

# HERITAGE POSTING

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## Neuenburg, Kronsfeld, Gruenfeld

## West Reserve Mennonite villages were topics at MMHS local history workshop

by Elmer Heinrichs

Some 50 Mennonite historians attending an MMHS local history committee fall workshop in Winkler Oct. 27<sup>th</sup> heard talks on the West Reserve Mennonite villages of Neuenburg, Kronsfeld and Gruenfeld, the school districts of Birkenhead, Grossweide and the town of Haskett.

In an opening session Alan Warkentin and Abe Wieler told about the organization behind the successful Haskett Centennial held this summer. Even before Haskett began and grew, settlers of nearby Kronsfeld and Gruenfeld had migrated west to Saskatchewan, with a few moving to town.

Alan related that even when his ancestors, the Warkentin family came in 1875, they had been preceded by Indians. A native campground was found at a year-round spring at SE12-1-5W.

Mennonites settled Gruenfeld and Kronsfeld in the 1870s long before Haskett emerged as a railway town in 1907. In the early years children attended a German language school at nearby Eichenfeld, possibly also at Gruenfeld (not confirmed), added Warkentin.

Wieler noted that a series of breakfasts and meetings indicated considerable interest and work began on organizing a Haskett community homecoming. The event took place this summer, and an estimated 1,200 attended. (See October HP). A book and a video now mark Haskett's past, and are on sale.

In a second presentation Henry Unger told about the village of Neuenburg and the Birkenhead S.D. entitling his talk "The survival of a community." Of more than 50 villages established on the West Reserve, Neuenburg is one of only a few that have survived, said Unger.

John Warkentin, in the book *The Mennonite Settlements of Southern Manitoba*, states that Neuenburg in 1956 was the smallest village on the West Reserve with 67 inhabitants. Most of the villages that were originally established began with basically the same number of 20 families.

Unger focused on the establishment of Neuenburg, southeast of Winkler, 1875-1920, the migration of the 1920s, and its aftermath. Two distinct groups settled the village, those who came from Chortitza Colony, and those



Alan Warkentin and Henry Unger lecture at local history workshop.

— Photo by Bert Friesen

from Pluov, near the Dnieper River north of Nikopol.

While the Friesen and Fehr names were prominent, there was also a Toews family who sold their property in Mapleton, N.D. and purchased land south of the village. This family and others too moved out of fear that their children would inter-marry with Swedish young people.

Despite diseases and deaths, the village grew to 35 families by 1894, but in the 1920s conflict with government policies - conscription, national registration and the school attendance act - led to the Mexican migration, and the influx of the Kanadier and Russlaender.

With lots of vacant land, it also led to the forming of Poplar Grove Farm and the Juden Plan.

While the Birkenhead school closed in 1992, the village now has 27 yards, a population of 111; five German

(Continued on page 2)

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Since its founding in 1958, the Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society has been an organization that exists to support the interests of its membership. Individuals and groups with special causes are the powerhouse behind the Society. Indeed, often individuals have joined the organization as a means of furthering their particular interest in an aspect of Mennonite history. The Arnold Dyck project, for example, was begun by non-members who joined MMHS to gain assistance with their goal of translating and publishing the collected works of a southern Manitoban author. The Echo-Verlag series on Russian Mennonite settlements had a similar origin.

The board of the Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society invites you to view the Society in the same way. We exist to enable you to bring your projects to fruition. We encourage you to feel free to approach the Society as a resource. What is your passion, your dream? How can we help make it a reality?

History need not be limited to traditional formats of books and family trees, though these are valuable media, of course. The arts are means of story-telling as well. How can the Society assist you with your artistic project?

Twenty-first century electronic media provide all kinds of opportunities for telling your stories – our stories – in exciting new ways, with capabilities of reaching new audiences. Podcasts, interactive websites, online journals, and DVDs did not exist a few years ago. How can we tell our stories in these new ways?

We invite you to approach the Society with your project proposals, and with contributions to the MMHS website or newsletter. We also invite you to participate in our 50th anniversary celebrations – details coming soon!

Janis Thiessen  
President, MMHS

*(Continued from page 1)*

families, only one full-time farmer, and the village expands to the east. Five families are descendants of the original 20 families, Peter Rempel (4) and Fehr families.

A former district resident, Jim Dyck, said the Grossweide name means “large meadow” or pasture. The district was set two-and-a-quarter miles from the north border of the West Reserve near Dead Horse Creek, and settled by residents from Kronsthal and other villages to the south.

Never a village, Grossweide SD No. 786 opened in 1893 and after 77 years it was dissolved in 1970. But, adds Dyck, it was more than a school district; it was also the site of two churches – a Sommerfeld church, and an M.B. church, formed after an early evangelical movement.

Flood-prone, the school was closed for a day or two every spring, but around 1906-07 a network of drainage ditches improved the flood situation. A well-populated district, a school-house was moved here by horses and rollers. The one-room school reached a high of 44 pupils.

Mennonite settlers from the Bergthal Colony in Russia began attending a Sommerfeld Church which opened in 1889. In the 1890s a Mennonite Brethren Church also began here, served Grossweide residents well until 1964 when members decided to relocate it to Horndean.



History workshop participants. — Photo by Bert Friesen

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The Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society Newsletter, Heritage Posting, welcomes letters and reports pertaining to the historical interests of society members.

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Part of Manitou's anniversary parade

— Photo by Bert Friesen

## Manitou MB Church Congregational History

by Bert Friesen

In 1927, a group of people held a meeting and decided to organize into the Manitou Mennonite Brethren Church. Anton Baerg was elected as the first leader. At first the congregation met in a school. When the congregation outgrew the school, in the summer, they moved to an available machine shed. In the winter, they divided up into four groups and met in homes. In 1931, it was decided to build a church in Manitou. Once a month, the congregation held a youth service. Another building was built in 1967 in Manitou on the through highway.

The church had a 50th anniversary celebration in 1977. Another building was purchased in 1983 and attached to the original building for Sunday school.

In 2007 the congregation celebrated the 80th anniversary of its founding. This was done in the same year as the town of Manitou celebrated the 110th anniversary of its founding in 1897.

The leaders of the church included: Anton Baerg (1927-1930), Joh. P. Froese (1931-1933), H. H. Goossen (1934), Joh. P. Froese (1935-1938), H. H. Goossen (1939), Gerhard Klassen (1940), Jacob Wiebe (1941-1942), H. Goossen (1943-1947), J. Froese (1948), Gerhard Klassen (1949-51), John Wiebe (1952-1967), Jacob Falk (1968-1972), A. J. Froese (1973-1978), Alvin Penner (1980-1987), George Toews (1988-2000), John Nikkel (2000-2005), Stephen Kroeker (2006-present).

## The Jewish Heritage Centre of Western Canada

In collaboration with the University of Manitoba (Department of History Post Colonial Studies Group), the University of Winnipeg (Chair of German-Canadian Studies) and the Jewish Federation of Winnipeg

Invites you to a lecture

Jews in Postwar Germany, 1945-1949:

*A presentation of Jews, Germans, and Allies.  
Close Encounters in Occupied Germany*

By Professor Atina Grossmann

Wednesday, December 5, 7:30 p.m.

Sol and Florence Kanee Foyer

Asper Jewish Community Campus

123 Doncaster

Admission: \$5.00

Refreshments to follow

For further information, please contact

## New Book Published

*The Ben Horsch Story* (ISBN 978-0-9784686-0-6) by Peter Letkemann is the latest in the collection of biographies highlighting prominent Mennonite leaders. What makes this story unique is that Horsch was a leader in the field of music, and used music to make a tremendous impact on the M.B. Conference.

George Wiebe, a former student of Ben Horsch, states in the Foreword, "Once in a generation or two, a gifted, charismatic leader emerges within a religious and ethnic community to leave an indelible cultural and spiritual legacy. Such a leader is a 'Wegweiser' (one who shows the way) for his people and changes the goal and direction of artistic and spiritual development for generations to come.

"Ben Horsch was such a leader in the sphere of music. His unique musical gifts were graced with an infectious personality and a genuine love and respect for people of all faiths and cultures."

*The Ben Horsch Story* is a 500-page biography, with over 70 photographs, devoted to the life and career of the leading Canadian Mennonite musician, conductor and broadcaster of the 20th century. The book is published in Winnipeg, MB by Old Oak Publishing, 2007. It is available from the Centre for M.B. Studies for \$25.00.



## CELEBRATING — *THE BEN HORCH STORY*

by Gilbert G. Brandt

About 100 people attended the launch of *The Ben Horch Story* at the Centre for M.B. Studies, Winnipeg, on Monday, November 19, 2007, the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of Horch. This new book, written by Dr. Peter Letkemann, details the life of Horch, a significant figure in Mennonite music making during the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Ken Reddig, Director of the Centre for M.B. Studies, introduced the evening's program and then introduced Peter Letkemann. Peter shared details about the publication of *The Ben Horch Story*. He stated that he had spent over twenty years researching and collecting data. Pressure to publish increased as the 100 birthday of Horch approached. Finally the manuscript was completed and the book taken to the printer.

Peter introduced the members of the Horch family that were in attendance. These included Ben's brother, Albert Horch and his son, Paul Horch. Paul had spent many hours digitizing the music from the 1950s and beyond in order to make it compatible to today's electronic devices. Peter also introduced Steve Falk and Esther Falk Fast, children of David and Viola Horch Falk and grandchildren of Ben and Esther Horch.

As Peter highlighted incidents from the life of Ben Horch he mentioned other members of the Horch family. These included brothers Ed, Emmanuel, Reuben and Albert Horch. He also mentioned Peter Kroeker, a brother-in-law, Frieda Warkentin, daughter of Emmanuel, and Benjamin Falk, a great grandson.

Peter Letkemann then introduced a 30-minute DVD on the life of Ben Horch. Peter expressed appreciation for the work done by his sons, Joel and Jonathan, to get both the book and DVD produced. This DVD, available on loan from the M.B. Centre for use



**Peter Letkemann looks on as Ken Reddig introduces him to the attendees.** — Photos by Gilbert Brandt

by schools and churches, contains many clips of music-making events throughout Horch's life and is an excellent introduction to the Ben Horch life story.

After this premier showing of the DVD, Peter asked Steve Falk and Esther Falk Fast to come to the podium to receive copies of the book as tokens of appreciation for the assistance they had given Peter in the compilation of this biography from the volumes and volumes of data available. Both Steve and Esther shared some thoughts with the group.

George Wiebe, a former student of Ben Horch and a prominent Mennonite musician in his own right, shared some thoughts on the life of Horch to close out the evening. Although this event coincided with the commemoration of Ben Horch's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, official book launches were also

held in the following locations:

November 24: Abbotsford, Bakerview M.B. Church  
November 27: Winkler, Winkler Centennial Library  
December 1: Steinbach, Mennonite Heritage Village  
December 4: Altona, Altona Public Library



**Peter Letkemann shares insights from the book.**



**Peter engages in conversation as many get autographed copies of the new publication.**



**Steve Falk shares some thoughts as Esther Falk Fast listens intently.**

# History comes to life along the Red River

by Lori Penner

It's hard to resist a chance to be on TV.

On October 13, dozens of people gathered at Fort Dufferin, north of Emerson, to be part of the cast of Red River Showcase, a program on Prairie Public Television that highlights places to go and things to see in the Red River Valley. The location was a natural choice for executive producer Bill McCaughey. It was the site of three pivotal events in Manitoba's history, and it was these events that were re-enacted for the cameras by local volunteers.

Fort Dufferin was the headquarters and winter home to the 90 or so members of the British-Canadian Boundary Commission from 1872-74. Their daunting task was to navigate and mark 1,364 km of the 49th parallel, through dense bush and severe weather using the stars as their guide. Depressions in the grass still mark the original building sites, which once housed teamsters, scouts, labourers, and technical crews.

Boundary Commission NWMP Trail Association founding president Felix Kuehn led the Boundary Commission re-enactment. Emerson resident Bill Rolls considered it a great honour to narrate some of the experiences of Captain Anderson, Chief Astronomer of the Royal Engineers.

Dufferin was also the training ground and starting point for 22 officers and 287 men of the NWMP on their legendary march west in 1874. Wearing his authentic red serge, Emerson mayor Wayne Arseny played the role of Colonel George French, leading a small force made up of members of the local Prairie Pony Riders 4-H Club. Riders were told to wear bright red jackets, with beige pants and black boots. Some were able to recreate the trademark pillbox cap using a felt-covered margarine container.

For those with Mennonite roots, Fort Dufferin has special significance. It marked the end of the journey for hundreds of Mennonites from Eastern Europe who sought a better life in Canada. The riverboat carrying the first group arrived in 1875. They made Dufferin their home for six weeks, as they waited for the land on the east and west reserves to be surveyed.

Altona realtor John Giesbrecht organized the group for the Mennonite contingent. They wore conservative suits, bonnets and long dresses, and were told to look hopeful, relieved and a little apprehensive as they made their way past the cameras, up the grassy bank of the Red River.

Giesbrecht's great-grandfather landed at Dufferin all those years ago. "You have to wonder what was going through their minds," he says. "They had only what they could carry and maybe a horse and a cow."

As a member of the Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society, Giesbrecht says their segment on the program is important. "After people like myself are gone, who's going to keep all this alive? Grandkids aren't into history anymore. They're more into IPODs."

Writer/researcher Barbara Shewchuk says Red River Showcase is now in its second year. The scenes shot at Fort Dufferin are part of the 9th episode of the series. She says one of the hardest parts of production has been finding authentic-looking props.

But perhaps exact props weren't necessary. One only had to watch the faces of the actors to know they were caught up in the spirit of the past. Brought to life through the creative talents of McCaughey and his company, Bridges International Television, the events at Fort Dufferin were aired on Nov. 2 at 7:30 p.m. on Prairie Public Television.

"I've always felt this site had amazing potential," McCaughey says.

*Reprinted courtesy of The Red River Valley Echo*

**DID YOU KNOW** that eight quarter sections of the East reserve had already been given to other settlers before the Mennonites arrived?

**DID YOU KNOW** that Clearsprings was not part of the Mennonite Reserve? Its settlers were Indians and Metis; and Scottish farmers and Ontario farmers who began to settle there in 1870. Between 1874 and 1879 twenty-four families migrated from Ontario making a total of 41 families living there. In 1879 a log building was erected and used as a school and a Presbyterian church. Also in 1879 the mail was picked up from The Hudson's Bay store in St Annes, brought to Clearsprings where Mr. McCaskill had a post office in his home.

**DID YOU KNOW** that Jean Baptiste Desautels dit Lapointe received NW 23-7-6E, one of the quarters dividing the two villages of Blumenort and Blumenhof? In December of 1877 Johann Warkentin approached Jean and asked him if he (Johann) would let him have the land in question if in turn he (Jean) would receive the same quarter in range 5E. Jean agreed, (for this was the piece of land he wanted in the first place but due to a clerical error, did not get). It took until December 11, 1884 for Jean to get the quarter he originally picked, and for Johann Warkentin to get the land bordering Blumenhof.

**DID YOU KNOW** that Landmark was originally called Prairie Rose, but the government gave it the name of Landmark? The first Kleine Gemeinde families moved there in 1907, for land was needed for the young people. Most of the families arrived after 1917; some were returning Mennonites from Alberta and others were Mennonites from other parts of Manitoba. It was good farm land that lay 13 miles northeast of Blumenhof. In 1920 the Blumenort school was purchased and moved to Prairie Rose. The town had a motto of "Our town is small, our spirits big".



# GENEALOGY — The Mennonite Wieler Family: Part III

by Glenn Penner

## Family Lists Continued

### Hm01

**Herman Wieler** b. Jul. 2, 1788 Königsberg, EP  
d. Jun. 13, 1858 Königsberg, EP  
m. 1815

Wilh. Kauenhoven b. Dec. 20, 1799  
d. Apr. 26, 1869

#### Children:

Anna b. Jan. 30, 1819  
Maria b. Dec. 5, 1816  
Johann b. Jul. 30, 1821  
Johanna b. Feb. 2, 1825  
Julius b. Jul. 11, 1829

**Adolf** b. Jun. 4, 1833  
m. Amalie Boldt  
m. Susanna Boldt (1864)  
m. Johanna Isaac (1868)

He was the son of Johann Wieler (**Jo12**) of Königsberg. He was a Kaufman (merchant) who lived at Steindamm. Became a citizen of Königsberg on Nov. 10, 1812. They moved to Elbing in the 1820s and appear to have moved back to Königsberg before the birth of Adolf in 1833. There are no known Wieler descendants of this family. References 25 and 26 are the sources for all of the information on this family.

Although Isaac was a popular first name among the West Prussian Mennonites it is not found in any of the Wieler families before 1800 and was very rare during the first half of the 1800s. On the other hand the relatively rare name Isebrandt was rather well known in the early Wieler family. Many of the early Isebrandt Wieler were likely related to or descended from **I01**.

### I01

**Isebrandt Wieler** b. before 1700  
d. after 1727 West Prussia

He lived in Marienau in 1727 and owned 3 Hufen and 11 Morgen of land.<sup>12</sup>

### I02

**Isebrandt Wieler** b. 1713  
d. Jan. 12, 1777 Klein Mausdorf, WP<sup>14</sup>

#### Children:

Peter b. d. May 28, 1748<sup>14</sup>  
[Isebrandt b. before 1760 d. before 1793 ?]

1776: Klein Mausdorf Landmann 11/10/02 Eigenthümer  
1772: Klein Mausdorf Nachbar 11/10/10/23 3Hufen.

### I03

**Isebrandt Wieler** b. 1741  
d. Sep. 14, 1791 Lakendorf, WP<sup>13</sup>

Anna Classen b. 1748  
d. Dec. 16, 1802 Lakendorf, WP<sup>13</sup>

#### Children:

**Isebrandt** b. ca 1767  
bapt. 1787<sup>30</sup>  
Margaretha b. ca 1771 m. Peter Wieler (1794)<sup>6</sup>  
bapt. 1791<sup>6</sup>  
Franz b. 1785 d. Apr. 5, 1786<sup>13</sup>

1772: Marienau 11/00/11/32

1776: Marienau Landmann 11/11/00 Eigenthümer

There is some question as to whether Isebrandt and Margaretha were children of this particular Isebrandt Wieler.

### I04

**Isebrandt Wieler** b. before 1760  
d. before 1793

#### Children:

Heinrich b. 1780 d. 1793<sup>14</sup>  
Peter b. 1770s d. Oct. 12, 1802<sup>14</sup>

Lived in Klein Mausdorferfeld in 1793 and 1802. He may have been the son of **I02**.

### I05

**Isebrandt Wieler** b. before 1735  
m. Oct. 19, 1755 d. Jun. 27, 1775 Danzig<sup>23</sup>  
Catharina Wiens b. about 1732  
d. Nov. 1, 1772<sup>23</sup>

#### Children:

Isebrandt b. Sep. 1760 d. Jan. 7, 1761<sup>37</sup>  
Catharina b. 1769 d. Dec. 20, 1772<sup>37</sup>

No children of Isebrandt Wieler appear in the baptismal register of the Danzig church.<sup>23</sup> It is likely that this family died out. They appear to have lived in Hochzeit and/or Ohra, which were suburbs of Danzig.<sup>37</sup> The baptism of Isebrandt Wieler is not recorded in the Danzig baptismal register (1667 – 1800). He likely came from the Gross Werder or the Elbing/Ellerwald congregations.

### I06

**Isebrandt Wieler** b. before 1780  
m. before 1800 d. after 1806  
Susanna Friesen b. before 1780  
d. after 1806

#### Children:

Margaretha b. Feb. 21, 1801<sup>38</sup>  
Heinrich b. Aug. 3, 1802<sup>29</sup>  
Christina b. Apr. 28, 1804<sup>38</sup>  
Justina b. Oct. 5, 1806<sup>29</sup>

Lived in Rauden (1802) and later Oberfeld (1806).

(Continued from page 6)

**I07**

**Isebrandt Wieler** b. Aug. 4, 1758  
 m. May 13, 1779 d. Feb. 22, 1798 Mühlhausen, EP  
 Gertrude Wieler b. Oct. 26, 1754  
 d. Jan. 27, 1813 Mühlhausen, EP

## Children:

Gertrude b. Feb. 28, 1780 d. Dec. 14, 1846  
 Katharina b. Aug. 18, 1781 d. Mar. 1, 1807  
 Johann b. Jun. 12, 1783 d. Nov. 5, 1787  
 Elizabeth b. Nov. 11, 1785 m. Jacob Kliever  
 bapt. 1801<sup>6</sup>  
 Maria b. Sep. 14, 1786 d. Jan. 3, 1833  
 Johann b. Jul. 12, 1788 d. Jul. 25, 1788  
**Johann** b. Sep. 12, 1788 m. Elisabeth Wiens (1816)  
 bapt. 1806<sup>6</sup> m. Agnetha van Riesen (1828)  
 Agathe b. Apr. 5, 1792 d. Mar. 24, 1795  
 Judith b. May 5, 1794 d. 1852  
 bapt. 1810<sup>6</sup>  
 Abraham b. May 7, 1796 d. Jan. 24, 1797  
 Agathe b. May 1, 1797 d. May 30, 1802

He was very likely the son of one of the Johann Wielers of the Elbing/Ellerwald region. Gertrude Wieler was the daughter of Johann Wieler of Königsberg, East Prussia (**Jo11**). Isebrandt Wieler was a Kaufmann (Merchant) from about 1790 on. Sometime after 1795 the family moved to Elbing. They lived in Königsberg in 1795.<sup>36</sup> After the death of Isebrandt Wieler his widow married Heinrich Ens.<sup>6</sup> Unless otherwise indicated all of the information on this family came from reference 25.

**Ja01**

**Jacob Wieler** b. 1690s  
 d. after 1764  
 Margaretha b. ca 1694  
 d. Feb. 16, 1764<sup>13</sup> Blumenort, WP  
 child b. d. Mar. 12, 1720<sup>13</sup>

In 1720 he was a Häker (shopkeeper) living on the "Jungfersche Lacken", which was the small lake beside the village of Jungfer.<sup>13</sup>

**Ja02**

**Jacob Wieler** b. Oct. 19, 1747 Ellerwald, WP  
 m. Aug. 1, 1786 d. Jun. 8, 1812 Neugarten (Danzig)  
 Magdalena Reimer b. Apr. 13, 1762  
 d. Jun. 29, 1814 Neugarten (Danzig)

## Children:

Magdalena b. Nov. 10, 1787 d. Jun. 1, 1790  
 Anna b. Feb. 8, 1789 m. Jacob Dyck (1810)  
 bapt. 1804  
 Peter b. Oct. 19, 1790 d. Nov. 2, 1790  
 Jacob b. Mar. 15, 1792 d. Mar. 12, 1793  
 Peter b. Aug. 15, 1793 d. Jan. 11, 1794  
 Daughter b. Sep. 11, 1794 d. Sep. 11, 1794  
 Magdalena b. May 15, 1796 d. May 21, 1796

He was the son of Martin Wieler (**M02**) and Anna Dyck of Ellerwald. The Danzig family register (volume 2, page

141)<sup>23</sup> gives his baptism year as 1758 and location as Rosenort. The year is more likely 1768. This family lived in Neugarten near Danzig. Unless otherwise indicated the information on this family came from reference 23.

**Ja03.** The 1772, 1776 and 1789 censuses contain only one Jacob Wieler. He was listed in Ellerwald Trift 1, as a landowner (1776) with 5 Morgen of land (1772 & 1789) and the only member of his family unit (1772 & 1776). He is very likely the single man (Gesell) Jacob Wieler of Ellerwald 1. Trift who died on April 26, 1798 at the age of 59 ½ years (born ca 1738).<sup>16</sup>

**Ja04** The Ladekopp Mennonite church register<sup>28</sup> records the death of Jacob Wieler, age 51 (b. ca 1735) of Tiegerfeld on Aug. 28, 1786. He is not found in the 1772 or 1776 censuses. No other information is available on this person.

Between the 1730s and the 1780s at least 3 different Johann Wielers lived in the various parts of Ellerwald. It is not always possible to assign a particular entry in a church register or census to a particular Johann Wieler. For example the Elbing Lutheran church registers record 30 entries for Johann Wieler. Only 13 of these could be assigned to a particular Johann Wieler.

**Jo01**

**Johann Wieler** b.  
 d. Dec. 13, 1758 Elbing region<sup>16</sup>

**Jo02**

**Johann Wieler** b.  
 d.

## Children:

Daughter b. 17?? d. Jan. 3, 1761<sup>16</sup>  
 Daughter b. 17?? d. Jun. 30, 1763<sup>16</sup>

Lived in Klein Wickerau in 1761 and 1763. He was not there for the 1772 or 1776 censuses. He likely moved or died between 1763 and 1772.

**Jo03**

**Johann Wieler** b. ca 1700  
 d. between 1759 & 1772  
 Anna b. 1704  
 d. Nov. 22, 1759 Laakendorf, WP<sup>13</sup>

This Johann Wieler likely died before the 1772 or 1776 censuses.

**Jo04**

**Johann Wieler** b.  
 d.  
 wife b. 1715  
 d. Jan. 13, 1784 Neuteichsdorffeld, WP<sup>28</sup>

This Johann Wieler is not found in the 1772 or 1776 censuses.

(Continued on page 8)

## 8 Heritage Posting

(Continued from page 7)

### Jo05

**Johann Wieler** b. 1709  
d. Jul. 17, 1777 Ellerwald Tr. 5, WP<sup>16</sup>

1<sup>st</sup> m.  
1<sup>st</sup> wife b.  
d. Apr. 6, 1769 Ellerwald Tr. 5, WP<sup>16</sup>

2<sup>nd</sup> m.  
2<sup>nd</sup> wife b.  
d. Nov. 29, 1773 Ellerwald 5 Tr. WP<sup>16</sup>

3<sup>rd</sup> m.  
Anna b. 1731  
d. Apr. 11, 1777 Ellerwald 5 Tr., WP<sup>16</sup>

Son b. d. Feb. 2, 1774<sup>16</sup>

1772: Ellerwald 5 Tr. owned 25 Morgen of land.<sup>1</sup>  
Not found in the 1776 census.

### Jo06

**Johann Wieler** b. 1727  
1<sup>st</sup> m d. Aug. 11, 1790 Ellerwald 1 Tr. WP<sup>16</sup>

1<sup>st</sup> wife b.  
d. Dec. 5, 1764 Ellerwald 1 Tr. WP<sup>16</sup>

2<sup>nd</sup> m.  
2<sup>nd</sup> wife b.  
d.

Children:  
Catharina b. ca 1764 m. Peter Neufeld (1793)<sup>6</sup>  
bapt. 1784<sup>6</sup>

**Cornelius** b. ca 1766 m. Margaretha Reimer (1795)<sup>6</sup>  
bapt. 1786<sup>6</sup>

**Johann** b. ca 1771 m. Anganetha Kroeker (1804)<sup>23</sup>  
bapt. 1791<sup>6</sup>

**Gerhard** b. ca 1773 m. Agnatha Classen (1807)<sup>6</sup>  
bapt 1793<sup>6</sup>

Son b. d. Feb. 9, 1770<sup>16</sup>

Daughter b. d. Apr. 24, 1771<sup>16</sup>

Zacharias b. 1780 d. Jan. 11, 1781 (6M)<sup>16</sup>

1772: Ellerwald 1 Tr. Wirt. Owned 1 Hufen and 10 Morgen of land<sup>1</sup>

1776: Ellerwald 1 Tr. 11/31/00 Eigenthümer<sup>17</sup>

1789: Ellerwald 1 Tr. Owned 1 Hufen and 5 Morgen of land.<sup>18</sup>

### Jo07

**Johann Wieler** b. 1758 West Prussia  
m. Apr. 2, 1782<sup>10</sup> d. Nov. 9, 1802 Chortitza, Russia<sup>35</sup>

Elisabeth b 1750  
d. Apr. 1, 1783 Tiegenhof, WP<sup>10</sup>

Children:  
Elisabeth b. Mar. 31, 1783 d. Apr. 9, 1783

2<sup>nd</sup> m. 1785-87

Sara b. 1768  
d.

Children:  
**Johann** b. Jul. 8, 1787<sup>10</sup>

Sara b. ca 1792

Gerhard b. ca 1794

Anna b. ca 1798

Johann Wieler was the son of Heinrich Wieler (**Hr06**).

Johann Wieler's 1<sup>st</sup> wife was the widow of Gerhard Martens of Holstein. On Mar. 21, 1784 Johann Wieler was excommunicated from the Tiegenhof church for having an affair with a certain Anna Wiens. He was taken back into the church on Apr. 10, 1785.

Johann Wieler and his family immigrated to the Chortitza Colony in Russia around 1788.

### Jo08

**Johann Wieler** b. 1771-1773 West Prussia  
m. Jan. 10, 1804<sup>23</sup> d. after 1816 Russia

Anganetha Kroeker b. Dec. 3, 1782\*  
d.

Children:

**Jacob** b. 1807 m. Catharina Lepp (1831)<sup>39</sup>

**Johann** b. Jun. 29, 1809\* m. Aganetha Braun (1829)\*

He was the son of Johann Wieler (**Jo06**). He moved to the Chortitza Colony in Russia in 1804 from the village of Ellerwald 2 Tr. The GRANDMA database<sup>9</sup> claims he was born in Weissshof. This is incorrect; he was married in Weissshof.

\* The original sources of these dates are unknown.

### Jo09

**Johann Wieler** b. Sep. 14, 1773 Ellerwald 3 Tr., WP<sup>20</sup>  
m. Feb 15, 1795 d.

Anna Isaac b. Feb. 28, 1756<sup>20</sup>  
d.

Children:

Anna b. ca 1796 m. Peter Klassen (1825)<sup>6</sup>  
bapt. 1816<sup>6</sup>

Catharina b. May 24, 1798<sup>20</sup> m. Johann Isaac (1827)<sup>6</sup>  
bapt. 1817<sup>6</sup>

The source of some of the information on this family is the Elbing-Ellerwald Family register<sup>20</sup> Vol. 2, p. 55. This family lived in Ellerwald 3. Tr. according to the 1811 census which gives his age as 46 and that of his wife and 2 daughters as 61, 8 and 6, respectively.

Anna Isaac was the widow of Isebrandt Wiebe (m. Jun. 28, 1792)<sup>6</sup>

Johann Wieler was baptized in 1794, the surviving son of Bernhard Wieler. Bernhard Wieler was likely the one living in Ellerwald 3 Tr. in 1776<sup>17</sup> with his wife 2 sons and 1 daughter.

### Jo10

**Johann Wieler** b. Dec. 23, 1783 Ellerwald 4 Tr., WP  
m. May 11, 1809 d. Aug. 20, 1847 West Prussia

Agnetha Penner b. Jun. 28, 1783 Ellerwald 1 Tr. WP  
d. Jul. 31, 1838 West Prussia

Children:

Agnetha b. Nov. 4, 1810

**Johann** b. Aug. 20, 1813 m. Marg. Dyck (1837)<sup>41</sup>  
m. Elis. Dyck (1839)<sup>41</sup>  
m. Cath. Rempel (1842)<sup>41</sup>

Catharina b. May 29, 1816

(Continued on page 9)



(Continued from page 8)

**Abraham** b. Jun. 19, 1817 m. Maria Thiessen (1851)<sup>42</sup>  
 Helena b. Oct. 17, 1819  
 David b. Dec. 6, 1821  
 Maria b. Oct. 3, 1823  
 Jacob b. Jan. 9, 1826  
 Isebrandt b. Mar. 15, 1829

Johann Wieler was the son of Abraham Wieler (**Ab01**).

Some of the information on this family comes from the Elbing-Ellerwald Family Register<sup>20</sup>, Vol. 2 p. 31 and the Ladekopp Family Register<sup>28</sup> p. 83.

This family lived in Sonnenberg, West Prussia from 1810 until about 1818. They then lived in Ellerwald 1 Tr.

**Jo11**

**Johann Wieler** b. 1716 West Prussia  
 1<sup>st</sup> m. 1748 d. May 14, 1802 Königsberg, EP  
 Anna Penner b.  
 d. 1749

Children:

Katharina b. 1749 m. Giesbrecht Reinke  
 2<sup>nd</sup> m. 1750/51

Katharina van Riesen b. 1729  
 d. Sep. 26, 1811 Königsberg, EP

Children:

Elisabeth b. Jul. 16, 1752 m. Heinrich Penner  
 (1775)

Gertrude b. Oct. 26, 1754

1<sup>st</sup> m. Isebrandt Wieler (1775)

2<sup>nd</sup> m. Heinrich Entz (1799)

**Johann** b. 1759

1<sup>st</sup> m. Elisabeth Kroeker bapt. 1784

2<sup>nd</sup> m. Anna Woelk

Maria b. 1762 m. Peter Dyck

Judith b. 1766 d. 1833

**Bernhard** b. 1767 m. Susanna Jantzen (1795)

**Herman** b. 1769 m. Anna Toews (1792)<sup>25</sup>

**David** b. 1770 m. Maria Roosen (1797)<sup>25, 26</sup>

**Peter** b. 1772 m. Sara Woelke<sup>25, 26</sup>

The genealogy of Johann Wieler and his descendants is detailed in a volume of the Deutsches Geschlechterbuch<sup>25</sup>. According to this article Johann Wieler, his wife and 4 children moved from the "Werder" to Königsberg in 1760. In 1779 he owned 2 Hufen and 7 Morgen of land.<sup>36</sup> He was a brandy distiller during his entire time in Königsberg. On June 11, 1761 he paid 10 Reichsthaler in order to become a citizen (Burger) of Königsberg. He lived in Rossgarten at the time. Later they lived at Steindam, Alte Gasse (which was later called Kniprode Strasse). Information on this family and that of his son Johann (**Jo12**) come from the Deutsche Geschlechterbuch<sup>25</sup> article and the Königsberg Mennonite church records<sup>26</sup>. Even though Johann Wieler had 5 sons who lived to maturity it is uncertain if he had any male Wieler great grandsons.

**Jo12**

**Johann Wieler** b. 1759  
 d. Nov. 11, 1820 Königsberg, EP

Elisabeth Kroeker b.  
 d. Oct. 21, 1797

Children:

**Hermann** b. Jul. 2, 1788 m. Wilhelmine Kauenhofen  
 bapt. 1806 (1815)

**Simon** b. 1790 m. Elisabeth Berg bapt. 1810  
 2<sup>nd</sup> m.

Anna Woelke b.  
 d.

Children:

Anna b. 1799 m. Isaac Wiens  
 bapt. 1814

**Abraham** b. 1801 d. 1847  
 bapt. 1817

Bernhard b. 1804 d. 1821

Elisabeth b. Nov. 27, 1808 m. Hermann Warkentin

Maria b. 1814 d. 1817

He was the son of Johann Wieler (**Jo11**). He was a spice merchant (Gewürzhändler) from 1785 on. He was the Ältester of the Königsberg Mennoniten Gemeinde from 1795 until 1820. Unless otherwise noted all information on this page comes from references 25 and 26.

The family lists will be continued in the next installment of this series.

**Note:** The last installment of this series on the Wieler family will report on the results of the Wieler DNA Project. If you are a male Wieler and are interested in participating please contact the author\* or Erwin Wieler (Surrey, BC; ph: 604-535-2406; email: eowieler@pacificcoast.net).

All references will appear at the end of the last installment.

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## 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Join us for joint MMHS/MHV  
 50th anniversary reflections and celebrations  
 at the Annual General Meeting  
 of the Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society

**Saturday, 15 March 2008**  
**10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**  
**Laudamus Auditorium**  
**Canadian Mennonite University.**

Lunch will be available for a small fee.

## Book Notes



*Faspa with Jast* (ISBN 978-9784439-0-0) by Eleanor Hildebrand Chornoboy is her second book concerning rural life among the Mennonites of southern Manitoba. This book, a "snack of Mennonite stories told by family and guests," brings together the

contributions of many who remember rural life of the late 1800s to the middle of the 1900s. These stories are seasoned with laughter, tears and tips. The book is self-published, 2007, available for \$28.95.

*Jakob: Out of Village* (ISBN 978-7-894431-13-2) by Wm. Driedger is a novel about prairie life during the Dirty Thirties. In the strict confines of a small Old Colony Mennonite community in rural Saskatchewan, the precociously observant Jakob Schellenberg, middle son of a God-fearing farming family, grows increasingly aware of the outside world from the pictures in the Eaton's catalogue, the weekly farm paper and the city folk who occasionally stop by and dazzle him with their shiny new cars, fancy clothes and perfume-scented skin. Jakob's instinctive, exuberant response to the daily events of prairie life during the Dirty Thirties somehow holds him apart from both family and community, causing him to look further, to yearn for something more. His poignant, often humorous, coming-of-age leads him 'out of the village', only to discover that the village will be with him wherever he goes. The book is published by Your Nickel's Worth Publishing, Regina, SK, 2007. It sells for \$16.95.



*Under the Wings of Africa* (ISBN 978-1-894987-21-9) comes from the South African experiences of John Weier. The book is a provocative mélange of poetry, memoir, and letters to a lover chronicling the author's visit to South Africa in the company of his wife. Beautifully detailed descriptions of the landscape, the people, and the author's greatest passion for bird

watching, are woven into a rich narrative of love and loss. It is published by Wolsak & Wynn, Hamilton, ON, 2007 and sells for \$19.00.



*A Glowing Dream: A Memoir* (ISBN 1897289197) by Roland Penner is a tumultuous history that journeys with the Penner family from Russia where the threat of exile looms, to Winnipeg's North End, and leads up to Roland's expansive political career. Filled with fascinating, personal anecdotes and peopled with colourful characters from Winnipeg's past,

Roland Penner's autobiography takes the reader on a historic journey. Drawing on memories and archival materials, Penner connects the political dots from his paternal ancestors who emigrated to Southern Russia at the time of Catherine the Great to his own political activities. Published by J. Gordon Shillingford, Winnipeg, the book sells for \$28.95.

### IMAGINED HOMES SOVIET GERMAN IMMIGRANTS IN TWO CITIES



*Imagined Homes: Soviet German Immigrants in Two Cities* (ISBN 10: 0-88755-701-5) by Hans Werner compares two migrations of German speakers who had lived in eastern Europe and the Soviet Union for centuries. During the Cold War after the hostilities of the Second World War, they migrated to Winnipeg, Canada, and Bielefeld, Germany. Employing a cross-national comparative framework, Hans Werner

reveals that the process of integration into a new urban environment was greatly influenced by how the immigrants imagined their settlement experiences would be. Winnipeg's migrants chose a receiving society where they knew they would again be a minority group in a foreign country, while Bielefeld's newcomers believed they were "going home" and were unprepared for the conflict between their imagined homeland and the realities of post-war Germany. 300 pp 6 x 9 8 b/w Photos. Bibliography. Index, Published by University of Manitoba Press \$29.95.