

Family Register of our  
Great-Great-Great-Great Grandparents - born in Holland  
from the genealogical album of  
Gerhard T. Thiessen - written in 1953

Abraham von Riesen b. March 1756 - d. August 1809  
married Margaretha Wiebo January 1779  
b. December 1754 - d. June 1810

Children:

1. Peter - b. November 1779, d. February 2, 1846  
They were born and lived in Schidlitz, a suburb of Danzig,  
(then Prussia). He translated Menno Simons book, "Foundation"  
from the Dutch into German.  
Peter was the father-in-law to Cornelius Jansen who moved from  
Lerdjansk, Russia to Beatrice, Nebr. in 1873, and caused our  
grandparents to move to Jansen, Nebr.
2. Abraham - (name now changed to Friesen, Russia disallowed use of "von")  
b. July 13, 1782, d. July 1, 1849  
lived in Orloff, Russia. He was the 2nd elder of the Klein  
Gemeinde, now Evangelical Mennonite Church in Canada. The  
first elder was a Klaus Reimer.
3. Margaretha: b. May 22, 1784, d. Aug. 5, 1835  
She married Johann Friesen. The 3rd elder of the Kleine  
Gemeinde. Johann was their son.
4. Anna: b. Aug. 12, 1785, d. Aug. 4, 1857  
She married Cornelius Sawatzki. They were the grandparents of  
Uncle Franz Sawatzki at Jansen, Neb.
5. Helena: b. Sept. 1787, d. Oct. 22, 1846  
She married Klaus Reimer who was elected minister in the big  
Mennonite church in New Lubrin, Danzig, Prussia, in 1801. In  
1812 he moved to the Molotchna country in Russia and began the  
"Kleine Gemeinde" - a name of scorn given them by the big church.  
(The n.d. was opposed to the use of tobacco and strong drinks.)
6. Johann: b. Feb. 10, 1789, d. Jan 15, 1840
7. David: b. Dec. 14, 1790, d. Oct. 12, 1814
8. Klaus: b. Oct. 6, 1793, d. Oct. 12, 1870  
(Grandfather to Grandma Susanna Thiessen Ketzlaff - mother Agnes'  
mother and uncle Johann Isaac Friesen of Steinbach, Man., and  
late of Meade, Kansas.)  
He married widow Margaretha Mathias Friesen, b. Mar. 14, 1792,  
d. Jan. 6, 1843. She had been married to Johann Friesen who had  
died 14 weeks after marriage. On Jan. 13, 1824, Klaus was elected  
minister in the n. Gemeinde. His 2nd wife was Karoline Plett,  
b. Mar. 7, 1823, in Poland. The last 7 years he was totally blind.