

Mennonites in the Przechowka Area, West Prussia

Compiled by Adalbert Goertz

Mennonites in the Vistula valley near Swiecie-Schwetz in Prussia are documented for Przechowka in 1642. The year 1540 quoted must be open to doubt (1). The Mennonite history of this area has been summarized in *Mennonitisches Lexikon*, Vol.4: 141-143. We have no records of the home and origin of the Mennonites who settled in Przechowka in 1642, or of a possible older settlement in Kossowo in 1623. The Thirty-Years-Wars in Germany brought suffering to the people there (2). The Duchy of Juelich was among the most densely populated areas in Europe (50 heads per sq.km). Its population decreased in those years in Juelich by 30%, in Berg by 23%. The Swiss population had increased considerably which put a severe strain on their mountain economy. The inhabitants of the city of Zurich increased from 8134 in 1637 to 9518 in 1671 or by 17%, the number of people for surrounding villages were 2916 to 3558 or an increase of 22% for the same period. The municipalities in the canton of Bern counted an increase of households from 224 in 1558 to 328 in 1633. The Austrian lands saw a mass migration due to economic and religious suffering. German craftsmen from Reichenbach in the Owl Mountains (Eulengebirge) of Bohemia established the settlement of Deutsch-Zduny in Poland in 1635. From Raudten near Lueben in Silesia most citizens crossed into Poland in 1642 to Fraustadt, Rawitsch and Lissa. Poland in those years was a land of freedom and religious toleration for these German refugees.

The church book of the Przechowka congregation was probably started in 1782 by Elder Benjamin Wedel senior or in 1794 by Elder Benjamin Wedel junior. In 1794 the General Prussian Land Act (Allgemeines Landrecht) took effect which among others mandated the keeping of such records (births-marriages-deaths) by the churches (3). Elder Wedel made an unsuccessful attempt to establish the origin of each family for his new church book. Only for the Schellenberger family he can point to Moravia as possible origin. For the Schmidt family he suggests an association with the Schellenbergers. It appears that other families of the Przechowka Mennonites may have come from the German settlements of Bohemia or Moravia.

Ernst Schwarz made a survey of family names for the period 1420 - 1560 (4). His lists include several family names found among Prussian Mennonites which do not fit the Dutch or Low German origin pattern. For the neighboring Montau congregation in Kreis Schwetz the Dutch origin of its members is equally unlikely or at most applies to a minority only (5).

Table 1 gives a sampling of names and their location according to E. Schwarz. Some of the Przechowka names are also found in Switzerland with Jantz as a possible variation of the Swiss Tschantz. The Pfalz region also has family names in common with West

Prussia (Table 2). The same is true for the Elsass-Alsace region (Table 3) with a possible interlude connection to Moravia. Peter Schmidt in Prussia and Peterschmidt in Alsace may have a common root. As the computerization of family research continues, we may hope to get more insight into geographical name connections.

Table 1: Bohemian and Moravian names found also in West Prussia

Name Localities from Ernst Schwarz

Surname	Locations & Dates
Albrecht	Czernowitz 1382, Graupen 1468, Kamnitz 1478, Eger 1509, etc.
Bartel	Schoenberg 1432, Hohenmauth 1437, Graupen 1491, Karbitz 1535, etc.
Bartsch	Spachendorf 1535, Well 1554
Becker	Schoenberg 1431, Eger 1455, Joachimsthal 1533, Reichenberg 1560, etc.
Bernt	Weisskirchen 1549
Block	Znaim 1401
Donner	Trubenz 1530, M. Neustadt 1532
Eck	Duchy of Troppau 1437, Prague 1526
Fadenrecht	Iglau 1425
Fogt	see Voit
Franz	Graupen 1449, Braunau 1496, Elbogen 1523, Bruex 1525, Troppau 1535, etc.
Funk	Tetschen 1401, Bruex 1525, also South Germany
Guhr	Bruex 1525
Hamm	Bruenn 1532
Jost	Schoenberg 1436, Olmuetz 1450, Trautenau 1515, M. Neustadt, etc.
Kasper	Schoenhengst 1501, Bruex 1525, Falkenau 1525, Trautenau 1542, etc.
Kerber	Iglau 1425, Zwittau 1516, Elbogen 1525, Reichenberg 1560, etc.
Konrad	Trautenau 1515, M. Truebau 1535, Polkendorf 1553, etc.
Nachtigall	M. Truebau 1535–1548
Nickel	Elbogen 1523, Bruex 1525, Troppau 1559, Karlsbad 1547, etc.
Pankratz	Elbogen 1525
Pilgrim	Bruenn 1432, Graupen 1448
Rindfleisch	Dux 1459, Bruex 1525
Schmidt	Braunau 1445
Sperling	Wartenberg 1436, Dux 1449, Aussig 1479, M. Truebau 1535–1548, etc.
Unruh	Graupen 1481, Aussig 1490
Voit	Bruenn 1348, Troppau 1443, Schoenberg 1447, Aussig 1466, etc.
Wohlgemut	Graupen 1446, Bruenn 1477

Table 2: West German names found also in West Prussia

Name West German localities from Int.Gen.Index, Salt Lake City, UT

Surname	Locations & Dates
Adrian	Landau/Pfalz 1669; Heiligenstein/Pfalz 1685; Emmerich 1649; Duesseldo
Atzinger	Bockenheim/Pfalz 1685,1688
Baltzer	Lachen/Pfalz 1674; Oberwiesental/Sachsen 1633
Decker	Landau/Pfalz 1564; Boeblingen/Wuertt. 1597; Ettenheim/Baden 1607
Drup	Landau/Pfalz 1568
Eck	Landau/Pfalz 1610,1627; Michelfeld/Wue. 1577; Neukirchen/Wue. 1610
Edinger	Eisenbach/Pfalz 1642
Entz	Boebingen/Pfalz 1659,1683; Gosbach/Wuerttemberg 1617
Footh	Heidelberg 1668
Frey	Weissenau/Wue. 1617; Frankenthal/Pf. 1635; Landau 1606; Moetzingen/Bade
Funck	Maikammer/Pfalz 1599; Liebelsberg/Wuerttemberg 1620
Isaac	Kirchberg/Sa. 1674; Moers 1628; Duesseldorf 1646
Liermann	Lahr/Baden 1665,1638
Pilgrim	Rietberg/Westfalen 1691; Borgholzhausen/Westfalen 1652
Reichert	Oberschefflenz/Baden 1606; Ehringen/Wuerttemberg 1567
Richert	see Reichert
Scheffler	Ellwangen/Wuertt. 1568-1660
Schellenberg	Boeckingen/Wuerttemberg 1582-1640; Groszrueckerwalde/Sachsen 1525
Sperling	Reutlingen/Wuerttemberg 1588; Thallwitz/Sachsen 1609
Unger	Bucholz/Sachsen; Schliebach/Wuerttemberg 1625
Unruh	Maikammer/Pfalz 1627; Edenhofen/Pfalz 1675; Landau/Pfalz 1636
Voth	Ellwangen/Wuerttemberg 1617
Wedel	Karlsruhe 1656; Mannheim 1678; Pommelsbrunn/Mittelfranken 1618

Table 3: Elsenz-German names found also in West Prussia

Name Alsace localities from Int.Gen.Index, Salt Lake City, UT

Surname	Locations & Dates
Adrian	Badonviller 1594; Meurthe-et-Moselle 17th Century
Albrecht	Bendorf 1715
Baltzer	Wolfisheim 1649; Ingweiler 1747
Bartel	Illkirch 1579; Breuschwickersheim 1692
Boltz	Plobsheim 1647
Brandt	Bietlenheim 1608; Buhl 1696
Decker	Wangen 1625; Illkirch 1593

Surname	Locations & Dates
Eck	Muehlhausen 1555; Diebolsheim 1784
Eckert	Mittelbergheim 1606,1614
Frantz	Sewen 1601; Kaysersberg 1665
Gerber	Ferrette 1649; Durlinsdorf 1673
Gerts	Illkirch 1592,1626
Goertz	Illkirch-Grafenstaden 1632-1652
Hamm	Schwindratzheim 1651-1672; Dunzenheim 1656
Heinrich	Eberheim 1624; Selestadt 1610,1634
Henke	Muttersholz 1684; Sondersdorf 1684; Sundhouse 1617
Jantz	Turchheim 1668
Kerber	Winckel 1776, see Gerber
Liermann	Illkirch-Grafenstaden 1746
Nickel	Ferrette 1624
Quirin	Ausanville, Meurthe-et-Moselle 1639 etc. (frequent)
Schmidt	frequent 17th century
Schwegler	see Schwengler
Schwengler	frequent 18th century
Unger	18th century

From Przechowka two groups of settlers left the area: One group left for Kleinsee or Jeziorky in 1727, possibly even as early as 1702 (6). Herbert Wiebe gives a name list for the Przechowka, Deutsch-Konopath and Kleinsee settlers as of 1772 (7). A second group joined 28 families from Jeziorky in 1764 to settle in the Frankfurt/Oder district of Brandenburg province to establish the settlements of Brenkenhoffswalde and Franztal in the Driesen Amt along the Netze River which at that time was drained to claim more arable land for Prussia. Franz von Brenkenhof (1723-1780) oversaw this Neumark project and supervised this colonization effort (8). For 1767 and 1778 we know the names of settlers in Brenkenhoffswalde, Franztal, and Neu-Dessau (9) as given in Tables 4 and 5:

Table 4: Settlers in Brenkenhoffswalde on 1 May 1767

Tabelle vom Netz Etablissement und den abgebauten Vorwerckern vom 1. May 1767;
Vaterland Pohlen

5. Brenckenhoffswalde

Name	Men	Women	Sons	Daughters	Total
Cornelius Vood	1	1	2	4	8
Hein Vood	1	1	-	4	6
Hans Vood	1	1	2	2	6
George Vood	1	1	4	2	8
Peter Ratzlaff II	1	1	-	-	2

Name	Men	Women	Sons	Daughters	Total
Hein Ohnrau	1	1	1	1	4
Heinrich Ohnrau	1	1	3	2	7
Jacob Thomas	1	1	-	-	2
Jan Richert	1	1	2	2	6
Peter Vood I	1	1	-	1	3
Peter Vood II	1	1	1	1	4
Abraham Ohnrau	1	1	1	5	8
Witwe Reicherten	-	1	2	2	5
Ernst Kuehn	1	1	2	2	6
Hans Decker	1	1	2	2	6
Peter Buller	1	1	2	2	6
Totals	16	15	22	32	85

6. Frantzthal

Name	Men	Women	Sons	Daughters	Total
Andres Vood	1	1	2	5	9
George Buller	1	1	1	1	4
Salomon Schmidt	1	1	2	2	6
Tobias Sperling	1	1	2	4	8
Hans Ratzlaff	1	1	2	1	5
William Vood	1	1	2	1	5
Peter Ratzlaff I	1	1	1	1	4
Tens Vood	1	1	2	1	5
George Ratzlaff	1	1	-	-	2
Hans Dirks (Tuercks)	1	1	3	2	7
Lieb Schmidt	1	1	3	2	7
Gerd Dircks (Tuercks)	1	1	-	1	3
Hans Becker	1	1	2	2	7
Totals	13	13	23	23	72

**Table 5: Interest Register of the Neu-Dessau Colony from
24 September 1778**

No.	Name	Morgen	Sq. Ruten
1	Peter Isaac	36	130
2	Johann Retzlaff	36	130
3	Johann Retzlaff	38	26

No.	Name	Morgen	Sq. Ruten
4	Andreas Steffen	38	26
5	Simon Jahn (Jantz?)	38	34
6	Michel Ritter	38	36
7	Martin Wernicke	38	38
8	Martin Glaesemann	38	34
9	Michel Wigge, Schultz	38	26
10	Peter Nachtigal	38	20
11	Johann Kunicke	38	10
12	Jacob Schmidt et Buller	38	6
13	Jacob Schmidt	38	4
14	David Buller	40	-
15	Andreas Schwand	37	90
16	Andreas Schwand	38	-
17	Johann Sahr	38	8
18	Peter Isaac junior	38	14
19	Peter Voot junior	38	10
20	Johann Zibell	37	168
21	Christian Adam	37	156
22	Adam Bethcke	38	32
23	Adam Bethcke	37	160
24	Johann Dircks	37	140
25	Johann Dircks	37	140
26	Andreas Unruhe	37	140
27	Peter Voots Witwe	37	140
28	Christian Dittmann	37	140
29	Heinrich Penner	37	120
30	Johann Marcius	37	20

Name lists for later years are recorded in Praestations-Tabellen and Muehlen-Listen. Plot maps for each settlement have also survived in the archives (10). Genealogical sources for the Neumark Mennonites are not readily available. The court records of Amtsgericht Driesen with 12739 volumes covering the period 1748-1944, should reveal Hypothekenakten and Erbrezesse of genealogical interest (11). In the early 19th century, the Neumark Mennonites migrated to Deutsch-Wymysle in Poland and established Gnadenfeld in Russia (12). In 1830, 27 Mennonite families lived in Brenkenhoffswalde, 3 families in Neu Dessau or Vorbruch, 13 families in Franzthal, and 2 families in Militzwinkel, totaling 45 Mennonite families with 234 individuals. The Prussian census lists the following numbers of Mennonites in the Neumark for the Frankfurt/Oder district of Brandenburg province (13): 1816 - 266; 1821 - 280; 1828 - 238; 1831 - 231;

1837 - 31; 1843 - 16. These numbers reflect the Mennonite emigration with some of their Lutheran neighbors in 1834 and shows that some preferred to stay and to join the Lutheran church. In 1840 six Mennonite families were found to be left behind in Friedeberg Kreis who probably joined their Lutheran neighbors: In Brenkenhofswalde Abraham Unruh (2 persons), and in Franzthal Benjamin Kuhnke (4), Samuel Kuhnke (1), Peter Wedel (4), Jacob Becker (6), Andreas Voth (4), a total of 21 persons.

The Prussian census of Mennonites in 1776 lists the names in Jeziorky and Amt Schwetz (14) and follows the format of Table 4. The spelling of villages, however, is ambiguous and is clarified by the list of Mennonite settlers for 1789 as given in Table 6 (15).

Table 6: Mennonite Possessions in Prussia in 1789

Name	H	M	R
1. Jesiorki, Kreis Conitz (p.20v)			
Heinrich Nachtigal	1	6	-
Behr.Ratzlaw	1	-	-
Heinr.Schmidt	2	-	-
Peter Retzlaw	-	15	-
Jacob Fouth	-	2	-
Behr.Ratzlaw	-	6	-
Andr.Kuhn	-	7	150
David Schmidt	1	2	-
Abrah.Rychert	1	-	-
George Buller	3	15	-
Witwe Nachtigallin	1	15	-
Jacob Schmid	-	4	150
Cornel.Jantz	1	4	150
Joh.Unrau	1	7	150
Peter Becker	-	7	-
Johan Jantz	-	4	-
Peter Unrau	-	8	150
Jacob Becker	1	8	-
Peter Retzlaw	-	15	-
Peter Schmidt	1	10	-
Totals	18	17	150
2. Deutsch Konopat, Kreis Conitz (p.21v)			
Cornel.Wedel	1	8	-
Peter Tessmann	1	4	-
Johann Ratzlaw	2	-	-
Jacob Tessmann	1	14	-
Tobias Ratzlaw	-	25	-

Name	H	M	R
Peter Buller	-	12	-
Peter Schmidt	-	19	-
Andr.Panckau	1	-	-
Jacob Schmidt	-	26	-
Johan Becker	-	20	-
Johan Pankratz	-	6	-
Peter Funck	-	6	-
Benja.Buller	-	3	-
Peter Buller	-	2	150
Adam Ratzlaw	-	8	-
Totals	18	3	150
5. Ostrower Campe, Amt Schwetz (p.102v)			
Behr.Jahrt	-	18	-
Cornel.Abraham	-	10	-
George Nachtigall	-	4	225
David Stobbe	-	12	150
Jacob Nachtigall	-	8	75
Heinr.Buller	-	8	-
Joh.Nachtigall	-	11	-
Heinr.Voth	-	1	75
Totals	2	13	225
6. Dworszisko, Amt Schwetz (p.103v)			
Emphyteut Joh.Funck	1	8	-
7. Przechowko, Amt Schwetz (p.103v)			
Hans Funck, Emphiteut	1	6	-
Heinr.Voth	-	27	150
Peter Pankratz	-	16	150
Jacob Buller	1	10	-
Andr.Schmidt	-	20	-
Heinr.Unruh	-	24	-
Benjamin Wedell	1	1	150
Peter Becker	-	14	150
Albr.Richert	-	26	-
Jacob Wedell	-	24	-
Johan Reichert	-	28	-
Peter Becker	-	12	-
Totals	10	-	-
8. Beckersitz, Amt Schwetz (p.103v)			
Heinr.Ratzlaf	-	10	-

Name	H	M	R
Andr.Pankratz	-	21	-
Heinr.Pankratz	-	7	-
Totals	1	8	-
9. Glugowken, Amt Schwetz (p.103v)			
Peter Frey, Emphit.	-	10	-
Jacob Wedell	-	4	-
Andr.Wedell	-	1	-
Totals	-	15	-

Eight families immigrated to the Molotschna in 1804 from Jeziorken in Amt Schwetz: Peter Ratzlaff, Andreas Krahn, Jakob Schmidt, Andreas Schmidt, Samuel Schmidt, Peter Buller, George Buller, Jakob Foth (15).

The list of Mennonite possessions in Amt Schwetz for 1801 in Table 7 is of particular interest to family researchers, since it remarks in many cases on the mode of acquisition for each possession. I select a few examples to illustrate what the researcher may hope to find (16):

page 159, ad 1.Bratwin, 1.Franz Goertz: "The former owner was Andreas Unrau who died 1782. Frantz Goertz married his widow the same year and thus became owner of this hof."

page 161, ad 1.Bratwin, 2.Peter Goertz: "In 1795 the former owner Frantz Frantz died. In the same year Peter Goertz married his surviving widow and thus came in the possession of this Grundstueck." page 161, ad 1.Bratwin, 3.Johann Goertz: "Former owner was Cornelius Baltzer who died in 1799. In the same year Johann Goertz also married the surviving widow and thus thru this marriage became owner of this Grundstueck."

page 167, ad 5.Neunhuben, 5.Peter Goertz: "Jan 19,1797:The father of Peter Goertz named Abraham Goertz died in 1788, his mother ran the business alone for a year, and married later the Mennonite Johann Geddert. A year later she died first and shortly thereafter also Geddert. Since there were no children of major age who could run the farm (die Wirtschaft), the guardians supervised this farm for a year and leased it for 3 years. In 1794 Peter Goertz attained major age, and in the same year took possession according to a judicial Erbvergleich dated 23 July 1794 for 29000 Reichsthaler."

page 173, ad 7 Ostrower Kaempe, 5.Dirk Goertz: "Acquired this Grundstueck from his mother-in-law, the widow Stoben for 3000 fl in 1797."

At this time I would like to point to the Grundakten, Erbrezesse, Erbvergleiche (probates) and Pupillenakten (orphan records) of the Prussian courts (Amtsgerichte) since 1783. They give similar details whenever death occurred and heirs were involved. Children usually are listed with their parents and birth dates etc. In many cases, if not

most, these records have survived the wars, and are deposited at the Polish archives at Gdansk, Bydgoszcz and Torun. Of even greater interest are the records of the "General-Kommission fuer Westpreussen" since 1812 at the Bydgoszcz archives which give summaries of title histories with deed references and, thus, serve as keys to the Grundakten of all West Prussian courts for further study. In some cases they may even be the only records available, if relevant court records perished.

Table 7: Mennonite possessions in Amt Schwetz in 1801

Brattwin, leases expire 1804				
	Name	H	M	R
1	Frantz Gertz, formerly And. Unrau, Menn. since 1772	1	-	109
2	Peter Gertz, formerly Frantz Frantz, Menn. since 1736	2	20	129
3	Johan Gertz, formerly Cornel. Baltzer, Menn. since 1765	1	5	66
4	David Baltzer, Mennonite since 1738	1	28	277
5	Conert Frantz, Mennonite since 1601	-	25	38
Beckersitz, leases expire 1798				
	Name	H	M	R
1	Hein. Retzlaff, since 1782	-	10	-
2	Andreas Pankratz, since 1779	-	21	-
3	Hein. Pankratz, since 1779	-	7	-
Dworzisko, lease expires 1802				
	Name	H	M	R
1	Johann Funk, Mennonite since 1763	1	8	
Glugowko, leases expire 1812				
	Name	H	M	R
1	Peter Frey, since 1782, Mennonite before 1772	-	10	-
2	Jacob Wedell, since 1782, Mennonite before 1772	-	4	-
3	And. Wedell, Mennonite before 1772	-	1	-
Neunhuben, leases expire 1851, Mennonites since 1745				
	Name	H	M	R
1	Peter Gertz, form. Witwe Abraham Gertz	1	19	97
2	George Bartel, since 1779	1	19	97
3	Jacob Bartel	1	19	97
4	Isaak Schroeder, since 1776	1	19	97
5	Peter Geddert	1	19	97
6	Abraham Bartel	1	19	97
7	Conrad Baltzer	1	19	97

Niedwitz, lease expired 1800				
	Name	H	M	R
1	Stephan Baltzer, since 1797	1	10	150
Ostrower Kaempe, Mennonites since before 1772, leases expire 1836				
	Name	H	M	R
1	Behrent Jart	-	20	271
2	Cornelius Abraham, since 1779	-	11	256
3	Jacob Nachtigal, since 1773	-	14	289
4	Johan Schmidt, formerly George Nachtigall	-	12	150
5	Dirk Gertz, 1795 from David Stobbe	-	18	150
6	Jacob Buller, formerly Witwe Buller	-	10	180
7	Anna & Maria Nachtigal, 1783 heirs of Johan Nachtigal	-	18	256
8	Jacob Beker, since 1789, Mennonite since 1773	-	1	32
Przechowko, Mennonites since 1642, leases exp. 1842				
	Name	H	M	R
1	Heinr. Foth, since 1779	-	25	-
2	Benjamin Wedell, since 1790	1	-	-
3	Peter Beker senior	-	10	-
4	Jacob Buller	1	10	10
5	Benjamin Retzlaff, formerly Johan Funk	1	8	50
6	Hein. Retzlaff, formerly Peter Pankratz	-	16	150
7	Jacob Retzlaff, formerly And. Schmidt	-	23	-
8	Jacob Retzlaff, formerly Jacob Wedell	-	24	-
9	Johan Richert, 1800 purchased from Witwe Richert	-	25	-
10	Anna Richert, formerly Joh. Richert	-	28	-
11	Peter Beker junior, formerly Hein. Unrau	-	24	-
12	Johan Lehrman, 1800 from Jacob Pankratz	-	12	-
Deutsch Westphalen, lease expired 1795				
	Name	H	M	R
1	Abraham Schroeder, 1785 from Isaak Kopper	-	24	120
Polnisch Westphalen, since before 1772				
	Name	H	M	R
1	Hein. Geddert from Behrend Unrau	2	3	-
2	Clas Frantz from Jacob Ewert	2	3	150
3	Franz Ewert, 1772 from Witwe And. Jantz	1	16	37

After Napoleon's defeat the Prussian military revived and introduced conscription. All Mennonite males were registered in Prussia regardless of age. Table 8 gives this listing for Amt Schwetz (17).

**Table 8: The Military Draft of Mennonites to Landwehr Duty in 1813
(Name and age)**

Neunhuben

1. Johan Bartel, 34
2. Peter Goertz, 48
3. Wilhelm Becker, 33
4. Heinr. Geddert, 37
5. Heinr. Bartel, 32
6. Joh. Ewert, 31
7. Joh. Harms, 27
8. Dirk Geddert, 27
9. Frantz Goertz, 36
10. Peter Goertz, 18
11. Joh. Goertz, 6
12. Jacob Baecher, 2
13. Peter Geddert, 4
14. Peter Bartel, 17
15. Heinr. Goertz, 18
16. David Bartel, 20

Bratwin

1. Frantz Goertz, 60
2. Heinr. Goertz, 28
3. Jacob Dircks, 38
4. Steff. Frantz, 24
5. Abrah. Adrian, 30
6. Peter Frantz, 10
7. Cornel. Dircks, 10
8. Jacob Dircks, 4

Przechowko

1. Peter Unrau, 24
2. Benjamin Ratzlaf, 43
3. Peter Fodt, 30
4. Peter Becker, 48
5. Jacob Buller, 56
6. Siemon John, 40
7. Peter Wedel, 24
8. Johann Unrau, 51
9. Cornelius Richert, 28
10. Jacob Ratzlaf, 48
11. Johann Liermann, 46
12. Peter Ratzlaff, 30
13. Andreas Pankratz, 63
14. George Nachtigal, 32
15. Johann Unrau, 40
16. Peter Pankratz, 33
17. Andreas Schmid, 34
18. Heinrich Buller, 26
19. Peter Becker, 21
20. David Unrau, 23
21. Heinrich Pankratz, 25
22. Jacob Buller, 9
23. Benjamin Wedel, 14
24. Heinrich Unrau, 11
25. Jacob Ratzlaf, 11
26. Andreas Pankratz, 11
27. Jacob Lierman, 13

Glugowko

1. Peter Frey, 16
2. Jacob Frey, 10
3. Jacob Wedel, 30
4. sein Sohn Jacob
5. sein Sohn Heinrich, 2
6. sein Sohn Andreas, 1/2
7. Peter Blok, 50
8. sein Sohn Peter, 13
9. sein Sohn Johann, 11
10. sein Sohn David, 10
11. sein Sohn Jacob, 1
12. Peter Wedel, 46

Ostrowo Kaempe

1. Aabram Bartel, 36
2. Johann Schmid, 55
3. Cornelius Frantz, 38
4. Sohn Cornelius
5. Doerk Goertz, 45
6. sein Sohn Abraham, 24
7. Jacob Voth, 29
8. Jacob Nachtigall, 70
9. Jacob Buller, 45
10. Peter Bartel, 30
11. sein Sohn Peter, 30
12. Sohn Heinrich, 27

Niedwitz

1. David Gaedert, 30

2. Heinrich Unrau, 45

Poln. Westphalen

1. Klas Frantz, 48
2. Peter Unrau, 24
3. Johann Ewert, 23
4. Klaas Penner, 36
5. David Kliewer, 30

The big river (Latin:Vistula, German:Weichsel, Polish:Wisla) had always been fateful in the lives of settlers of its valley. They were affected by annual spring floods caused by the melting snow in the south and the blocking ice in the north. The river flowing south to north by periodical flooding provided rich sediments for the soil, but also often placed the lives of farmers and their livestock in danger. Failure to recognize Mennonite non-violence by the Prussian administration and the peril by the River were the cause of decrease and final doom of Mennonites in the Przechowka congregation which decided to migrate to Russia in 1819. The numerical decline of Mennonites is shown by the Prussian census for Kreis Schwetz where the two congregations of Przechowka and of Montau-Gruppe had their homes (18): 1817 - 1105; 1821 - 1020; 1849 - 843; 1852 - 861; 1855 - 1813. In 1819 the Przechowka Mennonites emigrated to Deutsch-Wymysle, Poland and to Russia where they established the Alexanderwohl congregation which in 1874 again migrated to Goessel,Kansas.

Table 9 gives information on the farms that they sold to non-Mennonites in 1819.

Table 9: Sales of Mennonite farms near Schwetz in 1819

No.	Name	Area	H	M	R	Thaler
15	P. Schmidt	Przechowken 1	-	20	-	1,266
16	P. Funk	Przechowken 2	1	-	-	1,600
17	Nachtigall	Przechowken 3	-	16	-	1,266
18	J. Schmidt	Przechowken 4	-	12	-	1,000
19	H. Buller	Przechowken 5	-	20	-	1,200
20	Retzlaff	Przechowken 6	1	20	-	1,600
21	Andreas Wedel	Przechowken 7	1	-	-	1,900
22	Andreas Nachtigall	Przechowken 8	-	26	-	1,266
23	Pankratz	Przechowken 9	9	22	-	1,600
24	J. Ratzlaff	Przechowken 10	-	28	-	1,600
25	Andreas Schmidt	Przechowken 11	-	6	-	666
26	Retzlaff	Przechowken 12	-	26	-	1,000
27	Pankratz	Przechowken 13	-	12	-	633
28	J. Liermann	Przechowken 14	-	18	-	1,000

No.	Name	Area	H	M	R	Thaler
29	Block	Przechowken 15	-	-	150	66
30	Andreas Foth	Przechowken 16	-	26	-	2,200
31	Peter Schmidt	Przechowken 17	1	10	-	1,200
32	Pankratz	Przechowken 18	1	4	-	1,900
33	J. Becker	Przechowken 19	-	22	-	633
34	Andreas Pankratz	Konopat 26	1	7	294	1,900
35	Schmidt	Konopat 25	-	27	128	1,300
36	Foth	Konopat 28	-	16	204	1,200
37	Funk	Konopat 8	1	28	156	2,200
38	Andreas Retzlaff	Konopat 10	-	13	238	1,500
39	Unrau	Konopat 6	1	-	-	166
40	Pankratz	Konopat 24	1	6	148	1,330
41	F. Retzlaff	Konopat 5	1	15	13	1,900
2	D. Unrau	Konopat 29	-	3	85	600
103	Abraham Franz	Montau 39	-	4	-	800

Not all Mennonites left the Przechowka region. Table 10 gives the listing of Mennonite possessions in Amt Schwetz for 1824. Most of the remaining Mennonites were members of the Montau church, but a few are also listed in Beckersitz and Przechowka (20).

Table 10: Mennonite possessions in Amt Schwetz in 1824

Niedwitz		
Name	M	R
David Geddert	88	67
Brattwin		
Name	M	R
Andres Ewert	88	132
Peter Goertz	182	12
Isaac Schroeder	133	69
Polnisch Westphalen		
Name	M	R
Peter Unrauh	142	113
David Bartel	141	86
Joh. Ewert	104	74

Ostrower Kaempe		
Name	M	R
Abraham Bartel	47	57
Joh. Schmidt	20	48
Corn. Frantz	-	105
Dirk Goertz	41	97
Adrian Franz	2	91
Jacob Voth	33	157
Witwe Buller	22	23
Peter Bartel	1	146
Beckersitz		
Name	M	R
Peter Schmidt	47	97
Przechowko		
Name	M	R
Jacob Liermann	56	106
Tobias Schmidt	90	98
Joh. Liermann	27	30
Neunhuben		
Name	M	R
Witwe Bartel	111	117
Peter Goerz	111	117
Wilh. Becher	111	117
Heinr. Geddert	111	117
Heinr. Bartel	111	117
Joh. Ewert	111	117
Joh. Harms	111	117

End notes:

(1) Menn.Lexikon, vol.2, p.128, art. Gnadenfeld

(2) for the following, cf. Guenther Franz: Der Dreissigjaehrige Krieg und das Deutsche Volk, Stuttgart 1979, p. 15-16, 27.

(3) cf. LDS Film #450468, Salt Lake City (Przechowka church book prior to 1818).

(4) Ernst Schwarz: Sudetendeutsche Familiennamen des 15. und 16. Jahrhunderts, Muenchen 1973, 356 pp. NB.: Przechowka may mean "Little Bohemia" = Czechowka. see

- also A. Goertz: Sudetendeutsche Namen in Westpreusen, in: Ostdeutsche Familienkunde 1986, 15-19, and Swiss Place and Family Names, in: Menn.Family Hist. (Elverson, PA) 1987, 50-53.
- (5) cf. A. Goertz: The Marriage Records of Montau in Prussia, 1661-1704, MQR 1976, 240-250.
- (6) Menn.Enc.III, 110 (Jeziorka).
- (7) H. Wiebe: Das Siedlungswerk niederlaendischer Mennoniten im Weichseltal, Marburg 1952, p.80-81.
- (8) Menn.Enc.I, p.416 (Brenkenhoffswalde and Franztal)
- (9) Goertz, Adalbert, "Mennoniten im Neumaerkischen Amt Driesen, Brandenburg", Ostdeutsche Familienkunde 1996, p.277-283. (Verlag Degener & Co, 91403 Neustadt, Germany); Staatsarchiv Potsdam, Rep.3, Nr.11931, Bl.201-207; Nr.12051 Bl.109-119; Nr.12056, Bl.109-128 (Acta Mennonitica, 293 Bl., des von Brenkenhoff betreffend die Urbarmachung der Gruende an der Netze und den neu angelegten Etablissements in dem Netzebruch, 1763-1769), Neum.Kr.u.Dom.Kam., Wasserbau-Reg.A Gen. Tit.I Nr.4, vol.I, Nr.1 Driesen.
- (10) Adalbert and Baerbel Goertz: Mennonites of Neumark, Prussia, in 1805, in: Mennonite Family History, Elverson, PA., 1985, 48-50.
- (11) Katalog Inwentarzy Archiwalnych, Warsaw 1971, p.641 Nr.2; p.653 Nr.306.
- (12) Menn.Enc.II, p.42 (Art. Deutsch-Wymysle), p.532 (Art. Gnadenfeld); also Erich L. Ratzlaff: Im Weichselbogen, Winnipeg 1971, p.145-151 (with vital statistics information on settlers from Neumark and Przechowka).
- (13) A.Goertz: The Mennonites in Prussia, in: Menn.Life, April 1969, p.83-86.
- (14) Karl-Heinz Ludwig: Zur Besiedlung des Weichseldeltas durch die Mennoniten, Marburg 1961, p.258-260; LSD Film #1056552, Salt Lake City, UT.
- (15) From Staatsarchiv Merseburg: Gen.Dir.Westpr. Mat.Tit.CIX ad Nr.1 Bd.2 and Nr.17 p.55-57 (Jeziorken emigrants), and Rep.77, Nr.2, vol.4, p.124-125 (21 Neumark Mennonites, 1840).
- (16) At Archiwum Panstwowe, Bydgoszcz: Sygn.Ie17/487 Nr.12256 Mennonisten und Judensachen (StA Danzig Abt.145 Schwetz Nr.412): Die wegen Mennonisten verlangten Nachrichten, 334 pp. (LDS Film #1344434).
- (17) At Archiwum Panstwowe, Bydgoszcz: Sygn.Ie17/451; (LDS Film #1344434).
- (18) A.Goertz: Mennoniten in der Schoensee-Kulmer Niederung, in: Westpreussen-Jahrbuch 26, 1976, p. 99-104.
- (19) GStA PK Berlin-Dahlem, Rep.181 Nr. 31520, fol.127

(20) LDS Film #529615, Family History Library, Salt Lake City, UT.

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