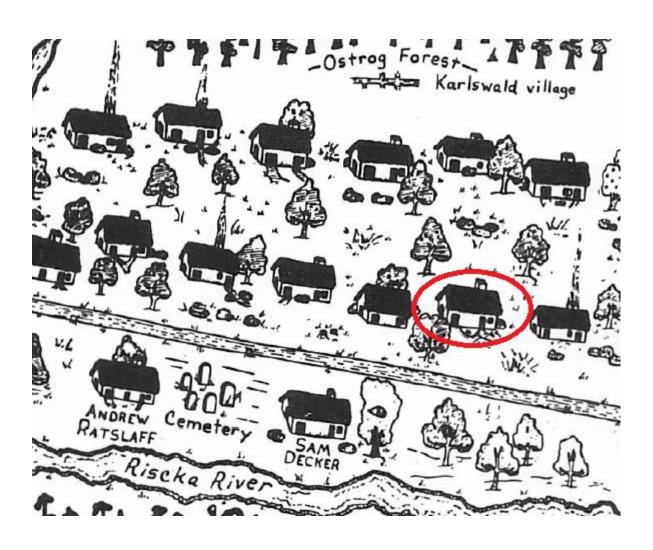
Leeleva Online Map

Henry Penner

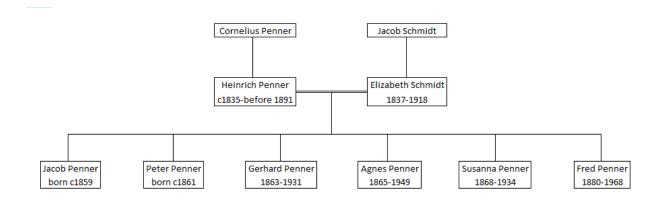
Jake Unruh places the Henry Penner house along the main road running through Leeleva, just east of center.



We cannot be sure at this time who this Henry Penner was (there are very many Henry Penners listed in the GRANDMA database), but GRANDMA indicates one man who is a likely candidate.

Heinrich (Henry) Penner, born about 1835, son of Cornelius Penner seems to be a good fit for this Henry Penner. Heinrich was born in the neighborhood of Antonovka, around the year 1835, to Cornelius Penner. This Cornelius Penner may also appear on the Tobias Unruh baptism list, his son Benjamin being baptized in the late 1850s.

No further information is available for this Penner Family, but this particular Heinrich Penner was married to Elizabeth Schmidt. Elizabeth was the daughter of Jacob Schmidt, and this Jacob Schmidt's sons and daughters were intermarried with several known Leeleva families including the Deckers, Ratzlaffs, and Unruhs. Elizabeth's nephew, Tobias, is the Tobias Schmidt living a couple houses to the west of Heinrich Penner.



Heinrich C Penner Family Tree

Indeed, this Heinrich Penner Family has very close ties with this Schmidt Family, immigrating to America with them aboard the S.S. Gothia in 1891. Heinrich himself died prior to 1891 and never made it to America, but his wife and younger children, Agnes, Susanna, and Fred, all were aboard the Gothia. GRANDMA indicates that on the shiplist, Elizabeth gave her home village as "Selew". However, I have looked at the shiplist and it clearly says "Lelewe". After immigrating, Elizabeth, Agnes, Susanna, and Fred all made their homes in Kansas and Oklahoma.

Of the other Penner children, Jacob and Peter probably died in childhood. Gerhard married a Giesbrecht woman from the Molotschna Colony in 1886. Gerhard himself died in 1931 and his descendants became scattered across Siberia and Europe. Some lived in Mennonite Colonies near Orenburg, Samara, and Barnaul, while others found themselves in Germany after World War I.

Gerhard's son Gerhard, born 1887, may be the Gerhard Penner who was arrested and executed by the NKVD near Slavgorod, Siberia, in October, 1938. This Gerhard Penner was rehabilitated in 1989 by the Altai Krai prosecutor and posthumously found to be not guilty.

Finally, this Heinrich Penner may or may not have been related to Johann Cornelius Penner of Karolswalde. Given the fact that both these men were fathered by a man named Cornelius Penner, they may in fact, be brothers. Records currently available don't indicate this relationship specifically, but logic says it may very well be possible since there were very few Penners living in the Karolswalde villages. Johann Cornelius Penner of Karolswalde had a grandson, Menno Penner, who became the husband of Amelia Marie Unruh. Amelia was the daughter of Benjamin C Unruh, and younger sister of Jake Unruh, the author of the Leeleva Map.