

his niece Anna Toews (nee Warkentin). In this letter Heinrich Warkentin states that he will be 81 years old on September 8th of 1879 and that his wife is seventy-four years old. He also refers to the following children: Helena and her husband Jakob Willms, a second daughter who is the widow of a Heinrich Warkentin, and three sons Heinrich, Kornelius and Johan.

The widow of Heinrich Warkentin describes the death of her parents in a letter of August 1, 1880, to Gerhard S. Kornelsen in Steinbach, Manitoba:

"Blumstein, August 1, 1880"

"Worthy in-law and cousin Gerhard Kornelsens. I will now reply to the letter which you posted on May 5th which was read for father but mother had already died. Now they have both passed on. Father survived mother by exactly 10 weeks of grievous mourning. He died at 9 o'clock in the evening Monday, May 26th, and was buried on May 29th, Ascension Day.

"He had a great deal of difficulty with his breathing. For some time already he stood continuously day and night although he still walked by himself. Except on the last day when it no longer mattered to him and he did not dress himself. He simply lay across his bed and gasped for air. It was a sight to behold. He was conscious and remained intelligible as long as he had breath. In the end it was very difficult for him and he mentioned that he had such a terrible night that he felt like screaming and tearing around, but there was nowhere that he could go.

"He prayed and supplicated day and night that all his sins would have been forgiven and that the Lord would receive him in grace. Alas, it was so sad to see our beloved father die in this way. He reached the age of 82 years and mother was 75. Presently I am here alone with my youngest daughter Maria and the servant whom father had engaged who lives here on the yard. We want to remain here until the grain is finished and then we children want to sell everything by auction. We siblings and friends here are all well. Now, I must also relate to you that the aged Wilhelm Loewen is also dead as are the young Franz Wiebe and the wife of Aaron Warkentin. She was 72 years of age.

"Please forward this letter to all our friends, particularly the widower Johan Warkentin, Heinrich Warkentin, Martin Warkentin, the Toewses and Elizabeth; and receive this heartfelt greeting from me, widow Heinrich Warkentin and my children. Please be so kind and write to me occasionally now that the parents are dead. Beloved uncle Jakob Friesen, also send this letter to Gerhard Kornelsens if possible."¹³⁰

In a letter of January 12, 1882, son-in-law Jakob Willms reports that the Heinrich Warkentin Wirtschaft in Blumstein has been sold by auction to Martin Hamm for 4000 ruble and that the inventory was sold the following day, the total value being 5300 ruble. The children are not listed by age as this information is not known at this time.

Gen	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
2	Heinrich Warkentin	Sep 8, 1798		May 26, 1881
m	Anna	1805		Mar 17, 1881
3	Margaretha Warkentin			
3	Heinrich Warkentin			
3	Kornelius Warkentin			
X 3	Mrs Corn Heidebrecht			
3	Mrs Hein Warkentin			
3	Johan Warkentin			

3 Daughter Warkentin married her first cousin Heinrich F. Warkentin, son of Peter Warkentin (born 1789). Since her husband had died prior to the emigration of 1874 she did not join her husband's brothers who moved to America. She remained in Russia together with her parents and siblings. According to a letter of Jakob and Margaretha Willms of January 12, 1881, the widow Warkentin with her daughter Maria had (again moved to) Alexanderwohl where she had bought a Klein Wirtschaft for 1280 ruble.¹³¹ According to a letter of Jakob and Margaretha Willms of January 11, 1885 she was well physically and still living in Alexanderwohl with two of her daughters still at home. The one daughter married to a Sommerfeld emigrated to America the previous summer and another daughter married to Aron Thiessen from Sagradowka are planning to emigrate the next spring.¹³²

4 According to the research of Verne Ediger, daughter Katharina Warkentin (born 1854) married Leonhart Sommerfeld who immigrated to North America arriving in New York City on June 5, 1884.¹³³ He was the son of Heinrich Sommerfeld (1815-1888) who died in Alexanderwohl, Kansas.¹³⁴ Daughter Anna Warkentin married widower Aron Thiessen who was born in Neukirch. He was married for the first time to Gertrude Neustetter who died in Steinfeld. The family immigrated to America in 1885, eventually settling in Oklahoma; where Mr and Mrs Aron Thiessen died and were buried at the Herold Church at Bessie.¹³⁵ See Section Two cf. for additional information on this family.