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Section Three. Aeltester Peter Epp 1725-1789.

Son Peter Epp was born in Petershagen near Tiegenhof, in the Grosswerder in 1725. In 1751 he married Catharina Niens 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.¹²

Peter Epp was elected as a deacon April 3, 1757, as a minister on February 5, 1758, and as Aeltester of the Danzig Flemish Gemeinde on September 26, 1770. 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.¹³ Many devoted Mennonites, including the Kleine Gemeinde, regarded Peter Epp as one of the meretricious leaders of the movement and cherished his sermons and writings which they recopied and handed down from generation to generation.¹⁴

Peter Epp died in 1789 in the midst of preparations for a trip to Russia. In the course of his research on the ancestors of Klaus Peimer, Glen Peimer, Elsa Seiler, Maribela, we were also able to provide a listing of the children of Peter Epp which formed the basis of the following family tree.¹⁵

| Gen | Name | Birth | Marriage | Death |
|-----|-----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| 2 | Peter Epp | Jan 23, 1725 | Apr 24, 1751 | Nov 12, 1789 |
| 6 | Catharina Niens | Nov 17, 1720 | | Jan 6, 1776 |
| 3 | Anna Epp | Jan 16, 1752 | | Jan 23, 1794 |
| 3 | Sara Epp | Dec 15, 1752 | | Oct 11, 1779 |
| 2 | Peter Epp | Mar 19, 1755 | | Jan 15, 1802 |
| 3 | Heinrich Epp | Jan 9, 1757 | | |
| 2 | Samt Epp | Feb 13, 1759 | | Jan 21, 1792 |
| 3 | Maria Epp | Apr 17, 1760 | | Oct 26, 1806 |
| 3 | Catharina Epp | Feb 9, 1761 | | |
| 3 | Cornelius Epp | Jan 7, 1767 | | 1768 |
| 3 | Johel Epp | Feb 15, 1769 | | May 1, 1793 |
| 3 | Cornelius Epp | Feb 15, 1769 | | Jan 13, 1798 |
| 3 | Johel Epp | Apr 25, 1774 | | |

The oldest child Sara Epp married Peter Haysen, a land owner and farmer of Hechreit, Grosswerder. A Peter Haysen family is listed in the Konsignations List of 1779 for the village of Hechreit. The family includes man and wife, and one son, and is listed as moderately wealthy. Peter Haysen married for the second time to Catharina Wuelle born on August 9, 1702 in Heusoda.¹⁶

In 1804 the family emigrated to the Molokana colony, South Russia, where they settled on Winkelhaff No. 14 in the village of Petershagen. These children are listed in the emigration records