

C H A P T E R 1

A THIESSEN FAMILY CHRONOLOGY

The Peter A Thiessen born during the 1660s, in or near Orloff, in West Prussia, identified by Donald Gunther and Hermann Thiessen, is thought to be our Patriarch. Peter married an Elke Wiebe and there is little more information other than they had a son also named Peter. It was common practice during that time period for parents to name their first son after father and this appears to have been the case through three successive generations of Thiessens. The writer has identified these Peters with a second name initial starting with the letter of A, B and C for Record Identification Number (RIN) purposes.

Because of the various genealogies compiled by several Thiessens who are descendents of our patriarch #1 Peter Thiessen, this chronology will limit its coverage to the first six generations. Later genealogical and chronological information may be added by others to compile their particular ancestral line. The various spellings for Thiessen, Tiessen, Thieszen, etc., should not deter any devout genealogist. Family surname spellings were sometimes changed when families made distant migrations.

The Record Identification Number (RIN) identifies each particular individual and shows how each fits into our early Thiessen ancestry. Patriarch, Peter A Thiessen has a RIN of #1. RIN #11 identifies his first child as Peter B, and #111 his grandson as Peter C Thiessen born in 1749. It has been assumed that the first Thiessen descendents were all male children and that they were named after their respective fathers. Hence the RINs of #1, #11 and #111. Additional children in each family, if we knew who they were, would have been identified in their order of birth by the next number; ie., #1's second child would have been #12, his third child as #13 and so on. When there are more than 10 children in a particular family the alphabet is used to identify the 11th, 12th, 13th child and so on; ie., Abraham #1116, is #111 Peter C's sixth child, an 11th child, if there was one, would have a RIN of #111A, a 12th child #111B, and so on. The number of digits or letters in a RIN also tells us the generation to which that particular descendent belongs. A six digit/letter RIN therefore identifies a sixth generation Thiessen descendent.