

4 the extent that Biblical teaching suffered. Now some of the members attended the EMB church for about a year but the EMB church building was not solid enough to hold all the additional people. When it was discovered that the floor of the church sagged with the weight of the Sunday morning congregation, the group from the Kleine Gemeinde began meeting in the north church which later became known as the Emmanuel Mennonite Church, an independent Mennonite congregation. Henry R. Harms was asked to lead this church with emphasis on Christianity expressed in life rather than just verbal witness. Dad was a leader in the organization of this church and it also became the church home of both sets of our grandparents.

A new church building was completed in 1966 in the city of Meade. This is the present location of the Emmanuel Mennonite Church. The old building was torn down but the cemetery remains at the location in the country five miles south and four miles east of Meade.

Isaak Loewen, our great-great-great-great grandfather, arrived in the Lindenau colony of Melotschna, South Russia, on October 20, 1805 from Elbing, Prussia. Though his birthdate is not known it is believed he was born in 1759 since records show he was 49 years old at the time of his arrival in Lindenau. With him was his wife, Ewa, 48 years old, and two sons, Isaac, 17 years old and Jacob, 5 years old. He was a cabinet maker and after living in Lindenau for three years he owned one wagon, 5 horses, 7 cows, 150 Tschetwert grain (800 bushels) in unthreshed shocks or bundles and 13 loads of hay.

His son Isaak, our great-great-great grandfather, was born July 1, 1787, presumably in Elbing, Prussia. On May 16, 1813 he married Margaretha Wiens at Lindenau, colony of Melotschna, in Russia. Isaak was a farmer. They had 16 children but three of them died in infancy and their birthdates are not known. Isaak died June 21, 1873 in Russia just before the great migration of Mennonites to America.

Heinrich Loewen, our great-great grandfather, was born in 1830 to Isaak and Margaretha Wiens Loewen. He was the eleventh child of thirteen who grew to adulthood. Little is known about his childhood or early life. He married a widow, Mrs. Klaas Brandt, whose maiden name was Fast. Their only child, Heinrich, was born on February 21, 1862 in Tiegenghagen village of South Russia. Less than nine months later, little Heinrich's mother died on October 27, 1872. Six months later, in April of 1863, our great-great grandfather married Maria Doerksen. On June 2, 1863, less than two months after his marriage to Maria, he was visiting at the home of a Jacob Reimer when he was struck by lightning. He sat on a bench between two other men. When lightning flashed, the other two men jumped and ran outside while Heinrich remained seated, dead. Eight months later, his daughter Maria, was born on February 16, 1864.

Little Heinrich, who later became our great grandfather, was about 16 months old when his father died. His uncle, Jacob Fast, adopted him and when he was twelve years old, he came to America with his adoptive parents on the S.S. Hammonia, arriving in New York City on July 17, 1874. They settled in Jefferson County, Nebraska near what later became the town of Jansen. On January 11, 1882 he married Margaretha R. Friesen in Jansen, Nebraska. They had nine children. Our grandmother, Margaret (Mrs. A.H. Friesen) was the oldest. Her mother, Margaretha R. Friesen, died on March 19, 1897 at the age of 37 of a heart attack. She had had severe pain in her arm the night before but assumed it was from knitting so much. The following morning when Heinrich came in from doing the chores, he found her dead in bed. Nearly two years later our great grandfather, Heinrich, married a widow, Maria (Weins) Doerksen on February 22, 1899. She had seven children from her first marriage. Together they had four boys. Twin boys were born to them on December 16, 1899. They were named Isaac W. and Cornelius W. Little Cornelius died at one month of age. William W. was born on March 21, 1902. On May 31, 1904, just three months after the birth of her fourth son, Franz, Maria (Weins) Doerksen Loewen died. Little Franz died three

months later on August 31.

Our great grandfather Heinrich was married the third time on March 14, 1905 to Margaretha Hiebner of Henderson, Nebraska. She was a large woman who weighed over 300 pounds. Then in 1907 they decided to join the Mennonites who had already moved to Meade, Kansas. They moved to a farm 17 miles southeast of Meade. Heinrich's oldest daughter and her family, Abraham H. and Margaret Friesen had already moved to Meade a few months earlier. Later, Heinrich and his family moved to the farm four miles south of Meade that we knew as the Abe E. Loewen farm.

Heinrich Loewen and his third wife had just had their 25th wedding anniversary seven months earlier when she died on November 29, 1930. His fourth wife was a widow, Katherine (Friesen) Hiebner of Henderson, Nebraska. They were married in 1931. She smoked cigarettes in the outhouse—a most terrible thing for any woman and especially for a Mennonite woman to do.

Heinrich Loewen died at the Salem Hospital in Hillsboro, Kansas on May 18, 1935 of cancer of the bone. He was 73 years old.

Peter W. Friesen and his wife, Helena F. Reimer, our great-great grandparents on Grandmother A.H. Friesen's side of the family tree, moved from Russia to Jansen, Nebraska in 1874. They had two sons and one daughter, Margaretha R., who was our maternal great grandmother.

Klaas Reimer, the father of Helena F. Reimer, was born on October 14, 1770 in Petersburg, near Tiegonghof, West Prussia. In 1804 the family moved to Russia on the Molotschna River. Here the Kleine Gemeinde church was begun about 1814 by Klaas Reimer and Cornelius Jansen. Klaas Reimer was ordained as a minister in 1816.

Cornelius L. Friesen, our dad's grandfather, was born March 12, 1841 in Russia. He had a twin brother, Henry L. Cornelius was a small impatient man who was rather dictatorial. He would always sit on the edge of the buggy seat in order to get where he was going faster! In Russia he was a school teacher but in America he was a minister of the Kleine Gemeinde Church. While still living in Russia he married Sara Jansen on January 6, 1862. They came to America on the S.S. Hammonia which arrived in New York on July 17, 1874. They had seven children. One of them, John J. Friesen, was our grandfather. He was born in 1882, eight years after his parents left Russia. After Grandpa's mother, Sara, died in 1892, when Grandpa was 9 years old, his father, C.L. Friesen, married a widow, Mrs. Cornelsen, who had several children from a first marriage.

Jacob B. Friesen, our great grandfather on Grandfather A.H. Friesen's side of the family tree, was born in Russia. He was a large man who weighed over 300 pounds. He was a diabetic. Our mom remembers getting fresh water from the well for him because he like to drink large quantities of water. He died at age 57 in 1911.

Margaret Sawatzky was born in South Russia in 1852. At age 18 she married Peter L. Friesen, a half-brother of our great grandfather, C.L. Friesen. This marriage took place in Russia. They had two children in the first two years of their marriage and both died in October of 1873 on consecutive days. The following year in 1874, enroute to America on the S.S. Hammonia, Peter L. Friesen died and was buried at sea. Four months later in November their son, Peter S.L. Friesen was born. The following year on April 11, 1875, Margaret Sawatzky Friesen married our great grandfather, Jacob B. Friesen. They had twelve children. Their second child was our grandfather, A.H. Friesen. After her husband's death in 1911, Maria Sawatzky Friesen married Abram P. Reimer from Manitoba on January 21, 1912. After this marriage they lived in Meade, Kansas for several years and then moved to Garden City, Kansas.

Esther and I feel a special tie to this part of our ancestral family because when we went to