

BRIEF HISTORY OF JOHANN THIESSEN AND SUSANNA FAST

(According to the 1880 census of Kimball township in Jackson County, Minn. Records of the Mt. Lake Mennonite Brethren Church, Cottonwood County, Minn., and other records and documents.)



Johann Thiessen, born Feb. 11, 1835, and Susanna Fast, born Jan. 23, 1836, were both born in Prussia (Poland). It is believed they lived in the Danzig area. It is not known if they were acquainted or at what age they migrated with their families to Southern Russia.

1857 Johann and Susanna were married in Sparrau, South Russia, in the Molotschna Colony, Province of Taurida, in the Ukraine. Ten of their 13 children were born in Kleefeld, a Mennonite Village, located fifty miles north of the Sea of Azov, in the Molotschna Colony. Five of the children died in Russia.

1870 In the early 1870's the family decided to move to America. After several years of preparation, consulting with the Russian government, and selling property, they migrated in mass, with approximately seventy-five other families. Included in this number were four or five of Johann's brothers and sisters and their families. The mig-