

Richert Cemetery in Marion County, Kansas

By John D. Richert

jdrichtert@aol.com

Introduction

The Richert Cemetery, which is sometimes called Hochfeld Cemetery (perhaps erroneously), is located in Section 22, T20S, R1E in Menno Township, Marion County, Kansas. The 1921 Marion County Plat Map locates the cemetery in the north half of the north-east quarter of section 22 in Menno Township. This private family plot was initiated with the interment of the infant granddaughter of widow Maria Schmidt Loewens in 1876. Over the next 24 years seven more burials took place here. At that time it was not unusual for families to bury their deceased on family property. In fact it was rather common and there are numerous burial grounds in Marion County, some of which are marked but most are not. The Alexanderwohl church established their cemetery called Alexanderwohl *Friedhof* in 1886, but as evidenced by burials in the Richert Cemetery after this date church members did not in all cases use Alexanderwohl *Friedhof*. Maria Schmidt Loewens died on 26 May 1901 and was buried at Alexanderwohl *Friedhof* thus ending the practice of family burials in the Richert Cemetery.

Ownership History

Maria Schmidt Loewens (GM-42082, ak-169, AK-110, FG-100346430) was the widow of David Loewens and the mother of eleven children, one of whom died in infancy (the GRANDMA record says she had thirteen children). She immigrated aboard the SS *Vaderland* in 1876, with eight of her children, and settled on the north-east quarter of Section 22, Menno Township, Marion County, Kansas. She owned the quarter section which contains the Richert Cemetery until her death on 26 May 1901.

Rev. Jakob Richert (GM-48307, AR-575, ak-175, AK-112, FG-112025079) husband of Maria Schmidt's oldest child, Susana, owned the property containing the Richert Cemetery until his death on 11 Jan 1916.

Heinrich "Henry" J. Richert (GM-48353, FG-11786935), the only surviving son of Rev. Jakob Richert, obtained the property containing the Richert Cemetery and farmed it until his death in July 1969.

Jacob "Jake" Willard Richert (GM-48358, FG-173439673), the only son of Henry J. Richert, obtained the property containing the Richert Cemetery and farmed it until his death on 17 Jul 2015. This property continues to be farmed and remains in Jake's family as of today.

Burials

Anna Loewens 1876 age: 5 days b. 31 Oct 1876 Marion County, KS; d. 5 Nov 1876 Marion County, KS Parents: Johann Loewen and Katharina Reimer Reference: GM-772875, FG-167377142

David Richert 1878 age: 71 years, 6 months, 28 days b. 27 Oct 1806 Gross Deutsch Konopath, West Prussia; d. 24 May 1878 Marion County, KS Parents: Andreas Richert and Ancke Sparlings Married: Sarah Duerks (or Dirks) 1 Nov 1829 Gross Deutsch Konopath, West Prussia Immigration: Gross Deutsch Konopath, W. Prussia to Alexanderwohl, Molotschna Colony, S. Russia 1832 Immigration: Alexanderwohl, Molotschna Colony, S. Russia to Marion Co, Kansas, USA (SS Cimbria) 1874 David was living with his son, Rev. Jakob Richert, at the time of his death. Reference: GM-48282, P-1501, AR-90, ak-181a, FG-167368716

Jacob Richert 1882 age: 4 years, 4 months, 21 days b. 7 Aug 1878 Marion County, KS; d. 28 Dec 1882 Marion County, KS Parents: Rev. Jakob Richert and Susana Loewens Reference: GM-48381, ak-181, FG-173374358

Anna Richert 1884 age: 11 years, 5 months, 13 days b. 14 May 1873 Alexanderwohl, Molotschna Colony, S. Russia; d. 27 Oct 1884 Marion Co, KS Parents: Rev. Jakob Richert and Susana Loewens Immigration: Alexanderwohl, Molotschna Colony, S. Russia to Marion Co, KS (SS State of Nevada) 1875 Reference: GM-48379, ak-179, FG-167374218

Maria Loewens 1886 age: 10 months, 19 days b. 4 Oct 1885 Marion County, KS; d. 23 Aug 1886 Marion County, KS Parents: Johann Loewen and Katharina Reimer Reference: GM-772874, FG-167377226

Susanna Richert 1887 age: 16 years, 2 months, 19 days b. 13 Mar 1871 Alexanderwohl, Molotschna Colony, S. Russia; d. 1 Jun 1887 Marion County, KS Parents: Rev. Jakob Richert and Susana Loewens Immigration: Alexanderwohl, Molotschna Colony, S. Russia to Marion Co, KS (SS State of Nevada) 1875 Reference: GM-48378, ak-178, FG-167374056

Anna Warkentin Reimer (*SEE NOTE 2*) 1891 age: 72 years, 1 month, 19 days b. 31 Dec 1818 Blumenort, Molotschna Colony, S. Russia; d. 19 Feb 1891 McPherson County, KS Parents: Johann Warkentin and Maria Neufeld Married: Aron Reimer 10 Apr 1838 Fuerstenwerder, Molotschna Colony, South Russia Immigration: Fuerstenwerder, Molotschna, South Russia to McPherson Co, KS (SS Vaderland) 1876 Anna was living with her son, Simon, at the time of her death. Reference: GM-2666, ak-282

David Loewens 1900 age: 3 years, 4 months, 30 days b. 30 Dec 1896 Marion County, KS; d. 29 May 1900 Marion County, KS Parents: Johann Loewen and Katharina Reimer Reference: GM-771434, FG-167377323

Notes

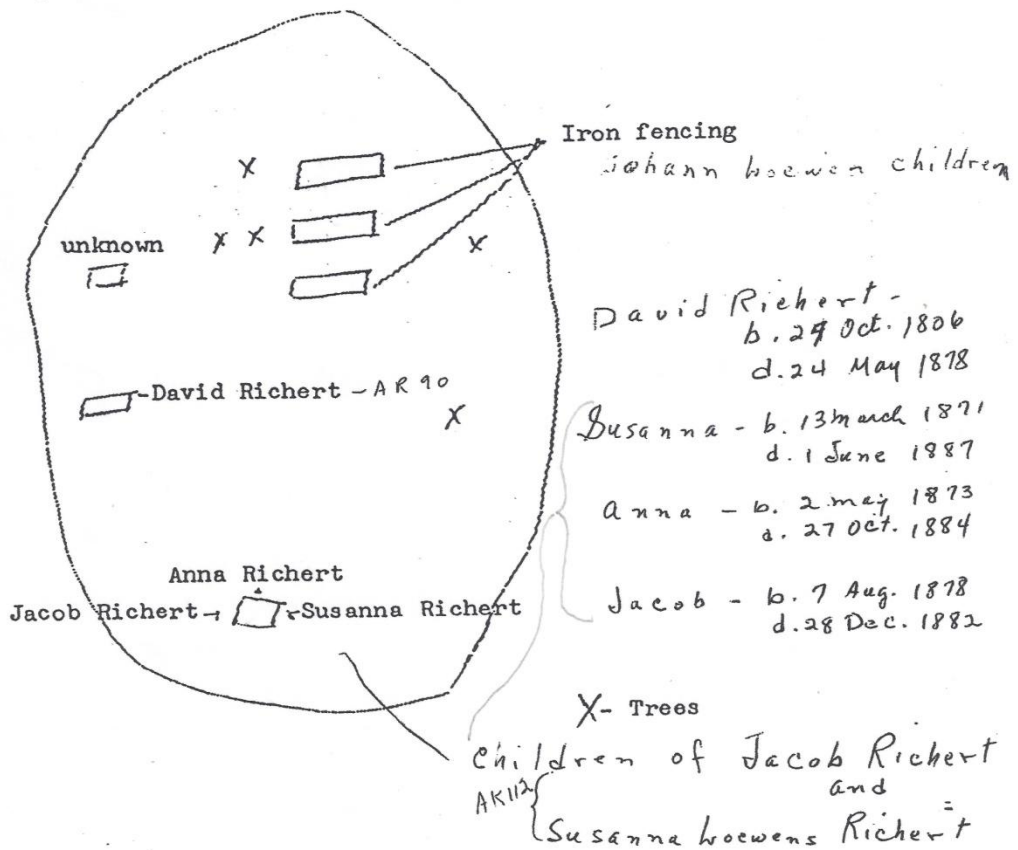
1. Reference numbers are defined as follows: GM- is from GRANDMA (Genealogical Registry and Database of Mennonite Ancestry), P- is from *Church Records of the Old Flemish or Grönigen Mennonitsen Societaet in Przechowko, West Prussia*, AR- is from *Church Book of the Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church in the Molotschna Colony of South Russia*, ak- is from the *Alexanderwohl – Kansas Charter List*, AK- is from the *Familian Register* maintained by the Alexanderwohl church in Goessel, Marion County, Kansas and FG- is the memorial number for the individual as found on findagrave.com.
2. The inclusion of Anna Warkentin Reimer is an educated guess as to the identity of the unknown individual occupying a burial space near the graves of Johann Loewen's children. It seems likely that person was an adult and certainly could not be the wife of David. It also seems logical since David was the grandfather of three of the children buried there while Anna was the grandmother of the other three. Anna lived on her 80 acre farm in section 36 of Spring Valley Township, McPherson County, Kansas located about 3 miles west of the Alexanderwohl church. Anna was a member of the Alexanderwohl church and would have been eligible for interment at Alexanderwohl *Friedhof* yet was not buried there.
3. Johann Loewen and his wife Katharina sold their property in Marion County after the death of Johann's mother in 1901. They moved to Cordell, Washita County, OK with their three surviving children about 1902 or 1903. Their son Johann died in Cordell in 1907. Johann and Katharina moved to Morden, Maitoba , Canada about 1920 to be near their two married daughters who lived in that locale. Johann and Katharina are both interred at Herold Mennonite Cemetery, Morden, Manitoba, Canada. Their headstones use the name Loewen, without the "s" suffix.
4. Rev. Jakob Richert and his wife Susana retained their property until their respective deaths. Jakob suffered a massive stroke in 1910 and died in 1916. Susana passed in 1915. They are interred at Alexanderwohl *Friedhof*. In both the 1900 and 1910 US Census Susana reported she was the mother of eight children with three then living. The GRANDMA database and the *Familian Register* (AK-112) only identify seven. Perhaps she had another child who died in infancy or she had a child from her first marriage? The 1910 US Census confirms that this was her second marriage.
5. The Richert Cemetery is located in the midst of farmland normally under cultivation and is not accessible without trespassing on private property. It is somewhat protected by a stand of trees on the cemetery grounds but it is only partially fenced and not marked in any way. I am hopeful that one day this entire cemetery can be enclosed with appropriate fencing and marked with a suitable plaque.

MAP AND PHOTOS

This map and these photos were provided by Judy Unruh, Alexanderwohl historian. The map was drawn by Velda Richert Duerksen and the photos were taken by Carol Reimer Duerksen, township trustee.

map prepared by Velda Richert Deurbain/gu

APPENDIX IV
RICHERT CEMETERY, HOCHFELD
Section 22, Menno Township





Hochfeld Cemetery

Created 7 October 2019
Formatted by Richard D. Thiessen

[Return to the
Menonite Genealogy
American Menonite Genealogical Resource Page](#)