

profession, or into public life.

Can one in anyway even generally delineate the Klippenstein family characteristics? I'll give it a try. Some of you may not agree. The Klippenstein family was and is a sturdy clan. They are congenial, independent and enterprising.

Their geniality was expressed in their relaxed way of life. I think of the village of Neubergthal as a good example. The people were easy going, not inhibited. But they were also very much committed to a communal way of life and this expressed itself in helping each other and in maintaining the community. In brief, the highest good for the highest number.

In church affairs, they were supportive but not demonstrative. Yet several members of the Johann Klippenstein family, Agatha and Katharine and their husbands as well as Abram struck out on their own and left the Mennonite fold. The first two joined the Jehovah Witnesses and Abram the Church of the New Jerusalem or also known as the Swedenborgian faith. This independence or individuality is a marked characteristic of the Klippensteins. It may be that it comes from the German and Dutch folk traits. While it led to some tensions within the family, on the whole there was understanding or at least tolerance of each others view points.

The Klippensteins were and also are an enterprising group. This was shown in the enterprising spirit of Abram and Peter who moved out as pioneers to Saskatchewan and Abram subsequently to California. Wilhelm Berg was a trustee in the local Waisenamt and both Uncle Bernhard and my father became businessmen. Leaving the farm and moving to town at the beginning of the century was somewhat radical. The church may have been apprehensive about it. But it would indicate that they were looking for other ways of fulfillment than the traditional agricultural vocation. It was an indication of courage and determination on their part. These characteristics were also inherent in the younger generations. They are expressed in their various vocations and professions and one of the objectives of the genealogy would be, it is my hope, to reaffirm and rediscover the positive values of our forebears that are worthwhile and enduring, cherishing our identity and keeping faith with our generation.

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<sup>1</sup>"Hintergründe der Menn. Ostwanderung"

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