

# 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).*

## **Familie Flemmer** **My Family from Glükstal**

**A Return to the Homeland**  
**Report by Pastors Kristi and**  
**Gary Graner**

**Saturday, November 18, 2017**  
**Berea Lutheran Church**

**7538 Emerson Avenue S.**  
**Richfield, MN 55423**

10:00 a.m. Library opens for research

11:00 a.m. Book feature with Duane  
Stabler, ***Sophie's Grandma***

1:00 p.m. - Meeting and Election of  
Officers

2:00 p.m. - Program with speaker

Pastor Kristi Graner with Gary Graner of Burnsville will report, with photos, on their recent trip to Ukraine to see the homeland of her immigrant ancestors from Pettibone, North Dakota: her grandfather Christian Flemmer's family.

Pastor Kristi and her husband Gary currently direct Dare To Believe Ministries, focused on Biblical teaching and mentoring of people to "pay attention to" God's voice in their lives.



Kristi was on senior leadership at Hosanna! Church in Lakeville, MN for 20 years. Kristi holds a Masters Degree in Theology and Spiritual Formation from St. Mary's College in St. Paul, MN. About their ministry:

[www.Dare2Believe.Biz](http://www.Dare2Believe.Biz)

See back page for details on the morning book feature with Duane Stabler, 11 a.m., ***Sophie's Grandma***.

**Follow us on Facebook at: North Star Chapter of Minnesota**



## North Star Chapter 2017 Officers

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### Please Take Note:

If you have a seasonal address, please notify the Membership Chair, Lil Ward.

## Chapter President's Message

by Chuck Kurle

Fall is in the air. This is the time to enjoy the harvest season and get garden fresh cabbage and make some sauerkraut. As I drive to and from work, I enjoy watching the progress of the crops. The beans, potatoes, and sweet corn are being harvested with field corn waiting for the dry fall weather.

For the past couple years, we have been looking for someone to take over cookbook sales. Jaci Williams has been in charge of the sales for many years, and has continued while we looked for a volunteer. New member Jill Scherbenski has graciously volunteered to take over for Jaci. A huge thank you to Jaci for her many years of service. Sales of the cookbook, *Sei Unser Gast*, and *Hollyhocks and Grasshoppers* provide the majority of the budget income for the chapter. Jaci and Jill (no pun intended) will be working to turn over the sales duties.

My mom (99 last July) is reading *Hollyhocks and Grasshoppers* for the second time, finding little details she missed the first time. Both books make great Christmas presents and financially support the NS Chapter.

Election of officers for 2018 will occur at the November meeting. Carol Just (Chair), Jim Gessele, and Ron Scherbenski volunteered to be on the nominating committee and were approved at the September Board of Directors meeting.

As I write this, *Weihnachtsfest* is only weeks away! This is a great time for members and guests to get together and enjoy a great potluck, socialize, and sing Christmas carols. Paul Maggitti will showcase his toy trains. Steve Wenninger, will provide musical entertainment with his accordion and sing-along music. Please consider volunteering to help with cleanup.

Next year marks the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the North Star Chapter. What a tremendous accomplishment. Carol Just has been heading a great team of volunteers diligently working on our next book to be published next year. 2018 is going to be an exciting year for the North Star Chapter.

NOTE on email addresses: Use this format when emailing chapter officers. [name@Provider.com](mailto:name@Provider.com)  
at = @ in the listing at left.

Submission Deadline for the next newsletter is 15 December 2017. Please put **newZletter** in the subject line, and email inputs to: NancyGertner at [mac.com](mailto:mac.com) No Zip files please!

## ***Weihnachtsfest***

Annual Potluck Holiday Celebration  
featuring Music, Trains, and a  
Special Visitor

**Saturday, December 2, 2017**  
**Berea Lutheran Church**

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

12 p.m. - Meal; followed by music and  
merriment

2 p.m. - Program

Special accordion music and singing by our  
own Steve Weninger. Paul Maggitti plans to  
set up his toy trains for children of all ages.

Feel free to wear ethnic or holiday clothing for  
the festivities! Beverages are provided, along  
with table settings. Electric outlets are  
available for crockpots.

Volunteers will set up on Friday  
December 1. Thanks to Helen  
Kleingartner for volunteering to  
lead the setup team.



*Saint Nick phoned Joseph's 2016  
request to the North Pole Workshop  
via cell phone.*

## **2017-18 Schedule**

### **November 18**

Genealogy Workshop Day.  
Library opens, 10AM.  
Workshop at 11AM.  
1PM Meeting and Election.  
Program with speaker at 2PM.

### **December 2**

*Weihnachtsfest* Pot Luck;  
meal ready to eat, 12 noon.

### **January 20**

### **February 24**

Genealogy Workshop  
Day.

### **March 17**

### **April 21**

Spring Banquet; 40th  
Anniversary



***Above: All Aboard!**  
Paul Maggitti  
sharing his toy trains  
for all ages at  
**Weihnachtsfest.***



## Smoke so white...

by Paul Maggitti

T'was the night before Christmas,  
And under the tree,  
The toy trains were sleeping,  
Awaiting you and me.

Dad had set them up,  
Beneath the Christmas tree with care,  
The locomotive, the boxcars,  
and the caboose were all there.

Early Christmas morning,  
We boys woke early,  
and sneaked down the stairs,  
To view all the gifts,  
left by Santa right there.

Amazed by what we found under the tree,  
On a great shiny oval,  
there appeared such a train,  
As only we two had dreamed of  
again and again.

A great black locomotive to pull all our train,  
Green, Brown and Yellow boxcars,  
and a caboose so Red,  
We were too excited to head back to bed!

When finally mom and dad roused from their sleep,  
They headed to our bedroom,  
They opened the door, "Awake it's Christmas morning!"  
And they heard not a peep, the children were not sleeping,  
In dreams so deep.

Mom and Dad hurried downstairs,  
Expecting the worst,  
but the gifts were not opened,  
And this was a first!

They found their two boys entranced by the train,  
But frustrated boys they were;  
they could not make it run,  
After all the early morning hours, their efforts were in vain,  
Mom and Dad came near, could our boys need consoling?

Then Dad knelt down  
and showed us a small black transformer,  
With a flick of his wrist,  
Dad started the great train rolling,  
"Watch, watch it now, as it comes round the curve!  
It starts out slowly, but soon picks up steam,"  
With the engine's great chugging, and smoke so white,  
We boys could not help, but squeal in delight!

### SOPHIE'S GRANDMA



**November Book Feature:** See back page for details on the 11 a.m. book feature.

**Left:** Book cover for *Sophie's Grandma*, inspired by the late Margaret Freeman, recently published by GCRA.

**Right** Margaret Horn, GCRA member and *Sophie's Grandma* author, presents Bob Freeman (Margaret's husband) with the first copy of the book.



## Lutheran Reformation 500 Year Anniversary

*Religion often played a prominent role in the lives of our ancestral families. Many of us that performed genealogy research found the details of family births, marriages, and deaths in church records. While our families may not have recorded how the Protestant Reformation or religion affected their daily lives, we recognize the Reformation as a significant historical event and mark its 500 year anniversary in 2017.*

Willis Gertner's article on Germans from Russia in US Lutheranism is an essay in a book titled ***Most Certainly True: Lutheran History at a Glance, 75 Stories About Lutherans since 1517***, published by Lutheran University Press for the 500th anniversary of Luther's posting of his 95 theses on the Wittenberg Church door in Germany on October 31, 1517. Chapter member Chuck Lutz co-edited the collection, along with Dr. Mark Granquist, professor of church history at Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN. Willis completed the essay just shortly before his death in June 2015. The essay was edited for this newsletter. The book can be purchased via [www.LutheranUPress.Org](http://www.LutheranUPress.Org), \$15 plus shipping for 242 pages.

### **“Germans from Russia in U.S. Lutheranism: a Distinctive Contribution”**

**by Willis S. Gertner**

**From: *Most Certainly True*,  
Copyright 2017, Lutheran  
University Press**

The story of Germans from Russia in U.S. Lutheranism begins with the fascinating reign of the Russian Czarina, Catherine II the Great. She began life in Germany (1729) as Sophia Friederike von Anholt-Zerbst, a Prussian princess.

Czarina Elisabeth, a daughter of Czar Peter the Great, invited Sophia to Russia in 1744 as the prospective bride of the designated heir to the throne, Elisabeth's nephew Peter.

Sophia moved to Russia at age 15, married Peter a year later, and changed her name to Catherine. In her new land, Catherine (baptized Lutheran in Germany), identified as Russian Orthodox.

Peter became Czar Peter III in early 1762. Six months later he abdicated, and Catherine (who may have conspired to remove him), assumed the Imperial throne. Czarina Catherine had ambitious plans for Russia. She initiated immediate reforms: promoting education, improving trade, and inviting immigrants with farming skills to settle on open land in Russia's south.

The Catherine II Manifesto was issued in December 1762, inviting people (except Jews) from all the countries of Europe to settle in the lower Volga frontier. The first edict lured few immigrants. A second Manifesto on July 22, 1763 offered specific benefits: Keep your language and cultural/religious tradition, pay no taxes, govern your communities without Russian control, do no military service, own land in perpetuity.

Agents went to spread these glad tidings among thousands of discontented Germans, who faced a shortage of land for farming.

The first group of German immigrants reached their Volga destination in June 1764. By 1798 there were more than 38,000 living in 101 German-speaking colonies. In the early 1800s, large numbers of Germans settled in the Odessa Region north of the Black Sea. By 1832 there were 81 German Lutheran colonies in the Black Sea Region.

*(Continued on page 6)*

## US Lutheranism

*(Continued from page 5)*

To avoid the denominational conflicts that marked Europe for most of the 17th and 18th centuries, the German colonists formed colonies predominantly by religious affiliation: Lutheran, Mennonite, Reformed, and Roman Catholic. All told, 1,700,000 Germans, nearly all farmers and 73% of them Lutherans, settled in Russia, mostly along the Volga River and north of the Black Sea. My Gärtner ancestors were among them, moving from West Prussia to south Russia in 1836.

Though Catherine died in 1796, Alexander I renewed her pledges in 1804 and 1813. But among indigenous Russians in the second half of the 19th Century, a growing antagonism to the privileges given those thriving German settlers spread across the empire. The Germans came to be regarded as an economic and political threat. The freedoms promised by Catherine's Manifesto were systematically taken away by Alexander II. By 1870, the Russian government intervened in established German communities to manage their affairs. In 1871 a decree repealed the privileges the colonists enjoyed for over a century.

The reforms instigated by Alexander II were seen as an unconscionable breach of faith. The German colonists, who had a tradition of anti-militarism, were particularly distressed when a six-year military service law came into force for all fit male Russian subjects. The new military conscription unleashed the first large wave of emigration of Germans from Russia, chiefly to America. To this day, photos of young Germans in Russian military uniforms found in American homes of their descendants reveal that members of some families served in the Russian military before emigrating.

The Homestead Act, adopted by the U.S. Congress and signed by President Lincoln in 1862, was designed to open the Midwest for extensive settlement. Many Germans from Russia, upon arriving in America in the 1870s, took advantage of this free-land offer and began life in their new country on 160 acres of farmland, typically in the new Plains states of Kansas, Nebraska and Colorado, and Dakota Territory.

The German exodus from Russia began in the early 1870s when about 40 families settled in the vicinity of Yankton, South Dakota. My own ancestors left the Grunau area of the Black Sea Region in 1876 and homesteaded in Cottonwood County, Minnesota.

As they had in Russia, the Germans coming to America usually settled new communities here with people of the same faith identity. One of the first things Lutheran Germans from Russia did when settling in their new community was to build a church. The German language was dominant in congregations until suspicions aroused by World War I pressured many to switch entirely to English. Yet, in communities that were almost totally German-from-Russia, such as many in the Dakotas, use of German in church continued, even through the Second World War.

Differing church customs and traditions at times made harmony in one united congregation difficult. Lutheran congregations of Germans from Russia were known to split over doctrinal issues and affiliate with different branches of Lutheranism. Early congregations joined the General Synod, the Ohio Synod or, as in the Dakotas, they mostly belonged to the Iowa Synod, which helped form the American Lutheran Church in 1930 (and now part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) [since 1988].

*(Continued on page 7)*



## US Lutheranism

*(Continued from page 6)*

Some historians say the Lutheran Church —Missouri Synod received a large share of Lutherans from Russia; others claim the Wisconsin Lutheran Synod gained proportionately the largest number of German Lutherans from Russia.

The Great Depression of the 1930s caused immeasurable problems for many of the Lutheran Germans from Russia. Their situation was aggravated by terrible dust storms in the latter '20s and early '30s that caused widespread crop failure year after year. Because of these economic issues, large groups of Russian Germans who settled in the Dakotas, Nebraska, Kansas, and Colorado moved further west to states of Washington and California. Some Lutheran congregations in Texas were organized by Germans from Russia who moved there from the Dakotas.

The Lutheran Germans from Russia who survived the Depression and the dust storms became prosperous in their new homes. They preserved their ethnic identity, undergirded by a staunch faith in God, worked very hard, determined to create a decent livelihood from the good earth. Their farming practices became more mechanized. Rural electrification transformed the primitive prairie lifestyle with lights, refrigeration and electric appliances, along with indoor plumbing. The rural one-room schoolhouse was replaced by consolidated multiple-roomed schools in villages to which farm children were bussed. While educational opportunities increased for those sons and daughters who grew up on prairie farms, they often left their hometowns and found livelihood in larger towns and cities.

As older generations of Germans from Russia have passed on, an entire folk culture is disappearing, leaving only a memory among us descendants.

The American melting pot now seems more predominant than separate ethnic strongholds. However, the threads of influence from the Lutheran Germans from Russia in the US are deeply woven into the warp and woof of America's fabric.

This story of a special breed of German Lutherans in America began with the role of Catherine the Great, a German Lutheran princess. It closes noting that Germany's current Chancellor Angela Merkel, also a Lutheran and a Lutheran pastor's child, is one of the more important women in today's world.

**—Willis S. Gertner, a retired ELCA pastor, was professor emeritus of philosophy and religious studies at University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire. He also served as Lutheran campus pastor at UW Eau Claire. Willis died in June 2015 shortly after writing this.**



*Second Cousins Willis Gertner and Nancy Gertner celebrating 138th anniversary of Great-grandparents Gärtner arriving in America, June 28, 2014, coffee shop in Bloomington, at book reading for "Hollyhocks and Grasshoppers."*

*(Yes, they are accidentally wearing the colors of the flag of Ukraine.)*

**Editor's Note:** Since Willis Gertner wrote this essay for *Most Certainly True* in 2015, Angela Merkel's influence has continued to grow. Named *Time Magazine's* "Person of the Year" in December 2015, *Forbes Magazine* listed her as "Most Powerful Woman in the World" for a record tenth time in 2016. One of the architects of the European Union, Merkel is the first woman to lead Germany since it became a modern nation-state in 1871. Elected to a fourth term in September 2017, Chancellor Merkel, since 2014, is the longest serving incumbent head of government in the European Union and is currently the senior G7 leader.

## ***On Writing US Lutheranism: The Rest of the Story***

**by Nancy Gertner**

Some chapter members remember my Cousin Willis Gertner from Wisconsin attended our reading of *Hollyhocks and Grasshoppers* in Bloomington in June 2014. Willis also attended the September 2014 chapter event.

I credit Willis with awakening me to the fact that our great-grandparents Gärtner came to USA from Russia in 1876. We celebrated the 138th anniversary of that arrival in 2014, at the book reading at the coffee shop in Bloomington.

in 2015, 364 days later, I celebrated Willis's life of 82 years with his widow Betty, his son and two daughters and their spouses, his grandchildren, four brothers and two sisters with spouses, children, and grandchildren; other cousins, at his memorial service in Wisconsin.

How to write about our ethnic group? A typical approach to documenting the contributions of a group is highlighting the achievements of a few select individuals. The "over-achievers," perhaps. German Russian contributions could be challenging to research and document,

since Germans from Russia may not be recognized unless they self-identify. We are, I believe, highly assimilated as an ethnic group, present in the USA for many generations. Marriage into other ethnic groups has "diluted our Germanness." Surname only cannot reveal our ethnic identity.

Listening to an early Sunday morning broadcast of Krista Tippett on Public Radio's "*On Being*" broadcast with guest Parker Palmer, I concluded the most significant contributions of our ethnic group to Lutheranism in America are this: *We are Faithful. We are Humble.* These traits may not be exalted in the 21st Century. And they may not be exclusive to Germans from Russia.

We Germans from Russia can be found in many Lutheran churches. In my church, the Germans from Russia descendants are the family that sings special music in Spanish. The grandmother coordinated the Meals on Wheels program for 30 years. My sisters bake bars and cookies for church events. Our father sang in the choir. Our mother taught Sunday School. My cousin Lyle keeps the country church cemetery records. Chapter members Lil and Dayton Ward volunteer to work the buffet line at the church convention. Cindy Miller reads scripture in church. Carol Just worked with a group to preserve a country church in North Dakota. I sewed costumes for the Christmas pageant. *What would the Lutheran Church do without us?*

Cousin Willis began writing this essay in January 2015 as he and wife Betty began their winter vacation in Texas, visiting daughter Sandy and her family. Shortly after returning to Wisconsin in the spring, Willis was hospitalized. The illness was terminal. At his memorial service, I learned from the eulogy delivered by Pastor Greg Kaufmann that Willis had completed the essay on contributions to Lutheranism by Germans from Russia. Pastor Kaufmann said he did not know why Willis had written this, but that his own ethnic heritage was German from Russia. Pastor Kaufmann was born in Wisconsin; his grand-parents had settled in Nebraska.

*(Continued on page 9)*



## The Rest of the Story

(Continued from page 8)

I spoke with Pastor Kaufmann to explain why Willis had written the essay about Germans from Russia. Willis was asked to. *It was his heritage.* Pastor Kaufmann never knew that he shared this ethnicity with one of his mentors in this Wisconsin university town. Pastor Kaufmann's title: Assistant to the Bishop. Nominated for Bishop at church conventions of the ELCA Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, Pastor Kaufmann had always removed his name from balloting. Not because he didn't feel capable of performing the duties of the bishop satisfactorily, but because he did not feel that it was his calling to be a bishop.

I noted the words **faithful** and **humble** were among those Cousin Sandy used to describe her father in her tribute. The Gertner Family Reunion fell on Cousin Willis's 83rd birthday several weeks later. Cousin Kyle brought his bagpipes and played "*Amazing Grace*."

As recorded in the Gospel of Matthew:  
*"Well done, good and faithful servant!"*  
 Matthew 25:21



Pastor Greg Kaufmann, Assistant to the Bishop, Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, ELCA, at the memorial service of Willis Gertner, June 27, 2015, Eau Claire, Wisconsin.

## IN MEMORY

### Former Member

### Francis C. (Fritz) Herring

Francis C. Herring, 89, of Edina, passed away peacefully on September 21, 2017. Born in Omaha, Nebraska, Fritz was raised in Cavalier, North Dakota and educated in a one-room school during the Depression. He joined the US Navy at age 16 to serve during WWII. Fritz continued service in the US Navy through 1947; then served in the Korean War with the US Army through 1953, and in the US Marine Corps through 1961.

Fritz owned Howe Moving and Storage in St. Paul until the age of 60, when he pursued his love for music by deliver-ing over 2500 singing telegrams. Fritz was an active member of local Optimist Clubs and Toastmasters chapters for over 55 years. He recently prepared to take his parliamentary procedure exam.

Proceeded in death by his wife, Pearl, of 56 years, Fritz is survived by his children Paula (Tim) of San Diego, and David (Amy) and grandson Ben of Medinah, IL; Sister Jan (John) Best of Mesa, AZ, and many friends in the community. Fritz will be remembered for his Christian faith, love of Prussian History, gardening, bee keeping, barbershop singing, zest for performing, passion for reading, genealogy, and loyalty to the US Military. His memorial service was held September 30 at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Edina.

## **Lutherans in Siberia: Bishop Alexander Scheiermann's latest report was written by Former Bishop Volker E. Sailer**

"Brotherhood" was the theme of a recent meeting of the *"Evangelisch-Lutherische Kirche Ural, Sibirien und Ferner Osten."* (ELKUSFO) Brothers serving their congregations and Brothers from other EKLKRAS-Churches were invited.

The dean and youth group coordinator, Vladimir Winogradow, took charge together with Viktor Subkow, the secretary of the church and encounter center of Omsk. They also invited the former bishop of the Siberian church, Volker E. Sailer.

The group of ten men examined the topic, using the key theme found in 1 Peter 2:16-17a which the German Luther Bible translates as "Love your Brothers." In another translation, both in Russian and English, the verse is rendered like this: "Love the Brotherhood." Which one is correct: loving the "Brothers" or the "Brotherhood?" They discussed both possibilities, for either one could be correct.

The early September gathering at the holiday resort called "Fairy Tale," about 60 km from Omsk, was a very pleasant time together with sun and beautiful surroundings. A "sports and hands-on" program was used, to set up a local ministry outreach to other men.

However, considering the "great commission," we could not leave out the spiritual facet. Former Bishop Volker E. Sailer, in his Bible studies, showed us how the Pharisee-like Paul could bond and work aside with the Levitical Barnabas. Another example was the relationship between Philemon and Onesimus, as Paul tried to win Philemon over, so that he might take Onesimus in for the sake of "The Brotherhood." The third part of the study was about Demas (from Colosse), being the unreliable servant – with this in mind, we went through the topic "How to Deal with Weaker Vessels in our Brotherhood."

Much attention was also paid to the following topic: "The Attitude on the Inside Matters." Love not only leads people together and holds a family together, but it also enables a brotherly community within a congregation. A minister should always say to himself: "Congregation, I love you," even if it is sometimes difficult. Therefore love, especially the love of God, is essential for a successful brotherhood. Vladimir Winogradow applied psychological and pedagogical aspects to the theme, and the participants were quite engaged. I speak from experience about how important it is to have a role model and how it is just as important to be a role model oneself.

This first seminar was concluded with gratitude and contentment. The two brothers from Krim and from Volga said their goodbyes while those remaining departed to a different retreat center. A few brothers from Omsk also joined us. Once again, we were a "temporary brotherhood" comprised of ten persons. In this second seminar it was the task of the first participants to share previously learned content with the new persons present and to instruct them in how to practically apply the knowledge. An open exchange took place about the distinctives of the faith and how one may try to provoke interest within men. Special emphasis was placed on the unchurched. Thus, the goal of both seminars was that the men present would go and live out what they had learned.

—Former Bishop Volker Seiler

**Lutherans in Siberia:** How to support the work of Bishop Alexander Scheiermann: Send donations to: **First Lutheran Church of Richmond Beach and Preschool of Richmond Beach, 18354 – 8th Ave. NW, Shoreline, WA 98177-7398; Noted: For the ministry of the Church in Saratov or Siberia.**

(Tel.: 206 546 4153) *Please specify your support (e.g. Ministry Scheiermann – OR Saratov).*

**Editor's Note:** Bishop Scheiermann was our guest speaker in November 2014.

**North Star Chapter Membership Form****I belong to:**

\_\_\_\_ New    \_\_\_\_ Renew    \_\_\_\_ Individual    \_\_\_\_ Family    AHSGR \_\_\_\_ And / Or GRHS \_\_\_\_

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

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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 (\$65) to GRHS, 1125 W. Turnpike Ave., Bismarck ND 58501**

***Please make your check payable to North Star Chapter and submit to:  
Lil Ward, 5177 Red Oak Drive, Mounds View, MN 55112***

**OR Renew in person at our chapter events, or via chapter website.**

### **Spring Cleaning is Motivational!**

Kim Dockter Ross (right) and her mother (left), guests at our September meeting, brought this ***Star Tribune*** newspaper they have cherished since 1996. They were pleased to see and recognize North Star Chapter founding member Carol Just (center) at the meeting and posed for this photo.





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

### November Genealogy Workshop; 11 a.m. Saturday 18 November 2017

Duane Stabler will provide an overview of the latest publication of Glückstal Colonies Research Association (GCRA). The new book, released in July, is a book for grandparents and great-grandparents to share with grandchildren.

**About the book:** History is not always about famous rulers and military leaders. Where you live; the language(s) you speak; the foods you eat; and much more are also dependent upon decisions made by your ancestors.

Sophie, as anthropomorphized by a little bear, is introduced to her ancestral heritage by her grandmother. Sophie's grandparents and great grandparents came to the United States from German colonies established in South Russia.

Young readers and listeners of similar heritage will appreciate learning about the sweep of history during the 19th and 20th Centuries.

During this overview, Duane will explain how GCRA developed this book and dedicated it to Margaret Freeman, one of GCRA's founders who had the vision for the book.

The book makes a great gift for children because of the full color illustrations and for the story that can be read to children to stimulate discussing our German-Russian heritage.

The book ***Sophie's Grandma*** will be available for sale at the November meeting.