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Toews Family History



*Compiled by
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1999

*Bob Newell
Alvin
Marvin Nelson
Kath*



Introduction



There are many individuals with the surname "Toews," and very likely we are all distantly related. Most of the "Toews" I've run across are descendants of Mennonite families that settled in the Molotschna region of the Ukraine. However, this collection focuses on Abraham and Aganetha (Falk) Toews and their eight children, descendants of Mennonite families in the Chortitza region of the Ukraine.

Abraham Toews was born in 1859, and Aganetha in 1864. They came to North America in 1890, and settled in Manitoba, Canada. In 1906, they came to North Dakota, and in 1908, to Escondido, California. Aganetha died in San Diego in 1912. Abraham subsequently moved to Shafter, California, where he died in 1943.

There are sources of possible confusion in this family history. Some are listed below.

1. Every good Mennonite family had a Peter, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Elizabeth, Aganetha, and so forth. It becomes very hard to figure out which was which. In the case of Abraham and Aganetha's family, their third son's name is also Abraham. I usually refer to him as "Abe". Their first daughter was named "Aganetha" after her mother. The daughter never came to the United States—she stayed in Canada. I refer to her as "Agnes".

2. The sons of Abraham and Aganetha Toews all changed the spelling of their last name to "Taves" when they became of age.

3. Most of the children with obvious German first names Anglicized them. Thus, Heinrich became "Harry", Aganetha became "Agnes", Jacob became "Jack", and Maria became "Marie".

4. In any of the descendant charts, the women are listed according to their maiden names. In the family history stories, both maiden and married names are used.

5. Although children adopted from birth are included, stepchildren are not.

I hope everything else is crystal clear!

I first began work on this project several years ago. Many family members have contributed to it, and I thank each of them. The project was just ready to distribute in the summer of 1998. Then my computer crashed.

Let's hope this next month doesn't bring the same result.

Tim Hansen
December 1999



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About the author:
Tim Hansen is a grandson of Dorothy Taves Hansen. Dorothy is a granddaughter of Abraham and Aganetha Toews.



Cover Picture: Abraham and Aganetha Toews



History of the Toews



Abraham and Aganetha's History

Two immigrants from the Ukraine, Abraham Toews, and his wife Aganetha Falk Toews, are the focus of this Toews family history. Abraham was born in 1859, and Aganetha in 1864, both of them in the colony of Chortitza. Their eight children all lived their adult lives in California, except for Agnes who stayed in Canada.

Hundreds of years ago in the lowlands of what is now the Netherlands and northwestern Germany, a clan of Dutch people came together. A common heritage and religious fervor melded them into a cohesive group that would last for the next 500 years. They were the Dutch Mennonites.

Their religion and culture set them apart from their Dutch and German neighbors, and many migrated to Prussia where, in 1740, Frederick the Great began his reign. The Mennonites believed in a very literal interpretation of the Bible and kept themselves isolated from the language and customs of the people around them. Only toward the end of the 1700's did they begin approve the German language for use in school and church.

They thrived under the rule of Frederick the Great who granted them many liberties, including the right not to bear arms. But the Prussian government began to tax these freedoms. Higher taxes and fewer privileges caused the Mennonites to look around for another likely spot to settle.

As a result, the timing was perfect when Catherine II of Russia offered them land and freedom in the Ukraine. There were two great Mennonite immigrations into the Ukraine. One was in 1789, and one was in 1806. The 1789 immigration was to the Chortitza Colony; the 1806 immigration was to the Molotschna Colony.

Chortitza was along the Dnepr River about 250 miles downstream from Kiev, across the river from Zaporozhye. It was a rocky, hilly country, and not easy to farm.

At least three individuals named Toews moved to Chortitza during this period. Isaac Toews was born in 1739 and emigrated to Chortitza, Dietrich Toews, born in 1779, emigrated in 1796. He had a son named Dytrich, born in 1806. Julius Toews was born in 1780 and emigrated in 1796.

It was during this time that a child was born in the Chortitza Colony. His name was Jakob Toews, and he was my great-great-great grandfather. He was born on April 13, 1819. He

Three Toews Pioneers in Chortitza.

Isaac Toews, b. 1739
Dietrich Toews, b. 1779
Julius Toews, b. 1780

Were they related to each other? Most likely. Are any of them related to us? Almost certainly, but I'm not sure just how!



grew to be a young boy, and then a young man, and was, no doubt, a hard worker on the lowlands near the Dnepr River.

A young Mennonite girl, Anna Wiebe, was born in Neuendorff, Russia, on May 22, 1822 to Peter Wiebe and his wife. As the years went by Anna became a young woman and somehow she and Jacob Toews became acquainted (even though men sat on one side of church and women on the other.) In 1840 they married.

On a farm, children were a great blessing. The boys could help with plowing and planting, the girls with cooking and sewing. Children learned to work hard at an early age, and one by one, Jakob and Anna welcomed them into the family: Agatha, Maria, Anna, Peter, Jacob, followed by Sara, Katarina, Abraham, Johan, Bernhard, and finally Heinrich. Of these, all but Johan lived to adulthood.

The eighth child, Abraham, was my great-great grandfather, Abraham Toews. He was born in the Chortitza Colony in Russia on April 23, 1859. What a spectrum of people, culture, and religion he observed over the course of his 84 years of life!

Five years later, in a nearby village, a baby was born to Peter and Elizabeth Falk. Aganetha Falk, was born on May 2, 1864. She, too, experienced childhood and youth in the strange land of Russia, followed by years of farming in Canada, and finally settling in the United States. Certainly she had brothers and sisters—the Mennonite families were typically large—but the family histories have not recorded any.

The times of peace and prosperity in Russia ended abruptly in 1870 when the edict came down from St. Petersburg that no more special favors were to be granted to the Mennonites. They were to learn the Russian language, fight in the Russian army, and all in all, give up their own heritage and religion.

The Mennonites began to explore other options. A migration to the United States or Canada began to look appealing in spite of the formidable journey it would be, and so, between the years 1873 and 1879, a total of 64,000 emigrated from Russia to North America. Some went to the prairie provinces of Canada, some went to the Dakotas, Nebraska, and Kansas.

Two of these people stayed in Russia. Abraham Toews and Aganetha Falk. They decided not to brave the trip halfway around the world. They also decided to get married in the early

Jakob Toews (b. 1819) is as far back as I can document the Toews family tree. His wife Anna Wiebe Toews (b. 1822) came to Canada after Jakob died. She later married Johann Bergman.


Peter Falk married Elizabeth Jensen

They had a daughter, Aganatha Falk, who married Abraham Toews.



Anna Wiebe Bergman Toews
Abraham Toews' Mother





1880's, and soon three children were born: Peter in 1883, perhaps named after Abraham's brother; Aganetha in 1887, named after her mother, and Heinrich in 1888, perhaps named after another brother of Abraham's. Abraham and Aganetha had two other children when in Russia, but I don't know what they were named.

Apparently, things got worse. Although the New World was a land of convicts and outlaws, Abraham and Aganetha felt that the future was bleak for their children if they remained in Russia. So taking their chances, in 1890, they put their fears aside, packed up all their earthly goods and headed overland to Bremen, Germany, where they would board a ship bound for the United States and Canada.

The Red River Valley of southern Manitoba, Canada proved to be a good place to raise a family and five more children were born. They were Abraham Bernhard in 1893, Anna Marietta in 1895, Elizabeth in 1898, Jacob in 1900, and Marie in 1902.

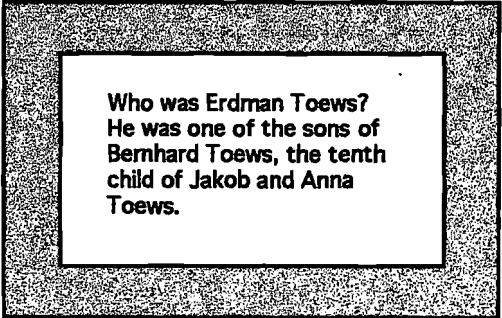
The Toews' oldest daughter, Agnes (Aganetha), married Dave Nickel, and they stayed in Manitoba. The Nickels had four children: Dave, Mary, Kay, and Norman.

The rest of the Toews family left Canada in 1906 and moved south into North Dakota where they lived for a few years. It must have been before 1906, therefore, that the Toews became Seventh-day Adventists because many of Agnes and Dave Nickel's family are also of that faith, and it seems unlikely that they would have converted independently of the rest of the family.

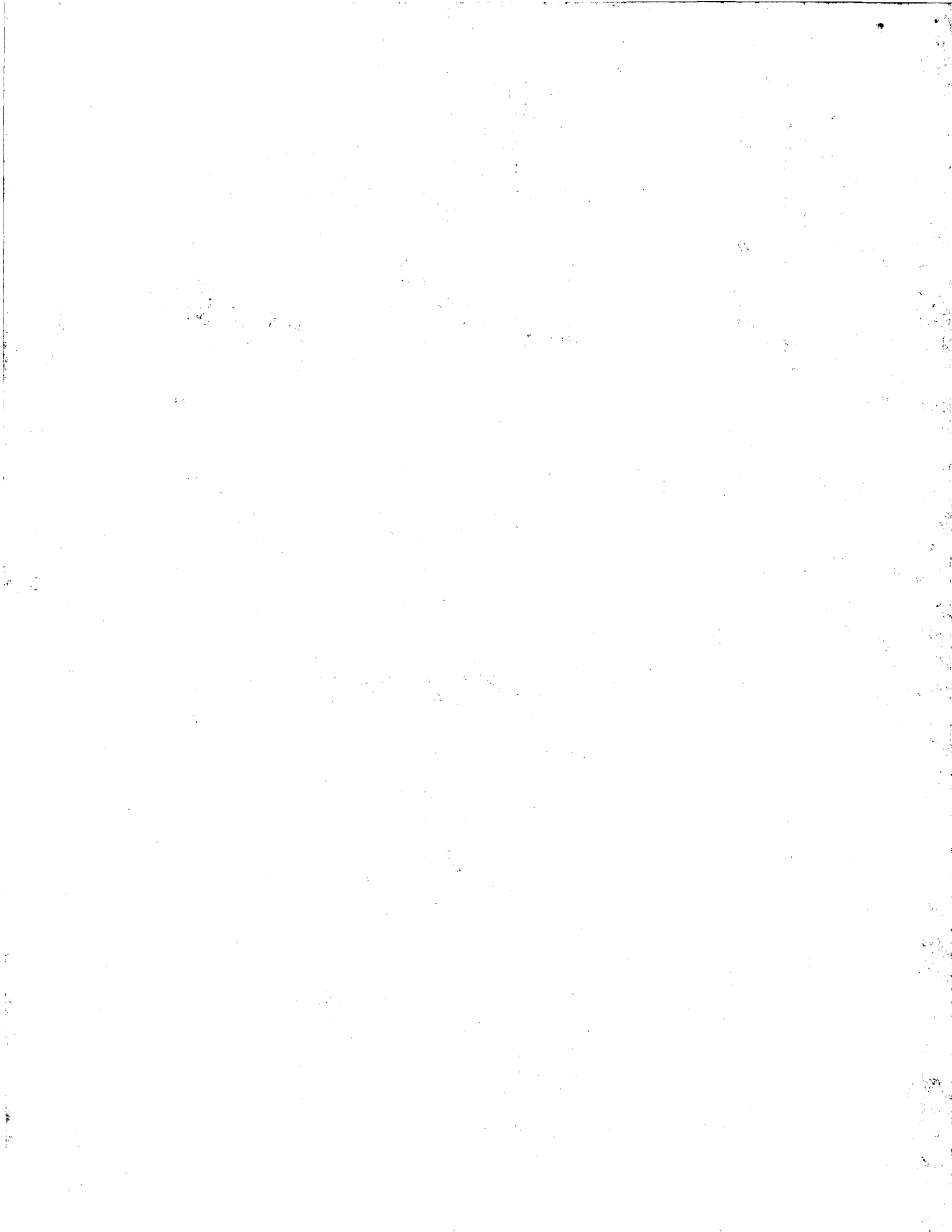
According to Erdman Toews, a first cousin of the Toews children, Abraham and Aganetha went with their family to Seventh-day Adventist tent meetings, and that's how they became Adventists while the rest of the family remained Mennonites. The Mennonite religion dovetailed well into the Seventh-day Adventist religion of the early 1900's. In both, the emphasis was on a very literal interpretation of the Bible, and on keeping separate from the "world."

Meanwhile, a large group of Russian-Canadian immigrants decided to head to the United States. Escondido, California offered cheap land and mild weather, and Mother Aganetha decided it was time for their family to move to Escondido, too. She evidently met with some opposition from Abraham.

The older relatives remember that Abraham was a free spirit. He left his family in Aganetha's care for long periods of time when he roamed around and got odd jobs here and there. Perhaps he wanted to remain near his brother Bernhard who lived nearby in Manitoba, or maybe he felt that his daughter and her new husband needed them close by. More likely he feared that a move to California would require a greater degree of



Who was Erdman Toews?
He was one of the sons of
Bernhard Toews, the tenth
child of Jakob and Anna
Toews.





responsibility from him!

But Aganetha was not so easily put off. She felt a keen responsibility to provide a good life for her children, and she knew that California was the place. Taking matters into her own hands, she bundled up the seven children who were still at home and got on the train to California. Who should show up on the train but Abraham? He was ready to keep the family together in the United States.

Anna Toews Wall wrote this about her family:

“My parents settled in Canada, and Grandpa’s parents settled in South Dakota.

Anna Toews Wall was Abraham and Aganetha’s second daughter.

“We lived in Burwalde, [Manitoba] where I was born in 1895. When I was 9 years old we moved on a farm near a town called Plum Coole. We farmed 4 years, then made an auction sale, and moved to California. We moved to Escondido, CA in Sept. The muscat grapes were ripe and that was a treat.”

It was in Escondido that Peter, the oldest Toews boy, met and married Betty Heinrich, who became a nurse in Chowchilla. Peter died not quite six months after he and Betty were married, and they had no children.

Heinrich was something of a black sheep. He was born in Chortitza, Russia on Sept. 9, 1888. He married twice, but had no children. Following his return from the military, he cut off all contact with the rest of the family for a number of years. Per-

haps his service in the military clashed too strongly with his Mennonite heritage.

Abraham Bernard was born in Chadenthal, Manitoba on Oct. 3, 1893. He married Betty’s younger sister, Huldah Heinrich. They had two children, Dorothy Eleanor and Melvin Edwin.

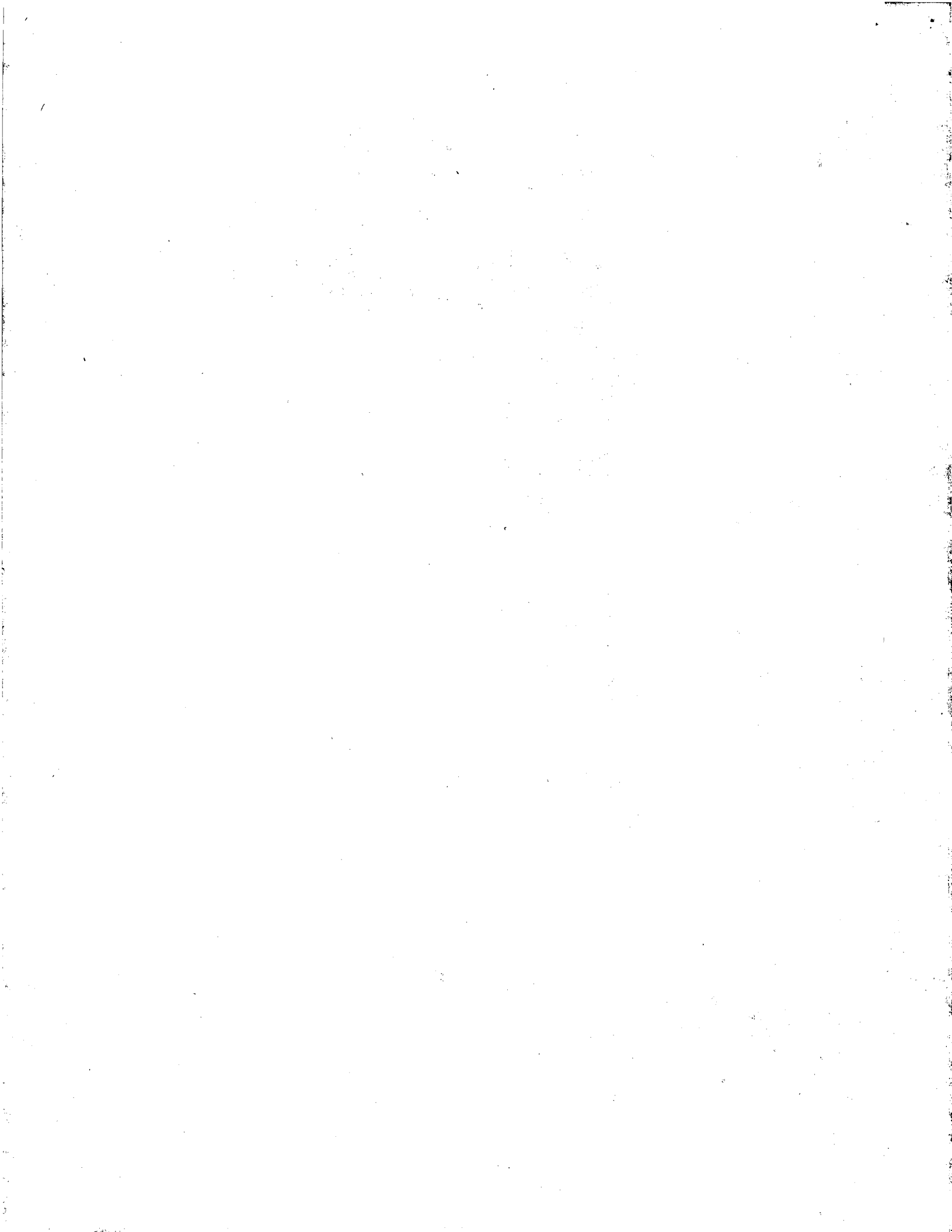
Anna was born in Burwalde, Manitoba on April 23, 1895. She married Pete Wall and lived in Shafter. They had three children:

The Toews Family:
Abraham & Aganetha Toews
Peter
Aganetha (Agnes)
Heinrich (Harry)
Abraham B. (Abe)
Anna
Elizabeth
Jacob (Jack)
Marie

Velda, Bob, and Harriet (Babe).

Elizabeth was born in Rostherne, Saskatchewan on Aug. 1, 1898. She married Heinrich Duerksen, (Henry or Heiny) and also stayed in Shafter. The Duerksens had two children: Raymond Henry and William.

Jack was born in Burwalde, Manitoba on Sept. 21, 1900. He married a girl by the name of Fay Litten. They lived in





Fresno for many years. Jack had only one daughter: Evelyn.

Marie was born in Burwalde, Manitoba on June 24, 1902. Her first husband's name was Johnnie Voth. After his death, she married Cornelius Nightengale. They adopted a son: Vernon.

When Marie was only 10 years old, her mother, Aganetha died during surgery at the Paradise Valley Hospital in San Diego. Aganetha had been the unifying force, and her death fragmented the Toews family. Abraham became even more aloof for a time. He blamed the Paradise Valley Hospital (a Seventh-day Adventist institution) for Aganetha's death, and he left the Seventh-day Adventist church and became a member of the Seventh-day Church of God.

The family was barely recovering from the loss of mother Aganetha, when the oldest Toews boy, Pete, died suddenly.

Shortly after these tragedies, Abraham petitioned for naturalization. The forms tell so little of the hardships. Abraham lists his seven remaining children, and indicates that he is a widower.

He also indicates that he had five children at the time he and Aganetha sailed from Bremen, Germany to New York. Since they came to Canada after Harry was born, and before Abe was born, there must have been two more children, very likely one

between Pete and Agnes, and the other between Harry and Abe. There are some vague references to a Bernhard Taves and this may have been one of the other children.

Abraham moved to Shafter where he settled near four of his children. In his older years he had a long white beard, and was stooped from old age. He used to drink his coffee with a scoop of ice cream in it. He enjoyed a good argument, and used to try to "prove" that the Bible forbade

Abraham and Aganetha's
"Russian Children"

Peter b. Sep 1883

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Aganetha b. Jan 1887

Heinrich b. Sep 1888

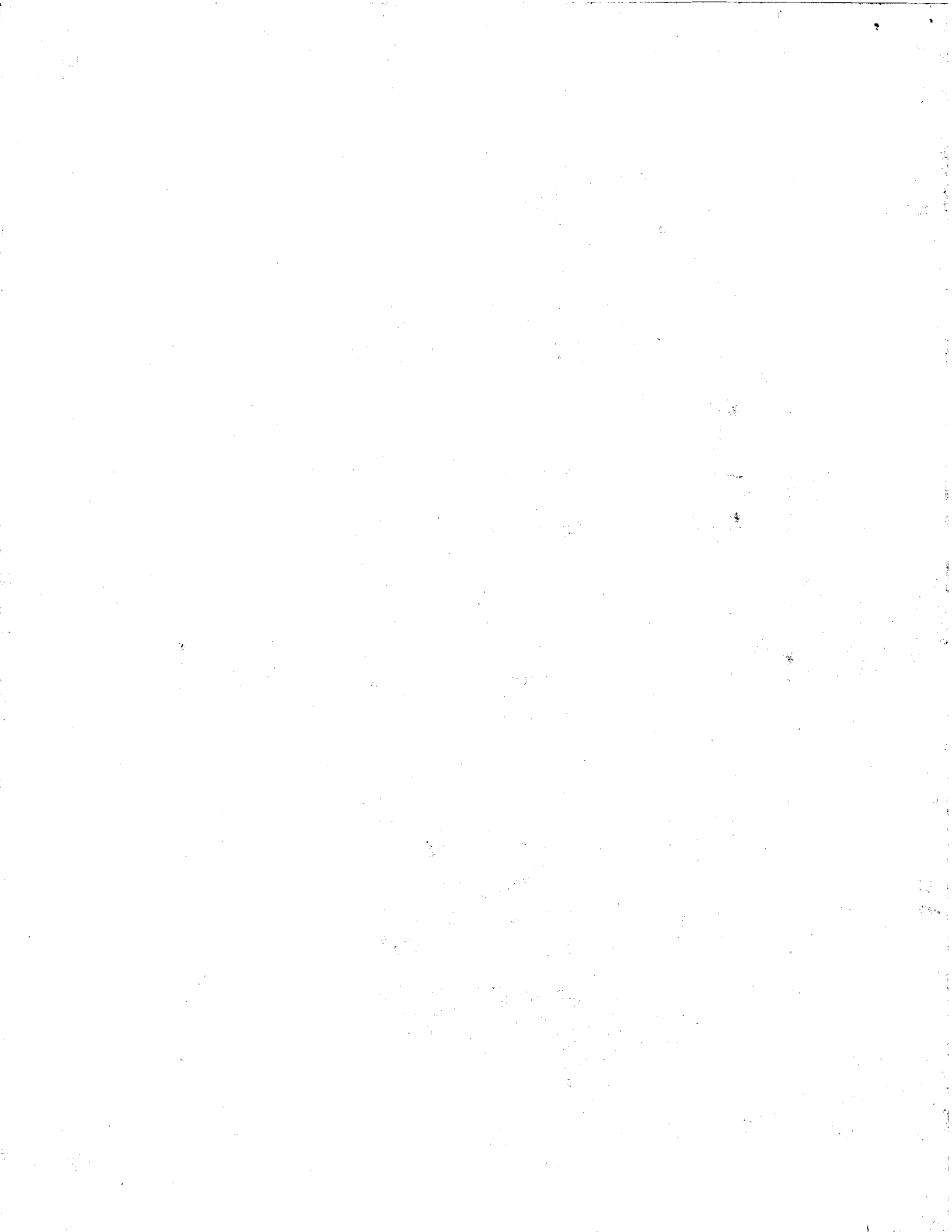
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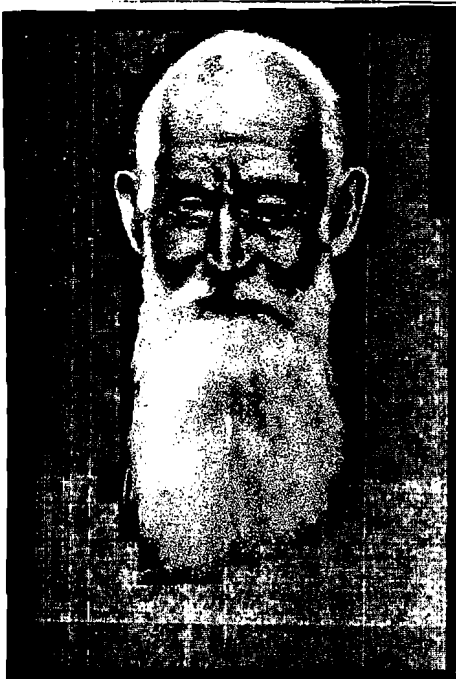
Since Abraham Bernard was born in Canada in Oct. 1893 there is a time period between Peter and Aganetha that a child could have been born, and also one between Heinrich and Abraham Bernard.



Family Portrait c. 1895

Clockwise starting from father: Abraham, Peter, Aganetha, Heinrich (Harry), Arna, Aganetha (Agnes), and Abe





Abraham Toews of Shafter

the eating of bananas and seedless grapes. His little black English New Testament and his old German Bible are marked up with notes and cross references. Unfortunately, neither of these gives any clue as to the family tree.

Paul Hansen, married to Abraham's granddaughter, Dorothy Taves, remembers one time in the early 1940s. Paul and Dorothy were newly married and living in a tiny house in Lodi. Late one night a taxi pulled up. "Does Paul Hansen live here?" the driver asked. In the taxi was Abraham who was in his eighties. He had come all the way from Shafter for a surprise overnight visit.

Abraham Toews lived in a tiny cottage behind his daughter Marie and her husband Corny. He died in 1943 in Shafter, California.

The First Generation

Abraham and Aganetha's children have all passed away, but the memories of them and their

families are relatively recent. I even remember meeting some members of the first generation.

When Pete died at the age of 31, his widow Betty took nurse's training in Glendale. She moved to Chowchilla in her later years, where a few older residents still remember her fondly. Later, she lived next door to her sister Huldah Taves in a retirement center in Lodi. We stayed with her overnight on a vacation in the late 70's.

Agnes and her husband Dave Nickel moved from Morden, Manitoba to the prairies of Saskatchewan, and then to Bonanza, Alberta. Hard work on the farm in the summer, and bitter cold in the winter didn't dampen their spirits. Dave Nickel, Jr. told of life in the Nickel home as part of a history of Bonanza.

One cold winter day (20 below) he and his younger sister Mary went to the pumphouse for water. At Dave's command, she filled the pails to the brim--and a little over. The water spilled and soon Mary was frozen to the ground. Agnes came running with hot water and Mary was free again (and Dave, Jr. was the one in hot water!)

Abraham and Aganetha Falk's family (The First Generation)

Betty Taves (Pete's widow)
Dave and Agnes Nickel
Harry Taves
A.B. and Huldah Taves
Pete and Anna Wall
Henry and Elizabeth Duerksen
Jack and Fay Taves
Corny and Marie Nightengale







Agnes died in 1965, but I met her daughter Kay Woytko in 1985 and also again in 1991. Kay's daughter, Gaileen, is married to Joe Saruk. They live in Vancouver, B. C. Although Kay lived in Kelowna, on Okanogan Lake in British Columbia, for years, she also has moved to Vancouver. Most of the descendants of Aunt Agnes live in Canada.



Kelowna Cameo 1955 (L to R): Agnes and Dave Nickel, Kay Nickel Woytko, niece Dorothy Hansen, her son Marland, Mary Nickel Peterson, Dorothy's daughter Patsy

Heinrich Taves (Uncle Harry) joined the army, perhaps during World War I. He must have stayed in military service for a few years after the war, for it was during this time that Dorothy Hansen remembers Harry sent money to all his nieces and nephews. At that time only Velda Wall, Dorothy, her brother Mel, and Ray Duerksen had been born. Harry sent the money to their respective parents and said that a gift "from Uncle Harry" should be bought for the children.

When Harry returned from the service, he stayed with various of his siblings in Shafter. Abe and Huldah and their family for a while, then Elizabeth and Henry Duerksen, then Pete and Anna Wall. After a while, though, he left and was not heard from again for years.

Abe (my great-grandfather) died when I was five years old. I very vaguely remember stopping by with my parents to see him a few months before. He met his wife Huldah Heinrich in Escondido. She was Betty's younger sister.

Shortly after Abe and Huldah married, they moved to Fresno. Abe and two of Huldah's brothers, Julius and Carl, decided to go to business school there. At that time, Fresno was a quiet little raisin town, crime was virtually unheard of, and back doors were seldom locked. A neighbor saw Abe leave every morning dressed in a suit and carrying a briefcase—to business school. The neighbor thought Abe must be a wealthy businessman.

This neighbor broke into the house one night to see what he could get. In order to facilitate the crime, he turned off the main electrical breaker so the confused occupants of the house wouldn't be able to switch the lights on. He hadn't planned on visitors, though. Henry and Elizabeth were up from Shafter and sleeping on a divan in the living room. All the children occupied feather mattresses on the floor. Before long, the thief was the confused one and was scared out. He didn't get much of anything.

When Abe finished at the business school he was offered a job in Fresno, but he declined.



The California Toews Sisters (L to R): Elizabeth Duerksen, Abe Taves, Anna Wall, Jack Taves, Marie Nightengale





He wanted a job outdoors, so he and Huldah's brother, Carl, went into land-management and farming. Abe became a "potato king" in the area around Shafter in Kern County.

Abe played the baritone and enjoyed singing. Wherever he went, he was soon involved in directing a choral group. He had a quiet, patient way of getting the community members involved. Several summers he spent at Pacific Union College studying music so he could better serve his choir members.

Anna, Elizabeth, and Marie blur together in my mind. They were the "Shafter aunties". I do remember Elizabeth's husband Uncle "Heiny" playing the harmonica, and showing me the hammock in their back yard. Marie lived right next door, and Anna, a few blocks away. Many a summer afternoon was spent in Shafter (it seemed like it was always hot.) My brother and sister and I would try to amuse ourselves in the 100 degree heat while the older folks talked. It was very boring for a seven-year old kid, but I'm sure I would have learned many interesting things had I listened.

Dorothy Hansen says that "Aunt Anna" was a scholarly woman. She was getting ready to start nurse's training, when her mother died. Anna realized that her younger sisters and brother needed her at home, and she put aside her plans. She met and married Pete Wall in Escondido. (Pete worked on the building of Robertson Boulevard in Chowchilla; he helped to plant the palm trees that line that avenue for miles as it travels southwest from Chowchilla into the farmlands of Madera County.) Anna and Pete settled near Shafter, and there they lived for years.

Anna was also the family historian. The most helpful information about the Toews family that I have received has come from the collection of Anna Toews Wall generously shared with me by her daughter, Harriet Eckern.



Anna Toews Wall

Elizabeth was a kindly, sweet woman. She always welcomed the nieces and nephews into her home. She and her husband Henry moved to Shafter, and many a Taves family Christmas was spent at their home. One Christmas, Uncle Heiny (Henry) dressed up as Santa Claus (Christmas was at Pete and Anna's that year), Dorothy recalls. The children were so pleased to see "Santa."

Elizabeth and Henry Duerksen loved to sing. They formed a mixed quartet with Abe and Huldah and sang often for church and community functions in and around Shafter. Henry amused his nieces and nephews when he would play the piano, cymbals, and harmonica simultaneously, sort of a "one man band." He also played the concertina.



The Shafter Quartet (L to R):
Henry Duerksen, Huldah Taves,
Elizabeth Duerksen, Abe Taves



Jack Taves grew restless after his brother and mother died. When he was a teen, he lied about his age in order to be able to join the navy. When he came back, he married a girl from Wasco named Fay Litten, and they moved to Taft where Jack worked in the oil fields. They moved to Los Angeles where Jack did specialty welding in a big shop there and taught welding in special day and evening classes for adults. Some years later they moved to Caruthers, and then to Fresno. Fay worked for Lauck's Bakery in downtown Fresno for 23 years. When Jack was in his sixties, he rejoined the Adventist church.

I remember going to the quiet neighborhood in Fresno where Jack and Fay lived. Huge old trees shaded the cracking sidewalks. Evelyn (Evie) recalls that her dad had quite a temper in his younger years, but I remember Jack as a mild-mannered person. Jack died in Fresno on Feb. 28, 1983, and Fay died in 1990. Evie just died this year in 1999.

Marie was married twice. Her first husband, Johnnie Voth, died, and then she married Corny Nightengale. Marie lived in Shafter until her death in 1995. None of the family seems to know much about the adopted son, Vernon. He was adopted by Marie and Johnnie Voth, and so his name was Vernon Voth. Later on, when Marie remarried, Vernon took "Nightengale" as his last name. He also changed his first name to Jim.



Some Taves Cousins (Clockwise from top left): Ray Duerksen, Harriet Wall Eckern, Bob Wall, Mel Taves, Dorothy Taves Hansen, Velda Wall Heinz, and Evelyn Taves Cowan.

The Second Generation

- Dave Nickel, Jr.
- Mary Nickel Peterson
- Kay Nickel Woytko
- Norman Nickel
- Dorothy Taves Hansen
- Melvin Taves
- Velda Wall Heinz
- Bob Wall
- Harriet Wall Eckern
- Ray Duerksen
- Bill Duerksen
- Evelyn Taves Cowan
- Vernon Nightengale

Abraham Toews' grandchildren and great-grandchildren are scattered across California and western Canada for the most part. His branch of the family has few male heirs, though. Of the four brothers of the first generation (Harry, Pete, Abe, and Jack), only Abe had a son, Melvin.

Melvin has only one son, Stanley, and Stanley as yet has no children. The family name may die out. But the Toews blood runs in scores of descendants. The name might be gone, but the pioneer spirit of Abraham and Aganetha Toews lives on.

#146127

#121947

Abraham's father was Jakob Toews, also of Chortitz, Russia. Abraham's mother was Anna Wiebe. After Jakob died she married Johann Bergman

Aganetha's father was Peter Falk. Her mother was Elizabeth Jensen.

#400317

Abraham Toews

born 23 Apr 1859, Chortitz, Russia
died 23 May 1943, Shafter, CA

married

#400318

Aganetha Falk

born 2 May 1864,
Old Schönwiesse, Russia
died 30 Sep 1912, Escondido, CA

They had eight children:

- Peter (1883 - 1914)
- Aganetha (1887 - 1965)
- Heinrich (1888 - 1971)
- Abraham B. (1893 - 1970)
- Anna Marietta (1895 - 1989)
- Elizabeth (1898 -)
- Jacob (1900 - 1983)
- Marie (1902 - 1995)



The children are (left to right, in front): Abraham B., Aganetha (Agnes), Anna, and Heinrich (Harry.) Peter is standing behind his parents, Abraham Toews and Aganetha Falk Toews. This picture was taken in 1895 or 1896, shortly after Anna's birth.

On the following pages is a list of descendants of Abraham and Aganetha Toews.

1000

1000

1000

1000

Statistics:

Children

(First Generation): 8*

Peter Taves
Agnes Toews Nickel
Heinrich Taves
Abraham B. Taves
Anna Toews Wall
Elizabeth Toews Duerksen
Jacob Taves
Marie Toews Nightengale

* At the time of immigration to Canada (before Abe was born) the Toews had five children, according to the immigration application. So two more must have been born, and died.

Grandchildren

(Second Generation): 13

Dave Nickel
Mary Nickel Peterson
Kay Nickel Woytko
Norman Nickel
Dorothy Taves Hansen
Melvin Taves
Velda Wall Heinz
Bob Wall
Harriet Wall Eckern
Ray Duerksen
Bill Duerksen
Evelyn Taves Cowan
Vernon Nightengale

Great Grandchildren

(Third Generation): 25

Leonard Nickel
Victor Nickel
Dale Peterson
Gaileen Woytko Saruk
Linda Nickel Dziwenka
Melvin Nickel
Christine Nickel Meier
Deborah Nickel Matthews
Juanita Nickel Wilson
Marland Hansen
Patsy Hansen McCullough
Barbara Jean Taves
Pamela Taves
Stanley Taves
Dennis Heinz
Candy Wall Hawks
Rod Wall
Kathleen Ingham Bolejack
Kendall Ingham
Kelly Ingham McHan
Michelle Duerksen Kail
Kenneth Duerksen
Coy Lynn Duerksen Cummings
William Duerksen
Carol Cowan Arena

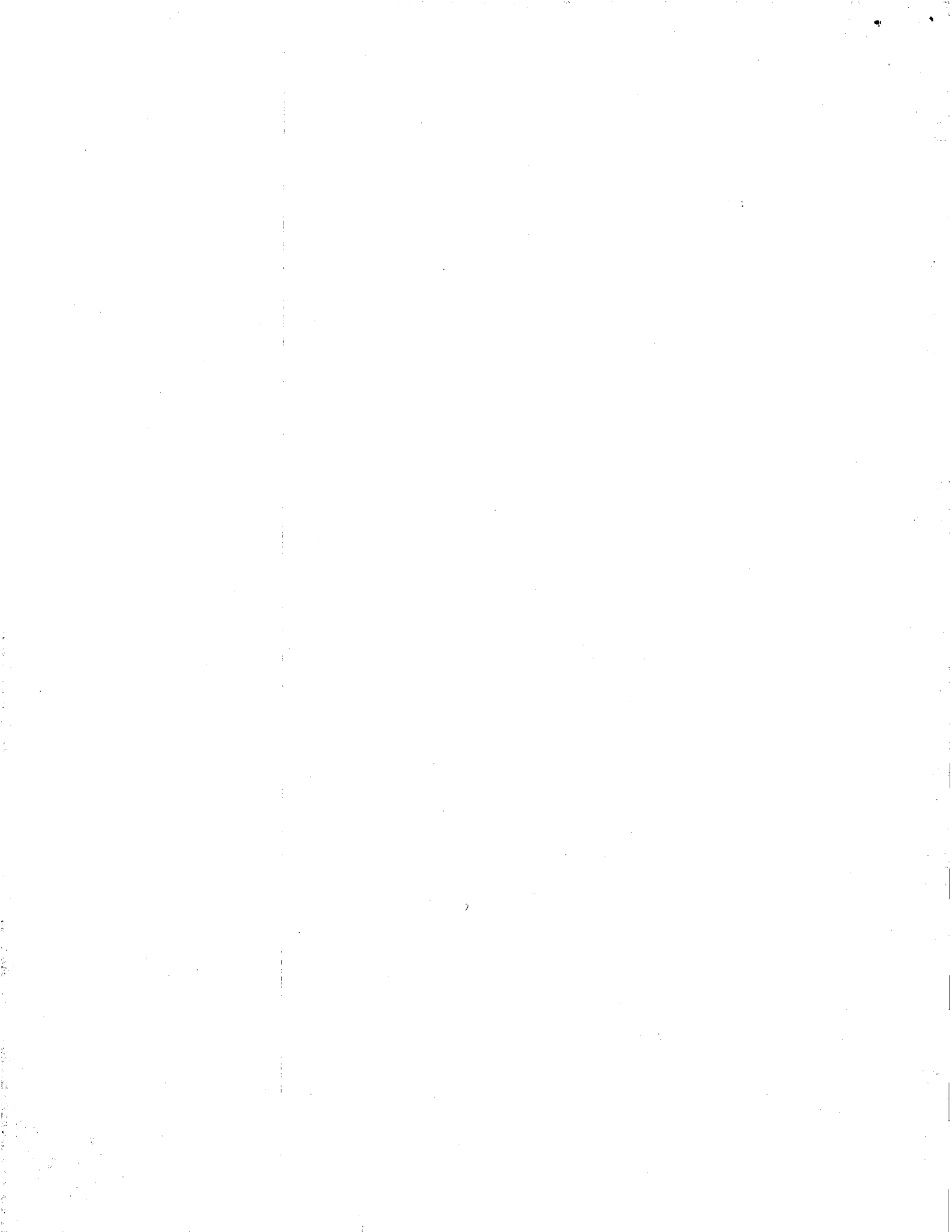
Fourth Generation: 34

Fifth Generation: 6

Descendant Chart Abraham and Aganetha Toews

-100319

1. **Peter Toews**, born 21 Sep 1883, died 9 Aug 1914
married 16 Feb 1914, Wasco, CA to Elizabeth Luella Heinrich, born 5 Apr. 1893,
Minneapolis, MN, died 26 Jan 1991
(no children)



Descendants of Abraham Toews and Aganetha Falk Toews

400321

2. Aganetha (Agnes) Toews, born 19 Jan 1887, Adelsheim, Russia, died 11 Aug 1965, Dawson Creek, British Columbia, buried in Dawson Creek
married 31 Mar 1907, Mordin, Manitoba to David Nickel, born 12 Nov 1885, Mordin, Manitoba, died 14 Jun 1959, Kelowna, British Columbia, buried in Winfield, British Columbia

Aganetha was known to her nephews and nieces as "Aunt Agnes."

1. David Edward Nickel, born 24 May 1908, Berwalde, Manitoba, died 19 Jun 1988, Peace River, Alberta, buried in Berwyn, Alberta
married Mary Neufeld, born 29 Aug 1911, Lost River, Saskatchewan, died 13 Jun 1995, Peace River, Alberta, buried in Berwyn, Alberta

1. Leonard Raymond Dave Nickel, born 29 Dec 1937, Pouce Coupe, British Columbia
married 1 Sep 1961, Peace River, Alta. to Donna Jean Aspin, born 26 Mar 1939, Berwyn, Alta.

1. April Donna Nickel, born 7 May 1965, Peace River, Alberta, died 27 May 1982, Peace River, Alta., buried in Berwyn, Alta.

2. Victor Nickel, born 14 Apr 1941, Bonanza, Alberta
first marriage: Lynn Marie McCann, born 2 Nov 1944, Red Deer, Alberta

1. Vance Regean Nickel, born 21 Jan 1968, Peace River, Alberta
married 1 Jul 1988, Medicine Hat, Alta. to Delaine Wiebe, born 29 Jan 1963, Medicina Hat, Alta.

1. Carissa Rachael Nickel, born 26 Jan 1991
2. Taylor Travis Nickel, born 21 Apr 1994

second marriage: Annabeth ---

2. Mary Nickel, born 7 Apr 1914, Morden, Manitoba

married Stanley Peterson, born 15 Oct 1910, Pine River, MN, died 14 Nov 1993, Dawson Creek, British Columbia, buried in Bonanza, Alberta

1. Dale Peterson
first marriage: Annabeth --- (now married to Victor Nickel above)

1. Dallas Peterson, born 10 Dec 1969, Dawson Creek, British Columbia

second marriage: Doreen ---

3. Kay Nickel
married Mike Woytko

1. Gailleen Woytko
married 1988 to Joe Saruk



Descendants of Abraham Toews and Aganetha Falk Toews

The Nickel family
is the Canadian
branch of the
Toews clan.°

4. Norman Jacob Nickel, born 13 Jan 1928, Star City, Saskatchewan
married 27 Nov 1949, Dawson Creek, British Columbia, to Edna
Martha Radke, born 19 Jan 1933, Bonanza, Alberta

1. Linda Margret Nickel, born 14 Sept 1950, Bonanza, Alberta
1st marriage: 9 Aug 1975, Bonanza, Alberta to Dale Prosser

1. Dory William Prosser, born 8 Jan 1976, Islay,
Alberta, died 4 Jul 1978, buried in Minburn, Alberta

2. Marty Prosser, born 14 Jan 1978, Minburn, Alberta

2nd marriage: David Dziwenka

3. Devin Dziwenka, born 30 Mar 1987

4. Damon Dziwenka, born 16 Jun 1990

2. Melvin Dennis Nickel, born 5 Sep 1954, Spirit River, Alberta
married 6 Sep 1985, Las Vegas, NV to Paulette Michelle
Hinse

1. Dillan Lee David Nickel, born 17 Nov 1989, Dawson
Creek, BC

2. Bailey Michelle Nickel, born 14 Feb 1991, Dawson
Creek, BC

3. Christine Agnes Nickel, born 23 Sep 1953, Bonanza, Alberta
married 24 Jul 1971, Dawson Creek, BC to Marvin John
Meier, born 18 May 1951, Dawson Creek, BC

1. David John Meier, born 17 Nov 1972, Dawson Creek,
BC

2. Dianne Ethel Meier, born 7 Mar 1977, Dawson
Creek, BC

4. Deborah Lea-Anne Nickel, born 3 May 1960, Spirit River,
Alberta

1st marriage: 2 Jun 1979 to Michael Viczko

1. Dennis Michael Viczko, born 26 Nov 1982, Grande
Prairie, Alberta

2nd marriage: 20 Apr 1996, Bonanza, Alberta to Marvin
[Daniel] Matthews

5. Juanita LaDonna Nickel, born 27 Mar 1968, Dawson Creek,
BC

married 29 Jun 1991 Dawson Creek, BC to Wade Robert
Wilson, born 3 Jul 1961

1. Ryan Robert Wilson, born 2 Sep 1992, Edson,
Alberta

Descendants of Abraham Toews and Aganetha Falk Toews

3. Heinrich Toews, born 9 Sep 1888, Chortitz, Russia, died 5 Oct 1971

1st marriage: Bernice

2nd marriage: Roberta, born 1 May 1902
(no children)

Heinrich went by the name "Harry Taves."



Above: Harry Taves.
Left: (left to right) The Taves Brothers: Abe, Pete, and Harry



4. Abraham Bernard Toews, born 3 Oct 1893, Chadenthal, Manitoba, died 10 Mar 1970, Paradise, CA

married Huldah Estella Heinrich, born 23 Jan 1897, New Home, ND, died 1988, Lodi, CA (sister of Elizabeth Luella Heinrich who married Peter Toews)

All the Toews boys changed the spelling of their last name to an Anglicized "Taves."

1. Dorothy Eleanor Taves, born 5 Aug 1918, Kern Co., CA
married 15 May 1940, Alamo, Merced Co., CA to Paul Marland Hansen, born 14 Feb 1917, Chowchilla, CA

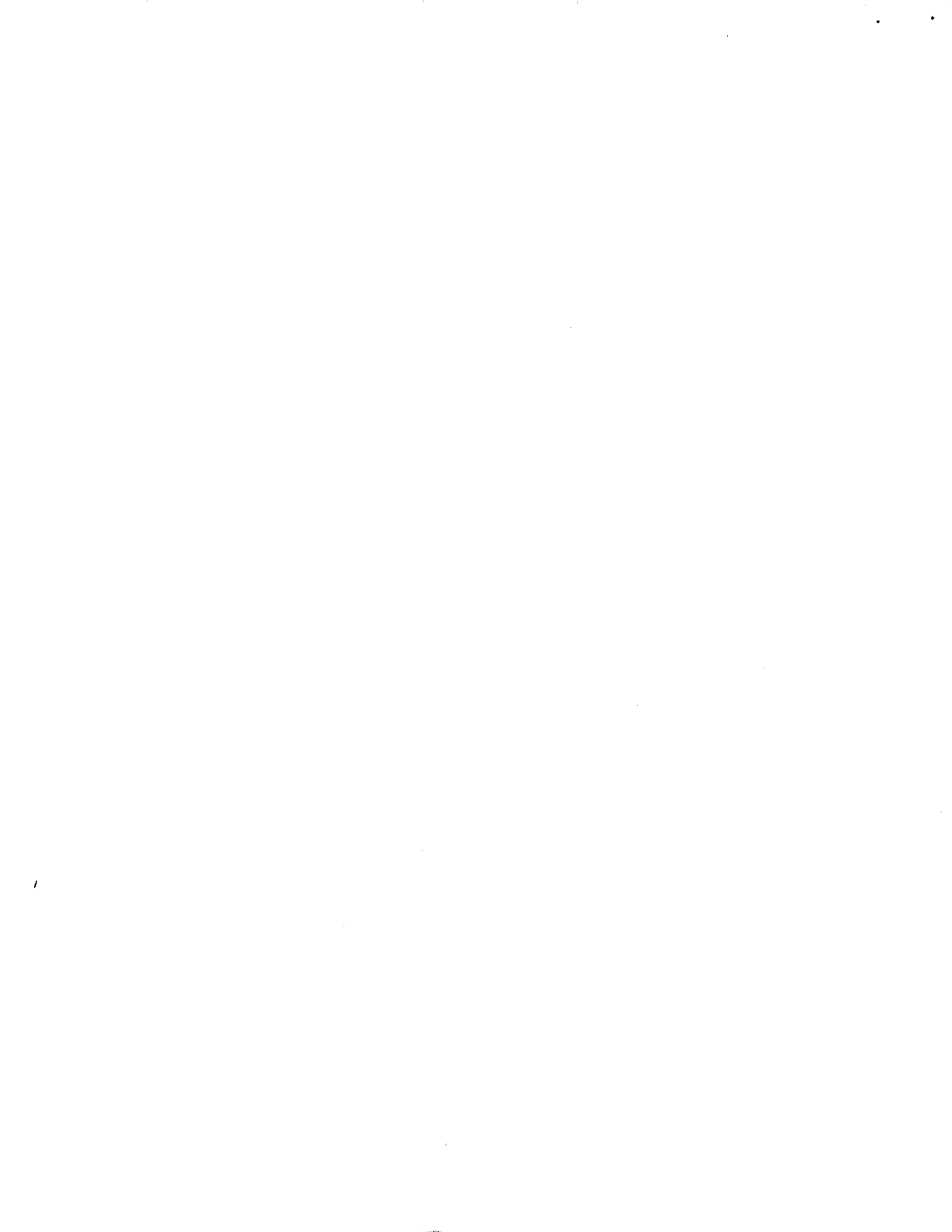
1. Marland Abe Hansen, born 4 Apr 1941, Lodi, CA
married 27 Aug 1961, Napa, CA to Rosalind Adele Millard, born 6 Apr 1941, Santa Rosa, CA

1. Timothy Marland Hansen, born 5 Jun 1965, Loma Linda, CA

2. Mark Millard Hansen, born 23 Jun 1967, Portland, OR
married 25 Aug 1991, Bishop, CA to Julie Ann Wells, 13 Jan 1969, Bad Kreuznach, Germany

3. Janice Laurene Hansen, born 29 Dec 1968, Marlboro, MS
married 14 Feb 1993, Oakhurst, CA to Rex Alan Hossler, born 15 Oct 1961, Phoenix, AZ

4. Benjamin Paul Hansen, born 25 Aug 1973, Porterville, CA
married 30 Jul 1995, Oakville, Napa Co., CA to Stefani Anne Wheeler, born 3 Nov 1973, San Diego, CA



Descendants of Abraham Toews and Aganetha Falk Toews

2. Patsy Jane Hansen, born 4 May 1944
married James Robert McCullough, born 30 Aug 1944

1. Robert Scott McCullough, born 31 Dec 1966
married 15 Sep 1989 to Verena Bird, born 29 Jul 1970

1. Mariah Michelle McCullough, born 22 Dec 1990

2. Natasha Leimomi McCullough, born 31 Jul 1994

2. Gregory James McCullough, born 3 May 1969
married 15 Oct 1993, Medford, OR to Desiree Davidson, born 29 Apr 1972

1. Quinnlan Kincaid McCullough, born 3 Oct 1994

2. Melvin Edwin Taves, born 6 Mar 1920
1st marriage: Barbara Gray

1. Barbara Jean Taves, born 12 Apr 1945, Fresno, CA
married John Allister (Pete) McKowen, born 3 Mar 1929, Century City, CA

1. Kenneth Allister McKowen-Taves, born 6 Jan 1970
married Catherine McCormick, born 4 Jun 1969

1. David Allister McKowen-Taves, born 8 Mar 1993

2. Pamela Dianne Taves, born 12 Apr 1948, Fresno, CA

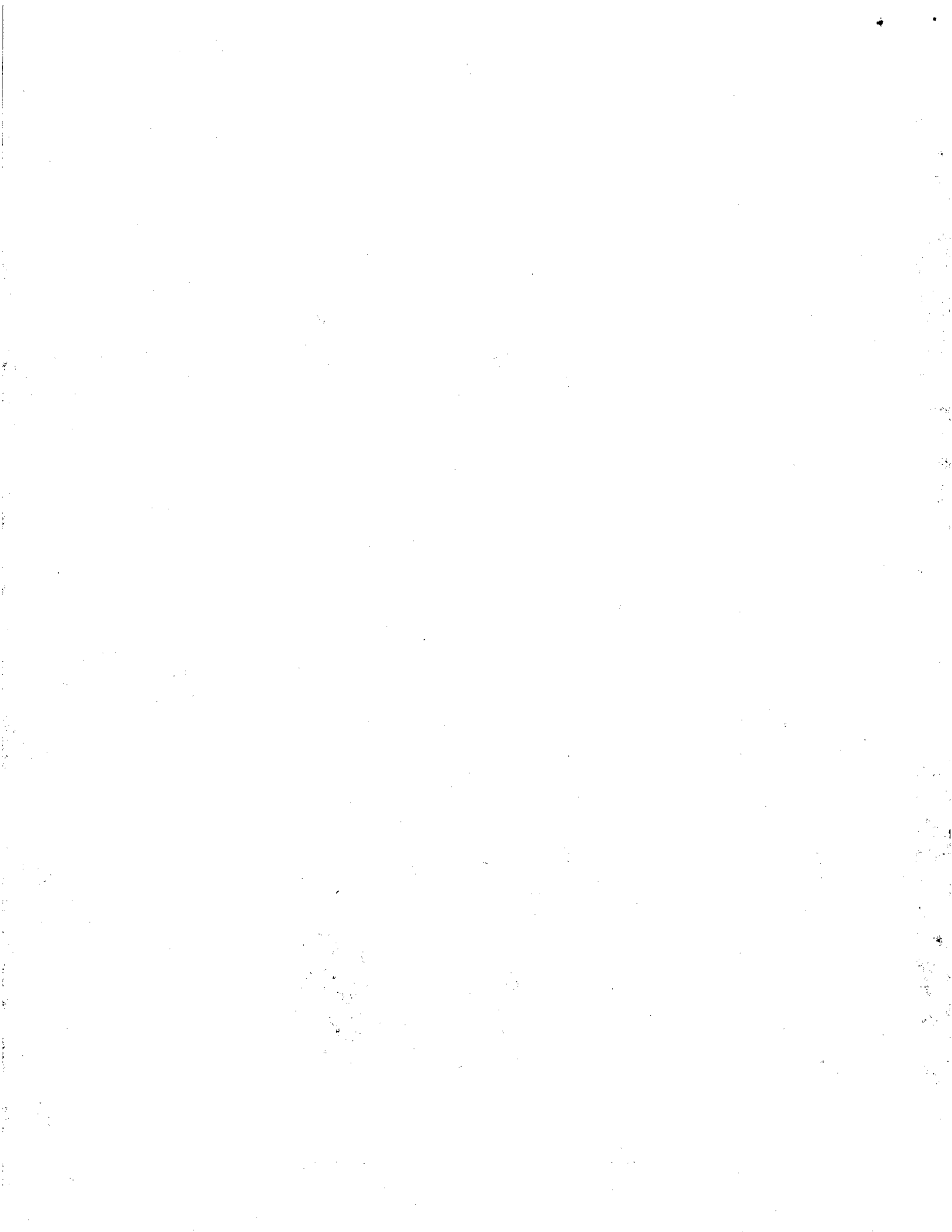
2nd marriage: Joan Imus

3. Melvin [Stanley] Taves, born 12 Nov 1955, Lodi, CA

Abe's wife, Huldah Heinrich, was a sister to Pete's wife Betty Heinrich.



Abe B. and Huldah Taves



Descendants of Abraham Toews and Aganetha Falk Toews

5. Anna Marietta Toews, born 23 Apr 1895, Burwalde, Manitoba, died 17 Feb 1989, Roseville, CA

married 13 Oct 1915, Escondido, CA to Peter Teanus Wall, born 27 Dec 1888, Spring Valley, SD, died 2 Aug 1981, Wasco, CA

1. Velda June Wall, born 15 Sep 1917, Shafter, CA, died 17 Oct 1986 Tehachapi, CA

married 1937, Shafter, CA to Laverne A. Heinz, born 30 Dec 1913, Hooker, OK, died 10 Feb 1989, Bakersfield, CA

1. Dennis Lavel Heinz, born 13 Oct 1939

married 31 Dec 1959 to Phoebe Eileen Springer, born 3 Feb 1935

2. Milton Dean "Bob" Wall, born 19 Mar 1926, Shafter, CA

married 24 Sep 1950, Portland, OR, to Jean Audrey, born 5 Jul 1929, Blackie, Alberta, Canada, died 30 Apr 1987, Bakersfield, CA

1. Candy Lynn Wall, born 20 Aug 1953, Bakersfield, CA

married Richard Allan Hawks, born 13 Jan 1953, Loma Linda, CA

1. Michael Hawks, born 1 Mar 1982

2. Jonathon Hawks, born 14 Mar 1984

3. Aaron Hawks, born 17 Aug 1987

2. Rod Douglas Wall, born 31 Jan 1957, Bakersfield, CA

3. Harriet Blossom Wall, born 19 Dec 1927, Shafter, CA

1st marriage: 3 Sep 1950, Shafter, CA to Wilburn Orvis Ingham, born 2 Apr 1930, Los Angeles, CA

1. Kathleen Annelle Ingham, born 3 Dec 1951, Sanitarium, CA
married 26 Aug 1973 to Norman Kent Bolejack, born 26 Aug 1951, Logansport, IN

1. Kimberlee Annelle Bolejack, born 3 Apr 1984

2. Kendall Wallace Ingham, born 6 Oct 1954, Loma Linda, CA
married 23 Jun 1979, Sacramento, CA to Joanie Sweet, born 16 Dec 1951, Bronx, New York

3. Kelly Lynne Ingham, born 9 Jan 1958, Loma Linda, CA
married 19 Mar 1981, Milwaukie, OR to Steven Wayne McHan, born 15 Dec 1957, Los Angeles, CA

1. Cara Lynne Beth McHan, born 4 Nov 1984

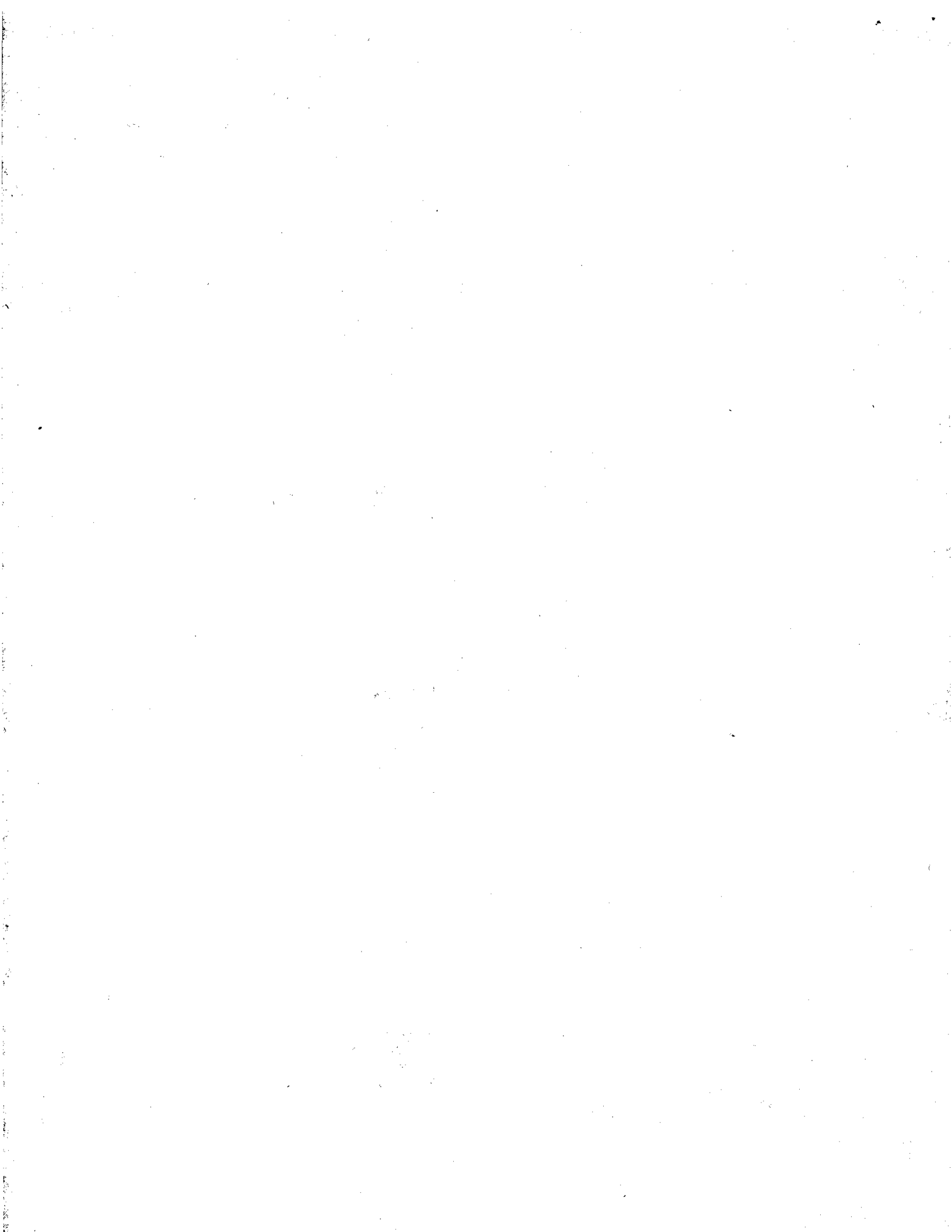
2. Cami Christine McHan, born 8 Mar 1987

2nd marriage: 30 Apr 1986 to Gilbert Eckern, born 8 Oct 1927

Anna Toews Wall was the family historian. She lived much of her life in Shafter, a crossroads of the Toews family for years.



Three Toews siblings:
Abe, Harry, and Anna



Descendants of Abraham Toews and Aganetha Falk Toews

6. Elizabeth Toews, born 1 Aug 1898, Rostherne, Saskatchewan, died 11 Oct 1992, Shafter, CA, buried in Shafter, CA
married 2 Feb 1917, Escondido, CA to Henry Byron Duerksen, born 27 Jun 1896, Hillsboro, KS, died 1 May 1974, Shafter, CA, buried in Shafter, CA

1. Raymond Henry Duerksen, born 1 Jul 1919, Bakersfield, CA
married 28 Mar 1944, Cedar City, UT to Zola Rosenberg, born 11 Jun 1925, Cedar City, UT

1. Michelle Rae Duerksen, born 1945, Cedar City, UT
married James D. Kail, born 1943

- 1. Danielle Marie Kail**, born 1967
- 2. Brittani Rae Kail**, born 1969

2. Kenneth Byron Duerksen, born 3 Dec 1948, Cedar City, UT
married Cindy Darlington, born 1952

- 1. Shane Ray Duerksen**, born 1975
- 2. Jaime Ann Duerksen**, born 1977

3. Coy Lynn Duerksen, born 5 Aug 1953, Cedar City, UT
married Terry Cummings

- 1. Lindsey Jo Cummings**, born 1981
- 2. Kristen Lee Cummings**, born 1985

2. William Duerksen, born 1925
married 1944 to Peggy Ault born 1925

1. William Duerksen, born 1947



The Toews family at the table. Left to right: Jack, Anna, Elizabeth, Marie, and their mother, Aganetha.



Descendants of Abraham Toews and Aganetha Falk Toews

7. Jacob Abraham Toews, born 21 Sep 1900, Burwalde, Manitoba, died 28 Feb 1983, Fresno, CA

married Fay Roxie Litten, born 1 Nov 1905, Santa Ana, CA, died 20 Aug 1990, Fresno, CA

Jacob went by the name "Jack."

1. Evelyn Fay Taves, born 5 Oct 1923, Whittier, CA, died Dec 1999, Fresno, CA

married Don Lee Cowan, born 19 Mar 1923, Orosi, CA

1. Carol Dawn Cowan, born 5 Dec 1953, Fresno, CA
married Philip Joseph Arena, born 26 Sep 1947, Trabia, Sicily, Italy

1. Christopher Phillip Arena, born 11 May 1984, Fresno, CA

2. Patrick Anthony Arena, born 18 Mar 1986, Fresno, CA

8. Maria Toews, born 24 Jun 1902, Burwalde, Manitoba or somewhere in Saskatchewan, died 16 Sep 1995

1st marriage: Johnny Voth, born 14 Jan

2nd marriage: Cornelius Nightengale, born 26 Jan 1894, Shelley, OK, died 25 Mar 1967

1. Vernon Nightengale

Sisters

Elizabeth ~~Dirksen~~ —

Marie Nightengale —

Bob (Robert) Wall died 2 years ago.

Florence Ruth Mulder

Harriet ~~is in~~ is Clift's cousin Pete

look in ^{the} Henry Wall

916 726-6080

6921 Navarro Ct.
Citrus Heights.
95621

Harriet
Wall

~~Roger Lutz/Roger
2936
Dwight
Carlton 3420~~

1948

1949

1950

1951

Hi Mike,

As you can see from this, there is no mention of these names in Maymie's book I have a copy & have not found a connection. Maybe way down the line somewhere else

There is no mention of Anna Usher (great grandma Johann Bergman. Peter Falk (great grandfather) Elizabeth Jensen (great grandmother) and of course Agnatha Falk who married my grandfather.

Also there is Erdman Towel, son of Bernhard Towel.

Erdman is my mother's cousin whom she has visited in Manitoba years ago

The Henry Wall family left South Dakota & lived in Oklahoma before moving to the Escandeville area

I think Tom did a nice job with this

Bye
Harriet

