

Mennonite Land Census of Niederausmaas in 1830 and 1806

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The population of Niederausmaas, West Prussia (Dolne Wymiary in present day Poland) in the early 19th century consisted of Mennonites and non-Mennonites, much the same as was found in other villages throughout West Prussia at that time. The Mennonites included both the Old Flemish and the Frisians. The archival collection at Mennonite Library and Archives at Bethel College, North Newton, Kansas contains records of the land holders in Niederausmaas (https://mla.bethelks.edu/archives/VI_53/Torun/Niederausmaas/) and have proved useful in providing some genealogical background on the Mennonites who lived there from the mid-1780s until at least 1830. Other sources have previously provided census information for Niederausmaas in 1750, 1772, 1776, 1789 and 1824. The following compilation is helpful to fill in some gaps between the Land Census of 1824 and 1789 and in extending our knowledge of Mennonites in Niederausmaas to 1830. Some of these families immigrated to Russia in the 1830-1860 time frame, while others did not.

1830 Niederausmaas Land Census

(https://mla.bethelks.edu/archives/VI_53/Torun/Niederausmaas/NiederausmaasDocumentsTorunArchivesFond1647File7249/ ; Images #8037-8044)

This Census is interesting for two reasons: (1) It lists all the land holders and clearly identifies which ones are Mennonites and (2) It lists the land holders in sequence by their property number which nicely correlates with the Blatt Numbers assigned to their corresponding property record books. For each property two names are listed with the first entry being the current property holder and the second entry representing an earlier property holder. It must be noted that property [or Blatt] numbers 6 through 10 were not available for extraction from the images at the MLA archives and that there were almost certainly additional Mennonite land holders among these five properties. Thirty-nine land holders are listed with (at least) eleven listed as Mennonites. This seems quite consistent with prior land censuses which listed 12 or 13 Mennonite land holders every time since 1789. In the tabulation below we have included only the properties held by Mennonites. We have also added the GRanDMA numbers (GM) in those instances where they seemed likely to apply. Names printed in **RED** are those whose family came from the Old Flemish Mennonite Gemeinde in Przechowka while the others were Frisian Mennonites associated with the Schoensee Gemeinde.

Blatt	Current Land Holder	GM	Earlier Land Holder	GM
2	Dietrich Penner		Jacob Penner	860077
3	Heinrich Foth	412689	Johan Bartel	858436
4	Heinrich Poetcher	804250	Cornelius Kliever	944323
12	Tobias Janz [Jr]	39746	Tobias Janz [Sr]	39697

Blatt	Current Land Holder	GM	Earlier Land Holder	GM
13	Peter Funk	36402	Peter Richert [Jr]	48275, 494169, 859830
14	Cornelius Abraham	33645?	Franz Kopper	1071505
22	David Bartel	139300	Heinrich ThiARTH	784488
31	Wilhelm Penner	342403	Heinrich Schroeder	
32	Heinrich Richert	859847	Wilhelm Knells	859834?
35	David Wilem [Wilms]	858591?	Peter ThiARTH	785076
39	Abraham Foth		Cornelius Abraham	33645?

1806 Niederausmaas Land Census

(https://mla.bethelks.edu/archives/VI_53/Torun/Niederausmaas/NiederausmaasDocumentsTorunArchivesFond1647File7249/; Image #8046:8048)

This Census fills the void between the 1789 and 1824 Censuses. The Blatt numbers in this listing align quite well with the 1830 Census with just a few exceptions. Thirty-seven land holders are listed with twelve of them easily identifiable as Mennonites. Again names printed in **RED** designate the Old Flemish Mennonites from Przechowka while the rest are Frisian Mennonites.

Blatt	Current Land Holder	GM	Comments
2	Jacob Penner	860077	
3	Hans Bartel	858436	
4	Kornelius Kliewer	944323	
7	Benjamin Wedel	106665	[Prediger. Was in 1772,1776,1789 cs. Died 1812]
8	Heinrich Vodt	106631	
12	Tobias Jantz, Senior	39697, 817593	[Obtained this property when he married the widow of Peter Richert, Sr in 1774.]
13	Peter Funck	36402	[Obtained this property when he married the widow of Peter Richert, Jr in 1793.]
14	Tobias Jantz, Junior	39746	[He moved to #12 after his father died in 1813.]
22	Peter Kellerman	none	[Seemingly he is not a Mennonite, but he's listed on Thiart property. Was this temporary while the property was being transferred from father to son?]
31	Adam Unrau?		
32	Heinrich Richert	859847	[Son of Peter Richert, Jr who had died in 1793]
35	Witwe Maria Balzerin		[Widow of Franz Balzer; he's listed in 1789 Census]

Concluding comments

It must be stated that these were not censuses in the true sense of the word. These were lists of land holders who had a lease to utilize the land. The land area was also listed but has not been

included in this compilation. There were many more families in Niederausmaas that were landless and not counted. More family names and individuals can be found in other records of residents in Niederausmaas. Examples of these records are birth, marriage and death records found at <http://www.mennonitegenealogy.com/prussia/> at: Church Records/Marienwerder District/Culm, Przechowka and Schoensee.

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