

Grandfather Jaryin's diary written  
while the family migrated from Russia  
to Turkestan, Asia

1880 or 1881

Take extra good care of it -

Belongs to  
Dr. Max Jaryin  
117 N. Euclid  
St. Louis  
Mo.

LODI BRANCH

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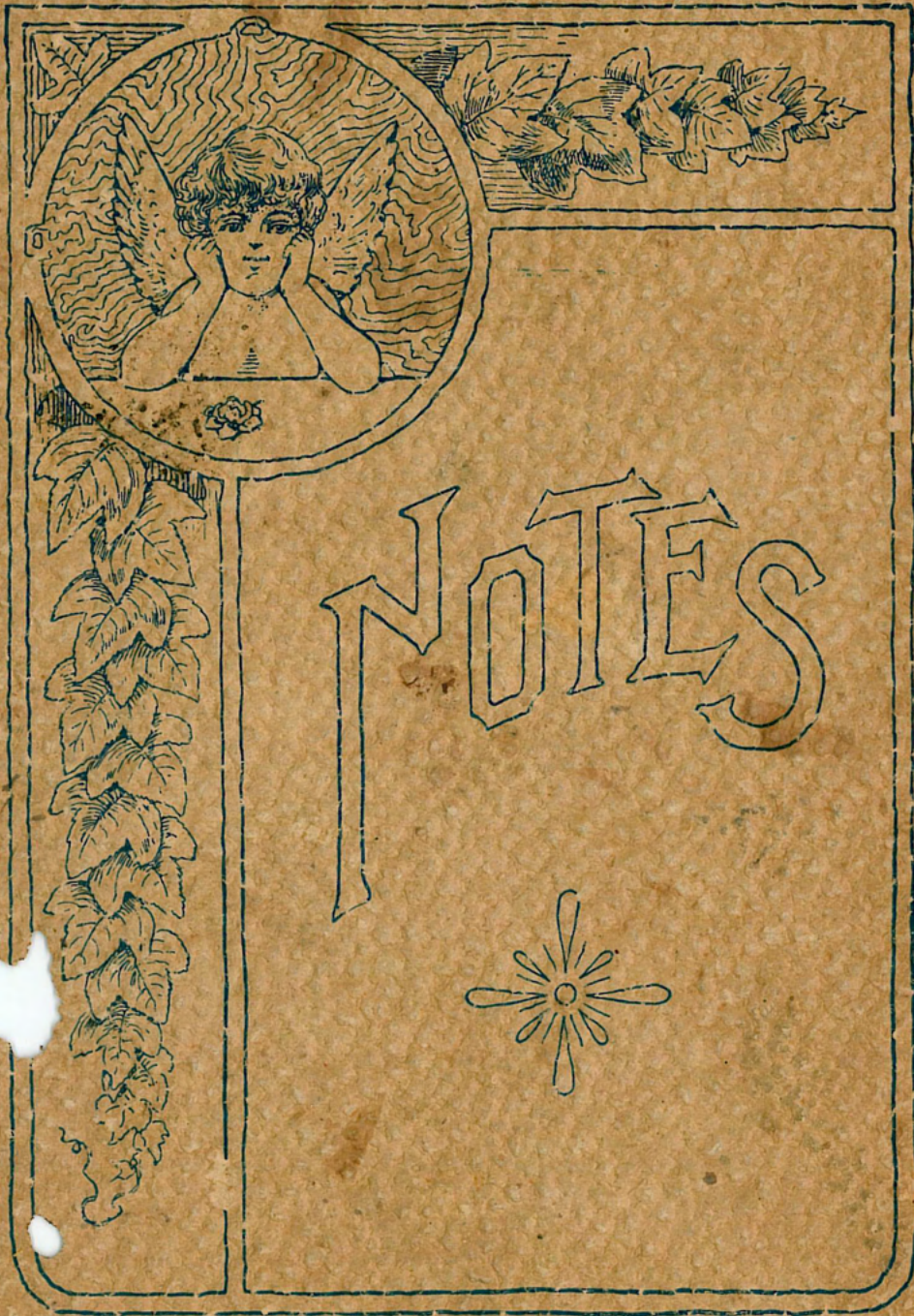
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DOLLARS

















Dünge. Über die letzten 10 verlebten Lebensjahre.

Im Jahre 1879 verließen ein Paar unserer Gemeindeglieder sich zu einer Reise nach Cuba, (nicht weit von der Spitze von der Insel land in der Höhe) es wurde ihnen von dem damaligen Gouverneur von Kuba ein völli-  
gkeitige Erlaubnis auf 15 Jahre bewilligt, dass mit dem Jahre 1881 werden wir Maniken in der algerischen Provinz  
selbst ein oder zwei in der Provinz von Kuba. — und die  
wird es mit ihrem Gewissen nicht werden können. Von dem Jahre  
1881 in Kuba der Kubaer nicht mehr betra.

Im Jahre 1880 zogen wieder zwei Paare nach Cuba, eines von  
der Kolonien und eines aus unserer Aufsicht der letzten  
begeben. An der in der Stadt und in der Höhe der Lebensdauer  
sollte es nicht zu werden, dass für Kuba mit der Höhe  
der Kubaer und unserer Aufsicht der Höhe der Kubaer  
in Kuba.

Das Jahr 1881 war für mich mit meiner Familie von großer  
Bedeutung, so wohl in der Höhe der Kubaer, dass die Höhe  
werden wir in der Provinz von Kuba. — und die  
werden, es wird nicht wieder ein Jahr, um nicht die  
zu gehen, und es wird nicht wieder ein Jahr, um nicht die  
eines von uns, es wird nicht wieder ein Jahr, um nicht die  
dieses Jahr als Höhe der Kubaer, und die Höhe der Kubaer  
werden wir in der Provinz von Kuba. — und die  
in Kuba werden sie befragen wir nicht die Höhe der Kubaer  
den 1. September es wurde von unserer alten Gemeinde der  
werden die Höhe der Kubaer und die Höhe der Kubaer, der Höhe der Kubaer  
der Aufsicht der Höhe der Kubaer, der Höhe der Kubaer.



sein zu thun wird, jedoch dem nicht bezogen auf diesen, dann es  
was vorzunehmen wird, als auch unsere Reise voll werden wird.

Wie schon mich auch geflüstert malen, dass wir nicht so wohl  
als in der Abtheilung der in der Stadt, dass am 27sten  
Dienstag der in Paris Meinung gegeben wurde, dass sie in der  
Stadt so wurde den Montag d. 28. 2. sein fünf abwesend und

in der den Mal fünf von hien weg wieder auf an der fünf sechs sechs  
dieser Stadt zu gehen, der halbe Tag und mit fünf der  
Beil sind am 2. Tagung unsere befehligen, Lohmann bleibt zu

seinem Hund liegen, oft sich nicht zu bewegen, der solan Peter  
warfen, für würde C. Schumann kommt, die Gegend hien zu  
einmal beiseite zu werfen, was am 2. Tagung der Maulschlaue

geb. d. 29. 2. bei 4 Uhr Nachmittag Anfangs soll der ein Waisen  
geboten war, der Weg geschickt sich wegen der beiseite der  
Dienstag zu seiner und fünflichen Pflichten, Berman sich das Abend

bei seinem Aufenthalt an, Waisen zum Lohmann geschickt.  
d. 30. 2. das Lohmann, die so lange nach fünf befehligen in der  
Lohn bleiben, während immer näher, während schliefen immer

weiter, aber unser immer so für den so an Abend um 10 Uhr  
aufstehen mit einem so für so Lohmann warfen am 2. Tagung  
immer so, als wenn es Mail, wenig fachen, weniger

d. 30. 2. auf in einer der Lohmann schickten einen Lohmann von Lohmann  
einige es so für so für den im Lohmann wurde halt ein Lohmann  
auf Lohmann Lohmann, dass Lohmann mit unser Waisen fünf be

lohn Lohmann geschickt, d. 1. 2. Oktober, der so für so Lohmann  
d. Lohmann Lohmann Lohmann Lohmann Lohmann Lohmann Lohmann  
d. 2. 2. Lohmann Lohmann Lohmann Lohmann Lohmann Lohmann Lohmann

in der soll gelingen, dann soll es sich so für so Lohmann Lohmann  
Lohmann Lohmann Lohmann Lohmann Lohmann Lohmann Lohmann Lohmann



12. zugeordnet. Hierher gehören die fünf Bünde, welche bei  
d. 12. Bunde bei Herrmanns ein junger Mann ein, bleiben  
auf ihrer Bestimmung, bei einem Kopsbande, hier erst ist  
mit etwas längerer Fristen erst nach Ablauf d. 14. es wird aber  
bevorzugt müssen eine sehr lange Plutium, weil zu lang für  
Herrmann. Ferner sind Bunde erst ungenügend.  
d. 15. es muss besonders d. 16. Bunde wie gegen Brand in  
Walden um die Stadt muss sein von weiter einem  
lesen. Gedenke auf solche für mich nicht so vorsehrliche  
d. 17. Bunde, es müssen unsere Bunde und zu  
für ungenügend der Maß vorerst, werden von weiter in  
d. 19. Luft von Bunde um einen Kopsbande bei einem  
mit allem Bunde bestanden. Bunde d. 20. es wird Bunde, so  
für die Stadt, dabei erst unser. d. 21. es der Bunde  
wird erst für sich selbst in die Bunde, so  
für ein ungenügend Bunde, so d. 22. es der Bunde, so  
mit ungenügend. Herrmann d. Bunde für Bunde, so  
einigen Bunde bleiben zu sein in Bunde, so  
Bunde, so d. 23. es für ein ungenügend Bunde, so  
für ein ungenügend. Bunde, so d. 24. es für ein ungenügend  
Bunde, so d. 25. es für ein ungenügend Bunde, so  
Bunde, so d. 26. es für ein ungenügend Bunde, so  
Bunde, so d. 27. es für ein ungenügend Bunde, so  
Bunde, so d. 28. es für ein ungenügend Bunde, so  
Bunde, so d. 29. es für ein ungenügend Bunde, so  
Bunde, so d. 30. es für ein ungenügend Bunde, so





















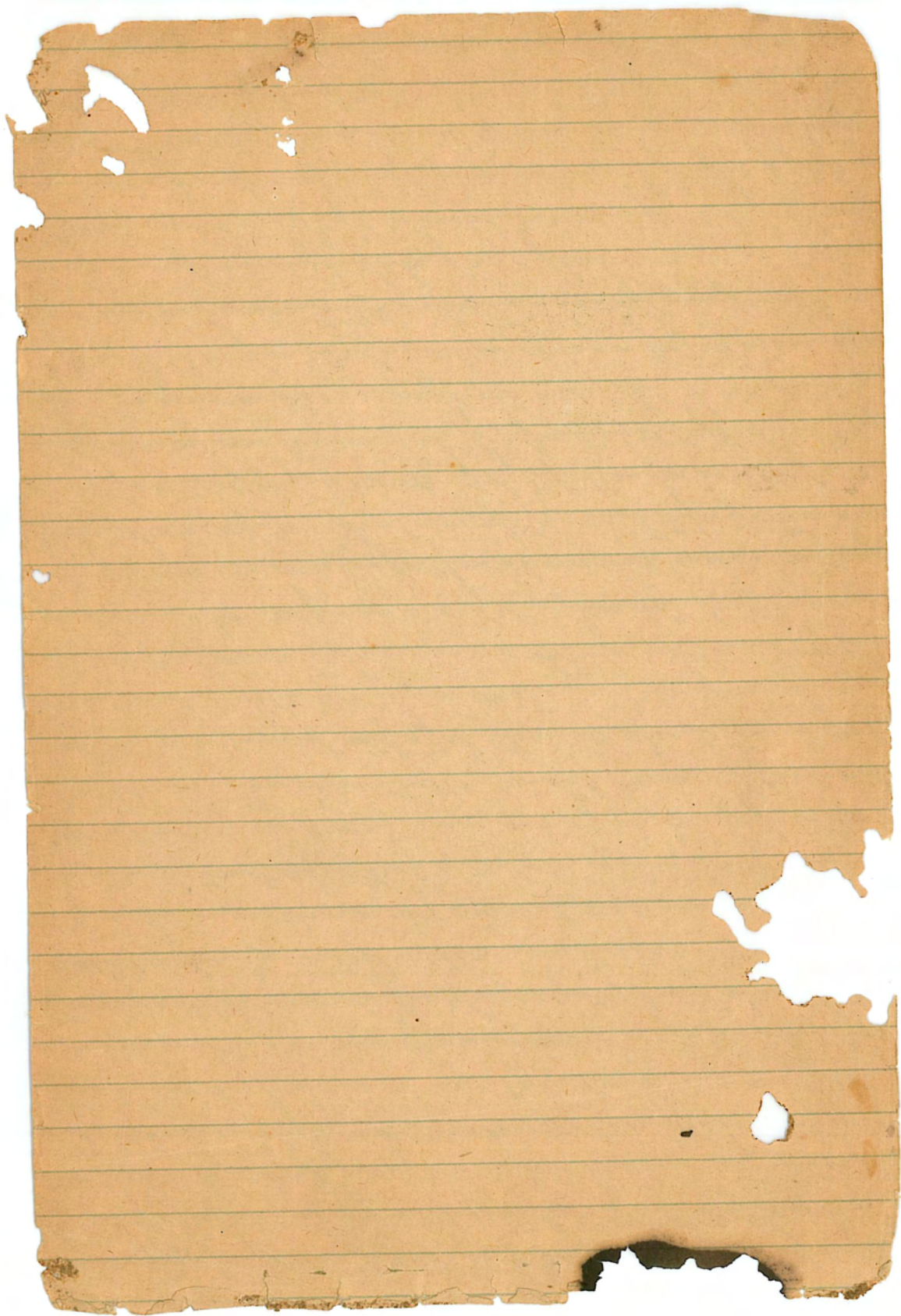






















Grandfather Heinrich Janzen's  
"Reinbrecht" from Saratov area  
to Tashkent, 1874 -

DEAR UNCLE MARC -

PLZ HANDLE LOAN  
OF THIS DIARY TO

~~THE~~ BEITEL COLLECTOR  
MENDONITE MUSEUM.

Frank L. Janzen Finner

8/22/72

Jay D. Janzen

Heinrich Janzen



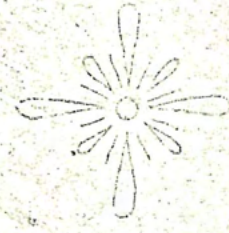
Grandfather Jansen's diary written  
while the family migrated from Ruess  
to Turbottan, Iowa

1880 or 1881

Take extra care of it -

Belongs to  
Dr. Marc Jantzen  
117 W. Euclid  
Stockton  
Calif.

OTIS



J. Marc Jantzen  
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Translator's notes:

Some of this diary is not legible. However, I did the best I could. The missing parts, of course, are not possible to read and I have indicated this. The names of places ~~of~~<sup>are</sup> not familiar to me so I just wrote them as they looked to me. I did use a map of Asia to assist me but most of these places are outdated and are not on the map.

Hilda Voith

Dec. 2, 1992



Medenthal

Medenthal, it happened that we had a short worship service, and we said farewell to many relatives and friends. Then we started our journey in God's name.

On September 2 at daybreak we left and got to the village of Gnadendorf. Here the last friends left us who had escorted us thus far. At the same time it was our first stop because G. Loeypp had trouble with his wagon. We had new pipes along so it was soon repaired. On the third . . . . . (missing) and on the afternoon of the fourth we started again, and got to the village of Strafendorf by evening. That is the last German colony. Here some of the ~~w~~heels were welded. Several came late to join us; they had been trailing behind us, Elder David Hamma and Joh. Epp. They stayed only for the weekend until Monday which we spent to the right of the street near the three wells. On the 6th, Monday, at Kroppur, we had our first meal - much wind that came mostly from behind, so we could hardly keep our eyes open. Otherwise, the sky was nice, it was very hot. On the 7th toward evening we arrived in How Ufen. The town has nothing special to offer especially scenery. Here we had our first night frost with north wind. On the 8th off and on until noon something was rattling on my wagon, but it got quite late and very dark before we stopped. We had a long way to ride to the well with the horses. We had to look for it a long time before we found it. On the 9th we went on. The area was desolate and so quiet it was uncanny. The road was good. Here H. Nikkel got sick. We drove to a dried out hole; it actually looked strange. There we took a short look back over the last ten years of our lives.

In the year 1879 a part of our congregational brothers prepared for a trip to Taschkent (a town in which Russia has sent some of its citizens), at that time the general governor of Kaufmann had promised them complete religious freedom for 15 years. Then on that day in 1881 we Mennonites entered into the regular defense regulation, at least in the so-called forest service - and those whose conscience would not permit this sought shelter in Asia where Europe no longer ruled.

In 1880 two trains moved out there, one from the Holotschna and one from our colony. The former moved to Anutir and lived in town and tried to find ways to make their living there. Many of them hauled rocks and dirt. The brothers from our colony moved into the country and worked land.

The year 1881 meant an important decision for me and my family both outwardly and inwardly. On March 1 we were placed in the so-called emigration church. This meant another move to move to this . . . . . (missing). My family and sister Marie . . . . . (missing) We were supposed to move right after harvest. This



meant selling our property without hesitation. I didn't sell my farm until after harvest. The wagons were arranged for moving as soon as possible. On September 1 our old home place was broken up. Our train consisted of 70 wagons. Most of the colony came to the farewell from the villages. Here many of the travelers bought felt blankets and covered their wagons because it was obvious it would turn cold while we traveled. We were not quite sure which road to take, whether through Aktjabin'sk or the one through Orsk. Then a German business man whose opinion was requested said he would choose Orsk. So on Monday the 28th early in the morning the wagons were loaded and we went over the Ural through Orenburg on the European side and through this town. The telegraph wires and the Ural were our companions for a while. The latter stayed on our left side often too high for us to look into the river. Here Br. Neumann got sick. The area began to get hilly because of the ending of the Ural area. At 4 o'clock in the afternoon we stopped because one wagon was broken. Then the road began to circle because of a natural stream so it was late that evening that we got to a Cossack village. The water for the horses was bad. However, the hills were still so pretty in the distance. They came closer and became more threatening and became more dreary as we drove. Toward evening we had to start climbing and in places it was quite steep. Some stopped . . . (missing) - I and my brothers went on, but our stepping soon turned to crawling on hands and feet. Soon we were rewarded, though, because the view was so beautiful. On Oct. 1, the path got very bumpy and it was a miserable day. Br. Neumann suffered miserably all day. On the 2nd we had an unexpected stop over because suddenly at 2 o'clock in the night he died. On the 7th it started to rain pretty hard so we stopped until noon. On the 12th a baby son came to Cor. Neumanns so we stopped over Sunday. We also spent Monday there in a . . . (missing) village. The hay was good here, only a bit sour. It felt like fall because it was cold. On the 14th it is getting somewhat hilly. We made a long stop - much too long for Sister Neumann. Snow and rain made things quite uncomfortable. On the 15th, nothing special. On the 16th toward evening we arrived at Amelks. We could see the town from a distance, and it made quite an impression. I had not pictured it to be so large. The 17th was a rest day. Several wagons had to be repaired because they were slightly damaged. The road was quite good and there were herds of wild . . . (missing). On Sunday we stayed in a Cossack village; it had all the grazing we needed and also fishponds. On the 20th we hit sand so it was very strenuous for the horses. It was quite warm though. On the 21st the scenery improved. It went downhill to the Aral lowlands with spots of forestry in some areas. On the 22nd the road got bad; it was so loose and slippery. Hermann Kartsch's wagon broke its axle. Several brothers stayed behind and helped him fix it. The area was pretty; the weather was nice. On the 23d we crossed the



Aral. The bridge was 150 feet long. Now we are in Asia. We stopped in the town of Goleks. We had to stay there until noon because it rained so hard. From here on the road was wonderful. To the left both near and far were the high Ural forests and the first snow with 6 degree weather reamur. On the 24th at noon we got to Orenburg and we camped there. It was to the right of the bridge in a nicely sheltered place. Orenburg is easy to see because it is quite a large town. It actually has large streets and the buildings are beautiful. The streets are filled with traffic; it is never free of camels. Here everything comes together, a person could say it is a world community. . . . . (missing) . . . . . We could go inside and stay warm but soon we felt uneasy. Then right after the holidays we realized we had to break up our camp and continue our trip to Taschkant. During this time I had had a wheel made. Even though we were told by these residents that from here on our traveling would be impossible, we had to go on. The first wagnons had gone about 5 Versts (3.31 miles) when the snow got so deep that the horses got terribly tired. We were forced to turn back. We went back to our camp. The community did not really accept us, and treated us as Russians. The women could not let themselves be seen by any strange man. If she has to go on the street she has to be completely covered. The women's quarters are in a special building separated from the men's quarters by a high wall. Several women came to visit our women and they were very friendly. They came with tea and lachuschka (thin . . . (missing) that they served the women. They were given places to sleep. They said the women's quarters were very simple compared with the men's. When the month was up the landlord bluntly told us to go. We went to look for another lodging place which we soon found. It was on a Saturday when we moved. Many of us had to be fed on Sunday in our new house. Herman Epps' wagon was broken down. We left on the 12th but it was all very irregular. The train was in three sections; one section was in three parts. The main group arrived late at night at a station and that is where I was. On Sunday we celebrated . . . . . (missing) wedding. We used the station building for that. The second part, 16 wagnons were half way; the third part, 12 wagnons, 6-8 wersts (5.30 - 6.62 miles) behind. Both parts on . . . . . (missing) at 25 degrees frost. On the 14th toward noon we reached . . . . (missing). We did not go farther for camping because the snow was so deep. We left on the 15th. There was no barley to be had. Karavansarei at noon, the last time on the Syrtarhu. Spent the night on the road. The train is dragging itself slowly on. The 16th, the Hamms had a baby daughter early in the morning, so they stayed behind but the others went on because there was a shortage of food as well as something to feed the horses. All we could see ahead of us was high walls. At noon we got to a Sartan village, lovely Luzern, night lodging on a caravanserai. On the 17th from the town Turkestan the bushes and the trees were lovely and we arrived toward noon. On the 18th those who stayed behind caught up noon. On the 18th



at night we had much snow. About a third of the group had pulled in for the night and I was among them with my family. The others lodged at a different place waiting for the Russian quarter. They wanted to see the cross of the Lord carried and . . . . . (missing) the robe put around his body . . . . . (missing). At least I can hear about it . . . . . (missing).

(Page 7, top part missing)

On the 21st we went to see where the dead were buried. We could see the pyramids from far off, many of them dome-shaped so that it actually looks like a row of churches. By evening we came to the fortress of Karmakschie at the lodging place. It was very hilly. We drove back to the place where we had tied our wagons. On the 22nd, Sunday, a day of rest. Engagement of Emil Kiefon to Marie Klæberg. The fish are very cheap here. Toward noon on the 23d we left. Had an eclipse of the moon. Pretty heavy snowfall and quite cold. On the 24th we watered our horses in a well-lined well. The horses needed it badly, probably after all the clover feeding. Traveled on the 25th; on the 26th we got to Hegen, by noon the little town of Promosk, then a camping place on the Syrdarya. The road was packed with ice. It was hard to prepare food so we remained here several days. On the 29th the ice became solid; on the 30th we could jump over it. On the 1st of December we drove over Kumali, 18 degrees frost, fish were cheap, we bought 5 lbs. They were sold for 3 kopeke a pound and cut up for us. A sled full of pigs. They were sold for 10 kop. a cut, very fat, looked very good. The chickens, especially hens, were very simple to buy. . . . . (missing) . . . . . (missing) In three days we made only a short trip because of H. Harm's wife. The station building was damaged heavily by water, but it was allowed for travelers to make use of it. On the 4th when we left, Franz Abrahams' three year old son died. The terrain was very hilly and that caused problems. . . . . (missing). Stopped on the 5th because of the serious illness of Berg's wife. We should separate because the feed was getting scarce as well as our food. However, after breakfast we all left, but during the night she got sicker again. Three families stayed behind with her. A very rocky road, much more snowfall and a back wheel of my wagon broke. We did get to Fort Schulek. Late that night the ones that stayed behind got to our camp that we had made between the . . . . . (missing) near the river. We sort of braided some of the bushes together and used them for shelter. Here we had our worship services and we had Communion. The town and the fortress were small but very neat and clean. Several new axles had to be made. On the 7th H. Bartsches' little daughter died. That afternoon Abr. Janzens' year old son died. On the 8th we had the funeral of three little children, all in one grave. During this time the axles were made since wood was available for my wheel and after that I drove over 200 versts (132.58 miles). A



hard frost on the 9th. We turned left on the Karavansen Street that was close to a well. Now we had high sand hills. It made deep ruts where we drove. H. ?'s big wagon tipped over. Had 22 degrees frost. Since there was plenty of wood we built large fires and warmed ourselves up at night. On the 10th at noon we got to free steppes, no water so we had to melt snow. It was hilly. On the 11th Jacob Dau broke both his arms. Several brothers stayed back with him to set and wrap the arms. It was a very difficult road. H. Heidebrecht's . . . . . (missing) . . . . . (missing). . . . . Neumann . . . . . (missing) He lived a few hours. That evening Janzen went to him and prayed with him. He also planned to give him Communion in the morning but the Lord called him home before that. On the 3d quite early in the morning he was buried. He leaves his widow with 7 children. The youngest is 3 weeks old. We left later that same day toward evening. We ran up against a very steep and very rocky hill. We drove down and Johann Janzen's wagon broke a back wheel and all the spokes broke. We camped close to the Aral Sea. We turned the horses out to pasture. On Sunday the 4th we had Communion. Sister Sarei was taken into the congregation. For me it was a hard day for various reasons. On the 5th we took off again; the weather was very nice; the stream was full of fish. On the 6th we made more headway; the scenery was getting more romantic; the water was very good especially in the springs. On the 7th we had to stay immobile until noon because some axles had to be repaired. In the afternoon we became separated because the hills were so close together that we often couldn't see each other. Sometimes we wondered if we would get through, but after a short while we were in the open again. It was like a real life experience. Then when the sun went down we reached the highest peak and that was a sight to behold. From then on it was mostly downhill. On the 8th we saw the town Oesk in the distance. We went farther downhill to the Aral valley and we reached the town by noon. Here we bought oats for . . . . . (missing). We bought 8 pounds for each horse and loaded it on the camels that were sent on ahead. We left again on the 11th. The road was good and the weather was nice - quite warm. Every once in a while . . . . . (missing). It seemed almost like summertime. We camped near a stream where we stayed over Sunday. We broke up early on the 12th. From Arks on it was sunny, no clouds in sight, very lovely but then it turned almost desert-like. At noon we drove through the river Aar and we all had to spread out. On the 13th, church day, a little daughter arrived at Everts. We put the horses in the pasture. On the 14th we could go on and it was over . . . . . (missing) a small lake. On the 15th it started to rain in the morning, then it turned to ice . . . . . (missing). On the 16th we ran into the fortress Karra-Kulak and found relief because it gave us a real break from the wind, a place of protection. On the 17th, Sunday, we rested. It was 18 degrees cold,



otherwise fair. On the 18th after breakfast we drove on after we had loaded the oats that the camels had brought us. The next three days it was very cold and deep snow. This made it very difficult for the horses. The 22nd, the frost is giving in a little. On the 23d toward noon we came to the . . . (missing) and it seemed as if the time of year had changed. There were herds of camels, horses, cattle, sheep were grazing, also many birds such as plovers and many tents set up. On the 24th it got warmer but the road was worse. Toward evening we got to Prohis, the last town before the desert. Here we took care of packing up feed to last up to Kasalinsk, 10 pounds for every horse. We also took hay, as much as each one could load because it was so cheap here and so good. We left again toward evening of the 27th on bad roads. We had gone only a few wersts when Herb Janzens' little wagon broke. Several brothers stayed behind with him and had it repaired. On the 28th in the afternoon it was done. We broke up on the afternoon of the 29th . . . (missing) When we asked them their answer was that today was their Sabbath. When we got acquainted with them a bit better they informed us they were not Russian but Israelites. They had come here to Turkestan and were from the stem of Simeon by birth and came from the family of Levi who was their priest. Their actual home was Buchara, but due to various hardships they had been forced to emigrate. When we questioned them they said in the first place all their property, whether movable or not everything was taxed ten percent. Besides that, they could not ride on any horses but had to be satisfied with mules, camels or oxen. Furthermore, they could not wear any silk, but had to be satisfied with cotton on their bodies. This seemed to be the most important to them because they repeated it several times. The head of the family and also his brother told us they had each left a wife in Buchara. Now they each had two wives again. We told them they had committed great sins by doing that. They asked if we had a Russian Testament. Luckily we did have one with us. They told us to turn to certain passages and see if Moses had not permitted such a thing. Yes, we said, but if you know the Scripture, why do you let the hired hand work on the Sabbath? It says it refers even to the stranger who is in your gates. They did not know what to say and quickly bypassed that passage.