



The Heritage

www.goesselmuseum.com

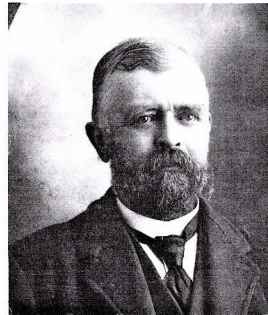
Summer 2024

Celebrating the Mennonite Immigration: Voyage to America!

By Museum Director, Fern Bartel

As we continue to think about our ancestors leaving their beloved homes in South Russia, starting a new life in a completely new land, I would like to share the writings of Dr. Peter P. Richert, 1850-1937. This autobiography of Dr. Peter Richert was written in German and translated by Emma Eva Richert. The details of the voyage were some of the most descriptive that I have read. (Some of the sentences in this account have been altered to best be understood in today's English.)

"We left Hamburg July 31st in a small ship which took us to a big steamer on which we left at 11:30 a.m. Everything went well so far. But as we passed the island of Heligoland and on into the North Sea, it did not take long till people started to throw up. Nearly everybody struggled with skin shivering. During the night it let up some but the North Sea was raging heavily. As I awoke in the morning, and looked around, nearly everybody was sick. So it continued Thursday the first of August. Friday morning the storm increased till hardly anybody was left over who was not sick and I thought if this increases I will also be overcome. But in the afternoon, the wind quieted down."



Dr. Peter Richert

"I did not feel too good, was troubled quite a bit with diarrhea but did sleep well during the night. As I awoke Sunday morning, we had traveled quite a distance. There was a strong wind. Sunday we traveled along the coast of Ireland. Monday towards noon the tossing of the ship got so bad that all things like trunks etc. had to be tied down. "Oh dear Heavenly Father, protect us tonight." (Then for the next couple of days good weather.) The name of our captain is Brandt and the name of our ship is Cimbria."

"On Wednesday towards noon the wind started to blow violently and it blew the water as in winter when it snows. "Oh God, protect us and hold off the

Dr. Peter Richert, continued on page 3

Upcoming Events:

Museum Hours

See back page.

Fourth Monday Genealogy Group

7:00 pm Goessel City
Community Room

No July Meeting

August 26

"The Mrs. 'Dr.' Schroeder,
Goessel's Country Midwife"
Schroeder descendants

September 23

"Abandoned Early
Communities: Cresswell
& Klassen Corner"

Ilona Abrahams

October 28

Old Family Bible Display:
Open for participants to
bring old Bibles to share
& display.

**No Meetings in November
or December**

150th Commemorative Events

See page 3 for schedule.

Country Threshing Days

August 2, 3, 4

See back page.

Low German Saying

An interesting word is "Oba." Here are a few examples.

Nee oba! Oba doch nich! Woat du oba sajst! Doat es oba kult! Oba daut jeit! Daut es mie oba so to waddre!

How can one translate these phrases into meaningful English?

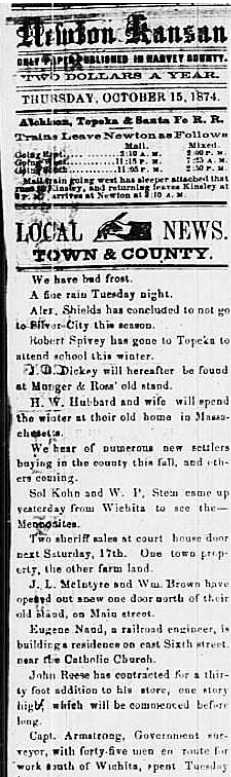
Mennonite Heritage and Agricultural Museum Board Members:

John Janzen, President; Pat Penner, Vice-President; Sandy Duerksen, Secretary; Aileen Esau, Treasurer; * Fern Bartel, Museum Director; * Roger Bartel, Myron Goertzen, Kris Schmucker, Lloyd Voth, Nelson Voth, Connie Wiens, James Wiens. *non-voting members

Ditt unt Daut (this and that) by Fern Bartel, Museum Director

I love history—always have! So, I was looking for information in the archives of newspapers on the Kansas Historical Society website (kshs.org, Archives tab, Online collections, Digital newspapers), where Kansas newspapers, 1854-1923, can be searched for free. I came across this article from the *Newton Kansan*, Thurs., Oct. 15, 1874. I typed it so it is easier to read.

“**MENNONITES**—The last of the present Mennonite immigration arrived in this place last Friday morning, to this number of about six hundred. Their goods and stock were



Fall colds prevail as an epidemic now, and the individual who isn't provided with one may properly be considered out of fashion. Everybody takes 'em—no well regulated family can afford to be without one.

For Colorado—Mr. and Mrs. G. D. Munger and A. D. Ross, left for Trinidad, Col., Tuesday, which place they have chosen as their future home. They took with them the last remaining portion of their goods, but retaining considerable real estate in Newton and the county. Mr. and Mrs. Munger were among the first settlers here and are well known. Mr. Ross has been here about twenty months and is also very well known. In the departure of these from our midst we lose some of our best and most highly esteemed citizens, and as they go to new fields of labor and among strangers to pursue life's avocations and gather of its pleasures and affluence, they carry with them the well wishes of this entire community.

MENNONITES—The last of the present Mennonite immigration arrived in this place last Friday morning, to the number of about six hundred. Their goods and stock were shipped by an extra freight, which came in during the day. For several days our streets and the vacant grounds around were alive with them, and they appeared to make themselves at home at once and prepared for business. A great many of those who brought no teams or implements with them, supplied themselves here, and a surplus team, wagon or cow is now hard to be found. We know of three one thousand dollar bills having been exchanged for smaller currency on Friday, and it is safe to say that a good many extra hundred dollars have been put in circulation by their appearance. Nearly all have now gone to their farms several miles north of this city, where they are engaged in making preparations for the winter.

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Sunflower Summer Adventure for Kansas Families

Are you participating in the Sunflower Summer program? MH&AM is a participating attraction, which means families who have the app can visit our museum for free—and many other Kansas museums! Free admission includes up to two adults and an unlimited number of children, but everyone must be registered with the Sunflower Summer program. Curious? Learn more at: <http://sunflowersummer.org/>

Florals, Food, and Fun

Small Town Saturday Night Workshop Events

Ladies, do you need something to do this summer? Get your girlfriends together and come to a workshop at the museum! There are two opportunities: July 27, a floral workshop with Firebranch Farm for \$28/members or \$33/nonmembers, and August 24, a baking demonstration with Crust and Crumb Co. for \$25/members or \$30/nonmembers. Make sure to RSVP to the museum two weeks before the workshop. More details can be found on the museum's Facebook page. Come support the museum and have fun in small-town Goessel!

Kaw People & Alexanderwohl People: Side by Side Stories

Pauline Sharp, a Kaw Nation citizen, and Annette Voth, a farmer and descendant of the Mennonites who immigrated with the Alexanderwohl Church in 1874, will tell the stories of two peoples with similar desires: freedom to speak their languages, practice their religious and cultural ceremonies, and survive as a community. Their stories of different experiences will be told on July 14, 2024, at 7:00 pm, at Tabor Mennonite Church.

Children's Event in September

150th anniversary activities will include a special event for school children from Meadowlark Christian (Sept. 6), Goessel Elementary (Sept. 13), and Sunflower School (Sept. 27). Students will enjoy hands-on activities while learning about the life of the 1874 immigrants. What was it like to pack a trunk or sail on a ship? What was it like to start building a home from nothing? Susan Nafziger will help students understand what life was like for our ancestors and all immigrants who came to a new land where everything was different. A Goessel Community Foundation grant funds the event.

Pilgrimage to the Original Site of Alexanderwohl Immigrant Houses

On September 22, 2024, at 3:00 pm, plan to be at Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church to walk to the site of the original immigrant houses northeast of the church in the middle of the section. Activities at the church include a tour highlighting the architectural features and viewing the original church membership books from Przechowko and Molotschna along with other hidden gems. The outline of the ship *Cimbria* will be marked on the ground south of the shelter house. Flags will be in the Alexanderwohl cemetery marking the graves of immigrants. In the shelter house, sample food that may have been part of the immigrants' journey.

Dr. Peter Richert, continued from page 1

weather.” In the afternoon the storm got so fierce as a raging madness. I walked up the steps a number of times and looked out, but the wind was blowing the water so much that you could not see anything. It was as if we went over high mountains and somebody took hold of me by the hair and tossed me in the deep. Because my wife was still very weak and our little girl was sick we did not have enough beds. My youngest brother Cornelius and I had our bed on the floor, but we could hold on to nothing and rolled from one side to the other and hit against the bedsteads. The ship is tossing back and forth so that we are going to break all our bones. The overseer said, “How would it be if I would tie you?” I said, “Just so you can do it so that we are kept from moving, I will be satisfied.” He then brought a thick rope and we laid ourselves down. He tied us to the legs of the bedstead, once under our arms around the body and once around the legs so that we both laid close and tight together. As I was very tired from having been rolled back and forth, I had gone to sleep, and when I awoke, it was daylight and the wind had quieted down.”

On August 16 (using the old Russian calendar) they arrived in the New York harbor. Their very young daughter died and was buried on land.

“C.B. Schmidt was a trusted Santa Fe Railroad agent, he had visited our group in Russia the year before. Now he was also there to meet us in New York. Mr. Schmidt had done very much for our settlement. Now it came time to decide. Everybody had to say where he wanted to go. All those that decided for Kansas were brought for free to Topeka, Kansas.”

The large part of the group stayed at the King’s Bridge Shop while the heads of the families went with C. B. Schmidt to look at land north of Newton. The Santa Fe Co. owned every other section for 20 miles along the railroad tracks. The average price of land was \$3.15 an acre.

“Back in Topeka the Santa Fe Co. advertised in papers for any local farmers wanting to sell horses, oxen, or milk cows should bring them to the fair grounds to sell to our people. You should have seen how the farmers from all over, far and near, came with their stock to offer it for sale. Our leading men had made a contract with the Santa Fe Co. that they would bring all our cattle and us with everything we had bought in Topeka, no matter what it was, transport free to Newton, Kansas, on their railroad. C.B. Schmidt, the agent of the railroad company, was for us in all this a true intermediate.”



Upcoming Commemorative Events:

Heritage Talk

“Side by Side Stories:
Kaw Nation and Alexanderwohl”
Pauline Sharp and Annette Voth
July 14, 7:00 pm
Tabor Mennonite Church

Heritage Presentation

“From Russia to Kansas:
A Story of the 1874 Mennonite Immigration”
August 2, 7:00 pm
Goessel HS Auditorium

Heritage Talk

Immigrant House Pilgrimage
September 22, 3:00 pm
Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church

Goessel Harvest Festival

Demonstrations
October 5, 10:00 am—3:00 pm
MH&AM Grounds

Community Worship Service

Goessel Ministerial Alliance
November 24, time TBA
Goessel HS Gymnasium



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Museum Hours:
March, April, October,
& November:
Tues - Sat: 12 pm - 4 pm
Closed Sundays & Mondays
Open by appointment
December through February

May - September:
Tues - Sat: 10 am - 5 pm

The Heritage

Written & edited by:
Fern Bartel, Director
Aileen Esau, Treasurer
Museum Board Members
Anne Harvey

Country Threshing Days, August 2, 3, and 4, 2024

First-Hand Accounts Presented on Friday, Aug. 2

“From Russia to Kansas—A Story of the 1874 Mennonite Immigration” is a narrated pictorial presentation that tells the story of the Alexanderwohl immigrants as they left South Russia and made a new home in “New-Alexanderwohl” in Kansas. First-hand accounts from diaries and newspapers will be portrayed. Come learn about the deep faith they held, the daring courage they demonstrated, and the bold actions they took. The program will be held on August 2, 2024, at 7:00 pm in the Goessel High School Auditorium. No admission is charged but donations will be gratefully welcomed for the museum to continue its storytelling mission.

Parade, Low German Meal on Saturday, Aug. 3

Saturday’s parade will be held at 9:30 am. As soon as the parade ends, enjoy the traditional Low

German Meal in Goessel Elementary School. Food will also be available on Saturday in the Preparatory School and other locations around the grounds.

Purchase of a \$7 button allows entrance to the exhibits and events on the museum grounds for all three days! Gates open at noon on Friday. Hart Parr, Oliver, and White Farm Equipment are featured this year.

Children can enjoy activities in Uncle Milt’s Shed. This year, the activities will commemorate the 150th anniversary.

Volunteers Needed!

A huge event like Country Threshing Days takes a lot of effort! We know that many hands make work light. Volunteers are needed for short shifts with food service. If you can help, please contact Aileen Esau at daesau@gmail.com or 620.386.4463. Thank you!