

Dockter Family History

Portion of a letter written by Johann Dockter, Ashley, North Dakota, published in the *Ashley Tribune* 27 January 1938.

Translation and footnotes by Gregory Dockter

I would like to leave an old history here, if it is not too much for the printer. Perhaps it will be of interest to many readers and also some of my friends and relatives. This is written by my own father, Gottlieb Dockter Sr. It is as follows:

"My father, Jakob Dockter Sr.¹, was from Germany, and was born 15 February, 1794² in Elsass, in the colony Sessenheim (about 3 hours from Strasburg). Then he, with his parents, immigrated to Russia in 1808, and settled with his parents in the colony Neudorf, South Russia, where he lived until he died on 6 October, 1876 at 83 years, 7 months, and 21 days old.

My mother is from Baden-Baden, maiden name Hertle.³ She saw the light of the world on 17 June, 1796. In the same year she, with her parents, immigrated to Russia.⁴ She married my father in 1816. They lived 60 years in marriage together. She died 1 March, a half year before my father, reaching the age of 80 years, 10 months, and 14 days. There were 10 children born, with 6 living when she died, 3 boys and 3 girls, and all were already married. Their names were Eva, Georg,⁵ Friedrich, Jakob, Gottlieb, Christina, and Katharina. She left 72 grandchildren and 42 great-grandchildren.

My father-in-law, Philip Bender,⁶ was born in Bergdorf, South Russia, and married Anna Marie Schaible⁷ in 1836 at Neudorf, where he lived until 1874. In that year he moved to America, where he reached a very old age, dying 12 November 1889.⁸ He lived in America 15 years, and his age was 79 years. My mother-in-law was born in the Black Forest of Germany and then immigrated to Russia in 1824 with her father, Martin Schaible, settling in the colony of Glückstal.⁹ In 1832 she was married for the first time with a cousin, Georg Friedrich Dockter.¹⁰ However, she lived just a few years with him, and two sons were born: Michael and Jakob.¹¹ Then she married for the second time, to my father-in-law, Philip Bender, and they lived in the home of her first husband and continued his agricultural operation until they immigrated to America. She outlived her husband by one year and one month, and reached the age of 80 years.¹²

Now something about myself, Gottlieb Dockter Sr., and my family. I was born on 12 December, 1832, in the colony of Neudorf, South Russia; was confirmed Palm Sunday 1849 in Glückstal by Pastor Neander, a Curlander.¹³ In the year 1857, on 15 January, I was married to Magdalena Bender.¹⁴ Pastor Doll married us.¹⁵ In the year 1885, on 19 April, my entire family immigrated to America, and at first lived four years in the south.¹⁶ We came to McIntosh County, North Dakota, on 15 March, 1889. My wife was born 17 March, 1840 in the colony of Neudorf; was confirmed in 1854 in Glückstal and married me in 1857. We were blessed with 13 children, and nine are still living. The living children are: Jakob, born 1 July 1860; Magdalena, born 24 August, 1862; Johann, born 27 August, 1864; Gottlieb, born 8 November, 1866;

Friedrich, born 10 October 1868; Eva, born 21 July 1871; Philip, born 26 May 1875; Christian, born 12 August, 1877; August, born 16 May, 1882.

Written by Gottlieb Dockter Sr.¹⁷

Greetings to all the readers of the Tribune.

Johann Dockter¹⁸

¹ Dr. Karl Stumpp, *The Emigration from Germany to Russia in Years 1763 to 1862*, page 700: Neudorf 1816 Revisionliste Family #21, "... seine Söhne Jakob 19, ...". Page 706: Neudorf 1858 Revisionliste Family #137, "Doktor Jakob 62, ..."

² This date agrees with Stumpp, page 248 "... Jakob *15.2.1794, aus Sessenheim/Hagenau-El. 1808, nach Neudorf/Od, RL:21, Fr.: Hertle, *17.6.1796 in Baden-Baden." However, birthdate recorded in Sessenheim Maire (city hall) is 3 December 1796. Further, Maire records indicate birth and death record for another Jacob born to same parents (Georg Dockter and Salomea Gartner), 14 June 1793 and 9 February 1796 respectively.

³ Stumpp, page 706: 1858 Neudorf Revisionliste Family #137: "seine Frau Christine 60, ..."

⁴ Presumably same year as Dockter family immigration. Stumpp, page 304: "Hertle, Georg, aus Baden-Baden/Ba, 1809, nach Neudorf/Od; ...". *Die Auswanderung aus Baden nach Russland und Polen im 18 und 19 Jahr Hundert*, page 79: "Hertle, Gerog, aus Zaisenhausen, 1808, mit Familie nach Russland."

⁵ The comma is assumed to be a typographical error, as the writer carefully spelled out 3 of the 6 living children were male. Ed Dockter of Bismarck corroborates, stating his grandmother's father was Georg Friedrich. See also Dr. Stumpp, page 706: 1858 Neudorf Revisionliste Family #137 "... seine Kinder 1. Friedrich 33, ... 2. Jakob 27, ... 3. Gottlieb 25, ... Christine 19, ... Katharina 16 ..." Note that Gottlieb (#3) is the writer of this history.

⁶ Stumpp, page 660: 1816 Bergdorf Revisionliste Family #55 "... Philipp. ..." Page 714: 1858 Neudorf Revisionliste Family #251 "Bender, Philipp 43. ..."

⁷ Stumpp, page 714: 1858 Neudorf Revisionliste Family #251 "... seine Frau Eva 48. ...". Family Register, United Church of Christ, Menno, SD (GRHS Heritage Review 15-1, page 9): "Eva Schaible, born 28 September 1811, died 28 November 1890." Her grandson, Phillip Bender III, wrote "Grandmother Eva Maria born in Germany 1811 and died in South Dakota by Menno 1890," as related by his granddaughter Gladys Mettler.

⁸ Family Register (15-1, page 9): "Phillip Bender born 14 June 1814, died 12 December 1889."

⁹ Stumpp, page 419: "Schaible, Joh. Martin *13.4.1775, aus Grömbach-Freudenstadt/Wü, 1817, nach Neudorf/Od. RL 250. Fr. Elisabeth, geb. Schumacher, *20.2.1782; S. Joh. Georg *22.2.1808; Mathäus, *10.3.1814." Dr. Stumpp lists 2 other Schaible references, both Glückstal, but for years 1800 and 1806.

¹⁰ The writer Gottlieb Dockter's cousin. See Stumpp, page 700: 1816 Neudorf Revisionliste Family #22 "... Georg Friedrich 5. ..."

¹¹ See Stumpp, page 706: 1858 Neudorf Revisionliste Family #138 "... seine Enkelkinder 1. Jakob Theodor Doktor 23. ..." The census would indicate Jakob Theodor was born circa 1835, and that his father was dead since he was enumerated with his grandfather's family.

¹² Various sources confirm she died in South Dakota.

¹³ *Die Kirchen und das Religiöse Leben der Russlanddeutschen, Evangelischer Teil*, Joseph Schnurr, pages 161, 213: Neander, Theodor Anton. Oberpastor Glückstal/Od 1848-1852. Born Mitau/Kurland. (Curland was a province on Bay of Riga, in present-day Latvia. The port of Libau is in Curland, from which a significant number of German-Russian immigrants sailed to America.)

¹⁴ Stumpp, page 706: 1858 Neudorf Revisionliste Family #137 "... dessen Frau Magdalene 18, ..."

¹⁵ Schnurr, pages 132, 213: Doll, Carl, Sohn v. Johannes *22.12.1828 in Bessarabien, *27.3.1894, Glückstal/Od 1855-1858. Doll, Johannes *8.12.1797 in Nabern-Nürtingen/Wü, *1857, Glückstal/Od 1824-1829.

¹⁶ Presumably South Dakota.

¹⁷ Gottlieb Dockter Sr. died 23 September 1912 and is buried at Ventura Reformed Cemetery, Sec. 2, Township 129N, Range 71W, McIntosh County. Mrs. Dockter died 30 January 1918 and is buried in the same cemetery.

¹⁸ Johann Dockter is assumed to be a grandson to Gottlieb Dockter Sr.; Gottlieb's son, Johann (born 27 August 1864), died 19 July 1913, and is buried at Ventura Reformed Cemetery.