

1772 Census of Mennonites in Wernersdorf, Prussia

Extracted by Glenn H Penner (gpenner@uoguelph.ca)

In September of 1772 part of Poland was partitioned between Prussia, Russia and Austria. The area where nearly all Low-German Mennonites lived became the province of West Prussia. During the period from late fall of 1772 and early spring of 1773 a census of this new province was made. This census was a population count, done mostly for tax purposes. Names and ages of family members are not given. Most of the 1772/1773 census is available in the Berlin archives. Wernersdorf is included in this census. However, there is another version of this census for the village of Wernersdorf, taken on 1 October 1772 and found in the Gdansk Archives in Poland (Fond 907 Sygn. 26; a scan of the original can be found [here](#)). The first part of this census lists all the landowners and their ages, it then lists wives and their ages, followed by similar columns for sons, daughters, male servants and female servants. Unfortunately, the wives, sons, daughters, etc. are not designated as parts of specific households. Using the ordering and family names it is possible to sort the families out with some confidence. This is impossible with the two columns of servants, and so they are not included in my spreadsheet. There are a total of 58 male and 30 female servants listed. Their names are overwhelmingly Polish, with a few German names. There are no servants I can identify as Mennonite. This census consists of a few dozen families. I have extracted only the Mennonite families.

There is a Helena Penner, age 14, listed under the column of daughters who I am not able to assign. She was likely a step-daughter (Stieftochter) or foster-daughter (Pflegtochter).

The “Property” column in the table is the amount of land “owned” by the family and is taken from the version of the census found in Berlin. The column “In 1776?” asks if the family is found in the 1776 census of Mennonites in West Prussia (found [here](#)). The “1789 Land Census” column tries to identify if the family still owns that property according to the 1789 census of Mennonite landowners in West Prussia (found [here](#)). The last column contains the household head’s possible number in the GRANDMA genealogical database. (see [here](#))

1 H = 1 Hufe (*pl.* Hufen) = 30 Morgen = about 41 acres.

Owner's Name	His Age	Property	Wife	Her Age	Children	Child's Age	In 1776?	1789 Land Census	GM# & Comments
Peter Ens	57	2H	Judith	58	Martin	24	Yes	Franz Ens 2H	

Owner's Name	His Age	Property	Wife	Her Age	Children	Child's Age	In 1776?	1789 Land Census	GM# & Comments
					Franz	22			
Herman Friesen	39	2H	Maria	32	Judith	7	Yes		
					Catharina	1½			
Jacob Bickert	69	1 H	Maria	52	Bernhard	24	Yes	Herman Bickert 1H 13M	
					Peter	17			
Gerhard Ens	50	4H	Susanna	34	Gerhard	27	Yes	Gerh. Ens 2H	681092
					Isaac	18			
					Jacob	18			
					Margaretha	21			
					Maria	16			
					Elisabeth	10			
Claas Ens	54	3H 29M	Anna	53	Abraham	23	Yes	Claas Ens 2 H 19M	
					Peter	12			
					Margaretha	19			
Jacob Wiens	37	29M	Maria	37	Jacob	11	Yes	Jacob Wiens 1H	803320
					Dirk	6			803772
					Johan	3			
					Catharina	¾			
Claas Dyck	32	14M	Catharina	30	Philip	3	Yes	Jacob Wiens 14M	son Philip d. in 1790
					Claas	8			
Johann Neufeld	68	1H	widower				Yes	Johann Neufeld 1H	
Maria Classen		4H 1M	widow	56	Jacob	36	Yes	Isbrandt 2H & Bern. 2 H 15 M	
					Franz	27			
					Bernhard	24			748051
					Johan	19			

Owner's Name	His Age	Property	Wife	Her Age	Children	Child's Age	In 1776?	1789 Land Census	GM# & Comments
					Isbrandt	16			804851
Anganetha Janzen		2H	widow	56	Claas	25	Class Janzen	Class Janzen 2H	Claas = 803444
					Elenora	20			

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