

leaving to reorganize as a new Gemeinde. This left him with about 140 families under his jurisdiction, including many of the more progressive people. As leader of this group, which was known as the Orloff-Halbstadt Gemeinde, Bernhard Fast became the most powerful and controversial ecclesiastical leader among the Russian Mennonites in his time.¹²³

Gen	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
2	Bernhard Fast	Jul 21, 1783		Apr 25, 1861
m	Agan Groening	1773		
3	Susanna Fast	Mar 12, 1813		
m	Gerhard Warkentin			
2	Bernard Fast	Jul 21, 1783		Apr 25, 1861
2m	Dick	1801		May 17, 1873
3	Justina Fast			
m	Jakob Wiebe			
3	Anna Fast	May 9, 1841		Nov 10, 1898
m	Abraham Harder			
3	Bernhard Fast			
m	Margaretha Wiebe			

3 Daughter Anna Fast (1841-1898) married Abraham J. Harder, son of Johan Harder (1811-1875) of Blumstein who became Aeltester of the Orloff Gemeinde after the death of Bernhard Fast (1783-1861). Abraham J. Harder has written an extensive biography detailing many of the experiences encountered. Evidently he started his teaching career in apprenticeship to the well-known Franz Isaac, minister and teacher in Orloff.

Abraham J. Harder taught school from 1862 until 1870. According to the birth places of the children they must have lived in Tiege for the next five years. In 1875 they bought a Vollwirtschaft from Gaeddert in Alexanderwohl. Here he was elected as a minister of the Neukirch Gemeinde. At the time of the death of his first wife the Abraham J. Harder family was living in Alexanderwohl, Molotschna.¹²⁴

He married for the second time to a Warkentin daughter from Lindenau. When his brother Johan Harder visited him in 1900 they drove to the Crimea together where the Abraham Harders had children living. His second wife died during this trip. Abraham J. Harder married for a third time to a widow from the Crimea who was the daughter of H. Pauls of Furstenwerder. In 1902 they visited his third wife's mother and siblings in Inman, Kansas, and also his daughter Agnes Harder who was attending school in Newton, Kansas, at the time. This daughter Agnes married a Wiens and went to India as a missionary.¹²⁵ In 1907 Abraham J. Harder and his third wife were living in the Crimea.¹²⁶

Gen	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
3	Anna Fast	May 9, 1841		Nov 10, 1898
m	Abr Harder	Aug 22, 1840	Jun 18, 1861	
4	Justina Harder	Apr 22, 1862	Sep 15, 1884	Dec 16, 1891
m	Johan Gaeddert	Gnadenheim		
4	Anna Harder	Aug 23, 1863	Nov 22, 1883	Feb 17, 1895
X m	Jakob Thiessen	Alexanderwohl		
4	Johan Harder	Dec 23, 1864	Jan 4, 1890	
m	Kath Klassen	Alexanderwohl		
4	Abr Harder	Sep 29, 1866	Jan 22, 1891	
m	Justina Epp	Rosenort		
4	Eliz Harder	Jun 7, 1868	Nov 15, 1890	
m	Johan Dick	Lichtfelde		
4	Maria Harder	Jan 19, 1870	Apr 30, 1891	
m	Jakob Dick	Lichtfelde		
4	Bern Harder	Oct 30, 1871		Oct 14, 1873
4	Helen Harder	Oct 29, 1873	Jun 8, 1895	
X m	Jakob Thiessen	Alexanderwohl		
4	Kath Harder	Nov 23, 1875		
4	Agan Harder	Feb 21, 1878		Mar 30, 1879
4	Agan Harder	Jan 11, 1884		
m	Franz J. Wiens	1880		1942

Section Five. Katharina Fast.

2 Daughter Katharina Fast (born 1785) came to Russia with her parents in 1804. By the time of the Revslons-Iste of 1808 she had married Aron Warkentin born 1783 and the young