North Star Chapter

http://www.northstarchapter.org

Preserving the heritage of the Germans from Russia, in dual affiliation with the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia (AHSGR) and the Germans from Russia Historical Society (GRHS).

Oktoberfest Craft Brewery Tour Saturday, September 21, 2013, Steel Toe Brewery and Tap Room, 4848 West 35th Street Saint Louis Park, MN 55416

1:00 - Brewery Tour

1:45 - Tap beer and snack sandwiches

Brewmeister Jason Schoneman began brewing beer at a start-up brewery in St. Louis Park two years ago. We will tour the brewery and hear about the trials and tribulations of brewing craft beer. An Iowa native, Jason learned brewing in Montana, then studied in Chicago, Illinois and Munich, Germany. He "married into" the North Star Chapter, as one of the business partners, his brother-in-law Joe Muggli, is the nephew of chapter members Bill and Imelda Muggli. The brewery is located just west of Belt Line Boulevard and north of 36th street, which is the exit to use off Hwy 100.

RSVP by 18 September for this event to Cindy Miller at CynMillBea@Hotmail.com or call her at (612) 386-1436.

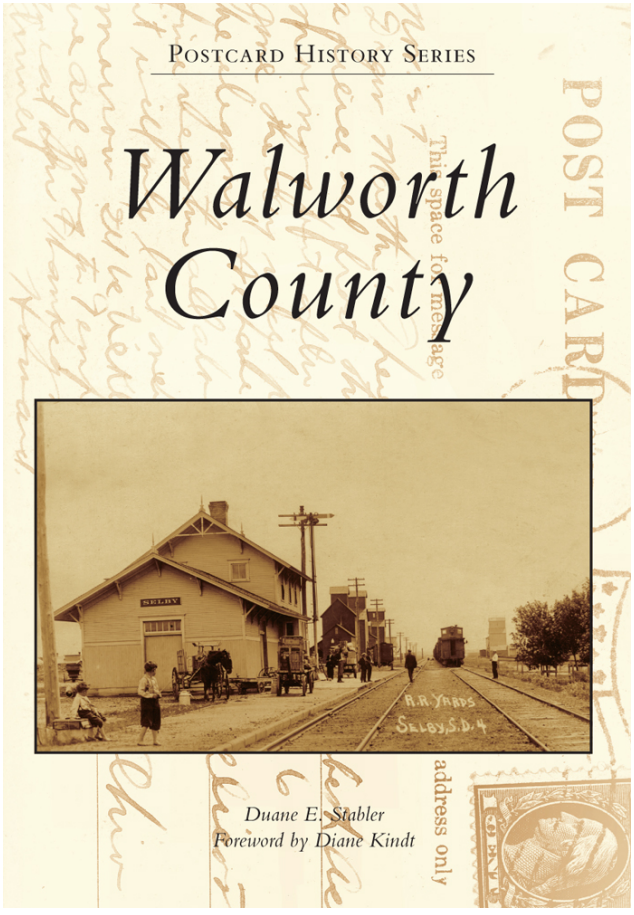
Tap room pints are $4 or $5, and available in four or more varieties. A sampler with five small glasses of different beers is $10.

For more information on the brewery:

www.steeltoebrewing.com

Chapter member publishes book with vintage postcard images from Walworth County, South Dakota

Look for Duane Stabler and his recently published book at chapter meetings if this would be a good gift for one of your family members. See "Library Corner" on page 4.



Follow us on Facebook at: North Star Chapter of Minnesota

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Please Take Note Snowbirds:

If you have a winter address, please notify the Membership Chair, Chuck Kurle, or assistant Vicki Kurle, or Newsletter editor Nancy Gertner.

LIBRARY CORNER

Book Review

EWIGER SAATZ or *Everlasting Yeast*

Reviewed by Bernelda Becker

My mother baked bread. My grandmother baked bread. All the mamas I knew baked bread. To this day I enjoy my toast burned just a bit—it reminds me of the slightly burned crusts on the loaves when they touched the kitchen range oven wall when the oven got just a bit too hot. Maybe mother put a few too many cobs or too much mischt in the kitchen range that day. Maybe the yeast—yes, that everlasting yeast—had worked a bit too well and the loaves got extra large and fluffy.

Often, when I came home from country school, the aroma of bread, fresh from the oven filled the kitchen. Mother would pick up a warm loaf, hold it up to her chest with one arm, and with the serrated knife in the other, she would slice towards her body to give me a fresh slice. She didn't know what a bread board was. Oh, how good that slice tasted, slathered with her home-churned butter and the wild plum jam she had made from the shelter-belt plums.

Such were my nostalgic memories as I turned the pages of this beautiful new book subtitled ***The FOOD CULTURE of the Germans from Russia in Emmons County, Logan County and McIntosh County North Dakota***. I'm German from Russia too, but I lived in McPherson County, South Dakota. We all seemed to have come to the Dakotas from South Russia, bringing with us the blended food culture of Germany *and* Russia. The knowledge, the make-do ability, and the work ethic these immigrants brought with them has lingered on even to this day.

Glance through the ***Contents***. There's a lot more to our culture than bread. However, the bread often made ***Survival*** possible on those lonely homesteads, especially when clouds of locusts darkened the sky, or hail ruined what crop might have survived the lack of rain at the proper time. Or look at ***Chicken, ducks, geese and eggs,*** why, even the ladies that lived in the small towns had their flocks of fowl—not only for food, but for eggs to sell, and for feathers to make those wonderful pillows and feather ticks.

(Continued on Page 4.)

OCTOBER PROGRAM FEATURES CHAPTER PRESIDENT REPORTING ON TRIP TO BELIZE

"Germans from Russia in Belize"

Saturday, October 26, 2013

1:00 - 4:00 pm - Meeting & Speaker
Berea Lutheran Church,
7538 Emerson Avenue South
Richfield MN 55423

1:00: Short business meeting
1:45: Refreshments
2:00: Program

North Star Chapter President Ron Scherbenski was on a mission trip with his church to Belize in 2012 when the group took some time off to sightsee. They were told to visit a place called Spanish Lookout. To Ron's surprise, it was a Mennonite colony of Germans from Russia who had successfully farmed in the middle of a Central American jungle for over 50 years.

Ron will share with us the story of Spanish Lookout, with photos from his visit and a video about the settlement. Please join us to hear another fascinating story of Germans from Russia starting over in an unfamiliar place and making it their home.

Formerly known as British Honduras, the country now Belize desired independence from Great Britain, but needed to achieve independence in producing food. The German Russian Mennonites moved from Mexico to Belize in 1958 with the promise of land, exemption from military service, and the ability to practice their religion. Britain granted independence to Belize as a parliamentary democracy in 1964.

Map: GNU Free Documentation License Copyright (C) 2000,2001,2002 Free Software Foundation, Inc.

Flag design by Caleb Moore released into public domain via Wikimedia Commons

LIBRARY CORNER

by Bernie Becker

Walworth County, Book 1 of Postcard History Series. Duane Stabler surprised us with his Book 1 of Postcard History Series, using his vast post-card collection for this first issue. Note that it is Volume 1, a promise of more to come. Duane has been collecting these post-cards of the past for a long time. Our Chapter has enjoyed his informative presentation about them during a past program. Which county will be next, Duane? *(See book cover on page 1.)*

Have you seen ***Love from the Yellowstone Trail,*** a book of poetry by Sharon Chmielarz? How much more coincidental could it be that two of our members, without collaboration, would each come out with a book featuring the Missouri River and Mobridge, along with other interesting subjects in that part of the Dakotas?

EWIGER SAATZ (everlasting yeast). The FOOD CULTURE of the Germans from Russia: IN Emmons County, Logan County and McIntosh County, North Dakota told through VOICES, PHOTOGRAPHS AND RECIPES. Look for my review of this beautiful and nostalgic book on page 2 in this newsletter. Our own Carol Just had a big hand in its publication including a couple of stories of her own. The recipes copied from old hand-written, ingredient stained collections are intriguing. *(See book review on page 2.)*

*…**Like Footprints in the Wind—A Generation Lost.*** Pamela Atherstone's first novel is based on her own family history, and true stories of others, all woven together into one fictional family. As she researched her genealogy, she learned some of her family *(kulaks)* were sent to the Siberian labor camps during the Stalin era. She felt the need to make this information available to our population at large. As she considered the best way to make this happen, Atherstone decided to write a 'creative non-fiction' novel, thinking novels are more widely read than non-fiction.

I have to agree. I closed the book on the final chapter, and found myself disappointed that I had come to the end. The characters had become my close friends. Their tragedies had become my tragedies—their joys my joys. I felt like these horrific things had happened to my friends. You may say, "I don't read fiction! Believe me, this book is *not* fiction. It is *creative non-fiction*, *truth told* in a page-turning manner.

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[BOOK REVIEW continued from page 2]

EWIGER SAATZ **(Everlasting Yeast)**

Oh, how wonderful it felt when I snuggled down under the feather tick on a cold winter night, with the hot water bottle at my feet. On and on, the interesting chapters remind us of how it was before we could run to the nearest super-market. As I perused the ingredient stained hand-printed recipes throughout the book, I decided there were as many recipes for the various dishes, such as *Fleischkuechle,* as there were cooks.

The chapter titled ***Butchering and sausage stuffing*** showed that the men, too, played a large part in seeing that there was food on the table to feed their large families. Of course, they raised the crops. But I couldn't help but compare the men doing the butchering to our present culture where men now are the ones who fire up the grill for their 'brats.' They are still into sausage!

And finally, near the end of the book is Carol Just's story of ***Maggie's Café, A Wishek anchor for 58 years.*** Yes, the time came when these hard-working people could visit a restaurant that served their kind of food when they made their trips to town. Maggie started with a pastry shop. She had a way with pie—fifteen hundred pies a year. Can't you just hear "Let's go have a cup of coffee and a piece of pie," in that Schwabish accent? I'm sure it might have been a common expression among the Wishek folk during Maggie's Café's 58 years.

Chapter President's Message

by Ron Scherbenski

Summer is coming to an end, and the North Star Chapter is gearing up for another program year. The Board of Directors met in July and we are preparing for the up coming season.

This year we had a good showing at the GRHS convention in July. See the report by Bernie Becker in this newsletter. (Page 6) There were several presentations put on by North Star Chapter members that went over very well.

We have had a committee working on a new book that is nearing completion and I for one am looking forward to seeing the results of all their hard work. The books should be available in time for the Christmas season so that will help to make your shopping easier. *(Story on page 7.)*

Lil Ward is heading up the nominating committee so give her a call and let her know you are willing to run for any of the offices. All officers are elected for a one year term.

At the July meeting, the Board of Directors passed a motion that Article III section 1 of the Bylaws should be amended as follows.

"**The officers shall be elected for a one-year term. No person shall be elected to the same office for more than THREE consecutive terms**."

The change extends the time one person can serve in the same office from TWO to THREE consecutive terms.

Article X of the Bylaws states: The Bylaws may be amended at a chapter meeting by a two-thirds vote of the membership present and voting, provided said amendment has been considered and recommended by the Board of Directors and written notice of at least one week has been given by the Board of Directors prior to the meeting at which the amendment is to be voted upon. This is your notice that we will be considering this amendment at the October Business meeting, prior to the program of the day. The Business meeting will be at one O'clock on 26 October 2013.

Enjoy the rest of the summer and see you in September. *Machts Gut!*

The popular genealogy television program "Who Do You Think You Are" has moved from NBC to the cable channel **TLC**, airing Tuesdays at 8:00 pm through September 10. This series' featured celebrities are Kelly Clarkson, Christina Applegate, Chelsea Handler, Zooey Deschanel, Chris O'Donnell, Cindy Crawford, Jim Parsons, and Trisha Yearwood. Past episodes can be viewed on-line in full at http://www.tlc.com/tv-shows/who-do-you-think-you-are. Noted genealogist Megan Smolenyak has also written an accompanying book which is an excellent get-started guide to discovering your family history.

Cost of the book:

$65 plus 10 for tax and handling if picked up = $75
$65 plus $10 for tax and handling; plus additional shipping charge $15 to anywhere in the continental U.S. = $90
SPECIAL $75 for one; $55 for each additional book (includes handling and tax if applicable) plus shipping of $15 per book.
Book weighs 3 pounds, 3 ounces and measures 12x12-inches by one-inch deep
120 pages, full color

To Order EWIGER SAATZ:

By check: payable to Tri-County Tourism Alliance and mailed to:
Carmen Rath-Wald
Logan County Extension Service
301 Broadway
Napoleon, ND 58561

Carmen can be reached at: 701-754-2504 to do credit card transactions over the phone.

ANNUAL CONVENTION REPORT FROM BISMARCK

2013 GRHS Convention Report

by Bernie Becker

At least fifteen of our North Star members attended the Germans from Heritage Society convention this year. Presenters from our Chapter were Duane Stabler, Carol Just, Sharon Chmielarz. Ginny Peterson was not physically present, but her art was part of Sharon's presentation. Also volunteering at workshops were Marilyn Brink, Ron Scherbenski and Duane Stabler. Needless to say, all of them did their jobs well —we can be proud of our talented members.

Standing left to right: Duane Stabler, Sharon Chmielarz, Marilyn Brink, Paul Oberlander, Ron Scherbenski, Dayton Ward, Lil Ward, Clarence Wanner, Mary Ann Weigal, LaRoy Becker. Seated left to right: Helen Kleingartner, Carol Just, Glorian Anderson, Bernie Becker.

Roy and I took advantage of the interesting and educational tour that preceded the convention. As we traveled northwest of Bismarck towards Beulah, two knowledgeable gentlemen accompanied us: Allen Dockter and Larry Larson. Mr. Dockter talked to us of changes in agriculture, pointing out things of interest as we went through areas pertaining to his topic. Mr. Larson told of his personal experience with coal mining. He pointed out how areas of land used to be left when a mine closed, and how other areas look since laws were passed that the land had to be reclaimed to its former state.

Our first stop was a tour of Assumption Abby in Richardson, our guide being Brother Placid, our Folklore writer in Heritage Review. After a *Fleischkuechle* lunch in Beulah, we visited the Dakota Gasification Plant, Antelope Generation Plant, and the New Salem Museum. The bus dropped us off at Faith Lutheran Church for the *Knepfla* and Sauerkraut dinner. The shuttle bus took us well-fed and weary travelers back to the Ramkota Inn. All-in-all, a well planned trip hosted by Norbert Mayer.

There were many interesting workshop choices. Any time there is a workshop on a computer related topic, that's the one I choose. Our own Duane Stabler presented **"Worms and Viruses – Has Your Computer Caught the Bug?"** Mat Klee presented "**Accessing and Navigating the LDS Family History Website"** which I also found helpful, especially since Matt forwarded his information to our e-mail inboxes almost as soon as we arrived back home.

I've always wanted to search out my family's homesteading records, and John Teske's "**Homesteading Records, a Case Study"** proved informative and helpful. "**Importance of Russo-Japanese War of 1904/05"** by Merv Weiss was a war Roy and I had heard very little about. This thoroughly researched topic proved very informative, a war that had influence on the wars for most of the 20th Century.

That's my birds-eye view of this year's convention. There were many workshops to choose from, plus the meals, entertainment, and much more. Talk to our other members who attended to get their views. The 2014 convention will be held in Spokane, Washington in July 2014. See you there?

Cookbook Order Form *Sei Unser Gast*

Cookbooks may also be purchased at Special Chapter events at:
Berea Lutheran Church, 7538 Emerson Avenue South, Richfield, MN 55423
See chapter schedule of events (bottom of page) for upcoming opportunities

Send form with payment to: **Cookbook Orders, North Star Chapter of Minnesota, P.O. Box 583642, Minneapolis, MN 55458-3642**

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.
Make checks payable to: "North Star Chapter."

Postage/Shipping

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.),

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Number of books ordered : _____

German-Russian Play in Fargo

A new theatrical production of "Handing Down the Names," a play by Steven Dietz, will appear in Fargo the weekends of October 10-12 and October 17-20, 2013. The play is a seven-generation story of a German-Russian family, based on stories from the playwright's own family. It will be held at North Dakota State University's Askanase Auditorium, and tickets may be purchased online at http://www.ndsu.edu/finearts/theatre/LCT/names.html. Tickets are $10, $8 for seniors. Cindy Miller and Sean Beaton are planning to attend, so if you have questions or would like to meet them there, please let Cindy know.

North Star Chapter Book Publishing Project Nears Completion

Anthology to debut soon: A year of hard work and cooperation will soon result in the debut of the North Star Chapter's first member anthology. Editorial committee members Bernie Becker, Sharon Chmielarz, Nancy Gertner, Carol Just, and Cynthia Miller assembled essays, poems, and photographs from over 20 chapter members resulting in a beautiful collection of memories about growing up German from Russia. Currently in production, the book should be a treasure for years to come. A release party is being considered, so stay tuned for more information on the book expected to be available for purchase before the holiday season.

Upcoming Events:

November 16, 2013
Biannual genealogy meeting

December 14, 2013
Weihnachtsfest

2014

January 19, 2014
Chapter meeting

February 15, 2014
Chapter meeting

Signs of summer: Green grasshoppers (actually Locust, or *Tettigonia viridissima*) and hollyhocks.

Did your mother and grandmother plant hollyhocks?
iStockphoto

October 26, 2013 meeting to include voting on proposed change to Chapter By-Laws

At the July meeting, the Board of Directors passed a motion that Article III section 1 of the Bylaws should be amended as follows.

"**The officers shall be elected for a one-year term. No person shall be elected to the same office for more than THREE consecutive terms**."

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