

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 Wiebe 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
Berdjansk, 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 "van")
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 Klass 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 Kornelius Sawatzki. They were the grandparents of
Uncle Franz Sawatzki at Jansen, Neb.
5. Helena: b. Sept. 1787, d. Oct. 22, 1846
She married Klaas Reimer who was elected minister in the big
Mennonite church in New Lubrin, Danzig, Prussia, in 1801. In
1812 he moved to the Molotschna country in Russia and began the
"Kleine Gemeinde" - a name of scorn given them by the big church.
(The K.G. 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. Klaas: b. Oct. 6, 1793, d. Oct. 12, 1870
(Grandfather to Grandma Susanna Thiessen Ratzlaff - mother Agnes'
mother and uncle Johann Isaak Friesen of Steinbach, Man., and
late of Meade, Kansas.)
He married widow Margaretha Mathies 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, Klaas was elected
minister in the K. Gemeinde. His 2nd wife was Karoline Plett.
b. Mar. 7, 1823, in Poland. The last 7 years he was totally blind.