

## Abraham R. Reimer, Blumenort.

\$25.00 without interest for one year, "the stud must pay for himself from his performance".

On September 10, 1893 Gerhard Kliewer recorded the details of the harvest, 1156 bushels of wheat, 742 bushels of oats, 174 bushels of barley, 136 bushels of rye, total 2208 bushels. Gerhard paid out \$90.10 in wages for the threshing including six labourers \$19.80, Jakob Krahn for two men \$6.60, Gerhard Sawatzky \$2.30, and \$61.66 for the threshing.

On Nov. 10, 1893, Gerhard Kliewer recorded the sale of a mare to Aeltester Gerhard Wiebe, Chortitz, for \$50.00 without foal and with foal 75.00. On October 30, 1894, Gerhard Wiebe paid the account with \$50.00 cash.

On January 15, he paid Stanislaus Bömer \$25.15.

In 1895 the harvest was as follows: wheat - at home 862 bu., by Wittick 584 bushel, oats 888 bu., and barley 268 bu.

In 1896 Gerhard Kliewer built a new residence, detailing expenditures in his journal totaling \$589.54. He purchased a considerable quantity of building materials from Klaas Reimer and Heinrich W. Reimer, Steinbach.

For those readers from the Niverville area interested in family history, it is noted that the journal also recorded dealings with most of Gerhard's Bergthaler/Chortitzer neighbours in Schantzenburg.

Only little has been written or published about Abraham R. Reimer (1841-91), the author of the other account book (Note Four). Therefore his biography will be more detailed than that of Kliewer.

Abraham was born in Rosenort, Molotschna, Imperial Russia, son of Abraham F. Reimer and midwife Elisabeth Rempel Reimer. The family was poor and often in receipt of financial support from the Kleine Gemeinde, the reason being fairly obvious from his father's nickname, "Fuella" or lazy Reimer.

As young lads Abraham and older brother Klaas were apprenticed as blacksmiths, a trade both pursued with considerable success.

On June 11, 1860, Abraham married Helena Poetger (1841-66). Little is known about her family, but evidently her background was not from the Kleine Gemeinde. Helena died in August of 1866 and on October 14, Abraham married for the second time to Maria R. Reimer (1847-1916), daughter of Heinrich Reimer (1818-76), Muntau, Molotschna, and later Blumenhof, Manitoba.

Maria's mother, Heinrich Reimer's second wife, was Helena Friesen (1823-59), sister of Johann Friesen (1808-72), Neukirch, third

Aeltester of the Kleine Gemeinde. This meant that Abraham married for the second time to his second cousin through the von Riesen/Friesen side, the single most important family in the Kleine Gemeinde.

In 1857, Abraham, brother Klaas and parents moved to Kleefeld, Molotschna. Here Abraham, and also Klaas, started as Anwohner, opening their own blacksmith shops. In 1863 the two brothers and their parents moved to rented land at Markuslandt (Andreasfeld) near the Old Chortitz Colony. At this point, Abraham parted ways with his siblings and parents who soon moved again to Steinbach, Borosenko, while Abraham moved to Blumenhoff, Borosenko, where his wife's parents lived.

### Emigration, 1874.

In 1874 the Reimer family, including Abraham, immigrated to America, settling in Blumenort, Manitoba. His parents, Abraham "Fuella" Reimer and midwife Elisabeth Rempel Reimer settled on a small home on Abraham's yard.

By now he was a successful farmer and blacksmith. Abraham apparently purchased a blacksmith business from his step-father-in-law Johann L. Plett, Blumenhof, Manitoba, in 1879, possibly one of the first documented business transactions on the East Reserve. Abraham maintained an "Account Book" in which he recorded details of his blacksmith business in subsequent years.

An indication of the extent of Abraham Reimer's farming operations are found in his father's journals for 1879: Saturday, August 9, 1879, "Abraham Reimer hauled 30 loads of oats home" (page 107); Thursday, August 14, 1879, "Abraham Reimer measured out the hay. They went 52 times--all told about 43 loads of hay" (page 107); and Thursday, September 18, "From 35 acres he [Abraham R. Reimer] received 216 bushels wheat and from 7 acres barley it gave 100 bushels and from 11 acres of oats, seeded actually only from 6 acres, he received 146 bushels" (page 112), courtesy Loewen, *From the Inside Out*.

### Municipal Service, 1880-81.

According to his father's journals Abraham represented his village of Blumenort at Municipal meetings in Chortitz, probably indicating that he served as Schulz or village mayor.

On May 9, 1880, 8:30 a.m. Abraham Reimer went to Chortitz for a discussion. The Aeltester and all Bergthal ministers and the six elected for the land concerns were there. Abraham Reimer left a 3 p.m. for home. On Thursday, June 24, at 6 a.m. Abraham Reimer [left] with his spring buggy and one horse to Chortitz for a meeting regarding drainage ditches. On Wednesday, September 22, Abraham Reimer received word in the morning to come to Chortitz to attend a meeting. Thursday, September 23, Abraham Reimer went at 7 a.m. to Chortitz to the conference. Someone from the Gebietsamtglieder (Councillors) checked the villages, including our villages, to tax the land and the cattle and set a price. September 24, Abraham Reimer came here from Chortitz at 4:30 p.m.



Gerhard's Kliewer's home built in 1896. Photo courtesy of Nettie Neufeld, Descendants of Peter Buhr 1816-1887, page 21. John K. Friesen, a great grandson of Gerhard Kliewer Jr., is currently living in this property, NW19-7-4E.



Gerhard's Kliewer's home built in 1896. Photo courtesy of Dit Sied Jant Sied, page 71. Another view.

On October 19, 1880, Abraham Reimer was to attend another meeting in Chortitz but was unable to as "he was lying down sick with the old ailment." He attended in Chortitz again on November 18 and December 24. On January 7, 1881, Abraham Reimer and "the Schulzes" (the village mayors) went to Chortitz for a meeting. Abraham Reimer attended these meeting through to the end of 1881.

**Farm Operation, 1883.**

Abraham R. Reimer was a large-scale farmer. He owned three quarters of land in 1883, 480 acres. This had increased to 640 with 59 acres cultivated by 1889. 17 years later, Abraham's widow was still assessed at 1795, the fifth highest in the village, showing that Maria had successfully continued the farming operation together with her younger sons.

**Character.**

According to grandson Rev. Abe Unger, "Abraham R. Reimer was a man of strong character, who was not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. His yea was yea and his nay was nay. In this atmosphere of strictness and order their family was trained in the fear and admonition of the Lord" (Note Five).

Abraham R. Reimer was elected a deacon of the Kleine Gemeinde on January 21, 1883 in the aftermath of the Holdeman division the preceding year. Abe Unger writes, "He accepted this call as from the Lord and displayed the same thoroughness and order in the discharge of his duties as a deacon, as he did in his domestic duties. James 1:27 was strictly observed in that the fatherless and widows were regularly visited in their affliction and their needs attended to....In his church work as well as other duties he worked in close harmony with his brother Peter who was a minister and several years younger."

It is said that Abraham was "...a man of strong character and convictions but he was also a strong man physically. It is reported that he delivered a wagon to a customer living at the other end of the village, carrying the wagon on his back. The wagon weighed 600 pounds."

Perhaps one of the secrets of the financial success enjoyed by both Abraham and brother Klaas, was their intuitive understanding of human nature which they successfully applied in their entrepreneurial endeavours. The story is told that one of Abraham's employees was a "trustworthy and willing worker until one day in Abraham's absence he was placed at the head of the table for the noon meal. Occupying this place of honour affected the servant adversely and ....[Abraham] soon noticed that his loyalty and service were not as in former days....One day when both master and servant were working side by side in the blacksmith shop, Abraham was busy and bid his servant to place the anvil upon the workbench. The servant tried hard but the anvil was too heavy and he was unable to lift it. Whereupon, ...[Abraham] with his one free hand, lifted the heavy anvil and placed it upon the bench. After this incident, the loyalty and respect of the servant towards his master were again restored."

Hundreds of entries regarding the life of

Abraham R. Reimer can be found in the journals of his father Abraham "Fuela" Reimer.

**Letter, 1891.**

A letter written to Aeltester Jakob M. Kroeker, Rosenhof, on May 6, 1891, shortly before Abraham R. Reimer's death illuminates his humble yet devout nature.

"Since I am presently unable to work much, because I have a sore leg--possibly arthritis, love inspires me to write you a short note. I hope that you will forgive me for my imperfect [writing], for I do not know that I have otherwise ever written you. Although my pain is not severe, I can nevertheless feel that whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth."

"Indeed, this results in love towards God and one's neighbour. I feel the grace at the present time, but [I say so] not out of [self] reputation. When I come before God I feel I have nothing of myself to show, other and only that He might be gracious unto me, poor one, and even if I miserable wretch will only be accepted prostrated [before Him]. Indeed, Sirach writes, when we have done everything from our part we are still deficient by far.

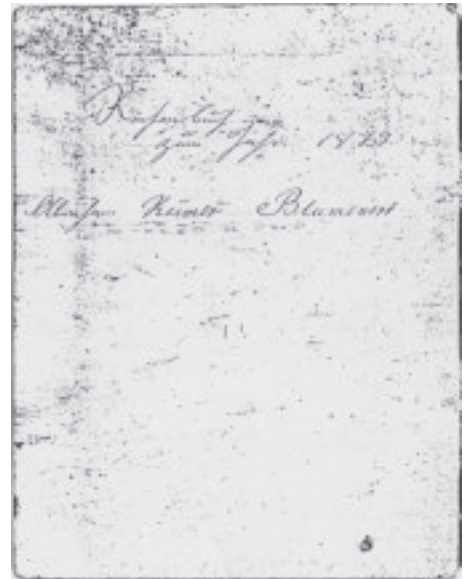
"How often our conscience reminds us, I should have done things differently, so that I must lament with the poet, "Allas, my sins a thousand fold, cause me pain and worry untold, which only Thy great faithfulness can erase."

"Indeed, I as the least significant one, but nevertheless, one who is to help in the work of the vineyard, although I can hardly regard myself as such a one, having received only so little from the Lord; nevertheless we are to remain faithful [even] with the little."

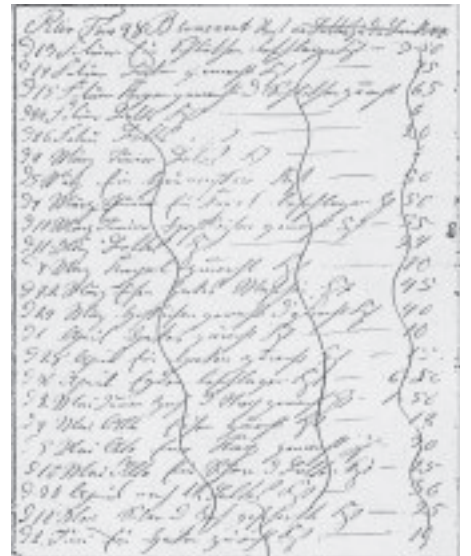
"Alas, for so often only nakedness and laziness comes in between, as is the case when I think about you. Any difficulty [matter] will come calling for you, for you are the one placed before the aperture, and the enemy is not otherwise minded than to tear everything apart, for Satan knows that he has only little time, and his intentions are that not one stone shall remain upon the other, and this even if it causes him much exertion. Indeed, I or we are among those who have not nearly sufficiently enough come to your aid, for once the work is completed the errors become more apparent. For then [your detractors say] it should have been done in a different way, and the other thing yet differently. And sometimes as well those not actually engaged in the work [think they] can see it more clearly. But I have the confidence in you that you have always sought what was best."

"I must also report to you that a certain Dalke wishes to join our Gemeinde, but since I do not know if anyone of the Ohms has written you about it, I will report thereon. It is Abraham Kornelsen's aged in-law. He, Kornelsen, has also asked with the Peters Gemeinde. Peters had only given him a poor testimony that he had engaged in questionable dealings which brought about indebtedness. This resulted in his being spoken to [by the Ohms], whereupon he renounced the Gemeinde."

"But according to the way he talks, he is sorry about everything, and when one observes him, he looks like a man of good intentions. But it is unfortunate, for forthwith after the request he had



Title page from the Abraham R. Reimer Account Book "for the year". The journal is courtesy of the Evangelical Mennonite Conference Archives, 440 Main Street, Steinbach, Manitoba.



Sample page from the Abraham R. Reimer Account Book, showing his running account with Alte Peter W. Toews (1831-1922), also known as "Gross Fooda" Toews, the patriarch of the Greenland settlement.

asked about marriage with the widow Thiessen. I have written you about this but you may already know everything in detail."

"Indeed, I wanted to also write you something, but as already mentioned above, [I have] done so out of love, and [hopefully] you will forgive me for that which you do not approve, for during the last while I have read many a letter which was not appealing to me and among which my own are also to be counted."

"I do not know for this time what to report to you further, other than our temporal circumstances. We in our family are in good health, our mother in only weak, and as far as I know, the rest of our friends and siblings are also well with the exception of the aged Schellenbergs, they are very sickly,



Klaas P. Reimer (1864-1937), son of Abraham R. Reimer (1841-91), blacksmith and large-scale farmer, Blumenort. He was the father of Elizabeth K. Reimer, Mrs. Peter K. Penner, founder of "Penner International", Steinbach. Photo courtesy of Blumenort, page 303.

he has arthritis. The seeding is almost finished. If it shall be the will of the Lord we are planning to come and visit you after the seeding time."

"Greet all the Ohms from us and also receive a heartfelt greeting from us," Abraham Reimers, Blumenort, May 8, 1891."

This letter was faithfully recorded by wife Maria who compiled a collection of family writings for her children (Note Six).

#### Death 1891.

Tragically Abraham died on May 25, only a little over two weeks after writing the forgoing letter. Father Abraham "Fuella" Reimer described his son's death in a letter written July 13, 1892:

"For three or four weeks before he died. . . he had a sore leg so that he could barely walk but it improved enough that he could walk . . . to the blacksmith shop and one Friday he drove along to Steinbach to bring a load of grain to the steam mill and he even climbed the stairs into the mill all by himself and also came home in good health."

"But after he went to sleep he got sick and the next day, Saturday, Johann Reimer sent his son-in-law for a doctor . . . who came and gave him some drops which did not help and maybe even made it worse. By now he could no longer get up, and during the night he got very sick. . . and Monday he was very sick so that there was no thought among any of the adults or children of going to bed. From 11 P.M. the sickness got worse and from around 11 until 12 o'clock he suffered great pain in his chest so that he hardly knew what to do

with himself. But at 12 midnight his soul departed from this world."

#### Descendants.

The descendants of Abraham R. Reimer numbered about 4000 in 1986. Oldest son Abraham P. Reimer moved to Steinbach where he was known as "Brandt" Reimer, see *Preservings*, No. 9, Part One, pages 53-55. Son Klaas P. Reimer was a large-scale farmer in Blumenort and his daughter Elizabeth married Peter K. Penner, founder of "Penner International" a national trucking firm in Steinbach. Another son Heinrich R. Reimer was a teacher and minister of the Kleine Gemeinde in Landmark, Doris Penner, *Preservings*, No. 8, Part Two, page 58, and Hulda Plett, *Preservings*, No



Isaac R. Reimer (1884-1966) married Sarah K. Plett, daughter of David L. Plett, Blumenhof. Isaac and his family lived in Landmark. Sid Reimer of Lakeview Insurance is a grandson. Another well known descendant of deacon Abraham R. Reimer is grandson Emile Reimer, broiler farmer in Blumenort, son of Aron R. Reimer (1885-1953), youngest son of Abraham. Also well-known are Emile's nephews Reg and Gary Reimer of Reimer Farm Supplies, Steinbach. Photo courtesy of Plett Picture Book, page 119.

13, page 117. Son Peter R. Reimer was the great-grandfather of Dwight Reimer, Steinbach City Councillor. Daughter Elisabeth married Johann F. Reimer, see *Preservings*, No.13, pages 104-108.

Daughter Magaretha married Jakob G. Barkman (1882-1955) and lived in Blumenort where their sons Abraham, Jakob and Henry J. R. Barkman were well-known. Another daughter Katharina Reimer (1880-1941) married Peter F. Unger, Blumenhof, see David Unger article elsewhere in this issue for a photograph.

#### The Journal 1879.

The journal is titled, "Rechenbuch zum Jahr 1879 Abraham Reimer Blumenort" (Account book, for the year 1879 Abraham Reimer, Blumenort). A second journal covers a period from roughly 1886 to 1889. This article will refer mainly to the older document.

This first and most extensive portion of the journal is essentially a page by page record of Abraham Reimer's business dealings, mainly blacksmith work, performed for his neighbours in the villages of Blumenort, Blumenhof and Neuanlage.

His first customer was Johann L. Plett (1855-1900), Blumenhof, one of the most successful farmers in Hanover Steinbach for much of the 1880s and '90s. Plett was also Reimer's step-father-in-law since he had married Margaretha L. Warkentin (1841-1913) third wife and widow of Heinrich Reimer (1818-76), the father of Abraham's second wife.

Obviously gifted at organization, Reimer even included an index in the account book, listing some 40 customers, some with two pages of entries. Accordingly the account book, like that of Kliever, serves as a source of informaton for those researching the history of families from the immediate area.

In other cases, the information found in Reimer's journals will allow family historians to track business developments such as in the C. S. Plett family. At a certain point, July 9, 1884 to be



Mrs. Klaas F. Penner, nee Maria R. Reimer (1878-1950), daughter of Abraham R. Reimer. She and her family emigrated to Mexico in 1948, from where several of her children moved to Belize ten years later. Maria's descendants include numerous ministers and others active in the Church of God. Photo courtesy of Quellen Colony, page 27. See *Preservings*, No. 13, page 128, for review of Klaas F. and Maria Penner family book by Frieda Thiessen. The Menno Penner, recently kidnapped in Belize, is a grandson of Klaas F. and Maria Penner.

exact, Reimer's journal reveals that Plett's sons David and Jakob L. Plett are charging repairs to their father's account, indicating that they are now farming in partnership with their father.

But the real interest, for the purpose of this article, is the back portion of Reimer's journal in which he recorded items of more miscellaneous interest, and which like the Kliever journal, reflect the extent of Reimer's business dealings in the surrounding neighbourhood.

Of particular interest are the details of numerous loans which Reimer made to his various customers and family. Like Kliever, Reimer recorded details of financial dealings between himself, his mother, siblings and children. Of some interest was Abraham's loan in 1884 to his mother, the indomitable Elisabeth Rempel Reimer, of \$17.00 which she repaid by April 1, 1886. The journal documents numerous loans to Reimer's children, and repayments made. On November 12, 1885, Abraham settled accounts with son Abraham (later known as "Brandt" Reimer), with a balance left owing of \$286.55

Even neighbour Johann Broeski, who singlehandedly took up half the agenda at Kleine Gemeinde brotherhood meetings during the 1880s because of what appeared to be a protracted situation of spousal abuse and marital problems, rated a loan of \$85.00 on July 18, 1885. As deacon Reimer also kept his eye on various moneys owing to the widow Peter Penner, keeping track of loans owing by Isaac Loewen, Gnadentort, and the "old" Cornelius Friesen, Blumenort. On June 25, 1884, Reimer lent the "Alte" Peter Toews, Blumenort, the sum of \$25.00 and on the same day, he lent the village herdsman, Klassen, a Bergthaler, \$8.00.

But Reimer's dealings go far beyond family and customers in his home villages. He lent money to co-religionists in Rosenort or Scratching River as it was then called. On March 17, 1886, Reimer lent \$75.00 to Peter Kroeker, Scratching River. In April 1886, Reimer recorded a balance of 65 cents owing for coltlers by Franz Froese, "Genseit" or Scratching River. On July 18, he made shingles for Siemens.

In 1884 Reimer lent \$87.00 to Peter Dück and an undisclosed sum to Rev. Peter Bärge, Grünfeld, and a \$100.00 to fellow deacon Abraham Kornelsen, Heuboden. On October 18, 1883, he repaired a grass mower for Heinrich Brandt, Steinbach, for 45 cents. Even "Alte" Cornelius Loewen, Steinbach, had some repairs done on June 3, 1884, for 25 cents. Other Steinbach names recorded are Jakob Barkman, Peter Barkman, Jakob Friesen, Johann Friesen, Johann Reimer, Holdeman minister Wilhelm Giesbrecht and even wealthy Vollwirt Franz Kroeker.

Even successful brother-in-law Abraham Friesen, Steinbach, comes for a loan of \$50.00 in February of 1885, as did another wealthy neighbour, the Alte Koop, Neuanlage, on March 28, 1885, borrowing \$20.00. Likewise benefiting was brother-in-law Abraham Penner, Blumenort, with a loan of \$8.00 on November 6, 1883.

Abraham R. Reimer was also a grain merchant of sorts, selling grain to his customers. He also provided loans in kind, such as various quantities

of grain and produce. On March 1, 1881, Reimer sold 51 bushels of wheat to Jakob Dück, Grünfeld.

Like Kliever, Reimer had extensive dealings with his "English" neighbours. To the Mennonites the term English meant Anglo-Manitobans, including people of Scottish, Irish and English background. On February 2, 1883, he sold John Carlton, spike nails for 35 cents. Carlton was a frequent customer at the Reimer's blacksmithy over the years. On October 4, 1884, Reimer sharpened a plow share for Tomelsen for 40 cents and on September 14, for Slater for 20 cents. On February 4, 1886, Reimer made "streich" for Caho. On March 7 he sharpened hoes for Mackentier.

### Conclusion.

One might well ask, why an article about two account books? Isn't that about as boring as anything on earth? Dr. Royden Loewen has already illustrated the myriad of detail about pioneer life which can be gleaned from journals (Note Seven). Who did they hire and? or do business with? what type of goods or produce did they sell or purchase?

The two account books in question reveal much about the life world of the two men, their families, villages, and church communities. Of interest in all East Reserve journals is the way certain English and French loan words are adopted into the local lingua fauna, and the slight reconstruction necessary to fit them into the vernacular of the diarists. Sometimes these reconstructions are rooted in the common origins of the Low German and English language in Nether or Lower Saxony.

Some contrasts and comparisons emerge from the two journals in question. Both men originated from the Molotschna, although Gerhard Kliever, became a member of the Bergthaler community, and Abraham R. Reimer, belonged to the

Kleine Gemeinde. The expanse of their lives is comparable--one born in 1836 the other 1841, Reimer died in 1891, Kliever in 1896. Both men served in the public sphere, Kliever in municipal politics and Reimer in ecclesiastical office. One lived on the western periphery of the Reserve, the other on the east. Kliever's journal represents that of a successful farmer in the best of the Prussian "Musterwirt" tradition. Reimer's journal is that of a blacksmith and entrepreneur, a manifestation of the Dutch/Low German merchant mentality.

Of the two men, Kliever seems to cross more cultural boundaries, possibly because he was born in the Molotschna and comfortable in dealing with Kleine Gemeinders such as Klaas Reimer and sons, Steinbach, who also originated in the Molotschna. On the other hand, two of Klaas Reimer's sons had married Bergthaler women, which may have helped to position the family to conduct business with the Bergthaler. While Abraham dealt with a similar range of cultural groups, merchants and suppliers, as can be demonstrated from the journals of his father "Fuela" Reima, his business trade was related more to the Kleine Gemeinde albiet, in places as far afield as Steinbach, Grünfeld and Rosenort, with the exception of Anglo-Canadians in the local Clearsprings settlement.

The tale of two journals by Gerhard Kliever and Abraham R. Reimer speaks for the story of pioneer agri-business in southern Manitoba. The two journals are representative of Hanover Steinbach and its two founding peoples. As such they stand and can be studied as types or models of this genre of journaling.

### Endnotes:

Note One: Royden Loewen, "Chortitzer Diaries

## East to West Reserve Migration, 1879 to 1881

The following letter appeared in the *Mennonitische Rundschau* on May 15, 1881 concerning the migration of many Mennonites from the East Reserve in Manitoba to the West Reserve.

*Edenburg, Manitoba  
P.O. Emerson,  
April 25th, 1881*

As the *Rundschau* previously reported, a migration of Mennonites from the so-called East Reserve to the West Reserve has occurred and I feel obliged to explain the reason why.

After grasshoppers had completely destroyed the 1875 crop on the East Reserve, there was still some optimism for the next year since grasshoppers had not laid eggs. However, the following year excessive rainfall destroyed half the crop. Excessive rain reduced the 1877 crop to the point where many families did not harvest enough for their own requirements, and many observant individuals despaired of prospects for improved conditions. Rainfall in 1878 was even more severe than in any of the previous years, and several settlers decided to move to higher grounds in the West

Reserve while others strongly urged people to stay.

1879 was again extremely wet. Dikes were constructed and ditches dug, but the dikes broke and the ditches were far from adequate to carry off flood water. Now there was no stemming the determination to move. The urge to move was further intensified when the frozen pools of water and the 1879-1880 spring thaw left many fields a literal sea.

To date, 350 of 500 families have moved, a few going to the United States.

What 1881 holds in store for the East Reserve is hidden but the prospects are not at all promising.

This, dear reader, has been our fate but thanks to the giver of good things our Ontario brethren came to our aid. May God richly reward their acts of love.

Correspondent, W.B. (Translated from the original German by Wm. J. Kehler.)

Courtesy of Jake Peters and Elmer Heinrichs, editors, *Dit Sie Jant Sied: The Johann & Susana Leppky/Loeppy Family 1831-1998* (Rosenort, 1999), page 166.

of the East Reserve 1874-1930," *Preservings*, No. 12, pages 1-5.

Note Two: Nettie Neufeld, *Descendants of Peter Buhr 1816-1887* (Steinbach, 1984), pages 18-27.

Note Three: Family members and readers are indebted to Rev. Allan Kliewer, Steinbach, who perserved the Gerhard Kliewer Account Journal for all these years.

Note Four: This account book is already referred to in Royden Loewen, *Blumenort* (Blumenort, 1983), pages 137-9.

Note Five: Abe Unger, "Biography of Abraham R. Reimer;" in Abe C. R. Reimer, ed., *Abraham R. Reimer 1841-1891 Family Book* (Blumenort, 1986), page 3, reprinted from John C. Reimer, ed., *Familienregister...Klaas und Helena Reimer* (Steinbach, 1958), pages 113-116.

Note Six: Abraham R. Reimer, letter to Aeltester Jakob Kroeker, May 8, 1891, in Maria F. Reimer, "Journal," unpublished scribbler, 80 pages, courtesy of Mrs. Peter K. Penner, Steinbach, Manitoba, 1981.

Note Seven: Royden Loewen, *From the Inside Out: The Rural Worlds of Mennonite Diarists 1863 to 1929* (Winnipeg, 1999), 400 pages.

**Errata**

We welcome and encourage readers to take the time to draw errors and omissions to our attention. This can be done by a letter or fax to the editor (1-204-326-6917), or else a phone call to myself (1-204-326-6454). If you want to write but do not want your letter published, please so indicate. We will try to publish as many letters as we can. We appreciate any and all assistance with corrections and clarifications as this is critical to the process of documenting our history.

1) The date of birth and death for Johann P. Thiessen, Nebraska State Senator, *Preservings*, No. 14, page 82, were incorrectly given as 1852 to 1920. The correct dates are 1838 to 1926. Courtesy of a telephone call from Dick P. Loewen, Blumenort, Manitoba, September 13, 1999.

2) The caption with the photo of Abram Wolfe and his family in *Preservings*, No. 14, page 103, requested information about this family. David K. Reimer, Seymour, Texas, machinery dealer, advises that Abram Wolfe was the "doctor" among

the Old Kolony Mennonites in Mexico during the early years. He had only one arm. His son Isaak, standing at the right side of the photograph later moved to Jagueyes, Mexico, where he served as photographer for passport photos. Some of his daughters married into the Kleine Gemeinde: Tina Wolfe married Almon Plett, Mary Wolfe married Anton Plett, and Elizabeth Wolfe married David K. Reimer, and all three couples lived in Spanish Lookout, Belize. Hopefully Tina Plett can send us more information about her grandfather Abram Wolfe. I assume he is the one listed at 232-2 of the *Reinlander Gemeinde Buch*, page 266.



Abram Wolfe, 1922. From *Preservings*, No. 14, page 103.

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**Coming in Future Issues:**

Our featured material culture article for our June, 2000, Issue 16, will be by Dr. Wesley Berg, University of Alberta, on the beautiful and historic "Singing tradition of Old Kolony Mennonites."

We are also looking forward to Peter Letkeman's article, "A Tale of Two Gesangbücher," the story of the Gesangbuch, hopefully our featured material culture article in the No. 17, December, 2000 issue.

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