

North Star Chapter

January 2008

<http://www.northstarchapter.org/>

Volume 33 Number 1

Carl Rivinius vs. John Fast: A Claim Contest Overshadowed by Machine Politics

Saturday, January 12, 2008, 1:00 PM

Berea Lutheran Church, 7538 Emerson Ave. S., Richfield, MN

While researching hometown county newspapers for a recent writing project, Jim Gessele unearthed an intriguing 1906 account of an immigrant farmer's pending loss of his homestead through procedural contest. Digging deeper, Jim discovered the contest was only one facet of a larger storm to hit McLean County, North Dakota, in a year the state put its newly enacted local primary election law to the test. Learn about Alexander McKenzie's machine politics death grip on the North Dakota scene and the insurgency that arose against bossism. Learn how German-Russians were both players and pawns in the battle and that they were not quite as apolitical as we have assumed.

Jim Gessele is a longtime North Star Chapter member, who most recently served as Chapter President. A former German language teacher, Gessele has translated many scholarly articles. He is past editor of the GRHS Heritage Review and has researched and written extensively for historical publications. Most notable among his projects is the translation of the memoir of Magdalena Hecker from the Black Sea village of Munchen that became "Though My Soul More Bent: Memoir of a Soviet German."

Through Grandfather's Eyes: Postcards Are a View to the Past

Biannual Genealogy Workshop

Saturday, February 9, 2008, 10:00 AM—4:00 PM

Berea Lutheran Church, 7538 Emerson Ave. S., Richfield MN

The February Genealogy Workshop will feature Duane Stabler, who has a unique collection of historical postcards which he has used to give people a way to see what small towns (in Duane's case, north-central South Dakota) looked like in the early 1900s. This is the time when his grandparents were young people and may have had the opportunity to get to town after putting in some long hard hours on the farm. Duane's collection consists of postcards from Eureka, SD, and other communities surrounding Eureka, but he also has postcards from areas where German-Russians moved after leaving the Dakotas. One such area is Canada, where Duane found relatives and learned that those families moved at a time when postcards were
(Postcards, continued on page 10)

President's Message

By Duane Stabler

As I write this I'm thinking of our 2007 Weihnachtsfest and the weather that caused it to be a smaller group than I recall in previous years, yet it was a very good event with some really tasty dishes and great visiting. Even Santa dropped in for a short time as he's done a couple of times in previous years. We also spanned the ages with a newborn to a 95-year-old. What a great time we all had.

That's how this past year has been. We've enjoyed some very good times with various speakers, banquets, and the ever-popular Harvest Fest. I want to publicly thank Jim Gessele, Lil Ward, Carol Just, Jorgiann Waltner, Jaci Williams, and Bernie Becker, who represent the 2007 executive committee, who put in the time to plan it out and make it a success. They also had lots of help from many of you who helped by serving on a committee or perhaps only volunteered for one event or time. It's all appreciated and I thank each and every one of you. Without volunteers, the North Star Chapter, like all non-profit groups, fails and fades into memory only.

The year has also been sad in that we've lost one of the cornerstones of the organization. I want to recognize Al Oster as one of the founding members and one who volunteered to serve in various positions throughout 29 years. He gave freely of his time and I miss him greatly. Even if you only came to the Spring Banquet or the Weihnachtsfest, you too were touched by Al, who often said grace before the meal. Al's commitment of time and talent represented a true volunteer for us and other groups here in the Twin Cities. May he rest in peace.

Looking forward to 2008, you'll see many executive board members who have been there before. We still have a great need for many other volunteers for committees including refreshments and set-up and take-down. There is room for all of you to participate because without it, some services will be cut. It's that simple! That sounds harsh but it's a fact. So, when you see the sign-up list at the January meeting, take the time to sign up and help where you can. Please help (**President's Message**, continued on page 10)

North Star Chapter 2008 Officers

President

Duane Stabler

952-447-8654

destabler@integraonline.com

1st VP/Program Chair

Lil Ward

763-784-8626

lilward@comcast.net

2nd VP/Membership

Helen Kleingartner

763-205-2297

hmkleingartner@comcast.net

Treasurer

Pat Current

952-432-3334

pcurrent@frontiernet.net

Secretary

Glorian Anderson

763-545-1013

RGAndersn@aol.com

Newsletter Staff

Editor

Cynthia Miller

612-386-1436

cynmillbea@hotmail.com

Layout/Graphics Editor

Bill Brooks

651-774-7903

brooks955@aol.com

Production

Ardella Bennett

952-884-4241

ajbennett@worldnet.att.net

Website

www.northstarchapter.org

Web Master

Duane Stabler

952-447-8651

dstabler@bigfoot.com

Get To Know Your Officers

The backbone of our chapter is the hard work and time donated by our volunteers, especially those who step up to serve as officers. Here's a chance to learn more about them; they're friendly folks who are glad to help in the coordination of chapter business and events, as well as let you know how being an officer can enrich the organization and your life. Photos of the officers are on the web site.

President: Duane Stabler

Hometown: Eureka, SD

Ancestral Names: Stabler (Staebler, Stäbler), Schmidt, Fuehrer, Heiser, Holzwarth, Bossert, Wolf

Ancestral Villages: Bergdorf, Klein-Neudorf, Hoffnungstal (Odessa and Bessarabia)

Duane is married to Dorothy Wangler (German-Russian from the Kutschurgan villages). He has been employed at Seagate Technology for 30 years and has traveled extensively while holding various offices in the North Star Chapter. Duane commits other free time to writing web sites for other non-profit groups, editing a newsletter for the local Twin City postcard club and serves on its board of directors. He was recently elected to the GRHS board of directors. Other spare time is devoted to doing genealogy research or writing articles for various places of publication. He edited the book "Researchers Guide to McPherson County South Dakota Cemeteries" which was an effort for six years. He's also active with his church, St Mary Magdalene Lutheran, serving in various positions for the past ten years.

1st VP/Programming: Lil Ward

Hometown: Gackle, ND

Ancestral Names: Kleingartner, Heck, Miller/Muller, Veil

Ancestral Villages: Black Sea - Neudorf, Hoffnungstal

Lil is the youngest of ten children, born and raised in Gackle. She was raised on a

farm until age 11. She attended a one-room school through sixth grade. She married Dayton Ward of Gackle in 1961. They have three daughters, two sons-in-law, seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. They moved into their "starter" home in 1968, and are still slowly updating. Lil worked in Personnel for the Mounds View School District for 22 years before retiring a few years ago. She enjoyed the job and misses the staff since she is a people person. Lil and Dayton love to travel and spend time with family and friends. Lil is learning to use her embroidery sewing machine and is supposedly pretty adept, but still struggles with the (darn) computer! Lil loves to read, and housework can always wait while she has coffee or dinner with friends.

VP Membership: Helen Kleingartner

Hometown: Gackle, ND

Ancestral Names: Kleingartner, Heck, Miller/Muller, Veil

Ancestral Villages: Black Sea - Neudorf, Hoffnungstal

Helen was born and raised in Gackle, with eight older brothers and one younger sister, Lil Ward. She attended a one-room school for the first eight grades before moving into town. After graduating from Gackle High School she attended Dakota Business College in Fargo for one year. She started a banking career in Fargo before moving to the Los Angeles area in 1965. Helen lived in California for 28 years before moving to the Twin Cities in 1993. She lives in Blaine and works for Wells Fargo in the Electronic Services department. When she moved to Minnesota, she learned to drive, and now drives to work every day. She enjoys spending time with family and friends, and also drives to Gackle often to visit. She loves reading, country music, and traveling to Branson to see the shows. She enjoys being part of the North Star Chapter,
(Get To Know Your Officers, continued on page 10)

Please Take Note

If you came home from the Weihnachtsfest with a clear glass crock pot cover with a white knob and discovered it isn't yours, please bring it to the next meeting. A member discovered he was missing his crock pot cover at the end of the afternoon.

During the winter months, if the weather seems bad on the day of a program, please call an officer (numbers are listed in the newsletter) for updates on any possible cancellations.

If you are spending the winter away from your regular address, please let Newsletter Production Manager Ardella Bennett know your winter address. The post office won't forward newsletters, but if Ardella knows your current address, she will be happy to mail your newsletter there for the season. Let her know when you return as well.

Snow, Snacks, & Santa

Despite getting our first taste of real winter, over 60 people attended the Weihnachtsfest December 1, 2007. We were treated to more than three tables of delicious potluck treats and serenaded while we ate by Steve Weninger on his accordion. We had guests from as far away as Michigan and Montana, as well as a few *kleine Deutsche*, who were thrilled when Santa Claus arrived. The grown-ups enjoyed his visit as well, since he and his volunteers brought goodie sacks of fruit, candy, and peanuts. This event continues to be one of our most popular gatherings.

Upcoming Dates

Mark your calendars for these tentative program dates in 2008. Be sure to check the web site and the most current newsletter for confirmed program dates and topics.

March 15, May 3 – Spring Banquet,
September 13, October 18, November 15,
December 6 – Weihnachtsfest.

Member News

The North Star Chapter welcomes new members Marv & Cheryl Presler of Rosemount, and returning members Mary Ann Weigel and Clarence Warner of Rochester.

Our condolences to Jaci Williams on the passing of her father Edmund Mitzel, of Minneapolis, on December 14, 2007. Ed, also known as Mitzie the Clown, was past president of the International Shrine Clown Association, a member of the Mound, MN, Masonic Lodge, and VFW Legion Post #1. He also played Santa for many children in the Twin Cities area. Ed's descendants came from Rohrbach, South Russia. Our sympathies to the Mitzel and Williams families.

Congratulations to Janet & Mayo Flegel on the birth of grandson William Flegel Podhradsky, born October 12, 2007, on Mayo's birthday, to Anne and Matt Podhradsky. Mayo reports he now has a basketball team: five grandsons out of five grandchildren.

Youth Committee Report

By Gwen Schock Cowherd

Students who enter the North Star Chapter of Minnesota 2008 Youth Essay Contest may win cash prizes, but the real reward is that they will learn history, geography, creative writing, and research skills. While researching the proud history, heritage, and culture of the Germans from Russia, students are likely to involve members of their families and generate interest among parents, grandparents and siblings. The essay contest information and entry forms can be found on the North Star web page: www.northstarchapter.org.

For questions, call Gwen at 651-426-0117 or email gwensc@peoplepc.com. Contest deadline is March 1, 2008.

Library Corner

By Bernie Becker

I regret to report that Paul Oberlander, the face behind the desk and the man who knew where you should look for whatever you needed to find, has retired after many years of faithful service. The library won't be the same without him.

Bill Brooks has consented to help me. Please bear with us as neither one of us has anywhere near the extensive research knowledge Paul has. It's been a long time since September 15, the last meeting that you were granted the opportunity to use our library. Bill and I look forward to seeing you.

The following new items will be on the shelves when you come:

"Handbuch Russland-Deutsche" is a book in German, but Jim Gessele can give you the information as to its contents and how you can use it.

If you like novels, check out "Otis." It's a story placed in North Dakota during the 1930s and 1940s. Growing up in the small town, the children are kept in line with warnings they'll turn out like Uncle Otis, the mystical black sheep of the family.

Cookbook lovers, look for the "Kulm Centennial Cookbook," recently republished.

The following four volumes might list names you recognize. It lists ports of departure, name of ship, and when arrived at U.S. ports. The index has all names in alphabetical order.

Volume 3 - Migration from the Russian Empire – Lists of Passengers Arriving at U.S. Ports May 1866 – December 1887

Volume 4 - Migration from the Russian Empire – Lists of Passengers Arriving at U.S. Ports January 1888 – May 1889

Volume 5 - Migration from the Russian Empire – Lists of Passengers Arriving at U.S. Ports June 1889 – July 1890

Volume 6 - Migration from the Russian Empire – Lists of Passengers Arriving at U.S. Ports August 1890 – June 1891

Michael Miller sent, as a thank you for our order, "Graf – Buck Family Heritage," full of family photographs and memories of Streeter, North Dakota. Included are many great photos, and recipes. You will find it fascinating to page through this family history, even if you have no friends or relatives from Streeter.

Jaci Williams has spent many hours putting videos of past meetings on DVD. Her most recent addition is: "Buried Alive – Knock From Inside Casket Heard" by Curt Renz, 3/15/03. Recent programs added are: "Hungry, Hopeless, Nowhere to Turn" by Homer Rudolf, 2/10/07, and "The Silent Ob, An Escape from Russia" by Ben Jacques, 3/10/07.

Several calls have been put out for the return of our missing copy of "Gluckstal Colonies Births and Marriages, 1833-1900." It has never found its way back to our library, so I ordered a second copy to replace it.

Let this be a reminder to search your shelves and tables for books that need to be returned to our library at this upcoming January meeting. We like the books to be returned no later than two months from checkout unless there are no meetings using the library in between. This means that all checked-out books should be coming back at this time. Thank you for your cooperation.

What's With the Pickle Ornament?

By Cynthia Miller

I was fortunate to see my extended family during the holidays. All of my family is German-Russian; none of the in-laws are. It still creates amusement, puzzlement, and sometimes misunderstanding, like blending any families will do. But it makes me wonder what I should be saying and doing to help the new additions understand what it means to be in a German-Russian family.

My generation is one of the first to have "mixed" marriages. My son and nephews are only half-German-Russian, but since many of us are active in heritage preservation, they will learn a lot. But they are not growing up where I did, with fleischkuekla at the Dairy Queen and grown-ups speaking German when they didn't want us to know something. Even growing up in a German-Russian culture doesn't ensure complete understanding of who we are.

My grandmother asked me if I'd heard about the German tradition of a pickle ornament on the Christmas tree, which I had. "I don't understand that," Grandma said. "We never had anything like that." I said that was because it was a German tradition dating only to the mid-1800s, when her family was long-established in Russia. It still puzzled her; how could something German not be part of her experience? I was reminded of stories I heard of our ancestors traveling through Germany on their way to America, and thinking at last they would meet people who spoke their language and shared their culture. But to *Reichsdeutsche*, they were dirty Russians, with whom they had nothing in common. We still cling to the idea that we are completely German, but it's as confusing to us as it is to others.

Some of my in-laws don't understand the concept of "visiting," as we always called it.

Since we are traveling many miles to see them, to areas of the country where German-Russians are rare, they think they have to plan an itinerary of things to do and see. They don't realize we just want to sit around and talk. That's as entertaining as anything. How else do kids learn things they're not supposed to about family members far away or long gone? Like most things in my childhood, I thought everybody sat around and talked for hours, whether they'd seen each other last week or last year, but maybe that's not so.

I sometimes envy my friends from the East Coast, or of Hispanic, Italian, or Irish heritage. It seems when sisters-in-law are angry at each other, or siblings fight over doing their share with caring for parents, or who should visit great-aunts, they just say so, often with loud voices. Then it's all out and better, and they go about their business being loving families. So often we Midwestern German-Russians tend to keep everything in, shoot knowing glances behind the offending family member's back, mutter "She's always been that way; saying anything won't do any good," and nothing ever gets resolved. I can't help but think a good shouting match might clear the air. But I've been raised not to say anything, so I won't.

Still, the important thing is I have a wonderful family to visit, and I get to learn about their heritage and customs, while happily sharing my own. There probably isn't anything I can do or say to help someone completely understand Germans from Russia. It may be a lifelong effort, as it is for me.

Happy Anniversary!

January: Mr. & Mrs. Robert Coates

The North Star Chapter Website – the World is Watching

By Duane Stabler (North Star Chapter Webmaster)



In this day and age, the computer has become a common appliance in many homes. With it comes the ability to access information of all kinds without leaving our homes. Well, let's turn the tables and look at who is looking at our North Star Chapter website and what they are looking for when they search through the pages we have published.

This overview is an attempt to provide you with a look behind the scenes of the North Star Chapter website. What I've done is capture the past three months of data which I'll use as my baseline for this data. I try to take the time to view this on a regular basis because I want to look for trends and changes that might influence what we want to do in the future, in this case, 58 pages of data and charts.

So, let me show you some details and attempt to make sense of what the charts say.

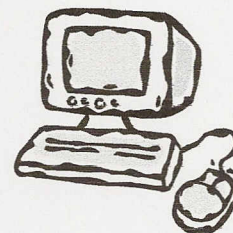
The chart (Figure 1) provides you with a look at the number of "hits" (times the site is accessed) per day. In summary, it tells us that on any given day, 28 unique visitors visit the website but some come back more often which drives the total visits to 33. During that time, they view an average of 77 pages. That tells me that each person is looking at about three pages of the site so it's a very specific purpose.

So, who might be looking at this website? It's not always just people like you and me. Services such as Google use something called a "web crawler" to harvest information about websites. They catalog the data and when we search Google, they have a website based on

what you type in (such as German-Russian). This gives us, as a chapter, international recognition and we get to be known for what we do as a group. If we look at this data, we'd learn that Google spends 20% of all the time used on the website. But that data also just gives me information about the computer code that is using the site, so it's a mixture of individuals and web crawlers.

We also learn what kind of web browsers are used to access the site. Internet Explorer is used about 65% of the time and the balance of the web browsers include about seven others most likely related to the web crawlers I've mentioned earlier. If you are Mac user, your time online is about 5% of the total.

Where are all these visitors located? Below, you'll see not only the location, but the number of visits and the percentage of the total. As you'd expect, the USA has the biggest percentage; in particular California is paying attention to us a lot more than our very own Minnesotans. You might also note that we have people from foreign countries visiting our site (see chart 1).



(Note that all Figures are on a separate page for your convenience)

Visitors by Region (CHART 1)

Region	Visitors	Percentage
CALIFORNIA, USA	958	34.90
NEW YORK, USA	400	14.57
MINNESOTA, USA	272	9.91
UNKNOWN	247	9.00
VIRGINIA, USA	159	5.79
ILLINOIS, USA	159	5.79
STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN	81	2.95
WASHINGTON, USA	64	2.33
TEXAS, UNITED STATES	56	2.04
MICHIGAN, USA	30	1.09
ARIZONA, USA	29	1.06
ALBERTA, CANADA	26	0.95
VERMONT, UNITED STATES	25	0.91
FLORIDA, USA	25	0.91
BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA	23	0.84
QUEBEC, CANADA	23	0.84
COLORADO, USA	22	0.80
NORTH DAKOTA, USA	21	0.77
BELIZE, BELIZE	20	0.73
NORDRHEIN-WESTFALEN, GER	19	0.69
ENGLAND, UK	19	0.69
ONTARIO, CANADA	19	0.69
KANSAS, USA	17	0.62
OHIO, USA	16	0.58
MANITOBA, CANADA	15	0.55



The first viewed pages are the home page (41%), followed by the cookbook and its review

(14%), and food ways (7%). There are many other pages that are viewed but trickle off (about 2% or less each). About 3% of the first viewed page is the upcoming events page which probably says people have it bookmarked and view it prior to the upcoming meetings.

The most frequent day (see Figure 3) that people use the site is Sunday whereas Monday is the lowest, but the other days are fairly constant. Sunday represents 16% (the highest) and Monday 12% so what you see is a fairly constant number.

The peak time for use is 8 PM (6%) and the low is 2 AM (2%) but this also is reflective of

people outside of the central time zone using the site (see Figure 4).

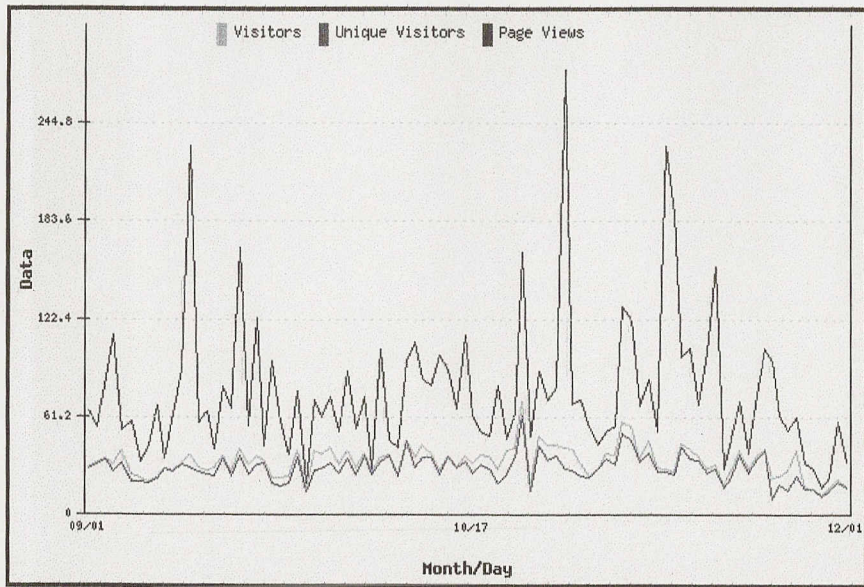
As I've mentioned before, sites that collect information about the North Star website such as Google also help us get noticed. The top domains that refer the North Star website are:

- 1) Google search (USA, Canada & Germany): 54%
- 2) Google Images search (USA, Canada): 15%
- 3) GRHS Website: 4%
- 4) Yahoo search: 3%

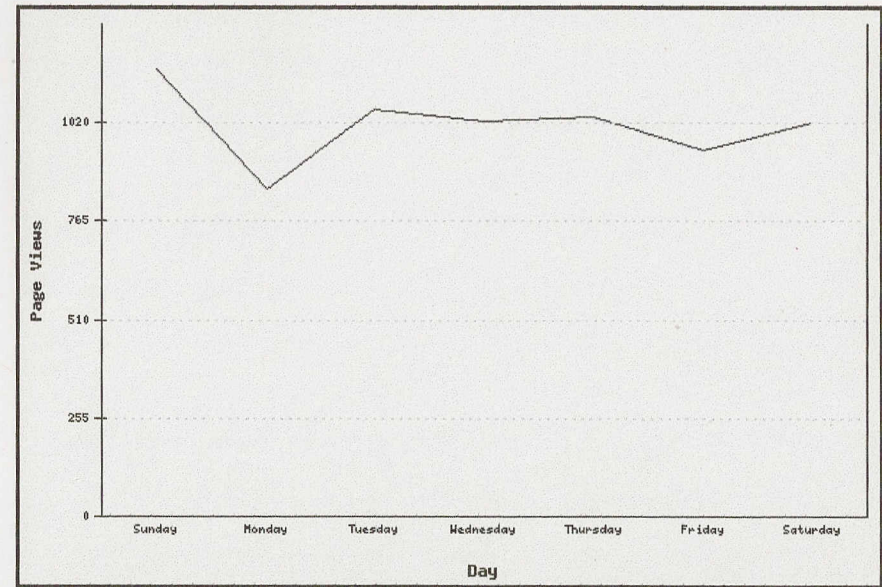
Others are at lesser percentages including "ottosuch.de" a German search engine.

To sum it all up, our North Star website has touched a lot of people and we are getting noticed. We are found most frequently by people who go to the Google search engine and find us by typing in words such as German, German-Russian, Borsht, Cooking, and the list goes on. States including California, New York, Virginia, Washington, Michigan, and North Dakota visit us frequently. They come and visit us, view our online newsletter, look at what we have done and yes, look at the details about the cookbook. We should be proud of what we've done as a chapter and the standards we've set as a Germans from Russia organization. The website is an investment to keep us on the cutting edge of technology as it relates to websites and the internet.

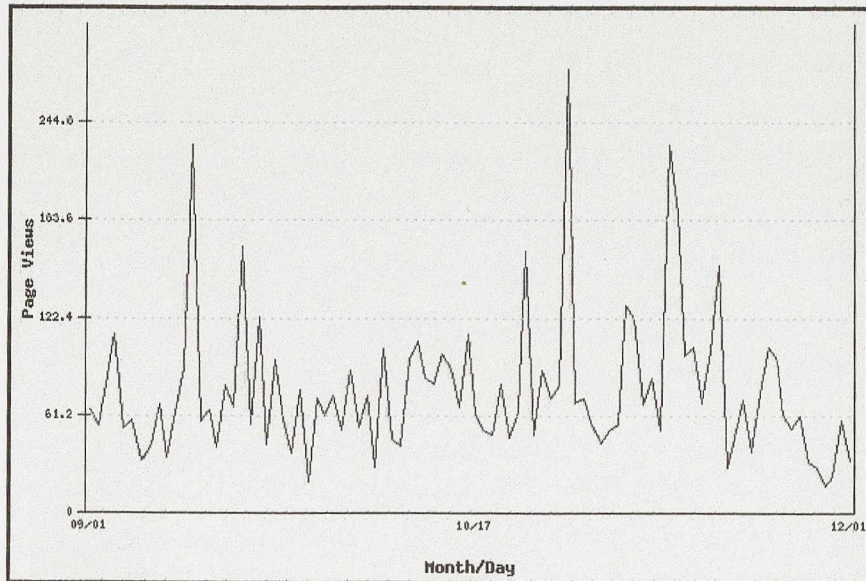




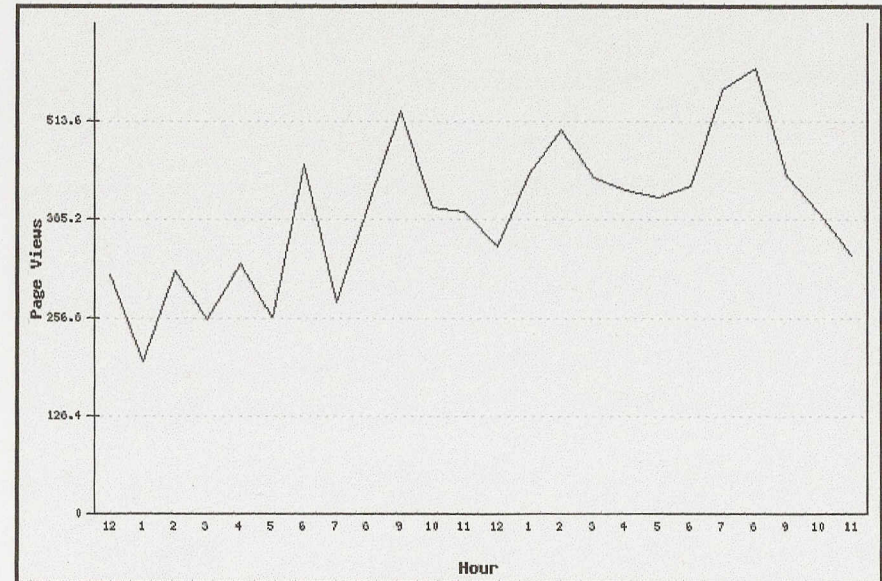
(FIGURE 1- Changes in data viewed from 9/1/2007 to 12/1/2007)



(FIGURE 3-Views by day)



(FIGURE 2- Pages viewed within a given timeframe)



(FIGURE 4- Peak Times the website is viewed)

(Postcards, continued from page 1)

frequently used as a means to stay in touch. Postcards, at the turn of the 20th century, were the email of the day. They were used to just say hi, how is it going? Or they were used to indicate where people were as they traveled to do various types of work. Photographers were able to capture much of this as a result of new technology that enabled this piece of history to be recorded. The talk will be interactive since Duane will allow all to participate as he talks about the cards. Don't miss this chance to see what life might have looked like in your grandparents' younger days.

(President's Message, continued from page 2)

make the North Star Chapter successful in 2008.

Beyond the help, we have meetings or plans scheduled throughout the year. The 2007 team has already planned for Jim Gessele to make a presentation in January and they've asked me to bring back the postcard discussion. I'll have a bit more on that elsewhere in the newsletter but it's something that has touched a lot of people in ways I'd never considered when I first did it. There's something in it to make all of you think about what your ancestors may have seen, thought about, or done as they were young people. As part of the February meeting, there will be some free time to take in the library. Find a book, sit down, and read some of it. There's so much that we've accumulated over the past years and it is there for us to use. I'm sure there will be some of our own genealogy experts on hand to offer some help if you are stuck in your research. They don't do your research but they often have advice that helps to move forward.

May all of you have a healthy and happy New Year.

(Get To Know Your Officers, continued from page 3)

the Verrueckte Frauen, and all the great people she's met.

Secretary: Glorian Anderson

Hometown: McClusky, ND

Ancestral Names: Hieb, Glaser, Feickert, Schlepp

Ancestral Village: Neudorf

Glorian and Ron Anderson have been married for 45 years and have three sons and five grandchildren. Glorian participates in activities in the community and at church. Music is a favorite leisure activity; she is a member of the Robbinsdale City Band and, most recently, the ELCA Synod Senior Band. Together Glorian and Ron experience and enjoy their heritage organizations, both German and Swedish. In her pre-retirement days, Glorian was employed in public education and hospital dietetics/nutrition services. She often wishes she could still speak German as well as she did when she started school as a child!

Treasurer: Pat Current

Hometown: Karlsruhe, ND

Ancestral Names: Voeller, Herle, Ziegler, Heilman

Ancestral Villages: Kutschurgan villages - Strasburg, Elsass, Kandel

Pat has been married to Ray Current (a Norwegian-Scotch-Irishman, but don't hold that against him—he married well!) since 1971 and has lived in the same house in Apple Valley since 1973. They have two children and two grandchildren. Pat was a bookkeeper/accountant for over 40 years, working off and on in various positions. She's retired, but currently works part-time as a bookkeeper for her son-in-law's auto repair shop in Lonsdale, MN. She loves to quilt, and for the first time this summer, she entered a quilt in the Minnesota State Fair and won a yellow ribbon.

Your Help Needed to Make the North Star

Chapter a Success



Yes, we've had the elections; no, we aren't done seeking additional help! The Chapter depends on volunteers to make everything we enjoy work. Help is needed for the following jobs:

- January volunteers for refreshments and set-up/take down (two volunteers minimum for each task)
- February volunteers for refreshments and set-up/take down (two volunteers minimum for each task)
- March volunteers for refreshments and set-up/take down (two volunteers minimum for each task)
- Spring Banquet volunteers for refreshments and set-up/take down (five volunteers minimum for each task)
- September volunteers for refreshments and set-up/take down (two volunteers minimum for each task)
- October volunteers for refreshments and set-up/take down (two volunteers minimum for each task)
- November volunteers for refreshments and set-up/take down (two volunteers minimum for each task)
- Weihnachtsfest volunteers for refreshments and set-up/take down (5 volunteers minimum for each task)
- Historian: one volunteer for 2008
- Genealogy/Folklore: one volunteer for 2008
- Public Relations: one volunteer for 2008
- Cook Book Sales: volunteers for 2008

Please strongly consider volunteering – without your help, some services and/or meetings will be cut from the schedule. Call Duane Stabler (952-447-8654) for further details.

The IHRC: Greater Than What Meets the Eye

By Jim Gessele

To uninitiated chapter members, the scope and purpose of the Immigration History Research Center has remained a puzzle. Until a recent field trip, some only knew the IHRC was housed in the imposing Elmer L. Andersen Library on the U of M campus high along the banks of the Mississippi River and had vague notions of the caverns beneath the facility. In the November 10 outing arranged by Carol Just, members finally got a thorough



The Elmer L. Andersen Library at the time of the North Star Chapter tour

glimpse of the library (yes, even the caverns) and gained some knowledge of the IHRC program.

After warm greetings (in German, no less) by the center's director, Donna Gabaccia, the visitors learned that IHRC, founded in 1965, is the largest such program in the country and has roots back to 1924 when the U of M History Department was already offering courses in immigration history. Over the years, the center has been housed in sometimes rather Spartan locations on campus and now finds itself in nothing less than premier digs.

IHRC itself fosters research and understanding in the area of American immigration history. It collects and archives records of primarily European and Near East ethnic groups that have immigrated to the United States. Under the guidance of

Elizabeth Haven Hawley, newly installed Program Director of the center, the North Star group toured materials processing rooms and facilities for public and resident researchers. Anna Mazurkiewicz, from Gdansk, Poland, exemplifies the IHRC's mission of scholarly collaboration. On a residency at the center, Anna is researching Cold War immigrant anti-communism in the U.S.

Hawley escorted the group through the two huge caverns housing the Minnesota Library Access Center. If you have ever requested some obscure, musty smelling, little-read book from your local library, chances are the request will be stored here. The two caverns are two-story affairs, the length of two football fields, and lie below a 30-foot layer of limestone with an additional 30 feet of soil cover. Storage is maintained at 62° Fahrenheit and 50% relative humidity.

Daniel Necas, Assistant Curator, concluded the tour with a demonstration of the Germans from Russia materials on hand at the center. Though small, the collection still included copies of the trusted Stumpp and all his maps. Of particular interest was the Michael J. Anuta Collection, the same gentleman who authored "Ships of Our Ancestors" and was of German-Volhynian ancestry. The hundreds of photos of immigrant ships depicted in his book are available in digital format from the center.

More information about the IHRC can be found on the Web at www.ihrc.umn.edu.

The library's namesake, former Minnesota Governor Elmer L. Andersen, said it all: "What nobler purposes can there be for a university than to gather up the prizes of a culture—preserve them, propagate them, make them available—so that the best of what has gone before can be preserved and built on?"

Book Review: "The Lost German Slave Girl" by John Bailey

By Cynthia Miller

On a spring morning in 1843, a German immigrant woman, Madame Carl, was walking through the French Quarter of New Orleans when she saw a face from her past. It looked to be her dearest childhood friend from Germany, but it didn't take her long to realize it wasn't her friend but her friend's daughter, who had disappeared twenty-five years earlier, soon after they'd all immigrated to America.

But Madame Carl was shocked when the woman insisted that she did not know anything Madame Carl was talking about. She was a slave, working in the bar that her master owned. Could the woman be a white European, enslaved illegally as a child? Was she an imposter? Or were Madame Carl and the other members of the German community in New Orleans wrong about the woman's identity?

Lawyer John Bailey had intended to write a book on the general history of American slave law. But when he came across an item on the court battle of an alleged European slave girl, he realized that this fascinating story had to be told. The German

community in New Orleans had banded together to get a lawyer and fight for the freedom of Sally Miller, who they believed to be Salomé Müller, a girl who was orphaned during her journey to America, and who, through a tragic turn of events, had been led to believe she was a light-skinned African and made to be a slave for the last twenty-five years.

The court case was compelling enough on its own, but Bailey also provides details about the harrowing journey from Europe to America, life in old New Orleans, the terrible world of slavery, and the phenomenon of Redemptioners. These were European immigrants who were duped into owing large sums of money for their transport to America. They were like indentured servants, except they had not chosen the servitude. After several years they would have their freedom, but in the meantime, they were treated like slaves, bought and sold between masters.

Were any Germans from Russia ever Redemptioners? It's certainly possible. If you like a gripping court drama spiced with authentic historical details about a little-known aspect of the German-American experience, you won't be disappointed by "The Lost German Slave Girl." It is now in paperback at any major bookstore.

Happy Birthday!

January: Ron Anderson, John Groh, Sara Sue Groh, Cindy Miller

February: Gordon Herrboldt, Sandy Zimmerman

March: Glorian Anderson, Marlene Walth

17 Words That Will Never Fail You

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Pray	Trust
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Wait	

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