

Jakob von Baergen (1758-1833), Schoenau, Molotschna.

1 Jakob von Baergen (1758-1833) from Neutiecherwald, Amt Neuteich, Prussia, emigrated to Russia where he settled on Wirtschaft No 18 in Schoenau, Molotschna, in 1804. He was married for the first time to Margaretha Wall who died in 1799.¹⁴ He married for the second time in 1800 to Elizabeth Niessen. The 1808 Revisions Liste reveals that the Jakob von Baergen family was moderately well off.¹⁵ According to great grandson Peter Fast (1831-1916) later of Jansen, Nebraska, Jakob von Baergen was somewhat related to all the Baergens living in the Colony. The family moved to the Chortitza Colony sometime thereafter.¹⁶

2 The oldest daughter Helena von Baergen (1779-1846) married for the first time to Herman Dyck and for the second time to Peter Fast (1780-1852) the son of Daniel Fast of Tiegenhagen.¹⁷ It appears that Helena and her first husband Herman Dyck were married in 1803 since their only son Jakob was born on April 13, 1804. After their arrival in the Molotschna they made their home on Wirtschaft No. 6 in the village of Schonau together with her parents. Other Kleine Gemeinde associated families in Schoenau included Jakob Braun (Family 2),¹⁸ Johan Friesen (Family 5),¹⁹ Peter Dyck (Family 8),²⁰ Jakob Peters (Family 10),²¹ and Peter Wiebe (Family 21).²²

After the death of Herman Dyck in 1805, Helena married Peter Fast and the couple continued the farm operation on her Wirtschaft where they are listed as follows in 1808: "Peter Fast, 27 Muensterburg, Amt Tiegenhof, Landwirth, wife Helena, 27, son Jakob 4 and Peter 2. Property, 1 wagon, 1 plow, 7 horses, 11 cattle, 6 sheep, 15 loads of hay."

The father, Peter Fast, died 1852, November 18 at the age of 72 years, 1 month, 22 days. The mother died 1846, November 5, at the age of 67 years, 7 months, 9 days. They had 38 grandchildren. They were the grandparents of Peter Fast (1831-1916) of Jansen, Nebraska, (the son of Bernard Fast (1809-1878) one time Kleine Gemeinde minister) and the parents of Johan Fast (1813-1892) who settled in Gadenau, Kansas in 1874.

2 The other children of Jakob von Baergen (1758-1833) were: Margaretha 1780-1840, married Jakob von Baergen (died 1840); Johan 1783-1851; Elizabeth born 1785, married Johan Wiebe; Anna born 1787 spinster; Isaac born 1790 bachelor; Maria born 1791, married Jakob Peters, and Jakob born 1794. Four sons and four daughters were born of the second marriage.²³ Only the name of one son of the second marriage is known, namely, Peter von Baergen (born 1806) who is listed in the 1808 Revisions Liste.²⁴