

Section Four. Elizabeth W.Warkentin Family.

2 - Daughter Elizabeth W.Warkentin (1796-1852) married Johan Fast. According to Aeltester Peter Toews (1841-1922) she was a sister to Johan Warkentin (born 1790).⁵⁶ See Section Three cf. According to the family records of great granddaughter Anna Bartel (born 1906) of Minneola, Kansas, Elizabeth Fast, nee Warkentin, after suffering very severely for the last five days, died on July 7, 1852, at the age of 56 years.⁵⁷ This corresponds favourably with the birth year of 1795 recorded for Elizabeth Warkentin by B.H.Unruh.⁵⁸

Elizabeth Warkentin (1796-1852) grew up in Blumstein and it appears that she married the neighbour boy from the same village. According to the 1808 Revisions-Liste Johan Fast (born 1770), owner of Wirtschaft 10, and his wife Catharina Harms (born 1769), had a son Johan born in 1794, one year sooner than Elizabeth who grew up on Wirtschaft 6 just down the street.⁵⁹ According to a note by grandson Jakob Bartel (1858-1929), Johan Fast died on November 13, 1864, at the age of 71 years, 10 months and 15 days.⁶⁰ This corresponds favourably with the birth year of 1794 given by B.H.Unruh for Johan Fast.⁶¹

The proposition that Johan Fast (born 1794), son of Johan Fast (born 1770) of Blumstein, is the father of Johan W.Fast (1837-1924) is further supported by a reference made by son-in-law Peter P.Thiessen (1832-1898) in his Reisebericht of his trip to Russia in 1883, where he states that he drove to 'Truge' (sic) to visit his wife's uncle Isaac Fast who "was already very weak and longing to be released" from his suffering, the inference being that he was already quite elderly.⁶² This connection is of interest as Johan Fast (born 1770) is listed as having a son Isaac Fast born in 1801 who would have been 81 years old at the time of Peter Thiessens' visit in 1883 and would likely be the same person.

It is noteworthy that Johan Fast (born 1770) was married to Catharina Harms (born 1769) and that the couple originated from Ellerwald, Amt Elbing, the same village in Prussia given as the place of origin of neighbour Johan Harms (born 1771), owner of Wirtschaft 12 in Blumstein, whose first wife was Maria Fast, born 1769. See Chapter Six, Part Four, cf.⁶³

The Johan Fast (1794-1864) family lived in Blumstein where their daughters Elizabeth and Agatha W.Fast were born in 1826 and 1828 respectively. Some additional information about the parents of Johan W.Fast (1837-1924) is found in the report of daughter Elizabeth Fast who states that "in her youth she lived with her parents in Katerinowslav. That her father constructed mills. She learned humility by working as a servant girl on various farms."⁶⁴ Another report refers to Agatha W.Fast (1828-1896) as being the daughter of Johan Fast of Halbstadt.⁶⁵ It is evident that many of the descendants of Johan Fast and Elizabeth Warkentin continued in the aggressive spirit indicated by these activities.

Elizabeth Warkentin (1796-1852) and Johan Fast (1794-1864) were the parents of Johan W.Fast (1837-1924), later a Mennonite Brethren minister of Jansen, Nebraska; Hillsboro, Kansas; and of Mountain Lake, Minnesota. In his history of "The Kleine Gemeinde in the United States of America," Henry Fast states that Johan W.Fast (1837-1924) was the brother to Jakob Fast (1831-1885), Mrs Peter Heidebrecht, nee Aganetha Fast (1826-1898) and Mrs Peter Thiessen, nee Elizabeth Fast (1826-1898), all of Jansen, Nebraska.⁶⁶ There was also a sister Maria Fast (died 1862), married for the first time to Klaas Brandt and for the second to Heinrich Loewen (1830-1863).⁶⁷ Another sister, a Mrs Johan Rempel, remained in Russia, and was resident in the Crimea in 1902.⁶⁸ Sister Agatha Fast (1828-1896) married for the first time to Jakob Bartel (1808-1872) and for the second time to David Fleming.⁶⁹

This list of children may not necessarily be complete. No age is presently available for daughters Maria Fast and Mrs Johan Rempel and, accordingly, they have been arbitrarily placed at the end of the following list of children. Most of the information presently available on the children of Johan Fast and Elizabeth Warkentin is based on the history of the Jansen, Nebraska, Kleine Gemeinde by Henry Fast, Steinbach, Manitoba.⁷⁰

Gen	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
2	Eliz Warkentin	1796		Jul 7,1852
m	Johan Fast	1794		Nov 13,1864
3	Aganetha Fast	Dec 25,1823		Jan 20,1896
3	Eliz Fast	Aug 30,1826		Jul 21,1898
3	Agatha Fast	1828		Aug 10,1896
3	Jakob Fast	1831		May 7,1885
3	Johan Fast	1837		Sep 26,1924
3	Maria Fast			Oct 27,1862
3	Mrs Johan Rempel			

4 - Daughter Aganetha Fast (1823-1896) married Peter Heidebrecht in 1846 in Blumstein. In 1868 they moved to Markuslandt near Einlage and the next year they moved to Borosenko