

CHAPTER FOUR

GENEALOGY OF DANIEL FAST 1753-1829

Section One. Daniel Fast, Family Patriarch.

1 Daniel Fast (1753-1829) of Tiegenhagen, Molotschna, is the patriarch of a major line of Kleine Gemeinde Fast's. Other Fast families in the Molotschna in 1808 with major descendancies within Kleine Gemeinde circles included Berend Fast (family 20) in Lichtenau,¹ and Johan Fast (family 10) in Blumstein.² In addition there was at least one line descendant from the families emigrating to the Molotschna in 1818 and later, namely, Cornelius Fast, of Friedensdorf.³

B.H.Unruh, states that the Daniel Fast family originated in Neuteicherhinterfeld, Amt Neuteich, West Prussia.⁴ The village of Neuteicherhinterfeld was located approximately five kilometres east of the Weichsel River, and approximately ten kilometres north west of Marienberg and a similar distance south west of Petershagen, towards the south west corner of the Grosswerder area.⁵ The Flemish Mennonites of the region would have belonged to the Ladekopp Orloff Gemeinde.⁶

According to the 1776 Konsignations-liste there were two Fast families living in Neuteichhinterfeld, namely; Widow Fast, a landowner, gardener, living with a daughter, financially poor; and Jakob Fast, weaver, landowner, with one son and one daughter, poor financially.⁷ The only Daniel Fast listed is shown living with his wife in Leske, some 20 kilometres south along the Tiege River, a labourer, poor financially.⁸ Peter, the oldest son of Daniel Fast was born in 1780 and therefore it is not impossible that this is the same family. Since Daniel Fast is listed as a Pächter or leascholder he may have had opportunities to rent land in Leske and moved there temporarily in spite of it being some distance from home.

Daniel Fast was married to Katharina Neufeld, the daughter of Peter Neufeld (1697-1769), "who lived and was buried in Neukirch, Prussia."⁹ The Neukirch families also belonged to the Ladekopp Orloff Flemish Gemeinde. Neukirch was located several kilometres to the north-west of Neuteicherhinterfeld which would explain how the young couple met. It is puzzling however that Herman Neufeld (1760-1835) and Gerhard Neufeld (1758-1817), the brothers of Katharina, lived in Jungfer and Hügewald, respectively, two villages which were located in the north east corner of the Grosswerder triangle near the Frisches Haff.

In 1804 the Daniel Fast family emigrated to Russia together with his mother-in-law, the widow Neufeld, nee Katharina Rogalsky (1729-1806). ~~Also~~ joining them for the move was son Peter Fast (1780-1852), still a bachelor in 1804.¹⁰ Since her two sons, Herman and Gerhard, and daughter Anna (1753-1836), married to Dietrich Wiebe, had emigrated to Russia the previous year, Mrs Neufeld probably made this decision in order to remain with her family.

Son Herman Neufeld settled in Muensterberg, where he later served as village Schulz.¹¹ Son Gerhard and daughter Anna, Mrs Dirk Wiebe, and their families settled in Lichtenau, Molotschna.¹² The Daniel Fast family settled in the village of Tiegenhagen, Molotschna, on June 5, 1805, on Wirtschaft 14 right besides Jakob Finns (1763-1818), who became the first Aeltester of the Molotschna Flemish Gemeinde in 1805.¹³

Another Kleine Gemeinde family in Tiegenhagen was that of Jakob Schellenberg (Family 6) who had negotiated on the 1,000,000 ruble Volenko Estate together with Johan Warkentin, Blumenort (Family 3), and Klaas Reimer Petershagen (Family 4).¹⁴ Families opposing the reform movement included Aeltester Jakob Finns (Family 15) and Isaac Wall (Family 9).¹⁵ A familiar name in the village was Heinrich Krueger (Family 19), a brother to Abraham Krueger in Petershagen and to Johan Krueger the famous clockmaker in Rosenthal, Chortitza.¹⁶

According to the 1808 Revisions-Liste the Daniel Fast family is listed as follows: "Daniel Fast, 56, from Neuteicherwald, Amt Neuteich, liner maker, wife Catharina, 57. Children Berend 22, Gerhard 19, Jakob 16, Son-in-law Aron Warkentin 25, wife Catharina 20. Property. 2 wagons, 1 plow, 2 harrows, 8 horses, 10 cattle, 5 sheep, and 22 loads of hay.¹⁷ It is evident that Daniel Fast had done very well with his leaschold farming in Prussia. In 1812 Daniel Fast married for the second time to Maria Dick (Dueck) but no information is available regarding her family background. The following listing of the children of Daniel Fast is taken from the "Family Album" of grandson Johan Fast (1813-1870).¹⁸

| Gen | Name | Birth | Marriage | Death |
|-----|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1 | Daniel Fast | Dec 14, 1753 | Apr 25, 1779 | Sep 3, 1829 |
| m | Kath Neufeld | Feb 20, 1751 | | Aug 10, 1811 |
| 2 | Peter Fast | Sep 27, 1780 | | Nov 18, 1852 |
| 2 | Susanna Fast | Dec 26, 1782 | | Oct 29, 1835 |
| 2 | Bernhard Fast | Jul 21, 1783 | | Apr 25, 1861 |

1892

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