

gegeben werden sich für die Überzeugung  
 gehen wir zur Abstimmung über, das Wapfling  
 werden Gemeinft und untersticht der uns in  
 Gemeinde unterlassen, die Frage werden  
 gestalt unter die die die die die die  
 jaldst übergefloppern werden und alle  
 die das die die die die die die die die  
 58 Stunden auf nicht sein gelind möglich  
 derwegen, somit list da list nicht muss  
 sein glind in unsere Gemeinde, was fassen  
 aber das die die die die die die die die  
 lassen, magst die die die die die die die  
 welches mit der Gemeinde gehen.  
 Mrs. J. F. Richert.

to speak up freely, we went on to the vote. The suggestion was made  
 and supported that we release you from the church. The question was  
 put, how many were for it, that you would be expelled, and all who  
 were for it should rise. 58 stood up, not one member voted against it;  
 with that you are now no longer a member of our church, but we hope  
 that you may let yourself be guided by the face(?) of God, that you  
 may admit your wrong and will come back to the church.

Mrs. J. F. Richert.

This photo of six Duerksen ladies is archived with the papers of John Funk Duerksen and  
 Alvin Gaede in the Marcellus Duerksen folder at Fresno's Pacific University Hiebert Library.



Left to Right: Sarah Duerksen Ratzlaff - Sarah Dirksen Richert - Tina Duerksen  
 Unruh(?) Anna Duerksen Gaede - Lena Duerksen Classen - unknown Duerksen lady

(Sarah Ratzlaff, Anna Gaede and Lena Classen are sisters)

am 2<sup>ten</sup> März. 1933

was das Amt für zusammen zu bewahren sein  
Mann die Gemeinde Stützeln können im  
Büffis für die Verwaltung zu ermitteln  
Kommen oder zu können bestimmten Aufstellung.

Erweist der Gemeinde Sitzung  
am 22. Mai 1933

Es wurde in dem Amt für Kind geboren das  
am dem Amt für Bakersfield und  
Vielmehr für, und es wird abgemacht das  
die Shafter Amt für Gemeinde am diesem  
\$50,00 bezahlen müßte. ferner wird ab  
gemacht das man ein neues Amt für Gemeinde  
haben müßte auf das 11. April Aufstellung  
wird man auf über die diese feldern  
gelinde abgemacht man kann ihnen helfen  
Künste der für die Verwaltung müßten gut  
man sein.

Es. J. F. R.  
" J. F. R.  
V. J. F. R.  
m. J. F. R.

On the 2nd of March 1933

the committee met in order to deliberate how to divide the church so that one could work better for the soul counseling, but no definite decision was made.

Report of the church meeting

On the 22nd of May 1933

An announcement was made to the committee that Eff(?) Sahlein(?) Bakersfield there are still debts, and it is being demanded that the Shafter German church should take care of these \$50,00. Further it was announced that we would like to have some Christianity(?) classes after the 11 o'clock meeting. Further there was discussion about the following Gemeinde(?), how one could help them so that they could make good their betrayal.

Br. Johan Thom

Br. Johan Schapansky

Sister Gerhard Duerksen

Mary Dollinger 1888-1967

Mrs. J. F. R.

South Dakota, Marriages, 1905-2016 for Anna M. Dollinger

1905-1912, Index		1913-1920, Index		1921-1928, Index		1929-1936, Index	
John M. Jenkins	Shawnee	Edmunds	Welsh	Natie P. Thomas	Shawnee	Edmunds	Welsh
Gerhard J. Duerksen	Bowdle	Edmunds	Welsh	Anna M. Dollinger	Bowdle	Edmunds	Welsh
Theodor Peterson	Shawnee	Edmunds	Welsh	Clara M. Olsch	Shawnee	Edmunds	Welsh



Gerhard and Anna 'Mary' Dollinger were married in Bowdle, South Dakota . He is a brother of Shafter's John Duerksen, C C Duerksen, J C Duerksen, Henry Duerksen and their sisters Helena Lorenz, Elisabeth Gaede, Anna Gaede and Sarah Klatt.

Their first three children were born in Bowdle, the next five born in Shafter. Their last two children were born in New Mexico.

Grandson Russell Scott Duerksen wrote a Duerksen family history titled "In Search of Freedom". -md

Protokoll der Sitzung der Gemeinde- und Presbyterium  
10 June 1933

SCAN\_18-2

Das Presbyterium und die Gemeinde haben am oben genannten  
zu einer Sitzung zusammen, auf eingehende  
Berichte sich nach dem anderen hin, und  
nach dem Gebot und der Pflicht der Synode  
sich die von dem Presbyterium der Gemeinde  
erhaltenen Nachrichten, bezieht auf die Gemeindeglieder  
gibt es, zum Besten der Angelegenheiten.

1. Das Presbyterium hat schon seit vielen Jahren  
versucht, die Schwester und die alle Gemeindeglieder und  
auf dem Gebot der Synode zu helfen, und  
glaubt, dass es das Gebot der Synode nicht  
mehr kann, und dass es von dem Fall der  
Gemeinde Angelegenheiten. mit dem Presbyterium  
den die Gemeinde zu  
entschieden

2. Frau Carolina Kroecker.  
Befragt nach den Gottesdiensten, am Sabbat, und  
erwidert am Sabbat, die Befragt auf die  
zu Plätzen, und die für den Gottesdienst  
nicht geht. nach dem Gebot der Synode  
und die Synode hat die Frau Kroecker und seine  
Änderung der Abendgottesdienste, dass es  
allem Befehl, ist das Presbyterium verpflichtet  
nach dem Gebot der Synode von dem Fall der  
Gemeinde Angelegenheiten.

und muss den Presbyterium die Sache  
den der Gemeinde zu entscheiden.  
Mrs. J. F. R.

Report of the meeting of the church committee from  
June 10, 1933

The church committee met at the above date. By invitation a few other  
brothers joined. After serious prayer and careful discussion, the  
committee saw it was necessary to make the following suggestions to the  
community regarding the here named members, read to be voted on:

1. Br Johan Schapansky(?) has been using tobacco for many years,  
and as all admonitions and efforts to help him were useless, the  
committee has the duty, in accordance with the word of the Lord,  
to make this case known to the church, [with the suggestion to let  
him leave the church]

Carolina Brown 1913-2003

2. Sister Caroline Kroecker(?) does not come to the church services on  
the sabbath, and works on the sabbath; she also visits amusement places  
which is not appropriate for God's children. After a long time of  
admonitions and in the hope that the sister would turn and might make a  
change of life, but without any success, the expulsion(?) is the reality. In  
accordance with the words of the Lord, this case is to be presented to  
the church, and makes the suggestion to let this sister leave the church.

Mrs. J. F. R. (ichert)

3. Br. John Thom hat dem Gottlieb Straus  
auf unangenehme Weise behandelt und  
ihm Geld entwendet und gibt sich  
nicht zurück. In seinem Ansehen soll  
jetzt nur seine falsche Verfechtung aufgehoben  
werden. Ich bitte die Brüder sich  
zu bemühen, ihm seine Schuld noch  
zu vergelten und zu warnen und  
zu bitten, mit gutem Willen ihm zu  
helfen, sein schlechtes Verhalten  
zu ändern und sich wieder in die  
Gemeinde zurück zu bringen. Ich bitte  
die Brüder, sich zu bemühen, ihm  
zu helfen, sein schlechtes Verhalten  
zu ändern und sich wieder in die  
Gemeinde zurück zu bringen. Ich bitte  
die Brüder, sich zu bemühen, ihm  
zu helfen, sein schlechtes Verhalten  
zu ändern und sich wieder in die  
Gemeinde zurück zu bringen.

Mrs. J. F. Richert

3. Br. John Thom has treated Gottlieb Straus in an unjust way and took money away from him and does not return it to him. In another case he brought up a false claim(?). Some brothers still would repeatedly visit him and admonish him and tried with love and good advice to move him to admit his guilt and free himself of his debt. He was also invited to discuss these serious matters together, but this invitation was not accepted, and the admonishments and good advice were not regarded.

The committee therefore has the duty to present this case to the church.

(And to make the suggestion to accuse Br. Thom of stealing, and to give him two weeks time to make good this wrong.)

Br John Thom(?) and Br John Schapansky made good their wrong and are back as beloved brothers in the church.

Mrs. J. F. Richert

The Russian Mennonite immigrants that settled Brothersfield Township during the 5 to 10 years following 1874 were related to one another by geography, culture, language, religion and blood. Since at least the early 16th century their ancestors had followed one another from place to place. Rarely did any of them live far from their core community, or marry outside of it. But their experience in America, begun after 1874, precipitated significant changes. The first was a new American religion called Seventh-day Adventist, which attracted over half of the Brothersfield immigrants to leave the 'Old Country' congregation. About 1885 they began to sell their Brothersfield homesteads to migrate north where Adventists were buying up new government lands in North Dakota.

They settled first in or near Richville, Logan County then sold out again to settle new lands opening further north in Lowery Township, which they called New Home, in Stutsman County. The railroad passed them by so, about 1910 they were scattering to Canada, Minnesota, Kansas and Oklahoma. All were seeking opportunity on poor land in a difficult economy. Around 1910 many began to arrive in Escondido, California. For obscure reasons those with strong New Home, ND roots came then to Shafter, CA.

Again, they were bound together by geography, culture, language, religion and blood. Those on this page, like many others, are examples. The first name above is John Thom, from New Home, whose sister Tillie was married to Jacob Dirksen, who is a first cousin to the writer, Sarah Dirksen Richert. Jacob Dirksen is also the father John Schapansky's wife Katie Dirksen. John Thom's wife is New Home's Lydia Rau, whose father John married New Home's Nettie Funk, whose father David married one of Shafter's six Fast sisters. Such connections are found throughout the early Shafter group. - md

Smith down 10 June.

Doni onyf burmhe ...

... Elisabeth Epp ... Evelyn Duerksen ...

... Alice Duerksen ... Mrs. Albert Buller ...

Report from June 10.

Three more officers were appointed for the youth club. Sister Elisabeth Epp assistant head.

" Evelyn Duerksen assistant secretary

For Alice Durksen

program

committee Mrs. Albert Buller.



1953 at the Shafter Duerksen Reunion

Alice Duerksen (center) was the first child born (1915) in the new village of Shafter, CA. Her husband Krain Ashbaugh on the left, her father C C Duerksen on right. Is Violet actually Viola Burton, C C Duerksen's first daughter by Katie Wall? Alice's children Mary and Janet are on either side of their cousin Faye Heath.

Bericht des Gemeinde Ausschusses  
des Shafter deutschen Gemeinde  
am 26 Aug. 1933

Nach sorgfältiger und langer,  
aber nutzloser Bemühung, einige Glieder zur  
Einigkeit und Abkehrung ihrer unchristlichen Wege  
zu bewegen, ist der Gemeinde Ausschuss  
schlußendlich folgende Glieder der Gemeinde zur  
Abstimmung vorzuschlagen:

1. Herr Johann Fuchs hat die Welt lieb gewonnen  
und ist aus der Gemeinde entlassen, und  
wünscht nicht länger sein Glied zu sein.
2. Olivia Myer geht ihrem Geschäft nach und  
verbringt am Sabbat, die Zeit aber der  
Gemeinde entlassen zu werden.
3. Genosse Eichmann, hat kein Interesse für  
das Leben im Geiste, so sagt er, er will  
bitten und um Hilfe im Leben nicht bitten, er  
besucht kein Gottesdienst, und will nicht  
mit der Gemeinde im göttlichen Leben  
verwandeln.

4. Myrtel Voth Richert ist durch den  
Eifer mit weltlicher Geschäftigkeit  
sollt. zur Vernunft zurückgeführt werden.
5. Gideon Rueb hat unvorsichtlich gehandelt  
in seinem Geschäft und verbringt am  
am Sabbat.

Der Gemeinde Ausschuss wünscht die Gemeinde  
jedem Fall für in der Liebe und im Geiste  
Christi zu unterstützen und nach dem

### Report of the church committee of the Shafter German church From Aug. 26, 1933

After careful deliberation and long, but fruitless effort, to  
bring a few members to have insight and change their wrong  
ways, the church committee has the duty to present the  
following members for a vote.

Louise Schneider 1901-1991

1. Sister Johan Fuchs (Fox) has come to love the world and has  
removed(?) herself from the church and no longer wishes to be  
a member.
2. Olivia Myer pursues her business and works on the sabbath.  
She prefers to be released from the church.
3. Bernard(?) Eichmann has no desire for the life in Christ; he  
says that he does not pray and also does not read the bible.  
He visits no church services, and does not want to walk with  
the church in the Godly life.
4. Myrtel Voth Richert through the relation with worldly  
company has repeatedly been misled to bawdiness.
5. Gideon Rueb has carelessly(?) cheated(?) in his business and  
also works on the Sabbath.

The church committee request that the church consider each  
case here in the love and the spirit of Christ, and to judge  
and vote in accordance with the rules of the Lord.\*

\*Last eleven words from page labeled SCAN\_20-2. -md

Am 2ten Dez. 1933

Aufnahme für die Gemeinde aufgeführt.  
 Es. Buller unser die Leitung, 3 Brüder hielten  
 uns im Gebet. Zunächst wurde über die  
 großen Sorgen über das fallen der Schule  
 ob die Kirche kann nicht gefügt werden  
 die Lösung für nicht mehr möglich in  
 Kirchen kaufen lassen, so werden  
 durchzuführen der nicht sein Fiat Ven-  
 drive geben fallen, ein Damm aber  
 5-7 Personen werden kommen,  
 J. J. Gamm  
 " M. Neumann  
 " J. Broy  
 " Br. Buller  
 " V. Rüb

Zusätzlich wurde es für gut angesehen  
 umf. Maß für die Kirche ein Investment  
 zu geben, welches durch so notwendig  
 ob nicht umf. Maß möglich Rummage  
 soll geben fallen, was durch Gebieten  
 mit folgenden Personen oder so auf nötig  
 ob folgenden Personen der Gemeinde  
 unterschreiben müssen

- 1 Clarence Friesen
- 2 David Bearg
- 3 George Baerg
- 4 John Epp.

On the 2nd of Dec. 1933

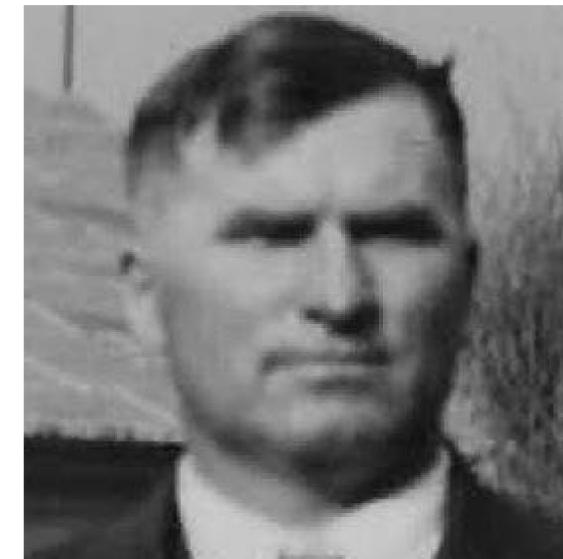
The church committee met. Br. Buller was the chair. 3 brothers led us in prayer. At first, again the big question came up, what shall we do that the school can be continued during the winter. We are no longer allowed to have them held in schools; so it was suggested that we have a Fund drive. A committee of 5 sisters was appointed.

- Sister J. Toews Judith "Ida" Loewen 1897-1968
- Sister W. Neuman Susan Isaac 1878-1942 --- >
- Sister J. Berg Elizabeth Anna Friesen 1878-1961
- Sister A. Buller Matilda Bietz 1899-1978
- Sister Rub Martha Lillian Baumbach 1904-1975



Secondly, it was regarded as good to also have an investment for the school. Thirdly, it was mentioned that we should also have a rummage sale once more. After a lot of discussion(?) with the following persons it was still be seen as necessary that the following persons had go to be let go from the church:

- 1 Clarence Friesen
- 2 David Bearg
- 3 George Baerg
- 4 John Epp.



John Epp 1896-1960

Am 2ten December 1933 abends,  
 wurden die Beamten der Gemeinde für  
 das folgende Jahr 1934 gewählt. Zuerst wurde  
 das Ziel der Herbstsammlung voll gemacht  
 ein Geist der Gebundenheit herrschte über uns.  
 67.00 über das Ziel hinaus, von dem die  
 Versammlung den Sonntag. Damit die  
 Schrift, nachdem alle Namen gelesen wurden,  
 einstimmig abgelehnt, alle persönliche  
 schriftliche Angelegenheiten, sind vollständig  
 erledigt. Die Schrift, welche den  
 Namen der Beamten enthält, wurde  
 mit ihnen dem Herrn im stillen Gebet, für  
 seine Leitung bei dieser Arbeit, und für den  
 zugehörigen Glauben Geist des Geistes.  
 Beschlüsse für 1934

- Die Beamten der Gemeinde sind wie folgt:
- 1. Älteste P. J. Buller 4. Vorsteher, Jakob Thomas.
  - 2. " Johan Voth. 5. Gemeinde-Vorsteher, P. J. Wil. Neumann.
  - 6. Mis. Vorsteher J. F. Richert.
  - 1. Diakon J. J. Dirksen 7. Missionsleiter, Jakob Baerg.
  - 2. David David Rieb. 8. Berichtschreiber, David Strauß.
  - 3. " Wilhelm Suckut. 9. Kirchen(?) Gesangsleiter C. O. Trubey.
  - 4. " Jakob Ratzlaff. 10. Kirchenmusiker: P. J. Dirksen.
  - 1. Diakonissen P. J. Richert. 11. Tabernakelklub S. David Buller.
  - 2. " " Wilhelm Suckut. Ushers: Theodor Voth.
  - 3. " " Peter Richert. " 2. Elmer Strauss.
  - 4. " " Rora Grinsif.

On December 2nd 1933 in the evening

The officers for the church for the year 1934 were elected. At first the goal of the fall collection was made full, a spirit of giving ruled, for \$67.00 above the goal was donated. Then the secretary from the appointment committee brought the report; after all names had been read the vote took place, everything was accepted with one voice, complete agreement was in place. Two brothers brought a prayer of thanks to the Lord, others thanked the Lord along with them in silent prayer for His guidance in this election and for the community spirit which was secured.

End will follow. for 1934

The officers of the church are as follows.

- 1. Elder P. J. Buller 4 treasurer, Jakob Thomas.  
Susan Isaac 1878-1942
- 2. " Johan Voth. 5. church secretary, Sister Wilh. Neumann.
- 6. Mis. Secretary J. F. Richert
- 1. Deacon C. C. Dirksen 7. Missions leader, Jacob Baerg  
Sarah Loewen 1878-1957
- 2. Deacon David Rueb 8. Report writer Sister David Strauss
- 3. " Wilhelm Suckut. 9. church(?) song leader C. O. Trubey  
Bertha Edna Unruh 1905-1996
- 4. " Jakob Ratzlaff 10. Musician: Sister Arthur Dirksen  
Sarah Anne Dirksen 1981-1953 Agnes Pearl Wiens 1894-1954
- 1. Deacon Sister J. F. Richert 11. Taber(?) club S. David Buller  
Lizzie Leiske 1890-1970
- 2. " Sister Wilhelm Suckut. Ushers 1. Theodor Voth.  
Nina Schultz 1900-1958
- 3. " Sister Peter Richert. " 2. Elmer Strauss  
Delia Winter 1904-1998
- 4. " Sister Karl Heinrich

Pfalsbranten.

Litw: 1. Gruffas Tisch.  
 2. Simon Dirksen  
 Vorklub: 1. Rafael Dirksen.  
 2. Ethal Dirksen.  
 Gersony: 1. Wilhelm Dullas.  
 2. P. J. Buller.  
 Gersony: 1. Ruby Weitz.  
 2. Rinder Sabbatfests.  
 1. Litw d. Zinsigen Abteilung.  
 2. Vorklub. David Laxoy.  
 3. Primary Abteilung  
 4. Vorklub. P. J. Gaede.  
 5. Litw Kindergarten Abteil.  
 6. Vorklub. Peter Wall.  
 IV. Jugend Mission Verein.  
 1. Litw Vorklub. Fred Voth.  
 2. " Ruben Grindis.

V. Gersony Rinderfests.  
 P. J. Buller, John Voth.  
 J. J. Dirksen David Rieb.  
 Wilhelm Dirksen, Jakob Ratzlaff.  
 P. J. Buller, P. J. Gaede.  
 P. J. Buller, P. J. Gaede.  
 David Dullas, P. J. Gaede.  
 Jakob Thomas, P. J. Gaede.  
 P. J. Buller, Jakob Laxoy.  
 J. O. Trubey, Gruffas Tisch.  
 Wilhelm Epp, P. J. Gaede.  
 Ethal, John Voth.

1. Vorklub Epp's Hoff.  
 2. " Lillian Kraft.  
 3. Gersony Litw  
 J. O. Trubey, Vorklub.  
 4. Gersony: Mildred Grings.

S(abbath) school officers.

Lead ...(?) 1. Gustav Tisch V. church committee.

2. Simon Dirksen P. J. Buller, John Voth. Secretary:  
 1. Rachel Dirksen. C. C. Dierksen David Rueb

2. Ethal Suckut. Wilhelm Suckut. Jakob Ratzlaff.

Song leader Wilmur Buller Sister J. F. Richert Sister J. Ratzlaff  
 Musician: Ruby Weitz. Sister Peter Richert, Sister Karl Heinrich  
 Children's Sabbath School Sister David Buller. Sister Thed. Voth

1. Leader of the second department. Jakob Thomas Sister W. Neumann  
Sister David Berg J. F. Richert. Jakob Berg.  
 Velma H Benton 1921

2. Primary department C. O. Trubey. Gustav Tisch.  
Sister P. J. Gaede. Wilhelm Epp. P. J. Gaede.

3. Leader Kindergarten department Elder Johann Isaak  
Sister Peter Wall.  
 Anna Marietta ioews 1899-1989

IV. Youth missions club.  
 Elisabeth Epp 1905-1975  
 1. Leader Sister Ted. Voth. -- >

2. Leader Ruben Heinrich.  
 2. 1. Secretary Esther Voth  
 2. Sister Lillian Kraft.

3. Song leader  
C. O. Trubey, overseer.

4. Musician: Mildred Heinze



Am 23 Dec. 1933, Abends haben wir alle in  
 Doppelhof Gemeinde aufzufing Englisch und  
 Gemeinde in Englisch und Englisch in der  
 Versammlung zu kommen so haben wir  
 Dr. P. J. Buller auf 5. Jahrgang kommen  
 kommt, Dr. C. C. Duerksen Dr. Ezra Schneider  
 Dr. Bowling Prof. Taube Elbert Spork.  
 die englische Versammlung hat die folgende  
 kommen Dr. D. P. Gaede Dr. P. E. Nachtigal  
 Dr. M. N. Fenderson, Secretary & Treasurer  
 Pro. Trubey. etc

Am folgenden Abend wurde die deutsche  
 auch auf unsere andere Versammlung zu  
 die Versammlung der Melrose Gebiet auf abwechselnd  
 gehalten das Miss Heath als Leiter in der  
 Versammlung, seine Frau Gemeinde aufzufing  
 ist die deutsche Versammlung bei der  
 Abend sollte nicht auf andere Versammlung  
 die deutsche Versammlung aufzufing  
 folgende Punkte sind  
 1. das Miss Heath am Sonntag 3. 12. nachmittags  
 Unterricht geben für alle die  
 besser bekannt zu werden, damit sie  
 unsere Bibelstunden zu geben  
 sollen, die Bibelstunden sollen  
 werden, erst in der deutschen

On Dec. 23, 1933 in the evening we met as a double church committee English and German in the school house in order to appoint the school officers. Besides Br P. J. Buller, the following names 5 were appointed: Br. C. C. Duerksen, Br. Ezra Schneider, Br. Bowling, Prof. Taube, Elder Isaak. The English sibilings had appointed the following people: Br. D. P. Gaede (?), Br. P. E. Nachtigal Br. M N.(?) Fenderson, Secretary and treasurer Pro. Trubey.

On the same evening the committee also dealt with several other subjects. First the question came up about the welfare work; it was decided that Sister Heath as leader and Sister P. Heinze\* should serve as assistants; each church committee shall identify its needs by next Sunday evening when this shall be discussed further. The German committee now separated from the English one and the following was dealt with

\*Katherine Loewen 1886-1970

1st, that Miss Jenkins should give bible lessons on the Sabbath at 3 o'clock in the afternoon for all who wish to become better acquainted with the bible, in order to better able to give bible readings when it might be required. The bible hour should be held alternating, first in the German church and then in the English one and then always continued like that.

(continued)

Martha Voth - Mrs. Ezra Schneider



Evelyn  
 Duerksen  
 Heath  
 1912-2013  
 Daughter of  
 C C Duerksen

