

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).

Biannual Genealogy Workshop

**Saturday, November 16, 2013
Berea Lutheran Church**

**7538 Emerson Avenue South
Richfield, MN 55423**

10:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

1:00 p.m. - Meeting & election of officers

2:00 p.m. - Program

Vintage Postcards, Walworth County South Dakota

Dust off your genealogy files and bring them to our November meeting. The library will be open at 10 a.m. for your research. Bring a bagged lunch or treat yourself by getting a take out lunch.

The business meeting begins at 1 p.m., followed by our program at 2 p.m, with chapter member Duane Stabler sharing images from his popular vintage postcard collection. Duane recently published a book featuring postcards from Walworth County, South Dakota, and presented on it at the GRHS Convention in Bismarck this summer.

A native of Eureka, South Dakota, Duane often visited Walworth County as a child. The book contains over 200 postcard images, and this program is sure to be informative and entertaining.



Java, SD image courtesy of Duane Stabler

Walworth County, South Dakota - The Way it Was

Bordered by the Missouri River on its west, Walworth County has a dynamic past, as it was directly in the path of the Milwaukee Railroad as the rail line extended from east to west. In the middle of this was a vast amount of sparsely populated land, providing opportunity for settlers from places like Russia to homestead. The land along the Missouri River was initially populated, but the northeastern portion of the county was an especially popular destination for settlers. The small town of Java, South Dakota was near this area and on the rail line. Java grew with continued immigration, and prospered. Yet, the rail line never passed through the town. Like other towns in the area, Java has lost population in recent years.

Follow us on Facebook at: North Star Chapter of Minnesota

North Star Chapter 2013 Officers

President

Ron Scherbenski

952-541-1917

ronscherbenski@msn.com

1st VP/Program Chair

Cynthia Miler

612 386-1436

cynmillbea@hotmail.com

2ndVP/Membership

Chuck Kurle

& Co-Chair Vicki Kurle

651-437-1380

kurlec@asme.org

Treasurer

Marilyn Brink

zumpalebump@yahoo.com

Secretary

Jerry Renner

jerryrenner@q.com

Newsletter Staff

Layout & Editor

Nancy Gertner

612-396-9186

nancygertner@mac.com

Website

www.northstarchapter.org

Webmaster

Duane Stabler

952-447-8654

dstabler@bigfoot.com

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

by Bernelda Becker

Summer and fall came and went since our last meeting with the North Star Library. Now it is "Round Up" time for our checked out library materials. Do you have some lurking on your coffee table, book shelves, or stacks of magazines and papers? If you do, please dust them off and bring them to the next meeting, thus making them available to other members.

The November chapter meeting is the Genealogy meeting - a time when we open at 10 a.m. to provide you with extra time to do research.

It seems like a long time since the new books were purchased at the GRHS Convention in Bismarck in July. The Library Corner in our September issue gave a preview of their exciting contents. In case you've forgotten, here's the list of new books awaiting your perusal:

Ewiger Saatz: (Everlasting Yeast): *The Food Culture of the Germans from Russia in Emmons County, Logan County and McIntosh County North Dakota*. Not a cookbook, nor a history book, but a combination - a book both men and women will enjoy - with lots of pictures.

Walworth County, Book 1 of Postcard History Series. A picture book featuring some of author and chapter member Duane Stabler's fantastic postcard collection of South Dakota scenes.

(See November program plan on page 1.)

Love from the Yellowstone Trail, a book of poetry that reveals, as W. Scott Olsen, editor of *Ascent*, put it: "The natural world as the intersection of history, theology exploration, human desires and complicated loves." Chapter member Sharon Chmielarz is the author.

Drumroll! Unveiling our new copier. It's no longer necessary to run to the drugstore or Post Office to make photo copies. The chapter now has a simple copy machine. It can also print from a computer, tablet or phone. For a small fee per page, you may make copies in our library.

ANNUAL WEIHNACHTSFEST FEATURES FOOD, MUSIC, HOLIDAY SURPRISES

“Weihnachtsfest” Saturday, December 14, 2013

11:30 a.m. - 4:00 pm
Food, Music, Surprises
Berea Lutheran Church,
7538 Emerson Avenue South
Richfield MN 55423

12:00: Potluck meal
1:00: Program with holiday music

Our annual *Weihnachtsfest* will be the second Saturday of December this year, featuring our holiday traditions of ethnic food, great music, and holiday surprises. Steve Weininger, accordionist



extraordinaire and North Star chapter member, will perform his musical magic, entertaining us and leading us in song. This is a potluck event, so please bring your favorite food delights to share. Beverages, plates, and utensils will be provided. *Weihnachtsfest* is an all-ages event, so bring the whole family. **We will begin serving food at noon**, so please arrive a little earlier so all the food can be set up by noon. Electric outlets are available for plugging in crockpots on our serving table. Meat, vegetables, bread, pickles, salads and desserts are welcomed.

Volunteers are needed to help with set-up and clean-up, so please contact

Cindy Miller to volunteer your service at 612-386-1436 or CynMillBea@Hotmail.Com.

Accordionist Extraordinaire
Steve Weininger

A guest in a red suit has been very popular with all ages of children in past years.



Website Makeover

by Duane Stabler

I'd like to invite you all to visit the North Star Chapter website and see the new look and content. After thinking about ways to improve the site appearance and features, I undertook the effort to simply rewrite the site. The old site content was partly reused, and other content was modified to allow for better access to the information.

Much of the website serves as a means to archive the history of the chapter. You'll now find photos easier to view. If you've been active in the chapter over the past ten years or so, many of the photos will bring back some memories. I particularly find the Christmas potluck events we've enjoyed to be most interesting. And mouth watering! I encourage you to take this walk down memory lane.

Many recent events have not yet been posted to the site. I seek photos taken by others since I've been unable to attend and photograph all the meetings and events. Please contact me if you have photos to share and make our chapter archives more complete.

The website also posts the schedule of upcoming events, so please feel free to check it for event details, and refer others in your inviting and chapter recruiting efforts. Quick updates can easily be posted to the website, so you may find additional information there that was not available when our newsletter went to print.

With cold winter nights approaching, I invite you to take a trip to www.NorthStarChapter.Org and enjoy the website.

In Memory

Dallas DeLean Zimmerman, Ph.D, age 76, died October 20, 2013.

Survived by wife of 24 years, Eileen; step-children, Marilyn Edgett, Linda Landaverde, David (Darlene) Oehlke, Margaret Oehlke, and J.D. Cameron; 12 grandchildren, 9 great-grandchildren; sister, Romona Heupel and brother, Earl (Vivian) Zimmerman; many nieces, nephews and other family. Service Friday, October 25, Stillwater. Interment Sunset Memorial Park Cemetery, Stillwater.

A graduate of North Dakota State University, Dallas earned his Ph.D. in Toxicology and worked at 3M. Dallas was a founding member of the North Star Chapter, along with his sister Romona Heupel. Chapter members may remember reading poems and prose from Dallas in our chapter newsletter. Dallas served as Chapter President and VP for Programming, and was one of the contributors to the chapter's soon to be published anthology on growing up German from Russia.

Chapter President's Message

by Ron Scherbenski

Fall has definitely arrived in Minnesota. Most of the leaves are down, and the air has a really chilly feel to it. So far, the snow has stayed north of the Twin Cities. By the time you read this, the North Star Chapter will have held meetings in September, at the Steel Toe Brewery, and my October presentation on "Spanish Lookout," a Mennonite Community in Belize. We will have also held a board meeting before the chapter meeting on October 26.

Lil Ward, as member of the Nominating Committee, is still seeking volunteers to serve as chapter officers in the upcoming year. Officers are elected for a term of one year, and the positions include President, Treasurer, Secretary, VP for Membership, VP for Programming. An organization needs "new blood" in the leadership to generate new ideas and new energy. **Election of officers is scheduled to occur at the November 16 meeting.**

To volunteer, contact Lil at 763-784-8626. Please feel free to contact any of the officers listed on page 2 to inquire on their duties of office.

Retailers are gearing up for Christmas, so it must not be too early to consider the new book that the North Star Chapter will have available soon, or to give our cookbook, *Sei Unser Gast* (order form on page 7), to friends and family. Giving a book is a good way to get people interested in our heritage. Who knows - we may also gain some new members, which is always a good thing.

Those of us who are on Facebook or on one of the NDSU listservs have been following Michael Miller as he and a film crew have been crisscrossing Argentina and Brazil interviewing Germans from Russian. I for one am looking forward to the documentary that will be made on Germans from Russia in South America.

If any of you have an idea for a program that we can put on for our chapter meeting, please notify Programming VP Cindy Miller or any board member, and we will see what we can schedule. Take care of yourselves, and have a great Thanksgiving and Christmas.

North Star Chapter Book Publishing Project Nears Completion

Anthology to debut soon: The North Star Chapter's first member anthology is near the "final review" stage and will soon go to print! Editorial committee members Bernie Becker, Sharon Chmielarz, Nancy Gertner, Carol Just, and Cynthia Miller were pleased with the initial layout, "Very beautiful," remarked Carol Just. Their excitement in seeing this collection of essays, poems, and photographs from over 20 chapter members compiled into a collection of memories about growing up German from Russia generates anticipation of seeing the printed result soon. Expected to be a treasure for years to come, delivery is still possible before the end of the year. *If* the book is not available for purchase before the 2013 holiday season, please consider giving a handwritten gift card with the promise of the book to come to those on your gift list this holiday season.

“Handing Down the Names”

by Cynthia Miller

For our wedding anniversary last month, my husband Sean Beaton and I attended a performance of “Handing Down the Names” by North Dakota State University’s Little Country Theatre.

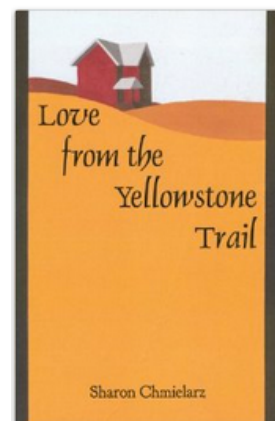
The play, written by by Steven Dietz, debuted in 2004, and traces the story of seven generations of Dietz’s German-Russian family. I was curious how a two-hour play could take us through nearly 200 years of history, from Germany to the Volga River, to northern Colorado. The short scenes within the play are fast-paced, but hit on the major points of history, both of our

heritage and Dietz’s Dorn Family. Famous figures such as Catherine the Great and President Theodore Roosevelt make brief appearances. Through much of the play, I found myself nodding in agreement at how similar the story was to my own family’s journey. But happily, I was also able to learn new things and hear yet more fascinating stories from another family.

The performance made me laugh at times and even tear up as I related to the sadder instances that our ancestors went through. The friends who attended with us are of Scandinavian descent, but they also enjoyed learning about the heritage. If you have a chance to see this play, please do. I think anyone interested in history and family stories would have an enjoyable experience.

Chapter Member Publishes New Book of Poetry

Sharon Chmielarz recently published ***Love from the Yellowstone Trail***, a book of poetry stemming from her childhood. “I spent my first 18 years within sight of the Missouri River . . . in South Dakota. The Yellowstone Trail is an old name for stretches of current Highway 12. The river is a subject for some poems, as are the Hunkpapa and other Lakota/Dakota who live on and near the reservation on the river’s west bank.” The book was recently added to the chapter library. Look for Sharon at chapter meetings if you would like to purchase copies for gifts, or find at some local bookstores, including Magers & Quinn, Minneapolis, or buy online.



Upcoming Events:

2014

January 18, 2014

Anthology Launch Party
Celebrating our new book



Book Clue:

Green grasshoppers (actually Locust, or *Tettigonia viridissima*) and hollyhocks are featured characters in the upcoming chapter anthology to be published soon.

iStockphoto

February 15, 2014

“What’s in a Generation?”
Cynthia Miller explains the demography of different generations, and what it means to family history and for the future.

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 (page 6) 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: _____

Time to Renew Membership for 2014!

North Star Chapter Membership Form

____ New ____ Renew ____ Individual ____ Family

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

National Membership: ____ AHSGR ____ GRHS ____ Both

Local dues are \$15 per year per family, plus membership in either AHSGR or GRHS.

AHSGR members please submit \$65 (\$50 for AHSGR, \$15 for North Star).

GRHS members please submit \$15. GRHS requests that you send your 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

Members Voted to Amend Chapter By-Laws at October Meeting

Election of Officers Scheduled for November 16 Meeting

At the July meeting, the Board of Directors passed a motion that Article III section 1 of the By-Laws 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 By-Laws states: “The By-Laws 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.”

The amendment was voted on at the chapter member business meeting held on 26 October 2013. The change to amend the By-Laws passed by a margin greater than the required two-thirds. **Election of officers is scheduled for November 16. Officers include President, Secretary, Treasurer, VP for Programming, and VP for Membership.**

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