

## Victoria Germans from Russia Historical Society

Subject: **Rippel and Mayer**

Member # **M112**

George Becker left Austria in 1887, landed in Halifax and continued across Canada. George sent a letter home inviting his fellow villagers to Canada, they set about preparing for emigration to Canada.

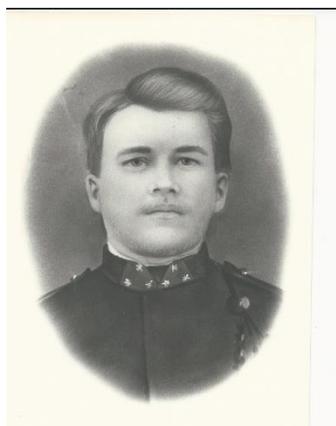
In 1888 they left from Cologne, Germany, across the channel to Liverpool where most booked passage as cheaply as they could 3<sup>rd</sup> class and some by British cattle boat for their 26 day experience. Most stayed and slept in the immigration building until the rest of the travel arrangements were completed.

CP Rail offered free passage to homestead lands in the North West Territories. Some stopped and stayed in Winnipeg, Manitoba. The land was \$10.00 per homestead and they set about making the land approximately 15 miles SE of Medicine Hat in Dunmore Alberta habitable. The CPR provided seed, oxen, horses and a few implements. Of course the land near Dunmore was not suited to crop farming and their crops failed, and thus the men worked at what they could find in order to purchase oxen and horses, etc.

In 1890 word was received that better land was available in the Beaver Hills area. Five men, John Krebs, Adam Rippel, Frank Becker, John Mohr and Philip Thomas were sent to scout the new area. The news when they returned was good, the land offered much more promise than where they were presently. The government was approached and it agreed that the lands near Dunmore could be exchanged for the same amount in the Beaver Hills Region. They set about packing.

In April 1891 they boarded a train and traveled north 100 miles to the end of the track at Red Deer. Their belongings were transferred from train to wagon and the second half of the journey began. The first obstacle was crossing the Red Deer River, the oxen not impressed and had to be led across. As they forded river and creeks, walled through sloughs, fought off mosquitos, etc., the trip was successful and without major tragedy. The "Edmonton Bulletin" wrote on May 2, 1891 the German Colony from Dunmore commenced to arrive in Edmonton on Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup> the last arriving on Wednesday. They numbered 53 families, between 225-250 people, had 325 horned cattle, 23 horses and a large number of chickens and ducks.

In Edmonton the "parting of the ways" occurred, some families stayed in Edmonton, some went to Leduc and Wetaskiwin, a small group went to Stony Plain (Mayer's being one family) the rest went moved on to the Oliver/Horse Hill Districts and from there explored the area of Fort Saskatchewan Alberta (Rippel). There were only 2 other settlers in this area (Ft Saskatchewan and Pakan). They found HOME.



Jakob Mayer ca 1875



The Rippel Family ca 1910