

## THE EITZEN FAMILY

### 1. CORNELIUS EITZEN \*

Cornelius and Anna lived with their children in Sparrau, South Russia and moved from there to Orechow when Peter (1843-1924) was six months old.<sup>1</sup> Anna Thiessen is shown as the mother's name on Peter's death certificate; Miss von Niessen on Aganetha (Eitzen) Holzrichter's genealogy as received from the David Thiessen family by Evelyn Wiens Thiessen. Since Aganetha was 18 years older than Peter and Peter was left an orphan at an early age, I felt that the von Niessen name was probably correct (as there is no information as to more than one mother in the family) since Aganetha probably knew more about their mother's family than her younger brother.

Benjamin Unruh on page 310 of his book shows a Cornelius Edsen (b 1766 from Neuteicherwald, Gross Werder, Prussia) and his family in the Füschau colony as of June 20, 1804. He could possibly be the father of our Cornelius Eitzen, as the child Cornelius (b 1797) would be the right age to be the father of the Cornelius Eitzen children in our family. The names given the children are also our family names.

On page 338, in 1803, Cornelius is shown married in 1799 to Helene Spenst; so the mother in the family would not be Cornelius' birth mother.

Since Eitzen (Edsen, Eytzen, von Eytzen, etc.) was not a very common name in the Mennonite community in those days as compared to others, I feel that there is a possibility that this family could be ours.

### 1.6

#### PETER EITZEN \*

Peter, born September 13, 1843<sup>2</sup>, was quite young when his parents died and he had to work his way, living among relatives and friends. He married Katharina Nickel, born January 13, 1849<sup>3</sup>, of Rudnerweide on January 8, 1870.<sup>4</sup> They made their home in Orechow where Peter owned a flour mill in partnership with his brother-in-law Johann Eitzen (married to his sister Katharina).

Peter, his wife and four young children, left Russia in 1879, departing from Antwerp on the S. S. Switzerland and arrived in Philadelphia on the 24th of June<sup>5</sup> coming to Mountain Lake, Minnesota on June 28, 1879. Their fifth child, Abraham was born to them there in October of that year.

Peter's two sisters, Aganetha and Marie had come to Mountain Lake in 1878 with their families.<sup>6</sup> Aganetha and her family were well settled in Mountain Lake but Marie and her family decided to return to their old home in Russia.

Peter settled down with his family on a farm seven miles southeast of Mountain Lake in Watonwan county. After nine hard, struggling years