

previously suggested by Thiessen as a possible father of Martin Brandt. Four children of the Martin Brandt mentioned by Penner died between 1739 and 1769. The younger Martin Brandt was still alive when his daughters were baptized in 1791 and 1795.

Note 5: Heinrich Reimer (# 18) was certainly the Heinrich listed by Unruh on page 307 as belonging to the family which had arrived in Muntau on 21 June 1804, as follows:

"Dürck Reimer, 26 years, from Plattenhoff, Amt Tiegenhoff, farmer, wife Susanna 45, children Aron 19, Heinrich 16, Catarina 14, Dürck 13, Sara 8, Anna 5" (note that the ages are as of 1808, when the census was taken).

The question is whether Dürck was the real father of Heinrich, with his age erroneously listed as 26 instead of 46, or whether he was the stepfather.

At first I was inclined to think that his age was listed in error. Middle-aged widowers often married young girls, but only recently did I become aware that there were a significant number of cases where young men married older widows, since I had never previously encountered this, either in my personal experience or in my research. This illustrates how unrepresentative one person's exposure can be, even if it is fairly extensive.

A few years ago, while researching other names at Mennonite Genealogy, Inc., I found (or thought I found) a son Heinrich born to a Dirk Reimer in 1814. This led me to conclude that the Heinrich born ca. 1792 had been the son of Susanna and her first husband, while her second husband and his second wife had also had a son Heinrich later. Strange, but conceivable!

However, when I returned to Mennonite Genealogy, Inc., at a later date for more thorough research, I found no trace of the file card I thought I had stumbled on earlier. Either I had misread the surname on the card or I had found a card out of place.

Furthermore, there is a file card listing a Dirk Reimer of Margenau as having been murdered on the Tiegerweide steppe on the night of 19-20 April 1811.

I searched the Unruh book, entry by entry, and found no other Dirk Reimer, either as a head of household or as a child accompanying his parents to Russia.