

THE LIFE AND DESCENDANTS OF
BERNHARD EUHLER (1834-1918), BUHLER, KANSAS

Part 1: Memoirs by
Bernhard Buhler

Part 2: Descendants of
Bernhard Buhler

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1972

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and Archives
Bethel College

Part 1: Memoirs by Bernhard Buhler

The Life History of Bernhard Buhler

My humble self was born in 1834, February 8; but according to the new calendar as used here, February 20. I was born in Prangenau, South Russia. My father, Abraham Buhler, died the year of my birth, when I was about half a year old, according to what Mother and my siblings told me. At that time my parents owned in the above-mentioned village a property of 65 desjatin land and a windmill. That is, Father was a miller. Father had an accident at that mill while setting together the millstones which he had sharpened. He broke his leg, a fracture from which he did not recover and which led to his death. He was survived by Mother, nee Maria Dück, a widow with seven children of whom I was the youngest. Father was a widower when he married Mother; and as the result, one son and one daughter were from his first marriage and three sons (Jacob, Henry and Bernhard) and two daughters (Anna and Helena) were from his second marriage. My mother contracted a second marriage in 1835 with a bachelor Jacob Hiebert. His parents were David Hieberts of the village of Lindenau in the Molotschna. These parents were noted for having entertained Czar Alexander the First of Russia in their home. On that occasion Mother Hiebert was honored not only by having the Czar eat at the table with her but also by carrying on a conversation with him at which time they discussed Mennonite affairs. But this I know only as a tradition.

My first memory of my own is of the year 1837. One evening as I sat playing with little blocks in a wagon box that Father Hiebert was building, Mother, who was sitting in the next room mending, suddenly screamed, "Earthquake!" and Father ran to her. I was not particularly upset by this incident but it is my first recollection. I was about three years old at the time. The earthquake was said to have been strong enough to make the weights of the wall clock strike against each other. From that time on there are many recollections that come into my mind. For instance, the mill which stood in back and where I often went to play with my comrades.

I must mention one incident from my childhood, not so much for my own sake as that it might be a warning and instructive for others because it caused me to dislike school. I was not school age and did not attend regularly; but I went along with the older ones and stayed there. One of the older pupils did something very wrong, in the opinion of the teacher, and was severely punished. This severity frightened me so that I was overcome with fear and ran home. I was cured of my curiosity about school and was prejudiced against school. That same winter the parents sold all their property in Prangenau and bought in Crossweide so I didn't need to attend that school. After our move in 1840 I became school age in the fall and I still had those feelings of aversion. With difficulty my parents got me to attend school. But the teacher was friendly; my prejudice vanished; and school became a place of joy and blessing for body and soul.

At the last closing-school exercises when I was twelve, I had a spiritual experience. I recited the story of the Passion and the emotions

it aroused have never entirely left me. I must say to my regret that I sometimes worked against these emotions; but on that occasion I felt that Jesus, as the Lamb of God, was presented before my soul. I am thankful to my Lord for this early perception of his Spirit; it was often a means of preserving myself from too great worldliness. I am also grateful to my teacher, Peter Isaac, who was a tool in the hand of God to be a blessing to me and my fellow pupils. In this period of time my mother died. This doubtless also had something to do with the above-described experience in school. The death occurred on New Year's morning 1847 and the following spring was the close of school exercises that I mentioned above. Mother died believing in the Savior and that He had reconciled her to God. In life she had sought to serve God and had striven to instruct her children, which we perceived from her actions. However, she had a severe death struggle with the powers of Darkness as the Devil repeatedly presented himself before her. We realized this when she exclaimed, "Don't you see him as he stands at the foot of the bed and wants to devour me?" But she soon won the victory and with joy on her face she said, "He has gone, never to return;" and she seemed to see Jesus. She died with the word "Victory" on her lips. This memory is very vivid to me. After we had quieted down and dried our tears, Father requested my oldest brother Jacob to sing a song; he "lined out" the hymn "Victory" from the hymn book. Because we were all so deeply touched the singing did not go very well.

Now Father Hiebert was a widower, and we children were partly orphans. To the five children that Mother had at my father's death, four had been added: David, Gerhard, John and Agata. Also a Peter, but he had died young. Her death took place on New Year's Day, the year 1846. My oldest sister Anna was at that time already married to a Wilhelm Ewert in the village of Grossweide and was therefore present at Mother's death bed. I still remember that after Mother's burial, father began to do woodworking. He made chairs, probably to drive away his loneliness. Brother Jacob took care of the treadmill, Henry the barn; and Helena and I went to school. I don't remember anything special about that winter; only the close of school exercises in spring and I have already mentioned the spiritual experience connected with that. This last day of school marked the end of my schooling, which was all too short.

It might be well to mention one more event. Father got the three-day fever from which he suffered for some time. But in spring he recovered. In the summer of that same year father remarried. She was a daughter of the Peter Tiesens of Pordenau, a prudent, intelligent woman whom it was not hard for me to love as a mother. Her weakness was that she had a strong self will which sometimes beclouded the marital relationship. We children had to suffer under this somewhat, but my halfsiblings suffered more than I.

That same year in fall, brother Jacob married a Justina Klassen. Now Heinrich became the miller and I took over his place in the barn. That is, it was assigned to me. I worked as servant for two years; but I enjoyed the work because I had a Russian boy to share the work with me. Brother Jacob in the spring of 1847 bought the mill from Father and moved it to Berdjansk, a city on the Sea of Azov about five Werst from the colony. He

took Henry with him as miller; and I, as the oldest son in the house, was promoted one step higher. This was not exactly to the benefit of my inner self, especially when, after a year, Father again built a mill and set me up as miller. This made me an adult prematurely; I was only fourteen.

This was a period of drouth in the development of my spiritual nature. I allowed myself to be attracted to many worldly and sinful pleasures. When I look back at this period of my life I often quote a poem which speaks of "Counting the days I lay in sin," and then I regret every day. The time of Salvation did not come immediately; it took until my nineteenth year. But the Lord arranged many circumstances so that I was not completely lost and still had respect for parents and community. One of these circumstances was a revival among the Wittenbergers (people who had come from Wittenberg and who had migrated to Russia). This revival spread into Berdjansk and touched the Jacob Buhlers, my siblings. Later this revival also spread to the colony. This revival is known by the name of the Pastor Wüst movement. Since Jacob Buhlers visited us from time to time, our brother tried to influence us younger siblings, but without success. With sister Agatha there was great success and she more or less obtained peace of soul. This was not yet, however, the case with me.

But now came another incident that advanced me a bit further, and that was the death of my youngest half brother, Peter, who at Mother's death had been given to Aunt Johan Regier. (She was Father Hiebert's sister.) They lived in Rudnerweide and that is where he died. At this funeral I was again mightily seized by the spirit yet I did not yet fully surrender.

Now came the year 1854 when Russia became involved with Turkey; and England and France soon took part. As a result of this war Russia had to make some difficult adjustments; serfdom had to be abolished, and the nobility has to surrender all underlings (set them free). Berdjansk, where our siblings the Buhlers and many other Germans lived, was bombarded by the enemies of Russia. The inhabitants were forced to flee, among them our siblings. Many of the inhabitants fled to the neighboring towns, Neuhoffnung and others. The brethren Jacob Buhlers were taken in by Jacob Regiers of Pastwa; sister Jacob Regier was the blood sister of Jacob Buhler's wife. Here Brother Buhler fell ill of typhoid fever and died. This funeral had a decisive effect on me. Pastor Wüst attended the funeral; and as he stood at the coffin he stroked Brother's happy faith and also of his own affection toward him. He used the words, "Jonathan, my brother, would God I had died for Thee." Then I made my decision; as the hymnwriter says, "I am Thine! Thou has bought me for Thine," etc. This was a further experience like the one at the close of my school days.

This took place in the twenty-first year of my life and the spring of that year I had been received into the church at Pordenau through baptism. At that time I did not experience these deep inner feelings, but I could grasp the significance as given in Romans, chapter six. This gave my life the direction it was supposed to take. I purposely say supposed to; I did not always attain this, and I often had pangs of conscience. But God in His grace kept helping me through.

In my twenty-fourth year I sought and found a life companion in Anna Fenner, a neighbor's daughter. This was March 12, 1857, when we celebrated our wedding in the home of my parents-in-law, and Elder Benjamin Ratzlaff officiated. After the wedding I moved from the parental home, which had been my home for so many years, to my wife's home. This step caused changes in my life, many pleasant times and experiences. But as it says in Romans six, one must put aside one's own personality and adapt to new circumstances, and the Lord helped so that things went very well. We lived with the parents a little over a year. During this time a son was born over whom we rejoiced heartily.

This increase, however, caused us to look around for other shelter. It got too crowded in the parent's home. In addition to us three, there were also five children. The parents would gladly have kept us there longer but it got too crowded. Now we had to look for shelter. This was not hard. The neighbors, Heinrich Balzers, were a young childless couple with a large house who were glad to take us in. We would have preferred to set up our own household, but our finances were too limited to afford that. Let me say in passing that my inheritance from Mother was 80 Rubel, \$40 in our money; and my staying at home had brought in only a good horse and good equipment in clothing, linens and bedding. But the most important thing was a good reputation. Even if the Lord had not remembered us with money, he had outfitted my wife, child and myself with healthy bodies, happy disposition, will to work and trust in Him.

Equipped with these, we went happily to work. We rented land, and sowed what for us was a large sowing of wheat, two years in succession, which were richly blessed. We attained some self-sufficiency as I also did carpenter work on the side. In short, we were happy and satisfied. In the meantime my half brother David Hiebert got married and decided to take up milling. He asked me to become his partner. We decided to do so. In 1860 we built a treadmill in Berdjansk. The Lord blessed this. After four years we negotiated a separation and Brother David built a second mill in Berdjansk. In the four years we were together we were blessed materially and spiritually and rejoiced in the Lord and His work. But the Lord also sent us afflictions. Two sons who were given to us during these four years, Jacob and Bernhard, died during this period of time. Thus, Abraham the eldest was again left alone. We could say, "The Lord gave them, the Lord took them away."

We continued to live and work in Berdjansk for thirteen more years; five years each one with his own treadmill and the rest of the time with David Hiebert with a steam mill that was built in 1869. This construction caused us some worry in spite of our belief that we had thought through the matter well, and not without the Lord. He helped us and the mill was completed, which was a big undertaking for those days. The business went unexpectedly well, especially the first four years. Tempted by the good progress of the business we built two more steam mills, and as a consequence the income was not so good for the rest of the time in Berdjansk. Yet it was good enough to make us grateful, especially when we considered on what a small scale we had begun. Enough! We can look back at this time too as a time of blessing.

Two further occurrences during this time period are important. First of all, during this time (1866-1876) two sons and four daughters were born. Of the latter, Anna died. One of the above births brought us twins. I need hardly say that such happenings brought us closer to the Lord. My wife had difficulties during this time, in spite of the good things we enjoyed. At one of these births she lost the sight in one eye. In all of this we experienced the help of the Lord.

The second thing was that the Berdjansk Mennonite congregation which we had joined when we moved there called me as preacher by election. This was in the fall of 1864. This was a severe test for me. I couldn't excuse myself like Jeremiah, "I am too young." I was already thirty years old at that time. I thought I could rightfully say I had too little education as my schooling had ended with my twelfth year. When I looked at our Elder, Leonhard Suderman, who was equipped not only with academic training, but also Biblical knowledge, I felt no joy in accepting such a call. And yet, when I thought what the power of the gospel had done for me, I felt an inner inclination to take up the work. I did so and preached my first sermon on September 12 of that same year on the text Galatians 5:13-17. This sermon brought me both criticism and praise, and all the congregation were somewhat surprised that I began by taking such a position. However, I had thus given myself a viewpoint that was beneficial to me in my later work. But how often in that beginning period was I in distress, especially since there were those who thought it conceited of me to have accepted the position with such scanty education. How much prayer it took to get straightened out. I resolved that if the Lord should bless us with several children, I would, if at all possible, see to it that they would be provided with a better education than I had.

As to the fruit of this work coming from that which I did so imperfectly I leave to the judgment of others; probably only eternity will show clearly. But as to what it did for me I can say, as Paul did to Timothy, the laborer is the first to enjoy the fruit. Through this I came closer to the Lord and He to me, and that means happiness. To call God in Christ, Father, is a treasure. And in those times, especially when associating with brethren in the Lord, that was my lot. And so today even after thirty years I feel gratitude toward the Lord when I think of those days.

Here I will bring to a close our life story in Russia our old fatherland, lest it become too boring. However, there are two more events that I ought to mention besides the departure for America. There were two, actually three, cases of death that left traces of the working of the Holy Spirit that were a real blessing. The first death was that of my blood sister (Mrs.) David Isaac; this took place at the time when we settled in Berdjansk and almost spoiled our pleasure there, for her attraction contributed to our move to Berdjansk. It was a deep sorrow for us, all the more because her death was so unexpected. But this sorrow had its good side in that it taught us that all joys and hopes are based on visible, transitory things; and even if it concerns the dearest family, these things are vain and we must seek our stronghold in Jesus. The second death which greatly affected us was that of my mother-in-law, the mother of my wife. This even seemed to ruin the happiness of my wife because she had clung to her mother with all her love. But the Lord knew how to

turn even this for the best, as He always does for those that love him. My wife seemingly could not be happy so far away from her parents; that is, from her mother. It was sixty-five Werst from Berdjansk to Grossweide where her parents lived. After this tie was broken my wife felt more at home in Berdjansk and was better satisfied with her lot, to the joy of the family. She was comforted by the thought that her mother's fate was a happy one.

The third death was that of our, at that time, oldest daughter Anna. This occurred when she was twelve, shortly before our emigration to America. Many prayers ascended to the Throne of God during her illness; at first for her recovery and toward the last, for her release.

The last event on Russian soil which cut deep into our life was the farewell from our Berdjansk which we had come to love. In the seventeen years we spent there we had enjoyed so many earthly and spiritual blessings. This was in the early summer of 1877, early in July. The real and chattel property which we did not wish to take with us to America was sold and what we wanted to take was packed. We overcame some preliminary trials. Our resources were greatly reduced. For city property was worth barely half as much as three years before. Moreover, we had to leave behind many an uncollectible Rubel. Well, that was over and done with and partly forgotten. We had enough for the trip and also to start us out in America, if the Lord would help us to get across. But oh the last farewell! That is when it was revealed how many loving hearts among our Germans and also among our Russian friends beat for us. A procession of almost a hundred vehicles accompanied us as far as the cemetery which was about three miles out of town. Here three of our children were buried and one of David Hieberts who were making this emigration with us. They accompanied us and wanted to cast one last glance at the graves. This was a loving procession and a warm memory. What a treasure is the Christian's hope of Resurrection; this became very real to us. We have two heavenly treasures, Love and Hope. It overwhelmed us to gather for the last time around the graves of our beloved and with bared heads to commend the remains in prayer to Jesus who has overcome death and to thank Him.

After Scripture and prayer we mounted our vehicles to continue our way to the railroad station. The procession which had accompanied us stood and sent us best wishes and waved kerchiefs at us and followed us with their eyes. Now the personal connection was broken off with the dear friends and brethren in the Lord with whom we had associated for seventeen years; and we were deep in thought over what had happened as we drove along. Our way led us first by way of the Molotschna colony where we took leave of several blood relatives and spiritual brethren and many friends. Especially, we took leave of my wife's parents and her half siblings. There farewell tears were shed again, but hope of eternal life by means of grace helped to dry the tears. From there we went to the railroad station, Frischitz, from where we continued by rail and by sea toward our goal, North America; that is, Kansas, accompanied by our six children, Abraham, Bernhard, Maria, Elisabeth, Sarah and Johan. The last names were twins. From the colony on we were joined by Brethren David Hieberts, Abraham Huberts, and Franz Edigers of Gnadenau.

I won't say much about the trip itself except that after four weeks we arrived safely on the Fourth of July at Abraham Martens who had emigrated here two years previously together with Cornelius Fröses. The wives of both of these couples were blood sisters of my wife. On the morning of July 4, 1877, we had a double joy; first because of having overcome the dangerous journey, full of hardships; and secondly because of the reunion of siblings after a separation of two years. The next thing we felt a compulsion to do was to thank the Lord for having protected us during the journey and for having allowed us to meet our dear brethren hale and hearty.

Now we started on a new course. We had a place to stay at the Abraham Martens, but obviously we could not do this for long--this could not be offered to us for an extended time for these dear people had a large family and our family consisted of six children besides my wife and me. I had no special plans as to how to start again. At that time I felt as if I had finished in both respects, economically and also as a preacher, as if I had done my work. Yet I realized that I could not give in to these feelings. Our assets were not enough to enable us to live on our interest, so I had to figure out some way to make our living. Soon after our arrival we had an opportunity to enter into the occupation which had been ours in Russia, namely milling. This came from two directions. And yet, that occupation was at that time connected with business and I found much to irritate me in business. Besides, my dear wife took an interest only in farming even from earlier times. So it came about almost automatically because there was for sale a 90-acre farm across the line from Martens. We built a house there and on October 1 of that year, moved in. I can't say that this course of events was a special joy to me, it was more or less a submission to the leading of God. This may partly be attributed to the fact that the Lord in the meantime took from us our youngest daughter Sarah at the age of about a year and a half. That was a hard blow for me and for the whole family, yet the Lord meant well with us. Within the next years we had a double replacement, a son David and a daughter Anna. But John, whose twin sister had died, was bereft. Yet by the time that I'm writing this he has had a double replacement with a dear wife and a two-year-old son.

Now, after thirty years, I am about to celebrate my 75th birthday. When I look back at my life-occupation, which I began with not too much joy, then I must say the Lord has dealt well with us in economic respects; so we can look forward to the evening of life without anxiety. Not only that, but we were able to assist all seven of our children to get a start in their occupations. As I felt about my choice of profession in this land, so it was also with my spiritual calling. I felt I was so completely cut off from what had been in Russia because the last two years there had been very difficult for me for lack of an elder. The last thing I thought of was to take a position of leadership in this respect. And yet it came to pass that the Hebron church was established and chose me as elder.

I should right here give the reasons for the founding of the Hebron Church in order to do right by posterity. For two years the family and I had clung to the Hoffnungsau Church without having joined formally. I harbored the thought of doing so, since I found warm recognition in the

circle of the congregation for my activity in proclaiming the Gospel. At that time Brother Gaeddert was the elder of that congregation and he was favorable to me. One instance shows that this was the case. In 1878 his wife died. He missed her greatly. Not that he doubted that she died saved; no, she died believing in Jesus. But he had lost the presence of wife and mother for a group of half-grown children. This made him very melancholy so that after half a year he looked around for another wife and mother and found what he was looking for. Unexpectedly for me, he wished me to perform the wedding ceremony, which was rather unusual as in such cases usually only an elder could officiate. I insert this remark only to show that Brother Gaeddert had regard for me.

Now another circumstance kept me from being able to join that church. The Brethren movement in Russia had become quite firmly established and at the time of emigration it had been transplanted to America, particularly in Kansas in this settlement. I, or rather we, had already in Russia come into contact with this Brethren movement. The grace of God had seen to it that a spiritual life had been brought about in our circles and thank God we could be reckoned among this group.

And so it came about quite by itself that we should feel attracted to many things in the Brethren by whom this spiritual life was nurtured, although I, personally, could not agree with their demand of the form of baptism. So it is no wonder that in our new home we felt drawn to them; that is, we could not be opposed to their striving. We followed our feelings and associated with them and were happy among them. Brother Gaeddert could not understand this and opposed it with attacks, which I did not consider right; at least, not the way and manner in which he did it. Oh, I felt it necessary to contradict him, but to no avail. At this time there were several families that were still without membership. They had joined with several others and began to work on me to become their leader. Several other families from Brother Gaeddert's congregation felt as I did about our conduct toward the members of the Brethren and joined our movement. So it came about that the Hebron Congregation was founded.

It is not necessary to go into further details about the founding, as the record shows it. And so my resolution was shattered to be merely a co-worker in this new land and it became literally true, "Man proposes, God disposes." I was faced with a difficult new task. [Several words illegible and missing.] I will leave it to the Lord to pass judgment on my success. If I were to depend on the judgment of humans, even Christians, it would go hard for me. For I stood so to say between two fires; for the Brethren, what I did was too little, for the church brothers too much. I would like to remind all dear children of God that whatever forms they cling to, not to judge until the coming of the Lord (1, Corinthians 4:5). If we do too much, we do it for the Lord, and if we are moderate, we are moderate for the love of God constrains us, etc. (2, Corinthians 5:13-14). I would like to remind you also of Jesus' word, "Other sheep I have which are not of this fold" (John 10:16). "Them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold and one shepherd." And in Chapter 11:51-52, Jesus should die for that nation and not for that nation

only, but also he should gather together in one the children of God that were scattered abroad. The Apostle Paul calls all those who were baptized in one body members of the body of Christ, and calls Christ the Head of that body.

Thus, in the fall of 1879 I was ordained as elder of the Hebron Church by Brother Leonhard Suderman, elder of the Emmaus Church in Butler County. I presided over this church until the spring of 1906 when I requested the congregation to choose a different elder because of my advanced age. They agreed and chose as my successor Abraham Martens, Jr., who was ordained in the fall of that year and took over the congregation. [Several words illegible.]

What I have done during this period has already been stated, and how God regards it I do not know. That my work was somewhat blessed I could experience from my co-workers. I know I made mistakes, although I always wanted the best. It comforts me to know as I look back on my work that the judgment is up to God who judges with grace and righteousness those who are hungry for grace and who seek Him in the name of His son who died for all such, as a sacrifice on the cross. God's mercy-bed is wide enough, too, for me to lie in and the cover is long enough to cover all my shortcomings. Therefore, I can joyfully go to meet my Lord. My prayer and endeavor is that the Lord will grant me such faith and hope until I meet Him.

This page is being written on April 4, 1910, which may be the last page that I write in my life, which will be 77 years on February 20.

Today is May 18, 1911, a little over a year since I wrote the last page. God in His wisdom and grace granted me and my wife a further year. I have been since February 20 in my 78th year and my wife will be 73 next June 25. A nice age, and this last year was blessed too. Of course, we notice that our physical strength is gradually declining; yet, as I am writing this we are well enough to get along by ourselves with our housekeeping. This past year neither one of us has been ill enough to have to take to the bed except for necessary rest periods. Even if we notice a decline in above respect, we must note inner growth, as God comes ever nearer and dearer to us and our hope of resurrection becomes ever keener. Confidently we go forward to meet Him.

As we look over the most recent past, we agree with King David's experience as given in Psalm 18:31-36. (The writer refers to the shield of Salvation as being Jesus.) This shall be my staff and comfort in the future; I will not lack. Yes, not even if it should be the last page of my life.

Once again I take pen in hand to write another page of my life history. Today is March 17, 1913; thus it is two years since I last wrote. Thus, a nice addition to the many gracious acts of the Lord. The guiding and preserving of our life; Jesus the good shepherd of our soul. Praise and thanks for that. About our relationship to God and Christ I can write about the same as two years ago. God was gracious to us in every respect so that we could rejoice in Him. There have been some changes in Mamma's

life and mine. We have not only become two years older, but also more decrepit. This will be more noticeable to our dear children and to those around us. Yet we are still here, and strong enough to help ourselves with partial help from the children. We were a little sickly during this time, but yet not enough to put us entirely to bed. It was always temporary. Oh, how much better off than many people; let us recognize this and thank God. There was no persistent, severe illness in our family circle. There was one such case at the Peter Enn's. Our daughter Liese had a gall stone and appendicitis attack, but by the help of God the operation was successful and she recovered after a three weeks' stay in the Newton Hospital and is still well. Lord, let your hand rest on the children and grandchildren and bless them. We must mention one change in the family circle of the Jacob Regiers. They were presented with a healthy happy child, a little daughter, Ruth by name. May she remain alive and be an honor to her name and that of her parents, is my prayer.

The Lord must have had a wise purpose in preserving our lives up to now. Whether he does it for our sake or that of the children or for other reasons we cannot say. We know that in our lives much could be better and may the Lord make us willing to undertake our tasks. The same is true of my children and grandchildren.

I must mention a further event. The death of my sister Isaac, the last of my blood siblings. She died April 19, 1912. Her funeral took place on the 22nd. My wife and I drove to the funeral. Thus, all my blood brethren are in the heavenly home and soon I, too, will move into the home that God has prepared for me. Lord, let me preserve my Faith until I see Thee. Lord, only thou knowest if there will be from me another page of memoranda. But, dear Lord, grant according to II Peter that the door may be wide open for us if the close of our lives should occur this year. Amen.

Today is April 8, 1914. Since March 20 I have been in my 81st year. Last summer I didn't think I would write another page of my life history. The summer of 1913 was unusually dry, and it got so hot as I have never experienced it before. That was too much for my energy and affected my stomach so much that I lost my appetite and I thought I would die of weakness. Then I called my dear wife to my bedside and said, "Mamma, if I think of dying, I am ready to go and hope to meet my Lord." I had the children who lived away notified. Son David, who is a physician, came home and confirmed my apprehensions if my loss of strength could not be checked. He suggested moving to Colorado. I was too weak for that so I preferred to stay at home and to take what the Lord would send. Then Son David ordered baths twice a day and rubbing with alcohol. God blessed these means and in a few days I felt somewhat stronger; also I got an appetite. Besides the weather cooled off and thereby the illness was relieved. From then on I got stronger so that I got along quite well during the winter; and so grace was granted to me to write these additional lines. Yes, God dealt well with us and also with my wife. She had been somewhat sickly due to advanced age (76), but she got well and strong enough so that we could continue to help ourselves. Praise and thanks to Him.

Today is the 14th of May. When I started the above, I was interrupted and could not get back at it until now. I have already stated that I consider it a special blessing to have had another year added to my life and particularly that it was so that even we could arrange our financial affairs before my death. As the psalmist says, the Lord does well to those who fear him and hears their cries. I feel that as far as a human could see, I have done what is necessary to avoid misunderstandings among the children when our property is divided after our death. I feel quite calm at the prospect; and Mamma too feels good about it.

What is to come further on, whether life or death, we will calmly leave to the hand of God our Father. We can say He has done all things well, all with prudence, to Him be the praise, Amen!

Today is May 17, 1915. Three days later than a year ago, and we are still both here, Mama and I. Our dear Father in Heaven granted us a nice blessed year, thanks be to Him. We can tell that our physical condition is declining, but not our spiritual condition. The hope of eternal life grows stronger and keener. For this we are very grateful. But the dear Lord has strengthened our bodies enough so that even up to today we can help ourselves get along. That is more than we have deserved. The Lord has given us some advantages over others of the same age and we are thankful for that.

I should also mention that this year has been more eventful than any preceding one. First is the war which broke out in August 1914, and is still raging today as I write this--a war in which almost all countries on earth are taking part. Exceptions are: our country America, Holland, Switzerland, Italy and South America. One event concerns our family. Sister-in-law Mrs. John Buhler had to undergo a serious operation; through the help of God and the skill of the physician it turned out successfully. A second operation in the same family was that of their only little daughter Linda. It was not so critical but painful and also turned out well. At Jacob Regiers, little daughter Ruth had to undergo an operation which, according to the doctor, was not dangerous, but which for a child of three involves great discomfort and for the parents great anxiety and work. Otherwise it was successful. Such events are God speaking to us saying, "Son or daughter, give me your heart, let my ways be pleasing to Thy eyes." I close this report with the words, The Lord has done all things well and right prudently. Give God the honor!

Today it is the 17th of April 1916, not quite a year since my previous notes. Since the dear Lord has blessed Mamma and me with a further year, I would make a few further remarks. First of all, we wish to say thank you for the addition to the many preceding years. But we don't want to hide from ourselves the several signs that point to the approaching end: hearing, eyesight, weak back combined with dizziness are more or less my weaknesses. My memory too is getting less. With Mamma too these weaknesses are showing up more or less. On the whole she is stronger and sturdier than I, although in the course of the year she had a painful experience. A little cancerous sore developed on her nose so she had to

undergo an operation. This was successful, with the help of God, and didn't cause much damage to the nose. All is still well, but those were three difficult weeks for us. Even during this time we experienced that God is mighty when we are weak. God disciplines his children but does not deliver them to death. That is what we experienced and we are grateful for it.

Today is the 9th of May. I was interrupted on April 17 and I want to finish my remarks today.

Well, I really have nothing to add to my remarks about my condition today except to confirm that the end is approaching and I am glad and thankful that God my Father has given me the assurance of eternal life, through the faith in Jesus who stood for me as a pledge and high priest. Till I see Him as he is when I awake after His example. Amen.

Psalm 17:15

Today is the 29th of May, 1916; thus, a little later than my concluding remarks on the previous page. This is just a last remark of what has been said before: it is hardly to be expected that there will be anything further in my own hand, yet what is written below should be satisfactory, I trust.

Postscript

Grandfather's last statement was dated May 29, 1916, so I, Anna Buhler Enns (Mrs. Jacob J. Siemens), a granddaughter, will attempt to tell about their last days, most of which were spent in our home. Grandfather had to submit to a hernia operation shortly after his last entry. This left him weak and quite forgetful. This and the unexpected deaths of Uncle John Wall in September of 1916 and Uncle Abe Buhler on January 1917 took its toll on the grandparents' strength so that they could no longer take care of themselves. The John Buhlers opened their home to them, but this proved too much for Aunt Elizabeth's strength, so in April of 1917 they came to Newton to live with their daughter Elizabeth, Mrs. P. W. Enns, and family on a temporary basis. They were happy here so it became a permanent arrangement. They were always delighted to have their children and grandchildren visit them and occasionally they visited their children in Buhler and McPherson, but they considered Newton their home.

During the two years and eight months that Grandfather lived with us, his staunch faith in God never wavered. He was always grateful and appreciative for everything, and we felt that our family was blessed with their presence in our home. He became ill during the flu epidemic of 1918 and died of pneumonia on December 21, 1918. We had a real blizzard the day of his funeral so that his body rested on the J. C. Regier enclosed porch for a week before it could be taken to the Hebron Cemetery east of Buhler for interment.

Grandmother continued to live with us until her death on January 27, 1922. In all fairness to Grandmother it must be said that had it not been for her constant support, he would not have been able to serve humanity as he did. She and the children had to do the farming and feed and entertain the many guests that visited the minister regularly, especially on Sundays. Dad often said that he had an awful time courting Mother, for during the week he was busy with his teaching and on Sunday she had to help care for the many guests.

Some years after the deaths of their parents the children of the Bernhard Buhlers met at the home of the J. C. Regiers in Buhler, at which time Grandfather's Memoirs were read and discussed. Mother, Mrs. P. W. Enns, reported that they both laughed and wept as they heard his words.

In March of 1971 the wish was expressed at a gathering of cousins in North Newton that we get these Memoirs translated from the German and made available to their posterity so that we can become aware of our good heritage.

The translation, made by Wanda Isaac Tieszen, was left as much as possible like the original. Please let us remember that Grandfather's formal education ended when he was twelve years old so we should not be critical of his writing. May we all read it thoughtfully so that Grandfather's spirit can help each one of us to live at his best.

The Buhler-Düch Family

- I. Abraham Puhler
 Maria (Düch) Buhler
 II. Jacob
 Henry
 Anna
 Helena
 Bernhard

The Hiebert-Düch Family

- Jacob Hiebert
 Maria (Düch) Buhler Hiebert
 David
 Gerhard
 John
 Agata
 Peter

The Buhler-Penner Family

- II. Bernhard Buhler b. February 20, 1834; d. December 21, 1918 Miller,
 Minister, Farmer
 Anna (Penner) Buhler b. July 25, 1838; d. January 27, 1922 Homemaker
- III. Abraham b. March 5, 1858; d. January 21, 1917 Banker
- Jacob died in infancy
- Bernhard died in infancy
- Bernhard b. December 28, 1867; d. July 1925 Farmer
- Margaret (Fast) Buhler b. June 8, 1881; d. September 27, 1954
 Homemaker
- Mary (Buhler) Wall b. February 8, 1870; d. February 19, 1958
 Homemaker
- John J. Wall b. April 9, 1862; d. September 25, 1916 Milling
 Founder of Wall Rogolsky Mill
- Elizabeth (Buhler) Enns b. January 6, 1873; d. October 11, 1965
 Homemaker
- Peter William Enns b. February 6, 1872; d. September 10, 1957
 Dairy farmer
- Anna died at the age of twelve
- Sarah b. May 5, 1876; died at the age of 1½ years
- John J. b. May 5, 1876; d. April 25, 1933 Miller
- Elizabeth (Regier) Buhler b. February 17, 1881; d. August 26, 1942
 Homemaker
- David b. April 12, 1880; d. January 25, 1930 Physician
- Helen (Hansmann) Buhler b. January 22, 1883; d. October 4, 1935
 Homemaker
- Anna (Buhler) Regier b. July 24, 1883; d. January 28, 1941
 Homemaker
- Jacob C. Regier b. March 1, 1882; d. June 6, 1944 Buhler Mill
 Inc.

- III. Mary (Buhler) Wall b. Feb. 8, 1870; d. Feb. 19, 1958 Homemaker
 John J. Wall b. April 9, 1862; d. September 25, 1916 Milling; Founder of
 Wall-Rogolsky Mill
- IV. Bernard Wall b. Jan. 23, 1894; d. February 2, 1894
- IV. Ernest Arnold Wall b. Jan. 29, 1896 Milling; Chairman of Board
 of W-R Mill
 Eunice S. (Almen) Wall b. May 5, 1902 Homemaker; Former Teacher
- V. Rollyn Edgar Wall b. Sept. 3, 1940 Manager, Grain Dept. W-R
 Milling Co.
 Jerri (Wisdom) Wall b. Sept. 29, 1939 Homemaker
- VI. Eric Allyn Wall b. Dec. 13, 1958
 Angela Rose Wall b. Mar. 23, 1961
 Robin Elizabeth Wall b. July 12, 1963
 Christopher Rollyn Wall b. Dec. 19, 1964
- V. Eloise Ann (Wall) Shields b. Oct. 30, 1942 Homemaker
 Donald W. Shields b. Dec. 19, 1942 Supervisor of Mill Laboratory
- VI. Erika Ann Shields b. Oct. 28, 1970
 Kristene Marie Shields b. Oct. 28, 1970
- IV. Arnold Wall b. Dec. 5, 1897; d. Nov. 18, 1902

- IV. Margaret (Wall) Nice b. Nov. 18, 1902 Homemaker & Former Teacher
Milo A. Nice b. Jan. 25, 1903; d. Nov. 5, 1971 Manager of sales, Hercules Inc.
- V. Milo A. Nice, Jr. b. Nov. 6, 1930 Buyer for Hercules Inc.
Edythe (Sands) Nice b. Nov. 24, 1932 Homemaker & Dietician
- VI. Linda Jean Nice b. Oct. 5, 1962
David Alonzo Nice b. July 17, 1965
Paul Frederick Nice b. Aug. 6, 1968
- V. John A. Nice b. June 16, 1934 Stock broker
Mary (Wilson) Nice b. Dec. 3, 1933 Homemaker; Former Teacher
- VI. Jeffrey Wilson Nice b. Oct. 24, 1961
Diana Lyn Nice b. Feb. 16, 1963
Kerry Alan Nice b. Jan. 22, 1967
Karalee Nice b. Feb. 22, 1971

- IV. John Buhler Wall b. Nov. 22, 1905 Milling; President of W-R
Othetto (Clark) Wall b. Nov. 22, 1913 Homemaker
- V. Mary Joyce (Wall) Lewis b. Nov. 4, 1938 Homemaker
George H. Lewis III b. April 3, 193 Porcelain Factory
- VI. Dean Butler Lewis b. Aug. 17, 1961
David Wall Lewis b. Aug. 26, 1963
Anna Marie Lewis b. Sept. 1969
- V. Jeffrey Clark Wall b. July 3, 1940 Plant Manager of W-R Milling Co.
Linda (Haupt) Wall b. Jan. 9, 1940 Homemaker
- VI. Mary Lynn Wall b. Aug. 13, 1965
Alan Jeffrey Wall b. Feb. 18, 1967.
- V. John Brent Wall b. Jan. 12, 1947 W-R Mill Office

- III. Elizabeth (Euhler) Enns b. January 6, 1873; d. October 11, 1965 Homemaker
Peter William Enns b. February 6, 1872; d. September 10, 1957 Dairy Farmer
- IV. Bernhard Euhler Enns b. January 3, 1897 Retired Wholesale Grocery
and feed salesman
Aileen (Gilbert) Enns b. January 22, 1898; d. June 24, 1971 Homemaker
- V. Peter Bernhard Enns b. September 21, 1929 Shipping clerk
Lucille (Hipp) Enns b. June 17, 1920 Legal secretary, Homemaker

- IV. Anna (Enns) Siemens b. August 25, 1899 Homemaker and former teacher
 Jacob John Siemens b. January 27, 1894 Retired real estate broker
- V. Maurine (Siemens) Hean b. February 22, 1927 Homemaker and teacher
 James Robert Hean b. September 12, 1918 Chief of Rehabilitation at
 St. Elizabeth's Hospital
- VI. James Frederick b. June 7, 1952 Student at Maryland University
 Susanne Elizabeth b. January 27, 1954 Student at Maryland University
 Charles Robert b. December 16, 1960
 David Richard b. December 16, 1960
- V. Richard Allan Siemens b. January 1, 1930 M. D. Physician
 Frances (Schultz) Siemens b. March 26, 1932 Homemaker and former teacher
- VI. Charlotte Anne b. January 29, 1960
 Douglas Todd b. November 7, 1961
- V. Robert James Siemens b. September 23, 1938 Head of Science Dept. in NW
 Shawnee High School
 Frances (Burdette) Siemens b. July 25, 1943 Teacher and Homemaker
- VI. Amber Renee b. July 25, 1969
 Austin Dale b. October 12, 1971

- IV. Rudolph Buhler Enns b. February 18, 1902 Retired Owner and Manager of Enns Motor Service
 Nettie (Loganbill) Enns b. December 17, 1905 Former bookkeeper for Enns Motor Service; Homemaker
- V. Myron J. Enns b. January 1, 1928 Owner & Operator of Ready-mix Concrete and Construction
 Wilma (Hershberger) Enns b. July 14, 1928 Homemaker
- VI. Maribeth (Enns) Smith b. May 12, 1952 Student at Kansas University
 Bryant Lee Smith b. June 24, 1951 Student at Kansas University
 Thomas Mitchell Enns b. April 2, 1955
- V. Betty (Enns) Schmidt b. December 31, 1929 Homemaker
 Robert W. Schmidt b. February 16, 1929 Professor of Chemistry
- VI. Rebecca Lynn b. January 7, 1956
 Brian Lee b. March 28, 1958
 Kenneth Buhler b. September 30, 1960
 Karen Louise b. March 10, 1964
- V. Judith (Enns) Gaeddert b. January 30, 1938 Homemaker and H.S. Instructor of Music
 Dale Albert Gaeddert b. February 11, 1937 Professor of European History
- VI. Gretchen Marcene b. May 28, 1960
 Michael Dale b. September 10, 1961
 John Dale b. September 27, 1964
- V. Janet (Enns) Walters b. May 18, 1940 Homemaker
 Jarrel Lee Walters b. February 11, 1940 Head of Counseling Dept.
- VI. Kerry Lee b. September 15, 1960
 Kurt Vincent b. April 28, 1964
 Kristopher John b. June 17, 1965

- IV. Walter Buhler Enns b. January 31, 1904 New York Life Insurance
 Florence (Haury) Enns b. October 9, 1905 Homemaker and former teacher
- V. Carol (Enns) Erubacher b. March 24, 1934 Teacher and Homemaker
 Jack Erubacher b. January 10, 1932 Sales Dept. Skylines Corp.
- VI. Lisa Carol Erubacher b. August 4, 1959
 Laurie Cathleen Erubacher b. August 29, 1961
 Jacqueline Carol Erubacher b. May 15, 1971; d. May 17, 1971
- V. Rosalind (Enns) Autenrieth b. November 17, 1941 Teacher *m. Carl Andreas*
(div)
- V. Ellen (Enns) Goering b. May 23, 1946 Teacher and Homemaker
 Steven Goering b. April 11, 1946 Chemical Engineer

IV. Linda (Babler) Grove b. April 2, 1910

Former Teacher & Homemaker

Norman M. Grove b. February 8, 1909

Banker

V. Norman Michael b. November 6, 1936

Attorney

Marilyn (Hendrick) Grove b. Jan. 14, 1938

VI. Deborah Ann b. May 10, 1959

Phillip Michael b. Dec. 19, 1962

- III. John J. Buhler b. May 5, 1876; d. April 25, 1933 Milling business
Elizabeth (Regier) Buhler b. Feb. 17, 1881; d. Aug. 26, 1942
- IV. Milton b. February 2, 1906; d. November 6, 1959 Milling business
Mildred (Roach) Buhler b. Jan. 11, 1909
- V. Jon Buhler b. March 27, 1937 Milling business
Virginia (Taylor) Buhler b. Sept. 21, 1940
- VI. Mary Virginia b. Sept. 23, 1966
Jon Milton b. Dec. 27, 1969

- III. David Bernhard Buhler b. Apr. 12, 1880; d. Jan. 25, 1930 Physician
Helen (Hansmann) Buhler b. Jan. 22, 1883; d. Oct. 4, 1935 Homemaker
- IV. Esther (Buhler) Paxton b. July 25, 1906 Piano instructor
Edwin McCurdy Paxton b. May 4, 1895; d. Apr. 24, 1965 Internal Revenue Service

IV. Victor Bernard Buhler b. Dec. 31, 1908	Physician
Enola (Glover) Buhler b. May 6, 1909	
V. Victor Bernard Buhler Jr. b. June 14, 1941	Business
Diana (Griffin) Buhler b. June 12, 1942	Elementary Teacher
VI. Victor Bernard Buhler III b. Feb. 1, 1972	
V. Barbara (Buhler) Walsh b. July 3, 1942	Ph.D. in French
William Patrick Walsh b. Feb. 11, 1942	Ph.D. in English
VI. Kathryn Elizabeth Walsh b. June 27, 1972	

- IV. Ella Irene (Buhler) Miller b. May 23, 1914
Gerald Lee Miller b. February 14, 1913 M.D. Gynecology
- V. Gerald Lee Miller, Jr. b. December 17, 1942 M.D. Gynecology
Brigitte (Hedwig Pistoricus) Miller b. Sept. 28, 1939 Physical Therapist
- VI. Gerald Gunther Miller b. July 20, 1971
- V. Shiela Lou (Miller) Long b. July 22, 1947 Computer operator
William Audie Long b. Feb. 4, 1944 Attorney

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| IV. Helen (Fuhler) Ossmann b. October 26, 1916 | Home Economist and
Homenaker |
| Carl Gerhart Ossmann b. April 28, 1911 | Architect |
| V. Carl William Ossmann b. November 24, 1951 | Student |
| John Bender Ossmann b. June 28, 1953 | Student |

IV. Everett Buhler b. July 27, 1919

Texaco Consignee

Helen Louise (St. Clair) Buhler b. March 4, 1921

Homemaker

V. John David Buhler b. March 24, 1944

Pilot, United Airlines,
re-alter

V. Annette (Buhler) Jones b. November 15, 1946

Homemaker

Robert Lewis Jones b. January 23, 1943

Rancher, cattleman

VI. Megan Elizabeth Jones b. April 8, 1971

V. Elizabeth (Buhler) Ames b. January 5, 1952

Student at Kansas Univer-
sity

Mark Stephen Ames b. April 25, 1950

Student in Accounting

V. Marl Alan Buhler b. June 16, 1954

Student

V. Kathryn Buhler b. November 22, 1955

Student

IV. Dorothy Geraldine (Buhler) Smith b. May 4, 1922

Home Economist

Glee Sidney Smith, Jr. b. April 29, 1921

Attorney

State Senate 1957, President

Pro tem Kansas Senate 1964-

Attorney

V. Glee Sidney Smith III b. May 20, 1947

Lt. U. S. Navy 1970

V. Stephen Buhler Smith b. July 18, 1948

Student, Kansas

Cheryl (Raupp) Smith b. May 25, 1950

University Medical School

Student in Physical

V. Susan Kay Smith b. January 25, 1953

Therapy at Kansas University

Student at Kansas

University

- IV. Carol Marie (Buhler) Francis b. February 9, 1928 Journalist
- George William Francis b. January 31, 1928 Merchant
- V. April Elaine Francis b. December 1, 1954 Student
- Wendy Lynn Francis b. June 15, 1956 Student
- Jay Morgan Francis b. August 28, 1959
- Jon Buhler Francis b. January 7, 1962

- III. Anna (Buhler) Regier b. July 24, 1883; d. January 28, 1941 Homemaker
 Jacob C. Regier b. March 1, 1882; d. June 6, 1944 Buhler Mills, Inc.
- IV. Harold M. Regier b. July 11, 1909 President, Buhler Mills, Inc.
 Anna Marie (Haury) Regier b. December 6, 1911 Homemaker
- V. Judith (Regier) Camblin b. July 13, 1938 Homemaker
 Robert E. Camblin b. January 6, 1937 Co-partner of Camblin Plumbing and Heating
- VI. Catherine B. Camblin b. July 13, 1962
 Ann E. Camblin b. June 30, 1964
 Jennifer E. Camblin b. January 12, 1971
- V. James R. Regier b. May 10, 1941 International Research for Time, Inc.
 Elizabeth (Adams) Regier (Holly) b. January 2, 1943 Homemaker
- VI. Elizabeth H. Regier (Lisa) b. August 16, 1967
 Andrew A. Regier b. August 16, 1970
 Abigail H. Regier b. October 8, 1971
- V. Linda (Regier) Long b. December 19, 1948 Homemaker
 William D. Long b. December 7, 1947 Manager of Long's Inc.
- VI. Jeffrey D. Long b. December 5, 1971

IV. Ruth (Regier) Ratzlaff b. May 30, 1912

Harold C. Ratzlaff b. April 27, 1911

V. Mary Ann Ratzlaff b. December 4, 1943

Mennonite Missionary
(General Conference)
Mennonite Missionary
(General Conference)
Teacher

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| IV. Herbert Hoover Regier b. August 30, 1917 | Buhler Mills, Inc. |
| Betty Louise (Johnston) Regier b. September 2, 1917 | Teacher |
| V. Timothy James Regier b. December 20, 1944 | Student in Business |
| Kathleen (Serenska) Regier b. March 11, 1945 | Student in Art History |
| V. Jerome Clifton Regier b. October 20, 1947 | Student in Biology |
| Janet (Friesen) Regier b. January 18, 1946 | Librarian |

IV. Louis R. Regier b. January 9, 1926

Certified Public Accountant

DeMar (Ratzlaff) Regier b. February 29, 1928

Homemaker and Teacher

V. Anne Margaret Regier b. February 12, 1950

Student of Nursing

Philip Roger Regier b. February 7, 1955

Student