

# Verwandte Gesucht – Relatives Sought in the Mennonitische Rundschau

## 1922

**Translation and GM numbers by Edie Williams;  
Introduction and editing by Glenn H Penner**

The [Mennonitische Rundschau](#) (MR) has proven to be an amazing source of genealogical information. With respect to the emigration from the Soviet Union in the 1920s, one set of sources is the Verwandte Gesucht (Relatives Sought) sections, which began appearing in 1922. Below is a sampling of some of the more informative requests made by Russian Mennonites looking for relatives in North America, who were willing to help them with food drafts (due to the famine in Ukraine) and financial assistance in their attempts to get to North America.

Surnames have been modified to make searching easier.

*Die Mennonitsche Rundschau* (23 August 1922): p. 7

### Relatives Sought

Kornelius **Nikkel** [GM#578199], Kolonie Donskaja, Post Pleshanovo, Samara Gubernia, Neu Samara settlement seeks his Aunt Katharine **Neufeld** (previously Widow Katharina [nee **Penner**] **Warkentin**) [GM#766899] or her children Dietrich, Gerhard and Maria Warkentin. Her current husband is Franz **Neufeld**.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Mennonite Johann Heinr. **Wiens** [GM#755626] and Abram Heinr. **Wiens** [GM#710986], originally from Sparrau, S. Russia since January are waiting in Batum. They still have not received any replies from their relatives in America. Their situation is hopeless. They can go back to Russia and even further into the foreign country. The Wiens brothers beg the Rundschau to publicize their names one more time in case someone should take notice and help. The

relatives of the named two families live in Minnesota. Their names are: **Bartsch**, Aron **Neufeld** and Dietrich **Peters**. D. **Peters** is the uncle of Mrs. Joh. Wiens. Mrs. Abr. **Wiens** [GM#710985] is Albrecht **Boschmanns** daughter from Kontiniusfeld, S. Russia. She has relatives in America, but does not have addresses. On behalf of the **Wiens** brothers Cornelius Wall, Constantinople, 26 July 1922. The address of Joh. And Abr. **Wiens**, Batum, on the Black Sea, Caucasia, near East Relief, Mennonite Joh. **Wiens** or Abr. **Wiens**.

\* \* \* \* \*

Andreas **Janzen** [GM#1371281], Kaltan, Samara, Russia, seeks Heinrich **Wedel** [GM#60078] von Kaltan, Russia, moved to America. And moved from Hooker, Oklahoma to California. If friend Wedel sends me his address then I can deliver a letter from A. Janzen. C. J. Eck, Tampa Kansas

\* \* \* \* \*

Peter [GM#1338991] and Katharine [GM#1338994] **Nachtigall** [**Nachtigal**], Kaltan, Samara, seek the following relatives: Cousin David **Goertzen**, from Gnadenheim. Nieces and nephews of Mrs. **Nachtigall**: Bernhard Friesen's from Sparrau, Russia. Mrs. **Nachtigall** is Heinrich Friesens daughter from Landskrone. **Enns** from Hutterthal, Russia, Sister Franz **Funk**. This request for help. A letter from **Nachtigall** [**Nachtigal**] is with me, C. J. Eck, Tampa, Kansas.

\* \* \* \* \*

The following relatives are being sought: Andreas **Boese** [GM#24893]. In years 1880-1883 he moved from Tiegenhagen on the Molotschna to North America. His brother [?] **Boese** moved to America some years earlier. [**Boese** brothers Benjamin, Heinrich, Abraham, and Johann J. all immigrated to the United States] Both men are brothers of my grandfather David **Boese** [GM#32294], living in Ladekopp, on the Molotschna. Then Heinrich **Friesen**, [GM#749710] in years 1911-1914 from Kaltan, Kreis Busuluk Gouv. Samara, immigrated to North America. His wife is a Kornelsen from Lugowsk. They were our neighbours.

Peter **Wiens** [GM#94207], born in Ladekopp, on the Molotschna. My parents are Peter Peter **Wiens** [GM#94205] and Anna David **Boese** [GM#407727], Ladekopp, Molotschna, currently residing in Kolonie Lugowsk, Kreis Busuluk, Samara. (Submitted by A. Warkentin, German Mennonite Help, Oberursel-Taunus, Germany)

### **Relatives Sought**

\* \* \*

Johann [GM#1007832] and Elisabeth [GM#1006147] **Neufeld**, Ignatjewka, village No. 6, Post New York, Kreis Bahmut, Gouv. Donetz seek their relatives in America. Elisabeth **Neufeld** (née **Nikkel**), her parents [David Nikkel GM #782152 and Katherina **Wiebe** GMOL #989855] died early and have left little information of the relatives. The relatives are: Peter Wiebe and Franz Wiebe, two full brothers. They had one sister, she is Katharina David **Nikkel** [GM#1145389]. If she is still living, or her children, could they then send a friendly greeting to Elisabeth Neufeld, née **Nikkel**. She doesn't know anything more as to where the relatives are. Maybe they could help them out a little in their time of need.

\* \* \*

Justina **Mech** [GM#1027107], born **Just**, widow of Christian Johann **Mech** [GM#1027108] (Russia, Station Meshewaja, Jekaterinoslaw), Currently residing in Lechfeld, Bavaria camp — looking for the brother of her deceased husband — Gustav Johann **Mech**, that went to America in 1913, from Buchtin, Mariupol, Russia. If he reads these lines, a greeting and a request for message, address, and assistance for me and my two boys of 10-12 years. My address Camp Lechfeld, Bavaria, Mennonitenkolonie, Justina Mech. —

### **Relatives Sought**

\* \* \*

Preacher H. **Penner**, Möhlendorf near Bunde, East Frisia. Germany sends us a letter for his Uncle David **Kasper**, Ruck, Oklahoma [GM#59860]. A letter to specified address was sent back to me. I request whoever knows the correct address to send me the same so that I can forward the said letter.

\* \* \* \* \*

Brother A. J. **Görtzen**, Route 4, Mt. Lake, Minn. sends in a letter from Kornelius Heinrich [GM#298695] and Katharina [GM#298693] **Epp**, Chutor Sajtiha, Post Novo-Ekonomitscheskoje— Stadt Grischino, Kreis Bachmut,

Gouv. Ekaterinoslav, Russia, in which their son Heinrich Kornelius **Epp** [GM#290884] is sought. He was violently mobilized by the Whites in 1919, went to Bahmut with a horse on Nov. 20, and no further word has been received. Shortly thereafter the White [Army] had to give way to the Red [Army]. The wanted son was 19 years old, was tall and strongly grown, had dark hair. Who could send a message to the poor parents?

Kornelius Heinrich **Epp** [GM#298695] also extends warm greetings to all his relatives from his father, Heinrich Epp's, brothers. These were Johann [GM#332954], Kornelius [GM#298695], Peter [GM#476840] and Jakob [GM#342664] **Epp**, who all went to America when Kornelius Epp was still a small boy. He went with his parents to Petershagen on the Molotschna to say goodbye, and the relatives also had two sons and a daughter his age. He asks very much to give him news of who is still alive among the relatives.

Mrs. Katharina [GM#298693] **Epp**, formerly **Engbrecht**, adds a few words about the sad situation in which they also live, and sends her greetings. Forward - is requested to copy.

*Die Mennonitsche Rundschau* (1 November 1922): p. 6- 7

### **Relatives Sought**

Gronau, Westfalen, Deutschland, Selkerstr. No. 6, the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October

Dear Mr. Editor:

Please allow me to visit my friends and relatives who live in America through the dear newsletter. I am a Mennonite refugee from South Russia, Gov. Tauria, village Tiegenhagen. My late father, Jacob **Fast** [GM#349297], also lived there. My mother Ag. born **Leppke** [GM#349298] , is from old colony. The relatives are mostly from my mother. All from the old colony and then later moved to Bergthal colony, from there already to America. Unfortunately, I only know the surname. There is **Leppke** - farmer, **Schwarz**, a cousin of my mother, also **Leppke**, who came to visit us in South Russia, in Schönau. Then there is an uncle, my father's brother, David Fast from Berdyansk and a cousin Gerhard **Hein** from Fuerstenland [GM#188182]. I would be very happy if I could get the recent address from someone. Yours sincerely, Jacob **Fast** [GM#857944] .

*Die Mennonitsche Rundschau* (6 December 1922): p. 6

## Relatives Sought

Inquiry. Florentine Rode, married to Johann P. Ernst, currently residing in Elbing, West Prussia, seeks the address of Johann **Koslowsky**; they lived in Russia in Helenenfeld and later moved to New York, Bachmutter Kreis. Mrs. Koslowsky was a **Walde** by birth. Koslowsky would like to write to Dietr. Friesen, Yale, S. Dak.

\* \* \*

I, David **Pauls** [GM#1316319], was born in Friedensdorf, Gnadenfelder Wolost, Gouv. Taurien. My mother was born Elisabeth Heinrich **Mierau** [GM#1467636] from the Crimea. I am looking for the sons of my uncle Heinrich **Mierau** [GM#400172]. They moved from the Crimea to the United States. I am also looking for the brother of my first wife Anna, née **Richert**, Kornelius **Richert** [GMOL #365514] in Canada. He moved from Sgradowka to America. My wife Anna came from Waldheim, Gnadenfelder Wolost, she died in 1913. Also I seek the relatives of the great uncle of my present wife, née Maria Jakob **Berg** [GM#1325710], from Marienthal, Gnadenfelder Wolost, Gouv. Taurien. We cannot say what their names are or where they have moved to. Since we are so poor and short of money, we ask our relatives if they could help us over to America or support us here. The earnings here are very low and so is the camp food. Since my wife and some of the children are ill, and the bread we get is not enough, we have to buy a lot of food. We would also like to pay off the trip, if we were there first and the possibility allows us. We sincerely ask for news. With regards: David and Maria Pauls. Our current address is: David **Pauls**. Camp Lechfeld near Augsburg, Bavaria, Barack 16, Stube 1.

\* \* \*

Jakob **Friesen** [GM#1268840] and wife, née **Franz** [GM#1268834], are looking for their relatives in America. Family Friesen has a direct aunt here, née Maria **Mandtler** [GM#109561], now probably **Letkeman**. Mrs. Friesen's mother was a Loewen's daughter from Sparau [GM#1128073], and she has often spoken of her relatives Korniessen [sp?] in America. Friesen's lived for a time in Klippenfeld, Taurien, post Waldheim. They have 5 children and are in distress, having been driven from their living on the Terek with shotguns and riding crops and saved little more than their bare lives. After escaping, they were robbed three times by the Makhnov followers. Three months they were where at the front lines, and their village went out several times a day hand in hand, getting rid of everything. They are undernourished, wife and children are often ill. They sincerely ask not to be overlooked with food drafts, and clothes. (Sent by Br. A. Franz, Henderson, Nebr.)

\* \* \*

Gerhard **Hein** [GM#188182] Reinland, Man. writes:

In the Rundschau No. 44, page 6, I read about a Jakob **Fast** [GM#857944]. I want to report to you, dear cousin, that Uncle David **Fast's** [GM#276129] lived in Kansas, both are already dead. But there are still 2 children alive, a son and a daughter, they are married. The daughter [Maria Fast GM#342599] has a husband, one: Johann **Klassen** [GM#115393], he lives in Kansas, but also wants to move to Mexico. I am also still alive and my address is now Gerhard Hein, P. O. Reinland, Man. Dear cousin, you write only about yourself. Where are your siblings Katharina and Aganetha? Are they still alive? I still have my wife's brothers, Peter and Abraham **Penner**, as well as cousins and nieces, but I don't know if they are still alive, because I have already written several letters to Russia, but I haven't received any news from them. I still have many uncles and aunts in the old colony. There is a Jakob **Unger** and Heinrich **Hiebert**. Please, all of you write a letter to us. God with us until we meet again. I greet you with Psalm 1.

---

Created 3 September 2023

Formatting by Richard D. Thiessen

---

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