

ECHO March 27, 1985

49

Vanished settlements

• by J. C. Fehr

EBENFELD

West of Gnadenthal, about two miles, once was the site of a village by the name of Ebenfeld. There is not a trace left of it.

KRONSGART

About two miles southeast of Gnadenthal was a settlement by the name of Krongart. A cemetery alongside a creek shows evidence of the fact that a number of people have lived and died there.

HEUBODEN AND REINTHAL

Both of these original settlements were mentioned in the article on Grimsby.

ROME

This was mentioned in the article on Bergfeld (Thames). Bergfeld was a rather large community which included a number of smaller units. Whether they all had names is not known.

STEINREICH

As the name indicates, this was an area which had many stones on the field. Today it's rather difficult to visualize having stones in this municipality. The school of Steinreich was located one mile south and a little west of Horndean. It

operated as a public school district until the early 1930s. It was then moved to Horndean, where it was enlarged and the name changed to Horndean.

LICHTFELD

About one mile west of Altbergthal was once a small community known as Lichtfeld.

SCHOENHORST

This was mentioned in the article on Silberfeld.

EIGENGRUND

According to an early map there was a settlement about four miles east of Altona by the name of Eigengrund.

This then covers some of the settlements that were begun by the pioneers, but have long since disappeared. Doubtless there will have been some more.

This article brings to a conclusion the series of historical sketches of the rural districts of the R.M. of Rhineland. I herewith give thanks to the many, many people for their excellent cooperation in providing information and photos for this series. Special thanks to the editor for the space in the paper and for setting up the articles.

For the benefit of the people who collected them, there were 44 districts covered in this series, plus the last two articles.

Letters

49

Eigengrund

ECHO
APRIL 10,
1985

To the Editor,

I have enjoyed reading about the school districts of Rhineland as they were submitted by J. C. Fehr.

The last reference to Eigengrund or Jaessje caught my attention since this is close to my "stomping ground." Eigengrund is three and a half miles east of Altona. It was settled in the middle of Section 12, Township 2 and bordering on the principal meridian from where all land measurement of the Canadian prairies began.

The settlers were three Braun brothers from the Bergthal colony in Russia, rugged individuals, farm stock and God-fearing men, who chose to be pioneers. One of them was Abram Braun, my grandfather.

He worked on a farm near Fargo for a few years to get some cash before he rejoined his brothers here. His grandfather, Jacob Braun, had been a leading figure in the Bergthal colony in Russia, becoming their first bishop. Upon his arrival at Eigengrund he lived as a bachelor for a few years, then married Anna Falk from Hochstadt.

Their family grew to include eight boys and two girls. All of them became farmers, the girls being farmers' wives. In 1926 and 1927 about half of this family emigrated to the Chaco in Paraguay.

None of the Brauns at Eigengrund were very academically inclined since there are no PhDs or MDs among them although at present there are businessmen, teachers, musicians, nurses, pastors, and other occupations among the Brauns.

In the early 1900s Peter Braun, the brother of these Brauns, who remarried in Russia, came for a visit to see how these fellows were managing here in Canada, a place which to him was comparable to the cold climate of Siberia.

Grandma and Grandpa Braun are buried at Eigengrund beside a big Manitoba maple tree along with some other Braun relatives, a living memorial to those who settled the New World.

Ken Braun,
Altona, Man.

ECHO April 17, 1985

CARD OF THANKS

We wish to express our heartfelt appreciation to Mr. Jake C. Fehr for the many hours of research and preparation he spent on his Centennial Project for the R.M. of Rhineland. We trust that everyone enjoyed the brief histories and that they brought back some fond memories. Thank-you, Jake. -Reeve and Council, R.M. of Rhineland.

16-1-CD