

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE SCHMIDTS

SCHMIDT is a common family name. It is a very common name among the Mennonites. It is a common name in the United States. Go to almost any of the cities in the United States and look in the telephone directories and you will find one or more or several Schmidts listed. Whose ancestors they are and from what lineage will probably never be known. Where the name originated is probably not known. In the 16th and 17th century people were named by their trade. Especially this was true of the Dutch people. For instance, von der Heiden, van ben Thuysen, one of plains, in a frame-built house, etc. There were silversmiths, knifsmiths and gradually the name smith was applied as a family name. The German or Low-German Schee-matt sounds familiar.

In this Genealogy we are mainly concerned about the first Schmidt listed in the Prussian Church Record (Prychowka). He is listed as 783 Schmidt. The Mennonite Encyclopedia states that the bearer of this name (Schmidt) fled in 1634 with Tobias Schellenberge from Moravia to Hungary and then to Prychowka, West Prussia. This P783 Schmidt had three sons, Peter, Kasper and Ehrenst. These had sons and daughters. In order that you can understand what is said and written you must study the Lineage Charts on the previous pages. These Lineage Charts prove that both the First Parents (Stammeltern) are descendants of this Schmidt. To help you along, the listed numbers are given and the letter P stands for Prussia or Prychowka. The Andreas Schmidt of this Genealogy was a great-great-great-great-grandson of this first Schmidt. Of interest is that a P193 Frantz Wedel, who was also a great-great-great-great-grandfather of Andreas, helped to establish the village of Prychowka in West Prussia, in 1640. His granddaughter, P209 Buschke Wedels was the wife of P788 Peter Schmidt. The first son of P783 Schmidt was a P784 Peter Schmidt, who was the father of P788 Peter Schmidt, who was the father of P798 Peter Schmidt, who was the father of P834, AR120 Andreas Schmidt, who was the father of the father Andreas Schmidt of the Genealogy. The second son of the first Schmidt was P786 Kasper Schmidt and his daughter P795 Elscke Schmidten married a P3XXX George Buller. Their daughter, Trincke Buller P364 married P798 Peter Schmidt. So far the paternal lineage. Now the maternal lineage. Andreas Schmidt's mother was a P110 Ancke Ratzlaffen. Her parents were P58 Heinrich Ratzlaff and P320 Maricke Beckers. Heinrich Ratzlaff P58 father was a P31 Jacob Ratzlaff, who married Elscke Schmidten P838, who was the daughter of Ehrenst Schmidt P785, the third son of the first Schmidt P783. This proves that the Father Andreas Schmidt was a descendant of the first Schmidt through his mother also. Further, we note that the grandfather of P31 Jacob Ratzlaff was the son of P14 Ratzlaff, a Swedish soldier converted to the Mennonite faith. His son P23 Hans Ratzlaff was a deacon. This P23 Hans Ratzlaff must have had two sons P31 Jacob Ratzlaff and P24X Berent Ratzlaff. Mention must be made that a Hans Becker P2, who came from the Lutheran church was a minister. His great-granddaughter was the grandmother (Maricke Beckers P320) of Andreas Schmidt. Here we see that the mother of Andreas Schmidt, P110 Ancke Ratzlaffen was a descendant of both P14 Ratzlaff from her paternal and maternal lineage. This completes the lineage of Andreas Schmidt.