

GROW Newsletter

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

Volume 3 Issue 2

January-February-March 2004

Message from the President

By Roger Haas

I want to extend a **Hearty Greeting** to you and your family **for the New Year!** 2004 is full of opportunities. Let us build on the great successes of 2003.

Our 2003 GROW **Programs** have been exceptional, thanks to the Program Committee and the participants. Our **Newsletters** have been attractive, informative and well received. Thank you, **Velma** and each of you who has contributed. It is **your** Newsletter, so please continue to share your stories. The **Web site** has been expanded and we need to thank Webmasters, **Bradlee/Jessica Mertz and Debra Voeller** as well as you, the readers, who have helped us with needed corrections and updates. I want to thank the dedicated **Board of Directors** and the **Committees** who have faithfully met and committed themselves for an expanded outreach and greater service to the membership. I would like to thank the attendees and those responsible for our successful **Picnic**. Please thank **Vivian Messenger and Glen Gumeringer** for opening our **Library** at our Chapter Meetings. I would like to say thanks to the Committee responsible for our new **Banner** which was presented at the National Convention and displayed at the Family History Fair and Chapter Meetings.

To each of the 16 GROW Families who attended the National GRHS **Convention** at Rapid City, SD, thank you for having the interest and leadership to preserve our heritage on the national level. Some of the following put themselves out in an extra measure. **Wanda Hopkins** presented a workshop on the Crimean Area Research, **Robert/Dolores Schuh** presented a Workshop on the Kutschurgan Colonies Research, **Margaret Freeman** presented a workshop on the Glückstal Colonies Research & the Dedication of the Glückstal Monument, **Milo Bauder** presented a workshop on the North & South Caucasus Research along with a report on his Visit to the Transcaucasus Colonies, and **Shirley Nitschke** presented a Workshop on "At Home on the Russian Steppe and the Dakota Prairie." Others who gave us pride were **Dr. Velma Jesser and Roy Schnaible** who presented the GROW banner at the Opening Ceremony. **Roy Schnaible and Roger Haas** served at the Heritage Foundation Booth, **Roger Haas** volunteered in the Library with the copier. Six GROW Families received **Lifetime Membership Certificates**. **Congratulations** for your long-term commitment to serving and preserving our heritage!

It is such a good feeling when we see one of our members featured. **Bradlee Mertz** was one of five "Rhodies" veteran knotweed fighters who was lauded in the Metro Green Scene Winter 2003-2004 Quarterly Publication. Grow members, tell us about your successes; don't just let us stumble onto your accomplishments. It pleases us also to have the expertise of **Robert Schauer** in the field of Computers to assist members in general as well as in their family genealogy in 2004. Thank you, Bob!

As the year 2003 draws to a close, don't forget the **Faith** of your Fathers and Mothers and our Ancestors. Churches were of the utmost importance and were sometimes built before the people finished their own houses. In Luke 2:1-20, we have the story of the Birth of Christ; we read that there was no room for his parents in the Inn. Christmas priorities are a challenge to each of us. Let us carry forth our Ancestors' celebration and make room for **HIM** in the spiritual, as well as in the material gifting, decorating, card giving, etc.

In Portland we have one Christmas Service in German at the Zion Lutheran Church, 1015 SW 18th Ave, 21 Dec '03, 9:30 AM. It is special as a service of carols for "O du fröhliche, O du selige." "Es ist ein Rosensprunzen", and "Stille Nacht." We wish all our members and friends the best of everything and of course, a

Frohe Weihnacten/Merry Christmas!

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2004 Events

Add the dates of the Chapter and Board Meetings to be held during 2004 to your personal planners now.

Dates, times, locations - page 12

2004 GROW Programs

January 25

Marie Krieger, Teacher, Historian, Translator, Librarian . . . will fascinate you as our program presenter. She was featured in the Fall 2003 Regence HMO called Newsbreaks under the title "Serving Others Has Its Rewards." At 92 years young, she is vibrant and has stories that you will want to hear. She is a dynamic little lady and one of a kind!

February 22

We will have the good fortune to have **Steve Schreiber**, Port of Portland Aviation Director of the Portland International, Hillsboro, Troutdale, and the Mulino Airports. He has one of the best web sites on Germans from Russia highlighting those who came to Portland starting in the 1870s. Viewing his web site **www.volgagermans.net** should be a prerequisite before his presentation on the Germans from Russia in Portland. Steve is a gentleman who does not trumpet his talents so to maximize the gold mine of his knowledge and talent, visit the web site and be prepared to ask questions when he visits us.

March 28

Convention Workshop Speaker, **Milo Bauder**, will make a PowerPoint presentation on the South Caucasus and Ukraine. The presentation is on "The German Colonies in Georgia." For a preview of his slide presentation, see his articles on page 3 and pages 6 and 7 of this newsletter. Milo is quite knowledgeable about our German-Russian heritage.

Membership Notice

Once again it is time to renew membership and renew our commitment to the preservation of our culture and the history of our ancestors. The GROW Chapter has brought us together in friendship. If you have not already done so, please renew your GRHS and GROW memberships; you will find an application on page 11.

Membership Report

Membership in our GROW Chapter as of December 2, 2003:

Annual - 62

Life - 14

Associate - 5

Honorary - 1

Total Membership - 82

Go GROW!

A Trip to Salt Lake City

By Lola M. Weber

It was October when I had an opportunity to go to Salt Lake City, Utah, to do research at the Family History Library. Three others were going, and there was room for a fourth so I jumped at the opportunity.

Reservations had already been made at the Plaza Hotel next door to the library so all I needed to do was get my airline ticket and I was gone. It had been quite a number of years since I had been to the library, and I knew that a lot had changed in that time. Reading online and talking with others who had visited recently helped prepare me for some of the updated changes that had been made.

Checking **www.familysearch.org** informed me of the changes in record locations and the hours they were open. The bigger challenge then was preparing for what I wanted to research. I decided that my German SCHLEY family would be my main thrust and after that would be census research. I obtained the film numbers for the parish records of the village of Kirchart, Baden-Wurttemberg from the Family History Library catalog, and I checked to be certain that there weren't records that I needed to see that were cataloged "Vault." If that had been the case, I knew that I needed to request those as soon as I got there because it could take up to three days to get them.

One of the first challenges was obtaining a type of debit card used to pay for copies—microfilm or paper. The challenge for me was in adding funds to the same card rather than buying a new one each time!!

The first sub-level floor is dedicated to European records, and there I found wonderful and knowledgeable volunteers! The records were written in German script, but I was thrilled when I could decipher the surname in the records. I hadn't counted on having someone to help with the translation, but I knew that I needed to get copies of each of those records with my ancestor's names. It was a real treat when I found that the volunteers at the desk could read German and were happy to help. I found baptism, marriage, and death records for many of the family. But my biggest thrill was discovering that the "other" SCHLEY family on the ship to America was a brother to mine! That means that there is another whole family here that I know nothing about!

The search goes on

The German Colonies in Georgia

By Milo Bauder

Very few have visited the South Caucasus in the last 40 years so recently I thought it was time for someone to go into Asia, forget about all of the State Department warnings, and check out the current status of the old German Colonies. In June I spent three weeks in the beautiful country of the Republic of Georgia. I was not the first Bauder to go there because three Bauder families settled there in 1817, helping establish the village of Elizabethtal. The three families were Joseph 1783, Jacob 1753 (He was a founder of Grossliebenthal in 1804.), and Jacob's son Johannes 1791. After several years in Georgia, my great, great, great grandfather Joseph returned to the Odessa district where he established himself at Hoffnungstal.

Elizabethtal has been occupied by Georgians since 1941 when the Germans were evacuated to Siberia. While there, I stayed with a Georgian family in the old Heinrich Schmidt house #42. This village is like a living German Colony museum because the Georgians do not like to change things. Also, the Georgians and the Germans had very friendly relationships and so the Georgians do not want to undo anything that is German. Georgia has been a Christian nation since about 500 AD, so the old graveyards with their head stones or iron crosses remain pretty much in tact. The brutality of the Soviet Communists suffered by the Germans was also dealt out to the Georgians.

To my surprise I located 89 year old Anna Bauder. She was born and raised in Elizabethtal, but now lives alone in Tbilisi. She is probably the only Bauder in all of Georgia, although she does have some relatives in Germany. She married a Russian and was, therefore, not evacuated in 1941. I have a picture of her reading from Isaiah in her mother's Bible. She speaks only Russian and German.



The houses all have verandas. The walls are made of stone two feet thick; and the roof has red square tile, not beaver tail tile as used in Germany. Each house has a deep wine cellar. Some houses still have many German items—beautiful furniture, pictures on the wall, table dishes, and even expensive organs made by Thomas and imported from Toronto, Canada. It was obvious that Elizabethtal was a prosperous German village.

Members' Favorite Web Sites

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

GROW Chapter

grhs.org

Click on *Chapters*, Look under *West Coast*

For changes/additions to GROW web site,

Debra Voeller at debbily@earthlink.net

Beginner's German Alphabet and Table of German Sounds - An introduction, explanations, and examples, including six images, taken from the book, *Beginner's German* by Max Walter, Ph.D. and Carl A. Krause, Ph.D., New York Charles Scribner's Sons, 1912

lib.ndsu.nodak.edu/grhc/info/bibliography/beginger.html

Berger Family History - Brian Berger from England has posted a new website containing 6,000 German from Russia names from various Beresan Villages. His family originates from Goersdorf in Alsace; Jockgrim in the Rhinepfalz; Speier in the Beresan District of Odessa; Dunn County, North Dakota; and Saskatchewan, Canada. berger.moonfruit.com/

Kin A MAGAZINE, a bilingual quarterly magazine to help children in America learn German includes vocabulary building exercises, grammar rules, comics, movie and book reviews, geography, history, fun recipes, relevant articles, contests, and much more. Send a check for \$14 to JV&K Publications, PO Box 9548, San Bernardino, CA 92427 or use your credit card at their web site KinAmag.com

Federation of Eastern European Family History Societies Database of Professional Translators, a list of names and contact information for translators who specialize in Eastern European languages

feefhs.org/frg/frg-pt.html

A Five-Step Genealogical Research Process for more effective research. These steps explain how to evaluate what you already know, determine which sources you'll need, and analyze the material you collect genealogyforum.rootsweb.com/gfaol/beginners/5step.htm

Genealogy Pages has only a few categories, the links will lead you to useful resources in an easy and informative manner genealogypages.com

**Send your favorite web site
to your Editor today**

Leave Your Legacy - Part III

By Lola Weber

At our last workshop, we could see how the “book” would go together. Having the CDs to use for review once we got back home is exceptionally helpful. (My brain doesn’t seem to retain all the steps!) Inserting pictures and graphics really makes the legacy book come to life.

Then, we discussed the importance of adding a section of our values and our counsel. This was really an inspiration and an important concept of what it is we are leaving for our loved ones. We couldn’t help but think how wonderful it would be if our great great grandparents had left this kind of document for us.

We are eligible to retake any of the sessions for up to a year and I am hoping to take advantage of that. It’s definitely a project that you need to plan time to do.

(For additional information on this series of workshops by Doug and Linda Jacobs, see GROW Newsletter, Volume 2, Issue 3, page 2 and Volume 3, Issue 1, page 4.)

Get Your Homestead Record

By Joanne Pfau

It is possible to get copies of the application papers for the homesteads of our ancestors. These papers can show us their Declaration of Intention to become U. S. citizens, location and description of the homestead, size and type of home, and barn and well that were built. Some even tell of crops and harvests, as well as misfortunes they may have faced. It also tells who was living on the homestead during that time period. It is interesting to see the fees they paid to file the papers, and you can actually see their signatures. It is a fascinating snapshot of this important time in the lives of our ancestors.

You can accomplish most of this on the internet. Here are the web sites and directions that I followed as the result of the wonderful guidance of Susan Baird:

Go to <http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov/>

Click on Search **Land Patents**

Follow the prompts to fill in the state and name of the person you are seeking, (last name only is fine). You will get a list of people with that name and the county their homesteads were found.

Click on your ancestor

Click on **Printer Friendly Version** and print two copies of this information. (One will be sent into the National Archives, and one will be for your records.) Leave this web site.

Now go to <http://www.nara.gov/>

From the choices along the left, choose **About Us**

From the new choices along the left, choose **Customer Service**

Then from the new choices along the left, choose **Contact Us**

From the next choices along the left, choose **Inquire Form**

Now you want to indicate that **"I want an order form."**

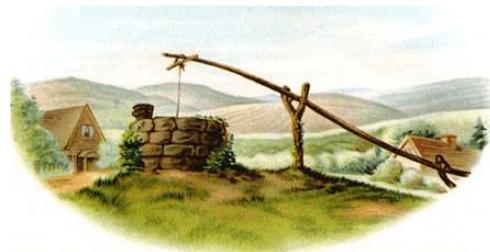
Click on **Land Entry** files. For quantity, you can order from one to five forms at a time.

Scroll down this same page to **Contact Information** and fill out your name and address.

Click review entries and continue to follow their instructions.

In about two weeks you will get the forms that you can then use to order copies of the homestead papers. When you get the order form, follow the directions carefully in filling it out. When it asks for the date of the land entry, you need to subtract five (5) years from the date on the paper you originally printed from **glorerecords.blm.gov**. Be sure to attach one of the copies you made to the order form before mailing it.

There is no charge for the order forms. However, if the files you request can be found, there will be a fee of about \$17.50 to copy and send them to you. There are payment options on the order form.



**2003 GRHS Convention
 “Living Our Grandparents’ Dreams”
 Rapid City, South Dakota
 September 4-7, 2003**



Milo Bauder shares a vintage bottle of wine from his personal family stock



Wanda Hopkins relaxes at convention activities and receives a hug from Roger Haas (Billy Hopkins also attended)

Velma Jesser meets relatives, Myron and Betty Eliason of Belle Fourche, South Dakota, in person for the first time



Shirley and Larry Nitschke, GROW members from Jamestown, North Dakota, relax after busy sessions and promotions for Shirley’s publications



Ilene and Roy Schnaible had a good time meeting new people and visiting with friends between convention activities



Roger Haas enjoys an evening with Margaret and Robert Freeman, GROW members from Redondo Beach, California

Agnes and Rudolph Wagemann take a break between dinner, program and entertainment on Saturday night



Roberta Haas makes a short appearance (although she had just had back surgery) to hear the dinner program with the support of husband Roger Haas



This year’s convention was filled with opportunities to do research, learn about our ancestors and culture, and meet others with German-Russian ancestry. Roy Schnaible and Velma Jesser presented the GROW banner during the Opening Ceremonies. The Bookstore offered extensive supplies of books and other materials. An extensive Library/Research Room opened daily with a wealth of German-Russian information brought from Headquarters. Workshops covered a wide variety of topics, including heirloom quilts, historical events, beet processing, and new research soon to be available. Entertainment was just that—entertaining—and singing sessions happened every evening. The food was culturally authentic, providing a good time for socializing. Tours to local attractions, a Memorial Service for members deceased during the past year, and many other activities made this convention most worthwhile!



Larry and Eleanor Haas, GROW members from Sun City, Arizona, attend the dinner in color-coordinated dress

Velma Jesser begins retirement at her first GRHS Convention, taking a moment for a photo opportunity with Roger Haas



*Let’s all represent GROW in Bismarck
 July 22-25, 2004*

Migration to the Caucasus

By Milo Bauder

Many Germans from Russia (GRs) are not aware of the large number of Germans who migrated to the Caucasus, missing a major part of their family's history. To add to our historical perspective, the following is some of what I've learned from studying Plokhotnyuk, Stumpp, Leibbrandt and others. (Information varies by source.) I hope you find it enlightening or, better yet, that it gives you one of those exciting "Aha!" moments about your ancestor hunt.

The Caucasus German settlements are unique within GR history, surprisingly cosmopolitan. Most of the villages and *chutors* were Evangelical/Lutheran, a few Catholic, many Mennonite. Baptists and other religions were also in the regional mix. Some villages and settled areas, especially in the cities, contained mixed faiths and certainly mixed backgrounds (Black Sea, Volga, etc.). Many indigenous ethnic groups of the region, plus other government-imposed displacements of whole populations, were interspersed with the German colonies; and the whole intermingled as neighboring settlers and laborers on good days. At other times the settlers had to defend their foothold on the land from those same indigenous groups.

The Kurds, Tatars, Ossets, Chechens, Kalmachs and approximately eighty other ethnic groups within this region had differing cultural values and languages. Some were semi-nomadic or mountain-based, but all had ancient land rights one way or another and fought valiantly against losing their tribal territories to Russian domination. Georgia, in comparison, more readily allowed annexation to Russia in exchange for border protection. In fact, the volatile state of the Caucasus today, as reflected in our ancestors' past, is a continuation of what has occurred for centuries, plus additional aggravation due to Russian expansion. This multi-ethnic/language environment colored our German ancestors' culture, too—but that's another topic.

Geographically, we generally draw the line for the northern boundary of the Caucasus Germans at Rostov. There is a separate village list by Stumpp for the Rostov and Don regions, but there is less interest in these villages in GR circles so far. A few North Caucasus German colonies were established before 1850. Karras was the first colony, according to historical accounts, founded in 1802 or 1804 (source dependent) just due north of Pyatigorsk. Karras was unusual because it began as a Scottish missionary

base. In time, Nikolaevskaya was settled nearby, perhaps as early as 1819 (1835 is also noted), and Konstantinovka, 1837. Both exist in archival materials from the 1830s (Plokhotnyuk). Johannesdorf was established in 1847 northwest of current Stavropol (Stumpp). It is representative of the building flow southward and eastward into the Caucasus in the 1840s.

My great-grandparents migrated to Johannesdorf from Hussenbach/Volga, although my grandfather, Alexander Schilling, was born in Armawir. Theirs was a common migration pattern, and may have included other stops. German village/settlements increased in the 1860s. Quite a few followed in the 1880s and into the early 1900s, sprouting daughter colonies even as late as 1924 (Stumpp). There was also a religious exodus movement into the North Caucasus that impacted some settlement decisions and timing despite religious separatism among the Germans, usually being associated primarily with the South Caucasus villages (first founding: 1817-1818, Georgia and Azerbaijan) and the Mennonites.

Other previously accepted generalizations about the Caucasus Germans, besides religious separatism, are also changing. For instance, even among strongly-founded Separatist South Caucasus colonies like Katharinenfeld and Elizabethtal, there were members of those communities who were not Separatists and who came directly from Germany in 1817 or later or arrived from other GR villages. Also, these Separatists, until their religious fervor mellowed, made several attempts to leave their established homes in the South Caucasus for the Holy Land, once following prolonged, world-wide sightings of a major comet in 1846. The account also states that the non-Separatist members of several communities were happy to see them go!

Besides the villages, there were numerous *chutors* and other settlement groups in the North Caucasus, some unnamed and/or uncharted, and not all related to farming. One of the largest (population: 2,294 in 1903) was Dowsunskoje, about 150 km directly east of Stavropol. Founded in 1880, it included four villages: Karlsruhe, Hermannsburg, Johannesheim, and Wilhelm/Wilhelmshoehe and later became a large collective farm. One resident of Dowsun/Karlsruhe was my great-grandfather, Otto Bommersheim, who was born in Katharinenfeld (now Bolnisi, Georgia, and married Maria Lesser

Migration, continued on page 7

Migration, continued from page 6

(born: Frank/Volga) in Karlsruhe. He made his livelihood there prior to their emigration in 1908.

Indeed, many settlers came to the Caucasus from various established German settlements; it depends on the time period and village/village group in one's focus. Certainly there were many from the Volga colonies and various Black Sea colony areas such as Bessarabia and the Glueckstal colonies, the Crimea, the Belowesch colonies, and more. Significant numbers of Germans also lived in the cities of both the North and South (or Trans-) Caucasus: Armawir, Vladikavkaz, Baku, Stavropol, Tiflis, etc. As in other GR settlement areas of Russia, some of the land sales for village needs and cultivation in the Caucasus occurred via Cossacks and other Russian military who had been awarded large estates.

Other land sales were the result of business agreements between neighboring villages, German and otherwise. Likewise, German settlers, individually and cooperatively, also rented tracts of land, expansive tracts in some cases. This was especially true for the Mennonites but also true for other ethnic groups encountered by the Germans as "neighbors" (Greeks, Italians, Estonians, Dutch settlers and other Russian invitees) besides Russia's own religious dissidents who were "relocated" en masse to the fringes of the empire, such as the Doukhobors and Molokans. German villages in the South Caucasus also existed in (now) eastern Turkey, Armenia; and there are hints, as yet undocumented, that some of our ancestors may have migrated beyond the Caucasus, further east. Besides the numbers of people involved, the distances in migrating in the never-entirely-tamed Caucasus are also impressive.

Settlement patterns followed the line of military forts as the Russians pushed south, literally bolstering the "Caucasus Line" with a human buffer zone. Plus, later there appears to have been regular non-military movement between the two parts of this region. However, consider that, for many years, the only land route for such a trip between, say, Vladikavkaz and Tiflis, was one of two military roads clinging to the sides of the slopes as they wound through the Caucasus Mountains! Can you imagine navigating the switchbacks by horse and wagon in those passes, even in good weather?

Besides land shortages, growing business interests and other factors also played a part in Russia's Germans setting their sites on the Caucasus. We also know that

a number of Germans, total newcomers to Russia and the Caucasus, migrated directly from Germany at various times, although we have little to support this to date in personal accounts or family histories. These were likely small family groups or individual families, skilled workers and business owners, more a trickle of people than a flow. Still, their numbers add up, too.

In addition to Nobel, as far as industrialist types, one of Germany's Siemens brothers (now world-wide Siemens AG) was very active in the Caucasus and lived for some years in both Baku and Tiflis. He parlayed government contracts with the Russian government through the initial provision of telegraph lines and electrification for the Caucasus in the mid-1800s into a lengthy business association. In 1864 Siemens also purchased the Kedabek copper mines located near German villages in (now) Azerbaijan and built an industrial complex complete with a community for the workers and a railroad tie-in.

What other information about our Caucasus Germans is out there among you? Arthur Flegel and I would appreciate submissions of family information concerning any part of the Caucasus as well as your questions so we can continue building our information base and spreading the word about this part of our history. Collecting family information and stories, interviews and background research are the major pieces thus far in our Caucasus Germans information base that will be available to all later. Do any of you have, or know of, church or civil records that we could review, perhaps brought by family members or US/Canadian church records where many families came from the Caucasus? Do you know of any contacts with individuals or archives in Germany or Russia? We are continually developing avenues for more information and cooperative research.

Milo Bauder can be reached at mbauder2001@charter.net or at 120 Meadow Hills Dr., Richland, WA 99352-8464

200th Anniversary - Glückstal Colonies

The Glückstal Colonies Research Association will commemorate the 200th Anniversary of the found of the colonies with a book of over 500 pages and a video. The West Coast premiere of the book and video will be this summer at the AHSGR Convention in Modesto, California, and the Midwest premier will precede the GRHS Convention in Bismarck. The book will include a CD/DVD tucked into the cover for the pictures and materials too lengthy to be included in the book. Additional information will be forthcoming.

Zuhause

At Home

Waste Not - Want Not!

German-Russians have a reputation for being resourceful with little or no waste of resources, a talent born out of necessity for our immigrant ancestors. Descendants continue this resourcefulness today; for example, recycling frozen juice cans.

Save extra cookie dough in a washed frozen juice can, replace the lid, and freeze. When ready to bake cookies, open both ends of the can, slice the frozen dough, and bake per recipe instructions.

But wait . . .

Kunst und Gewerbe

Arts and Crafts

. . . Save the Lids!

Clean the lids and cover with paper or fabric to make ornaments, perhaps including a photo cut to fit the center. Punch a hole in the top and tie with a colorful scrap (of course) of ribbon or attach a magnet to the back for refrigerator decor.

Leute

People

Gottlieb "Bud" Bieber

Submitted by Margaret Aman Freeman

Bud Bieber grew up on the Bieber farm near Eureka, South Dakota, born to hard-working parents who had arrived from South Russia at the age of nine. In *And So It Goes*, he chronicles his life as one of the youngest in the family, as well as the lives of his many brothers and sisters. He writes of their jobs on the farm in the "dirty thirties," their working years and children, and their experiences in the military.

For some, it will be a romp down memory lane; for others, it is simply good reading about an interesting and eventful life. *And So It Goes* is available through the publisher at Germans from Russia Collection, NDSU Libraries, PO Box 5599, Fargo, ND 58105-5599 or at the web site:

http://www.lib.ndsu.nodak.edu/grhc/order/nd_sd/bieber.html

Sprache

Language

Learn Colors in German

A game to help you learn or review your colors in German can be found online at:
http://german.about.com/library/quiz/blqz_memory03.htm

It's easy to play, educational, and fun. It follows the rules of the television game of Concentration using 18 pairs of words and colors. The goal is to match the German word with its color.

Try it! Have fun!

Geschichte und Kultur

History and Culture

German-Russian Color Calendar

A historical 30-page color calendar beautifully prepared in Germany is available to order. The calendar is about Russlanddeutsche in Germany today and includes articles on integration and assimilation, textiles and clothing, religion and the church, music, museums, sport, literature, families, and visions for the future. The calendar and the following web site are in German language only:

www.lib.ndsu.nodak.edu/grhc/order/german_language/2004kalender.html

The price of the calendar is \$20 plus postage and handling for each calendar (\$3 in U.S.). The calendar may also be ordered from Germans from Russia Heritage Collection, NDSU Libraries, PO Box 5599, Fargo, ND 58105-5599. Make checks payable to NDSU Library.

Und so weiter And so forth

*Gott schütze dieses Haus
und alle die da gehen ein und aus!*

*God protect this house
and all who go in and out*

The Sunshine Gals

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



Amelia Lybarger

(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 GROW cares!

Ukraine and Moldova 2004

SCHNEIDER LLC is planning two tours in 2004. The date for the spring tour has **changed** and is now May 25 -June 10; the fall tour will be September 14-30, 2004. Register for the tour of your choice to have an exciting educational and cultural experience as well as visiting your ancestral villages. For more information:

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

Robert R. Schneider, Manager
1649 N. 3rd St., Spearfish, SD 57783
Phone: (605) 722-7712

email: rschneider@rushmore.com

Family News

Please submit news about your German-Russian family and friends to share with others of our GROW membership. See page 11 for details on how to submit material.

*We again send GROW Wishes
for Pain-Free Days
and Better Health to . . .*



Roberta Haas (Portland, OR) who continues to recover from back surgery that she had in July. It's a slow and tedious process!

Your Name

By Edgar A. Guest

Submitted by Sharon Voeller

*You got it from your father. "Twas the best he had
to give.*

*And right gladly he bestowed it. It's yours, the
while you live.*

*You may lose the watch he gave you and another
you may claim,*

*But remember, when you're tempted, to be careful
of his name.*

*It was fair the day you got it, and a worthy name
to bear.*

*When he took it from his father, there was no
dishonor there;*

*Through the years he proudly wore it, to his father
he was true,*

*And that name was clean and spotless when he
passed it on to you.*

*Oh, there's much that he has given that he values
not at all.*

*He has watched you break your playthings in the
days when you were small.*

*You have lost the knife he gave you and you've
scattered many a game,*

*But you'll never hurt your father if you're careful
with his name.*

*It is yours to wear forever, yours to wear the while
you live,*

*Yours, perhaps, some distant morning, to another
boy to give.*

*And you'll smile as did your father with a smile
that all can share—*

*If a clean name and good name you are giving him
to wear.*



Black Sea German Russian Census

Volume I

Supplement to the "Stumpp Book"

Census information supplementing the classic publication for German-Russian genealogy, *The Emigration from Germany to Russia in the Years 1763 to 1862* by Dr. Karl Stumpp (published by AHSGR, 1982), has been made available by GRHS (2003). This compilation contains 19th century census type documents for Black Sea German Russian villages and includes 466 pages.

The long list of names included in these materials can be viewed at the GRHS web site where you can click on **GRHS Store**. The publication is available to GRHS members for \$40 plus shipping and handling (\$55 for nonmembers). The GRHS web site address where you may order online is

<http://www.grhs.com>

If you prefer to order by mail or by phone, contact Rachel Schmidt at GRHS Headquarters:

Germans from Russia Heritage Society

1125 West Turnpike Avenue

Bismarck, ND 58501

Phone: (701) 223-6167

Rachel's email: rachel@grhs.org

A team of six individuals developed this Volume published with all proceeds going to GRHS. The team included Al Pfeifle, Dale Wahl, Diane Martin, Heather Landmesser, Valerie Ingram, and **Velma Jesser**.

And, yes, there will be a sequel. The production of Volume II is currently in process. Don't miss out on this invaluable addition to the Stumpp "bible" of German-Russian ancestry documentation.

Laugh A Little

Question: How many genealogists does it take to screw in a light bulb? **Answer:** Six

One to travel to the factory to record the name and age of the bulb

One to test to see if the line is still alive

One to trace the line back to the pole

Two to argue over the name of the *original* pole where the line started

And one to screw in the bulb and write a detailed biographical account of the experience

(Used by permission, Cindy Carman at <http://www.mytrees.com>)

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

GROW Committee Chairs

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*Oscar Geiszler

Car Pooling

*Oscar Geiszler

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Hospitality/Greeting

*Jan Haberman

Collection/Research&Genealogical Assistance

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Vivian Messenger (503) 574-2271 & Evelyn Gatlin, Glen Gumeringer, Carrie Lippincott, Doris Seibert, Alice Summers

Membership

*Cliff Haberman

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Velma Jesser, Editor (see page 11)

*Sharon Voeller, Labeler Alice Sumer, Printing/Mailing

Programs

(Vacant)

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 mande22@msn.com

Special Interests/Obituaries

*Sharon Voeller

Sunshine Gals

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

Bradlee's Missing???

By Bradlee Mertz

Some of you may have noticed that I have been absent from the regular meetings for quite some time. This has been due to time commitments with my family and career, both of which are moving along quite happily.

For the past six months, I have been serving my country and community as an AmeriCorps member with the Northwest Service Academy. Through them, I was placed with Metro where I worked as a watershed steward primarily controlling Japanese knotweed, a highly invasive species. Because of the nature of the plant, it was required that I learn to kayak and obtain my pesticide applicator's license from the State of Oregon. Most of my time was spent floating on the river scouting for the plant, followed by mapping its location and then killing it in a variety of ways. It was my great fortune to not only work with many wonderful landowners and managers throughout the Clackamas watershed but to see on a daily basis some of Oregon's most spectacular areas.

In addition to knotweed, I also started a new project that assists people who have been labeled with mental illness enjoy greater access to the environment through work parties and educational outreach as well as other levels of support. This "little" project has recently gained a life of its own and its beginning to look like I am now going to be balancing this as a job while studying in graduate school.

Our first year back in Oregon brought many challenges, largely due to the poor state of the economy. Not a good time to graduate from college! But being a part of GROW for that year gave me hope, especially listening to members



who lived here in the 1930s and 40s. When I reflect on these stories, along with those of my own family and childhood, I realize how good I really do have it and the vast amount of potential for success I have in this great state. It is comforting to know that so many other German- Russians have come here before me and done so well.

As a fitting end to my AmeriCorps service term, I spent part of my last field work spraying knotweed that Roger Haas had on a property. He helped to get me the job by filling out a very long and tedious reference that the government required. Here I was in my last few weeks spraying down knotweed and helping him out. It was a good feeling! To see a web page on our team, you can follow this link:

<http://www.metro-region.org/article.cfm?ArticleID=6662>

It was also featured in the *Metro Greenscene*.



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 (\$130 per year)

Names of adults in household desiring membership cards _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO **GROW** - US Currency
Mail to: **Roger Haas, 8618 SE 36th 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. To receive future GROW newsletters electronically if you are not already on the list, contact Jessica Mertz (see page 10) and help GROW's budget by doing so.

Submission of Materials: All materials should include a statement that gives permission for use in this newsletter. All contributions, including photos, are welcome; we can scan 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, 3133 Renaissance Loop SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124 or email vjesser@yahoo.com

Let me know what you do/don't like - Your comments are appreciated!

The Next Newsletter . . .

Again, this is **your** newsletter; your contributions are what makes it yours; otherwise, it is just your Editor's newsletter. Keep your Editor happy; send short clips from something you've read, a German-Russian custom, an interesting website, a cartoon, a family photo/document, a question for other members, publicity for an upcoming event, genealogy tips and tricks, an article 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, make **your** contributions the priority!

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

2004 Meeting Dates and Events

Chapter Meeting Dates

Meetings begin at 2 p.m. Solid Rock Baptist Church
January 25 April 25
February 22 May 23
March 28 June 27
No meetings in July, August, and December.
For program descriptions, see page 2

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 \$4.50. Order at the next meeting or contact Leona Koth at (503) 538-3447 or email: LVKoth@msn.com

Board Meeting Dates

Meetings begin at 1 p.m. All members welcome!
Libbie's Restaurant, 11056 SE Main St. In Milwaukie
January 14 April 14
February 11 May 12
March 17 June 9
December 17 No meetings in July & August

GROW Newsletter Deadlines

September 1, December 1, March 1, June 1
(See page 11 for submission 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**

Happy New Year 2004!



Germans from Russia Heritage Society

**Dr. Velma Jesser, Editor
GROW Chapter
3133 Renaissance Loop SE
Rio Rancho, NM 87124**