



**Meet the Author:
Dr. Ute Schmidt,
Saturday, July 14, 2012,
3:00-5:00 PM**

Hilton Garden Inn,
5140 American Blvd. W,
Bloomington MN

Spend an afternoon with
the author of *Bessarabia:
German Colonists on the
Black Sea*.

SPECIAL SUMMER EVENT

**Dr. Ute Schmidt, author of *Bessarabia:
German Colonists on the Black Sea***

The North Star Chapter is honored to host Dr. Ute Schmidt of Berlin, Germany, author of *Bessarabia: German Colonists on the Black Sea*. Dr. Schmidt will make this stop in the Twin Cities on her way to the 42nd annual GRHS convention in Bismarck, ND, July 18 – 22.

Bessarabia: German Colonists on the Black Sea was published by the Deutsches Kulturforum, in Potsdam in 2008. The book describes the origin and form of settlement of the Germans in Bessarabia (today part Moldova and Ukraine), their local autonomy, and their rural culture steeped in Protestant ethics as well as the coexistence with other nationalities.

North Star Chapter member James T. Gessele translated the book into English and, with the help of a \$5000 grant from the North Star Chapter, North Dakota State University's Germans from Russia Heritage Collection (GRHC) published the English translation in 2011.

At the Meet the Author Open House, Dr Schmidt will bring large banners for display. The banners highlight the migration and history of the Germans from Russia who settled in Bessarabia. They have been on display in Odessa and Kiev. If you are not attending the GRHS convention in Bismarck, this will be your only chance to meet the author and see the beautiful and colorful banners.

Dr. Schmidt studied history, art history, German, sociology, and political science in Munich and Berlin. Her research and teaching has been in Berlin, Hamburg, and Dresden. Since 2005, she has been a university lecturer at the Institute for Political and Social Sciences at the Free University of Berlin and also project manager at the institute's research coalition SED-State. Dr. Schmidt has traveled extensively in Southeast Europe since 1989, notably in Moldova and Ukraine.

Following the Meet the Author Open House, there will be an evening meal at the hotel (by advance reservation only) for North Star Chapter members and their guests. A notice will go out to members in early June with meal and reservation information.

North Dakota Native Explores German-Russian Ancestry in a New Show

By Cynthia Miller

Nine years ago, David Schlosser was awakened by a call telling him that his father had died of a heart attack. The youngest of six children raised in Mandan, ND, Schlosser realized that he'd never be able to talk to his dad about his family history and his experiences growing up. But he could ask his aunts and uncles – those who'd grown up with his father – whose father had come to America from Russia in 1908 at age 16.

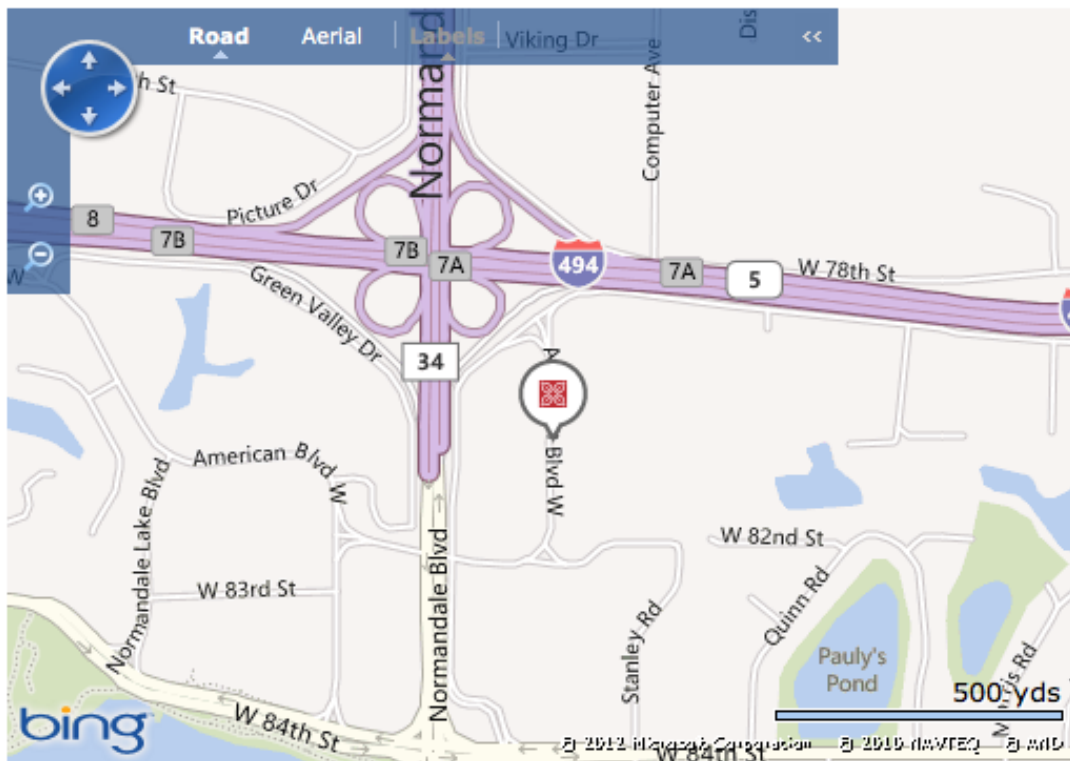
Schlosser's interviews with his family, collection of documents and stories, and his own experience as an actor, director, and writer for 12 years, have come together in a new multimedia show called "Their Century," which has been accepted at the Minnesota Fringe Festival in August. Schlosser says the show will be a mix of TV, film, and

theatre, with one person telling the story of several characters, original music, video, and photographs.

The concept for the show began for Schlosser in 2009, and as he explored his family history, he realized how rich the German-Russian culture is, not just in North Dakota, but throughout America. He wants people will see their family stories reflected in his story, and that they will realize how extraordinary our ancestors' lives were. He hopes it will spark in people the desire he's found to get the stories before they are lost, and that it encourages people to talk to their family, record the stories, and pass them along.

Schlosser is raising money to cover production costs through the website Kickstarter. If you'd like to help, visit <http://www.kickstarter.com/projects/1693894564/their-century>. For more information on the show and Schlosser's background, visit www.davidschlosser.com. Tickets to the Fringe Festival will be available July 1.

Map of Hilton Garden Inn, Bloomington, for July 14, 2012 Event



Located in the SE quadrant of the intersection of I-494 and Hwy 100 (Normandale Blvd). Take **I-494 to Normandale Blvd exit** (going south). **Turn right** at first stoplight onto **West 84th Street**. **Turn right** onto **Norman Center Drive**. **Turn right** onto **American Blvd West**. Proceed 2 blocks and hotel will be on left.

Still Time to Renew Membership for 2012!

2012 Membership Form

____ New ____ Renew ____ Individual ____ Family

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

National Membership: ____ AHSGR ____ GRHS ____ Both

Local dues are \$12 per year per family, plus membership in either AHSGR or GRHS.

AHSGR members please submit \$62 (\$50 for AHSGR, \$12 for North Star).

GRHS members please submit \$12. GRHS requests that you send you national membership (\$50) to GRHS, 1125 W. Turnpike Ave., Bismarck ND 58501

Please make your check payable to North Star Chapter and submit to:

Chuck Kurle, 2040 Highland Dr., Hastings MN 55033

For newsletter greeting: Birthday Month(s) _____ Anniversary Month _____

North Star Chapter
of Minnesota
AHSGR / GRHS Affiliated
Non-Profit Organization
PO Box 583642
Minneapolis, MN 55458