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(1817-1894) the wealthy mill owner in Gadenau, Kansas, was also a gardener. 64

The Petershagen villagers evidently had considerable influence in the entire colony, especially in ecclesiastical matters. The village settlers included three ministers, namely, Ohm Cornelius Epp, Klaas Reimer, and Cornelius Jantzen who was the son of Johan Jantzen Senior. In addition Franz Wiers Wirtschaft No. 5 was elected as a minister in 1895. It was here within a setting of wealthy burghers and close kinship ties that the infant reform movement held its first private devotional gatherings. It was here and in Muensterberg and the other end of the colony that the Kleine Gemeinde held its first formal worship services.

The Epp family was one of the major influences in these and other events which shaped the Mennonite settlement. A work the family provides a striking example of development such as the formation of the Kleine Gemeinde, and the view that on the whole the settlement was the result of a deliberate attempt by the settlers to copy the life of the families in the Prussian Mennonite Colonies. The settlement was a direct result of the Mennonite faith.

Please Note: The above family list is based on the work of W. J. Vermeer, The Mennonite Colonies in America, published by the Board of Christian Education of the Mennonite Church in America, Elkhart, Indiana, 1921. Reprint by Geneva College, Geneva, Illinois, 1956. Also see W. J. Vermeer, The Mennonite Colonies in America, Geneva College, Geneva, Illinois, 1956. Reprint by Geneva College, Geneva, Illinois, 1956. Phone (800) 226-0000.