

GROW Newsletter

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

Volume 3 Issue 4

July - August - September 2004

Message from the President

By Roger Haas

This is indeed a beautiful time of the year with all of the shrubs and flowers blooming in Portland as well as in the surrounding areas. Summer is a good time to plan for fun times with family and friends.

You will not be disappointed by attending one or both of the National Conventions: the GRHS Annual Convention will be held July 22-25 at Bismarck, North Dakota, and the AHSGR Convention will be held July 4-11 at Modesto, California. Excellent libraries, workshops, and speakers undoubtedly will help to provide you with recollections of fond memories and also give you new information on our culture and heritage. Another very enjoyable event is the GROW 2nd Annual Picnic, Saturday, July 3 (see details on page 2).

This past quarter, GROW has had outstanding Presenters with **Milo Bauder's** Power Point pictures and his easy flowing dialogue referencing the Crimea Region in March and with Volhynian **Kurt Radtke** in April with centuries of colored maps of Germany, speaking of his birthplace in Latvia. Reporters **Edwin Weber** and **Dennis Levi** related segments of renowned German-Russian authors and books in May. The membership has not only appreciated the sharing of these exceptional experiences and information, but have also enjoyed the Refreshment Committee's scrumptious array of *Kuchen*, *Apfelstrudel*, pies, cakes, assorted fruits, various drinks, and other treats. The family-type *Gemütlichkeit* has taken us at times beyond the five o'clock hour.

The warm fellowship has created such a good atmosphere as to stimulate us to petition the National GRHS Board of Directors (BOD) to allow the Annual Convention to be brought West, beyond the Dakota borders. Fifty-one members and friends unanimously expressed their interest in seeing the GRHS Convention brought to Portland in 2006. Most of the Committee Chairs and some members committed to making the 2006 Convention a successful event should the GRHS BOD give the green light.

It was expressed that a personal invitation would be extended to the AHSGR Oregon Chapter, the Portland GRHS Genealogical Research Support Group Chapter, the Sacramento GRHS Chapter, the GRHS Puget Sound Chapter, the GRHS Spokane Chapter, as well as the German American Society. The GRHS Executive Board has indicated a favorable response but will not meet formally until the second half of June. The full Board will meet and make a final decision on July 24 at Convention. The Site Screening Committee will do preliminary background work to have answers for the GRHS Board of Directors.

GROW has pursued a new inside Banner for some time, and it is now in its final stage. (See photos and details on page 4.) Have a great summer break! I hope to see you at our June Chapter meeting and our July Picnic!

Why Work?

"I don't like work--no man does--but I like what is in work--the chance to find yourself. Your own reality--for yourself, not for others--what no other man can ever know." *Joseph Conrad*

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(Note: The regularly published sections of *Zuhause, Leute, Kunst und Gewerbe, Sprache, Geschichte und Kultur, Und So Weiter . . .* will reappear in the next edition of the GROW Newsletter.)

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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

June 20 - Cornelia Gibson

GAS School Committee Chairperson

Cornelia Gibson of the German America Society (GAS) Saturday School; Blake Peters, Principal of the German American School of Portland; and Claudia Werner, GAS Director at the German-French School will be making a team presentation on the Opportunities and Enrichment through these schools. We want to expand our awareness of an outreach that is in our midst and probably no well advertised or known to us.

July and August - No meetings

September 26 - Convention Reports & Show and Tell

October 17

Honorary German Consulate Günther Hoffmann

November 28 - To be announced

Membership Drive

Our GROW family is slowly renewing their memberships. If you have not mailed your \$5 donation with your membership application, you perhaps did not get your April-May-June newsletter! All current members have either received their newsletters electronically, were given theirs at the Chapter meeting, or will get theirs via USPS. Please support your GROW Chapter and receive your newsletters full of interesting tidbits and current activities. Also, your National dues allow you to receive their excellent publications. Our GROW family is growing, but we have a number who have not renewed. Check with us if you have any doubts as to your status. We are happy to have recently had as guests **Kathy Janes, Barbara Heuser, Betty Brown, Ruth Meidinger, Donna and Del Usselman, Kurt and Jane Radtke, and Jim Pfau**: we invite them to become GROW members.

GROW Membership Report

Membership as of June 6, 2004

Annual - 118

Life - 23

Associate - 24

Honorary - 10

Total Membership - 175

2nd Annual GROW 2004 Picnic

July 3, 2004 (Saturday)

10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Willamette Park in West Linn, Oregon
(Same location as last year)

When Do We Eat???

“Noonish”



Directions:

From Portland: From Salem:

Take I-205 south to

Exit 6 to 10th Street.

Turn **left** and go to

Willamette Falls Drive

(3 blocks) . . .

. . . Turn **right** on Willamette Falls Drive.

Turn **left** on 12th Street and follow it into the park.

(Do not turn right and go down hill.)

Take I-205 to

Exit 6 to 10th Street.

Turn **right** and go to

Willamette Falls Drive

(3 blocks) . . .

The best parking would be to take 12th until it ends and turn right and park on the left. Our location is a covered area next to the Spouting Fountain; look for our new GROW Chapter banner.

What To Bring:

Your favorite dish to share

Individual table settings and a table cloth

Coolers for your beverages

Chairs if you wish to sit by the Fountain

What Is Provided:

Sixteen electrical outlets to keep food hot

A container of ice to keep foods cool/safe

Tablecloths in a 4th of July theme

Coffee

Park Rules:

Allow alcohol if in single containers

Require that pets be on a leash

Let's make this a success! Bring families and friends to enjoy visiting, music, door prizes, and more. If you would like to donate items for the raffle or would like to sing, dance, or play music or have any other questions, call the Picnic Committee:

Jan Haberman, Roy Schnaible,

Oscar Geiszler (phone numbers on page 10)

See you at the picnic!

Speaker Milo Bauder

March 28, 2004

Milo Bauder spoke about the South Caucasus and Ukraine to an audience of over fifty members and guests. He presented a PowerPoint presentation titled "The German Colonies in Georgia" in a deliberate, clear, and descriptive speaking style and easily responded to questions and comments in an interesting and friendly manner.

Thank you, Milo and Donna!

Speaker Kurt Radke

April 25, 2004

German American Society Past President and Latvian born, **Kurt Radtke**, talked about Europe in the World War II days. He presented GROW with twelve maps dating from 1520 to the present after sharing about the redrawing of the boundaries of different areas and reigns. **Jane Radtke's** scrumptious *Apfelstrudel* added special flavor to our April meeting.

Thank you, Kurt and Jane!

Speaker Edwin Weber

May 23, 2004

Our featured speaker, Susan Baird, became seriously ill and unable to present; we wish her a speedy recovery and will reschedule her for a later date. GROW Director **Edwin Weber** and GROW Member **Dennis Levi**, both avid readers and skilled reporters, gave excellent humorous reports on several books.

Thank you, Edwin and Dennis!

The Winners!

Raffle winners in March included **Vivian Messenger**, **Geri Gander**, **Kathy Janes**, and **Jan Haberman** winning donations from Marcine Hernick, Elsie Steib, Rosalie Scachterle, and Ilene Schnaible. **Roger Haas** donated money for a door prize; **Robert Haas** then won it, not realizing she had donated the money for it!

April raffle winners were **Lorraine Werner**, **Ann Gumeringer**, **Helen Majhor**, and **Rudy Wagemann** from items donated by Elsie Steib, Marcine Hernick, and Roger and Roberta Haas. Roger and Roberta also donated the door prize won by **Maxine Daily**.

May raffle winners were **Lorraine Werner**, **Geri Gander**, **Maureen Kolacek**, **Rudy Wagemann**, and **Elsie Steig**. **Maxine Daily** won the door prize. Donors were Marcine Hernick, the Schnaibles, the Haases, the Gumeringers, and Ron and Pat Schauer.

To donate items or funds for raffles and/or door prizes, contact **Ilene Schaible** or **Jan Haberman**. Thank you to both of them for coordinating this effort!

(Contact information on page 10.)

Newly Elected Board Directors

On May 23, Vice President **Roy Schnaible** installed three members to the 2004 Board of Directors: **Geraldine Gander**, **Roger Haas**, **Oscar Geiszler**.



GROW 2004 Board of Directors

(See page 10 for contact information)

Not shown: Gerry Gander and Maxine Daily

Photo taken by Maxine Daily

Meeting Entertainment

The Emters certainly spiced up intermission and our Gemütlichkeit Stunde (fellowship hour) with their accordions at our March meeting. Attendees sang, hummed, and tapped their toes to the lively music, bringing spirit and cheer to all.



Brothers Al Emter, James Emter, Walter Emter, and Brother-In-Law John Schutt

David Martin played old-time melodies with his mouth harp at the January meeting and accompanied the audience in the song, *Gott is die Liebe* (God Loves Us Dearly) at the February meeting.



Roger Haas and David Martin

New email? New address?

If you have changes, please be sure to notify **Sharon Voeller** whose mission is to keep track of us all!

(Contact information on page 10.)

A New GROW Banner

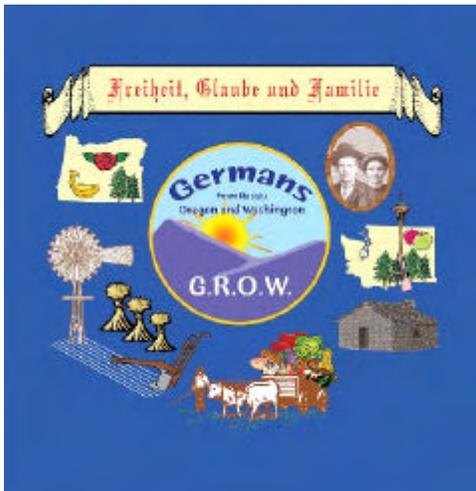
We have a new GROW Chapter banner, designed by Janice Prunier (see photo at right), a graphic designer working for Merrill Corporation in Everett, Washington, and daughter of GROW members Clyde and Maxine Daily. Three key German words—*Freiheit*, *Glaube*, und *Familie*—head the banner and translate as *Freedom*, *Faith* and *Family*. These words represent the driving forces to focus our ancestors as they were leaving Russia to come to America. Here is the final approved design for the new banner:



ready to go to the 2004 Convention to be represented along with all the other Chapter flags.



Jan Haberman and Maxine Daily work on the new banner in Maxine's sewing room.



Other symbols such as the Pioneer Grandparents, a sod house, the oxen pulling the wagon with fruits and vegetables, the hand plow with the furrowed soil, golden grain shocks, and a windmill pumping water remind us of the early settlers' days. Life was basic and simple; labors produced harvests of necessary foods for sustenance.

The "Pioneer Grandparents" pictured on the banner are the grandparents of Maxine Daily, John Lutz of Greenway, South Dakota, and Carolina (Roessler, Lutz, Weber) of Eureka, South Dakota. John Lutz died at age 33 in 1991, Carolina married John Weber on year later.) John Carolina Lutz are the grandparents of Maxine Daily.

The Banner also includes the outline of Oregon with a rose, the forest and fish; the outline of Washington includes the space needle, forests, and apples. The center circle shows the glowing sun above Mt. Hood and Mt. St. Helens. At the base, the circle shows that we are Germans from Russia in Oregon and Washington with the acronym of GROW. The Banner will be on display at our next Chapter meeting and

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
- Immigration History Research Center** *new*
College of Liberal Arts, Univ. of Minnesota
ihrc.umn.edu
- Landmannschaft der Deutschen aus Russland** *new*
Language: German and Russian
deutscheausrussland.de
- Washington State Naturalization Information**
secstate.wa.gov/history/search.aspx

GROW Library

Open: 1 p.m. at each Chapter Meeting

Materials are continually being added to our Library. If you need a home for your Germans-from-Russia related materials, please bring them to the Chapter meeting or contact **Vivian Messenger** or **Glen Gumeringer** (contact information on page 10).

Guest Speakers Wanted!

Do you know of someone who might make a good guest speaker for Chapter meetings? Any topic is "on the table" as long as it is related and of interest to our German-Russian audience. Presentations should last approximately 40 minutes with about 10 minutes for questions. A form letter and questionnaire provided for potential speakers asks about topic details, dates, equipment needs, publications, expectations for expense reimbursement, and other related questions. Topics can include relevant personal experiences, travel to the Ukraine or Germany, genealogical information, or other topics that would appeal to people of German descent.

All potential speakers are evaluated in a "closed" GROW Board Meeting taking into consideration the topic, season of the year, and expenses involved. If you know of a potential speaker, contact **Paul Voeller** at 17064 SE Wiley Way, Milwaukie, OR 97267-5520, Phone: 503-659-2726, FAX 503-659-3675.

Harley and Sharon (Wakefield) Miller

Written by Harley Miller

My wife, **Sharon (Wakefield) Miller** and I live on 34 acres in rural Chehalis, WA in a house we built 34 years ago, having arrived in Chehalis three years prior. This is what our six daughters remember as home, though two were born while in California prior to that time. While Sharon has heritage connecting her to the Frankfurt am Main area of Germany, she is also Scotch-Irish and traces her ancestry to several of the signers of the Magna Carta. I am "der Deutscha Russ" (the German from Russia) in the family. With all that said, my grandparents were born in "Sud Russland" (South Russia, as it was called in those days). My paternal grandparents, **Fredrick and Barbara Rueb Miller** were born in Kassel and my maternal grandmother, **Lena Forkel Finkbeiner**, was born in the nearby village of Gluckstal while maternal grandfather **Otto Finkbeiner** was from Alt-Postal, Bessarabia. Both grandfathers served 5 years in the Russian army. My grandfather Otto was to be re-inscribed into the Russian army when he and my grandmother Lena, then pregnant with my mother, elected to come to the United States of America.



By night in early December of 1906, they hired the services of a Jewish man to ferry them in his boat across the Liman of the Dnesjr (There are several spellings of this.), an estuary of the Dnester River. In 1996 Sharon and I, while on a trip led by Michael Miller, had the privilege of driving over the neck of that Liman, on a bridge, by auto, while visiting Alt-Postal near what is now the Romanian border.

My childhood was spent as an only child on a farm 3 miles west and 3 miles north of Eureka, South Dakota. While we raised cattle and sheep, milked cows, and often had over a thousand laying hens, I early preferred driving the tractor to milking cows and feeding those noisy chickens. Getting out of the "chores" meant getting out on the tractor early and being sure to not come home until those pesky chores were done. At age 11 I cultivated 40 acres of corn in one day and loved every minute of it! My earliest memory of school is when my friend and classmate to be, **Milbert Schott** (also a third-generation neighbor) and I were invited to visit the little yellow one-room schoolhouse the last day of school; we would be first graders the next fall. We were allowed to play outside from time to time that day while the "pupils" were

studying. I remember Milbert and I were on the school porch speaking German when the teacher, a Miss Shaeffer, came out and told us that speaking German on the school grounds was not permitted. We agreed, but when she went back into the schoolhouse we just talked German in low tones, saying, "Wass isch mit derra dumma lets?" (What is wrong with that dumb one?)

Whether this prohibition of speaking German was because we were at war with Germany or whether there were other reasons, I don't know for sure. It was during the first world war that the names of German sounding towns were changed to another name. The little wide spot on the railroad (Soo line) north of Eureka which was called Barbara was changed to Madra so as not to sound German. I have a school book which was my dad's school book, but prior to being his book it was his sister Elizabeth's book. Elizabeth's name was spelled Müller (with an umlaut over the u). When my dad inherited the book, World War I had just started, and his name is written Daniel Miller. He had anglicized his name. My dad also told me that during that war the churches in the area all conducted services in German. The authorities came to the church his family attended at that time and forbade the German language to be used in church. The elders of the church [now called "Church of God [7th Day]] pled with the authorities saying, "We can't speak any English." It was agreed, then, that one of the children would read a text in English after which the rest of the service could be in German.

During the war the government would send spies to watch what the threshing crew ate. The crew was not to be served wheat bread—barley was to be mixed with the wheat because wheat was to be for the soldiers. One such "spy" was a well respected Jew (Joe Bender) who was a business man in Eureka. He came to "help" my grandfather's threshing crew during threshing season but revealed his mission. He threw bundles until noon and then said, "This is hard work; eat what you want to eat."

When asked by my friends what I was going to do when I "was big" my answer was, "I am going to be a big farmer." However, my parents, who had only an eighth-grade education, encouraged me otherwise, never saying more than, "Get an education first; then if you want to farm you can." That was good advice.

Continued Miller, page 6

Miller, continued from page 5

I still have "one foot in the furrow" as we do grow Christmas trees and have a large garden.

When I was 11 years of age, I took a liking to our family doctor, **George McIntosh, MD**. One day during the sixth grade when **Miss (Lillian) Oster** (now Mrs. Ervin Gebhart) was my teacher, I announced that I was going to be an MD. She encouraged me and said I would "make it" so my goal became Loma Linda University, School of Medicine. I was aware it was a school into which acceptance was difficult because an older cousin, **Wilmer Unterseher**, also was headed in that direction. (As of today, quite a number of my cousins have graduated from that university.) Many, but never my parents, discouraged me, but I never wavered even when I was considered by my high school graduating class to be voted "least likely to succeed." I attended Eureka High School and graduated from Plainview Academy, a Seventh-Day Adventist boarding school, finishing in three years. I also attended Northern State Teachers College in Aberdeen, where I was initiated into the science fraternity and graduated from Union College at Lincoln, Nebraska, with a BA in Chemistry.



Sharon is from Takoma Park, Maryland. We met while we were students at Loma Linda University. She graduated from the Loma Linda University School of Nursing in 1959 and a year later was asked to teach neurology in her alma mater. She taught there until I graduated from medicine in 1962. After a year of internship at the Washington Adventist Hospital in Takoma Park, Maryland, we headed back to California for a surgery residency. My draft board was kind enough to give me a one year deferral during the Korean War. During that year uncle Sam called. I elected to serve my service obligations in the U. S. Public Health Service. Adventure called from the cold interior of Alaska.

By this time our two oldest had arrived. We spent two enjoyable years with the US Public Health Service where I was Service Unit Director of The Tanana Service Unit headquartered at Tanana, Alaska. The service unit extended to near the Bering Sea on the West, north to the remote village of Anatum Pass, east to the Canadian border, and south to Fairbanks. There were many trips into the "bush" and to areas north of the arctic circle, sometimes by float plane, dog team, or ski plane. While we were stationed at a hospital compound, these excursions were generally to hold clinics, which were usually done in the one-room schoolhouse (much like the one I remember attending

in South Dakota). One summer we spent an exciting four weeks at Barrow. It was in Alaska where I learned the art of being a "Bush Pilot."

At the end of our tour of duty we flew "out" in our own plane through California, across the southern U.S. and up through Kansas and Nebraska to Northern Minnesota where I practiced medicine with fellow L.L.U. School of Medicine graduates, **Duane Davidson, MD** and **Leo Herber, MD** (a Volga German from Oklahoma) for a year. But the West called. We had 27 offers for employment and chose Chehalis, Washington, where I said I would stay only one year; it would be a good springboard! I chose Chehalis because **Dr. A. R. Twiss**, a native of Tasmania and fellow L.L.U. graduate, was the only doctor who sought my services who also appeared tired! It was an indication to me that he was busy. I enjoyed hard work. (He also paid me double the highest other offer I had!) After delivering 1600 babies, I decided to call quits to the baby-catching business.

A few years later, in the early 90s, I quit hospital surgery while I was ahead, no intra-operative or post-operative deaths. Currently, I deal in mostly office and hospital internal medicine problems. When arriving in Chehalis I was employed as the "junior" by two physician's and their part-time, mostly retired senior. Today I have the dubious honor of being the senior partner. **Anthony Fritz**, with ancestry from Wurtemberg, is my partner in a group which has grown to include 16 providers plus in-house consultants on three campuses. We have sonographic and x-ray services including spiral cat scanning equipment as well as elaborate medical laboratory services and an allied health facility which includes Christian counseling and chiropractic services. Germans from Russia names, such as Hochstetter, Reiswig, Gesselle, Seidel, Kugel, Fritz, Strohbach, Klein, Burger, Pfaff, Tisch, Burghardt, and others have been prominent among our professional staff. In the mid 80s the community identified a need for a retirement center in our community and encouraged us to develop such a facility. After consideration, two of my then medical partners and their wives joined Sharon and myself in constructing a retirement community located on 20 acres close to the 6-acre main campus of our medical offices. It has been a blessing to the actively retired and has grown to over 100 living-unit apartments and duplexes. Three meals a day are served in an elegant dining room and we have a full-time activities director who helps keep the seniors active.

Continued Miller, page 7

Miller, continued from page 6

In 1980 Sharon felt the need to further her education so she enrolled in an off-campus masters program of her Alma Mater which was then directed by my cousin, **Dr. Don Hoffman**. To these off-campus courses located in various areas of the northwest, she took our two youngest along with a baby-sitter. That youngest one (**Rachel**) is now in her last year of a double master's in English Art and English Literature at the University of Edinburgh. The two oldest (**Martha and Kellie**) are teaching in the church schools where their children attend. **Carolyn** is an attorney, **Jennifer** is laboratory director of Western Washington Oncology, and **Tara** is a pharmaceutical representative for Forrest Pharmaceuticals.

During our time in Chehalis we have been active in various community and church activities. Sharon, after thirty years as church clerk, has handed that assignment to another willing individual. I still continue as an elder in our church and am in charge of public relations. We have been privileged to tour the Ukraine on 3 occasions, visiting the villages of my grandparents and doing medical work and lecturing. As a result of these forays into Eastern Europe, we have had the privilege to entertain, in our home, the president of the 5000 student medical sciences university located in L'viv.

The first trip to Ukraine took place by private auto during the height of Communism in 1978. We have also done extensive travel in Germany, England, and Poland identifying and visiting ancestral villages (and sometimes farmsteads) of both Sharon's ancestors and mine. We have visited Pontefract [sp?], which is rich in English history and where one of Sharon's family was Bishop during it's "glory days". Pontefract [sp?] is located close to Wakefield, a city begun by her ancestors. It has been said that if we do not know from where we come we do not have a good grasp of where we are and thus not a good sense of where we are going. That can be said socially, educationally, anthropologically, and spiritually. It is, especially for this reason that I commend Roger Haas, Margaret Freeman, and the many others who are doing so much to acquaint us with our roots—making us cognizant of our ancestral past.

My paternal grandparents arrived on the homestead northwest of Eureka, South Dakota, on May 5, 1885, after having spent the winter in Menno, South Dakota, with friends. While in Menno, they buried their young child who had perished that winter. They had \$10, a little pig, some flour, bacon drippings, a yoke of oxen, a wagon, and a plow when they arrived on the

homestead. The family which consisted of my grandparents and three pre-school children, **Elizabeth (Keim) Miller, Fred,** and **John** spent the nights of their first few weeks on the homestead under a wagon box. The first night there was a rainstorm and grandfather had to get up and shift the open end of the wagon box out of the wind several times as the wind shifted. The next day he took the oxen to go back to Ipswich, South Dakota, about 58 miles to the southeast to purchase lumber to support the sod on the roof of their to-be-constructed sod house. The next morning grandmother and 3 pre-school children awoke to a sea of white, several inches of it. There had been a recent prairie fire, and there was nothing in sight to use for fuel. The closest fuel she found was in the form of reeds growing in a lake three miles to the northeast. The lake is a natural reservoir of what we now know as Spring Creek.

As I reflect on the years gone by, I can say as did my grandfather, Fredrick Miller.during his retiring years, "In spite of the hardships we endured in the early years, I have nothing to complain; America has been good to me." Of course, I did not experience hardships nearly to the degree my grandparents did.

*Viele Grusze zu alle
und mog Gott euch alle Segnen,
Harley D. Miller*

Jake and Satlight

*Written by Beverly Hunter Aper
As told by her Great Uncle Jake*

My Mennonite great-grandfather, **Dietrich Isaac**, left South Russia in 1874 and settled in Jansen, Nebraska. A year after his first wife died, he married a very young lady. In 1899 they moved to Munich, North Dakota, where Dietrich filed for a homestead.

In 1925 Dietrich was seventy-eight years old and in poor health. Adding to his problems, he had not had good crops for several years so his farm was put up for auction by the county sheriff. Son Jake, then nineteen years old, had cried for days because he was going to lose his pet horse "Satlight." On the day of the auction,



Jake had only \$15 in his pocket, all of the money he had. He moved up to a position in front of the crowd and opened the bid for his horse at \$15. The auctioneer immediately announced, "SOLD!" and Jake got to keep his old friend, Satlight.

Lydia Schauer's Memoirs
Part I—Evacuation from Russia (continued)
dedicated to her children and grandchildren
Dated May 1, 1978

Note from the Editor: The beginning of Part I—Evacuation from Russia was published in GROW Newsletter Volume 3, Issue 3; Part II—Immigration will continue in the next GROW Newsletter. The entire article, complete with footnotes, can be located at the GRHS website under VC Newsletter, Supplemental 11-3-Sup AC, dated: Nov 2003.

In Gifhorn, we were brought to an old school house. Older nuns brought us bread and warm barley coffee. A person in charge of refugees provided us a dwelling. The owner of the house, Fräulein Martha Wolter, was not friendly. She did not welcome children. In the morning, before she went to the work in the pharmacy, she locked all the doors and turned the water off. We had to crawl through the windows; she did not give us a key.

We got water from a stream that flowed near the house. The can we found in the street. A kind neighbor, Frau Fischer, who observed this, led us to housing authority. There, the government officials made sure that Miss Wolter would not lock us out or deny us water.

In Gifhorn, they gave us ration cards, but I had no money and without money, I was not able to buy anything. From house to house, Erwin and I went in search of work. I turned to the person in charge of the refugees, the one who provided us with a place to live, Herr Boeseberg was his name. He was a sympathetic man who gave Erwin work in his glass factory. He was to sweep the factory, but soon he was working as a bottle burner. Erwin, at 14 years of age, earned about 35 marks a month, a big help. With this, we were able to buy food. I got work in the family household of Herr Kalberlah, an upholsterer.

In May 1945, the war came to an end. Immediately I began searching for my husband, through the Red Cross, I questioned everywhere. I asked every soldier I came across. To no avail, I could find no trace of him, a *Feltpostnummer* might have been helpful, but he did not receive one when he entered (into the army).

In Wolfsburg, was the seat of the Russian commissioner. He persuaded many refugees from our homeland to return. Many women believed this promise: "Your sons and men, all those who were in the German army, are already at home and are waiting for you there." I did not know what to believe. It was a hard time in Germany after the war, many buildings were destroyed, and the grocery shelves were empty.

I sought advice from Frau Kalberlah. This is what she said: "You stay here, I will not let you go hungry. We have three goats, a couple of chickens and pigs. In the garden, you already have vegetables and potatoes planted, continue working for me and your children will not starve here." My decision to stay in Germany was based on Frau Kaberlah's promise and advice and also my memory of eleven years under Communist rule. There we worked day and night, swollen with hunger. Often I looked up toward the sky and prayed; dear God have mercy on us, take us from here like the children of Israel." Our Father had heard us; we were at last away from the communists. I stayed in Germany!

After the war, there was little to buy, clothing and shoes were unavailable. I had to have our shoes repaired at the shoemaker. Getting groceries required standing in a long line and there was little available. I was made an offer by a farmer to harvest his potatoes, for a few potatoes for myself, a job I would gladly accept.

On October 8, 1945, Monday morning by seven o'clock, I had to meet with other workers in the hof (yard) of the farmer and then go out to the fields. In the morning, before I walked the five kilometers to the farm, I wanted to deliver the shoes to the shoemaker. My way brought me past a Red Cross station, but I resolved that I would not check the missing persons list for any information about relatives.

It was four o'clock in the morning; the Red Cross was still closed. From a distance, I saw a soldier who studied the list at the door. I said to myself, it is a long way to the shoemaker and in order to be on time to the farmer, I had no time today to stick around and talk to the soldier. There was not enough time to spend trying to find out more about my husband or my brother.

Thinking this, I crossed the street avoiding the Red Cross Station. After a couple of steps, I suddenly stood in place, something made me turn toward the Red Cross and cross the street. At that moment the soldier turned around, and I recognized my husband. We cried loudly and fell into each other's arms. After 11 months, my husband came back to my children and me. I had seen no living trace of him since November 5, 1944, and he knew nothing about us. This was again God's Will and not my doing.

On May 4, 1945, my husband became an English captive in Lübeck, Germany. After his release after

Continued Lydia Schauer, page 9

Lydia Schauer, continued from page 8

two months of captivity, they allowed him to go to Hanover. He asked specifically about this area, for a comrade who he had marched with said, "You know Jakob, many of our people are in Hanover." Unfortunately, he could find no one he knew or any relatives so he found a place to stay with a farmer. He worked for three months and as soon as the harvest was brought in, he went out in search for his family on a Saturday. He walked sixty kilometers, from place to place, until he came to the Red Cross in Gifhorn, which was closed for the weekend. He spent the night in the youth hostel until Monday morning where we finally met. Much later in the evening. I thought again about the potato farmer.

The war had ended; Germany was divided. The Russian zone was close to Wolfsburg, only a few kilometers from Gifhorn. At night the Russians came into the English zone and dragged off entire families (who were from our home areas in the Ukraine) over the boundary to the Russian zone. They deported these people to Siberia, into prison camps or into the forest for heavy labor for 10 to 15 years. Germans were not allowed on the street after nine o'clock in the evening, the English let the Russians have a free hand.

After a time, the laws in Germany became better, but things were always unsettled. We wanted to get even farther away from the Russians. An aborted attempt was made to immigrate to Canada. Then I had remembered; my father, Johann Alexander, had a brother, Jakob, in Bismarck, North Dakota. My father's two brothers, Jakob and Gottlieb, and sister, Christina, immigrated to America in the year 1894. It had been forbidden for my mother to have any contact with them. From the year 1921, we had no more connections. I was then twelve years old.

Through an acquaintance, who immigrated to America, I gave all information I knew of my uncle Jakob Alexander. This person wrote an article in the *Staatsanzeiger*, a German newspaper in North Dakota, about our search for my uncle, such as our address, etc. My Uncle Jakob worked for this newspaper.

Soon after that we received letters and packages from my relatives in North Dakota. Uncle Jakob was a friend of Senator William Langer. This senator was involved in immigration matters. Through his efforts, our dream of going to the United States became a reality.

To be continued in the next edition of this newsletter

Family News

See page 11 for details to submit material.

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



Susan Baird, who has been seriously ill.
Roberta Haas, who still needs our prayers.
Willy Horner, who had surgery on a leg artery.
Helen Majhor, who has not been feeling well.
Ron Vossler, who has had health problems.



Happy 54th Anniversary
Oscar and Lorraine Geiszler
and many more!

*With Sympathy To Loved Ones,
We Remember*

"Swede" Brandenburg who died at his home December 24, 2003. Arthur A. Brandenburg was born June 13, 1918, in Edgeley, North Dakota, to Herman and Edith Stibble Brandenburg and married Rella Lang in Edgeley on October 21, 1962. He attended school in North Dakota and owned and operated the family's Edgeley homestead, which celebrated its centennial in 2002. The Brandenburgs moved to the Northwest in 1988, and Rella Brandenburg is one of our GROW members.



Frances M. Sams was born in Eastend, Saskatchewan, to Roy and Magdalena (Kulm) McClurg and was called home to the Lord on her 88th birthday, January 9, 2004. She was preceded in death by her husband, Clifford C. Sams. Frances was a member of GROW. Contributions may be given to the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation or Manito United Methodist Church.

Peter Ustinov Passes Away

Peter Ustinov was a member of the Russian nobility of Saratov, Russia. He died of heart failure at the age of 82 in Switzerland. He had one Volga-German grandmother, and his family made their millions in the Siberian salt trade. He was a well-known Oscar-winning film star, actor, author, and playwright; he spoke more than a half dozen languages and served as the goodwill ambassador for the UN Children's Fund. Just 18 months before his death, he said in an interview that he was happy to work until he dropped "as long as I can be guaranteed that I won't know in advance when it's going to happen."

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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 on this page.)

Fundraisers Roy Schnaible reports books, CDs, and other items are selling well at the Chapter meetings. Proceeds from raffles, facility use, badges and memberships also add to GROW funds. In addition, regular checks are being received from Albertson's Scan Cards; contact Roger Haas for your card if you don't already have one. Oscar Geiszler also sent in a case of empty inkjet and laser cartridges for an additional fundraiser. He can also help you receive approximately 50% discount on refilled cartridges. Bring your empty cartridges to chapter meetings or contact Oscar directly. (Contact information for Roy, Roger, and Oscar can be found above on this page.)

Need a GROW Name Badge?

Name tags help you get to know other members at GROW activities and help others put your face with your name. Name badges in the shape of Oregon and Washington have your name and ancestral villages imprinted along with a clasp pin or neck rope (lanyard). At a cost of \$5, order a badge at the next meeting or contact:

Leona Koth at (503) 538-3447

email: LVKoth@msn.com

GROW Committee Chairs

*Member of Board of Directors (contact information in left column)

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

Bob Schauer (360) 687-1905 / bschaue@pacifier.com

Library

Vivian Messenger (503) 574-2271 or cvmesseng@hotmail.com

Evelyn Gatlin, Glen Gumeringer at amggum@aol.com,

Carrie Lippincott, Alice Summers

Membership

*Geri Gander

Newsletter

Velma Jessor, Editor (see page 11)

*Sharon Voeller, Labeler

Alice Summers, Printing/Mailing

Programs

(Vacant)

Refreshments

Roberta Haas (503) 659-8248

Ilene Schnaible (503) 623-5529

Lorraine Geiszler, Ann Gumeringer, Helen Mahjor,
and Rosalie Schachterle

Pictorial Scrapbook

*Maxine Daily

Special Interests/Obituaries

*Sharon Voeller

Sunshine Gals

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 debra@voeller.us

The Sunshine Gal

The Sunshine Gal helps us show GROW cares!

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.

Hope to see you there!

GRHS Convention - July 22-25, 2004

Ramkota Hotel - Best Western

Bismarck, North Dakota

AHSGR Convention - July 4-11, 2004

Doubletree, 1150 Ninth Street, Modesto, CA 95354

Tel: 1-209-526-6000, FAX: 1-209-526-6096



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\$40GRHS 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, Ph.D.:

3133 Renaissance Loop SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124 or email vjesser@yahoo.com or FAX (505) 892-8592

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

You can always tell a failure by the way he/she criticizes success!

The Next Newsletter . . .

This is *your* newsletter; your contributions are what makes it yours; otherwise, it is just your Editor's newsletter. Please 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 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*

No meetings in July and August

September 26, 2004

October 17, 2004

November 28, 2004

No meeting in December 2004

For program descriptions, see page 2

Board Meeting Dates

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

Libbie's Restaurant, 11056 SE Main St. in Milwaukie

No meetings in July and August

September 15, 2004

October 13, 2004

November 17, 2004

December 15, 2004

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



Germans from Russia Heritage Society

Dr. Velma Jesser, Editor

GROW Chapter

3133 Renaissance Loop SE

Rio Rancho, NM 87124

