

Residents of Gnadenthal, Molotschna Settlement, South Russia: 1900

Mennonitische Rundschau 18 July 1900 page 1

Translated by Glenn H. Penner (gpenner@uoguelph.ca)

The following is one of those rare letters to *Die Mennonitische Rundschau* where the correspondent goes through a village, names the residents, and gives information on each family. Other examples are [Nikolaipol, Borissovo \(1901\)](#) and [Hierschau, Molotschna \(1910\)](#). In this case the property numbers for each of the 30 *Wirtschaften* are given. Gnadenthal's original 30 farms were settled 38 years earlier, and some of the original settlers were still in the village. The list below can be compared with the school registers for [1872-73](#) and [1873-74](#).

Note that I have kept the spellings of the names as published in the article.

Since most of the settlers of this village are said to have moved to America in those years of emigration, and since many of them will certainly still be alive, it will and must interest them to learn something of the said village. I am still young and do not know who lived in this and that house, but the Americans will still know under which number their houses stood. The numbers are supposed to be the same as they used to be. Number 1 is at the east end of the village, on the south side.

1. Dietrich **Thiessen**
2. Gerhard **Doerksen**
3. Peter **Friesen**
4. Johann **Klassen**
5. Heinrich **Poetker**
6. Heinrich **Dueck**
7. Johann **Wiens**
8. David **Duerksen**
9. Peter **Mirau**
10. David **Duerksen**
11. widow Johann **Schroeder**
12. Isaak **Driedger**
13. Martin **Duerksen**

14. Leonhard **Bartel**

15. Isaak **Foth**

16. Aron **Dueck**

On the North side:

17. Jakob **Duerksen**

18. Jakob **Regehr**

19. Jakob **Driedger**

20. Peter **Friesen**

21. Abraham **Thiessen**

22. Heinrich **Esau**

23. Heinrich **Schroeder**

24. Peter **Loewens**

25. Heinrich **Gerdebrand**

*Then there is the school – teacher Bernhard **Wiens***

26. widow Peter **Harder**

27. David **Schroeder**

28. David **Thiessen**

29. Heinrich **Foth**

30. Klaas **Thiessen**

A hospital has been built on the east end of the village.

Further on is the residence of the nightwatchman and shepherd.

*About a half Werst [] further is the brick and tile factory of D. **Duerksen**.*

At the west end of the village are the landless:

*Johann **Harder***

*Aron **Willms***

*Peter **Martens***

*And above, on the hill, is the big Dutch mill, since 1879. The owner is Dietrich **Braun**.*

Eleven people from the first settlement [founded in 1862] are still living in the village.

*Apart from Peter **Martens** and Peter **Foth** (the latter lives with Heinrich **Foth** on the farm), the others still have their own farms. The Americans would find a lot of things different today than they did back then.*

The forest is on both sides of the village. In the churchyard, where you buried your loved ones, there are only a few traces of the old graves. But when the trumpet sounds next day over our churchyard, there will be more dead bodies there than there are graves today.

[Last 3 paragraphs not translated]

Created 31 December 2022

Formatting by Richard D. Thiessen

[Return to the
Mennonite Genealogy
Russian Mennonite Genealogical Resource Page](#)