



Maria Becker Regier

1. **Heinrich Bekker**, born April 7, 1865.
2. **Anna Bekker**, born December 5, 1867.
3. **Helena Bekker**, born September 30, 1869. She married Henry Flaming.
4. **Maria Bekker**, born August 16, 1871. She married Abraham Janzen.
5. **Benjamin Bekker**, born July 23, 1873, who died as a young child.
6. **Katharine Bekker**, born December 29, 1874. She married Peter W. Wiens.
7. **Benjamin Bekker**, born December 17, 1876. He married Augusta Nipkau.
8. **Agatha Bekker**, born February 18, 1879.
9. **Jakob Bekker**, born July 14, 1881, who died in 1883.
10. **Sara Bekker**, born October 23, 1883. She married Bernhard A. Bekker.
11. **Abraham Bekker**, born April 28, 1886.
12. **Aganetha Bekker** or **Agnes**, born June 12, 1888. She married J.B. Ratzlaff.

MARIA BECKER, Jacob P. Becker's sister, was born on November 30, 1840. She was married to Abraham Regier, who came from the village of Rudnerweide, Molotschna. He was also one of the earliest members of the Mennonite Brethren Church. They had four children, but only two daughters survived infancy. They were:

1. **Maria Regier**, born July 28, 1876. She was a deaconess in the Mennonite Brethren Church, and served as a missionary for several years at the Post Oak Mission in

Oklahoma. She married Dietrich D. Peters in 1904, but died in childbirth the following year.

2. **Sarah Regier**, born May 6, 1879. She was married to Henry Bartel, the son of Heinrich Bartel, another influential leader of the early Mennonite Brethren Church in Russia. It is an interesting sidelight that the first baptism in the Mennonite Brethren Church, which occurred on September 5, 1860, involved both Jacob P. Becker and Heinrich Bartel. Bartel first baptized Becker, and then Becker baptized three others.

THOSE OF YOU who are descendants of Jacob, Benjamin, and Maria can be proud of the contributions that your ancestors have made in building the church. We not only recognize their achievements, but also see the same degree of commitment and dedication in their children and grandchildren. Undoubtedly, the Becker heritage is not just a significant feature in our own history and that of the church, but it is a very real and continuing influence upon the present and future course of the Mennonite Brethren Church.

—by Alan Peters

Our apologies to Alan Peters for omitting his name from the article "The Colonists: Germans Who Became Mennonites" in the March 1986 issue of the *Bulletin*.

PDC ANNIVERSARY HISTORY TO BE PUBLISHED

This November, at its annual meeting in Fresno, California, the Pacific District Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches will celebrate its 75th anniversary. As part of that celebration a committee, under the direction of Mrs. Esther Jost of Reedley, has been established to publish a history of the conference. The book committee hopes to officially present the completed volume to the conference in November.

The committee has already been hard at work identifying topics and authors for the book. A tentative outline is as follows:

Immigration and Settlement, Origins of the
 PDC: Kevin Enns-Rempel
 Theology: Edmund Janzen
 Home Missions: Henry Schmidt
 Social Ministries: Arthur Jost
 Hispanic Ministries: Juan Martinez
 Education: Paul Toews
 Women's Missionary Service: Marilyn Peters
 Music: Larry Warkentin
 Youth: Dan Neufeld

It is the hope of the committee that this history will not only tell the chronological story of the conference, but also attempt to interpret that story for our situation today. What has our past meant to us? How does it affect us today? What are its implications for tomorrow? These are not always easy questions, but they are important considerations for any group interested in its own survival and success. The committee and authors hope to play a small role in furthering those purposes through this publication effort.