

usually reliable, according to Henry Schapansky, "Peter Rempel of Bergthal," (not the same Rempel) in *Preservings*, June 1996.

Endnote 1760: I thought I had established that Gerhard Dirksen (1742-1806) was not the son of the Gerhard Doerksen (1719-84) chronicled in Georg Conrad's *Geschichte der Familie Dirksen*, as I had previously hypothesized, despite the coincidence of three successive generations of two Dirksen families in the same general area (in or near Danzig) apparently having the same first names (Gerhard, Gerhard and Jacob, in reverse chronological order) during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

However, a further review of Hermann Thiessen's letter of Aug. 1, 1987, and the the list of "Danziger Mennoniten aus dem Jahre 1681," compiled by Eduard Grigoleit for republication in Horst Penner, *Die ost- und westpreußische Mennoniten*, v. 1, pp. 469-471, suggests that it would be worthwhile to recheck Conrad's book to see whether I misinterpreted the sparse information vol. 1 contains about the descendants of this line. I have, therefore, listed Conrad's data, with some misgivings, in the hope that this will facilitate clarifying the matter.

Even if my doubts are verified, the occurrence of the same names suggests at least the possibility of a relationship between the two families, but one family was devoted to business (silk dyers for several generations), while the other one appears in the peasant censuses, so a connection cannot be assumed.

For a long time, however, the Mennonites who worked in Danzig had to live outside the city itself. Thus it may be possible that some of them engaged in trades in the city but also did some farming where they lived. I don't know what definition was used for including people in the peasant censuses or whether everyone residing outside a city was listed.

The Belgian Protestant refugees, whether Reformed or Mennonites, did indeed include some rather prominent burghers engaged in what might be considered upper middle class professions in a day when there wasn't much of a middle class in most of Europe.

• A Gerhard Doerksen is listed at Krampitz/Weisshof/Scheibe, near Danzig, in the 1748 peasant census, another Gerhardt Doerksen is listed there in the 1725 peasant census, and a Jacob Dircksen in 1675. It is probable that they were among our ancestors. Whether they are the same individuals as those listed in Georg Conrad's book remains to be determined, as far as I am concerned.

Endnote 1763: Horst Penner, in "Die Wiebes," mentions three Frisian Wiebes who migrated to West Prussia and seems to think that all, or most, Mennonite Wiebes in that area had one of these as *Stammvater*.

The first one, Adam Wiebe, was certainly the most famous of all the early West Prussian Mennonites and probably one of the most famous ever. He was an inventor, who invented the funicular railway, i.e., the cable car system used to transport materials and people