

GROW Newsletter

Germans From Russia of Oregon and SW Washington
Area chapter of the Germans from Russia Heritage Society (GRHS)

Volume 1 Issue 3

April-May-June 2002

President's Message

I can hardly believe that we are one quarter into the year of 2002. It is really encouraging to look back and see the growth of our GROW Chapter. We started seven months ago with 16 family members and now have over one hundred. It is exciting to see the willingness of people to help with their attendance and their all-around support. It is my hope that we can keep the momentum we have exhibited thus far. I also hope we will be able to have programs of interest for our group. It is interesting that in the short time we have been meeting, our Chapter has sponsored a very successful Genealogical Workshop and that there seems to be interest for additional seminars for searching our ancestral heritage. It is my hope that we can continue to help our members find information in their family tree search.

It is my privilege to remind our members of our National GRHS Convention August 8 through 11 at the Radisson Inn in Bismarck, North Dakota. It would be very encouraging if quite a few would attend and show commitment to our heritage and support our National GRHS by a good GROW representation.

I'm always impressed by the friendliness and the excellent fellowship we have in our Chapter meetings. I look forward with great anticipation to these group meetings with you.

Oscar W. Geiszler, President

Help Wanted: Newsletter

Due to recent changes in my life, I will not be able to continue preparing the GROW newsletter. If you are interested and have computer word processing and graphics skills, please contact Roger Haas at rahaas@uswest.net The deadline for the next GROW newsletter is June 1, 2002.

Inside This Issue

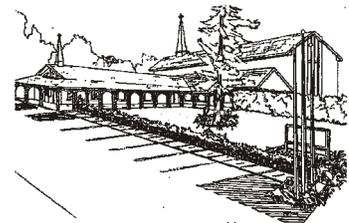
	Page
Trace Your Ancestors by Margaret Schwahn Rehwalt	2
Old Ebenezer Baptist Church by Lola M. Weber	2
The Lean Years by Walt Aman	3
German Relatives	3
Fairs by Roger Haas	4
Programs, Board Meetings, Sunshine Gal	4
Cousins by Jackie Peterson & Gayla Ohlhauser Gray	5
High German vs. Low German by Roswitz Niessner	5-6
Scheduled Programs, Board of Directors	6
GROW Internet Genealogy Seminar	7
Committee Chairs	7
EWZ Files by Bob Schuh	8
Welcome New Members	8
Dr. Don & Nancy Miller by Lola Weber	9
GROW Miscellaneous	10
GRHS Application	11

2002 Upcoming Events

Chapter meetings held at Solid Rock Baptist Church	
April 19	Board Meeting
April 28	Chapter Meeting (Election of Directors)
June 14	Board Meeting (Installation of Directors)
June 23	Chapter Meeting
August 8-11	GRHS Convention, Bismarck, ND

Chapter meetings begin at 2 p.m.
Directions to Solid Rock Baptist Church
8510 SE Battin Rd., Portland, Oregon

From I-205 heading South take the Johnson Creek Blvd. Exit (#16). Turn right onto Johnson Creek Blvd. Turn left onto SE Fuller Rd. And then left onto SE Battin Rd.



Solid Rock Baptist Church

From I-205 heading North Take the Johnson Creek Blvd. Exit (#16) and stay straight to go onto the ramp. Turn left onto Johnson Creek Blvd. Turn left onto SE Fuller Rd and then left onto SE Battin Rd.

Trace Your Ancestors At A Local Family History Center

By Margaret Schwahn Rehwalt

The Family History Library, in Salt Lake City, has over 235,000 books, 8 million family group records, and 1.8 million rolls of microfilmed records. But you don't have to go all the way to Salt Lake City to find your ancestors. There are more than 3,400 Family History Centers worldwide. Family History Centers are branch facilities of the Family History Library in Salt Lake City and they provide access to most of the microfilms and microfiche in the Family History Library, helping you to find your ancestors.

You can save time by doing research before going to your local Family History Center if you have access to the Internet. For example; if you want to find what records the Family History Library has on a particular area that your ancestors came from, you would go to the Family History Center website at **www.familysearch.com** and select Family History Library Catalog. In the 'location search' box, type in an area or village name to see what records they have for that area. Most of the records are on microfilm and if there is film on the place you are researching, you will be shown a list of available films. Print the information on the available films and take it to your local Family History Center for ordering. If you don't have access to the Internet, don't panic. Most local Family History Centers have the FamilySearch program on their computers so your research can be done there. And each center is staffed with volunteers to help you.



Next, you need to order the microfilm you selected. It will take about two weeks to be received at your local center. The cost is \$3.25 for each microfilm for a period of 30-45 days. You can renew the film for another 30 to 45 days for another \$3.25. Each center has several microfilm readers to assist you in viewing the films. They also have a microfilm reader/copier and for 25¢ you can make a photocopy of any record you find.

Ships records, census records, civil records, church records, these are just some of the categories of records that can be found at Family History Centers, from all parts of the world. For me it is like opening a very special present every time I get a new film and start reading it. Take a few hours and go to your local Family History Center and see what exciting doors

they can open for you. You won't regret it. To find a center close to you, go to www.familysearch.com or look under Churches – Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in your local phone book and select the Family History Center phone number.

Old Ebenezer Baptist Church Hand County, South Dakota

By Lola M. Weber

In the spring of 2001, I visited the grave site at the old Ebenezer Baptist Church cemetery in Hand County, South Dakota, and the homestead in Emmons County, North Dakota, of Jakob Weber (b. 10 Sept 1866, Scharogenwa, Odessa, South Russia; d. 26 Sept 1940, Miller, Hand Co., South Dakota; wife Eva Huether). Although only the foundation of the church remains, the cemetery is still maintained and sits on a hill, fenced with not a tree in sight and where the wind blows nonstop. The grave markers for Jakob and Eva Weber were photographed along with all of those buried in the cemetery, and the photographs were submitted to the North American Baptist Heritage Commission in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Lester Weber, who helps maintain the cemetery, checked and corrected WPA records. The recording of these gravestones was also submitted to the Germans from Russia Heritage Society of Bismarck, North Dakota, and is posted on the pixel site so that others looking for Germans from Russia in that area may view the gravestone information on the Internet at <http://pixel.cs.vt.edu/library/odessa.html>.

Part of the history of Ebenezer Baptist Church was obtained from The 75th Anniversary book for the Wessington Springs (SD) Diamond Jubilee Special Edition (1882-1957) as follows. "German Baptists Establish Church Despite Setbacks: Looking back over a span of some 50 years, we find settling to the northwest of the Wessington Springs territory, a group of people of German descent. Because these people felt so keenly the need to worship, they would gather each Sunday in a school house for a time of Christian fellowship. [Among the first members of this organization were Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Weber.] Throughout these first years all their hopes and dreams centered around a church building and in the year 1920 under the leadership of Rev. C. A. Gruhn they saw their dream come true."

Dreams do come true!



The Lean Years
Submitted by Walt Aman

Recently I read an article in the **Oregonian** about the completion of the Oregon Food Bank's new \$15 million warehouse and distribution center in Portland. While this seems to be like something a bit more than adequate, I was surprised to find on the Internet how many people need help in our time. The Food Bank provided 652,000 people with up to five days worth of groceries in the past year. Obviously, the definition of poverty has changed in our lifetime.



All of this information reminded me of my growing-up years in South Dakota during the Great Depression of the 1930s when people talked about “hard times” and when most farmers lost their land to the Federal Land Bank. This was the final failure after drought, grasshoppers, Mormon crickets, and hail and dust storms which resulted in poor crops or no crops year after year. Losing a farm that had been homesteaded and built up through a lot of hard work broke the spirit of farmers and their will to try again, which is what happened to my own father. There were some government programs set up to help, such as the purchase of cattle when feed was no longer available. We sold some very good cows for the grand sum of twenty dollars per head. These animals were then killed and buried. While this sounds bad to think about now, try to imagine the effect it had on the people who had raised them. Then the WPA set up road building projects in our area. This gave us \$40 a **month** as our cash income. Eggs were selling for 5¢ dozen so that did not buy much. Wheat sold for 16¢ a bushel in 1932, the last year for a normal crop.

There was also a county “relief office” for people who needed help. This program sometimes offered surplus foods such as grapefruit and butter. I remember my parents being reluctant to accept this as they felt they were “not that poor.” My mother usually had plenty of canned food in the cellar, and there was always a pile of potatoes for the winter. I recall a comment to my father by a Federal Lane Bank representative, after having dinner with our family, that the farmer's wife may be better security than his land. My mother was a resourceful cook.

Those were the days of cow chips, corn cobs, and lignite coal for cooking and heating the house. Children became experts in picking cow chips early in life. I recall that my level of enthusiasm for picking

chips was about the same as for milking cows. I now agree that those were “hard times.”

There was one Christmas in the mid-1930s that was very lean. That was the year my father spent \$2 for our Christmas treats, a bag of peanuts and a bag of apples. In those days you got a big bag for \$1! There were no decorated “Christmas trees” in those years, except at the Garfield one-room school and at the Gnadenfeld Baptist Church; and there were always children's programs with pine or fir trees and real burning candles. We may have been poor in material things, but Christmas then was more about the reason for the holiday. We learned the story from Luke 2:11 that “in the city of David there has been born for you, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.” That message and the pleasant aroma of the tree and burning candles created lasting memories.

Our parents taught us many valuable lessons for life and how to be resourceful with what we had. My father was a self-taught carpenter, mechanic, and blacksmith, plus on good days he played the violin (called a fiddle in those days). He had built all of our farm buildings long before I came along. Instead of buying parts for farm equipment, he made what he needed.



Like most of the discouraged farmers in our area, my parents moved to Herreid in the fall of 1942; and I enlisted in the US Army on December 7, 1942, one year after Pearl Harbor. When I returned in April 1946, my parents were no longer there, and I had no interest in returning to the land after the bad experiences I had while growing up in South Dakota! That turned out to be one of the best decisions of my life.

German Relatives

Bruder, Schwester	brother, sister
Vater, Mütter	father, mother
Ehefrau, Ehegattin, Frau	wife
Ehegatte, Ehemann, Gatte, Mann	husband
Eltern	parents
Sohn, Tochter	son, daughter
Grossvater, Grossmütter	grandfather, grandmother
Urgrossvater/mütter	great grandfather/mother
Enkel, Enkelin	grandson, granddaughter
Enkelkind	grandchild
Onkel, Tante	uncle, aunt
Neffe, Nichte	nephew, niece

Fairs by Roger Haas

FAIRS of sundry types have been an attractive signage to stimulate all ages to take note; e.g., Portland Front Avenue Neighborhood Fair, Oregon State Fair, Family History Fair, etc. Recognitions, prizes, and awards for exemplary effort or exceptional exhibits are incentives. Germans from Russia and other ethnic groups have a responsibility to educate or inculcate their heritage in their youth. If not, precious memories and/or inheritance will be lost.



What is beautiful is that the elder members, who make up the majority of GROW have “gold” in their possession. Memories, experiences, knowledge, humor, famous recipes, skills trade craftsmanship, and other skills and talents make the elders so valuable. We cannot short-change our loved ones, family, friends, and especially the youth who will carry on our traditions. The task is *ours*, not our children’s, to bring our children into our Chapter. We are their role models, their motivators, and their rewarders. Where are we investing our time, talent, and resources? **Let us invest it in our youth, starting with our own families.**

GROW is now meeting monthly, which is infrequent to significantly influence our youth and our families. Therefore, the home, whether it is parent or grandparent, has the greatest opportunity to transmit our positive German-Russian characteristics and traits. The German people have been known through the centuries for their craftsmanship, their strong personal characteristics, and their responsibility. Let us follow through in our Chapter by putting forth in one or more Chapter meetings per year a display of developments, an array of demonstrations (including cooking and baking), a collection of history and archival illustrations of tricks and short cuts as to how Germans get some things done while others watch. Let us involve our youth. They are *our* children and *our* grandchildren; we have persuasion with our LOVE and our POCKET BOOKS, if no other way. They TRUST us above everyone else. Let us exercise our privilege and responsibility and set up a FAIR that will not be forgotten by our members, our families, our community, and our youth!

Solid Rock Baptist Church has given us excellent facilities: a multi-purpose room with a kitchen, a large

parking lot, and an accommodating Board of Trustees and Pastor. Let’s be charitable and support the Church. Let us start by giving our GROW Board of Directors unequivocal support in formulating a questionnaire of the Membership to ask about interests in activities such as dramatization of story telling, milking a cow, making lye soap, hand washing with a rub board, firing up an old forge, quilt making, making fist-sized dumplings, displaying German-Russian apparel, exhibiting pictures of yesteryear, making sausage and noodles while you wait and *besucht machen* (visit), forming and hearing a Deutsch quartet, *und noch mehr* (and more)

We have *leidenschaft* (passion) and *lust* (joy) about some things and activities. It is time for us to have an “affair” with a FAIR and demonstrate what we can do as precursor for maybe hosting the National GRHS Convention in 2004.

Light a candle? Yes
A torch? Yes
How about a real **roaring** fire?



Are you ready?

Programs

Send ideas/suggestions for LEARN and SHARE programs to Lola Weber at hunter1@kalama.com

For information on 2002 programs, see page 6.

2002 Board Meetings

Meetings start at 7 p.m.; all members are welcome. To allow for accommodations, please notify the host or hostess if you will be attending.

Apr 19 Aman home, 4178 SE Cedar St., Hillsboro,
OR 97123-7466, (503)648-7322

Jun 14 Henne home, 9 Cellini Ct., Lake Oswego,
OR 97035, (503) 635-2348



The Sunshine Gal

If you know of any illnesses, marriages, births, deaths, anniversaries, or other news about members, contact Agnes Herrle (503) 236-5642, 1914 SE Harold St., Portland, OR 97202-4935.

Help Wanted: Help The Sunshine Gal save costs for GROW by making computer greeting cards and/or donate funds to Agnes for postage.

Cousins

By Jackie Peterson and Gayla Ohlhauser Gray

According to the American Heritage Dictionary, Fourth Edition, the definition of *cousin* is:

- 1) A child of one's aunt or uncle
- 2) A relative descended from a common ancestor
- 3) A member of a kindred group

The definition is simple and easy to understand. But what about those cousins who are once removed? Many people, upon hearing of someone who is a cousin once removed, or perhaps a second or third cousin, are left unsure exactly how they and that person are related. Though the naming convention can seem confusing and redundant at first, they are actually quite simple once you take the time to learn the reasoning behind them.

The term "removed" in the context of cousins refers to generations. Any children your aunt and uncle have are your first cousins. If your first cousin has a child, then that child is your *first cousin once removed*—that is, one generation removed from your first cousin. And if that once-removed cousin has a child, that child will be will be your *first cousin twice removed*, and so on.

A *second cousin* is different from a first cousin once or twice removed. If you have a cousin who has a child, and you have a child, your children and your cousin's children are second cousins. Genealogists have a formula for labeling these familial relationships. First cousins share the same grandparents, second cousins the same great-grandparents, third cousins the same great-great-grandparents. *Source: Martha Stewart Living, January 2002 Issue, page 32.*

To see a chart for figuring relationships go to the web site <http://lewisgenealogy.com/relate.html>

To learn more about *double cousins*, *half cousins*, and more complex familial relationships, go to the web site <http://www.arduini.net/tools/cousins.htm>

And then there are *kissing cousins*, cousins who marry cousins. This was not all that uncommon back in the days of Russia when you only married those who were from your village. If you look closely, you'll probably see cousins married to cousins in your family tree.

High German Versus Low German

By Roswita Niessner*

Many Germans from Russia refer to their parents' dialect as "low German" which in most cases is incorrect. High German (Hochdeutsch) is the official German language taught in all schools and universities in Germany as well as German speaking countries like Austria and Switzerland, and German Departments of foreign schools and universities. It is used in business correspondence as well as private letters between individuals. It is sometimes called "Schriftdeutsch" = written German, since all books, newspapers, scientific and other publications are written in High German (Occasionally there are articles, stories or poems written in a specific dialect.)

There is, indeed, a Low German or Plattdeutsch (platt = low, flat) spoken in the lowlands of Northern Germany along the North Sea and Baltic Sea coasts. This seems to enjoy somewhat of a revival as an independent language, even in the US by groups of people whose ancestors came from these regions of Germany. Some books and poems have been published but even those who speak it confess they have difficulties reading it. People from Holstein or Prussia, most often Mennonites, who emigrated to Russia spoke Plattdeutsch.

Emigrants from Hessen, Baden-Württemberg, the Palatinate or other areas in South-West Germany, did NOT SPEAK Plattdeutsch or Low German, they spoke the German dialect specific to their place of origin. People who refer to themselves as being a "Schwob", for example, are from Schwaben (Württemberg) and speak "schwäbisch".

High German was also taught in the schools in Russia. BUT – it was rarely the language spoken in the homes. This varied greatly between the colonies and villages, depending where the colonists came from in Germany. Arthur Flegel is a foremost authority on the dialects spoken in the colonies.

If you speak a German dialect, is this dialect considered a second class language? By no means. Many dialects are still spoken and go back hundreds of year when these areas were separate countries or principalities.

(Continued on Page 6)

(Continued from Page 5)

When Martin Luther translated the bible and Gutenberg invented the printing press it greatly facilitated the spreading of the written word and greatly contributed to the creation of a uniform German language, the language we now call "Hochdeutsch".

**Roswita Niessner was born and educated in Germany. In California she taught German to adults and K-8. Roswita wrote this article in Arizona Sun Chapter so to attempt a better understanding of the High German and Low German.*

Article reprinted from the Arizona Sun, Vol 24, No. 2

GROW Scheduled Programs for 2002

April 28, 2002 – Shirley Nitschke
Author of the book Heimat

Shirley will share with us the character of Helga and her family from her book Heimat. Helga traveled as a young girl with her father and sister to Russia, on the promise of a new life, once it became apparent that life in Germany was falling apart. Her novel is a love story, a coming-of-age story, a family unity story, an adventure story, a dramatic story, a woman's story, and an immigrant's story. This is not simply a history lesson. It is a saga of a brave, courageous woman. It is a personal story, that humanizes history, and touches all of us. It is a story of the Germans in the nineteenth century. The Germans who chose to make the trip to Russia, and the Russia-Germans who came to America. It is a story of hope, survival, conviction, and determination. Heimat is the story of an individual, a family, of three groups, and three nations.

June 23, 2002 – Dale Wahl
The Records Chase
from Archives to GRHS Members

The GRHS is active in obtaining our ancestors records from the old Russian Archives. This is a multi-step process requiring a search and find effort. Once located then it is a matter of gaining positive contact with the archives to attempt to negotiate a reasonable price for a photocopy of the materials. Once an agreement can be reached, then it is a matter of getting a good quality copy of the record in our hands so we

can process the information through our many teams that are busy at GRHS. Once processed, the materials are shared via many Black Sea newsletters, the Heritage Review, or sold as a stand-alone document at our bookstore.

Dale Lee Wahl has been intimately involved as the leader of the GRHS Clearing House through establishment of these many processes that currently functions for us at GRHS, and he will share with us - insight and examples of these many steps that brings the processed products to you as a GRHS member. Dale is the Chairman of the Village Research Project (VRP) where the Village Coordinators (VC), the Area Coordinators (AC), and the Clearing House (CH) functions at GRHS. He is a member of the GRHS Archives Acquisition (AA) Committee, the leader of the Clearing House itself, the chairman of the Computer (CC), and also the Translations committees.

GROW Board of Directors

* indicates 1-, 2-, 3-year terms

President	***Oscar W. Geiszler Oscargeiszler@aol.com
Vice President	**James Helfenstein jimscastle@attbi.com
Secretary	**Gayla Ohlhauser Gray gaylagray@msn.com
Treasurer	*Margaret J. Schwahn Rehwalt mjrehwalt@aol.com
National Board Liaison	***Roger Haas rahaas@uswest.net
Director	*Walter Aman wcaman@aol.com
Director	*Douglas Henne dhenne@teleport.com
Director	**Dr. Cecil Eugene Reinke cecilreinke@juno.com
Director	***Clifford Haberman (503) 252-5480

(Also see ***GROW Committee Chairs***, Page 7)

***Thumbs Up for First
GROW Internet Genealogy Seminar
By Gayla Ohlhauser Gray***

Sixteen GROW members attended the first GROW Internet Genealogy Seminar. The purpose of the seminar was to assist GROW members in how to use the Internet for researching their ancestors and have some fun. Materials included a diskette with over 150 hot links to general genealogy sites and numerous other hotlinks dedicated to specific areas of research in Russia where Germans settled.



Seminar attendee Bill Wiest had this to say about the seminar, "In my view the single greatest value was the disk with so much valuable information gathered in one place! That was a great idea and well worth the trouble you must have gone to in assembling the collection."



"I thought the seminar was very good. I really appreciate the effort you made to gather all the material and it was put together in a way that made it informative and easy for me to use. I don't want to think of how many hours it would have taken me to do that on my own," said Roy Schnaible.

"It was very much worthwhile," said Jackie Peterson, an experienced Internet user.

The seminar was created and supported by GROW members Gayla Ohlhauser Gray, Margaret Rehwalt Schwan, Jim Helfenstein, and Bob Schuh.



If you are interested in attending the next GROW Internet seminar tentatively scheduled for the May/June timeframe, please contact Gayla Ohlhauser Gray at gaylagray@msn.com or 503-547-2938.

(Also see *GROW Board of Directors*, Page 6)

GROW Committee Chairs
Until June 30, 2002

Calling Lorraine Geiszler, Oscargeiszler@aol.com

Hospitality/Greeting
Jan Haberman, (503) 252-5480

**Library/Collection/Research
& Genealogical Assistance to Members**
Jim Helfenstein, jimscastle@attbi.com
Doris Seibert, (503) 651-2394 / (541) 563-3114
Margaret Schwahn Rehwalt, mjrehwalt@aol.com

Membership Cliff Haberman, (503) 252-5480

Programs Lola Weber, weberd@easystreet.com

Refreshments Kathryn Stegemeyer, (503) 760-7337

Special Interests/Obituaries Sharon Voeller,
pvoeller@worldstar.com

Sunshine Gal Agnes Herrle, (503) 236-5642

***The EWZ
(Einwandererzentralstelle) Files***
By Bob Schuh

The February 24th GROW chapter meeting focused on the EWZ files. These files are important to researchers looking for those ancestors who stayed behind in Russia.

The EWZ Antraege (Applications) files consist of over 400,000 applicants for naturalized German citizenship by ethnic Germans during 1939-1945. These collections are arranged by country or region, with individual's files in alphabetical order by family name. The Berlin Document Center at the Archives II facility in College Park, Maryland, has over 3,200 films in these collections. Only a portion of these films are indexed at this time.

EWZ Bibliography

AHSGR Journal, Fall 1997, pp 7-11, "Unite Your Family with the Berlin Document Center Records", by Marianne Wheeler

AHSGR Clues 1996, Pt. 2, pp 28-32, "Using Records of the BDC for Genealogical Research", by Allyn Brosz

FEEFHS Quarterly, Vol. VI, No. 1-4, pp 10,11, "Examples of Successful Stammblater Research", by Steve Stroud

FEEFHS Quarterly, Vol. VI, No. 1-4, pp 7-9, "Emigration Records of the EWZ", by Steven Stroud

FEEFHS Quarterly, Vol. VI, No. 1-4, pp 22,23, "EWZ Catalog- Part I - E/G Kartei"

FEEFHS Quarterly, Vol. VI, No. 1-4, pp 24-28, "EWZ FILMS- Part II-Stammblater Documents"

Researching German-Russian Families in the Berlin Document Center Films National Archives II, Tom Stangl and Janice Huber-Stangl at <http://pixel.cs.vt.edu/library/berlin.html>

Anyone having EWZ films that they would like somebody to index for the community should contact the GRHS EWZ Indexing Project Clearing House Coordinators:

Elli Wise - efilou792@aol.com
Aubrey Marthaller - aubmarth@jetstream.net

Welcome New Members

Our organization is continuing to GROW thanks to you, our members. We are currently over 100 members and still growing. Continue to promote our organization with family, friends, co-workers, and neighbors. A special welcome to the following:

***Ed Barbie
Jacqueline Beach
Mylen G. And Diane Bohle
Florence Di Benedetto
Edwin Edinger
Bernard and Andrea Eisenbarth
Jenice M. Gibson
Edwin H. And JoAn Goehring
Harvey C. Golbek
Alma and Louis Greenwood
Julie and Bob Grunberg
William Hauck
Marcine Herinck
Richard and Shirley Hill
Ms. Willy Smits Horner
Tim and Rachel Janzen
Marion G. Johnston
Lorraine and Roman Jung
Herbert and Hattie Ketterling
Lois K. Klaus
John & Bonnie Kludt
James and Irma Knapp
Elsa Liepold
Kim Lockwood
Doris and Gene Magee
Carolyn and Dale Moses
June Nack
Jacqueline A. Peterson
Frank and Harriette Ruscheinsky
Martin and Janet Scheuffele
Roy and Ilene Schnaible
Martin Senko
Esther Sommerfeld
Agnes and Robert Spidal
Gene and Sylvia Spillman
Elsie Steib
Betty Baron Thatcher
Karen Vance
Rudolph G. Wagemann
Dale Wahl
Ardella M. Weidner
Lorraine L. Werner
Joyce West
Gloria Wetmore
Opal R. White
William and Thelma Wiest
Florence Zwicker***
Willkommen!

***Interview With
Dr. Don and Nancy Miller
By Lola Weber***

Rev. Dr. Don Miller was our speaker at the January GROW meeting. Samual and Tusneilda Miller, Don's father and mother, were German Baptists. It was they, plus extended family who used to live in Ukraine and told him stories about life in Russia. No one had ever written a complete history of these people; no one had ever told their story of suffering and triumph so he felt "called" to do it. He got "hooked" on his family history at an early age and when he retired from being a pastor and seminary administrator, he was drawn to return to the very villages where they had lived.

He is the author of the book, *In the Midst of Wolves, a History of German Baptists in Volhynia, Russia, 1863-1943*. For more information, visit his web site at <http://inthemidstofwolves.com>

His uncle, Heinrich Mueller, at age 37 was a Baptist pastor there; he was shot in 1937 by the Stalinist regime. Don felt he wanted to finish the work his uncle had left undone. For Don, that work started in Ukraine near Kiev in 1993. The work, located in the formerly German villages of his parents and grandparents is committed to helping the poor (especially widows and orphans) with food, clothing, and medicine to empower those people to help themselves. One of the major obstacles is getting things through customs. The corrupt officials have a very controlling spirit and always have their "hands out."



He has led three genealogical tours to the area and has another one scheduled for next June. He was the first to take groups to the area, starting in 1993.

He has been there eleven times and has done a lot of research in the archives so he is well qualified to give people a good tour. There are many state archives in Ukraine; he works primarily in the one in Zhitomir (pronounced: zig mir) where he knows the director. He says that researching is simply a matter of asking for files and hoping you will strike oil.

Helpful Genealogical Translations

abgewandert, gewandart	migrated
angekommen	arrived
aus	from, off, of, out of, past, finished
ausgewandert	emigrated
beerdigung	burial
beerdigt, beerd, begraben, berg.	buried
begräbnis	burial
deren	whose
Dorf	village
Ehepaar	married couple
einwandern	immigrate
Enkelkind	grandchild
erstgeboren	first born
Fürstentum	principality
geboren	born
geburt	birth
Gemeinde	community, township, parish
Geschwister	siblings
gestorben, gest.	deceased
getauft	baptized
getrauen	marry
Gevatter, Gev.	Godfather (baptismal sponsor)
Grossherzogtum	grand-duchy
Haupt	chief, head
Heirat, heiraten	marriage, marry
Herzogtum	duchy
Hochzeit	marriage
Kind, (Kinder)	child, (children)
Königreich	kingdom
Kreis	district
Kriegsgefangener	prisoner of war
Männlich	male
Nach	after, to, at, for, according to
Ort	place
Stadt	city
Stiefkinder	stepchildren
Taufpate, Taufzeuge	godfather (baptismal sponsor)
Taufe	baptism
Tod	death
trauen, Trauung	marry, marriage
verlassen	to leave
verheiraten, verheiratet	marry, marriage
vermählen, Vermählung, Verm.	marry, marriage
verstorben	deceased
Waisenkind	orphan
Weiblich	female
Witwe, Witwer	widow, widower
Wohnort	residence

Family Heirloom Show

Sponsored by The Genealogical Forum of Oregon
Saturday, March 30, 2002, 1-3:30 p.m.
1505 SE Gideon St., Portland

Antique expert Harvey Steele will provide a report for each item including information such as background, additional resources, and a general appraisal. Bring a family heirloom (or two) and donate \$5 for each item registered. (503) 621-6942 or toad@cybcon.com

GRHS Annual Convention

August 8 - 11, 2002
Radisson Hotel
800 S. 3rd St., Bismarck, ND

Make reservations now!
Call 1-800-333-3333

SCHNEIDER LLC ***UKRAINE-GERMANY TOUR***

September 17 to October 4, 2002

This 18-day tour allows eight days in Ukraine and eight days in Germany to travel, visit ancestral villages, and more. The cost of the tour is \$1,900 plus airfare and visa.

For further information contact:

SCHNEIDER LLC
Robert R. Schneider, Manager
1649 N. 3rd St., Spearfish, SD 57783
Phone 605-722-7712
Email rschneider@rushmore.com

Newsletter Exchange

A special thank you goes to individuals and chapters who have received our newsletter and have sent **gemütlichkeit** to our chapter:

Black Hills Chapter
Leo J. Neifer, Ph.D.
Northern California Chapter
Puget Sound Chapter
Danke!

Membership Dues

GRHS and GROW dues are due for the year 2002. If you haven't already paid your dues, we'll make it easy for you. Just write one check to GROW for both organizations and we'll forward your GRHS dues (\$30 directly to Bismarck for you. The GROW minimum donation for 2002 is \$5, which covers the cost of the newsletter and other organizational expenses.

Family News

Do you have family news you would like to share or family gatherings you would like other members to know? If so, please let us know.

WEBER REUNION

– Sunday, July 7, 2002 – Noon - ?

Food: Pizza Ranch, 502 E. Norway Ave., Mitchell, SD
They have a good salad bar plus pizza, chicken and more.

For Buffet & Drink \$6.00

For Buffet & Water \$5.00

Sr. Buffet & Drink \$5.39

Children 11 & under .40 per year with drink

Directions: If you coming from **I-90** take exit 332(Hiway 37), go North to Norway (N side of McDonalds), then go West a few blocks on Norway.

If you are coming from the North on **Hi-way 37**, take the 37 bypass, go past the Holiday Inn to Norway (N side of Jacks Campers) Turn East, go almost 2 miles to Pizza Ranch.

Family Connections: We begin with Johann Michael Weber & Catharina Elizabeth (nee Theurer). Both were born in Neu Freudental, Grosslibental District, Odessa, Russia. It was Elizabeth who, as a widow with children, immigrated via New York in 1886 and then to Dakota Territory. Their children were: Michael, Elisabeth, Fredrich, Margaretha, Jacob, Christina, Karl and Johann. There are many who have married into these family lines and we look forward to meeting you, too!

Bring: Your family information
(births/marriages/deaths/children)
Pictures of your ancestor line
Pictures of people that you may not be able to identify

Places to Stay: There are motels and hotels in Mitchell, SD. The internet, phone books and your favorite hotel/motel travel books will provide the necessary information.

RSVP: Please let your family know about the reunion and let us know how many are coming: Bob Weber, 130 7th St. S., Emery, SD 57332, (605) 449 4210 or email bobnjo@dtgnet.com

For information on Weber family genealogy: Lola Weber, 106 Victoria St., Longview, WA 98632-5834, (360) 423-8359 or email: hunter1@scattercreek.com



GROW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
GERMANS from RUSSIA of OREGON and Southwest WASHINGTON (GROW)

PLEASE STATE WHICH YEAR(S) _____

Circle appropriately: NEW ___ RENEW _____

NAME (Print) _____ Birth Month: _____

(optional)

ADDRESS _____ Anniversary Date: _____

(optional)

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE NO. () _____ E-Mail Address _____

___ **I'm interested in receiving the GROW Newsletter Electronically (Email) to save publication/postage costs.**

Membership Class _____ **GROW** _____

(Chapter Preferences, if any)

Name of Ancestral Village _____

Names of adults in Household desiring cards: _____

Enclosed is my remittance of \$ _____.

GROW NEWSLETTER/OPERATION DONATION minimum	\$ 5.00
Membership	\$ 30.00
Educational (library, etc.)	\$ 30.00
Silver (\$100 beyond annual dues)	\$ 130.00
Gold (\$250 beyond annual dues)	\$ 280.00
LIFE (\$100 per year)	\$ 500.00

Membership fees are due annually on January 1.

LIFE membership fees may be paid in annual installments of not less than \$100.00.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO **GROW** - US Currency

Mail to: Margaret Rehwalt, Treasurer, 19990 SW Edy Rd, Sherwood, OR 97140

GROW Newsletter

The GROW newsletter is a quarterly publication. Receiving your GROW newsletter and other communications electronically as an Adobe pdf file will save GROW printing and mailing costs and you receive the newsletters immediately. (Adobe Acrobat Reader is available as a free download on the Internet at <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>.)

You can also forward the electronic newsletter to friends and family as a way of introducing them to GRHS and to our GROW Chapter. Email DrVJH@yahoo.com if you would like to receive the GROW newsletter in the future electronically.

All submitted materials should include a statement that gives permission for use in the newsletter. Pictures are welcome as we have a scanner

to digitize images and output is done on a graphics printer. Please provide a SASE for materials that need to be returned.

Ideas and suggestions for improvements to this newsletter should be addressed to the Editor at DrVJH@yahoo.com

*Happy Spring
2002!*



Germans from Russia Heritage Society

**GROW Chapter
PO Box 4909
Sunriver, OR 97707-4909**