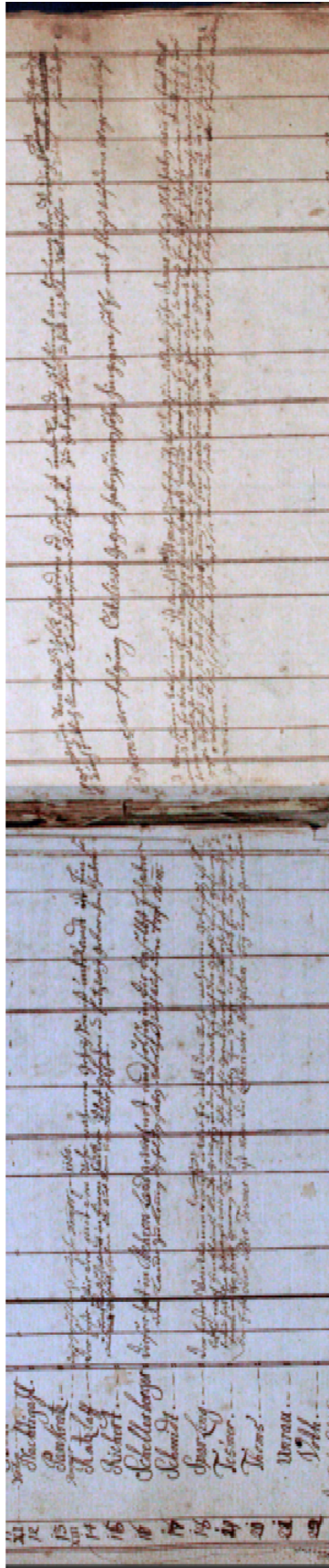


XV RATZLAFF

or RATZLAFFEN family is now the largest family in our congregation. All indications are that the first Ratzlaff was a discharged soldier or veteran, ("Gediehenhierter oder Abschied habender Soldath gewesen sein") originally from Sweden, but no other information is known. He was influenced by sermons he heard and wanted to join our congregation. He was moved to withdraw his sword from its sheath and thrust it into a hedgepost. Because of the laws of the land he was not able to join our congregation, and moved to Holland. Later he returned and was able to become a part of our Mennonite Society.



- 14 Ratzlaff The first - his first name is not known; he was a soldier from Sweden, other particulars not known. He was motivated, after hearing a sermon, to thrust his sword into a hedgepost and break it. Was baptized and accepted our religion; and took the daughter of Elder Voth from Culm for his wife. Her number is 1048.
- 15 Richert
- 16 Schellerberger He lived in Moravia, did not withstand the religious persecution and accepted Catholicism. However, he diligently assisted his son to leave the country. His son's number is 779.
- 17 Schmidt
- 18 Sparling The first one - his first name and where he was born is not known, and no information about where they lived can now be verified, although his son Isaac is to have related the following childhood experience which happened in Danzig: When he was quite small, he lost his way on the streets of Danzig, and when a local woman asked him why he was crying, he told her he was looking for his mother. When she asked for his mother's name, he replied, "Mutterche" (Mother); when she asked for his father's name, he answered that his father's name was "Vaterche" (Father). She then took him into her home, and his parents looked for him for three days before they traced him to this woman's house. From this story it can be assumed that their home was in or near the town of Danzig. No information about the mother is available.