

# GROW Newsletter

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

Volume 2 Issue 3

April-May-June 2003

## *Message from the Executive Director*

*By Roger Haas*

GROW is in its 18<sup>th</sup> month of existence and volunteers continue to give their time and talent to provide more services to their members. The Board of Directors and the Committees are an inspiration to each other. Their cooperative efforts and singleness in purpose have been very rewarding. Every meeting seems to bring forth a new outreach or produce new ideas for a more successful Chapter. It is that congenial atmosphere that is so positive and enjoyable.

What is transpiring? The Website is continuing to expand. Banners for interior and exterior use are being created. A pictorial scrapbook of activities and of members is being developed. A formal library with donations of more books and materials is in its early stages; more current and cultural collections are being made available to attendees. German and gourmet foods are being prepared and brought to the meetings as refreshments. A Chapter Picnic, with a possible band and other activities, has been arranged for July. There is more—many other talented assistants extending help, too numerous to mention.

Our membership has continued to grow in spite of the increase in the National dues and the loss of some members to the newly formed Inland Northwest Chapter (INWC) in Spokane. We thank you for inviting your family and friends to enroll in GROW.

It is important for members interested in attending the 2003 GRHS Convention at Rapid City, SD, September 4-7, to calendar this event and make reservations. I would also like to encourage you to consider attending the 2003 AHSGR Convention in Yakima, June 15-22. These large gatherings of our German-Russian people are tremendous learning opportunities, and you cannot leave them without having gratitude in your heart to/for the dedicated people who put together the tours, workshops, and other activities. Make these dates a vacation with your family and friends.

One of our missions is to *collect*, another is to *preserve*, and another is to *disseminate* our ethnic

culture. Each of us, in our own manner, has a unique way to share, to give, and/or to step forth with our own creation as to how to promote our ancestors' mission as we come together in our Chapter to enjoy each other's fellowship, good refreshments, and precious memories. What can you bring to make a difference?

*No thought or act is too small.*  
*All is appreciated.*

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## *New Membership Incentive Program*

Each year and for each Chapter, GRHS will match two *new* members for up to two new members for which a Chapter pays dues, all issued at the Chapter's choice. GROW will participate in this program, offering four new memberships at the April Chapter meeting.

**Don't miss meeting these four new members!**

## ***2003 Calendar of Events***

**April 27** - "Prairie Crosses - Prairie Voices" - Iron Crosses stand as sentinels on the prairie landscape, framed by huge expanses of grass and sky. Though they stand silent, behind each one has a story. Video, 60 minutes

**May 25** - Susan Baird "Documenting A Death" - If you've ever wondered how to locate/use death records, obituaries, cemetery information as well as some lesser known findings, this will help in your research. Don't miss Susan Baird's excellent presentation!

**June 22** - Bruno Reule - "Bruno" A Young Boy's Survival in War-Torn Europe. The odyssey of six-year-old Bruno Reule's family that takes them to Yugoslavia, Sudetenland, and finally German-occupied Poland.

**July 12** - 1<sup>st</sup> Annual GROW Picnic in West Linn; for details, see page 8.

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### ***Old News Is Good News***

***Presented by John Rudnick***

January 26, 2003

John Rudnick shared how newspaper research can enrich our knowledge of our ancestors, a vast majority of this information existing only in old newspapers, deeply buried in rolls of microfilm. He says it seems as if his ancestors are speaking to him from the ground of the earth. John invited us on a "journey" as he outlined the goals in newspaper research as:

1. Determine your ancestor's place of residence and time of residence.
2. Find a copy of "Newspapers on Microform" near you. Locally, these are available at the Portland Downtown Library and at a Family History Center (film #1, 145, 942).
3. Find your ancestor's city and its associated newspapers in the above sources.
4. Obtain the newspaper on microfilm. You may use "google.com" for locations of web sites for the historical societies, state archives, and state libraries that have your film. Check to see if the newspaper you are seeking has been indexed.
5. Order the microfilm via interlibrary loan at your local library.

He recommends that we start with reading the first page of the first issue available in the time period you are researching. The examples of information that he has uncovered was very impressive as well as his expert organization of those newspaper articles.

***Thank you, John!***

Contact John at [zypher@teleport.com](mailto:zypher@teleport.com) or at (503) 643-3771

## ***Mennonites in South America***

***Presented by Dr. William Wiest***

February 23, 2003

Dr. William Wiest, whose mother's people (Buxman and Weber) were Lutheran Volga Germans and whose father's people (Wiest and Croissant) were German Baptist Black Sea Germans from Rohrbach, presented a program of music and pictures representing a trip to an area of South America where the German language and culture are being preserved.

Many of the Mennonite Germans from Russia who had emigrated to Canada later moved to South America (Paraguay) when they learned they would lose the German language in favor of English. Beginning about 1930, there were three distinct groups that migrated, some escaping from Germany and some who were primarily German army refugees.

The land in Paraguay proved a challenge with its palm trees, cactus, and scrub brush. Early beginnings required different farming methods; the old methods they had developed didn't work in this hot/dry temperature. They learned to grow peanuts and soy beans and today raise beef and dairy cattle. Posted signs are written in German and Spanish in a land where the Mennonite Germans have developed many businesses, churches, hospitals, and schools.

High German is spoken in the community and low German at home. A calendar has been developed that tells when the time is right and what to plant as well as when to harvest. This is a cultural change for the Indian people which has proven helpful in agricultural planning. We listened to beautiful music of the people of Paraguay and heard wonderful songs being sung in German.

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***A special thank you to Dr. William Wiest***

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### ***Leave Your Legacy***

***Presented by Doug Jacobs***

March 23, 2003

Doug and Linda Jacobs had a compelling desire for over 25 years, culminating in an avenue we can each adapt individually in writing our family histories. It is believed that we all accumulate a "library" filled with wisdom learned from our victories and defeats. We all have countless experiences of humor, joy, and trials which weave the fabric of our character. We leave our legacy to our families and succeeding generations through our stories and the lessons we learn and the principles we derive from them.

***Thank you, Doug and Linda, for sharing your legacy***

To learn more, go to [www.leaveyourlegacy.com](http://www.leaveyourlegacy.com)

## ***That Beautiful Site!***

[www.grhs.org](http://www.grhs.org)

Click on *Chapters*

Find our Chapter under *West Coast*

The GROW web site continues to grow, thanks to Jessica and Bradlee Mertz and their new Assistant, Debra Voeller. Check out the continuing list of additions and find items of interest and news about Chapter meetings, opportunities to volunteer, current contact information for officers and committees, and postings of our past newsletters.

This dedicated group needs to hear from members what you would like to see on this site, perhaps photos, family stories, and/or other member-generated information of German-Russian interest.

***Any and all ideas are welcome!***

*See page 10 for contact information*

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## ***Members' Favorite Web Sites***

All sites below begin with <http://www>.

**Census 1930: SD, Long Lake (McPherson County):**  
[freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~coleen](http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~coleen)

**East Prussian Genealogy (maps/names):**  
[paetzel.info/kartenmeister.htm](http://paetzel.info/kartenmeister.htm)

**Stuttgart Civil Records - Online forms in German, incl. costs):** [stuttgart.de/sde/item/gen/16034.htm](http://stuttgart.de/sde/item/gen/16034.htm)  
If you do not understand the forms, write in English to:  
[poststelle.standesamt@stuttgart.de](mailto:poststelle.standesamt@stuttgart.de)

**German costumes and dress:**  
[costumegallery.com/germbook.htm](http://costumegallery.com/germbook.htm)  
also [sue.edu/costumes/text\\_index3.html](http://sue.edu/costumes/text_index3.html)

**Kutschurgan Web Site:** [kutschurgan.com](http://kutschurgan.com)

**More names in German:**

**First names:** [german.miningco.com/homework/german/library/blvornamen01.htm](http://german.miningco.com/homework/german/library/blvornamen01.htm)

**Girl/Boy names:** [serve.com/shee/namelist.htm](http://serve.com/shee/namelist.htm)

**Pennsylvania Dutch naming customs:**  
[kerchner.com/germname.htm](http://kerchner.com/germname.htm)

**Surname origins (not limited to German):**  
[angelfire.com/ks/windshipgenhelp/indexsurnamehelps.html](http://angelfire.com/ks/windshipgenhelp/indexsurnamehelps.html)

**German first name & meanings (site in German):**  
[kindername.de/](http://kindername.de/)

***What's your favorite web site?***

## ***Other Sites of Interest***

### ***NARA Changes***

General Info/Customer Service 1-866-272-6272

Microfilm Orders: 1-866-272-6272, X 71648

You may need to change your bookmark to the updated web location for the national archives:

[www.archives.gov/index.html](http://www.archives.gov/index.html)

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### ***A Success Story: The German Colonists in New Russia and Bessarabia, 1787-1914***

This article by Dr. Detlef Brandes of Dusseldorf, Germany, can be printed from the Internet at

[www.lib.ndsu.nodak.edu/grhc/media/history\\_culture/history/brandes.html](http://www.lib.ndsu.nodak.edu/grhc/media/history_culture/history/brandes.html)

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### ***Searching for Landkreise?***

Over 320 Landkreise (the equivalent of a county) currently exist in Germany. You can search by map on the Internet to find a Landkreise. The site is in German, but the button marked *Adreßdatenbank* will provide addresses to which you can send mail in English and get a friendly response in English.

[www.kreisnavigator.de](http://www.kreisnavigator.de)

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### ***Researching North Dakota?***

This 1885 census is primarily for the northern Dakota Territory, except Grand Forks County. The actual census is located in the SD State Archives and the Historical Research Library in Bismarck, ND.

[www.lib.ndsu.nodak.edu/database/1885census.html](http://www.lib.ndsu.nodak.edu/database/1885census.html)

Also search the Institute for Regional Studies for the North Dakota Naturalization Records Index and the Fargo Forum Obituaries Index (1985-1995), North Dakota Biography Index (160,000 biographical sketches found in 40 publications), and Cass County Marriage Licenses (1870s-1944).

[www.lib.ndsu.nodak.edu/ndirs](http://www.lib.ndsu.nodak.edu/ndirs)

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### ***South Dakota Ancestors?***

If you have ancestors who settled in South Dakota, the State Archives has South Dakota state census cards available. They are in the process of filming so you may wish to see if they are available for your county via inter-library loan.

The 1885 and 1895 state census are only available for some counties. The 1905, 1915, 1925, 1935, and 1945 records are on cards so you can search them if you are going to Pierre or check this web site to see the progress of filming for these cards:

<http://www.sdhistory.org>

## ***Obtaining the Land Expropriation List***

***By Donald N. Miller***

In 1993 George Maser and I led the first Volhynian Village Ancestral Adventure Tour to Ukraine. While in the State Archives in Zhitomir, my brother Harvey and I asked for any records regarding the Miller (Mueller/Muller) family. After a brief search, we were told there was nothing. We then asked for any information they had on the village of Alexufka, near Pulin, where our parents and grandparents lived. Again, after a brief search, we were told there was nothing.

We must have looked pretty discouraged because after a few minutes, Ruslan Kondratyuk, one of the staff members, came out with a newspaper dating back to June 1916. He said, "Here's something you might be interested in. It lists all the Germans who lost their land in 1915 and were deported to Siberia. It lists the people by their village. Maybe your family is there."

We immediately asked our interpreter, Serge, Ruslan's brother, to look up the village of Alexufka. We could hardly believe our ears when the first two names he read off were that of our grandparents: Adolph Adam Schultz and Michael Heinrich Miller.

Soon the entire tour group was engrossed in checking the newspaper for the names of their family members. It was a great find. I then asked for a copy of that section of the newspaper. Since the Archives didn't have a photocopy machine, the material had to be photographed and the film developed. I was told that it would be ready sometime around 3 o'clock. While pondering the find, my brother and I said to each other, "Wouldn't it be wonderful to get a copy of the entire list of families that were deprived of their land and deported?" The possibility seemed remote, but we finally concluded, "It doesn't hurt to ask." When the material was delivered to us, we made our request known. Surprisingly, we received a positive response; and it was suggested we return around 9 o'clock that evening. By 11:30 that night, we had not one copy but three copies. As I recall, we were charged \$35-\$40.

When I returned to the United States, I made our find known to a number of people, and we began to strategize how this information could be put into useable form and made available to the larger community. After some discussion with Herb Poppe of Seattle, a copy of the list was sent in 1995 or so to Jo Ann Kuhr, research director of the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia (AHSGR).

She contacted Professor Brent Alan Mai of Purdue University, who began the monumental task of translating the some 7,000 names listed in the document. I was given a hard copy of the translation. I understand that the information has since then been put into book form by AHSGR and also put on disc with a search engine so that it can be easily researched.

It should be noted that the original copy (which remains with me) also lists the amount of land that the German colonist had at the time of deprivation, which in my opinion is an unfortunate omission in Mai's publication. Also, some of the names are incorrectly translated due to spelling errors and typographical errors in the original document. I understand that an errata or an addendum to the publication is underway or may already be completed. It might be helpful for those of us who are acquainted with the names on our village list(s) to make these corrections known to AHSGR. Nevertheless, we have here a very valuable resource as it is and are deeply indebted to Professor Brent Mai and AHSGR for making it available to the larger community.

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*Don Miller is an author, pastor, administrator, and farmer, amongst other things. He traveled to the Ukraine in February 2003 in preparation for the publication of another book and plans to visit our Chapter again this Fall. Find other interesting information, including an article on KGB files at his web site:*

**[www.inthemidstofwolves.com](http://www.inthemidstofwolves.com)**

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### ***Familien und Seelenregister***

#### ***Seelenregister männlich***

#### ***Seelenregister weiblich***

These words or abbreviations of them are commonly found in genealogical archival documents written in German. The words translate, literally, as

Family and soul register

Soul register of males

Soul register of females

The term *soul register* was used for a wide variety of census-like documents for German communities, usually created by the local pastor, to monitor the religious status of the population. Some of the soul registers are actually full censuses of the village population, including the names of all inhabitants in their family units; other soul registers may include only *communicants* (inhabitants over the age of approximately fourteen) or only family groups (excluding servants and lodgers).

*Adapted from email of Sheilagh Ogilvie*

Baden-Württemberg List (18 Sep 2002 9:01:43)

**BADEN-WURTTENBERG-L@rootsweb.com**

## Death Registrations By State

Death certificates and other records provide primary research data which is recorded at the time of the event as well as secondary data. In a death record, primary data includes facts such as the date, location, and cause of death. The researcher can also often find secondary data given by the “informant” on the record, including information about parent names, date of birth, and mother’s maiden name. It is critical to verify secondary information as it may be incorrect.

The informant could have been a relative, a friend, a neighbor, or anyone else and may not have had the correct information. He/she may have been in a state of grief and confusion or may have only been able to provide a “best guess” which was then became a part of the record. In some cases, the cause of death may have been disguised to protect the privacy or the reputation of the individual; for example, a suicide may have been recorded as an accident.

Death registrations do provide a foundation for further genealogical research and may even prove to be the only record available for the deceased. Before the early 1900s, recording a death was rarely required. Statewide vital registration of deaths began in each of the United States at different times as indicated below:

|                      |                             |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Alabama - 1908       | Montana - 1907              |
| Alaska - 1913        | Nebraska - 1905             |
| Arizona - 1909       | Nevada - 1911               |
| Arkansas - 1914      | New Hampshire - 1905        |
| California - 1905    | New Jersey - 1848           |
| Colorado - 1907      | New Mexico - 1919           |
| Connecticut - 1897   | New York - 1880             |
| Delaware - 1881      | North Carolina - 1913       |
| Florida - 1899       | North Dakota - 1908         |
| Georgia - 1919       | Ohio - 1909                 |
| Hawaii - 1896        | Oklahoma - 1908             |
| Idaho - 1911         | Oregon - 1903               |
| Illinois - 1916      | Pennsylvania - 1906         |
| Indiana - 1900       | Rhode Island - 1852         |
| Iowa - 1800          | South Carolina - 1915       |
| Kansas - 1911        | South Dakota - 1905         |
| Kentucky - 1911      | Tennessee - 1914            |
| Louisiana - 1914     | Texas - 1903                |
| Maine - 1892         | Utah - 1905                 |
| Maryland - 1898      | Vermont - 1857              |
| Massachusetts - 1841 | Virginia - 1912             |
| Michigan - 1867      | Washington - 1907           |
| Minnesota - 1900     | West Virginia - 1917        |
| Mississippi - 1912   | Wisconsin - 1907            |
| Missouri - 1910      | Wyoming - 1909              |
|                      | District of Columbia - 1855 |



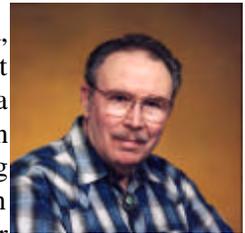
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*Information adapted by the Editor from an article published in FAMILY TREE MAGAZINE (August 2002, pg 34), submitted for this newsletter by Sharon L. Voeller.*

## Member Highlight: Vern Blumhagen

Which member would you like to see in the next edition?

Vern Blumhagen was born in Ronan, Montana, and is married to Marilyn; they had two sons and a daughter, one son died in 1995. He completed 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades in rural North Dakota one-room schools, graduated as Valedictorian from Drake High School (Drake, North Dakota), served in the U.S. Navy, and graduated from Iowa State University with honors. He retired in 1987 after a professional career in Aerospace Systems Engineering and Management and chose to live in the McKenzie River area of Oregon because of its natural beauty and its community spirit.

Vern has always worked hard, that old German work ethic that we all recognize, and had a successful professional career in Aerospace Systems Engineering and Management. As an employee at General Electric for



four years and then at North American Aviation and Rockwell for 29 years, he was the Director of Advanced Analysis, Research & Engineering and Engineer of the Year. He was also listed in American Men and Women of Science and has published papers in technical journals.

The Vida community benefits from his service in “retirement” as he participates in many community projects and activities. He has held several offices in the McKenzie River Lions Club and participates in essentially all Lions activities. He has been President and Director of Neighborhood Watch and completes two or three 35-mile patrols every month checking homes and businesses. As an officer and member of the Vida McKenzie Community Center, Vern helps maintain the local club house facility. As co-chair of the Disaster Preparedness Group, he assists in providing education to citizens about disaster avoidance, planning for potential disasters, and organizing resources to be used in the event of a disaster. He serves on the MacKenzie River Protection League Political Action Committee and still has time for rest and relaxation in retirement!

In his *spare* time, Vern bowls; he had a 200 average this year and is on record for bowling a near-perfect game of 299. Vida citizens recognize the *Vernmobile*, a crimson 1985 Oldsmobile, and its driver as an important part of the community. The German-Russian community also benefits from Vern’s participation and enthusiasm for our heritage, and we are proud to have Vern as a member of our GROW Chapter.

## *Hatzenbuhl, Pfalz, Germany: A Book by Albert Weigel*

Mr. Albert Weigel lives in Hatzenbuhl, located in the southwestern corner of Germany just north of Switzerland. In the 1600s at the end of the devastating 30-Year War, many people migrated to Hatzenbuhl from Switzerland, Tirol, and other nearby German towns.

Mr. Weigel has compiled books for several Pfalz towns which include the history of the town and photos of residents, school classes, town buildings, and churches. Information from the 1600s to the 1900s is organized by family group surnames with names, births, marriages, deaths, and children. For those who were not from Hatzenbuhl, he gives the town where they were born and, in some cases, states when the family or person left for Russia and the United States.

Surnames found in the Hatzenbuhl book include: Baron, Brock, Brossart, Dobler, Dosch, Eichenlaub, Faust, Hellman, Henigin, Herrle (Herrli in Switzerland), Hermann, Hoffman, Johner, Metz, Muhl Muller, Nunnemann, Persohn, Reiss, Schehr Scherer, Schmitt, Schnorr, Schultz, Schumann, Seringer, Sitter, Teutschler, Trauth, Weigel, Wentz, Werling, Willy, Wunstel.

The book also includes very short genealogies of family names which have died out in Hatzenbuhl, including: Abry, Albrecht, Adam, Adler, Abriss, Alleter, Antoni, Argus, Arnold, Assel, Bacher, Badergoll, Badmann, Banwitzer, Bayerle, Bauer, Beck, Bengert, Benckert, Berdel, Bernard, Berhhard, Bertin, Bihler, Billo, Bindner, Binion, Blatz, Blando, Blehl, Blesinger, Boetzel, Boerke, Botta, Bourdon, Brand, Braun, Braunecker, Brehm, Brutting, Brust, Bubenheim, Buchmuller, Buckel, Bullinger, Bumiller, Buschner, Cambeis, Daum, Delbert, Deininger, Demmerle, Demuth, Denies, Derer, Devante, Dingles, Deubler, Deuschler, Deutsch, Dickel, Dieringer, Dietz, Dittlo, Dorrwangen, Doutan, Dreyer, Dubois, Dudenhofer, Eck, Ecker, Eckert, Eld, Emlich, Erhard, Eschbacher, Fackelmann, Fahsolt, Faigle, Falger, Faller, Feils, Feinholtz, Feldmann, FelFaetsch, Fickeisen, Finch, Fischer, Fkascgebtreger, Flick, Follinger, Franger, Frank, Frey, Frick, Fridebach, Fritz, Frolich, Frohnheiser, Fruhbis, Gaber, Gladell, Bailard, Gapp, Gast, Baudermann, Gebhard, Gebhart, Geiger, Gensheimer, Gerumb, Gilb, Gotz, Goldate, Goll, Gold, Graff, Greff, Gramer, Gramling, Grell/Krell, Grisemer, Gross, Grassmann, Grossmuller, Gruber, Gunther, Guth, Guthen, Haener, Hahn, Harter, Hartmann (Rudolf only), Hasselberger, Hassenteuffel, Heck, Hellmann, Heffel, Heintz, Hemmerle, Herb, Herre', Hilpert, Himmelsbach, Hirsch, Hitt, Hizfeld, Hofle, Hohenteufel, Holzer, Homberg Huber, Hubert, Huck, Hutter, Jager, Jochem, Jochim, Johann, Jost, July, Jung, Kaiser, Kaissler, Kantz, Kappps, Kauter, Kauth, Keller, Kelber, Kelle', Keller, Kern, Kerner, Kirchmer, Kitt, Kleibel, Kleinlein, Klemmer, Klingel, Kluber, Knecht, Knoblauch, Knoll, Kohler, Kopp, Komann/Komaun, Kortz, Kramer, Kraft, Krebs, Krieg, Kuhn, Kuntz, Langolf, Laporal, Lauinger, Laux, Leibrecht, Liebel, Linck, Losch, Lorenz, Losarther, Lutz, Malhoffer, Mayerhoffer, Manier, Marx, Marz, Maupai, Maurer, Maurin, Mayer, Meininger, Memminger, Meininger, Memmer, Mertz, Messemer, Metha, Milz, Mittenbuhler, Mohr, Moritz, Neu, Niclas,

Nikolaus, Noel, Nuber, Osswein, Offenbacher, Offerhaus, Ohmer, Peter, Pfeffer, Pfirrmann, Philippin, Rame', Rang, Rank, Rapp, Rappolt, Rebbel, Reichard, Reisser, Reyland, Reinhard, Reverend, Risch, Ritter, Rodemund, Rosch, Rossmayer, Roth, Rothmann, Rupfle, Schaaf, Schallmayer, Scheller, Schenck, Schimpf, Schiffmacher, Schloss, Schlotter, Schmelzer, Schmuckel, Schneider, Schneller, Schnod, Schonhut, Schram, Schuschu, Schwahn, Schwein, Schweitzer, Schwind, Seiler, Seither, Sehlinger, Selinger, Semmel, Semmelmann, Singel, Siegmayer, Sittinger, Sonnet, Spath, Speth, Spiegel, Sprentzer, Starck, Steinger, Stenner, Steinbacher, Steinbach, Steiner, Stoffler, Stock, Stoll, Strack, Stritzinger, Stieber Stumpfhauser, Theobald, Tautschler, Tittlo, Thomas, Trapp, Treiling, Tritenius, Toussaint, Thurwachter, Ulm, Vared'l, Vilin, Voelker, Vogel, Vollmer, Vonderschmitt, Vordren, Wagner, Walck, Walter, Walther, Weiler, Weissenburger, Weixel, Welker, Weltz, Welzenbach, Wengler, Werner, Werrel Vared'l, Westermayer, Wetzel, Wetzstein, Weyreuther, Wick, Wiedemann, Wihler, Wild, Wingerter, Wirmel, Wirth, Wolf, Zichler, Zimmermann, Zimmerlin, Zinnlicher, Zotz.

Mr. Weigel has compiled about a dozen books of church records on cities in the Pfalz area but does not have funding to publish them. Books are about \$50 each. He speaks and reads only German and can be reached at Wendelinusstrasse 5, 6729 Hatzenbuhl, Germany. (I am in the process of communicating with Mr. Weigel. If you are interested in further information from his response, please let me know. - Velma Jessor, Editor)

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*Information provided by Margaret (Herrle) Miesterfeld, Co-Director of the Family History Center in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. She owns books on the towns of Hatzenbuhl, Steinweiler and NeuenPotz written by Mr. Weigel and may be reached at*

[mahm@globaldsl.net](mailto:mahm@globaldsl.net)

### *Unser Vater The Lord's Prayer*

*Unser Vater in dem Himmel,  
Dein Name werde geheiligt.  
Dein Reich komme. Dein Wille geschehe,  
auf Erden, wie im Himmel.*

*Unser täglich Brot gib uns heute.  
Und vergib uns unsere Schulden,  
wie wir Schuldigern vergeben.*

*Und führe uns nicht in Versuchung;  
Sondern erlöse uns von dem Übel,  
Denn Dein ist das Reich,  
und die Kraft,  
und die herrlichkeit  
in Ewigkeit.*

*Amen.*

*Ev. Matthäi 6:9-13*



**Dr. Martin Luther**

*“For in the true nature of things, if we rightly consider,  
every green tree is far more glorious  
than if it were made of gold and silver.”*

**Martin Luder** was born on November 10, 1483, to Hans and Margareta Luder in Eiselben, Germany. Later changing his name, Martin Luther received Baccalaureate and Master’s degrees in Liberal Arts. While studying law at the University of Erfurt, he encountered a severe storm which threw him to the ground as lightning struck around him. He cried out in the midst of the storm, “Help, St. Anne, and I’ll become a monk.” Soon after, he entered the Black Monastery in Erfurt. Many genealogists researching both German states and the German colonies of Russia find roots of their families in archives of Lutheran parishes which evolved from the teachings of Martin Luther.



*“The fewer the words, the better the prayer.”*

*“Nothing good ever comes of violence.”*

\* \* \* \* \*

*Photo from 1883 German Bible owned by Velma Jesser*

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**Kunst  
und Gewerbe****Arts  
and Crafts****Folk Remedies: Warts**

Rub a penny on a wart to make it disappear.

Sell your wart to a friend for money;  
it will disappear in a few weeks.

---

**Sprache****Language****Standardized Spelling**

The German language, not to mention Old German Script, is a challenge for most of us. To complicate the issue further for genealogists, spelling among the many areas of Germany was not standardized until the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Scribes wrote parish records spelling names phonetically, the way they heard them, or the way he/she thought they should be spelled. Therefore, multiple variations exist for most names.

**Kartoffel Suppe****By Oma Kiessling**

Cube raw potatoes and cook in a large amount of water or use the broth from a ham that has been boiled in garlic and water.

Add caraway seeds, garlic, and a piece of bay leaf while potatoes are boiling.

Mix a flour paste into a container of sour cream and add to the soup when the potatoes are cooked.

Allow to boil again.

**The end - That’s it!!!**

**Sounds simple enough, but . . .**

*Lot’s of water* means the amount of soup that you want to end up with. In general the water level should be as high again as the potatoes. Let the potatoes cook until they are soft and the cutting edges just start to break away. Cubes should be relatively small to allow the water to become a big mealy. Notice that this is not the *new way* of cooking, but let’s not try to improve perfection.

Caraway seeds and garlic are to taste but don’t use too much. They can overpower the other ingredients. Same with the bay leaf; use only a piece of a leaf if you are making soup for two. The recipe doesn’t call for salt because of the sour cream but judge that yourself.

Sometimes the sour cream is not sour enough to give the soup the *right taste* so add a little vinegar (a cap full, not cup full or less). Play with this but remember you can’t take out the vinegar so use less until you get it right.

*Adapted from recipe printed  
in Heritage Connexions Vol. 9 No. 2*

\* \* \*

**Household Hint: Use Sand**

To scrub a dish clean when outside with no modern conveniences, use sand to scour them clean and rinse with clean water.

To clean the inside of a dirty jar or jug, put a small amount of fine sand along with a little soap and hot water and shake the container. Swish and its clean!

---

**Geschichte  
und Kultur****History  
and Culture**

**Glückstal Colonies Research Association (GCRA)** dedicated a memorial black granite monument erected by American descendants of German settlements founded in the Glückstal Colonies. Text on the front is in Russian; on the back, German. Attendees at the ceremony on May 24, 2002, included 15 Americans and many citizens of Glinoye, Moldova (the current name of the Glückstal village).

*For GCRA information, go to [www.glueckstal.org](http://www.glueckstal.org)*

**1<sup>st</sup> Annual GROW Picnic**

**Saturday, July 12, 2003**

**Willamette Park in West Linn, Oregon**

**Mark your calendars now.**

**Details to be provided by Roy Schnaible**

\*\*\*

**Living Our Grandparents' Dreams**

**33<sup>rd</sup> Annual GRHS Convention**

September 4-7, 2003

Ramkota Inn

2111 LaCrosse Street, PO Box 1795

Rapid City, SD 57709-1795

Phone (605) 343-8550

Hosted by the Black Hills Chapter

For additional information:

**<http://www.grhs.org/convention.html>**

Phone: (701) 223-6167

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**They Made the Desert Bloom**

**AHSGR Convention**

**34<sup>th</sup> Annual International Convention**

(American Historical Society of Germans from Russia)

Yakima Convention Center in Washington

June 15-22, 2003

Lodging:

Red Lion Hotel Yakima Center (1-800-325-4000)

Red Lion Hotel Yakima Gateway (1-800-325-4000)

Doubletree Hotel - Yakima Valley (1-509-248-7850)

For more information:

**<http://www.ahsgr.org>**

Phone: (402) 474-3363/FAX: (402) 474-7229

Frank McLean, Yakima Convention Chair

(509) 966-3864 or FL635@nwinform.net

\*\*\*

**European Past of the American Present**

**FEEFHS Convention**

**10<sup>th</sup> International Convention 2003**

(Federation of East European Family History Societies)

July 18-20, 2003

Holiday Inn Downtown

999 S. Main St., Salt Lake City, Utah

For more information:

FEEFHS, PO Box 510898

Salt Lake City, UT 84151-0898

**<http://www.feefhs.org/conf/03slc/03slc-hp.html>**

Kalile Mehr, Convention Chair

mehrkb@ldschurch.org

**Ukraine-Moldova Tours 2003-2004**

If you have been dreaming of visiting your ancestral villages in Ukraine or the Glückstal colonies in Moldova, your dreams can be reality. Registrations are now being taken for 2003-2004 tours with limited space available for the fall tour (September 16-October 1, 2003).

For more information:

**<http://www.members.rushmore.com/~ukrainetours>**

Robert R. Schneider

1649 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> St., Spearfish, SD 57783

Phone: (605) 722-7712

email: [rschneider@rushmore.com](mailto:rschneider@rushmore.com)

**Language Translation**

Of significant interest since our last newsletter are sources of information for translations, including the following:

Roy Schnaible recommends getting instant translations for up to 150 words through a system called Translate with Systran. (Search the Net for "Systran-Retail Products" to review specific costs and features of this software.) Type a word, phrase, or sentence(s) for which you will get the German translation (also Russian, Spanish, French, Italian, or Portuguese). Roy has fun using this site when he emails his friends and has reports that his German is getting better! Don't forget to bookmark this resource for phrases, letters, books, etc., eliminating the need to find someone fluent in German for translations.



Roy says, ***Haben Sie einen guten Tag!***

\*\*\*\*\*

A new group has been formed to help researchers transcribe records written in Old German Script and Latin. You need to be a member to use the services offered by the volunteers, but you can post scans, ask questions and have scans transcribed for **no fee** by clicking on the area marked "Join This Group" at

**[www.groups.yahoo.com/group/transcribe/](http://www.groups.yahoo.com/group/transcribe/)**

If you have difficulty registering for the list, contact Lynn Dougherty at **[lynnd@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:lynnd@tampabay.rr.com)**

\*\*\*\*\*

For those translations that don't seem to make any sense, check out this site in both German and English

**[www.genealogienetz.de/misc/translation](http://www.genealogienetz.de/misc/translation)**

\*\*\*\*\*

Get a free "rough" translation of up to 10,000 characters within a few seconds at

**[www.freetranslation.com](http://www.freetranslation.com)**

\*\*\*\*\*

And a resource for translations and a repeat from the last edition of this newsletter:

**<http://www.world.Altavista.com>**

## Family News

Please submit news about your German-Russian family and friends to share with others of our GROW family. See page 11 for details on submitting photos, articles, and other information.



**Wendel Werner**, the last German from Russia who came to Tillamook, Oregon, during 1896 and 1913, passed away on October 14, 2002, at the age of 97. He was born in Selz, South Russia, and came to America in 1905 with his parents, Sylvester and Rosina Werner. He lived his life in Tillamook.

**Rosa Salway**, 97, died late last Fall in Portland and was interned in Tillamook. She was born in Selz, came to America in 1908 with her parents John and Margaretha Salway, and was raised in Balta, North Dakota. She never married and was a librarian in Portland. Rosa's mother was the sister of Vincent Jacob, the great grandfather of **Victor Jacobs** of Tillamook.

**Steve Moses** died on November 28, 2002, at the age of 44 while recuperating from neck surgery. He was the son of **Carrie and Dale Moses** of Portland.

**Karen**, the oldest daughter of **June Nack**, died January 13, 2003, from cancer. June lives in Portland.

**Dorothy (Jesser) Higgins** died March 9, 2003, at the age of 67 from brain cancer. She was the daughter of Philip P. and Christena (Jantz) Jesser. Philip came to the U.S. from Rohrbach, Russia; Christena came to the U.S. from Klöstich, Bessarabia. Dorothy married Doyle Higgins and lived in Canon City, Colorado, where they had two sons and a daughter. Dorothy was an aunt of **Velma Jesser** of Sunriver, Oregon

**Lydia (Iszler) Geiszler Bader** died March 14, 2003, in Ashley, North Dakota. She was born January 11, 1904, in Danzig to John and Dorothy (Zimmerman) Iszler. She married Phillip Frederick Andrew Zacharris Geiszler in 1923; he died in 1966. She married William Bader, Jr., in 1975; he died in 1985. Lydia was the mother of **Oscar Geiszler** of Oregon City and **Reuben Geiszler** of Boring, Oregon.

## Interesting German Letters

by Irma Katz on the Beresan List

For members of GRHS, read letters talking about crops and weather, murders on the Chutors, celebrations, large festivals, land division, men complaining about women, lawsuits for slander, those in the military, births, deaths, and marriages, and other topics which have been transcribed from German to English have been posted at

[www.grhs.org/docs.letters.html](http://www.grhs.org/docs.letters.html)

You must be a member of GRHS to access this site.

## Seeks "Bessarabia" Contact

Chris Rebmann has been looking for others so that he can share stories or re-learn some of the language of his ancestors. His father was born in Gnadentahl, Bessarabia, and came to the U.S. to settle in Hebron, North Dakota, in 1909; his ancestry has been traced to Hans Rebmann (1510/1565) who lived in Fellbach, Württemberg. Chris says his mother's parents settled in Tindal, South Dakota, but homesteaded in McIntosh County, North Dakota, southeast of Wishek. Because her mother died when she was 2 and her father when she was 12, the family was split and later reunited but the family history was lost or forgotten. Fire destroyed the Courthouse in Ashley, North Dakota, including all of the records. If you may be able to help Chris, please contact him at PO Box 258, Scio, Oregon 97374-0258.

## Do you know this couple?

If you know this couple, please contact:

Geraldine Gander  
14926 SE Lowell Ln.  
Sherwood, OR 97140  
email: [neatfamily@aol.com](mailto:neatfamily@aol.com)



## The Sunshine Gals

If you know of any illnesses, marriages, births, deaths, anniversaries, or other news about members, contact:



**Agnes Herrle** or **Amelia Lybarger**

(See contact information on page 10.)

You can help *The Sunshine Gals* save costs for GROW by donating or making computer greeting cards and/or contributing funds for postage.

**The Sunshine Gals help us show that GROW cares!**

## ***GROW Board of Directors***

### **Roger Haas, President/Liaison**

8618 SE 36<sup>th</sup> Ave., Portland OR 97222

(503) 659-8248 rahaas@haasfamily.us

### **Roy Schnaible, Vice President**

3801 Calaroga Dr., West Linn, OR 97068

(503) 636-5541 gourmetir@aol.com

### **Edwin Weber, Secretary**

16660 SW Monterey Ln., King City, OR 97224

(503) 639-4798 weberd@easystreet.com

### **Sharon Voeller, Treasurer**

17064 SE Wiley Way, Milwaukie, OR 97267

(503) 659-2726 voellerp@worldstar.com

### **Clifford Haberman**

8110 SE Madison, Portland, OR 97215

(503) 252-5480 jan\_cliff@juno.com

### **Jan Haberman**

8110 SE Madison, Portland, OR 97215

(503) 252-5480 jan\_cliff@juno.com

### **Robert Majhor**

23985 W. Baseline Rd., Hillsboro, OR 97123-6937

(503) 648-5781 rgmajhor@pacifier.com

### **Oscar Geiszler**

803 5<sup>th</sup> Ave., Oregon City, OR 97045

(503) 656-1802 Oscarandlorraine@msn.com

### **Lola Weber**

106 Victoria St., Longview, WA 98632-5834

(360) 423-8359 hunter1@kalama.com

*For Board of Director meetings and activities, see page 12.*

## ***Help GROW At No Cost To You!***

***Electronic Newsletters*** save GROW over \$40 per issue in postage. To receive your newsletter electronically, contact Jessica Mertz. (See Committee Chairs to the right on this page.)

***\$CRIP Fundraisers*** Scrip purchases earn a commission on sales of certificates for over 80 participating merchants, including grocery stores, restaurants, national chain stores, car washes, etc. Scrip is the same as cash and makes ideal gifts, an easy way to support GROW financially without costing you a penny. For more information, contact Roy Schnaible. (See Board of Directors above).

***Albertsons Scan Cards*** earn cash for our Chapter and costs members nothing. Simply present the card when you pay for your usual groceries. To get a scan card, contact Roger Haas. (See Board of Directors above).

## ***Need a GROW Name Tag?***

Name tags help you get to know other members at GROW activities and help others put your face with your name. Name tags cost \$5.50. Contact:

Leona Koth at (503) 538-3447

email: [lvkoth@aol.com](mailto:lvkoth@aol.com)

## ***GROW Committee Chairs***

\*Member of Board of Directors

### **Calling**

\*Oscar Geiszler

### **Car Pooling**

\*Oscar Geiszler

Glenn Gumeringer (360) 573-6453

Bob Majhor (503) 648-5781

### **Hospitality/Greeting**

\*Jan Haberman

### **Collection/Research&Genealogical Assistance**

Doris Seibert (503) 651-2394 / (541) 563-3114

### **Library**

Vivian Messenger (503) 574-2271

Evelyn Gatlin, Glen Gumeringer, Carrie Lippincott,

Doris Seibert, Alice Summers

### **Membership**

\*Cliff Haberman

### **Newsletter**

Velma Jesser, Editor (see page 11)

\*Sharon Voeller, Labeler

Alice Sumer, Printing/Mailing

### **Programs**

\*Lola Weber

### **Refreshments**

Roberta Haas (503) 659-8248

Ilene Schnaible (503) 623-5529

Lorraine Geiszler, Ann Gumeringer, Helen Mahjors

### **Pictorial Scrapbook**

Maxine Daily (503) 253-8388 or mandc22@msn.com

### **Special Interests/Obituaries**

\*Sharon Voeller

### **Sunshine Gals**

Agnes Herrle (503) 236-5642 or at

1914 SE Harold St., Portland, OR 97202-4935

Amelia Lybarger (503) 648-1058 or at

655 SE Washington St., Hillsboro, OR 97123

### **Volunteer Coordinator**

Robert Mahjor (503) 648-5781 rgmajhor@pacifier.com

Dennis Levi (360) 699-4884

### **Web Site**

Bradlee/Jessica Mertz (503) 667-7953

solandmoon@hotmail.com or mertzb@onid.orst.edu

Debra Voeller (360) 897-9671 debbily@earthlink.net

## ***Research Library***

Check out books, GRHS **Heritage Reviews**, AHSGR **Journals**, and other materials. Donations, suggestions, and assistance are welcome. Here are some of the books:

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| Bremer, Ronald         | Compendium of Historical Sources                        |
| Crandall, Dr. Ralph    | Shaking Your Family Tree                                |
| Height, Joseph S.      | Paradise on the Steppe                                  |
| Keller, Rev. P. Conrad | The German Colonies in South Russia 1804 to 1904        |
| Stumpp, Karl           | The Emigration from Germany to Russia 1763-1862 Part I  |
| Stumpp, Karl           | The Emigration from Germany to Russia 1763-1862 Part II |
| Stumpp, Karl           | The German-Russians                                     |
| Nitschke, Shirley      | Heimat: Steppes of Russia                               |

(See contacts above)



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

Year(s) of Membership \_\_\_\_\_

Circle appropriately: NEW RENEW

NAME (Print) \_\_\_\_\_

Birth Month (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Anniversary Date (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NO. ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Name of my ancestral village(s) \_\_\_\_\_

My family surnames \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my remittance of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Membership fees are due annually on January 1.

**GROW NEWSLETTER/OPERATION DONATION minimum \$5**

GRHS Membership \$40 GRHS LIFE (\$100 per year) \$650  
(LIFE membership fees may be paid installments of not less than \$100.)

Names of adults in household desiring membership cards \_\_\_\_\_

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

Mail to: **Roger Haas, 8618 SE 36<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Portland, OR 97222**

***GROW Publication Information***

The GROW newsletter is a quarterly publication. Receiving your GROW newsletter and other communications electronically as an Adobe pdf file saves 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. Contact Bradlee and Jessica Mertz (see **Web Site** on page 10) if you would like to receive future GROW newsletters electronically.

**Submission of Materials:** All materials should include a statement that gives permission for use in this newsletter. All contributions, including photos, are welcome; we will scan to digitize images and other graphics. Please provide a SASE for materials you would like returned. Send articles and other materials for publication, as well as ideas and suggestions for improvements, to the Editor: **Velma Jesser, PO Box 4909, Sunriver, OR 97707 or email DrVJH@yahoo.com**

***The Next Newsletter . . .***

Once again, this is **your** newsletter; your contributions are what makes it yours; otherwise, it is just your Editor rambling. Keep your Editor happy by sending contributions; for example, short clips from something you've read, a German-Russian custom, an interesting website, a cartoon, a family photo or document, a question for other members, publicity for an upcoming event, genealogy tips and tricks, an article you have written about your family, etc. Even if you think the material might not be relevant or too long or too short or too *whatever*, your Editor *edits*! Send anything you think might be appropriate.

The next quarterly newsletter will, of course, highlight **your** contributions.

***Corrections: Errors Happen! (Fehler geschehen!)***

The individuals in the Haas Family Root Cellar photo (page 6, GROW Newsletter, Vol. 2, Issue 2) were incorrectly identified. The correct identification should have been, from left to right: Kevin Kaster, Stephen Kaster, Roberta Haas, Roger Haas, and Daniel Kaster.

Please accept my apologies!

**Annual GROW Newsletter Deadlines: September 1, December 1, March 1, June 1**

## 2003 Meeting Dates and Events

### Chapter Meeting Dates

Meetings begin at 2 p.m. Solid Rock Baptist Church

April 27                      May 25                      June 22

For program information, see page 2

July 12 - 1<sup>st</sup> Annual GROW Picnic(See page 8)

### Board Meeting Dates

Meetings begin at 1 p.m. All members welcome!

Libbie's Restaurant

11056 SE Main St., Milwaukie, Oregon

April 16                      May 21                      June 18

### GROW Newsletter Deadlines

September 1, December 1, March 1, June 1

(See page 11 for submissions details)

### Directions to Solid Rock Baptist Church

**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.

**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.

**Solid Rock Baptist Church**  
8510 SE Battin Rd.  
Portland, Oregon



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*Peace*



*Frieden*

---



Germans from Russia Heritage Society

Dr. Velma Jesser, Editor  
GROW Chapter  
PO Box 4909  
Sunriver, OR 97707-4909