

Abraham and Helena, with eight of their children, emigrated from Russia to the United States. They took the ship Nederland out of Antwerp and arrived in Philadelphia on July 25, 1875.¹⁶ They settled on a farm five miles south of Mountain Lake in Minnesota where their last child Katharina (dad's mother) was born on March 26, 1877.¹⁷ (Helena's sister Agatha (Klassen) Dick also lived in the Mountain Lake area; Dad remembers visiting with "Tante" Gerhard Dick when he was a boy. kh)

According to Gerhard Buhler and Marie Buhr, life was difficult for them at first. They had left a rich fertile country with well established farms to begin again in a new country. Life was hard for them at first. In the winter it was bitterly cold and the roads were impassable because of the snow; in the spring because of the mud.

Their mode of travel was at first with oxen and later with horses. The invention of better plows, drills to plant grain, and mowers and reapers, as well as threshing machines improved their lives. The family lived economically and made most if not all of their furniture since Abraham and his sons were gifted carpenters. They constructed a small room as an addition to one of the buildings to teach the children until a regular school could be built.

They took their grain to a mill 18 or 20 miles away with horses and wagon to have ground into flour. Milk, butter and cheese were produced on the farm as well as their vegetables. Brooms were made by hand from rushes which they grew in their garden. They wove their own baskets with cane and reeds. Plants were grown for medicine.

Since water was scarce it was hauled in 50 gallon wooden barrels from distant wells on a horse drawn stone boat. Their fuel consisted of sheep and cow dung which the children had to gather in the summertime, put out to dry and then store for the cold winter days for heating the house and cooking.

They had only one change of clothing which was worn all week, washed on Saturday after bedtime so it would be clean for Sunday and the following week.

Helena died in 1897 at the age of 63 years and Abraham lived until 1903 to be 86 years of age. They are both buried in the cemetery at Mountain Lake, Minnesota.