



GROW Quarterly Newsletter

Area Chapter of the Germans from Russia Heritage Society (GRHS)

Volume 6 Issue 4

July - August - September 2007

Message from the President



Roger Haas, President

The GROW Chapter, as all Chapters in GRHS, was created by completing an application with 15 or more families, with a name and address, and by pledging to follow the By-Laws of the Society. This was done in 2001. It started well under President Oscar Geiszler, until his health began failing and a couple of officers left their position. In April 2002, the General Membership elected Roger Haas as Executive Director and in June as President. The membership grew in 2002, to become the largest Chapter in the Society with 252 families enrolled.

The Chapter was young and the members were full of enthusiasm. The enrollment declined in 2003 to 201, and in 2004 to 187. Then we had a slight upswing to 200 in 2005 and last year we dropped to 174. You would have thought in hosting the GRHS Convention that we would have gained, but our efforts were in providing the finest Celebration that GROW could assemble. GROW did well with your help. Now, what excuse have we this year to reach or succeed the 2002 record? Without a doubt, by the time you read this letter, we will have 190 families enrolled. We are almost through the first half of the year and recruitment is more difficult the remainder of the year. It is up to you, the members, to enroll those of your family who will **perpetuate your heritage**. If they are first timers they are eligible to pay for the remaining quarters @ \$10 p/qtr., such as \$20 from July 1 to Dec 31 or for \$10 from Oct 1 to 31 Dec 2007.

In going to the Convention, you can get a \$10 discount on your Registration, etc. You have access to secured areas that non-members can't access, etc. Think about it; your money will be well invested in

those you love and it may inspire them to read a article in the GROW Newsletter or the Heritage Review that will stimulate them to carry on where you may leave off some day. You undoubtedly were NOT that committed twenty or thirty years ago. We have a tendency to think about ancestry and our history when our lives start rolling to the end, not when it begins, or when we are in the prime of our life.

The history of GROW also reflects that we have been a Chapter of Service; again, Thanks to you for your commitments, attendance, and giving. The Newsletter has been a main stay besides our good programs and excellent refreshments each and every Chapter meeting.

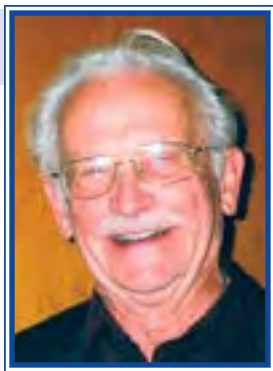
The Chapter has enrolled members primarily from Oregon & Washington, but some outside of the two states have tasted our hospitality, quality newsletter, and good programs plus other features and have hopped aboard. We appreciate each and everyone in our family. We have added the Chapter Meeting Summary for those who can't attend. This spring we added the GROW Membership Roster, and subsequent to this last Chapter Meeting, we have made available Family History forms and materials by Genealogist Susan Baird as an added feature. It is your excitement and reaching out that will make our Chapter grow and improve. Thanks!

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Ed's Corner

In my last Corner I mentioned a statement from "Tracing Your Dakota Roots, A Guide To Genealogical Research In the Dakotas" that stated: "When the Great Depression struck in the 1930s, Dakotans left the two states in vast numbers. During this great Dakotan exodus, letters from relatives who moved to the West Coast years earlier prompted Dakotans devastated by the drought, dust, and to pull up their Dakota roots and replant them in areas such as Lodi, CA, and Eugene, OR."



Ed Weber

I think a lot of us know quite a bit about the Great Depression that struck in the 1930s and don't really know too much about the, "devastated by the drought and dust," part. My family moved from South Dakota in 1936 to Washington State and I have some strong memories about the drought, named the Dust Bowl. In 1934 there was a dust storm in Isabel that left a large drift of dust (not snow) in our yard in front of the garage and I got the privilege of shoveling the drift into my wagon and hauling it to the garden and the street. Oh yes, the same drift was higher than the sill to the outhouse and that had to be cleared first of all.

I went to an encyclopedia for a definition of The Dust Bowl and learned this: "One of the most terrible things that ever happened to farmers in the United States was the dust storms of the 1930s in Oklahoma and parts of Texas and other states. The farmers had used poor farming methods and most of the topsoil in this region dried out, forming a crumbling powder. The dry winds came and blew all this powdery earth into the air making terrible dust storms. People called this part of the United States the Dust Bowl."

A famous book, *The Grapes of Wrath*, by the American writer, John Steinbeck, is all about what happened to the farmers who left the dust bowl and went, with their families, to California."

This doesn't tell the whole story. One definition says that the Dust Bowl condition describes the worst world ecological disaster of the twentieth century. North and South Dakota are on the northern edge of the Dust Bowl and didn't feel the full effect of the dust storms, but they were involved.

The weekly newspaper, *Isabel Dakotan*, has a section called "Peek Into The Past" that reprints news stories from the past and here are some that tell a story of the drought:

"April 30, 1937. — Carl Hotel offers a reward of \$100 for the return of his farm which was carried away Saturday and Sunday. This reward will stand for some time."

"April 30, 1937. — Rev. Reiger of Mobridge was to Isabel Sunday, but on account of the dust storms could not have church in the building. The service was held at Schutz home."

"May 7, 1937. — The Bertsch brothers and Ted Bertsch visited relatives at Greenway, ND. A real dust storm was encountered from Mobridge on and they had to turn on their lights during the day time to drive."

I'm currently reading a book, "The Worst Hard Time", written by Timothy Egan, that is the untold story of those who survived The Great American Dust Bowl. The story takes place in western Nebraska, but it also covers what North and South Dakota in a small part experienced in the 1930s. Here is a portion of the introduction:

"The rains disappeared — not for just a season but for years on end. With no sod to hold the earth in place, the soil calcified and started to blow. Dust boiled up, ten thousand feet or more in the sky, and rolled like moving mountains — a force of their own. When the dust fell, it penetrated everything: hair nose, throat, kitchen, and bedroom. A scoop shovel was needed just to clean the house in the morning. The eeriest thing was the darkness. People tied themselves to ropes before going to the barn just a few hundred feet away, like a walk in space, tethered to the life support center. Chickens roosted in midafternoon.

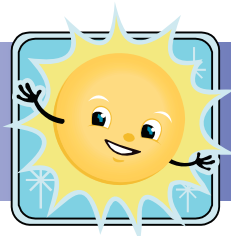
'There'd be days, you couldn't see your hand in front a your face,' Osteen says, using the exact words that other people from his generation use. They know some people do not believe them, just as many in the East did not believe the initial accounts of predatory dust until a storm in May 1934 carried the windblown shards of the Great Plains over much of the nation. In Chicago, twelve million tons of dust fell. New York, Washington — even ships at sea, three hundred miles off the Atlantic coast — were blanketed in brown.

Cattle went blind and suffocated. When farmers cut them open, they found stomachs stuffed with fine sand. Horses ran madly against the storms. Children coughed and gagged, dying of something the doctors called 'dust pneumonia'."

That's it from Ed's corner. Enjoy our rainy weather.

Sunshine News

by Cathy Lobb



Our prayers and best wishes go out to Geri Gander, Paul and Sharon Voeller and Ed Weber.

The GROW family wishes all of you good health and happiness.

Pay Your Dues Directly to GROW

You may have read in the Heritage Review that members should send their dues DIRECTLY to GRHS. That may be fine for some Chapters that haven't the desire for membership recruitment or don't care about their membership status.

GROW does not wish to WAIT up to three months for the GRHS to provide GROW's LIST OF PAID MEMBERS. Hence, the Chapter doesn't know whether the member is a paid GRHS member or not, plus the Chapter does NOT know the Members, such as having become a LIFE member? Even more important. WHEN did the member pay?

GROW has had an excellent service record, commencing about 15 October of requesting the following year's dues for both GRHS & GROW to be paid at a Chapter Meeting or by mail in (1) One check for both the National Dues and the local Chapter donation: a convenience to the Member. GROW records any changes in addresses, phone numbers, family name searches, added or deleted ancestral villages,

birthday, and anniversary dates. Usually within 1 or 2 weeks, GROW forwards the national dues with other member dues to Bismarck. GROW DOES NOT HAVE TO WAIT UP TO THREE MONTHS to get some of the information back and YOU will NOT have a delay of getting your password or Heritage Review.

GRHS sends its reports to the Chapter in January, April and July. GRHS changed its format in 2007 and has NOT provided in its new report the Members' GRHS number to match what the Members share as their membership number, current E-mail addresses, or other additional information found on the Member's application.

GROW provides more frequent & regular Membership reminders while GRHS sends out one reminder in January. Members are busy and sometimes lay papers aside and forget, are on vacation, or whatever. They respond with a gentle phone call or E-mail

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In Memory of...

by Lola M Weber

When I opened the old trunk and pulled out the box that the funeral home had given the family, I realized that it contained my parents and grandparents funeral books. In it were sympathy cards with original signatures of family and friends – many who are long gone from this earth. There were letters, and florist cards for arrangements given. I



Lola Weber

asked myself – how could this little book become more of a memorial to these loved one(s)?

I began to sort items and printed pictures that I had which reflected their lives. Then I thought of the interview that I had recorded with my mother many years ago and pulled a copy of it out. In it were many tid-bits of information about the character of her mother and father – people that I never had the privilege of knowing. I put items in a time sequence and the final page held the obituary, funeral card and photo of the cemetery gravestone. From my genealogy data, I had pedigree charts and family group sheets that would show their lineage.

Among the letters for my grandfather was one written by the Methodist minister who had visited him in the hospital in Mitchell, SD prior to his death. Fortunately, he wrote this letter to the family

following the death and shared that Frederick Schley had asked to be baptized before he died. Without that letter, we would never have known of that event in his life.

Pages were added to some of the books and when I realized that I couldn't locate a funeral book for my maternal grandmother (Myrtle Green Schley) I decided to produce one as a memorial to her life. Although I had no sympathy or florist cards or letters I was very thankful for the interview I had done with my mother (her daughter). I was able to pull out items that would share some of the personality characteristics, joys and sorrows of her life. I placed a quick telephone call to my 95 year young aunt (and the only survivor from this family). She helped fill in some of the events of Myrtle's life, and her final days on this earth.

A note inside of each book was made indicating who the book was to be given to or where it could be placed for the future. I hope to encourage you to think about doing something like this to leave for your family. They may not be interested in all the genealogy documents that we've uncovered, but I believe that a "story" of their lives is something they will cherish.

Left undone/not said, is a question that I would love to ask – "what advice would they give to those generations who came after?" Perhaps in trying to understand their lives and how they lived, we can guess what they may have told us.

Genetic Genealogy: A New Tool for Genealogists

The science of genetics and DNA research has come a long way since Watson and Crick first discovered DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) over 50 years ago. DNA is stored in the nucleus of each cell and controls the cell and its interactions with other cells in the body. DNA is composed of long strands of 4 different subunits called bases that are then paired to each other. The four different bases are cytosine, adenine, thymine, and guanine. The DNA in humans is organized in 46 chromosomes, of which 44 are autosomal chromosomes and 2 are sex chromosomes, the X and Y chromosomes. Males have one Y chromosome and one X chromosome. Females have two X chromosomes. The Y chromosome is passed down from each father to his sons. If a father has a daughter he passes on his X chromosome to his daughters. Mothers pass one of their X chromosomes on to both their daughters and their sons.

Since about 95% of our DNA doesn't code for any known function it has been subject to random mutations over the millennia. These mutations are potentially helpful to genealogists if they are carefully studied. The mutations generally occur in two forms: single nuclear polymorphisms (SNPs) and short tandem repeats (STRs). SNPs are focal single base pair mutations where one base is substituted for another at a particular location on a chromosome. STRs are longer DNA segments that consist of repeated 3 to 6-base pair sequences in which an additional sequence is occasionally either added or deleted.

An example of an STR composed of a 4-base pair sequence that is repeated five times is as follows: CATA CATA CATA CATA CATA. In this example each letter is an abbreviation for the base that is in that segment of DNA. The number of times that any one sequence is repeated (in this case CATA) is the value for that particular STR marker. In this example, the value for the STR marker would be 5. In general, the values for any particular marker can vary, but are usually between 5 and 35. There are usually between 5 and 10 different values that are possible for any particular marker.

There are hundreds, if not thousands, of STR markers on each chromosome. As these markers are identified they are given a name by geneticists, such as DYS390. If one tests multiple different markers on a chromosome or chromosomes (usually the Y chromosome), the resulting set of values for each group of markers is called a haplotype. Geneticists have discovered that the Y chromosomes of all men in world can be arranged in 18 different groupings known as haplogroups. Each haplogroup is defined by whether or not the Y chromosomes of the men in that haplogroup have a particular set of SNPs and has been named by a specific letter of the alphabet (A to R).

As a general rule SNPs occur relatively infrequently, usually only about one time per every 50,000,000 bases that are replicated. However, since there are about 3.2 billion base pairs in the human genome and about 60 million base pairs in the Y chromosome, on the average about 60 SNPs should occur in each new child that is born that don't appear in their parents and about one SNP should be found in the Y chromosome of each boy that is born that his father's Y chromosome doesn't have.

Mutations occur much more frequently in STR markers than SNPs occur. On the average, there is about a 0.4% chance that any given STR marker will mutate in any given generation. When mutations occur the value of the marker usually increases by one or decreases by one depending on whether an extra copy of the repeated sequence was inserted into the DNA or whether one of the repeated sequences was deleted. On rare occasions a mutation can result in an STR marker's value increasing or decreasing by two or more. As a general rule, the higher any particular marker's value, the more it is prone to mutate.

In the past 6 years DNA analysis has been increasingly used by genealogists as a tool to answer genealogical questions or to confirm assumed relationships. Up to this point most research has focused on the Y chromosome, which is only found in males and is passed down from father to son. If two males share a recent common ancestor then their Y chromosomes should be identical, or at least nearly identical. The more dissimilar any two males' Y chromosomes, the more distantly related they are. Genealogists have been analyzing the DNA samples from many men with the same surname to see if they have share a common recent ancestor.

The largest surname project in the world thus far is the Williams surname project which includes over 400 different males with the surname Williams. In the past several years one of my friends Glenn Penner has collected DNA samples from about 30 different male Penners who are not known to be related to each other. The data from each of these people indicates that all but one branch of the Penners descend from a common ancestor who appears to have lived within the past 400 to 600 years. Other Mennonite surname projects are currently underway for many Mennonite surnames to see if all branches descend from the same male progenitor or if some of the surnames have multiple different progenitors.

Based on the results available at this time the surnames Froese, Hiebert, Janzen, Schroeder, Penner, and Wieler all appear to have more than one progenitor. It is possible that there was only one original progenitor for some surnames such as Hiebert and

Continued on page 5.

Genetic Genealogy: A New Tool for Genealogists, cont.

Penner, but due to either an adoption or an illegitimate birth that took place at some point in the past 600 or so years, one or more men were given the Hiebert or Penner surname even though they don't carry the same Y chromosome as the original progenitor of that particular surname. Such situations are referred to by genetic genealogists as non-paternity events (NPEs). Non-paternity events, if they have

occurred at any time in the past on any particular male line, complicate the situation since it is often difficult if not impossible to determine precisely where the NPE occurred and/or who the real father was of the male who was either adopted or born illegitimately.

Continued next issue

Meet Our New Director - Jeanette Crockett McDermid

Jeanette was born in Bend, OR in 1941. She grew up on a Raspberry Farm at 186th NE Glisan, Portland, OR.

· She spent 12 years at Portland State University as a Librarian Assistant; five years at Citicorp, as an Administrative Assistant; and 22 years at Mt. Hood Community College: five years Business Office Librarian; 11 years Community Services; six years Administrative Assistant



Jeanette McDermid

in Communications, Performing & Visual Arts Dept.
· Other: part time for Dun & Bradstreet, remodeling foreclosed houses and rental house plus my home.

Jeanette retired 1998 but is still working part time at MHCC in Community Education registration. Tape books for students in the Disability Services Office.

Jeanette's current activities include: Past President & current Treasurer, Rockwood Kiwanis Club; Treasurer, East Metro Arts & Culture Council; Gresham Art Advisory Committee Member; Past Treasurer Fairview-Rockwood-Wilkes Historical Society; Coordinator, Mt Hood Community College Retirement luncheon group; assisting in the renovation of the 1893 Heflin House in Fairview for the Fairview/Rockwood/Wilkes Historical Society

Jeanette is single, no children three dogs and one kitty.

She has her grandmother's on her mother's side Swedish genealogy completed back to 1600 (Eriksson). She is trying to research her father's German mother Wilhelmina Busse and his father Jesse Eli Crockett.

Area Writing Classes - contact respective schools for registration information.

by Jeanette McDermid

Summer class at Portland Community College – PMS: Poetry/Memoir/Short Stories, A Women's Writing Workshop — In the first half of class we discuss poems, memoirs, short stories by women writers. Then the focus is on your writing. The mood is warm, supportive, high-spirited, fun. Beginners welcome. Help with getting started, revision, marketing.

Fall class at Portland Community College –

Write Your Life Story — For beginning and continuing students. Learn writing techniques that will turn your life story into an interesting and treasured gift for your family and friends. Taught by nationally awarded authors.

Summer class at Clackamas Community College – Milwaukie Center

Life Story Writing — Capture your life experiences or family stories on paper before they are lost to the next generation. We'll show you how. Senior Discount \$35. Milwaukie Center

The classes at MHCC Community Education (non-credit classes) for Fall 07 that people might be interested in for memoir writing are as follows:

Writing Your Memoirs — Create the perfect gift for your family, friends or even yourself! A record of your life and experiences expressed with your personal style. Long-time, well-respected instructor helps you weave the fabric of your life into a story for future generations to read and cherish.

Writing Your Autobiography — It's time you wrote your autobiography, your personal story, for your spouse, the kids and grandkids, for your progeny. Everyone has a story to tell, and if you don't write it down the story might be lost. Preserve your memories by compiling interesting chapters of your life.

Professional Novel and Memoir Writing — Provides a basic framework and experience for writing both fiction and nonfiction. Develop and complete your book-length project through professional critiques and peer review in this comfortable, friendly atmosphere.

Man in the Trunk

by Lola M. Weber

When my mother died, her father's (Frederick W Schley) trunk became a coveted family heirloom in my home. The trunk has a rounded top with a metal cloisonné design and wooden slats and inside is a wooden tray. The old leather handles on both ends are badly worn and had torn over the years of pushing and pulling the trunk around. I had used the trunk to carefully packed my first doll and some of mom's hand work in the trunk along with my baby items.

On a recent trip with friends, it was suggested that the leather handles could be replaced. And when we returned home, my husband asked me to unload the trunk and he worked at carefully removing the hardware and the handles so that we could begin the search for replacements.

He had taken it out to the shop and came back in the house with what looked at first like a large piece of yellowed cardboard that lined the bottom of the trunk. Imagine my amazement when he showed me a picture of the man with a long beard on the other side! Evidently, this picture had been placed in the trunk face side down, and even my mother had not realized the location in all those years that the trunk was in her home.

I immediately knew that it was NOT a Schley family member and could only guess that it was on Myrtle GREEN's side of the family. Then, I remembered mom and two of her sisters sharing that "Grandpa Green" had a very long beard and had come to South Dakota for a visit to his daughter and her family. I was sure this HAD to be Samuel David Green (1848-1916) taken in his younger years.

Fortunately, I still have an aunt (who is almost 95 years young) who could possibly identify the photo. I made a print and got it in the mail to her immediately. Time was running out! I waited a few days so that she could have gotten the picture - and then I called. I was thrilled to learn that it was indeed her Grandpa Green. She remembers that at a very young age, she sat on his lap (when he was visiting in SD) and that he had a very long white beard. After he left, she asked her, "ma who was that man?!!" And she was told that it was her mother's father.

We went on to discuss the two oval pictures of Grandpa and Grandma Green that had hung in her parental home for many years. She shared that she had possession of the pictures and at some time in their many moves, - had left them in an attic is one of the many houses. She couldn't identify the houses or a time frame more than Sanborn County SD and in the Dirty Thirties. My heart sank.

Although it's a desperate long shot, I am contemplating if there might be a way to advertise on the



internet. Two places that I will post for the location of Sanborn County, South Dakota are at www.rootsweb.com and www.usgenweb.com.

Share Your Stories!

**Research requested for
Germans from Russia
in Portland in the early years.**

*Where did they live?
What were their customs?
Where did they go to
school, work, or church?*

We have received this request from
an individual out of the area.

If you would like to take this on,
it would be great information to
put in the newsletter as well.

Please contact: Lola M Weber,
106 Victoria St, Longview, WA
98632, or call 360-423-8359 or
email: hunter6806@msn.com

“175 Questions” Family History Questionnaire

An excellent way to get started, if you have not already, putting your Family Tree together is the use of a pedigree chart. Susan Baird has offered to put all the GROW Family in a database with the cross reference of every name for our memberships' availability with their home computer or which will be available at the GROW Library for those without a PC (personal computer). She supplied a Pedigree Chart (available at the GROW Library) and the 175

YOURSELF

1. What is the name you were given at birth?
2. When were you born? Where? Hospital or at home?
3. Were you named after a relative or family friend? Why was your name chosen?
4. Have you ever had a nickname? Who gave it to you and why?
5. Did your parents or siblings like to tell any funny or embarrassing baby stories about you?
6. What did you want to be when you grew up?

FAMILY

7. What is your mother's name?
8. When and where was she born?
9. Is she still alive? When did she die?
10. What is your most vivid image of your mother?
11. What is your Father's name?
12. When and where was he born?
13. Is he still alive? When did he die?
14. What is your most vivid image of your father?
15. Where did your parents meet?
16. When and where did they get married?
17. What are your brothers and sisters names?
18. What is the most enjoyable memory of time spent with your parents, your family?
19. What are some of the most valuable lessons your parents taught you?

GRANDPARENTS

20. What were the names of your mother's parents?
21. When and where were they born and where did they live?
22. What did they do for a living?
23. Do you have personal memories of them? What were they like?
24. What were the names of your father's parents?
25. When and where were they born and where did they live?
26. What did they do for a living?
27. Do you have personal memories of them? What were they like?
28. What was the most enjoyable time spent with each grandparent?
29. Did they have a favorite story that you remember them telling?
30. What do you know about your grandparent's children, other than your parents?
31. What do you remember hearing about your GREAT-Grandparents?
32. Did you ever meet them?
33. From what part of the world did your family emigrate? Any stories told in your family about the crossing? Did they become U.S. citizens? Do you have any relatives in foreign countries?
34. Where did they settle in this country? Why?
35. Do you have any relatives who were famous? Or who took part

Questions for easily writing up your or anyone's Ancestral History.

Complete this simple four generation chart and submit it to her.

You can contact or call Vivian Messenger cvmesseng@hotmail.com, 503-574-2271 and Susan Baird Susanb120@comcast.net, 503-698-2449 for any help. You will find this fun and exciting for what you will learn.

in well-known historical events?

36. How far back can you trace your family tree?

CHILDHOOD

THE FAMILY HOUSE

37. What type of house did you live in as a child? Other buildings on the same property?
38. If you moved during your childhood, tell where and when and what you can remember of each house and the family circumstances and the reason for the move.
39. In what room did you eat? Kitchen? Dining room?
40. How was your home heated?
41. Did you have a fireplace?
42. What kind of kitchen stove did your parents cook on? What fuel was used?
43. Did you have to buy the fuel or was this a chore, such as cutting wood, with which you had to help?
44. Did you always have electricity? If not, when did you get it? Was it a big deal?
45. Did you ever use candles or kerosene lamps?
46. Did your family have a cellar? Where did you store food?
47. Where did your family get water? Was it plentiful? What methods were used to conserve water?

FAMILY RELATIONS, RESPONSIBILITIES, CONDITIONS

48. What was your position in the family? Oldest? Youngest?
49. What were your duties as a small child? Did you have chores?
50. Who cooked the meals? Ironing, cleaning, etc?
51. Did you buy or make your own clothing?
52. When did you learn to cook and who taught you?
53. Did you ever learn to sew? Crochet? Knit? Embroider? And who taught you?
54. Did you ever learn the mechanics of a car and who taught you?
55. Did your family keep in touch with distant family? Do you still keep in touch?
56. Did you visit relatives often?
57. How did you get your mail?
58. What do you remember about family pets?
59. Were you especially close to anyone in the family? Who?
60. How did the family spend its evenings?
61. Did you get an allowance? How much? What did you spend it on?
62. Do you remember your family discussing world events and politics? What were some of the topics?

FAMILY INCOME AND LIVELIHOOD

63. What did your father do for a living?

Continued on page 8.

Family Questionnaire, cont.

64. Did your mother ever work outside of the home? What did she do?

65. Did you contribute to the family income? How?

66. When did you get your first job outside of the family?

67. Did your family have a garden? Who did the work on the garden? What kinds of vegetables did you grow?

68. Did your family have fruit trees? Who did the canning?

69. Did you raise chickens?

70. What kind of meat did you eat?

71. If you lived on a farm, what crops were planted? Who did the work? Family? Hired hands? Did you keep a cow for milk? Did you make your own butter and cheese? Did anyone in your family sell eggs or butter?

DAYS, SEASONS, AND SPECIAL OCCASIONS

72. What did Sunday mean to you (family dinner, etc.)?

73. Did you attend church on Sunday? Where did you attend church?

74. Were there any other special days of the week?

75. How did you spend Christmas?

76. What kinds of gifts did you receive at Christmas?

77. Did your family observe Easter?

78. How and where did you observe the Fourth of July?

79. Other special holidays?

80. How was your birthday celebrated? What kinds of gifts did you receive?

81. Did your family entertain often? When?

82. Did your family attend picnics? Family reunions? What do you remember about them?

83. How did you keep cool in the summer?

84. What did you wear in the winter to keep warm?

85. Do you remember any particular blizzards or tornadoes or floods?

FRIENDS AND GAMES

86. Did you have a favorite toy?

87. What were your favorite foods? What did you hate?

88. What did you do for recreation?

89. What kind of books did you read?

90. Did you or your brothers or sisters have any hobbies?

91. Who was your best friend?

92. What did you and your friends do when you got together?

93. Did you and your playmates play any organized games?

94. Did you ever learn to swim? Who taught you?

95. Did you participate in youth organizations?

96. What was the most mischievous thing you did as a youngster?

97. Whom did you admire most when you were young?

98. Has there ever been anyone in your life that you considered to be your "soul mate"? Who was it and why did you feel that way?

SCHOOL

99. Where did you go to school? Did you ever attend a one-room schoolhouse?

100. What were your favorite subjects? Least-favorite?

101. Who was your favorite teacher, and why?

102. Do you still know anyone that you went to school with? In what grade did you meet?

103. How did you get to school? If you walked, how far? What do you remember about these walks? Did you walk alone or with friends? Were these walks a hardship in winter?

2007-08 GROW Board of Directors

Roger Haas, President/Liaison

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Portland, OR 97222 rahaas@haasfamily.us

Term ends: 2010

Jan Haberman, 1st Vice President

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Term ends: 2008

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Oregon City, OR 970458

Term ends: 2009

Jeanette McDermid, Secretary

327 SE Elliot Ave (503) 666-6939

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Term ends: 2010

Alice Summers, Treasurer

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Portland, OR 97233 sewsum4u@msn.com

Term ends: 2008

Arlene Maston, Membership

8202 NE Going St. (503) 255-5493

Portland, OR 97220-4860 amaston@aol.com

Term ends: 2009

Oscar Geiszler, Fundraising

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Oregon City, OR 97045 oscarandlorraine@msn.com

Term ends: 2010

Ell Schiermeister, Member at Large

12010 SE McGillivray 360-253-2499

Vancouver, WA 98683

Leona Koth Hix, Member at Large

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Newberg, OR 97132-1918 JWHIX@comcast.net



Maxine Daily, Director Emeritus

Clifford Haberman, Director Emeritus

Robert Majhor, Director Emeritus

Ed Weber, Director Emeritus

Family History Questionnaire, cont.

104. Did you ever miss a long stretch of school because of illness? If so, what did you do to pass the time?

105. What did you do during summer vacations?

106. In high school, were you involved in sports? What were some of the highlights?

107. Were you in the school band? What instrument(s)? Did you continue to play into adulthood?

108. What songs and dances were popular then?

109. What was some of the slang when you were a teenager?

110. What was your first date like? How old were you? What did you do?

111. What was your proudest achievement in school?

TRANSPORTATION AND SURROUNDINGS

112. Describe the size of the town where you lived or shopped.

113. Where did your parents shop?

114. How large or small were the stores?

115. If you lived in a small town or on the farm, did you ever go into the city to shop?

116. What was the largest town you remember visiting when you were young?

117. Did you ever travel on a train while you were young?

118. Did you or your family own a horse and buggy?

119. When did your family acquire its first car? What make? How much did it cost/

120. When did you learn to drive a car? Did someone teach you?

121. Where did your family go on vacation?

TRADITIONS

122. What family traditions are still practiced in your family?

123. Can you briefly tell one or more of your family's best stories or "tall tales"?

124. Do you recall any family members that were "characters"? What earned them their reputation?

125. What personal traits or characteristics seemed to "run in the family"?

126. What stories did you share with your children? Which ones didn't you share?

127. Is there an enduring piece of advice or wisdom that's been passed down from generation to generation in your family?

HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAREER

128. How old were you when you left home? Where to and why did you leave? How did it feel to be on your own?

129. How many years of school did you attend? Did you study in your adult years?

130. What was your first job? Do you remember how much your pay was?

131. Who influenced you most and helped you to develop your skills?

132. What careers have you had? How long at each?

133. Would you choose the same career if you had it to do over?

MARRIAGE AND LATER LIFE

134. When and where did you meet your husband or wife?

135. How and when did you get engaged?

136. When and where did you marry? How old were you and your spouse?

137. Did you go on a honeymoon? Where?

138. Where was your first home? Did you move around?

139. What is your spouse's occupation?

140. After living together for a time, what surprised you the most about your spouse?

141. How would you describe your spouse? What do you admire most about him/her?

142. What's your favorite story about your spouse?

143. Did you or your spouse go into the military service?

144. If your spouse went into the service, what did you do while he/she was away?

145. What memories do you have of war years?

146. To what organizations have you belonged?

147. Have you been politically active during your lifetime?

148. Which presidents have you voted for?

149. Where and when were you children born? What are their names?

150. Do any stories come to mind about their births?

151. What were some of the family hardships you faced?

152. What were some of the most enjoyable family activities you shared?

153. What were some of the family rules?

154. What's the most important lesson you hope your children learned from you?

155. What caused you to say "Just wait until you have children of your own!"?

PHILOSOPHY AND OUTLOOK

156. Do you have a philosophy of life to share with your descendants? What is it?

157. Do you have a favorite philosopher, teacher, or writer who best expresses your philosophy?

158. Do you have religious leanings or strong religious beliefs?

159. In your opinion, which have been the greatest advances or inventions during your lifetime?

160. What things have given you the most pleasure or satisfaction?

161. Is there anything that has caused you perpetual concern? What events or trends have disturbed you most in your lifetime?

162. What has been your experience in regard to the following? Answers to prayers? Necessity and power of love? Will power as opposed to being ruled by one's feelings?

163. What do you consider to be your most important achievements? What one thing are you most proud of?

164. What would you say is the funniest thing that's ever happened to you?

165. Most embarrassing?

166. What has been your favorite time of life?

167. Which person most influenced your life and why?

168. What kind of music do you like to listen to?

169. Did you travel? Which places were most interesting and why? Where did you never get to visit?

170. Have you ever made a sacrifice that's made a lasting impression on you?

171. What was your wisest decision?

172. What wasn't your wisest decision?

173. What makes your family truly unique?

174. What single piece of advice do you want to leave your children and grandchildren?

175. Any other things that are important to you?

GROW 2007 Quarterly Calendar

J U L Y 2 0 0 7						
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4 Independence Day	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				
A U G U S T 2 0 0 7						
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 GROW PICNIC	27	28	29	30	31	
S E P T E M B E R 2 0 0 7						
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
						1 Newsletter Deadline
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19 Board Meeting	20	21	22
23 Chapter Meeting	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						



**Chapter Meetings are held at:
Deutsches Haus**

**7901 SE Division, Portland, OR
Doors open at 1:00 pm**

Meeting starts at 2:00 pm until about 5:00 pm

**Coming from I-205 South take Exit 19 Ramp and
turn West on Division St.,
then turn left and go to 7901.**

**Coming from I-205 North take Exit 19 Ramp onto
Division St. Go West on Division to 7901.**

Chapter Meetings

24 June 2007 Family History Workshop

18-22 July 2007 GRHS Convention in Bismark. No Board Meeting or Chapter Meeting

26 August 2007 GROW Picnic at the Deutsches Haus. No Board Meeting or Chapter Meeting

23 September 2007 Convention Reports; Family History Workshop

Fundraising Opportunities— At No Cost To You!!

- Electronic Newsletters. Receive your newsletters via email, and save GROW in postage costs. Thank You!
- Albertson's Scan Cards - Contact **Roger Haas** for your card if you don't already have one. Thank You!

Other Opportunities to Help...

- **Oscar Geizler** is recycling inkjet and laser cartridges. Bring your empty cartridges to Chapter Meetings or contact Oscar directly. He can also help you receive approximately 50% discount on refilled cartridges.
- Visit **Joe and Geri Gander, Cathy Lobb** before/after the Chapter Meetings to view the fascinating collection of books, audio CDs, videos, etc. that are available for sale. Also take a look at the tote bags, key chains and magnets, all with the GROW logo.

A Dakota Farm Boy - cont. from last issue

by Elmer W. Haas

After I was discharged from the Military, I graduated from NI with majors in elementary, secondary, and business education. I took a teaching position at Savage, MT where I had a winning basketball team and helped with the football coaching. When I was 30, I could still run the mile in seven minutes.

I joined Toastmasters and learned how to make decisions more quickly. Shortly afterwards, I met my wife to be, Helen Jeffers, who was teaching nearby. I was brought up in a Christian home, but I had strayed from the Lord. My fiancée said that she would not marry me unless I quit social drinking. I was attending the Christian Missionary Alliance Church and the Lord helped me to straighten out my life. We married and obtained jobs.

In 1969, we helped take a church youth group to an orphanage in Mexico. We came back and adopted a 3-day-old boy, Jeffrey Keith, and in 1973, we adopted a 3-day-old girl, Judy Kathleen.

I taught at the Battin Elementary School in Clackamas, OR for 12 years and for a while at the Job Corps near Estacada, OR. I helped mothers and young fellows between the ages of 16 and 60 obtain their GED degrees. They appreciated help in reading, language, math, science, and geography. My last substitute-teaching job was in Estacada, OR in 1991.

My children have really made me an animal lover. At our farm we have had all kinds of fowl and animals. My favorites were our 125-pound Samoyed dog, Bear, and our horse, Pepper, which we have had for 20 years.

I am proud of my heritage. Over the years, I have used many of the skills that my dad taught me. Some I learned very early in life as when we went custom combining when I was only eleven years. My dad and mother's families mean a lot to me.

WORDS OF WISDOM:
PSALMS 23:1



GROW Membership Application Germans from Russia Oregon and Washington



Years of Membership _____ New Renewal

Birth Month (optional) _____ Anniversary Month (optional) _____

Name (please print) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (include area code) _____ Email address _____

Name of ancestral village(s) _____

Family surnames _____

Names of adults in household desiring membership cards _____

Enclosed is my remittance of \$ _____ Membership fees are due annually on January 1.

GROW Newsletter/Operation Donation (minimum \$5.00)

GRHS Membership \$40.00 • GRHS Lifetime Membership \$650.00 (\$130.00 per year)

Make checks payable to GROW - US Currency Only • Mail to: Arlene Maston, 8202 NE Going St., Portland, OR 97220-4860

Please send email updates and address corrections to Arlene Maston - amaston@aol.com

GROW Quarterly Newsletter Deadlines: September 1 • December 1 • March 1 • June 1

All submissions are welcome. If you would like any materials returned, please include a SASE.

Send articles to: jcprunier@comcast.net or by mail at 1218 Pacific Ave., Everett, WA 98201

Pay Your Dues Directly to GROW, cont.

memo. GROW, being the largest, or next to the largest GRHS Chapter, has done MORE for enrolling GRHS members with about 150 families on the GRHS Membership rolls in 2007.

It is also obvious that the 42 GROW Associate or friends of GROW, choosing not to pay the National GRHS Dues, are interested in the services rendered by GROW. They feel that they get their money's worth. They may attend their Chapter Programs/Meetings, but they don't hold offices.

GROW Members paying directly to Bismarck

delays our Membership Chair from quickly compiling the information and putting together the Membership Directory that allows you to have a copy. Look at the GROW Roster and see all the bits of information on it. You get NOTHING like this from Bismarck. A lot of changes occur in one year. HELP THE GROW MEMBERSHIP CHAIR. Bring your dues/donations to the Chapter meeting or send your combined GROW/GRHS check DIRECTLY TO GROW in Oct or when you respond. THANK YOU!

Newsletter Submissions Welcomed!

Please send articles, photos, stories, anecdotes, recipes, etc. to:

Janice Prunier, Editor • 1218 Pacific Ave., Everett, WA 98201

jcprunier@comcast.net

Deadline for next issue is September 1, 2007.



Germans from Russia Heritage Society

GROW Chapter

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