

**Kirchen Buch**

**The First Family Names in our so Called  
Old Flemish or Groningersche Mennonisten Society  
here in Prussia**

The <i>Güldene</i> or <i>Gültige</i> Numbers	Family Names	Origin and Comments
I	Becker	<p>or Johan Becker, the first by this name among our people. He was born in Cokotzky and was of Lutheran parents. His Lutheran relatives were known as <i>Haber</i> Beckers because of certain unethical incidents in the past. (<i>Haber</i>, or <i>hafer</i> in the dictionary indicates: wanton, petulant, indiscreet, unchaste, and/or quarrelsome). They have retained this name until the present time [1784]. Hans Becker, however, lived in [blank], and was a minister in our congregation. His first wife was an Unrau daughter, No. [blank]. The other wife was [blank].</p>
II	Buller	<p>This is the first time that this family name appears. All the Bullers are descendants of this family. His given name and original residence are not known. He died at a very old age. The only information about his marital status is a notation found with No. 930B and No. 339. This indicates that he was married to Jacob Thomsen's daughter, Dina, and that she survived him. Jacob Thoms, No. 930, lived at Dorposch.</p>
III	Cornels Cnels	<p>or Abraham Cornels. This is the first time that this family name appears in our congregation. He came from <i>die andre kandt</i> [the other side]. His first wife was Sarcke Nachtigahls, No. 637. His second wife was Efcke Pankratzen, No. 699. He lived in Dorposch during both marriages.</p>
IV	Decker	<p>The origin of the first one among our people of this name is not known. The two, namely Hans Decker and Hein Decker, No. 4XVI and 4 r are both recorded here because they were brothers.</p>
V	Dircks	<p>or David Dircks, was the first one of this name in our congregation. He came from <i>die andre kandt</i>. His wife was the daughter of Kasper Schmidten, Sarcke, No. 795A. They lived in Klein Konopath. He was a cobbler.</p>

VI	Frey	<p>He was the first one of this name in our congregation. It is not known from where he came.</p> <p>or Steffer Funck is the first one of this name in our congregation. He came from another group but became devoted to our religion. He was married twice. By his first marriage, he had two sons who are Nos. 476 and 477. His first wife's name and origin are not known. The other wife was named Trincke Swelers, and her origin is not known. She died 1733, April 4, at the age of 60. Four children were born to this marriage: Nos. 478, 479, 480 and 481. His residence during both marriages was at Schönsee.</p>
VII	Funck	
VIII	Harparth	<p>was a Lutheran who remained true to his religion until death. He was survived by his widow and a small son. She was a truly virtuous and pious woman. Those who knew her commented that if she were not saved, it must indeed be difficult to obtain salvation! At every possible opportunity she prayed to God on bended knee, consistently repeating here desire for her son, "Would that our loving God might grant my petition, that my son Michael (who is No. 506) may become a pious man." Her prayers and petitions were answered, as he grew up to be an exceptionally sincere, devout Christian. One rarely meets a man with his constancy and sincerity. Since she lived among our people, her son, Michael Harparth, No. 406, through the influence of daily association, accepted our faith by baptism when he reached the age of accountability.</p>
IX	Jantz	<p>or the Jantzen family. Their origin is not known.</p>
X	Isaac	<p>or Jacob Isaac, from whom this family line originated, supposedly lived in Przechovka. Nothing can be recalled at this time about his first marriage. He was a widower, however, and eventually took a second wife from Kossovo, where her parents, who were a very poor family, lived. On the contrary, Jacob Isaac is reported to have so much wealth that his wife's parents were reluctant and even ashamed to invite their children to eat with them on their visits. This grieved their daughter very much and it is said she would often weep secretly about this on their way home. She is to have been considered a person of great beauty. They had one son and four daughters. The son, No. 543, was also named Jacob Isaac. The daughters are: No. 544, 545, 546 and 547.</p>
XI	Köhn	or the Köhnen family.
XII	Nachtigahl	Or the Nachtigahlen family.
IIXV	Pener	or

- or Ratzlaffen family is now the largest family in our congregation. All indications are that the first Ratzlaff was a discharged soldier or veteran, [*Gediehenhierter oder Abschied habender Soldath gewesen sein*] originally from Sweden, but no other information is known. He was influenced by sermons he heard and wanted to join our congregation. He was moved to withdraw his sword from its sheath and thrust it into a hedgepost. Because of the laws of the land he was not able to join our congregation, and moved to Holland. Later he returned and was able to become a part of our Mennonite Society.
- XV Ratzlaff
- or the Richerts family. It has been definitely established that information about their forefather, his name, origin and personality is not available. Mention is made of two: Gross Cornels Richert and Hein Richert, whose numbers are 737 and 738, mentioning both because they were brothers. Of the first one, No. 737, it is known that he came to this place from Danzig as a shoemaker I s journeyman. If the parents also lived in or near Danzig, then Hein Richert must obviously also have come to this area from Danzig.
- 16 Richert
- or Tobias Schellerberger. It has been established that he came from Moravia [*Mähren Landt*] in about the year 1634 during the time when there was increased persecution or intolerance against the Anabaptists, or the so called Moravian Brethren, compelling them to either join the Roman Catholic Church or to flee from the country. A large portion chose to take this course and to move to Hungary. However, a similar situation eventually arose there also, not even allowing them to escape or flee, thus causing the brotherhood to completely disperse (after a long period of peaceful existence). It was during the Moravian evacuation that Tobias Schellerberger's father (who was amassed great wealth in Moravia) helped his children to flee the country, and then went back under the pretext of selling his vineyards and other possessions. But his wealth and property were so dear to him that he did not keep his promise to the children to follow them, but rather chose to give up his faith and become Roman Catholic. His son Tobias was an excellent blacksmith by profession. It seems that he with some others left Hungary and came to this place where he married. Because he had only three daughters, Nos. 780, 781 and 782, and no son there was no one to carry on the family name. He was born May 31, 1640, and died April 19, 1697.
- 17 Schellerberger
- The first of this name among our people, of whom there is the probability of some association with Schellerberger.
- 18 Schmidt

Our dearly beloved *Ohm* Jacob Wedel was elected into the ministry as preacher 22 January 1775; ordained on March 6, and on the 19th of the same month he preached for the first time here at Przechovka; was elected *Aeltester* on 18 August 1785 and ordained on 13 November. In the year 1790, on 12 May, he presided at the baptismal service. In the year 1791, 7 August, he preached his last sermon here at Przechowka. He died at six o'clock in the morning of 5 September, saved in the Lord, I trust. He served as Minister and *Aeltester* 16 years and 6 months. Number in Record Book - 258.

4		Ratzlaff			The first one was a Swedish soldier.			
2		Hans	Ratz	2	He reportedly was a very wealthy man.	1669	1698	
II		Hans	Ratzlaff	2	1	of the first wife	1670	1699
3		Berent	Ratzlaff	2	2	this is the second wife	1671	1700
4		Hans	Ratzl	2		indicates his third wife, whose name was Alcke.	1672	1701
5		Tobis	Ratzl	2	3	She is to have been a very kind and beautiful woman with unusual virtues; on the contrary, was also at times very depressed.	1673	1702
6		Liscke	Ratz	2	3		1674	1703
7		Trincke	Ratz	2	3		1675	1704
8		Sarcke	Ratz	2	3		1676	1705
9		Adam	Ratz	2	3		1677	1706
10		Jacob	Ratz	2	3	For his children see Numbers 21, 22 through 32. my Grandfather	1678	1707
11		Berend	Ratzlaff	3	3		1679	1708
XI		Trincke	Ratzlaffen	3			1680	1709
12		Buschcke	Ratzl	3			1681	1710
13		Ancke	Ratzl	3			1682	1711
14		Hans	Ratzlaff	11			1683	1712
15	Ohm	Peter	Ratzlaf	11		for his children see Numbers 47 through 54	1684	1713
16		Berent	Ratz	11			1685	1714
17		Jeorgen	Ratzlaff	11			1686	1715
18		Ancke	Ratzlaff	11		was single at time of death	1687	1716
19		Tobias	Ratzlaff	5			1688	1717
20		Hinrich	Ratzlaff	5			1689	1718
21		Hans	Ratzlaff	11		is in Neumark	1690	1719
22		Berent	Ratzlaffen	11		or Little Berent; died accidentally	1691	1720
23		Buchcke	Ratzlaff	11			1692	1721
24		Sarcke	Ratzlaff	11			1693	1722
25		Peter	Ratzlaff	15			1694	1723
26		Elscke	Ratzlaff	15			1695	1724
27		Andres	Ratzlaff	15		for his brothers see Numbers 12, 13 through 17	1696	1725
27		Abraham	Ratzlaff	16		see the 60th Number and 61 and 62	1697	

1	David	Schmidt	1726 f	1756 DC
2	Martin	Nachtigahl	1727 f	1757 B
3			1728 Dc	1758 A
4			1729 b	1759 G
5			1730 a	1760 FE
6	Berent		1731 g	1761 DC
7			1732 fb	1762 C
8	Ohm		1733 Dc	1763 B
	Tesmers	Elscke	1734 c	1764 AG
	H.B. Sarcke		1735 b	1765 FE
	Cornels		1736 AG	1766 E
			1737 f	1767 DC
	Martin	Nachtigahl	1738 e	1768 CB
		Jacob	1739 Dc	1769 A
	Jeziorky	Jacob	1740 CB	1770 G
		Jacob	1741 A	1771 F
		H	1742 ...	1772 ED
	Jeziorken	Jacob	1743 f	1773 C
			1744 CD	1774 B
	To ... Jacob Schmidt		1745 C	1775 A
	in Poland (beyond Thorn)		1746 B	1776 GF
	at		1747 ...	1777 E
	Schwinri in Sada near Gambina		1748 ...f	1778 DC
		Gambina	1749 C	1779 C
			1750 Dc	1780 BA
			1751 C	1781 G
			1752 BA	1782 F
			1753 G	1783 E
			1754 F	...
			1755 E	...

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On the 18 August, 1785 A.D., after we had ooserved Holy Communion, in the presence of those from Jeziorky and from the area by Culm, elected for the preaching of the Word here at our place 2, from Jeziorky 2, and from the area of Culm 2; for the service to the poor (deacons) at our place 2; we also at the same time voted for an *Aeltester*, to which also the congregation in Neumark had voted on September 11th.

To A Royal Prussian  
District  
Justice Commission  
Of Prussia  
Franko in Conitz