

June 9, 1876, "Toronto is a large city. Merchandise is cheap. I bought a pair of rubber boots for \$2.50, and an axe for \$1.00."

June 19, 1876, "We landed at Dufferin. Here we were escorted to the immigration halls."

June 21, 1876, "Monday - Motto: Continuing instant in prayer, Romans 12:12. Bought the following: a cow with its calf for \$39.00, an iron stove with equipment for \$28.50, a shovel for \$1.00, two pails for 65 cents, a coffee mill for 50 cents, soap for 25 cents, matches for 30 cents, and two plates for 20 cents."

June 22, 1876, "Bought a pair of oxen for \$139.00."

June 24, 1876, "Arrived at Jacob Wiens in Reinland at 11:00 a.m."

June 29, 1876, "Went to Emerson to do some shopping. Purchased the following: a plow for \$24.00, wood for \$12.00, four bags of flour for \$12.50, ten pounds of coffee for \$3.50, seven pounds of sugar for \$1.00, a pitchfork for \$1.25, one pound "Licht" (light) for 30 cents, and 40 pounds of lard for \$9.00. Left Emerson and spent the night under the blue sky."

July 16, 1876, "Friday - Have come to the decision to settle in Reinland."

July 17, 1876, "Saturday - Again, there are contentions regarding the site that has been chosen."

July 18, 1876, "Sunday - Motto: 'Love not the world', I John 2:15. The elder, Johann Wiebe, preached a sermon here today."

July 19, 1876, "Monday - Again we viewed two sites - found water on the latter and decided to settle there. The place is to be named 'Hoffnungsfeld'."

July 20, 1876, "Tuesday - Took our families and possessions to Chortitz."

July 21, 1876, "Wednesday - Hauled wood out of the woods and started to build."

July 22, 1876, "Thursday - Together with Isaac Wiens I went to the Pembina Hills as far as Dakota where we bought a yoke of oxen for \$72.50; for Jacob Enns another yoke of oxen at \$60.00; a cow with a calf for David Wiens at \$35.00; a pair of oxen for slaughtering at \$40.00 for Isaac Wiens (Note: this was the first owner of the quarter section S.E. 4-3-4 on which the town of Winkler was founded); a cow with a calf at \$35.00 for Aaron Neustaetter."

August 4, 1876, "Wednesday - Moved from Chortitz here to our new site, Hoffnungsfeld. Moved into the barn. Hauled some more wood."

By January, 1878, there were 24 families with 120 persons living in Hoffnungsfeld. Hence, Jacob Wiens founded the village of Hoffnungsfeld. When this village disintegrated somewhat later, his son Isaac Wiens founded the village of Rosenbach which is one mile north of Winkler. Although Mr. Isaac Wiens lived at Rosenbach since 1883, he also owned the quarter section of land on which the village of Winkler was started in 1892. However, before the siding was opened by the C.P.R., Mr. Wiens had traded his quarter section to Mr. Valentine Winkler in exchange for S.W. 10-3-4W.

The reason why Mr. Jacob Wiens decided to leave Russia appears to be stated in a letter which he wrote after his arrival in Canada, in answer to a letter received from Russia. The reasons that he stated in his letter are almost prophetic. Among other things he says: ". . .

What you wrote about the difficulties in regard to our migration to Canada is partly true. It is painful to sever friendship ties. But what if a man will have to leave wife and children and take up arms? This will certainly happen. What if the nihilists shall gain power and overthrow all power?

"In the near future, Russia is facing a time of horror. A powerful revolution will break out in which these terrorists will take part. The close of the 20th century will witness a drama of horrors in comparison to which the French Revolution at the close of the 18th century was mild.

"These horrors, however, will end. But when we'll stand before God in the day of judgment we'll give account of ourselves. What if he will say: 'I gave you a way to escape the giving up of your faith, but you treasured your earthly joys, possessions, and friends more than Me - you are therefore not worthy of Me.' To keep the true faith in Russia, in my opinion, is impossible."



Jacob Wiens



Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Wiens. Mr. Wiens was the original owner of S.E. 4-3-4 west quarter section which he obtained as a Crown Grant on September 6, 1883. However, part of the quarter section had already been turned over to the CPR right-of-way in 1881. This picture was taken in Liverpool, England, in 1876, on the way to Canada from Russia.