



What kind of items do we envision as part of the Germans from Russia Collection at NSU?

Our hope is to document the German from Russia experience in South Dakota, with a focus on items in danger of deterioration or that document the first and second generation experience. The Germans from Russia Heritage Collection at NDSU has done excellent work in gathering the stories and resources of North Dakota's German from Russia community. We are looking to do the same, with our focus on South Dakota.

What kinds of materials are we looking for?

- **Correspondence:** letters, postcards, telegraphs etc. to/from South Dakota Germans from Russia describing their daily lives, their views on world issues, or any discussion that would provide insight into their lives
- **Photos:** images that show what life was/is like for Germans from Russia in South Dakota – what were their homes like, what did they wear, what kind of work did they do, what are their traditions, what did they do for fun, etc.
- **Scrapbooks:** great insight into family activities can be found in scrapbooks, including photos, mementos, personal notes, etc.
- **Other Documentation:** naturalization certificates, land transaction certificates, and other important documents
- **Three dimensional items:** clothing, handiwork, mementos, artwork, and other three dimensional artifacts are very effective in documenting the lives of our predecessors
- **Organization Records:** The records of the Germans from Russia groups, churches, or any other civil or social organization closely tied to the German from Russia community are of great interest
- **Publications:** In addition to manuscript material, we are forming a reference collection for researchers interested in Germans from Russia topics. We have secured copies of important texts and the publications of the Germans from Russia Heritage Society, but do not have all the important titles or all editions of publications.
 - We have received several prayer books, family Bibles, family histories, and historic publications of this nature as well. These items are wonderful windows into the lives of Germans from Russia, and are of great interest to researchers.

The above items are just a framework of possible inclusions, and are far from exhaustive. If you are aware of an item in need of preservation that is not listed here, please let me know.