

Waldheim's Original Settlers

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1. Correlating four independent lists enables us to identify Waldheim's original settlers and when they began residing in the village.
2. We begin with the 1839 spring planting record (Penner 1 below and in the chart at the end of this file; middle names added when possible from other records). The planting record includes 21 numbered names and an additional 15 unnumbered names.
 - 2.1. We should not expect the list to provide a comprehensive record of who was residing in the village in spring 1839, since the list is not a census but a record of who planted what quantities of potatoes and flax.
 - 2.2. Nevertheless, the presence of 21 numbered names is significant, since this number equals the total of 1838–1839 settlers from other sources: 8 for 1838 (or the first year of settlement) and 13 for 1839.
3. Placing the names from the 1839 list of settlers (Fast 1) alongside the 1839 planting record reveals an exact correlation for 13 of the names.
 - 3.1. The agreement confirms the accuracy of the 1839 settlers list, since the assignment of a number presumably indicates that a *Wirtschaft* had been or soon would be assigned to each of these settlers.
 - 3.2. The 8 names that do not appear on the 1839 settlers list but who have a number assigned in the 1839 planting list are no doubt those who were assigned a *Wirtschaft* the prior year: these are Waldheim's original 8 settlers.
4. On the basis of these two lists, we can reasonably conclude thus far that the 21 numbered names on the 1839 planting list include Waldheim's first 8 settlers and the 13 settlers who followed in 1839. However, we must now explain why the 1839 planting list also has 15 unnumbered names after the 21 numbered names.
 - 4.1. None of the 15 unnumbered names appears on the 1839 list. However, 13 of the 15 appear on the 1840 list of settlers (Fast 2).
 - 4.2. The most reasonable explanation for their presence on the 1839 planting list and the 1840 settlers list is that these 13 persons were in Waldheim already in early 1839 but were not eligible to become settlers until 1840.
 - 4.3. This is certainly the case for those who were living with landed family (Benjamin Buller Jr., Johan Wedel, Heinrich Wedel), as reported in the 1840 settler list. It thus seems likely that the same was true for those not known to be living with landed family.
 - 4.4. The 2 names on the 1839 planting list but missing from the 1840 settler list (4.1) are Cornelius Wedel (the fourth person with this name listed), who apparently became eligible to become a settler the following year, in 1841; and Benjamin Voth, whose name appears nowhere other than on the 1839 planting list; at present we have no evidence that he ever became a Waldheim settler.

5. Five names appear on the later lists but are not on the 1839 planting list. In all likelihood, each of these individuals did not arrive in Waldheim in time to plant crops in spring 1839. Four (Jacob Buller, Benjamin Unruh, Martin Bayer, Andreas Schmidt) seem to have settled in Waldheim in 1840, while the fifth (Tobias Schultz) settled in 1841.
6. The Braun Archive list of Mennonites assigned *Wirtschaften* 1839–1841 (Penner 2) corresponds generally to the other lists of names, although its assignment of settlement years frequently deviates from the others.
 - 6.1. The Penner 2 list lacks two names from the 1840 settlers list (Benjamin Unruh, Andreas Schmidt).
 - 6.2. The Penner 2 list confirms that Tobias Schultz was an 1841 settler.
7. Taken all together, the evidence of the lists can be arranged into a coherent picture of Waldheim's original settlers, with only one stray thread (Benjamin Voth). The settlers by year were:

1838 (8):

Michael Teske
 Peter Wedel
 Johann Worwel [Worbel]
 Peter Nachtigal
 Friedrich Kunkel
 Benjamin Ratzlaff
 Christian Teske
 Peter Sperling

1839 (13):

Tobias David Dirks
 Peter Jacob Pankratz
 Cornelius Cornelius Wedel Jr.
 Cornelius Cornelius Wedel
 Heinrich Johann Dirks
 Peter Johann Schmidt
 Jacob Aron Klassen
 David Jacob Koehn
 Benjamin Benjamin Buller
 Benjamin Cornelius Wedel
 David Heinrich Dirks
 David David Koehn
 Joahnn Heinrich Ewert

1840 (17):

Jacob Jacob Richert
 Andreas Peter Nachtigal
 Heinrich Peter Sperling
 Johann Johann Schmidt
 Heinrich Jacob Voth

Peter David Schmidt
Benjamin Benjamin Buller Jr.
Johann Kornelius Wedel
David Georg Nachtigal
Jacob Heinrich Pankratz
Cornelius Cornelius Unruh
Samuel Martin Boese
Heinrich Kornelius Wedel
Jacob Gregor Buller
Benjamin Kornelius Unruh
Martin Martin Bayer
Andreas Andreas Schmidt

1841 (2):

Cornelius Wedel
Tobias Schultz

Sources

Penner 1: "List of Mennonites in Waldheim Who Planted Potatoes and Flax in Spring 1839," Peter J. Braun Archives File 575; extracted and translated by Glenn Penner (online at http://www.mennonitegenealogy.com/russia/Mennonites_in_Waldheim_who_Planted_Potatoes_and_Flux_1839.pdf)

Fast 1: "Mennonites Who Transferred from Volhynia to Waldheim and Were Assigned Land in 1839, Odessa State Archives Fond 6, Inventory 1 File 4889; translated by Steve Fast (online at http://www.mennonitegenealogy.com/russia/Volhynia_to_Waldheim_1839.pdf)

Fast 2: "Mennonites Who Transferred from Volhynia to Waldheim and Were Assigned Land in 1840," Odessa State Archives Fond 6, Inventory 1, File 4889; translated by Steve Fast (online at http://www.mennonitegenealogy.com/russia/Volhynia_to_Waldheim_1840.pdf)

Penner 2: "Mennonites Assigned Wirtschaften in Waldheim in 1839–1841," Peter J. Braun Archives, File 738; extracted by Glenn Penner (online at http://www.mennonitegenealogy.com/russia/Mennonites_Assigned_Wirtschaften_in_Waldheim.pdf)

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Spring 1839 Planting List (Penner 1)		1839 Settler List (Fast 1)	1840 Settler List (Fast 2)	Braun Archive 1839–1841 (Penner 2)	Actual Settlement Year
1	Tobias [David] Dirks	x		x	1839
2	Peter [Jacob] Pankratz	x		x	1839
3	Cornelius Cornelius Wedel Jr.	x		x	1839
4	Michael Teske				1838
5	Peter Wedel				1838
6	Johann Worwel [Worbel]				1838
7	Peter Nachtigal				1838
8	Cornelius [Cornelius] Wedel	x		x	1839
9	Heinrich [Johann] Dirks	x		x	1839
10	Peter [Johann] Schmidt	x		x	1839
11	Jacob [Aron] Klassen	x		x	1839
12	David [Jacob] Koehn	x		x	1839
13	Benjamin [Benjamin] Buller	x		x	1839
14	Friedrich Kunkel				1838
15	Benjamin Ratzlaff				1838
16	Christian Teske				1838
17	Peter Sperling				1838
18	Benjamin [Cornelius] Wedel	x		x	1839
19	David [Heinrich] Dirks	x		x	1839
20	David [David] Koehn	x		x	1839
21	Joahn [Heinrich] Ewert	x		x	1839
	Jacob [Jacob] Richert		x	x	1840
	Andreas [Peter] Nachtigal		x	x	1840
	Heinrich [Peter] Sperling		x	x	1840
	Johann [Johann] Schmidt		x	x	1840
	Heinrich [Jacob] Voth		x	x	1840
	Peter [David] Schmidt		x	x	1840
	Benjamin [Benjamin] Buller Jr.		x	x	1840
	Johann [Kornelius] Wedel		x	x	1840
	Cornelius Wedel			x	1841
	David [Georg] Nachtigal		x	x	1840
	Jacob [Heinrich] Pankratz		x	x	1840
	Cornelius [Cornelius] Unruh		x	x	1840
	Samuel [Martin] Boese		x	x	1840
	Heinrich [Kornelius] Wedel		x	x	1840
	Benjamin Voth				
	Jacob Gregor Buller		x	x	1840
	Benjamin Kornelius Unruh		x		1840
	Martin Martin Bayer		x	x	1840
	Andreas Andreas Schmidt		x		1840
	Tobias Schultz			x	1841