North Star Chapter

November 2009

http://www.northstarchapter.org/

Volume 34 Number 4

Fall Genealogy Workshop

Saturday, November 21, 2009, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm Berea Lutheran Church, 7538 Emerson Ave. S., Richfield MN

10 am – noon: Meet several North Star Chapter genealogy experts who will be on hand to answer questions you might have concerning your own research.

Noon – 1:00 pm: Lunch on your own; bring a brown bag or visit one of the local restaurants. **1:00 pm**: Election of officers for 2010.

2:00 pm – 4:00 pm: Guest Speaker Robert Russell, South Dakota Germans from Russia Collection, Northern State University, Aberdeen, SD.

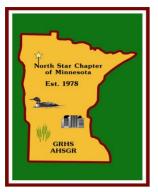
Join us as Robert Russell, Interim Library Director, Northern State University, Aberdeen, SD, will speak about the South Dakota Germans from Russia Collection at Northern State University, what items NSU has already received, what projects NSU is working on, and what kinds of material NSU hopes to make part of the collection.

The talk will include an overview of our digitization efforts. Robert will show a bit about how the process works, what the end result looks like, and how it functions. He will explain NSU's efforts to gather and make genealogical resources available. As time permits, Robert will also discuss basic preservation concepts. If you have questions about how to preserve resources currently in your possession, come to the meeting with the question for Robert.

Weihnachtsfest

Saturday, December 5, 2009, 11:30 am – 4:00 pm Berea Lutheran Church, 7538 Emerson Ave. S., Richfield MN

One of the highlights of our program year, our annual Weihnachtsfest, will again be a chance to meet friends, eat great food, and share our holiday memories. This is a potluck lunch, so please bring your favorite item to share. Beverages and eating utensils will be provided, along with music and fun! Guests and family are especially welcome. If you have an extra few minutes to help organize the food on the tables, please speak to Lil Ward (763-784-8626 or lilward@comcast.net).



President's MessageBy Duane Stabler

We are now moving from fall into winter and with that, we are also shifting gears at the North Star Chapter. It is good to reflect back at the conventions or family reun-

ions that took place this summer. If you were at the October meeting, you heard Charles Weisser speak of the past and how our heritage truly made us. Charles spoke about the customs and food he remembers and it too made me think not only of my own heritage but of the heritage of the North Star Chapter of Minnesota.

I joined the chapter back in 1984 when many of the original founding members were very active in the chapter. Activities were expanding but finances were always a struggle. We met in the Southdale Library and as a newcomer I knew little about our heritage.

I was welcomed and soon I met Ardella Bennett who, just by chance, was from my home town. I had never known her but she was kind enough to mentor me and help me with some of my research. Within a couple of years I had volunteered to be the vice president of membership. Oh my, I was hooked and have served in one capacity or another for all those years.

Now let's fast forward to 2009 and look around. The membership has changed as many of the founding members have aged and it's become more difficult for them to volunteer. In several

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GRHS Convention "Living our Grandparents' Dreams" Rapid City, SD September 9 – 13, 2009

By Duane Stabler & Ron Scherbenski

Rapid City was this year's location for the convention of the Germans from Russia Heritage Society. The Black Hills Chapter was the sponsor and did a wonderful job as hosts.



During the opening ceremony, Mr. Singh, an Iraq War veteran and now assistant superintendent of the Mount Rushmore National Memorial, gave a most interesting presentation speaking of his heritage and his recent assignment to the Mt. Rushmore Memorial. Truly, it is a symbol that our forefathers would be honored to see.

A second speaker, Mayor Alan Hanks from Rapid City, welcomed all participating and encouraged us to see the downtown area with its bronze statues of various presidents. With that, the convention moved into full swing with the library open for research and the variety of speakers through Saturday

During the convention, there were about 28 different speakers with a variety of topics. We heard speakers tell us of some of the

mass murders conducted during 1943 – 1945, discussions about letters taken from German newspapers in the Dakotas, anti-German-American agitation during WW I & II, life in Teplitz Bessarabia before WWII, Volga Germans on the move, ancestral bridges to Argentina, postcards from yesterday, and several other topics.

A special guest, Larysa Levchenko from the Ukraine, presented "The Remains of Cultural and Material Wealth of German Colonies in Archives, Museums and Village in Nikolaev Region."



North Star members at the 2009 GRHS Convention: Marilyn Brink, Kay Gavin, Ron Scherbenski, Duane Stabler. Not pictured, Don Weidenbach.

The food was served buffet style for all the meals with the exception of the Saturday evening banquet. The hotel did an exceptional job in providing a variety of choice and with two separate lines; the group was able to get food promptly and then sit back and enjoy the variety of entertainment during the different meals. We had the opportunity to hear "Creating the Presidents: A Sculptor's View" by James Van Nuys, a local sculptor that explained the process of producing one of the bronze sculptures such as what Rapid City has on display on Main Street.

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(GRHS Convention, continued from page 3)



Anna Dalenheimer Bartkowski presents "Bridges to Argentina" which discussed the areas where Germans from Russia settled and how the heritage lives on in the settlements throughout the region.

On Thursday evening, the crowd was entertained by "The Mylo Hatzenbuhler Show." This was a most entertaining comic act in which Clyde Bauman portrays Mylo, a Strasburg, ND, farmer. Mylo tells many stories and does his best at singing but in the end, Clyde emerges from behind the costume to give the crowd a sample of his true talent. He has a very beautiful voice indeed. The following day, Clyde returns to show the crowd how he can really sing.



Shrine of Democracy Chorus from Rapid City

Other talent on hand to entertain the crowd on other days included several members

from the Black Hills Chapter "living our grandfathers' dream" by providing reading from a variety of sources. We also had great singing from Wade and Cindy Hoff, the barbershop group Shrine of Democracy, and on Saturday evening, a variety show with four different acts including music by Karen Psiaki and Mila Belakova, and the Faith Temple Church. Additionally, Jasmine Pickner demonstrated the hoop dance that she has perfected as a Lakota Sioux. Not to be forgotten were the unicycle club as they gave a show of a variety of stunts and riding skills.



Jasmine Pickner demonstrates the Lakota Sioux Hoop Dance

As we reflect back on the convention, the speakers with a variety of topics and the announcements of additional information that will be collected from the Ukraine archives, one has to think how we, as a society, have emerged from a local society to what has become a truly international society.

We had a speaker tell of Argentina and how those who settled there still celebrate their heritage and speak the German language. We had a speaker from the Ukraine tell of the conditions there. We had speakers who spoke of a variety of topics from North

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America. We truly are evolving and the chapter can be proud to be a part of this evolution. Just as we thank our ancestors for their forethought to come to North and South America, so will future generations thank us for taking the effort to save the records in the Ukraine, document our heritage as our forefathers settled, and how we've assimilated yet maintaining our heritage. Let's hope our youth begin to value the heritage they have inherited and that we all work extra hard to make sure they don't forget the sacrifice your ancestors made so that we might be "living our grandfathers' dream".

In summary, approximately 400 people were in attendance and had the opportunity to take in many presentations, visit, bid in the silent auction, and vote for five new directors for the organization. In addition, the membership agreed to raise the dues for annual membership to \$50 annually and saw the unveiling of the new sign to be erected at headquarters. A new logo will be used for future publications and will appear on the new sign to be installed on the grounds of GRHS Headquarters in Bismarck, ND.

Looking forward, the 2010 convention will be in Bismarck, ND, with Al Neuharth, founder of USA Today and a native of Eureka, SD, as our keynote speaker.

The 2011 convention will be held in Spokane, WA. Additional details will be forthcoming in future issues of the Heritage Review.

Additional convention photos viewable at: http://library.ndsu.edu/grhc/outreach/activities/09grhs.html.

GRHS Convention Set For July 21-25 2010

The annual convention of the Germans from Russia Heritage Society will be held July 21-25, 2010, in Bismarck, North Dakota, and hosted by the GRHS Board of Directors.

More information will follow in the new year.

AHSGR Convention Set For August 1-8, 2010

The American Historical Society of Germans from Russia will hold its 41st annual convention August 1-8, 2010, in Lincoln, Nebraska, at the Embassy Suites Hotel. There are 46 AHSGR chapters in the USA and Canada. The convention's theme is "Faith, Family, Tradition." Convention attractions include folklore and storytelling, German music and sing-along, genealogy workshops, bookstore and library, a research center, and tours. The list of prominent speakers will be announced at a later time.

Please Take Note

Take a look at Duane Stabler's article on the changes in the newsletter mailing policy. To save money and help the environment, remember that you can choose to access the newsletter on the Chapter website or have the newsletter emailed directly to you.

Dues are due by the end of the year! Please send a membership form and check before December 31, 2009, or bring them to the November or December meetings.

Upcoming events: January 23, 2010 – Creative Family Reunions, presented by Cynthia Miller. February 20, 2010 – Germans From Russia Heritage Collection presented by Michael Miller.

Finding and Keeping My People

By Cynthia Miller

In October, I was fortunate to visit a foreign country I've long wanted to see; a place I've felt a deep kinship to for many years. No, it wasn't Germany or Russia...it was Ireland.

Unlike most Americans, I'm not one bit Irish (although I'm thrilled to have recently found out I am slightly Swiss due to a half-Swiss great-great-grandmother). Maybe I feel the connection because in America a person grows up with so much Irish influence. More people in America claim to be Irish than there are Irish in Ireland. Like many Germans from Russia, the Irish were oppressed in their homeland, and came to America poor but willing to work hard for new opportunity. They were looked down on, but they were proud of their heritage, as anyone can see on March 17.

Personally I find Irish culture more accessible because we share a common language, at least some of it. I was surprised to find all public signs in Ireland to be in English and Gaelic. I was based in Galway, and in western Ireland, Gaelic is being fiercely protected and promoted. Some signs were only in Gaelic, and in some villages, I heard young and old speaking it in shops and on the streets.

This is not an accident. The Irish know that the recovery and preservation of their language was essential to their identity and independence, and have spent money, energy, and time on this endeavor. Some feel it is unnecessary, because how is Gaelic going to help someone rise in the world, especially to compete with others in the European Union? But many people know that it's more than that. Language is who you are.

Within a few days of my visit, I declared that I'd found my spiritual people, because the Irish love to talk! I'm probably the only German-Russian whose parents were always told at parent-teacher conferences that Cindy is a wonderful student if only she wouldn't talk so much. But like me, the Irish love to have a 20-minute chat with a complete stranger if for no other reason than to share an experience and pass the time. I felt like these were my own people.

But I've also been fortunate to find my people in the German-Russian community. My grandparents are mostly gone, and my family is far away, but I always have a home when I attend a North Star Chapter event. In his President's Message, Duane talked about the helping hand he received when he first joined. I, too, found support when I joined the Chapter. Carol Just and Nancy Gertner encouraged me to deepen my involvement by becoming an officer and then the newsletter editor, and I'm glad they did because it's been an amazing and fulfilling experience.

Although sometimes I think it would be easier to be Irish-American, I feel it is an honor to my grandparents, and my duty to my children, to do all I can to celebrate and preserve my heritage. Many of us work (and play) very hard at this, and would be sad to see it slip away because of apathy. For close to forty years, many of you have enjoyed the efforts of your fellow German-Russians in creating a community of memory and of action. I hope you will join in committing more — be it time, money, energy, or skills — to helping our children and grandchildren have a heritage community they can enjoy and be proud of.

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cases, some have passed on. Time stops for no one, and fortunately new members joined over the years. Our membership is strong; however, many members do not get actively involved, but come to meetings occasionally and expect to be entertained. Only a few young people attend and a small number become involved on a regular basis. The life blood of each chapter is its officers, board members, and active members who participate and help our organization to grow. Does the North Star Chapter need to determine new ways to reach out to the youth and younger adults? I don't know the answers but I do know we do need to put our heads together. We need to figure this out before it's too late. Do we want to lose our chapter. or our national headquarters? Each is built on volunteers and if the volunteers disappear, so do the organizations.

So, you read this and you say, someone else can volunteer or someone else can figure it out. Well, that's a recipe for the end of our heritage. Do we face extinction as a result of apathy?

Perhaps each of you can prove me wrong. It takes one simple step and that for each of you to volunteer for an office. Each role is not extremely difficult, as long as there are other members who fill the key assignments. If for some reason you cannot volunteer yourself, please encourage someone else to volunteer. Or, seek out new members to bring into the fold and mentor them as Ardella helped me.

You are the key to assist the North Star Chapter to seek out the hidden talent that can keep the momentum that the officers of this chapter have maintained. The current officers cannot serve forever and we need some new energy and ideas from those of you reading this message. As difficult as it is for me to write this message, I also have to say I truly enjoy being the president of the chapter and working with some terrific volunteers for all the other positions. Without them, I'd not do too well. They make me look good. I wish the future officers well and I hope they can generate the new energy to move forward into 2010.

With that, I wish all of you a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Happy Birthday

November:

Rebecca Ellsworth, Norma Herrboldt, Chris Huber, Donna Pauley, Tom Schonebaum

December:

Erma Lechko, Rachel Mantik, Shirley Pfeifle, Cheryl Presler, Dayton Ward, Lil Ward, Kathy Wellman, Elinor Wenzel

Happy Anniversary

November:

Sandy & Arnie Zimmerman

December:

Elena & Marv Geske, Angie & John Ibarra, Carol & Arve Moser, Sharon & Jim Stoebner

Chapter Board Moves to Suspend Bulk Rate Newsletter Mailing

By Duane Stabler

Effective with this newsletter, the North Star Chapter of Minnesota will begin to mail the newsletter with first class postage only. This has become necessary as a result of stricter post office regulations and an increase in newsletters returned as a result of people moving. Bulk rate mail does not get forwarded and so the chapter has to pay for the return

In order to control the cost, the North Star Chapter will no longer mail newsletters to anyone who does not have a paid membership or a chapter that does not exchange newsletters.

Taking this further, the North Star Chapter will only provide copies of newsletters to the editor or president of other chapters via email. An effort to contact all chapters and advise them of this change will occur by January 2010.

As the board reviewed the costs, it is believed that the reduction in number of newsletters printed and elimination of returned newsletters will result in "a wash" with respect to cost for publishing and mailing.

The board would also like to propose that if members would like to further save the chapter money, that they should notify me (dstabler@bigfoot.com) and request that the newsletter to be sent to an email address. This will further reduce the cost to the North Star Chapter.

It should be noted that newsletters are available on the North Star Chapter website (www.northstarchapter.org) and can be read or downloaded for printing at any time. This is how members can access the newsletter if they wish only the digital version.

If you've ever wondered what the Star-Spangled Banner would look like in German, here it is. Sounds a bit better in English!

O! sagt, könnt irh seh'n In des Morgenroths Strahl, Was so stolz wir im scheidenden Abendroth grüßten? Die Sterne, die Streifen, Die wehend vom Wall, Im tödlichen Kampf Uns den Anblick versüßten? Hoch flattere die Fahne In herrlicher Pracht. Beim Leuchten der Bomben Durch dunkle Nacht. O! sagt, ob das Banner, Mit Sternen besä't. Über'm Lande der Freien Und Braven noch weht.

Library Corner

By Bernie Becker

Thanks to Sam Brungardt for donating *The Volga Germans of West Central Kansas:*Aspects of Their History, Politics, Culture and Language to our chapter. This book was edited by William D. Keel with James L. Forsythe, Francis Schippers and Helmut J. Schmeller, and produced by Volga German Society, Hays, Kansas, and Max Kade Center for German-American Studies, the University of Kansas, Lawrence Kansas (2004).

Jim Gessele found a gem and purchased it for our library entitled *Perseverance in Faith:* A History of the Catholic Church in Western North Dakota. This book, a Centennial Edition covering 1910-2010, published by the Diocese of Bismarck, starts with Chapter 1 titled: Indians, traders and missionaries, 1735-1870 continues with statehood of North Dakota in Chapter 3, covers war, prosperity and building in Chapter 5, closes with maps of the diocese, parish histories and finally a list of parishes that have closed.

Our third book of the series The Volga Flows Forever is on our shelves. I think it is a page -turner. I had a hard time putting it down. I hope many of you will read it. If you are on the Internet, check out the Center for Volga German Studies (http://cvgs.cu-portland.edu) to learn more about Volga German culture and history. The Center opened in its new home on the third floor of the new Concordia Library in Portland, OR, August 10.

Just a reminder: please take time to look over journals we receive such as the FEEFHS Journals, publications for Central & East European Genealogical Studies, and Germanic Genealogy Journal. They contain much interesting information. Type "FEEFHS.org" or "Germanic Genealogy So-

ciety" on your computer keyboard to peruse these organizations. You will find maps, libraries, activities, etc. For example, here is something that just might be of interest to you: Saturday, November 14, 2009, Annual Membership Meeting and Lunch at Gasthof zur Gemütlichkeit Restaurant, 2300 University Ave NE., Minneapolis. Gary Cohen, Ph.D. will present "Expulsion of the Ethnic Germans from East Central Europe at the End of World War II." To reserve call Deb Rodi at 763-557-1842 before Nov. 6. Dinner is \$22.00 per plate.

FINALLY: Any library materials checked out before the October 17, 2009, meeting must be returned no later than our January 2010 meeting. Please check your shelves, tables, and piles of books. Other members also like to use these materials. Thank you

What a Difference 30 Years Makes!

1979: Long hair

2009: Longing for hair

1979: Acid rock 2009: Acid reflux

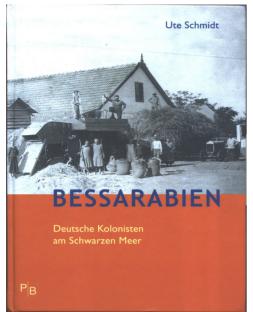
1979: Going to a new, hip joint 2009: Receiving a new hip joint

1979: Rolling Stones 2009: Kidney stones

1979: Passing the driver's test 2009: Passing the vision test

1979: Parents begging children to get a hair-

2009: Children begging parents to get their heads shaved



Exciting News in the Germans-from-Russia Literary World

In 2008, under commission of the *Deutsches Kulturforum östliches Europa* (German Cultural Forum for Eastern Europe) located in Potsdam, Germany, Dr Ute Schmidt (with family roots of her own in Bessarabia) took up this forgotten minority of German colonists on the Black Sea. After years of research and interviews, she has written *Bessarabian - Deutsche Colonisten am Schwarzen Meer*, a 400-page history of the settlement of Germans in South Russia, namely the Bessarabian region, with over 200 photographs and maps never before seen in print.

Soon, Black Sea Germans-from-Russia scholars in America saw the value of this new work. Encouraged by Allyn Brosz, Washington, DC, and Michael Miller, NDSU Libraries, our own Jim Gessele began a year-long translation effort. Drs. Alex and Nancy Herzog, Boulder, CO, and Dr. Elvire Necker-Eberhardt, Calgary, AB, are collaborating with Gessele by providing editorial input. The finished product will be ready for printing soon.

Allyn Brosz, in his review of the book for the Germans from Russia Heritage Collection (GRHC) at NDSU, where the book is available in German, writes, "This is a first-rate book and should be on the bookshelf of anyone who is interested in the history, culture and destiny of the Black Sea/Bessarabian Germans. It is, without question, the authoritative history of the Germans in the Black Sea/Bessarabia. An English-language translation for the sizable North American readership would be very welcome." Read the full text of his review at: http://library.ndsu.edu/grhc/research/scholarly/book reviews/meer.html

It is our great fortune that the above scholars are willing to donate their time and talent to translate this work. Michael Miller, Director and Bibliographer, GRHC, has negotiated with the German Cultural Forum in Potsdam to secure permission to publish this work in English. It is now up to us - the descendants of the Germans who went to Russia in the 1800s - to lead the effort to raise sufficient funds to print this monumental work into English.

Watch for more information available soon about the North Star Chapter's opportunity to make this work available to all English readers. The North Star Board of Directors and GRHC are working together to make this translation a reality and readily available to North American Germans from Russia.

Should you choose to give a year-end gift before this campaign begins, simply send a check to the North Star Chapter, PO Box 583642, Minneapolis MN 55458. Please put "Bessarabian book" in the memo line.

Carol Just & Mayo Flegel

Everyone Loves Our Cookbook

"We received our cookbook & we love it so much we would like to order another." -Fritz S.

"The Sei Unser Gast cookbook is very interesting & enjoyable. The recipes bring back many memories of my mother's & grand-mother's cooking - Comfort Food! Please send me 2 more." -Verna G.

."A friend of mine borrowed me her Sei Unser Gast cookbook and I enjoyed it so much I had a hard time returning it to her." - Brenda W. (ordered her own copy)

"I am writing to order 3 cookbooks. It definitely renews my connection to my German Russian heritage and makes my mouth water! It's very exciting to see our family recipes in print. Thank you so much for compil-

ing this cookbook!" -Mary F., Addy, WA

"My mother's cookbook went to a distant relative (who stole it?) so, I was so happy to find this. Thanks a million for getting all these recipes together in one book!" -P.B., Mead, WA

"I received this book for a birthday present. I have been using it for years, it brings back memories of my grandmother's and mother's cooking. I would love to buy a couple more books." - Helen G.

"We like your cookbook very much and use many of the recipes." -Paul H., Ontario, Canada

"I borrowed "Sei Unser Gast" from a friend and think it is a great cookbook! I would like to purchase one of these for myself." Lillian B., Devils Lake, ND

To Order More Sei Unser Gast Cookbooks

Share your German-Russian heritage with family and friends. *Sei Unser Gast* cookbooks make the perfect gift for birthdays, graduations, showers, weddings, anniversaries, and holidays. Give them to say "Danke schön." Donate copies to the libraries and schools in your community. *Sei Unser Gast* cookbooks are sold at some North Star Chapter meetings. To order by mail, complete the form below and mail it with a check payable to "North Star Chapter" (payable in U.S. dollars) and mail to: Cookbook Orders, North Star Chapter of Minnesota, P.O. Box 583642, Minneapolis, MN 55458-3642. Additional order forms can be printed from our website: www.northstarchapter.org

Name
St., Rt., P.O. Box State/Province ZIP/Postal Code Home Telephone Number ()
Number of cookbooks being ordered Total cost of books (see insert) \$
Postage/Shipping (see insert) \$ Total enclosed \$
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Cookbook Prices*

1 to 4 copies: \$12.95 each. 5 to 9 copies: \$11.95 each. Save! Buy 10 or more *Sei Unser Gast* cookbooks and pay only \$10.95 each.

Postage/Shipping

Only one mailing address per order, please.

1 to 4 books: \$2.50 per book (U.S.), \$5.75 (Canada) **5 to 9 books:** \$2.00 per book (U.S.), \$4.50 (Canada) **10 or more books:** \$1.50 per book (U.S.), \$4.00

(Canada)

*These are North Star Chapter prices. Other vendors may charge more or less for the book.

North Star Chapter of Minnesota-AHSGR and GRHS

Non-Profit Organization P.O. Box 583642 Minneapolis, MN 55458

Return Service Requested

2010 Membership Form

	New	Renew	Individual	Far	nily		
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Helen Klein	gartner, 9513 Pi	erce St. NE, Blaine	MN 55434 Ques	tions: Conta	ict Helen at	763-205-2297.	
For newslette	er greeting only:	Birthday Month(s) _	Wedding A	nniversary Mo	nth		