

WHAT I REMEMBER OF MY PARENTS

The way I have been told, our forefathers once came from Holland, and from there Russia, and from Russia to America. My grandparents' names are Andreas and Eva Schmidt. Grandmana Eva Schmidt is born on January 5, 1821, that is old style (Alten Stiels), by this is meant the distance from Russia to North America. In America her birthday was January 17. The grandparents were married November 18, 1839. She died August 19, 1880. I do not know the dates when grandfather was born or when he died. (Born January 8, 1818, died August 22, 1899). I remember having seen him walk with the cane and I was at his funeral. As much as I remember they had six boys; Heinrich, Jacob, my father; John, Peter, Abraham and David and three daughters. These were my uncles and aunts. I have my grandmother's (Eva Schmidt) song book. Sue used this to sing in church. It is without notes and it is in good shape.

My parents came from Russia to America. As young men they all had to learn a trade, to be a cobbler, table maker, blacksmith or carpenter. My father learned to be a cobbler. He also made riding boots. He polished them up nice and when some young man came and bought them he wore them to see his girl friend. Father related that one winter he made seventy-five saddles. Father was a farmer in America, but if somebody brought shoes over, he fixed them. My mother said as she had been a girl at home and when they had hauled Russian thistles from the field she had to be on the load and load it barefoot. That must have been hard on feet.

Our parents were blessed with eleven children of which five of them passed away in infancy. My mother took sick with mental sickness (Seelenangst) and other complications. Finally she was taken to the hospital in Goessel. My grandmother, Helena Voth Unruh, was still in good health and she came to visit her daughter in the hospital. Grandmother asked my mother if she could leave this world and her family. She had replied it was hard for her. But grandmother told her that she had prayed and everything would be taken care of. My mother died August 3, 1904. Our parents were poor; they had lost part of their land in Greenfeld, so they moved to the Sand Creek Community (Schoenthal).

That same year after mother's death, Uncle David Unruh came over one day and he said he was 40 years old and did not get rich so he was going to sell his farm and move to Newton. He offered to sell his farm to me and brother Abe. But we had no money, nor did father. But, he said the Real Estate man, John G. Regier in Newton, would loan us the money. So we went to Newton and sure enough the deal was made. So the papers were made out, but Regier we must pay \$200.00 down. This we could not do. I had never seen \$200. But father said we will go to Newton again and to the Midland National Bank, and sure enough the bank made us a note and we gave this money to Regier. Now we had our own place to stay. Grandmother Unruh loaned us the money to pay for having the papers made out. We moved there close to the Heimbaugh School. Here is where I became to be my own boss. Brother Abe went to do carpenter work and brother John went to school in Goessel. Sister Maria cooked and washed for us and we paid her for doing this. After I got married we decided to go to Idaho and there we have been blessed.