

Descendants of Gerhard van Bergen (1704-1771): Correcting Errors in the Chronicle “Der Berg”

by D. Frederick Dyck*

While gathering material for this article, I was reading a book that reminded me of the similarities between archaeology and genealogy—the van Bergen genealogy I was working on, in particular.

The book titled *Stepping Stones* was written by Christine Desdemaines-Hugon who takes the reader through thousands of years of art in the Ice Age caves of the Dordogne region of southern France. Most of these caves and their art were discovered in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries which coincides with a general awakening and awareness of the history of humankind—or, who are our ancestors?

Fossil remains were discovered in Europe, Asia Minor, and eventually as far east as Siberia and Asia that provide a vague chronological outline of man’s early history. The second half of the twentieth century saw waves of discoveries, primarily in Africa, that added immensely to our knowledge and corrected previous misconceptions. Human fossil discoveries developed into a kind of competition of who found the oldest and most complete skeletal remains. This quasi-competition encouraged bad science and rash judgments in the effort to produce a family tree of human history.

Gradually, as the next generation of scientists emerged, the idea that a new discovery means a widening of all knowledge took hold. Respect grew for earlier discovery and work. It was seen as a ladder stood upon to reach new knowledge and better understanding. Yes, mistakes were made in the past, but it was the best that could be accomplished at the time with the limited resources available.

Many obvious parallels exist in genealogy. Except for major and some minor royalty, family histories were non-existent for the average person well into the twentieth century. With the advent of the personal computer and the internet, there has been an explosion of interest in genealogy. This has produced a mixed bag of benefits and pitfalls for the hobby class of genealogist that most of us fit into.

Maintaining a mind-set that is open to having your most cherished family stories and ironclad data challenged, and possibly proven wrong, is essential for the genealogy hobbyist. Family history/genealogy is fluid and must be seen as living documentation that evolves and changes with time and new discoveries. On more than one occasion, I have received a letter correcting something I have written or offering an alternative scenario. That is always a positive development from my point of view. It means more people are interested in the same subject and paying close attention to the details.

Like everyone else who researches their genealogy for any length of time, I have found errors in data. Sometimes it is an obvious typographical error, but more often it is dates that are in conflict, or the use of the same name for several generations that causes confusion. Unless I can gain access to original source material, I note the conflicting data and hope to be able to reconcile it at a later time.

For several years, I have been aware that there are significant errors in many genealogies with van Bergen ancestors, including my own. There exist many variations in spelling of the van Bergen name which add to the confusion. As van Bergen seems to be the original and most common, it is the spelling I will use in this article. Working on my current project of transcribing the West Prussian Mennonite genealogy charts written by Ulrich Dueck,¹ I have encountered van Bergen errors. With this article, I will use original sources to correct these errors.

Early in my pursuit of family history, I was fortunate to discover a large cache of letters, journals, and official documents originating with my West Prussian Mennonite ancestors. Paternal family names of Harder, Claassen, and van Bergen were predominant in this collection that spanned the lives of Gerhard van Bergen (1741-1790) to Anna Harder née Claassen (1862-1949). Gerhard is my five great-grandfather, and Anna is my great-grandmother.

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¹ “Ulrich Dueck’s West Prussian Mennonite Genealogy Charts” by D. Frederick Dyck, *MFH*, Oct. 2009, pp. 181-90, and “Key Progenitors in Ulrich Dueck’s West Prussian Mennonite genealogy charts, numbers 058-140,” *MFH*, Apr. 2011.

I. Generation:	
1. Elias van Bergen	um 1690 geboren
II. Generation:	
Kinder des 1 mit a.) Unbekannt oo ? b.) Marie Claassen (1770-1847)	
2. Elias van Bergen	1701 ? - 1775
3. Gerhard "	17.1.1704 - 20.10.1771
III. Generation:	
Kinder des 3 mit a.) Anna Epp (? - ?) b.) Helene Warkentin (? - ?)	
4. Gerhard van Bergen	? ? 1737 - 23.4.1795
5. Berend "	12.4.1752 - 2.6.1813
6. Elias "	? ? - ? ?
7. Justine "	10.1770 - 6.9.1853
IV. Generation:	
Kinder des 4 mit Gertrud Bekehr. (1736 - ?) oo 1770	
8. Johann van Bergen	3.11.1772 - 7.6.1842
9. Gertrud "	12.7.1779 - 29.7.1833
Kinder des 9 mit a.) Anna Wiebe (10.4.1755 - ?) b.) Anna Regiehr (31.3.1763 - 20.10.1814)	
oo 27.3.1788	
10. Jakob van Bergen	14.8.1784 - 17.1.1853
11. Elisabeth "	20.10.1785 - ?
12. Jakob "	1.2.1789 - 28.6.1841
Kinder des 7 mit Abraham Claassen (8.9.1775 - 7.7.1837) oo 2.12.1821	
13. Abraham Claassen	? - ? oo 21.7.1821
14. Helene "	30.4.1823 - 29.10.1897
V. Generation:	
Kinder des 8 mit Maria End (8.11.1786 - 26.12.1853) oo 26.7.1810	
15. Agnata van Bergen	14.10.1811 - 29.12.1853
16. Jakob "	11.12.1812 - ?
17. Margarethe "	24.11.1816 - ?
18. Johann "	8.11.1821 - ?
19. Cornelius "	5.10.1825 - ?
Kinder der 9 mit Jakob Willems (7.5.1781 - 12.10.1853) oo ??	
20. Johann Willems	9.5.1810 - ?
21. Gertrude "	11.12.1812 - ?
22. Peter "	1.12.1816 - ?
23. Elisabeth "	21.7.1815 - ?
24. Cornelius "	1.11.1818 - ?
25. Gerhard "	16.3.1819 - 12.10.1896

Page 123 of Der Berg showing the genealogy of descendants of Elias van Bergen, born ca1690.

When I found this collection, it was stored in a lovely dowry chest originally belonging to Justina van Bergen (1780-1853), daughter of Gerhard van Bergen above.² When I felt it was time for me to write a book about my Dyck, Wall, Harder, and Claassen ancestors, the journals of Gerhard van Bergen (1741-1790), Gerhard van Bergen (1785-after 1847), and Abraham Claassen (1825-1910) were primary sources for information. I used translations of the old German script written by cousin Ernest G. Claassen (1895-1996).

After *Jacob J. Dyck: Am Trakt to America* was published, I received a letter from Hielke De Jong, Virgil, Ontario, Canada. Hielke had purchased a copy of my book and was particularly interested in the van Bergen genealogy included in the Claassen chapter. Hielke's wife, Siegelinde, is descended from the van Bergens of West Prussia, her mother's maiden name being Kaethe van Bergen. Hielke pointed out to me that his sources for van Bergen genealogy had different data than mine in my book. Hielke conceded that my sources were undoubtedly correct as they were the handwritten journals of the van Bergen family, but why the discrepancies?



Inlaid dowry chest that belonged to Justina van Bergen (1780-1853). All the journals used in this article were found stored in this chest along with letters, documents, and heirloom pieces.

The primary source that Hielke had for van Bergen genealogy was a diary by Clasz Claassen (1748-1818) and continued by his son Heinrich Claassen (1799-1868) and grandson Heinrich Klaassen (1833-?). A cousin of Heinrich II, Johann van Bergen (1790-1872), hand-copied this three-generation diary owned by Hielke De Jong.

The second source for Hielke was a genealogical periodical published from 1934 to 1941 titled *Der Berg. Die Familienzeitung der Familie van Bergen* edited by Fritz van Bergen, a school teacher from Frankenau, East Prussia. This typed and mimeographed periodical was available by subscription for a small fee. Articles were submitted by dozens of writers with van Bergen family connections. Almost all of the considerable van Bergen genealogy in *Der Berg* was compiled by Gustav Reimer, a descendant of Hans van Bergen (b. ca1685).

Der Berg was a casualty of World War II when Fritz van Bergen was killed in Russia in 1941 while serving with the German army. When *Der Berg* ended, it totaled six volumes with a total of 400+ pages. It is available today on microfilm at the Mennonite Heritage Centre in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. Paper copies from the microfilm are of poor quality, but legible, barely in some cases.

Gustav Reimer was among the West Prussian German refugees who were forced by the Russian

² "The van Bergen-Claassen Dowry Chest" by D. Frederick Dyck, *MFH*, July 2003.

army to flee their homes after the end of the war in 1945. Reimer was part of a group of Mennonites relocated to South America in a relief effort orchestrated by Mennonite Central Committee (MCC).

During the 1950s and 1960s, Reimer corresponded with Ernest G. Claassen of Whitewater, Kansas. As previously noted, it is Ernest's translations of the van Bergen and Claassen journals that I have relied upon.

Among the sources that Gustav Reimer used to compile the van Bergen genealogy in *Der Berg* were private family histories. One family history seems to have been used extensively, the *Regehr Chronicles* as recorded in 1875 by Johann Regehr. As printed in *Der Berg* on pages 305-6,³ this section of the *Regehr Chronicles* contains quite a few errors regarding the Claassen and van Bergen families who came to America. These same errors manifest themselves in Gustav Reimer's van Bergen genealogy in *Der Berg*.

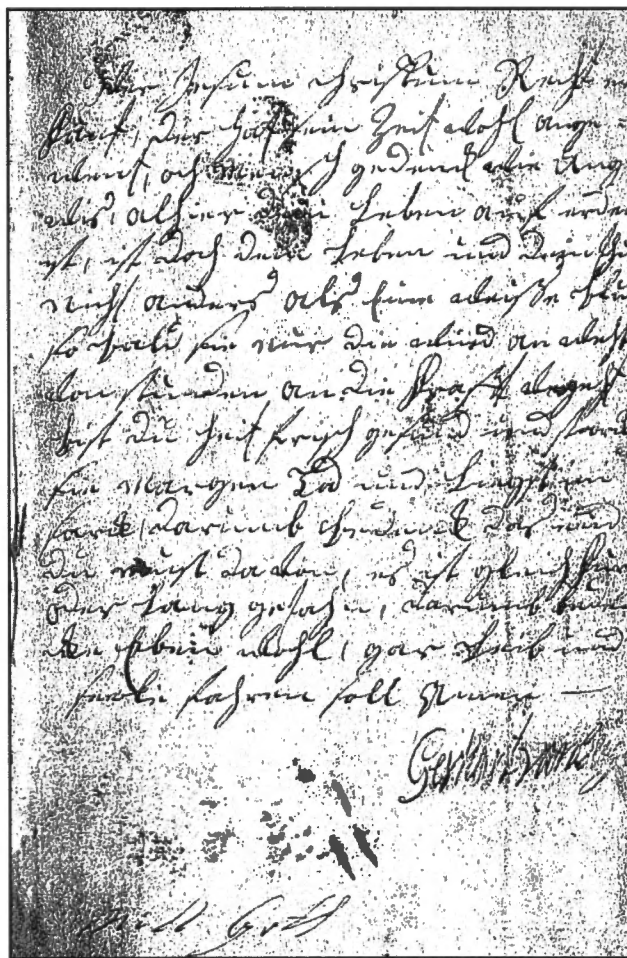
Knowledge of early van Bergen family history has not increased much since Fritz van Bergen published *Der Berg*. Horst Penner's monumental work, *Die ost- und west preussischen Mennoniten* in two volumes, provides a rough sketch of the van Bergen background. Penner states that the van Bergens came from Antwerp, Belgium.⁴

In 1536, Adriaen Reyers van Bergen was banned from Antwerp for printing and distributing Bibles and spreading Anabaptist thought. On October 2, 1542, Adriaen was beheaded at The Hague, Holland, as a heretic, one of the over 400 martyrs killed in 40 years in the Low Countries.

In 1585, Antwerp was conquered by Alessandro Farnese, an Italian general in the service of the Catholic Spanish crown. All citizens of Antwerp who did not want to become Catholic fled the city—some 35,000 people. Among this group was Martin van Bergen who fled to Königsberg, East Prussia. Other Anabaptist/Mennonite van Bergen family went to the city of Elbing, East Prussia.

In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, van Bergen families spread to farms in the Vistula delta of West Prussia. In 1615, Hans van Bergen was living in the Danzig isle. Members of the Danzig Mennonite congregation in later years included Joachim van Bergen (d. Nov. 22, 1678) and Thomas van Bergen (d. Mar. 2, 1697) married May 12, 1675, to Anna Dyck (d. Feb. 5, 1699). In 1727 there are two van Bergen landholders in Heubuden, two in Pietzendorf, and one each in Freienhuben and Schoensee.

According to the *Mennonite Encyclopedia*, there were 15 families in Prussia with the van Bergen surname in 1776, the year of the first German/Prussian census. This is a relatively small number when compared to other Mennonite surnames in Prussia at that time. In



Poem on the first page of Gerhard van Bergen's (1741-1790) journal recording births of 16 children, deaths of 11 children, and two wives. Credit: Translation by Ernest G. Claassen:

"Who Christ has truly come to know,
Has wisely used his time below.
O man, recall in earthly strife,
How frail, uncertain is your life.
Your life and all you seek to do
Is like a flower of brightest hue.
Though fair and fresh at break of day
The hot wind withers it away.
Though health and strength are now your lot,
Tomorrow all will come to naught.
And be it early, be it late,
We all must meet a common fate.
Consider well then; we will need
To answer for each word and deed."
Amen.

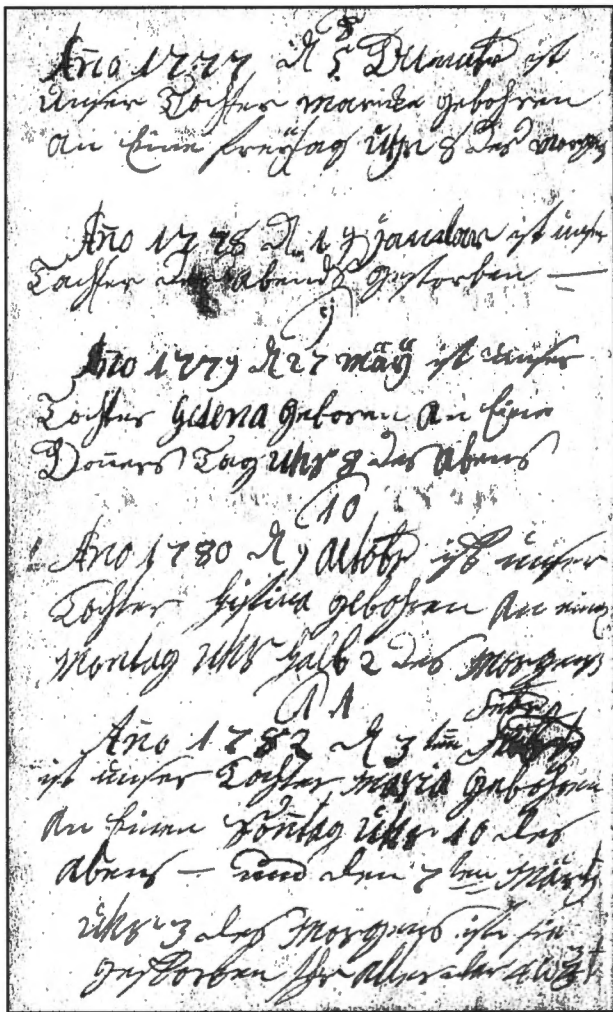
With God

Gerhard von Bergen

spite of this small number, it would be a mistake to assume that all van Bergens in the early 1700s were closely related. Trying to fit all the known names and dates of the late 1600s and early 1700s into a neat and tidy order of

³ Translated copy provided to the author by Hielke De Jong.

⁴ According to Henry Schapansky, the van Bergen name may originate from Bergen op Zoom, West Brabant, Holland. *Mennonite Migrations* (and The Old Colony), p. 75.



Page six of Gerhard van Bergen's (1741-1790) journal showing birth of author's gt-gt-gt-grandmother Justina van Bergen on October 9, 1780.

one family group is, I believe, an effort in futility. That is one reason why I limited the primary scope of this article to descendants of Gerhard van Bergen I (1704-1771).

Gustav Reimer's van Bergen genealogy in *Der Berg* begins on page 19 with Hans van Bergen born ca1685. It is tempting to think that this is a direct descendant of the Hans van Bergen of Danzig, 1615, but there is nothing to corroborate this idea. Many Mennonite families used the same names for generations, and that is often a possible avenue to explore when looking for ancestors; but it is also tempting to fill in blanks based on flimsy evidence.

Hans van Bergen, born ca1685, is shown as marrying Anna Claassen (1714-Jan. 21, 1789) and having two daughters: 1) Judith van Bergen (1742-May 19, 1802) m. David Bergmann (1725-Feb. 7, 1776); and 2) Anke/Anna van Bergen (Feb. 26, 1745-Oct. 1, 1829) m. 1) Dirk Warkentin (d. May 13, 1779); m. 2) Mar. 24, 1780, Elias Peters (June 25, 1755-Apr. 6, 1789); and m.

3) Johannes Siemens.⁵ The German genealogist of the pre-World War II period, Herman Thiessen, lists a second marriage for Anke Claassen to Abraham Regehr. This is doubtful and has no collaborative records.

In addition to daughters Judith and Anke, a son Elias van Bergen (Feb. 21, 1742-Aug. 1808), is shown in Ulrich Dueck's chart #187. Data shows Elias m. 1) Katharina ? (d. Mar. 23, 1775); m. 2) Dec. 10, 1775, to Anna Toews (d. Sept. 10, 1782); and m. 3) Sept. 11, 1783, Gertruda Regier (1763-Feb. 3, 1828), in Schoensee, Molotschna, Russia. Ulrich Dueck credits this data as being from the Heubuden Church Book. Ladekop Mennonite Church records show that the third marriage was on April 8, 1783. This is the true date.

Gustav Reimer shows Elias van Bergen, b. ca1690, as a brother to Hans van Bergen, b. ca1685, on page 19 of *Der Berg*. The descendants of Elias van Bergen begin on page 123 and end on page 176 of *Der Berg*. Beginning on page 123 of *Der Berg*, Gustav Reimer/Fritz van Bergen assigned numbers to each name in a given section. This section, "Descendants of Elias van Bergen," begins with Elias van Bergen, b. ca1690, as #1 of Generation I. I will use these numbers as EVB I1 to correspond with the numbers in *Der Berg*. Reimer shows two marriages for this Elias Van Bergen. Marriage #1 is unknown (*unbekannt*).

Marriage #2 is shown to Marie Claassen (d. Aug. 30, 1776). This is an error. Marie was born Apr. 11, 1704, and was the widow of Michael Regehr (1699-1730) m. Nov. 30, 1724. Marie married 2) Feb. 4, 1731, to Gerhard van Bergen (Jan. 17, 1704-Jan. 20, 1771).⁶

Unless new information becomes available, both marriages of Elias van Bergen (b. ca1690), if he was married twice, must be listed as unknown. His birthdate of ca1690 is highly questionable as well. A birthdate of ca1675 is more likely. Two of his known children are listed on page 123 of *Der Berg*. They are Elias van Bergen (EVB II2) (1701?-1776), and Gerhard van Bergen I (EVB II3) (Jan. 17, 1704-Jan. 20, 1771), the same person as in the previous paragraph. There is no record of the death of any Elias van Bergen in the Heubuden records in or around 1776, so this entry is dubious at best. As the birthdate of 1701 is questionable, this Elias van Bergen's existence itself is questionable. Gerhard I was the second elder of the Heubuden Mennonite congregation in the Vistula

⁵ Data for Judith van Bergen from Hermann Thiessen microfilm. Data for Anke van Bergen from Ulrich Dueck chart #174.

⁶ Data for Marie Claassen from Ulrich Dueck chart #99, *Abraham Claassen: Vistula to Plum Grove* by Ernest G. Claassen (1975), and journal of Gerhard van Bergen (1741-1790).

River delta of West Prussia. He was appointed to this position upon the death of, and at the request of, the first elder, Jacob Dyck (July 11, 1661-Jan. 2, 1748). Jacob began as elder in 1728. A possible alternative for the father of Gerhard (I) is Elias van Bergen (d. Mar. 14, 1731) of the Ellerwald region. His death is recorded in Lutheran Church records of St. Annen, Elbing as a Mennonite from Ellerwald.

At this point, on page 123 of *Der Berg*, I believe there are several distinct Gerhard van Bergen genealogies intermingled. One line is the descendants of Gerhard van Bergen I (EVB II3) (1704-1771). The other lines are of a Gerhard van Bergen not listed, no data.

Henry Schapansky, author of *Mennonite Migrations* and familiar with the old West Prussian records, offered the possibility that one is Gerhard van Bergen [A] (1722-Nov. 5, 1789) shown in the 1776 census as living in Biesterfeld, West Prussia.⁷ Another possibility is shown on page 19 of *Der Berg*. This is Gerhard van Bergen [B] (1712-1771) married to the widow Anna Epp. This Gerhard lived at Freienhuben ca 1737-1771 and had two sons: Gerhard van Bergen (1737- May 31, 1808) and Bernhard van Bergen (Apr. 12, 1752-Aug. 2, 1833). This information comes from the *Danzig Gemeinde Familienbuch*, volumes I and II. This Bernhard is listed as Berend van Bergen (EVB III5) on page 123 of *Der Berg*. Being a son of Gerhard van Bergen of Freienhuben eliminates Bernhard/Berend as a descendant of Gerhard van Bergen I (EVB II3) (1704-1771). This would also exclude the children: Jakob (EVB IV10) (Aug. 14, 1784-Nov. 20, 1784), Elisabeth (EVB IV11) (b. Oct. 20, 1785), and Jakob (EVB IV12) (Feb. 1, 1789-June 28, 1841), m. Mar. 16, 1809, Susanna Dyck (Jan. 24, 1787-Dec. 5, 1824). The descendants of Jakob van Bergen (EVB IV12) and Susanna Dyck eliminated as descendants of Gerhard van Bergen (I) (EVB II3). In *Der Berg*, these descendants are shown on pages 124, 125, 136, 143, 144, 157, and 163-66, totaling 240 people up to the year 1936. Hielke De Jong of Virgil, Ontario, Canada, has expanded much of this genealogy from 1936 to 2008.

As of this writing, it is likely that Gerhard van Bergen I (EVB II2) (1704-1771) had five children from his marriage to Marie Claassen, widow Regehr.

These children are:

1) **Christine van Bergen** (not shown in *Der Berg*) (d. Jan. 27, 1787) m. **Johannes Klaassen** (1742-Nov. 11, 1799). Four children are known: a) Abraham Klaassen (b. 1772, bapt. June 26, 1791), m. May 14, 1795, Helena Born (1772-1826), d. Apr. 18, 1837. To Russia in 1804; b) Marie Klaassen (b. Dec. 26, 1774, bapt. June 16, 1793), m. Oct. 23, 1796, Daniel Friesen/van Riessen (Dec. 25, 1752-Mar. 1826), d. Mar. 1842; c) Sara Klaassen (July 15, 1780, bapt. Heubuden, West

Prussia, June 21, 1800), m. Apr. 21, 1804, Abraham Regehr; d) Christine Klaassen (May 13, 1784, bapt. Heubuden, West Prussia, June 27, 1802) m. June 21, 1804, Nicholas Rempel. To Russia in 1804. Data from Ulrich Dueck chart #101 using Heubuden church records.

2) **Margarethe van Bergen** (GVB II) (Sept. 22, 1736-Dec. 11, 1794) m. Aug. 24, 1764, **Cornelius Regier** (Nov. 27, 1742-May 30, 1794). Cornelius was Elder of the Heubuden congregation (1771-1794) and went to Russia in 1794 to assist immigrants. He died while in Russia. Three children are known: a) Gerhard Regier (1767-Oct. 13, 1813); b) Abraham Regier (Feb. 27, 1774-Aug. 8, 1851); and c) Peter Regier (Oct. 3, 1776-Feb. 26, 1814). Data from *Der Berg*, pages 231-48, listing 384 descendants up to 1936.

3) **Gerhard van Bergen II** (EVB III4) (Nov. 23, 1741-Apr. 23, 1790), m. 1) Oct. 10, 1766, **Lena Mattisen** (Dec. 8, 1747-Nov. 1, 1772), m. 2) Mar. 7, 1773, Gertrud Lewens/Loewens (May 1, 1754-Dec. 22, 1773), m. 3) Helena Warkentin (1754-Feb. 27, 1813). Data from personal journal of Gerhard van Bergen II (EVB III4).

4) **Maria van Bergen** (not shown in *Der Berg*) (d. Aug. 12, 1810) m. **Abraham Claassen** (Aug. 30, 1717-Nov. 11, 1775). Known children are: a) Agnetha Claassen (b. Aug. 17, 1768) m. Abraham Claassen (b. Sept. 14, 1767); b) Abraham Claassen (Sept. 2, 1771-July 7, 1857) m. 1) Apr. 12, 1796, Sophia Berkmann (Feb. 23, 1777-Oct. 14, 1819), m. 2) Dec. 2, 1821, Justina van Bergen (Oct. 9, 1780-Sept. 6, 1853). Justina and Abraham are first cousins. Data from *Abraham Claassen From Vistula To Plum Grove* by Ernest G. Claassen (private printing, 1975), and Ulrich Dueck chart #030.

5) **Elias van Bergen** (EVB III6) m. **Helene Epp** (d. June 3, 1777). One child known: a) Maria van Bergen (Feb. 17, 1776-June 2, 1834). Data from Ulrich Dueck charts #047, 048, 049 and *Der Berg*, pages 203-9 that list 192 descendants up to the year 1936.

Data of descendants of Gerhard van Bergen I (EVB II3) (1704-1771) on page 123 of *Der Berg* shows four children from two marriages. This is actually the data for children of Gerhard van Bergen (EVB III7) and Elias van Bergen (EVB III6). There are also the errors of showing Helene Warkentin as a second wife for Gerhard van Bergen [B] and his son Gerhard van Bergen's data as b. 1737 and d. May 31, 1808.

The second marriage shown for Gerhard van Bergen I (EVB II3) to Helene Warkentin is in error. Again there is no collaborative source and no data. Gerhard van Bergen II (EVB III4) had as his third wife Helena Warkentin. Perhaps this is where the name originates in the van Bergen genealogy.

The fourth child listed for Gerhard van Bergen I (EVB II3) is Justine van Bergen (EVB III7) (Oct. 1770-Sept. 6, 1853). Justine is, in fact, a daughter of Gerhard van Bergen II (EVB III4). She was born Oct. 9, 1780, and d. Sept. 6, 1853, according to the journals of Gerhard van Bergen II (EVB III4) and her son, Abraham Claassen II (1825-1910).

⁷ Letter to the author from Henry Schapansky, Apr. 6, 2011, regarding van Bergen genealogy.



Pages from school workbooks of Gerhard van Bergen (1785- aft. 1847). Pages are dated 1800.

comfort me in my grieved condition.” We can all be thankful for the advancements in the field of medicine in the 239 years since Gerhard wrote his plea to God.

While I am not going to attempt to straighten out or correct the large volume of van Bergen data in the Grandma 6 CD, I am going to venture some comments about it. Hielke De Jong in Ontario, Canada, sent me a dozen pages of printout of early van Bergen genealogy from Grandma 6. There is obviously some data taken from *Der Berg* that is incorrect, but there is also much that can supplement early van Bergen genealogy. Careful sifting and cross checking is required. A distant cousin of mine, Agnes Harder née Wiebe, an active genealogist in our mutual family histories, submitted data for Gerhard van Bergen (1741-1790) to the Grandma CD. Agnes used the data from Gerhard’s journal so this information is absolutely correct.

In the multitude of sources of van Bergen genealogy, I came across one name that remains a complete mystery. This is Eva van Bergen (Oct. 24, 1723-Jan. 20, 1780) who shows up in Hermann Thiessen’s microfilmed genealogy on the internet. Her marriage on July 30, 1758, was to Abraham Regehr (Aug. 15, 1728-June 11, 1791) shown on Ulrich Dueck’s charts #092 and 099. He is the son of Michael Regehr (1699-1730), m. Nov. 30, 1724, Maria Claassen (Apr. 11,

1704-Aug. 30, 1776). Maria m. 2) Gerhard van Bergen I (EVB II2) (1704-1771) after the death of Michael Regehr. Abraham Regehr married 2) Aug. 20, 1780, Agathe Epp (Aug. 27, 1759-Feb. 10, 1813). There is no mention of Eva van Bergen in the Grandma CD, in *Der Berg*, or any other corroborative source that I was able to access. With the amount of information provided by Hermann Thiessen, I would think there would be something somewhere. Just like the archeologists, I will have to keep digging.

A postscript is in order regarding Eva van Bergen. After completing this article, I sent a copy to Henry Schapansky, British Columbia, for fact checking and editing. Henry responded with corrections and additional information about Eva van Bergen. In the Danzig Mennonite Church records (Familienbuch, Vol. II—Matzkau), Eva van Bergen and Heinrich Reimer of Marienau are listed as parents of Aganetha Reimer (Feb. 16, 1753-Oct. 23, 1790). Heinrich Reimer would be Eva van Bergen’s first husband, Abraham Regehr (of Marienau per 1776 census), her second husband.

I am indebted to Henry Schapansky for searching out this information about Eva van Bergen and for his meticulous fact checking.