

Since this connection is rather speculative at this time the information of the Heinrich G. Warkentin (1824-1910) family of Inman, Kansas, has not been included here. Anyone wishing further information on this family is referred to the "Heinrich G. Warkentin Genealogy" by Sol Warkentin.¹⁰⁹ The entire question is bound to remain somewhat obscure unless further information comes to light to resolve the question one way or the other. Hopefully the information contained in this section will aid others in their search for answers.

Gen	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
2	Susanna Fast	Dec 26, 1782		Oct 29, 1835
m	Gerhard Warkentin	1767		

Aeltester
Section Four. Bernhard Fast.

2 Son Bernhard Fast (1783-1861) emigrated to Russia with his parents in 1804 and settled in the village of Tiegenhagen. According to the records of Eduard Fast, Bernhard Fast married a widow Johan Baerg, nee Agatha Groening.¹¹⁰ The only possible family recorded in the 1803 emigration records is that of Johan Baerg listed as follows: "Johan Baerg, Hegewald, 25, Carpenter, to the Molotschna, married to Aganetha Groening, Hegewald, 30, to the Molotschna. Children, Johan 1, and half brother of J.B., Jakob Baerg 12."¹¹¹

The 1808 Revisions-Liste shows this family living on Wirtschaft No.5 in the village of Halbstadt. "Johan Baerg, 31, from Heywald, Amt Elbing, Blacksmith, wife Aganetha 35, daughters Catarina 5 and Anganetha 3, his brother Jakob Baerg 18. Property, 1 wagon, 1/2 plow, 1 harrows, 3 horses, 7 cattle, 12 sheep."¹¹² It is a well-known fact that Bernhard Fast resided in Halbstadt.¹¹³ This is verified by the Verzeichniss of 1812 which shows a daughter Susanna born to Bernhard Fast on Wirtschaft No 5 in Halbstadt. This record also shows that Jakob Baerg, friend of Bernhard Fast, married someone from the Chortitzer Colony on June 15, 1813.¹¹⁴ Therefore it is concluded that Bernhard Fast (1783-1861) was married for the first time to the widow of Johan Baerg, nee Aganetha Groening, and that the couple made their home on her Wirtschaft No.5 in Halbstadt.

An interesting connection to the Kleine Gemeinde is seen in the family of Aganetha Groening, the first wife of Bernhard Fast. According to *The Groening Wiebe Family 1768-1974*, Peter Groening who settled on Wirtschaft No 16 was a brother to Aganetha Groening.¹¹⁵ His son Abraham Groening (1808-1834) married Anna Wiens (1810-1876) and their son Franz Groening (1834-1901) settled in Gnadenu, Kansas. His mother Anna Wiens married for the second time to Jakob Wiebe (1805-1853) and they were the parents of Jakob A. Wiebe, founding Aeltester of the K.M.B..¹¹⁶

Bernhard Fast (1783-1861) and his first wife Aganetha Groening had only one daughter, namely, Susanna referred to above. She was married to Gerhard Warkentin of Schoenau. Bernhard Fast married for the second time to a widow Klassen, nee Dick. She had a daughter Anna Klassen from her first marriage who became the second wife of Franz Isaac, author of *Die Molotschnauer Mennoniten*.¹¹⁷ Her first name is presently unknown but some biographical information is available. She was born in 1801 and her brothers Klaas and David Dick lived in the village of Schoenau. The one possible family in the 1808 Revisions-Liste is listed on Wirtschaft No 11 in Schoenau as follows: "David Dueck 39, from Reinland, Amt Tiegenhoff, farmer, wife Anna 39, Children Anna 19, Sara 14, Elizabeth 13, Justina 6 and Claasz 3. Property 1 wagon, 1/2 plow, 2 harrows, 6 horses, 4 cattle, 20 loads of hay."¹¹⁸

Since the oldest child of daughter Anna Fast, who married Abraham J. Harder, was named Justina and the David Dueck family had a daughter Justina who would have been born in about 1801 this may be her family. A brother Claasz is listed and presumably a son David could have been born later given that the fathers name was also David.

3 Three children were born to the second marriage of Bernhard Fast, namely, Justina, Anna referred to above, and the youngest son Bernhard who was still at home in 1861.¹¹⁹ Daughter Justina Fast was married to Jakob Wiebe who was a school teacher in the village of Friedensruh, where both of them died. Son Bernhard Fast married Margaretha Wiebe apparently the daughter of Maria Isaac and Johan Wiebe of Tiege.¹²⁰ Evidently they were both quiet and reserved people. They became well to do and were living in the Crimea in 1907.¹²¹

Bernhard Fast (1783-1861) was elected as a minister of the Molotschna Flemish Gemeinde in 1814 and as Aeltester in 1821. He replaced Jakob Fast (1772-1821) his neighbour two doors over on Wirtschaft No.2 in the same village of Halbstadt.¹²² The performance of Bernhard Fast as Aeltester of the Molotschna Grosz Flemish Gemeinde was controversial, to say the least.

His attempts to impose pietist forms of religiosity against the wishes of the majority of his parishioners resulted in the division of his Gemeinde with over three quarters of his flock