



**Jewish farming settlement, Painted Woods, Dakota Territory (1881-)**

**Transcribed list of original settlers**

<b>Last Name, First</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Axelrad, A.		Probably "Abraham Axelrod", b. 1860
Axelrad, J.		
Baron, B.		May be related to Lasur Barron
Bromberg, N.	*Bessarabia	May be related to Israel Brumberg. Other possible relatives Nudelman, Goldstein
Cohen, N.		
Diller, S.	*Odessa	
Diller, L.	*Odessa	Possibly Levi Dillar/Dellar, b. 1862
Dorfman, B.	Kishinev, Bessarabia	Anna, Baruch Dorfman's daughter, arrived with husband Joseph Confeld and children 1884-1885. Confeld related to Oxman.
Dorfman, J.	Kishinev	Probably Joseph Dorfman, b. 1860
Dorfman, M.	Kishinev	Probably Moses Dorfman, b. 1858.
Dubiver, D.	*Zalozhtsy, Ukraine	Probably "David Dubiver", b. 1835-1837
Fuchs, J.		
Gale, A.	*Ukraine	Possibly related to Marcus Grabifker
Gale, J.	*Ukraine	
Gerstman, L.	*Ukraine	
Goldstein, H.	*Bessarabia	May be related to Bromberg, Nudelman
Goldstein, J.	*Bessarabia	
Goldstein, D.	*Bessarabia	
Hechtman, B.	*Ukraine	
Jsrael, B.		May be related to Barnet Israel
Katz, N.	*Vina, Poland	Probably Nachum Chaim Nolan Hyman Katz
Katz, S.		
Kartman, J.		Joseph Cartman spelling in land patent
Kartman, A.		
Kosofsky, N.		May be related to Louis Kosofsky
Kosofsky, A.		
Lenetzky, A.	*Ukraine	May be related to Solomon Linetsky
Levidansky, N.	*Ukraine	
Levidansky, C.	*Ukraine	
Levidansky, J.	*Ukraine	
Marcules, M.		May be related to Calman Marquilius
Nudelman, S.	*Bessarabia	Solomon Nudelman may be related to Bromberg, Goldstein, Dubiver, Cohen
Nudelman, M.	*Bessarabia	
Rogowol, S.		
Rogowol, J.		
Steinman, M.	Odessa	Mike/Moses, related to Dorfman, Confeld
Steinman, S.	Kishinev	Baruch Dorfman's daughter, Sarah
Schenk, J.	*Odessa	May be related to Michael Schenk
Schenk, L.	*Odessa	
Wolf, A.		

\*U.S. Census, Ancestry.com, and JewishGen records were used to determine where this family might have emigrated from.

**THE RUSSIAN JEWS.**

**Report Concerning the Colony at Painted Woods.**

To the trustees of the Mansion House fund for relief of the colonies.

Messrs. Benjamin Cohen, Samuel Montague and A. Asher, M. D., a committee appointed by the Mansion House society of London, an organization especially charged with the duty of providing relief and assistance for the Russian Jews, have just returned to London from a trip to the United States and Canada, their special mission being to inquire into the general condition and prospects of the Russian Jewish emigrants, in this country and Canada. These gentlemen visited St. Paul with the expectation of meeting Rev. Dr. Wechsler, but his absence prevented. They, however, visited the colony founded by Dr. Wechsler at Painted Woods in Dakota, and in their report to the Trustees they make the following statement, which the GLOBE reproduces below:

THE COLONY AT PAINTED WOODS, NEAR BISMARCK, DAKOTA.

There are about fifty families settled in this colony, of which the situation seems to be exceedingly well chosen. It is distant about thirty-five miles from Bismarck, a new but rapidly developed and thriving town in Dakota. The road throughout, from Bismarck to the colony, is in good order. The colony itself is situated close to the Missouri river, on which we saw steamers and freight barges navigating. Independent, therefore, of the rapid extension of railway communication through the western states of America, the river itself will always furnish a ready and cheap channel for the conveyance of agricultural produce. The colony covers a large extent of ground, and the arrangement of the con-

siderable plots of land allotted to each settler necessitates their being somewhat widely distributed. The nearest town or station of any description is Washburn, but as the habits and modes of life of the settlers are still strange to their adopted country, it is perhaps to their advantage than otherwise that, during the first years of what may be termed their acclimatization, they should be to some extent isolated. Each head of a family has 160 acres of land allotted to him, which becomes absolutely his property in three years on condition of his having resided and having worked on there continuously during that interval. The soil is extremely rich and fertile, and in this respect compares favorably with the colony of Vineland. A wagon, a team of oxen, a plough, and in some cases a cow, have been furnished jointly to almost every two families, and we were pleased to observe that no disputes of importance appear to have arisen amongst the colonists, who, in spite of the undoubtedly severe struggles incidental to their life, professed themselves very contented with their lot, and very grateful for what had been done for them. The tenements in which they lived were naturally of the rudest description. They were generally constructed of mud, bound together by timber, of which there is an abundant supply, and the completeness and fittings of these huts varied generally according to the age and constitution of the occupying family.

Where there were young men or boys, these had assisted their father both in construction of the hut and in the cultivation of the soil. The number of acres hitherto brought under cultivation by each of the colonists seemed to vary from ten to twenty—by no means an unsatisfactory result, considering the circumstances. It may fairly be hoped that the progress as times advances, will be more rapid, so that each of the colonists may hope, by industry and labor, to find himself the owner in a few years of a thriving farm of considerable extent, and to be in a position to leave

to his children an independent and honorable means of livelihood. The selection of the colonists, nearly all of whom came from Odessa, or its immediate neighborhood, seems to have been confined to the Rev. Dr. Wechsler, of St. Paul. We were not fortunate enough to meet Dr. Wechsler, as he was absent in California; but we had the pleasure to make the acquaintance of the members of his family, from whom we received much attention during our stay at St. Paul. It is impossible to speak too highly of Dr. Wechsler's services to this colony.

On all sides, from the Jewish residents at Bismarck, from the colonists themselves, and from the stray Russian Jews, whom we saw at Bismarck, and who were anxious to be placed on land at the colony, an unanimous tribute was paid to his kindness, to his solicitude for the welfare of the colonists and to his constant efforts to provide them with all that was necessary to their calling. We were told also that there was a school in the neighborhood of the colony. The settlers were enabled to, and we believe did, observe the Sabbath; and we learned that divine service was held, and had been attended by more than one of the residents in the town of Bismarck. It will be readily imagined that we were met with several applications for more implements and further grants of many necessities, but the expenses of this colony, as the committee are aware, have already been very great, and although the outlay incurred appears to have been judiciously expended, we are informed that for both this colony and indeed for the Russian Jews generally throughout the state, there is considerable difficulty in raising further funds in America. In one or two cases the colonists already settled entreated us most anxiously to assist them to bring out their relatives, sometimes the wife, at others the children, and certainly it would seem that where undoubted proof can be furnished of the identity and whereabouts of near relatives of the colonists, who have been left in

Russia, assistance should first be given to enable these to join the breadwinner of the family before the number of those already placed is increased. In answer to our inquiries as to the fitness of these emigrants for farm labor, we were told by Mr. Falkner, and himself a considerable landowner, that they worked well, and on the whole industriously. The resources, however, at the command of the colonists were often insufficient to employ all the hands of one family on the land allotted to it, and Mr. Falkner remarked that the younger members of a family might frequently be of great assistance to their parents by hiring themselves out as laborers on adjoining properties, were it not that they would not accept the by no means inconsiderable remuneration attaching to such labor. We endeavored to impress this advice on the colonists, as we saw one or two instances of the justness of Mr. Falkner's observation.

The committee also visited the colony at Vineland, New Jersey, where they found the colonists in a state of thrift and contentment. They also mention in their report the colony founded by Sir A. Galt at Moosemin, near Winnipeg. Within the last three years 18,000 to 20,000 Russian Jews, able bodied and willing to work, have reached the United States and Canada, all of whom are engaged in the honest endeavor to gain for themselves honest and self supporting livelihoods.

**Links for further reading**

- [Jewish farming communities created in Canada and South America.](#)
- Axelrod, Baron, Cartman, Cohn/Cohen, Crosfosky, Dorfman/Dortman/Doffman, Dubever, Gale, Gerzman, Goldstine, Isral/Iraels, Katz, Linesky/Linetzky/Linitzky, Nettleman, Nudelman, Shanck/Schenk, Steinman/Stineman, and Wolf appear in the [North Dakota 1885 Census](#) or the [North Dakota Naturalization Records](#).
- Land patent searches can be done at the [Bureau of Land Management website](#) (try state=North Dakota, County=McLean, Issue Date:1880-1910). Axelrod, Baron, Cartman, Dorfman, Israel, Katz, Kosofsky, Linetsky, Marquilius, Schenk, Stemman appear in these records.
- [Guide to the Records of the Baron de Hirsch Fund](#)
- [The Mansion House of London](#)
- [Bygone Rural Jewish Settlements Remembered: May 8, 1986](#)
- [Rachel Calof's Story: Jewish Homesteaders on the Northern Plains](#)
- ["Proving up and Moving up": Jewish Homesteading Activity in North Dakota, 1900-1920](#)

"Painted Woods and other Jewish farming settlements"

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