



Mennonite Brethren of Escondido

by Alan Peters

One of the first Mennonite churches in California was the Bethania Mennonite Brethren Church, founded January 1908. The church building was sold in 1921. Thirty-one families are recorded in the official record book on the pages indicated. The record book (which is held by the Center for Mennonite Brethren Studies) lists all family members. The GRANDMA5 database numbers are included.

(17) Abraham Schellenberg (b. 1845) (GM#11552); First wife: Katharina Lohrentz (b. 1847) (GM#11553); Second wife: Susanna Flaming (b. 1861) (GM#11562).

(18) Franz C. Penner (b. 1874) (GM#43623) and Maria Zielke (b. 1873) (GM#43624).

(19) Jakob Kroeker (b. 1857) (GM#8921) and Anna Braun (b. 1856) (GM#8922).

(20) Jakob J. Ediger (b. 1879) (GM#11673). [In all other records, he is referred to as Jacob T. Ediger. His wife was Justina Schellenberg (b. 1880) (GM#11560), the daughter of Elder Abraham Schellenberg.]

(21) Wilhelm F. Ewert (b. 1867) (GM#113029) and Margaretha Enns (b. 1869) (GM#113030).

(22) John B. Ratzlaff (b. 1864) (GM#29206) and Justina Wall (b. 1867) (GM#240063).

(23) Johann Nikkel (b. 1871) (GM#25078) and Margaretha Rogalsky (b. 1873) (GM#42854).

(24) Peter Nikkel (b. 1860) (GM#25076) and Susanna Kliewer (b. 1863) (GM#25248).

(25) Herman Goertzen (b. 1859) (GM#25039); First wife: Katharina Sawatzky (b. 1856) (GM#25750); Second wife: Anna Koop (b. 1871) (GM#34634).



The first Mennonites to settle in Escondido moved from Long Beach, California. Franz C. and Mary Penner were the first members of that group to buy property, arriving in early 1907.

Pictured (l-r) are:

Julianna Penner (b. 1900)

Franz C. Penner (b. 1874)

Alvina Penner (b. 1910)

Maria Penner (b. 1873)

Eva Penner (b. 1903)

Aganetha Penner (b. 1898)

Katharina Penner (b. 1905)

Maria Penner (b. 1897)



*Jakob J. and Lena Reimer came from Long Beach to Escondido in May 1907. Pictured (l-r) are:
Lena Reimer (b. 1878)
Margaret Reimer (b. 1903)
Emma Reimer (b. 1899)
Jakob J. Reimer (b. 1877)
Mable Reimer (b. 1907)
Lena Reimer (b. 1904)*

(26) Johan Bese (no further information.) [Note: this is probably Rev. Johann Bese (b. 1851) (GM#8799), whose wife was Justina Goossen (b. 1852) (GM#8801).]

(27) Benjamin Adrian (b. 1868) (GM#8888); First wife: Helena Unruh (b. 1874) (GM#8892); Second wife: Susanna Bese (b. 1875) (GM#8803).

(28) Heinrich Adrian (b. 1854) (GM#2920) and Helena Wiebe (b. 1857) (GM#2921).

(29) Heinrich Goertz (b. 1855) (GM#103806) and Sarah Adrian (b. 1859) (GM#43218).

(30) Jakob J. Kroeker (b. 1885) (GM#8923) and Katharina Bese (b. 1889) (GM#8811).

(31) Peter Ediger (b. 1880) (GM#326129) and Anna Nachtigal (b. 1883) (GM#326130).

(32) George E. Apelget (b. 1881) (GM#374178) and Alvina Voth (b. 1887) (GM#374162).

(33) Jakob J. Reimer (b. 1877) (GM#2937) and Helena Isaak (b. 1878) (GM#2938).

(34) Cornelius I. Loewen (b. 1865) (GM#56429) and Anna Hamm (b. 1863) (GM#56341).

(35) Heinrich Dick (b. 1842) (GM#27688); First wife: Anna Koslofsky (b. 1843) (GM#55960); Second wife: Margaretha Harms (b. 1842) (GM#27689).

(36) Heinrich P. Unruh (b. 1861) (GM#73535) and Helena Nachtigal (b. 1864) (GM#73709).

(37) Johann J. Warkentin (b. 1872) (GM#25383) and Anna Siemens (b. 1873) (GM#13008).

(38) Abraham T. Kroeker (b. 1870) (GM#22639) and Katharina. [Her surname is not given in the Escondido records. Other records determine that she was Katharina Klassen (b. 1870) (GM#33554).]

(39) Hermann B. Janzen (b. 1871) (GM#2295) and Elisabeth Thiessen (b. 1876) (GM#2299).

(40) Jacob A. Schmidt (b. 1845) (GM#9389) and Helena Isaac (b. 1841) (GM#9390).

(41) Peter T. Duerksen (b. 1882) (GM#5698) and Tina P. Neufeld (b. 1882) (GM#5699).

(42) Johann W. Nikkel (little information) [Could this be GM#25430, who married a Susie Enns?]

(43) Heinrich Wedel (b. 1860) (GM#60074) and Gertruda Janzen (b. 1859) (GM#60075).

(44) Peter Nikkel (b. 1834) (GM#25072) and Katharina Nachtigal (b. 1838) (GM#25075).

(45) David L. Schellenberg (b. 1882) (GM#11561) and Elisabeth Thesmann (b. 1886) (GM#11691). [He was a son of Elder Abraham Schellenberg listed above.]

(46) Franz F. Nikkel (b. 1884) (GM#25081) and Anna Zielke (b. 1888) (GM#42711).

(47) Abraham B. Neufeld (b. 1882) (GM#42387) and Tina Klassen (b. 1885) (GM#484916).