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Section Three. Aeltester Peter Epp 1725-1789.

Son Peter Epp was born in Peterhagen near Tiejenhof, in the Grosswerder in 1725. In 1751 he married Catharina Wiens from Nassenhuben in the Grosswerder. The family lived on a farm in Neunhuben near Danzig. A Peter Epp is listed in the 1779 Konsignations Liste as a land owner and farmer in the village of Neunhuben. He is listed as a widower with three sons, three daughters and one servant. He is reported to be of **medium status** financially.¹¹

Peter Epp was elected as a deacon April 3, 1757, and minister on February 5, 1759, and as Aeltester of the Dutch, Flemish Gemeinde on September 26, 1779. He actively promoted the teachings of the faith and was personally involved in organizing the emigration to Russia which he saw as an opportunity to revitalize the Mennonite Church.¹² Many devout Mennonites, such as the Kleine Gemeinde, regarded Peter Epp as one of the emigration leaders of the movement and cherished his sermons and writings which they received and handed on to the next generation.¹³

Peter Epp died in 1789 in the midst of preparations for a trip to Russia. In the course of his journey to the direction of Klaus Bieder, John Bremer, Peter Gieser, and others,¹⁴ he provided a listing of the children of Peter Epp which forms the basis of the following family tree.¹⁵

Sex	Name	Born	Marriage	Died
2	Peter Epp	Jan 22, 1725	Apr 24, 1751	Nov 12, 1789
2	Catharina W.	Nov 15, 1726		Jan 2, 1776
2	Anna Epp	Jan 16, 1752		Jan 22, 1781
2	Sara Epp	Nov 15, 1753		Oct 11, 1779
3	Peter Epp	Mar 19, 1755		Jan 15, 1803
2	Heinrich Epp	Jan 9, 1757		
2	Anna Epp	Oct 12, 1758		Jan 21, 1792
2	Maria Epp	Apr 13, 1760		Oct 26, 1806
2	Catharina Epp	Feb 9, 1764		
2	Cornelius Epp	Jan 2, 1767		1768
2	Jakob Epp	Feb 15, 1769		Mar 1, 1769
2	Cornelius Epp	Feb 15, 1769		Jul 13, 1798
2	Jacob Epp	Apr 25, 1774		

2. The oldest child Sara Epp married Peter Klacrus, a landowner and farmer of Hochstedt, Grosswerder. A Peter Klacrus family is listed in the Konsignations List of 1779 for the village of Hochstedt. The family includes man and wife, and children, and is listed as decidedly wealthy. Peter Klacrus married for the second time to Catharina Rehl's born on August 9, 1723. (November 1755).

7. 1804 the family emigrated to the Mennonite Colony, South Friesland, where they settled on Wiltichhoff No. 11 in the village of Peterhagen. Their children are listed in the emigration records.