

Church Transfer Records as a Genealogical Source: Orloffefelde, West Prussia (1772 – 1804)

by

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When one thinks of church records what usually comes to mind are lists of births, baptisms, marriages and deaths. In some cases congregational records also consist of family group records (under headings such as Familienverzeichnis or Familienbuch in German). An untapped source for family historians is that of membership transfers. These records are important in that they help us follow the movements of people from one region and/or congregation to another.

During their four centuries in what is usually referred to as West Prussia there were numerous reasons for Mennonites to transfer between congregations: economic opportunities in other parts of the country, marriages between members of different churches and, particularly in the earlier years, expulsion from various regions within Prussia. The Frisian Mennonite church of Orloffefelde kept records of people leaving and joining the church for the years 1772-1818. The majority of transfers were between the Orloffefelde church and other Frisian churches in Prussia: Marcushof/Thiensdorf in the Klein Werder region, Schweingrub which was later known as the Tragheimerweide congregation (occasionally referred to as the “Stuhmsche Gemeinde”), the Tilsit, or Memel, region in Lithuania and the Montau church to the south. References to the “Dantzig Gemeinde” are probably to the Danzig/Neugarten Frisian church. There were also transfers to and from the neighboring Flemish churches.

The records of the “Angenommen”, or those that were taken into the Orloffefelde church, for the years 1772-1804 and “Ausgegangen”, or those that left the church, for the years 1773-1804 are translated below. I have tried to retain the original spellings of the names of people and places. My comments are given in square brackets, [].

Source: Orloffefelde Church Book, LDS microfilm #555793; Mennonite Heritage Centre Microfilm Collection #286.

Angenommen Attestatum

[A record of those who transferred into the Orloffefelde Church]

1772

1. Cornelius *Grunau* of Campenau
2. Abram *Eds* of Schweingrub
3. Jacob *Bestvater* of Marcushoff
4. Paul *Pauls* of Schweingrub
5. Jacob *Penner* of Schweingrub

6. George and Abram *Adrian* from the Montau church
7. Jacob *Siebert* of Marcushoff.

1773

1. Trincke *Goertzen* of Wegelnwald [Marcushof/Thiensdorf]
2. Peter *Abrams* of Schweingrub
3. Johan *Kliewer* of Wickerau [Marcushof/Thiensdorf]
4. Harm *Bestvater* of Schweingrub

1774

1. Hans *Classen* of Dantzig
2. Franz *Philippsen* of the Kl. Werder
3. Hans *Schmit* from Lithuania
4. Hendrich *Martens* of Schweingrub

1775

1. Harm *Pauls* of the Kl. Werder
2. Frantz *Kliewer* of the Kl. Werder
3. Hendrich *Peters* and his wife of the Kl. Werder
4. Jacob *Jantzen* of Hohenwald [Marcushof/Thiensdorf]
5. Madalena *Brösin* from the Dantziger Church
6. Hendrich *Pauls* of Schweingrub

1777

1. David *Mackelberger* of Tiegerweide [in the Orlofffelde congregation] his wife from Schweingrub

1778

1. Ancke *Ewert* from Lithuania

1779

1. Hans *Horn* of Thiergart in the Kl. Werder his daughter Sara

1780

1. *Oblitz* from the Kl. Werder
2. *Cornelson* and his wife from Kl. Werder
3. Harm *Pauls* from Schweingrub
4. Jacob *Siemens* of Reinland a “Flämischer” [Flemish] with attest from Ohm D. Tiessen

1781

1. Helena *Pauls*
2. David *Fröse*, wife and children of Königsberg to VierzehnHuben [Orlofffelde congregation] with transfer from the Kl. Werder

3. Johan *Martens* of Schweingrub being from Zeiskendorf

1782

1. David *Fröse* his daughter from Danzig
2. Heinrich *Wieler* a “Flämischer” of Haberhorst with attest from Ohm D. Tiesen
3. Barb *Bestvater* of Kirschwald earlier of Marjenauerfeld, Mrs. H. Hein
4. Maria *Ens* of Einlage a “Flämischer” with transfer from Ohm C. Warkentin of Rosenort
5. [unreadable name] of Schweingrub

1783

1. Hans *Harms* and wife of Schweingrub
2. Arent [unreadable] and his wife from the Kl. Werder
3. Abram and Sara *Peters* from the Kl. Werder
4. Hans *Albrecht* from the Kl. Werder
5. Heinrich *Kliewer* from the Kl. Werder
6. Heinrich *von Bargaen* of the Leske a “flämischer” with attest from the Heubuden Church.
7. Paul[?] *Henrichs* from the Kl. Werder

1784

1. Catharina *Cornelson* of the Kl. Werder married Gert Unger
2. Anna *Funk* of the Kl. Werder married Peter Dau

1785

1. Arent *Allert* of the Dantzig church
2. Cornelius [unreadable] of the Kl. Werder married the widow [unreadable] *Albrechts* of Orlofffeld
3. Jacob *Jantzen*, Kl. Werder married Maria [unreadable] of Marienauerfeld
4. Löncke *Pauls* of the Kl. Werder married Nathanael Gerbrand of Neustadtwald

1787

1. Jan *Quiring* and wife in Mierau
2. Heinr. *Penner* and wife to Orlofffeld
3. Adam *Funk* and wife Stobbendorf
4. Frantz *Fröse* his daughter Sara
5. Jan *Penner* of Thiergart his daughter Catrina
6. Barbara *Mennin* of Dantzig
7. *Günthers* of the Flemish, married Heinrich Dircksen

1788

1. Hans *Penner* Kl. Werder married Peter *Kettlers* daughter
2. Jacob *Penner* of Kl. Werder and wife
3. Johan *Nickel* of Kl. Werder married Margaretha *Friesen* of Neuenhuben
4. Maria *Ens* of the Flemish church married Frantz *Krüger* of our church, attest from Rosenort

[church]

1789

1. Nathaneal *Bestvater* of Kl. Werder (died at Ertman Stobbe's?)
2. Conrad *Fröse* of the Nehrung [Danzig region]

1790

1. Johan *von Hoek* of Dantzig
2. Heinr. *Penner* and wife of Dantzig
3. Elisabeth. *Bestvater* of Dantzig

1791

1. David *Wieb* of the Flemish church married Sara *Gilsen*
2. Cornelis *Töwes* of the Flemish church married widow *Quiring* of Schönberg
3. Catarina *Grunau* of the Kl. Werder married Jacob *Jantzen* of Marjenau

1792

1. Abram *Olfert* of the Flemish church

1794

1. Harm *Pauls* of the Stuhm church

1795

1. Hans *Quiring* of Campenau

1796

1. Martin *Fast* of Rosenort from the Flemish
2. Adelgunde *Grunau* of Marcushof married Abrah. *Kliewer*

1797

1. Tobias *Guhr* of the Stuhm church and wife
2. Arent *Allert* and his sister Anna from the Dantziger church
3. Susanna *Eds* of the Marcushoff church married Paul *Nikel* of Tiegenhagen
4. Sara *Philips* from the Dantzig church married Frantz *Quiring* of Stobbendorf
5. Jacob *Penner* of the Stuhm church
6. Maria *Jantzen* of the Flemish church

1799

1. Anganeta *Tielizken* of the Flemish church married Absolon *Engbrecht* of Schönhorst

1800

1. Anganeta *Braun* of the Flemish church married Abraham *Olfert*, who transferred from the Flemish church in 1792

1801

1. Johan *Friesen* of the Flemish church from Ellerwald married Adelgunde *Kliewer* of Tiegenhof
2. Peter *Daniels* and wife from Kl. Werder
3. Mrs. Paul *Heinrichs* from Neustaderwald of the Tiensdorf church

1803

1. Abraham *Philips* of Neuendorf in the Danziger Werder and wife and children
2. Peter [unreadable] of the Flemish church from the Berwalde Quarter
3. Abraham *Neufeld* from Tiegenhagen of the Flemish [Tiegenhagen church] married Catharina *Grunau*

1804

1. Abraham *Wölke* from Einlage of the Flemish church married our sister Catarina *Jans* of Neustädterwald

Ausgegangen Attestatum

[Those who transferred out of the Orloffersfeld Church]

1773

1. Willem *Lorentz* of Orloffersfeld his 3 surviving daughters Löncke, Nölcke and Trincke all to Schweingrub

1774

1. Hans *Nickel* of Orloffersfeld his dau. Maria to the Klein Werder
2. My stepdaughter Maria *Allerts* to the Klein Werder
3. Peter *Plett* to the Klein Werder
4. Jacob [Scheifens?] to the Klein Werder
5. Johan *Allert* to the Klein Werder
6. Jacob *Hein* to the Klein Werder
7. Paul *Pauls* to Schweingrub

1775

1. Hans *Penner* of Marjenau to the Klein Werder
2. Nathanael *Jantzen* of Stobbendorf to the Klein Werder
3. David *Kätler* to the Klein Werder
4. Simon *Quiring* with his wife and son to the Klein Werder

1777

1. Hendrich *Pauls* of Altendorf his surv. dau. Ancke to the Klein Werder
2. Ancke *Penners* of Siebenhuben to the Klein Werder
3. Dirck *Gertzen* of Marjenauerfeld to the Klein Werder
4. Abram *Funck* of Reinland his surv. dau. Catarina to Schweingrub

5. Christian *Jantzen* of Schönhorst his surv. son Christian to Schweingrub
6. Arent *Friesen* and wife to the Klein Werder
7. Dirck *Gerbrand* of Tiegenhagen to Schweingrub

1778

1. Hendrich *Peters* of Tiegenhagen and wife to Schweingrub
2. Frantz *Dau* of Palschau his surv. dau. Maria to Dantzig
3. Harm *Quiring* of Stobbendorf his surv. son Harm to the Klein Werder
4. Hans *Friesen* of Plötzendorf his surv. dau. Maria to the Klein Werder
5. Heinrich *Peters* of Tiegenhagen his son Daniel to Schweingrub

1780

1. Catarina *Olbitz* of Tiegerweide to the Klein Werder
2. Anna *Quapp* of Muggen[?] to the Klein Werder
3. Abraham *Peters* of Platenhof to the Klein Werder
4. Heinrich *Pauls* his wife to the Klein Werder
5. Cornelius *Allerts* of Rosenort to the Klein Werder
6. Peter *Grunau* of Orlofffeld to the Klein Werder
7. Peter *Daniels* his surv. dau. Maria of Ladekopperfeld to Schweingrub
8. Abraham *Penner* his surv. dau. Sara of Furstenau to the Klein Werder
9. Jacob *Ketler* his surv. dau. Helena of Tiegerweide to the Klein Werder
10. *Cornelson* and wife to the Klein Werder

1781

1. Peter *Pauls* his surv. dau. Elisabeth of Petershagen to the Klein Werder
2. Anna *Pauls* to the Klein Werder
3. Anna *Martens* to the Klein Werder
4. Johann *Penner* of Qaldeu[?] to the flemish, with attest to Heubuden
5. Anna *Lorentzen* to the Klein Werder

1782

1. Sara *Lamerts* of Tiegenhagen to Dantzig
2. Daniel *Edse* and wife to the Klein Werder
3. Catarina *Unger* of Zeiskendorf to Dantzig
4. Jacob *Ketler* of Volwerk to the flemish
5. Heinrich *Pauls* of Pitzkendorf to the Klein Werder

1783

1. [unreadable] *Katt* to the Klein Werder
2. Anna *Vod* to Schweingrub
3. Daniel *Edse* and wife to the Klein Werder
4. Maria *Bestvater* to the Klein Werder
5. Maria *Penner* to the Klein Werder

1784

1. Heinrich *Jantzen* of Schönsee his son Peter to Amsterdam
2. Lenert *Fröse* of 14Huben to Dantzig
3. Ohm David *Bestvater* of Mierau his surv. dau. Agata to the Klein Werder
4. David *Voode* of Neuteicher Wald to Schweingrub
5. Peter *Katt* to Schweingrub
6. Jacob *Ketler* of Tiegerweide his surv. dau. Catarina to the Klein Werder
7. Anna *Martens* of [unreadable] to the flemish church at Tiegenhagen
8. David *Neübaur* his dau. of Tiegenhof to the flemish church at Tiegenhagen

1785

1. Elisabeth *Martens* to the Klein Werder
2. Frantz *Pauls* of Petershagen to the Klein Werder
3. Wilhelm *Lorentz* to Dantzig

1787

1. Harm *Pauls* to Schweingrub

1788

1. Peter *Stobbe*, Harm Stobbe's son to Dantzig
2. Frantz *Funck* to the Klein Werder
3. Jacob *Bestvater* and wife to [unreadable]
4. Peter *Stobbe* my bother-in-law of Furstenau to the flemish church at Tiegenhagen

1789

1. Jan *Olbitz* of Tiegerweide to Tiensdorf
2. Maria *Quapp* to the flemish church
3. Jacob *Dirksen* and his sister of Zeiskendorf to the Klein Werder
4. Frantz *Friesen* of Neuenhuben to the flemish church in Dantzig
5. Corn. *Allert* , baptized into our church in 1784 to the Klein Werder
6. Mrs. George *Adrian* to the Stuhm church

1790

1. David *Bestvater* jr. to the Klein Werder

1791

1. Sara *Penner* to the Klein Werder
2. Maria *Mekelberger* to Dantzig
3. Corn. *Ketler* to Schweingrub

1792

1. Harm *Stobbe* and wife of Reinland to the Marcushof church
2. Widow *Unger* of Dirschau to the Stuhm church

1793

1. Margareta *Nikel* of J. *Bestvater*'s in Tiegenhof to the Marcushof church
2. Harm *Penner* of Marjenau to Törigthof [Thiesdorf church]
[There is a short paragraph written about him]
3. Abraham *Cornelsen* to Rosenort. His Abraham baptized this year to Marcushof
4. Absolon *Bartsch* to Marcushof

1794

1. Jacob *Penner* to Danzig
2. Dirk *Allert* to Dantzig

1795

1. Jacob *Neubaur* to Russia
2. Joh. *Peters* to Marcushof
3. Jan *Quiring* and wife to Marcushof
4. Nölke *Fröse* to Stuhm church

1797

1. Abraham *Penner* to the flemish church
2. David *Jantzen* to the flemish church
3. Hans *Quiring* of Blumenort to the Marcushof church

1798

1. Peter *Stobbe* his surv. son David of Fürstenau to Marcushof
2. David *Mekelborger* his surv. d Maria to Danzig
3. Arend *Allert* of Barenhof to the Tiensdorf church
4. Jonas *Quiring* of Stobbendorf to Stuhm church

1799

1. David *Engbrecht* to the flemish church
2. Susanna *Quiring* of Blumenort to the Marcushof church
3. Hans *Ketler* of Tiegenhagen his son Peter to the S??ehern
4. Elisabeth *Gillis* to the Danzig church
5. Harm *Pauls* and wife to Schweingrub
6. Anna *Hein* of Marjenau to Tiensdorf
7. Willem *Gerbrant*'s dau. Of Orlofffeld to the flemish church

1800

1. Peter *Steingart* to the flemish church
2. Nölke *Frös* of Schösee to the Tiensdorf church

1802

1. Franz *Lamert* to Tiensdorf church
2. Maria *Penner* of Tiegenhof to Danzig
3. Franz *Dau* of Roten Bude to Marcushof
4. George *Adrian* to the flemish church
5. Susanna *Eds* to the flemish church

1803

1. Anna *Janzen* of Reinland to the flemish church at Rosenort
2. Jacob *Jansen* brother of Ohm Jonas[?] Janzen of Marcushof to the flemish church
3. Jacob *Gillis* of Tiegen[?] to Danzig
[Those who went to Russia]:
4. Jacob *Kettler* of Neuteicherwald with wife and two sons
5. Cornelius *Fröse* of Pitzkendorf, wife and one son and sister
6. Heinrich *Vohde* of Neuteicherwald with wife a son and Sara *Guhr*
7. Hans *Nikel* of Neustädterwald [via the Stuhm church]

1804

1. Heinrich *Quiring* and wife from Brunau to Danzig
2. Susanna *Jantzen* of Pitzkendorf to the flemish church
3. Tobias *Guhr*'s surv. dau. Maria to Schweingrub
4. Anna *Krüger* of Hegewald to the flemish church
5. [unreadable] *Penner* of Marjenau to Schweingrub
6. Dirk *Gerbrand* of Neustädterwald to Schweingrub
7. Abraham *Janzen* and wife to Russia
8. Hans *Krüger* of Hegewald, wife and 3 children to Russia
9. Heinr. *Krüger* of Reinlandm wife and 4 children to Russia
10. Sara *Daniels* of Vollwerk to Danzig
11. Arend *Friesen* of Stobbendorf to Tiensdorf

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