00
60. Wiebe, Klaas	\$248.00

Possibles: 1. Crane, Klaas; 2. Dick, David; 3. Fry, H.; 4. Franzen, ; 5. Jak, Hyde; 6. Schroeder, Carlos; 7. Schroeder, John; 8. Thiessen (Triessen?), David.





# Chapter Eight

## 1880 Census Records, Cub Creek Precinct

The 1880 Cub Creek Precinct, Nebraska, Census record, is a very accurate document listing all the families living in this district in 1880. It is helpful for identifying the various families as it lists the names and ages of all family members. This register has been formulated by extracting the names of the Mennonite families listed.

Please note that the symbols in brackets following the name of each person indicate the place of birth of the individual, and the place of birth of their father and mother respectively. The following initials are used: "P" for Prussia, "R" for Russia, "M" for Manitoba, "C" for Canada and "N" for Nebraska. This will help in identifying some families.

- 1 **Barkman, Martin**, 59, farmer, (R.R.R.) **Wife:** Elizabeth, 38, (R.R.R.) **Adopted Child:** Reimer, Cornelius, 8, (R.R.R.)
- 2 **Barkman, Katrina**, 45, (R.R.R.) **Children:** Aganetta, 21, (R.R.R.), Anna, 19, (R.R.R.), Martin, age 17, (R.R.R.), Maria, 12, (R.R.R.), Elizabeth, 9, (R.R.R.)
- 3 **Brand, Jacob**, 23, farmer, (R.R.R.) **Wife:** Mary, 27, (R.R.R.) **Child:** Mary, 8 months, (N.R.R.)
- 4 **Brand, Peter**, 33, farmer, (R.R.R.) **Wife:** Katrina, 34, (R.R.R.) **Children:** John, 12, (R.R.R.), Peter, 8, (R.R.R.), Henry, 7, (R.R.R.), Klaas, 5, (C.R.R.), Katrina, 3, (N.R.R.), Maria, 2, (N.R.R.)
- 5 **Ens, Jacob**, 62, farmer, (P.P.P.) **Wife:** Maria, 59, (R.P.P.) **Children:** Fraue, 24, (R.P.R.), Helena, 26, (R.P.R.)
- 6 **Ens, Jacob**, 37, farmer, (R.R.R.) **Wife:** Maria, 36, (R.R.R.) **Children:** Maria, 10, (R.R.R.), Anna, 3, (C.R.R.), Jacob, 11 months, (C.R.R.)
- 7 **Fast, Jacob**, 49, farmer, (R.R.R.) **Wife:** Margaret, 49, (R.R.R.) **Children:** Henry, 19, (R.R.R.), Margaret, 15, (R.R.R.), Agnes, 11, (R.R.R.), Jacob, 9, (R.R.R.)
- 8 **Fast, John**, 43, farmer, (R.R.R.) **Wife:** Katrina, 43, (R.R.R.) **Children:** Jacob, 16, (R.R.R.), Helena, 14, (R.R.R.), Henry, 10, (R.R.R.)
- 9 **Fast, Peter**, 49, farmer, (R.R.R.) **Wife:** Aganetta, 42, (R.R.R.) **Children:** Martin, 18, (R.R.R.), Peter, 16, (R.R.R.), Katrina, 13, (R.R.R.), Aganetta, 9, (R.R.R.)
- 10 **Flamming, David**, 65, farmer, (P.P.P.) **Wife:** Agetta, 52, (R.P.P.) **Children:** Katrina, 23, (R.P.R.), Elizabeth, 20, (R.P.R.) **Step-Children:** Bartel, Jacob, 21, farmer, (R.R.R.), John, 16, farmer, (R.R.R.)
- 11 **Friessen, Abram (B.)**, 47, farmer, (R.R.R.) **Wife:** Kate, 37, (R.R.R.) **Children:** Abram, 21, (R.R.R.), Dietrick, 13, (R.R.R.), Henry, 10, (R.R.R.), Peter, 8, (R.R.R.), Helena, 15, (R.R.R.), Kate, 6, (R.R.R.), Anna, 1 month, (N.R.R.)
- 12 **Friessen, Abram L.**, 48, farmer, (R.R.R.) **Wife:** Anne, 46, (R.R.R.) **Children:** Gerhard, 17, (R.R.R.)
- 13 **Friessen, Abram T.**, 28, farmer, (R.R.R.) **Wife:** Margaret, 32, (R.R.R.) **Children:** John, 7, (R.R.R.), Abram, 5, (R.R.R.), Nicholas, 4, (N.R.R.), Jacob, 3, (N.R.R.), Katrina, 1, (R.R.R.) **Sister:** Maria, 19, (N.R.R.)
- 14 **Friessen, Abram F.**, 23, farmer, (R.R.R.) **Wife:** Sarah, 22, (R.R.R.) **Children:** Abram, 2, (N.R.R.), Henry, 10 months, (N.R.R.)
- 15 **Friessen, Abram (W.)**, 68, farmer, (R.R.R.) **Wife:** Maria
- 16 **Friessen, Cornelius (L.)**, 38, farmer, (R.R.R.) **Wife:** Sarah, 36, (R.R.R.) **Children:** Cornelius, 17, (R.R.R.), Jacob, 15, (R.R.R.), Aganetta, 6, (R.R.R.), Sarah, 4, (N.R.R.), Abram, 2, (N.R.R.), Katrina, 5 months, (N.R.R.)
- 17 **Friessen, Henry (B.)**, 44, farmer, (R.R.R.) **Wife:** Helena, 44, (R.R.R.) **Children:** Henry, 19, (R.R.R.), Peter, 16, (R.R.R.), Jacob, 11, (R.R.R.), George, 9, (R.R.R.), Isaac, 7, (R.R.R.), Elizabeth, 4, (N.R.R.) **Father-in-law:** Abram Friessen, 73, farmer, (R.R.R.) **Mother-in-law:** Helena, 68, (R.R.R.)
- 18 **Friessen, Isaac**, 23, farmer, (R.R.R.) **Wife:** Katrina, 20, (R.R.R.)
- 19 **Friessen, Jacob (W.)**, 71, farmer, (R.P.P.) **Wife:** Aganetta, 71, (R.P.P.) **Grand-Daughter:** Anna, 17, (R.R.R.)
- 20 **Friessen, Jacob**, 40, farmer, (R.R.R.) **Children:** Jacob, 4, (N.R.R.), Abram, 3, (N.R.R.), Margaretta, 2, (N.R.R.), Anganetta, 19, (R.R.R.) **Son-in-law:** Klaas Friessen, 21, (R.R.R.)
- 21 **Friessen, Jacob B.**, 25, farmer, (R.R.R.) **Wife:** Margaretta, 28, (R.R.R.) **Children:** Peter, 5, (N.R.R.), Abram, 2, (N.R.R.), Katrina, 8 months, (N.R.R.) **Brother:** Isaac, 15, (R.R.R.)
- 22 **Friessen, John**, 28, farmer, (R.R.R.) **Wife:** Lena, 38, (R.R.R.) **Children:** John, 8, (R.R.R.), Lena, 6, (R.R.R.), Gertrude, 5, (C.R.R.), Sarah, 3, (C.R.R.), Katrina, 3 months, (N.R.R.)
- 23 **Freizen, Nicholas**, 26, farmer, (R.R.R.) **Wife:** Mary, 28, (R.R.R.) **Children:** Elizabeth, 5 months, (N.R.R.)
- 24 **Friessen, Nicholas B.**, 23, carpenter, (R.R.R.) **Wife:** Maggie, 26, (R.R.R.) **Children:** Peter, 3 months, (N.R.R.)
- 25 **Friessen, Peter R.**, 38, farmer, (R.R.R.) **Wife:** Maria, 39, (R.R.R.) **Children:** Peter, 13, (R.R.R.), John, 3, (N.R.R.), Franc, 1, (N.R.R.)
- 26 **Friessen, Peter S.**, 29, carpenter, (R.R.R.) **Wife:** Anna, 28, (R.R.R.)
- 27 **Friessen, Peter W.**, 64, farmer, (R.R.R.) **Wife:** Elizabeth, 62, (R.R.R.) **Children:** Abram, 28, farmer, (R.R.R.), Klaas, 22, farmer, (R.R.R.), Margaretta, 20, (R.R.R.)
- 28 **Harms, Isaac**, 74, farmer, (R.R.R.) **Wife:** Kalina, 57, (P.P.P.) **Step-Children:** Friessen, Henry, 21, farmer, (R.P.P.), David, 19, farmer, (R.P.P.), Anna, 26, (R.P.P.), Maria, 13, (R.P.P.)

- 29 **Harms, John**, 40, farmer, (R.R.R.) **Wife:** Helena, 22, (R.R.R.) **Children:** Anna, 16, (R.R.R.), John, 12, (R.R.R.), Margarette, 10, (R.R.R.), Maria, 8, (R.R.R.), Helena, 1, (N.R.R.), Elira, 3 months, (N.R.R.)
- 30 **Harms, Peter**, 31, farmer, (R.R.R.) **Wife:** Anna, 31, (R.R.R.) **Children:** Isaac, 6, (R.R.R.), Anna, 4, (N.R.R.), Margaretha, 2, (N.R.R.)
- 31 **Heidebrecht, Peter**, 64, farmer, (R.P.R.) **Wife:** Aganetta, 58, (R.P.P.) **Children:** Jacob, 23, farmer, (R.R.R.), Elizabeth, 16, (R.R.R.)
- 32 **Heidebrecht, John**, 28, farmer, (R.R.R.) **Wife:** Agnes, 28, (R.R.R.) **Children:** John, 1, (N.R.R.)
- 33 **Heidebrecht, Peter**, 33, farmer, (R.R.R.) **Wife:** Katrina, 35, (R.R.R.) **Children:** Aganetta, 8, (R.R.R.) **Step-Mother:** Reimer, Maria, 37, (R.R.R.) **Boarder:** Reimer, Jacob, 25, farmer, (R.R.R.) **Servant:** Kraus, Jacob, 28, farmer, (R.R.R.)
- 34 **Hildebrandt, Peter**, 36, farmer, (R.R.R.) **Wife:** Anna, 34, (R.P.R.) **Servants:** Friessen, George, 10, (R.R.R.), Reimer, Klaas, 15, (R.R.R.)
- 35 **Isaac, Abram**, 36, farmer, (R.R.R.) **Wife:** Margaret, 31, (R.R.R.) **Children:** Abram, 10, (R.R.R.), Anna, 8, (R.R.R.), Diedrick, 6, (R.R.R.), Henry, 1, (N.R.R.) **Mother:** Anna, 61, (R.R.R.)
- 36 **Isaac, Dietrich**, 34, farmer, (R.R.R.) **Wife:** Kate, 34, (R.R.R.) **Children:** Diedrich, 9, (R.R.R.), Abram, 4, (N.R.R.), Kate, 2 months, (N.R.R.)
- 37 **Isaac, Peter**, 38, farmer, (R.P.R.) **Wife:** Helena, 34, (R.R.R.) **Adopted Child:** Friessen, Maria, 14, (R.R.R.)
- 38 **Jansen, Peter**, 28, farmer, (R.R.R.) **Wife:** Gertrude, 28, (P.P.P.) **Children:** John, 1, (N.R.P.), Anna, 1 month, (N.R.P.) **Sister:** Helena, 20, (R.P.P.) **Brother:** John, 22, (R.P.P.) **Servants:** Reimer, Margaretha, 22, (R.R.R.), Stegemaun, Herman, 25, shepherd, (P.P.P.), Wiens, Jacob, 21, farmer, (R.R.R.), Reimer, John, 21, farmer, (R.R.R.), Kramer, Fred, 23, farmer (Courtemburg), Warkentin, Peter, 17, farmer, (R.R.R.)
- 39 **Klasson, Jacob**, 48, farmer, (R.R.R.) **Wife:** Katrina, 41, (R.R.R.) **Children:** Jacob, 18, (R.R.R.), Cornelius, 16, (R.R.R.), John, 14, (R.R.R.), George, 6, (R.R.R.), Sarah, 3, (N.R.R.), Abram, 1, (N.R.R.)
- 40 **Kopp, Klaas**, 53, farmer, (R.R.R.) **Children:** Martin, 22, (R.R.R.), Klaas, 18, (R.R.R.), Katrina, 25, (R.R.R.)
- 41 **Krause, John F.**, 25, farmer, (R.R.R.) **Wife:** Anna, 24, (R.R.R.) **Children:** Elizabeth, 3, (N.R.R.), Anna, 6 months, (N.R.R.)
- 42 **Krause, Peter**, 38, farmer, (R.R.R.) **Wife:** Margaret, 31, (R.R.R.) **Children:** Margaret, 12, (R.R.R.), Katrina, 10, (R.R.R.), Peter, 8, (R.R.R.), Helen, 5, (R.R.R.), Elizabeth, 2, (N.R.R.), Jacob, 4, (N.R.R.)
- 43 **Kroeker, Frank**, 54, farmer, (R.R.R.) **Wife:** Anna, 39, (R.R.R.) **Children:** Martin, 18, (R.R.R.), Annetta, 13, (R.R.R.), Katrina, 5, (R.R.R.), Anna, 2, (R.R.R.)
- 44 **Ratzlof, Barnhart**, 49, farmer, (R.R.R.) **Wife:** Susanna, 26, (R.R.R.) **Children:** Kate, 17, (R.R.R.), Barnhart, 12, (R.R.R.), Anna, 9, (R.R.R.), Henry, 5, (R.R.R.), Margaret, 4, (R.R.R.), Eliza, 6 months, (N.R.R.)
- 45 **Ratzlof, Henry**, 32, farmer, (R.R.R.) **Wife:** Angaretta, 30, (R.R.R.) **Children:** Henry, 10, (R.R.R.), Cornelius, 9, (R.R.R.), John, 4, (N.R.R.), Angaretta, 2, (N.R.R.) **Mother-in-law:** Jansen, Sara, 71, (R.R.R.)
- 46 **Reimer, Abram**, 40, farmer, (R.R.R.) **Wife:** Anna, 37, (R.R.R.) **Children:** Nicholas, 14, (R.R.R.), Abram, 13, (R.R.R.), Anna, 12, (R.R.R.), Katrina, 10, (R.R.R.), Helena, 8, (R.R.R.), Cornelius, 7, (R.R.R.), Maria, 4, (N.R.R.), Margaretha, 6 months, (N.R.R.)
- 47 **Reimer, Henry**, 24, farmer, (R.R.R.) **Wife:** Katrina, 24, (R.R.R.) **Brother:** Cornelius, 6, (R.R.R.)
- 48 **Rempel, George**, 63, farmer, (P.P.P.) **Wife:** Eliza, 40, (R.R.R.)
- 49 **Rempel, John**, 26, farmer, (R.R.R.) **Wife:** Helena, 25, (R.R.R.) **Children:** Helena, 6, (R.R.R.), Maria, 6 months, (R.R.R.)
- 50 **Rempel, Katrina**, 34, (R.R.R.) **Children:** George, 15, farmer, (R.R.R.), Abram, 11, (R.R.R.), Peter, 5, (R.R.R.), Henry, 6 months, (N.R.R.), Katrina, 14, (R.R.R.), Eliza, 9, (R.R.R.), Margaret, 7, (R.R.R.), Anganetta, 2, (N.R.R.)
- 51 **Thiessen, Abram**, 39, farmer, (R.R.R.) **Wife:** Anna, 28, (R.R.R.) **Children:** John, 14, (R.R.R.)
- 52 **Thiessen, Wm.**, 38, farmer, (R.P.P.) **Wife:** Sarah, 22, (R.R.R.) **Children:** Peter, 14, (R.R.R.), Margaret, 12, (R.R.R.), Elizabeth, 10, (R.R.R.), John, 8, (R.R.R.), Helena, 2, (N.R.R.), Corn., 2 months, (N.R.R.) **Boarder:** Friessen, Abram, 29, farmer, (R.R.R.)
- 53 **Thiessen, David**, 50, farmer, (R.R.R.) **Wife:** Helena, 43, (R.R.R.) **Children:** David, 23, farmer, (R.R.R.), Anna, 26, (R.R.R.), Kate, 20, (R.R.R.), Peter, 14, (R.R.R.), Isaac, 11, (R.R.R.), George, 9, (R.R.R.), Abram, 6, (R.R.R.)
- 54 **Thiessen, John**, 67, farmer, (R.R.R.) **Wife:** Katrina, 60, (R.R.R.) **Children:** Jacob, 25, farmer, (R.R.R.), Peter, 20, farmer, (R.R.R.), Maria, 19, farmer, (R.R.R.)
- 55 **Thiessen, John**, 28, farmer, (R.R.R.) **Wife:** Anganetta, 28, (R.R.R.) **Children:** Anganetta, 7, (R.R.R.), Peter, 6, (R.R.R.), Margaretha, 3, (N.R.R.), Anna, 1, (N.R.R.)
- 56 **Thiessen, John F.**, 40, farmer, (R.R.R.) **Wife:** Anna, 36, (R.R.R.) **Children:** Katrina, 12, (R.R.R.), John, 10, (R.R.R.), Anna, 8, (R.R.R.), Maria, 6, (R.R.R.), Elizabeth, 3, (N.R.R.), Helena, 6 months, (N.R.R.)
- 57 **Thiessen, Peter**, 48, farmer, (R.R.R.) **Wife:** Elizabeth, 54, (R.R.R.) **Children:** Jacob, 28, (R.R.R.), Peter, 20, (R.R.R.), Elizabeth, 25, (R.R.R.), Annie, 12, (R.R.R.)
- 58 **Warkentin, Peter**, 45, farmer, (R.R.R.) **Wife:** Mena, 37, (R.R.R.) **Children:** Mena, 16, (R.R.R.), Peter, 15, (R.R.R.), Lena, 12, (R.R.R.), Justina, 9, (R.R.R.), George, 5, (R.R.R.), Elizabeth, 3, (R.R.R.), Mary, 3 months, (N.R.R.)
- 59 **Wiebe, Klaas**, 38, farmer, (R.R.R.) **Wife:** Anna, 36, (R.P.R.) **Children:** Isaac, 15, works on farm, (R.R.R.), Justina, 10, (R.R.R.), Klaas, 8, (R.R.R.), John, 6, (R.R.R.), Jacob, 4, (N.R.R.), Peter, 7 months, (N.R.R.)
- 60 **Wiens, David**, 32, farmer, (R.R.R.) **Wife:** Margareta, 31, (R.R.R.) **Children:** Margareta, 9, (R.R.R.), Elizabeth, 5, (N.R.R.), Katrina, 3, (N.R.R.), Susan, 1, (N.R.R.)
- 61 **Wiens, Franc**, 78, farmer, (R.R.R.) **Wife:** Elizabeth, 66, (R.R.R.) **Children:** Franc, 28, farmer, (R.R.R.)
- 62 **Wiens, John**, 46, farmer, (P.P.P.) **Wife:** Maria, 30, (R.P.R.) **Children:** Maria, 17, (R.P.R.), Sarah, 13, (R.P.R.), Elizabeth, 12, (R.P.R.), John, 3, (N.P.R.), Jacob, 2, (N.P.R.), David, 2 months, (N.P.R.)
- 63 **Wiens, Peter**, 30, farmer, (R.R.R.) **Wife:** Katrina, 26, (R.R.R.) **Children:** Elizabeth, 1, (N.R.R.), Peter, 1 month, (N.R.R.)

# Chapter Nine

## 1880 Property Listing

### Cub Creek Precinct

The property listing of the 1880 Cub Creek Precinct census provide valuable data of the socio-economic situation in the settlement.

The information recorded has been extracted from the original record and listed under the following headings: Owner (O) or Renter (R); acres of improved farmland (A); acres of unimproved farmland (U); Farm values are listed under: Farm (F), implements (I), livestock (L), and farm production (P); Livestock is listed under: horses (h), milk cows (m), other cattle (o), calves dropped (c), cattle sold (cs), swine (sw), poultry (po); Field production is listed in terms of acres (top number) and bushels (bottom number) for: barley (B), Indian corn (Ic), oats (O), wheat (W), and potatoes (P). It was not possible to decipher all of the information on the census records.

NAME	A	U	F	I	L	P	h	m	o	c	cs	sw	po	B	Ic	O	W	P	
Wiebe, Klaas	O	100	60	1800	410	425	250	5	3	3	2			18	8		65	½	
														25	80	200	325	20	
Friesen, Nicholas	R			70	250	200	2	1	1				1	10	20	75	25	50	10
														7	5				
Harms, Peter	O	60	60	1400	100	280	240	3	2	2	2		7	20	100	25			
														6				10	
Harms, Isaac	O	30	50	1000	75	120	70	1	2	1	1		2	15	70			20	
														10	5	7		50	
Harms, John	O	70	90	1800	175	400	230	5	4	3			2	15	110	50	100	200	
														7	7			40	
Ratzlaff, Henry	O	55	25	1100	135	250	200	2	2	2	2		2	25	25	200		190	
														8	10	20	120	1	
Flemming, David	O	200	120	6000	410	1400	2700	4	4	34	12	60	25	25	100	375	375	750	65
														17				76	
Bartel, Jacob	O	40	120	1500			115	2	29	6		6		310				127	
															9	10		1	
Heidebrecht, John	O	115	65	3000	220	750	500	2							200	400		60	
														14	12	10	70	¼	
Thiessen, John	O	110	50	3000	280	900	930	2	2	30	8	14	23	10	105	550	250	520	20
															25		13	70	¼
Heidebrecht, Peter	O	135	25	3000	215	325	610	3	3	3	3		9	9	400		500	300	30
																	10	70	½
Heidebrecht, P. Sr.	O	300	880	11000	465	2250	450	8	4	67	26	25	20	10	70		350	1300	30
																	160		
Thiessen, John A.	O	240	110	3000	740	600	900	8		25	9	6						900	
																			1
Friesen, Peter	O	32	48	1000	75	350	240	5	1				21	6				50	
															4	3	7		
Barkman, Katrina	O	50	110	1600	160	490	60	4	2	11	1		4	15		100	30	40	
															5	5	25	½	
Barkman, Martin	O	40	120	2000	165	380	250	3	6	3	3	1	15	20		200	70	160	30
															20	10	32	½	
Isaac, Peter	O	50	30	1000	70	285	370	3	1	3	1	1	7	10		800	195	140	30
															14	4	12	60	½
Wiens, John	O	60	20	1500	140	370	500	3	2	1	1		8	15	120	200	80	500	40
															12	7	45		
Friesen, Peter W.	O	100	60	2000	130	580	380	5	4	7	3	1	19	25		500	300	225	
															6	6	40		
Friesen, Peter R.	O	70	90	2000	115	385	260	4	2	4	2	2	15	3		200	150	150	
															8	10	30	½	
Krause, John F.	O	50	30	1000	175	290	290	3	1	1	1	5	3	10		200	160	175	30
															6	10	30	¼	
Reimer, Abram	O	85	75	3000	115	310	300	2	3	5	3	1	18	25		150	110	215	25
															12	4	25	½	
Wiens, Peter	O	27	53	900	30	190	175	2	1				2	12		300	180	135	22

NAME	A	U	F	I	L	P	h	m	c	cs	sw	po	B	lc	O	W	P	
Wiens, David	O	80	80	2000	205	180	290	2	3	3	2	22	12	7 80	9 300	55 300	¼ 25	
Isaac, Diedrick	R	65	15	1000	115	300	260	1	1	1	1	14	12	13 300	6 160	35 185	.	
Thiessen, Wm	O	115	65	2500	135	435	325	2	6	3		21	30	13 400	12 300	70 325	½ 15	
Wiens, Franc	O	60	20	1200	80	180	150					2	8			18 180		
Thiessen, John	O	290	350	10000	325	190	1040	5	8	5	1	18	40		25 750	135 1310	1 80	
Kopp, Klaas	O	90	70	1500	220	530	370	5	4	2		34	20	5 200	5 150	35 310	1 50	
Sawatzky, Abram	O	70	90	1800	75	170	135	3	7	1	1	3	15	9 30	2 40	30 65	1 50	
Friessen, Cornelius	O	80	80	2000	185	635	630	8	5	6	3	1	14	20 300	6 300	10 250	55 500	2 50
Friessen, Jacob	O	40	40	1500		135	125	2	1	1		1	3			25 125	1 75	
Friessen, Henry	O	85	75	2000	225	650	510	6	4	10	2	44	20	10 50	12 500	10 300	52 410	1 45
Friessen, Jacob	O	100	60	2000	155	185	270	2	1	4	2	4	20	20 90	30 300	35 225	½ 30	
Rempel, George	O	80	80	2000	300	46	700	5	3	5	2	2	13	15 40	10 300	11 500	0 60	? 60
Friessen, Abram L.	O	135	185	4000	150	805	770	9	1	13	5	2	3	15 200	10 500	10 300	60 600	? 60
Klassen, Jacob	O	60	240	4000	220	1080	820	3	7	10	6	2	5	10 200	17 600	10 300	70 500	2 300
Friessen, Abram F.	O	40	40	1000	40	240	215	2	1	1	1	1	5		4 100	11 175	6 25	30 25
Friessen, Jacob B.	O	70	90	2000	170	418	320	5	2	5	2		16	4 45	11 200	6 150	30 200	1 60
Fast, Peter	O	70	90	1600	190	485	500	6	3	3	3	1	21	4 50	10 150	6 100	47 425	1 80
Thiessen, John F.	O	95	65	1500	125	395	365	3	2	3	2	4	40	8 60	4 80	4 100	50 310	? ?
Brand, Peter	O	85	75	1600	125	415	375	3	2	1	1	4	12	6 30	4 100	4 55	50 355	? ?
Jansen, Peter *	O	405	1200	20000	1300	15580	4215	18	3	1	3	18	8	30 500	70 2800	40 1600	200 3030	
Rempel, John	R	30	50	1000	65	190	150	3				2	10		5 125	7 200	25 130	
Fast, Jacob	O	230	230	4500	245	1090	575	9	13	37	13	4	6	15 100	15 550	10 180	80 400	¼ 20
Brand, Jacob	O	85	70	1600	90	395	435	5	1	6	4	2	15			80 490	¼ 20	
Ens, Jacob	O	200	140	12000	260	765	875	8	7	14	6	3	14	18 50	31 270	22 1000	90 260	1 120
Hildebrandt, Peter	O	150	190	4000	140	555	400	6	5	12	6	2	7	15 60	12 500	9 275	45 300	½ 50
Thiessen, David	R	70	50	1500	75	315	330	4	3	2	3	1	4	10 40	15 300	3 50	50 300	¼ 10
Friessen, John	R	50	30	1000	100	230		2	2	3	2		4					
Friessen, Abram T.	O	100	60	2000	155	415	345	2	2				22					
Isaac, Abram	O	75	135	3000	80	360	310	3	4				12					
Warkentin, Peter	R	25	75			210	205	3	2				3					
Ratzlaff, Bernhart	O	27	53	1000	80	380		3					5					
Friessen, Abram B.	O	135	50	2500	145	410	485	4	5				14					
Krause, Peter	O	110	50	2000	215	410	450	3	2				14					

NAME	A	U	F	I	L	P	h	m	o	c	cs	sw	po	B	lc	O	W	P	
Friessen, Nicholas B.	R	100	20	1200	60	410	390	3	2				4						
Fast, John	R	70	10	100	90	320	180	2					4						
Thiessen, Peter	O	220	100	5000	135	2575	1640	10	8				20						
Kroeker, Franc	O	120	40	2000	265	420	535	2	3	1	1	1	11	7	8	7	6	50	1
* —Jansen, Peter also owned 3920 sheep & 1120 lambs were dropped																			



# Part Three.

## Personal Accounts Of The Pioneers

### Chapter Ten. 1872-1878 Diary

By Aeltester Peter Toews, Gruenfeld, Manitoba.

Daybook, for the recording of the most noteworthy occurrences and events in the Gemeinde for the years 1871-72-73-74-75-76-77-78. **The Second Book.** N.B. The **First Volume** was left in Russia. The information in the same has in part been recorded in the major book, the **Sammlung**, and as well is to be found in part in the letter collections.

**Comments** I have not recorded these notations of the affairs of the Gemeinde, nor those in the **First Volume**, for the purpose of serving the later generations as a source of information for all the mistakes and transgressions which came to the fore. Rather, I have recorded the same because of myself, in order to assist me due to my forgetfulness. So that the most important occurrences, and the time during which they occurred, can later if it so be the will of the Lord be entered into account of the history of the Kleine Gemeinde, which history has already been commenced. For this reason I have made an effort to complete this record with few words, but nevertheless correctly. As has already been stated I have not undertaken this for the purpose of somehow serving as a record of transgressions or to serve the disputes of the later descendants. Rather, I have done this only in order to aid in the preparation of the history aforesaid, which under the leading and direction of God, I hope to publish as a source document. The will of the Lord occur. "P. Toews".

**1871 November and December** Friday, the 26th of November we had a gathering here in Blumenhof at Peter Wiebes and discussed that we wanted to hold a general brotherhood meeting here in Blumenhof on the forthcoming Sunday in order to prepare ourselves in love to partake of Holy Communion. For this purpose we also considered it necessary that Peter Loewen, from Hochfeld, might acknowledge to the brotherhood that he had married his wife's sister notwithstanding the contrary advice of the brethren, etc.

Sunday, November 28th the bridal couple, Peter Isaac and Katharina Friesen, here from Blumenhof, were wedded; and Peter Toews from Steinbach were accepted as members in the Gemeinde; and it was decided to hold a brotherhood meeting here in Blumenhof on the coming Saturday.

Sunday, December 4th we held brotherhood meeting in Blumenhof. The matter of Peter Loewen, from Hochfeld, regarding the marriage of the second sister, was discussed further. Upon review of the whole situation it was decided that it was better if it did not occur; and thus many matters were considered from previous brotherhood meetings. We resolved to advise that we should commence to ask more of ourselves in love. It was also presented that Peter Brandts wished to commit themselves to us. It was decided that Holy Communion would be held in Gruenfeld on December 12, and in Rosenfeld on the 14th. Abraham Klassen, from Prangenau, was present at the Brotherhood meeting and presented the word on Sunday the 5th.

Tuesday, December 7th Peter Wiebe and I had driven to Rosenfeld and Annafeld in order to make inquiries there regarding the unpraiseworthy conduct of Helena, the daughter of G. Siemens, during the time that Abraham Friesens, where she served, were in the Molotschna. She promised to confess the same to the other young people and asked for forgiveness.

Wednesday, I, together with Abr. Reimer from here, drove to Kronsthal in order to visit our sister in faith, Helena Defehr, and to summon her here for Holy Communion, and found that she had also remained true in her faith. Saturday the 11th, we were assembled at Abraham Loewens, in Gruenfeld, and as we found that all matters in the Gemeinde had been set aside and reconciled, we came to be of one mind (United) that with the help of the Lord we would undertake Holy Com-



munion. Sunday the 12th we undertook the Last Supper (Holy Communion) in Gruenfeld. Klassen, from Prangenau had driven to Ekaterinoslav together with his traveling companions Joh. Hiebert, who had remained in Friedensfeld, Jakob Dueck and Franz Kroeker. Klassen presented the word in Friedensfeld this Sunday, and on Monday they left from here on their return journey (to the Molotschna).

Sunday the 19th, the bridal couple Martin Penner and Aganetha Toews were wedded in Rosenfeld by Abr. Friesen. Monday, we held a conference here in Blumenhof with dear father (Vaterchen) and P. Dueck with the conclusion that everything regarding the matter between I.W. and Sus. Dueck—his wife—would be burned in the fire of love. Tuesday the 14th and Wednesday, Peter Wiebe and I were in Friedensfeld and there we also met minds which were burdened, because of our advising Fast against moving away. However he surrendered himself to confess and subjected himself to the Gemeinde. P. Penner wanted to burn in the fire of love, his matters regarding the remarriage of his father.

Friday the 17th, we held Holy Communion in Friedensfeld. Sunday the 19th we held Holy Communion in Rosenfeld. In total there are 176 souls fit for Holy Communion here, of whom 8 in total were not present. Five sisters because of sickness, and one couple was not present because of too little confidence.

**1872 January** On the first, the bridal couple Isaac Loewen, from Hochfeld, and Helena Sawatsky, here from Blumenhof, were wedded (getraut) in Steinbach, by Abraham Friesen. Friday, January 7th the other ministers (Lehrer) were assembled at our place, and we discussed that we would hold brotherhood meeting in Gruenfeld on the 16th in order to discuss the holding of a ministerial election. Sunday the 9th I was again able to attend worship service which was held here in Blumenhof. I had been forced to remain at home since the middle Christmas holiday on account of sickness. After the worship service (Andacht) we gave Peter Loewen the letter from Ens, of Friedensfeld, to read in which Ens wrote regarding the land transaction.

Sunday the 16th of January, we held brotherhood meeting after the worship service in Gruenfeld and decided to hold a ministerial election in Rosenfeld on the 23rd in the afternoon. We warned and admonished the brethren to be awake regarding the infiltrating and imitation of the world, especially regarding pride. Ohm Peter Baerg from the Krim, together with two other brethren, was present and also presented the word. We discussed that at his request we would meet together on Thursday the 20th in Rosenfeld at Ab. Friesens, in order to discuss a number of issues.

Thursday, the 20th the ministers (Lehrer) were together and talked about the forthcoming election. Then Ohm Peter Baerg presented the matter regarding the imposition of shunning towards Martin Friesen who had been punished and thereafter received as a member by Aeltester Wiebe and his Gemeinde. Now there were some with him (the Krimmer Kleine Gemeinde) who felt that the shunning had to be imposed notwithstanding. We were unanimous, however, that such an action had no basis in the Scripture and therefore was not necessary. 2ndly, because of its insensitive tone we deemed it better to withhold the letter of Hein. Fr(iesen) regarding the praying together with the Gemeinde of Wiebe. Upon the request of the brethren, Ohm P. Baerg also presented (vorgetragen) the word in Annafeld on the 19th and on the morning of the 21st in Heuboden and on Saturday the 22nd in Friedensfeld.

Thursday the 20th, G. Goossen and I, also were in Rosenfeld at Peter Brandts and presented many things to them from the word, that they do not only outwardly surrender themselves to the Gemeinde, but instead to the Lord.

Sunday, Ohm Baerg presented the word in Rosenfeld and Peter Brandts were also accepted into the Gemeinde. After dinner (noon) we conducted the ministerial election, for which we had been preparing ourselves for some time. (The account of this ministerial election is set out in **History and Events** op. cit. page 53). As Loewen (Ab. Loewen who had been elected as Minister) found it difficult to immediately undertake to serve his office he asked the brethren for a period of time in order to prove and reflect, consequently it was also decided that the Gemeinde could all be assembled here in Blumenhof in 14 days as we also had in mind to hold a brotherhood meeting.

Monday the 24th, Ohm Peter with H. Friesen left for home, and Hein. Wohlgermuth remained here. Sunday, January 30th, G. Goossen, Loewen and Wiebe were in the Molotschna. I presented the word in Heuboden, and A. Friesen wedded (getraut) the bridal couple, Jakob Friesen and Margaretha Giesbrecht. Saturday, February 5th, we were together at G. Goossens in Gruenfeld. Goossen and Loewen returned from the Molotschna during the meeting.

Sunday the 6th, in Blumenhof, Loewen was ordained into his ministerial office in the presence

of the gathered Gemeinde. Brotherhood meeting was also held. Firstly, the letter from A. Klassen was read. Secondly, presented the matter that Johan, the son of Ohm A. Friesen, had transgressed together with Helena Siemens, and the same were collectively impeached (abgestimmt). Thirdly, regarding the desire of D. Isaac to join our Gemeinde, it was suggested and he was told, that we did not want to accept anyone into the Gemeinde who was not completely penitent (Buszfertig), and also that he had not corrected his matter with the Heubodner Gemeinde which he had left. Fourthly, we discussed the matter of quarters for Mrs. Peter Harms and Elisabeth Wiens. N.B. Johan Dueck from Alexanderkron (Molotschna) was also present.

Monday the 14th, we were gathered together in order to dispose of the attempt of Enns, from Friedensfeld, to renegotiate and to revoke (zuruck zu handeln) his transaction with Peter Loewen. We wrote him that we would not become involved in any further review or adjustment regarding his transaction. Rather we deemed the matter to be completed. We also discussed the letter written by Johan Thielman to the effect that, he among others, was also wronged by our brethren by a petition which he called a writing of accusation and that he wanted to turn to the Government for assistance regarding the same. We advised the brethren to try to put him at peace.

Friday the 18th, we were in Annafeld in order to attempt to bring about a settlement between the Annenfelder and the Gruenfelder, pertaining to their respective land complexes. The Lord granted his blessing to these efforts. We talked with Martin Klassen regarding his not keeping his word in the repayment of his debts. We also talked with Helena Siemens, as on the foregoing Sunday in Steinbach, she had related more to us of her transgression. She now persisted that she again wanted to be accepted into the Gemeinde.

Sunday the 27th of February, after worship service in Heuboden, Helena Seimens was reaccepted into the Gemeinde. The matter regarding Ohm Abraham Friesen's involvement, where she had been serving during the time that she had transgressed, was brought forward. He was also forgiven for his failure in that he had not been watchful enough. Secondly, the impending establishment of the Vollost was discussed and we decided that we wanted to stay with the decision already made that we not serve it or its offices, and that we would not vote.

In addition we presented the fact that we had helped the brethren in Annafeld achieve a reconciliation regarding their difference with the Gruenfelder brethren over their respective land complexes. Also presented that the Friedensfelder brethren had put Johan Thielman at peace.

N.B. On February 22, Tuesday, pursuant to the desire of Johan Friesen, I presented the word at his place in Rosenfeld. Jakob Regehr, Gerhard Schellenberg, Diedrich Friesen and I were in the presence of Johan Friesen, Rosenfeld, and he offered to us the deeds and papers which belonged to the Gemeinde. We received the same into our possession on the said day as we were finishing the worship service. Abraham Friesen, Gerhard Goossen, Abr. Loewen, and myself.

Thursday, March 9th, we were assembled together at Peter Wiebe's, with Martin Klassen and Johan Klassen. We tried to help them to reachieve their unity. M. Klassen had been indebted to him for three years. They came to an understanding.

On Sunday the 12th, at brotherhood meeting at Gruenfeld we brought forward that M. Klassen and Joh. Klassen had achieved a settlement. Because M. Klassen was not present, notwithstanding that we had summoned him, the matter was allowed to stand until the coming Sunday. We also raised the question that with the passing of time we would also have to construct or purchase a house of worship. It came to a discussion that it was necessary for the heirs of the widow of Peter Harms to put their money matters in order.

Sunday, March 19th, in Rosenfeld, we dealt with Martin Klassen's matter, regarding his not keeping his word with the payment of money and regarding his treatment of cattle. He was asked to withdraw. In his absence it was considered that we would not be found wanting if we forgave him once more in the hope of better results. In addition an unconstructive exchange developed regarding and because of the revocation by David Thiessen, of Steinbach, of the land in Annafeld, because he conducted himself according to his own nature and not in love. In the end he did ask that the Gemeinde forgive him for his mistakes.

**1872 April** Sunday, the 2nd of April in Blumenhof, Abraham Loewen presented the word for the first time. Saturday April 22nd, we were together at Peter Kroekers in Heuboden, and discussed that on Sunday the 23rd G. Goossen, A. Loewen and Kroeker were to travel to see the Mediator-Judge (Friedens Vermittler) Seitzov, in order to hear what decision had been made in our matter regarding the election for the Vollost. Secondly, it was discussed that we wanted to write to Hahn in St. Petersburg regarding the threatening military obligations in order to make private inquiries

as to how we might stand in that regard.

Saturday May 6th, we were together at Peter Wiebes. We also discussed the requests of Jacob Harms to again be accepted into our Gemeinde. We decided to write Ohm Baerg in this regard to the effect that if Harms was really earnest in his desire, that we would hope that he would declare to us, even if only in writing, why he had left our Gemeinde and allowed himself to be rebaptized in the first place. Secondly we discussed and tried to decide regarding a building in which to hold worship service, either to purchase the house of Johan Isaac in Gruenfeld, or to build a new one.

The same question was also presented to the brethren on Sunday, the 7th of May and we finally decided to purchase the house of Isaac. We also admonished the brethren to come to our assistance in the instruction of the young people who were requesting baptism, in order that the same would be admonished to a true acknowledgement and repentance of their sins. The following letters had already been openly (vorgelesen) read the preceding Sunday, May the 30th, in Rosenfeld. Firstly, a letter from Ohm Baerg from the Crimea regarding Jakob Harms; and secondly, a letter from A. Klassen regarding a deputation to Petersburg with respect to our freedoms; and thirdly, regarding not wanting to help in the construction of a jail in Gnadenfeld. This was immediately followed by the reply to Klassen. We also want to write to Baerg.

Sunday the 14th of May, brotherhood meeting was held after worship service here in Blumenhof. Firstly, presented the young people who wished to be baptized, as follows: Johan, son of Abraham Friesen; Peter, son of Isaac Loewen; Peter and Franz, sons of Franz Wiens; Cornelius, son of Peter Penner. All these were from Rosenfeld. Also Johan, son of Johan Toews in Gruenfeld; Martin, son of Jakob Barkman from Friedensfeld; Anne, daughter of Barkman in Rosenfeld; Elisabeth, daughter of Martin Klassen in Annafeld; Sara, daughter of Gerhard Siemens in Steinbach; Nelke and Elisabeth, daughters of Mrs. P. Harms in Steinbach; Margaretha Friesen, foster daughter of F. Froese in Heuboden; Maria Toews, my sister in Gruenfeld; and the daughter of J. Koop in Neuanlage. All together 14. They were presented in order to be examined and to be taken into notable consideration. The matter of the straying of Johan Friesen towards his parents remains a serious matter for us. Secondly, we raised the question as to whether we favoured the Isaac house in Gruenfeld. We were not yet decided. Certain individuals instead supported the idea of the building of a new spacious house of worship somewhere. Others wanted to let the decision to purchase stand. Thirdly, the concern of Johan Friesen in Rosenfeld to be accepted by our Gemeinde was presented to the brethren for their consideration.

Thursday the 18th, we drove to Annafeld in order to make inquiries from Siemens. Mrs. Friesen, the wife of Ohm Abraham had made certain statements, respecting which the Gemeinde did not want to be satisfied. We found the matter to be even more serious than we had expected, as much more came to be added thereto. The same threatened to force away the innocence of the parents of Johan regarding his straying together with Helena. We had otherwise gladly wanted to support them in this matter. We, namely, Goossen, Loewen and myself, drove directly from Annafeld to Rosenfeld to Ohm Abraham, and presented to him how we had found the matter. That his wife had definitely said things which were totally indiscrete and vain. By reaccepting Helena we had forgiven her completely. We also drew to their attention whether or not their conduct to the youth had been too careless, according to what their own children seemed to show. At this Ohm Abraham Friesen together with his wife became very indisposed, and in their passion renounced the Gemeinde. But we did not accept the same in view of the fact that this was too hasty for them. Finally we drove away from their place deeply discouraged.

May 21 in Steinbach. Loewen presented the word in Friesens' place, and I in Friedensfeld, although I had been planning to drive to the Molotschna.

Tuesday the 25th, the day of the Ascension of Christ. Worship service was held in Rosenfeld at the home of Ohm Abraham Friesen. He was not present so that we were unable to talk with him after the service. Although he tried to avoid us we did have a little talk with him. We summoned him to Annafeld for Saturday in order that he himself could undertake and help investigate the matter. However, he remained indisposed towards us and indicated as he had on the 18th that he had so far received no support from us, and that we believed others more than him. He also did not want to retract his renunciation if we did not correct the lies about him.

Saturday the 27th, we were assembled in Annafeld in order to once more look even more carefully into the matter. We had notified Johan and Abraham, Friesens' children, to be present. We also drove to Peter Loewens in order to make inquiries into this matter. However, Ohm Abraham did not come, and thereby made his own matter very questionable. In addition to the evidence of his present con-

duct, similar matters had occurred previously, and therefore we could not but conclude that these were untruths.

Sunday the 28th of May, we held brotherhood meeting after worship service in Heuboden, and presented to the brethren what we had experienced with Ohm Abraham, and that together with his wife they had withdrawn from us. A number of the brethren wanted to fault us for not having been careful enough in our dealings. We asked the brethren who believed that we had stumbled in this matter to ponder and prove the matter with patience and in the fear of the Lord, and to see that they remained free of stumbling by making accusations. For we had not wanted such a result and also believed that we had not been careless in our dealing. Overall, many words were exchanged in this matter.

The result of the matter was that this was an old uncorrected imperfection which finally had to break into the open. The following rhyme of which I became aware during my discouragement regarding this chasm, might be appropriate to the conclusion of this matter.

*Begnuege dich die Absicht zu verehren,  
Die du zu sehen zu bloed am Geiste bist,  
Und laszt dich jeders ernste Beispiel lehren,  
Dasz das was Gott verhaengt aus we:sen Grunden fliesz,  
und wenn dies grausam scheint,  
Gerechtes Schicksal ist.*

In addition we presented to this brotherhood meeting the matter of constructing a house of worship, together with a school, here in Blumenhof. We also talked of living facilities for widows and orphans; and fourthly, regarding the requests of Martin Barkman of Mariafeld, to be accepted by our Gemeinde.

Wednesday the 31st of May; The former Aeltester Johan Friesen died in Rosenfeld.

Pentecost, Monday, June 5. Brotherhood meeting was held in Gruenfeld after worship service. My intention had been to drive to the Molotschna to conduct Holy Communion. However, many brethren presently stood in suspicion of us here regarding the withdrawal of Ohm Abraham Friesen and therefore we considered it better not to drive there under the circumstances. We also came into a discussion of Abraham Friesen's matter which simply was not very edifying.

We again presented the matter of the construction of a house of assembly and after consideration finally decided through a majority of votes that it was to be built here in Blumenhof together with the school. In addition to our brother Cornelius Plett, the elected representative of the village (Dorfsgemeinde), two brothers were elected by a majority of votes to supervise the construction of this building. Namely, Johan Goossen, with 19, and Franz Froese, with 22 votes. It was further decided that these brethren together with additional brethren were to get together on June 6th in order to make a cost projection for the project.

Thirdly, we advised that Gerhard Warkentin who was still of an unmarried status, had come here from the Molotschna and wanted to be accepted (aufgenommen) by our Gemeinde. Fourthly, that the worship service would still be held at Friesens in Rosenfeld, where the worship service was again due to be held on the forthcoming Sunday.

Wednesday, the 7th of June, accompanied by my brother Cornelius, I drove to the Molotschna. Here we conducted worship service at Hieberts in Alexanderwohl on Sunday the 11th, in the forenoon, and in the afternoon and on Tuesday in Lichtenau at Warkentins. On the 15th we returned home. I went to Aeltester Buller in Alexanderwohl in order to ascertain how they were inclined with respect to the last information out of St. Petersburg. They wanted to send out a delegation and to prepare themselves for emigration. I was at F. Isaac, in Tiege, and J. Harder, in Blumstein. These were not yet decided to emigrate. Instead, they first wanted to present the petition for more freedom to the Imperial Council and then personally to the Czar. We might also be of the same mind as the latter, and would undertake to emigrate only when we had first been oppressed (verfolgt).

Sunday, June 18th, in Heuboden, we presented the cost estimate for the construction of a house of assembly in accordance with the plans, for which purpose some 700 ruble would have to come from the Gemeinde. We wanted to commence with the collection of funds on the coming Sunday, the 25th of June.

Abr. Klassen, from Prangenau, who had come here (Blumenhof) together with us, presented the word in Friedensfeld on the 18th. After we had been at Ohm Abraham Friesen's in Rosenfeld he presented the word in Steinbach on the morning of Wednesday the 21st. On the 22nd they (Klassen and party) left for home. Before their departure we were assembled together in Gruenfeld and discussed

that we wanted to write a preparatory letter regarding our Freedoms and then also to travel to Petersburg.

Sunday, the 25th of June, 1872, we held brotherhood meeting after worship service here in Blumenhof and presented the following: Firstly, that we could not conclude the matter with Ohm Abraham Friesen in any way different than the way it was now because they had withdrawn themselves from our Gemeinde. Secondly, that we wanted to write to Lord Senator von Hahn in Petersburg, and then later personally wanted to work for our freedom in Petersburg. Thirdly, referred to the desire of Gerhard Warkentin to be accepted to our Gemeinde. Fourthly, where worship service would now be held in Rosenfeld instead of at A. Friesens. Fifthly, we had a letter to read to the assembly from Ohm Bearg in the Crimea in which he wrote that Jakob Harms was still resolute regarding the coming back to the Gemeinde.

Sunday, July 2nd, we held brotherhood meeting after worship service and admonished the brethren to prepare themselves for Holy Communion which we wanted to conduct on the day on which we serve the young people with baptism. We also inquired as to whether anyone would have any objection to Gerhard Warkentin being received into the Gemeinde, and likewise regarding Barkmans from Mariafeld. And thirdly, that worship service in Rosenfeld would henceforth be in the school building.

Sunday, July 19th, in Heuboden, the already mentioned Gerhard Warkentin was received into the Gemeinde. Brotherhood meeting was held after worship service, and the young people who wanted to be baptized were presented to the Gemeinde, and 4 of them were not yet accepted. The others were to be examined on the coming Sunday. Secondly, we read to the Gemeinde the writing regarding our freedom which we wanted to send to Petersburg. Thirdly, we also presented how much money had been collected for the planned construction, namely, 331 ruble and 27 kopek.

Sunday the 23rd in Blumenhof, we examined the young people who wanted to be baptized.

Tuesday, the 25th, G. Goossen and I, were at (Aeltester) A. Friesen in Heuboden, with the petition to Hahn, and we signed the same and sent it by Post on July 26th.

Sunday August 6th in Rosenfeld. The baptismal candidates were questioned about their faith in front of the Gemeinde. Sunday, the 13th of August, the following persons were received into the Gemeinde by baptism: Johan, son of Abraham Friesen; Peter and Franz, sons of Franz Wiens; Cornelius, son of Peter Penner; Peter, son of the deceased Isaac Loewen; Elisabeth, daughter of Isaac Wiens; the foregoing all from Rosenfeld. Elisabeth, daughter of Peter Harms; Maria, daughter of Johan Toews; both in Gruenfeld. Abraham, son of Jakob Friesen; Margaretha Friesen at Froeses in Heuboden, daughter of Klass Friesen deceased; Anna, daughter of Johann Koop in Neuanlage and Jakob, son of Martin Barkman in Friedensfeld. We also noted to the Brotherhood meeting that we were postponing the delegation to Petersburg until we had received further information from the Molotschna. Secondly, we decided to make an order for **Martyrs Mirrors** from America, as we had already received one copy on August 12. I had written on May 1.

Sunday, August 20th. Brotherhood meeting here in Blumenhof. We suggested that a preparation for Holy Communion be struck. Received the letter from A. Klassen, regarding the deputation to the Czar in the Crimea, that they (the delegates) had not personally talked to him and that they now wanted to travel to St. Petersburg. Further we inquired regarding orders for the Martyr books containing Parts One and Two.

The Following Had Ordered	No. of Books	Rubel	Kop.	Money paid in 1873
Abraham Klassen, Prangenu	5	25		20
Heinrich Reimer, Sr.-Blum.	1	10		
Heinrich Reimer, Jr.	1	5		5
Abr. Reimer, Blumenhof	1	5		8
Corn. Plett, Blumen.	1	5		5
P. Dueck, Blumh.	1			10
Jakob Friesen, Heuboden	1	5		5
Joh. Harms, Heub.	1	5		3
Peter Kroeker, Heuboden	1	5		5
Johann Warkentin, Hochfeld	1			10
Klass Reimer, Steinbach	1	5		5
Jakob Barkman, Friedensfeld	1			9
Abrah. Loewen, Gruenfeld	1			10
Isaac Friesen, Blumenhoff	2	10		5

Franz Froese, Heubd.	1	5	5
Gerhard Schellenberg, Rosenfeld	1	5	
Johann Hiebert, Alexanderwohl	2		25
Peter Toews, Blumenhoff	1	3	7
Abraham Wiens, Kleefeld			

This order of 24 copies together with 50 ruble was posted in Nikopol on August 30. Also included was an order for 12 *Spiegel der Taufe*, 12 *Ehe der Christian*, 1 copy of *Hoffart und Demuth* and one copy of *The Complete Works of Menno Simons*. Abraham Klassen had contributed the 18 Rubel and 50 Kopeken which were still owed to him from the trip.

Thursday, August 24th, the bridal couple Johan Friesen, from Rosenfeld, and Helena Siemens were wedded in Annafeld.

Sunday, August 27th at Brotherhood meeting. It was decided that we wanted to send a delegation to Petersburg together with the Heubodner Gemeinde.

September 1, 1872, Friday, our beloved brother and fellow servant Gerhard Goossen died after a three week long difficult sickness. He was buried on September 2nd. He was 36 years old.

On September 3rd an authorization and statement by the Gemeinde was signed by which we were delegated by the Gemeinde, together with the Heubodner Gemeinde, to travel to St. Petersburg regarding the questions affecting our nonresistance. Sunday, September 3rd, we read to the brethren the petition which we had written to his Majesty the Czar, which we wanted to present to him, if it would seem as if the freedoms for the Mennonites in general were to be terminated.

September 10th, for the first time worship service was held here in Blumenhof in the new school. Klassen and I wanted to leave for St. Petersburg on Monday. Loewen first presented the word after which he presented a short farewell address and commendation for intercession for us from the brethren. The Brethren had made a voluntary collection of 38 ruble and 50 Kopeken for the costs of our journey.

On the morning of September 11th, A. Klassen and I, and Ab. Friesen, the Aeltester from Heuboden, departed on our journey to Petersburg by way of Ekatherinoslav, to Kremenschug, by water on the steamer. From there we went by rail to Petersburg (close to 2000 Werst) where we arrived on Sunday the 17th. On the 19th we spoke with Lord Hahn. He gave us little encouragement, and very much advised us against submitting a petition to the Czar, for in his words "everything has already been said and written and His Majesty the Czar was fully informed regarding our circumstances, and that through the submission of a petition we could achieve nothing other than that we might come into disagreeable circumstance with the Police". Nevertheless he did conclude with the words "that everyone is responsible for his own conscience".

On the 28th we went to the General-Adjutant of His Majesty the Czar, Baron von Magendorff. He advised us that we should speak with the Minister Wolujeff. The Aeltesten from the Molotschna, Volga, and Poland had arrived in the meantime. They had already talked with Prince Heiden, and had also been directed to Wolujeff by the same. Accordingly the two Aeltesten Dietrich and David Hamm, from the Volga and Samara, and B. Peters, Goertz, and Isaac from the Molotschna had gone to speak with him. By his demeanour, Wolujeff allowed it to be understood that he had more hope for the continuation of our freedoms than Hahn in that among other things he (Wolujeff) had said "that (only) the laws given by our beloved God stand firm and unchangeable". (N.B. His exact words are to be found among the 1872 letters received.)

In the meantime Klassen and I spoke with the Pastor Dalton, the pastor of the Reformed Church, because he had indicated to the Secretary of Board of Directors of the Evangelical Bible Society that he would like to speak to us. He was friendly and sympathetic in his reception of us and assured us that he had opportunity to make intercession for us with the Minister. For which we were grateful. He gave us a written commendation to his Bishops who had more opportunity to speak to the Minister. We tried to attend to this but as we had announced the day of our departure and had already telegraphed for a vehicle to receive us in Ekatherinoslav, we were unable to look up the later. We did arrange however that Goertz and Peters would do so and make these Bishops aware that because of our Confession of Faith we would also be unable to perform medical service (military corps). At an opportune time they, the Bishops, could bring this to the attention of the Minister.

We left Petersburg in the evening of the 29th and boarded the train. We arrived in Kremenschug on the evening of October 2nd. From here we traveled to Ekatherinoslav by Post, where the brethren P. Penner, from Rosenfeld, and Joh. Toews, from Gruenfeld, were already waiting for us. We arrived at home on the 5th of October and were well physically and found our families to be the same. Klassen left the same day for his home, travelling together with Joh. Loewens. N.B. In Petersburg

we also met two Aeltesten from Poland, one with the name Tobias, and one with the name Stukke. We also met two men from Hutterdorf by the name of Hofer. During my absence we had received a reply from America, together with a Dirk Phillips book.

Sunday the 8th of October after Worship Service, I related to the brethren what the Minister Wolujeff had said. I also presented the travel expenses. It had cost 168 ruble and 5 Kopeken.

We had received a letter from Alexanderwohl in which testimony was given of the impure conduct of Abraham, son of Jakob Friesen of Heuboden. While we were talking to him before the worship service, he wanted to depart from us, and went away. After consideration at the brotherhood meeting his matter was allowed to stand until the forthcoming Sunday.

We had received information from the Molotschna that a deputation was to be sent to Yalta where the Czar was staying. I was again delegated to represent the Gemeinde there and if possible to present our fears to the Czar personally. Together with A. Friesen, from Heuboden, I left on the 13th of October by way of the Post. It took until Tuesday the 17th to arrive there. The other delegates were: Bern. Peters and Peter Goertz, from the Molotschna; Aeltester Gerhard Wiebe, from Bergthal; Gerhard Dueck and David Epp, from Chortitz; and Friesen (the Honourary Justice of the Peace) from Berjansk. The Governor-General was sick when we arrived and for this reason we could not obtain an audience with the Czar as the latter also wanted to leave shortly. However, we were able to appear before the Governor-General, and he told us that he was aware of our concerns, and that he regretted that because of his sickness he was unable to be of much assistance to us on this occasion. He also told us that we would not be able to remain totally unaffected. We would have to take up lesser duties. But he could not yet determine what these would be as he was not the Czar. He did say, "I assure you that I am your representative, this believe me".

On Sunday the 22nd, we attended at the 4 werst distant Lokwadu, the Imperial castle, in order that we might yet see the Czar. But we did so in vain, and left for home during the evening, arriving at 12 midnight on Wednesday, the 25th. N.B. Ohm Peter Bearg, from the Crimea, had been here during the time that I was in Petersburg. While I was in Yalta, Gerhard Kornelsen, from Lichtenau, and the widow Peter Harms were joined in matrimony.

Sunday the 29th. Firstly, we presented to the brethren what I had experienced in Yalta. Secondly, regarding Franz Wiens, from Rosenfeld, who again wanted to be received into the Gemeinde. Thirdly, regarding the desire of M. Barkman to come to our Gemeinde. November 5, 1972. We could still not come to a conclusion regarding the matter of Abraham Friesen, from Heuboden, as the Gemeinde was not yet sufficiently united in that regard. On Monday the 6th, Abr. Loewen drove to the Molotschna in order to visit the Gemeinde there.

Sunday the 12th. We presented that we wanted to use all possible prudence with respect to the establishment of the Vollost in order that we would not take unpermitted steps with respect to the election. Nevertheless we did not want to vote for those who were to judge as the unadulterated meaning of the word 'judge' explains for what purpose they are appointed. I talked with the Aeltester A. Friesen in Heuboden, who also was in agreement with us in this matter. Thereupon we drove to Gerh. Enns in Schoendorf, the minister of the other Mennonites from the Old Colony and presented to him our matter and discussed the purposes for which we could vote.

Enns assembled his Gemeinde and himself brought us the resulting resolution that they were not in agreement with us regarding the election of the Judge. Hereupon we prepared a declaration for ourselves setting out that we were agreeable to dispose ourselves to elections only in so far as it pertained to matters such as: bridges, dams, boundaries, tax levies, duties, and dues, and other similar matters. This declaration was presented to them (the Old Colony group) on the 15th at an assembly in Schoendorf, and was also recognized by them as correct. Notwithstanding, they still wanted a legally established authority. The parties to the matter came to a definite declaration at a second conference held in Blumenhof on the same day, and those from the Old Colony departed from us without agreeing to our statement. Instead they wanted to take part in the constitution of a Judge.

Pursuant to the writing of the Mediator-Judge and upon the request of the brethren, a meeting was held in Blumenhof on the morning of Thursday the 16th. Abraham Friesen and I went to the school and inquired if they would not also wish to unite with our position, that we wanted to have the election but without having to vote for the Judge. Then it occurred that a faction from among them wanted to unite with us, but another faction remained in favour of a Judge. All presentations remained fruitless. In the meantime the Mediator-Judge arrived. He was (the same had earlier been entreated for the preservation of our conscience) very benevolently disposed towards us and did not

require that we vote for a Judge, and concluded the matter very favourably for us. The others were put to shame as they had thought that our presentation would not be given recognition, and that we would have to take part in the same even though it was against the Word of God.

Friday, November 24th we held brethren meeting. Abr. Friesen, Friesens' son from Heuboden, was excommunicated by general resolution of the Gemeinde because of his lies regarding his misdeeds.

Sunday, December 3rd. The desire of Franz Wiens to again be able to come into the Gemeinde was presented. He had reconciled himself with his son-in-law in the presence of two witnesses. But he had otherwise not yet advanced far enough that he could be reaccepted into the Gemeinde.

December 24th, the Sunday before Christmas, Abraham Friesen was again accepted into the Gemeinde. On Christmas the 25th, we held brethren meeting and F. Wiens from Rosenfeld, was accepted into the Gemeinde. The sending of a deputation to America was discussed. Also discussed the matter of the Vollost, that we could not serve in them and that we could not hold an Order.

Record of the orders for the books to be ordered from Funk in North America, namely; **Spiegel der Taufe, Ehe der Christen, and Hoffart und Demuth.**

	Spiegel der Taufe	Ehe der Christen	Hoffart & Demuth	Taufe	Second Order H. und D.
Gruenfeld. David Hiebert	1	1	1		
Heuboden. Abraham Friesen	1				
Gruenfeld. Abraham Loewen	1	1	1		
Blumenhof. Corn. Plett	1	1			
Blumenhof. Corn. Friesen	1	1	1		
Blumenhof. Joh. Loewen	x1	x1	1		
Gruenfeld, Joh. Toews, Junior	1	1	1		
Heuboden. Jakob Friesen	1	1	1		
Alexanderwohl. Joh. Hiebert					2
Blumenhof. Abraham Friesen	x	1	1	2	
Heinrich Reimer, Junior	x	1	1		
Blumenhof. Johann Toews		1	1		
Blumenhof. Abraham Reimer		x	1		
P. Bearg	1	1	1		
A. Klassen	1	1	1		
Rosenfeld. Heinrich Wiebe	x1				1
Blumenhof. Heinrich Reimer, Sr.			1	1	
Blumenhof. Peter Wiebe				2	2
Heubeoden. Peter Kroecker				1	2
Friedensfeld. Barkman				1	2
Heuboden. Froese					3
Jakob Ens					2
Friedensfeld. Johann Hiebert					1
Grozvatter Reimer					1
Heuboden. Abr. Friesen, Aeltester			1		

The following gave new orders for additional books in the month of June, 1873.

		Third Order
Johann Dueck	10	10
Abraham Hiebert		12
Abraham Klassen		20

On the Sunday before Christmas, Abraham Loewen married the bridal couple Peter Loewen and Koop's daughter Anna, in Neuanlage.

On Wednesday the 27th day of December, Gerhard Harms from Heuboden was excommunicated from the Gemeinde because of impure conduct. On Sunday the 31st he was again accepted into the Gemeinde.

**In the Year 1873, the Month of January,** Sunday the 6th, Epiphany. We presented to the brethren the matter of Corn Friesen, his confession over his sins, and he was forgiven. Secondly, we advised that we were invited to a Conference in Alexanderwohl for the 10th, with respect to mat-



ters concerning a delegation to America. Sunday the 7th, transacted various matters before the brethren. Also regarding Ab. Friesen, Steinbach and he was forgiven. Thursday the 11th, we held the Lord's Supper here in Blumenhof. Sunday, the 14th we partook of the Lord's Supper here in Blumenhof. Monday in Rosenfeld and Tuesday, the 16th in Neuanlage at Kooops.

Ministerial election. Saturday January 20th, 1873, we held a ministerial election here in Blumenhof. (See **History and Events**, page 65.) Peter Kroeker and Jakob Barkman were elected as ministers. As they could not decide immediately to give their assent to the election, the ordination was held over for 14 days. They were ordained for service before the Gemeinde on February 14th.

Sunday the 21st, Abraham Loewen, Joh. Harms, and myself, in the company of many brethren, drove to the Molotschna. Because of the ice leaving the Dneiper River, we made our journey by way of Chortitz, and arrived in Alexanderwohl on the evening of Tuesday the 23rd. On the 24th we, together with Abraham Klassen of Prangenau, drove to Pordenau in order to take part in a Conference there. Here a delegation to America was being recommended. Aeltester Leonard Suderman from Berjansk, was endorsed as a delegate by many of those in attendance, in addition to the other delegates present.

On the 26th we held worship service and brethren meeting in Lichtenau. On the 28th, Sunday, in the morning we held worship service and brethren meeting in Alexanderwohl and in the afternoon we partook in Holy Communion. Monday, January 29, we attended a Conference in the Church in Alexanderwohl. Discussion took place on a letter from Pastor Hans from St. Petersburg, about sending a deputation to Petersburg which was to present a petition to the President of the Imperial Council, Constantin Nikolajamithch Kaisers Hoh. This petition was to the effect that we were to be spared the requirements of military service.

On the evening of the 29th we held Holy Communion at Joh. Duecks. On Tuesday the 30th we held the same in Lichtenau and left for home on the same day, where we arrived safe and sound on the evening of the 30th. N.B. On Friday the 26th, we held worship service in the school. Here I presented the word. It was a very large audience.

Sunday, February the 4th, at brotherhood meeting after worship service, we presented to the brethren our accomplishments on the Molotschna. After lengthy discussion we reached agreement to send a deputy to America in order to work for freedom of our faith and a new homeland. The majority of votes fell on my brother Cornelius Toews with 62 votes. The other votes were as follows: Peter Toews, Rosenfeld—5 votes, and Barkman from Friedensfeld—3, etc. At the same time every one submitted how much they wanted to contribute to the journey of the delegate. We presented the individuals who desired to be baptized and decided to hold the next brotherhood meeting on the forthcoming Saturday, February 10.

February the 10th, we read to the brethren the written questions to the Government in America, which had been composed. The authorization for Toews was also signed, and the collection of 1200 ruble capital was presented to the brethren. The baptismal candidates were also presented to the brethren by name and witness was given for the same.

February 15. Many brothers and sisters attended a farewell for Cornelius Toews. After we had united ourselves in a congregational prayer to the One who says, "Without Me you can do nothing", the beloved brother made his farewell. Among the tears of deepest emotion by his beloved own and the many assembled brothers and sisters, and accompanied by the Grace of God he departed from us for America, where together with the many other delegates, he was to seek for us a new homeland where we would be able to live out our faith. I accompanied him all the way to Nikopol. From here he (Cornelius Toews), in the company of David Klassen, was driven to the Molotschna by Johan Loewen and Abr. Friesen. As the other delegates wanted either to call off or postpone the delegation until Easter, these (our delegates) shortly returned from the Molotschna.

Sunday the 18th, we presented to the Gemeinde the young people who wanted to be baptized. Friday the 23rd I was in Gruenfeld attending Schulprufung. Exceptionally noteworthy in the knowledge of Bible stories among the little ones were Joh. Regehr, G. Goossen, and Isaac, son of Corn. Loewen. Saturday the 24th I attended Schulprufung in Hueboden. Brotherhood meeting, Sunday the 25th, we again presented the young people. Also about Friesen's Abraham in Heuboden. Monday there was Schulprufung (school exams) here in Blumenhof. Tuesday the 27th, at School Prufung in Rosenfeld. Exceptional in reading and Bible studies was Johan, the 8 year old son of Peter Toews. On March 1, Gerhard came here.

Brotherhood meeting Sunday, March 4, 1873. Friesen's Abraham from Heuboden was again excommunicated because he had taken part in a theft and had tried to conceal the same. Also the

young people who wanted to be baptized were again presented. We discussed many things regarding the delegation to America.

Sunday the 11th of March, the young people were examined and questioned regarding their faith before the Gemeinde. Cornelius L. Plett and Helena Rempel were wedded. Sunday the 18th, the young people were baptized. David Hiebert, Johan Toews, Klass Friesen, Sara Siemens, Elisabeth Klassen, Anne Barkman, Kornelia Harms, Elisabeth Gurske (the latter from the Roman Catholic Church).

Wednesday the 21st of March, In Nikopol I took into my possession the **Martyrerbucher**, **Speigel der Taufe, Ehe der Christen**, and one **Hoffart und Demuth**. The **Menno Simons book** had remained underway somewhere. I had to pay 43 Rubel freight. Sunday the 25th, banns were announced for Johan Toews and Elisabeth Gurske, both in Gruenfeld, who had promised each other their hand in marriage. They were betrothed in Gruenfeld on Thursday the 28th. Friday, I was in Friedensfeld. Saturday we were assembled at Kroekers in Heuboden.

Sunday, April 1, 1873, brotherhood meeting. The matter of Klass Friesen and Corn Friesen in Annenfeld was concluded. Secondly, it was decided that Corn Toews, together with D. Klassen, would leave from Nikopol on April 15.

April the 14th, Saturday, after prayer, singing, and some words of admonishment and strengthening in the faith, brother Corn Toews took leave of the brethren and sisters who had assembled here in the school in rich numbers. On the same day he was accompanied to Nikopol by many brothers and sisters. The delegates left Nikopol for Odessa at 5 o'clock on Sunday morning, the 15th, by steamboat (Schmalbe). Up to Odessa, Toews, Klassen, and the two from the Hutterites were also accompanied by a number of brethren. The brethren who accompanied them, brought us the information that they left Odessa by railway, on Tuesday the 17th at 9 o'clock in the evening. They had planned to meet together with Suderman from Berjansk, and Buller from Alexanderwohl, in Prussia, on Sunday the 22nd, and together with the latter to leave from Prussia on their journey over the ocean.

Sunday the 22nd of April, at brotherhood meeting, Abraham Friesen of Heuboden was again received and accepted into the Gemeinde as a brother. Saturday the 23rd we were assembled together in Friedensfeld at Barkmans, in order to discuss many matters, and in particular that we wanted to leave for the Crimea on May 7th, in order to visit the Gemeinde there.

N.B. During the week I had been at the place of Aeltester Abraham Friesen in Heuboden, in order to discuss with him certain debts, which were still owing to the Gemeinde from earlier. He also wanted to settle the matter the way Joh. Friesen and Enns had earlier decided. i.e. That it was left to each individual to pay off his debts to whichever Gemeinde he belonged to. An accounting between the Gemeinden would not take place. Whoever belongs to our Gemeinde owes his debt to us, and whoever belongs to their Gemeinde owes his debt to them.

Friday the 4th of May, we were in Steinbach at a funeral. Mrs. Fast was buried.

Brotherhood meeting, Sunday the 6th. It was discussed that it was not wrong to require and to act as guarantors where money belonging to the widows and orphans was involved. It was also decided that if anyone did not have sufficient credit that then his nearest brother would be his guarantor, or that the debt was to be endorsed by the Gemeinde. The result is that everyone shall have credit.

Monday the 7th of May. In the company of many brethren I left on the journey to the Crimea. Abr. Loewen and Joh. Isaac from Gruenfeld; and Peter Kroeker, Franz Kroeker, and Heinrich Reimer, Junior, from Blumenhof. We arrived there at the brothers Kornelson at Kadohai Hoffnungsberg, on Thursday the 10th. In the morning I presented the word, and in the afternoon we drove to Schuscha Annenfeld. In the afternoon of the 12th in Annenfeld, Loewen and Kroeker presented the word. Sunday the 13th in Koltomak, Schoenfeld, I presented the word in the afternoon and in the afternoon we had brotherhood meeting. We discussed many things with Heinrich Friesen regarding his loveless judgments in writing his letters. Which the Apostle calls backbiting and gossiping. However we did not come to an understanding with him. Monday, in the forenoon I presented the word in Annenfeld, and after dinner we again had brotherhood meeting. In the morning of Tuesday the 15th a young maiden, the daughter of Heinrich Friesen, was incorporated into the Gemeinde by baptism. In the afternoon we left Annenfeld and traveled to Kadahai, and in the morning of Wednesday the 16th we departed on our return journey, without having been able to reach an understanding with Friesen and without having been able to hold the Lord's supper with him. We arrived at home on the 19th, and there found many of our people very sick.

My father died at 2 o'clock during the night of the 15th. He had already lain sick for a lengthy period.

Sunday the 10th, we had brotherhood meeting after the worship service, and presented many matters. Because certain inquiries had to be made the matter was allowed to stand until the 27th, Pentecost, at which time Mrs. John Reimer, from Steinbach, was excommunicated for \_\_\_\_\_, which had become revealed from an earlier occasion. She was only hesitatingly excused because she had known this for some time. Friesen's Abraham from Heuboden was again excused for his repeated lying, although he had already been put under the bann twice, taking account of his childlike deportment with respect to the consequences of offenses. Presented the wishes of Abraham Isaac from Gruenfeld with respect to baptism.

Tuesday the 31st of May, we, namely with my wife and children, left for the Molotschna. Sunday the 3rd of June, we held worship service in Alexanderkron. Wednesday the 6th, worship service was held in Alexanderkron. On Tuesday my wife had become sick. On Saturday the 9th Abraham Loewen arrived and on Sunday the 11th he presented the word in Alexanderkron, and A. Klassen presented the word in Lichtenau. Meanwhile my wife lay sick in Alexanderkron. Monday, our daughter Anna became sick, and she died on Wednesday the 13th at 11 o'clock in the morning. She died of scarlet fever and was very severely sick. Tuesday the 14th she was buried. Worship service was also held. Klassen preached. Our small son Johan had already been sick of small pox. Saturday we had worship service in Fischau. Because of our sickness it was Monday the 18th by the time we could leave our shelter at Hieberts and be on our way on our return journey. We arrived at home on Tuesday the 19th. We also found small pox at home.

At home in the meantime, Mrs. Reimer had again been reaccepted into the Gemeinde on Sunday the 3rd of June. On the same day Abraham Friesen and Cornelia Harms were wedded by Loewen. And in Steinbach Mrs. Heinrich Brandt had died on Wednesday the 30th of May. On Sunday June 10, the bridal couple Gerhard Friesen and Maria Wiebe were married by Kroecker. Mrs. Peter Reimer in Steinbach had died during our absence. The second letter from Toews in America was received on Sunday the 17th.

Thursday the 21st of June, grandfather I. Loewen died. He was buried on the 23rd.

Sunday the 24th we read the letter of Toews to the Gemeinde. Also accepted the widow Cornelius Janzen from Steinbach into the Gemeinde. The bridal couple Heinrich Brandt and Katharina Warkentin were wedded. On Monday at 11 o'clock in the evening, our son Johan died after a nine day severe small pox sickness.

Sunday the 8th of July, I was in Nikothal (Gerson Government/Province) and presented the word. My text was Revelation 14, 15, 16. In Blumenhof the bridal couples: Gerhard Siemens and the widow Cor. Jansen, and Peter Reimer and Maria Plett were wedded by P. Kroecker.

On July 22nd and the 29th, I spoke here in Blumenhof over the words in Romans 12 verse 17, "Be not slothful, be fervent in spirit". After worship service on the 29th unity of mind of the brethren was achieved to the effect that on both forthcoming Sundays a sum of money was to be contributed for the journey of Corn. Toews. In fact everyone could contribute as they felt was appropriate. Also two letters from Toews were read to the Gemeinde; one from Winnipeg and one from Fargo from July 1.

It was also discussed and decided regarding the Gemeinde treasury that our regulation was to be retained as it had been previously. Namely, that support was not only to be given when the poor no longer had anything left. Instead the poor man should be given support so that he (provided he is otherwise healthy) could also continue his occupation (livelihood). And that such support was only to be considered a loan, later when the recipient was better situated and able at which time the support received was again to be returned to the Gemeinde treasury to be used for the support of other poor.

Thirdly, a number of individuals who desired to be baptized were presented to the brethren. Also Katharina Friesen from Heuboden who wants to be accepted into our Gemeinde was also presented. The brethren were also warned for all forms of imitation of the world, namely, pride and ostentation.

Tuesday the 7th of August at 10 o'clock in the morning, J. Toews and I greeted brother Cornelius Toews on board the Steamship Nacmorka, on his return journey from America. He arrived in Gruenfeld at his beloved own safe and sound at 2 o'clock in the afternoon of the same day, and was greeted with joyful tears. One daughter had died from small pox during his absence. The beloved brothers and sisters in Gruenfeld all gathered together there, and we gave voice to the song of love, "Grosz ist Herr deine Gute". With respect to the information he has brought, we believe that the news is very favourable.

On August 10th the Aeltester from Heuboden, Abraham Friesen, and Cornelius Friesen, Peter Friesen and Jakob Kroecker were here to discuss a union with us.

Sunday the 12th, we read to the brethren the writing which Cornelius Toews had brought with him from the Government in America, in which our religious freedom was promised to us, and he also related to us the most essential of their arrangements in Manitoba, and in Ottawa by the Minister of Agriculture. We also read the letter from Peter Bearg in the Crimea, with sorrowful news that Johann Esau had been put out of the Gemeinde because of his impure conduct.

Saturday the 18th of August we were assembled here to discuss many matters, namely, to consider the concern of the Heubodner Gemeinde to unite with us. Also a number of matters pertaining to the emigration were considered in various respects. e.g. How the poor would be able to cope and accomplish the emigration. The traveling expenses of Toews to America and back had amounted to 654 ruble and 10 kopek. We talked of calling a brotherhood meeting of all the Gemeinden so that the brethren from the Molotschna and from the Crimea, would also participate.

After dinner on Sunday the 19th, I together with Heinrich Wohlgemuth drove to Ekatherinoslav in order to have an attestation certified in the Tydepacki Ynrabreni, that he (Wohlgemuth) was a Mennonite and born to Mennonite parents. We had travelled in the company of H. Reimer and my father-in-law (Johan Warkentin). We were successful in this regard that on the strength of this attestation Wohlgemuth will be able to receive a pass from his homeland the Pedolschen Government (Province.) We arrived back at home on Thursday the 23rd.

Sunday the 26th the bridal couple David Hiebert and Margaretha Friesen were married. We also presented to the brethren who were already starting to put their properties (guter) up for sale, that everything possible should occur only in love, so that neither one nor the other would have to occasion damage thereby.

Thursday the 30th day of August, 1873, a meeting was called at the place of Aeltester A. Friesen in Heuboden. Because Aeltester J. Wiebe from the Crimea was present, it was decided that the land grants as provided for us by the authorities in Canada should be accepted. Namely, for all men and women over 20 years of age, as it had earlier been considered that only the male persons be utilized for this purpose. It was also discussed that it was beneficial to pay outstanding debts in advance, before the debts and demands had to be published.

Sunday September 2, 1873, we arranged a brotherhood meeting for the coming Saturday. N.B. On September 2, I forwarded to Sagraadowki the following: 13 Bibles at 1 ruble, 5 Kopek each; 8 P. Peters books at 63 Kopeks each; and 1 Testament at 40 Kopeks.

Saturday, September 8th, we held brotherhood meeting and admonished the brethren to have love one to another. That we not do one thing (prepare for emigration) and omit to do the other (the love which is essential for everyone). The matter regarding the impure conduct of Gerhard Harms remained to be concluded at another occasion. And we announced a brotherhood meeting for the coming Friday, for which the brethren from the Molotschna and Crimea were also to be invited, in order that we could deliberate with respect to the emigration. Today we also presented that everyone who was already announcing that they wanted to leave Russia, and who had debts or other obligations outstanding; that everyone should pay their debts in time before such obligations were satisfied by legal means.

Friday the 14th of September, 1873, we held brotherhood meeting but the Molotschna and Crimean brethren were not present. Various matters pertaining to the emigration were discussed, how the Passes were to be obtained and the like. Secondly, we presented the concern of the Heubodner to be united with us. Thirdly, the concern of Katharina Friesen to be received and accepted into our Gemeinde. Fourthly, concerning the imitation of the world in vehicles and embellished clothes was worked against and the brothers admonished to be obedient to the Word of God.

Sunday the 16th of September, Ohm Peter Bearg from the Crimea presented the word and thereafter Abraham Klassen from the Molotschna. At the end of the service, Fast from Steinbach was united in marriage with Helena Vehren by A. Loewen. And finally, Katharina Friesen was received and accepted as a sister.

Tuesday the 18th of September we held brotherhood meeting, regarding the preparations for emigration to America. Whether we should yet venture something in order to find out when the new military law was to come into force in our regard? In view of the already promulgated laws of the government it was considered to be unnecessary. We suggested that as the brethren from the Crimea and the Molotschna were now here that a Conference should be held together with the ministers (lehrer) of the Heubodner Gemeinde, in order to discuss our differences. Thirdly, the money remaining from the collection for the delegation to America shall be paid into the Gemeinde treasury. Fourthly, we presented the figures as to how much the trip had cost. Fifthly, regarding the selling of the school.

Wednesday, the 19th of September, Klassen presented the Word at Koops in Neuanlage. Thursday in the morning of the 20th of September, 1873, we were assembled here in the school in Blumenhof. Myself, A. Loewen, P. Kroeker, J. Barkman, H. Wiebe, A. Klassen, J. Dueck, and P. Bearg; and from the Heubodner, the Aeltester, Jakob Friesen and Jakob Kroeker. The discussion was firstly with respect to the differences regarding the diminished confidence towards Ohm Jakob Friesen. Thursday in the afternoon Ohm Peter Bearg presented the word in Steinbach. Friday he (Peter Bearg), Esau and the brothers Cornelsen departed on their journey home.

Sunday the 30th, brotherhood meeting after worship service. The matter with Gerhard Harms was concluded with forgiveness after lengthy discussion. Secondly, the young people for baptism were presented and the witnesses for them were requested. Sunday the 14th of October, we instructed the young people who wished to be baptized, and examined them on their faith. Saturday the 20th of October, we were assembled here in the school in order to inquire into the differences between the brethren regarding the payment to the Vollost. We came to an understanding with great difficulty, as much was dependent on the knowledge of my father.

Sunday the 21st the following young people were baptized: Abraham Isaac, Gruenfeld; Johan, son of Jakob Friesen, from Nikolaithal (Gers. Government); Katharina Plett, daughter of Corn. Plett here from Blumenhof; Helena Loewen, daughter of Joh. Loewen, here from Blumenhof; Margaretha Loewen, daughter of Peter Loewen from Steinrich (Zubumcku); and Anganetha Duk, David Thiessen's daughter from Steinbach.

On Wednesday November 7th, Aeltester Abraham Friesen, from Heuboden, and I were summoned to appear in the Vollost in Nikolaithal, where we attended and gave written assurances that we had no matters with Abraham Thiessen of Neu-Halbstaedt. For he had also made a written request to the administration of this Vollost with a demand for 1000 ruble against our Gemeinde.

Sunday the 11th of November, we held brotherhood meeting. Firstly, the differences in prayer were discussed, and a ruling against praying aloud was not recognized. A letter is to be written to Abr. Klassen in this regard. Secondly we presented the matter of the demands on the Geminde of Abraham Thiessen of Neu-Halbstaedt. Thirdly, regarding Margaretha Harder. That we did not want her to have her Guardians outside the Gemeinde, nor that her present guardians should give up their office as her (M. Harder) brothers in the Molotschna required. Fourthly, we decided that those brethren who still felt obligated to contribute something to the construction of the school could contribute on the 25th of November.

On Monday the 12th of November, 1873, the Blumenhof brethren and the ministers (lehrer) were gathered here in the school, in order to have a general inquiry into the complaints of J. Goossen. The 25th of November, 1873, brotherhood meeting, the complaint of Johan Goossen regarding myself was considered. The same could not be supported. On December 6th, the bridal couple, Isaac Loewen, from Heuboden, and Katharina Friesen, from Sagraadow, were wedded.

Brotherhood meeting was again held regarding the complaint of Johan Goossen on December 11. The same on the 12th, when he was voted out of the Gemeinde because he was not reconciliable, and because of insufficient acknowledgement. On December the 16th, the bridal couple Cornelius Penner, Rosenfeld, and Anganetha Dueck, the daughter of D. Thiessens, were married. Brotherhood meeting was held regarding the demands of J. Br. and the circumstances of emigration. Secondly, regarding the carelessness of Martin Klassen with respect to his daughter, that he was at fault that she had stayed out for night with the Russians and now had gone with the same. Thirdly, regarding Sara Siemens as to tomfoolery and jesting.

Brotherhood meeting, December 26, 1873. A widow Esau, from Osterwick was received into the Gemeinde. This matter had already been presented to the brotherhood on Sunday, the 23rd. Sarah Siemens was also punished before the brotherhood. On January 2nd, I had to attend at the Vollost office regarding the demands of J. Braun. The bridal couple, Peter Loewen, and the widow Esau, from Osterwick, were married by the minister, A. Loewen, on January 6th, 1873. Our matter was also discussed after worship service. Tuesday, the first day of January 1874. Johan Goossen was again received into the Gemeinde. Secondly, a letter was read to the brethren, with respect to the demand letter of J. Braun. Thirdly, the persons who wanted to be accepted into the Gemeinde were presented. Broske, the elder Vehrs from Rrdenthal, and Bullers from Steinbach.

On January 24, Sunday, the Bullers from Steinbach were accepted into the Gemeinde. On Sunday, February 17, it was encouraged that the Treasury be more richly supported in order that capital could be assembled, so the poor could be transmitted to America. On March the 3rd, we presented the differences in viewpoint regarding the Gemeinde Treasury into which we were to contribute in

love. Isaac Friesen had renounced the Gemeinde on this account, on March 2, 1874.

On March 10, Peter Ennses were accepted into the Gemeinde in Rosenfeld. On Monday, April 1, the second Easter holiday, those who wished to be baptized were presented. Thursday the 4th of April, the Family-register (81 families) was sent to Hamburg.

Sunday, April 14th, Ohm Bearg from the Crimea was here. The matter regarding Heinrich Friesen, of Sagradowki, was forgiven him (Friesen) on the condition that he would write to Wiebe in Annenfeld and confess his loveless expression. The persons who wished to have themselves baptized were presented. Some discussion of the collection of a fund by assessment (steuer).

On April 17th, I was summoned to the Vollost office and charged by Staninog to be in Halbstaedt to appear before General-Adjutant von Totleben on the 19th, together with my fellow servants. On the night of the 17th to the 18th, I was especially brought over the Dnieper. However, I was only summoned to appear before the General von Todtleben on Saturday the 20th. The same advised us and all the other Mennonite Aeltesten and Ministers that his Majesty the Czar had sent him to us in order to advise us against the emigration and in order to advise us how he (the Czar) had reconsidered our faith. He advised that we would not have to be placed under the War Ministry and instead would only have to serve in firefighting, forestry duties, technical establishments, and civilian medical or hospital service. For these reasons he advised that we should not emigrate but rather remain in Russia as true subjects who were beloved by the Czar.

On Thursday evening, the 25th, we were required to appear in Chortitz. Here we were again given the same presentation, and earnestly advised to remain here (Russia). Finally we submitted to him (Totleben) a letter of Thanksgiving and Petition. An expression of Thanks for the Freedom enjoyed in Russia until the present time and a Petition for favourable disposition for those who would emigrate.

Monday, April 29th, myself, and a number of those who had not yet sold their properties were required to attend in Ekatherinoslav. This included Cornelius Plett and Heinrich Reimer, Jr. together with our Oberschulz. Here the General-Adjutant von Todtleben again reiterated what he had presented to us in Halbstaedt and in Chortitz. Finally I added the request that the people who had already had their auction sale and therefore would soon be without a place to live and who had such a lengthy journey ahead of them, might be allowed to receive their passes. I requested of him that he present to his Majesty our Letter of Thanksgiving which he also promised and that we would soon receive our passes.

On May 4th, 1874, we mailed to Hamburg the deposit money for passage to America for 84 families. The deposit was 15 ruble for each family.

May 5th. It was presented that no one with outstanding debts payable should postpone payment until serious consequences of non-payment had been attracted. Also regarding Cornelius Friesen and Martin Klassen from Annafeld. Secondly, we presented those who wished to be baptized. Johann Goossen renounced the Gemeinde. Thursday, the 9th of May, Ascension Day, the matter regarding Johann Goossen had now continued for about a year. It had arisen in that he had come into conflict with the village society (Dorfgemeinde) on account of land measurement and a road, and in addition he stood in disrespect and mistrust of me because of miscalculation in the dividing of land.

The Sunday before Pentecost. The persons from the Heubodner Gemeinde who wanted to be accepted into our Gemeinde, were presented. Esau from the Crimea was present and continued to request that he be reaccepted into the Gemeinde. We gave him the understanding that we would again receive him into our Gemeinde, if the brothers and sisters in the Crimea would reaccept him. On the 19th of May, the first Friday of Pentecost, we again presented the Heubodner, and appointed the last festive day (of Pentecost) for their acceptance.

On Monday the 20th of May, the following persons were united (einverleibt) into the Gemeinde through baptism, namely: Johann Breske; Margaretha Friesen, daughter of Cornelius Friesen in Annafeld; Katharian Koop, Johan Koop's daughter from Neuanlage; and Katharina Friesen, daughter of Jakob Friesen in Nikolaithal. We undertook to hold (unterhalten) the Holy Communion on Friday the 24th of May, and Sunday the 26th, and on the 2nd of June.

On May the 30th the first ones departed from Nikolopol for America; they travelled by way of Odessa, Prussia; via Liverpool, England, to Quebec, Toronto, and so on to Winnipeg. Also among this group were my brothers Johan and Cornelius Toews, Regehrs (my sister) and others more. About 25 families.

Another group, which included both my fellow servants (mitdeiner) Abraham Loewen and Peter Kroeker, and Jakob Kroeker, left on June 2nd. On both occasions I, as well as many other brothers

and sisters accompanied them up to the ship and committed to the grace of God they departed.

On June 4th the brothers from Rosenfeld, left from Nikopol for Odessa, by steamship. From here by rail to Hamburg-via Liverpool to America. This group included both of the deacons, Peter and Heinrich Wiebe. On Monday the 17th of June, the remaining Rosenfelder, and the Peter Isaacs from Hochfeld, consisting of seven families left on their way to America, and on Tuesday the 18th they would embark from Nikopol by steamship.

Thursday the 18th of July, 19 families of ours left Nikopol for America. These were those from Steinbach and others. On Sunday the 21st, the remaining families from Annafeld and Steinbach left. They were under the leadership of brother Barkman.

On the 11th of August Elisabeth Klassen was excommunicated because of \_\_\_\_\_. On September 8th, I journeyed to Odessa regarding the publication of the book **Friedensreich Christi auf Erden**. It (the manuscript) is still delayed at the censor in St. Petersburg. I returned home on Wednesday the 11th. On September 15th we had again accepted Elisabeth Klassen into the Gemeinde.

On October the 1st, my wife and I travelled to the Molotschna. Here we held worship service in Lichtenau on the 5th, on the 6th in Alexanderkron, on the 9th in Alexanderwohl and again on the 16th in Lichtenau. We arrived home on the evening of the 16th. During the month of November, when I was in Odessa for the second time, I myself went to see the censor in order to inquire regarding the above submitted work. It was still in St. Petersburg. There are to be results within the time span of a month. The printing of the book **Friedensreich Christi** was finally accomplished in the month of April, 1875. I received the same at the end of the month of April, after I had been in Odessa for the third time.

On May the 4th we embarked on our journey to America travelling from the city of Nikopol to Odessa on the Steamship Nacnawncui. We left Odessa in the morning of the 8th, travelling by rail over Balta to Woluzug on the Russian and Austrian border. We left Odessa on the morning of the 9th crossed over the border to Poelwolznaska. At 9 o'clock in the evening of the same day (now changing to the Gregorian Calendar) we departed from there travelling by way of Lemberg to Krakaw, and from Krakow to Mislowitz on the border between the Austrian and Prussian Empire. From here we travelled through Breslau, Frankfurt, and Berlin to Hamburg. We arrived in Hamburg on the 25th of May, which was a Tuesday, and were quartered at "Fries and Lous". Through the gentlemen "Falk, Spiro & Co." we were forwarded from Hamburg through the Allen Line. On the 28th we embarked on the Steamship Hamburg and got underway around midnight. With the break of day we were on the North Sea and after a fairly calm voyage we arrived in Hull, England on the 30th day of May. Here we disembarked in the morning of the 31st of May, and after our spirits were strengthened by a hospitable breakfast, our expedition was continued by railway. After a six hour journey through (not over) mountains and valleys, we arrived in Liverpool at 5 o'clock in the evening. In Liverpool we held Worship Service. The name of the innkeeper was Stein. A child of Gerhard Doerksens died here.

At 10 o'clock in the morning of Thursday, June the 3rd, a small steamship took us to board on the large ocean going steamship by the name of S.S.Prussian. After everything had been put in order, and the medical doctor had examined us all and everyone had taken up their place, the ship got underway at about 6 o'clock in the evening. Peter Penners, and my siblings, the Johan Goossens (nee Maria Toews), and my beloved mother (the widow Johan Toews) left us in Liverpool for the United States, taking the Inman Line to New York.

The voyage went smoothly at times. On Friday we accomplished 190 miles. On Saturday 183 miles. On Sunday 265 miles. Now seasickness also took hold but it was more or less tolerable. Monday we achieved 252 miles and Tuesday 245. Wednesday 245 and always against wind. Thursday 250 miles. By now we were well again. Now a fog set in. On Friday we made 136 miles. Saturday 56 miles. It was extremely foggy so that we were at a standstill over night. On Sunday we made 50 miles. Monday 26 miles. Heavy fog and towering icebergs and we were at a standstill. Tuesday we made 25 miles and land was sighted. On Wednesday June 16 we again made 265 miles and were passing the coast of Newfoundland. Thursday the 17th was bright and clear and we made 281 miles. On the night of Friday to Saturday we arrived in Quebec City. i.e. In the morning of the 19th of June.

We left Quebec City on Saturday the 19th of June at 4 o'clock in the evening. Here Jakob Y. Schantz had received us into his care. After provisions, such as meat, cheese and bread had been provided for the journey, we traveled to Toronto by way of Montreal under the guidance of Schantz. We arrived in Toronto at 1 a.m. in the night of Sunday to Monday, and were quartered in the immigration houses.

We left Toronto at 7 a.m. in the morning of Monday the 21st. From here our guide was Otto Klotz, Junior. In Detroit we changed trains and we arrived in Chicago on Wednesday morning at 7 o'clock. Here we were brought to a different train station by bus, and again continued our journey at 10 o'clock in the morning of the same day. i.e. the 23rd. We were in St. Paul before dinner on the 24th, but quickly continued on to Yangston where we stayed in the coaches for night. It is important to note that a child of David Loewens died at the station before St. Paul. On the morning of Friday the 25th, we left for Moorehead, on the banks of the Red River, where we arrived at 7 o'clock in the evening.

At Moorehead we embarked on the steamer Dakota and continued on our journey in the evening of Saturday the 26th of June. At 1 o'clock during the night of Monday to Tuesday our ship stopped at the Scratching River where we were received by our brothers and sisters. After the passing of half an hour, and after a number of our travelling companions had disembarked, we continued on our way. At 4 o'clock in the morning of Thursday the 29th of June, our ship anchored at the Rat River, and we disembarked and were greeted by our brothers and sisters. N.B. Br. Toews and P. Dueck had come to meet us at about half way to Pembina, travelling to meet us on another steamer. We arrived in Gruenfeld late in the evening of the 29th of June. The cost of the journey from Nikopol to Winnipeg for my family was: 244 ruble 17 kopeks for passengers and 44 ruble and 40 kopeks for baggage. We had 24 pud of baggage which had cost 1 ruble and 85 kopeks per pud up to Hamburg.

Worship Service was held in Blumenort on the next following Sunday. Here Abraham Klassen announced that he was going to Kansas. Jakob Barkman the minister (lehrer), together with the brother Jakob Friesen had drowned in the Red River in the month of June.

On October 5th, 1875, the following persons were accepted into the Gemeinde: Gerhard Doerksen together with their daughter Anna; Dietrich Isaacs, and Gotlieb Janke. On the 24th of October the following persons were accepted into the Gemeinde by baptism: Aron Penner, Abraham Unger, Jakob Toews, Jakob Barkman, Anna Goossen, Margaretha Loewen, Anganetha Warkentin, and Elisabeth Giesbrecht.

On the 24th we decided that the collection on two Sundays would be held for David Unger in order to satisfy him in the required return of his sacrifice. On the 24th Martin Barkman and Anna Doerksen were wedded. On the 7th of November, Heinrich Wohlgenuth and Katharina Plett were wedded.

Brotherhood meeting on Friday the 19th of November in Rosenfeld. It was decided, among other things, that: the leadership of the Gemeinde would simultaneously act as the Board of Directors of the School system; that all the children without exception are to be educated; and that the financial support for schools arranged by Hespeller was to be accepted.

Sunday on November 21st, Holy Communion was held in Blumenort and the bridal couple Gottlieb Janke and Margaretha Friesen were wedded.

On the 28th of November the Lord's Supper (Abendmahl) was held in Gruenfeld. On the 5th of December, the Lord's Supper was held in Steinbach and on December 16th at the Scratching River. On the 17th the following were added to the Gemeinde by baptism: Jakob Ens, Abraham Eidse, Johann Friesen, Heinrich Warkentin, Justina Warkentin, and Justina Eidse. Holy Communion was held on the morning and afternoon of the 19th. On the 20th of December, 1875, a ministerial election was held on the Scratching River. Firstly for deacon: Johann Ens—23, Johann Loewen—14, Cornelius Friesen—2, Gerhard Siemens—1, and Isaac Loewen—1. And for minister the choice fell on Johann Ens with 26 votes. Jakob Kroeker had 14 votes.

N.B. In the summer of 1875, Abraham Klassen together with his family, and many others, moved away from Manitoba to Kansas and others to Nebraska.

**January, 1876.** On the first day of January, Aron Penner and Anganetha Warkentin were wedded. Brotherhood meeting was held on January 6th.

A ministerial election was held on Saturday, January 22nd, 1876. The votes fell on Heinrich Reimer, Blumenort—56; Franz Kroeker, Steinbach—11 votes; Abraham Kornelsen, Heuboden—7 votes; Peter Reimer, Blumenort—5 votes; Peter Toews, Blumenort—4 votes; Cornelius Goossen, Steinbach—3 votes; David Loewen, Hochstaedt—1 vote; Abraham Isaac, Schoenau—1 vote; Gerhard Friesen, Blumenfeld—1 vote; Peter Dueck, Gruenfeld—1 vote; Cornelius Loewen, Gruenfeld—1 vote. From among the deacons, the votes for minister again fell for the same candidate (lehrer): Heinrich Reimer—55 votes; Heinrich Wiebe—19; Johann Dueck—14; and Peter Wiebe—3.

On Tuesday the 25th of January the bridal couple Jakob Toews and Margaretha Loewen were married in Hochstadt. On February 27th in Rosenfeld, Heinrich Reimer presented the word for the



first time on the text Psalm 86:11. On the 20th of August the following 12 persons were united in love (einverliebt) with the Gemeinde through baptism: Johan Plett, Johan Barkman, Cornelius Fast, Gerhard Cornelsen, Abraham Loewen, Peter Baerg, Johann Dueck, Helena Isaac, Gertrude Toews, Elisabeth Reimer, Anna Regehr and Maria Friesen.

On September 17th Johan Wiebe was accepted into the Gemeinde in Steinbach and Aron Penner and Gertrude Toews were wedded. On the 24th of September Holy Communion was held in Gruenfeld, on October 1 in Blumenort and on the 8th in Steinbach. On Thursday October 12th Gerhard Schellenberg and Anna Regehr were wedded.

On Thursday the 7th of December I was on the Scratching River. Friday and Saturday we held worship service. Sunday morning and afternoon, Holy Communion. Seven souls were added to the Gemeinde: Abraham Klassen, Johan Rempel, Martin and N. Rempel, the widow Martin Rempel, and Jakob Toewses. On the Scratching River Jakob Enns and the daughter of the widow Rempel were married.

Over the course of the past month Johann Warkentin and Gottleb Janke, in Blumenhoff and Heinrich Esaus, resigned from Gemeinde (abgeschrieben).

Saturday, January 6th, 1877, brotherhood meeting was held in Steinbach, where also many brethren were present from the Scratching River. Firstly, the matter of Corn. Fast was presented. He had resigned from the Gemeinde. Secondly, the Orphans Institution (Waisenverordnung) shall continue as it was in Russia, with the amendment that instead of Gebietvorstand (Municipal Board) it shall be Gemeindevorstand and with respect to the payment of interest. Thirdly, the same is enacted with respect to the Brandordnung (fire insurance). Fourthly, definite regulations shall be established with respect to school matters. Fifthly, the brethren shall not lend money to a bank. The money which is still in such institutions from the time of the emigration shall be removed from there. Sixthly, the financial statements of the Gemeinde Treasury shall be prepared and presented within a reasonable time. Seventhly, it is to be remembered that 'yes' is to be 'yes' and 'no' is to mean 'no' in all situations. Eighthly, transactions which have been made, and exchanges of land always are to be completed and bought into proper order (legally) as soon as possible. Ninthly, all those brethren who stand in service; as servants (and also the sisters), and anyone else such as herdsman, school teachers, or whoever serves for a wage, and also those who stand under guardianship; shall not be permitted to leave their obligations until their year or term of service is completed.

Tuesday, February 20th, 1877, the widow H. Reimer and Johan Plett in Blumenhoff were united in marriage. On March 4th Abraham Loewen and Helena Isaac were united in marriage through A.L. April 2, Cornelius Loewen and the widow Barkman in Steinbach were united in marriage by P.B. On July 8th, the H. Esau's were again accepted into the Gemeinde. On July 22nd, Mrs. Abr. Schellenburg was accepted into the Gemeinde. On August 26th, Abraham Friesens, of Steinbach, renounced the Gemeinde.

On September 9th, 1877, the following persons were baptized: David, son of D. Thiessen; Margaretha, daughter of Joh. Hiebert; Elisabeth, daughter of Joh. Warkentin; Anna, daughter of Peter Bearg; Anna, daughter of Hein. Brandt. Holy Communion was held in Blumenort, on September the 16th in Gruenfeld, and on the 23rd in Blumenort.

October 7th, Johan, the son of Johan Dueck, and Margaretha, the daughter of Joh. Hiebert, were married. October 14th, Gerhard Schellenberg, Junior, was excommunicated from the Gemeinde because of \_\_\_\_\_. On the 21st he was reaccepted into the Gemeinde. On October 21, 1877, Gerhard Friesen resigned from the Gemeinde. On November 25th, 1877, Gerhard Kornelsen, Junior, was excommunicated from the Gemeinde because of impure conduct, unchastity with \_\_\_\_\_. On the 9th of December G. Kornelsen was again accepted into the Gemeinde. On December 6th, 1877, Abraham Klassen and Elisabeth Warkentin were united in marriage.

Brotherhood meeting on December 27th, 1877, it was resolved to construct three houses of assembly (schools and worship) to be located in Gruenfeld, in Blumenort and in Steinbach. Secondly, a system of school regulations is to be composed in writing. Thirdly, debts and interests shall be liquidated in order to pay off the borrowed monies. Fourthly, grain is to be accepted in lieu of money, to satisfy levies for the Gemeinde treasury. Fifthly, we are to account for and to settle the community work done. Sixthly, participating in the forthcoming ministerial election on the Scratching River. Seventh, warnings against slandering, greed, pride, tomfoolery and jesting. Eighthly, the presentation of Abraham Friesen the fallen one.

On January 6th, 1878, Johan Barkman was wedded with Margaretha Friesen. January 13th, Gerhard Cornelsen and Elisabeth Giesbrecht wedded. January 14th, Abraham Loewen, Franz Kroeker,

and myself drove to the Scratching River. On the 15th we had worship service in Blumenhoff. In the morning of the 16th we instructed the young people. On the 17th Jakob and Peter Rempel, Jacob Toews, Jacob Klassen, and Jakob Devehr were baptized. On the 18th Holy Communion in Rosenort. On the morning of the 20th Holy Communion was held in Rosenhof. In the afternoon the ministerial election was held and through a majority of 20 votes Johan Loewen was elected as deacon. Johann Friesen—13 votes; G. Siemens—3 votes; C. Eidse—1 vote; and Isaac Loewen—1 vote. For minister Jakob Kroeker with 21 votes. Johan Loewen had 11 votes. On the 21st we left for home. Ohm Abraham Eidse was accepted into the Gemeinde on the 12th of January, Scratching River.

On January 11th a meeting was held in Kleefeld of all of the representatives appointed by each of our villages. Each village had appointed two or more in accordance with the resolution of the brotherhood meeting of the 27th of December, 1877. It was resolved and decided that Blumenort and Blumenhof together would build a house of assembly in Blumenort, and in fact to begin with construction of the same in the coming spring. Similiarly, Gruenfeld, Heuboden, Schoenau, Blumenfeld, Rosenfeld, Gnadenort, and Hochstaedt, are to build one house of assembly in Gruenfeld. A third is to be built in Steinbach, only they are to have more time. While the two firstly above mentioned are to be built next year, the Steinbach church need only be finished in three years. Each building is to be 50 or more feet long, and thirty feet wide, and no less than seven feet high. "Peter Toews"

March 24th, 1878, received a written resignation from Johan Broeske, Blumenhoff. April 19th, on Good Friday, Heinrich Friesen from Gnadenort was excommunicated. Grounds: because he had contributed to the unrighteousness and deceit of his brother G. and now did not want to confess the same before the brethren, and in addition did not come to the meeting even though he had twice been notified.

On May 18th, 1878, Jakob Kroeker came from Scratching River and preached on the 12th in Gruenfeld, the 20th in Blumenort, and on the 21st in Steinbach. His text was John 13, 34, 35. Johan Enns from Rosenort, preached in Gruenfeld on June 9th, Pentecost, and in Blumenort the 10th.

On the Saturday before Pentecost, June 8th, the ministers were gathered together at our place and we discussed the following: firstly, regarding the disagreement of Gerhard Cornelsens. Secondly, regarding interest, and the wrongful application thereof (*unrechtmæssigheit*). They were disinclined (*abgeneigt*), other than Jakob Dueck replied contrary to my view. Thirdly, regarding the style and manner of the reacceptance of those who have fallen. (That on being reaccepted in the Gemeinde they are to bend their knees.) Fourthly, the necessity of a document of Union for each village community was stressed.

It had occurred at the beginning of the year 1878 that I had preached against the charging of interest. A number of brethren were not fully satisfied with my sermon, principally my uncle Corn. Plett. This opposition served the uncle in so far that in consequence a brotherhood meeting was held in that regard in Gruenfeld on July 2nd, 1878, where many brethren from the Scratching River were present. I expounded repeatedly against the charging of interest (*Wucher*) from the books of Moses, the Psalms, and the Prophets, as being wrong and an abomination before God. Similiarly from the words of Christ, Luke 6. At the brotherhood meeting I was also unanimously instructed to discontinue the reading of magazines, at least not to subscribe to any more. Regarding the Herold the voice of the majority approved of the same.

On the 28th of July, Johan Friesen from Steinbach was excommunicated for forceful opposition during the digging of a canal to drain water. On August 4th Friesen was again accepted into the Gemeinde. On August 4th, 1878, the following persons were accepted into the Gemeinde through baptism: Peter and Abram Plett, Jakob, Anganetha, and Gertrude Koop, Peter and Margaretha Toews, the foregoing in Blumenort and Blumenhoff: Maria Friesen and Anganetha Barkman, Steinbach; and Margaretha Loewen, in Gruenfeld.

On August 9th (I) drove to the Scratching River. On the afternoon of the 10th, worship service and brotherhood meeting, and in the forenoon of Sunday the 11th, worship service. There were eleven young persons who wished to be baptized. However they were not yet called. On Monday the 12th, I returned home again.

On August 18th, Klass Friesen of Steinbach renounced the Gemeinde. He was in question because of being untrue and false to his creditors. The Lord's Supper was held in Gruenfeld on August 25th and in Blumenort on September 1st. On September 8th, Jakob Barkman and Maria Friesen were married. They were wedded in Rosenfeld.

On September 29th, 1878, Klass Friesen from Steinbach was again accepted into the Gemeinde. On the 29th the regulations for the operation of the schools were read at the brotherhood meeting,

and acknowledged by the brethren, and henceforth are to be in effect. We received a Bill of Exchange for 300 dollars gold from Schitt, in Hamburg, for our school in Blumenhoff, Russia. By exchanging the Bill we received \$278.50 in the Merchants Bank.

On November 6th, in consequence of an invitation by the Protestant School Authority, we were in Winnipeg. Here we were invited into Hespeller's office and were offered financial support for our schools.

November 24th, Peter Toews, Junior, in Blumenort, was married to Elisabeth Reimer from Steinbach. On January 31st, 1879, the following persons in the Scratching River settlement were received into the Gemeinde by baptism: Johan, son of H. Warkentin; Heinrich, son of Abr. Eidse; Klaas, son of Cor. Friesen; Anganetha, daughter of Jakob Kroeker; Elisabeth Devehr, step-daughter of Siemens; Helena, daughter of David Klassen; Anna, daughter of H. Warkentin; Agatha, daughter of M. Warkentin; Maria, daughter of Jac. Toews; Maria, daughter of widow M. Rempel; Sara Harms, step-daughter of Cornelens. On February 11th, Peter Bearg, Junior, was united in marriage with Margaretha Loewen.

On February 9th, Jakob Kroeker preached in Gruenfeld, and on the 11th in Blumenort. On February 27th Peter Plett was united in marriage with Aganetha Koop. On March 10th, school teachers were examined in Chortitz. Examiners were Mr. Hespeller, Jac. Friesen, Tanenau, and Abraham Isaac, Schoenau. In the morning of March 16th communion service was held in Rosenhof, and in the afternoon in Rosenort, Scratching River.

On April 2nd, Easter Friday, I forwarded to Johannes Holdeman, pursuant to his request, the following books: 1. **Das Biblische Namen and Chronikbuch** by P.J. Twisck, Hollaendisch, 2. And the exposition regarding the twentieth chapter of Revelations entitled **Friedensreich Christi**. Thirdly, **Spiegel des Lebens**, by George Hansen. Fourthly, **A Fundamentebuch** by George Hansen, Hollaendisch. Fifthly, also by him (G. Hansen), **Confession** in Latin and German. Sixthly, and, Seventhly, two volumes of **Geschiedenis der Christen . . . Mennoniten Genant**, by Herman Schijn edition of Gerardus Maatschoen. Eighthly, **Ein Confession oder Glaubensberichten der Alten Flemischen Taufgesinnten**, German. Ninthly the work of Peter Peters, Hollaendisch.

On July 27th, 1879, Johan Hiebert, of Gruenfeld, was excommunicated from the Gemeinde for unchaste conduct.

On August 3rd the following persons were accepted into the Gemeinde through baptism: Johan Toews, Heinrich Loewen, Jakob Regehr, Cornelius Barkman, Abraham Reimer, Johan Friesen, Peter Wiebe, Gerhard Goossen, Helena Penner, Elisabeth Thiessen, and Sara Fast. Eleven persons in total. On August 17th, Klaas Friesen of Steinbach was separated from the Gemeinde. Grounds: he had taken a bag of oats away from a certain Hiebert. On August 31st, Friesen was again accepted into the Gemeinde.

On November, Johannes Holdeman came from Ohio in order to learn to know our Gemeinde. He also preached many times and on the 13th of November he travelled to the Scratching River. On November 16th, Joh. Hiebert was again accepted into our Gemeinde. Isaac Penner and Margaretha Toews were united in marriage.

Brotherhood meeting in Gruenfeld on January 26th, together with the brethren from Scratching River. Firstly regarding the question of the Citizenship. The expression in the papers to be signed, "to the utmost of my might" with respect to the defense of His Majesty the King, can not be signed. Therefore it was decided to work for another form. Secondly, regarding brotherly love. How the same might again come to be more present to encourage the same, and to good works instead of the contrary as is frequently the case. Thirdly, regarding avoidance of a separated and fallen one. Gerhard Friesen was excommunicated. Fourthly, a discussion regarding marriage. That parents might be more watchful of their children so that the children might not commit fleshly interaction or premarital intercourse. No more before joining the Gemeinde than after. Fifthly, discussed the baptism. How this is to be a union of love (einverleibt) with the Gemeinde of God, pursuant to faith and repentance, and how an unrepentant baptism cannot be considered a baptism by them. Sixthly, differences between our Gemeinde and that of Johann Holdeman were put forward. Seventh, regarding the Brandordnung (Fire Insurance).

February 22nd, 1880, Gerhard Friesen was again accepted into the Gemeinde. In March of 1880 the following persons were united (einverleibt) with the Gemeinde: Jakob Kroeker, David Friesen, Peter Loewen, Heinrich Dueck, Heinrich Enns, Anna Harms, Aganetha Friesen, and Katharina Toews. Holy Communion was held in Rosenort in the morning and in Rosenhof after dinner. Katharina Friesen was excommunicated from the Gemeinde because of earlier sins. Abr. Friesen, Blumenhoff, and the

wife of Gerhard \_\_\_\_\_, were excommunicated on Good Friday, because of \_\_\_\_\_. The latter was excommunicated on the 4th of April and reaccepted on April 11th.

On April 18th, John (Abraham) Friesen was united in marriage with Helena Penner in Blumenort. On September 21st the following persons were received into the Gemeinde in Blumenort through baptism: Johann (Jakob) Dueck, Gruenfeld; Johann Reimer, Blumenhoff; Isaac Loewen, Hochstadt; Maria Unger, Blumenhoff; Elisabeth Toews, Steinbach.



# Chapter Eleven.

## Life's Experiences Of Abraham Klassen

Experiences of my life which I have written in order that a remembrance will survive for my descendants. Written by Abraham B. Klassen, Swalwell, Alberta, 1927.

**Introductory Remarks** Already for some time the thought has been within me, of leaving behind an account of my pilgrim journey in this desolate world; not for my honour, but rather as a remembrance for my descendants, and for the glorification of our Heavenly Father, under whose leading and direction and under whose gracious shield and protection I have already wandered for almost 83 years. According to Psalm 90, verse 10, our life span is three score and ten years and if we do well then we may reach 80 years; And if it has been precious it has also involved pain and work.

In consequence of the fall of man it has been decreed that mankind shall eat their bread by the sweat of their brow, Genesis 3:19. I also am a descendant of Adam and have always found to be sufficient this eating of my bread by the sweat of my brow. Although we were not rich, I was one of those who did not belong to the poorer classes, and rather I was well able to help myself. Accordingly I have not come to experience the greatest poverty, whether with my parents at home or later personally. Nor have I lived in luxury, but rather in a middle class.

In Luke 22, 35 Jesus presented to his disciples the question whether they had ever known want while with him, and they answered, "no never". If the same question were asked of me, my answer would be the same. Although I must confess that I have had to live sparingly and frugally, in the years when I had just started my own family and also later in my senior years; I have not ever had a real deficiency. But I want to be correctly understood, as this is only with regard to the material viewpoint. For the Lord did not leave me without chastening in the other regard, as he found my home in that he took my first and later also my second beloved spouse from my side.

**Early Life And Conversion** Like many people in the world, I expended my youth without concerning myself to any degree with heavenly matters. Notwithstanding that I was raised by Christian parents in discipline and admonition to the Lord in accordance with Ecclesiastes 7:1-4, the same did not work sufficiently in my inner life, for during the years of my youth until my 20th year, I was a worldly person who found gratification in the life and conduct of this perishable world and I took part in it all.

I was born in South Russia in Taurien Province in the Mennonite village of Margenau which belonged to the Gnadenfelder Vollost. Here I also undertook my education and attended school for seven years. My first teacher was a Cornelius Wedel. The last two years my teacher was a certain Abr. Harms, many of whose relations are currently living in the United States.

In spite of my young 16 years I had to some extent fallen in love with my first wife, Anna Rempel. This occurred exactly at the time that the so-called Kleine Gemeinde had bought land in the vicinity of the city of Nikopol, which lay on the banks of the Dnieper River and which belonged to the Jekatherinoslavschen Province. My parents belonged to this Gemeinde and we moved there as well so that circumstances beneficial to our relationship were temporarily suspended.

The Wirtshaf (a village farm) in Margenau was sold and together with those others who were like-minded, we found a new homeland (in Borosenko, near Nikopol). Here my life continued without consideration being given to my salvation. Only after a time were disturbing thoughts to be found within me, as to whether I would be able to stand before God in this way.

Then, apparently without any human actions having taken place, the Spirit of God started to work in my heart, in consequence of which I felt compelled to commence a new life and in the spring of the year 1870 I became minded to unite myself to the so-called Kleine Gemeinde, through baptism. At that time it was the practise that those who wanted to be joined with the Gemeinde had to present themselves to the junior Minister a considerable time beforehand, in order that they would first be instructed in the faith.

With my conversion I have advanced somewhat ahead with regard to the division which occurred at the time in the Kleine Gemeinde. This separation occurred a couple of years prior to my conversion. Because it happened so long ago I have forgotten whether the Aeltester election took place after the division or not. Johan Friesen the Aeltester of the Kleine Gemeinde at that time, left with about one-half of the membership of the Gemeinde. At that time the two Friesen's, Abraham and Cornelius, were the leading ministers of the Heuboden (Mennonite Kleine) Gemeinde. In addi-

tion their father (Jakob W. Friesen) was a deacon in the Gemeinde. They continued this way and became an independent Gemeinde.

I should have recorded the history of the division of the Gemeinde prior to that of my conversion as the division occurred earlier. In as far as I can remember this separation must have taken place in either 1867 or 1868. The incident on account of which the division occurred arose through the purchasing of lumber for the new settlement in Ekatherinnoslav and involved the small Jakob Friesen. The ordination of A.F. (Abraham L. Friesen) was later carried out by Johan Harder, the Aeltester of the Orloff Gemeinde.

**Baptism And Marriage** When we had received sufficient instruction we were advanced forward and were baptized. When the question was put to me, as to whether I believed that I had received forgiveness of sins, I was able to answer with a joyful "yes". I had become a young plant in the garden of God; which plant in order to grow, thrive and increase, now had to be and should be nurtured in Godly living.

I did not remain in the parental home, and instead had to be away in order that the art of carpentry could be learned and carried on and so I fell into frivolous company; and the saying "Bad company spoils good habits" also bespoke of my situation. What has such a company to offer to a young heart unfamiliar with the lusts of the world? Jestings, buffoonery, obscene words and fashionable speech, were the order of the day. In this manner my soul was darkened but not to the point that the inner light was completely extinguished. For the Spirit of God, which does not forsake its own, still continued to rebuke me, for frequently worrisome feelings stealthily came over me, and often chastening thoughts whether matters would stand well before God if I continued to live in this manner. This situation continued while the summer passed away and similarly also the autumn.

In Genesis 2:18, God says, "It is not good that a man should be alone, I will make a help meet for him". For this reason God has created in mankind the necessity of belonging together. Accordingly such a feeling of loneliness crept over me and I experienced a longing for a life's partner. I was overwhelmed by feelings of affection for my first love in my home village of Margenau, who had seemingly almost passed from my memory. In consequence of this my parents and I made a journey to our former homeland in order to see if my longing could be quieted there. The young woman (jungfrau) had not yet forgotten her earlier attraction towards me, and when I asked her, whether she wanted to cast her marriage fortunes together with me, she could not restrain herself from joyfully assenting. And so in the year 1870 we were blessed and wedded in the parental home by the preacher Peter Friesen.

**Early Married Life And Tragedy** Through the help of God we had now entered into the state of matrimony, and now were married people. The question of where we would live was soon added to that circumstance, at the place of her parents or would we go to my parents. She wanted to go along to my parents. Father had promised me 25 desjation of land if we returned. So we stayed there for a year and together worked for wages in the parental home.

During this time the Lord blessed my spouse and when her time came she went into labour. It is a very apparent error and a great loss, if one calls an untrained and inexperienced midwife for an expectant woman, instead of retaining an experienced and trained midwife (Hebammen). Many a man has later lamented, and so many a dear spouse has seemingly had to carry the serious consequences for the rest of her life. This was also the case here as the woman whom we had first called did not understand her situation and tortured the poor expectant mother for a long 24 hours; so that I thought that my beloved wife would have to die. There was an experienced and expert midwife about 20 werst away; she was sent for and brought to my wife as quickly as possible. With the help of God it was possible that in a short time a child was born, but whose soul had already escaped. Such hours were very long. This occurred on July 15, 1871. The woman who had been tortured for so long seemed to recover quickly and in general to regain her health.

The next winter we moved into the nearby house which has been father's first house on that land. We were blessed again. Notwithstanding a difficult delivery my wife gave birth to a second child which unfortunately died on the third day after the birth. The beloved wife again became well but remained weak, which was a result of the first difficult delivery.

**The Emigration And The Death Of M. Rempel** In 1873 the Privilegeum of freedom of nonresistance which had been promised in perpetuity was to be withdrawn from the Mennonites by the Government. Consequently, many became decided to leave their old homeland and to seek a new one; which included us, and also the parents. As a result of the invitation of the English Government

for us to come to America, the Kleine Gemeinde decided to send delegates to inspect and examine the offered land. My father was elected from the group to be one of these delegates, and as well a certain Cornelius Toews.

This was a great responsibility for him and for his family. One has in mind the words of the Saviour when he says to his own "but when they persecute you in this city, flee ye into another", and consequently our fathers decided to undertake this arduous journey over the distant ocean. This was a great difficult journey of which however I will not report because of scarcity of time. Approximately three months had gone by before my father had completed this undertaking. The Lord had not allowed this journey and great effort to go unblest as the delegates, including our father, returned home with a favourable Privilegeum with respect to nonresistance in hand from the English government.

Thereupon many, including ourselves, became decided to emigrate, in 1874, and arrangements quickly went forward in order to prepare for this venture. However, in the spring of 1874 we received the news that my wife's father was very sick and so instead of finishing the preparations for the emigration, like the others and my parents, we drove to the sick father. It took us about two days to travel (150 werst).

By the time that we arrived there father was already so sick that he could no longer take care of himself, and he had to be served, which my brother-in-law and myself gladly did. The time had come for father's pilgrimage to end and through death he was snatched away from his wearisome life. His sickness was a hard one and he was often delirious so that he was not himself. The sorrowing mother now remained alone which was an almost insurmountable situation for her and the children. But what can one say? "What is done of God is done for the good." Nevertheless, we who remained had hope and faith that the father had triumphed in all respects, here as well as over yonder.

After father was buried and everything was settled in so far as was possible at the time, we journeyed back to our home. They had not been unoccupied at home during the time of our absence and instead industrious progress had been made in the preparations for the great expedition. For this purpose, inventory, cattle, and also land had to be sold, among which in accordance with previously made arrangements were also included my still unpaid 25 desjatien of land. By the time that we returned the parents and siblings were more or less ready to travel. But as my wife's mother could not yet completely commit herself, we also remained behind in order that the pain would not become too severe for her. I undertook to look after the paternal "Wirtshaft" until the fall, namely, to garner in the grain and to have the same forwarded to the City of Nikopol to the steam mill of a certain Peter Friesen who had purchased our "Wirtshaft".

In the fall, after everything was looked after, my brother-in-law Martin Rempel came with a vehicle in order to bring us back to Margenau. We loaded all our possessions on his vehicle and also a load on our vehicle, and departed from what had been our home for 8 years. This touched me very deeply, for my father was a good gardner and had laid out a fine orchard on the land immediately after his settling there. After seven years growth it was bearing fruit and was beautiful. But everything is subject to change, says Solomon, and everything has its time, planting and building.

So then we arrived at the place of our mother-in-law in Margenau with all our earthly possessions. She had only a small residence and in addition, she had a large family of 12 children of whom only two were married. As a result it was necessary for us to search for quarters which we obtained for a year from a neighbour, Johan Wiebe, my former school companion. When we again had to change our quarters the following year, we obtained the same from another neighbour who had also been my fellow student. As I am writing about my former fellow students something else comes to mind regarding the school years. During the last winter of my school years I had been the highest student in standing, which was very important to the students at that time. We were approximately 100 students. Although I was not a thick skull when it came to learning, and consequently made a good progress in all my subjects, I found arithmetic to be a hard nut to crack.

After we came to Margenau in late fall of 1874 and wintered there, the beloved God gifted a daughter to us. She received the name Katharina. Since there were good experienced midwives available at the time, especially those who came out of the school of Mrs. Bergen (Frau Bargsche), everything involving the birth was normal and my wife had less to endure. Later she developed pneumonia through a cold and as a consequence of this had to undergo an operation.

**Our Journey To The New Homeland** We remained there during the year 1875 and 1876 until June, at which time we prepared ourselves for emigration. My mother-in-law and her family made a similar decision; with the exception of son Abraham who remained there. According to my information he later moved to Memrik with his family where he also resided until his death. In 1876 a



large group was arranging a transport, and so we decided to join this group of some 60 families in order to leave the old Homeland and to undertake the great journey to America. That was a far reverberating word, "to America". The deputation had actually perceived that it would be a place of refuge for us Mennonites. Indeed, we are informed by church history that the Mennonites are a wandering people since years of yore. Nevertheless I still experienced heartfelt pain, to take leave of the old and familiar, never to see it again. It was the home we had come to love.

Finally we were off to the train station with the mother who was sickly. We entrained and were on our way. Through the protection of God, the journey by land, as well as by water over the great ocean, went unexpectedly well. Because our entire company of travellers was going to the United States and only we wanted to go to Canada, we decided to travel with the group up to St. Paul. The travelling expenses were somewhat higher for us than if we had gone directly to Canada, as they took the route through New York and then through the States north-west through North Dakota. From here we came to Moorehead, from where we travelled up the Red River by ship to Morris on the Morris River.

**Settling In Our New Homeland, Rosenhof** Here my parents who had settled there two years previously were waiting for us to greet us, and to take us along with them to the new home Rosenhof. Yes, that was the name of our new home. Here we found a good reception as the parents had built themselves a fairly large residence in accordance with Russian standards. Now we were in Canada in our new Homeland, where we are still living today. But not near Morris. Instead we are living in Alberta, near Swalwell. We have now lived in Canada for almost 57 years.

Here again our concerns were aroused anew. But all for naught as our parents had looked after our needs and had already taken up a homestead for us. As the settlement was built in villages in the old style we also build in the row. I had to bear in mind that I only had a small capital, only about \$600.00. We went to work to build a small house for us between the parents and the oldest brother David. By now it was fall. I will revert somewhat to mention that we had arrived exactly in time for harvest and we helped the parents garner in a small crop. At that time the grain was still cut with the hand scythe, but the hay was already being cut with a grassmower. Immediately after the harvest I together with those of my brothers who still found themselves at home, built a neat dwelling house with a roof, while the barn without a roof, was erected with logs.

I also bought a yoke of oxen, a cow, a wagon, and a plow for breaking sod, although I made the harrows myself. The settlers had received a great deal of feed for cattle and also potatoes. As the potatoes had no price we received a great many and even fattened a small pig with them for the winter, so even our larder had been looked after. By the time the fairly severe winter came, for which we were by then prepared, we felt fortunate that we were here in Canada together with all of our substance.

**Tragedy Strikes Again** Everything went well, and we were glad, but only until the next year, 1877, which was a very hard year for us. Particularly for my beloved wife who frequently shared with me that she was experiencing thoughts of dying which she could not put out of her mind. I tried to comfort her by pointing out that women in her situation were always conscious of the possibility of dying. One evening as I was returning home from work, she again mentioned this to me and I could not help but that this also awakened such thoughts in me.

This is how matters continued until the time came when our most optimistic calculations were dashed. Prior to surrendering ourselves to our nightly repose that last evening, and as both of us enjoyed singing, we became mindful to sing a song together. We decided upon song number 283 in the old Gesangbuch, which we had not otherwise sung before, but which later often came back to me and was a comfort to me. After we had sung a number of verses we went to our rest and slept peacefully through the night. We stood up well and healthy, attended to our morning chores, and ate breakfast. However, the dreaded hour which we had feared for so long came at about 9 a.m. All the necessary actions which are essential in such a circumstance were taken. The midwife was nearby and she was quickly summoned. Before my wife laid down she reminded me once more that her last hour had come and that she would die. This proved to be true for in a short time she started to hemorrhage and within a few hours she had passed over to the land of the Blessed.

Anyone who has had the experience of having to give up his dearly beloved wife will be able to understand my feelings at such a time. How fearfully deep was my sorrow to know that I was separated from her the essence of my being whom I loved above all. Indeed, it was not alone the pain of parting which was stirring within my innermost being, instead great pangs of conscience tor-

tured me night and day, that I had become too indifferent in my Christian life and that I had not sufficiently pursued the perfection of holiness. The hand of God weighed heavily upon me. This had the result that I became penitent, and in a childlike way fervently pleaded for forgiveness of sins; which I firmly believe I received and that I was redeemed.

Once more I stood alone only now I had my daughter of one year and nine months with me. Indeed I learned how to pray but I myself was without counsel as to where I was to go from here. I went further in my prayers and asked the Lord as to what his plans were for me from henceforth, should I marry again or not? And if this situation was His will that he might direct me to a young woman (jungfrau), together with whom I might be able to experience a peaceful marriage relationship.

**My Second Marriage** I will never forget how it happened that my thoughts came upon a young lady, Elizabeth Warkentin, who was almost unknown to me as I had only seen her in school years ago. I considered it to be the leading of God and made my way to the district 40 miles distant, in the hope that I had understood the language of God. From my younger brother who had also been married in that place and who lived there, I received hospitality and sympathy for my unfortunate situation. The uncle of my previous wife lived there as well and I went to him and requested of him, that he go to the young woman Elizabeth Warkentin and persuade her for me. Nevertheless I was in great fear as we were so unknown to each other.

The uncle accomplished my request, went to the young woman and found in her a favourable response, and I received permission to come for a visit. In the hope that I was following the will of God I went to her, and as we were of one mind in our convictions we were betrothed. On the 6th of December, 1877 we were united in marriage in the paternal home by Altester Peter Toews, who now as the brother-in-law of my newly wedded wife also became my brother-in-law.

Notwithstanding that my new bride was only young in years—she only turned eighteen in summer—she already had a school of suffering behind her. In 1874 as they were ready to emigrate, she lost her mother. That was a severe blow for her father as well as for the children. Then her sister Aganetha became sick. Aganetha was older than my wife who had only turned 15 that summer. Notwithstanding the condition of sister Aganetha they were able to complete all preparations for emigration, and in the summer of 1875 they came to America. Here together with her father and her siblings, she settled in Blumenhof. Then her sister married a certain Aron Penner. But Penner lost his wife that same summer, as her sister died of consumption after only 6 months of marriage. This was again a hard blow for my wife, so that she almost lost all courage.

Although my wife was only 17 years at the time, she remained as the hostess and the youngest in the home. With tears in her eyes she has frequently told me of these difficult times. As no proprietress now remained in the home, I thought to myself that we should remain here with father-in-law, and advance the affairs of his enterprise under his leading. This also went very well. We were occupied there for the first winter and the summer of 1878 and furthered his "Wirtschaft". In addition to us there were other workers who cut the forest logs into boards with a lumber saw. There were also a number of eaters at the table, which was the cause of much work for my wife who was still very young. She was vigilant and not fainthearted and pursued her work that first winter.

Throughout the whole winter there were up to five and six workers there at the father-in-laws. It was the style of father-in-law to keep things busy. The wood was to be used for a 30 foot long addition at the rear of the barn. The shingles necessary for the roof were manufactured from cedar wood and cut with a knife which we did ourselves. As I had learned the art of carpentry very well, I took charge of the construction of the above named building and also the renovation of the barn. In this manner we always had work from early in the morning until late at night. To diligently press forward was the style of my father-in-law who had owned a so-called "chutor" in Russia, where a considerable number of Russian workers had always been kept busy. For this reason my wife, who had grown up among the Russians, could speak Russian very well; and could also read Russian which she had learned in school.

Together with the other employees I worked the whole summer through with the raising of a rather average crop a share of which I received as my wages. Most of the grain was cut with a hand scythe because it was very wet right up until the harvest. But for the finish we used a binder or a machine which was designed in such a way that two men stood on a platform and in turn bound the grain in sheaves which they dropped off the rear. I never again saw this style of machine.

The summer sped by and the autumn came during which the beloved God granted us a son as a gift; who is still alive today, and on whose very yard we are living in our little home at the present time. But even this could not occur without suffering for the chest of my wife became sore and she

experienced great pain and had to remain in bed for 7 weeks. In addition to everything else she came down with "gesichts rose". During this time I was unable to get out of my clothes for the night, as there was no one there to look after my wife. And in order for me to present the little baby to my wife I had to look after the child myself.

My beloved wife often said that if she should become well again she would better such matters for sick wives. This wish was richly granted to her in later years as she was a midwife for almost 30 years. The Lord had gifted her with knowledge and she remained very much in the world of women until her end. Now I served her and did what I knew and after a while she became well again. During the sickness of my beloved wife her father had engaged a cook who did what she could. Nevertheless my wife needed a good nurse but this was not yet customary at the time.

**Back To Rosenhoff, Manitoba** All this occurred in the winter of 1878 to 1879. I had already built a home and barn on my homestead near Morris and this attracted us back to Rosenhof. Although the father-in-law did not think it was right, we could not commit ourselves to remain there. Therefore we returned to our home near Morris in the month of March in the spring of the year 1879. Nevertheless it was hard for my wife to leave her father while he was still a widower. In the meantime I had already bought myself a team of horses with which—although they were only small—I was able to help myself although only poorly. In addition I lost a horse almost every year as I did not have much luck with horses, and this held us back considerably, so that we did not make much progress.

We had more luck with livestock. My wife had received two fine cows from her father and this was soon a great assistance to us in our enterprise. However, in spite of our frugal lifestyle the situation was meagre. Thus for example, since there were no Sunday shoes the everyday workshoes were smeared black with the soot from the bottom of the frying pan. My wife made a kind of shoe out of felt for our children which in my opinion were better than the children's shoes of today. On September 11, 1880, we were again blessed with a son who was named Johan after his grandfather Johan Warkentin, the father of my wife.

1881 was a significant year for us. Our Aeltester, Peter Toews, believed that his Gemeinde was not standing in the right relationship as the Gemeinde of God, and summoned two ministers to Manitoba, namely Ohms Johan Holdeman and Mark Seiler, in order to again bring the Gemeinde to the right way. Therefore a baptism was now to be recognized in which a fundamental rebirth and renewal of the spirit had taken place. There were many who were now awakened to a new life.

We both believed to have received baptism pursuant to forgiveness of sins the first time, and were confused. The Ohms explained further that they were not rejecting the good which we had received with our first baptism, only we had not been baptised into the Gemeinde of God and therefore we allowed ourselves to be baptized. I had difficult problems to overcome before I was able to stand with firm ground under my feet, although my wife was more quickly able to come to a comprehension. Beyond this we had no further agitation regarding this matter. This occurred in the spring of the year 1882.

Shortly thereafter, on March 11, the Lord blessed us with a daughter and we called her Elizabeth after her mother. As our dwelling house was built in the Russian style and was designed with a brick oven for heating straw, we had only little room as the first pioneer home was small. Then the years went by without particular occurrences with the exception that on August 20, 1883, we received a son by the name of David, after his paternal grandfather. After the passing of somewhat over a year another son, Isaac was born to us on August 3, 1884. The mother had been injured by the negligence of the doctor during the birth of the last son which grieved us very much. Nevertheless she again became well, although she was to be barren in the future. But it was not our fault. We later also sought medical help, but it was all in vain and thus the matter remained.

My wife was gifted in dealing with the sick. Shortly after she had become well again she was called to look after the sick and those who were being delivered of child, so that soon she delivered the new born without the aid of a doctor. If the doctor did come he instructed her in the care of the sick, and thus her gifts in this regard always developed further so that she was soon able to manage without him so that she started going out as a midwife herself. Although the doctor was not pleased with this he remained favourably disposed to her and did not begrudge her on that account.

The commitment of my wife in this important calling always became more extensive. She said that this work was entrusted to her by God and she sought to execute her duty in a true and upright manner, and in prayer to God that he should stand with her. She had frequently related to me that when matters sometimes appeared to be very grim, she kneeled down with the next-of-kin or often she did so by herself. She said that in so doing she frequently experienced the nearness of God, etc.

**My Election As Minister** The following events belong somewhat earlier in this account as they took place in the period 1880-1881. Peter Toews, who was the Aeltester of the Gemeinde was seemingly unable to find his way to what was right in the Gemeinde as it then existed. For this reason he went over to the "Holdemans" Gemeinde with almost one-half of his former Gemeinde, while the other half remained in their Kleine Gemeinde. As a consequence great convolutions took place among family members which were often combined with deep grief.

It occurred in many situations that the children tore themselves from their parents and went over to the other Gemeinde, while the parents continued where they were. This also occurred in our family for we separated ourselves from our parents on both sides who remained in the Kleine Gemeinde. In the beginning the relationship between the relatives was thereby broken but with the passing of time the party spirit calmed itself. Eventually the old relationships returned to normal and remained so until the present day.

Certain ministers also went over to the new Gemeinde and resigned their positions. As a consequence of this ministerial elections had to be held and in fact in both Gemeinden. This was a very important event for me for the thought had already occurred to me at the time of my going out of the Kleine Gemeinde, that in either case the vote could fall on me. Elections were held in our Gemeinde and also in the Kleine Gemeinde. As a consequence Peter Toews, Abr. Isaac, and Martin Penner were elected there on the East side, but here in Morris only Johan Enns.

Our Gemeinde grew rapidly in the beginning so that a second election was proceeded with after the passing of a number of years, in the year 1884. Johan Holdeman was summoned in order to be of assistance regarding these elections. The election was first held on the East side with the result that three ministers were elected. The vote fell on Peter Bearg, Wilhelm Giesbrecht, and Johan Dueck who were simultaneously ordained into office. Then Johan Holdeman and Peter Toews together with other brothers and sisters came to Morris for the ministerial election, to which I went with trembling heart for I had a feeling that the vote would now fall on me. The vote was very much divided and five persons were elected of whom I had the most votes. Then followed David Hiebert, Jakob Enns, and Cornelius Eidse.

Johan Holdeman was shocked that so many had been elected. He did state though that there was a need everywhere for capable men who would spread the Gospel. But among us we were still too young and inexperienced to understand the language of the Spirit. We then proceeded to the casting of the lots in accordance with Acts 1:26. The result was that the lot fell on Cor. Eidse, Jakob Enns, David Hiebert and myself. At first this put us into a dilemma with respect to our holding elections. But it was allowed to stand. The results thereof became apparent in the future notwithstanding that our Gemeinde was only small and only consisted of some 30 to 40 members.

Slowly thereafter brother Enns resigned from his position as he was convinced that he could not serve as a minister. He was released from his ministerial office and appointed as a deacon, which position he still serves to this day. Cor. Eidse did not seem to come unto stream with his gifts and the Gemeinde did not want to extend recognition to him. He has long since passed away and hopefully entered into the eternal bliss of the Nation of God. After a number of years brother David Hiebert moved to Nebraska and has also gone over to eternity a long time ago. This left Johan Enns and myself alone in the service which we provided there for 19 years. Because members of the Gemeinde moved away and a number of families moved to the new settlement in North Dakota the membership remained stable in spite of the increases.

A brief reflection on the experience on my life's journey. I had a burden on my heart that the witness which I preached from the pulpit in the assembly would also be evident in my life and walk. This I tried to fulfill in my weakness. The earthly things were not to be hindrances to me in my service, and yet times came which were not pleasing to me and I learned to understand that "he who does not renounce everything cannot be my disciple", and "to hate his own life", etc. because my fallen nature was often against me.

By virtue of the blessing of God and with our mentioned trift, we were slowly progressing in material matters. It became possible for us that in the year 1888 we were able to build a large new dwelling house. We built in the village of Rosenhof as there was at that time still no thought of each one moving separately unto his own homestead. My enterprise at this time was not large, but here again my calling was a help to me. Therefore I laid the foundation for my fairly roomy house in the fashion of my father's house which we were renting at the time. The parents had placed themselves into retirement and were living with their children, the Jakob Klassen's.

Immediately after the seeding season I and another man commenced with digging the basement,

and with still others to lay the foundation. The foundation was made from wooden blocks which were pushed under the ground plate, etc. and so we built the house that summer. In fall I engaged a number of additional workers as day-labourers and finished the outwardly part of the house. Both of the large rooms were finished that autumn, as was also the large brick oven which I constructed myself. As my finances were insufficient my father lent me \$200.00.

In the meantime all six of our children came down with dysentery in the summer of 1888 during the hay harvest. We had six children at the time. One daughter from my first wife and five children from my second marriage. A daughter from the second marriage was torn from us through this sickness, which occasioned great sorrow for us. She was carried to her grave at an age of 6 years, 6 months and 25 days. She was not for this world. Although it pained us deeply we disposed ourselves to the Will of God.

**Farming In Rosenhof, Manitoba** In November of 1895 a change occurred at our place in that our daughter Katherina married Peter Toews, the son of Peter Toews, senior. Through this my wife lost a great help as they moved to his parents on the East side. In the meantime the parental "Wirtshaft" which had been sold to a grandson, burned to the ground as the children had played with fire and thereby ignited the house. A number of horses also burned in the conflagration. As the "Wirtshaft" was abandoned by the grandson my father had to repossess it. Brother Jakob and I then bought the land from father for \$800.00 and each took 80 acres. This was very convenient for us as the land lay between our farms.

The village of Rosenhof was laid out along the river from which the water was taken for use and in order that everyone would have easy access to the river the village was only built with one row of premises. We had wells there but the water was not potable and was suitable only for the cattle as it was too salty. It was somewhat of a difficulty to carry every pail of water from the river. In the winter, snow or ice was melted for household consumption.

In the meantimes my sons had grown up sufficiently that I had more help. Consequently, I bought an additional quarter of land in the neighbourhood of Morris for \$800.00. The land was still cheap, but within a short period it would escalate in price. At this time the thought occurred to us to move out of the village and unto our own land. Our village plan was four miles long and was intersected in the middle by the river. This was particularly inconvenient and robbed us of much time when the roads were bad, as at times seeding was going on at one end of the village plan while sod had to be broken at the other end.

We continued in this way until 1898 when we moved unto our newly purchased farm. We found it to be much more suitable to have a larger piece of land for plowing in one parcel. Already in the first year we broke 60 acres of sod; which we then got very nicely ready and the next spring we seeded it. But as the wheat flies were found in the wheat and damaged it, we received only an average crop. In the year 1899 we broke another 40 acres and seeded it with wheat in the year 1900. Since we did not receive rain the yield was only small, only 300 bushels from the whole 100 acres, but as we were still seeding our land in the village where the yield was higher, we had sufficient nourishment, feed and seed. We also plowed another 30 acres to add to what was already broken, so that we now had 130 acres of cultivated land in one place which was something completely new to us at the time.

In the year 1900 we sold our "Wirtshaft" in the village for the ridiculously low price of \$1,600.00 which included 240 acres with large buildings. We then moved onto our farm near Morris and were glad to be living there alone. The family was also glad. Then a change occurred in our family for my father had died. And of our boys who were already grown up, the oldest son Abraham had married Susanna Bearg from Hochstadt, and so he moved there as well. As we did not have enough land for three boys, Johan occasionally took employment elsewhere. The youngest son helped his mother in the house. The three years which now followed were quite good, so that we were not only able to pay our debts, but also were able to show a little surplus.

**A New Home In Didsbury, Alberta** Now the thought arose of purchasing more land as we did not all have enough work. At this time we learned that a new settlement was to be started here in Alberta and that homesteads would be available. We, together with the children then decided that if each of us could take out a homestead we would sell our farm at Morris, and come here together with the children and settle here. Which is also how it occurred.

We sold our farm at Morris in the spring of 1903 and in Fall, in the month of October, we left for Alberta, where I together with a number of others had gone in the year 1902 to inspect the land and take out homesteads. As the land was not yet completely open we left for home at the time without

the matter being totally settled. Then in 1903 I made another journey there and took out a section of land as homesteads. Before we moved away we arranged a small auction sale in order that we could dispose of the goods which we could do without. The remainder of the goods which we would need were taken along, as well as horses and cattle. We loaded 4 railway wagons, two with cattle, half a wagon with horses and the other half with household contents, and machinery on the fourth wagon. We took along 65 head of cattle, 6 horses and the hens that we had.

The three youths had free passage on the train in order to look after the livestock. My wife and I left a few days later, and arrived in Didsbury safe and sound, with all our belongings on the 12th day of October. We only lost one ox in the following manner. The boys had left the wagon door open on one side and because of the sharp jerk caused by the sudden start of the train and the inertia, an ox fell out of the door and onto the railway track, and in spite of the request to stop, the transport continued. The conductor disregarded the loss of the animal in spite of the fact that we wrote several times regarding this matter. But we heard only silence and were disregarded.

After we had arrived at the destination our concerns passed over to the unloading and sheltering of our cattle and goods. The livestock was unloaded during the night and as there was still much grass everywhere along the track the livestock was put out to pasture. We then unloaded our goods which took up a complete day. As we could only take the most basic necessities with us we rented several empty rooms of the nearby immigration house and filled the same with the remains of our goods. Our son Abram had come to meet us with a wagon in order to take us to his home. We then combined two tasks and loaded everything and then we left in a covered wagon, in which my wife had her place, together with a smaller wagon which we tied to the rear, and then two small horses were hitched to the wagon. With great concern we left for our home 35 miles distant from Didsbury.

There had been much rain the whole summer through and consequently all the sloughs and other depressions in the terrain were filled with water. Going around all of these sloughs was hard and where there was no other way we had to drive through them. God be thanked, for we made it through without great difficulty and arrived at the home of our children Abram Klassens on the evening of October 10th. We arrived with great feelings of thankfulness for the protection and gracious leading which the heavenly Father had provided for us while we were on our journey.

Our children had preceded us here in the spring, and had already built a small house where we were able to enjoy a very acceptable night's rest. We arose early in the morning in order that we could be on our way to our homestead, a distance of six miles south-easterly. We arrived without incident, that evening of the 16th of October with our hearts filled with thanks, that we arrived together with all our goods and our cattle which were herded along behind us. Finally we were at our own homestead on which Abraham, the son of Abr. Loewen had constructed a small cottage of 12 feet by 20 feet for us. We now found this to be very convenient as the most necessary goods such as beds, table, oven, etc., were immediately brought into this building. There was just enough room.

It was already late in fall and we had to prepare ourselves for winter. Every board that we needed for the construction of the barn had to be hauled from Didsbury 35 miles distant. I had two good teams of horses and every week they had to make one trip to Didsbury or to the open pit mine 20 miles away, or they had to work on the roads which required much time and energy. In addition we built the housing for the livestock and horses as soon as the lumber was brought home. We used boards for the roof which we covered with hay of which we had had our son Abr. and S. Boese put up some 200 tons for us. This hay was definitely better than the Manitoba hay so that our livestock could be fattened from the hay and our pasture. For the cattle shelter we dug a hole in the ground on a slope and made the one end higher with boards and covered it with hay, etc. And in this manner our most necessary preparations were completed for the winter.

Fortunately for us, the winter turned out to be mainly very mild so that we made it through the winter in good order with our cattle, and also with our wagons. The roads were mainly very good with the result that my horses had easy going. We then gave consideration to what kind of temporary house we wanted to build for ourselves and we decided on a 14 by 20 foot one and a half story building. The two boys Johan and David were almost always on the road, either to Didsbury or to Carbon or to the Red Deer River for lumber, so that by the time winter commenced on November 12th we were finished to the extent that all our cattle could be brought under shelter. Fortunately the weather held out for another two weeks and by this time the boys already had a good stock of lumber at home. Accordingly my youngest son and I started to build our small house which we completed and were able to occupy in time for Christmas. This seemed very acceptable to us as we now found room to move all our goods inside in time for Christmas. The weather was very nice during

Christmas, in fact up to 15 degrees above zero, so that on one occasion when we were having worship service at the elder Abr. Loewens, we sat in front of the door in the open. Something like this did not occur in Manitoba.

In order to make use of the nice weather, our boys also started to transport home the remainder of our goods from Didsbury. This was in addition to the lumber they were stockpiling for the barn which we were planning to build in spring. We already had about 20,000 board feet of lumber available for this purpose. We also had to build, in addition to the barn, a poultry barn, and a machine shed. This, of course, kept us busy for the whole winter, but we did manage to be ready with everything by spring. In spite of everything we had managed quite well as we had been protected from sickness for the whole time.

In April we started to build our barn for which we had our son Abraham and Peter Bearg to help. The main building was 20 by 40 feet in size. In addition an 18 feet wide structure was constructed on the other side as shelter for the horses and milk cows which we had brought along. By the time the barn was finished nice weather had set in and we started breaking sod. At least a little seeding had to be done and an orchard and vegetables planted. For the orchard we had brought along gooseberry bushes, currants and wild plum trees. The prairie sod was broken up and worked into small particles with a harrow. The garden was fenced and in addition to the planting of the trees we also seeded grass, all of which grew in spite of the very dry summer. The excess rains of the previous summer made up for much drought. In the meantime we had broken about 20 acres of land which we seeded to oats and barley. The oats yielded very well. In fall we threshed 35 bushels of oats to the acre. The barley yielded only little. However, the freshly broken sod did not yield as many potatoes and vegetables in the first year as we were used to in Manitoba but I suppose this is frequently the case in a new settlement.

Matters were also organized in the spiritual realm. Brother Boese and myself in turn, conducted Sunday worship services in the private homes. In addition we visited the families from Manitoba who were scattered about in our area and held meetings. We built ourselves a small church already the first summer as the dwelling houses proved to be too small and confined. We were only eight families that first summer but outside families also came to our meetings. Our settlement grew rapidly, for everyone over 18 years of age was entitled to a homestead and as a consequence many single persons came and took out homesteads. Today many of these are among our family heads. Additional families arrived here in the winter of 1903-1904 including Peter Beargs' and others.

**Deaths In The Family** In the year 1905 our children Peter Toews' also came here and took up a homestead adjacent to our farm. But their fortunes were not of a lengthy duration. Mrs. Toews became very sick during a miscarriage. This occurred during the fall of 1907 and she was very sick for eight weeks and died at six o'clock in the morning on December 24. She was our only daughter.

This was a very hard blow for our son-in-law and for ourselves since she left seven infant children surviving her. All of these children are still living today even if scattered far and wide. Three are living here among us, two are in Michigan, one is in California, and one is in North Dakota. The two who are in Michigan are married and are also members of our Gemeinde. The youngest, Susie, is resident in California and is married to a certain Spent and they are also members of our Gemeinde. One of the children living here in our area is married to a Catholic and is presently separated from our Gemeinde, but the others who are still single belong to our Gemeinde. Maria recently married a Tobias Janzen.

In 1909 we again experienced a school of suffering when our daughter-in-law, the wife of our son Abraham, became sick after giving birth to twins. She died after a 14 day sickness and left young children surviving her. The twins referred to also died later that same fall. As it is not seemly for man to be alone, our son Abraham went to Manitoba in November and found his second wife in Katharina Penner. She is still alive today and they have a family rich in numbers. On March 23, 1912, one of their daughters from the first marriage died instantaneously of a heart attack. She had already been somewhat sickly and died in her years of innocence, and was raised to be in the land of the Blessed.

Then a number of years ran by without occurrence. We continued to live on our farm together with our son David who had been working our land since 1910. Our youngest son Isaac, who was married to Helena Bearg, lived on his homestead near ours and farmed in partnership together with David. And thus a number of years elapsed until 1917.

As is well known this was the time of the **Great World War** and many of our Mennonites fled out of the States, over the border to Canada. The Canadian Government to a certain extent offered

them more protection. At one time a number of young families who were the children of our brothers and sisters also came to Alberta. In fact it was the Maeglier brothers who through happenstances came to us and it seemed as if they had to buy or have land here. Then our son David offered to drive them around in the neighbourhood in order to help them find land. They found a half section parcel seven miles north of here which was suitable and which they also bought. To our dismay our son David also bought an adjacent parcel of land and sold his land here by our place to his brother Isaac. And so we were left alone on our farm.

Shortly prior to this our son David Klassen had been married with Maria Janzen and they lived with us the first winter from 1917-1918, until the summer of 1918. They then moved to the newly purchased farm 10 miles north of our farm. This gave us the idea of also selling our farm and building ourselves a house on the yard of our children. By happenstance a number of families arrived here from the States at exactly that time and from among whom the family Esau from Oklahoma came to us. They were only interested in renting land, but as there was no land to be rented they approached us about buying our land. After a number of delays we sold them our farm for \$7,000.00 with \$1,500.00 down payment and the balance on terms. The other two families Neufeld also from Oklahoma, received temporary support on our farm.

Our brothers in faith from the States were not quite in agreement with us as in the taking up of the homesteads we had to be entered as Canadian citizens, and they believed that we would thereby lose our Heavenly Citizenship, for they believed that a Christian could not be a citizen anywhere here on earth. But as our Privilegeum with respect to military service was not only for us but also for our children and our children's children we had no involvement with the provision of soldiers; nor were we involved in the war which our brothers in the States could not believe.

Although some junior officers apparently created some difficulties for our youth the higher Government authorities remained true to the promises they had given and all our youth were allowed to go free. Thus it appears that our delegates had had their eye not only on the temporal matters but had in fact governed themselves by spiritual concerns. During the war our brothers in the States had much to endure whereas we stood under more protection here. Consequently many came here from the States for this protection. When the war came to an end many returned to their former homes which did not please our government very much. But we were not hindered in this regard.

After we had sold our farm we also had to reconcile ourselves to depart from the same. November 1, 1918 was the appointed day for us to leave our former home. We had arranged with our children so that we could build a small house on their yard and did not delay in this and contracted with a builder to put up a house in accordance with our specifications by a certain date, and in fact on the yard of our son Abr. W. Klassen. This was also done. Now we were free of everything and we entered into our new home. Here we had in mind the entering into a new Homeland which awakened in us a peculiar feeling. A poet sings: "Hier ist nicht unsere Heimat auf dieser argen Welt, sonder unsere Heimat ist droben im Licht".

**The Death Of My Wife** In the year 1918 my beloved wife began to complain of being overly tired and of an unusual thirst. As of yet we had no presentiment that it could be anything serious for in winter she again continued and served the sick in necessary cases, something which was always dear to her heart. In the summer of that year, 1919, she talked of being overly tired and frequently laid down for a little rest. On one occasion she mentioned to me that all at once she would simply die without pain. This brought me upon the idea that my wife should be examined by a doctor, which also occurred. After the examination the doctor declared that it was an incurable diabetes.

This was a very hard blow for us and aroused within me a deep empathy, for my wife had to take upon herself a great burden. Diabetes by itself is not painful and instead results in extreme tiredness and in addition is very drawn out. The sick one must take up a great privation with respect to eating habits. As my wife possessed a great will power the situation was fairly tolerable. A number of years passed by during which time she continued to serve in her work which she continued until almost her last hour.

In order to seek further advice we even undertook a journey to Winnipeg, Manitoba. But it was in vain and we had to dispose ourselves to the will of God, that whether in a short while or longer we would have to part from one another. She must have known that her time was coming for she said to a sister while departing that this would be the last time they would say farewell to each other. This occurred a week before she died. On July 5, 1922 one of her grandsons came to her to have his injured leg set correctly. She had then said to him that all of her limbs hurt.

The following night we slept and got up in the morning in our usual manner. I asked her how



she had slept, to which she replied "not very well". In spite of this she made breakfast as always but ate only little. She then laid down on the bed from which she did not again arise. Here she lay for the first day although still dressed. On the evening of the 6th she undressed herself but slept only little during the night. The following morning I asked her if the doctor should be called. She questioned whether we should now start relying on the doctor. But in spite of this I had the doctor summoned. In the meantime she stated to me that she had always been a very imperfect person and whether I could forgive her the things which she had done which had not been as they should have been, which I did. Yes, from the heart! Then I asked her from my part, if she could forgive my mistakes, which she gladly did. Thereupon I gave her a last kiss in this life.

The Doctor arrived, examined the patient and declared her situation to be hopeless and that she did not have very much time left, and that if anything was to be requested it should not be delayed. On Sunday morning her speech became very weak so that she could hardly speak anymore. Her last words were that her head hurt very much. I tried to comfort her that her pain would soon be over for eternity. She replied that she had already been agonized in this world for a long time. This occurred at 9 o'clock in the morning and at 2:30 in the afternoon she passed away gently and peacefully in the Lord. This was an unspeakable sorrow which only those who have had a similar experience can understand.

Here follow two poetic verses by Peter Toews dedicated as a remembrance to his former sister-in-law whom he loved dearly.

In the melody of the song, "Wer weisz wie nahe mir mein Ende".

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| <p>1. <i>Kinder schaut zum letzten heute<br/>Die Mutter die so treu zur Seite<br/>Dem Vater, Vier und vierzig Jahr,<br/>Schwestern oft in schweren Stunden<br/>In ihre Lagen bis entbunden<br/>Bemeuhung und Gehilfin war.<br/>Wir schaun betruebt umher<br/>Das macht das Herz uns schwer<br/>Dieses scheiden.<br/>Ihr Auge brach nach Weh und Ach<br/>Doch ging sie Heim wir folgen nach.</i></p> | <p>2. <i>Wo am auferstehungs morgen<br/>Verklaert beim Herrn uns geborgen<br/>auf ewig werden wiedersehn<br/>Sei es denn unsre bestreben<br/>Da solches sich an uns begeben<br/>Bis wir zur Herrlichkeit eingehen<br/>Das geb und walte Gott<br/>Das wir nach Not und Tod<br/>Solches sehen<br/>An uns geschenn, so fuer sich gehen<br/>Das wir zur Herrlichkeit eingehen</i></p> |
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**A New Chapter In My Life** Written in the year 1922 after the death of my wife. After the burial of my beloved wife I stood there alone, never again to see her in this life. Then one stops to think "Lord, why this way? Have I failed in some respect?" But then one comes to the realization that God has never yet ruined a work. His actions always have their purpose. The hand of God pressed heavily on me so that I did not know what to do. My comfort and support whom I had loved over everything had been taken from my side, and lay in a grave. My complaining and my crying was in vain. My situation was as it was. In love she had done much good for me; she had stood beside me with advice and deed to the full extent of her ability; for over 44 years. On the one hand I was thankful that the Lord had allowed her to be at my side for so long. One had to say: "She has gone home to a better abode, than here in this vale of tears".

It is noteworthy that only in the hour of parting do we completely and fully measure the worth of one who is dear. As long as such a person is at our side we take their love and friendship as self-evident and for granted, and delude ourselves that it must always remain so. Only when the person is dead does it become real to us so that we acknowledge fully and completely what the person meant to us. First death must open our eyes. Tears marvelously enhance our vision at the countenance in death of one who has stood near to our hearts. One can find no words to lend expression to the pain. No feeling can be more pressing than to know that wherever one goes no one will be there to care. Therefore thank God that you have found a heart that will weep when it is torn apart. One would also wish to bring an expression and say: "I would not want to live in this land of tears and pain forever." A thousand times no! The thought alone is unbearable to us.

One plea I make in grace, namely, that when my time comes and the dear ones who have remained behind are called together at the bed of their father, that the reading of these lines which are written so falteringly may be a sacred remembrance of our dear mother. She has not lived without purpose and tried honourably to fulfill her duty as a mother and Christian and now she has been

enraptured by the heavenly eternal light. And so the night may fall, but it has no more terror for us, on the contrary we greet it as a friend. This then is a short remembrance for the love which she has shown to us as mother.

That summer was almost completely unbearable for me. Much concern and many tears troubled my lonely days. After the news of the death had reached Kansas I soon received a comforting letter from A. G. Enns which was a salve for my wounded heart. He invited me to come to them for a visit. Originally I declined but later I consented to go after all. I prepared myself to be ready to travel on November 3 for November 2 was the funeral of grandfather Peter Toews.

But this was not even over when the news came that Peter Toews, brother-in-law, had died instantaneously. It was again a time of grieving for me and the others who experienced this. But all flesh must go its way. Consequently I postponed my departure until the 7th, when I took a ticket to Morris where I wanted to visit my loving brothers and sisters. I remained there for a number of days and then I travelled to the east side as I also had a brother living there.

After I had made a short visit there, I continued my journey to my destination, Inman, Kansas. Here the loving brothers and sisters joyfully received me. I had three cousins living there who gladly took me into their care. I remained there for about two months and visited all my brothers and sisters there at Inman. My reception everywhere was very friendly. My wife's brother Isaac Warkentin also lived there. I cannot and will not ever forget the deeds of kindness which were done for me there.

In spite of all this my wounded heart could not heal. In my weakness I helped there as much as I could in the work of the Lord which also did not pass without blessing. But my predetermined time expired. The appointed time for departure was January 22, 1923, and I took my leave from my friends who had won me with their love. The train was boarded in Inman. I would possibly never see these friends again in this life. And yet we are still all alive today. If it was the will of the Lord it could presumably still occur. We often have the longing to see each other once more in this life. God knows whether or not it will occur.

Then I was on my way back to Manitoba and if I am right I arrived in Winnipeg on January 24th. By coincidence I arrived there exactly at the time that the wife of brother Johan Friesen had just died. Her body was being sent to Steinbach for burial on the same train. She was buried a few days later which renewed my grief afresh.

I seemingly could not adjust to my circumstances of being single. Although Paul says, "If you have no wife, do not look for one", it is not a direct command. I again allowed myself to entertain the thought of entering the state of matrimony for the third time although with a deeply concerned heart. Was it right or wrong to do so? I was very much attached to my home and did not really want to leave it. Shortly thereafter I again decided to seek a companion to care for me. I allowed inquiries to be made for the surviving widow of Jakob B. Loewen who also consented.

Shortly thereafter we came to be of one mind that we would be wedded. This was carried out by Jakob T. Wiebe in the church in Greenland on February 18, 1923. We left Greenland on the 4th of March and came here to my home where we are presently still living. In the month of August in the year 1924 we again returned to Manitoba as we had not yet settled everything there at the time that we left, which we attended to now. We also took a number of her goods along with us in order to settle down here for the time being. Oh! How are there such great changes to overcome in this life, through all these grieved hours to attain patience so as not to resist the will of God?

On April 23, 1924 the pain of parting was present again at Isaac Klassens. For his wife, nee Helena Bearg, died. She left seven young children to mourn her untimely death. The baby was only eight months old. How painful when the mother is taken away from a family. She died of the so-called flu and had attained the age of 35 years and 9 months. She had been married for 13 years. She was converted in the 22nd year of her life and had remained a true member of the Gemeinde until her death.

Then three years elapsed without notable occurrence. Now again a sorrowful pain came at our children Johan Klassens. His wife was instantaneously afflicted by kidney disease and died after a severe five day sickness. She left six children surviving her. The baby was only eight years old. Two children had predeceased her in death. One of their daughters died accidentally when the horses stamped and she was dragged along by the buggy and died shortly thereafter.

How much sorrow and pain occurs in this life when separations must occur so instantaneously? The extent of the sorrow which exists here in this vale of tears cannot be expressed in writing. However, according to the promises of the Lord we await to inherit a better life after this one.



# Chapter Twelve.

## Autobiography Of Heinrich Ratzlaff (1848-1922)

A modest testimony of my experiences in my earliest youth and later life.

**Introduction** I, Heinrich Ratzlaff, am a grandson of Adam Ratzlaff, Franzthal, who reached the age of 93. My grandmother (nee Helena Schmidt) passed away in her seventies. Their sons were called, Jacob, Heinrich (who was my father), Peter, and Benjamin; and six daughters, Eva, Helena, Margaretha, Elizabeth, Anna, and Katharina.

My father had married my mother, nee Anna Harms, who was a widow from Blumstein, her first husband was Peter Dueck from Elisabeththal. Mother had the following children from her first marriage; Anna, Maria, Peter, Sara, and Agatha. Sister Anna Dueck married Martin Warkentin and sister Maria married Abraham Friesen. Brother Peter Dueck married Margaretha Friesen. Sara and Agatha died single. Only two children, Helena and myself, Heinrich Ratzlaff, were born of the second marriage.

My parents lost their property through fire in 1857 after which they built nice large buildings. My father died in 1864 because of an infected hand (Blatter). Two years later, in 1866 mother sold her Wirtschaft to Johan Dueck for 5000 ruble and moved to Borosenko. Mother did not buy any land for herself, but lived with me on my yard where she had a small house built for herself.

On August 26, 1868, I was married to Aganetha Janzen and together we resided at Borosenko until 1874 where two sons were born to us, Heinrich and Cornelius. In 1874 we sold our property for 2000 ruble and together with most of our neighbours we united ourselves to emigrate to America and to establish our new homes there.

**The Emigration** Preparations were made and in the month of May we departed from Nikopol by boat. At this time I took on the responsibility to serve as treasurer for this group which consisted of 64 families. This job brought many difficulties, as we travelled from one country into another and each time the baggage had to be paid for in a different currency. It was my responsibility to look after the proper currency exchanges. On top of everything else I was sick and unable to muster any enthusiasm for these duties. But it seemed to be my lot as I was unable to delegate it to anyone else.

From Nikopol we travelled by ship to Odessa and from Odessa to Hamburg by railway. We travelled through Berlin where Peter L. Friesen died instantly. He was a brother to Altester Abraham L. Friesen. He had returned from Hamburg to Berlin in order to greet his parents and brothers and sisters. As he walked up the steps, which I had climbed so frequently during the time we were there, he fell down with blood streaming from his mouth (Blutsturz) and died. When his parents and brothers and sisters arrived the next day from Russia they found him already dead and laid in a coffin and his burial took place very quickly.

Oh, how heartbreaking for his wife when she learned that her husband had died. I took him to the train depot in Hamburg as he would not allow his wife to accompany him. When the two of us exchanged our final handshake and farewell he said he would rather cross the ocean than return to Russia.

By the time the Huebodner (the group led by Aeltester A. L. Friesen) arrived in Hamburg, we were already on board ship and ready for departure over the North Sea for Hull. The next morning the ship took off and towards evening the ship got underway and by Sunday at noon we arrived in Hull, England.

Every region has its own attractions and England certainly offered more than its share. We were also to see many things in Germany (Prussia), where most of our grandparents were born and made their livelihood. Then the Russian Czar invited them to come to Russia to live there in peace under his protection with freedom from military service which was a great privilege.

On Monday Hull was a beehive of activity compared to Sunday when everything was quiet, in proper repose. Monday morning our belongings and baggage was unloaded from the ship onto a railroad wagon which was hitched to a horse, a brown gelding weighing some 2,000 pounds, and hauled to the depot.

At noon all 64 families and children were taken to a large yard surrounded by a high fence in the middle of which stood a huge house where we were all invited for a noon meal and received

a nourishing repaste. No one was allowed to spread their butter on their bread, in England this was all done by the efficient and lovely waitresses.

Now the time arrived that we were to travel on by railway, and after everything was packed we were underway. It was a most astonishing journey, one moment we were travelling in sunshine and the next moment in darkness. The countryside is very mountainous and we travelled through 14 tunnels between Hull and Liverpool, in which we were suddenly cast in total darkness.

Finally we arrived in Liverpool where we were again able to have a good night's rest. Tuesday our baggage was loaded into a ship that was to take us across the great ocean. The ship was called "The S.S. Austria". Because of the outgoing tide we had to embark upon the ship and put out to sea.

Then all of us, large and small, were examined by a doctor whether any serious illnesses were to be found. A railing on the large ship had been made into a divider through which every family had to pass. When Johan Klassen, who is my cousin, was examined together with his family, the doctor ordered them back to Liverpool as one of their children had scarlet fever.

Oh, the pain. Cousin Klassen begged the doctor, he should allow them to proceed with the group. "No!" shouted the doctor, and ordered them to return to the smaller boat. With tears they had to depart from us.

I was sick already in Hamburg, with diarrhea. As we were the last to come up on deck we were in the dilemma of also being the first in line to be examined. But the doctor looked us over and told us to go on because we were all healthy. How glad we were to hear the voice!

After everyone had been examined, the huge vessel was activated and the steamer was underway. The ticket had been bought to include the meals. I believe it was Tuesday morning at 9 o'clock that we departed from the shore. At noon we went to be seated at the table and partook of the nourishments.

By evening the wind was raging, churning the waves higher and higher. Most of us very quickly became desperately seasick. That meant nausea, vomiting and dizziness so that very few ate any supper. The storm was even worse by Wednesday and the sea sickness increased.

By Thursday the storm was fierce and the seas were high, the ship was tossed to and fro, the hatches and portals on the ship were closed. The sick cried and broke in frightful convulsions. I myself was struck down for a day and a half so that my wife did not know whether I would survive.

This was the worst day of the storm. Everything which was set on the table flew off. There were also other unpleasanties like not being fully conscious. Friday, the wind, or storm, calmed down and the sickness abated as well. There were two individuals who did not succumb to sea sickness, namely; Franz Froese and my mother. Every day it was announced what we would have for dinner and on Friday we had pudding. Now and again we saw whales squirting water high into the air.

By Saturday conditions were much more bearable and by Sunday we already held worship services with singing. Henceforth we always had a lot of singing except for a number of foggy days when it was forbidden by the captain who instructed us through the interpreter that he was unable to hear whether there were other ships in the area and that this could result in an accident. But when it was clear and bright the captain loved to hear our singing.

After the great storm had subsided we arrived in Ireland. Many got off the ship to walk on the island, but found it strange to walk on solid ground, as we were already used to the swaying of the deck underneath our feet, i.e. to brace ourselves against the motion. As soon as the necessities were loaded we again headed out for sea, and after we had sailed for seventeen days we saw land. How joyful we were to see American soil. Before we entered the harbour a canon was fired for a greeting signal.

**From Halifax to Manitoba** The city where we had arrived was called Halifax. Here everything was transported, unloaded and loaded. Halifax was not the port of entry for us immigrants and so we again took to sea and travelled a number of hours until we arrived at the Quebec harbour. Now the bridge was lowered and we 64 immigrants had to proceed to the immigration house. Soon the train arrived and we boarded and drove to Toronto.

We were now in the care of the American Mennonites and again an immigration house. For the first time we received a meal on *terra firma*. Unfortunately, it did not sit well with our stomachs and by two o'clock at night we were occupied with out distress. Many were just able to make it out of the building where they squatted and were relieved to do what was necessary.

When morning came, what a sight in the house and all around outside. Seemingly, no one had made a mess inside the building. Nevertheless two elderly brethren, namely Frank Froese and Gerhard Schellenberg cleaned the floor. There seemed to be a general belief that it must have been horseflesh

which was offered to us but this remained only a suspicion.

The next day there was a ministerial visit and they conducted worship services. An elderly pastor took a big piece of chewing tobacco out of his mouth before he started to preach. We were also offered ham, beans, and dried apples to take along on our trip but our leader, David Klassen, declined the same with the comment that the group was well endowed and that they give it to the next group that would come as they were poorer. Many felt this was unfortunate as they were already being assisted by the Gemeinde and felt that they were poor.

From Toronto we proceeded by rail to Lake Superior and then by ship to Duluth. Here we again entered an immigration house with the knowledge that from now on we were on our own. After we had rested there for a day and a night we boarded a train and drove on to Moorehead. Here we purchased food and coffee and made our own meals.

We were told to purchase food supplies for three days as we would travel by steamship to the capital city of Winnipeg and nothing could be purchased enroute. I, together with a number of the brethren went to the baker but he only had very little ready. He promised us that in four hours he could bring us bread with his wagon which we found hard to believe partially because it was difficult to understand him. But he made it clear to us that the Red River meandered back and forth so that we would only make very few miles in four hours and that he would wait for us at a certain point in the river and deliver the bread.

Sure enough, after we had travelled for four hours we suddenly spotted a vehicle on the river bank and there was the baker with the bread. I will draw out here the course of our journey how the Red River meanders here and there. The river was so shallow at places they pulled the ship with pulley and steam. Consequently the trip took a long time. Finally with much exertion, patience and time we reached our destination and our joy was great.

We also encountered worries and anxiety. Mr. Hespeler called our leaders, David Klassen and Cornelius Toews, who were our delegates, into his office while the rest of us were to stay patiently on the ship until the next day.

**Selecting The Land** The spirit of the Amalekites now stood in our way and had to be battled. This caused a division so that the Gemeinde divided into two groups, one part favouring the east and one part the west. Our leaders D. Klassen and C. Toews, together with Johan Janzen, Henry B. Friesen and myself, went along with Hespeler into his office.

Here Hespeler explained that he had no other land for us than the land on the east side of the river, which C. Toews also acknowledged and wanted to travel some 30 miles upstream by ship and disembark. David Klassen was directly opposed to this. Firstly, as a 17 year-old immigrant from German to Russia, he had seen that the land on the east was far too low for raising crops. Secondly, as a people we did not have sufficient means to build the ditches to drain off the water. And thirdly, he did not want to leave the City of Winnipeg until he had a wagon, oxen or horses, and a cow.

Thus it occurred that the two brethren were separated from each other by their differing outlooks and state of mind. Presently when Mr. Hespeler saw that nothing would move the elderly immigrant, he suggested that there was still some land on the Red River. Klassen replied that as the delegates they had reserved a place for the Mennonites on the Osenberg. "Yes", replied the gainsayer, "that land is no longer available." Now Klassen was cornered.

Some 16 families remained in Winnipeg where we acquired two wagons. Finally when we realized that a division among our 64 families was inevitable we decided that it was highly advisable for us to personally inspect both settlement sites. Since no one besides my brother-in-law, I. Loewen and myself had already bought horses, we were also willing to hitch them to the wagons and in addition, to take three other men along in order to investigate the land. These men were the following: Jacob Friesen, senior, Franz Froese and Johan Janzen.

Firstly we drove to the east side, where they had travelled 30 miles south by ship from where they were taken further east on the two-wheel carts by the half breeds. Here Shantz had already had immigration houses built. But no well had been dug, and consequently a murmuring and disputation occurred there as in Numbers 20:13, I myself had to hear how two elderly brothers disputed with each other.

On our way down we met my cousins John and Peter Harms on their way back to Winnipeg. They said they could not exist or survive without water. We drove further east where we discovered artesian springs with real good water. However night overcame us before we got there and so we decided to settle down for the night amongst a bluff of trees in a spot with some pond water. It should also be noted here that we had brought coffee and kettels with us but not enough cups to drink from.

In Winnipeg we had a well drill constructed for us and so we started to drill here, but the device was too small and we were unable to bore deep enough to strike water. Presently Franz Froese mentioned that here we had potters' clay and that we should make some pots from which to drink our coffee tomorrow.

"No sooner said than done." But what happened? With nightfall we were joined by a million observers who did not spare themselves to attack us and bite us without mercy. At the same time they sang without stopping for breath. We had to conceal ourselves with blankets. Initially we were able to alleviate the situation, fighting back with fire and smoke, but this ran out by the time we fell asleep.

By early morning when we awoke the singers (mosquitoes) had thinned out considerably. We cooked our coffee, ate our breakfast, and again readied ourselves to continue our land inspection. We drove a stretch further and then returned to Winnipeg. As soon as we arrived there and had more or less given our report as to our experiences, David Klassen and his children, and my siblings Martin Warkentins, Peter Duecks, Johan Friesens, and several other families, prepared ourselves to travel and departed for the West side (West Reserve) in order to establish our future homes there.

**The Scratching River** After a day's sojourn we five messengers united ourselves to travel to the West side to also inspect the land there. The entire caravan departed at midday with all our goods and belongings. Early the next morning we were again underway and met the other group which had driven 10 miles on the bank of the Red River where they overnighted and were now eating breakfast. My mother requested that if I would return to the city, I should buy some meat and lard for her.

We now proceeded across country and by evening we arrived at the river where the horses were unhitched and fed. We were again joined by an enormous swarm of observers, who were not satisfied merely to see what foreigners had come, indeed their biting was their welcome.

We overnighted in this wilderness, and the next morning we looked around to see where we had driven in the dark night, I believe that each one of us had his own thoughts. Coffee was again cooked and we all ate breakfast together.

Then we inspected the region and it was discussed whether the west side would not have an advantage over the east. It seemed that we five individuals were all of the view that the land was more appropriate for grain farming, and also decided to settle here.

A dead tree stood nearby and I took my pencil and wrote on the trunk that our advice would be to settle here, with the following words. "It is good to be here, let us build our homes." As the grass was luscious Johan Janzen drew a cow under my writing. We knew that the next day the other caravan with D. Klassen, carrying their burdens of goods would arrive, and they would be able to see what our view was in this matter.

On our return journey we took a different route in order to have a better road. First we drove approximately 4 miles south-east towards the small city of Morris and then north to Winnipeg about 40 miles. By the time we returned we had driven 160 miles. Through this exertion we had endeavoured to determine the best option for us.

The proverb "unity makes strength" would be rather appropriate here. This held us five messengers together in our decision.

I will list by name the five who now prepared themselves for the journey and who had allowed themselves to be used as messengers, namely: Jacob Friesen, Franz Froese, Johan Janzen, Isaac Loewen, and Heinrich Ratzlaff. We rushed to ready ourselves and made haste on our journey towards our new homes.

Night overfell us as we were still 12 miles away from the settlement site and so we had to stay overnight there. My brother Peter Dueck also overnighted with us as he was on his way to Winnipeg to pick up a load of lumber for building. He told us that when he had left the place where we planned to settle near the river, of which mention has already been made, our mother was very sick and that I would not see her again among the living.

Early the next morning we broke camp and made great haste in order to reach the settlement site and arrived there at 11 a.m. But alas, mother had died at 10 p.m. the previous evening, almost exactly the hour that brother Peter had given us the news and so our joy was transformed into sorrow. Instead of the progress of building our new abode, a coffin and grave had to be prepared.

This again confirmed what the preacher states in Ecclesiastes chapter 3. After the funeral the congregation sang together under the open sky whereupon each and everyone returned to his work.

**Establishing The Villages** The area was inspected and plans laid out. First of all a choice again

had to be made, one part went together with David Klassen, namely his children, and the village was to be called Rosenhof, and the second part in Rosenort. Since I had already been inaugurated in Russia as village Schultz and had served as the treasurer for the entire trip, I was also appointed as leader in this village of Rosenort. David Klassen was the leader in Rosenhof.

After the selection of lots we all settled as near as possible to the river which was to be called the Scratching River. Our lot fell more or less in the centre of the village and our neighbours were: Franz Wiens, Martin Warkentin, John T. Friesens, Peter Dueck, Isaac Loewen, Jacob Toews, Heinrich Friesen, H. Ratzlaff, Johan Janzen, Gerhard Harms, Peter Kroeker, Franz Froese, Klaas Brandt, Johan Harms and Peter Harms. There was a great hurry to complete the construction of our shelters as it was almost the end of August, and the lumber for building had to be hauled in from Winnipeg which was 40 miles to drive, and with oxen and wagons at that.

And so this was nothing minor. Nevertheless, brother-in-law, Isaac Loewen and I bought ourselves two horses at \$300.00 per team, and also two oxen, in order that we could go with two wagons. Still it was almost a week before we returned.

Now we dug a basement and started to build, 20 feet by 26 feet, and at the west end a Serrai for two horses, two oxen and two cows. The building was insufficiently covered with paper and was too cold for the winter. The potatoes froze in the cellar and we had to take them up into the dwelling, in which we two couples resided.

In the month of May the brethren started to plow the ground and others brought home the hay which they had mowed the previous September. We also brought in a supply for the winter. This was a completely different region than what we were used to in Russia, where we were frequently finished with seeding by the beginning of March. Here we were only able to start with seeding at the beginning of May.

**Emigration To Nebraska** That winter many made the decision to move from Manitoba to Nebraska where it was not regarded as an offence to write us inviting letters describing how nice it was there and in Kansas. When they wrote that they were already seeding we still had the cold winter and much snow.

Finally Abram Klassen, our minister, decided that he would go to Kansas during May to see how things would please him in the south. When he returned a number of us visited him that evening and he related matters to us which were unbelievable. He told us that the Kansas wheat was heading, rye fields were turning color, and the corn was a foot high.

He then asked his sons how large their grain had grown which had been sown before he left for Kansas. Diedrich responded, "Go see for yourself". It was near the house, but dark at night. Mr. Klassen immediately went to see, only to find that the grain was just appearing. When he returned to the room, he hardly knew how to contain himself and said "We do not want to stay here". This made a big impression upon the others who were also minded to move away.

Claas Wiebes, John Harms, Peter Harms, and ourselves wanted to be on our way as soon as possible and since we and Peter Harms were agreed to leave, so it was. H. Friesens left in May already. On June 4, 1875, we left Manitoba. After ten days we arrived here in DeWitt (Nebraska) where our siblings Cornelius L. Friesens met us and took us to Heuboden. Class Wiebes had arrived earlier, staying with Uncle Isaak Harms in Blumenort. It did not take long after which John Harms, Peter Brandts and Peter Buhlers arrived and then also Peter Barkman (?), John S. Friesens and Jacob Ennses from Blumenort, Manitoba. After aunt Isaak Harms passed away, uncle Harms went to Manitoba to bring the widow Klaas Friesen to Nebraska.

When we arrived here June 14, we had to make a new start all over again. I bought a hog for \$3.00 from brother-in-law Jacob Klassen. This was very different from Manitoba where we paid \$7.00 for half a hog which was no larger than this whole one. After we had visited here one week, my brother-in-law Klassen drove me to Fairbury to buy horses.

After many enquiries, we went to a farmer named Bondi who was eager to sell and we started with 2 horses, one gelding 3 years old and the other 5 years. He sold them to me for \$160, then two cows for \$45 together, one buggy, harness, pails and a brush for \$20, a total of \$225.00. Now I went home again.

Then I bought a large wagon from Greeves and some planted corn and wheat from an Englander (American). There were also potatoes and garden vegetables, altogether 25 acres for \$50.00. We were happy for we had a harvest in 1875 already.

We faced another problem. Where should we purchase our land? Jacob Klassen had 80 acres available for us, as did Uncle Isaak Harms, both for the same price of \$3.50. I went to Fairbury,



bought lumber and drove with it to brother-in-law Klassen's 80 acres. But the next day Johan Harms, together with his father, came to persuade us in this manner: If we would not move to the Harms Village then they would return to Manitoba—his wife had said she would not stay if . . . Seldom such an advantageous offer. We could have the best 80 acres in that area, so the lumber was again loaded and taken to the Harms Village which later became Blumenort.

**Conclusion** We shared joys and sorrows here from 1875 until December 16, 1881. After a 14 day illness, my wife died and I remained sick and almost forsaken in bed. Our baby was 9 months of age; the little Sara had to leave to be cared for by strangers, namely Jacob Fast's. Grief and pain were difficult to bear so that I hardly knew what to do. My mother-in-law was with me, but what did it help? When she saw me weeping with sorrow, she also wept. When I could control myself, then my little four year old Nettie came to me, reached out her hand to me and said, "My loving mother has died," which broke my heart and then we both cried.

(The above was translated by the Peter Reimer family in 1970 from Grandpa Ratzlaff's original diary. The following is written by Mrs. Peter Reimer to bring the history up-to-date. Typed June, 1972).

The good Lord answered prayers and led Father Ratzlaff to a wonderful girl who was willing to be his wife and a mother to five young children. Elizabeth Flaming was her name. She was 22 years old when they were married in the year 1882. To this marriage 12 children were born. One daughter died in infancy but the 8 daughters and 4 sons were all healthy children.

Our parents gave us children a good home, not a fancy home with riches but modesty and honesty was taught as a family rule. They were sincere in the belief of bringing up a child in the fear of the Lord in the days of their youth. They saw them all accept Christ as their Savior when old enough, and all got married and established Christian homes.

Father was called into the ministry in his early 40's and was an ordained minister. He performed the wedding ceremony of most of their children. On account of his health, he resigned more and more of this work in 1917 and 1918.

They spent a couple of years in Steinbach, Manitoba where 4 daughters and families lived. After that they came back to Nebraska to spend their retired years. Father took sick with kidney infection and suffered immensely for 6 days and nights. He passed away June 6, 1922 at 12:00 midnight. He reached the age of 74 years and 3 months. Mother took turns living with her children who were living there.

The words of the poem "My Mother" are most fitting:

*She was as good as goodness is.  
Her acts and all her words were kind  
And high above all memories  
I hold the beauty of her mind.*

She was loved and respected by her children and grandchildren. She reached the age of 81 years, 2 months and 20 days.

Editor's Note. For more information about Heinrich Ratzlaff and his family see, Cornelius and Elizabeth Unruh, **The Genealogy of the Descendants of Heinrich Ratzlaff (1848-1922)** (1980, Self Published, Regehr's Printing, Winnipeg, Manitoba), 86 pp. Courtesy of David R. Loewen, Steinbach, Manitoba).

# Chapter Thirteen.

## The Esau Family Tree (1740-1933)

by **Johan K. Esau**

Comprised of names, birthdays, birthplaces and relating their experiences and adventures of the olden days, as well as those of our days, it begins with great-great grandparents, and continues reports on great-grandparents, grandparents, parents, children and grandchildren.

**Introduction** Right at the beginning I want to state that we descend from the Holland-Dutch or German-Dutch. Religious persecutions in Holland caused them to leave their native land and look for a hiding place wherever they could find one. Those persecutions also drove Menno Simons from Holland where he had ministered to scattered groups, trying to serve them and strengthen their faith. In 1546 Menno found refuge on a nobleman's estate near Oldense, which was located between Hamburg and Luebeck in north-east Germany.

In those days the country was one big oak-tree forest. With the help of the refugees, the forests were soon transformed into open fields. This nobleman, Graf Bartholomeaus von Ahlefeld, had the reputation of being a cruel man, but he proved to be a benefactor for many homeless people. When Menno Simons arrived, he found several small groups of former Hollanders, who gladly received him as their minister and leader. Shortly after Menno's arrival, the refugees were being called "Mennonites". This is the origin of the name Mennonites.

Persecutions flared up again and again, causing many people to be on the move. From the year 1671 there was a little more freedom, and the Mennonites began spreading out into Prussia.

The following information I learned from books. In the 16th century, the people from the Lowlands were encouraged by the Polish King, Sigismund, to settle in Poland for the purpose of having the marshes of the Vistula River drained. For close to two hundred years our forefathers enjoyed full privileges as citizens of Poland.

They drained swamps, dug up bush, built mills and dams to stop the flooding of the land by the Vistula, the Nogat and the Druson Lakes. But here, too, they were soon restricted in moving freely from place to place. They were deprived of the right to buy land and their taxes were increased. To make a living became difficult, and the settlers began thinking of emigrating.

Preparations for emigration began in 1786, and in 1789 the first group arrived in Russia (during the reign of Catherine the Great). Between 1803, 1804 and 1805, 342 families from Marienburg (near Koeningberg) and Elbing, joined by a few families from Holland, went to Russia.

At last we arrive at our ancestors. We know nothing about them until 1740, as all documents were lost during the years of persecution.

Thanks to Pastor Goettner from the Free State Danzig, and the many correspondents, I was able to gather information about our forefathers. I have tried to do my best, but there are bound to be mistakes, which, I hope, will be taken into consideration by the readers.

It has taken much time, work, waiting, writing and rewriting, that I felt like giving up. Still, wanting to do something for posterity, I stayed with the work until this booklet was finished.

**The Esau Family** Great-great-grandfather, **Heinrich Esau**, according to my calculations, was born in 1740 in Heuboden, Free State Danzig, West Prussia. Great-great-grandmother's maiden name was **Aganetha Klassen**.

Great-grandfather, **Gerhard Esau**, was born in 1765 and baptized in Heuboden, Free State Danzig. Great-grandmother Esau, **Katharina Dueck** (nee Reimer—assuming her stepfather was a Dueck), was baptized in Rosenort and married August 20, 1790. After their marriage they lived in Mouriengroblin, in the heather country of Danzig, West Prussia.

Grandfather, **Heinrich Esau**, was born December 30, 1792, in Mouriengroblin, Danzig heather country. It was during the Napoleonic wars with Germany. In 1812, when Napoleon was at war with Russia, many young men were conscripted as wagoners, among them my grandfather Esau. The men were under constant surveillance, received insufficient food and were taken farther and farther into Russia. Three of the young men, my grandfather, the grandfather of Peter Penner (Abraham Penner), and another wagoner, decided to escape. During the night, when all were asleep, these three sneaked out of the camp, leaving the teams behind. The "scorched earth" tactics of the Russians, had left the countryside bare. For three days they ran without eating. They tried to cook some weeds

in broken pots, but were unable to eat it as they had no salt. But they succeeded and arrived home, the only ones of those who had been conscripted.

An incident I would like to relate: While the men were still with the army, a French officer became ill, and was left behind. Abraham Penner put him on his wagon, and the officer, being certain that he could not pull through, gave his watch to Abraham Penner. This watch is still in the possession of the Penner family. Our son-in-law, Abraham Penner, is the present owner of the watch. I have seen it recently, and, in spite of it being an old watch and out of fashion, it still is ticking away. This being the year 1933.

In 1828 my grandfather, Heinrich Esau and his cousin, Gerhard Esau, left for Russia. When they arrived at the border, they separated—cousin Gerhard went to America, and grandfather Esau went to Russia. He settled in Sparrau, in the Molotschna colony, Province of Tauria.

In 1829 grandfather married the widow of Johan Kopp. She had come to Russia from Grossheuboden, Holland and lived in Sparrau. Johan Kopp had been married before. Below I am quoting his own words:

“In the year 1791, the 9th of February, was I, Johan Kopp married to Maria Klassen. 1792 was our daughter, Maria, born.” (Nothing more is entered from 1792 to 1821. His first wife probably died, and he then married Margareta Wiebe.) His next entry is from 1822: “September 18th our daughter Barbara was born. February 1, 1824—daughter Katarina, 15/?/1826—son Johan. All were born in Grossheuboden, Holland.”

About 1826 or 1827 the Kopp family came to Russia. It seems probable that grandfather Kopp passed away in 1828, and that his widow married grandfather Heinrich Esau in 1829. She was born December 28, 1796. Children of **Heinrich** and **Margareta Esau**: **Heinrich**—1/8/1830, **Peter**—1/10/1832, **Gerhard**—25/9/1837—died at the age of 20, **Abraham**—10/8/1837, **Maria**—19/11/1841—died at the age of 12.

Grandmother passed away on December 28, 1859 at the age of 77 years, ten days. She had been ill for ten years. She was confined to bed for the winter months the first five years, being able to move about in the summer. Confined to bed for all of the last five years, suffering great pain in her jaws, so that at times she was unable to eat.

Father **Heinrich Esau**, was born August 1, 1830 in Sparrau, in the Molotschna, Province of Tauria, Russia. Mother **Anna Esau** (nee Klassen), daughter of Johan and Maria (nee Harms) Klassen: Mother was born October 30, 1833. They were married November 11, 1854. Children of **Heinrich** and **Anna Esau**: **Heinrich**—?/?/1855—died in infancy, **Johan**—?/?/1857—died in infancy, **Maria**—13/6/1859—died 24/12/1874 in Manitoba, Canada, **Heinrich**—15/12/1862—died ?/3/1880, **Abraham**—12/7/1865, **Johan**—28/9/1867, **Margartha**—26/4/1870—passed away 3/8/1874 in Manitoba, Canada, **Peter**—12/6/1874.

Financially unable to buy land, father became a tradesman, having learned from Edgert Janzen how to carve spoons and heads. He also made toys of tin, and soon started his own shop, manufacturing combs, horns for sausage making, and other articles which were made of animal horns.

When an opportunity to buy land arose, our parents moved to the Province of Yekaterinoslav, District of Bersenka, Village of Nicolaifield. After living there a few years, they moved again, this time to the village Annafeld in the Crimea, where they spent their last five years in Russia.

In Nicolaital, our former dwelling place, the villagers were building a treadmill while my parents were visiting there. I was only five to six years old at that time and managed to fall into the millcenter.

**Pioneering In Manitoba** In 1870 rumors reached the Mennonites of Russia that universal conscription would be introduced. Immediately petitions were sent to the Government asking for exemption from military service. As no satisfactory replies came from the authorities many Mennonites decided to emigrate to America. My parents were among these. When permission to emigrate had been received, delegates were sent to North America to “look the land over”, and get information regarding freedom of religion for the immigrants. Finding the conditions satisfactory, the delegates returned, and preparations towards the emigration began.

Property, which could not be taken along, was sold, the luggage packed, and on May 30, 1874, our parents and their neighbors left Annafeld by horse and wagon, for Eupatoria, sea port of the Black Sea. It took one and a half days to get there and another waiting day there for the boat to arrive!

We boarded the boat on the evening of June 1, and left the port on the morning of June 2 for Odessa, another port on the Black Sea. A three-day trip by rail brought us to the Galician border (formerly part of Austro-Hungary) on June 5th via Lemberg, Krakau (Austro-Hungary) and entering Germany by Breslau (Selasia), and farther to Berlin and Hamburg. We stayed over in Hamburg

several days, where we as a group, separated—some to Kansas, U.S.A. and we to Manitoba, Canada.

Our boat took us via the North Sea to England where we boarded the train for Liverpool to go aboard a large ship, which carried a double banner. The crossing lasted eighteen days, taking us to the City of Quebec, then by rail to Montreal, changing trains for Toronto, and again for Lake Superior, and boarding a boat for Duluth, Minnesota. Next through Minnesota to the river port Moorhead, on the Red River. The steamer landed us in Manitoba, Canada on the 1st of August, 1874. Our landing place was thirty miles from Winnipeg in a dense forest region. Here we were forced to remain four days with no shelter or any accommodations under the blue sky.

I would like to relate an accident which happened while we were travelling through Germany. Unintentionally my sister Margaret was pulled off the train by a conductor. She fell on her head and hit a stone so hard, it caused blood to flow from her nose and mouth. She took ill and remained in this condition until she passed away on the 3rd of August, while we were still at the Red River landing place.

Here we were without the possibility to buy or make a coffin. But how wonderful are the ways of our Lord! Some lads went swimming in the river, and lo and behold!—a plank came floating along the river, and Peter Baerg (presiding in Alberta) got a hold of it and brought it to the shore. His father, Peter Baerg, made the coffin, rather a box, and my sister could be buried, the first one of our group to be buried in our new homeland.

Some considerable distance from the place where the settlers had been left on the bank of the Red River, two large frame houses had been constructed for the immigrants. Not having any means of transportation, the settlers hired two-wheeled carts from the neighboring native people of mixed blood. These carts were pulled by oxen.

All newcomers lived in the above mentioned buildings, sharing cooking facilities on four stoves, which had been set up under the open sky. Four stoves were hardly enough to do all the cooking and baking for the crowd. Families took turns in doing their cooking while much of the baking had to be done at night. The darkness was a convenient time for some people to help themselves to the loaves baked by some busy mother. To prevent this, a mother would try to have some older child watch the oven while she had to go to the house for supplies, or whatever was needed just then.

While the women were busy at home, the men walked to Winnipeg to buy the much needed wagons and oxen.

At the settlement we went through an experience similar to that of the Children of Israel—there was no water! In a small depression near our living quarters, was a little water, but besides being unpalatable, it was far from sufficient for the needs of the people. Small holes were dug in the ground to cause the water to collect, but that, too, was not very satisfactory. Finally it was decided to dig a well, and work was begun right then. One day, while two men were in the well, it collapsed, covering the men. Shouting and crying started, and the wives of the two who had met with the accident, were held by force to prevent their throwing themselves into the well. Some of the men began getting the buried men out. One had suffered a fractured leg and the other one a broken arm. Fortunately there was a bonesetter among the settlers, who set the injured limbs. The name of this man was Duerksen. I do not remember whether the well was finished or not. It seems to me, they left the job unfinished.

After my father had taken up a homestead, bought the oxen and wagon, our belongings were loaded onto the wagon, and we went to our land. Manitoba at that time was a wilderness, with tall grass in the depressions and forests on the higher land. Owing to the lack of room on the vehicle, we children were running behind the wagon. It was fun to step on the soft grass held low by the loaded vehicle.

Having arrived at our destination, father made the walls of the house out of logs, nailing poles across to form the roof, as we used to do in Russia. This was covered with long grass, and the chinks were filled with small, twisted bundles of grass. A blanket in front of the opening in the wall, served as a door. This, now, was our house in America.

But when bedtime came, we had a shocking experience when the mosquitoes, millions of them, attacked us. Trying to smoke them out was harder on us than on them, but without the smoke it was worse.

Cooking and eating was done outdoors. A deserted ant hill served as a table—with the family seated on the ground in a circle. Supper time was the worst on account of the mosquitoes.

For the winter father built a house with board walls and covered with sod. This was an improvement over the first, but with the winter coming early, no time was left to prepare for a long and

cold winter. Hay for the oxen and the cow had to be cut with a scythe.

Mother's brother, Uncle Johan Klassen, had been detained in England on account of sickness in the family. Two of their sons died in Liverpool. This family arrived in Manitoba that fall. It was too late to build a house, so the family moved in with us. The two families now had to share the one-room house.

Shortly after this, my brother Abraham became ill, then brother Heinrich also was confined to bed. Abraham spent twelve weeks in bed, and brother Heinrich, six weeks. Sister Maria, who became ill soon after Heinrich took sick, died after a sickness of two weeks. It was on Christmas Eve in 1874. What a sad Christmas Day! Two children ill and one in the coffin. The sickness was some disease of the nerves (presumably so).

Insufficient food (all the potatoes were frozen), and the terrible cold, and no conveniences added to that winter's misery and sufferings. Sister Maria was buried after Christmas. She had lived fifteen years, six months and eleven days. In America (Canada) she lived from the first of August to the twenty-fourth of December—being the second person to be buried in the new homeland.

Spring brought back new courage, and everyone went to work with new hope and trusting in the Lord. Plans were made for the future, the ground was plowed and seeded as well as could be done. Then came the grasshoppers and took everything. To save the few potatoes, we children had to chase grasshoppers every day.

This summer father built a log house which was more roomy. Father had made a contract with a Mr. Dueck to build a house for this man for \$100.00. This amount was to be paid beforehand to enable father to buy a pair of oxen.

There were many poor settlers, who had to be helped across from Russia. I know of two families who bought one cow between them, and who had to share the one pail, to get water and to do the milking. The milk also had to be divided.

My great aunt and my "second" cousin, Isaak Braun, used to hitch up their only cow to the cart and go visiting. My great aunt was quite old, had poor eyesight, and was unable to walk any long distance. On the way, they would unhitch and let the cow graze for a while in order to have some milk in the evening.

In 1879 brother Heinrich had an infection in his foot, which seemed to get worse. The doctor suggested operation. He would give him a general anaesthetic, and then carry out the operation. Heinrich declared that he wanted to get converted first in case he should not come out of the anesthetic. The doctor was rather annoyed, but gave him some medicine to use until he was ready to come back for the operation. We did not realize that it was "pure poison" the doctor had given him. To Uncle Klassen the doctor is supposed to have expressed the opinion that Heinrich would be well by the time he returned. When uncle arrived two weeks later, Heinrich had passed away. He died in March 1880. The doctor said he had thought that Heinrich would die.

It would take too much time and work to tell of all the hardship, trouble and work that my parents had to endure. Manitoba's climate was too harsh, and my father having a weak constitution, was compelled to spend much of the winter in bed. In 1890, the parents moved to Oregon where it was milder. There they remained until father's death on January second, 1899. He was buried in the Dallas cemetery.

Shortly after father's death, mother returned to Canada. She lived in Hochfeld, Manitoba, where she passed away on August fifteenth, 1902—three years, seven months and thirteen days after father's death. We buried her at the Greenland cemetery, where she is resting until the Day of Resurrection.

**The Family Of Johan Kopp** Below is the list of names of father's step-sisters and of half-brothers and half-sisters:

Step-aunt Maria, was born February 11, 1792, and married Heinrich Bolt (birthdate and origin unknown). They had one daughter, Anna. After my aunt's death, Grandmother Esau gave the child a home. When grandmother passed away, Anna stayed at her uncle Abraham Esau's place until her marriage to David Wall. Both passed away some time ago. I am unable to tell how many children they had, but one son, D. D. Walde, lives in California.

Aunt Barbara (father's half-sister) was born in September 16, 1822, in Holland. Her parents emigrated to South Russia. She grew up in Sparrau, and married Franz Janzen, who was born on June 4, 1822, in Pastwa, South Russia. They were married on November 12, 1842. After fifty-nine years, one month and twenty-six days of married life, Aunt Barbara passed away on January 8, 1902 at the age of seventy-nine years, three months and twenty-three days. Franz Janzen passed away on November 8, 1908 at the age of eighty-six years, three months and four days.

Children of **Franz and Barbara Janzen**: **Margaretha**—26/8/1843—married Heinrich Koehn—died 21/12/1893, **Franz**—18/9/1844—died 6/8/1927, **Sara**—3/12/1845—died 25/10/?, **Heinrich**—3/1/1849—died 19/2/1862, **Aron**—19/5/1851 (still living in 1933). He married **Anna Neufeld** on May 26, 1877. She passed away on July 6, 1928 at the age of seventy years, ten months and two days. They had been married for fifty-one years, one month and eleven days, **Barbara**—17/11/1852, **Maria**—?/1/1854, **Anna**—29/11/1857, **Peter**—18/4/1863.

Aunt **Katarina** (father's half-sister) was born on February 1, 1824. Date of death is also unknown. She married **Uncle ? Thiessen**. His date of death is also unknown. She was a widow for a long time. They had seven children: **Sara**, **Margaretha**, **Heinrich**, **Abraham**, **Peter**, **Anna** and **Johan**. The latter died young. Nothing is known of the fate of the other children, for the family lived in Russia during the troubled times.

**Uncle Johan Kopp** (father's half-brother) was born on September 15, 1826. He was married, but I'm unable to tell the name of his wife, and when he married. They lived on a Janz estate in Russia. He must have died there in about 1873. His widow moved from there with her family to Sparrau.

In Sparrau she was assigned a free lot, where she built herself a mud-hut and lived there with her children until they all emigrated to South Dakota, U.S.A. Here she took up a homestead. There were six children: **Heinrich**, **Barbara**, **Johan**, **Peter**, **Margaretha**, and **Abraham**.

This aunt married again. Her husband's name was **Peter Adrian**. They did not seem to get along any too well, and I am not sure how long their married life lasted. When he passed away, she moved to Mountain Lake. Nothing is known to me when she passed away or what happened to the rest of the family. Other relatives (of the Kopp line) remained in Gross-Heuben, Holland.

**Father's Brothers** **Peter Esau** (father's brother) was born on August 1, 1832, in Sparrau, South Russia. He died on January 27, 1897. His youngest daughter was seventeen days old when he passed away. His wife was **Katarina Braun** (birthdate) unknown. She died in January, 1883. Children of **Peter** and **Katarina Esau**: **Heinrich**—18/1/1858—died 14/10/1859, **Katarina**—26/12/1860—died 30/12/1882 (She had been married to a Guentor. Her baby also died.) **Peter**—8/3/1863—died 15/8/1883—age: 20 years, 5 months and 7 days, **Margaretha**—12/8/1866—died 31/8/1883—age: 17 years, 19 days, **Anna**—7/10/1869—died 2/8/1884—age: 14 years, 9 months and 25 days, **Jakob**—23/6/1873—died 21/10/1928—age: 55 years, 3 months and 28 days. He was paralyzed from January 28, 1928 to his end. **Elisabeth**—17/12/1875—died 24/12/1882—age: 3 years, 7 months and 27 days.

**Uncle Peter Esau's** second marriage was to a widow **Harder** (nee **Aganetha Toews**). She was born on April 25, 1857 and they were married on February 27, 1884. Children of **Peter** and **Aganetha Esau**: **Heinrich**—24/6/1885—died 10/12/1912—age: 27 years, 5 months, and 16 days—ill 9 days, **Abraham**—15/10/1887, **Peter**—28/8/1890, **Aganetha**—11/11/1890, **Maria**—2/11/1892, **Katarina**—10/1/1897. Widow **Harder** had three children of her first marriage: **Kornelius**—20/10/1882, **Julius**—25/2/1882, **Daniel**—27/10/1883.

My uncle's widow married the third time. Her husband's name is **Johan Kauhenhofen**. They married on April 6, 1899 and have one son, **Bernhard**, born on March 3, 1900. This aunt and uncle are living in Manitoba not far from **Lowe Farm** (1933). They are making a comfortable living.

**Abraham Esau** (cousin—probably the son of **Uncle Peter**) was married to **Susanna Neufeld** on December 5, 1912. Their children: **Anna**, **Aganetha**, **Abram**, **Johan**, **Susanna**, **Elisabet**, **Peter**, **Kornelius** and **Maria**. **Kornelius** passed away on March 6, 1927 after an illness of nineteen days.

**Uncle Abraham Esau** was born on August 10, 1837 in Sparrau, South Russia, and died on November 29, 1916 at 10:45 p.m. He lived to be seventy-nine years, three months and nineteen days. His wife, **Margaretha Hoomsen**, was born on December 7, 1836. They were married on November 18, 1858. She died on March 18, 1911 at the age of seventy-four years, eight months and nineteen days. Uncle and aunt were married fifty-two years, three months and twenty-four days. They came from Russia about 1875 to U.S.A., settling in **Inman, Kansas** where they remained until the end of their days.

Children of **Abraham and Margaretha Esau**: **Heinrich**—13/9/1859, **Martin**—15/1/1862, **Abraham**—21/3/1864, **Margaretha**—4/10/1866—(She lived for 5 years, 1 month and 25 days.) **Peter**—14/5/1869, **Aganetha**—6/6/1871—(She lived for 4 years, 2 months and 8 days.) **Margaretha**—28/6/1873, **Gerhard**—21/1/1876, **Johan**—18/3/1879—died in infancy.

Cousin **Heinrich Esau** married **Susanna Pauls** on August 22, 1890. One of their four children died—the three still living are: **Liese**, **Margaret**, and **Tina**. My cousin **Heinrich** passed away on June 2, 1923. **Susanna**, his wife, lives in her lovely home in **Buller, Kansas, U.S.A.** (1933).

Cousin Martin Esau married Justina Pauls on October 19, 1887. He died on January 8, 1925. They had seven children: Margaret, Liese, Abraham, Justina, Martin, Peter and Lina. Four children died. The widow lives in her nice home in Buller, Kansas, U.S.A. (1933).

Cousin Abraham Esau married Aganetha Kornelsen on February 23, 1892. Three of the seven children of that union died. Aganetha, Gerhard, Heinrich and Susanna are living in Salem, Oregon, U.S.A.

Cousin Margaretha Esau married Klaas Kroeker on January 23, 1894. They had eight children: Abraham, Peter, Klass, Lena, Heinrich, Jakob, Martin and Gerhard. They live on the farm not far from Inman, Kansas, U.S.A. Klass Kroeker is Elder in the Toews church.

Cousin Gerhard Esau married Anna Toews on December 31, 1901. They had six children. One died—the five still living are: Abraham, Heinrich, Margaretha, Sara and Jakob. They made their home near Buller, Kansas, U.S.A.

Cousin Peter Esau never married. He lived at G. Esau's until he passed away on the twenty-third of July, 1931 at the age of sixty-two years, one month and twenty-seven days.

**The Klassen Family** Now we shall begin with mother's side of the family. Great-grandfather Peter Klassen was born on February 19, 1789. He died on December 19, 1862. I have been unable to get any information on great-grandmother Klassen.

Children of great-grandfather and great-grandmother Klassen: **Johan**—Our grandfather was born in 1811. He had a sister married to Heinrich Adrian. **Isaac**—Our great-uncle Isaak was married to Sara Siemens. They had five children—Justina, Margaretha, Tina, Maria, and Isaak. **Jakob**—Our great-uncle Jakob was married to Margaretha Driedger. They had six children: Jakob, Lena, Anna, Isaak, Maria and Lisbet.

Great-grandfather Johan Harms emigrated from Prussia to Russia on October 14th, 1803. He married Anna Neudorf.

Children of Johan and Anna Harms: **Johan, Isaak, Peter, Jakob, Katharina**—(married Isaak Braun), **Anna**—8/8/1808—(Her husband, Heinrich Ratzlaff, pre-deceased her while they were still in Russia. She accompanied us to Canada in 1874, but lived there only twenty-five days. She died on August 25, 1874. I have her in my memory as a very kind person, while we were on board ship crossing over from Europe.) **Maria**—married Johan Klassen, **Margaretha**—married Peter Penner.

Grandfather Johan Klassen was born around 1811. Grandmother Klassen was born on February 6, 1813. They were married on September 11, 1832.

Children of Grandfather and Grandmother Klassen: **Anna**—3/10/1833, **Margaretha**—1/8/1836—passed away 30/7/1839—ill for 9 days, **John**—15/11/1838, **Maria**—12/8/1841, **Sara**—11/3/1844—died 24/1/1850—very ill for 8 days.

Grandfather Klassen passed away in March 1887, and was buried in Steinbach, Manitoba. Grandmother Klassen passed away on January 15, 1890, and was buried near grandfather in Steinbach, Manitoba.

The grandparents have never owned any land, and grandfather worked out for many years. He also was a carpenter, making chairs, wooden shovels, trays or forms, etc. He would rent land when possible, but had much bad luck. One year all their livestock perished, and a number of times there were crop failures. They spent their last ten years at the home of my parents.

An incident from the life of grandmother's half-sister, Mrs. Isaak Braun: Working hard, she got very warm and drank very cold water. As a result of this, she became blind. For a number of years she lived alone in a little house looking after her own needs. When cancer showed up in one of her eyes, causing much pain, she moved to her daughter's home, Mrs. Peter Esau—a distant cousin of mine.

Aunt Maria (daughter of Grandfather Johan Klassen) was born on August 12, 1841. She married Jakob Harms. He was born on April 10, 1838 in Blumstein, South Russia. They were married in the year 1861, left Russia in 1874 for the U.S.A., and made their new home in the village of Gnadenu, near Hillsboro, Kansas.

They had eight children. Two sons and one daughter have passed away. Katharina, Aganetha, Maria, Gerhard, and Anna are still living (1933). There were thirty grandchildren—eight of them have passed away. Of the fifty great-grandchildren, two have passed away.

Aunt Maria passed away in 1917 at the age of 76. Uncle Harms died in 1927—November 24th—at the age of 89 years, seven months and fourteen days. They were married about 55 years. Uncle Harms was a painter. He had painted many houses and other things. He was a great painter. This is all about Mother's side of the family.

My brother, Abraham Esau, was born on July 24, 1865. His wife (nee Helena Toews), was born on July 23, 1863. They were married on July 23, 1888, in Gruenfeld, Manitoba. Children of **Abraham and Helena Esau**: **Anna**—15/4/1890—married Johan F. Isaac, **Maria**—29/8/1891, **Helena**—23/1/1893, **Margaretha**—11/4/1894, **Johan**—4/7/1895, **Heinrich**—7/8/1896—died 29/12/1897, **Sara**—25/12/1897—died 12/2/1919, a son born and died the same day—3/3/1898, **Elisabeth**—19/8/1900—died 21/2/1921, **Heinrich**—10/12/1901—died 20/2/1923, **Peter**—11/5/1903—died 22/2/1921, **Aganetha**—21/10/1904, **Katarina**—6/4/1906—died 6/5/1906, **Jakob**—9/9/1907.

Looking over this list, one sees that the Esau's experienced much sickness, sorrow and lost many a loved one. Three children died in infancy, four of the older ones also predeceased their parents, but the parents had the consolation that the older children had accepted the Lord, while the little ones had died while still innocent. This gave them a great desire to reach the land of eternal peace and rest.

One other thing about the family. Anna's husband, Johan F. Isaak, one day went for firewood. When he did not return, they went looking for him. At six o'clock in the evening they found him lying on the ground, near the horses with the axe still in his hand. This happened on February 16, 1926, that he passed away so suddenly. The body was slightly frozen when it was found. He had been suffering from a weak heart. His wife received such a shock that she screamed for a couple of hours. He was born on April 23, 1881.

**Johan K. Esau**: I was born on September 26, 1867, in the village Nikolaital, in the Province of Jekaterinoslav, South Russia. In the year 1874 I arrived together with my parents in Canada. We settled in the village Heuboden in Manitoba, where I grew up.

My wife, Maria Goossen, was born on January 22, 1868, in the village Lindenau in the Molotschna (a district in South Russia drained by the Molotschna River), Province of Tauria, South Russia. She arrived together with her parents (apparently foster parents) Isaak Warkentin's in Canada in the year 1875, settling in the village Blumenhof, Manitoba.

Foster father was born on February 13, 1845 and died on January 6, 1929. Foster mother was born on December 14, 1840, and died on February 14, 1920.

My wife, Maria Goosen, came to her foster parents at the age of four, and remained there approximately twenty years. We were married on December 16, 1893, by preacher Wilhelm Giesbrecht, from Steinbach, Manitoba, in the school house at Blumenort. We have lived in Manitoba, Canada; Kansas, U.S.A. and Texas, U.S.A. We were pioneers in Manitoba, and we have also lived three years in Oregon, the land of orchards.

As my wife was suffering much from headaches in Manitoba, and being unable to find help, we decided to move to Kansas, U.S.A., in November 1907. She benefited from the change of climate, and had regained her health in a few months. In 1915, people were moving to Texas, where the land was cheaper, and where some of our people had already organized into a church. We moved onto a larger piece of land and began pioneering again. Shortly after, the war came to Texas, and most of our people moved away. After the war, the settlement became a nice town, and the country is well settled.

We have grown old in the meantime, the same as our neighbor, Peter Penner, who lived through the hard years of pioneer life, but has now moved into the heavenly Canaan. We, too, shall soon follow him to that land where there shall be no more sorrow. Then the children will take over building the world.

Children of **Johan and Maria Esau**: **Heinrich**—28/8/1895, **Anna**—2/2/1887, **Tina**—14/4/1899, **Adina**—6/11/1900, **Maria**—17/10/1902, **Lydia**—27/12/1903, **Emilie**—3/4/1905, **Ester**—1/1/1907, **Lina**—30/4/1909, **Johnny**—5/7/1911.

Heinrich was forced to join the army on October 7, 1917 and on the eighth of June, 1918, was sentenced to twenty-five years in Fort Leavenworth; on account of non-resistance. On April 15, 1919, he was set free. On April 27, 1931, he married Anna Barkman. Elder Johan Friesen married them at the church of Gnadenu, near Hillsboro, Kansas, U.S.A. They now live on a farm near Littlefield, Texas. Their son, Donal Roy, was born on March 20, 1932.

Anna was married to Nathaniel Schmidt, from Halstead, Kansas, on January 9, 1927, by David H. Dueck in the meeting house in the village of Alexanderfeld, near Hillsboro, Kansas, U.S.A. They live now on the farm in Missouri. On August 24, 1924, their daughter Frances Maria was born, and on July 9, 1931, their daughter Kathleen Mac was born.

Tina was married to Peter Penner (born 6/7/?) on March 5, 1918, by preacher Abraham Enns, Inman, Kansas, in the meeting house at Littlefield, Texas, U.S.A. They now live on the farm. Children



of Tina and Peter Penner: **Johan**—18/5/1919, **Jakob**—16/10/1920, **Lily**—23/1/1926, **Esther**—1/3/1929, **Maria**—5/4/1929.

Adina was married to Abraham W. Penner (born on January 29, 1895 in Langdon, North Dakota) by Rev. David Dueck in the meeting house at Alexanderfeld, Hillsboro, Kansas on April 9, 1922. Abraham Penner was called to the army on October 7, 1917. On July 8, 1918, he was sentenced to twenty-five years at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, but set free on April 12, 1919. They now live on the farm near Littlefield, Texas.

Children of Adina and Abraham Penner: **Eddie A Penner**—15/3/1923, **Richard Lloyd**—21/3/1928, **Juanita Mae**—29/2/1932.

Maria was married to David Giesbrecht on September 23, 1928 by preacher Frank Wanger, in the church of Alexanderfeld, Hillsboro, Kansas. They live on the farm with their three children. Children of Maria and David Giesbrecht: **Embert Earl**—4/7/1929—born in Hillsboro, Kansas, **Jonas**—11/2/1931—born in Littlefield, Texas, **Daniel**—6/12/1932.

Lydia married Jakob H. Barkman on May 18, 1924. The ceremony was performed by Elder Johan Friesen, church Gnadenu, in Hillsboro, Kansas. During World War 1, Jakob was drafted on July 21, 1918. He was sent to Fort Riley, where he remained until November 15, when he was transferred to Fort Leavenworth, remaining there until January 26, 1919. He appeared before the judge five times and was sentenced to twenty-five years—his number was #1585. When he was asked why he was acting the way he was doing, he replied, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, with all thy soul, and thy neighbor as thyself". They now reside the farm, engaged in mixed farming. Children of Lydia and Jakob Barkman: **Dorothy**—5/4/1925, **Ruby**—7/7/1925.

Emilie married Esra Barkman. They were married by Elder Johan Friesen on November 18, 1928, in Gnadenu, Hillsboro, Kansas. Esra is a preacher in the K. M. Gemeinde. He is a book-keeper and lives in Kansas.

Esther was married to Abraham Schmidt, from Halstead, Kansas, by Frank Wanger in the meeting house at Alexanderfeld, Hillsboro, Kansas, on February 20, 1927. Children of Esther and Abraham Schmidt: **Luana Dolores**—3/2/1928—(She died in an accident on June 4, 1931. It happened this way: Around one p.m. a sudden wind, preceding a small rain shower, upset a chicken coop. It fell on the head of little Dolores, crushing it and killing her instantly. She was three years, four months and one day old.) **Betty Jane**—21/2/1931—born in Perico, Texas.

My brother Peter K. Esau was born while the parents were on the trip from Europe to Canada, on July 12, 1874. He married Katarina Goossen, daughter of Kornelius Goossen. She was born on January 14, 1879, in Steinbach, Manitoba. They were married by Wilhelm Giesbrecht, Steinbach, Manitoba on May 4th (year unknown).

Peter Esau was cheese maker for many years at Hochfeld, Manitoba. When they moved to Winnipeg, he opened an inn, serving meals and providing lodging, also. They had no children. Peter Esau died on April 25, 1935, around 5:20 a.m.

**The Goossen Family** Thus far we related about the Esau line, now we shall proceed to the Goossen branch of the family (my wife's family).

Grandfather Gerhard Goossen was born in Russia on September 23, 1811. Grandmother, former Minna Plett, was born in Prussia on April 13, 1815. They were married on July 9, 1835. Children of **Gerhard** and **Minna Goossen**: **Gerhard**—11/6/1836, **Peter**—28/1/1838, **Cornelius**—30/11/1839, **Johan**—5/1/1842, **Maria**—27/2/1848.

Grandfather died in Russia in 1854 after fourteen years of married life. He was a teacher all his life. Grandmother Goossen married again. Her husband was the widower, Heinrich Enns. They married on November 1, 1855. Children of **Heinrich** and **Minna Enns**: **Jakob**—19/7/1856, **Heinrich**—17/10/1859.

Grandmother Enns passed away on June 25, 1864, in Fishau, Russia, having lived with Grandfather Enns for eight years, ten months and twenty-four days.

Grandfather Enns was born on July 19, 1807, in Fishau, Russia. He died at a son's of his first marriage on May 29, 1881.

Father Gerhard Goossen was born on June 11, 1836 (see above) in Blumstein, South Russia. Mother Goossen was born on February 10, 1839. She was the daughter of Franz Klassen—Anna Klassen, Neukirch, South Russia. They were married on July 2, 1857.

Children of **Gerhard** and **Anna Goosen**: **Anna**—26/4/1858, **Gerhard**—3/9/1859, **Franz**—?—Passed away?, **Franz**—26/10/1862, **Katarina**—28/10/1864, **Peter**—?—Died?, **Maria**—22/9/1868, **Peter**—?—Died?, **Cornelius**—?—?

On September 1, 1872, Father Goossen passed away at the age of thirty-six years, two months and nineteen days. For several years he was a teacher and preacher in the Kleine Gemeinde. He had been quite ill and often delirious, but there were times when he rallied; in these moments he would declare his joy of having "worked" his salvation in days when he was still well, for he should be unable to do so now. Let us take note of this, for it is important.

They were married fourteen years, ten months and one day. He left to mourn, his wife and six children. Mother was not well, and also very poor. Father's death was very hard on her. As she was unable to take care of the family, she was forced to let other people take care of them.

She was a widow when she came to Manitoba, Canada in 1874, settling in the village of Gruenfeld, where she married the widower Johan Hiebert on March 12, 1876. Father Hiebert was born on May 25, 1816 in Neukirch, South Russia.

Children of **Johan and Anna Hiebert**: **Helena**—19/3/1878, **Jakob**—7/7/1880, **Isaak**—17/1/1882. Father Johan Hiebert died on January 18, 1890.

Mother Hiebert was married the third time on September 12, 1891 in Blumenhof, Manitoba to Johan Warkentin, who had been born in Blumstein, South Russia on February 12, 1845. From Manitoba, the parents moved to Hillsboro, Kansas, where father died on October 19, 1908, at the age of sixty-three years, eight months, and seven days. They were married for fourteen years, one month and seven days. Mother Warkentin died on February 16, 1927, and was buried on Sunday, February 20, 1927 in Alexanderfeld, near Hillsboro, Kansas.

Mother had five sisters and one brother, named Peter, who at the age of 18 was forced to serve as wagoner during the Crimean War in Russia in 1855. He was ill while he returned and shortly passed away. Grandmother Franz Klassen had also died, and both of them were buried the same day.

Mother's sisters were Aunt Schellenberg, Aunt Enss, Aunt Epp, Aunt Fedehrau, and Aunt Baergen. This is all about our parents.

Brothers and sisters with their families:

Sister Anna married widower Peter Hiebert. Their children are: Abraham, Gerhard, David, Ranz, Heinrich, Peter, Maria, Daniel, and Margaretha. Nearly all of them are married and living in Kansas.

Brother Gerhard Goossen married Anna Froese. Their children are: Anna, Margaretha, Elisabeth, Franz, Gerhard, Tina, Maria, Lina and Emma. Outside of two, all are married and living near Morris, Manitoba (1933).

Brother Franz Goossen died on April 28, 1929, in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Anna died on August 11, 1920, in Greenland, Manitoba, leaving behind three children. Franz died on January 13, 1928, near Clearsprings, Manitoba, leaving behind four children.

Sister Katarina married Heinrich Loewen, from Hochstadt, Manitoba. Their children are: Anna, Heinrich, Gerhard, Tina, Lena, Peter, Franz, Jesse and Ella. Nearly all of them are married and living in Houston, Texas.

Brother Peter Goossen's first wife was Maria Froese. She passed away in the winter of 1912. Their children are: Anna, Franz, Peter, Gerhard, Jakob, Heinrich, Johan, Maria and David. His wife of his second marriage was Maria Penner of Littlefield, Texas. There were four children of this marriage. They all live in Manitoba. This is all about the Goossen family.

Half-sister Helena Hiebert married Gerhard B. Toews from Hillsboro, Kansas on December 22, 1898. He was born on March 28, 1872 in South Russia. Their children are: Anna, Lydia, Nellie, Harvey, Albert, David, Luella, Viola and Juwenni. They live in Kansas.

Half-brother Jakob Hiebert married Kornelia Litke on August 4, 1902. She was born on July 29, 1882. Their children are: Anna, Eddie, Martha (?), and Wallace. They live north of Hillsboro, Kansas.

Half-brother Isaak Hiebert married Adelgunde Litke, who was born on December 11, 1883, on August 18, 1903. Their children are: Linda, Minna, Milton, Wesley and Grace.

Uncle Peter Goossen was born on January 23, 1838. If I am not mistaken, he lived to the age of eight-one—he must have died in 1919. He was married to Justina Dueck from Lindenau, South Russia. If it is correct, Auntie died before Uncle. She apparently spent the last years in total blindness.

Uncle Kornelius Goossen was born on November 30, 1839, or according to the New Style calendar (Gregorian Calendar) on December 12. He married Katarina Friesen in 1863—a sister to Mrs. David Hiebert.

Children of **Kornelius and Katarina Goossen**: **Kornelius**—5/7/1864—died 5/4/1870—age: 5 years, 9 months, **Heinrich**—28/1/1867—died 26/9/1867—age: 7 months and 27 days, **Katarina**—23/6/1868—died 29/11/1873—age: 5 years, 5 months and 6 days, **Maria**—2/12/1870—died

9/2/1871.

Uncle Goossen's first wife must have died on December 9, 1872, at the age of twenty-six years, two months and seventeen days. He possibly got married again in 1874 to Katharina Barkman, who was born on August 8, 1851, or New Style—August 20.

Children of **Kornelius** and **Katarina Goossen**: **Kornelius**—16/6/1876—(He died on January 10, 1959 at the age of 82 years, 6 months and 25 days. He was married to Margaretha Friesen, who died on July 27, 1958.) **Heinrich**—25/10/1877—died 11/6/1883—age— 5 years, 4 months and 8 days, **daughter**—stillborn—12/1/1882, **Peter**12/12/1884—died 21/12/1884—age—9 days, **Jakob**—13/6/1890—died immediately, **Peter**—18/4/1895—married widow of Peter Guenther.

When Gerhard Goossen's family arrived from Russia, they settled in Steinbach, Manitoba, where they remained until Auntie Goossen died. Uncle had a small farm—an 80-acre farm. He was not a strong man and not able to work hard. Being thrifty and saving, they were able to make a comfortable living. Uncle and Aunt were well liked. He had a good credit, and Auntie was loving and hospitable. We always like to visit there.

The father of Aunt Kornelius Goossen, Jakob Barkman, drowned in the Red River near Winnipeg. His companion, Jakob Friesen also drowned. The owner of the boat was able to save himself by swimming the shore. This happened on June 2, 1875, if I am not mistaken.

Our Aunt died on December 5, 1912 during the night, in her home. She was found dead in the morning. She had lived for sixty-one years, three months and twenty-seven days, and was buried on the ninth of December 1912, in Steinbach, Manitoba.

Uncle Kornelius Goossen died on January 8, 1916 at the home of Peter K. Esau, 71 Lily Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba, and was buried on January 13, 1916 in Steinbach. He lived for 75 years and 27 days.

Uncle Johan Goossen was born on January 5, 1842 in Blumstein, South Russia. Auntie Goossen (nee Susanna Toews) was born on January 10, 1844 in the village of Fischau, South Russia. They were married on January 25, 1861 in South Russia. On June 15th, 1875, they arrived in the U.S.A., and settled in the village of Gnadenu, near Hillsboro, Kansas, and made this their home until the end of their days. Their children are Johan, Peter, Kornelius, Gerhard and Susanna. Uncle Johan Goossen died on December 14th, 1904. His wife died on October 14th, 1912. They were married for forty-four years, five months and nineteen days.

Aunt Maria Goossen was born on February 27, 1848, in Blumstein, South Russia and was married to Johan Warkentin. Their children are: Johan, Anna, Maria, Margaretha and Elisabeth.

Johan married Helena Dueck, from Gruenfeld, Manitoba. She died, and then he married the widow of Jakob Dueck (nee Aganeta Penner) from Blumenort. Anna married Gerhard Giesbrecht, from Steinbach, Manitoba. They now live in Montezuma, Kansas. Maria married Kornelius Wohlgemuth, from Blumenhof, Manitoba. He is a preacher.

Margaretha did not marry. She walks with the help of a cane as her leg is crippled up from rheumatism. She stays at her younger sister's home, Elisabeth, who married Isaak Friesen, near Inman, Kansas. Aunt Maria Warkentin suffered much through sickness. She passed away March 19th, 1888 in Blumenhof, Manitoba.

*Translation—Courtesy Abe Schmidt, Halstead, Ks.*

# Chapter Fourteen.

## Historical Report (1874-1890)

by John R. Dueck

The following article was taken from *Das 60-Jährige Jubiläum der Mennonitischen Ost-Reserve*, printed in 1935 by Warte Verlag, Steinbach, Manitoba, Canada, pp. 17-24.

This article was translated from German into English in August, 1986, by Ben B. Dueck, nephew of John R. Dueck.

John R. Dueck was born in Gnadenthal on the Molotschna River in South Russia on December 1, 1863. At the age of ten, he emigrated to Canada with his parents, Abram L. Duecks, in 1874. At the time he wrote this (1934), he was living in Rosenhof, near Morris, Manitoba.

Dear Friends and Jubilee Assembly,

When I was asked to give an historical report of our arrival in Canada at this 60th Anniversary Celebration, I wondered whether I would be able to do justice to this assignment. My concern was firstly that I would speak loudly and intelligibly enough, and secondly, that I would use the proper amount of detail; less for unimportant things and more for events of greater interest and historical significance. I have always lacked the ability to say much with few words. Please excuse where I have used too many local happenings and not enough historical facts.

One or more groups of former Molotschna and Bergthal residents had already arrived here before us in the first few days of August, 1874, and had gone on to Winnipeg by boat. After making the most necessary purchases, they had returned (up the Red River) to the immigrants' sheds near Niverville. These sheds were simple wooden shelters, open to insects and rain. At that time, however, it probably rained little: otherwise the settlers would not have suffered from a water shortage. All pools and the hastily-dug holes had dried up. The laundry water had to be used several times and their meagre water supply carefully conserved. Springs which always hold water (such as we have in Grünfeld) were not to be found there. To get water from the Red River, five miles away, was difficult, not least because of the scarcity of containers. Their attempt to dig a well failed, and when it caved in, two men were partially buried. However, they were rescued by a certain Mr. Redekopp.

Using the immigrants' sheds as a base, groups of settlers combed the reserve land to find suitable sites for establishing village settlements. However, the details of this search I will leave to other historians.

I shall begin my account by relating how our group, consisting of Steinbachers, Annafelders and others, was put ashore with boxes and baggage in scrub-bush near the junction of the Kat and Red Rivers one morning at the end of September, 1874. (Some insist it was in early October.)

The prospect cannot have been very inviting as our group looked at the land of their earthly future. Soon the wagons, sent out by earlier settlers to fetch us, arrived. Some of these were carts with two wheels (Red River carts) pulled by one ox. Some immigrants, and especially the baggage, had to wait on shore until the next day. Peter Duecks, my uncle who had already been here in Manitoba since early August, came to get us with a brand-new box-wagon pulled by two oxen. It must have been a heavy load, for I remember walking alongside the wagon, together with other men and boys, for most of the journey. Late in the evening, we arrived at their tent in Grünfeld. We had covered approximately fifteen miles.

In the beginning, we lived together with Peter Duecks in one tent. How all ten of us had room in it has often puzzled me later. It is a fact, though, that we all slept in that tent—somewhat crowded, with some of the children bedded on trunks and bundles—but we managed. When it grew colder, we even had to find room in the tent for a cookstove which had been standing outdoors in summer.

Let me relate a small episode of tent life. One evening the cook had put too much wood in the stove. The canvas of the tent caught fire from the red-hot stove pipes. Uncle Peter Dueck, while tearing down the overheated pipes, stumbled, falling on the stove and burning his knee and hands severely. My father ran outdoors and threw snow on the flames. As a result, the hole burned in the tent was not very large.

It must have been at the end of November that we moved into the "Serrei" (a straw-covered gable roof standing directly on the earth, rather than on walls) which our fathers had hastily built. This "Serrei" was about twenty-six feet wide and just as long, and approximately eighteen or twenty feet high. At the east end, a sixteen-foot part was divided into rooms, each about nine or ten feet

wide. The walls were made of tongue-and-groove boards. Each room had a window at the east end, and a door was made at the west end. The west end of the "Serrei" served as barn for the cattle. We—my parents and siblings—lived in the north room and Peter Duecks in the south room. Any cracks in the board walls were stuffed with old rags; and since each room had a cook stove and firewood was plentiful, we did not suffer overly much from the cold. It was a different matter for the cattle who had a hard time of it, shivering under the bare thatched roof, even though the thatch was nine or ten inches thick. It simply was not enough to keep the natural warmth of the cattle inside the shelter. Our total "herd" consisted of two oxen, two cows and one calf. The calf's legs were frozen, and it died. One of the cows lost parts of her ears and tail. The hay was bad, because it had been cut too late in the fall. Some settlers evidently had bought grass mowers that first fall and had made their hay in time. In spring we bought some of this better hay, to feed the oxen so that they would be fit to work.

The school was in neighbor John Isaacs' "Serrei", a structure similar to ours. The Isaacs lived in the southern room; the schoolroom was the northern one. In this classroom, Diedrich Friesen taught fifteen or sixteen children. A table, three feet by ten feet, with crossed legs, served as a school desk. On one side of it sat the boys; and the girls sat on the other side. The floor was bare earth, as was the case in most houses that first winter.

However, several Grünfelders had erected more permanent dwellings (block-houses) made of logs and some boards, with thatched roofs. In the second summer, several buildings were made with shingled roofs. As far as I can recall, there was only one "Semlin" (sod hut) in Grünfeld that first winter; three "Serrei" and also three buildings of other types. As was the custom at that time, houses and barns were built together, not only that first year, but for many years thereafter.

During that first winter (1874-1875), my father and my uncle Peter Dueck hauled many loads of dry fir building logs from the east woods (about two miles from Grünfeld.) They made their own sleighs, fashioning them from still-solid tree roots about six inches thick, found on fallen trees. These were shaped, fitted with pins and the runners clad with iron. These sleighs were four to five feet wide, with runners eight to twelve feet long. On these sleighs, thirty-foot beams could be hauled. These beams were balanced on the sleigh and well-fastened; the oxen were then hitched to the load with yoke and logging chains. If the load travelled a bit downhill, the oxen either had to step out of the way or slow the load with their back parts.

When my parents also had bought a yoke of oxen in 1875, we could start plowing. Two teams of oxen were hitched to a twelve-inch sod plow, because the sod was hard and tough. Years later, one team of oxen was sometimes able to pull that plow, but at first, everything was new and strange. Our fathers changed off daily guiding the plow, while I and my cousin John W. Dueck had to drive the oxen. This was not always easy, especially when the mosquitoes were bad.

Just how much sod we plowed and immediately seeded that first spring in 1875, I do not know, but probably hardly more than six acres. The hand-scattered seed was covered with earth by going over it about ten times with a home-made scrub-harrow. Some neighbors had already made harrows with wooden or even with iron teeth.

With timely spring rains, the wheat soon came up beautifully. But alas! The grasshoppers came also and soon had turned everything black. When the first swarm of grasshoppers had finally gone, the wheat slowly greened again. Then we learned that a new swarm of hoppers was coming from Rosenfeld, two miles south-east. These insects were already bigger than the first batch, which had been house-fly size. These newcomers quickly devoured all grain, vegetables and the juicy grasses. They were so voracious that they did not hesitate to consume their fallen comrades. For example, if some person hit into a thick cloud of grasshoppers with a whip or stick, the strip was quickly covered with hoppers who ate their dead friends. If a person ran about twenty steps into a grasshopper swarm and looked back, he could see every footprint outlined as the hordes stormed together to swallow their crushed companions. Initially it appeared that the predators were on a journey toward the northwest. They marched around houses and other obstructions, always headed in the same direction. When they developed wings, they often rose into the air in clouds or swarms on warm days, thereby darkening the sun. These grasshoppers were said to be a different species than the ones seen here in previous years. Government officials described the ones seen here previously as the mountain locusts. In many places, including Morris, these insects came later, when the wheat was nearly ripe, and consequently did less damage.

In low-lying areas the hoppers did not destroy the grass, perhaps because earlier in spring there was water there and later, the grass became too hard for them. Therefore, we could still make enough

hay. Haymaking in our village was done as follows: the largest part of the village, about seven or eight landowners, co-operatively bought a grass mower and a rake. During the mowing, the teams of oxen hitched to the mower were changed every two to two-and-a-half hours, to keep the mower going from early morning until late at night. Since it was customary in our village to have each team of oxen yoked, without lines, we younger boys had to guide them while our fathers or older brothers operated the mower and also goaded the oxen. Raking was done in the same way, with the exception of having only one ox at a time hitched to the rake. The long windrows of hay made by the rake were pushed together with forks and formed into small haystacks ("Kopitzen"), of a size that four or five of them would make a load of hay. After enough haystacks had been made—several hundred—these were divided among the owners. Enough sticks, numbered one to eight, were made and one stick planted on top of every haystack. Lots were then drawn for the numbers. When the hay was to be hauled home, we boys would search out all the "Kopitzen" with Number Seven (our number) on them, then call our father with the haywagon to come to load these. This method of dividing the hay was not very practical, but quite impartial. Some of the better-off neighbors already had bought their own mowers, or at most were two owners to one machine.

Many buildings were erected in the summer of 1875, although our earthly future did not look promising because of the grasshoppers. But the pioneers had a firm trust in God and a strong hope—qualities which carried them through adversities—and they were not disappointed. Naturally, staple goods were scarce, and many people had to accept government help in the form of flour and seed wheat for the next year (1876). Even if we could pay for our flour, there was often a lack of other ingredients. Syrup and lard, bought in large tins, always vanished too quickly. When milk was used in bread-baking, the result was a vast improvement over ordinary bread and salt. Meat was a rarity.

In the summer of 1875, our parents bought a twenty-four-foot by thirty-two-foot house, the western end of which was prepared for a barn. Others, for example, John and Jacob Duecks, who also arrived here from Russia in June, built barns in which the east ends were turned into temporary living quarters. Most houses were built in the following manner: a large frame was erected, using wooden pegs an inch thick and from six to ten inches long to fasten the wooden members together. Although iron nails were already known, they were not practical for such heavy beams. Studs were spaced from three to three-and-a-half feet, and the spaces between the studs were filled with short wooden logs; a method again becoming popular among poor people today. Walls built this way soon required repairs, especially where the clay used to chink the logs was not protected by putting boards (siding) over it. The roofs were mounted on the walls at ceiling height or one foot higher. Thin logs were then nailed across the rafters at ten-inch intervals. Onto these logs, the hay (thatch) tied into small bundles three feet long and two-and-a-half inches thick, was fastened. Such roofs sometimes lasted for twenty-five years or longer. Jac. Duecks, who built their house (26 by 42 feet) a few years later, already used wooden shingles. At that time, also, wooden boards became common as wall-covering instead of the earlier-used short wooden logs.

During the winter of 1875-1876, the Grünfeld villagers hired Uncle Peter Dueck to teach in their school for a salary of sixty dollars cash; also, ten loads of building logs from the nearby forest were to be hauled to his home. In addition, he received free firewood. The learning (teaching) of English was not even considered at that time. School supplies were few and very simple. Slates were mostly used instead of paper.

When spring came after a moderately cold winter, the villagers hastened to prepare their land with renewed hope. The land broken the previous year was replowed and seeded with the wheat they had bought which had by now arrived. A few more acres were broken and seeded mostly with oats. Several farmers who owned a team of horses already seeded over twenty acres; others perhaps hardly half that much. Naturally, all seeding was done by hand. People helped each other by lending others their harrows, plows, oxen and wagons, so that even the poorest person could sow something if he wished. With sufficient rain, the crops grew beautifully. Potatoes and other vegetables grew very well, too. Of grasshoppers there was no sign that second year.

Now and then someone built something. It was especially significant that a steam mill was built on the Reserve in Reinfeld village, three miles north of Grünfeld. Being able to have your wheat ground in those days, contrasted with buying flour, was an even greater saving in money than it is today, because millers ground your flour by accepting "the sixth measure" of your wheat as payment. Later, when the milling price was calculated in cash, it was twelve cents per bushel in the early 1890's; later fifteen cents and finally it went up to twenty cents. The flour in those years was not as good quality as today's is. If there was rust in the wheat, the flour appeared quite dark, and

resulted in poor-quality baking. Some tried to eliminate the rusty kernels before grinding by winnowing the wheat beforehand, or also by some other means. People also tried harder to raise rust-free wheat by using rust-free sand. The grinding was done by means of two rounded, grooved stones, each four feet in diameter and sixteen inches thick. The bottom stone was fastened in place, and the upper one, which was turning, rubbed the wheat into flour.

In addition, Cornelius Toews built a windmill in Grünfeld. However, this mill must have been here only a few years, because I can't remember much about it. I know more about the windmill built in Steinbach during the early years (1877), perhaps mainly because it was soon dismantled in Steinbach and re-assembled in Rosenort near Morris, where it continued to work for over forty years, serving as a distinctive landmark visible for long distances. Finally, it succumbed to modern reality as people acquired their own grain crushers, powered by gasoline engines.

As far as I know, all grain was still cut by scythe in the summer of 1876, at most, someone occasionally tried, with little success, to harvest his grain by fastening a tin platform behind a grass mower. Haymaking was better than the year before. Two or three landowners together bought a mower and a rake, and therefore all that had to be done was to divide the grass flats, if that was even necessary. After the grain was tied into sheaves and hauled into stacks on the farm yards, people thought about buying a threshing machine. The threshing flail, as used in Prussia, or the threshing stone, common in Russia, seemed inappropriate here. Therefore, the whole village of twelve or thirteen landowners co-operatively bought a horse-powered threshing machine. Unfortunately, I do not know what price it was. During the first two or three harvests, no horses were utilized in running the thresher. Rather, the whole power source consisted of five yoke of oxen; these were all that was necessary. As oxen are notoriously lazy, we boys were sometimes appointed to prod the laziest of them. It was no fun to tramp in a circle for hours behind those animals! In addition, a driver stood on a platform in the middle of the circuit who helped us in urging on the oxen. Years later, a single driver kept the horses going from the central platform. Conditions were improved the following year (1877) when a regulator was attached, forcing each team of oxen and horses to pull an equal load. This also prevented the breaking of the tongue (of the thresher).

Power from the horse-power was transmitted to the pulley by means of steel rods with universal joints. It was somewhat difficult to bring the threshing machine into operating speed and to maintain the required tempo with the oxen. It could not thresh many hundreds of bushels in a day. In the front end, a man stood on a platform who "let in" or shoved the grain into the machine. To the side was a table on which the sheaves were laid and cut open. This work wasn't easy as long as "hand" binders were used. The partly-clean grain flowed into a box standing on the ground, from which bags were filled and the full bags carried into the house attic. Attics were for many villagers the only storage areas for grain, then and for many years thereafter. Some threshing machines already had a grain elevator which filled the bags. Resetting the machine often took nearly two hours. The wheels of the horse-power had been "dug in" and fitted with braces to prevent the pulley from pulling sideways. The straw carrier had to be taken off or the outer end carried after the machine, while the higher end was raised on braced stilts during threshing and set into motion by a long chain from the thresher. In Morris the farmers used only horses for threshing right from the beginning. In Grünfeld, it took three or four years until there were enough horses to operate the horse-power.

In the early 1880's steam threshers appeared, and came into common use in five or six years. Surplus grain raised originally had to be hauled to Winnipeg where everyone was anxious to trade.

In 1876 several businesses were opened on the Reserve. Our post office was Winnipeg. When the railway from the U.S. border to Winnipeg was finished in 1879, Niverville became our post office, and five years later it was Hochstadt. By this time, also, there were several sawmills on the Reserve. At the very beginning, all sawing of boards was done by manpower. The log to be sawed lay on eight-foot-high saw horses; one man stood on top, pulling the long saw high, while another stood on the ground underneath and pulled the saw down.

The following winter, 1876-1877, was a severe one, as the first one had been. However, we were better off, as nearly all villagers by now had warm houses and barns. Plowing began around April 20. Most of the plowing was still done in spring. Fall plowing only began much later. Cleaning of the seed grain was done with a round sieve, swung in a crosswise motion. Large weed-seeds and chaff were removed by hand, while small weed-seeds fell through the sieve. Some farmers made their own crude fanning mills, but as far as I can remember, it was many years until regular fanning mills appeared.

In the spring and summer we built a barn onto our house, using the same framing system we

had used in the house. All parts that were to be used—braces, rafters, pegs, nails, etc., were cut and readied on the ground, then half the village was invited (partly as guests) for a barn-raising bee. When the framework stood complete at four o'clock in the afternoon, a very heavy rain came, which I still remember very well. It was a particularly wet summer that year, causing small inland "lakes" throughout the region. The excessive moisture cut down the grain yields as well.

Here is an excerpt from Uncle Peter Dueck's letter of that time: "Peter Bergen's twelve-acre field of wheat yielded 200 bushels; Abraham Loewen threshed 300 bushels from twenty acres; John Dueck, 250 bushels from twenty acres; Jacob Dueck, 225 bushels from his twenty acres; our ten-acre field yielded 85 bushels, etc. Yields of oats were about double those of wheat."

In 1877, the income from two or three cows came in very handy, with butter being from twenty-five to thirty cents per pound. Hogs, fattened by grain from the previous year's harvest, could already be butchered. This improved conditions for the settlers. For this fall's threshing (and in following years) villagers formed groups of three to four landowners in each group.

A special holiday was declared on the East Reserve settlements for August 21 in honor of the governor-general's visit. A small display was set up. The Grünfeld School was given the honor of singing several songs for the distinguished guest. The Governor-General gave a speech, translated into German by Mr. Hespeler. Mr. Hespeler had made himself indispensable to the Mennonites in these early years by giving advice and by acting as interpreter for them.

The winter of 1877-1878 was very mild. Farmers could plow right up to Christmas, and by mid-March the frost had already left the ground. The thermometer seldom reached twenty below (Reamur). Often there was an inch of snow, lapped up by the sun without a thaw. This also meant that there was not enough snow to use sleighs. We have never again had such a mild winter. The following summer, as well as the two summers thereafter, were again very wet.

In the summer of 1878 the first reaper appeared in our village. You could get your grain cut with this machine for one bushel per acre if you supplied the horses or oxen to pull it. This reaper deposited the unbound sheaves to one side, to leave the space for the next round open. A few years later, at several places, reapers with attached platforms were used. Two men rode on the platform, tying by hand the newly-formed sheaves before dropping them off. Wire binders were used for only a few years. In 1882, several automatic binders were already in use. Although binders have undergone improvements and changes since then, they have remained essentially the same to the present. Similarly, grain threshers have been greatly improved, but the threshing and separating of grain from straw were done in the same fashion by the earlier machines as by the ones we have today. By the end of the eighteen-eighties, the steam threshers had made their appearance. They had to be moved from place to place by horses. Barely ten years after that, there were already owners who had steam engines to pull the threshers. This proved a valuable relief for the horses!

Since this is going beyond the pioneer years, I shall end my report, in order not to take too much time. I thank the listeners for their patience and hope that my report has been of sufficient interest to many of you.





# Chapter Fifteen.

## Lineage Of My Grandparents Klaas Friesens Born In West Prussia

by Helena Jahnke, nee Friesen. Translated by D. Plett.

**My Grandparents** My paternal grandfather was born in West Prussia on January 25, 1774. My paternal grandmother was born in the month of September in the year 1776, in West Prussia. Her maiden name was Elisabeth Friesen.

In the year 1789 many residents of the Kingdom of Prussia emigrated to the Empire of Russia because they had been invited to come there by the Russian Monarch the Empress Katharina. They settled on the right bank of the Dneper River which flows into the Black Sea near Odessa. They established Old Chortitz as their headquarters where they built a church as well as a district office. This Colony was called Chortitza.

My grandparents were married in the year 1800. My paternal grandfather Klaas Friesen was the son of an Isbrand Friesen and my great-grandmother was born Helena Penner. My maternal grandfather was Cornelius Friesen and the great-grandmother was an Elisabeth Friesen.

My grandparents emigrated to Russia in 1803 together with many other families. They were resident in Rineland from where they set upon their way by foot without an emigration pass because the same had been withheld from them by deception. They were forced to dispose of their possessions among friends as they were unable to purchase a vehicle. They had two small children Helena and Elisabeth.

When they arrived at the border they received some assistance from the Russian government and were able to purchase a Russian horse and wagon.

Their daughter Helena died and was buried there. After an arduous thirteen week journey they arrived at the place of grandfather's brother Isbrandt in Schoenhorst in the Chortitzer Colony at the end of October. He was sick when they arrived and also died after four weeks. My grandparents made their home there until 1804. Aunt Elisabeth died here and Aunt Anna was born in the month of September.

**The Molotschna Settlement** In the year of 1804 my grandparents moved to the Molotschna where they settled on the left bank of the river. Further up behind Altona the Molotschna widens into an inland sea. In 1804 the following nine villages were established along the Molotschna, namely, Halbstadt, Schoenau, Fischau, Lindenau, Lichtenau, Blumstein, Muensterberg, and Altona. My grandparents' draw fell on Lindenau No. 13 where they built themselves a house from crown lumber which they occupied in 1805.

In 1805 many new villages were laid out, Petershagen (10), Schoensee (11), and Ladekopp (12) on the left bank of the Tokmak. Tiegenhagen (13), between Muntau and Schoenau on the Molotschna and Orloff (14), Tiege (15), Blumenort (16) and Rosenort (17) on the left bank of the Kuruschan, a river flowing between Blumstein and the Molotschna River.

In 1807 my first uncle Klaas was born in Lindenau and died after 25 hours. In the same year the village of Furstenau was established on the left bank of the River Tokmak which flows into the Molotschna before Halbstadt.

In 1908 my second aunt Elisabeth was born in Lindenau. She died in October of 1810. My father was born in Lindenau on December 7, 1810. In 1811 Ruckenuau was laid out on the Kuruschan. In the year 1812 the village of Schoensee was settled the reason being that there was a depressed area between Petershagen and Ladekoop so that they settled on the same river somewhat further upstream.

On August 3, 1813, my second uncle Klaas was born in Lindenau. On February 23, 1816 my aunt Justina was born in Lindenau.

In the year 1818 many of the Mennonites again emigrated from Prussia to Russia. In the same year a considerable number of other confessions, Catholic and Lutheran, came to Russia from Prussia but they were directed to settle in an area 100 werst from the Mennonite Colonies.

Three more new villages were settled in the year 1819. Lichtfelde, Neukrich on the Juschanlee which flows into the Molotschna behind Altona, and Morganau on the Kuruschan. In the same year many again emigrated from Prussia to Russia, namely, Aeltester Franz Goertz and his Gemeinde.

In August of 1819 my third aunt Elisabeth was born in Lindenau.

New villages were again laid out in the year 1820. Alexanderthal, Schardau, Pordenau, Marianthal on the Tschukrak; Pastwa and Franzthal on the Juschanlee; and Rudnerweide and Grossweide on the Apanlee.

Many new villages were again laid out in 1821. Furstenwurder, Alexanderwohl and Gnadenheim on the Begim Tehekrak. This river flows into the Kuruschan near Ruckenau. In 1822 another new village, Tiegerwiede, was settled on the Kuruschan. And again in 1823, Elizabethal on the Tschukrak which flows into the Jushanlee near Steinbach, and Liebenau on the Tokmak.

New villages were again established in 1824. Prangenau on the Jushanlee, Wernersdorf on the Tokmak and Friedensdorf on the Begim Tehekrak. In 1824 the residents of the colony were subjected to a plague of small grasshoppers. They devoured much hay as well as grain so that a great feed shortage developed the next winter. Old straw and reed roofs had to be utilized in order to meet this emergency to bring the cattle through the winter. Entire buildings were opened up for this purpose. In many villages these buildings had to stand without roofs until the fall of 1825.

In the year 1824 in fall, my aunt Anna married the young bachelor Heinrich Koop the stepson of Isbrand Dick of Muntau.

In 1825 the merchants from the Colony, tradesmen, drove to the village of Roemen, more than 100 werst distant, to arrange for the sale of the wool from the entire Colony. The group consisted of, a man by the name of Dick from Altona, Peter Teigrieb, Blumstein, Peter Bauer together with his teenage son Erdman from Lindenau and Willms from Tiegenhagen. They were murdered on their return journey home.

The originator of this was a wealthy Jewish Merchant who lived in Schornifka not far from the German Colonies, who joined himself to this group for the trip home. Through deception he took them on a detour presenting them to his band at a convenient location where they were slaughtered.

The guilty one was discovered in the following manner. The German traders had purchased imported wares which had not yet been in the area. They had written their families describing what they had purchased. These wares were along with them and when the Jew started to sell such wares he came under suspicion and was eventually discovered. Here again the proverb was applicable "that no thread can be spun so fine but it finally comes under the sun."

A plague of large grasshoppers came in 1827. The grain had grown and stood beautifully with filled heads and the rye was almost ripe. The grasshoppers arrived on the grainfields in Lindenau Friday towards evening and by Sunday noon there was no trace of grain left with the exception of a few morgen of rye which was denied them through mowing.

On June 8, 1830 my father was received into the so-called Kleine Gemeinde through baptism by the beloved Aeltester Klaas Reimer of Petershagen. In 1832 after the harvest there was a great drought with much wind so that the soil within a large radius seemed to be very dry and unproductive.

Very little snow fell in the winter of 1830 and no rain came in spring so that the seeds could not germinate. A little rain came after the seeding time and the grain sprouted after all, but then it shriveled away for lack of moisture. This resulted in a great appreciation in price so that 1 pud or 40 pounds of wheat cost 1½ silver ruble, or 10 pud for 50 ruble Banko. Rye was 130 kopeck silver and barley 1.15 kopeck silver. The grain was purchased from Old Russia and Poland. A Bread Commission had to be elected, 2 men from every village, in order to look after everyone that no one should suffer from starvation. Money was taken from the Colony treasury to purchase for those without means which later had to be repaid.

**The Friesen Family** In 1834 my dear father was married to a young lady Justina Bergen, the stepdaughter of Peter Fast in Muntau. She was born in Schoensee on October 24, 1812. In 1834 my parents built themselves a house in Lindenau on Anwohnerstelle Number 11, which was 21 feet wide and 50 feet long. They moved into the house on October 22.

On August 20, 1835 my brother Klaas was born in Lindenau. He died from smallpox on January 27, 1836 at the age of 5 months and 5 days. My sister Justina was born in Lindenau on November 26, 1834 at 3 o'clock in the morning. On March 13, 1837 my parents moved to Wernersdorf in the school.

My brother Klaas the second was born in November 18, 1838, in Wernersdorf. On October 24, 1839 my beloved grandmother Elisabeth Friesen died on Lindenau at the age of 62 years and 10 months. She was sick for 4 weeks. My beloved grandfather died on December 9, 1839, in Lindenau, at the age of 65 years and 10 months. He was sick for 10 weeks.

My stepmother Justina Bergen died in Wernersdorf on January 14, 1840, at the age of 27 years, 1 month and 27 days. She was sick for 16½ days of nerve fever. In 1837 Landskrone was settled

on the Begim Tehekrak.

Father married for the second time on April 2, 1840, to Maria Rempel the daughter of Abraham Rempel of Morgenau. My beloved mother was born in Morgenau on November 7, 1819. On October 8, 1837 my uncle Klaas Friesen was married with Katharina Loewen, the daughter of Isaacs Loewen, Lindenau.

On April 16, 1840, my parents moved to Alexanderwohl in the school. On January 4, 1841, my aunt Justina Friesen married the widower Jakob Wiebe of Schoenau. My sister Elisabeth was born in Alexanderwohl on November 10, 1841. In 1843 my parents again moved to Wernersdorf in the school.

In early summer of 1843 my aunt Elisabeth Friesen married Peter Warkentin the son of Gerhard Warkentin of Lindenau. On March 5, 1843 my sister Maria was born in Wernersdorf. On February 18, 1846, my brother Abraham Friesen was born in Wernersdorf. In 1847 my parents moved to Morgenau taking over a half Wirtschaft from Peter Harms No. 16, which they bought for 1500 ruble.

On February 7, 1848, my sister Anna was born in Morgenau. Another new village was founded in 1848, namely Hierschau on the Begim Tehekrak. This river flowed into the Kuruschan near Ruckenu. On January 4, 1859 my aunt Elisabeth Friesen died in Morgenau at the age of 30 years and 6 months. My sister Katharina was born in Morgenau on January 6, 1850.

Another new village was founded in 1858, Nikolaidorf on the Apanlee which flows into the Kuruschan between Ruckenu and Morgenau without water. In 1832 my brother Cornelius was born in Morgenau at 2 o'clock in the morning.

In the year 1852 my parents sold the half Wirtschaft to Jakob Hiebert's for 1725 ruble. Another new village was settled in 1853, Paulsheim on the Apanlee where my uncle Klaas settled. My sister Maria was born in Hierschau on April 12, 1854. In the same year Kleefeld was established on the Jushanlee.

On February 24, 1856, my brother Martin was born in Hierschau. My aunt Justina Wiebe, nee Friesen in Schoneau died on January 3, 1856 at the age of 39 years, 11 months and 23 days. Jakob Wiebe died in Schoenau on March 2, 1857, at the age of 57.

My uncle Klaas Friesen died in Paulsheim on March 3, 1856, at the age of 42 years. Mrs. Klaas Friesen died in Paulsheim on December 21, 1854, at the age of 36 years. Alexanderkron on the Jushanlee was established in 1857. Friedensreich on the Jushanlee and Mariawohl on the Apanlee were established in 1858.

On February 24, 1859, I, Helena Friesen was born in Hierschau. In 1860 my parents moved to Elisabethal in the school. In 1861 my sister Justina married Peter Unger the stepson of Jakob Wiens in Neukirch.

On May 5, 1861, my brother Klaas married Maria Defehr the daughter of Johan Defehrs in Muntau. The three last villages were established in 1863, namely, Hamburg, Klippenfeld on the Tokmak, and Gnadenthal on the Kuruschan.

My parents again moved to Hierschau where my sister Susanna was born on February 5, 1864. My brother Heinrich was born in Elisabethal on December 9, 1861, and on March 1, 1864, he died in Hierschau, at the age of 2 years, 2 months and 20 days.

In September of 1864 my parents moved to Friedrichtal on Markuslandt near the Dneper where they had 50 desjatina of leased land. In 1869 my parents moved to Borosenko where they accepted 50 desjatina of land from Lielschenka for 2 rubles per year and lived in Annafeld.

In the spring of 1863 my brother Abraham married Agata Kornelsen the daughter of Gerhard Kornelsens in Lichtenau. My aunt Anna Friesen, married to the already deceased Heinrich Koop, died on March 16, 1867, at the age of 62 years and 10 months. On May 16, 1870 my sister Katrina married Dietrich Friesen son of Jakob Friesen of Nikolathal. On February 9, 1871, my sister Elisabeth married the widower Peter Penner in Rosenfeld.

**Settling In Manitoba** In 1873 the Gemeinde elected two men, David Klassen of Heuboden and Cornelius Toews of Gruenfeld, to travel to America as deputies to search out a suitable place for the Gemeinde. They departed on their journey on April 15. They inspected Manitoba, Canada, and returned home after the harvest.

Over half of the Gemeinde emigrated in 6 groups in 1874. We traveled with the last group which left Nikopol on the Dneper on August 2. There were 20 families, including; my parents, Jakob Ennses, Ab. Duecks, and Klaas Friesen from Annafeld; Franz Kroekers, Peter Reimers, Hein Brandts, and David Thiessens from Steinbach; Peter Loewen and Jakob Loewens from Hochfeld; and Johan Friesens, Peter Barkmans and the elderly Barkmans from Rosenfeld.

On September 17th the parents arrived safely at the home of Peter Penners in Blumenort after a six week journey. Here they took up 160 acres of land from the Crown. On December 19, 1874, my sister Anna married the widower Johan Broske. On March 16, 1875, my parents had the misfortune that their property burned down. On June 29, 1875, Abraham Friesens arrived here from Russia. On October 11, 1875 my sister Margaretha married Gotlieb Janke. My brother Martin died on March 6, 1876, at the age of 20 years and 5 days.

My sister Mrs. Janke died on April 4th, 1877, at the age of 22 years, 11 months and 23 days. Their son Cornelius was born on April first. On November 1, 1878, I, Helena Friesen married the widower, brother-in-law Gotlieb Janke. He was born on May 25, 1854, in the village of Hochstuablaui, Prues Stargart District, Region of Danz, in the Province of Prussia. In November of 1873, he came to Russia with his parents and on June 1, 1874, he came to Canada from Russia together with the Mennonites.

My sister Mrs. Peter Penner died on February 23, 1881, after she had given birth to a stillborn son. She reached the age of 29 years, 3 months, and 12 days. On July 21, 1883, my sister Susanna married the widower Peter L. Plett from Blumenhoff.

The following children were born to us: Cornelius on June 1, 1879, Johan on November 6, 1880, Maria on August 14, 1882, Helena on March 28, 1884, Gotlieb on November 5, 1885, and on November 8 he died, Justina on October 28, 1886. Helena died on May 11, 1886 at the age of 3 years, 1 month and 14 days. Gustav Adolf was born on September 3, 1890, Helena on February 1, 1892, Gottlieb Fraz born on December 9, 1893, Margaretha born on May 26, 1895, and Klaas on August 20, 1896, but Klaas died right away.

In 1884 my sister Maria married Julius Redenzel. My husband's father, born June 1818, in West Prussia, died in 1900 at the age of 82 years, 2 months and 9 days. His name was Johann.

My beloved father died on February 16, 1893, at the age of 82 years, 2 months and 9 days. My beloved mother died on December 22, 1897, at the age of 75 years, 2 months, and 15 days.

Our son Heinrich was born on April 17, 1898. Katharina on May 19, 1900 and Anna on August 28, 1903. Our children were all born at Blumenhoff (Clearsprings Post Office) in Manitoba.

On September 23, 1903 my beloved husband went to Saskatchewan to look at land. When he returned after 10 days absence, he had taken up homesteads for ourselves and for Cornelius and Johan. He also bought two sections of land for the price of \$4.75 per acre. On May 24, 1904, Cornelius and Johan left for Herbert, Saskatchewan, with two train car loads of goods. Jakob Thielman went to Hague. On the 28th our Papa followed the boys.

On October 11, 1904 our Cornelius married there to Margareta Janz. On March 17, 1905 we all moved to Herbert, where all 18 of us arrived safe and sound, except that I was sick.

My sister Justina died in 1905 at the age of 68 years, and 9 months. Brother Cornelius died here at our place in 1911 at the age of 58 years and 9 months.

On August 10, 1909, our daughter Justina married Jakob K. Klassen. Our son Johan married Tina Unrau in September 3, 1911. My sister-in-law Mrs. Klaas Friesen died on May 26, 1916. Our Gustave married Sara Wiens on June 16, 1916. Our daughter Justina died at the age of 32 years, 5 months less 4 days, on November 24, 1918, from the influenza. She was survived by 3 children.

Our son Gottlieb married Anna Peters from Winkler, on January 12, 1919. My brother-in-law Redenzel died on January 16, 1919. Our daughter Catarina married the widower Jakob K. Klassen on May 19, 1919.

Until here our beloved Mama has written, but now I, G. Jahnke, will try to write it as good as I can. Our beloved Mama died on September 8, 1919 at 5 o'clock in the morning. She was the author of this book which her father had started writing before she took it over. Since it did not have a hard cover a number of corners were torn off and had become unreadable. And for this reason I have recorded some things. G. Jahnke.

Margaretha married Cornelius Krueger from Aberdeen, Saskatchewan on June 27, 1923. They departed that very same evening.

# Part Four. Family History

## Chapter Sixteen. The Abraham Kornelsen Genealogy

The Kleine Gemeinde Kornelsen (Cornelsen) families are descended from Abraham Cornelsen (1769-1831). Great-grandson Abram K. Friesen,<sup>1</sup> has recorded that the father of Abraham Cornelsen, was Hans Kornelsen, born in 1746 and died in 1828, and his mother was nee, Barkman. The grandfathers of Abraham Cornelsen were Isaac Kornelsen and N. W. Barkman.

According to B. H. Unruh the Abraham Kornelsen family came from Tiegenhof in Prussia.<sup>2</sup> This village was located about twenty miles east of Danzig some five miles from Petershagen where young Klaas Reimer, (1770-1837) grew up. The Flemish Mennonites living in this village belonged to the Tiegenhagen Gemeinde.<sup>3</sup> Here Abraham and the other children of Hans Kornelsen became well-known to other boys and girls who would grow up to found the Kleine Gemeinde church movement.

The Konsignations's Liste of 1776 records only one Hans Cornelsen family, who is shown as a labourer, living in the village of Tiegenhof. The family consists of mother and father, one son and two daughters who earn their livelihood as gardeners. Although they own their own gardens they are listed as poor, a status which is shared by almost all of the forty Mennonite families living in this village at the time.<sup>4</sup> There are no indications that Hans Kornelsen and/or his wife ever emigrated from Prussia.

Abraham Kornelsen (1769-1831) was married to Agatha Schellenberg a daughter of Gerhardt Schellenberg, a labourer, also resident in the village of Tiegenhof, Prussia. Agatha was born January 2, 1778 and died September 19, 1858. Her family will be dealt with in a subsequent chapter but it is noted that her brother, Aron Schellenberg settled in the village of Blumstein in 1804.<sup>5</sup>

B. H. Unruh has also recorded that the Abraham Cornelsen family travelled to Russia in the company of his brother Johan and sister Elisabeth. Nothing further is presently known about these siblings and/or their families. Abraham Kornelsen settled in Wirtschaft No. 6 in the Molotschna village of Lichtenau on July 15, 1804. The family is shown in the 1808 Revisions-Liste as follows:

"Abraham Cornelsen, 38, from Tiegenhof, Linen-weaver, wife Agatha, 43, children Agatha 5, Abraham 2, Johan ½, and brother John 26. Property, 2 wagons, ½ plow, 1 harrow, 6 horses, 13 cattle, 150 tschwert unthreshed grain, and 22 loads of hay." The family has become moderately well-to-do. It appears that son Gerhard took over the family Wirtschaft as he remained resident in the village of Lichtenau as a teacher until he emigrated to America in 1875.

It is possible that the Abraham Cornelsens were founding members of the Kleine Gemeinde. In any case, their commitment to a sincere Christian life is manifested by the fact that at least two of their sons, Abraham and Gerhard S. Kornelsen, were members of this group.

It is noted that the spelling of the family surname seems to vary at will between Cornelsen and Kornelsen with the American descendants generally opting for some variation of Cornelsen and the Canadian descendants opting for Kornelsen.

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
1	Isaac Kornelsen m _____			
2	Hans Kornelsen m _____ Barkman	1746		1828
3	Abraham	Nov. 12, 1769		Mar. 15, 1831
3	Elisabeth			no further information
3	Johan	1782		no further information
3	Abraham B. Kornelsen	Nov. 13, 1769		Mar. 15. 1831
m	Agatha Schellenberg	Jan. 2, 1778		Sept. 19, 1858
4	Agatha	ca. 1803		no further information

4	Abraham	Mar. 9, 1806	ca. 1880
			<i>See chapter twenty-one for further information.</i>
4	Johan	ca. 1808	no further information
4	Isaac	Mar. 1, 1813	no further information
4	Gerhard	Feb. 26, 1816	Aug. 14, 1894

*See chapter twenty for further information.*

4 **Agatha Kornelsen** was born 1803. The letter collection of brother Gerhard S. Kornelsen, contains various letters from relations in Russia, including various nephews and nieces on the Kornelsen side.<sup>7</sup> These include Abram Epps and others and so it is possible that Agatha Kornelsen was the mother of some of them<sup>8</sup>

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
4	<b>Agatha Kornelsen</b>	1803		
m	_____?			

4 **Abraham S. Kornelsen**, born March 9, 1806, married Helena Eidse, daughter of Cornelius Eidse of Fischau, Molotschna. The family lived in Conteniusfeld moving to the Crimea in 1860. In 1874 Abraham Kornelsen with his wife and son Jakob and family emigrated to America settling in the village of Gnadenu, near Hillsboro, Kansas. In a letter of July 5, 1892, Jakob E. Kornelsen wrote to his uncle Gerhard S. Kornelsen to advise him of his father's recent death. See Chapter Twenty-one for additional information and a listing of the family.

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
4	<b>Abr. S. Kornelsen</b>	Mar. 9, 1806	Dec. 12, 1829	1892
m	Helena Eidse	Apr. 9, 1806		May 2, 1880

4 **Johan Kornelsen**, born 1808, was married twice. No information is presently available regarding the identity of either spouse. Evidently he had two children with his first wife and three with the second.<sup>9</sup> The Johan Kornelsen family lived in Neukirch where he has purchased a Wirtschaft in 1841 which remained in the family for fifty years. The second Mrs. Johan Kornelsen died in 1877 of dropsy. Johan Kornelsen died on December 8, 1889, having been sick for 14 years of kidney disease. Father gave each of the children of the first marriage 1000 ruble. The children of the second marriage each received almost 3000 ruble.

The oldest son Johan Kornelsen was born in 1837.<sup>10</sup> His wife Catharina was 11 years older than himself. Her maiden name is not know at this time. Johan Kornelsen and his family emigrated to America in 1879 together with his brother-in-law Cornelius Neufeld and family. Aron Kornelsen, the 21 year old son of Johan died during the ocean voyage and was buried at sea. The funeral service was performed by Abram Schellenberg (1845-1920) who became the Elder of the Ebenezer M.B. Church near Hillsboro, Kansas.<sup>11</sup> The Johan Kornelsen family settled in York County, near Henderson, Nebraska, where they farmed.<sup>12</sup>

The oldest daughter Agatha Kornelsen was born in 1839. She married Cornelius Neufeld born in 1837. The family emigrated to America together with her brother Johan Kornelsen in 1879 settling in York County where they bought 400 acres of land. They had five children. Son Aaron lived in Henderson and owned a hardware store during the 1890's. Son Cornelius was a farmer.

Daughter Katharina was married to a Dueck. They purchased the family Wirtschaft in Neukirch where they farmed. Her parents remained in their care and lived with them until their death. Katharina Dueck died in 1890 three months after her father died. Apparently she had been a widow for some time.

Two other brothers remained in Russia. One of them may have been called Dietrich as a Jakob Woellms in a letter to Gerhard Kornelsen of November 17, 1885, writes that "the former Enns Wirtschaft in Fischau has been bought by his relation Dietrich Kornelsen the son of Johan Kornelsen."<sup>13</sup>

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
4	<b>Johan S. Kornelsen</b>	1808		Dec. 8, 1889
m	_____			
5	Johan Kornelsen <sup>14</sup>	1835		
m	Catherina _____	1824		
6	Aaron Kornelsen	1858		1879
6	Gerhard Kornelsen	1862		
6	Abraham Kornelsen	1866		

6	Cath Kornelsen	1867	
5	Agatha Kornelsen	1839	
m	Cornelius Neufeld	1837	
6	Aaron Neufeld	1864	
6	Cath Neufeld	1866	
6	Cornelius Neufeld	1868	
6	Johan Neufeld	1873	
6	Jakob Neufeld	1875	
5	Katharina Kornelsen	(?)	1890
m	_____ Dueck		
5	Dietrich Kornelsen	(?)	
m	_____		

4 **Isaac S. Kornelsen** was born March 1, 1813. In her letter to Gerhard S. Kornelsen, Agatha Neufeld refers to her cousin Jakob Kornelsen a minister resident in the Crimea. She also mentions that his brother Cornelius has died a long time ago. It is possible that these cousins were the sons of the above referenced Isaac S. Kornelsen.

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
4	<b>Isaac S. Kornelsen</b>	March 1, 1813		
m	_____ (?)			
5	Jakob Kornelsen	(?)		
5	Korn Kornelsen	(?)		

4 **Gerhard S. Kornelsen** was born in 1816. He married for the first time to Maria Enns the daughter of Cornelius Enns of Fischau. He married for the second time to the widow Peter Harms, nee Cornelia Warkentin. The Gerhard Kornelsen family lived in Lichtenau, Molotschna where he was well known as a school teacher. In 1875 the family emigrated to Manitoba settling in the Hamlet of Lichtenau near Steinbach. He was well-known as the second Kleine Gemeinde Brandaeltester in Manitoba. Gerhard S. Kornelsen must have traveled to Jansen, Nebraska, to visit his daughter and other relations there in the 1880s as in her letter of March 7, 1891, his niece Agatha Neufeld voices her disappointment that he did not also pay them a visit at the time. See Chapter Twenty for a listing of descendants.

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
4	<b>Gerhard S. Kornelsen</b>	Feb. 28, 1816		Aug. 14, 1894
m	Maria Enns	May 18, 1821		May 27, 1871
2m	Cornelia Warkentin	Dec. 28, 1822	Oct. 18, 1872	Oct. 11, 1892

**Conclusion.** In a letter to the *Mennonitische Rundschau* of September 5, 1894, Heinrich E. Kornelsen reports of the death of his father Gerhard S. Kornelsen and mentions that he was the last of six brothers.<sup>15</sup> It is quite possible therefore that there were additional siblings of whom no information is presently available. Hopefully the foregoing historical sketch will be of some assistance to others who may wish to undertake the more detailed study which the Kornelsen family so richly deserves.

#### FOOTNOTES. CHAPTER SIXTEEN. THE ABRAHAM KORNELSEN GENEALOGY.

1. Courtesy of Harry S. Friesen, 250 Waterloo St., Winnipeg, Canada.
2. B. H. Unruh, *op. cit.*, 313, 333 and 337.
3. Glen Penner, "West Prussian Mennonite Villages 1540-1820," Unpublished paper presented at Mennonite Heritage Centre, Winnipeg, Canada 1979.
4. Horst Penner, *Die Ost und Westpreussischen Mennoniten* (Weierhof, Deutschland, 1978), 423.
5. The records of Abraham K. Friesen in this regard are confirmed by Frank Z. Wiebe, *Schellenberg Genealogy*, *op. cit. deleted*
7. The Gerhard S. Kornelsen Writings constitute an extremely valuable collection of primary source material which this writer has only begun to digest at this point. As a veteran Molotschna teacher Kornelsen had numerous friends and contacts and received correspondence from many of them. He was married twice, firstly to Maria Enns and secondly to Cornelia Warkentin and received many letters from this extended family circle. The names of his correspondents included Warkentin, Enns, Epp, Rogalskys, Heidebrecht, Wilms, to name a few. He also received correspondence from his many relations. This valuable collection has been preserved by Mr. John K. Schellenberg, Steinbach, Manitoba.



8. e.g. Corn. Heidebrecht Letter to Gerhard S. Kornelsen May 16, 1884, where he refers to Abram Epp as the nephew of Gerh. S. Kornelsen. He mentions that Abram Epp Jr. is very fat being 8 pud. Also that the old Frau Epp is very old and feeble and can hardly walk. Evidently her husband, whose name is not definitely known at the present time (likely he was an Abram as his son is referred to as the young Abram Epp), had a brother Klaas Epp who died in 1887 at the age of 80. Apparently Abram Epp Jr. had three half brothers and three half sisters. Corn. Heidebrecht letter of March 29, 1887.
9. The information in this section is obtained from a letter written by daughter Agatha Neufeld to her uncle Gerhard S. Kornelsen in March 7, 1891. In the letter she never specifically identifies her parents by name and therefore it cannot be categorically decided that her father was definitely Johan. The oldest son was Johan which would appear to support this theory. On the other hand the family head could possibly be brother Isaac or some other brother not yet identified to date. But the information regarding the family itself is reliable.
10. Since Johan and Agatha received only one-third of the inheritance received by their half siblings it is assumed that they were from the first marriage and had already received their mother's portion of their inheritance in accordance with the regulations at the time.
11. In her letter Agatha Neufeld also mentions that Elder Abraham Schellenberg is the son of Abraham Schellenberg of Tiege who was a cousin to Gerhard S. Kornelsen, presumably on the Schellenberg side. See Gerhard Schellenberg Genealogy Chapter 22, where an Abraham Schellenberg born 1807 is listed as the son of Jakob Schellenberg born 1772. This would appear to be the connection but further verification would be desirable. See also ME 4, *op.cit.*, 448.
12. The Johan Kornelsen family is not specifically mentioned in the book **Henderson Mennonites From Holland to Henderson** (Henderson, Nebraska, 1981) although J. Kornelsen, G. Kornelsen and Abraham Kornelsen are shown as landowners on a property map of Browne Township north of Henderson of approximately 1910. See pages 152 and 153. An Abe Kornelsen is listed as being the Henderson dealer for Whippet and Chevy automobiles and quite probably is the son of Johan Kornelsen born 1835. See page 291.
13. Gerhard S. Kornelsen Letter Collection.
14. The listing of the children of Johan Kornelsen and Agatha Neufeld, nee Kornelsen, is taken from the Ship Lists as published by D. A. Haury, North Newton, Kansas, 1986.
15. Courtesy Henry Fast, August 29, 1987. For example a Komelius Kornelsen is referred to as being the first death in the village of Lichtenau in 1888. Letter of Abr. Nickel, Lehigh, Kansas, March 4, 1888. It is possible that this Korn. Kornelsen was related to Gerh. S. Kornelsen but this cannot be verified at the present time.

# Chapter Seventeen.

## Cornelius Toews Genealogy

The larger and more significant Kleine Gemeinde Toews family is descended from Cornelius Toews (1737-1800). According to one source he was born in the West Prussian Village of Prangenau in 1737 and died in Ladekopperfeld in 1800. His wife Elisabeth Regehr (1735-1811) was born in the village of Ladekopperfeld in 1735 and their son Cornelius was born in the same village in 1766.<sup>1</sup> Therefore it appears that the Cornelius Toewses settled in her parental village shortly after their marriage.

The village of Ladekopperfeld and/or Ladekop was located some five miles south-west of the village of Tiegenhof which in turn was situated somewhat centrally in the Grosswerder area on the banks of the Tiege River some ten miles from the Frisches Haff.<sup>2</sup> Prangenau, in turn, was located some five miles further to the south-west of Ladekopp.<sup>3</sup> The Prangenau villagers belonged to the Flemish Gemeinde centered in the village of Ladekopp.<sup>4</sup>

What is somewhat confusing is the fact that the Ladekopperfeld villagers were Frisians belonging to the Orloffefeld congregation situated some five miles north of Ladekopp whereas it is believed that the Cornelius Toews family belonged to the Flemish Gemeinde. Furthermore existing sources such as the 1776 **Konsignation** list a Cornelius Toews in Ladekopp. The only other Cornelius Toews listed is from Ellerwald in the Elbing district 25 miles away.<sup>5</sup>

Accordingly it appears that the Cornelius Toews listed in Ladekopp is the Kleine Gemeinde forefather. This household includes father, mother, four sons, one daughter and one male servant. He is listed as a farmer who is moderately well-off. This information is verified by the **Bauern Verzeichniss** which lists a Cornelius Toews resident in Ladekopp in 1772 with a credit of eight in the Zinsbuch.

It might also be noted that the Toews family name was quite common in the Flemish congregations in Tiegenhagen, Ladekopp, Rosenort, Fuerstenwurder, Heuboden, Elbing and Danzig. The family was prominent in the Ladekopp Gemeinde where Isaac Toews served as a minister from 1762 till after 1802 and Johan Toews Jr. served from 1787 until after 1802. Abraham Toews served as preacher in the Heuboden Gemeinde from 1794 and Johan Toews in Furstenwerder from 1796. It is not known whether any or all of these ministers were related to Cornelius Toews (1737-1800).<sup>6</sup>

It has already been mentioned that Elisabeth Regehr, wife of Cornelius Toews, was born in Ladekopperfeld. This information is problematic for two reasons. Firstly, because the Ladekopperfeld people supposedly belonged to the Frisian congregation at Orloff, and secondly, because the Regehr family name was quite common among the Mennonites in Prussia being especially prominent in the Heuboden congregation further south along the Nogat River.<sup>7</sup>

The problem is somewhat simplified if it can again be assumed that the reference to Ladekopperfeld can also refer to Ladekopp. Only one Regehr family is listed in Ladekopp or the immediate vicinity, that of Jakob Regehr, which consists of father, mother, three sons, three daughters and one female servant. He is listed as a farmer who is moderately well-to-do. Likely this is the father of Elisabeth or some other close relation.

It was here in Ladekopp that Cornelius Toews Sr. died in 1800. His widow Elisabeth joined the emigration to the Molotschna Colony, Russia, where she died in 1811. It is not known whether she emigrated together with her son Cornelius or perhaps some other family member.

Cornelius Toews Jr. married Margaretha Loewen (1766-1833) who was born in the village of Tiegenhagen. The young couple established their home in Tiegenhagen and resided there until they emigrated to Russia in 1803.<sup>7a</sup> Tiegenhagen is also listed as the place of origin in Prussia of this family in the 1808 Molotschna Revisions-Liste. The village of Tiegenhagen was located on the Tiege River about halfway between Tiegenhof and the Frisches Haff. The village was the place of worship for the Flemish Mennonites who lived in the surrounding district. The village name will already be familiar since the parents of a number of Kleine Gemeinde founders belonged to the Tiegenhagen Gemeinde.

The 1776 Konsignation lists three Loewen families in Tiegenhagen, namely, that of Daniel Loewen, Johan Loewen, who are listed as poor, and Daniel Loewen who is listed as moderately well-off. It is possible that Johan Loewen was the father of Margaretha as she later gave her second son the name of Johan. In Prussia, Cornelius Toews was a carpenter by occupation. Four of the Toews children were born in Tiegenhagen, Prussia, namely: Johan, Elisabeth, Peter and Cornelius.

In July 1803 the Cornelius Toews family left for Russia. They arrived at the village of Neuen-

dorf, Chortitzer Colony on October 27 of that year and settled in the village of Lindenau, in the Molotschna Colony on June 18, 1804.

It is noteworthy that two other prominent Kleine Gemeinde families settled in Lindenau within the next year, namely, Klaas Friesen, father of school teacher Cornelius F. Friesen (1812-1892) who settled in the village of Blumenort, Manitoba in 1874; and Isaac Loewen, the forefather of all the Kleine Gemeinde Loewens who may even have been related to Mrs. Cornelius Toews. Son Isaac Loewen (1787-1873) later related how his parents and Cornelius Toews had all travelled to Prussia together in one "emigration train."<sup>8</sup>

The 1808 Revisions-Liste records the Cornelius Toews family as follows: "Cornelius Toews, from Tiegenhagen, age 42, cabinet maker, wife Margaretha, 41, children Johan 17, Elisabeth 12, Cornelius 5, Jakob 3, and "friend" Cornelius Toews 26. Property, 1 wagon, ½ plow, 5 horses, 9 cattle, 150 tschwert unthreshed grain, 25 loads of hay."<sup>9</sup> It is noteworthy that mother Elisabeth Toews (nee Regher) is not shown with the Cornelius Toews although she came to the Molotschna Colony where she died in 1811.

The Cornelius Toewses are believed to have been one of the founding families of the Kleine Gemeinde as all their children were involved with the movement. Son Johan Toews was one of the first young people baptized into the Kleine Gemeinde in 1814. The family farmed in Lindenau until 1816 when the Wirtschaft No. 10 was sold for 800 ruble Banko and a smaller Anwohner property purchased in its place.<sup>10</sup>

Cornelius Toews II was fifty years old by this time and may have wanted to retire from farming and pursue his occupation as a cabinet maker. His wife Margaret died on October 23, 1823 only seven years later. On January 22, 1824, Cornelius married for the second time to Margaretha Doerksen whose date of birth and death are not recorded. Cornelius II himself died on September 14, 1831.

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
1	<b>Cornelius Toews</b>	1737		Nov. 3, 1800
m	Elisabeth Regehr	1735		Dec. 1811
2	<b>Cornelius Toews</b>	Oct. 4, 1766		Sept. 14, 1831
m	Margaretha Loewen	Mar. 27, 1767	Sept. 9, 1790	Oct. 23, 1823
3	Cornelius Toews	Jan. 26, 1791		Aug. 4, 1794
3	Johan Toews	Oct. 25, 1793		May 15, 1873
3	Elisabeth Toews	Feb. 26, 1796		May 12, 1861
3	Cornelius Toews	Mar. 17, 1798		Aug. 31, 1802
3	Peter Toews	Mar. 27, 1800		Mar. 3, 1808
3	Cornelius Toews	Oct. 31, 1802		Sept. 1, 1831
3	Jakob Toews	Feb. 23, 1805		Jan. 18, 1873
3	Margaret Toews	Oct. 1, 1808		Sept. 14, 1810
2	<b>Cornelius Toews</b>	Oct. 4, 1766		Sept. 14, 1831
m	Margaretha Doerksen		Jan. 22, 1824	
3	Katharina Toews	Mar. 28, 1825		Mar. 14, 1844

3. In 1814 **Johan Toews** (1793-1873) became a member of the Kleine Gemeinde. He was likely one of the first youths to be baptized in the infant movement. On July 4, 1816, he married for the first time to Elizabeth, daughter of Johan Harder of Blumstein. Johan Harder, Aeltester of the Orloff Gemeinde from 1860-1875, was her nephew. After his marriage Johan Toews pursued his trade as a carpenter and cabinet maker.<sup>11</sup>

The young couple made their home in Lindenau until 1830 when they bought an Anwohnerstelle in Schoenau. Here his first wife died on October 6, 1834. On November 18, of the same year, Johan Toews married for the second time to a widow Wiebe from Rosenort, who died on December 29 later the same year.

On August 20, 1835, Johan Toews married for the third time to Maria Plett (1811-1895) who was born in Furstenwerder, Prussia. In 1838, the couple bought half a Wirtschaft in Fischau for 1100 ruble Banko taking possession in March. On December 14, 1844, they took over the other half of the Wirtschaft No. 9 for 900 ruble Banko.

They farmed in Fischau until 1864 when they sold their farm to Heinrich Wiens from Schoenau for 3000 ruble. On September 9th of the same year they moved to the village of Friedricsthal (Marcuslandt) near the Old Colony renting a smaller property of 33½ desjation. Several years later the family moved to the village of Blumenhof, in Borosenko, where Johan Toews died on May 15, 1873.

His widow moved to Gnadenu, Kansas, with her children Johan Goossens.

Johan Toews was a devout Christian, whose example of discipleship had a profound effect on his family and others around him. He was keenly interested in the historic writings of the Mennonite faith and his library included books such as *Der Kleine Menno*, *The Wandering Soul*, and the writings of Peter Peters. Johan Toews became grievously ill in 1850, an experience which prompted him to write a biographical booklet entitled *The Watchful Eye of God* which was later published in a booklet form by his son Aeltester Peter Toews.<sup>12</sup>

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
3	<b>Johan Toews</b>	Oct. 25, 1793		May 15, 1873
m	Elizabeth Harder	1800	July 4, 1816	Oct. 6, 1834
4	Helena Toews	Dec. 23, 1817		
4	Margaretha Toews	Nov. 23, 1819	Mar. 19, 1839	Oct. 22, 1860
4	Elizabeth Toews	Nov. 5, 1821	Aug. 22, 1840	ca. 1852
4	Maria Toews	Aug. 2, 1824		1854
4	Johan Toews	Sept. 10, 1826	Aug. 5, 1856	Oct. 26, 1895
4	Katharina Toews	Jan. 17, 1830		Feb. 11, 1905
4	Anna Toews	July 16, 1832	Nov. 15, 1852	Dec. 2, 1893
3	<b>Johan Toews</b>	Oct. 25, 1793		May 15, 1873
2m	Widow Wiebe		Nov. 18, 1834	Dec. 29, 1834
3m	Maria Plett	Mar. 30, 1811	Aug. 20, 1835	June 15, 1895
4	Cornelius Toews	June 11, 1836		Feb. 21, 1908
4	Jacob Toews	Feb. 27, 1839		May 21, 1859
4	Peter Toews	Aug. 5, 1841	Nov. 12, 1863	Nov. 3, 1922
4	Susanna Toews	Jan. 10, 1844	June 25, 1861	Oct. 14, 1912
4	Abram Toews	July 5, 1846		Mar. 9, 1848
4	Abram Toews	Dec. 12, 1848		May 5, 1849
4	Abram Toews	Aug. 24, 1850		Oct. 2, 1850
4	Maria Toews	Dec. 27, 1854		Dec. 3, 1918

4 **Helena Toews** married Jakob Buller of Alexanderwohl. According to the Alexanderwohl Church records, Jakob Buller was born in Przechowko, Prussia, the son of Jakob Buller and Elscke Wedels. He was married for the first time to Agnanetha Reimer and the couple had one son David Buller. The families belonged to the Alexanderwohl Gemeinde in the Molotschna and most of the family emigrated to Kansas in 1874 travelling on the S.S. Teutonia and S.S. Ambria. These included children, David Buller, Anna and her husband Peter Buhler formerly of Steinfeld, Elisabeth and her husband Jacob Schulz and Heinrich and his wife Sara Buller.<sup>12a</sup>

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
4	<b>Helena Toews</b>	Dec. 23, 1817		
m	Jakob Buller	Aug. 12, 1796		
5	Anna Buller	Apr. 13, 1837		
m	Peter Buhler			
5	Helena Buller			
5	Johan Buller			
5	Henrich Buller			
5	Maria Buller			
5	Elizabeth Buller	Apr. 8, 1816		
m	Jacob Schulz			
5	Eva Buller			
5	Heinrich Buller	Dec. 9, 1850		
m	Sarah Buller			
5	Peter Buller	died		
5	Sarah Buller			
5	Margaretha Buller			

4 **Margaretha Toews** married Jakob F. Friesen, a younger brother to the third Kleine Gemeinde Aeltester Johan Friesen. Jakob and some of his brothers were quite tall and so these Friesens were referred to as the "Grote Frise". Jakob himself was reported to be about seven feet tall. The

family lived on their Wirtshaft in Kleefeld where Margaretha died. Later the family moved to Heuboden in the Borosenko settlement and from there to Manitoba. Their daughter Margaretha married Peter H. Dueck of Blumstein.<sup>14</sup> Their daughter Maria married Johan Klassen of Sparrau. Sons Johan and Abram were school teachers.

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
4	<b>Margaretha Toews</b>	Nov. 23, 1819	Mar. 19, 1839	Oct. 20, 1860
m	Jakob F. Friesen <sup>15</sup>	Sept. 10, 1820		Apr. 26, 1888
5	Margaretha Friesen <sup>16</sup>	Mar. 4, 1840	Nov. 27, 1860	Sept. 29, 1899
m	Peter H. Dueck	Aug. 19, 1837		Aug. 24, 1931
5	Anna Friesen	1841		
5	Maria Friesen <sup>17</sup>	Sept. 11, 1843	Oct. 22, 1861	
m	Johan Klassen	Nov. 15, 1838		
5	Helena Friesen	1844		Apr. 1863
5	Jacob T. Friesen <sup>18</sup>	Nov. 10, 1845	Oct. 18, 1867	
m	Elizabeth Rempel	Jan. 6, 1845		
5	Johan T. Friesen <sup>19</sup>	Aug. 17, 1849	Feb. 14, 1871	1909
m	Anna Warkentin	Feb. 3, 1851		1909
5	Abram Friesen	1851	died as infant	
5	Elizabeth Friesen	1852	died as infant	
5	Abram Friesen <sup>20</sup>	Apr. 6, 1854	June 3, 1873	1909
m	Cornelia Harms	Apr. 24, 1853		July 31, 1935
5	Elizabeth Friesen	1855	died as infant	

4 **Elizabeth Toews** married Martin Klassen of Paulsheim, Molotschna. The couple apparently resided here until her death in about 1853. According to the 1880 Census Records of Marion County, Kansas, her husband was born in Prussia. Apparently he was distantly related to David Klassen, the Kleine Gemeinde delegate to America in 1873. His son-in-law, Cornelius P. Friesen, was well educated and served all his life as a school teacher. Daughter Elizabeth Friesen was married to David Friesen who died in Nebraska. He was a brother to Cornelius P. Friesen (1844-1899).

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
4	<b>Elizabeth Toews<sup>21</sup></b>	Nov. 5, 1821	Aug. 22, 1840	ca. 1853
m	Martin Klassen	Feb. 23, 1822		
5	Martin Klassen			
5	Johan Klassen			
5	Agatha Klassen <sup>22</sup>	Apr. 26, 1848	Apr. 20, 1869	Apr. 12, 1902
m	Cornelius P. Friesen	May 18, 1844		Aug. 8, 1899
5	Elizabeth Klassen	May 7, 1852		
m	David Friesen <sup>22a</sup>	1860		Feb. 23, 1902

4 **Maria Toews** married Peter Loewen from Fischau where she died in 1854. At the time of the emigration from Russia in 1874, brother Johan H. Toews made a special trip from Borosenko to the Molotschna to visit his sister's families one more time. No further information presently available.

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
4	<b>Maria Toews</b>	Aug. 2, 1824		1854
m	Peter Loewen			
5	Maria Loewen			
m	Isbrandt Friesen			
5	Helena Loewen			
5	Anna Loewen			
5	Peter Loewen			
5	Elizabeth Loewen			

4 **Johann Toews** married for the first time to Katharina Friesen (1831-1856), a daughter of Kleine Gemeinde minister Abraham F. Friesen (1807-1891).<sup>23</sup> His second wife, Anna Warkentin, was the daughter of Gerhard Warkentin, formerly of Blumstein, Molotschna.<sup>24</sup> After his first marriage, Johan Toews settled in the village of Alexanderkron where he farmed until 1864 when the Wirtshaft was sold for 2600 ruble silver. The family then moved to Markuslandt and later to Gruenfeld

near Borosenko. In 1874, they emigrated to Gruenfeld, Manitoba.

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
4	<b>Johan Toews</b> <sup>25</sup>	Sept. 10, 1826		Oct. 26, 1895
m	Katharina Friesen	Aug. 2, 1831	Sept. 2, 1851	Mar. 4, 1856
5	Johan Toews <sup>26</sup>	Feb. 28, 1853	Mar. 25, 1873	Oct. 20, 1915
m	Elizabeth Gerky	Aug. 21, 1844		June 25, 1924
5	Helen Toews	Apr. 2, 1855		Apr. 5, 1857
4	<b>Johan Toews</b>	Sept. 10, 1824		Oct. 26, 1895
2m	Anna Warkentin	May 4, 1830	Aug. 5, 1856	Oct. 16, 1900
5	Anna Toews	June 20, 1857		Mar. 4, 1858
5	Cornelius Toews	Nov. 24, 1858		May 24, 1859
5	Cornelius Toews	Apr. 11, 1860		Aug. 3, 1862
5	Anna Toews	Oct 1, 1861		Aug. 10, 1862
5	Helena Toews	June 10, 1863	Apr. 5, 1889	Dec. 26, 1935
m	Abram Esau	July 24, 1865		Jan. 2, 1950
5	Peter Toews	Jan. 12, 1866	Mar. 20, 1888	Jan. 13, 1935
m	Anna Brosky	July 6, 1869		Feb. 4, 1901
5	Heinrich Toews	June 15, 1868	Sept. 28, 1887	Aug. 18, 1942
m	Maria Penner	Mar. 4, 1869		Apr. 26, 1910
5	Anna Toews	Mar. 30, 1869	July 13, 1888	July 8, 1932
m	Isaac Wiens	May 18, 1865		Nov. 13, 1938
5	Cornelius Toews	June 17, 1871	Feb. 16, 1896	Aug. 22, 1946
m	Aganetha Penner	Nov. 9, 1877		Mar. 1948
5	Jacob Toews	Oct. 4, 1873	July 1, 1894	Apr. 15, 1905
m	Elisabeth Isaac	Aug. 3, 1874		Dec. 14, 1956

4 **Katharina Toews** was married to Heinrich Abrams of Alexanderwohl. The family belonged to the Alexanderwohl Church in Russia.<sup>26</sup> She was living in Alexanderwohl as a widow around the turn of the century. In a letter to the Rundschau of Apr. 26, 1905, brother Peter Toews reports that his sister Katharina Abrams had died on February 11, 1905.<sup>27</sup> No further information presently available.

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
4	<b>Katharina Toews</b>	Jan. 17, 1830		Feb. 11, 1905
m	Heinrich Abrams			
5	Katharina Abrams			
5	Anna Abrams	died ca. 1865		
5	Johan	died		
5	Maria	1865		

4 **Anna Toews** married Jakob Regehr from Muntau the son of Isaac Regehr. In 1861, the family purchased a Wirtschaft in Hierschau for 3400 ruble silver. The family moved to Kleefeld, Manitoba in 1874.

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
4	<b>Anna Toews</b>	July 26, 1832	Nov. 15, 1852	Nov. 13, 1906
m	Jacob Regehr <sup>28</sup>	Jan. 27, 1832		Dec. 3, 1893
3	Anna T. Regehr	Nov. 9, 1858	Oct. 12, 1876	Nov. 23, 1938
m	Gerhard Schellenberg	Jan. 4, 1852		Oct. 31, 1932
5	Jacob T. Regehr	Jan. 30, 1861		July 26, 1916
m	Justina Esau	Sept. 2, 1864	Jan. 20, 1884	Apr. 25, 1890
2m	Anna Loewen		July 6, 1890	1897
5	Maria T. Regehr	May 1, 1863	Mar. 30, 1884	May 23, 1942
m	David R. Loewen	Oct. 7, 1862		Nov. 13, 1945
5	John T. Regehr	Dec. 18, 1865	Jan. 1, 1885	June 4, 1886
m	Elizabeth Dueck	Jan. 21, 1865		July 9, 1899

4 **Cornelius P. Toews** married for the first time to Elizabeth Friesen, a niece of Cornelius F. Friesen (1812-1893), veteran Molotschna school teacher who settled in Blumenort, Manitoba.<sup>29</sup> In 1863, Toews moved from Hierschau, Molotschna to Markuslandt. Several years later, the fami-

ly moved to Borosenko. He married for the second time to Anna Bartel (1856-1918). She was a widow Friesen from Hierschau and apparently was a sister to Mrs. Cornelius Loewen, nee Helena Bartel.<sup>30</sup> Cornelius Toews was elected as a minister of the Kleine Gemeinde in Gruenfeld in 1868 but never preached.<sup>31</sup> He served as the delegate to America for the Blumenhof Kleine Gemeinde in 1873.

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
4	<b>Cornelius Toews</b> <sup>32</sup>	June 11, 1836		Feb. 21, 1908
m	Elizabeth Friesen		1857	July 24, 1864
5	Johan F. Toews	Sept. 28, 1858	Nov. 18, 1878	Apr. 7, 1931
m	Sarah Fast	May 21, 1861		Nov. 5, 1927
5	Cornelius F. Toews	Mar. 28, 1862	Apr. 14, 1884	Nov. 14, 1924
m	Anna R. Loewen	Nov. 19, 1864		Feb. 9, 1912
4	<b>Cornelius Toews</b>	June 11, 1836		Feb. 21, 1908
2m	Anna Bartel	Oct. 4, 1838	Sept. 12, 1867	Jan. 29, 1918
5	Maria Toews	Dec. 25, 1865	July 20, 1887	Feb. 4, 1947
m	Wilhelm Q. Vogt	Dec. 21, 1868		Nov. 10, 1952
5	Anna B. Toews	Aug. 20, 1868	Dec. 25, 1886	Jan. 26, 1933
m	Peter B. Toews	Jan. 31, 1859		Aug. 11, 1945
5	Kath. Toews	1870		1873
5	Peter C. Toews	May 20, 1874		Oct. 7, 1935
m	Carolina Eck	Nov. 16, 1880		Sept. 30, 1956
5	Katharina Toews	Feb. 28, 1876		June 27, 1950
m	Peter H. Wiebe	Jan. 12, 1874		May 5, 1934
5	Susanna Toews	Jan. 8, 1878		Jan. 5, 1927
m	Wm. K. Giesbrecht	Apr. 30, 1878		Mar. 27, 1943
5	Agnes Toews	Mar. 5, 1880		Feb. 5, 1958
m	Jacob B. Friesen	Jan. 25, 1875		Apr. 20, 1939
5	Margaret Toews	Nov. 7, 1883		Dec. 5, 1955
m	Peter X. Friesen	Feb. 12, 1876		June 27, 1922
5	Elizabeth Toews	Jan. 28, 1887		Oct. 9, 1955
m	Martin M. Penner	Feb. 9, 1882		Oct. 17, 1963

4. Brother **Jakob P. Toews** was born on February 27, 1839. He died on May 21, 1859 from smallpox at the age of 20 years and three months, Ascension Day. He was buried on May 23, accompanied to the grave by the tears of an assembly rich in numbers. His father was deeply grieved by his death and wrote a poem "Der Kirchhof" to commemorate his passing.<sup>33</sup>

4 **Peter P. Toews** married Anna Warkentin (1843-1925) the daughter of Johan Warkentin formerly of Blumstein in 1863.<sup>34</sup> The following year the family moved to rented land at Andreasfeld, Marcuslandt. Later the family moved to Blumenhoff, Borosenko and from there to Kleefeld, Manitoba in 1875. In 1866 Toews was elected as a minister of the Kleine Gemeinde and in 1870 as Aeltester. Several branches of this movement were reconciled under his leadership. He led the group through the difficult emigration period. Later in 1882 he left the Kleine Gemeinde to join Johan Holdeman. His writings and documents form one of the more important collections of source materials of the 19th century Russian Mennonites.

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
4.	<b>Peter Toews</b>	July 24, 1844		Nov. 2, 1922
m	Anna Warkentin	Jan. 31, 1843	Nov. 24, 1863	Mar. 12, 1925
5.	John Toews	Apr. 26, 1865		Oct. 30, 1866
5.	Anna Toews	May 3, 1867		Aug. 12, 1868
5.	Anna Toews	May 11, 1869		June 25, 1873
5.	John Toews	May 11, 1872		July 14, 1873
5.	Peter Toews	June 10, 1874		Dec. 28, 1949
m	Katherine Klassen	Jan. 16, 1875	Sept. 29, 1895	Dec. 28, 1909
2m	Bertha Otto	June 1, 1878	Mar. 21, 1908	Sept. 14, 1955
5.	John Toews	Oct. 18, 1876		Feb. 18, 1877
5	Maria Toews	Dec. 17, 1877		
5	John Toews	Jan. 6, 1880	Jan. 1910	

m	Elizabeth Bartel	Sept. 12, 1891	
5	Cornelius Toews	Oct. 21, 1882	
5	Isaac Toews	Apr. 23, 1884	Dec. 20, 1911
m	Helena Bartel	Apr. 19, 1893	
5	Jacob Toews	July 3, 1885	
5	Isaac W. Toews	Aug. 7, 1887	

4. **Susanna Toews** married her first cousin Johan P. Goossen in 1861. Johan Goossen was born in Blumstein, Molotschna where his father was a teacher for many years. The family moved to Blumenhoff, Borosenko, where they had a Wirtschaft. In 1875 Johan Goossens together with her mother, the widow Johan Toews, moved to Gnadenu, Kansas and became members of the K.M.B.<sup>35</sup>

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
4	<b>Susanna Toews</b>	Jan. 10, 1844	June 25, 1861	Oct. 14, 1912
m	John P. Goossen <sup>36</sup>	Jan. 5, 1842		Dec. 14, 1904
5	John T. Goossen	Jan. 1, 1877	1898	Jan. 16, 1938
m	Lena Zacharias	Oct. 11, 1876		Apr. 29, 1952
5	Peter Goossen	Dec. 25, 1878		Nov. 29, 1951
m	Lena Reimer			
5	Cornelius Goossen	Mar. 7, 1881	Aug. 12, 1907	Sept. 28, 1953
m	Katheryn Zacharias	Jan. 14, 1887		Oct. 9, 1968
5	Susan Goossen	Feb. 26, 1883		
5	Gerhard Goossen	Feb. 26, 1886	Dec. 22, 1909	Jan. 14, 1950
m	Maria Reimer	Apr. 5, 1888		Nov. 13, 1953

4. **Maria Toews** came to Kansas together with her mother and sister Mrs. Johan Goossen. She married widower Kornelius Doerksen. After his death she married for the second time to Jakob J. Hildebrand who was born in Alexanderkron and had come to Hillsboro in 1878. The family lived in Hillsboro during the 1880's. Sons Johan and Jakob Doerksen were raised by Heinrich Fast and son David by John M. Fast.

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
4	<b>Maria Toews</b> <sup>37</sup>	Dec. 27, 1854		Dec. 3, 1918
m	Kornelius Duerksen	Feb. 15, 1824		May 31, 1888
5	John T. Duerksen	Feb. 29, 1880		July 25, 1980
m	Katherine Sawatsky	July 17, 1884		Aug. 2, 1935
2m	Elizabeth Lehman			1973
5	Peter Duerksen	Sept. 28, 1881	Feb. 1, 1903	Mar. 5, 1922
m	Katherine Neufeld	May 9, 1882		Mar. 2, 1935
5	Maria Duerksen	Nov. 29, 1882	Nov. 8, 1910	Dec. 1, 1968
m	Jacob Friesen <sup>38</sup>	Nov. 25, 1874		Apr. 1955
5	Jacob Duerksen	July 14, 1884	Oct. 15, 1905	Nov. 2, 1966
m	Maria Friesen	Dec. 9, 1886		1968
5	David Duerksen	Jan. 17, 1885		
m	Lillian Munday			
5	Gerhard Duerksen	Feb. 5, 1888		1952
m	Justina Fransen	Mar. 21, 1888		Apr. 23, 1959
4	<b>Maria Toews</b>	Dec. 27, 1854		Dec. 3, 1918
m	Jakob J. Hildebrand	Feb. 4, 1859	1892	1937
5	Katherine Hildebrand	Jan. 14, 1893		
m	Johan Peters			
5	Abraham Hildebrand	Mar. 17, 1895		
m	Ruth Buller	May 28, 1910		

3. **Elizabeth Toews** was born in Prussia and emigrated to Russia with her parents in 1804 where she grew up in the village of Lindenau. In 1814 she married Isaac Braun (1795-1831)<sup>85</sup> apparently of the village of Schoenau. Assuming that the birth date of 1795 is correct, it would appear that he was the oldest child of Jakob Braun b. 1769 and Anna Wiebe b. 1786 who settled in the village of Schoenau, Molotschna, in 1804.<sup>86</sup> The Jakob Braun family had originated from Neuteichervalde, Amt Neuteich, in Prussia.



It is not presently known in which village Elizabeth Toews and her husband Isaac Braun made their home. It is evident however that the family were devoted members of the Kleine Gemeinde as most of their children married into prominent families belonging to this movement. Four of their children have been definitely identified to date, namely, Isaac Braun (1815-1869), Margaretha Braun (1817-1873), Elizabeth Braun and another daughter whose name is presently unknown who married a Wiens.

Two other Brauns should be mentioned here as well. Abraham Friesen, the second Aeltester of the Kleine Gemeinde, had a daughter Elizabeth who was married to a Jakob Braun.<sup>87</sup> (See Section 23:03). A Kornelius Braun of Neukirch, Molotschna, is referred in a letter by Heinrich Rempel, Kleefeld, Manitoba, to the Rundschau in 1898 in connection with several Isaac Braun (1795-1831) family members. He in turn had a son Kornelius Braun who emigrated to Nebraska sometime after the original settlement there. Later he moved to Manitoba where he died in an accident in 1898 while attempting to bury a large rock.<sup>88</sup> The above may have been sons of Isaac Braun (1795-1831) and Elizabeth Toews (1796-1861) but this will require further verification.

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
3	Elizabeth Toews	Feb. 26, 1796	1814	May 12, 1861
m	Isaac Braun	Jan. 19, 1795		Dec. 18, 1831
4	Isaac Braun	Aug. 14, 1815		Feb. 3, 1869
4	Margaretha Braun	July 2, 1817		1873
4	Elizabeth Braun			
4	_____ Braun			
4	Kornelius Braun (?)			
4	Jakob Braun (?)			

4 The oldest son **Isaac Braun** (1815-1869) married Margaretha Loewen the daughter of Kleine Gemeinde deacon Isaac Loewen (1787-1873) also of Lindenau. The couple apparently lived in Mariawohl in the Molotschna and had four daughters. Margaretha Braun, nee Loewen married for the second time to Jakob F. Friesen whose first wife was her first husband's cousin Margaretha Toews (1819-1860). See Chapter One, families No. 81, 86, 91 and 94 for additional information.

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
3	Isaac Braun	Aug. 14, 1815		Feb. 3, 1869
m	Margaretha Loewen	Aug. 29, 1817		Feb. 2, 1883

4 **Margaretha Braun** (1817-1873) married Klaas F. Friesen a brother of Johan Friesen the third Aeltester of the Kleine Gemeinde. The family farmed in the village of Neukirch as did several of his brothers.<sup>89</sup> See Section 23.04 for additional information and a listing of the family.

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
4	Margaretha Braun	July 2, 1817 <sup>89</sup>	1846	1873
m	Klaas F. Friesen	Feb. 15, 1818		Mar. 8, 1871

4 Daughter **Elizabeth Braun**, whose birth and death dates are presently unknown, married Jakob K. Barkman (1820-1902) a brother to Peter K. Barkman (1826-1917) who settled in Steinbach, Manitoba, in 1874.<sup>90</sup> The Jakob K. Barkman family remained in Russia and became quite well-to-do. Their daughter Elizabeth Barkman married Peter B. Friesen a grandson of Abraham Friesen the second Aeltester of the Kleine Gemeinde. The Peter B. Friesen family settled in Neuanlage near Steinbach, Manitoba.<sup>91</sup> See Chapter One, Family 39.<sup>92</sup>

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
4	Elizabeth Braun			
m	Jakob Barkman	Feb. 10, 1820		Dec. 1, 1902

4 Another daughter whose name is unknown at the present time married a Wiens. In a letter to the Rundschau of March 2, 1898, son Jakob Wiens writes that his parents are still living as is his brother Peter. He and his brother Johan live in the Crimea. He refers to his sister Maria married to Nikolai Siemens and to another sister Mrs. Gerhard Barge.<sup>93</sup>

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
4	_____ Braun			
m	_____ Wiens			

5 Jakob Wiens ca. 1855  
 m \_\_\_\_\_ Beier  
 5 Johan Wiens  
 5 Peter Wiens  
 5 \_\_\_\_\_ Wiens  
 m Gerhard Barge  
 5 \_\_\_\_\_ Wiens  
 m Nikolai Siemens

3 **Cornelius Toews** who was born in Tiegenhagen, Prussia, emigrated to Russia with his parents as a two year old lad. In 1804 the family settled in the village of Lindenau where young Cornelius grew up. It is recorded that he spent the years of his youth in a life of indiscretion.<sup>40</sup>

Cornelius Toews was married on August 19, 1826 but his wife's name is not known. It is likely that the family made their home in Fischau as this was their place of residence at the time of his death. It seems that the family belonged to the Grosse Gemeinde notwithstanding his later regrets in this regard. As time went on Cornelius became deeply concerned over his past life and confessed to the ministerial of the Grosse Gemeinde who responded by placing him under the ban. In his anxiety and depression Cornelius Toews took his life by hanging on September 31, 1831.<sup>41</sup> He was survived by two children, Sarah and Cornelius.

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
3	<b>Cornelius Toews</b>	Oct. 31, 1802	Aug. 19, 1826	Sept. 1, 1831
m	_____			
4	Sarah Toews	June 19, 1828	May 27, 1848	Jan. 19, 1855
m	Heinrich Enns	July 19, 1807		May 28, 1881
4	Cornelius Toews	1829		1884
m	Cornelia Boschman	July 19, 1837	1857	1915

4 **Sara Toews** married Heinrich Enns, a widower from Fischau (Wirtschaft no. 13). Since her family had resided in Fischau at the time of her father's death it is possible that they remained resident there. Heinrich Enns was a minister of the Kleine Gemeinde. (See Chapter 20 for more information on this family and their children).

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
4	<b>Sara Toews</b>	June 10, 1828		June 19, 1855
m	Henry Enns	July 19, 1807		May 29, 1881
5	Cornelius T. Enns	1842		
5	Sara T. Enns	June 6, 1849		Nov. 9, 1872
m	Cornelius Plett			
5	Johan T. Enns	Nov. 3, 1850		Sept. 4, 1917
m	Maria Hiebert			
5	Anna Enns	Apr. 28, 1852		1874

4 **Cornelius Toews IV** married Cornelia Boschman in 1857. The family later emigrated from Russia settling in Gnadeanau, Kansas. The family is not listed as one of the founding members of the K.M.B. and may have come to America directly from the Molotschna. The family is listed in the 1880 Marion County Census Record. Cornelius Toews died in 1884 and was buried in the old church cemetery.

His wife Cornelia was "a tall statuesque Prussian", a hardy person. She married for the second time to the widower Johan L. Dueck from Kleefeld, Manitoba. Her second husband died on March 26, 1894 after which she married for the third time to a Mr. Regehr.

Sons Gerhard B. Toews and David Toews and their families both lived at Hillsboro.<sup>41</sup>

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
4	<b>Cornelius Toews</b>	1829		1884
m	Cornelia Boschman	July 5, 1837	1857	1915
5	Anna Toews	1860		
m	Jac B. Loewen	1852		
5	David Toews	1863		
5	Sarah Toews	1867		

m	Jac Hoepfner	1870
5	Cornelius Toews	
5	George Toews	1872
m	Helen Hiebert	
5	Cornelia	1878
5	Maria	1880

3 **Jakob Toews** was born in Lindenau, Molotschna, where he grew to manhood. On August 19, 1826 he married Anna Wiebe whose parents are not known at the present time. The family may have lived in Prangenau or Morgenau as they later had sons resident in both of these villages. In any event, by late 1864 the Jakob Toews together with their son-in-laws Isaac Friesen and Peter Wiebe had moved to the new settlement of Markuslandt near the Old Colony.<sup>42</sup> After several years the family moved to Borosenko north of Nikopol although the exact village is not known.

Jakob Toews died on January 18, 1873 only a year before the emigration to America.

In 1874 his widow emigrated to America travelling with her son Peter W. Toews. They settled in the village of Blumenort, Manitoba where she died in 1881.<sup>43</sup>

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
3	<b>Jakob Toews</b>	Feb. 23, 1805	Aug. 19, 1826	Jan. 18, 1873
m	Anna Wiebe	1801		Aug. 1, 1881
4	Anna Toews	Aug. 9, 1827	Jan. 18, 1848	Aug. 5, 1881
4	Margaret Toews	Apr. 10, 1829	Oct. 25, 1854	July 26, 1913
4	Peter W. Toews	Jan. 7, 1831	Dec. 30, 1851	Oct. 28, 1922
4	Elisabeth	Dec. 22, 1833		1834
4	Jakob Toews	Oct 30, 1836	Nov. 7, 1857	Oct. 16, 1920
4	Elisabeth Toews	Oct. 18, 1838	Sept. 15, 1857	Mar. 20, 1912
4	Johan Toews	1840		died as infant
4	Johan Toews	1841		died as infant
4	Maria Toews	Aug. 16, 1842	Sept. 1, 1863	July 30, 1908

4 **Anna Toews** married Peter K. Barkman whose parents lived in Ruckenau, Molotschna.<sup>44</sup> In 1874 the family emigrated from Russia and settled in Steinbach, Manitoba.<sup>45</sup>

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
4	<b>Anna Toews</b>	Aug. 9, 1827		Aug. 5, 1881
m	Peter K. Barkman	Mar. 9, 1826	Jan. 18, 1848	Jan. 5, 1917
5	Jacob T. Barkman	Nov. 14, 1848		July 11, 1935
m	Aganetha Giesbrecht	Mar. 2, 1848	Sept. 21, 1869	Nov. 26, 1918
5	Anna Barkman	June 7, 1854		Jan. 24, 1923
m	John S. Friesen	Nov. 17, 1853		Oct. 5, 1932
5	Aganetha Barkman	Aug. 20, 1859	Dec. 31, 1881	Apr. 24, 1955
m	Abram W. Reimer	May 27, 1860		Feb. 25, 1930
5	Peter T. Barkman	Feb. 10, 1861		Mar. 17, 1931
m	Katharina W. Reimer	July 15, 1886		Sept. 15, 1940
5	John T. Barkman	Apr. 28, 1862		Nov. 8, 1900
m	Agatha Enns	Oct. 5, 1863		Jan. 19, 1890

4 **Margaretha Toews** married widower Martin Klassen whose first wife was her cousin Elisabeth Toews (1821-1853) in 1854. At this time the family was living in Paulsheim. Later the family settled in the village of Annafeld, in Borosenko, where he is the highest assessed farmer in the Brandordnung (fire insurance records).<sup>46</sup>

In 1874 the family moved to Manitoba where he resigned from the Geminde.<sup>47</sup> In 1875 they moved to Gnadenu, Kansas. Apparently there was another Martin Klassen living there who was his cousin.<sup>48</sup> According to one report Martin Klassen was baptized in 1880 by Edward Leppke,<sup>49</sup> a "hyper ex-baptist" Elder of the Ebenfeld M.B. Congregation.<sup>50</sup> This would correspond with the fact that Martin Klassen is not mentioned in the K.M.B. Gnadenu church records, although several of his sons were members of the K.M.B.

Margaretha Toews married for the second time to Gerhard Boschman of Gnadenu, Kansas, a member of the K.M.B.<sup>51</sup> She survived him by a number of years living with her oldest son Jakob during her widowhood.<sup>52</sup>

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
4	Margaretha Toews	May 10, 1829		July 26, 1913
m	Martin Klassen <sup>53</sup>	Mar. 23, 1822	Oct. 25, 1854	ca. 1888
2m	Gerhard Boschman <sup>54</sup>	Jan. 10, 1827	Feb. 1, 1891	ca. 1895
4	Johan Klassen <sup>55</sup>			
4	Anna Klassen	Oct. 15, 1855		
m	Commonsell <sup>56</sup>			
4	Jakob Klassen <sup>57</sup>	Jan. 17, 1857		June 20, 1938
m	Elisabeth Wohlgemuth	May 21, 1857		Feb. 21, 1894
2m	Maria Koop			
4	Peter Klassen <sup>58</sup>	Sept. 11, 1859		
m	Elisabeth Buller			
4	Margaretha Klassen	Oct. 2, 1862		
m	_____ Piester			
4	Katherine Klassen	July 14, 1868		
m	_____ Kohlman			
4	Cornelius Klassen <sup>59</sup>	Aug. 4, 1871		

4 **Peter W. Toews** married Aganetha Barkman the sister to Peter K. Barkman. Son John B. Toews reports that the Peter Toews family first lived in Morgenau.<sup>60</sup> Other records indicated that by 1855 the family was living in Prangenu.<sup>60a</sup> He operated an oil press in addition to a small farm. In 1867 he moved to Rosenfeld, Borosenko, and from there to Blumenort, Manitoba in 1874.<sup>61</sup>

Another report states that the Peter W. Toews family lived in Prangenu for the first 11 years after their marriage.<sup>61a</sup> Thus it appears that the family moved to Morgenau in about 1862 which John B. Toews remembered as the place of his birth.

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
4	<b>Peter W. Toews</b> <sup>62</sup>	Jan. 7, 1831		Oct. 28, 1922
m	Agnes Barkman	June 6, 1828	Dec. 30, 1851	June 18, 1899
5	Anna Toews	Feb. 14, 1853		Nov. 22, 1935
m	Henry Wiebe <sup>63</sup>	Apr. 3, 1851	Oct. 21, 1871	Dec. 14, 1876
2m	Isaac DeVeer <sup>64</sup>	Oct. 23, 1856	1879	Nov. 6, 1925
5	Aganetha Toews	Apr. 1, 1854	Dec. 11, 1871	June 26, 1928
m	Martin Penner <sup>65</sup>	Apr. 1, 1849		Aug. 6, 1928
5	Jacob B. Toews <sup>66</sup>	Feb. 21, 1855	Jan. 25, 1876	May 7, 1938
m	Maria Loewen	Aug. 4, 1856		Feb. 14, 1948
5	Peter Toews	1856	died	
5	Gertrude Toews <sup>67</sup>	July 20, 1857	Sept. 17, 1876	May 3, 1892
m	Aron Penner	Mar. 30, 1852		Sept. 2, 1892
5	<b>Peter B. Toews</b> <sup>68</sup>	Jan. 19, 1859	Nov. 24, 1878	Aug. 11, 1945
m	Elizabeth Reimer	Oct. 2, 1858		Sept. 4, 1886
2m	Anna Toews	1868		1933
5	Margaretha Toews	Oct. 8, 1860		Aug. 30, 1933
m	Isaac Penner <sup>69</sup>	Jan. 28, 1860	1879	Oct. 24, 1924
5	Johan Toews	1862	died	
5	Katharina Toews	Sept. 15, 1863		1933
m	Jacob S. Friesen <sup>70</sup>	Jan. 6, 1862	1884	1931
5	John B. Toews <sup>71</sup>	Mar. 18, 1865		July 8, 1967
m	Elizabeth (Dueck) Regehr <sup>72</sup>	Jan. 21, 1865	Apr. 17, 1887	July 9, 1899
m	Maria Penner	July 24, 1867	Apr. 15, 1900	Aug. 3, 1943
m	Helena (Thiessen) Enns	Sept. 24, 1876	Nov. 17, 1945	Feb. 18, 1960
5	Elizabeth Toews	1867	died	
5	Cornelius Toews	1869	died	

4 **Jacob W. Toews** married Katharina Wiens in 1857.<sup>73</sup> The family made their home in Prangenu, Molotschna from where they may have moved to Markuslandt together with his parents in 1864 as a Jakob Toews is listed in the ministerial election of the Markuslandt congregation in that

year.<sup>74</sup> Eventually they moved to Neuanlage, which is believed to have been a small settlement (or Chutor) near Borosenko, shared by a number of families. From here they emigrated to Rosenort, Manitoba. They joined with Holdeman in the 1880's and moved to Langdon, North Dakota.

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
4	<b>Jacob Toews</b> <sup>75</sup>	Nov. 13, 1836		Oct. 16, 1920
m	Katharine Wiens	Aug. 15, 1835	Nov. 7, 1857	Nov. 22, 1905
2m	Anna Schmidt		Apr. 14, 1907	Dec. 30, 1928
5	Jacob W. Toews	Aug. 16, 1858	Jan. 11, 1884	Nov. 29, 1939
m	Elizabeth Friesen	Oct. 15, 1885		July 31, 1938
5	Maria Toews	June 5, 1860	Apr. 14, 1879	Nov. 12, 1937
m	Peter Rempel			Dec. 26, 1918
5	Katharina Toews	Sept. 22, 1861	Aug. 9, 1885	Dec. 23, 1904
m	Gerhard Thiessen	June 20, 1860		Apr. 11, 1945
5	Peter Toews	Nov. 1, 1863		Aug. 20, 1923
m	Margaretha Froese	1887	1891	Mar. 19, 1905
2m	Margaret Penner	Dec. 22, 1883		Aug. 20, 1944
5	Anna Toews	Mar. 29, 1866	Jan. 6, 1885	Jan. 15, 1903
m	Peter Fast	Mar. 30, 1863		Dec. 19, 1958
5	Abram W. Toews	Aug. 16, 1868		Sept. 23, 1948
m	Katharine Penner	Apr. 1, 1878	Apr. 11, 1901	June 6, 1967
5	Margaretha Toews	Sept. 10, 1870		June 18, 1873
5	Klaas Toews	Feb. 19, 1873		Dec. 15, 1951
m	Aganetha Penner	Nov. 15, 1873	Oct. 10, 1897	Feb. 15, 1967
5	Isaac Toews	June 14, 1876		July 4, 1918
m	Maria Wiens	May 30, 1885		June 28, 1974
5	Margaretha Toews	Sept. 11, 1879		Sept. 13, 1937
m	Gerhard Friesen	Sept. 2, 1877		Nov. 16, 1964

4 **Elisabeth Toews** married Peter P. Wiebe of Schoenau in 1857. In 1863, the family moved to Markuslandt where Peter Wiebe was elected as a deacon in 1864.<sup>76</sup> Some years later the family moved to Blumenhoff, Borosenko, where they farmed until the emigration to Blumenort, Manitoba, in 1874.

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
4	<b>Elizabeth Toews</b>	Oct. 18, 1838		Mar. 20, 1912
m	Peter Wiebe	Mar. 31, 1835	Sept. 15, 1857	July 14, 1902
5	Jacob Wiebe	July 19, 1858		Jan. 16, 1859
5	Peter T. Wiebe	Apr. 23, 1860	Nov. 25, 1883	Apr. 29, 1941
m	Elizabeth Penner	Mar. 12, 1865		July 13, 1949
5	Jacob Wiebe	Sept. 22, 1862		Jan. 16, 1867
5	Johan T. Wiebe	Nov. 2, 1865	June 28, 1891	July 29, 1949
m	Kath. Thiessen	Oct. 17, 1867		July 2, 1956
5	Jac P. T. Wiebe	June 15, 1867	Mar. 15, 1896	Feb. 13, 1929
m	Elizabeth Mooney	Oct. 3, 1864		Nov. 23, 1945
5	Anna Wiebe	Jan. 19, 1871		July 20, 1871
5	Elizabeth Wiebe	Nov. 20, 1873		June 19, 1927
5	Anna Wiebe	Jan. 13, 1877		
m	George W. Friesen	July 2, 1876		Mar. 26, 1956
5	Henry Wiebe	Mar. 26, 1880		Aug. 16, 1882

4 **Maria Toews** married Isaac Friesen in 1863. An Isaac Friesen from Waldheim is shown in the 1861 ministerial election record<sup>78</sup> but this was a different Isaac Friesen who married Susanna Reimer. (See H. Reimer Genealogy Chapter 19 cf). In 1863, the family moved to Markuslandt where Isaac Friesen was elected as a minister in 1864.<sup>79</sup> The family must have moved on by the later 1860's as the Kleine Gemeinde left Markuslandt by 1869. The destination is believed to have been Blumenhoff, Borosenko, where an Isaac Friesen is shown to have bought a **Martyrs Mirror** in 1873.<sup>80</sup>

In 1874 the Isaac Friesen family emigrated to Kansas, settling on village farm number 18 in Gnadenu.<sup>81</sup> In early 1875 he wrote his wife's brother in Blumenort, Manitoba, saying that they are

expecting the Martin Klassen family shortly.<sup>82</sup> According to the Gnadenu Church Record Book No. 1, Isaac Friesen and his wife were rebaptized in 1874, likely upon their arrival in Gnadenu.<sup>83</sup> According to this record, the family moved once more to Oklahoma where he died. The date of death is not stated. His widow was still alive in 1904.

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
4	Maria Toews	Aug. 16, 1842	Sept. 1, 1863	Alive in 1904.
m	Isaac Friesen	May 13, 1834		Sept. 11, 1884 <sup>84</sup>
5	Anna Friesen	1866		
m				
5	Maria Friesen	1868		
m				
5	Isaac Friesen	Apr. 22, 1869		
m				
5	Helena Friesen	Dec. 8, 1870		
m				
5	Elis. Friesen	Sept. 14, 1872		
m				
5	Jakob Friesen <sup>85a</sup>	Nov. 25, 1874		
m	Maria Duerksen			
5	Margaretha Friesen	Mar. 9, 1878		
m	Frank Berger			
5	Peter Friesen	Nov. 16, 1879		
m	Corline Buschamn			
5	Johan Friesen	Feb. 22, 1884		

#### FOOTNOTES. CHAPTER SEVENTEEN. CORNELIUS TOEWS GENEALOGY

1. Much of the information for this chapter follows a four-page family chart of the Cornelius Toews Family (1737-1800) prepared by Vic Goossen, Rosenort, Manitoba, expanding and editing an earlier chart prepared by Rev. Frank P. Wiebe, Steinbach, Manitoba. Teacher Cornelius L. Toews and Bishop Peter P. Toews are avid genealogists of this family.
2. A Jansen, "Ladekopp", ME III, 267.
3. Horst Quiring, "Prangenau", ME 4, 210.
4. Glen Penner, *op. cit.*
5. Horst Penner, *op. cit.*, 460.
6. Cornelius Krahn, "Toews", 4 ME, 734.
7. Otto Regier, "Regehr" 4 ME, 272-273.
- 7a. *Familien Buch*, Gerhard Schellenberg papers, courtesy of Henry Fast, Steinbach, Manitoba.
8. Peter Isaac, *op. cit.*, 9.
9. B. H. Unruh, *op. cit.*, 311-312 and 345.
10. Peter Toews Family Records included a handwritten copy of *Das Wachsame Auge Gottes* 66-90, Courtesy of Milton Toews, Neilburg, Saskatchewan. Much of the biography of Johan Toews (1793-1873) and his children comes from this source.
11. It is also noted that in 1825 Johan Toews started to pursue the "Slettieng Handwerk". Possibly a chiropractor?
12. Extensive extracts from this booklet are quoted in *Storm and Triumph*.
- 12a. Courtesy Mrs. Veida Doerksen, Goessel, Kansas.
13. Interview with Frank Barkman, Swalwell, Alberta, Dec. 19, 1986.
14. Dick Eidse, "The Dueck Story (1789-1984)", Unpublished paper, 1984, Rosenort, Manitoba.
15. See Toews Genealogy Register, Family No. 86.
16. See Toews Genealogy Register, Family No. 95.
17. See Toews Genealogy Register, Family No. 85.
18. See Toews Genealogy Register, Family No. 87.
19. See Toews Genealogy Register, Family No. 88.
20. See Toews Genealogy Register, Family No. 89. Cornelia Harms was the daughter of Peter Harms and Cornelia Warkentin (1822-1892) formerly of Sparrow, Molotschna (courtesy of H. Fast, Steinbach, Manitoba). See Toews Genealogy Register Family No. 122. Cornelia Harms (1853-1938) died in Swalwell, Alberta.
21. See Toews Genealogy Register, Family No. 58.
22. See Toews Genealogy Register, Family No. 74.
- 22a. See Peter P. Isaac, *op. cit.*, 61.
23. See Section 23.04.
24. In a letter to the Rundschau of 1898, Anna Toews (1830-1900) reports also that her father's brothers were Peter, Hans, Martin, and Heinrich, all formerly residents of Blumstein, Molotschna. She also writes that her mother had a sister in Munsterberg, Mrs. Hans Thiessen (courtesy of Henry Fast, Steinbach, Manitoba).

25. See Toews Genealogy Register, Family No. 44.
26. See Toews Genealogy Register, Family No. 49.
- 26a. Courtesy Velda Doerksen, Goessel, Kansas, letter of Feb. 10, 1987.
27. Courtesy of Henry Fast, Steinbach, Manitoba.
28. See Toews Genealogy Register, Family No. 45.
29. See Toews Genealogy Register, Family No. 56.
30. See Toews Genealogy Register, Family No. 46.
31. **History and Events**, op. cit., 41, also letter written by Cornelius P. Toews in **Storm and Triumph**, op. cit., 204-206, in which the more light is shed on this event.
32. See Toews Genealogy Register, Family No. 43.
33. Published in Johan Toews, **Das Wachsame Auge Gottes** (Mennonite Publishing Co., Elkhart, Indiana (1908) 23-24.
34. See Toews Genealogy Register, Family No. 66.
35. See Toews Genealogy Register, Family No. 66.
36. He was a brother to Cornelius P. Goossen, one of the pioneer settlers in Steinbach, Manitoba. (See Toews Genealogy Register, Family No. 57) and Gerhard Goossen, Kleine Gemeinde minister who died in 1872. (See Toews Genealogy Register, Family No. 50). See **Gerhard Goossen (1811-1854) Family Book**.
37. For more information on this family see "The Kornelius Doerksen (1824-1888) Genealogy." Unpublished family study by Mrs. Erna Neufeld.
38. His mother was a Maria Toews.
39. Martha Goering, "Klaas Friesen (1818-1873) Genealogy," Unpublished manuscript, Burrton, Kansas (1967), 12.
40. Abram Friesen, "Letter to Kronsgarten, 1831", Published in **The Golden Years**, op. cit., 273-275.
41. Much of this information is provided by Anne Taves, Newton, Kansas, in a letter to the writer dated August 22, 1982. She also states that family tradition verifies the suicide of Cornelius Toews (1802-1831).
42. Isaac Loewen (1787-1873) in an 1865 letter to a Peter Toews (later Aeltester), refers to Jacob Toews and his sons-in-law Is. Friesen and Peter Wiebe as being resident in Markuslandt.
43. See Roy Loewen, op. cit., for addition information on families which settled in Blumenhof and Blumenort, north of Steinbach, Manitoba.
44. See Toews Genealogy Register Family Nos. 15 and 16.
45. See also Abe Warkentin, op. cit., 34-35.
46. A. L. Dueck Records, quoted in **Storm and Triumph**, op. cit., 191 (courtesy of H. Fast, Steinbach, Manitoba).
47. See Toews Genealogy Register, Family No. 58, also various references in P. Toews diary. It seems that Martin Klassen was an aggressive farmer, but one who had some difficulty in living up to the expectations of the Gemeinde.
48. Letter of Mrs. Jacob E. Klassen, CA 1980, (Received courtesy of Dick Klassen, Blumenort, formerly of Riverton, Manitoba). Apparently the second Martin Klassen was the father of Dietrich S. Klassen (1887-1978?) but only one Martin Klassen is shown in the 1880 Census of Marion County. However, the K.M.B. Gnadenu Church record Family No. 16 lists a Martin A. Klassen (b 1861) married to a Carolina Schnerk (1862-1930) who had a son Dietrich (b Aug. 24, 1887) who must be the Dietrich Klassen referred to above. If the information is correct that Martin A. Klassen (b 1861) and Martin Klassen (b 1823) are cousins, a study of his family line could help to trace the parents of M. Klassen (b 1823).
49. Letter of September 6, 1980, by Jane Friesen, Dinuba, California, to the writer.
50. J. A. Toews, **History of the M.B. Church**, (Fresno, California, 1975), 134.
51. K.M.B. Gnadenu Church Record, Family No. 13.
52. Letter of Mrs. Jacob E. Klassen, op. cit.
53. See Toews Genealogy Register, Family No. 53, where the birth dates of the youngest 6 children are given. See also Quebec Ship Records.
54. Gnadenu Church Record, Family No. 13.
55. Both Jane Friesen, Dinuba, California and Mrs. Jacob E. Friesen, write that Margaretha Toews and M. Klassen had a son Johan. Since neither the Quebec Ship Records nor the Toews Genealogy Register refer to this son, he must have been married and on his own by the time of the emigration in 1874. The Gnadenu Church Record Book No. 1, Family No. 60, shows a Johan Klassen, born in 1854, who is likely this son. He married Sarah Heinrichs (b. 1854) on November 23, 1874.
56. There is a Jacob Comitzell (b. 1835) family shown in the 1880 Marion County Census. This family apparently lived in Oklahoma (courtesy of Mrs. Jacob E. Friesen).
57. See John R. Wohlgermuth, **The Peter Wohlgermuth Genealogy 1815-1963** (Peabody, Kansas, 1963) 27-32.
58. Lived in Waso, California (courtesy of Mrs. Jacob E. Friesen).
59. Mrs. Jacob E. Friesen has written that Cornelius Klassen lived in California.
60. John B. Toews **Memoirs of Johann Barkman Toews** (PrairieView Press, Roseport, Manitoba, 1961) 5.
- 60a. Frank Barkman, et al, **Jacob B. Toews Family Register**, op. cit., 2.
61. See Roy Loewen, op. cit., for extensive information on this family.
- 61a. Report in the **Rundschau**, July 5, 1899. (Courtesy Henry Fast.)
62. See Toews Genealogy Register No. 7.
63. See Toews Genealogy Register No. 21.
64. See Toews Genealogy Register No. 149.
65. See Toews Genealogy Register No. 13.
66. See Toews Genealogy Register No. 135.
67. See Toews Genealogy Register No. 131.
68. See Toews Genealogy Register No. 161.
69. See Toews Genealogy Register No. 162.
70. See Gerhard Schellenberg Genealogy, Chapter 22.
71. See John B. Toews, op. cit.

72. She was the daughter of Johan L. Dueck, Kleefeld, Manitoba.
73. Larry Toews, *op. cit.*, 5.
74. *Storm and Triumph*, *op. cit.*, 160.
75. See Toews Genealogy Register No. 140.
76. *Storm and Triumph*, *op. cit.*, 160.
77. See Toews Genealogy Register No. 76. See also *History and Events*, *op. cit.*, 89-91.
78. *Storm and Triumph*, *op. cit.*, 154.
79. *Ibid.*, 160.
80. Peter Toews, *Diary 1872-1878*, Listing of August 20, 1873.
81. D. V. Wiebe, *Grace Meadow*, *op. cit.*, 325.
82. Roy Loewen, *op. cit.*, 52-53.
83. Gnadenu Church book No. 1, Family No. 9.
- 83a. Jacob Friessens were the parents of Gordon Friesen author of *The Flamethrowers* (Caxton Press, Caldwell, Idaho, 1936.) See *Mennonite Life*, June, 1983, 4-17.
84. This is the date given in the D. L. Plett *Sterbe Register* for the death of an Is. Friesen in Oklahoma.
85. Telephone interview with Annie Klassen, Maryfield, Saskatchewan, Sept. 9, 1987. See Kroeker Family, *Memories of Mr. & Mrs. Jakob B. Kroeker* (Country Graphics, Rosenort, Manitoba, 1987), 40. See also M. Goering, *Klaus Friesen, 1818-1871 Genealogy*, *op. cit.*, 12, who indicates that Isaac Braun was born in 1785, the son of Peter Braun b. 1760. The birth date of 1795 seems more logical given the age of the children and wife and therefore is the date accepted by this writer.
86. See Unruh, *op. cit.*, 308, 332 and 337. According to Unruh, he also had a brother Johan b. 1801 and a brother Jakob b. 1813.
87. Little is known about this Jakob Braun family except that he may have been the Jakob Braun who placed a claim against the Kleine Gemeinde at the time of emigration in 1874. This Jakob Braun had at one time belonged to the Kleine Gemeinde. See *History and Events*, *op. cit.*, 68. This cannot be verified at the present time but appears to be a logical hypothesis for further study.
88. I am indebted to Henry Fast for providing this information.
89. e.g. Johan F. Friesen, the Altester, whose Wirtschaft was later owned by Nikolai Isaac before he moved to Friedensfeld to live with his son Peter. See Peter Isaac, *op. cit.*, 45-46.
90. See *Familienbuch* of Mrs. Peter B. Klassen, Steinbach, Manitoba, for the birth and death dates of Jakob K. Barkman (1820-1902). His mother Gertruda Klassen was the daughter of Peter Klassen.
91. Mrs. Peter B. Friesen was often quite lonely being the only one of her siblings to emigrate and apparently also suffered mentally. Interview with Jakob W. Friesen, 1981. See also Roy Loewen, *op. cit.*, for more information regarding this family.
92. In a letter to the Rundschau of March 23, 1898, Heinrich Rempel responds to a letter of Jakob Wiens of the Crimea (his wife's cousin), who has asked for the whereabouts of Peter Rempel b. 1844. In his letter Heinrich mentions that his brother Peter has moved to Ufa, near the Asian border. He also mentions that Peter's wife was a daughter of Jakob Bergman (Barkman?) and that she was a cousin to him (Jakob Wiens). Heinrich Rempel also mentions that his wife is a step-daughter to Bernard Warkentin, formerly of Waldheim, and that he and Jakob Wiens, who he believes to be about his own age, have frequently met each other at the home of the aforementioned Jakob Bergman of Waldheim and spent their time together playing as boys. I am indebted to Henry Fast for this information. (See Chapter 18 for additional information on the Rempel family.)
93. I am indebted to Henry Fast, Steinbach, for this information. Nothing further is known about this family at the present time but it seems quite likely that they were related to other Kleine Gemeinde Wiens families especially those found in the Crimea. e.g. Jakob Wiens (1813-1893) who was one of the Kleine Gemeinde pioneers when the Crimea opened for settlement in 1860. See Chapter One, Family 110.





# Chapter Eighteen.

## Peter Rempel (1792-1837) Genealogy

The more numerous line of Kleine Gemeinde Rempels are descended from Peter Rempel of Muntau Molotscha, Peter Rempel was born 1:30 in the morning of September 15, 1792.<sup>1</sup> His place of birth has not been established, but presumably it was in Prussia. Nor has a connection been made to any of the Rempel families referred to in the work of B. H. Unruh. According to the **Sterbe Register** of John Esau, Peter Rempel (1792-1837) was a brother to Abraham Rempel (d 1884) of Morgenau<sup>1a</sup> the patriarch of the other branch of Kleine Gemeinde Rempels.

Abraham F. Reimer (1804-1892) has written briefly about his father-in-law Peter Rempel (1792-1837) stating that he was married for the first time to the widow Jakob Wall, nee Catarina Berchen, who was born on May 2, 1780 in Prussia. She married for the first time in 1801 and was widowed in 1812.

Peter Rempel married Catarina Wall, nee Berchen, in 1813. Their married life together consisted of 17 years and 9 months. Five sons and two daughters were born of this marriage. One son died almost right away. The family lived in Muntau as son Peter is referred to as being from there. Catarina Rempel died in 1831 at the age of 50 years, 9 months and two weeks.

On September 29, 1831, Peter Rempel married for the second time to Margaretha Sawatzky and they shared their wedded life together for 6 years, 1 month and 6 days. One son and one daughter were born of this marriage. Peter Rempel died on Sunday, October 31, 1837, at 12:30 p.m. at the age of 45 years, 1 month and 27 days.

Step-mother Margaretha Rempel, nee Sawatzky, married for the second time to her cousin Isaac Friesen<sup>2</sup>, and had several more children. She died on October 16, 1892.

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
1	<b>Peter Rempel</b>	Sept. 15, 1792		Oct. 31, 1837
m	Katarina Berchen	May 2, 1780	1813	1831
2	Peter Rempel	July 17, 1814		Jan. 1, 1872
2	Elisabeth Rempel	July 17, 1814		July 8, 1893
2	Johan Rempel	Sept. 20, 1815		In infancy
2	Gerhard Rempel	Dec. 14, 1816		Feb. 25, 1888
2	Bernhard Rempel	Mar. 15, 1819		Aug. 6, 1819
2	Bernhard Rempel	Sept. 20, 1820		Jan, 1891
2	Katharina Rempel	Mar. 3, 1823		
1	<b>Peter Rempel</b>	Sept. 15, 1792		Oct. 31, 1837
2m	Margaretha Sawatzky	July 18, 1808		Oct. 16, 1892
2	Anna Rempel	Dec. 18, 1833		July 16, 1885
2	Cornelius Rempel	Dec. 12, 1836		Oct. 10, 1865

2 **Elisabeth Rempel** married Abraham F. Reimer in 1835. He was the son of Kleine Gemeinde Aeltester Klaas Reimer of Petershagen. For additional information regarding this family see Section 23.06. All their children except daughter Helena, Mrs. Heinrich Hildebrand, emigrated to Manitoba in 1874. Son Klaas R. Reimer became a pioneer merchant in Steinbach, where son Johan R. Reimer also served as village Schulz. Son-in-law Abraham S. Friesen was one of the leading Steinbach businessmen during the early years building the windmill in 1877. Son Abraham was a prosperous farmer in Blumenort also serving as a deacon. Peter R. Reimer was a farmer and leading minister in the East Reserve Kleine Gemeinde for many years.<sup>3</sup>

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
2	<b>Abraham Reimer</b>	Feb. 19, 1808		April 11, 1892
m	Elisabeth Rempel	July 17, 1814	Feb. 26, 1835	July 8, 1893
3	Klaas R. Reimer	Dec. 11, 1837		Feb. 6, 1906
m	Katharina Willms	April 13, 1836	Oct. 21, 1857	March 3, 1875
m2	Helena Warkentin	1852		Dec. 1, 1884
m3	Margaretha Klassen	Feb. 27, 1864		July 5, 1918
3	Helena Reimer	1839		
m	Heinrich Hildebrandt			

3	Abraham R. Reimer	Sept. 3, 1841		May 25, 1891
m	Helena Potger	Aug. 3, 1841	June 11, 1860	Aug. 9, 1866
m2	Maria R. Reimer	Aug. 3, 1847	Aug. 3, 1866	Aug. 20, 1916
3	Elisabeth R. Reimer	Oct. 20, 1843		Dec. 3, 1918
m	Peter Toews	March 21, 1839		May 9, 1882
m2	Heinrich L. Friesen	Mar. 24, 1851	June 14, 1892	Dec. 1, 1910
3	Peter R. Reimer	Dec. 29, 1845		Nov. 10, 1915
m	Elisabeth S. Friesen	Nov. 8, 1849		June, 1873
m2	Maria L. Plett	Dec. 17, 1850	July 8, 1873	Oct. 6, 1934
3	Johan R. Reimer	June 3, 1848		March 23, 1918
m	Anna Warkentin	June 13, 1844	June 13, 1869	Aug. 10, 1880
m2	Aganetha Barkman	Aug. 5, 1863	Mar. 19, 1882	Mar. 5, 1938
3	Katharina Reimer	April 30, 1850	Dec. 14, 1867	Aug. 24, 1912
m	Abraham S. Friesen	Jan. 28, 1848		Nov. 25, 1916
3	Margaretha Reimer	July 3, 1852	Aug. 3, 1869	Feb. 10, 1920
m	Abraham Penner	Dec. 2, 1847		Oct. 17, 1918

2 **Peter Rempel** (1814-1872) married Elisabeth Reimer (1815-1879) daughter of Heinrich Reimers of Muntau on May 28, 1836. The Verlobing was held on May 11, 1836<sup>4</sup>. The Peter Rempel family resided in the village of Paulsheim, Molotschna. Presumably they farmed here for most of their married life. In their later years they also took in a foster daughter who was 18 years old at the time of grandmother's death.

Grandson John R. Dueck has recorded that his grandfather was a stout man, like Uncle Peter L. Dueck later in Manitoba, generally keeping his weight around 300 pounds. Peter Rempel died on January 1, 1872, at the age of 57 years, 5 months and 13 days.<sup>5</sup> He had been severely sick for two weeks but was confined to his bed for only 3 days. He died from a stroke which occurred about 6 weeks prior to his death. The stroke must have occurred during the night as his wife only noticed in the morning that his mouth was twisted. From this time on Peter Rempel was sick from time to time until his death as stated above. A symptom of his sickness was great difficulty in breathing.

The funeral of Peter Rempel was held on January 5, 1872, but he was buried a week later on the 12th in order that his children Abraham L. Duecks and Dietrich Isaacs from Borosenko about 100 werst away would also be able to see him<sup>6</sup>.

Grandson John R. Dueck (1863-1937) who was only 9 years old at the time had fond memories of his grandparents stating that it was always a joy to be at their home. He remembered the funeral of his grandfather as follows:

"One morning Dietrick Isaaks of Rosenhof brought us the news that Grandfather had passed away. Immediately preparations were made and the journey to Paulsheim started in the afternoon. But we didn't arrive in time for the funeral, since news in those days travelled mainly as opportunity presented itself. We arrived the next day in the afternoon. They had not buried him yet but only covered the grave. I did not, however, get to see my grandfather at this time, because they had forgotten to take me along to the viewing of the body and the burial, which so much annoyed me that I refused to eat the next meal.

"However we always enjoyed being at Grandfather's. There was an adopted daughter, 2 years older than I, who always got along very well with us children."

Mrs. Peter Rempel, nee Elisabeth Reimer died at 2:00 p.m. on August 28, 1879, at the age of 63 years, 8 months and 16 days. She was severely ill for only 3 days mainly of her long endured sickness of many years which was a form of cramp colic and scarceness of breath. She also suffered for some time of a rupture which also played a role in her death. Peter Rempel also had a rupture and suffered from this condition for a longer period of time than my mother. This rupture caused much suffering as well as inconvenience<sup>8</sup>.

All the Peter Rempel children except Heinrich, moved to America during the 1874 emigration. Heinrich stayed behind with his mother but also emigrated to Manitoba in 1886.

Daughter Maria Rempel was married to Jakob L. Dueck<sup>9</sup> of Muntau. Heinrich Rempel has recorded that the wedding took place at the home of his parents in Paulsheim. Daughter Elisabeth Rempel was married to Abraham L. Dueck<sup>10</sup>, a brother to Jakob. These families settled in Kleefeld, Manitoba, and both served in the ministry. Abraham L. Dueck was Aeltester of the East Reserve Kleine Gemeinde for a number of years.

Daughter Katharina married Dietrick Isaac who was also from Paulsheim. Later the family moved to Borosenko, and from there to Jansen, Nebraska, in 1874<sup>11</sup>.

Son Peter Rempel came to America in 1890 and died in Kansas. One of his sons Rev. Jakob Rempel was living in Morris, Manitoba, in 1965. Another son lived in the United States<sup>12</sup>.

Son Heinrich Rempel was married in 1874 but found farming in the Old Country difficult. Accordingly he wrote his relatives in Kleefeld asking for a helping hand which was extended. In 1886 he emigrated from Russia settling initially in Kleefeld, Manitoba. He served as a teacher in various schools in the area for a total of 33 years<sup>13</sup>.

Heinrich Rempel was married to Margaretha Schlabach (1853-1918) the daughter of Christain Schlabach. Her father died ca. 1860 after which her mother Anna married for the second time to Bernard Warkentin. The Warkentin family later moved to Kansas. Margaretha Schlabach and her sister Elizabeth (Mrs. Abram Reichert) were brought up by their step-father Warkentin<sup>14</sup>. Margaretha later remembered this family fondly<sup>15</sup>.

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
2	<b>Peter Rempel</b>	July 17, 1814		Jan. 1, 1872
m	Elisabeth Reimer	Dec. 11, 1815	May 28, 1836	Aug. 28, 1879
3	Maria Rempel	Oct. 7, 1837		Dec. 21, 1839
3	Maria Rempel	Feb. 16, 1840	Dec. 15, 1856	Mar. 17, 1917
m	Jakob L. Dueck	June 26, 1939		Oct. 27, 1893
3	Elisabeth Rempel	Oct. 4, 1842	Feb. 27, 1862	Nov. 17, 1901
m	Abraham L. Dueck	Feb. 16, 1841		July 18, 1899
3	Peter Rempel	Feb. 10, 1844		
m	Eliz. Bergman			
3	Katharina Rempel	Sept. 8, 1847		Oct. 8, 1890
m	Dietrich Isaac	Jan. 28, 1846	Dec. 13, 1866	
4	Dietrich Isaac	May 23, 1869		June 4, 1869
4	Dietrich Isaac	Dec. 12, 1870		
4	Peter Isaac	July 8, 1872		Jan. 26, 1879
4	Heinrich Isaac	Sept. 8, 1874		Sept. 14, 1874
4	Heinrich Isaac	Sept. 4, 1875		Sept. 20, 1875
4	Abraham Isaac	Oct. 1, 1876		
4	Katharina Isaac	Mar. 10, 1880	Married	
4	Anna Isaac	Nov. 8, 1882		1926
3	Heinrich Rempel	June 4, 1855		1926
m	Margaretha Schlabach	1853		1918
2m	widow Sara Dueck		1922	1926

2 **Gerhard Rempel** (1816-1888) was married at least twice. The name of his first wife was Maria Warkentin. His second wife may have been Gertruda Barkman (b. 1835), daughter of Jakob J. Barkman of Ruckenuau but this cannot be definitely established at the present time. She died in 1862 and is listed in one source as being married to a Gerhard Rempel.<sup>16</sup> The research of Henry Fast, Steinbach, Manitoba has shed some light on this family as he reports that they lived in Mariawohl emigrating to Jansen, Nebraska in 1876. His wife at the time of the 1880 census is listed as Elisabeth born in 1840<sup>17</sup>.

In a letter to Bernard Rempel (1820-1891), of October 20, 1885, nephew Klaas R. Reimer, Steinbach, Manitoba, refers to uncle Gerhard Rempel, Nebraska, as follows:

"I should also inform you that Abraham S. Friesens were in Nebraska; they were at Gerhard Rempels' place and found them all to be in good health. However, our aged uncle cannot forget his wife and whenever they speak of her his tears start flowing. Seemingly he is also preparing to enter the eternal life and is concerned about his former life and whether it will prevent him from entering heaven. One notices immediately that he has meant business. He used to be so attached to his pipe of tobacco that he could hardly abstain. This he has not used for a number of years according to what I have heard. One can well imagine the effort it takes to quit such a habit. Otherwise things are not doing so badly, and they always have sufficient to eat and drink. Uncle Gerhard Rempel was still up and around, but his strength is failing and he has aged very much. He sent his greeting along to everyone."<sup>23</sup>

Sons Gerhard and Johan Rempel settled in Jansen, Nebraska. Son Peter Rempel was a Grobschmied and remained in Russia living in Paulsheim. In 1900 he was living in Memrik. Daughter Elizabeth married Jakob T. Friesen of Morris, Manitoba, and daughter Maria married Klaas P. Friesen of Jansen,

Nebraska. Daughter Aganetha Rempel married Gerhard Klassen son of Jakob Klassen. There may have been additional children. The Gerhard Rempels Sr. also had a foster daughter Maria Wall.<sup>24</sup>

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
2	<b>Gerhard Rempel</b>	Dec. 14, 1816		Feb. 25, 1888
m	Maria Warkentin			
2m	Elisabeth Friesen	1840		1922
3	Gerhard Rempel <sup>18</sup>	1844		Nov. 29, 1879
m	Katharina Friesen	1845		May 14, 1903
3	Elizabeth Rempel	Jan. 6, 1845	Oct. 18, 1863	
m	Jakob T. Friesen	Nov. 10, 1845		Oct. 11, 1903
3	Maria Rempel	Jan. 1852	Feb. 5, 1878	Mar. 17, 1907
m	Klaas P. Friesen	Feb. 2, 1854		Dec. 18, 1926
3	Johan Rempel	1853		
m	Helen Friesen	ca. 1855		
3	Peter Rempel			
m	_____ Boese			
3	Aganetha Rempel			
m	Gerhard Klassen			

2 **Bernhard Rempel** remained in Russia. Abram P. Reimer (1883-1961) has written how his father Rev. Peter R. Reimer (1845-1915) was apprenticed with his uncle Bernhard Rempel (1820-1891) to learn the art of carpentry. He describes his uncle, who was a building contractor, as follows:

“His uncle Bernhard Rempel was a jolly man and his employees enjoyed working with him. There was especially one thing I remember my father saying about him, when he and his gang of twenty to twenty-five workers would begin work at a new place, Mr. Rempel would often tell people for whom they were to begin to work (and I presume many of them were young couples) that they should build their houses as though they expected to live for 100 years, but they should live as though today might be their last day. This is a good teaching which is of course easier said than done.”<sup>19</sup>

Bernard Rempel lived in Alexanderwohl, Molotschna. The letter book of Klaas R. Reimer, Steinbach, Manitoba, includes various references to and correspondence with his uncle Bernhard Rempel. In a letter of March 1, 1890, to his brother-in-law Johan Willms, of Kleefeld, Molotschna, he asks how his uncle and aunt Bernard Rempel are doing. After writing Bernard Rempel three times, Klaas R. Reimer finally received a letter on April 25, 1890 (dated March 15), in which his uncle Bernard Rempel states that he is rapidly getting more and more feeble and that he does not expect to write many letters anymore. On May 9, 1891, Klaas R. Reimer received a letter from Johan Reimer, Alexanderwohl, Molotschna, the contents of which were “that uncle Bernard Rempel had died. He had been sick for four months, one month he had eaten nothing, and that he had literally starved to death. Yet in the end he had hope of dying and entering into the state of eternal bliss.”<sup>25</sup>

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
2	<b>Bernhard Rempel</b>	Sept. 20, 1820		Jan, 1891

2 **Katharina Rempel** married Gerhard Willms in 1841. He was the son of Gerhard Willms (1792-1837)<sup>20</sup>. The family apparently emigrated to Mountain Lake, Minnesota in 1880.<sup>27</sup>

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
2	<b>Katharina Rempel</b> <sup>21</sup>	Mar. 3, 1823	Mar. 8, 1841	May, 1875
m	Gerhard Willms <sup>26</sup>	Nov. 11, 1820		1900
3	Gerhard Willms	Oct. 21, 1842		Mar. 2, 1843
3	Gerhard Willms	Jan. 17, 1844		
3	Anna Willms	Aug. 8, 1845		
3	Katharina Willms	Oct. 28, 1846		Feb. 7, 1847
3	Peter Willms	Jan. 9, 1848		
3	Heinrich Willms	Oct. 17, 1849		
3	Johan Willms	Apr. 28, 1851		
3	Bernhard Willms	Apr. 10, 1853		
3	Kornelius Willms	Feb. 5, 1855		

3	Katharina Willms	Oct. 7, 1856
3	Abraham Willms	Nov. 17, 1858
3	Elisabeth Willms	Apr. 12, 1862
3	Jakob Willms	Mar. 15, 1864
3	Maria Willms	Aug. 6, 1866
3	Margaretha Willms	Sept. 17, 1869

2 **Anna Rempel** married Jakob Wiens in 1854. An extensive listing of their descendants is provided in the "Family Record" of Henry D. Friesen. This family emigrated to the United States in 1877 travelling on the *Vaderland*. The place of settlement was Inman, Kansas. See also section 23.05. Jakob Wiens married for the second time to Anna Gaeddert (b. 1834).

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
2	<b>Anna Rempel</b>	Dec. 30, 1833	Feb. 23, 1854	July 19, 1885
m	Jakob Wiens	May 4, 1832		June 6, 1900
3	Isaac Wiens	Jan. 28, 1855		Jan. 28, 1855
3	Isaac Wiens	Apr. 19, 1856	Jan. 20, 1880	
m	Maria Schmidt	Sept. 9, 1858		
3	Jakob Wiens	Feb. 13, 1858		
m	Elisabeth Epp	Dec. 15, 1859	Mar. 7, 1882	
3	Margaretha Wiens	Oct. 20, 1859		Dec. 21, 1860
3	Abram Wiens	Jan. 16, 1861		
m	Agata Gaede	Sept. 11, 1866		
3	Cornelius Wiens	Jan. 28, 1863		
m	Anna Unruh	Nov. 16, 1866		May 20, 1899
3	Heinrich Wiens	July 29, 1865		Jan. 14, 1866
3	Peter Wiens	July 29, 1865		
m	Agata Entz	Jan. 14, 1866	Mar. 30, 1888	
3	Anna Wiens	Mar. 15, 1870		Feb. 18, 1901
m	Heinrich Schroeder	April 28, 1863		

2 **Cornelius S. Rempel** married Gertruda Regehr in 1861<sup>22</sup>. It is not known where the couple made their home. He died only a few years later in 1865. His widow married for the second time. (See Chapter 21 cf.) It is not known whether the one daughter Margaretha Rempel left any descendants.

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
2	<b>Cornelius S. Rempel</b>	Dec. 12, 1836	Oct. 19, 1861	Oct. 10, 1865
m	Gertrude Regehr	Jan. 22, 1836		
3	Isaac Rempel	Mar. 1, 1862		Apr. 10, 1861(?)
3	Margaretha Rempel	Oct. 16, 1864		

#### FOOTNOTES. CHAPTER EIGHTEEN. PETER REMPEL (1792-1837) GENEALOGY.

- Much of the detail in this biography is taken from the journal of his son-in-law Abraham F. Reimer (1808-1892). Courtesy of Ernest R. Goossen Est, 1986.
- Courtesy H. Fast. See T.G.R.22 This is also confirmed by the Familienbuch of Abr. R. Penner, *op. cit.*, 13 (Courtesy Mrs. Wm. P. Wiebe, Stb.)
- For more information in the Isaac Friesen family see Section 23.08.
- T.G.R. (Toews Genealogy Register) 31.
- Much of the information of the Peter Rempel (1814-1872) family is from the "Seelenliste" by his son Heinrich Rempel. Courtesy of the Dr. Abram P. Toews, Fergeson, Missouri, 1981.
- Peter H. Dueck, et al, **Abram L. and Elizabeth Dueck and their descendants** (Self published, Kleefeld, Manitoba, 1965), 25.
- Heinrich Rempel, *Seelenliste*, *op. cit.*
- Peter H. Dueck, *op. cit.*, 25.
- This paragraph is verbatim from the "Seelenliste" of Heinrich Rempel.
- T.G.R. 118.
- T.G.R. 59.
- See Henry Fast, "Biographies of the Jansen, Nebraska, Pioneers", for additional information.
- Peter H. Dueck, *op. cit.*, 21.
- A. Warkentin, *Reflections on our Heritage* *op. cit.* 45. For a listing of descendants of Heinrich Rempel. see "Rempel Fest July 30, 1972," Unpublished paper, Steinbach, Manitoba 1972. Courtesy Ed Schellenberg.
- This information courtesy of Ed Schellenberg, Steinbach, who has done extensive research on the Peter Rempel, (1814-1872) family.

15. Courtesy of Henry Fast, Steinbach, Manitoba, Dec. 1986. A Christain Schlabach was Schulz of the village of Waldheim, Molotschna in 1846. See H. Hiebert, **Hierschau**, (Springhill Publishers, Winnipeg, 1886), 39.
16. Marie Doerksen, "Familienbuch" unpublished journal. If this proposition is correct it would appear that Gerh. Rempel had three wives.
17. See Henry Fast, "Biographies of the Jansen, Nebraska pioneers," cf.
18. For more information on the family see Marilyn Rempel and Ralph Friesen, "A Short History of Peter F. Rempel, 1875-1967". Unpublished booklet, 1981.
19. John C. Reimer, **Reimer Familienregister op. cit**, 217.
20. It is quite possible that Heinrich Willms (b 1824) the brother of Gerhard Willms (b 1820) was the Heinrich Willms who was married to Anna Warkentin the sister of Mrs. Gerhard Schellenberg nee Elizabeth Warkentin (1819-1905). It is noted that the first wife of Klaas R. Reimer, pioneer merchant in Steinbach, Manitoba was Katharina Willms (1836-1875). She had brothers Johan and Cornelius who remained in Russia (Courtesy H. Fast).
21. See "Family Register of Gerhard Willms" Unpublished booklet, courtesy of Dave Schmid/Art Rempel/Ed Schellenberg, Steinbach, Manitoba.
22. See also section 23.05 for the Sawatzky Family Record.
23. Klaas R. Reimer, "Journal and Letter Book", Courtesy of John C. Reimer/Peter J. Reimer. Translated by Peter U. Dueck, Steinbach, Manitoba.
24. Information listing the children of Gerhard Rempel Sr. is courtesy of Henry Fast, Steinbach, Manitoba. Some of the birth dates of the children are not known and therefore they are not necessarily listed in order of age.
25. Klaas R. Reimer, **op. cit**.
26. The Klaas R. Reimer letter book also contains correspondence to uncle Gerhard Willms, Minnesota. It is not clear whether this Gerhard Willms was the uncle of his first wife or his own uncle Gerhard Willms who had married Katharina Rempel (b. 1823). In a letter of February 20, 1890, he mentions that "his (Gerhard Willms') children Siemens, had come from Russia". On February 21, 1891, Klaas R. Reimer has written Johan Siemens in Minnesota, possibly the son-in-law of Gerhard Willms. In 1891 he also received a letter from Komelius Willms in Minnesota. He also makes reference to Katharina Willms Unrau and Heinrich Unrau, his brother-in-law.
27. A listing of this family by Katie Peters has been deposited at M. B. Archives, Winnipeg, Manitoba. The family immigrated to Mountain Lake, Minnesota in 1880 and from there to Rosthern, Saskatchewan where Gerhard Willms died. Courtesy of Betty Willms, Winnipeg, Manitoba, November 2, 1987.

# Chapter Nineteen.

## Heinrich Reimer (1791-1884) Genealogy

Reimers within the Kleine Gemeinde are generally associated with Klaas Epp Reimer, who founded the movement in 1812. However, there is another important line of Kleine Gemeinde Reimers, namely, the family of Heinrich Reimer (1791-1884).

He is believed to be the son of Durck Reimer, who was from the village of Platenhof, Amt Tiegenhoff, Prussia. This family emigrated from Prussia to the Molotschna Colony in 1804 where they settled in the village of Muntau. The 1808 Revisions-Liste shows the family as follows: "Durch Reimer 26, from Plattenhof, Amt Tiegenhof, farmer Susanna, age 45, children, Aron 19, Heinrich 16, Catarina 14, Durch 13, Sara 8, Anna 5. Property: 1 wagon, ½ plow, 1 harrow, 3 horses, 6 cattle, 80 tschwert grain in unthreshed schocks, 18 loads of hay." Edward Brandt, formerly of Minneapolis, Minnesota, has pointed out that the correct age of Durck Reimer would probably be 46, given the age of his children.<sup>2</sup>

Nothing further is known about any of the Durck Reimer children except his son Heinrich, so that the remainder of this chapter will deal exclusively with his branch of the family. Grandson Heinrich Rempel (1855-1926) has recorded that his grandfather Heinrich Reimer was born on September 29, 1792, in Prussia.<sup>3</sup> Other sources indicate that the year of birth was 1791.

Mrs. Heinrich Reimer was born on September 29, 1795. From his research, Edward Brandt has determined that she was likely the daughter of Abraham Fast (b 1760) of the village of Tiede, Molotschna, who had a daughter Maria of the appropriate age.<sup>4</sup> This family had come from Lakenedorf, Amt Elbing, in Prussia. The wife of this Abraham Fast was Elisabeth Barkman born in 1771.<sup>5</sup>

Heinrich Reimer (1792-1884) and Maria Fast (b 1795) were married on December 25, 1813. Likely, they lived with his or her parents for the first year or so as was the custom at the time. Grandson Heinrich Rempel (1855-1926) has recorded that on April 1, 1815, his grandparents took over the Feuerstelle, which they had bought from Abram Neudorf.<sup>6</sup> This must have been Wirtschaft No. 15 in Muntau as B. H. Unruh shows an Abraham Neudorf family living there in 1808.

Heinrich Reimer farmed in Muntau for the better part of his adult life.<sup>7</sup> The Kleine Gemeinde fellowship in Muntau included the Johan Koop family which had settled in Wirtschaft No. 14 on 1804. It also included Johan Dueck (1801-1866) a son of Klaas Dueck who had emigrated from Prussia in 1818. Johan Dueck was elected as a minister of the Kleine Gemeinde in 1848<sup>8</sup> and served this office until his unexpected death on March 3, 1866.

Heinrich and Maria Reimer were predeceased by four children. They had a particularly painful experience in 1842 when their son Peter died at the age of 12. Grandson Heinrich Rempel (1855-1926) has recorded that Peter had the fever three times. No one was there to witness his death since his parents had driven to Altona that day. By the time they returned home, he had already been placed in his coffin. This was a terrible sorrow for the parents.<sup>9</sup> Son Abraham apparently never married and died at the age of 28 after a long, painful illness.

Heinrich Reimers also took in two orphan foster children, Justina and Elisabeth Wiebe. They were the daughters of Jacob Wiebe (1799-1856) and his wife of Schoenau, who had died of influenza spread after the Crimean War.<sup>9a</sup>

It appears that Maria, the wife of Heinrich Reimer, must have passed away at about this time, as he married the widow of Rev. Johan Dueck, nee Helena Loewen. She was probably the daughter of Jakob Loewen (b 1771), Wirtschaft No. 11, who had a daughter Helena of appropriate age. No further information is available of her family.

The Heinrich Reimer family moved to the village of Blumenhof, Borosenko, in the late 1860's where they resided until they emigrated to Manitoba in 1875. Here they settled in the village of Kleefeld together with four of Mrs. Reimer's sons, two of whom, Abram L. Dueck and Jakob L. Dueck were married to Heinrich Reimer's granddaughters. The couple also had one pair of children together, namely, Margaretha Reimer (1838-1866) and Johan L. Dueck (1833-1894) who lived in Gruenfeld (later Kleefeld), and consequently it was natural that they would decide to settle there as well.

Heinrich Reimer was a dearly loved Ohm (Elder) in the Gemeinde although he never served in any particular office. He was deeply concerned for the welfare and salvation of his children and grandchildren. He also had a love for the writings of the Anabaptist-Mennonite faith and gave copies of these books to his children and grandchildren as gifts for special occasions. This is illustrated by a copy of *Die Wandelnde Seele*, published by the Kleine Gemeinde in 1860, which he gave to his



granddaughter Maria Brandt.

On the title pages of this volume, Heinrich Reimer wrote a personal admonition of love and support for his granddaughter, stating that the book would serve her "as a guide to an inspired study of the holy scripture, the Menno Simons book, as well as the Peter Peters book, the Martyrs Mirror by Tilman Jan von Bracht, and other similar writings". The entire memorial is translated and published in *History and Events*.<sup>10</sup>

A further testimonial to the piety of this gracious Ohm is to be found in the writings of Johan W. Dueck, a grandson of Heinrich Reimer's second wife.<sup>11</sup> Veteran Molotschna school teacher Cornelius F. Friesen (1812-1892) also thought very highly of Heinrich Reimer Senior as he composed a poem especially for his funeral. The full text of this poem is contained in *Storm and Triumph*.<sup>12</sup>

Helena Reimer, nee Loewen, died in 1879 and Heinrich Reimer Senior died in 1884. Their remains are buried in the Old Gruenfeld (Kleefeld) cemetery.

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
1	<b>Durck Reimer</b>	1762		
m	Susanna _____	1763		
2	Aron	1789		
2	Heinrich	1791		
2	Catrina	1794		
2	Durck	1795		
2	Sara	1800		
2	Anna	1803		
2	<b>Heinrich Reimer</b>	May 9, 1792		July 12, 1884
m	Maria Fast	Sept. 29, 1795	Dec. 25, 1813	ca. 1865
3	Maria Reimer	Oct. 26, 1814	Sept. 24, 1838	ca. 1849
3	Elisabeth Reimer	Dec. 11, 1815	May 28, 1836	Aug. 28, 1879
3	Heinrich Reimer	Feb. 8, 1818	Dec. 7, 1839	Feb. 25, 1876
3	Susanna Reimer	Mar. 23, 1820	Mar. 29, 1839	
3	Abraham Reimer	Sept. 30, 1821		May 7, 1850
3	Margaretha Reimer	May 21, 1823		July 14, 1825
3	Katharina Reimer	Sept. 23, 1824	Jan. 24, 1846	
3	Aaron Reimer	Aug. 29, 1826		
3	Margaretha Reimer	July 14, 1828		Sept. 21, 1830
3	Peter Reimer	Sept. 1, 1829		Feb. 18, 1842
3	Margaretha Reimer	Aug. 25, 1831		Jan. 8, 1832
3	Jakob Reimer	Dec. 18, 1833	Sept. 28, 1857	
3	Anna Reimer	Oct. 29, 1835	Nov. 6, 1855	
3	Margaretha Reimer	Dec. 4, 1838	June 18, 1857	
2	<b>Heinrich Reimer</b>	May 9, 1792		July 12, 1884
2m	Helena Loewen	1806	1866	1879

3 **Maria Reimer** (1814-1849) married Klaas Brandt (1813/1817-1857) of Tiege on September 24, 1838. Their Verlobung was held several weeks earlier on September 2.<sup>13</sup> Only little is presently known about the history of the Klaas Brandt family in Russia. He is believed to be the son of Peter Brandt who settled in the village of Blumenort in 1804.<sup>14</sup> In the "Seelenliste" Heinrich Rempel states that Klaas Brandt was from Tiege so that the family must have moved there later.<sup>14</sup>

Klaas Brandt was the brother of Aganetha Brandt the wife of David Klassen, Kleine Gemeinde delegate to America in 1873.<sup>15</sup> Klaas Brandt also had a sister Elisabeth who was married to Abraham W. Friesen later resident in Jansen, Nebraska.<sup>16</sup>

The family moved from village to village within the Molotschna several times as son Peter R. Brandt was reportedly born in Continiusfeld in 1848 and Jakob, the son of Klaas Brandt by his second wife, was born in Tiegenhagen in 1858.<sup>17</sup>

In a letter of 1855, Johan Friesen, the third Aeltester of the Kleine Gemeinde refers to an interesting episode involving Klaas Brandt. This was at the time that the newspaper *Die Mennonitische Blaetter* was founded in Prussia and the Kleine Gemeinde had been asked to support this venture. The Kleine Gemeinde however felt that the spirit and beliefs propounded by this paper were contrary to many of the teachings of the venerable forefathers so they declined. In the letter, Ohm Friesen mentions that he had requested K. B. to notify the paper of this decision. He also noted that "Brandt"

had brought back the reply that the publishers were unwilling to accept this decision.<sup>18</sup> This would indicate that Brandt was a close supporter of Aeltester Friesen who was in fact married for a time to the daughter of his sister Aganetha.

The Klaas Brandt sons were known to be small of stature. Heinrich, the oldest, worked for many years building wagons in association with Klaas R. Reimer, later pioneer merchant in Steinbach, Manitoba. Brandt was an experienced woodworker and wagon builder and Klaas Reimer provided the iron work. Both men were married to Warkentin sisters. Heinrich R. Brandt's second wife was a cousin to the first. He also settled in Steinbach, Manitoba in 1874.<sup>19</sup>

Son Klaas R. Brandt married the widow of Isaac Harms, whose son Isaac and daughter Anna, they raised.<sup>20</sup> She was born Margaretha Friesen and had a brother Abr. Friesen living in Nikopol in 1892.<sup>21</sup> Son Peter R. Brandt married Katharina Thiessen the daughter of Johan Thiessen (1813-1888) at that time also living in Continiusfeld.<sup>22</sup> This family initially settled in Blumenort, Manitoba in 1874, from where they moved to Rosenort and from there to Jansen, Nebraska.<sup>23</sup>

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
3	<b>Maria Reimer</b>	Oct. 26, 1814	Sept. 24, 1838	ca. 1849
m	Klaas Brandt	ca. 1813-1817		1857
4	<b>Heinrich Brandt</b>	Feb. 2, 1838		Sept. 15, 1909
m	Anna Warkentin	1836	Oct. 1858	May 1873
2m	Katharina Warkentin	1851	June 1873	Aug. 4, 1889
3m	Justina F. Unger <sup>24</sup>	June 30, 1864	Oct. 27, 1889	May 11, 1935
4	<b>Maria Brandt</b>	Sept. 22, 1843	Nov. 1863	June 27, 1927
m	Isaac L. Plett <sup>25</sup>	Mar. 15, 1844		July, 1871
4	<b>Klaas Brandt</b>	May 12, 1845	1867	Feb. 23, 1901
m	Margaretha Friesen	Oct. 30, 1838	1867	Apr. 31, 1933
4	<b>Peter R. Brandt</b>	June 11, 1848	Jan. 22, 1867	June 29, 1930
m	Katharine Thiessen	Dec. 21, 1846		Dec. 3, 1916

3 **Elisabeth Reimer** (1815-1879) married Peter Rempel (1814-1872). A history of this family is set out in the Peter Rempel Genealogy Chapter 18.

3 **Heinrich Reimer** (1818-1876) married for the first time<sup>26</sup> on December 7, 1839, to Margaretha Enns of Tiegerwiede. Their Verlobung took place on November 23, 1839.<sup>27</sup> Two children were born to the couple but both died. Margaretha died on November 28, 1842 three days after the birth of her youngest child.

Heinrich Reimer (1818-1876) married for the second time to Helena F. Friesen (1823-1859) on July 3, 1843. She was the youngest sister of Johan F. Friesen, the third Aeltester of the Kleine Gemeinde. On July 9, 1860, Heinrich Reimer, married for the third time to Margaretha L. Warkentin (1841-1914), the daughter of Johan Warkentin of Blumstein.

Little is known about where the Heinrich Reimer family lived after their marriage. Presumably, as the oldest son, he would have farmed together with his father in Muntau for a time and then moved on to his own Wirtschaft after a while. The Heinrich Reimer (1818-1876) family was always quite well-to-do.

By the early 1870's, the Heinrich Reimers had moved to the village of Blumenhof in Borosenko where he owned a Wirtschaft. It was here in 1873 that he was chosen, together with his wife's uncle Cornelius S. Plett to accompany Aeltester Peter Toews to a meeting with Governor-General Toteben in Chortitz, regarding the emigration passes for the Kleine Gemeinde. The family emigrated in 1875 and settled in Blumenhoff, Manitoba, together with his wife's family, the Warkentins.

Heinrich Reimer (1818-1876) took sick on January 17, 1876 and on February 25, 1876 he died. His widow married for the second time to Johan L. Plett (1855-1900) also of Blumenhof, Manitoba. Further information about this family and their children will be found in the Blumenort history book by Roy Loewen.

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
3	<b>Heinrich Reimer</b> <sup>28</sup>	Feb. 8, 1818		Feb. 25, 1876
m	Margaretha Enns		Dec. 7, 1839	Nov. 28, 1842
4	<b>Heinrich Reimer</b>	Oct. 3, 1840		Oct. 12, 1840
4	<b>Peter Reimer</b>	Nov. 25, 1842		Dec. 13, 1842

3	<b>Heinrich Reimer</b>	Feb. 8, 1818		Feb. 25, 1876
2m	Helena Friesen <sup>29</sup>	1823		Sept. 27, 1859
4	Maria Reimer	Jan. 19, 1844		Apr. 7, 1844
4	Heinrich Reimer	Sept. 2, 1845		Mar. 1900
m	Katharina Sawatsky	Oct. 6, 1846	Feb. 10, 1865	ca. 1887
2m	Susanna Ratzlaf <sup>29a</sup>	1846	1888	1905
4	Maria Reimer	Aug. 3, 1847	Oct. 14, 1866	Aug. 10, 1916
m	Abraham R. Reimer	Sept. 3, 1841		May 25, 1891
4	Helena Reimer	Nov. 25, 1849		Nov. 25, 1849
4	Helena Reimer	Oct. 24, 1850		Oct. 1851
4	Helena Reimer	Apr. 9, 1853		Apr. 17, 1853
4	Abraham Reimer	Sept. 27, 1859		Sept. 28, 1859
3	<b>Heinrich Reimer</b>	Feb. 8, 1818		Feb. 25, 1876
3m	Margaretha Warkentin <sup>30</sup>	Sept. 8, 1841	July 9, 1860	Apr. 11, 1913
4	John W. Reimer	Oct. 7, 1861		Nov. 29, 1952
m	Elizabeth Toews	Jan. 12, 1861	Jan. 1881	Nov. 12, 1922
2m	Justina Penner	June 6, 1875	July 22, 1923	Aug. 25, 1943
4	Anna Reimer	Aug. 7, 1862		Jan. 1868
4	Isaac Reimer	Aug. 2, 1864		
m	Anna Penner	May 31, 1865	1884	Mar. 10, 1938
4	Aaron Reimer	Nov. 2, 1865	Apr. 6, 1884	Aug. 8, 1944
m	Susanna S. Friesen	June 14, 1863		Jan. 12, 1946
4	Jacob Reimer	Jan. 10, 1867		July 6, 1870
4	Anna Reimer <sup>31</sup>	Aug. 29, 1871	Feb. 14, 1894	July 5, 1924
m	Jacob T. Wiebe	Oct. 25, 1872		
4	Jacob W. Reimer <sup>32</sup>	Oct. 28, 1873		May 6, 1956
m	Susanna Loewen	Sept. 4, 1874		Mar. 16, 1941
4	Peter Reimer	Sept. 14, 1875	June, 1899	Sept. 22, 1926
m	Aganetha De Veer			March 15, 1900
2m	Margaretha Penner	Apr. 29, 1882		
4	Abraham Reimer	Sept. 14, 1875		Jan. 6, 1959
m	Aganetha Penner	Aug. 25, 1885	Nov. 6, 1899	Sept. 6, 1960

3 Daughter **Susanna Reimer** (b. 1820) married Isaac Friesen of Altona,<sup>33</sup> Molotschna on Easter Friday, March 29, 1839. Their Verlobung was held on March 11, 1839. Isaac Friesen was the stepson of Klaas Friesen (1797-1873) of Altona, and later of Rosenort, Molotschna by his first wife Margaretha Mathies. She was the widow of Johan Friesen (1773-1816) of Altona.<sup>33a</sup>

The Isaac Friesens lived in Waldheim, Molotschna. He must be the Isaac Friesen shown as resident in Waldheim in the Kleine Gemeinde ministerial meeting of 1861.

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
3	<b>Susanna Reimer</b>	Mar. 23, 1820	Mar. 29, 1839	
m	Isaac Friesen <sup>33b</sup>			
4	Isaac Friesen			
m	_____ Enns			
4	Heinrich Friesen			
m	_____ Sperling			
4	Katharina Friesen			
m	Benjamin Wedel			
4	Susanna Friesen	Jan. 20, 1856		
m	Isaac Neufeld			

3 Daughter **Katharina Reimer** (b. 1824) married Heinrich Balzer of Hierschau. The couple announced their marriage bans on January 11, 1846 and on the 24th of January they were married. This couple settled in Mountain Lake, Minnesota, in the 1870's and were still alive at the time of Heinrich Reimer Senior's death in 1884.<sup>33c</sup>

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
3 m	<b>Katharina Reimer</b> Heinrich Balzer	Sept. 23, 1824	Jan. 24, 1846	

3 Son **Aaron Reimer** (b. 1826) married Maria Janzen from Ladekopf. They announced their marriage bans on January 22, 1855 and were married on February 28, 1855. This couple settled in Mountain Lake, Minnesota in the 1870's. Aaron Reimer was still alive at the time of the distribution of his father's estate in the late 1880's.

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
2 m	<b>Aaron Reimer</b> Maria Janzen	Aug. 29, 1826	Jan. 24, 1846	

3 Son **Jakob Reimer** (b. 1833) married Agatha Loepp, the daughter of Kornelius Loepp of Muntau. On September 7, 1857, they announced their marriage bans and on September 28, 1857 they were married. In a letter of February 10, 1892 Mrs. Klaas R. Brandt of Rosenort, Manitoba refers to Uncle Jakob Reimer in Muntau.<sup>34</sup> Accordingly, it would appear that he took over the paternal Wirtschaft from his father. No further information is available.

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
3 m	<b>Jakob Reimer</b> Agatha Loepp	Dec. 18, 1833	Sept. 28, 1857	

3 **Anna Reimer** (1835-1901) married David Loewen (1836-1915) who was the youngest child of the venerable grandfather Isaac Loewen (1787-1873) of Lindenau.<sup>35</sup> The David Loewen family resided in Lindenau for many years, having apparently taken over his father's Wirtschaft. David Loewen is mentioned in the Kleine Gemeinde ministerial election lists as being from Lindenau in 1861.

By the early 1870's the family had moved to the village of Hochfeld in the Borosenko area. Hochfeld was a small settlement, or Chutor, organized by Johan Warkentin (1817-1886) who was quite active in the movement to settle the district in the 1860's.

In 1874 David Loewen and his nephew Cornelius L. Plett were appointed as Vorsaeuger (or songleaders) as most of the others had emigrated in that year.<sup>36</sup> In the following year the David Loewen family also left Russia settling in the village of Hochstadt near Gruenfeld (presently Kleefeld), Manitoba.

He was always a well-to-do farmer. Anna Loewen died in 1901 during a trip to Texas to visit their children living there. In 1902, David Loewen enjoyed a trip back to Russia to visit his family and friends.<sup>37</sup> He died in 1915 at the home of his children John Nikkels near Hillsboro. The family had joined with Bishop John Holdeman in 1882. Many of their children moved to the new settlement at Swallowell, Alberta, which was initiated by this denomination in 1904.<sup>38</sup>

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
3 m	<b>Anna Reimer</b> David Loewen	Nov. 7, 1835 May 7, 1836	Nov. 10, 1855	Aug. 11, 1901 June 7, 1915
4 m	<b>Margaretha Loewen</b> Jacob B. Toews	Aug. 19, 1856 Mar. 5, 1855	Jan. 25, 1876	Feb. 14, 1948 May 7, 1938
4	_____ Loewen			in infancy
4 m	<b>Henry Loewen</b> Katherina Goosen	Apr. 16, 1859 Nov. 9, 1864	June 24, 1883	May 13, 1946 Mar. 17, 1943
4 m	<b>Isaac Loewen</b> Elizabeth Friesen	Dec. 23, 1860	June 11, 1882	Apr. 20, 1953 Dec. 23, 1934
4 m	<b>David Loewen</b> Maria Regier	Oct. 7, 1862 May 1, 1863	Mar. 30, 1884	Nov. 13, 1945 May 23, 1942
4	_____ Loewen			in infancy
4	_____ Loewen			in infancy
4 m	<b>Jacob Loewen</b> Mary Isaac	Apr. 30, 1871 1880		May 17, 1899
2m	<b>Salome Hunsberger</b>	June 7, 1870		1909
3m	<b>Sarah Friesen</b>	June 25, 1880		
4 m	<b>Helena Loewen</b> John D. Nikkel	Nov. 30, 1873 Apr. 28, 1852	May 22, 1899	May 20, 1938 July 26, 1936
4	<b>Susanna</b>	June 18, 1876		

3 **Margaretha Reimer** (1838-1866) married widower Johan L. Dueck (1833-1894) living in Alexanderkron at the time. They announced their marriage bans on June 8, 1857, and on June 18, 1857 they were married. Johan L. Dueck was the son of Kleine Gemeinde minister Johan Dueck (1801-1866) of Muntau.

The family continued to reside in Alexanderkron, Molotschna, until 1875 when they moved to Kleefeld, Manitoba. Johan L. Dueck was elected as deacon of the Molotschna congregation of the Kleine Gemeinde in 1870.<sup>40</sup> Margaretha Reimer had already died in about 1865. John L. Dueck married for the third time to Anna Thielman and for the fourth time to the widow Cornelius Toews, nee Cornelia Boschman.<sup>41</sup>

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
3	<b>Margaretha Reimer</b>	Dec. 4, 1838	June 7, 1857	ca. 1866
m	Johan L. Dueck	Jan. 15, 1833		Mar. 29, 1894
4	Helena Dueck	May 12, 1858		Nov. 7, 1858
4	Helena Dueck	Aug. 20, 1859		Nov. 10, 1873
4	Margaretha Dueck	May 11, 1861		Mar. 3, 1866
4	Maria Dueck	May 20, 1863	Nov. 4, 1883	Jan. 19, 1940
m	Frank K. Goossen <sup>42</sup>	Oct. 26, 1862		Apr. 28, 1928
4	Elisabeth Dueck	Jan. 21, 1865		July 9, 1899
m	Johan T. Regehr	Jan. 1, 1863	Jan. 1, 1883	June 4, 1886
2m	Johan B. Toews <sup>43</sup>	Mar. 30, 1865	Apr. 17, 1887	July 8, 1967

#### FOOTNOTES. CHAPTER NINETEEN. HEINRICH REIMER (1791-1884) GENEALOGY.

1. B. H. Unruh, *op. cit.*, 307.
2. Letter to the author in 1981.  
See also Aeltester David P. Reimer et. al., **Brandt Reunion and Family Tree**, 1962, Self-published, Blumenort, Manitoba, page 11, where it is stated that Heinrich Reimer, the father of Maria Reimer, who married Klaas Brandt was born in 1771. However, Mr. Edward Brandt also believes that this is an error and that the correct date is 1792. [It should also be noted that the name of Mrs. Klaas Brandt has apparently been incorrectly recorded as a death certificate (courtesy of the R. M. of Hanover for Heinrich R. Brandt 1838-1909) shows that the name of his mother was Maria Reimer]. According to the Quebec Passenger lists Heinrich Reimer and his wife Helena arrived in Quebec on the S. S. Prussian, on June 18, 1875, and were ages 83 and 69 respectively. See the **Plett Picture Book**, *op. cit.*, pages 20-21 for an account of their journey from Nikopol, South Russia, to Manitoba. See also David L. Plett, **Sterbe Register Seitdem wir aus Russland hier in America sind angekommen** (courtesy of Mrs. Cornelius K. Plett), where it is recorded that Heinrich Reimer Sr., of Gruenfeld, died on July 12, 1884 at 93 years of age.
3. Heinrich Rempel, "Seelenliste", *op. cit.*, 1
4. Letter to the author in 1981.
5. B. H. Unruh, *op. cit.*, 325 and 349.
6. Heinrich Rempel, *op. cit.*
7. All references connect Heinrich Reimer with the village of Muntau. e.g. **History and Events**, *op. cit.*, 87; Peter H. Dueck, *op. cit.*, 25.
8. **The Golden Years**, *op. cit.*, 315.
9. See Heinrich Rempel, "Seelenliste", *op. cit.*
- 9a. **History and Events**, *op. cit.*, 89.
10. **History and Events**, *op. cit.*, 128-130.
11. *Ibid.*, 87-88.
12. **Storm and Triumph**, *op. cit.* 55-56.
13. Heinrich Rempel, *op. cit.*
14. Courtesy of Ed Brandt, formerly of Minniapolis, U.S.A.
15. Interview with Jacob W. Friesen, Kleefeld, Manitoba, 1980. However, Abram W. Klassen states that his mother Aganetha Brandt was born in Neukirch.
16. B. H. Unruh, *op. cit.*, 335.
17. David P. Reimer, **Brandt Reunion**, *op. cit.*, 63 and 78.
18. **Storm and Triumph**, *op. cit.*, 147.
19. David P. Reimer, *op. cit.*, 14-15.
20. *Ibid.*, 51.
21. Rundschau, Feb. 10, 1892 (courtesy of Henry Fast).
22. David P. Reimer, *op. cit.*, 62.
23. Jacob Brandt (1858-1924) son of the second marriage, came to America as the foster son of his uncle Jacob Fast, who settled in Jansen, Nebraska in 1875. (See David P. Reimer, *op. cit.*, 77-78).
24. She was the daughter of Peter H. Unger, Toews Genealogy Register No. 19.
25. The death of Isaac L. Plett is described by Johan Dueck in **History and Events**, *op. cit.*, 97. See also letter written by

- Isaac L. Plett, *Storm and Triumph*, *op. cit.*, 221-223. The widow Isaac L. Plett was quite well-to-do.
26. H. Rempel, *op. cit.*
  27. In the *Seelenliste*, Heinrich Rempel lists the name of the first wife of his uncle Heinrich Reimer (1818-1876) as Margaretha Fast. However, in a three page *Family Register* (courtesy of Mr. Dick B. Eidse, Rosenort, Manitoba and the Mennonite Heritage Centre, Winnipeg, Manitoba) apparently written by Heinrich Reimer (1818-1876) and continued by his third wife, the surname of first wife is given as Enns and the date of first marriage is November 7, 1839. Accordingly, Maria Fast must have been the second wife. Heinrich Rempel states that Maria Fast was from Tiegerweide.
  28. Toews Genealogy Register No. 63.
  29. See Section 23.04 for further references on Helena F. Friesen and her two children who married and had families.
  - 29a. See Peter P. Isaac, *op. cit.*, 39. Heinrich Reimer (1845-1901) had two children, Katherina married David Unger and Maria married Peter Isaac. (Courtesy of Maria Doerksen, Blumenort, Manitoba).
  30. Toews Genealogy Register No. 1.
  31. Additional information can be found in two booklets published by the family in 1965 and 1976 respectively.
  32. Additional information can be found in two family booklets published in 1975 and 1984 respectively.
  33. The information as to the birth, Verlobung, and marriage dates of the Heinrich Reimer (1791-1884) children comes from the *Seelenliste* of Heinrich Rempel.
  - 33a. See family records of Cornelius P. Janzen, *op. cit.*
  - 33b. For information of the descendants see Abram P. Friesen, *Friesen-Von Reisen Genealogy*, *op. cit.*
  - 33c. Information regarding the estate of Heinrich Reimer is courtesy H. Fast.
  34. Courtesy of Henry Fast, Steinbach, Manitoba (December 1986).
  35. Toews Genealogy Register No. 4.
  36. Plett Picture Book, *op. cit.* 11 and 53.
  37. This trip is mentioned by P. Toews in a poem which he wrote in honour of the Isaac Loewen family of Lindenau, Molotschna in 1905.
  38. Additional information on this family will be found in the forthcoming book on Kleefeld and area by Henry Fast. See also the history book of the Sunnydale Rural Municipality of Alberta, which contains information on the Swalwell Settlement and of the early pioneers there.
  39. He was married for the first time to Agatha Dueck (born in Blumstein on June 6, 1836 and died on November 27, 1856.) It appears that her parents were Peter Dueck (1801-1842) and Annie Harms (1808-1874). Her mother later married for the second time to Heinrich Ratzloff (See Toews Register No. 80). She appears to be a sister to Peter H. Dueck, Rosenort, Manitoba. Toews Genealogy Register No. 95.
  40. One of his letters is published in *Storm and Triumph*, *op. cit.*, 52-53.
  41. Toews Genealogy Register 117. See also Cornelius Toews Genealogy *op. cit.*
  42. Son of Gerhard P. Goosen, Toews Genealogy Register 50
  43. See Johan B. Toews, *Memoirs*, *op. cit.* 6-7.
  44. Klaas Brandt (1813/17-1857) also had a brother Peter Brandt (1810-1897) of Ruckenu, Molotschna. Two of his daughters have been identified, namely, Aganetha married to Julius Wiens; and Elizabeth married to Cornelius Wiebe born in Tiegerweide.



# Chapter Twenty.

## Cornelius Enns Genealogy

According to B. H. Unruh<sup>1</sup> the Cornelius Enns family originated from Lakendorf, Amt Elbing, in Prussia. The Konsignation of 1776 identifies a Cornelius Enns living in Lakendorf at the time and the family is described as follows "Corn Ens. Lakendorf, Labourer-employee. 1 male, 1 female, 3 sons and 1 daughter, poor".

Although the village was located only some 10 miles from Tiegenhagen where the Heinrich Reimers and Abraham von Riesens attended church, the Lakendorf families belonged to the Elbing congregation which was also Flemish.<sup>2</sup>

In 1803 the Cornelius Enns family emigrated to Russia where they settled in the village of Fischau in the Molotschna. By the time of the Revisions-Liste of 1808 the father Cornelius Enns, Senior, has died and his Wirtschaft No. 13 has been taken over by his son, Cornelius Enns Jr.

The family settled in the village of Fischau on June 20, 1804 and is listed as follows in the Revisions Liste of 1808: "Cornelius Enns, 26, from Lakendorf, Amt Elbing, weaver, wife Maria 25, son Heinrich 1, brother Johan 15, mother Catarina, brother-in-law Jakob Krause, wife Catrina 21. Property, 1 wagon, ½ plow, 1 harrow, 5 horses, 10 cattle, 45 tschwert unthreshed grain, 18 loads of hay. Nothing further is presently known about any of the brothers and sisters of Cornelius Enns Junior.

According to the Revision-Liste the family of Cornelius Enns (1782-1834) was moderately well-to-do after having lived in Russia for several years. It seems likely that the Cornelius Ennses were charter members of the Kleine Gemeinde when it was founded in 1814 as all their children except Catrina are known to have been supporters of this movement. Most of the genealogical information for the descendants of Cornelius Enns comes from the extensive family records of Johan P. Friesen who married granddaughter, Marie E. Eidse.<sup>3</sup>

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
1	<b>Cornelius Enns</b>	1743		ca. 1806
m	Catrina Friesen	1761		
2	Susanna	1781		
2	Cornelius	1783		Mar. 16, 1834
2	Catrina	1788		
2	Johann	1794		
2	<b>Cornelius Enns</b>	June 1, 1782	1805	Mar. 16, 1834
m	Maria Wiebe	Jan. 5, 1784	1805	1845
3	Heinrich	July 19, 1807	1831	May 9, 1881
3	Catrina	August 17, 1810		
3	Maria	Sept. 3, 1813		Nov. 14, 1817
3	Anna	Mar. 23, 1817	1836	Dec. 24, 1864
3	Cornelius	Jan. 27, 1820		Mar. 23, 1820
3	Maria	May 18, 1821	1842	Mar. 29, 1871
3	Susanna	July 1, 1824		Apr. 28, 1857
3	Justina	Aug. 16, 1828		Apr. 9, 1895

3 **Heinrich Enns** (1807-1881) married three times. The background of his first wife is presently unknown. His second wife was the daughter of Cornelius Toews (1802-1831). (See Chapter 17 cf.) Heinrich Enns married for the third time to Wilhelmina Plett, the widow of Gerhard Goosen (1811-1854) and a sister to Cornelius S. Plett (1820-1900).

Heinrich Enns (1807-1881) eventually took over his father's Wirtschaft in Fischau. He was an earnest Christian who tried to use his multiple talents for the work of Christ's kingdom. Enns was elected as a deacon of the Kleine Gemeinde in 1849 and as a minister in 1851. He quickly became a leading minister responsible for some of the official correspondence of the Gemeinde.<sup>4</sup>

In 1866 he led a movement which was dissatisfied with the spiritual malaise in the Kleine Gemeinde under the leadership of Aeltester Johan Friesen, his one-time son-in-law. At this point the Kleine Gemeinde divided into two branches and Enns was elected as Aeltester of the reform group thereby becoming the fourth individual to hold this position in the Kleine Gemeinde. He resigned from his office in 1868 amid considerable controversy.

Enns was a strong advocate of the writings of the faith and is credited for having spearheaded



the Kleine Gemeinde publication program of the 1860's. In 1875 he emigrated from Fischau, Russia, and settled in Rosenort, Manitoba where he passed away in 1881. According to his correspondence he may have lived in the village of Gnadenu, Kansas in 1877.<sup>5</sup>

Daughter Maria Enns was married to Johan Friesen the third Aeltester of the Kleine Gemeinde. The marriage lasted only thirty weeks when Maria died leaving no issue. Daughter Anna Enns married Gerhard Warkentin but also died leaving no issue. Daughter Sara T. Enns married Cornelius L. Plett who settled in Blumenhof, Manitoba, and was elected a Kleine Gemeinde minister in 1891. Heinrich Enns (1801-1881) settled in Rosenort, Manitoba together with his three sons, Johan, Jakob and Heinrich, where he died in 1881.

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
3	<b>Heinrich Enns</b>	July 19, 1807		May 9, 1881
m	Margaretha Friesen	Oct. 16, 1811	Oct. 28, 1831	Sept. 18, 1847
4	Cornelius Enns	Feb. 7, 1832		Jan. 29, 1879
4	Maria Enns	Jan. 11, 1837	1855	1855
m	Johan Friesen	June 28, 1808		May 31, 1872
4	Justina Enns	Mar. 23, 1842		Mar. 23, 1842
4	Heinrich Enns	July 27, 1840		Dec. 1, 1845
4	Heinrich Enns	Sept. 13, 1846		Feb. 6, 1847
3	<b>Heinrich Enns</b>	July 19, 1807		May 9, 1881
2m	Sara Toews	June 10, 1829	May 27, 1848	Jan. 7, 1855
4	Sara T. Enns	June 6, 1849		Nov. 9, 1872
m	Cornelius L. Plett <sup>6</sup>	Oct. 17, 1846	Sept. 21, 1869	Jan. 3, 1935
4	Johan T. Enns <sup>7</sup>	Nov. 3, 1850		Sept. 4, 1917
m	Maria Hiebert	Dec. 25, 1850		Aug. 15, 1900
4	Anna T. Enns	Apr. 28, 1852		Mar., 1874
m	Gerhard Warkentin <sup>8</sup>	Dec., 1848		July 31, 1900
3	<b>Heinrich Enns</b>	July 19, 1808		May 9, 1881
3m	Wilhemmine Plett	Apr. 13, 1815	Apr. 13, 1855	June 25, 1864
4	Jakob <sup>9</sup>	July 19, 1856	Dec. 9, 1876	June 11, 1917(?)
m	Catrina Rempel	Sept. 24, 1854	Dec. 9, 1876	July 31, 1904
4	Heinrich <sup>10</sup>	Oct. 17, 1858		May 14, 1935(?)
m	Maria Thiessen	Dec. 10, 1862		June 10, 1933

4 **Cornelius Enns** (1832-1879) seems to have left the Kleine Gemeinde and therefore the information on this family is limited. It is known that Cornelius Enns moved to the Crimea in the early 1860's.<sup>11</sup> Here he became one of the founding members of the Krimmer Mennonite Brethren Church. In fact he was the individual chosen to rebaptize Bishop Jacob A. Wiebe who then in turn baptized the others.<sup>13</sup>

John P. Friesen, the most authoritative source lists Cornelius Enns as being married to Agatha Klassen, with daughter Agatha, married to Peter Janzen, and Helena (born Sept. 1, 1862-died Sept. 17, 1913) married to Jakob Prieb. Both of these daughters are listed in the K.M.B. church record of 1889.<sup>12</sup>

What is puzzling, however, is that the wife of Cornelius Enns is listed under Family No. 76 as Katharina Enns. The same name is listed by Elder Jakob A. Wiebe when he refers to the first families to be baptized in the K.M.B.<sup>13</sup> The church record also shows that Katharina Enns was baptized in the K.M.B. in 1869. The solution may be that Cornelius Enns (1832-1879) remarried for the second time to Katharine Klassen, after his first wife had died. Cornelius Enns is listed as resident in Gnadenu, Kansas by the 1875 Census.<sup>14</sup> The Peter Janzen family moved to Oklahoma in 1903.<sup>14a</sup>

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
4	<b>Cornelius Enns</b>	Feb. 7, 1832		Jan. 23, 1879
m	Agatha Klassen	18__		18__
5	Agatha	Feb. 22, 1855		
m	Peter Janzen	Sept. 8, 1850		
5	Helena	Sept. 1, 1862		Sept. 17, 1913
m	Jakob Prieb	Feb. 23, 1860		

4 **Cornelius Enns** Feb. 7, 1832 Jan. 23, 1879  
 2m **Katharina Klassen** Mar. 28, 1819 Mar, 1899

3 **Catrina Enns** (1810-) married Abram Isaac and died in Russia. Gerhard D. Doerksen reports in his Familienbuch that her husband was also known as Schulz Isaac meaning that he must have served for some time as Schulz of one of the Molotschna villages.<sup>15</sup> Nothing further is presently known about this family.

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
3	<b>Catrina Enns</b>	Aug. 18, 1810	18__	18__
m	Abram Isaac			
4	<b>Maria</b>			18__
m	David Penner			
5	David			
5	Maria			
5	Catrina			

3 **Anna Enns** (1817-1864) married Abraham Eidse also of Fischau. Eidse emigrated in 1875 and settled in Rosenhoff, near Morris, Manitoba, together with his children. Abraham Eidse was known as a quiet peaceful man. In his later years, his son Heinrich moved to a new settlement near Albine, Texas, taking his father along where Abraham Eidse Sr., died.<sup>16</sup>

Son Cornelius Eidse joined the Church of God in Christ, Mennonite and moved to Kansas.<sup>16a</sup> Daughter Justina and her husband Gerhard Warkentin moved to Nebraska during the 1890's.<sup>17</sup> Daughter Anna and her husband Abraham F. Reimer lived in Jansen, Nebraska. Daughter Helena and her second husband, Peter Wohlgemuth lived in Gnadenu, Kansas. The remaining children settled in Rosenhof/Rosenort, Manitoba.

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
3	<b>Anna Enns</b>	Apr. 4, 1817	Oct. 27, 1836	Dec. 24, 1864
m	Abraham Eidse	Aug. 26, 1811		Apr. 24, 1893
4	<b>Cornelius Eidse</b> <sup>17a</sup>	Aug. 18, 1840		Oct. 30, 1914
m	Catharina Klassen	June 14, 1843	Nov. 13, 1862	Dec. 24, 1873
2m	Helena Loewen	Feb. 24, 1855	Aug. 18, 1868	Oct. 28, 1886
3m	Susann Koehn	June 12, 1846	Aug. 7, 1898	Nov. 25, 1909
4	Anna Eidse	Sept. 16, 1843		Apr. 17, 1922
m	Abraham F. Reimer	May 26, 1834	Nov. 2, 1862	July 11, 1905
4	Helena Eidse	Jan. 19, 1846		Mar, 6, 1918
m	Peter Friesen <sup>18</sup>			
5	Abraham	Dec. 1865		Mar, 3, 1867
5	Maria	Sept. 1867		
m	Johan Unruh			
4	Helena Eidse	Jan. 29, 1846		Mar. 6, 1918
2m	Peter Wohlgemuth <sup>19</sup>	Jan. 17, 1844		May 23, 1918
4	Maria Eidse <sup>20</sup>	Sept. 15, 1848	Dec. 2, 1868	Mar. 4, 1934
m	Johan P. Friesen <sup>21</sup>	Oct. 20, 1847	Dec. 2, 1868	Dec. 18, 1920
4	Justina Eidse	July 9, 1851	Feb. 21, 1876	
m	Gerhard Warkentin <sup>21a</sup>	Dec. 1848		July 31, 1900
5	Justina	June 21, 1878		May 21, 1881
5	Anna	Feb. 16, 1880		
m	Jakob Rempel			
5	Abraham	Mar. 13, 1881		Aug. 2, 1881
5	Gerhard	Apr. 2, 1882		ca. 1976
5	Justina	Nov. 3, 1883		188__
5	Maria	Jan. 18, 1885		Apr. 26, 1915
5	Catrina	Apr. 1886		Apr. 26, 1915
5	Abraham	Sept. 1887		June 1888
5	Helena	Feb. 1888		June 1888
5	Cornelius	Jan. 1891		Jan. 1891
5	Abraham	Jan. 16, 1889		1980

5	Peter	June 1892		
5	Peter	Nov. 14, 1895		died immediately
4	Heinrich Eidse	Feb. 18, 1853		Feb. 19, 1853
4	Abraham Eidse	May 23, 1854		May 29, 1854
4	Abraham Eidse	Oct. 13, 1855		Oct. 23, 1855
4	Abraham Eidse <sup>22</sup>	Apr. 10, 1857	Dec. 18, 1875	July 16, 1930
m	Helena Klassen	Dec. 18, 1860	Dec. 18, 1875	Nov. 5, 1938
4	Heinrich Eidse <sup>22a</sup>	Oct. 3, 1859		
m	Susan Niessen			
2m	Helena Niessen			

3 **Maria Enns** (1821-1871) married Gerhard S. Kornelson who was a teacher by profession. The family resided in the Lichtenau where he served as the village teacher for many years. In 1875 Gerhard S. Kornelsen settled in the hamlet of Lichtenau near Steinbach, Manitoba. He prepared the regulations for the Kleine Gemeinde school system and also served as the second Brandaeltester.<sup>23</sup> Gerhard S. Kornelsen married for the second time to a widow Peter Harms (nee Cornelia Warkentin) on October 15, 1872.

Son Gerhard E. Kornelsen continued the family profession of teaching as did son-in-law Abraham R. Friesen. Son Heinrich E. Kornelsen was a large powerful man who farmed in Lichtenau, Manitoba. Son-in-law Jacob Enns was a successful farmer in Jansen, Nebraska.

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
3	<b>Maria Enns</b>	May 18, 1821		Mar. 29, 1871
m	Gerhard S. Kornelson <sup>24</sup>	Feb. 28, 1816		Aug. 14, 1894
4	Maria Kornelsen	Apr. 4, 1844		Oct. 12, 1913
m	Jacob Enns	1843		June 11, 1917
4	Agatha Kornelsen	Apr. 2, 1846		Mar. 3, 1897
m	Abraham R. Friesen <sup>25</sup>	Feb. 16, 1846	May 1861	Sept. 16, 1884
2m	Johan W. Thiessen <sup>26</sup>	1813		1888
3m	Peter Dalke			
4	Anna Kornelsen	Mar. 9, 1849		Sept. 21, 1851
4	Anna Kornelsen	Oct. 20, 1851	1871	Feb. 4, 1885
m	Gerhard Giesbrecht <sup>27</sup>	Aug. 6, 1846	1871	Nov. 17, 1907
4	Susanna Kornelsen	June 26, 1854		Nov. 31, 1856
4	Gerhard E. Kornelsen <sup>28</sup>	May 16, 1857	Jan. 13, 1878	Feb. 2, 1933
m	Elisabeth Giesbrecht	Apr. 29, 1855	Jan. 13, 1878	Jan. 2, 1910
4	Heinrich E. Kornelsen <sup>29</sup>	Apr. 28, 1860		
m	Corneli Niessen	1865	Mar. 14, 1886	May 26, 1887
2m	Elisabeth Broski <sup>30</sup>	Oct. 11, 1866	1888	
4	Abraham Kornelsen	May 12, 1863		Oct. 8, 1866

3 **Susanna Enns** (1824-1857) was the first wife of Peter Loewen (1825-1887) the son of Kleine Gemeinde deacon Isaac Loewen of Lindenau. At the time of the emigration Peter Loewen was an auctioneer for the many disposal sales which took place. He settled in Hochstadt near Kleeefeld on the East Reserve in Manitoba.<sup>31</sup> Son Isaac E. Loewen was buried in Alexanderfeld cemetery near Hillsboro, Kansas.<sup>32</sup> Son-in-law Abram Isaac was a minister of the Church of God in Christ, Mennonite.<sup>33</sup> Son-in-law Peter L. Dueck was a teacher who settled in Kleeefeld, Manitoba.

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
3	<b>Susanna Enns</b>	July 1, 1824	May 16, 1846	Apr. 28, 1857
m	Peter Loewen	July 17, 1825		Aug. 26, 1887
4	Susanna	July 13, 1847		Sept. 18, 1852
4	Peter	July 13, 1847		May 3, 1849
4	Isaac	Jan. 16, 1850		Mar. 2, 1925
m	Helena K. Sawatsky	Dec. 19, 1854		Aug. 11, 1872
2m	Katharina Friesen	Mar. 17, 1854	Dec. 6, 1873	Mar. 15, 1925
4	Susanna	Oct. 7, 1852		Apr. 16, 1918
m	Peter L. Dueck <sup>34</sup>	Oct. 15, 1842	Jan. 1, 1871	Jan. 15, 1887
2m	Peter R. Reimer <sup>35</sup>	Aug. 19, 1870	Nov. 10, 1889	May 20, 1946

4	Margaretha	Mar. 16, 1855	1874	Sept. 27, 1930
m	Abram P. Isaac	Dec. 31, 1852		Mar. 10, 1938

3 **Justina Enns** (1828-1895) married Heinrich Warkentin. In 1875 the family moved from Lichtenau, Molotschna, Russia and settled in Rosenort, Manitoba.<sup>36</sup>

Son-in-law Johan K. Friesen was a minister of the Kleine Gemeinde at Rosenhoff, Manitoba. Son Johan E. Warkentin was a blacksmith in the same village. Son-in-law Klaas H. Friesen homesteaded at Beaver Flats in Saskatchewan in 1905. Daughter Susanna was a determined pioneer woman who farmed very successfully in Rosenort, Manitoba, after the death of her husband.

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
3	<b>Justina Enns</b>	Aug. 26, 1828	Apr. 24, 1855	Apr. 9, 1895
m	Heinrich Warkentin	Dec. 31, 1833	Apr. 24, 1855	Apr. 8, 1888
4	Heinrich	Jan. 22, 1856		Aug. 17, 1881
4	Justina	Jan. 22, 1856	July 2, 1876	June 7, 1943
m	Johan K. Friesen <sup>37</sup>	July 19, 1857		Jan. 21, 1932
4	Johan	June 21, 1859	July 3, 1880	Oct. 19, 1929
m	Aganetha K. Friesen <sup>37</sup>	Apr. 28, 1863		
4	Anna	June 23, 1859		Dec. 23, 1921
m	Klaas Friesen <sup>38</sup>	Aug. 19, 1858	Nov. 28, 1880	Mar. 17, 1932
4	Maria	Aug. 24, 1861		Oct. 19, 1865
4	Elisabeth Warkentin	Jan. 22, 1863		Nov. 2, 1865
4	Elizabeth	May 16, 1868	Nov. 27, 1910	
m	David K. Kroeker <sup>39</sup>	Aug. 15, 1865		
4	Susanna	Dec. 13, 1869		
m	Peter H. Siemens <sup>40</sup>	Mar. 12, 1867		1916
4	Peter	Feb. 26, 1873		Apr. 28, 1874

## FOOTNOTES. CHAPTER TWENTY. CORNELIUS ENNS

1. B. H. Unruh, *op. cit.* 310 and 338.
2. Horst Penner, *Die Ost und West Prusizshen Mennoniten*, (Weierhof, Germany, 1978) 508-510.
3. See also Gerhard D. Doerksen, "Familien-Buch", Unpublished journal maintained by Rev. Bernard P. Doerksen, Blumenort, Manitoba.
4. See *Storm and Triumph*, *op. cit.* for translated record of his letters. Also *The Golden Years* *op. cit.* 325-327 for an account of his involvement in the publication effort of the 1860's.
5. See Johan P. Friesen Collection, *op. cit.*
6. See Toews Genealogy Register Family No. 71.
7. See Toews Genealogy Register Family No. 120.
8. See Abraham Eidse Genealogy for further information.
9. See Toews Genealogy Register Family No. 139.
10. She was the daughter of David Thiessen. (See Toews Genealogy Register, Family No. 29) who was the son of David Thiessen from the Schmidten Chutor, married to the widow of Jacob Dueck. This information courtesy of Henry Fast, Steinbach, Manitoba. David Thiessen of Rosenort also had a sister married to Abraham Isaac (born 1840) who moved to America and died in California. See Peter P. Isaac *op. cit.* 6.
11. See *Storm and Triumph* *op. cit.*, 33-34 for a letter by Corn Enns. Ahnenfeld, who must be the same Corn. Enns.
12. K.M.B. Church Record (courtesy of Tabor College, Hillsboro) Family No. 54 and 76.
13. Quoted in C. F. Plett, *The Story of the Krimmer Mennonite Brethren Church*. (Kindred Press, Hillsboro, U.S. 1986)<sup>38</sup>
14. David V. Wiebe, *Grace Meadow* (M. B. Publishing House, Hillsboro, U.S.A. 1967) 42.
- 14a. K.M.B. Church Record, *op. cit.*
15. Gerhard D. Doerksen, *op. cit.* 25.
16. See Lenore Eidse, editor, *Furrows in the Valley*, *op. cit.* 458.
- 16a. Telephone interview with Mr. Dick B. Eidse, Rosenort, Manitoba, December 14, 1986.
17. See Toews Genealogy Register Family No. 114.
- 17a. See Toews Genealogy Register No. 79.
18. Peter Friesen was the son of Martin Friesen (born 1823) a brother to Johan F. Friesen the third Aeltester of the Kleine Gemeinde.
19. For a listing of descendants see Johan R. Wohlgenuth, *The Peter Wohlgenuth Genealogy, 1805-1903* (self-published, Peabody, U.S., 1963), pages 6-7.
20. See Toews Genealogy Register Family No. 75.
21. He is the genealogist and historian on whose records much of the Eidse, Enns and Abram Von Reisen genealogies recorded in this book are based.
- 21a. See Toews Genealogy Register Family No. 114. Gerhard Warkentin was the son of Peter Warkentin formerly of Margenau. (Courtesy of Henry Fast, Steinbach, Manitoba, 1986).

22. See Toews Genealogy Register Family No. 134.
- 22a. See, **Henry Enns Eidse 1859-1927** (self-published, Rosenort, 1982) 30 pp for a listing of the descendants of this family and a further history.
23. Courtesy of Henry Fast, Steinbach, Manitoba.
24. The notes of Henry S. Friesen, 250 Waterloo St. Winnipeg have been most helpful in listing the descendants of Gerhard S. Kornelson.
25. See Toews Genealogy Register Family No. 123.
26. John W. Thiessen had originally settled in Nebraska.
27. See Toews Genealogy Register Family No. 106.
28. See Toews Genealogy Register Family No. 153.
29. His children are listed by John P. Friesen. See also John K. Schellenberg, **Memoirs** (self-published, Steinbach 1984) 3-4 for some interest personal recollections of Heinrich E. Kornelson.
30. A daughter of Johann Broski. See Toews Genealogy Register Family No. 105.
31. See Toews Genealogy Register Family No. 40.
32. Sol Loewen, **Descendants of Isaac Loewen, op. cit.** page 5, Peter Loewen Section. See Peter Toews Genealogy Register Family No. 41.
33. See P. Toews Genealogy Register Family No. 42.
34. See Toews Genealogy Register Family No. 67.
35. Son of Abraham R. Reimer, Family No. 77.
36. See Toews Genealogy Register Family No. 121.
37. The children of John Friesen, the third Aeltester of the Kleine Gemeinde
38. Son of Cornelius Heidebracht Friesen. See Toews Genealogy Register, Family No. 126. See also Helen Friesen **Kith and Kin, op. cit.** 75.
39. Son of Jacob M. Kroeker, Aeltester of the Kleine Gemeinde in Rosenort, Manitoba. See Toews Genealogy Register Family No. 84.
40. For a brief biography see Lenore Eidse. **Furrows in the Valley op, cit.** 447-451.

# Chapter Twenty-One.

## Cornelius Eidse Genealogy

Cornelius Eidse (born 1770) the forefather of the Kleine Gemeinde Eidse families, is listed by B. H. Unruh as being from the Prussian Village of Neuteicherwald, Amt Neuteich. This village was located some ten miles west of Tiegenhagen where the Abr. von Riesen and Heinrich Reimer families attended church.<sup>2</sup> The Flemish Mennonites living in Neuteicherwald belonged to the Furstenwurder Gemeinde<sup>3</sup> which was constituted as an independent branch of the so-called Grosse Werder Flemish Gemeinde in 1830.<sup>4</sup>

Only one Eidse family, that of Abram Eds, is shown on the Konsignations-Liste of 1776.<sup>5</sup> This family is listed as follows: "Labourer, 1 male, 1 female, 1 son, employee, poor." The Abr. Eds family is listed as residing in the village of Neuteicherwalde in 1776 and quite possible, are the parents of Cornelius Eidse who was six years old at the time.

Cornelius Eidse married Helena Spenst (born 1776) in 1799 and in 1803 the young family emigrated to Russia at which time Cornelius Eidse is listed as a day labourer. On June 20, 1804 he settled in the Molotschna village of Fischau where the family is listed as follows: Cornelius Edsen, age 38, farmer, wife Helena 32, children Cornelius 7, Helena 2, Catrina 1. Property, 1 wagon, ½ plow, 1 harrow, 6 horses, 12 cattle, 50 tschwert unthreshed grain, 16 loads of hay. It is evident that the family has become quite well-to-do.

Little is known about the family of Helena Spenst. However, Johan P. Friesen has recorded that she had a brother Cornelius Spenst, born November 6, 1826, who resided in Fischau and attained the age of 86 years (died Oct. 3, 1913). B. H. Unruh lists a Gerhard Spenst family moving from Neuteicherwald to Fischau in 1827. This Gerhard Spenst is married for the third time to Maria Regehr born 1795 also from Neuteicherwald. Children of the first marriage are: Gerhard 18, Catharina 13, Maria 11, Helena 10, Peter 7 and Sara 4. It is possible that this is the family of Helena Spenst and that they have moved to Fischau, the home of their daughter. B. H. Unruh also records that a widow Regehr, nee Maria Spenst, born 1795 has emigrated from Neuteicherwald to Fischau at the same time. Children listed are Maria 6 and Anna 3.

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
1	<b>Cornelius Edsen</b>	1770	1799	
m	Helena Spenst	1776	1799	
2	Cornelius	1800		1860
2	Helena	April 9, 1806		
2	Catrina	1807		
2	Maria	18__		
2	Abraham	Aug. 26, 1811		Apr. 23, 1891
2	Aganetha	1817		
2	Gerhard	gestorben		

2 **Cornelius Eidse** married a Miss Dahl. Nothing further is presently known about this family. The information as recorded by Johan P. Friesen is presented here as it may assist others in connecting to this family. These family members seem to have used the surname Eitzen.

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
2	<b>Cornelius Eitzen</b>	1800		1860
m	_____ Dahl			1865
3	Helena Eitzen	182__		186__
3	Abraham Eitzen	Aug. 30, 1830		Dec. 2, 1906
3	Anna Eitzen	183__		
3	Daniel Eitzen			
3	Cornelius Eitzen			
3	Maria Eitzen	Feb. 2, 1838		
3	Peter Eitzen	Mar. 23, 1842	1876	Dec. 9, 1916
3	Catrina Eitzen	18__		
3	Aganetha Eitzen	1848		1865

3 **Helena Eitzen** married Ditrich Wiebe. A Ditrich Wiebe is known to have joined the Ebenfeld

Mennonite Brethren church in Kansas in 1876, but this cannot be taken as a positive identification.<sup>6</sup>

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
3	<b>Helena Eitzen</b>	182__		186__
m	Ditrich Wiebe			

3 **Abraham Eitzen** (1830-1906) was married for the first time to Susanna Isaac and for the second time to a Sara Block. Johan P. Friesen has recorded that Abraham Eitzen served for 30 years as deacon. He was survived by 39 grandchildren and predeceased by 3. The Abraham Eitzen family emigrated to America in 1876, arriving in New York harbour on the S. S. Wyoming on June 26.<sup>7</sup> The family settled in Marion Township, Kansas. They were members of the Ebenfeld M. B. Church where Abraham Eitzen served for 30 years as a deacon.<sup>8</sup>

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
3	<b>Abraham Eitzen</b>	Aug. 30, 1830		Dec. 2, 1906
m	Susanna Isaac		1856	1864
4	Katharina	1858		
4	Johan	1860		Feb. 18, 1913
4	Abraham	1862		
4	Daniel	1866		
3	<b>Abraham Eitzen</b>	Aug. 30, 1830		Dec. 2, 1906
2m	Sara Block	1841	1866	Sept. 1917
4	Sara	1872		
4	_____			
4	_____			
4	_____			

3 **Anna Eitzen** married Heinrich Dahl. A family with the appropriate names and ages is listed on board the S. S. Teutonia arriving in New York on September 3, although this is not a positive identification.<sup>9</sup> Most of the passengers on this ship belonged to the Alexanderwohl congregation.<sup>10</sup>

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
3	<b>Anna Eitzen</b>	183__	June 1859	
m	Heinrich Dahl	May 24, 1834	June 1859	

3 **Daniel Eitzen** married a Miss Giesbrecht. Although Johan P. Friesen has not provided any further identification, a Daniel Eitzen family is listed in the Liberty County, Kansas, Census of 1880. Because of the rarity of the name, it is possible that this is the correct family. No further information is available.

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
3	<b>Daniel Eitzen</b>	183__		
m	_____ Giesbrecht	18__		

3 **Cornelius Eitzen**. No further information available.

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
3	<b>Cornelius Eitzen</b>	18__		1860

3 **Maria Eitzen** married Jakob Janzen. No further information available.

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
3	<b>Maria Eitzen</b>	Feb. 2, 1838		
m	Jakob Janzen	1833		

3 **Peter Eitzen** married widow Gertrude Bergen, nee Penner in 1876. A Peter Eitzen, age 31 is listed as a passenger on the S. S. Teutonia which arrived in New York on September 3, 1874.<sup>11</sup> Most of these families joined the Alexanderwohl congregations in Marion County, Kansas. Johan P. Friesen has indicated that the couple may have had two sons and four daughters.

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
3	<b>Peter Eitzen</b>	Mar. 23, 1842	1876	Dec. 9, 1913
m	Gertruda Penner			

3 **Catrina Eitzen** married a Doerksen. No further information available.

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
3	<b>Catrina Eitzen</b>			
m	_____ Doerksen			

2 **Helena Eidse** married Abraham S. Kornelsen. The family at one time lived in Konteniusfeld as son Abraham E. Kornelsen reports this village as his place of birth. In the fall of 1860, the family moved to the Crimea.<sup>12</sup> Evidently the Abraham S. Kornelsens and their children belonged to the Kleine Gemeinde congregation in the Crimea. It appears that Abraham S. Kornelsen and his wife emigrated to Kansas as a couple of appropriate ages is listed on board the S. S. City of Brooklin which carried the main contingent of the K.M.B. arriving in New York on July 15, 1874. Son Jakob and daughter-in-law Maria were also on the same voyage.<sup>13</sup>

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
2	<b>Helena Eidse</b>	Apr. 9, 1806	Dec. 12, 1829	May 2, 1880
m	Abraham S. Kornelsen	Mar. 9, 1806	Dec. 12, 1829	
3	Helena	1830	Jan. 7, 1851	June 8, 1867
3	Abraham	Oct. 19, 1831		Mar. 9, 1832
3	Agatha	183__		1906
3	Cornelius	Dec. 8, 1835		Apr. 6, 1910
3	Catrina	Oct. 10, 1838		Sept. 27, 1911
3	Gerhard	Sept. 23, 1840		1919
3	Maria	Jan. 15, 1843		
3	Abraham	Feb. 23, 1845		May 17, 1893
3	Isaac	Apr. 29, 1847		Dec. 12, 1847
3	Jakob	Dec. 22, 1848		May 15, 1902

3 **Helena Cornelsen** (1830-1867) married Peter Dalke who married for the second time on December 7, 1879, to a widow Johan Fehr, nee Steingart. A Peter Dalke and his wife Sara travelled to New York in 1878 on the S. S. Strassburg and are possibly the same family.<sup>14</sup> Johan P. Friesen has recorded only four children, namely, Abraham and Cornelius of the first marriage and Peter and Catrina of the second marriage.

The second wife of Peter Dalke died on Dec. 7, 1879. He married for a third time but was again left a widower after 19 years. He spent his remaining 12 years as a widower and died at the home of his son, Peter Dalke in Saskatchewan. Daughter Katharina never married and died in Steinbach, Manitoba.

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
3	<b>Helena Cornelsen</b>	1830	Jan. 7, 1851	June 8, 1867
m	Peter Dalke	Sept. 29, 1828		Apr. 12, 1909
4	Abraham	185__		
4	Kornelius	185__		
m	Aganetha Kroeker			
4	Katharina	June 1869		Dec. 7, 1892
4	Peter	187__		
m	Agatha Blatz			

3 **Agatha Cornelsen** married Elies Wiep. No further information available.

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
3	<b>Agatha Cornelsen</b>	183__		190__
m	Elies Wiep			

3 **Cornelius Cornelsen** (1835-1910) lived in the Crimean village of Hoffnungsberg. In 1874, the family emigrated from Russia and settled in Rosenort, Manitoba. In 1904, the Cornelius Cornelsens moved again, homesteading in the Herbert area in Saskatchewan together with their sons Jakob and Cornelius.<sup>15</sup>



Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
3	<b>Cornelius Cornelsen</b>	Dec. 8, 1835		Apr. 6, 1910
m	Catrina Dick	June 22, 1839	Oct. 9, 1860	1896
4	<b>Cornelius Cornelsen</b>	Sept. 26, 1864		Oct. 17, 1908
m	Anna Harms			
4	<b>Jakob Cornelsen</b>	May 3, 1869		
m	Anna Friesen			
4	<b>Barbara Cornelsen</b>	May 7, 1873		
m	Peter Harder			
4	<b>Maria Cornelsen</b>	Feb. 18, 1878		
m	Heinrich Harder			
4	<b>Abraham Cornelsen</b>	Nov. 25, 1879		
m	_____ Striemer			
4	<b>Catrina Cornelsen</b>	Apr. 12, 1881		
m	Johan Dick			
3	<b>Cornelius Cornelsen</b>	Dec. 8, 1835		Apr. 6, 1910
2m	Aganetha Klassen (nee Wall)		July 1, 1897	

3 **Catrina Cornelsen** married for the first time to Franz Janzen who died possibly in 1870 or 1871. The records of Johan P. Friesen indicate that there were no children of this marriage. Catrina Cornelsen married for the second time to Gerhard Toews and three children were born of this union.

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
3	<b>Catrina Cornelsen</b>	Feb. 21, 1838	1858	Sept. 23, 1911
m	Franz Janzen			ca. 1871
2m	Gerhard Toews	Oct. 5, 1840	Oct. 10, 1872	19____
4	Elisabeth Toews			
m	Peter Friesen			
4	Gerhard Toews			
m	_____ Wielms			
4	Catrina Toews			
m	Abraham Schierling			

3 **Gerhard Cornelsen** (1840-1919) married Agneta Fast. Although Johan P. Friesen has not recorded the first name of Mrs. Cornelsen, he has recorded that the family has three daughters and three sons by the names of Abraham, Gerhard and Jakob. Friesen has also recorded the birth date of Gerhard Cornelsen as Oct. 5, 1840.

A Gerhard Cornelsen family are recorded as passengers on the S. S. Crimbria arriving in New York harbour on August 27, 1874. The age of the father is given as 32 and the two sons are called Abraham and Gerhard.<sup>16</sup> This seems to be a positive identification. Most of the families on board this voyage were members of the Alexanderwohl congregation which settled in Marion County, Kansas.<sup>17</sup> The ship records show one daughter Helene, age 3, and Agneta, age 1 month. Aganetha Cornelsen married Abraham Esau in 1933 and four of their children were living in Salem, Oregon.<sup>18</sup>

It appears that Gerhard Kornelsen was one of the founding members of the Zoar K.M.B. Church at Inman, Kansas, serving as deacon from 1884 till his death.<sup>18a</sup>

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
3	<b>Gerhard Cornelsen</b>	Oct. 5, 1840	June 22, 1864	1918
m	Agneta Fast			
4	Daughter			
m	Daniel Pauls			
4	Daughter			
m	Wilhelm Schlichting			
4	Aganetha		Feb. 23, 1893	
m	Abraham Esau		Feb. 23, 1893	
4	Abraham	Mar. 21, 1864		
m	_____ Nachtigal			

4 Gerhard  
 m \_\_\_\_\_ Schierling  
 4 Jakob  
 m \_\_\_\_\_

3 **Maria Cornelsen** married Heinrich Spenst. No further information available.

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
3	<b>Maria</b>	Jan. 15, 1843		
m	Heinrich Spenst			

3 **Abraham Kornelsen** (1845-1893) was born in Kontiniusfeld and in 1860 he moved to the Crimea together with his parents. In 1865 he was converted and joined the Grosze Gemeinde. He married Maria, the daughter of Jakob Wiens and Katharina Wall, in 1866. The next year the young family committed themselves to the Kleine Gemeinde and adhered to their covenants for the remainder of their lives.

In 1874, the family left the village of Hoffnungsberg, Crimea, and emigrated to Manitoba, Canada, settling in the village of Heuboden. In 1883, Abraham Kornelsen was elected as a deacon of the East Reserve Kleine Gemeinde.<sup>19</sup> He came to a tragic death when he was kicked by a horse. Sons Johan and Isaac and daughter Katharina Isaac lived in Kansas.

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
3	<b>Abraham E. Kornelsen</b>	Feb. 23, 1846	Dec. 6, 1866	May 17, 1893
m	Maria W. Wiens <sup>19a</sup>	Dec. 27, 1846	Dec. 6, 1866	Sept. 17, 1927
4	Abraham	Aug. 27, 1867		
4	Katharina	Aug. 28, 1868		Nov. 23, 1868
4	Helena	Nov. 21, 1869		June 6, 1874
4	Jakob	Feb. 11, 1872	July 25, 1891	May 9, 1919
m	Elizabeth Unger <sup>20</sup>	Feb. 26, 1871	July 25, 1891	Apr. 12, 1940
4	Abraham	Mar. 22, 1874		Jan. 14, 1877
4	Cornelius	June 12, 1876		Jan. 21, 1951
m	Gertrude Siemens	Jan. 1, 1873	Mar. 20, 1898	Aug. 29, 1906
2m	Katharina Unger <sup>20</sup>	Sept. 24, 1880	Oct. 7, 1906	1954
4	Maria	Sept. 11, 1877	1895	Aug. 1, 1901
m	_____			
4	Abraham	June 6, 1879	Oct. 20, 1898	June 9, 1950
4	Susanna D. Penner	Nov. 12, 1879		Apr. 28, 1969
4	Gerhard	July 13, 1881		Jan. 4, 1883
4	Johan	Mar. 24, 1883	Dec. 7, 1902	Mar. 16, 1956
m	Catie T. Classen <sup>21</sup>	Nov. 10, 1882		May 5, 1964
4	Katharina	Mar. 2, 1885	June 12, 1904	Dec. 4, 1963
m	Peter F. Isaac <sup>22</sup>	Apr. 24, 1881		Dec. 27, 1956
4	Isaac	July 5, 1890	Oct. 16, 1910	
m	Maria Classen <sup>21</sup>	Nov. 13, 1889		
3	Maria W. Wiens	Dec. 27, 1846	1894	Sept. 17, 1927
m	Rev. Cornelius L. Friesen	Mar. 14, 1841		Feb. 20, 1923

3 **Jakob Cornelsen** (1848-1902) married Marie Wiens and emigrated to Gnadenu, Kansas, together with his parents. A Jakob Cornelsen family is listed as one of the family heads in Gnadenu in the 1875 Census.<sup>23</sup> Johan P. Friesen has listed eight children but ages are only recorded for three.

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
3	<b>Jakob Cornelsen</b>	Dec. 22, 1848		May 15, 1902
m	Maria Wiens	July 1843		1919
4	Maria	1872		
4	Jakob			
4	Abraham			
4	Catrina			
4	Helena	1877		

m Jakob Klassen  
 4 Agatha  
 4 Sara  
 4 Susanna 1883

2 **Maria Eidse** married Peter Kroeker. Nothing further is known about this couple except that they both appear to have died around the 1870's. Johan P. Friesen has listed 5 daughters and 1 son.

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
2	<b>Maria Eidse</b>			
m	Peter Kroeker			
3	Helena Kroeker			
m	_____ Penner			
2m	Jacob Wiens			
3	Maria Kroeker			
m	_____ Goertzen			
2m	Franz Kroeker			
3	Anna Kroeker			
m	Jakob Diuk			
3	Martin Kroeker			
m	_____ Sperling			
3	Aganeta Kroeker			
m	_____			
3	Sara Kroeker			
m	_____			

2 **Abraham Eidse** (1811-1891) married Anna Enns (1817-1864). For further information and listing of this family please refer to Chapter 20.

2 **Aganetha Eidse** married for the first time to an uncle Janzen. Her second marriage was to Jakob Nickel who lived to the ripe old age of 86 years and 6 months. No further information available.

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
2	<b>Aganetha Eidse</b>	1817		1856
m	_____ Janzen			ca. 1846
3	Franz			
3	Cornelius	1836		
3	Aganetha			
3	Catrina			
3	Helene	Aug. 16, 1844		
2	<b>Aganetha Eidse</b>	1817		
2m	Jacob Nickel		ca. 1846	
3	Marian	1848		

3 **Cornelius Janzen** married Gertrude Regehr who may have been a widow Rempel as Johan P. Friesen has listed a daughter Margaretha Rempel. He also refers to three other sons who are not listed. Reference is made to the Rundschau No. 14, 1911, April 5. (See Chapter 18 cf.)

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
3	<b>Cornelius Janzen</b>	1836	186__	
m	Gertrude Regehr	Jan. 22, 1836		
4	Margaretha Rempel	Oct. 16, 1864		
m	Isaac Wolk			
4	Cornelius			
m	Maria Thiessen			
4	Gertrude			
m	Heinrich Penner			
4	Peter			
m	_____			
2m	_____ Doerksen			
4	Heinrich			
m	_____ Wiens			

3 **Helene Janzen** married Isaac Regehr. Nothing further presently known.

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
3	<b>Helena Janzen</b>	Aug. 16, 1844	Feb. 8, 1866	May 28, 1913
m	Isaac Regehr	May 28, 1840	Feb. 8, 1866	
4	Helena			
m	_____ Buller			

3 **Maria Nickel** married Ditrich Neufeld in 1869. This family apparently belonged to the "Sabbatar" or Seventh Day Adventists.

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
3	<b>Maria Nickel</b>	1848	1869	
m	Ditrich Neufeld	1845		
4	Ditrich			
m	Maria Spent			
2m	_____ Neufeld			
4	Jakob			
m	Anna Spent			
4	Aganetha			
m	_____			
4	Eva			
m	Ditrich Goerzen			
4	Sara			
m	_____			
4	Johan			
4	Anna			

**FOOTNOTES. CHAPTER TWENTY-ONE. CORNELIUS EIDSE GENEALOGY.**

1. B. H. Unruh, *op. cit.*, 310 and 338.
2. Horst Penner, *op. cit.*, 508-510.
3. Glen Penner "West Prussian Mennonite Villages, 1540-1820", Unpublished paper, 1979, Plum Coulee, Manitoba.
4. H. G. Mannhardt, "Fürstenerwörter", ME2, 427.
5. Horst Penner, *op. cit.*, 427.
6. A. E. Janzen, *The Ebenfeld Church in Action, 1876-1976*, (Self-published, Hillsboro, Ks, 1976).
7. Clarence Hiebert, *Brothers in Deed, Brothers in Heed*, (Faith and Life Press, Newton, Ks, 1974), 291.
8. A. E. Janzen, *op. cit.*, 4 and 36. See also E. Ebel, *The Family of Abraham Eitzen, 1830-1969* (Hillsboro, Ks. 1969, 114 pp.)
9. Clarence Hiebert, *op. cit.*, 177.
10. David V. Wiebe, *They Seek a Country*, *op. cit.*, 112.
11. Clarence Hiebert, *op. cit.* See also D. A. Haury, *op. cit.*
12. G. U. Kornelsen, *Familien Register . . . Abraham E. und Maria Kornelsen*, (Self-published, Belize, C. A. 1969), 2-4.
13. Clarence Hiebert, *op. cit.*, 160.
14. *Ibid.*, 348.
15. See Toews Genealogy Register, Family No. 109.
16. Clarence Hiebert, *op. cit.*, 171.
17. David V. Wiebe, *They Seek a Country*, *op. cit.*, 112.
18. Johan K. Esau, "The Esau Family Tree 1740-1933", *op. cit.*, 11-12. Abraham Esau (b. 1864) was a nephew of Heinrich Esau (b. 1830). See Toews Genealogy Register, Family No. 108.
- 18a. C. F. Plett, *The Story of the K.M.B. Church*, *op. cit.*, 139-142.
19. See Toews Genealogy Register, Family No. 110.
- 19a. Maria Wiens (1846-1927) was the daughter of Jacob Wiens (1813-1893) and Katherine Wall (1825-1870). (See Familien Register der Nachkommen von Abraham E, und Maria Kornelsen, *op. cit.*, 2.) The father of Jacob Wiens (1813-1893) was the brother to Margaretha Wiens (b. 1790) the wife of Isaac Loewen (1787-1873) the forefather of the Kleine Gemeinde Loewens. (See Toews Genealogy Register No. 4.) Franz Franz Wiens a cousin of Mrs. A. E. Kornelson (nee Maria Wiens) came to Canada in 1924 and settled in Saskatchewan. In 1933 he visited his relatives in Manitoba at which time he had a daughter along. Franz Fr. Wiens said that he had left a brother in Russia who was not heard from again. This information as recalled by Mrs. Cornelius R. E. Reimer. Courtesy John K. Reimer, Spanish Lookout, Belize, letter to the author of February 25, 1987.
20. Daughters of Peter H. Unger. See Toews Genealogy Register, Family No. 19.
21. Granddaughters of Johan W. Thiessen (1813-1888), Janzen, Nebraska. See A. F. Friesen, *Von Riesen-Friesen Genealogy, 1756-1866*, *op. cit.* 78-81 and 90-91.
22. A brother to the Aeltester Jacob F. Isaac of Meade, Kansas.
23. David V. Wiebe, *They Seek a Country*, *op. cit.*, 42.



# Chapter Twenty-Two.

## Gerhard Schellenberg Genealogy

The Kleine Gemeinde Schellenberg families are the descendants of Gerhard Schellenberg born 1725 and died 1802 in West Prussia.<sup>1</sup> His father was Jakob Schellenberg<sup>2</sup> and his wife's father was Anton Reimer.<sup>3</sup>

According to B. H. Unruh<sup>4</sup>, Aron Schellenberg, son of Gerhard Schellenberg (1725-1802) came from the West Prussian village of Tiegenhoff. This settlement was located about 20 miles east of Danzig (today Gedansk) on the banks of the Tiege River which flowed into a small inlet of the Frieches Haff some ten miles to the northeast.<sup>5</sup> The Flemish families of the village belonged to the Tiegenhagen Gemeinde centered in the village of the same name some five miles away.<sup>6</sup>

The Konsignation's Liste of 1776 shows only one Gerhard (Gerth) Schellenberg who is shown as a labourer resident in the village of Tiegenhof. The family consists of father, mother, three sons, and one daughter. Although the family are recorded as being Eigentuemer's or freeholders, that is to say that they own some property, they are listed as being poor.<sup>7</sup> It is noteworthy the Gerhard's daughter, Agatha, married a son of Hans Cornelsen, evidently a gardner living in the same village.<sup>8</sup> Gerhard Schellenberg died in Prussia in 1802, one year before the emigration movement to the Molotschna Colony began.

Son Aron (1773-1853) emigrated to Russia, arriving in the Molotschna Colony on June 20, 1804, where he settled in the village of Blumstein. His sister Agatha, married to Abraham Kornelsen, emigrated at about the same time, settling in the village of Lichtenau, Molotschna on July 15, 1804. B. H. Unruh has recorded that a Gerhard Schellenberg travelled to Russia at the same time, settling in Blumstein only four days later on June 24, 1804. This Gerhard Schellenberg was married to Helena Guenther and originated from the Prussian village of Stobbendorf located at the mouth of the Tiege River. B. H. Unruh also records that a Jakob Schellenberg, married to a Cath Braun, emigrated to the Molotschna a year later, settling in the village of Tiegenhagen on June 5, 1805.

It cannot be definitely established that Jakob (b. 1772) and Gerhard (b. 1757) are the brothers of Aron Schellenberg but it seems likely to be so. Especially in view of the fact that the Konsignation of 1776 shows that Gerhard Schellenberg (1725-1802) had three sons. The M. B. Elder, Abraham Schellenberg, son of Abraham Schellenberg,<sup>9</sup> had related that the two families were related somehow,<sup>10</sup> and quite possibly this is the connection as Jakob Schellenberg (b. 1772) had a son Abraham. A more detailed study would undoubtedly establish whether this was the case or not.

The Aron Schellenberg (1773-1853) family is recorded in the 1808 Molotschna Revisions-Liste as follows: "Aron Schellenberg, age 34, from Tiegenhoff, farmer, wife Catrina, 38; children Gerhard, 11, Helena 9, Aron 3, Catrina 1. Property: 1 wagon, 1 plow, 1 harrow, 4 horses, 12 cattle, 180 tshwert of unthreshed grain, 22 loads of hay."

Aron Schellenberg (1773-1853) was married to Helena Neubauer (1769-1842). There are only two Neubauer families shown on the Konsignation Liste of 1776 and likely Helena was the daughter of David Neubauer, a shoemaker, also resident in the village of Tiegenhoff. The other possibility would be a widow Neubauer, from Platenhof, who is old and feeble and hospitalized in 1776.<sup>11</sup>

Although not directly relevant it may be of interest to note that B. H. Unruh has recorded the following information for Gerhard Schellenberg, who is possibly the brother of Aron (1773-1853), namely: "Gerhard Schellenberg, 51, from Stobbendorf, District Tiegenhoff, bricklayer, wife Helena 51, children: Jakob 18, Peter 14, Davit 7, Gerhard 24 and wife Anna. Property: 1 wagon, ½ plow, 1 harrow, 6 horses, 12 cattle, 3 sheep, 200 tshwert grain in unthreshed shocks, 20 loads of hay."

It is evident that the Schellenbergs were moderately well-to-do by this point. It is also interesting to note that the village of Blumstein was the home of a number of families who belonged to or were sympathizers of the Kleine Gemeinde, namely: Martin Warkentin (Family 6), Johan Harms (Family 12) and Johann Harder (Family 16).

No further information is presently available regarding this family other than that of son Gerhard which is recorded in the pages following.<sup>12</sup>

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
1	<b>Jakob Schellenberg</b>			
m	_____			

2	Gerhardt Schellenberg	1725		1802
m	_____ Reimer			
3	Gerhardt Schellenberg*	1757		Feb. 10, 1812
m	Helena Guenther	1757		
4	Gerhardt	1784		
m	Anna	1780		
4	Justina	1789	Nov. 28, 1812	
m	Martin Schierling	1783		
4	Jakob Schellenberg	1790		
4	Peter	1794		
4	Davit	1801		
3	Aron Schellenberg	1773		1853
m	Helena Neubauer	1769		1842
4	Gerhardt Schellenberg	Jan. 21, 1797		Mar. 2, 1837
4	Helena	1799		
4	Aron	1805		
4	Catrina	1807		
3	Jakob Schellenberg*	1772		
m	Cath Braun	1769		
4	Catrina	1797		
4	Jakob	1799		
4	Gerhard	1801		
4	Davit	1803		
4	Justina	1804		
4	Maria	1806		
4	Abraham	1807		
3	Agatha Schellenberg	Jan. 2, 1778		Sept. 19, 1858
m	Abr. Kornelsen	Nov. 12, 1769		Mar. 15, 1831

\*It is not definitely established that these were brothers to Aron Schellenberg.

4 **Gerhard Schellenberg** (1797-1837) married Elizabeth Kasdorf (1792-1864) who was probably the daughter of Johan Kasdorf who emigrated to the Molotschna in 1818, settling in the village of Furstenwurder which was settled in 1821.<sup>13</sup> Gerhard Schellenberg (1797-1837) and his wife Elizabeth Kasdorf are known to have had at least three children. It is even possible that the couple may have taken over the parental farm in Blumstein as their son Gerhard married Helena the daughter of Cornelius (?) Warkentin believed to be from the same village.

Gerhard Schellenberg (1797-1837) died at the young age of 40 years after which his widow married Peter Schellenberg. It is not known how and if her second husband was related. It is known that Elizabeth Schellenberg, either as a widow or together with her second husband, moved to the Crimea with at least two of her three children where she died in 1864.

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
4	<b>Gerhard Schellenberg</b>	Jan. 21, 1797		Mar. 2, 1837
m	Elizabeth Kasdorf	July 13, 1792		June 24, 1864
5	Katharina	July 7, 1824		Mar. 4, 1901
5	Gerhard	Dec. 13, 1827		Nov. 15, 1908
5	Aron Schellenberg	Oct. 23, 1833		April 15, 1885

5 **Katharina Schellenberg** (1824-1901) married Heinrich Friesen (1827-1877). According to a letter written to the Rundschau in March, 1911, by son Jakob S. Friesen, the family had originally lived in Landskron, Molotschna, a village which was founded in 1839, later moving to the Crimea, and again to Sagradovfka, Kherson Province.<sup>14</sup> The family always belonged to the Mennonite Kleine Gemeinde.<sup>15</sup> Henry Friesen died in Manitoba shortly after immigrating in 1875.<sup>16</sup>

Katharina Schellenberg (1824-1901) married for the second time to Peter Penner (1816-1884) the father of the Blumenort, Manitoba, Penners. She married for the third time to Peter Baerg (1818-1901) the Kleine Gemeinde minister in the Crimea who held true to the faith during Jakob A. Wiebe's schism of 1869.<sup>16</sup> Her son Jakob S. Friesen (1862-1931) was the founder of the Steinbach Post, Steinbach, Manitoba.<sup>17</sup>

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
5	<b>Katharina Schellenberg</b>	Aug. 25, 1824	April 12, 1849	May 4, 1901
m	Heinrich Friesen	May 12, 1827		July 1, 1877
6	Heinrich Friesen <sup>18</sup>	April 23, 1850	May 28, 1873	Feb. 2, 1933
m	Aganetha Ewert	Feb. 15, 1849		
6	Gerhard Friesen <sup>19</sup>	Feb. 3, 1852	June 10, 1871	1922
m	Maria Wiebe			
6	Katharine Friesen <sup>20</sup>	Mar. 17, 1854	Dec. 6, 1873	Mar. 15, 1925
m	Isaac E. Loewen	Jan. 4, 1850		Mar. 2, 1925
6	Jakob S. Friesen	Jan. 6, 1862	1884	1931
m	Katharina B. Toews <sup>21</sup>	1863		1933
6	Elizabeth Friesen	Feb. 18, 1864	June 11, 1882	Dec. 23, 1934
m	Isaac R. Loewen <sup>22</sup>	Dec. 23, 1860		April 20, 1953
6	Maria Friesen <sup>23</sup>	Jan. 18, 1867	Jan. 17, 1887	Feb. 18, 1910
m	Heinrich Penner	Nov. 28, 1866		April 25, 1925

5 **Gerhard Schellenberg** (1827-1908) married Elizabeth Warkentin (1819-1905) who apparently was the daughter of Cornelius Warkentin (1777-1847), a wealthy farmer from the village of Blumstein.<sup>23a</sup> In 1864, the family transferred their membership to the Mennonite Kleine Gemeinde and two years later Gerhard Schellenberg was elected as minister.<sup>24</sup> In 1866, the family was resident in Orloff, Molotschna<sup>25</sup> but shortly thereafter they moved to Rosenfeld in Borosenko. In 1874, the family immigrated to Manitoba, settling in the village of Rosenfeld, East Reserve. The family had two foster children at the time of the emigration from Russia.<sup>26</sup>

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
5	<b>Gerhard Schellenberg</b>	Dec. 1, 1827	Dec. 25, 1847	Nov. 28, 1908
m	Elizabeth Warkentin	April 29, 1819		July 15, 1905
5	Gerhard Schellenberg <sup>27</sup>	Jan. 4, 1854	Oct. 12, 1876	Oct. 31, 1932
m	Anna T. Regehr	Nov. 9, 1858	Oct. 12, 1876	Nov. 23, 1938
6	Margaretha Schellenberg	Dec. 6, 1861		1875

5 **Aron Schellenberg** (1833-1885) was married for the first time to Ann (Kruger) Wall (1847-1883) apparently a widow. In 1862 or 1863, the family moved from the village of Orloff, Molotschna, to the Crimea where a new Mennonite settlement was being organized and settled in the village of Annenfeld. Here they joined the Crimean congregation of Kleine Gemeinde which was established in 1864.

They became charter members of the Krimmer Mennonite Brethren when that group separated in 1869. In 1874, Aron Schellenbergs emigrated from Russia settling in the village of Gnadenu, Kansas.<sup>28</sup> Aron Schellenberg was one of the first followers of K.M.B. Elder Jakob A. Wiebe who apparently referred to him as his "Jonathan."<sup>29</sup>

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
5	<b>Aron Schellenberg</b>	Oct. 23, 1833		April 15, 1885
m	Anna (Krueger) Wall	Feb. 9, 1847		July 7, 1883
6	Anna Schellenberg	Aug. 17, 1868	Nov. 24, 1889	Mar. 17, 1896
m	Peter A. Loewen <sup>30</sup>	April 8, 1865		
6	Maria Schellenberg	Oct. 17, 1871	Oct. 19, 1889	May 30, 1923
m	Peter F. Schmidt	Oct. 1, 1862		Nov. 17, 1916
6	Katharina Schellenberg	Feb. 15, 1875	Dec. 29, 1893	Oct. 20, 1924
m	Jacob Z. Wiebe <sup>31</sup>	April 5, 1869		
6	Abraham Schellenberg	Feb. 27, 1876	Nov. 28, 1900	
m	Helena Thiessen <sup>32</sup>	Dec. 15, 1881		
6	Elizabeth Schellenberg	Aug. 8, 1878	Dec. 26, 189__	
m	Franz Z. Wiebe <sup>31</sup>	Oct. 6, 1874		
6	Margaretha Schellenberg	Dec. 12, 1880	Jan. 15, 1901	Sept. 12, 1916
m	Peter J. Baerg	1877		Dec. 17, 1902
2m	Jacob G. Jansen	unknown	Dec. 20, 1906	Nov. 29, 1937
5	<b>Aron Schellenberg</b>			
2m	Anne Epp		1884	



6	Aron Schellenberg	Aug. 23, 1884
m	Elisabeth Penner	Nov. 5, 1883

**FOOTNOTES. CHAPTER TWENTY-TWO. GERHARD SCHELLENBERG GENEALOGY.**

1. Much of the information in this chapter is based on the Schellenberg Family Records of Frank Z. Wiebe, a nephew of Jacob A. Wiebe, K.M.B. Elder.
2. Frank Z. Wiebe records an interesting story regarding the origins of the Schellenberg name which was related by Abraham Schellenberg, M.B. Elder.
3. This information is verified by the Family Records of Abr. K. Friesen, courtesy of Harry S. Friesen, 250 Waterloo Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba.
4. B. H. Unruh, *op. cit.*, 344.
5. Horst Penner, *op. cit.*, 516.
6. Glen Penner, *op. cit.*,
7. Horst Penner, *op. cit.*, 456.
8. See Abraham Kornelsen Genealogy, Chapter 16.
9. T. H. Lorentz, "Abraham Schellenberg 1845-1920"
10. Frank Z. Wiebe, *op. cit.*, 2. See Chapter 16, footnote 11.
11. Horst Penner, *op. cit.*, 446.
12. Another individual that should be mentioned here is Abraham Schellenberg (18\_\_ - 1926) who married Margaretha Esau, (died December 29, 1895), and settled in Kleefeld, Manitoba during the 1870's. Henry Fast, Steinbach, Manitoba has provided the information that in 1883 Abram Schellenberg wrote in the Mennonitische Rundschau asking for information about his foster father and uncle, Abram Schellenberg of Tiege. In 1899 he writes again mentioning that he has a sister, a Mrs. Klassen, in the United States. In 1920 he writes again asking for news of his family in the Crimea. H. Fast also reports that Margaretha Esau, (d. 1895) was a niece of Johan Esau of Rosenfeld, the Kleine Gemeinde Brandactesten.
13. B. H. Unruh, *op. cit.*, 363.
14. Courtesy of Henry Fast, Steinbach, Manitoba.
15. See Toews Genealogy Register, Family No. 112. No one has yet been able to identify the father of Heinrich Friesen (1827-1877), although Dr. Carl Bangs, of Prairie Village, Kansas, did suggest to the writer in 1981 that he was part of the Abram Von Riesen clan. H. Fast reports that in a 1904 letter in the Rundschau son Jacob S. Friesen asks for the whereabouts of his cousin Herman Friesen son of his uncle Herman Friesen, formerly of Sparrow, Molotschna, and later of Sagrdovfka.
16. Roy Loewen, *op. cit.*,
17. Abe Warkentin, *op. cit.*, 119.
18. See Toews Genealogy Register, Family 113.
19. See Toews Genealogy Register, Family 53.
20. See Toews Genealogy Register, Family 41.
21. She was the daughter of Peter W. Toews. See Toews Genealogy Register, Family No. 7.
22. He was the son of David Loewen. See Toews Genealogy Register, Family No. 4.
23. See Toews Genealogy Register Family No. 163.
- 23a. See John Wiens, *Taunte Willmsche* (Kindred Press, 1970) for a fictional reference to this family from a pietistical viewpoint.
24. See *History and Events and Storm and Triumph* for further details of his ministerial service.
25. Abr. L. Friesen, "Wahlliste", Courtesy of Henry Fast, Steinbach, Manitoba.
26. Toews Genealogy Register, Family No. 10.
27. Toews Genealogy Register, Family No. 138.
28. This section is based entirely on the Schellenberg Family Record of Frank Z. Wiebe who also lists the grandchildren of Aron Schellenberg (1833-1885).
29. D. V. Wiebe, *Grace Meadow*, *op. cit.*, 22 and 24; also C. F. Platt *The Story of the K.M.B. Church*, 23.
30. He was a nephew of Elder Jacob A. Wiebe. See Jacob Z. Wiebe, *The Groening-Wiebe Family*, (Hillsboro, Kansas, 1974), 125.
31. Nephews of Elder Jacob A. Wiebe, *ibid.*, 150.
32. She was daughter of John F. Thiessen, (1840-1917) of Jansen, Nebraska.

# Chapter Twenty-Three.

## The Abraham von Riesen (1752-1810)

### Genealogy

#### 23.01 The Family of Abraham von Riesen

The most significant family of the Kleine Gemeinde was that of Abraham von Riesen (1752-1810) and Margaretha Wiebe (1754-1810). As will become evident in the following pages, their descendants encompassed many of the spiritual and secular leaders of this denomination throughout the 19th century. The family also included a number of influential members of the wider Mennonite brotherhood in Russia as well as America.

Great-grandson Johan I. Friesen (1860-1941), an avid genealogist has written about this family as follows:

“ ‘Abraham Von Riesen moved from Kaltherberge to Russia in 1800’. The above Abraham Von Riesen was my great-grandfather and moved as is mentioned from Kalteherberge. West Prussia to South Russia and settled in the village Orloff. The Family name ‘von Riesen’ was changed to ‘Friesen’ in Russia, but I don’t know the reason, maybe because of the word ‘Von’. But they could have left ‘Von’ off completely but they have changed the word ‘von’ to ‘F’.

“The Elder of the Anabaptists from Dortrecht, who wrote the *Martyrs Mirror*, also wrote ‘von’ as ‘Thielem Janz von Braght.’

“That our name was ‘von Riesen’ at one time is confirmed by the fact that I have a letter in hand written by my grandfather Klaas Friesen to his brother Peter von Riesen in Schildlitz. West Prussia on August 23, 1843 and signed his name as Klaas von Riesen.

“He mentions in the same letter about his brother: ‘Our brother Abraham von Riesen has been sickly for a time but is well at present as also is his wife.’ Abraham von Riesen was the second elder of the Kleine Gemeinde.

“Great-grandfather Abraham von Riesen was born September 28, 1756 and died March 1810. He reached the age of 53 years and 5 months. He was married to Margaretha Wiebe who was born December 1754 and died in June 1810 at the age of 55 years and 5 months. They were married in January 1779 and lived together for 31 years.”

Very little is presently known about the earlier Prussian history of this family. Abraham von Riesen was a resident of Kalteherberge although the name of the village does not appear on the Consignation of 1776 a census like listing of Mennonite families in Prussia<sup>2</sup>. The village of Kalteherberge was located within a few miles of the Frisches Haff, an inlet of the Baltic Sea, between the mouths of the Weichsel and Nogat Rivers<sup>3</sup>.

The families of this village belonged to the Flemish branch of the Mennonite church and would have been members of the Tiegenhagen Gemeinde. The house of worship of this congregation was in the village of the same name located some four miles south of Kalteherberge<sup>4</sup>. This congregation had become independent of the mother congregation in Danzig in 1639<sup>5</sup>. It is of interest to note that Heinrich Reimers, the parents of Klaas Epp Reimer, founder of the Kleine Gemeinde, lived in the neighbouring village of Petershagen about one mile to the south-west. Accordingly it is evident that the Reimer and von Riesen children would have been well acquainted with each other through their various church and community associations<sup>6</sup>.

The Abraham von Riesen family was well-to-do. In his study *Die Niederlaendischneider-deutschen Hintergrunde der Mennonitischen Ostwanderung* B. H. Unruh has recorded that the family settled in the prominent village of Orloff in the Molotschna Colony of South Russia on June 15, 1805. The family head is listed here as Abraham Friesen, Farmer, age 52, and wife Maria, age 54. The children still at home are listed as Johann 19, David 17, Claas 15 and Regina 14. The property of the family in addition to a Vollwirtschaft, consists of 4 wagons, 2 harrows, 7 horses, 14 cattle, 1 sheep, 250 tschwert unthreshed grain and 35 loads of hay. This was considerably more than the colony average per farmer of 7 or 8 cattle and 1 or 2 horses. Abraham von Riesen (1752-1810) was a farmer and gristmiller in the old Prussian homeland but is listed only as a farmer after he moved to South Russia.<sup>7</sup>

It is evident that the Abraham von Riesen household was devoutly Christian and practiced an earnest spiritual life. The family had a vision for the Orthodox teachings of the Anabaptist-Mennonite faith, in the model of Aeltester Hans von Steen, and many descendants became leading supporters of the movement. Also noteworthy are the close family ties demonstrated even decades later by the children and grandchildren of Abraham von Riesen.

I acknowledge with special thanks the many individual sources who have provided the information for the present compilation.<sup>7a</sup> I have tried to refer to as many as possible in the end notes. Two sources, however, have been of outstanding value and deserve special mention here. The unpublished notes of Johan P. Friesen (1847-1920)<sup>8</sup>, a grandson of Abraham von Riesen, constitute an authoritative primary source for the entire family and were especially helpful regarding the families of Margaretha (1784-1835) and Johan (1789-1840).

The second outstanding source is the **Familienregister** of Heinrich D. Friesen (1839- ) a great grandson of Abraham von Riesen (1752-1810) through his youngest daughter Regina (1795-1852). His family booklet consisting of 45 pages was indispensable with respect to the family branch of his grandmother Regina von Riesen (1795-1852). This writer has regretably been unable to locate the genealogical papers of great-grandson Johan I. Friesen (1860-1941) who was known as an authority on many Kleine Gemeinde families.<sup>9</sup>

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
1	<b>Abraham von Riesen</b>	Sept. 28, 1752	Jan. 1779	Mar. 1810
1	Margaretha Wiebe	Oct. 1754	Jan. 1779	June 1810
2	Peter	Nov. 11, 1779		Sept. 24, 1847
2	Abraham	July 13, 1782		July 1, 1849
2	Margaretha	May 23, 1784		Aug. 5, 1835
2	Anna	Aug. 12, 1785		Aug. 4, 1857
2	Helena	Sept. 7, 1787		Oct. 22, 1846
2	Johan	Feb. 10, 1789		Jan. 15, 1840
2	David	Sept. 14, 1790		Oct. 12, 1814
2	Klaas	Oct. 6, 1793		Oct. 6, 1870
2	Regina	Jan. 4, 1795		Dec. 9, 1852

### 23.02 Peter Von Riesen Family

The oldest son **Peter von Riesen** (1779-1847) married for the first time on August 19, 1800, to Maria Tiessen, a 43 year old widow with children. Shortly thereafter his parents and all his brothers and sisters moved to Russia settling in the Molotschna Colony. Peter von Riesen married for the second time to Margaretha Harder whose father was a vinegar manufacturer near Marienburg. His third marriage to a younger lady was childless and evidently not a happy one<sup>10</sup>.

It appears that Peter von Riesen moved to the City of Danzig shortly after his first marriage where he resided in the suburb of Schildlitz. He became quite prosperous as a miller and merchant and also served as a Magistrate and City Councillor. Notwithstanding his success, Peter von Riesen remained true to the teaching of his faith and supported the efforts of his brothers and sisters in the formation of the Kleine Gemeinde in Russia.

His most significant accomplishment was the completion of the translation of Menno Simon's **Foundation book** from Dutch to German and the publication of the same together with his Kleine Gemeinde brethren, in a three volume set in 1833-1835. Unfortunately these works were confiscated by the leadership of the Prussian Mennonites which was a grievous disappointment to him.<sup>11</sup> Peter von Riesen made two trips to visit his brethren in Russia.<sup>12</sup>

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
2	<b>Peter von Riesen</b>	Nov. 11, 1779		Sept. 24, 1847
m	Maria Tiessen	1757	Aug. 19, 1800	Mar. 19, 1818
2m	Margaretha Harder	Aug. 23, 1796	June 21, 1818	Feb. 3, 1837
3	Johann	Apr. 27, 1819		Infancy
3	Heinrich	May 5, 1821		Married but died early—no children
3	Helena	Dec. 1, 1822	May 4, 1848	Dec. 2, 1897
3	Elisabeth	Dec. 2, 1824		Died in childhood
3	Abraham	Apr. 24, 1827	Early manhood	
3	Anna	Jan. 14, 1829	Unmarried	June 28, 1897
3	Johan	Mar. 6, 1832		Infancy
3	Johannes	Mar. 25, 1833		
3	Maria	Oct. 18, 1835		Infancy
3m	Name unknown			

3 **Helena von Riesen** (1822-1897) married Cornelius Jansen in 1848. The familial bonds of her father's family were so strong that in 1850 the young couple moved to Russia settling in the seaport of Berdjansk. Here Cornelius Jansen became quite prosperous as a merchant and also served as a German Consul hence the nickname "Consul" Jansen<sup>13</sup>.

Cornelius Jansen was a strong advocate of the emigration to America and published several pamphlets in support of this cause. He was banished from Russia in 1873 and moved to America settling eventually in Beatrice, Nebraska. Their son Peter Jansen established a successful ranch in Jefferson County, near the Kleine Gemeinde settlement which eventually became known as Jansen, Nebraska. Peter Jansen was a successful businessman and also served as a State Senator<sup>14</sup>.

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
3	<b>Helena von Riesen</b>	Dec. 1, 1822	May 4, 1848	Dec. 2, 1897
m	Cornelius Jansen	July 6, 1822	May 4, 1848	Dec. 13, 1894
4	Margaretha	Feb. 12, 1849		Jan. 19, 1875
4	Peter	Mar. 21, 1852	May 4, 1877	June 6, 1923
m	Gertrude Penner	Oct. 25, 1856		
4	Anna	Mar. 23, 1856		Oct. 17, 1924
m	Arron Klassen	May 28, 1850		
4	John	Oct. 16, 1857	Aug. 24, 1882	Feb. 10, 1932
m	Albertine Penner	Oct. 5, 1862		Apr. 1925
4	Helena	Nov. 14, 1858		Nov. 9, 1937
4	Cornelius	Apr. 30, 1863		Aug. 22, 1954
m	Christina Fossler	Sept. 20, 1870		Aug. 1956

3 **Abraham von Riesen** (1827- ) married Johanna Hamm. Both died early and left two children Heinrich and Anna, who were educated partly in the Cornelius Jansen home and partly by relatives in Prussia.<sup>15</sup>

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
3	<b>Abraham von Riesen</b>	Apr. 24, 1827		
m	Johanna Hamm			
4	Heinrich			
4	Anna			

3 **Johannes von Riesen** (1833- ) married Marie Wiebe a niece of elder Gerhard Penner. At first the couple stayed with the Jansens in Berdjansk and later moved to Wickerau, West Prussia, from where they moved to Beatrice, Nebraska, in 1876.<sup>16</sup>

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
3	<b>Johannes von Riesen</b>	Mar. 25, 1833		
m	Marie Wiebe			

### 23.03 Abraham Friesen Family

**Abraham Friesen** (1782-1849) moved to Russia in 1805 settling in Wirtschaft No. 11 in the village of Orloff, Molotschna. The following property is listed by B. H. Unruh in 1808: 1 horse, 2 cattle, 41 Tschwert unthreshed grain and 13 loads of hay.

He was elected as the deacon in the Grosse Gemeinde in Orloff in 1817 but joined the Kleine Gemeinde shortly thereafter. In 1823, he was elected minister and in 1838 as Aeltester to replace brother-in-law Klaas Reimer who had died the previous year. Abraham Friesen was one of the leading churchmen of the Russian Mennonites in his time.<sup>17</sup>

His sons were often referred to as the "Blumsteiner" Friesens as several of them resided in the village of that name.<sup>18</sup> Most of the family moved to Jansen, Nebraska in 1874.

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
2	<b>Abraham Friesen</b>	July 13, 1782		July 1, 1849
m	Catherina Wiebe	Oct. 30, 1781		Oct. 20, 1854
3	Jacob W. Friesen	Oct. 4, 1808		June 17, 1889
3	Katharina W. Friesen	Oct. 27, 1809		May 21, 1812
3	Margaretha Friesen	Nov 4, 1810		Sept. 1, 1877

3	Abraham W. Friesen	July 20, 1812		Sept. 9, 1889
3	Heinrich W. Friesen	Feb. 16, 1814		Oct. 11, 1850
3	Peter W. Friesen	Dec. 15, 1815		Dec. 29, 1892
3	Cathrina W. Friesen	Dec. 7, 1817		Oct. 11, 1864
3	Elisabeth W. Friesen	June 7, 1820		18____

3 **Jacob W. Friesen** (1808-1889) was elected as a deacon of the Kleine Gemeinde in 1849. Shortly after their marriage the couple moved to Blumstein, Molotschna, <sup>18a</sup> where he served for some time as Schulz. Later they moved to Heuboden in Borosenko, and then to Nebraska in 1874. Mrs. Jacob W. Friesen also served as a midwife.<sup>18b</sup>

Son Abraham raised five foster children and was elected Aeltester of the Heuboden Kleine Gemeinde in 1869. Cornelius was elected minister in 1869 and also served as a school teacher in Russia.<sup>18b</sup> Son Peter L. Friesen died in Berlin en route to America in 1874. Son Heinrich L. Friesen settled in Rosenort, Manitoba. He was a short man about 5' 6".

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
3	<b>Jacob W. Friesen</b>	Oct. 4, 1808	Mar. 7, 1829	June 17, 1889
m	Aganetha Leopp	Jan. 27, 1808	Mar. 7, 1829	June 4, 1881
4	Catarina Friesen	Jan. 31, 1830		1882
4	Abraham L. Friesen <sup>19</sup>	Sept. 13, 1831		Mar. 14, 1917
m	Anna Dueck	Nov. 13, 1833	Feb. 15, 1853	Jan. 15, 1904
2m	Helena Friesen	Oct. 19, 1835	June 29, 1904	Feb. 25, 1911
4	Aganetha Friesen	Jan. 25, 1834		1841
4	Margaretha Friesen	Jan. 15, 1836		1836
4	Jacob L. Friesen	Jan. 5, 1837		Dec. 21, 1901
m	Elizabeth B. Friesen <sup>19a</sup>	July 19, 1840		
4	Margaretha Friesen	Dec. 11, 1838		1841
4	Cornelius Friesen	Mar. 2, 1840		1840
4	Cornelius L. Friesen	Mar. 12, 1841		1923
m	Sara Janzen <sup>20</sup>			1892
4	Heinrich Friesen	Mar. 12, 1841		1843
4	Aganetha Friesen	May 16, 1843		1843
4	Heinrich Friesen	Aug. 27, 1844		1849
4	Peter L. Friesen	May 4, 1847		1874
m	Margaretha K. Sawatzky	Aug. 20, 1852	June 1871	Dec. 3, 1924
4	Heinrich L. Friesen	Mar. 14, 1851		Dec. 1, 1910
m	Anna B. Klassen <sup>21</sup>	July 10, 1855	Sept. 2, 1872	Dec. 27, 1892

3 **Margaretha W. Friesen** married Peter Thiessen of Schoenau, who was elected as a Kleine Gemeinde minister in 1849 but he withdrew from the office shortly thereafter. His son Abraham F. Thiessen was well known as the champion of the landless Mennonites in Russia.<sup>22</sup> His son Peter was a minister of the K.M.B. Son Johan P. Thiessen was a prominent member of the business community in Jansen, Nebraska, also serving for a time in the State House of Representatives.<sup>23</sup>

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
3	<b>Margaretha W. Friesen</b>	Nov. 4, 1810		Sept. 1, 1877
m	Peter Thiessen	Mar. 8, 1808		1873
4	Peter P. Thiessen	1832		1898
m	Elizabeth Fast	1826		
4	Abraham F. Thiessen	1832		1889
m	_____			
2m	Anna Heidebrecht	1857		
4	Margaret Thiessen	ca. 1849		1909
m	Peter F. Krause	1842		
4	Johan P. Thiessen	1852		1920
m	Agnes Heidebrecht	1852		1933
4	Sara Thiessen	1858		1925
m	Wilhelm Thiessen	1842		

3 **Abraham W. Friesen** moved to Jansen, Nebraska with his family except son Peter B. Friesen who settled in the Blumenort area in Manitoba. His first wife was a sister to Klaas Brandt whose sons settled in Manitoba in 1874. Son Heinrich B. Friesen was the father of E.M.B. minister Abraham F. Friesen (1857-1935). Daughter Margaretha B. Friesen was the mother of Jacob F. Isaac, Kleine Gemeinde Aeltester in Meade, Kansas. Son Isaac D. Friesen lived in Rosenort.

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
3	<b>Abraham W. Friesen</b>	July 20, 1812		Sept. 9, 1889
m	Elisabeth Brandt	June 28, 1813		
4	Abraham B. Friesen	1833		Mar. 22, 1903
m				
2m	Katherina P. Isaac	1844	1865	1909
4	Heinrich B. Friesen	1836	Apr. 22, 1856	1900
m	Helena S. Friesen	Oct. 7, 1835		Feb. 26, 1911
4	Elisabeth B. Friesen			
m				
4	Peter B. Friesen	1838		1900
m	Elisabeth Barkman <sup>23a</sup>	1841		1917
4	Katherina B. Friesen	May 27, 1846	Sept. 22, 1863	May 14, 1903
m	Gerhard Rempel <sup>23b</sup>	Sept. 27, 1843		Nov. 29, 1879
4	Margaretha B. Friesen	Dec. 12, 1848		Dec. 9, 1920
m	Abram P. Isaac	Sept. 10, 1845		Jan. 23, 1923
4	Aganetha B. Friesen	Dec. 20, 1850	Jan. 11, 1872	Apr. 11, 1925
m	Johan F. Heidebrecht <sup>23c</sup>	June 20, 1849		July 11, 1897
4	Jakob B. Friesen	Dec. 5, 1854	Apr. 11, 1875	Dec. 3, 1911
m	Margaretha K. Sawatzky	Aug. 20, 1852		Dec. 3, 1924
3	<b>Abraham W. Friesen</b>	July 20, 1812		Sept. 9, 1889
2m	Maria Dueck	1829		
4	Klaas Friesen	Aug. 17, 1858	Oct, 1879	Jan. 26, 1923
m	Aganetha Friesen	1860	Oct, 1879	Dec. 30, 1903
4	Isaac Friesen	Oct. 16, 1865		1951
m	Sara Harms	1858		1923

3 **Heinrich W. Friesen** married Anna Makofski possibly the daughter of Michael Makofski, a Catholic who had joined the Kleine Gemeinde in the 1820's. Nothing further is presently known about the family.

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
3	<b>Heinrich W. Friesen</b>	Feb. 16, 1815		Oct. 11, 1856
	Anna Makofski	1812	183-	184-

3 **Peter W. Friesen**, of Tiege, was elected as a minister of the Kleine Gemeinde in 1861. He moved to Borsenko and later to Janzen, Nebraska. (See Section 23:06.)

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
3	<b>Peter W. Friesen</b>	Dec. 15, 1815	Oct. 26, 1836	Dec. 29, 1892
m	Helena F. Reimer	Oct. 30, 1816		Jan. 8, 1870
4	Helena Friesen	Aug. 24, 1837		Aug. 26, 1837
4	Abram Friesen	Dec. 2, 1838		Dec. 15, 1838
4	Abram Friesen	Feb. 28, 1840		Apr. 14, 1840
4	Peter R. Friesen	Aug. 12, 1842	Nov. 28, 1865	Jan. 31, 1904
m	Maria Isaak			Jan. 24, 1908
4	Helena R. Friesen	Mar. 17, 1845	Oct. 29, 1863	Aug. 21, 1893
m	Peter Isaak			Apr. 29, 1918
4	Abram Friesen	Feb. 24, 1848		Feb. 20, 1917
4	Klaas Friesen	June 5, 1851		Mar. 22, 1857
4	Klaas R. Friesen	Aug. 31, 1857	June 30, 1881	Oct. 9, 1922
m	Aganetha Barkman	Oct. 31, 1858		July 3, 1931

4     Margaretha R. Friesen   Feb. 21, 1860         Jan. 11, 1882         Mar. 19, 1897  
 m     Heinrich Loewen         Feb. 21, 1860   May 18, 1935

3     **Katharina W. Friesen** married her cousin, Klaas F. Reimer, the son of Klaas E. Reimer, founding Aeltester of the Kleine Gemeinde. (See Secion 23.06).

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
3	<b>Katharina W. Friesen</b>	Dec. 7, 1817	Sept. 26, 1836	Oct. 11, 1864
m	Klaas F. Reimer	Oct. 18, 1812		Oct. 15, 1874
4	Helena Reimer	Apr. 3, 1838		Apr. 3, 1838
4	Abram F. Reimer	May 26, 1839	Nov. 2, 1862	July 11, 1908
m	Anna Eidse	Sept. 18, 1843		Apr. 17, 1922
4	Klaas Reimer	Jan. 20, 1841		Dec. 9, 1867
4	Peter Reimer	Apr. 7, 1843		Oct. 8, 1878
4	Katharina F. Reimer	Aug. 31, 1845	Dec. 25, 1867	Oct. 5, 1929
m	Peter F. Heidebrecht	Aug. 27, 1847		Feb. 2, 1915
2m	Cornelius L. Plett	Oct. 29, 1846		Jan. 3, 1935
4	Helena F. Reimer	Sept. 17, 1846	Feb. 28, 1868	May 9, 1883
m	David Klassen <sup>24</sup>	Apr. 9, 1845		May 9, 1883
4	Margaretha Reimer	Oct. 1, 1849		Sept. 6, 1851
4	Heinrich Reimer	Apr. 14, 1853		July 30, 1853
4	Jakob F. Reimer	June 3, 1854	Mar. 24, 1881	May 6, 1937
m	Anna Barkman	Dec. 30, 1860		Oct. 19, 1948
4	Heinrich F. Reimer	Mar. 8, 1856	Feb. 5, 1880	Nov. 7, 1923
m	Katharina Barkman	Mar. 20, 1856		Aug. 14, 1943
4	Margaretha F. Reimer	Feb. 20, 1858	Mar. 21, 1886	Aug. 28, 1932
m	Jakob J. Friesen	Oct. 28, 1864		May 9, 1939
4	Johann F. Reimer	Mar. 18, 1860	Mar. 21, 1886	Aug. 3, 1941
m	Elisabeth Reimer	Oct. 1, 1867		May 22, 1936
4	Elisabeth Reimer	Mar. 22, 1864		Oct. 4, 1864

3     **Elizabeth W. Friesen** married Jacob Braun. Nothing further is presently known about her family or other descendants.

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
3	<b>Elizabeth W. Friesen</b>	182__		18__
m	Jacob Braun			

### 23.04 Margaretha Friesen Family

**Margaretha Friesen** married Johan Friesen (1759-ca. 1830) a widower from Reinland, Tiegenhof district in Prussia, who had four children of his previous marriage. The Village of Reinland was several miles to the south of Tiegenhagen where the von Riesens went to church.

The family settled in the village of Schoenau, Molotschna, in 1804. At this time the family unit is listed as follows: "Johan Friesen, farmer, age 54, wife Margaretha 24, children Helena 15, Catarina 12, Sara 10, Elisabeth 8, Abraham 1 and Johan ¼. And his sister Sara age 32. Property: 1 wagon, 1 plow, 2 harrows, 8 horses. 18 cattle, 200 tshwert unthreshed grain and 23 loads of hay.<sup>25</sup>

Later the Johan Friesen family apparently moved to Rosenort.<sup>26</sup> As several of the sons lived in Neukirch they were sometimes referred to as the "Neukircher Friesens".<sup>27</sup>

Johan Friesen was elected as a minister of the Grosse Flemish Gemeinde in 1805.<sup>27a</sup> It is evident from Klaas Reimer's autobiography, that he was sympathetic to the cause of his "Geschwister" in the Kleine Gemeinde movement and frequently acted as a go-between. Johan Friesen was the senior minister of the Grosse Gemeinde in 1824 at the time of the division of the Orloff Gemeinde under Aeltester Bernhard Fast.<sup>28</sup> All of the Friesen children except Peter and Martin were prominent members of the Kleine Gemeinde.

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
2	<b>Margaretha Friesen</b>	Mar. 15, 1784	ca. 1802 (?)	Aug. 5, 1835
m	Johan Friesen	1759		ca. 1830
3	Abraham	May 15, 1807	Aug. 19, 1830	May 20, 1891

3	Johan	June 28, 1808		Mar. 31, 1872
3	Margaretha	June 10, 1811		Apr. 3, 1831
3	Peter	Nov. 27, 1812		
3	Anna	Apr. 15, 1814		May 20, 1843
3	Klaas	Feb. 15, 1818		Mar. 8, 1871
3	Jacob	Sept. 10, 1820		May 14, 1888
3	Martin	July 15, 1823		187__
3	Helena	1823	July 31, 1843	Sept. 27, 1853

3 **Abraham F. Friesen** married Helena Siemens and the family farmed in Neukirch and later moved to the Borosenko village of Rosenfeld. He was elected a minister of the Kleine Gemeinde in 1846 and served in that capacity until 1872. He was a senior minister at the time of the reconciliation between a portion of the "Friesens" with the Blumenhof Gemeinde in 1869. The Abraham F. Friesen's together with most of their children settled in Jansen, Nebraska. Son Abraham S. Friesen settled in Steinbach, Manitoba and son-in-law Peter R. Reimer settled in Blumenort, Manitoba.

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
3	<b>Abraham F. Friesen</b>	May 15, 1807	Aug. 19, 1830	May 20, 1891
m	Helena Siemens	Feb. 15, 1812	Aug. 19, 1830	Sept. 1, 1888
4	Katharina Friesen <sup>29</sup>	Aug. 2, 1831	Sept. 2, 1851	Mar. 4, 1856
m	Johan H. Toews	Sept. 10, 1826		Oct. 26, 1895
4	Margaretha Friesen	July 29, 1833		June 29, 1836
4	Helena S. Friesen <sup>29</sup>	Oct. 7, 1835		Feb. 26, 1911
m	Heinrich B. Friesen	1836	Apr. 22, 1856	Dec. 11, 1900
2m	Abraham L. Friesen	Sept. 13, 1831	June 29, 1904	Mar. 14, 1917
4	Abraham Friesen	Mar. 15, 1838		Jan. 16, 1838
4	Johan Friesen	Mar. 11, 1840		Apr. 11, 1841
4	Johan Friesen	Feb. 18, 1842		Dec. 30, 1847
4	Margaretha Friesen	Aug. 28, 1844		July 8, 1845
4	Elisabeth Friesen	Apr. 18, 1846		Dec. 7, 1847
4	Abraham S. Friesen <sup>29</sup>	Jan. 16, 1848		Mar. 14, 1917
m	Katharina Reimer	Apr. 30, 1850	Dec. 14, 1867	Aug. 14, 1912
2m	Maria Regehr			
4	Elisabeth S. Friesen <sup>29</sup>	Nov. 8, 1849		June 1873
m	Peter R. Reimer	Dec. 29, 1845		Nov. 10, 1915
4	Johan S. Friesen	June 24, 1852		1920
m	Helena Siemens			

3 **Johan F. Friesen** (1808-1872) was married four times.<sup>30</sup> His second marriage to Maria Enns, the daughter of Aeltester Heinrich Enns, lasted only 30 weeks. His third wife was Elisabeth Klassen, the daughter of David Klassen who served as one of the delegates to America in 1873. Johan Friesen lived in the village of Neukirch and later moved to Rosenfeld, Borosenko.

Johan Friesen was elected as a minister in the Kleine Gemeinde in 1840 and as the Aeltester to replace uncle Abraham Friesen in 1847. In this office Johan Friesen played a prominent role in the resolution of the "Church Building" dispute and "Barley" dispute which had caused great disruption in the Molotschna Community. He led the Kleine Gemeinde through a period of considerable growth but his authority was diminished by the 1866 division.<sup>31</sup>

His son Johan K. Friesen was a minister in the Scratching River Kleine Gemeinde in Manitoba.

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
3	<b>Johan F. Friesen</b>	June 28, 1808		Mar. 31, 1872
m	Anna Wiebe			
2m	Maria Enns	Jan. 11, 1837	1855	1855
3m	Elizabeth Klassen <sup>32</sup>	June 13, 1837		Mar. 17, 1871
4	Johan K. Friesen	July 19, 1857	July 2, 1876	Jan. 21, 1934
m	Justina E. Warkentin	Feb. 4, 1856		June 7, 1943
4	David K. Friesen	Jan. 18, 1861		July 13, 1928
m	Anna Friesen	Aug. 28, 1850		Sept. 10, 1912
4	Aganetha Friesen	Apr. 28, 1863	July 3, 1880	



m	John E. Warkentin	June 11, 1859		Oct. 19, 1929
4	Maria Friesen	Feb. 29, 1869	Jan. 1, 1890	June 1933
m	John R. Dueck	Dec. 1, 1863		Feb. 1, 1937
3	Johan F. Friesen			
4m	Anna Isaac <sup>32a</sup>	Jan. 24, 1807		Nov. 1, 1873

3 **Margaretha F. Friesen** (1811-1831) married her cousin Abraham Sawatsky but died leaving no descendants.

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
3	<b>Margaretha F. Friesen</b>	June 10, 1811	Jan. 8, 1831	Apr. 3, 1831
m	Abraham Sawatsky	Apr. 9, 1807		July 24, 1882

3 **Peter F. Friesen** left the Kleine Gemeinde and became a minister in the Orloff Gemeinde. Nothing further is presently known about this family.<sup>33</sup> Presumably many of the descendants remained in Russia.

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
3	<b>Peter F. Friesen</b>	Nov. 12, 1812		
m	_____			
4	Cathrina	Aug. 23, 1840		
m	Diedrich Wall			
4	Abram	184__		
m	_____			
4	Peter	Jan. 11, 1846		
m	Anna Baerg			
4	Helena			
m	Klaas Friesen			
2m	_____ Gorzen			
4	Johan			
m	_____			
4	Aron			
m	_____			
4	Justina			
m	_____ Quiring			

3 **Anna F. Friesen** married Johan W. Thiessen who later settled in Jansen, Nebraska, after he married for the second time to her cousin Katherina Friesen.

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
3	<b>Anna F. Friesen</b> <sup>34</sup>	Apr. 15, 1814	Oct. 22, 1833	May 20, 1843
m	Johan W. Thiessen	Dec. 19, 1813		Aug. 20, 1888
4	Klaas	July 15, 1834	died in infancy	
4	Klaas	June 24, 1836		1886
4	Elizabeth	Jan. 11, 1838		
4	Anna	Jan. 11, 1838	Twins found dead in the cradle	
4	Johan	Mar. 16, 1840		Aug. 14, 1917
m	Anna Duerksen	May 13, 1844		Dec. 25, 1908
4	Elizabeth	Jan. 28, 1842		July 1881

3 **Klaas F. Friesen** (1818-1871) served for many years as a deacon of the Kleine Gemeinde being elected in 1851. He lived in Neukirch and apparently also owned a small retail business during the 1860's.<sup>35</sup> His family settled in Jansen, Nebraska.

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
3	<b>Klaas F. Friesen</b>	Feb. 15, 1818	1846	Mar. 8, 1871
m	Margaretha Braun <sup>36</sup>	July 2, 1817		1873
4	Elizabeth Friesen <sup>37</sup>	July 19, 1840		Mar. 1880 (?)
m	Jakob L. Friesen	Jan. 17, 1837		Dec. 21, 1901
4	Margaretha Friesen	Sept. 3, 1848	May 16, 1868	Mar. 23, 1930
m	David N. Wiens	Oct. 22, 1847		Mar. 31, 1914

4	Abraham Friesen	Mar. 29, 1852	Jan. 18, 1872	Oct. 29, 1916
m	Margaretha Thiessen	Feb. 9, 1848		Feb. 20, 1905
4	Helena Friesen	May 21, 1854	Apr. 21, 1873	May 26, 1932
m	John Rempel	Feb. 12, 1853		Feb. 10, 1904
4	Anna Friesen	Sept. 8, 1855	Jan. 31, 1875	Feb. 3, 1915
m	Johan F. Krause <sup>38</sup>	Oct. 12, 1854		July 26, 1931
4	Klaas Friesen	Mar. 17, 1857	Jan. 14, 1879	Oct. 26, 1940
m	Margaret Thiessen	Oct. 8, 1853		Nov. 17, 1940
4	Isaac Friesen	Sept. 14, 1858	Dec. 26, 1879	Mar. 25, 1929
m	Catharina Classen	Feb. 28, 1860		Aug. 13, 1937
4	Maria Friesen	Nov. 11, 1861	Jan. 9, 1881	June 8, 1924
m	Henry F. Friesen			Jan. 30, 1950

3 **Jakob F. Friesen** was married to Margaretha Toews, a half sister to Aeltester Peter Toews. His second wife was the widow of Isaac Braun (1817-1869). Later Jakob F. Friesen moved to the village of Heuboden when the Borosenko settlement was developed. He as well as some of his brothers were sometimes known as the "large" Friesens to distinguish them from the many other Friesen families.<sup>40</sup> His sons Johan T. Friesen and Abam T. Friesen were school teachers in Rosenort, Manitoba.

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
3	<b>Jakob F. Friesen</b>	Sept. 10, 1820		May 14, 1888
m	Margaretha Toews	Sept. 23, 1819	Mar. 19, 1839	Oct. 22, 1860
4	Margaretha Friesen <sup>41</sup>	Mar. 16, 1840	Nov. 27, 1860	Sept. 24, 1900
m	Peter Dueck	Aug. 19, 1837		Aug. 24, 1931
4	Anna Friesen	1842		
m	Jakob Harms			
4	Maria Friesen	Apr. 23, 1843		
m	Johan Klassen <sup>42</sup>			
4	Helena Friesen	1844		1863
4	Jakob Friesen <sup>43</sup>	Dec. 1845	1867	Oct. 11, 1903
m	Elizabeth Rempel	Jan. 6, 1845		
4	Johan T. Friesen <sup>44</sup>	Apr. 15, 1849		Jan. 30, 1909
m	Anna Warkentin			
4	Abraham T. Friesen <sup>45</sup>	Apr. 6, 1852		1909
m	Cornelia Harms			July 31, 1938
3	Jakob F. Friesen			May 14, 1888
2m	Margaret Loewen	Aug. 22, 1817	1877	Feb. 2, 1883

3 **Martin F. Friesen**, apparently moved to the Crimea where he joined the K.M.B. The family moved to Gnadenu, Kansas in 1874.<sup>45a</sup> Johan P. Friesen has listed only the oldest five children. A couple of appropriate names and ages are shown aboard the S. S. Brooklin with the other K.M.B. families and are assumed to be the same family. The ship records list four additional children still with the parents at that time. The youngest three were still living with their parents according to the 1880 Marion County Census.

A definite identification is achieved through the K.M.B. Gnadenu Church Record family No. 87 where the parents Martin and Maria Friesen are listed with the family of daughter Helena, Mrs. Franz Hein. The Gerhard Wohlgenuth family moved from the Crimea to Gnadenu in 1874. They are listed as family No. 88 in the K.M.B. Church Record which also bears the notation that this family went over to the Baptists.

A Johan and Abram Friesen of appropriate ages are listed in the 1880 Marion County Census and are assumed to be the sons of Martin (b. 1823). According to the K.M.B. Record Book daughter Helena and son Jacob and their families moved to Colorado.

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
3	<b>Martin F. Friesen</b>	July 15, 1823		
m	Maria Fast	1824	184__	
4	Justina Friesen	Feb. 14, 1847	May 1869	Aug. 23, 1928
m	Gerhard Wohlgenuth <sup>46</sup>	Aug. 11, 1846		Apr. 19, 1923
4	Peter Friesen	1844		1867

m	Helena Eidsen <sup>46a</sup>	Jan. 29, 1846		Mar. 6, 1918
4	Johan Friesen	184-		
m	Elizabeth Boschman			
4	Abraham Friesen	1852		
m	Catherine			
4	Helena Friesen	Apr. 14, 1856	Sept. 25, 1872	
m	Franz Hein	Mar. 28, 1849		
4	Jacob Friesen	May 20, 1860		
m	Kornelia Boschman	June 19, 1860		
4	Martin Friesen	1864		
m	_____			
4	Klaas Friesen	1867		
m	_____			
4	Peter Friesen	1870		
m	_____			

3 **Helena F. Friesen** was the second wife of Heinrich Reimer (1818-1876) a prominent Kleine Gemeinde farmer who settled in the village of Blumenhof, Manitoba in 1875. In 1874 Heinrich Reimer was chosen to accompany Aeltester Peter Toews to a meeting with Russian Governor-General Totleben regarding the provision of emigration passes.

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
3	<b>Helena F. Friesen</b>	1823	July 3, 1843	Sept. 27, 1859
m	Heinrich Reimer <sup>47</sup>	Feb. 8, 1818		Feb. 25, 1876
4	Maria Reimer	Jan. 19, 1844		Apr. 7, 1844
4	Heinrich Reimer <sup>48</sup>	Sept. 2, 1845		Mar. 1900
m	Katharina Sawatzky <sup>48a</sup>	Oct. 6, 1846	Feb. 10, 1865	
2m	Susanna Ratzlaff <sup>49</sup>	1846	1888	1905
4	Maria Reimer <sup>50</sup>	Aug. 3, 1847	Oct. 14, 1866	Aug. 20, 1916
m	Abraham R. Reimer	Sept. 3, 1841		May 25, 1891
4	Helena Reimer	Nov. 25, 1849		Nov. 25, 1849
4	Helena Reimer	Oct. 24, 1850		Oct. 1851
4	Helena Reimer	Apr. 9, 1853		Apr. 17, 1853
4	Abraham Reimer	Sept. 27, 1859		Sept. 28, 1859

### 23.05 Anna Friesen Family

2 **Anna Friesen** (1785-1857) married Cornelius Sawatzky who originated from the village of Heuboden located some 20 miles south of Kalteherberge where she grew up. Heuboden was the location of the meeting house of the congregation of the same name. In 1804, Cornelius Sawatzky emigrated to Russia possibly together with his younger sister. In 1805, he settled on Wirtschaft No. 3, in the village of Orloff, Molotschna. Early the next year he married Anna the daughter of Abraham Friesen who had settled in the same village.

B. H. Unruh lists the family as follows as of 1808: Cornelius Sawatzky, age 26, from Heuboden, Amt Marienburg, farmer, and Anna his wife, age 22, children: Abraham 1 and Margaretha 1¼. Property consists of: 1 wagon, 1 plow, 2 harrows, 6 horses, 8 cattle, 3 sheep, 132 tschwert un-threshed grain, 26 loads of hay. They were obviously quite well off for such a young family.<sup>51</sup>

The Cornelius Sawatzkys originally belonged to the Kleine Gemeinde and may have been one of the charter families. Unfortunate differences developed in the early 1830's and it appears that the parents withdrew as a result.<sup>52</sup>

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
2	<b>Anna Friesen</b>	Aug. 12, 1785	Jan. 25, 1806	Aug. 4, 1857
m	Cornelius Sawatzky	Sept. 23, 1781		Dec. 7, 1840
3	Abraham	Apr. 9, 1807		July 24, 1882
3	Margaretha	July 18, 1808		Oct. 16, 1893
3	Anna	Sept. 17, 1809		Apr. 6, 1877
3	Sara	Mar. 11, 1816		Mar. 27, 1894
3	Peter	Sept. 5, 1828		Mar. 12, 1898

3 **Abraham Sawatzky** married for the first time to his cousin Margaretha F. Friesen but she died without issue. His third wife Katharina Kroeker was the daughter of Franz Kroeker and a sister to Jakob M. Kroeker the Kleine Gemeinde Aeltester at Rosenort, Manitoba.

The family travelled to New York together with most of the Heubodner Kleine Gemeinde in 1874 and settled in Jansen, Nebraska.

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
3	<b>Abraham Sawatzky</b>	Apr. 9, 1807		July 24, 1882
m	Margaretha Friesen	June 10, 1811	Jan. 8, 1831	Apr. 3, 1831
2m	Katharina Enns	June 18, 1805	Apr. 30, 1833	Sept. 15, 1845
4	Anna Sawatzky	Dec. 10, 1833		Dec. 30, 1833
4	Cornelius Sawatzky	Dec. 30, 1833		Oct. 11, 1860
4	Abram Sawatzky	Dec. 31, 1836		Sept. 16, 1853
3	<b>Abraham Sawatzky</b>	Apr. 9, 1807		July 24, 1882
3m	Katharina Kroeker	Feb. 3, 1824	Dec. 8, 1845	Oct. 30, 1900
4	Katharina Sawatzky	Oct. 6, 1846	Feb. 10, 1865	Sept. 10, 1869
m	Heinrich Reimer <sup>52a</sup>	Sept. 2, 1845		Mar. 1900
4	Anna Sawatzky	Feb. 10, 1849		Aug. 11, 1872
4	Margaretha Sawatzky <sup>53</sup>	Aug. 20, 1852		Dec. 3, 1924
m	Jakob B. Friesen	Dec. 5, 1854		Dec. 3, 1911
4	Helena Sawatzky	Dec. 19, 1854		Aug. 11, 1872
m	Isaac E. Loewen <sup>53a</sup>	Jan. 4, 1850		
4	Abram Sawatzky <sup>53b</sup>	Feb. 11, 1861		
m				
4	Franz Sawatzky <sup>54</sup>	June 9, 1865	Jan. 15, 1887	Feb. 19, 1934
m	Helena F. Friesen	July 11, 1859		Nov. 18, 1948
4	Sara Sawatzky <sup>54</sup>	Dec. 29, 1858		Aug. 4, 1895
m	Abraham F. Friesen	1857		Dec. 26, 1935

3 **Margaretha Sawatzky** was apparently married for the first time to Peter Rempel (see chapter 18). She married for the second time to her cousin Isaac Friesen (see Section 23.08). A more complete listing of descendants is found in the **Familienregister** of son Heinrich D. Friesen.

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
3	<b>Margaretha Sawatzky</b>	July 18, 1808		Oct. 16, 1892
m	Peter Rempel	Sept. 15, 1792	Sept. 29, 1831	Oct. 31, 1837
4	Anna S. Rempel	Dec. 18, 1833		July 16, 1885
m	Jakob Wiens	May 1, 1832	Feb. 23, 1854	June 6, 1900
4	Cornelius Rempel	Dec. 12, 1836		Oct. 10, 1865
m	Gertruda Regehr	Jan. 22, 1836	Oct. 19, 1861	
3	<b>Margaretha Sawatzky</b>	July 18, 1808		Oct. 16, 1893
2m	Isaac Friesen	Oct. 27, 1813	Mar. 8, 1838	May 24, 1888
4	Heinrich D. Friesen	Feb. 23, 1839		
m	Aganetha Harder Thiessen	Mar. 7, 1842	May 8, 1860	Nov. 11, 1882
2m	Agatha Enns	Dec. 29, 1837	Apr. 19, 1883	
4	Isaac Friesen	May 26, 1841		Nov. 27, 1908
m	Anna Kasdorf	Aug. 8, 1842	Oct. 19, 1861	
4	Regina S. Friesen	Feb. 18, 1844		
4	Margaretha S. Friesen	Oct. 29, 1845		
m	Abram Wiebe	Mar. 15, 1845	Nov. 1, 1866	July 26, 1903
2m	Jakob Reimer			

3 **Anna Sawatzky** married Isaac Harms, the son of Johan Harms who settled in the village of Blumstein, Molotschna in 1804. Isaac Harms is recognized as being one of the most significant supporters of the Kleine Gemeinde resettlement program for its landless during the 1860's.<sup>55</sup> In 1864, the family moved to Markuslandt which Isaac Harms had been instrumental in founding.

In 1874 the Harms family moved to Jansen, Nebraska where Isaac Harms married for a second time to Karolina Plett, the widow of his first wife's uncle Klaas Friesen. Son Cornelius remained in Russia, resident in Schoenau, Molotschna in 1892 but by 1913 he was resident in California.<sup>55a</sup>

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
3	Anna Sawatsky	Sept. 17, 1809	Sept. 19, 1832	Apr. 6, 1877
m	Isaac Harms	Jan. 10, 1811		Sept. 4, 1891
4	Cornelius Harms	Oct. 14, 1833		Oct. 25, 1834
4	Cornelius Harms	Aug. 13, 1835		
m	Katharina Thiessen	Feb. 20, 1836	Aug. 14, 1856	May 18, 1865
2m	Anna Hildebrandt		June 20, 1867	Dec. 9, 1877
3m	Elizabeth Goossen		Apr. 27, 1878	
4	Isaac Harms <sup>55b</sup>	Dec. 9, 1837	Aug. 10, 1858	Jan. 18, 1866
m	Margaretha Friesen	Oct. 18, 1838		
4	Johan Harms <sup>56</sup>	Dec. 3, 1839	June 12, 1860	Dec. 5, 1884
m	Margaretha Loewen	June 12, 1841		Mar. 16, 1878
4	Peter Harms	Dec. 30, 1841		Oct. 25, 1843
4	Anna Harms	Aug. 6, 1844	Sept. 15, 1863	May 19, 1919
m	Klaas Wiebe <sup>56</sup>	Sept. 19, 1842		Dec. 18, 1925
4	Margaretha	Dec. 2, 1846		Nov. 20, 1847
4	Peter Harms <sup>56</sup>	June 24, 1849	Oct. 19, 1869	Nov. 1, 1924
m	Anna Friesen <sup>57</sup>	Mar. 10, 1849		Nov. 15, 1918

3 Sara Sawatsky married Jakob Isaac. Jacob Isaac was born in Lichtenau.

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
3	Sara Sawatsky	Mar. 11, 1816	Feb. 13, 1836	Mar. 27, 1894
m	Jakob Isaac <sup>108</sup>	May 20, 1813		Oct. 17, 1881
4	Cornelius Isaac	Dec. 30, 1836	Dec. 3, 1850	Dec. 22, 1923
m	Elisabeth Warkentin	July 18, 1840		1897
4	Anna Isaac	Feb. 7, 1838	Dec. 30, 1858	
m	Johann Nickel			
4	Sara Isaac	Aug. 24, 1840		Feb. 26, 1843
4	Jakob Isaac	June 30, 1842		Nov. 26, 1842
4	Jakob Isaac	Jan. 29, 1844		
4	Abram Isaac	Jan. 17, 1846		Apr. 16, 1846
4	Peter Isaac	May 7, 1847		Jan. 30, 1849
4	John Isaac	Apr. 7, 1849		Mar. 9, 1850
4	Sara Isaac	Mar. 9, 1851		Dec. 26, 1854
4	Catrina Isaac	Apr. 9, 1853	Oct. 10, 1871	
m	Dietrich Warkentin	Feb. 14, 1845		Dec. 10, 1887
2m	Franz Neufeld	Mar. 11, 1856	Mar. 7, 1889	
4	Abram Isaac	May 25, 1855		Jan. 10, 1856
4	Abram Isaac	Apr. 14, 1858		Sept. 3, 1881

3 Peter Sawatsky married his first cousin, Maria Friesen, and for the second time to Elizabeth Albrecht. Nothing further is presently known.

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
3	Peter Sawatsky	Sept. 5, 1828		Mar. 12, 1898
m	Maria Friesen	May 13, 1829	May 21, 1851	Dec. 23, 1861
4	Susanna	Sept. 24, 1853		
4	Maria	Dec. 28, 1854		
4	Peter	Mar. 27, 1856		
4	Abram	Apr. 3, 1858	Jan. 1, 1882	
m	Susanna Teichroeb	Mar. 10, 1859		Sept. 6, 1882
2m	Cornelia Fast	Oct. 28, 1859	Dec. 9, 1882	June 12, 1898
3m	Ida Penner	Dec. 16, 18____	Jan. 29, 1899	
4	Johan	Aug. 4, 1860		Dec. 23, 1861
3	Peter Sawatsky	Sept. 5, 1828		
2m	Elisabeth Albrecht	Mar. 10, 1841	Feb. 22, 1862	
4	Elisabeth	Feb. 2, 1863		

4	Anna	Aug. 6, 1864	Sept. 14, 1883
4	Klaas	Mar. 29, 1866	Aug. 15, 1867
4	Heinrich	July 8, 1869	Nov. 18, 1873
4	Margaretha	Apr. 28, 1871	
4	Cornelius	Feb. 17, 1872	Aug. 16, 1877
4	Franz	June 17, 1874	
4	Sara	Dec. 13, 1875	July 22, 1876
4	Sara	Apr. 3, 1878	May 15, 1898
4	Malwini	Sept. 27, 1880	May 14, 1885

### 23.06 Helena Friesen Family

2 **Helena Friesen** married Klaas E. Reimer from Petershagen, West Prussia who was born October 1, 1770.<sup>58</sup> In 1798 he was married for the first time to Maria Epp and in August of 1801 their daughter Aganetha was born. Her uncle the aged minister Cornelius Epp died in Russia on October 19, 1806, at the age of 78 years and 2 months. On November 6, 1806, Klaas Reimer's first wife died at the age of 46 years, 6 months and 13 days.

On Saturday, January 9, 1807, Helena Friesen and Klaas Reimer were married. The events of Klaas Reimer's courageous ministry and service as an Aeltester of the Anabaptist-Mennonites in Russia are well known.<sup>59</sup> The domestic life of the family appears to have been peaceful and harmonious. The family farmed on a successful Wirtschaft in Petershagen. Oldest son Abraham got married on February 16, 1835, and the next May they moved away from home settling in the village of Rosenort. Son Klaas and daughter Helena were married on Thursday, September 24, 1836. By this time the Klaas Reimers were slowing down and on February 18, 1837 they held an auction sale on their farm in Petershagen.

In his epic poem about the death of Klaas Reimer, Heinrich Balzer has recorded that the spirit led him powerfully in his ministry especially during the last four years. Reimer spoke to the brotherhood no less than 80 times, admonishing and directing the way to Christ. It was perhaps fitting that Klaas Reimer's death was to occur while he was on a journey of spiritual visitation in the Molotschna.<sup>61</sup>

On Monday, December 28, 1837, the last evening of his life, he stayed at the home of Peter Kroeckers in Lindenau, speaking until 11 o'clock in the evening.<sup>62</sup> After the brethren had parted and gone their separate ways Klaas Reimer laid himself down to sleep in peaceful repose. He had rested for only a short while when he experienced sharp chest pains which impressed upon his heart. The clock had barely struck 4 o'clock in the morning when his soul departed and went home to be with his beloved Lord whom he had served faithfully for so many years. Klaas Reimer was buried on Tuesday, January 4, 1838. He had reached the age of 67 years, 2 months and 13 days.

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
2	<b>Helena Friesen</b>	Sept. 17, 1787	Jan. 24, 1807	Oct. 22, 1846
m	Klaas Reimer	Oct. 14, 1770		Dec. 18, 1837
3	Abraham Reimer	Feb. 19, 1808		Apr. 11, 1892
3	Margaretha Reimer	Nov. 28, 1809		Dec. 6, 1809
3	Klaas Reimer	Oct. 18, 1812	Sept. 26, 1836	Oct. 15, 1874
3	Heinrich Reimer	Oct. 11, 1814		Oct. 31, 1816
3	Helena Reimer	Oct. 30, 1816	Oct. 26, 1836	Jan. 18, 1870
3	Margaretha Reimer	Jan. 14, 1819	Jan. 1, 1845	Sept. 30, 1874
3	Anna Reimer	Oct. 12, 1821		Dec. 18, 1825
3	Heinrich Reimer	May 31, 1824		Dec. 20, 1825
3	Peter Reimer	Nov. 13, 1826		Aug. 26, 1854
3	Johan Reimer	Apr. 13, 1829		Feb. 18, 1830

3 **Abraham F. Reimer** (1808-1892) married Helena Rempel (1814-1893) on Tuesday, February 26, 1835. Verlobung was held one week prior on February 19. The family presumably lived for the first year with his parents on Wirtschaft No. 4, in Petershagen. On Tuesday, May 11, 1836, the family moved to Rosenort, Molotschna<sup>63</sup> where they resided for many years. In 1864, the Abraham Reimers moved to Markuslandt together with sons Klaas and Abraham and from there they moved to Steinbach, Borosenko. In 1874, they emigrated from Russia settling in Blumenort, Manitoba.<sup>64</sup>

Abraham F. Reimer did not share the financial acumen of his brother Klaas F. Reimer and was more interested in astronomy and other intellectual pursuits. His diaries and journals are filled with

all manner of observations, calculations, facts and figures.<sup>65</sup> Fortunately for the family his wife Elisabeth, nee Rempel, was a resolute pioneer woman of great determination who earned much of the family income as a seamstress.<sup>66</sup> The family also received considerable financial assistance from the Gemeinde.<sup>67</sup> (For more information and a listing of the children see Chapter Eighteen.)

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
3	<b>Abraham F. Reimer</b>	1808	Feb. 26, 1835	1892
m	Helena Rempel	1814		1893

3 **Klaas F. Reimer** married for the first time to his cousin Katharina Friesen and for the second time to Maria Bartel. The family lived in Tiede and was materially well-to-do. Klaas F. Reimer served for a time as a deacon in the Mennonite Kleine Gemeinde.<sup>68</sup>

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
3	<b>Klaas F. Reimer</b> <sup>69</sup>	Oct. 18, 1812	Sept. 26, 1836	Oct. 15, 1874
m	Katharina Friesen	Dec. 7, 1817		Oct. 11, 1864
4	Helena Reimer	Apr. 3, 1838		Apr. 3, 1838
4	Abraham F. Reimer	May 26, 1839	Nov. 2, 1862	July 11, 1908
m	Anna Eidse	Sept. 18, 1843		Apr. 17, 1922
4	Klaas Reimer	Jan. 20, 1841		Dec. 9, 1867
4	Peter Reimer	Apr. 7, 1843		Oct. 8, 1878
4	Katharina Reimer	Aug. 31, 1845	Dec. 25, 1867	Oct. 5, 1929
m	Peter F. Heidebrecht	Aug. 27, 1847		Feb. 2, 1915
2m	Cornelius L. Plett	Oct. 26, 1846	Dec. 12, 1915	Jan. 3, 1935
4	Helena F. Reimer	Sept. 17, 1846	Feb. 28, 1868	Mar. 17, 1919
m	David Klassen	Apr. 9, 1845		May 9, 1883
4	Margaretha Reimer	Oct. 1, 1849		Sept. 6, 1851
4	Heinrich Reimer	Apr. 14, 1853		July 30, 1853
4	Jakob F. Reimer	June 3, 1854	Mar. 24, 1881	May 6, 1937
m	Anna Barkman	Dec. 30, 1860		Oct. 19, 1948
4	Heinrich F. Reimer	Mar. 8, 1856	Feb. 5, 1880	Nov. 7, 1923
m	Katharina Barkman	Mar. 20, 1856		Aug. 14, 1943
4	Margaretha F. Reimer	Feb. 20, 1856	Mar. 21, 1886	Aug. 28, 1932
m	Jacob J. Friesen	Oct. 28, 1864		May 9, 1939
4	Johann F. Reimer	Mar. 18, 1860	Mar. 21, 1886	Aug. 3, 1941
m	Elisabeth Reimer	Oct. 1, 1867		May 22, 1936
4	Elisabeth F. Reimer	Mar. 22, 1864		Oct. 4, 1864
3	<b>Klaas Reimer</b>	Oct. 18, 1812	Feb. 18, 1865	Oct. 15, 1874
2m	Maria Bartel	Feb. 15, 1843		May 22, 1921
4	Maria B. Reimer	Dec. 12, 1865		Jan. 30, 1905
m	Franz Enns	June 20, 1855		Nov. 9, 1928
4	Cornelius B. Reimer	Oct. 1, 1867		Feb. 24, 1869
4	Klaas B. Reimer	Jan. 6, 1869		Dec. 16, 1869
4	Klaas B. Reimer	Feb. 9, 1870	Jan. 17, 1892	Mar. 20, 1931
m	Aganetha J. Friesen	Jan. 16, 1874		June 13, 1951
4	David B. Reimer	Nov. 15, 1871	Feb. 20, 1896	May 24, 1900
m	Maria Enns	July 9, 1869		
4	Cornelius B. Reimer	Aug. 30, 1873	Oct. 19, 1895	Aug. 9, 1951
m	Anna Enns	June 2, 1877		Oct. 27, 1947

3 **Helena F. Reimer** married her cousin Peter W. Friesen. The family lived in Tiede, Molotschna and later in Borosenko from where they moved to Jansen, Nebraska. Peter W. Friesen was elected as a minister of the Kleine Gemeinde in 1869.

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
3	<b>Helena Reimer</b>	Oct. 30, 1816	Oct. 25, 1836	Jan. 8, 1870
m	Peter W. Friesen	Dec. 15, 1815		Dec. 29, 1892
4	Helena Friesen	Aug. 24, 1837		Aug. 26, 1837
4	Abram Friesen	Dec. 2, 1838		Dec. 15, 1838

4	Abram Friesen	Feb. 28, 1840		Apr. 14, 1840
4	Peter Friesen	Aug. 12, 1842	Nov. 28, 1865	Jan. 31, 1904
m	Maria Isaak			Jan. 24, 1908
4	Helena Friesen	Mar. 17, 1845	Oct. 29, 1863	Aug. 21, 1893
m	Peter Isaak			Apr. 29, 1918
4	Abram Friesen	Feb. 24, 1848		Feb. 20, 1917
4	Klaas Friesen	June 5, 1851		Mar. 22, 1857
4	Klaas Friesen	Aug. 31, 1857	June 30, 1881	Oct. 9, 1922
m	Aganetha Barkman	Oct. 31, 1858		July 3, 1931
4	Margaretha Friesen	Feb. 21, 1860	Jan. 11, 1882	Mar. 19, 1897
m	Heinrich Loewen	Feb. 21, 1862		May 18, 1935

3 **Margaretha F. Reimer** married Martin Barkman, son of Martin J. Barkman (1796-1872) of Ruckenaus, Molotschna. The family moved to Jansen, Nebraska.<sup>69</sup>

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
3	<b>Margaretha Reimer</b>	Jan. 14, 1819	Jan. 11, 1845	Sept. 30, 1874
m	Martin Barkman	Aug. 11, 1821		Sept. 2, 1894
4	Helena Barkman	Nov. 17, 1845		Nov. 17, 1845
4	Helena Barkman	Oct. 2, 1846		Oct. 4, 1846
4	Martin Barkman	May 16, 1848		June 4, 1848
4	Martin Barkman	Aug. 27, 1853		Sept. 9, 1853

3 **Peter F. Reimer** was married to his cousin, Susanna Friesen, daughter of Klaas Friesen of Rosenort, Molotschna. He died leaving no descendants. His widow married for the second time to Franz Kroeker, of Kleefeld, Molotschna, who later settled in Steinbach, Manitoba.

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
3	<b>Peter Reimer</b>	Nov. 13, 1826		Apr. 26, 1854
m	Susanna Friesen			Mar. 23, 1861

### 23.07 Johan Friesen Family

**Johan Friesen** was a 15 year old lad at the time of the emigration to Russia in 1804. Shortly thereafter he married Maria Klassen. He took over his father's Wirtshaft No. 10 in Orloff.<sup>70a</sup> The family continued to reside in Orloff as Johan Friesen and his sons were often referred to as the "Orloff Friesens".<sup>70</sup>

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
2	<b>Johan Friesen</b>	Mar. 15, 1789 <sup>71</sup>		Jan. 14, 1840
m	Maria Klassen	Apr. 4, 1793		1830
3	Helena			
3	Johan	Dec. 12, 1812	1833	Sept. 12, 1884
3	Abraham	18___		
3	Peter	18___		
3	Jakob	Nov. 11, 1822	Dec. 14, 1846	June 3, 1875
3	Maria	May 13, 1829		Dec. 23, 1861
3	Susanna	182___		
3	Klaas	183___	died in infancy	
2	Johan Friesen			
2m	___Heidebrecht <sup>107</sup>		183___	
3	Cornelius	Jan. 4, 1832		Dec. 27, 1911
3	Klaas	18___		
3	Heinrich			
3	David			
3	Margaretha			

3 **Helena Friesen** married Heinrich Nickel of Munsterburg, Molotschna. Nothing further is presently known about this family.



Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
3	<b>Helena Friesen</b>			
m	Heinrich Nickel			
4	<b>Heinrich Nickel</b>			
4	Susanna Nickel			

3 **Johan Friesen** (1812-1884) married for the first time to Helena Friesen who may have been related to him. His second wife was Maria Schierling who came from the village of Marienthal. After teaching school in various villages for a number of years he purchased his father-in-law's farm in Marienthal. It is said that he sometimes found life rather difficult because of his debts. During the 1860's the family moved to the Crimea where he operated a roller mill. In 1874 the family emigrated to America where Johan Friesen and five of his children settled in Harvey County, Kansas.<sup>72</sup>

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
3	<b>Johan Friesen</b>	Dec. 12, 1812	1833	Sept. 12, 1884
m	Helena Friesen	Feb. 16, 1813		1843
4	<b>Katherine Friesen</b>	Aug. 29, 1833		Sept. 24, 1878
m	Peter Schmidt			
4	Helena Friesen	Sept. 19, 1834		Sept. 29, 1834
4	Johan Friesen	May 18, 1836		Sept. 1, 1837
4	Johan Friesen	Dec. 4, 1837		June 17, 1839
4	Margaretha Friesen	June 16, 1839		Sept. 18, 1839
4	Johan Friesen	Aug. 6, 1840		Dec. 18, 1887
m	Katharina Wiens			
4	Anna Friesen	Aug. 8, 1842		Dec. 26, 1847
4	Peter Friesen	Nov. 12, 1843		Feb. 22, 1844
3	<b>Johan Friesen</b>	Dec. 12, 1812		
2m	Maria Schierling	Oct. 21, 1818	1844	Dec. 24, 1914
4	Diedrich S. Friesen	1844		Dec. 12, 1844
4	Diedrich S. Friesen <sup>72a</sup>	May 12, 1846		Jan. 28, 1915
m	Sarah Dau Toews	Dec. 11, 1845		Dec. 23, 1912
2m	_____			
4	Maria Friesen	Jan. 1, 1848		Aug. 10, 1930
m	Peter Klassen	Oct. 17, 1846	Nov. 17, 1867	Apr. 2, 1895
2m	Peter Flamming	Apr. 29, 1846	Nov. 1909	Nov. 3, 1922
4	Abraham S. Friesen <sup>72b</sup>	Jan. 29, 1850		Feb. 14, 1941
4	Peter S. Friesen	Sept. 6, 1851		Feb. 22, 1947
m	Anna Flamming	Nov. 25, 1852	Aug. 20, 1870	Aug. 27, 1896
2m	Katie Hohfeldt	Sept. 6, 1867	Oct. 1, 1905	Apr. 1, 1944
4	Jakob S. Friesen	Apr. 29, 1853	Jan. 1, 1874	Aug. 18, 1909
m	Elisabeth Fast <sup>72c</sup>	Mar. 14, 1854		Feb. 8, 1937
4	Susanna Friesen	Jan. 25, 1855	June 27, 1870	Aug. 16, 1935
m	Peter Adrian	Apr. 21, 1850		July 31, 1923
4	Cornelius S. Friesen	Sept. 12, 1857	May 25, 1882	Jan. 13, 1940
m	Maria Epp	Nov. 29, 1863		May 17, 1931
4	Klaas S. Friesen	May 31, 1862		Apr. 8, 1947
m	Catherine Wiens	Dec. 3, 1868		July 8, 1948

3 **Abraham K. Friesen** was married to a Heidebrecht girl. Nothing further is presently known about this couple.

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
3	<b>Abraham K. Friesen</b>	18____		18____
m	_____ Heidebrecht			

3 **Peter K. Friesen** was married three times. Nothing further is presently known about this family.

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
3	<b>Peter K. Friesen</b>	18____		18____
m	_____			
2m	_____			
3m	_____			

3 **Jakob K. Friesen** was born in Orloff, Molotschna. In 1835, he married Katharina Schierling, probably a sister to his brother Johan's wife. The family apparently lived in several different villages, Marienthal, Alexanderkrone and Klippenfeld. At the time of the emigration in 1874 the family was listed as resident in Nikolaithal, Kherson Province.<sup>73</sup> Mrs. Jakob K. Friesen had a sister alive in Kansas and a brother in Russia at the time of death.

In 1875, tragedy struck when Jakob K. Friesen<sup>74</sup> and the minister Jakob Barkman drowned while crossing the Red River during a trip to Winnipeg for supplies for the village of Steinbach. Son Diedrich S. Friesen was a school teacher in Russia and maintained a very valuable diary.<sup>75</sup> Son-in-law, Wilhelm Giesbrecht was an evangelist for the Church of God in Christ, Mennonite. Son-in-law Johan G. Barkman served as Schulz of the Village of Steinbach.<sup>75a</sup>

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
3	<b>Jakob K. Friesen</b>	Nov. 11, 1822	Dec. 14, 1846	June 3, 1875
m	Katharina Schierling	June 7, 1820		Oct. 9, 1909
4	Diedrich S. Friesen	Mar. 31, 1849		Aug. 18, 1901
m	Katharina Friesen	Jan. 6, 1850		June 25, 1895
4	Jakob S. Friesen	Nov. 12, 1850	Feb. 12, 1872	Nov. 26, 1921
m	Margaretha Giesbrecht	Nov. 6, 1852		Dec. 15, 1936
4	John S. Friesen	May 17, 1853		Oct. 5, 1937
m	Anna Barkman	June 13, 1854		Jan. 24, 1923
4	Katharina Friesen	Oct. 1, 1855	Jan. 1875	Oct. 22, 1938
m	Wm. F. Giesbrecht	July 4, 1849		July 8, 1917
4	Margaretha Friesen	Mar. 24, 1858	Jan. 6, 1878	Jan. 20, 1946
m	Johan G. Barkman	Mar. 26, 1858		Oct. 20, 1937
4	Maria Friesen	May 27, 1860	Sept. 8, 1878	Mar. 30, 1942
m	Jakob Barkman	Feb. 10, 1854		May 4, 1895
2m	Jakob Loewen	Oct. 22, 1862	Dec. 26, 1914	Nov. 29, 1918
3m	Ab Klassen	Aug. 10, 1850	Feb. 18, 1922	Dec. 26, 1935
4	Susanna Friesen	June 14, 1863	Apr. 6, 1884	Jan. 12, 1946
m	Aron W. Reimer	Nov. 15, 1865		Aug. 8, 1944

3 **Maria Friesen** married her cousin Peter Sawatzky. (See Section 23.05.) Nothing further is presently known.

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
3	<b>Maria Friesen</b>	May 29, 1829		Dec. 23, 1860
m	Peter Sawatzky	Sept. 5, 1828	May 31, 1851	Mar. 12, 1898
4	Susanna	Sept. 24, 1853		
4	Maria	Dec. 28, 1854		
4	Peter	Mar. 27, 1856		
4	Abram	Apr. 3, 1858		
m	Susanna Teichroeb	Mar. 10, 1859	Jan. 1, 1882	Sept. 6, 1882
2m	Cornelia Fast	Oct. 28, 1859	Dec. 9, 1882	June 12, 1898
3m	Ida Penner	Dec. 26, 18____	Jan. 29, 1899	
3	<b>Susanna Friesen</b>	182____		
Nothing further known.				
3	<b>Klaas Friesen</b>	183____		died in infancy

3 **Cornelius H. Friesen** was a half-brother to Jakob K. Friesen. At the time of emigration to America, the family was living in Lichtfelde, Molotschna. The family settled in Rosenort, Manitoba in 1875. In 1905, the family moved to Beaver Flats, Saskatchewan where they homesteaded once more. His children Margaret and Johan married siblings who were the children of Abram Hiebert of Blumengard, Chortitz Colony.<sup>76</sup>

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
3	<b>Cornelius H. Friesen</b>	Jan. 4, 1832		Dec. 27, 1911
m	Maria Hiebert	Apr. 21, 1832		1919
4	Klaas Friesen	Aug. 19, 1858		Mar. 17, 1932
m	Anna Warkentin	July 5, 1859		Dec. 23, 1921
4	Cornelius Friesen			
m				
4	Margaret Friesen	May 26, 1872		1940
m	Abram Hiebert	Sept. 24, 1848		Nov. 14, 1929
4	Johan Friesen	May 26, 1872	Dec. 10, 1899	Sept. 1944
m	Agatha Hiebert	Mar. 1, 1879		Jan. 20, 1946
3 <b>Klaas Friesen.</b> Nothing further is presently known.				

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
3	<b>Klaas Friesen</b>	18____		
m				
3 <b>Heinrich Friesen.</b> Nothing further is presently known.				

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
3	<b>Heinrich Friesen</b>	18____		
m	_____ Barkman			
3 <b>David Friesen</b> Nothing further is presently known.				

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
3	<b>David Friesen</b>	18____		
m				
3 <b>Margaretha Friesen.</b> Nothing further is presently known.				

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
3	<b>Margaretha Friesen</b>	18____		
m	Heinrich Reimer			

### 23.08 Klaas Friesen Family

2 **Klaas Friesen** (1793-1870) farmed in the village of Altonau, Molotschna, but moved to Rosenort shortly after 1843.<sup>77</sup> His first wife Margaretha Mathies was the daughter of Jakob Mathies (1760-1832) who emigrated to Altona, Molotschna in 1804.<sup>78</sup> She had a son Isaac<sup>79</sup> by her first marriage to Johan Friesen (1773-1816) of Altonau<sup>80</sup>. This Isaac Friesen (b. 1816) was married to Susanna Reimer. (See Heinrich Reimer Genealogy chapter 19 cf.)

Klaas Friesen married for the second time in 1843 to Karolina Plett the daughter of Johan Plett (1765-1833) of Blumstein, Molotschna. Her mother, nee Esther Smit stayed with the family during her sickness and died there in 1855. It is reported that Mrs. Klaas R. Brandt (nee Margaretha Friesen) was employed with the family during this time as a maid.<sup>81</sup>

Klaas Friesen was elected as a deacon of the Kleine Gemeinde in 1824 and as a minister in 1838. He assisted his older brothers Peter and Abraham in the publication of the Menno Simons Foundation book in 1834.<sup>82</sup> At least one of his sermons is still extant.<sup>83</sup> Klaas Friesen was historically inclined and recorded various events and occurrences for posterity. He was well read in the writings of the faith and his library included various works by Dutch writers such as Claus Ganlof which had a great influence on his nephew Aeltester Peter Toews after his death.<sup>84</sup> His sons all received a good education.<sup>85</sup>

Klaas Friesen was totally blind for the last seven years of his life. They lived in Rosenort, Molotschna, until his death in 1870.<sup>86</sup> Shortly thereafter his family moved to Blumenhoff, Borosenko, settling next door to the Wirtschaft of Aeltester Peter Toews. Their farm at this point consisted of 140 acres.<sup>87</sup>

In 1874 the widow Karolina Friesen emigrated to Blumenort, Manitoba, where she homesteaded together with her family. She married for the second time to Isaac Harms (1811-1891) of Jansen, Nebraska, where she died in 1887. Son Heinrich Friesen suffered from epilepsy and never married.

He died of this illness in Jansen, Nebraska, in 1889.

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
2	<b>Klaas Friesen</b>	Oct. 6, 1793	Nov. 2, 1881	Oct. 12, 1870
m	Margaretha Mathies	Mar. 14, 1792		Jan. 6, 1843
3	Katharina Friesen	Feb. 8, 1818		Feb. 1818
3	Klaas Friesen	Feb. 8, 1819		1824
3	Katherina Friesen	Nov. 1, 1820	June 19, 1843	Nov. 21, 1884
3	Margaretha Friesen	Jan. 5, 1823		Jan. 5, 1823
3	Klaas Friesen	Feb. 18, 1825		1852
3	Peter M. Friesen	May 11, 1827	1851	Apr. 4, 1892
3	Susanna Friesen	Feb. 18, 1829		1861
3	Margaretha Friesen	June 14, 1831	Feb. 11, 1858	Feb. 11, 1926
3	Elizabeth Friesen	Mar. 27, 1833		1836
3	Abraham M. Friesen	Dec. 6, 1834	June 28, 1856	Oct. 10, 1908
2	<b>Klaas Friesen</b>	Oct. 6, 1793	June 10, 1843	Oct. 12, 1870
2m	Carolina Plett	Mar. 7, 1823		Feb. 11, 1887
3	Cornelius P. Friesen	Mar. 18, 1844		Aug. 8, 1899
3	Johann Friesen	Dec. 18, 1845		Dec. 1845
3	Johann Friesen	Oct. 20, 1846		Oct. 20, 1846
3	Johann Friesen	Oct. 20, 1847	Dec. 21, 1869	Dec. 18, 1920
3	Anna Friesen	Dec. 23, 1849		Oct. 27, 1912
3	Klaas P. Friesen	Feb. 2, 1954	Feb. 5, 1878	Dec. 18, 1926
3	Heinrich Friesen	Aug. 14, 1857	single	
3	David Friesen	Nov. 4, 1860		
3	Maria Friesen	Aug. 12, 1866	Mar. 11, 1894	Nov. 5, 1906

3 **Katherina Friesen** (1820-1884) was married to widower Johan W. Thiessen and the family lived in Continniasfeld for many years. Her husband had been married for the first time to her cousin Anna F. Friesen (1814-1843) a sister of Aeltester Johan Friesen (1808-1872). The family emigrated to Jansen, Nebraska in 1874.

John W. Thiessen (1813-1888) appears to be the son of Klaas Thiessen and Elisabeth Wiens (b. 1793) who had a son Johan born December 7, 1813.<sup>88</sup> This would make him a first cousin, on the Wiens side, of Franz Isaac, the author of *Die Molotschnauer Mennoniten*.

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
3	<b>Katherina Friesen</b>	Nov. 1, 1820	June 18, 1843	Nov. 21, 1884
m	Johan W. Thiessen	Dec. 19, 1813		Aug. 20, 1888
4	Isaak Thiessen	May 15, 1844		1844
4	Katherina Thiesen	Dec. 31, 1845	Jan. 22, 1867	Dec. 2, 1916
m	Peter R. Brandt	June 11, 1848		June 29, 1930
4	Margaretha Thiesen	Feb. 9, 1848	Jan. 6, 1872	Feb. 12, 1905
m	Abraham T. Friesen	Mar. 29, 1852		Oct. 29, 1916
4	Suzanna Thiesen	Apr. 8, 1850		Apr. 1850
4	Suzanna Thiesen	Oct. 25, 1853	Jan. 21, 1879	Oct. 12, 1917
m	Bernhard Ratzlaff	1835		Jan. 13, 1918
4	Jakob F. Thiesen	Mar. 6, 1855	Mar. 19, 1882	Jan. 31, 1940
m	Katie Thiesen	Dec. 17, 1861		Mar. 16, 1934
4	Peter F. Thiesen	Jan. 18, 1856		Jan. 1856
4	Isaak Thiesen	Mar. 18, 1857		Mar. 1857
4	Maria Thiesen	Sept. 24, 1858		Mar. 1857
4	Peter F. Thiesen	Sept. 19, 1859	Dec. 19, 1881	May 11, 1937
m	Maria Buller	Mar. 14, 1856		Feb. 9, 1888
2m	Margaretha P. Janzen	Apr. 18, 1867	Feb. 3, 1889	Jan. 24, 1936
4	Maria Thiesen	May 7, 1861	Dec. 29, 1881	Sept. 16, 1908
m	Jacob C. Classen	Aug. 22, 1861		Jan. 7, 1904
4	Anna Thiessen	Aug. 29, 1863		Aug. 1863
4	Isaak Thiessen	Nov. 29, 1865		Nov. 1865

3 **Klaas M. Friesen** (1825-1852) was married twice but left no descendants.<sup>89</sup> In his diary for January 25, 1891, Abraham M. Friesen has recorded that Jacob Thielman, the stepson of his brother Klaas, has died in Russia.

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
3	<b>Klaas Friesen</b>	Feb. 18, 1825		
m	Widow Thielman			
3	Klaas Friesen	Feb. 18, 1825		1852
2m	Agatha Klassen	1828	1851	1852
4	Agatha Friesen	1852		died after 6 months

3 **Peter M. Friesen** was married for the first time to Katherina Penner.<sup>90</sup> According to a letter of Dr. Sol Loewen of March 10, 1987, she was a sister to the wife of Jakob Loewen (1820-1901) of Gnadenau, nee Anna Penner (1822-1907), the daughter of Peter Penner and Anna Dick of Prangenau, Molotschna.<sup>90a</sup> There is strong evidence to indicate that Anna Penner (1822-1907) was a sister to Peter P. Penner (1826-1894) and Jakob Penner, the wealthy land owner, of Friedensfeld, South Russia.<sup>91</sup>

Peter M. Friesen married for the second time to the widow Katharina Schapanski who was possibly the daughter of Abraham Penner of Schoenwise. She may also have been a cousin to Peter M. Friesen's first wife. Her first husband was a David Schapanski of Schoenwiese, Old Colony, and they were the parents of David Schapanski (b. 1849) as Maria Schmidt refers to him as her step-brother.<sup>91a</sup> David Schapanski (b. 1849) emigrated to Kansas in 1874 and became a founding member of the Ebenfeld M.B. Church near Hillsboro.

The Peter M. Friesen family emigrated to America in 1874 traveling on the S.S. China which arrived in New York on August 27, 1874. Possibly the family lived in Nebraska although some of the children evidently lived in the Hillsboro, Kansas, area. In a letter to Aganetha Vogt, Winnipeg, Manitoba, of March 26, 1926, daughter Maria Schmitt writes that her oldest sister Anna is resident in California.

Daughter Katharina Friesen and her husband lived in Lehigh seven miles west of Hillsboro. In the letter above referred to, Maria Schmidt writes that her other sister Katharina died after seven years' illness. "She was unable to walk and suffered numerous strokes and in the end, also from dropsy." She also writes that her brother Peter is resident in Hutchison and that he has an "English" wife. Sol Loewen writes that Peter Friesen was a mortician and owned the funeral parlor in Hutchison, and that his son Ernest took over the business after his death in 1938.<sup>91b</sup>

Peter M. Friesen died on August 11, 1892, at Rosthern, Saskatchewan, of kidney failure. He was on a trip inspecting land. Brother Abraham M. Friesen has recorded that he went to Winnipeg on April 12 of that month in order to view his brother's body in the coffin but apparently the connection was not made. He notes somewhat wistfully that it was not God's will that he see his brother one last time.

Abraham M. Friesen has also recorded that on February 17, 1895, he took his sister-in-law P. Friesen, Nebraska, to visit Cornelius Pletts Senior in a neighboring village. Evidently she was on a trip to Blumenort, Manitoba, and area to visit her deceased husband's family.

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
3	<b>Peter M. Friesen</b>	May 11, 1827	1851	Apr. 4, 1892
m	Katherina Penner	June 7, 1830		Apr. 4, 1868
4	Anna Friesen			died in infancy
4	Peter Friesen			died in infancy
4	Maria Friesen			died in infancy
4	Anna Friesen	Mar. 4, 1856	Aug. 27, 1876	Nov. 8, 1940
m	Peter Funk	Dec. 8, 1850		Mar. 21, 1922
4	Katherina Friesen	Dec. 20, 1857	Apr. 23, 1883	June 13, 1925
m	Daniel Pauls			
4	Maria Friesen	Nov. 20, 1859	Dec. 29, 1887	May 11, 1935
m	Jacob Schmidt			
4	Klaas Friesen			died in infancy
4	Peter Friesen			died in infancy
4	Peter Friesen	Dec. 21, 1862		Sept. 6, 1938
m	Hanna Friesen	Dec. 21, 1879		Jan. 1, 1954

4	Klaas Friesen		died in infancy
4	Isaak Friesen		died in infancy
4	Jacob Friesen		died in infancy
3	<b>Peter M. Friesen</b>	May 11, 1827	Apr. 4, 1892
2m	Katherina Schapansky	May 18, 1827	Mar. 17, 1882

3 **Susanna Friesen** was married for the first time to her cousin Peter F. Reimer, son of Aeltester Klaas E. Reimer. She married for the second time to Franz Kroeker, Kleefeld, Molotschna, who later settled in Steinbach, Manitoba.<sup>92</sup> She died leaving no descendants.

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
3	<b>Susanna Friesen</b>	Feb. 18, 1829		Mar. 23, 1861
m	Peter Reimer	Nov. 13, 1826		Apr. 26, 1854
2m	Franz Kroeker			

3 **Margaretha Friesen** married widower Jacob Fast. The family lived in Orloff, Molotschna, and later in Borosenko. In 1874, the family settled in Jansen, Nebraska.

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
3	<b>Margaretha Friesen</b>	June 14, 1831	Feb. 11, 1858	Feb. 11, 1926
m	Jacob Fast	1831		May 7, 1885
4	Margaretha Fast	Dec. 22, 1864	July 11, 1885	Feb. 11, 1931
m	Gerhard F. Rempel	Sept. 21, 1864		Apr. 19, 1926
4	Aganetha Fast	June 26, 1868	Aug. 19, 1888	Oct. 9, 1894
m	Abraham F. Rempel	July 23, 1868		Apr. 30, 1954
4	Jacob Fast	Feb. 23, 1871	Mar. 31, 1896	May 15, 1945
m	Alvina Bruer	Apr. 9, 1878		Jan. 4, 1909
2m	Katie Peters	Jan. 13, 1884		Nov. 29, 1957

3 **Abraham M. Friesen** married Margaretha Isaac, daughter of Johan Isaac. The family lived in Kleefeld, Molotschna and later Blumenhoff, Borosenko. In 1874, they settled in Blumenort, Manitoba, where they owned a double farm. Abraham M. Friesen served his village as Schulz during the 1880's and his Gemeinde as a Vorsaeuger. Like his father, he was historically inclined and collected various Kleine Gemeinde writings which were preserved by his nephew Johan E. Friesen. His library included an 1872 Elkhart edition of the D. Phillips *Enchiridion*. His diaries form an invaluable source of information on pioneer life in the Steinbach area.<sup>93</sup>

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
3	<b>Abraham M. Friesen</b>	Dec. 6, 1834	June 28, 1856	Oct. 10, 1908
m	Margaretha Isaak	Dec. 24, 1833		?
4	Klaas I. Friesen	Nov. 26, 1856		Dec. 1858
4	John I. Friesen	Jan. 15, 1860	Apr. 18, 1880	Jan. 21, 1941
m	Helena Penner	1861		Sept. 4, 1917
2m	Katherine Ratzlaff			
4	Abram I. Friesen	June 10, 1862	July 31, 1887	Sept. 2, 1938
m	Maria Wiebe	Mar. 27, 1867		Feb. 2, 1964
4	Margaretha Friesen	Nov. 14, 1864		
4	Klaas I. Friesen	Feb. 19, 1868	Sept. 1, 1889	Oct. 9, 1927
m	Katherine Penner	Jan. 14, 1871		Oct. 12, 1952
4	Isaac I. Friesen	Nov. 18, 1870	1901	Aug. 27, 1920
m	Emilie Koening			
2m	Rosa Eichel			
4	Peter I. Friesen	Dec. 3, 1873	Mar. 5, 1899	May 30, 1966
m	Anne Eidse	July 1, 1875		

3 **Cornelius P. Friesen** was married to Agatha Klassen, the daughter of Martin Klassen. (See Cornelius Toews Genealogy cf.) The family settled in Blumenort, Manitoba, where he served all his life as a school teacher, as well as farming. He also served as a village veterinarian.

The strong evangelical influence in this family was demonstrated at the funeral of Cornelius P. Friesen which was held according to the old custom. "No preaching and only a few songs were sung. Hans von Stein was quoted."<sup>94</sup>

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
3	<b>Cornelius P. Friesen</b>	Mar. 18, 1844		Aug. 8, 1899
m	Agatha T. Klassen	May, 10, 1848		Apr. 12, 1902
4	Agatha K. Friesen	July 18, 1871	Dec. 25, 1892	June 29, 1942
m	Cornelius P. Janzen	Nov. 1, 1863		Feb. 11, 1941
4	Anna K. Friesen	July 15, 1874	Nov. 26, 1893	Mar. 31, 1963
m	Klaas P. Reimer	Nov. 5, 1864		
4	Margaretha K. Friesen	June 30, 1876	July, 1899	June 28, 1954
m	Jacob R. Reimer	Apr. 25, 1874		Aug. 18, 1900
4	Margaretha K. Friesen	June 30, 1876	Feb. 16, 1902	June 28, 1954
2m	Klaas W. Reimer	Dec. 1, 1861		Feb. 18, 1944
4	Cornelius K. Friesen	Sept. 11, 1877	Oct. 16, 1910	Sept. 22, 1953
m	Katherina Friesen	June 11, 1890		
4	John K. Friesen	Dec. 5, 1879	1906	May 2, 1925
m	Rosena Gerscheffy	Dec. 18, 1885		Oct. 5, 1931
4	Martin K. Friesen	Mar. 3, 1881	Dec. 3, 1905	Nov. 6, 1976
m	Kathrina K. Plett	Jan. 7, 1886		Oct. 2, 1971
4	Klaas K. Friesen	Mar. 3, 1881	Dec. 15, 1905	Nov. 18, 1961
m	Mary J. K. Plett	Nov. 2, 1886		Nov. 24, 1918
2m	Helen Unger	May 22, 1897		Mar. 8, 1978

3 **Johan P. Friesen** married Marie Eidse, the daughter of Abraham Eidse of Fischau. In 1874, the family settled in Rosenort, Manitoba, but the family also lived in Blumenort for several years during the 1890's.

He was an avid genealogist and his records were invaluable in preparing this Friesen Genealogy. He was not a very successful farmer but also travelled around selling goods. He was frequently referred to as "Eidsen Friese" to distinguish him from the other Johan Friesen living in Rosenort. He died at the home of his children, John E. Friesens in Greenland, Manitoba.

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
3	<b>Johann P. Friesen</b>	Oct. 20, 1847	Dec. 21, 1869	Dec. 18, 1920
m	Marie Eidse	Sept. 15, 1848		Mar. 4, 1934
4	Marie E. Friesen	Oct. 5, 1870	Feb. 8, 1891	May 4, 1923
m	Heinrich D. Warkentin	Mar. 19, 1868		
4	Annie Friesen	Sept. 18, 1872		1874
4	Annie Friesen	Dec. 21, 1874		Dec. 21, 1874
4	Annie Friesen	Mar. 6, 1876		Nov. 6, 1920
4	Helena E. Friesen	Mar. 17, 1878	Apr. 13, 1902	Nov. 26, 1962
m	Cornelius Sawatsky	Dec. 2, 1879		Dec. 22, 1922
4	John E. Friesen	Jan. 20, 1881	Jan. 1, 1906	Sept. 8, 1971
m	Gertruda Plett	Sept. 8, 1887		Mar. 2, 1948
2m	Helena N. Koop	Oct. 23, 1891		
4	Abram Friesen	Oct. 9, 1883		Sept. 15, 1920
4	Margaretha Friesen	Sept. 17, 1885	July, 1903	Apr. 13, 1914
m	Jakob Sawatsky			
4	Cornelius E. Friesen	May 12, 1888		Sept. 21, 1950
4	Peter E. Friesen	May 30, 1890		1986
4	Klass E. Friesen	Apr. 9, 1892	Apr. 2, 1922	
m	Agnes Isaac	Apr. 22, 1899		

3 **Anna Friesen** married widower Klaas Koop whose first wife was Katharina Barkman, a sister to Jakob R. Barkman who drowned in the Red River, Manitoba in 1875. The family settled in Jansen, Nebraska, where Klaas Koop lived to a ripe age. Anna Koop, nee Friesen, died childless.

In 1902, Peter P. Isaac visited the Koop family in Jansen, Nebraska and reported that even at the age of 72, Uncle Koop was still quite active but that he did have difficulty to throw a sack of wheat over his shoulder and walk away.<sup>94a</sup>

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
3	<b>Anna Friesen</b>	Dec. 23, 1849		Oct. 27, 1912
m	<b>Klaas Koop</b>	Aug. 8, 1825		ca. 1915

3 **Klaas P. Friesen** married **Maria Rempel**, the daughter of **Gerhard Rempel** who settled in **Jansen, Nebraska** in 1874.<sup>95</sup> The family lived in **Nebraska** where **Mrs. Friesen** died in 1907. He moved to **Meade, Kansas**, as a widower with his grown-up children where he also passed away.

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
3	<b>Klaas P. Friesen</b>	Feb. 2, 1854	Feb. 5, 1878	Dec. 18, 1926
m	<b>Maria Rempel</b>	Jan. 1852		Mar. 17, 1907
4	<b>Elizabeth Friesen</b>	Jan. 7, 1880		1946
4	<b>Maria Friesen</b>	Aug. 22, 1882	Aug. 1906	Sept. 1907
m	<b>Henry H. Friesen</b>	Feb. 14, 1884		
4	<b>Gerhard Friesen</b>	May 29, 1884		Apr. 1944
4	<b>Anna Friesen</b>	Mar. 4, 1886	Mar. 14, 1909	Nov. 27, 1952
m	<b>Jacob R. Classen</b>	June 28, 1886		Aug. 9, 1956
4	<b>Klaas Friesen</b>	Jan. 13, 1888		Mar. 1917
4	<b>Margareta Friesen</b>	Sept. 4, 1889		Dec. 1961
4	<b>Aganetha Friesen</b>	Dec. 23, 1891		
4	<b>John Friesen</b>	Sept. 20, 1893		

3 **David Friesen** married **Elisabeth Classen**, a daughter of **Martin Classen** (see **Cornelius Toews Genealogy** cf.) and a sister to **Mrs. Cornelius P. Friesen**. The family lived in **Jansen, Nebraska**, where he died in 1902. There were only two sons of the marriage.

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
4	<b>David Friesen</b>	Nov. 4, 1860		Feb. 23, 1902
m	<b>Elisabeth Classen</b>			
5	<b>Cornelius Friesen</b>			
5	<b>David Friesen</b>			

3 **Maria Friesen** married widower **Cornelius J. Classen**, the son of **Jacob Classen** (1832-1898) in **Jansen, Nebraska**. He was married for the first time to **Katharina F. Rempel** (1866-1894) the daughter of **Gerhard Rempel** (1843-1879) who died in **Jansen, Nebraska**. He married for the third time to **Helena S. Friesen**, the daughter of **Johan S. Friesen** who moved from **Manitoba** to **Jansen, Nebraska** in 1880.

**Cornelius J. Classen** was a farmer and he moved to **Meade, Kansas** in 1906. His father was related to **Elisabeth Classen** who married his brother-in-law, **David Friesen**.<sup>96</sup>

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
3	<b>Maria Friesen</b>	Aug. 12, 1866	Mar. 11, 1894	Nov. 5, 1906
m	<b>Cornelius J. Classen</b>	Feb. 8, 1863		Apr. 4, 1931
4	<b>Maria Classen</b>	Nov. 4, 1894		Jan. 14, 1895
4	<b>Maria Classen</b>	Aug. 22, 1896	Sept. 26, 1920	May 3, 1959
m	<b>Bernhard H. Doerksen</b>	July 19, 1896		
4	<b>Elizabeth Classen</b>	Mar. 8, 1898	Dec. 15, 1916	
4	<b>Peter J. Rempel</b>	Dec. 15, 1896		
4	<b>Agatha F. Classen</b>	Sept. 15, 1890	Feb. 9, 1919	July 23, 1965
m	<b>Isaac W. Loewen</b>	Dec. 16, 1899		July 23, 1965
4	<b>Cornelius F. Classen</b>	Feb. 19, 1901	Sept. 4, 1925	
m	<b>Margaret L. Reimer</b>	Sept. 13, 1903		
4	<b>Anna F. Classen</b>	Mar. 6, 1903	Feb. 27, 1955	
m	<b>John F. Kroeker</b>	Sept. 2, 1906		
4	<b>Margaret F. Classen</b>	Aug. 24, 1904	Sept. 30, 1934	
m	<b>Nick R. Reimer</b>	Sept. 22, 1909		
4	<b>Lena Classen</b>	Nov. 3, 1906		Nov. 26, 1906



### 23.09 Regina Friesen Family

2 **Regina Friesen** married Isaac Friesen, son of Isaac Friesen (b. 1748) who owned Wirtschaft No. 10 in Altona, Molotschna.<sup>97</sup> Regina Friesen married for the second time to Heinrich Neufeld, son of Herman Neufeld and Susanna, nee Boschman<sup>98</sup>, who owned Wirtschaft No. 17, in Muensterberg.<sup>99</sup> Heinrich Neufelds apparently lived in Rosenort.

Heinrich Neufeld was a minister of the Grosse Gemeinde. According to a letter written by brother Abraham Friesen (1782-1849) in 1842, the Neufeld family did not agree with all of the teachings of the Kleine Gemeinde.<sup>100</sup> Henry D. Friesen has reported that Heinrich Neufeld served in his ministry as follows: preached 796 times and officiated at 189 weddings and 256 funerals. Apparently he married for a third time on February 15, 1865. He died at the age of 74 years, 2 months and 3 days.<sup>101</sup>

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
2	<b>Regina Friesen</b>	Jan. 4, 1795	Oct. 27, 1812	Dec. 9, 1852
m	Isaac Friesen	Oct. 14, 1788		Sept. 21, 1814
3	Isaac Friesen	Oct. 27, 1813	Nov. 20, 1835	May 1, 1888
3	Abram Friesen	Sept. 13, 1814		Dec. 23, 1816
2	<b>Regina Friesen</b>	Jan. 4, 1795	Dec. 22, 1814	Dec. 9, 1852
2m	Heinrich Neufeld	1790		1864
3	Heinrich Neufeld	June 13, 1817	June 8, 1837	July 28, 1872
3	Abram Neufeld	Dec. 1, 1819	Nov. 11, 1941	Sept. 5, 1899
3	Peter Neufeld	Nov. 15, 1825	Nov. 16, 1850	Feb. 13, 1885
3	Margareta Neufeld	Mar. 4, 1831	Nov. 16, 1850	Nov. 11, 1876
3	Johann Neufeld	Nov. 24, 1828	May 22, 1852	
3	Catarina Neufeld	Jan. 24, 1834	Oct. 2, 1853	Feb. 17, 1859
3	Susanna Neufeld	May 27, 1838	July 1, 1865	Apr. 7, 1897

3 **Isaac Friesen** married for the first time to Margaretha Wiens. He married for the second time to the widow Peter Rempel, nee Margaretha Sawatzky, his first cousin.<sup>102</sup>

Isaac Friesen was a community-minded man and served his village for 16 years as Schulz, for 4 years as Waisenvorsteher, for 7 years as a member of the Society and for 4 years as Gebietsbesitzer (or Deputy District Mayor). In his book, son Heinrich D. Friesen provides an account of a land inspection journey to the Amur for which Isaac Friesen and two others were delegated in 1859.<sup>103</sup>

Son Isaac Friesen lived in Margenau, Molotschna but travelled to America in 1896 to visit his relatives in Kansas and Nebraska. Son Henry D. Friesen settled in Kansas, apparently in 1877.

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
3	<b>Isaac Friesen</b>	Oct. 27, 1813	Nov. 20, 1835	May 24, 1888
m	Margareta Wiens	Oct. 12, 1813		Feb. 13, 1838
4	Sara Friesen	Sept. 5, 1836	Dec. 15, 1856	Jan. 12, 1860
m	Jacob Janzen	Dec. 23, 1833		
3	<b>Isaac Friesen</b>	Oct. 27, 1813	Mar. 8, 1838	May 24, 1888
2m	Mrs. Peter Rempel			
4	Heinrich D. Friesen	Feb. 23, 1839	May 8, 1860	
m	Aganeta Friesen	Mar. 7, 1842		Nov. 11, 1882
4	Isaac Friesen	May 26, 1841	Oct. 19, 1860	Nov. 27, 1908
m	Anna Kasdorf	Aug. 8, 1842		
4	Regina Friesen	Feb. 28, 1844		Nov. 28, 1844
4	Margareta Friesen	Oct. 29, 1845	Nov. 1, 1866	
m	Abraham Wiebe	Mar. 15, 1845		July 26, 1903
2m	Jacob Reimer			

3 **Heinrich Neufeld.** No further information.

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
3	<b>Heinrich Neufeld</b>	June 13, 1817	June 8, 1837	July 28, 1872
m	Catarina Mandler	Feb. 5, 1817		May 25, 1873
4	Heinrich Neufeld	Apr. 26, 1838	May 28, 1868	Nov. 15, 1899
4	Catarina Neufeld	July 23, 1839	May 15, 1858	Aug. 15, 1872
4	Jacob Neufeld	Jan. 31, 1845		Jan. 14, 1848

4	Johann Neufeld	Jan. 21, 1843		Mar. 20, 1845
4	Isaac Neufeld	Apr. 3, 1844		Jan. 10, 1845
4	Abram Neufeld	July 20, 1845	Feb. 4, 1882	
m	Elizabeth Reimer	Sept. 28, ?		Aug. 25, 1898
4	Johann Neufeld	July 20, 1847		Aug. 19, 1865
4	Jacob Neufeld	Dec. 15, 1849		Aug. 1, 1872
4	Susanna Neufeld	Aug. 27, 1852	Oct. 31, 1877	June 2, 1907
m	Peter Penner	Nov. 11, 1851		
4	Anna Neufeld	Oct. 1, 1857	Dec. 6, 1877	

3 **Abraham Neufeld** emigrated to America on the S. S. Teutonia in 1874.<sup>104</sup> The family apparently belonged to the Alexanderwohl group which settled in the Goessel and Inman areas in Kansas. Abram Neufeld is mentioned in the diary of David Ediger as one of those sent out to scout for a suitable place of settlement.<sup>105</sup>

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
3	<b>Abram Neufeld</b>	Dec. 1, 1819	Nov. 11, 1841	Sept. 5, 1899
m	Elizabeth Schonhof	June 24, 1819		Mar. 1, 1877
4	Heinrich Neufeld	May 20, 1843	Feb. 4, 1871	Aug. 28, 1890
m	Anna Ediger	Sept. 29, 1835		Mar. 18, 1892
4	Abram Neufeld	Dec. 9, 1844		Dec. 9, 1844
4	Abram Neufeld	Oct. 30, 1845		Jan. 8, 1846
4	Elizabeth Neufeld	July 9, 1847		July 14, 1847
4	Abram Neufeld	Nov. 21, 1848		Oct. 2, 1855
4	Elizabeth Neufeld	May 24, 1851		July 24, 1851
4	Peter Neufeld	Sept. 7, 1852		Sept. 7, 1852
4	Peter Neufeld	Nov. 14, 1953		June 10, 1854
4	Abram Neufeld	Apr. 14, 1857		June 28, 1857
4	Anna Neufeld	Nov. 29, 1858		Dec. 27, 1865

3 The **Peter Neufeld** family emigrated to the United States on the S. S. Nederland in 1875. They settled near Inman, Kansas, where the family belonged to the Bethal Mennonite Church.<sup>106</sup>

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
3	<b>Peter Neufeld</b>	Nov. 15, 1825	Nov. 16, 1850	Feb. 13, 1885
m	Aganetha Wiens	Aug. 28, 1828		Dec. 7, 1899
4	Heinrich Neufeld	June 28, 1852		June 28, 1852
4	Margareta Neufeld	June 28, 1852	Feb. 22, 1877	Sept. 25, 1883
4	Anna Neufeld	Jan. 31, 1854		
4	Heinrich Neufeld	Nov. 6, 1855	Feb. 26, 1880	Dec. 17, 1902
m	Catarina Wiens	July 25, 1860		Mar. 18, 1891
4	Peter Neufeld	Oct. 28, 1857	May 5, 1881	Sept. 2, 1891
m	Elizabeth Ediger	Oct. 9, 1859		Jan. 5, 1900
4	Abram Neufeld	Mar. 18, 1860		Mar. 19, 1861
4	Aganetha Neufeld	Apr. 8, 1852		May 19, 1862
4	Abram Neufeld	Feb. 4, 1864	Jan. 18, 1887	
m	Helena Toews	Nov. 16, 1863		
4	Isaac Neufeld	Aug. 29, 1866	Dec. 5, 1889	
m	Catarina Toews	Apr. 20, 1866		
4	Aganetha Neufeld	Feb. 6, 1870	Dec. 14, 1892	
m	Jacob Wiebe	Mar. 9, 1872		
4	Susanna Neufeld	June 16, 1873	Mar. 13, 1891	
m	Johan Pauls	Jan. 11, 1873		

3 The **Abraham Wiens** family emigrated to the United States on the S. S. Netherland together with the Peter Neufelds.

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
3	<b>Margareta Neufeld</b>	Mar. 4, 1831	Nov. 16, 1850	Nov. 11, 1876
m	Abram Wiens	Jan. 6, 1824		Dec. 13, 1899

4	Heinrich Wiens	Aug. 24, 1851	Feb. 6, 1877	
m	Susanna Klassen	Oct. 7, 1856		Dec. 7, 1887
4	Margareta Wiens	Sept. 11, 1852		Feb. 12, 1853
4	Margareta Wiens	Nov. 15, 1853		
4	Margareta Wiens	Nov. 10, 1954		Nov. 10, 1854
4	Anna Wiens	Feb. 26, 1856		Apr. 8, 1875
4	Margareta Wiens	Feb. 27, 1858	Mar. 21, 1886	
m	Heinrich Epp	Feb. 9, 1863		
4	Abram Wiens	Dec. 6, 1859	Nov. 25, 1884	
m	Anna Wiens	Jan. 18, 1866		
4	Sara Wiens	Dec. 14, 1861		Apr. 21, 1862
4	Susanna Wiens	Apr. 3, 1862		Apr. 6, 1862
4	Isaac Wiens	Apr. 19, 1864		Dec. 5, 1865
4	Susanna Wiens	July 28, 1866		Jan. 31, 1868
4	Susanna Wiens	May 31, 1868		Dec. 31, 1872
4	Sara Wiens	Sept. 26, 1869		Jan. 30, 1871
4	Peter Wiens	Mar. 21, 1872		Dec. 29, 1878

3 The **Johan Neufeld** family emigrated to the United States on the S. S. *Vaderland* together with nephew Henry D. Friesen.

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
3	<b>Johann Neufeld</b>	Nov. 24, 1828	May 22, 1852	
m	Catarina Wiens	Sept. 15, 1830		June 26, 1860
4	Catarina Neufeld	Feb. 10, 1853		June 28, 1862
4	Heinrich Neufeld	July 22, 1854	May 11, 1880	
m	Aganeta Broler	Mar. 12, 1859		
4	Johann Neufeld	Aug. 7, 1858		
4	Regina Neufeld	June 12, 1856		Nov. 10, 1856
4	Anna Neufeld	June 12, 1856		Nov. 12, 1856
3	<b>Johann Neufeld</b>	Nov. 24, 1828	Aug. 18, 1860	
2m	Helena Harder			
4	Isaac Neufeld	July 13, 1862	Dec. 4, 1884	
m	Anna Ediger	Mar. 12, 1862		
4	Abram Neufeld	Dec. 3, 1863		Dec. 3, 1863
4	Jacob Neufeld	Jan. 7, 1865	Feb. 24, 1907	
m	Agnes Hildebrand			
4	Abram Neufeld	Nov. 6, 1866		Nov. 15, 1866
3	<b>Johann Neufeld</b>	Nov. 24, 1828	Oct. 3, 1867	
3m	Aganeta Klassen			
4	Abram Neufeld	Sept. 5, 1869	Apr. 24, 1892	
m	Elizabeth Neufeld	May 23, 1873		
4	Peter Neufeld	May 20, 1872		
4	Anna Neufeld	Mar. 12, 1874		Mar. 12, 1874
4	Aganeta Neufeld	Mar. 12, 1874		
4	Anna Neufeld	Mar. 31, 1876		
4	Susanna Neufeld	Oct. 30, 1878	Nov. 14, 1896	
m	Abram D. Wims	Jan. 15, 1873		
4	Helena Neufeld	Jan. 4, 1881	Aug. 4, 1905	
m	Peter Ratzlaff	Nov. 17, 1883		
4	Herman Neufeld	June 26, 1883		
4	Catarina Neufeld	July 24, 1885		

3 **Catarina Neufeld.** No further information available.

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
3	<b>Catarina Neufeld</b>	Jan. 24, 1834	Oct. 22, 1853	Feb. 17, 1869
m	Johann Winter	Oct. 29, 1831		Feb. 7, 1908
4	Aganeta Winter	Aug. 1, 1854		Mar. 21, 1876

4	Catarina Winter	Dec. 15, 1855		Dec. 15, 1855
4	Heinrich Winter	July 25, 1857	Jan. 18, 1879	
4	Anna Winter	Mar. 18, 1859		Feb. 1, 1860
4	Anna Winter	Apr. 19, 1861		Feb. 13, 1862
4	Susanna Winter	Dec. 8, 1862		Apr. 3, 1863
4	Anna Winter	Apr. 12, 1867		

3 Susanna Neufeld. No further information available.

Gen.	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
3	Susanna Neufeld	May 27, 1838	July 1, 1865	Apr. 7, 1897
m	Mron Dill	Oct. 29, 1814		Mar. 23, 1889
3	Susanna Neufeld	May 27, 1838	Aug. 26, 1889	Apr. 7, 1897
2m	Peter Berg	Dec. 5, 1825		Dec. 30, 1891

### FOOTNOTES. CHAPTER TWENTY-THREE. THE ABRAHAM VON RIESEN (1752-1810) GENEALOGY.

- Peter P. Isaac, *Stammbuch Meiner Voretern* (Self-published, Stern, Alberta, 1915), 91-95.
- Karl-Heinz Ludwig, *Zur Besiedlung des Weichseldeltas* (J. G. Herder Institute, Marburg/Lahn, 1961), 159-260.
- Horst Penner, *Die Ost und Westpreussischen Mennoniten* (Mennonitische GeschichtesVerein, Weierhof, 1978), 506-510.
- Glenn Penner, "West Prussian Mennonite Villages cc. 1540-1821", Paper presented at a symposium of the Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society, 1979.
- Horst Penner, "Tiegenhagen", ME 4, 721-722.
- See *The Golden Years*, 148-149.
- B. H. Unruh, *Mennonitischen Ostwanderungen* (Self-published, Karlsruhe, Germany, 1955), 324 and 339.
- Reference is made here to the work of Dr. Carl Bangs, Prairie Village, Kansas, who commenced a study of the family of Abraham von Riesen (1752-1810) and his descendants in the late 1960's which work when published will far exceed the present humble efforts. Nevertheless it is hoped that this compilation will be of some assistance to the descendants of this family pending the publication of the work of Dr. Bangs. Dr. Bangs was understandably unable to release any information prior to the publication of his work. Letter to the author February 23, 1981.
- Courtesy of Rev. Jac. P. Friesen, Blumenort, Manitoba.
- Alexander Rempel, "Johann Isaak Friesen" ME 2, 405.
- G. R. Gaeddert, *Exiled by the Czar* (Mennonite Publication Office, Newton, Kansas, 1956), 190.
- Op. cit., 3.
- See *The Golden Years*, op. cit. 190, 268-272, 275-278.
- For a detailed account of Jansen's crucial role in the emigration movement see *Exiled by the Czar*, op. cit. See also Betty Miller, *The Cornelius Jansen Family History 1822-1975* (self-published, Berlin, Ohio, 1974) 73 pp. for a listing of the descendants of Cornelius Jansen and family history.
- See Peter Jansen, *Memoirs*, (Self-published, Beatrice, Nebraska, 1921) 140 pp., an autobiography by Peter Jansen.
- Gaeddert, op. cit.
- Ibid.
- See *The Golden Years*, op. cit.
- Hein. D. Friesen, *Familienbuch*, op. cit., 10.
- Elds Plank, "Twas Home on the Range" (self-published, Lancaster, P.A. 1981), 5.
- See also Abraham L. Friesen, *Family Listing*, Unpublished Journal, Courtesy Henry Fast, Steinbach, Manitoba.
- She was a daughter of Klaas F. Friesen. (See Section 23.04.)
- She was a sister to Johan Janzen. See Peter Toews Genealogy Register, Family No. 6.
- See Peter Toews, Genealogy Register, Family No. 132.
- See *Storm and Triumph*, op. cit.
- Dr. Paul Miller, "An Analysis of Community Adjustment, A Case Study of Jansen, Nebraska" (Ph. D. Dissertation, University of Nebraska, 1955), 125-128.
- See Roy Loewen, op. cit., 277.
- Marilyn Rempel and Ralph Friesen, "History of Peter F. Rempel," Unpublished paper, 1981.
- See Elda Plank, op. cit., 85.
- He was the son of delegate David Klassen.
- B. H. Unruh, op. cit., 308.
- As referred to by Johan P. Friesen, op. cit.
- See Heinrich D. Friesen, *Familienbuch*.
- Jacob Wiens, "Ein Alter Brief, April 11, 1805," *Der Bote*, Jan. 5, 1938.
- The Golden Years*, op. cit., 87 and 184.
- See Toews Genealogy Register.
- See Johan P. Friesen, "Familienbuch", Enns Genealogy, op. cit., also Peter P. Isaac, op. cit., 7.
- For a detailed review of the role of this prominent Mennonite churchman, see *Storm and Triumph*, op. cit.

32. For a listing of descendants see Gertrude Klassen, et al., *David Klassen and His Descendants*, op. cit., 21-85.
- 32a. She was a sister to Franz Isaac, the Orloff Gemeinde minister and historian.
33. John P. Friesen, op. cit.
34. For a listing of descendants see; A. P. Friesen, et al, *The Von Reisen-Friesen Genealogy, 1756-1955*, op. cit., 10-26.
35. *Storm and Triumph*, op. cit., 166.
36. For a listing of descendants see Martha Goering, "Friesen Genealogy, Nickoli Friesen", photocopied work, 146 pp. According to the information given, Margaretha Braun was the daughter of Peter Braun (b. 1785). Whether he was any relation to the other Brauns in the Kleine Gemeinde is not known. See Chapter 17.
37. Jacob L. Friesen was the son of Rev. Jacob W. Friesen, see Section 23.03.
38. For a listing of descendants see Martha Goering, "The descendants of Johan Krause 1816-1868" (self-published, Burrton, Kansas), 125 pp.
39. The son of Henry B. Friesen (1836-1900) and Helena S. Friesen (1839-1911).
40. See *Storm and Triumph*, op. cit., 193, e.g. his cousin Jacob W. Friesen the minister, was known as the "small" Jacob Friesen.
41. See Toews Genealogy Register, Family No. 95.
42. See Toews Genealogy Register, Family No. 85.
43. See Toews Genealogy Register, Family No. 87.
44. See Toews Genealogy Register, Family No. 88.
45. See Toews Genealogy Register, Family No. 89.
- 45a. C. F. Plett, *The Story of the K.M.B. Church* (Kindred Press, Hillsboro, 1985), page 38, lists this couple as one of the founding families of the K.M.B.
46. For a listing of descendants, see John R. Wohlgermuth, "Peter Wohlgermuth Genealogy, 1805-1963", (self-published, Peabody, Kansas, 1963). Gerhard Wohlgermuth was a brother to Heinrich Wohlgermuth who joined the Kleine Gemeinde and settled in Blumenhof, Manitoba, which could indicate that there was some continued connection with the Kleine Gemeinde.
- 46a. Helena Eidson was the daughter of Anna Enns (1817-1864) and Abram S. Eidse (1811-1893).
47. For more information on the Heinrich Reimer (1818-1876) family, see Roy Loewen, op. cit.
48. She was his second cousin. See section 23.05. They had 2 children, Katherina, (Mrs. David Unger) born Sept. 16, 1861, and Maria (Mrs. Peter L. Isaac). See Toews Genealogy Register No. 65.
- 48a. See Cornelius Sawatzky Section 23.05.
49. She was married for the third time to Peter Isaac, see Toews Genealogy Register, Family No. 5.
50. See Toews Genealogy Register, Family No. 77.
51. B. J. Unruh, op. cit., 324 and 352.
52. *The Golden Years*, op. cit., 189.
- 52a. See footnote 48.
53. Margaretha K. Sawatzky was married for the first time to Peter L. Friesen (see section 23.03). She married a third time to Abram Poetker Reimer (1862-1933), a son of her second cousin Abraham R. Reimer of Blumenort, Manitoba.
- 53a. See Cornelius Enns Genealogy, cf.
- 53b. He was resident in Steinbach, Manitoba in 1921. His wife was from Germany. He was a short, stocky man. They had one adopted son.
54. Franz and Sara married the children of their second cousins Heinrich B. Friesen and Helena S. Friesen.
55. See *Storm and Triumph*, op. cit., 22 and 186.
- 55a. Rundschau Jan. 13, 1892 and July 9, 1913. Courtesy of H. Fast.
- 55b. This couple had one son, Isaac (born April 25, 1859) and one daughter Anna (born Dec. 8, 1862) who grew to maturity and raised families. See Heinrich D. Friesen "Family Book", page 34. Their mother, nee Margaretha Friesen, married for the second time to Klaas R. Brandt. See Toews Genealogy Register No. 32.
56. See Toews Genealogy Register, families No. 83, 92 and 93.
57. She was the daughter of Katharina Loewen and Klaas Friesen. See Sol. Loewen, *Isaac Loewen and his Descendants*, op. cit., Klaas Friesen was a brother to Cornelius F. Friesen, Toews Genealogy Register, Family No. 56.
58. Much of the detail for the first and second paragraph of the biography is taken from the journal of son Abr. F. Reimer (1808-1892). Courtesy of Ernest R. Goossen, Estate, Steinbach, Manitoba, 1986.
59. See *The Golden Years*, op. cit., especially 148-213.
60. Abr. F. Reimer, op. cit.
61. Heinrich Balzer, "Ein lied uber das Absterben Aeltester Kjaas Reimer", quoted in its entirety in *The Golden Years*, op. cit., 210-212.
62. Abr. F. Reimer, op. cit.
63. Ibid.
64. See Klaas R. Reimer, "Memoirs" quoted in *Storm and Triumph*, op. cit., 210-212.
65. Abr. F. Reimer, op. cit.
66. See Roy Loewen op. cit., for considerable additional information on the role played by this family during the pioneer period in Manitoba.
67. See *The Golden Years*, op. cit., 342-345.
68. See *Storm and Triumph*, op. cit., 333-334 for an account of his death.
69. See Henry Fast "Biographies of the Jansen, Nebraska pioneers" for additional information on their families.
70. Heinrich D. Friesen, op. cit.
- 70a. B. H. Unruh, op. cit, 334. The Verzeichniss of 1811 refers to him as owner of Wirtschaft No. 10 in that year, i.e. a year after the death of his parents.
71. The main source for this section was Johan P. Friesen, op. cit.
72. Abe. E. Friesen, *Friesen 1874-1974 Centennial*, (self-published, Uniontown, Kansas, 1974) 151 pp.
- 72a. Belonged to the Ebenfeld M. B. Church, Kansas.

- 72b. He never married and was resident in Jansen, Nebraska.
- 72c. She was a daughter to Heinrich Fast, Steinbach, Manitoba. See Toews Genealogy Register No. 104. See also Frank Fast, "Fast Reunion, 1980", Kleefeld, Manitoba, for a picture.
73. Jacob G. Friesen and Frank P. Wiebe, *Family Tree of Jacob K. Friesen*, (self-published, Steinbach, Manitoba, 1968) 83 pp.
74. See Peter Toews, Genealogy Register, Family No. 102.
75. See *Storm and Triumph*, which quotes extensively from this diary.
- 75a. See Clarence Hiebert, *The Holdeman People* (Pesadena, California, 1973), 144, for picture of this couple.
76. Helen Friesen. D. *Friesen Family Record Kith and Kin* (self-published, 1968) 191 pp.
77. Peter Isaac, *op. cit.*, 60.
78. Unruh, *op. cit.*, 351.
79. See A. P. Friesen, *Friesen-von Riesen Genealogy, op. cit.*, 6-7, for a listing of the Isaac Friesen family as well as all the descendants of Klaas Friesen (1793-1870).
80. Cornelius P. Janzen Family Records, *op. cit.*
81. Peter Isaac, *op. cit.*, 60-61.
82. See *The Golden Years, op. cit.*, 268 and 279.
83. Courtesy of Mrs. Peter K. Penner, Steinbach, Manitoba, who has in her possession some of the writings of her grandfather Cornelius P. Friesen.
84. See Peter Toews, *Sammlung, op. cit.*, 472.
85. Roy Loewen, *Blumenort, op. cit.*, 272, where son Abraham M. Friesen is referred to as one of the most learned men in the East Reserve, Manitoba. Also includes considerable information about the Klaas Friesen family and descendants.
86. Peter Isaac, *op. cit.*
87. Peter Toews "1872-1878 Diary", *op. cit.*
88. Franz Isaac Family Register (courtesy of Leland Harder, Goshen, Indiana). According to this record, the father of Elisabeth Wiens (b. 1793) was Johan Wiens (1753-1816) Wirtschaft No. 17, Tiede, Molotschna (see Unruh, *op. cit.*, 327).
89. Johan P. Friesen Papers, *op. cit.*
90. See TGR No. 99, footnote 213.
- 90a. See Dr. Sol Loewen, *History And Genealogy Of The Jacob Loewen Family* (Hillsboro, Kansas, 1983). 1.
91. Letter of Dr. Sol Loewen to author of Feb. 2, 1982, where he forwards picture of Peter Penner (1826-1894) and some of his children which photo bears the memorial that Peter Penner was his father's uncle. Of course, this would also be true on the Loewen side, as Jakob Loewen and Mrs. Peter P. Penner were siblings. Dr. Sol Loewen also sent a picture of Jakob Penner and some of his children and notes that his parents always referred to these Penners as relations but that he was never sure exactly what the connection was. If the above information is correct then Jakob Penner and Mrs. Jakob Loewen, nee Anna Penner (1822-1907) were brother and sister, so that Sol Loewen's father and John Penner, the furniture dealer in Winnipeg, (grandfather to Roland Penner, present day Attorney-General of Manitoba) were first cousins. For more information about this family see *History and Events, op. cit.*, 85-87; and *Storm and Triumph, op. cit.*, 194-196. The proposition that Jakob Penner and Peter P. Penner (1826-1894) were brothers is further corroborated by Helena Martens, nee Thielman, in her "Lebensgeschichte" (Courtesy Alf. Redekop, M.B.C.I. Winnipeg, Manitoba) page 3, where she mentions her girlfriends "Jakob Penners Lehchen and ihre cousine Peter Penner's Anna and ich". It is noteworthy that Peter Penner of Prangenuau, a minister of the Grosse Gemeinde joined the Kleine Gemeinde in 1835. He served as a minister in the Kleine Gemeinde until 1847 when he was removed from said office. (See the *Golden Years, op. cit.* 279 and 307). Sol Loewen has established that Peter and Anna Penner, the parents of Mrs. Jakob Loewen, nee Anna Penner (1822-1907) were from Prangenuau, and therefore it is logical to assume that they were one and the same.
- 91a. Courtesy M. Kroecker, Mennonite Genealogy Inc., Wpg. Manitoba, 1987.
- 91b. Sol Loewen also writes (March 21, 1987) that Peter M. Friesen was also a mortician. For an obituary of son Peter P. Friesen see "Hutchinson Kansas News", September 6, 1938.
92. John C. Reimer, *op. cit.*, 14.
93. Abraham M. Friesen, "Diary". Courtesy Henry E. Friesen, Greenland, Manitoba, 1983.
94. Rundschau, Nov. 8, 1899. Courtesy Henry Fast, Steinbach.
- 94a. See Peter P. Isaac, *op. cit.*, 61. Includes additional information of all the Klaas Friesen (1793-1870) children.
95. Courtesy H. Fast.
96. Telephone interview with Mrs. C. K. Unger, Steinbach, Manitoba Jan. 31, 1987.
97. Unruh, *op. cit.*, 317 and 333.
98. Henry T. Neufeld, *Family Tree of Peter Neufeld and Aganetha Wiens Neufeld*, (Enid, Oklahoma, 1858), 3-6. This genealogy contains a listing of the descendants of son Peter F. Neufeld (1825-1885).
99. Unruh, *op. cit.*
100. *The Golden Years, op. cit.*, 283-286.
101. Henry D. Friesen, Family Book, *op. cit.*, 1.
102. See Peter Rempel Genealogy for a listing of her children by her first marriage.
103. Heinrich D. Friesen, *op. cit.*, 2 and 41-43.
104. D. A. Haury, *op. cit.*, 29.
105. C. Henry Smith, *The Coming of the Russian Mennonites*, (Mennonite Book Concern, Berne, Indiana, 1927), 141. Per telephone conversation with Adolf Neufeld, Inman, Kansas, Jan. 1987, a grandson of Peter Neufeld (1825-1885).
106. See Henry T. Neufeld, *op. cit.*, 302 pp.
107. Evidently she had a brother Cornelius Heidebrecht, a well-to-do farmer living in Nikolaidorf, Russia, during the 1880's.
108. A listing of this family by Katie Peters has been deposited at M. B. Archives, Winnipeg, Manitoba. The Jacob Isaac (1813-1881) family lived in Rosenort and later in Contentisfeld where Sara Isaac died. Son Cornelius Isaac (1836-1923) moved to Friedensruh where he died. Courtesy of Anna Isaac, Steinbach, Manitoba.



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# Appendix. "All That Blisters:

## James Urry attacks the Kleine Gemeinde Mennonites."

I read with great interest "All that Blisters . . .": Delbert Plett and the Place of the Kleine Gemeinde in Russian-Mennonite History" James Urry's review article of *The Golden Years*.<sup>1</sup> My first reaction was positive as it will draw attention to the Kleine Gemeinde (KG) and my work. In another sense the article is disappointing as it presents an overly negative view of the KG and the Anabaptist Mennonites (AM). In fact, I am somewhat surprised that the *Journal of Mennonite Studies* published such a one-sided article without a companion article to defend *The Golden Years* and to refute some of the unsupportable aspects of this somewhat rambling attack.

It seems that Professor Urry wrote the article after a quick reading of *The Golden Years* and that he will in time regret some of the statements which he makes. As it stands, the article will leave a rather prejudiced view. Perhaps it would be more appropriate to refer to this review as "All that Blisters".

Several of Urry's comments are simply misinformed. He suggests for instance that the KG were not fully involved in the Molotschna education system and that "their (KG) attitude to village education is unclear" (250)<sup>3</sup>. Facts presented in *The Golden Years* show that no less than six KG teachers were engaged in the village school system, two of these since the time of the Cornies reforms of the 1840's.<sup>4</sup> The extant diaries of two of these teachers, as well as other primary sources, demonstrate that the KG was in fact fully involved in the educational system.<sup>5</sup>

Urry also states that "he (Plett) argues that the Molochnaya settlers were 'relatively equal in wealth' in spite of glaring evidence to the contrary" and quotes a Soviet source indicating that one-third of the settlers owned 90 per cent of the declared wealth.<sup>6</sup> This statement is a misinterpretation of what was actually stated. Throughout *The Golden Years*, facts and figures are quoted which verify and lament the unfortunate class differences which evolved among the Russian Mennonites.<sup>7</sup>

But this does not change in the least, the fact that the original Molotschna pioneers of 1804 were relatively equal in wealth as was stated. The work of B. H. Unruh establishes that all except a handful had a Vollwirtschaft and that the majority owned six cows, several horses, wagons, etc.<sup>8</sup> By introducing such "red herrings" early on in his article, Dr. Urry attempts to side-track the impetus of the KG rational as Peter M. Friesen and other historians have done over the years.

Nor is there any use for Urry to deny that the Wuerttenburg Separatists who came over the Russian steppes in various waves during the 19th century were factious, catagorical and fanatical (233).<sup>9</sup> Their eastward chiliasm is well documented for posterity by impartial historians such as Stump, Giesinger and others.<sup>10</sup> Jakob P. Becker refers for example to a reported incident among the Pietists in the Volga region who "were going to the extreme in the doctrine of free grace to the point that baptismal services were accompanied by music and dancing and baptizing was done in the nude at night. They were unable to baptize during the day because of hecklers".<sup>11</sup> Very much to his credit, P. M. Friesen does not avoid the unpleasant task of documenting the schism, shunning and counter-shunning which typified German pietism on the Russian front.<sup>12</sup>

But to say as Urry does, that the Mennonites in Russia were not subject to a concerted mission program seems to be an effort to deny the obvious. And surely it cannot be denied that the Russian Bible Society had ulterior motives in mind relative to the Grosse Gemeinde in 1824, namely, nothing short of its conversion to the separatist pietist (Johann Bangel) version of Christian truth.<sup>13</sup> And why not? Every religious movement wishes to expand its following, but likewise, every Christian confession is surely entitled to defend and stand by its faith.

Which leads one to ask, why is Dr. Urry so defensive relative to *The Golden Years*? After all, his work "The Closed and the Open" is not in any way challenged.<sup>14</sup> This question perplexed me more than anything else after reading "All that Blisters. . . ." Finally the answer dawned on me. It appears that Dr. Urry has adopted the view that progress (ala Cornies) was beneficial and inevitable for the Russian Mennonites, and that a mild pietism was the exact serum required to uplift them from their cultural orthodoxy.

Like Peter M. Friesen, Urry appears to have accepted a particular segment of Russian Mennonite society as normative, namely, the mild cultural pietism of the Orloff Gemeinde. Individuals of this persuasion are seen by him as progressive, more culturally advanced and rational, and to be regarded as the standard bearers for all others. *The Golden Years* in a round-about-way challenges this thesis as it portrays the AM as the socially attractive segment of society. From this understand-

ing, that Urry—like P. M. Friesen—has his bias, much of what he says comes into clearer focus.

Just as Peter M. Friesen imposed his vision of true Christianity unto the Russian Mennonite story, Urry seems to have superimposed his theory of modernization unto it. For both Friesen and Urry the KG becomes an important element in the Russian experience as it represents, in their view, the inward looking, reactionary, myopic, etc., etc., segment of society, which they both require to contrast with their so-called more “advanced” element. Both Friesen and Urry therefore force the KG into a structured mold for their respective heuristic purposes and it can fairly be said that if no KG had existed in 19th century Russia they would both have needed to create one in order to substantiate their interpretation.<sup>15</sup>

For example, because Klaas Reimer and what he stood for does not fit into Urry’s thesis he automatically discounts everything that Reimer did or wrote.<sup>16</sup> He points out quite correctly that the Klaas Reimer autobiography is “not an impartial record” and then concludes, incorrectly, that it is not an accurate description of events. Nor does he cite a single instance where Klaas Reimer has provided incorrect dates, facts or descriptions. Every writer (including P. M. Friesen, James Urry and Delbert Plett) has built-in prejudice but this is no reason to discount their writing.

It is important that allowance be made for this type of built-in bias, but a number of Urry’s comments appear to be confused and based on innuendo. There is no basis for the proposition, as Urry suggests, that Reimer’s account was written “solely” for the “edification of his followers” (229) with the implication that his views have no further relevance to truth.

This is followed by the statement that there was no prototype KG congregation in Prussia (229). Here again, Urry has chosen to ignore not only a valuable first-hand account but also other sources, which demonstrate that many socio-economic and religious issues encountered in Russia had already affected the Mennonites in Prussia 50 or even 100 years earlier.

This would indicate that a proto KG congregation, i.e. a Gemeinde which reaffirmed orthodox AM belief, was not merely a figment of Klaas Reimer’s imagination as Urry would have the reader believe. In fact, logic points to the existence of such a group or groups, even if Klaas Reimer had never existed. The section in **The Golden Years** dealing with the Prussian roots of the KG indicates that many of the founding members came from well-established orthodox AM homes in Prussia.<sup>17</sup> It was more than coincidence that they found their way together as one Gemeinde, as the circumstances in their former homeland had—to some extent-preconditioned them to this decision.

As one would expect Urry again brings forth his innuendo that Klaas Reimer was an opportunist who openly sought election as Aeltester in 1805 believing that he was the superior candidate (231).<sup>18</sup> Urry himself admits that he has no factual or logical basis for this insinuation other than the prejudices of the existing historiography.<sup>19</sup> In subsequent lectures Urry has contrived an elaborate scenario alleging that Klaas Reimer was the senior minister present at the time of the Molotschna Aeltester election in 1805, that he in fact presided at the meeting, that tradition would have dictated that he was in line for the office, that it is logical to assume that he expected to receive the position and that he was bitter on failing to win the post.

To create this rather far-fetched supposition Urry cites two sources which in my view are of little help to his cause.<sup>20</sup> The most significant is a letter of April 11, 1805, by Jakob Wiens of the Molotschna, to the Churches in Prussia, in which he reports on the organizational meetings of the Molotschna Flemish Gemeinde. Three ministers, Jakob Ensz, David Huebert and Abraham Wiebe, were elected in 1804 which meeting was presumably chaired by Aeltester Johan Wiebe of the Chortitz Colony. Wiens then goes on to report of a second meeting held early next spring (this letter is written in April) where five additional ministers were elected, Klaas Reimer was accepted into the ministry of the Molotschna Gemeinde and an Aeltester election was held. First of all it bears noting that this account itself is not completely accurate as other sources indicate that Cornelius Janzen the co-founder of the KG was elected and ordained in the Chortitz Colony in 1804.

According to B. H. Unruh, Klaas Reimer did not settle in the Molotschna until June 5, 1805, several months after the Aeltester election. In fact Reimer had spent the better part of the preceding winter negotiating the purchase of the 1,000,000 ruble Volenko estate on behalf of himself and 162 families.<sup>21</sup> It would appear that he was far too busy to involve himself in the political intrigues taking place on the Molotschna. It was only after Klaas Reimer and his party returned from the Molotschna in the spring of 1805, apparently after the Aeltester election, that they were served with the edict of the Supervisory Committee (then known as the Kontor), that they would have to settle in the Molotschna. Consequently it seems that Klaas Reimer partook of the Aeltester election in early 1805 without any intention of actually settling in the Molotschna. In fact, the source quoted by Peter M.

Friesen shows that Aeltester Johan Wiebe of the Chortitz Colony ordained Enns and would likely have presided at the Aeltester election. Professor Urry seems to be grasping at straws in order to corroborate his accusations against Klaas Reimer.

Urry dismisses Klaas Reimer's stand for nonresistance in his reform efforts within the Grosse Gemeinde by saying that he refused "to recognize the authority of his Elder" (232). Then he overlooks the fact that Reimer had opened his home to the immigrants Goertz and Wedel who rewarded him with a concerted effort to convert him to the Wuerttemberg Separatist plan of salvation and Jung-Stilling millennialism. Urry also interprets Reimer's refusal to join any supposed Inter-Mennonite Union influenced by radical pietism by stating that his "reaction to the new arrivals, to the spirit of reconciliation and to the ecumenical activities is entirely predictable, given his earlier stance" (236). This interpretation is entirely predictable given the parameters of Urry's heuristic goals, but the question is raised whether Klaas Reimer, the man, has to be condemned in perpetuity simply because he refused to abandon the faith of his fathers at the mere mention of the name Jung-Stilling?

With respect to Heinrich Balzer, Urry raises the possibility that he may be the son of H. Balzer, a minister of the Pietistical Rudnerweide congregation. Although this may be correct, which remains to be seen, one could then say, that Heinrich Balzer Jr. rejected the radical pietism of his parental home in favour of the milder more humanistic cultural pietism of Orloff. As can be seen, the point does not affect my interpretation.<sup>22</sup>

Urry's attempts to understand Balzer and the KG purely as a reaction against rationalism, as represented by Hunzinger (239), is interesting but obviously too simplistic. The KG, as he himself admits, were not opposed to progress and innovation, and in fact, its members were known for their aggressive entrepreneurial mentality, a remnant of which spirit is still evident among their descendants in Manitoba and elsewhere. Their farms were among the most prosperous among the Mennonite colonists in Russia.

One refers in this regard to KG personages such as Cornelius S. Plett (1820-1900) of Kleefeld; who had a wheat crop of 280 acres in 1871; or to Abraham Rempel (1798-1878), a prosperous, well read farmer in Margenau; Johan Warkentin (1817-1886), Vollwirt of Blumstein, who in the early 1870's owned his own Chutor near Nikopol; or Peter Penner (1816-1884) of Orloff who paid for his Wirtschaft in Margenau in 10 years between 1846 and 1856, to name just a few. It appears that close to two-thirds of the KG were Vollwirts in a society where one-third was the norm. Even Peter M. Friesen is forced to admit that "the yards, fields, gardens and cattle of the Kleine Gemeinde belonged to the best in the Colonies".<sup>23</sup> Available records indicate that the KG hired numerous employees from among their Mennonite neighbours and even more from among the Russian populace.

In addition to their active involvement in the farming industry many KG, especially the younger less established people, were involved in various trades and service industries.<sup>24</sup> For example, Johan Toews (1793-1873), the father of Aeltester Peter Toews, pursued his trade as a carpenter and cabinet maker after his marriage until 1837 when the family purchased a Wirtschaft in Fischau. Another case in point is Klaas R. Reimer (1837-1906) who started as an apprentice blacksmith, and then opened his own shop, eventually becoming quite wealthy by raising sheep in the new KG settlement of Markuslandt near Einlage. Another popular occupation for the KG was the milling business. Others such as Cornelius Loewen (1827-1893) were active traders and merchants. Gerhard S. Kornelsen (1816-1894) served the Molotschna Brandordnung apparently as a sort of appraiser.

Teaching was a desirable occupation among the KG. To date at least ten individuals have been identified as such most of whom taught in the advanced Molotschna school system and had daily interaction within its constituency. This would constitute some five percent of the male population of the KG. Others such as Cornelius S. Plett (1820-1900) and Jakob W. Friesen (1808-1889) served as mayor of the villages of Kleefeld and Blumstein respectively. Perhaps the most admirable activity of the KG was its active publication effort the first of its kind among the Russian Mennonites.<sup>25</sup> In addition, a massive letter correspondence took place within and without the KG which eventually had four congregations in various parts of Russia.

The foregoing questions Urry's thesis which follows too closely the established historiography presenting the KG as a narrow-minded group of hyper-sensitive impoverished peasants living in hovels at the end of the village who were allowed to venture out once in a while at night to go and forage for food.<sup>26</sup> In fact nothing could be further from the truth. Extant diaries, letters and other writings clearly demonstrate that the KG had a rich lifestyle mixing freely with all segments of their society in their various enterprises, social life and extended family circles.<sup>27</sup>

Certainly the KG did reject religious innovation and secular progress where it conflicted with

their faith. Contact with “worldly” Christian groups was not avoided out of cantankerous, reactionary conservatism as Urry suggests, but rather because these groups were imbued with a fanatical spirit and eastward Chiliasm which the KG found to be contrary to the teaching of the gospel. Indeed, if Urry’s preposition is valid, it could just as correctly be argued that the Anglican church is reactionary and narrow-minded because it does not immediately abandon its traditions and teaching in favour of radical pentecostalism as some charasmatics within its ranks would advocate.

The KG did not reject foreign literature as Urry states, but cautioned its membership against reading the tomes and fantasies of radical pietism because these writings contradicted the gospel. According to the KG view exegetical predictions by leading scholars such as Bengal and Jung-Stilling that the Second Coming would occur in 1836 or 1880 were unfounded and evidence of an unevangelical spirit.<sup>28</sup> Would Mr. Urry disparage Anglican church leaders if they counselled their members against reading the literature of Pentecostals, Jehovah Witnesses, or other sects, and rather promoted writings of their faith?

There is no evidence to suggest that the KG rejected outside writings *per se* and in fact references in various documents rather support the view that they read secular writings including journals, historical works, etc.<sup>29</sup> For example the KG refused to support the *Mennonitische Blaetter* on an official level because of its anti-AM editorial policy but members of the group still continued to read the magazine.<sup>30</sup> It might be helpful to compare the KG position to that of the radical pietists who not only rejected the writings of all other confessions but burned the books of their own denomination if same were not in minute agreement with their own particular understanding of pietist truth.<sup>31</sup>

Higher schooling was rejected by the KG not “because it established links beyond the tradition” as Urry asserts (245), but rather because the only form of higher education known to the Russian and Prussian Mennonites was conditioned by the radical pietism already referred to. The first secondary level teachers in the Molotschna, Tobias Voth and Heinrich Heese, were adherents of Jung-Stilling, who used every means at their disposal, including so-called prayer meetings and mission conferences, to spread their views that the AM faith was invalid and its followers unsaved.<sup>32</sup> Would Urry also heap reprobation on constituents of an Anglican parish if they would reject a teacher who attempted to subvert the innocent minds of their children in a similar manner?

Or would he consider Presbyterians to be narrow-minded and reactionary simply because they rejected fashionable clothes as unnecessary for their salvation? Considered in the broad sweep of history, I do not think it necessary to apologize for the KG insistence on biblical simplicity in their lifestyles and so on. It is purely a matter of opinion that those who wore fashionable clothes and constructed more elaborate homes were better human beings or superior Christians.

Perhaps it is Urry’s interpretation of the Heinrich Wiens affair and the role of the KG which seems to be the most confused. He puts forward the proposition that Heinrich Wiens opposed Cornies because he rejected “the use of corporal punishment in civil affairs, an issue which had been central to KG opposition to civil authority” (241). Even a casual reading of the sources (Friesen, Isaac and Goertz) will demonstrate that this assertion is falacious.<sup>33</sup>

After the deposition of Aeltester Jakob Warkentin, Heinrich Wiens became the centre of opposition to the progressive forces in the Colony lead by Johan Cornies.<sup>34</sup> In fact Wiens opposed Cornies not on the principle of nonresistance but rather on the principle that the religious authority as represented by the Grosse Gemeinde was superior to the civil authority as represented by the Agricultural Society and the Gebietsamt.<sup>35</sup> According to Wiens offenders should first be reported to the church authorities and excommunicated by the brotherhood, before corporal punishment could be executed by the civil authority.

Presently a situation arose where the officers of the Gebietsamt, the civil authority, physically punished certain offenders. To this Wiens responded by excommunicating the individuals who had inflicted the punishment on the ground that his brotherhood had not first excommunicated the culprits and declared them deserving of punishment. The issue was not at all related to the practice of nonresistance as Urry asserts since neither Wiens nor Cornies had any objection to the use of corporal punishment of offenders. There is nothing inherent in the activities of either side to this dispute which would have attracted the automatic support of any self-respecting nonresistant Christians, as Urry suggests. The issue between Wiens and Cornies was not nonresistance but rather the question of who ultimately had the higher power.

The KG position since its founding had been to honour civil authority in so far as it did not attempt to override biblical principles. Accordingly, the KG did not agree with the Grosse Gemeinde view that the religious authority was superior to that of the civil authority. At the same time, the

KG consistently opposed any punishment of offenders (whether corporal or otherwise) and in fact refused on principle involvement in any authority, whether civil or ecclesiastical, which purported to exercise force against a human being other than the persuasive power of the Holy Spirit and the teachings of Jesus.<sup>36</sup>

Clearly the KG could not support either party to the "Wiens Affair" and for this reason the lengthy treatise of Aeltester Abraham Friesen explaining the KG position provides a refreshing neutral view of this unholy duel. The same was nothing more than the continuation of the cultural battle which had plagued the Molotschna since its founding. Under four reasoned headings, Friesen extends sympathy to Wiens but denies his claims of martyrdom and persecution pointing out that there was nothing unbiblical about the edict of the Agricultural Society to plant shelter belts and tree lots. How Urry can regard Friesen's treatise "as longwinded and rambling" (241) remains a puzzle.

On the other hand, the KG rejected the punishment enacted against H. Wiens by Cornies; in this instance supported by Bernhard Fast and the other more pietistical inclined Aeltesten. Officially this action was instigated by this group, who overcame their usual superiority complex relative to the KG and other AM, in their effort to present the Fuersorge Committee with a unanimous slate of support. In his reply to Fast and friends, Friesen clearly states that he does not regard this action as being consistent with the gospel and that he refused to partake in the same. In his letter he also points out that in 1838 Fast had given him a letter of excommunication excluding him from all fellowship and spiritual gatherings.

Such action was typical for Aeltester Bernhard Fast who can also be given credit for the following accomplishments among the Molotschna Mennonites: The 1821 banishment to Siberia of Anna Thiessen because of her sin of incest; the 1824 division of the Grosse Gemeinde because of insensitive imposition of pietist organizations (Orloff Verein School and Bible Society) and forms of religious discourse (e.g. open communion with a Moravian Missionary whose mission was to subvert the AM faith) among his parishioners against the very definite and vocal opposition of his brotherhood; the 1827 imprisonment of Michael Makowski, a Catholic who had adopted the AM faith and was baptized in the KG; the 1835 rejection of the Menno Simons **Foundation** books which the KG had published in a three volume edition; the 1838 refusal to ordain Abraham Friesen as the second KG Aeltester (instead Fast purported to excommunicate him); the deposition of Jacob Warkentin and the exile of H. Wiens; the Halbstadt "church building dispute" and the later "barley affair"; and the early attempt to deport the radical pietist secessionists.

These issues in the main were senseless church disputes motivated apparently by Bernhard Fast's misguided zeal to convert the Molotschna Mennonites to his particular understanding of pietist truth and to maintain the hegemony of the Orloff congregation. These activities lay at the bottom of much of the bitter disputation and strife which tore apart the Molotschna church community during the first three quarters of the 19th century. Yet Urry declares Fast to be "one of the ablest congregational leaders of the first half of the nineteenth century" (241). Perhaps Fast would be seen as a tremendous man of God within the ranks of some other church, but this opinion would be difficult to support by the criteria of the AM faith.

This leads to one of the more glaring contradictions of Urry's article. His stated objective is to "examine Plett's interpretation of events in Russia, to assess the significance of the new documents and to present some alternative interpretations of the period and the significance of the KG in any understanding of the nineteenth century Mennonite life" (229).

One would have expected a well-reasoned and scholarly review based on the model of the thesis "The Closed and the Open". But what we got was a whitewash of mild cultural pietism in the model of the Orloff Gemeinde. In spite of Urry's avowed objective to place **The Golden Years** within the context of the existing historiography, he sidesteps his objective by attacking the KG and the concept of an AM faith in Russia.

Firstly, Urry refuses to acknowledge the concept of a normative AM faith. Scholars over the years have had trouble with this concept, each apparently choosing a particular radical reformation era leader whose views agreed with their own and then arguing between themselves that their hero represented normative truth. Nevertheless, it is apparent that the majority of AM leaders in Holland, Prussia, Switzerland and elsewhere, expressed similar views on the nature of the church, nonresistance, discipleship, and other key points of faith and practice.

A reading of Grebel, Marpek, Denk, Menno and Dirk reveal commonalities systematically overlooked by the opponents of a normative AM faith. Schisms occurred when individual leaders such as Hans de Ries sold out to other theologies and then attempted to convert their former brethren



to the "new light" under the guise of unity and brotherhood.

Urry's argument that Bender invented the Anabaptist vision (AM vision) in the 20th century and that therefore the concept should not be applied retroactively to previous historical experience (241) is like arguing that evolution did not exist prior to Darwin and gravity prior to Newton. Clearly Bender, in *The Anabaptist Vision* articulated what he saw as historical patterns and not some sort of hypothetical theory which Mennonites could then pursue.<sup>37</sup>

It is equally clear that such a vision, or normative AM faith, was recognized in 19th century Russia as the writings of the KG frequently refer to the three foci identified by Bender, namely discipleship, brotherhood and the ethic of love. The evidence is incontrovertible that such a vision or normative AM faith was actively pursued by a strong minority among the Russian Mennonites (including Isaac Peters and many in the Grosse Gemeinde) among whom the KG were in the front ranks.<sup>38</sup>

Nor is it any sin on Urry's part to refuse to acknowledge a normative AM faith, for surely this is a question over which scholars can disagree. But Urry is mistaken when he attempts to deny that such a vision existed and that various groups, including the KG, within Russian Mennonite society, attempted to articulate that vision.

Secondly, Urry's defense of a two-faceted analysis of the Russian Mennonites will be almost impossible to support. He has essentially accepted the dualistic view of P. M. Friesen (narrow-minded, devil inspired orthodox Mennonitism versus truth bearing, separatist pietism, Cornies style social progress) and placed the same within the context of his discipline (anthropology) to come out with a slightly modified dualistic "closed and open" society theory in which he sees only conservers and reformers. This argument may be valid in a strictly scholarly sense within the narrow confines of his own discipline, but is submitted to be overly simplistic in a wider inter-disciplinary ethio-theological sense. Even anthropologists should be leery of simplistically employing sociology's "modernization theory".<sup>39</sup> Why not allow for socio-economic, cultural and religious factors, as has been done in *The Golden Years*?

Urry's assertion that the KG was articulated purely by a conservation spirit (245) seems impossible to support. In any established community, conservation will be an important factor, but to deny that the founders of the KG had some sort of AM vision in mind which articulated a consistent biblical stance during its 60 year sojourn in Russia, will gain little credence.

Thirdly, the KG and other AM judged their own success or failure at least partially in terms of how well they applied their paramount teachings such as discipleship, peoplehood and a love ethic, in daily life. Any sensitive historical or social analysis should make some allowance for this aspect of the Russian Mennonite experience. Urry's attempt to interpret the same solely in terms of how favourably certain groups in Chortitza and the Molotschna responded to new religious and socio-economic ideas emanating from Western Europe constitute one of the major weaknesses of his critique as well as his thesis. Such an analysis also requires an uncritical acceptance of the value judgements and ideals of 19th century Europe which is rather difficult to justify with the hindsight of history.<sup>40</sup> Surely it is not unreasonable to portray the historical self-view and faith structure of a people, whether good or bad, as one significant element of their experience.

Fourthly, Urry comments that he cannot recognize much in my account of the inroads of pietism among the Russian Mennonites and that it is inappropriate to apply such generalizations "to particular historical manifestations" (233). I agree that it is difficult to compare the ideals of historical pietism (Spener and Franck) with the manifestations of separatist pietism on the Russian steppes. Suffice it to say that the most virulent strains of pietism found in the Ukraine were historically and theologically far removed from the founders of the movement.

Nevertheless, some terminology is essential if we are to conceptualize and come to greater understanding of historical truth. It is not only essential but also historically valid to use such terms and conceptualizations. Other scholars have agreed that the terminology used in *The Golden Years* serves the purpose quite well.

Fifthly, no sooner has Urry made the point that it is difficult (and presumably invalid) to make such generalizations, then he proceeds to set forth his own assumptions and generalizations. That is to say, he assumes that pietism as a form of religious discourse is valid and that the AM faith is invalid.

Allow me to set forth a few examples. Urry states that "what Mennonites lacked, and what pietism seemed to offer, was a means to publicly express the personal experiences of faith implicit in Mennonite religiosity". Urry states that "Pietist ideas and concerns also enriched and expanded the ability of Mennonites to experience and express individual aspects of faith". Another example, "eventually

through contact with a more aggressive evangelical pietism associated with ideas of conversion and total renewal, Mennonites developed with the desire and means to express individual faith more forcibly than ever before, claiming knowledge of personal salvation through a conversion experience". Urry concludes this point with the statement "the need of congregational and community support to sustain the hope of salvation became superfluous" (234-235).

Somehow Urry has gone from the proposition that it is invalid to use generalizations to support the AM viewpoint, and proceeded to state his own assumptions as categorical truth. I admit that this is hardly comparable to P. M. Friesen who with typical separatist pietist élan uses some mysterious "conversion monitor" to conclude and declare that this or that group of Mennonites were unsaved or lacked a joyous knowledge of God's grace, etc.

But like P. M. Friesen, Urry assumes separatist pietism to be a superior faith and disparages any notion that the historical AM faith is valid. Urry may well be correct, but I believe this ultimate truth will become evident only in eternity. In the meantime, Urry will have to surrender his claim of impartiality like other scholars have done who prefer to analyze their subject from a particular vantage point. At the very least, intellectual honesty would require that he acknowledge his partiality to a certain group or particular confession.

In concluding "All that Glisters . . ." Urry compares **The Golden Years** to the work of P. M. Friesen stating that I have not exercised the same caution or sensitivity. This is a rather interesting observation in view of the fact that Peter M. Friesen had nothing good to say about the religiosity of the KG and the other AM Gemeinde in Russia. In fact his book is filled with factually untrue statements about the KG, such as that they lacked a joyous knowledge of God's grace, they were indescribably narrow-minded in cultural and educational matter, and that this or that person was not saved, etc. etc. Friesen dismissed the 1870's emigrants as unsaved, narrow-minded sorts, who might learn something about Christianity in America.<sup>41</sup> Urry does not recognize that these statements and others like them, are not merely unfortunate bigoted viewpoints typical of their society, but categorically false statements which have smeared the name of the AM who left Russia in 1874.

Urry also takes issue with **The Golden Years** for portraying pietism as an alien intrusion which corrupted the Russian Mennonites from their historical faith. At the same time, Urry seems quite comfortable with Peter M. Friesen's thesis that the Orthodox Mennonite faith as practiced since the time of Menno Simons, was a corrupted essence which could only be cured by the magic potent of separatist pietism. This seems to disregard the lessons of history which demonstrate that it was invariably the New Order of enlightened, uplifted—yes, conversion experience boasting—Mennonites who have repeatedly shamed their record. Through the oppression of the poor, use of the Selbstschutz, supporting the Nazis, buying out Japanese war internees, etc. Ironically Urry also side steps the fact that it was the KG (and not his darling Orloff types—uplifted as they were by supposedly superior West European liberalism and rationalism) who were chillingly accurate in their assessment of Russian society as a future home for their families and freedom of faith.<sup>42</sup>

Perhaps the AM groups such as the KG were not quite as ignorant, narrow-minded and unsaved, as writers such as Peter M. Friesen and James Urry (each for their own purposes granted) and their respective followers would have us believe. Surely by now it must be possible to proceed beyond the strictures of such narrow thinking and to recognize that the KG and other AM groups in Russia were also human beings who merely wanted to live out their faith as best they could.

It seems that Urry, in his allegation of bias on my part, has overstated his case. Anyone reading **The Golden Years** carefully will find that the KG are only argued to be typical of the AM in the Molotschna and not the AM group or the only true Christians as he says I say. In fact, the point is clearly made that "the majority of the Russian Mennonites as a community continued to emphasize certain AM teachings. . . ."<sup>43</sup>

To an extent, we are all products of our environment and will articulate bias in our views. Peter M. Friesen was the advocate of German pietism and cannot be faulted for this. James Urry, as an anthropologist, understands life in terms of how well a particular culture responds and compares to some supposedly superior society. It must be pointed out, however, that both Friesen and Urry to some degree claim to provide a general interpretation of the entire Russian Mennonite experience. In my case, I am writing a congregational history and seek to work within the strictures and biases which that places on me. I believe there will be almost universal agreement that the KG as a group have been treated unfairly by most historians to date.

Regarding Urry's closing statement that for me "things are black or white, good or evil", I would have expected nothing less in a field where for three quarters of a century, pietism and pro-

gress has been called good (white) and Orthodox Mennonitism has been called bad (black). It is evident that nothing but reprobation can be expected from Professor Urry for propounding the view that those who practiced the Orthodox teachings of the faith were not only significant human beings but also worthy of the name Mennonite.

#### FOOTNOTES. APPENDIX. ALL THAT BLISTERS. . . .

1. Dr. James Urry, "All that Glisters. . .": Delbert Plett and the Place of the Kleine Gemeinde in Russian-Mennonite History", *Journal of Mennonite Studies*, Volume 4, (Winnipeg, Manitoba, 1986), pp 228-250.
3. Urry, "All that Glisters. . .", *op.cit.*, 250. The number in the brackets are the page references in the review article.
4. There were others, for example, Cornelius L. Friesen (1841-1923) and Johan Friesen (1812-1884). See Chapter 23 cf.; Johan W. Fast (1837-1921) and Bernhard Fast (1809-1878), see Henry Fast, Chapter 6 cf.; and Abraham Harms (1837-1909) later of Alexanderfeld, Kansas. See Henry P. Peters, *History and Development of Education Among The Mennonites in Kansas*, (Hillsboro, Kansas, 1925), 32. I am indebted to Ray Wiebe, Wichita, Kansas, for referring me to this material.
5. These are the diaries of Abraham R. Friesen (1846-1884) and Diedrich S. Friesen (1849-1901). See *Storm and Triumph*, *op.cit.*, 6-13.
6. Urry, "All that Glisters", *op.cit.*, 230.
7. For example, pages 106-108, 156 and 342. See also *Storm and Triumph*, *op.cit.*, 127-144, for a more extensive discussion of the disparity of wealth as evident in the landless class which quickly developed in the Molotschna after 1804.
8. B. H. Unruh, *op.cit.*, 304-330.
9. It seems that Professor Urry has sometimes misquoted statements in an apparent effort to establish a point, stating for example, that I have claimed that the followers of radical pietism burned people at the stake. He has apparently based this on the following statement referring to the Reformation era: "The Catholics and Lutherans indicated their intolerance by burning the martyrs at the stake if they did not become converted to their faith while most brands of radical pietism unequivocally deemed any other confession but their own to be not only unchristian or unchristianlike but also eternally damned." *The Golden Years*, *op.cit.*, 176-177. Urry seemingly misses the point that both forms of intolerance were extremely cruel.
10. Gesinger, from Catherine to Khruschch, *Op.cit.*, (Marian Press, Battleford, Saskatchewan, 1974), 39-41. See also Stump, *The Emigration from Germany to Russia in the Years 1763 to 1862*, (AHSGR, Lincoln, Nebraska, 1978), 27-28.
11. Jakob P. Becker, *Origin of the Mennonite Brethren Church*, (Hillsboro, Kansas, 1973), 155.
12. See *Storm and Triumph*, *op.cit.*, 113-115, and *The Golden Years*, *op.cit.*, 157-158, for a more detailed discussion of this point.
13. See for example, *The Golden Years*, *op.cit.*, Klaas Reimer quoted at 174-178 and Abraham Friesen quoted at 268-272.
14. Notwithstanding its rather heuristic basis, I have stated that Dr. Urry's thesis "The Closed and the Open, Social and Religious Change Amongst the Mennonites in Russia (1789-1879), University of Oxford, London, England, 830 pp, is the best treatment of the Russian Mennonites currently available, a view which I still hold. See *The Golden Years*, 5.
15. It is important to recognize that both Peter M. Friesen and James Urry have based their respective historical treatments on a rather narrow base of primary and secondary source material notwithstanding that both to some extent claim to write an unbiased general history of all the Russian Mennonites. Peter M. Friesen, naturally, used mainly sources favourable to a pietistical interpretation. A review of Urry's thesis indicates that he has been informed mainly by sources whose seminal inspiration is that of the groups he would favour. He has largely ignored the massive *Schrifttum* of the AM who emigrated to America notwithstanding the fact that for the pre-1874 period their viewpoint and value system would have represented the norm and majority in that society. The fact that Urry claims to provide a general interpretation of the Russian Mennonite experience would seem to call for a wider base of research and source material.
16. In so doing Urry falls into a long established pattern in Russian Mennonite historiography. Once the particulars of the AM faith and the veracity of the KG stand for truth, as they saw it, have been outlined, opponents will generally divert the discussion elsewhere in order to avoid coming to grips with the realities of pioneer life in the Molotschna. For example, the often told story about how Klaas Reimer and his fellow reformers had protested to Bishop Jakob Ens after he had struck his servant with a cane, and Ens had responded by taking them to the barn where the servant cheerfully acknowledged that he had received a caning and added "that he had richly deserved it too". The story of course is meant to imply that Klaas Reimer and his friends were overly sensitive individuals who could not handle the rigours of pioneer life like men. The listener would quickly get the message that the KG and the faith they stood for were not to be taken overly seriously. The classic example of this is found in Abraham Braun, "Kleine Chronik der Mennoniten an der Molotschna seit ihrer Anstehung bis in mein 80. Jahr", (Mennonitische Jahrbuch, 1907), 68-69. Abraham Braun of course was a committed Separatist Pietist who typically regarded the KG and other AM groups as a largely subhuman species barely worthy of a missionizing program.
17. Anabaptist Mennonites for the purpose of this work are defined as nonresistant Christians who evolved from the Anabaptist Movement of the Reformation consolidating their faith and practice under the leadership of Aeltesten such as Menno Simons and Dirk Philips.
18. See Urry, *The Closed and the Open*, *op.cit.*, 162. Here it is noted that not much of the historical facts regarding the KG can be recognized in Urry's exposition of this movement and his interpretation of its impact on the Russian Mennonites. He has particularly misunderstood Klaas Reimer using mainly derogatory terms such as "the narrow way", "shunning", "rules of the Gemeinde", "claim to tradition", "his vision", "bounded system", "hedged in by rules", "narrowness of interpretation" and "strict enforcement of ideas" to characterize the man and his vision. In addition Urry made mistakes such as referring to the first Molotschna Aeltester as Johan Enns and not Jakob Enns. Evidently Urry made no effort to personally examine the massive KG *Schrifttum* for the purpose of his thesis. All the while the attics of Mennonite homes in Southern Manitoba are filled with the diaries, letters and other writings of the AM who left Russia in the 1870's, but as most scholars in the field have assumed, as does Professor Urry, that this group was an inferior species and hardly literate,

- these documents have only received little attention to date.
19. See my comments on the 'shoot the messenger thesis' as propounded by Peter M. Friesen. *The Golden Years*, op.cit., 200-206. Similar insinuations have also been made by other historians, seemingly without any factual basis. See for example Dr. Frank Epp, *Mennonites in Canada 1796-1920* (Macmillan, Toronto, 1974), 164.
  20. Jakob Wiens, "Ein alter Brief", *Der Bote*, Januar 5, 1938, and Abraham Braun, *ibid.*. It appears that Urry has frequently misunderstood such sources because they fit his thesis, something which is unacceptable among professional historians.
  21. *The Golden Years*, op.cit., 164. See also Urry, *The Closed and the Open*, op.cit. 432 fn. Urry has also overlooked the fact that Reimer was a Lehrer in the Danziger Gemeinde. Although this was the senior and more influential Flemish Gemeinde in Prussia it was only sparsely represented in the Molotschna with 12 families, compared with 74 families from the Marienburg Gemeinde from where Aeltester Jakob Ens originated. Obviously Ens could expect a great deal of support among this group as he was their fellow compatriot. As was to be expected Reimer later received excellent support from the members of the Tiegenhagen congregation among whom he had grown up. The Tiegenhagen Gemeinde was represented among the Molotschna pioneers by 94 families and the Elbing congregation with 124. See Unruh, op.cit., 304-330. Although there is no indication that Klaas Reimer was among the contenders for the Aeltesteramt as Urry claims, it must be recognized that he would not have had much chance for success given his limited support base plus the fact that he represented an urban congregation among essentially a rural group.
  22. According to the genealogy by M. Voth, *The Heinrich Balzer Genealogy 1775-1959*, (North Newton, 1955), which Urry apparently has not examined, the family patriarch Heinrich Balzer was born in 1775 which would make him about the correct age to be the KG writer. His son Heinrich Balzer stated to be of Rudnerweide was born in 1810 and died in 1895 having moved to America in 1878. The matter is further confused by the fact that another Heinrich Balzer of Hierschau married Katharina Reimer (b. 1824) daughter of the Kleine Gemeinde patriarch Heinrich Reimer (1791-1884) and settled in Mountain Lake, Minnesota, in the 1870's. It would appear that neither of the younger Heinrich Balzers could possibly be the famous KG writer. The foregoing is typical of many of the statements which are put forward as established facts in "All that Glisters. . .". Because of space limitations it is not possible to dissect each of these to demonstrate their invalidity and so the foregoing will have to suffice as typical for the others.
  23. P. M. Friesen, op.cit., 198.
  24. For a discussion of the occupations of the KG see *Storm and Triumph*, op.cit., 15-24.
  25. See *The Golden Years*, op.cit., 318-335, for a more extensive treatment of this important topic.
  26. Urry, *The Closed and the Open*, 167-169.
  27. See *Storm and Triumph*, 5-102, for a discussion of this aspect of the KG experience in Russia as well as extensive primary source material relevant to this question. A case in point is the wide genetic base of the KG among the 400 or so families who pioneered the Molotschna in 1804. It is estimated that as many as 60 families can be identified who had some KG descendants. Many of these belonged to the more established families who maintained extended family ties and loyalties as is demonstrated by their extant genealogies and family correspondence.
  28. See for example *The Golden Years*, op.cit., 255 and 271. In fact the KG quoted Deuteronomy 18, 22, with reference to the adherents of Separatist Pietism such as the Elders Goertz and Wedel, and later the evangelist Bernard Harder.
  29. For examples, see *The Golden Years*, op.cit., 229 and 270. Also *Storm and Triumph*, op.cit., 7, 147 and 249.
  30. It is interesting that the KG are evidently expected to officially support magazines and mission endeavours the avowed purposes of which was to attack and disintegrate their faith. This seems to be like expecting the CIA to pay for the publication of *Pravda*.
  31. P. M. Friesen, op.cit., 328 and 380.
  32. See *The Golden Years*, 133-142, for a discussion of some of the conflicts resulting from differences in educational philosophy in the Molotschna, particularly between those who were pietistically inclined and the more orthodox cultural Mennonites. e.g. H. Goertz, *Die Molotschnaer Ansiedlung*, (Steinbach, 1950/50), 61.
  34. Franz Isaac, *Die Molotschnaer Mennoniten*, (Halbstadt, Taurien, 1908), 114-121. One of Urry's more interesting statements in this regard is his report of my assessment of Johan Cornies (*The Golden Years*, op.cit., 102-104), stating that, "Cornies ought to receive Plett's condemnation, but his role in the recognition of the KG saves him from such an ignominious fate. He is excused as only having 'mild-pietist-cultural' tendencies and redeemed because he is willing to co-operate with the righteous Anabaptist-Mennonites (i.e. the KG)" (239). It is unfortunate that Professor Urry would employ such misrepresentations. In Section 7.04 of *The Golden Years* "An Analysis of the role of Johan Cornies" the position of both the Cornies worshippers and those who regarded him as the 'Anti-Christ' is reviewed. In addition reference is made to the many traits of Cornies which made him attractive to the KG and other AM, such as, his progressive outlook regarding agricultural developments, his emphasis on simplicity and a modest lifestyle. The KG would also have been sympathetic with many of his endeavours in educational advancements as they themselves had been pioneers in the related field of translation and publication only a decade or so previous. The analysis concludes as follows: "Nevertheless the Mennonite Kleine Gemeinde could never do more than honour and obey Cornies as someone who was in authority over them. They were commanded by scripture to obey him as long as his commands were not contrary to scripture. They could never have condoned the use of physical force, or use of secular powers to break into pieces a man like Aeltester Heinrich Wiens of the Grosse Gemeinde. . . . It seems that the Kleine Gemeinde represented the moderate or median position. . . ." Every reader can determine themselves whether subject analysis is deserving of the condescending statement made by Urry.
  35. In fact the issue became a turning point in which the opposition of the remnants of the Grosse Gemeinde to the innovations of Cornies and the Agricultural Society was broken once and for all. P. M. Friesen, op.cit., 143-156, 197 and 357. The extensive extract quoted from the farewell address of Heinrich Wiens is well written and reveals a sincere Christian earnestness. It is regrettable that he was cornered into making a stand on principles and the validity of the so-called Mennonite *Privilegium* on such an indefensible issue.
  36. See *The Golden Years*, op.cit., 114-115, for a discussion of this point.
  37. Bender, *The Anabaptist Vision*, (Scottsdale, Pa. 1944), 44 pp. Reprinted in *The Golden Years*, op.cit., 31-41.
  38. For example the reverence expressed by KG leaders for the seminal writings of the faith and their endeavours to translate

- and propagate the same. **The Golden Years**, *op.cit.*, 197 (Klaas Reimer), 319 (Abraham Friesen), 223 (H. Balzer), to cite a few.
39. It has been noted that Toennie's *Gemeinschaft* and *Gesellschaft* typology is everywhere too apparent in **The Closed and the Open** and seems to be a rather Wiggish approach in light of new schools of thought in the field. Although Urry's thesis provides a valuable and refreshing viewpoint, it would certainly be regrettable if Russian Mennonite scholarship, after having been enslaved by Molotschna triumphalism (ala P. M. Friesen) for three-quarters of a century, would now become overly influenced by such a heuristic approach.
  40. For example, Urry uncritically favours the German Pietist movement notwithstanding that many of its ideas and beliefs seem bizarre by today's standards. In his thesis (**The Closed and the Open**, 207-224) and elsewhere ("Servants From Far": Mennonites and the Pan-Evangelical Impulse In Early Nineteenth-Century Russia", *MQR*, April 1987, 213-227), Urry also reports uncritically regarding various contacts between English and Continental Evangelicals and the Russian Mennonites. He lavishes praise on those Mennonites who responded favourably to these contacts (e.g. Bishop Bernard Fast) and denounces those who were not prepared to accept these new precepts without some analysis. As a result Urry has misunderstood the significance of some of the early religious developments among the Russian Mennonites.
  41. See for example, Peter M. Friesen, *op.cit.*, 93, 591, 592-594.
  42. See **Storm and Triumph**, *op.cit.*, 141-144 and 235-245, for a discussion of this point and the largely incorrect assessment which the pietist cultural Mennonites made of the society in which they lived, a fact which Urry chooses not to mention.
  43. **The Golden Years**, *op.cit.*, 7.

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