



Jacob Zacharias family.

the Abrams and Esau store, but planned to continue farming his old land.¹⁵ Kroeker took over the enterprise fairly soon after his move, perhaps as early as 1888, when Abrams and Esau bought their Gretna business. In 1891 Kroeker was definitely in business on his own. A newly arrive immigrant, Eduard Wiebe, wrote a year later that Kroeker had hired him as a clerk in November, 1891.¹⁶ Klaas Kroeker continued as a Reinland merchant until the early 1920s and is still remembered by the village's older citizens.

Another Reinland merchant was Johann A. Peters who sold quantities of cordwood brought from the Pembina Hills. Sometimes the cordwood was brought across the American border by Metis who sold it to Peters. According to old customs records, Peters imported many articles from the United States including calendars by the pound.

Erdmann Penner, Gretna, long owned a branch store in Reinland. This store, which proclaimed the Erdmann Penner name on its large front awnings, employed up to seven clerks during the pre-Christmas business period. The Penner branch existed well into the twentieth century.

Johann Dyck (father of Isaac Dyck, Hochfeld), commonly known as *Stoa Dyck* (Store Dyck), operated a store at the crossroads of the village's east end. In the later 1920s Dyck sold the business to David