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CHAPTER SEVEN

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JAKOB HEIDEBRECHT GENEALOGYSection One: Stammvater Jakob Heidebrecht

1 According to the research of genealogist Hermann Thiessen of West Germany, all the Heidebrechts emigrating from Prussia to the Molotschna Colony, South Russia, in 1804, were descended from Stammvater Peter Heidebrecht who died in West Prussia in 1770. He was married twice, the name of his first wife being unknown. The second wife of Peter Heidebrecht was the widow Catharina Fast who died on November 11, 1777. Mr Thiessen has written that the heirs of Peter Heidebrecht were as follows: 1) Abraham, 2) Peter married to Anna Fast, 3) Johan married to Agneta Wiebe, 4) Agneta married to Peter Wiebe, and 5) Jakob.¹

Gen	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
1	Peter Heidebrecht			1770
m				
2m	Widow Cath Fast			Nov 11, 1777
2	Abraham Heidebrecht			Before 1776
2	Peter Heidebrecht			
2	Johan Heidebrecht			
2	Agneta Heidebrecht			
2	Jakob Heidebrecht			

2 The major line of Kleine Gemeinde Heidebrechts are descended from son Jakob Heidebrecht.² According to the research of Hermann Thiessen, Jakob was married to Catharina Fast and lived in Krebsfelde, Prussia.³ The Konsignations Liste of 1776 lists only one Jakob Heidebrecht who is resident in Krebsfelde married with three sons, a freeholding farmer, of only moderate means.⁴ Jakob Heidebrecht must have died sometime prior to 1803 as he is not listed in the emigration records of that year.⁵

The widow Jakob Heidebrecht, nee Catharina Fast, emigrated to the Molotschna Colony in 1803 together with her sons Jakob, Cornelius (listed as a servant with David Fpp), and Peter, and twin daughters Agatha and Catharina.⁶ It appears that she settled on Wirtschaft No 4 in the village of Lichtenau where her sons Peter and Cornelius and daughter Agatha were living in 1808. From this one would also conclude that the widow Jakob Heidebrecht had died sometime before 1808. The eldest son Jakob Heidebrecht was living on Wirtschaft No 3 next door. No further information is presently available regarding daughter Catharina Heidebrecht or whether she ever married and had a family.

It is believed that the widow Jakob Heidebrecht, nee Catharina Fast was one of the early supporters of the Kleine Gemeinde as the families of two of her children were prominently involved in the movement. It is also possible that she was related to one or more of the several Fast families associated with the reform movement. Other Kleine Gemeinde families and sympathizers in Lichtenau in 1808 included the following: Abraham Fernelson and Agatha Schellenberg Wirtschaft No. 6;⁷ Abraham Isaac and Catharina