

January 17, 1993

1000 Kilkenny Drive,
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3T 5A5

Dear Mr. Hermann Thiessen;

I got your name from your book *Martin Thiessen und Seine Nachkommen 1737-1977* which I located in the archives of the Mennonite Brethren Library. My interest in this book was due to the fact that your family tree includes the name Thimm. I am writing to you in the outside chance that you have come across a name that I am searching for.

I have to give you a little bit of background of my ancestors in order to see whether you can help me.

I am working on my Löwen family history. I am able to go back to 1823 but no further because there are no further church records for me to search here in Canada. Heinrich Löwens was born in 1823 (Canadian census records indicate Germany as place of birth). I read this as his place of birth being Prussia. His wife Sara Töws was born 1827 (I believe also in Prussia). Both families emigrated to Russia and in 1876 Heinrich and Sara emigrated to Canada. In doing my research I have come across some old letters and documents that Heinrich and Sara's youngest grandchild has in her possession. This includes a letter written by Katherina Thimm, 1783 from Brunau which she is writing to her family. She gives no indication as to her parents name or their whereabouts - only this little bit of information about herself. I have no idea why this letter was kept by Heinrich and Sara, however I am assuming that Katherina Thimm must have been a relative

either Katherina Thimm or Heinrich Löwens

Have you come across this name in your research? Do you have access to the Ellerwald and the Zeyersvorderkampen church records? I notice that the Löwen name is mentioned frequently in your book and they appear to be mainly from this particular area of Prussia. There is a Maria Löwen (born 1825 Ellerwald) mentioned and I really have to wonder if perhaps she is a relative? I contacted a Mr. Henry Schpanky who has done alot of research on Mennonites from Prussia and their migration patterns and he wrote me to say that he was not able to find Heinrich Löwens name but circumstantial evidence would suggest that he likely came from the Ellerwald or Rosenort area? If he is correct I think you can understand why I am interested in the Löwen names you have mentioned in your book.

I would be very grateful for any help you are able to give me.

Thank you

Sincerely yours

Dolores Harder

Dolores (Loewen) Harder