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Dear Goertzen Book Family,

It has been over thirty-seven years now since the first Goertzen Book and there have been many improvements of history information. Many wonderful people have undertaken in publishing and working at preserving our history in many individual forms. It is my desire to gather all the necessary history information that relates to our family with the intention of publishing another new Goertzen Book and this would include complete family tree updated information. I do believe that many others may feel the same way.

At present, I am working on updating the existing family tree information of the Goertzen Book 1993 Edition so as to publish a complete updated Goertzen Book. I have received much needed family tree information from the GRANDMA CD, produced by the California Mennonite Historical Society, but before publishing another book I want to make sure all information is correct and updated. I am asking for your help in updating the family tree to the present and with any missing or correct information. You can find my name on page 43: Peter Goertzen 1960, in the 1993 Edition of the Goertzen Book.

If you have any new pictures, stories, **family tree update**, or other information that would add to a new Goertzen Book, then please, I request that you forward any material either by mail, or e-mail, as this letter has my mailing address, e-mail address and telephone number. At some point, I think it would be better to have volunteers in different towns for collecting family pictures, stories, family tree update information. The best place for this would be the local Mennonite Church.

My vision for a new book is much more of an artistic coffee table book form that would add to any living room setting and history conversations. With existing pictures I would like to collect more detailed information about the pictures; year of picture, location, and names of people, occasion, etc. It would be great to have pictures of couples beside their name. I would want to work at improving existing pictures with today's technology of digital clarity.

At present, I am also working on adding a complete history of the reformation, the ships used to sail across the Atlantic Ocean in the late 1875's. Detailed maps and history of the movements of the Mennonite's in Europe along with modern pictures of what some of these places look like today. Both William Schroeder and Helmut Huebert have published a "Mennonite Historical Atlas" that gives much needed information about the Mennonites in Europe. Also, I am working on including as many as possible original documents as related to our history etc. There is much more information about history that can be collected into our Goertzen Book to give it a complete historical account.

Lastly, I would like to complete the other three family lines if at all possible:

Anna Goertzen and Johan Hiebert (1832-1910) (1830-1907)

Helena Goertzen and Jacob Fehr (1841-1925) (1841-1929)

Isaac Goertzen and Agatha Andreas (1844-????) (1843-????)

Sincerely, Peter Goertzen