

Bethania *Nervenheilstalt:* Staff List, ca. May 1927

**Extracted by Pam Klassen-Dueck
20 June 2022**



Bethania *Nervenheilanstalt*, established in 1910 at the former site of Alt-Kronsweide along the Dnejr River, was a Mennonite asylum for the emotionally and mentally ill. Bethania existed until May 9, 1927 when, due to the creation of the Dneprostoï Power Dam which flooded Einlage and the surrounding area, its doors were closed and its patients were moved, *sans* Mennonite personnel. Shortly after the patient transfers, a final staff portrait was created and was published decades later by *Die Mennonitische Rundschau*, courtesy of H. H. Janzen. (Two clearer copies are available on the website [Chortitza: Mennonitische Geschichte und Ahnenforschung](#).) 66 people are depicted. Most of the remaining former staff, according to the photo caption, went on to work at Dneprostoï as nurses and medics. H. Wiebe of Vineland, who likely appears in the picture itself, identified most of the individuals. According to Wiebe, some of the colleagues went to Canada and the United States “but most stayed there” in the former Russian empire.

A staff list has been generated primarily from the photo caption and is presented here in a table. Some of the 66 did not have Mennonite surnames. Note, as well, that at least a handful of those depicted were relatives of staff members and so did not work at Bethania proper. The list has not been alphabetized. Instead, I preserved the order in which the people appeared on the newspaper page – row by row, starting from the top – hopefully to aid identification. Column 3 contains notes from the caption regarding titles and brief explanations of a few participants. In several cases I was able to identify families, thanks to G^RanDMA Online, Helmut T. Huebert’s 2011 article about the hospital, and other Bethania photos hosted by the MAID and Chortitza websites. The notes in the last column are my own.

Pam Klassen-Dueck
 Schoenau, Manitoba
 June 20, 2022

Bethania Mental Hospital, Chortitza Settlement: Staff List (1927)

	Name	Honorific/Role	M/F	G^RanDMA #	Notes
Row 1 (top), L- R:	Hiebert, _____		M		
	Friesen, _____		M		
	Friesen, _____		M		
	Franz, Peter		M		

	Name	Honorific/Role	M/F	GGrandMA #	Notes
	_____, _____		M		
	Penner, Lenchen		F		
	Bergen, _____		M		
	Dick, Susie		F		
	_____, Marusja	"russischen Maedchen"	F		Non-Mennonite.
	Sawatzky, _____	"Br."	M		
	Bergen, _____		M		
	Rempel, G.	"Br."	M		
	Rempel, J.	"Br."	M		
Row 2, L-R:	Dick, Jacob	"Br."	M		
	Enns, _____	"Br."	M		
	Wiebe, Peter	"Br."	M		
	Pritzkau, Frieda		F		
	Martens, Anna		F	#495115?	Likely shown in MAID.
	Wiens, Lenchen		F		
	Baesler, Maria	"Schw."	F		Non-Mennonite?
	Boschmann, Anna	"Schw."	F		
	Neufeld, Anna	"Schw."	F		
	Klassen, David	"Br."	M	#84233	Rev David Johann Klassen, according to chortitza.org.
	Loewen, _____	"Br."	M		Might, instead, be N. Harder or someone else.
	Harder, N.	"Br."	M		Might, instead, be _____ Loewen or someone else.

	Name	Honorific/Role	M/F	GGrandMA #	Notes
	_____, _____				Between David Klassen and the end of this row 2, there is an extra man, so a name was missed in the caption.
Row 3, L-R:	Wiens, _____	"Frau"	F		
	_____, _____		M		
	_____, _____		F		
	Rempel, Anna		F		
	Lange, Lydia		F		Non-Mennonite?
	_____ Reimer, _____	"Schw. Heinrich Reimer"	F	#266007	Anna Klassen of Insel Chortitza. Married to Heinrich Reimer (in photo). See MAID.
	Reimer, Heinrich	"Br."	M	#458779	Married to Schw. H Reimer (in photo). See MAID.
	Braun, Salomon	"Br."	M	#neu	
	Enns, Liese		F		
	_____, _____		F		
	Loewen, Lena		F		
	Bartels, Manja	"Schw."	F		
	Kroeker, Tina	"Schw."	F		
	Boldt, Tina	"Schw."	F		
Row 4, L-R:	Wiens, _____		M		
	Wallman, Paul	"Geschaefstfuehrer"	M	#208880	Paul Andreas Wallman of Chortitza (see obituary). Went to St Catharines, Ontario. Wife (in photo) a nurse.

	Name	Honorific/Role	M/F	GGrandMA #	Notes
	_____ Wallman, _____	"Frau Paul Wallman"	F	#208879	Nurse Katharina Pauls Wallman. Married to Paul Wallman (in photo). Went to St Catharines, Ontario.
	Baerg, Agatha	"Schw."	F		
	Martens, _____	"Frauelein Dr."	F		
	_____ Thiessen, _____	"Frau Dr."	F	#151794	Married to Herr Dr. Thiessen (in photo). 2 young sons in photo.
	Thiessen, _____	<i>n/a</i>	M		"Her little son." Parents Isaac Thiessens and sibling in photo.
	Thiessen, _____	"Herr Dr."	M	#151800	Dr Isaac Johann Thiessen as identified in MAID. Married to Frau Dr. Thiessen (in photo). Two sons also in photo. See GAMEO and MHSC.
	Wiebe, J.	"Br." & "Hausvater"	M	#742054	Housefather Jacob P Wiebe. See MAID and GAMEO.
	Koop, Anna	"Schw."	F		
	Spent, Sara	"Schw."	F		
	_____ Rempel, _____	"Frau"	F		Married to Rempel (in photo).
	Rempel, _____	"Br."	M		Married to Frau Rempel (in photo).
	Rempel?, _____	<i>n/a</i>			Baby. Probably child of the Rempels.
Row 5, L-R:	_____, _____	"Br."	M		

	Name	Honorific/Role	M/F	GGrandMA #	Notes
	Wiens, Agnes	"Schw."	F		
	Merk, Lena	"Schw."	F		Non-Mennonite?
	Thiessen, _____	<i>n/a</i>	M	#151802?	"Son of Dr. Thiessen." Parents Isaac Thiessens and sibling in photo.
	Rempel, _____	"Schw."	F		
	Neufeld, Gredel		F		
	_____ Wiebe, _____	"Schw."	F		
	Wiebe, H.	"Br."	M		Probably the H. Wiebe of Vineland who identified the individuals in the photo.
	Friesen, Isbrand	"Br."	M		
	Thiessen, Adele	"Schw."	F		
	Dick, Suschen	"Schw."	F		
	Neumann, Peter	"Br."	M		

Sources:

1. [Anna and Heinrich Reimer, Maria Rempel, Mariechen Bergen](#) (bet. 1910-1929). Item 420.0. 1 photograph: b&w; 8 x 12 cm. Bet. 1910-1929. [Mennonite Archival Information Database](#). Gerhard Lohrenz fonds.
2. [Bethania Mental Hospital Personnel](#) (bet. 1910-1929). Item 756.0. 1 photograph: b&w; 17.5 x 12 cm. [Mennonite Archival Information Database](#). Gerhard Lohrenz fonds.
3. [Bethania Staff](#) (1925). Item 689.0. 1 photograph: b&w; 17 x 12 cm. [Mennonite Archival Information Database](#). Gerhard Lohrenz fonds.
4. [Die Nervenheilanstalt Bethania](#). Chortitza: Mennonitische Geschichte und Ahnenforschung.
5. [Dr Thiessen and family](#) (192-?). Item 359.0. 1 photograph: b&w; 12 x 8.5 cm. [Mennonite Archival Information Database](#). Gerhard Lohrenz fonds.

6. GRanDMA (the Genealogical Registry and Database of Mennonite Ancestry) Database, 22-06. Fresno, California: California Mennonite Historical Society, 2022.
7. Huebert, Helmut T. (2011). [The Bethania Mental Hospital of Russia, 1910-1927](#). *Journal of Mennonite Studies*. University of Winnipeg, vol 29, p 215-219.
8. Krahn, Cornelius. (1953). [Bethania Mental Hospital](#) (Chortitza Mennonite Settlement, Zaporizhia Oblast, Ukraine). *Global Anabaptist Mennonite Encyclopedia Online*.
9. [Paul Wallman](#). Obituary. *Mennonitische Rundschau*, 8 Aug 1990, p 26. From archive.org.
10. Personal der Nervenheilanstalt *Bethania* in Suedrussland, 1927. *Mennonitische Rundschau*, 10 Sep 1952, p 1. From archive.org.

Created 1 August 2022.

Formatting by Richard D. Thiessen

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