

## Materials at Mennonite Library and Archives on the Central Asia trek, *ca.* 1880.

### Personal Papers Collections

MS.6. Wilhelm Ewert papers. Includes a Central Asia Trek map.

MS.035. The Peter Siebert Goertz (1886-1948), Mathilde Harms Goertz and Helen Riesen Goertz Papers include a Central Asia (Dalke) Diary 1888 by Siebert Goertz.

MS.44 Gerhard A. Peters papers. Diaries and travel notes. Peters taught in Khiva in 1913. Not clear if the papers contain anything specifically about that experience.

MS.045. Central Asia Trek, 1880-1929. Assembled from descendants of persons involved in the trek (Penner, Jantzen, Toews, Klaassen). Includes correspondence, memoirs, articles plus minutes of American committees formed to aid and rescue the Mennonites in Asia. 0.3 cubic feet. ([all digitized](#))

MS. 115. Hans Bartsch (1894-1959). Includes letters in German written to Johannes Bartsch and Anna Harms Bartsch, his parents, beginning *ca.* 1882 from relatives living in Russia or Central Asia. 0.3 cubic feet. (correspondence [partially digitized](#), some has been transcribed and posted on <https://neu.chortitza.org/kategorie/briefe/am-trakt-2/>)

MS.118. Johannes K. Penner (1850-1924). These papers are unprocessed. Penner migrated to Central Asia in 1880 then to Beatrice, Nebraska in 1884.

MS.136. James C. Juhnke papers. Includes some material on his tour to Central Asia in 2007.

MS.203. Jacob H. Quiring. He preached in Central Asia as a Reiseprediger. Collection is unprocessed so not clear if there are papers related to that experience.

MS.255. Helena Graewe Warkentin papers. Diaries (starting in 1917), autobiography, Central Asia account. Moved to Central Asia in 1881 and to US in 1884.

MS.308. Elma Esau papers. Includes large set of letters from relatives in Russia. See also her book *Russia Letters*.

MS.549. Johann Jantzen diary. German original and handwritten English translation. He migrated to Central Asia in 1881 and to Nebraska in 1884. ([digitized](#))

MS.572. Dov Yaroshevski Central Asia Papers. Israeli scholar who did some research on the Central Asia trek. ([partially digitized](#))

MS.738. Peter J. Quiring and Helena Dalke Quiring papers. He was born in Central Asia. Not clear how much there is about Central Asia; much of the material is about World War 1 in Oklahoma.

### **Small Archives Collections** (one folder or less)

- S.A. I. 180. Unidentified Dutch typescript, page 1 missing, has to do at least partly with Claas Epp trip to Central Asia, found in Krahn papers Dec. 1984
- S.A. II. 58. Travel account of Heinrich B. Janzen from Saratov, Russia, to Tashkent in Central Asia, 1881; original and photocopy; handwritten German; and typewritten English translation by Hilda Voth, completed Dec. 2, 1992
- S.A. II. 240. 50th anniversary sermon by John Toews, includes story of Central Asia trek
- S.A. II. 360. David Schmidt (1835-1898) family record and report of trek to Central Asia; typed ([digitized](#))
- S.A. II. 745. Notes by H. R. Voth on church founded by Hermann Heinrich Peters
- S.A. II. 1519. Anonymous diary of the trek of Russian Mennonites to Central Asia, 1880s; handwritten German original and typed English translation; Brought in by Bethel professor A. Wayne Wiens, 26 June 1992. It was found among the papers of his grandfather John D. Jantzen of Hillsboro, KS, so it presumably comes from some member of the Jantzen family. Later it was in the possession of Wayne's uncle J. Marc Jantzen of Stockton, CA. Wayne brought it in to have it translated and then donated the original to the MLA. ([digitized](#))
- S.A. II. 1605. Jacob Jantzen autobiography, written in 1939 when he lived in Bessie, Oklahoma; he apparently was on the Central Asia trek; handwritten German original; donated to MLA by Mrs. H. H. Horn of Cordell, Oklahoma, in 1970; found in MLA.MLA.I (pre-1979 MLA office files), folder "Horn, Mrs. H. H.", further correspondence can be found there ([digitized](#))
- S.A. III. 44. Map of Claas Epp trek to Central Asia, by Joh. Bartsch, English translation, blueprint (location: b2a3)
- S.A. III. 63. "Itinerarkarte zu den Reise der Mennoniten in Mittelasien," negative mirror-reversed print, hand-drawn, in German, by H. Bartsch, found in unlabeled MLA map drawers, 29 December 1997 9location: b2a3)
- S. A. III. 290. "Itinerarkarte zu den Reisen der Mennoniten in Mittelasien," copy of hand-drawn original, no date or compiler (added 6 Aug 2008) (blueprint drawer 7)

### **Photos**

Most or all of our Central Asia photos are digitized [here](#)

## Microfilms

- MF MSS 37 Jacob Töws, "Einige Aufzeichnungen aus unserm Lebensgange und über die wunderbaren aber gnädiger Führung unsers treues Gottes. Aberdeen in 1918-1920." (This might be the same as the published *A Short Sketch of my Life* by Jacob Toews (1963))
- MF MSS 61 From the Trakt to Central Asia. Bethel College Historical Library, North Newton, Kansas. 1945 (mostly photos)  
Letters of Maria Jantzen to her father. Also letters of Herman Bartsch to John Bartsch.  
Diary of Jacob Jantzen of Bessie, Oklahoma.  
([digitized](#))

## Articles

- Belk, Fred R. "The Emergence of Millennialism Among the Russian Mennonites." *Mennonite Quarterly Review*, 49, July 1975, 217-225.
- Belk, Fred R. "The Final Refuge: Kansas and Nebraska Migration of Mennonites From Central Asia After 1884." *The Kansas Historical Quarterly*, 40, Autumn, 1974, 379-392.
- Belk, Fred R. "To Meet the Lord and Escape the Draft." *Mennonite Life*, May-June 1974, 38-41.
- Belk, Fred. R. "Turkestan: Russian Mennonite Promised Land." *Studies in Islam*, January-April 1973, 58-80. M 289.747 B412t
- Dueck, A. J. "Claas Epp and the Great Trek Reconsidered." *Journal of Mennonite Studies*, 1985, 138-147.
- Hale, Douglas. "From Central Asia to America." *Mennonite Life*, July 1970, 133-135.
- Inoyatova, Dilaram M. "Mennonites in Central Asia and Their Role in the Modernization of Economics and Culture in the Region." In *European Mennonites and the Challenge of Modernity over Five Centuries: Contributors, Detractors, and Adapters*, edited by Mark Jantzen, Mary S. Sprunger, and John D. Thiesen, 161-177. North Newton, KS: Bethel College, 2016.
- Jantzen, Mark. "Review: History of the Defenceless Anabaptist Churches from the Times of the Apostles to the Present." [Mennonite Life 69 \(2015\)](#). (review of Walter Klaassen's translation of Martin Klaassen, *Geschichte der wehrlosen taufgesinnten Gemeinden*)
- Janzen, J. "Mennonite Colony in Turkestan." *Mennonite Quarterly Review*, 4, October 1930, 282-289.
- Janzen, Waldemar. "The Great Trek: Episode or Paradigm?" *Mennonite Quarterly Review*, 51, April 1977, 127-139.

- Klaassen, Walter. "A Belated Review: Martin Klaassen's 'Geschichte der wehrlosen taufgesinnten Gemeinden' Published in 1873." *Mennonite Quarterly Review* 49 (Jan 1975):43-52.
- Ratliff, Walter. "The Mennonites of Khiva: A Modernizing Community." In *European Mennonites and the Challenge of Modernity over Five Centuries: Contributors, Detractors, and Adapters*, edited by Mark Jantzen, Mary S. Sprunger, and John D. Thiesen, 179-193. North Newton, KS: Bethel College, 2016.
- Wiebe, Dallas. "Our Asian Journey" (Fiction) *Mennonite Life*, December 1989, 16-21.
- Wiebe, Dallas. "Our Asian Journey: Thyatira" (Fiction) *Mennonite Life*, December 1993, 6-14.
- Yaroshevski, Dov. "Central Asian Context for the Khivan Mennonites Story." In *Central Asia on Display: Proceedings of the VII. Conference of the European Society for Central Asian Studies*, edited by Garbiele Rasuly-Palczek and Julia Katschnig, 355-363. Münster: LIT Verlag, 2005.
- Yaroshevski, Dov B. "The Mennonite Community in the Khanate of Khiva." *Asian and African Studies* 16 (1982), 403-406.
- Zimmerman, L. E. "Document on the Mennonite Colony in Turkestan." *Mennonite Quarterly Review*, 4, October 1930, 303-305.

### **Student Papers**

- Claassen, Henry W. "J. K. Penner: From Revolution to Revelation!" 1994. Bethel College Seminar Paper.
- Jantzen, Vern. "Chiliasm and Claas Epp Jr." 1976. Bethel College student paper.
- Miller, John Michael. "Faith, Exile, and Rebellion: The Kuldja Mennonites in the USSR and Xinjiang." 2012. Bethel College Seminar Paper.  
[https://d2cqqgfkxtewgy.cloudfront.net/seminars/miller\\_john\\_2012.pdf](https://d2cqqgfkxtewgy.cloudfront.net/seminars/miller_john_2012.pdf)
- Schmidt, Shasta L. "The Makings of a Mennonite Millennial Migration: Claas Epp and the Great Trek to Central Asia." 1998. Bethel College Seminar Paper.
- Stewart, John. "Claas Epp: A False Prophet." 1998, Bethel College student paper.

### **Books and Monographs**

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- Bartsch, Franz. *Unser Auszug nach Mittelasien . . .* North Kildonan, Manitoba: Echo-Verlag, 1948.
- Bartsch, Franz. *Unser Auszug nach Mittelasien . . .* Halbstadt: H. J. Braun, 1907.
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- Jantzen, Hermann. *Memoirs of Hermann Jantzen : missionary to Turkestan, Caucasus and Bulgaria, refugee from Bolshevik Russia*. 1975. M 289.70924 J266iE Translated by Joseph A. Kleinsasser from a typed German manuscript, transcribed by Ernest Kuhlman from the original hand-written copy.
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- Jantzen, Johann. "Accounts of Various Experiences in Life: A Diary Begun in the Year 1839." Trans. 1976.
- Klaassen, Jacob. *Grandfather's Description of the Trip to Central Asia 1880. Asienreise*. 1964. [previously published in *Der Bote*, a Canadian-German-Mennonite weekly, from May 21<sup>st</sup> to September 23d, 1941, under the title "Aus Vergangner Zeit. Reiseerinnerungen von Jacob Klaassen-Eigenheim."]
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- Ratliff, Walter R. *Pilgrims on the Silk Road: A Muslim-Christian Encounter in Khiva*. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2010.

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Toews, Jacob. *A Short Sketch of My Life*. Trans. Frank L. and Anna (Toevs) Wenger. Aberdeen, ID: 1963.

Wall, Cornelius. *Reisebeschreibung des Cornelius Wall aus Nicolaipol bei Aulie Ata in Turkestan*. Altona : Buchdruckerei H. Dircks, [1988]

Wiebe, Dallas E. *Our Asian Journey: A Novel*, Waterloo, Ontario: mlr editions Canada, 1997.

## **Video**

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