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Review of Mennonite Names/Mennonitische Namen

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Mennonite Names/Mennonitische Namen. By Victor Peters and Jack Thiessen. Marburg, Germany: Elwert Verlag, 1987. Illustrations, photographs, maps, appendices. 247 pp. \$25.00.

Do not let the bilingual title frighten you away from this book. With the exception of the picture titles and the bibliography of the East German Commission of Cultural Research, everything that is written in German has the English translation alongside. The chapter on nicknames may lose a little of its subtle humor in the translation, but English readers will still enjoy the origins and meanings of the many nicknames listed.

A quick perusal of the surnames is infinitely more exciting than reading through the long lists of "begats" in the Bible. To check for accuracy and depth of coverage of the names, I first turned to my own, which I have researched with unbecoming immodesty. The pertinent data was there. I wished the names of all my Mennonite grandparents had been listed.

The authors concern themselves only with those Mennonites who emigrated from Danzig-West Prussia between 1789 and 1820 (in part, until 1870) to South Russia (Chortitza, Taurida, Molotschna) and the districts of Samara from 1854 to 1862. Seven maps help follow their trails from Prussia to Russia and on to

Canada, Mexico, or South America. Fifty photographs of people and places add interest to an informative book.

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