

ing any additional land. The members of the Przechovko church did not immediately avail themselves of this offer. It was not until 1820 that the majority of its members emigrated from West Prussia to southern Russia by foot and on wagons pulled by horses; an airline distance of about 875 miles. They wintered in the Chortitzer colony on the Dnieper River which had been settled more than 30 years earlier. In the spring of 1821 they settled the village Alexanderwohl in the Molotchna colony. This settlement is about 30 miles northwest of Berdjansk on the Black Sea. Andreas Schmidt and his wife Ancke Ratzlaff with their children including our great-grandfather Andreas Schmidt were also in this emigration. Jacob Schmidt and Anna Schmidt with their baby daughter Anna left Prussia also in 1820, most likely on the same caravan. However, they did not go all the way to the southern Ukraine but stopped on the halfway mark and settled in Karlswalde near Ostrog, where some of their relatives and friends had settled 20 to 30 years earlier. Their daughter Eva, our great-grandmother, was born Jan. 17, 1821 in Karlswalde. Two years later in 1823 they too emigrated to the Molotchna colony and settled in the family residence No. 18 in the village Alexanderwohl.

--Jacob A. Duerksen      Jan. 10, 1966