

ration began on horse and wagon to the railroad station. (see photo)
The next 1500 miles of the journey was by freight train to Antwerp,
Holland. Here they boarded the steamship "S.S. Vaderland". (see photo)
The loading of the ship took several days. It became tedious as each
family had personal baggage.

1877 They arrived in Philadelphia on June 29, 1877. Arriving were:
Johann and Susanna Thiessen, nee Fast, (Susanna being pregnant)
their five children, Heinrich, age 14, Susanna, age 9. Peter,
age 7. Judith (Ida), age 5, and John, age 2. Johann's brothers
and one sister: Peter Thiessen (7 children), Dietrick Thiessen
(4 children), Abraham Thiessen (5 children), Anna Kunkel, nee
Thiessen (4 children). Also Friedrich and Anna Kunkel, inlaws
of Anna Kunkel, nee Thiessen.

The approximate number of this clan was 37. Some of Johann's
brothers and sisters were left behind. The number of Mennonite
passengers were over 600.

The families settled in a colony like situation in the Township
of Kimball, in Northern Jackson County, Minn.

Not long after arriving in America, Susanna gave birth to twins.
Maria and Aron, born July 6, 1877 were born just nine days after
their arrival in the United States.

1880 In December of 1880, Abraham was born.

1892 Susanna Thiessen passed away March 23, 1892.

1894 Johann, being a widower for nearly two years, married Sarah Goertzen,
nee Boldt, a widow, on March 4, 1894. Sarah had five children.

1898 Soon after their marriage Johann and Sarah sold their property
and moved to the new state of North Dakota. After being admitted
to the Union in 1889, this state offered homesteading opportunities
to people wishing to farm and establish a home.