

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).

Documentary: "Women Behind the Plow"

Saturday, January 18, 2020

Berea Lutheran Church

**7538 Emerson Ave S
Richfield, MN 55423**

1:00 p.m. - Business meeting

1:45 p.m. Program

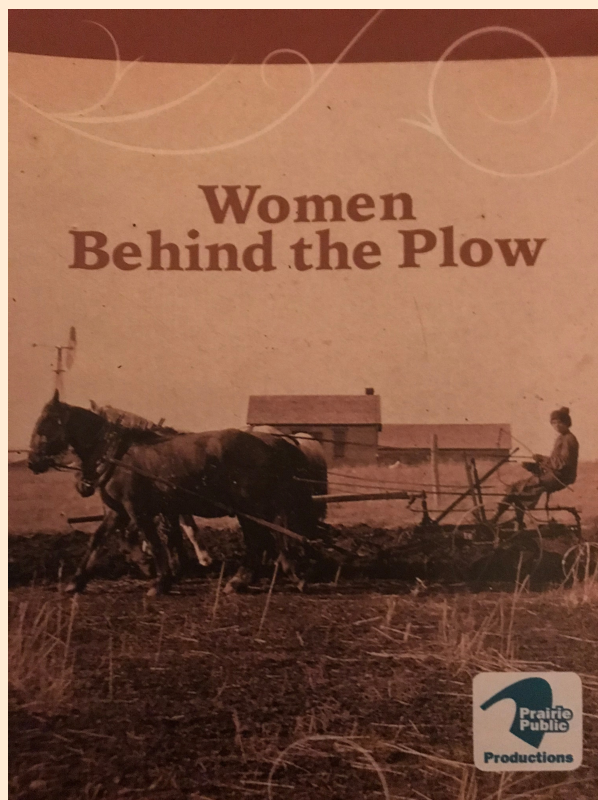
Women Behind the Plow

C 2019 Prairie Public Broadcasting

Women Behind the Plow tells the compelling stories of determined and indefatigable women who settled the North Dakota prairie; and of the new generations, ages 15 – 92, who continue to work on the farm. These women embody the German-Russia expression "*Arbeit macht das leben suess*"...."Work makes life sweet."

The 60-minute documentary is based in part on the book ***Women Behind the Plow*** which honors the contributions of women who worked in the fields and raised families in a time before electricity; the 10th in a series of award-winning documentaries produced by Prairie Public Television and the **NDSU Libraries' Germans From Russia Heritage Collection**.

The women featured have roots in German-Russian country, an area in south central North Dakota comprising Emmons, Logan, and McIntosh Counties. It's an area strong on agriculture but even stronger on heritage and stories. Chapter member Carol Just is featured.



North Star Chapter 2019 Officers

President

Paul Maggitti
952

Paul_Maggitti

1st VP/Program Chair

Lil Ward
763

2ndVP/Membership

Sue Ward

NorthSChapter at Gmail.com

Treasurer

Art Stabner
507

WaStabner

Secretary

Sherry Jackson
651.

SherryMJackson

GRHS Chapter Rep:

Marilyn Brink

Newsletter Layout & Editor

Nancy Gertner
612

Website

www.northstarchapter.org

Webmaster

Sue Ward
NorthSChapter at Gmail.com

Chapter President's Message

by Paul Maggitti

Thankfully, our chapter does not run on auto-pilot!

We elected chapter officers at the November business meeting. Election results: Paul Maggitti in his second year as President; Lil Ward as 1st VP Programs; Sue Ward as 2nd VP Membership; Art Stabner in his third year as Treasurer; and Sherry Jackson as the new Secretary.

Thanks to the dedicated group of volunteers who worked with Lil Ward and Helen Kleingartner to bring about a successful *Weihnachtsfest* on December 7. This group set up and decorated tables, cleaned up after *Weihnachtsfest*, and helped set up toy trains. Fortunately the weather cooperated, and with a great turnout, we experienced spirited *Gemütlichkeit*. Chapter members Mayo Flegel and Sam Brungardt were presented with "Spoon Awards" for "Stirring It Up," recognizing their leadership roles in publishing the chapter cookbook, *Sei Unser Gast*, in 1996, still producing revenue for the chapter. We sadly learned that Mayo passed away on New Year's Day. See Memorial service details for Mayo on page 6. We sympathize with the Flegel Family and thank them for sharing their patriarch with us.

As our North Star winters are frequently unpredictable, it can be challenging to schedule speakers for our January and February meetings. We can look forward to two interesting documentary DVDs—one from North Dakota Prairie Public Television and a second from Minnesota Pioneer Public Television—that we'll view during the January and February chapter meetings. See pages 1 and 3 for more information.

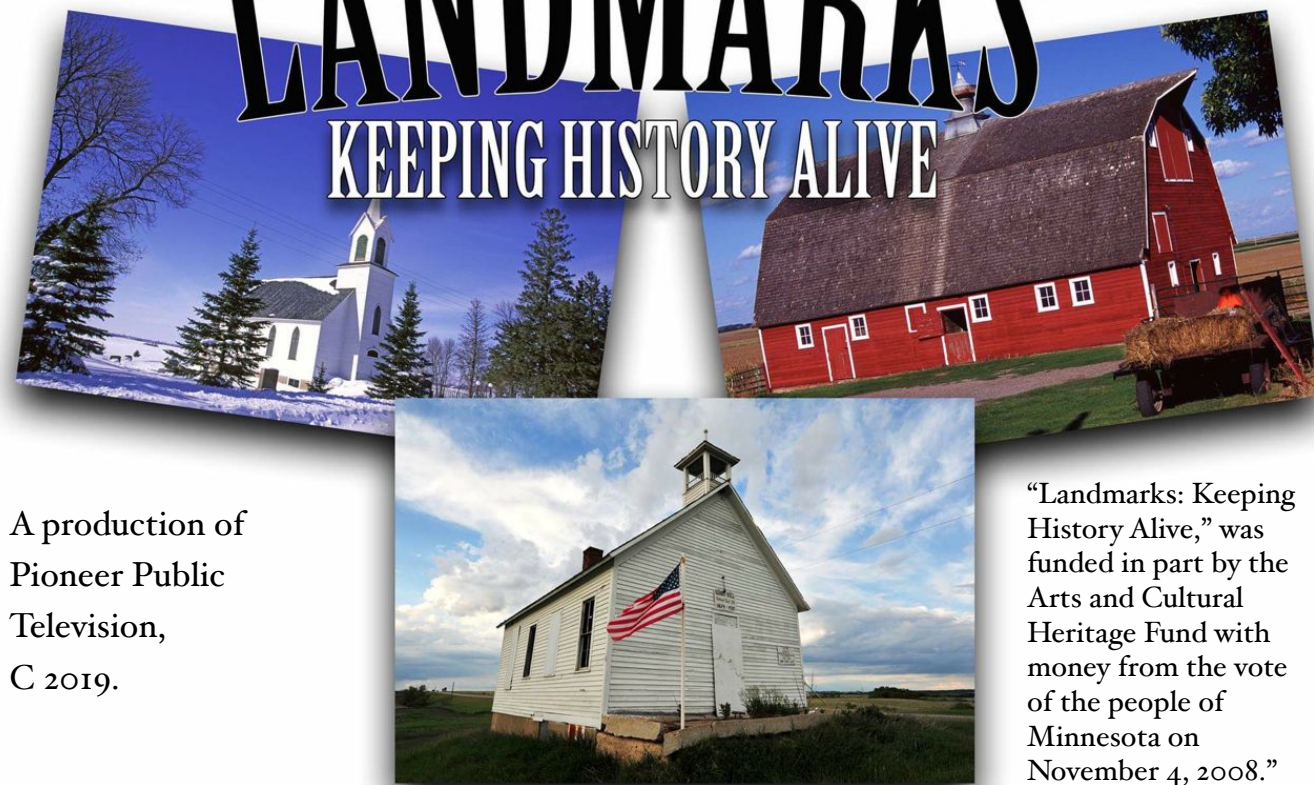
Any chapter member can volunteer to work on our programs and provide inputs to our newsletter. If you are going to attend the GRHS or AHSGR conventions this summer, please consider writing an article, providing photos, and coming away with new program ideas and presenters for future chapter meetings in 2020 or 2021. Paul Winter attended the 2019 AHSGR convention, and came away with several ideas for presentations. Likewise 2019 GRHS attendees brought back ideas and contacts we can use for 2020 spring or fall programming.

NOTE on email addresses: Use this format when emailing chapter officers.

name@Provider.com (Replace the "at" with the @ symbol and use no spaces in between.)

LANDMARKS

KEEPING HISTORY ALIVE



A production of
Pioneer Public
Television,
© 2019.

“Landmarks: Keeping History Alive,” was funded in part by the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund with money from the vote of the people of Minnesota on November 4, 2008.”

Saturday, February 15, 2020
Berea Lutheran Church

7538 Emerson Ave. S.
Richfield, MN 55423

February Genealogy Research Day

10:00 a.m. - Library open for research
1:00 p.m. - Business meeting
1:45 p.m. Program

The places we've lived are often remembered by their architecture and landmarks. Minnesota photographer Doug Ohman's photos have appeared in seven

books published by the Minnesota Historical Society Press. “Landmarks” is his first documentary film, a collaboration with Pioneer Public Television in Appleton, MN, aired on the station in 2019. We'll view the hour long documentary film featuring barns, churches and schools of southern and western Minnesota, with Minnesotans telling their stories. Chapter member Nancy Gertner is interviewed at her one-room school in Cottonwood County, which appears in the “Schools of Minnesota” of the Minnesota Byways series of books published by Minnesota Historical Society Press.

Long Cold Winters On The Farm

by Lil Ward

Living on the farm and going to a one room country school, I always felt that winter started after Thanksgiving. That's when the snow seemed to start falling and getting the one mile to school was sometimes harder. We usually got a ride to and from school unless the roads were blocked. That's when Dad had to get out the hay rack, put hay in it; then hitched up the work horses to take us to school. This didn't happen often enough as far as I was concerned.

The wait for Christmas seemed endless. After the Sunday morning church service in Gackle, we practiced for the Christmas Eve program. The older children got to be Mary, Joseph and angels while the rest of us had "pieces/verses" to memorize. I was very shy so it was scary to take part in the church program. I'm sure that there were some years that I didn't get up to say my piece because I was so scared. But I loved singing all the Christmas Carols with the Sunday School children and the congregation. The church, including the balcony, was always packed. The highlight of the evening was getting our Christmas Sacks which were filled with apples and oranges, nuts, hard candy and maybe a candy bar. It was so exciting, and we weren't allowed to open our sacks until we got home.

We usually didn't get Christmas presents. But siblings tell me that one year the youngest two brothers each got skis and



Lil (Kleingartner) Ward's memories of "Long Cold Winters on the Farm" in North Dakota include traveling to school via sled pulled by work horses.

my sister Helen and I each got an 18 inch porcelain headed doll. Another year my brothers got a sled to share and Helen and I received kitchen items like a small refrigerator, stove and dishes. I still have my doll, and the kitchen toys are at our Mom's house in our hometown of Gackle, North Dakota.

Following school holiday break, the days seemed pretty boring. The days seemed longer, snow fell more often, and there was nothing to look forward to. We had our chores to do every day. The boys had to do outside work like walking around the country looking for rabbits to shoot, or trapping muskrats and mink during their season. They often had to go in the silo and chop the frozen silage from the walls of the silo. Then there were the regular chores of feeding the horses, cattle and pigs, milking the cows and hauling out the manure! Not a favorite chore.

Long Cold Winters On The Farm

(Continued from page 4)

The girls had chores to do, always in the house. We helped Mom clean the house and set the table, then washed up dishes. We had quite a bit of play time also.

The living room in our house was only for company and everything took place in the kitchen. Mom tried to keep us busy and often joined us when she wasn't cooking. We loved to play games. A favorite was "Crookinole" (carom) using your fingers to shoot the rings in the pockets (we didn't have the sticks). Another favorite was the wooden marble board (now called Sorry) with sometimes four of us playing, which was more fun than just two of us. We also had checkers and Monopoly; however, as the youngest of ten Kleingartner children, I didn't like the strategy games since I never won! Mom loved to put together jigsaw puzzles so there was usually a board with a puzzle somewhere. I still love to play games and put together jigsaw puzzles.

The kitchen table always had a bowl of nuts in their shells with nut crackers and picks. Oranges, apples and sometimes grapefruit were on the counter. Halvah was a special treat around the Christmas season. We often had popcorn and homemade hot chocolate as special treats.

Since we lived on a farm and milked cows, we had cream so we made ice cream often. The brothers argued about whose turn it was to go outside to get the ice to make the ice cream. They also argued whose turn it was to turn the crank to make the ice cream (there were advantages to being the youngest child!). Mom made hot chocolate syrup for the ice cream which we savored! How I miss the homemade ice cream and chocolate syrup.

During those winter months, I remember sitting around the radio with Mom (Martha) and Dad (Balzer) while listening to the Lowell Lundstrom Gospel program from Sisseton, SD. Sometimes we got a country music program from Yankton, SD and another from Del Rio TX. Occasionally we were able to tune in the Grand Ole Opry program from Nashville, TN, which was really exciting.

Sitting in my house today with heat and not needing anyone to stoke the coal, a television set in several rooms and food that takes minutes to heat in the microwave, I get nostalgic for the old farm days, and growing up with my older sister, Helen, and older brothers Rupert, Irvin, Gordon and Norbert (deceased); Albin, Norman, Melvin (Pete) and Edwin (Ed).

The North Star Chapter cookbook (*Sei Unser Gast*) and anthologies (*Hollyhocks and Grasshoppers* and *Watermelons and Thistles*) will be available for purchase at the January 18th meeting and the February 15th Genealogy Day. All three make excellent gifts. This is a great way to support the North Star Chapter and to keep our culture alive for future generations.

Also available all year at our website!

NOTE: Submission Deadline for the next newsletter is 15 February 2020. Please put **newZletter** in the subject line, and email inputs to: NancyGertner
No Zip files please!

**In Memorial: Mayo Flegel, Member,
Former Chapter President**

Mayo Flegel, age 88, of Belle Plaine, formerly of Le Sueur and Mankato, passed away Wednesday, January 1, 2020 in Rochester, MN with his family by his side.

Memorial services are scheduled for Saturday, January 11 at 11:00 a.m. at Zion United Church of Christ in Le Sueur, MN. Visitation will be at the church on Friday, January 10 from 4:00-7:00 p.m. and one hour prior to the service on Saturday, January 11 at the church.

Mayo was born just before the dust bowl years on October 12, 1931 on a farm near Kulm, North Dakota to the late Fred and Alice Flegel. He and his four sisters attended a one room rural school, walking or riding a horse to school most of the time. After high school, Mayo attended a teacher's college for one year and taught in the same rural school he had attended.

Mayo left the farm to enlist in the U.S. Army for three years, being stationed in Germany for 18 months. Here his lifelong love for travel began. He returned to college at North Dakota State University, earning a degree in Industrial Engineering. While in college, Mayo was elected into "Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities," two Honorary Engineering Fraternities and was named Outstanding Veteran of the Year in 1962. He served on the Student Senate and the college publications staffs, in addition to holding offices in several other organizations.

On April 18, 1964, Mayo married the love of his life, Barbara Huck; she preceded him in death on March 24, 2003. Mayo was lucky to find love again and married Janet Lohberger on May 6, 2005; she preceded him in death on August 9, 2019.

Mayo spent most of his career with the Green Giant and Pillsbury companies working in Quality Control, Industrial Engineering and leading seminars on motivation and creative problem solving. He became the Director of Industrial Engineering for Green Giant and later for Pillsbury, before leaving after 26 years to start his own Engineering Consulting Company, which he ran for another 16 years, consulting in Asia, Europe, North and South America.

A member of the North Star Chapter of Germans from Russia, Mayo served as its President, Membership Chair and Cookbook Chair of the *Sie Unser Gast* Cookbook Committee. He served on the Board of Trustees of the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia for eight years as Fundraising Chair, Vice President, President and Annuity Coordinator. In 2008 he was awarded the Distinguished Service Award by AHSGR.

Mayo is survived by three children: Jim (Emilia) Flegel of Plymouth, MN, Paula Thuerman of Waupaca, WI, and Anne (Matt) Podhradsky of Chaska, MN and his 'good guys' whom he adored, grandsons Zack, Alex, Ben, Christian, Will and Lincoln. He is further survived by his step-children Lyndel (Evelyn Alexander) Lohberger of Rosamond, CA, Shelly (Kelly) Branscom of Albuquerque, MN, Brian (Liz Sundet) Lohberger of Medford, MN, and Curt (Joan Garcia) Lohberger of Port Edwards, WI; five step-grandchildren, and his sisters Wanda Gebhardt of Monango, ND and Clair Bjur of Kulm, ND along with numerous nieces and nephews.

Mayo was preceded in death by his parents, his wife Barbara, second wife Janet, and sisters Irene Feil and Genevieve Zinter.

North Star Chapter Membership Form

New	Renew	Individual	Family
-----	-------	------------	--------

I belong to:

AHSGR And / Or GRHS

Name(s)

Address

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

National Membership: AHSGR GRHS Both

Local dues are \$20 per year per family, plus membership in either AHSGR or GRHS.

AHSGR members please submit \$70 (\$50 for AHSGR, \$20 for North Star).

GRHS members please submit \$85. (\$65 for GRHS, \$20 for North Star).

Please make your check payable to North Star Chapter and submit to:
Sue Ward, Andover , MN 55304



Weihnachtsfest 2019 (Clockwise from upper left): *Playing with trains, “Spoon Awards” presented to Sam Brungardt and Mayo Flegel; Zimmerman Family with Saint Nick.*



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

2020 Planned Meeting and Event Dates:

(Subject to change due to speaker schedules and facility availability; check website or Facebook page for updates)

**January 18: "Women
Behind the Plow,"
Documentary**

**February 15: Genealogy
Research Day in Chapter
Library (Morning);
Program in afternoon:
"Landmarks"
Documentary**

March 21

April 25: Spring Banquet

News from Bishop Alexander Scheiermann of Evangelical Lutheran Church of Urals, Siberia and Far East

A new House of Prayer was consecrated on Reformation Sunday, October 31, 2019, in Krasnojarsk in Eastern Siberia. Located on the trans-Siberian Railway, about 4065 Km from Moscow, the city was founded in 1628, with name meaning "Red Hill." The service included music from virtuoso Dimitrij Kremer, who presented some original compositions, with guests from Germany and Siberia. Special guest was Michael Hübner, Secretary-General of the Martin-Luther-Bund, who presented a "Luther Rose" to the congregants, along with a check for the church. Russian pastor Gleb Piwiwarow came to the Siberian city in 2013, where the church brings hope, faith, peace and love to the people of Krasnojarsk.