

# The Journal of Ältester Johann Wall (1793-1860), Hahnsau, Am Trakt, Russia

Translated by Henry Schapansky with Foreword by D. Frederick Dyck\*

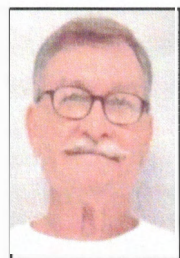
## Foreword

For most people with Mennonite ancestors, the earliest genealogy and family history records originate



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*Mennonite Migrations and the Old Colony* (2006), many Mennonite history and genealogy articles, and translations from handwritten Gothic German script.



**D. Frederick Dyck**, 189066, Western Mo. Corr. Ctr., 609 E. Pence Road, 4B-222, Cameron, MO 64429, has authored a number of *MFH* articles including coauthoring the book *Jacob J. Dyck Am Trakt to America: Sixty Years of Silence* with Alice Sitler Dyck in 2000. He is the great-great-great-grandson of Johann Wall.

in Europe. Switzerland and the German states are most common. The former German states of West and East Prussia are generally as far east as reliable records originate. The destructive European wars of the twentieth century have made obtaining these records problematic, to say the least.

For the German Mennonite colonies of Russia, reliable records become scarcer still. The Chortitza and Molotschna Colonies fare the best. Many Mennonites from these Colonies emigrated to midwestern United States and Canada in the 1870s. They brought with them many church and personal records. Additionally, they benefited from geography since they were located in Ukraine.

During World War II, the invading German army briefly occupied Ukraine. When forced to retreat before the massive Soviet army's counterattacks, the German army took thousands of ethnic Germans back to Germany with them.

German Mennonites in colonies east of the Volga River were not as fortunate. The Am Trakt Colony

southeast of Saratov, Russia, was liquidated by the Soviet Communists in 1941.

To date, as far as is known, no records from the Koeppental Mennonite Church at Am Trakt survive. This would be a record of births, baptisms, marriages, and deaths from about 1843 to 1941.

This near total lack of records from Am Trakt is what makes the discovery of Johann Wall's journal so special. Henry Schapansky's outstanding and knowledgeable translation from the original German script to English gives historians a window into the mind of one of Am Trakt's founders. The Wall family genealogy at the beginning of the journal is a concise, accurate record from about 1730 to 1910.

- D. Frederick Dyck

## Introduction

Johann Wall (1793-1860) kept a detailed journal which is valuable to our history because Johann was an important figure in Russian Mennonite history, a leader of the immigration to the Volga region in the 1850s and the founding of the Am Trakt Colony, and the first religious leader (*Ältester*—elder or senior minister) of the same.

This journal contains personal genealogical data, a historical narrative, and elaboration of some deeply pious thinking. The history of the Am Trakt Colony is of general interest because it was perhaps the most prosperous sector of the later German Volga Republic and the German Volga settlements in general.

One of the most fascinating episodes of Russian Mennonite history is the Trek to Central Asia in 1880. It was inspired and led by Mennonites from Am Trakt. The leaders included Claas Epp Jr. and Kornelius Wall, both sons of the first delegates to Russia with respect to the Volga region.

Nikolai Olegovitch Evseev used this journal extensively in his 2016 doctoral thesis. He actually located the journal in the Historical Archives of the Volga Germans. Willi Fräse/Fröse, an avid researcher of the Am Trakt Colony, formerly of Barnaul/Siberia, now Germany, discovered a reference to the journal in this thesis, and at great expense obtained a copy of the same. This he shared with D. Frederick Dyck, also a Am Trakt historian. Frederick then sent a copy to me hoping that I might translate it into English.

Several articles on the Am Trakt Colony have already appeared in *Mennonite Family History*, notably

the series "In Their Own Words" by Dyck from January 2006 to January 2009. Also of note is my own article "The Trek To Central Asia—Why They Went" in the July 2009 *MFH*. Other papers on the Am Trakt Colony include "Aufzeichnungen . . ." by J.J. Dyck (1927), a relative of Frederick, and "Die Mennoniten des Köp-pentalerRayons . . ." by W.E. Surukin (1923), both reprinted in the *Echo Verlag* series.

Wall's writing cannot be classified as a diary, because it is not a day-to-day account, noting events as they happened, although he did use a diary from earlier years which he had discontinued. It was written after the immigration to Russia and was apparently intended for his own family members, although it is my opinion that he intended this for a wider audience.

Curiously, there is a true diary written by another Wall—Jacob Wall (1807-1860)—of considerable importance to historians of the Old Colony of Russia. Part II, as entitled in the journal, was written by Wall's grandson Johann Janzen (b. 1858), who also inserted paragraphs in the genealogical section, in spaces apparently provided for this purpose.

The background of Jacob Wall, and of the other settlers of Am Trakt, is of great importance in understanding the later Trek to Central Asia. First, he came from a wealthy family, and his relatives were also well-to-do. Although he disparages his own economic situation, he sold his farm for more than 13,700 *Thalers* in 1852.

Considering that a *Thaler* was comparable to the American dollar and taking into account the real value of the dollar at that time, Wall was not poor. No doubt, he made use of hired help to run the farm, and as he says, had leisure time to read religious works.

A listing of the early immigrants to Am Trakt by Adalbert Goertz printed in the April 1993 *MFH* reveals two groups: the wealthy Flemish from the Grosses Werder including Wall's relatives, and the poorer Friesians from the Klein Werder. In this list, his wealth is listed as 15,000 *Thalers*. Wall's uncle, Johann Klassen, mentioned in the journal, who moved to Russia in 1804, was also one of the wealthier immigrants (see my article "An Economic Profile . . ." in the April 2006 *MFH*).

A second observation is that Wall came from a family with important religious influence in the Mennonite community. There were two distinct lines of Walls at Bröske in West Prussia which can be outlined as follows:

- A. 1. **Johann Wall (1730-1777)**, *Lehrer* 1762  
 2. **Johann Wall (1763-1831)**, *Lehrer* 1798  
 3. **Johann Wall (1793-1860)**, *Lehrer* 1831,  
*Ältester* 1853

- B. 1. **Kornelius Wall (1722-1797)**, *Lehrer*  
 2. **Johann Wall (1761-1823)**, *Lehrer* 1787  
 3. **Johann Wall (b. 1788)**

No doubt, these two lines were somehow connected. Note that the grandfather of Wall's second wife, Kornelius Regier, *Ältester* of the Heubuden *Gemeinde*, died in Russia. Also, the term *Lehrer* refers to a minister, not a school teacher.

Wall was raised in a religious environment in easy circumstances. Several observations in this regard show that he was a precocious lad and wanted to be a minister from his early childhood. He seems to have been a model youth. Like many Mennonites, he denigrates his own education and moral worthiness which, if I may say so, reflects a typical false humility. His reading was confined to "correct" literature, works on the "Brethren," and *Jung-Stilling* whose writings inspired many participants of the Trek.

Like Claas Epp Sr., Wall's desire to move to Russia was not the direct result of the changes in the 1848 Prussian laws. In Epp's case, it was concerns regarding the future of western Europe. The Claas Epp mentioned in the journal is Claas Epp Sr. who later distanced himself from his son Claas Jr. and the people of Am Trakt. He moved to Alt Samara/Alexanderthal, and was *Oberschulze* [mayor] there.

The thinking expressed in this journal reflects, in my view, the extreme pietism that led, for example, to the Trek to Central Asia. And it is not a coincidence that his son Kornelius (as well as the more well-known Claas Epp Jr.) were leaders of the Trek.

Reflecting on this background, Wall's prose is often sententious, often using set phrases, prayers, and other repetitious material. This makes the reading of his emotional experiences to be somewhat tiresome. Wall certainly feels he has a place in heaven even though he is a poor sinner, because of the benevolent action of the Lord (a hint of predestinationalism).

In regards to the translation of this journal, I have attempted to follow the words and thoughts of Wall as closely as possible. I have resisted the temptation to reformulate or make the entries more elegant in the English version.

There are many run-on sentences in the journal and a lack of punctuation. At times, I have broken up sentences and added punctuation where I felt it was necessary. I have written out in full almost all abbreviations, although in the genealogical section I have abbreviated dates (in the Canadian/European system) to save space.

I did not attempt to turn the poems into English poems. They are, in my view, not very interesting as poems even in German. However, I have attempted to translate the meaning intended by the poet in using the original word meaning as much as possible. Some spellings of a proper place or a personal name were changed to a more standardized form. Some of the names, however, are still unknown to me.

My own observations/clarifications have been inserted between square [ ] brackets, and dates have been changed to the American format.

- *Henry Schapansky*

\* \* \* \*

## The Johann Wall Journal

*Translated by Henry Schapansky  
 with comments in square brackets*

[The title page was added by someone other than the writer of the journal.]

### Family Register Along with something from the life of Johann Wall

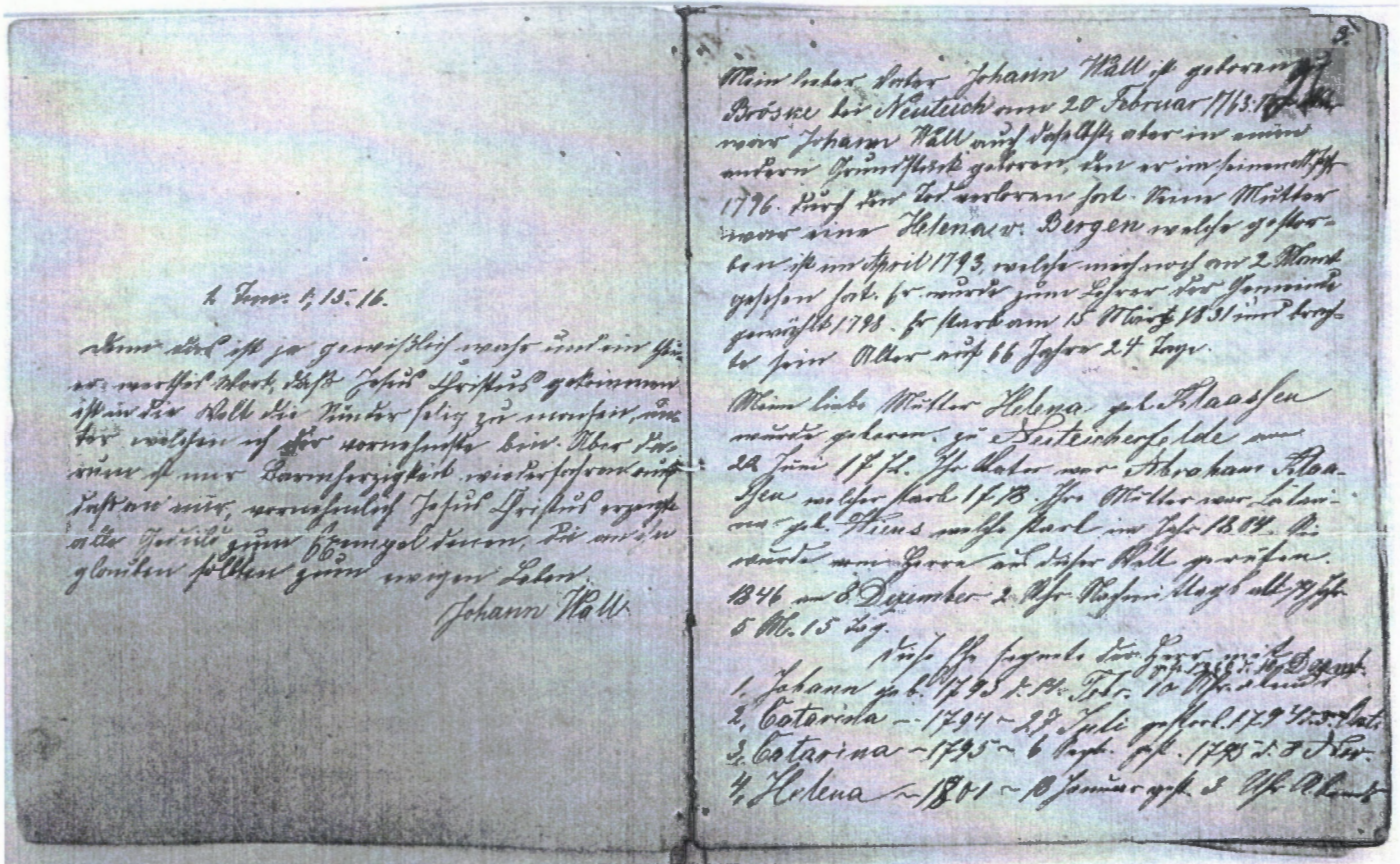
Previously resident at Schönsee near Tiegenhoff in West Prussia from 1815 to 1852. Now at Hanhsau near Saratov on the Volga.

Man that is born of woman, is of few days, and full of trouble. Hiob. 14:1 [Job 14:1]

It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment. Hebrews 9:27

Lord, teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom. Psalm 90:12

The Lord Jesus said: I am the resurrection, and the life. And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. From John 11:25-26



*Johann Wall Journal*, pages 2-3. Page 2 is I Timothy 1:15-16 from the Bible. Page 3 is the beginning of 26 pages of the Wall family genealogy. Johann shows his own birthday as #1: Johann 1793, 14 February. Some other person entered Johann's death date above the birth entry, 1860, 10 December. Actual page size is five inches by seven inches.

I Tim. 1:15-16 [I Timothy, chapter 1, verses 15-16]

This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance that Jesus Christ came into this world to save sinners, of whom I am the chief.

Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, in that Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting.

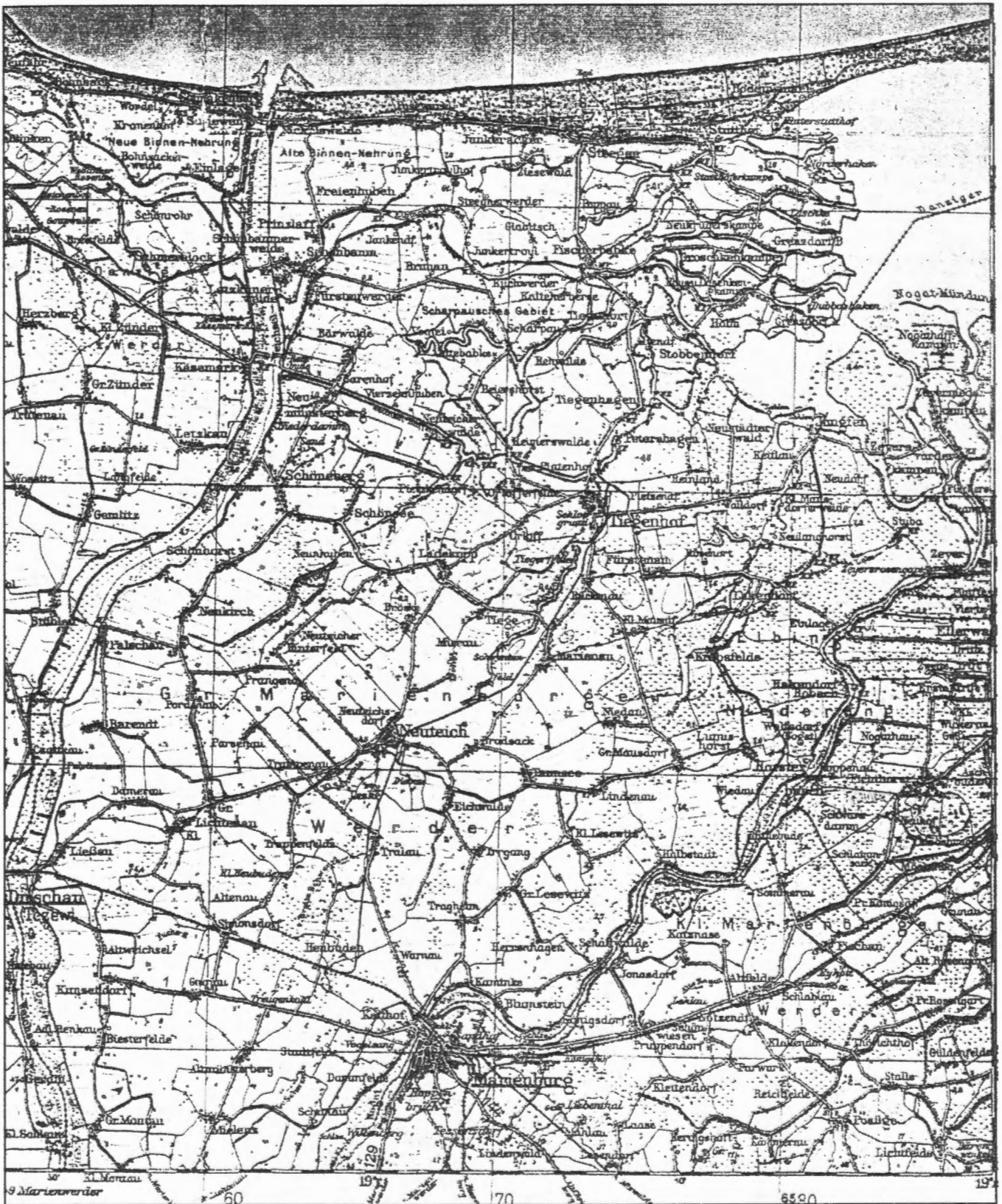
My dear father **Johann Wall** was born at Bröske near Neuteich on the 20<sup>th</sup> of February 1763. His father was **Johann Wall** of the same place, but who was born on another property lost through his death in 1776 [his death is listed as July 5, 1777, in the Ladekop church records]. His mother was **Helena v. Bergen** who died in April [1793], who saw me when I was two months old. He was elected *Lehrer* [minister] in the *Gemeinde* [congregation] in 1798. He died on the 15<sup>th</sup> of March, 1831 and achieved the age of 66 years, 24 days.

My mother **Helene (née) Klassen** was born at Neuteicherfelde on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of June 1772. Her father

was **Abraham Klassen** who died in 1778. Her mother was **Katherina Wiens** who died in the year 1804. She [Helena Wall, née Klassen] was called from this world by the Lord in 1846 on the 8<sup>th</sup> of December at 2 p.m. at the age of 74 years, 5 months, 15 days.

The Lord blessed the union with [the following:

1. **Johann Wall**, b. Feb. 14, 1793; d. Dec. 10, 1860 [date of death added later]
2. **Catherina Wall**, b. July 27, 1794; d. Oct. 25, 1794
3. **Catherina Wall**, b. Sept. 6, 1795; d. Nov. 8, 1795
4. **Helena Wall**, b. & d. Jan. 18, 1801, at 2 o'clock in the evening
5. **Katherina Wall**, b. Oct. 28, 1803, at 2 ½ o'clock in the morning; d. Feb. 13, 1858
6. **Peter Wall**, b. Aug. 31, 1805; d. Sept. 2, 1807
7. **Maria Wall**, b. Feb. 14, 1808, at 6 a.m.
8. A **daughter** stillborn in 1809
9. **Peter Wall**, b. Apr. 27, 1810; d. June 25, 1810
10. **Peter Wall**, b. June 27, 1811; d. Sept. 1, 1811
11. **Anna Wall**, b. Sept. 21, 1813; d. Jan. 2, 1814
12. **Franz Wall**, b. Apr. 29, 1815; d. Aug. 10, 1815
13. **Franz Wall**, b. Jan. 29, 1817; d. Feb. 3, 1823



**The Vistula Delta area West Prussia ca1930.**

*The Vistula River is on the left flowing south to north into the Baltic Sea pictured at the top of the map.*

Courtesy: Adabert Goertz printed in the July 2003 MFH, p. 123.

In the year 1793, on February 14 at 10 in the evening, I saw the light of this world as can be seen above, at Bröske. In the year 1812, I was accepted into the Ladekoperfelder *Gemeinde* through holy baptism. In the year 1815, on the 24<sup>th</sup> of February, I entered the bonds of matrimony with **Justina Toews** from Schönsee. Her father, also from the same place, was **Johann Toews**, *Lehrer* of the *Gemeinde* at Ladekop. Her mother was **Helena (née) Klassen**, whom she lost in 1805. She was born May 31, 1793, and joined the *Gemeinde* on the same day as I did. She died as a result of a burst blood vessel on June 1, 1824, at 4 a.m., aged 31 years, 1 day, following the last childbirth.

The Lord blessed this marriage with:

1. **Johann Wall**, b. Jan. 8, 1816, at 11 in the evening
2. **Helena Wall**, b. Jan. 27, 1818; d. Jan. 16, 1823
3. **Franz Wall**, b. Sept. 10, 1819; d. Nov. 18, [1819], age nine weeks
4. **Justina Wall**, b. Oct. 26, 1820
5. **Helena Wall**, b. May 13, 1824; d. Aug. 3 [1824]
6. **Katherina Wall**, b. 1824 ditto; d.  $\frac{3}{4}$  at 10 p.m.

I entered the bonds of matrimony for the second time with **Margaretha (née) Regier** on the 9<sup>th</sup> of November 1824. The same was born at Trahlau on April 9, 1799. Her father of the same place was Gerhard Regier, a son of the *Ältester* Cornelius Regier who died at Chortitza in southern Russia. She, my dear wife, was taken from my side by the Lord over life and death at the time when she and I, with our dear children, undertook the voyage to Russia, as a result of the *rotten Ruhr* [a form of dysentery], on August 19, 1852, in Lubin in Poland. There she sleeps in the evangelic [Lutheran] graveyard, in the left corner, under linden acacia and maple trees. A single gravestone marks her grave with information regarding her name, [date of] birth and death and I Timothy 1:15-16.

In this marriage was born to us:

1. **Helena Wall**, b. Oct. 2, 1825, at 11 p.m.; d. May 5, 1876
2. **Gerhard Wall**, b. July 6, at 2½ o'clock in the morning, 1827; d. May 23, 1831
3. **Cornelius Wall**, b. March 9, 1829, at half past noon
4. **Peter Wall**, b. April 21, at 10 in the evening, 1830; d. June 24, 1832
5. **Margaretha Wall**, b. July 10, 1832, at 10 in the evening; d. July 15, 1832
6. A stillborn son, Feb. 11, 1823
7. **Gerhard Wall**, b. May 13, 1835, at 12 in the evening
8. **Jacob Wall**, b. June 9, 1836, at 5 a.m.
9. **Anna Wall**, b. July 17, 1837, at 3½ o'clock in the morning; d. July 1, 1838

10. **Hermann Wall**, b. Apr. 7, 1839, at 10 p.m.; d. May 1, [1839]
11. **Maria Wall**, b. Mar. 20, 1841, at 5 p.m.
12. **Elisabeth Wall**, b. June 9, 1842, at 2 o'clock in the afternoon

The data written above is in the "new style" [Gregorian calendar]. Further dates in the continuations of life histories are in the "old style" [Russian/Roman calendar].

### Johann Wall in Mierauerwald

This, my son, was born January 8, 1816. The same was united in marriage with **Helena Wiens** on August 5, 1841, who was born August 16, 1816. This marriage was blessed by the Lord with the following children:

1. **Helena Wall**, b. June 5, 1842; d. Aug. 19, 1843
2. **Helena Wall**, b. Sept. 4, 1843; d. Dec. 2, 1843
3. **Johann Wall**, b. Nov. 12, 1844; d. Nov. 24, 1844
4. **Peter Wall**, b. Nov. 13, 1845; d. Dec. 16, 1859
5. **Johann Wall**, b. Aug. 9, 1847
6. **Hermann Wall**, b. Feb. 12, 1849; d. Feb. 20, 1849

The mother of these children died on May 25, 1849, at 9 o'clock in the evening. He entered the bonds of matrimony for the second time with the sister of the deceased, **Catherina Wiens**, b. April 1, 1827, on November 8, 1849. To them was born:

7. **Cornelius Wall**, b. Aug. 23, 1850; d. Nov. 12, 1850
8. **Julius Wall**, b. Feb. 15, 1852
9. **Anna Wall**, b. July 23, 1853
10. **Justina Wall**, b. Feb. 1, 1855
11. **Helena Wall**, b. Aug. 9, 1856; d. Nov. 25, [1859]
12. **Cornelius Wall**, b. May 2, 1858; d. Sept. 8, 1861

My dear son, **Johann**, with his family came here to Hahnsau on September 12/24, 1860, and on the following day, namely September 25, n.s. at 1½ [1:30] o'clock in the morning, went to the joy of his Lord, as a result of an attack of cholera? His surviving wife was delivered of a stillborn daughter on October 14, n.s.

### Justina

This, my daughter, was born on October 20, 1820. Entered the state of matrimony on October 20, 1852, with the single man **Peter Kopper**, born at Niedergruppe near Graudenz on 1.11.1828. The Lord blessed this marriage with three children:

1. **Johann Kopper**, b. Aug. 11, 1856 (23.8)

2. **Peter Kopper**, b. Aug. 8, 1859 (20.8)
3. **Gerhard Kopper**, b. Aug. 10, 1860 (22.8)

On July 20, 1875, the Lord took her husband, **Peter Kopper**, from this earth after lengthy severe suffering. He reached the age of 46 years, 8 months, and 20 days. See the following, **Justina Kopper, née Wall**.

### Helena

This, my daughter, was born October 2, 1825, and entered the state of matrimony with the widower **Cornelius Janzen** who was born January 10, 1825, n.st. [new style], on May 26, 1857. The Lord blessed this marriage with:

1. **Johann Janzen**, b. Feb. 25, 1858, (7.3) (author of the Janzen portion of the journal)
2. **Helena Janzen**, b. Sept. 8/11, 1859, (21.11)
3. **Jacob Janzen**, b. Aug. 31, 1861, (12.9); d. July 2, 1880, (14.7)
4. **Maria Janzen**, b. July 21, 1863 (2.8); d. July 26, 1864, (7.8)
5. **Justina Janzen**, b. May 15, 1865, (27.5); d. June 11, 1866, (23.6)
6. **Cornelius Janzen**, b. Dec. 6, 1869 (18.12); d. Feb. 28, 1872, (old style)

On May 5, 1876, the Lord also took this his dear lamb into his kingdom. She was survived by two sons. May her ashes rest in peace.

The father, **Cornelius Janzen**, entered the state of matrimony with the widow **Maria Jantz (née Horn)** on July 8, 1876, who was born November 3, 1847 (3.11), and died February 28, 1880.

The Lord blessed this marriage with:

1. **Sara Janzen**, b. May 24, 1877
2. **Heinrich Janzen**, b. July 9, 1878.
3. **Maria Janzen**, b. Oct. 25, 1879; d. May 25, 1881

Yet another time, my father, **Cornelius Janzen**, entered the state of matrimony with the single maiden, **Maria Penner**, born on July 2, 1849 (14.7), at Niederausmaß in the Kulmer lowlands on November 18, 1880, (30.11).

The Lord blessed this marriage with:

1. **Jacob Janzen**, b. Nov. 29, 1881

My father's (Cornelius Janzen) father was **Jacob Janzen**, b. October 18, 1797, whose father was **Peter Janzen**, and whose wife, my grandfather's mother, was **Sara Janzen, née Martens**. My grandfather's wife, my grandmother, was **Helena Janzen, née Pauls**, b. July

21, 1792. They entered the state of matrimony on November 5, 1818, and the Lord blessed this marriage with:

1. **Maria Janzen**, b. November 26, 1820
2. **Helena Janzen**, b. August 14, 1819; d. Aug. 17, [1819—note: order reversed per original]
3. **Jacob Janzen**, b. Nov. 23, 1822; d. May 20, 1835
4. **Cornelius Janzen**, b. Jan. 10, 1825
5. **Anna Janzen**, b. Mar. 24, 1827; d. Mar. 27, 1827
6. **Sara Janzen**, b. May 16, 1829; d. May 19, 1829

On November 11, 1743, my great-great-grandfather, **Peter Janzen**, was born. On December 21, 1747 [1738], my great-great-grandmother, **Neike [Kornelia] Quiring**, was born. On March 13, 1766, my great-great-grandfather entered the state of matrimony. The Lord blessed this marriage with:

1. **Peter Janzen**, b. Mar. 15, 1767
2. **Cornelius Janzen**, b. Dec. 4, 1769
3. **Heinrich Janzen**, stillborn
4. **Catherina Janzen**, b. Sept. 16, 1773
5. **Heinrich Janzen**, b. Aug. 25, 1775
6. **Leonard Janzen**, b. Dec. 26, 1777; d. July 9, 1848
7. **Cornelia Janzen**, b. Dec. 30, 1781 [Dec. 20, 1780]

On December 13, 1783, it pleased the Lord over life and death to [take away] my dear great-great-grandmother [Cornelia, Heinrich Quiring's daughter] [who died; note that the sentence is incompletely written in the original]. They had lived together for 16 years. Afterwards in 1785, my great-great-grandfather entered the state of matrimony for the second time with the maiden **Catherina**, Franz Froese's daughter from the Elbinger Roßgarten.

My great-grandfather **Peter Janzen** entered the state of matrimony with **Sara Martens**, and to them were born:

1. **Cornelius Janzen**
2. **Peter Janzen**
3. **Jacob Janzen**, b. Nov. 18, 1797; d. Mar. 21, 1876
4. **Sara Janzen**
5. **Anna Janzen**

### Catherina

My aunt entered the state of matrimony with **Peter Janzen**. The Lord blessed this marriage with:

1. **Peter Janzen**
2. **Maria Janzen**
3. **Helena Janzen**

4. **Anna Janzen**
5. **Jacob Janzen**
6. **Cornelius Janzen**
7. **Catherina Janzen**

My father, **Cornelius Janzen**, as you see on page 222, was born January 10, 1825. Earlier, he worked with carpenters. Later, he learned the clock-making trade from his [great] uncle, **Leonard Janzen**. He himself built a clock.

He entered the state of marriage for the first time with Widow **Sara Stobbe née Albrecht** on February 23, 1846. There were no children from this marriage. The widow's children [were]: 1. Sara and 2. Cornelius. My father's first wife died August 22, 1856. My father married for the second time here in Russia. On May 27, 1855, he traveled from Prussia, and on September 29, o.s., he arrived here at Koeppenthal.

On my father's side, my grandmother was, as mentioned, **Helena Janzen, née Pauls**. Her father was **David Pauls** in Hohenwald; his wife's maiden name was **Penner [Pauls]**, and from this marriage were born three children: David, Claas, and Helena, my grandmother. His wife died, and **David Pauls**, 1794 [July 21, 1796], married again . . . [balance of this page unreadable].

Great-uncle Peter Pauls in Hahnsau.

#### **Cornelius [Wall] (d. November 17, 1907)**

This, my son, was born March 9, 1829. The same went to Prussia in the autumn and entered the bonds of matrimony with **Anna Epp** of Broeskerfelde on February 17, 1857, who was born . . . [no entry], and returned home in August of the same year. The Lord blessed this marriage with:

1. **Elisabeth Wall**, b. Dec. 18, 1857 (30.12)
2. **Cornelius Wall**, b. Mar. 26, 1859 (4.4); d. Mar. 20, 1860 (1.4)
3. **Cornelius Wall**, b. Oct. 31, 1860 (12.11)
4. **Johann Wall**, b. Feb. 22, 1862 (12.11)
5. **Anna Wall**, b. June 1864; d. Nov. 1, 1864
6. **Hermann Wall**, b. Dec. 27, 1865 o.s.
7. **Jacob Wall**, b. Dec. 27, 1865, stillborn
8. **Margaretha Wall**, b. [blank], d. [blank]
9. **David Wall**, b. Feb. 1869
10. **Renate Wall**
11. **Daughter**, stillborn
12. **Anna Wall**
13. **Gerhard Wall**

**Elisabeth Wall** married the *Lehrer* **Wilhelm Penner** of Lysanderhöhle on December 28, 1876.

#### **Gerhard (d. June 20, 1878)**

This son was born May 18, 1835 (6.5) who married **Margaretha Hamm** on Feb. 23, 1861 (11.2), who was born on January 2, 1838 [or] December 21, 1839 [note: these dates should be reversed, to January 2, 1839, December 21, 1838]. This marriage was blessed with:

1. **Margaretha Wall**, b. Feb. 20, 1862 (8.2)
2. **Johann Wall**, b. Aug. 27, 1863 (8.9); d. Oct. 11 (23<sup>rd</sup>) at 5 o'clock in the morning the same year
3. **Gerhard Wall**, b. Dec. 1, 1864 (13.12); d. Mar. 1, 1865 (13.3)
4. **Johann Wall**, b. Mar. 30, 1866; d. Aug. 28, 1867 o.s.
5. **Gerhard Wall**, b. Jan. 19, 1868; d. Feb. 6, 1868 (18.2)
6. **Anna Wall**, b. Jan. 19, 1869; d. Feb. 9, the same year
7. **Cornelius Wall**, b. Feb. 17, 1870; d. Feb. 21, the same year
8. **Maria Wall**, b. Apr. 2, 1871
9. **Gerhard Wall**, b. Apr. 10, 1872, d. Oct. 2, the same year
10. **Helena Wall**, b. Feb. 3, 1874, d. Mar. 1 [the same year?]

[Marginal note to page 22—] where both dates are not written, one can then assume . . . [unreadable]

11. **Elise [Elisabeth] Wall**, b. Mar. 15, 1875
12. **Jacob Wall**, b. Apr. 23, 1876; d. June 6, the same year
13. **Anna Wall**, b. Apr. 26, 1877, at 11 o'clock in the morning

#### **Elisabeth**

This daughter was born August 16, 1842 (4.8). The same married the single man **Franz Epp** who was born August 2, 1841 (22.7) in Lindenauerfelde in West Prussia, on February 25, 1863, (7.[3]) o.s.

This marriage was blessed with:

1. **Elise Margaretha Epp**, b. Dec. 22, 1864, at 3:30 a.m.
2. **Anna Epp**, b. Jan. 26, 1867
3. **Margaretha Epp**, b. Sept. 5, 1868; d. Dec. 12 [no date]
4. **Justina Epp**, b. Feb. 7, 1870
5. **Minna Epp**, b. Feb. 3, 1871; d. June 30, 1872
6. **Maria Epp**, b. May 8, 1872
7. **Helena Epp**, b. June 11, 1873, stillborn
8. **Emilie Epp**, b. Sept. 16, 1874; d. Oct. 12, the same year
9. **Johannes Epp**, b. Nov. 13, 1875
10. **Cornelius Epp**, b. May 17, 1877; d. Aug. 19, the same year
11. **Franz Epp**, b. June 6, 1878, stillborn
12. **Helena Epp**, b. July 12 [no year given]
13. **Agnethe Epp** [note—new handwriting]
14. **Ida Epp**
15. **Anna Epp**, b. Aug. 30, 1884

**Elise Margaretha Epp** married **Peter Hamm** in the year 1882 on August 18. The Lord blessed this

marriage with:

1. **Franz Hamm**, b. July 17, 1885
2. **Jacob Hamm**, b. Aug. 18; d. Feb. 1 [1886/1887?]
3. **Peter Hamm**, b. Dec. 4, 1888
4. **Martha Hamm**, b. Dec. 5, 1891, d. 1892
5. **Maria Hamm**, b. in Oct.
6. **Frieda Hamm**, b. Jan. 18
7. **Elise Hamm**
8. **Johannes Hamm**, b. Mar. 20; d. Aug.
9. **Hermann Hamm**, b. Aug. 23, 1900
10. **Arthur Hamm**, b. Jan. 12, d. in Oct. of the same year

**Franz Hamm** married **Anna Tgarth [Tjahr]** on October 24, 1906.

**Peter Hamm** married **Anna Funk** on April 16, 1914.

### **Elisabeth Epp, née Wall**

Mother died August 31, 1884. Father **Franz Epp** d. June 29, 1913. **Margaretha Epp** married **Gerhard Kopper** on September 28, 1886. From this marriage, there were four children:

1. **Justina Kopper**
2. **Johann Kopper**
3. **Stillborn Kopper**
4. **Elise Margaretha Kopper**, d. Jan. 3, 1895

**Justina Epp** married **Jacob Hamm** in the year 1888, February 7. Their children are:

1. **Maria Hamm**
2. **Hermann Hamm**
3. **Justina Hamm**, b. July 10
4. **Franz Hamm**
5. **Elisabeth Hamm**, b. Nov. 4
6. **Maria Hamm**
7. **Jacob Hamm**
8. **Anna Hamm**
9. **Helena Hamm**
10. **Johannes Hamm**
11. **David Hamm**

... her soul revives and lives on, through the results created by the example of her love, even through she was not in a position to express this in the written word [this seems to refer to a preceding song or poem—see below]. Only in the third verse where it is written, “I remain in quiet calmness,” this I cannot always say, as my fleshly nature shies away from pain and trouble. So that on my pilgrimage on this earth, I often came to despair, but (the Lord be forever praised and thanked) never came to give up.

Then the thought came to me, that I should recount and describe the true love of my saviour, for the sake of my children. So that, after my demise, they might remember my reconciliation and how the Lord so mercifully, drew their father to Him, from his early youth. So that more and more, they will be encouraged to let themselves be surrounded by and drawn to His sharing of love. So today I was once again inspired by the third verse of this song [a reference to something preceding], to recount how the Lord has ever again so loved me and drawn me to Him out of sheer goodness. Even earlier I had put down in writing, something of this sort, in the years 1821-1831, in as much as I occasionally wrote something in the form of a diary, but which I later stopped doing.

My son in Prussia had kept these booklets. That which I propose to recount here now, so the Lord gives me the grace to do so, will, in the main, when one compares this with the former, be the same. Nevertheless, I have, through the grace of the Lord, later become better acquainted with the variations of a diseased heart, and have arrived at the conviction that, through the grace of God, many a one who deems himself to be an awful, damned person, with no good within, can stop and realize that, even in his heart he is not really so poor, rather can trust in this a weak confession of sin. Even in the expression of humility, pride can be buried, so that a person may look down on those who have not yet seen the light of the gospel. There is a difference between a modest and a true belief, but which only the spirit of the God can teach us.

If we ourselves do not fail to hear the beckoning voice of our shepherd correctly in making ourselves truly small and poor, the Lord God, who does not want the death of a sinner, leaves us the way on which He leads us from our early youth onwards, losing no opportunity, as it says in a song, in daily endeavours to raise and purify our souls. I wish and hope that I will in eternity not cease to laud and praise Him, since the patience, love, and friendship of my God, which He has shown me, I would be unable to express there.

May the Lord allow me, here in the land of the shadow of death, to write down some weak witness to his merciful love. And should it please Him after my death, when one or another of my children, seeing how the Lord God loved their father, will by these means be inspired again to throw themselves into His arms with more love and trust, then will my wish be fulfilled.

*This article is only the first portion of the journal up to the middle of page 41.*