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265

MIERAU
(Notes on the Surname)

WEST PRUSSIAN HISTORIES

Mennonitische Namen/Mennonite Names, Victor Peters and Jack Thiessen. N. G. Elwert Verlag, Marburg, Germany, 1987.
[Res. Reg. #723]

Mierau

"Name is based on place of origin or residence, Mierau, a village in West Prussia. According to [Horst] Penner the name is native to West Prussia. Stump lists three Mierau families who emigrated from West Prussia to Molotschna, Russia. The name is relatively rare among the Mennonites."
(page 93)

Horst Penner, Die ost-und westpreussischen Mennoniten, Mennonitischer Geschichtsverein E.V., 1978, page 302.
[Res. Reg. #242]

The Mierau name comes from the village of that name in the Grosse Werder, West Prussia. In the years 1510-1519, a Jacob Mierau lived in the land and owned a farmstead (Hof) and about 200 acres (2 Hufen) in Klettendorf, in the Kleine Werder. This was before the Mennonites came into this land.

Additional thoughts on the name Mierau:

Looking at the location of the village on a map one can see that the region where the village developed had been on the edge of an area that at times was part of the sea until effective water control was initiated. One can get a visual impression that the area covering the village of Mierau could have been a water pasture. The syllables in Mierau, mier and au, could easily be spelled meer and aue. Meer in German is sea or ocean and Aue in German is the poetic form of pasture or meadow. Mierau could literally mean sea meadow or water meadow.

Barbel (Mierau) Grey, Telephone interview on May 21, 1991.
[Res. Reg. #781]

Barbel said the Mierau name came from French Hugonots who settled in Danzig and Brandenburg, Germany. [Cardinal Richelieu, acting for Louis XIV of France revoked the edict of Nance in 1685, driving the Hugonots out of France. -- Easton's The Western Heritage, page 356.] She said Mierau had earlier been spelled Miereau or Mieraux.