

GROW QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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

Volume 13, Issue 2

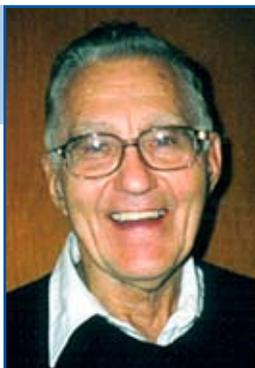
January - February - March 2014



*Fröhliche Weihnachten und
ein Glückliches Neues Jahr*



Message from the President



As I write this message on Thanksgiving Day, Family, Food, Friends, Health, Happiness, and Well-Being are really important ingredients for a great Thanksgiving. Christmas is only what seems a moment away. And to the above ingredients, I need to add HOLINESS.

For without CHRIST in Christmas, we miss the main message of Christmas. By the time you receive this newsletter our very important holidays are past.

Our world is changing: that which was right was/is made to seem wrong and wrong is right. Words are so twisted that white is black and black is white and everything is grey. Bargains, sales, and discounts are merely shifting of numbers. Today the regular price is 50¢; tomorrow the sale price may be listed as the regular price as 60¢. The sale price is 15% less or the sales price now is 61¢. Further, how horrendous to find your huge water and sewer bill keeps climbing only to find that money was siphoned off by the politician to the fire department or to some defense fund of an illegal activity or favoritism!

However, GROW has attempted to be unchanging over its life of twelve years to provide service such as genealogical helps, programs, etc. that have been geared toward preserving our Germans from Russia Heritage and enriching our lives. This is a time to reflect on the elected team that you selected to lead your great GROW Chapter: for myself, you make the judg-

ment.

VP Jan Haberman, wife of Emeritus Cliff Haberman, Co-Founder, has been a strong anchor from day one of the GROW Chapter. She has organized our annual picnics, been the Chapter Registrar/Greeter, serves as the Co-Sunshine Committee Chair and the list goes on.

Secretary Jeanette McDermid is far more than the Chapter Secretary, but also an expert in the cataloging of our library books in the Library of Congress system. She also makes business cards. She brings color, pizzazz, and much, much more.

Treasurer Adi Hartfeil is not only a good keeper of the financial records, but the Membership Solicitor and Gratitude Giver for your dues payment and your membership. His letters are inspirational, threaded with German words and phrases, igniting your child-

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I memorized a quote from my Aunt Clara, "It just doesn't seem like Christmas; I haven't baked any cookies." After countless years of cookie baking, she dared to break with her tradition and left the oven cold, and the whole thing made her feel awkward and out of place.

While I value the rituals and routines surrounding holidays, I value novelty and new experiences even more. Sometimes, the two come into conflict. Back in the last century, we spent a Christmas Day wandering the scenic streets of Victoria, BC. Along the way, we found what may well have been the only open restaurant in the city. We gratefully sat for our Christmas Dinner at a Denny's table after it became evident no passers-by were going to invite us to their holiday feast!

My first real job after college was as a guard in the reformatory housing younger offenders at the South Dakota Penitentiary. I drew Christmas Eve duty in 1965 and, in probable violation of several rules, I became a courier, carrying handmade Christmas Cards and notes from cell to cell, delivering presents of a candy bar or a few cigarettes wrapped in toilet paper to someone on another floor of the cell block. For almost an hour I leaned against iron bars talking with an inmate who had been quietly crying in his loneliness. I participated in one of those magical events, when troubled people became less rough-edged and gentler, reluctantly falling under the spell of Christmas.

A year ago on the Canadian Thanksgiving (the second Monday in October), we were in Halifax, Nova Scotia, one of our stops of eastern Canadian capital cities. We sat at a long table with a dozen others, most at least a century younger than us, eating a traditional Canadian feast prepared by the hostel staff. We agreed it was much like an American Thanksgiving: Turkey was at the center but the yams didn't have marshmallows and the cranberries were whole berries rather than the jello-like stateside preference. Across from us were two young German men, down the table were several Japanese, a Nigerian, and some Eastern Europeans who spoke neither American nor Canadian English. Some may have been nostalgic for home, but all beamed with joy at the home-cooked free meal and the camaraderie of the moment.

In 2005, our Christmas Eve and Day consisted of attending services at Leipzig's St. Thomas and St. Nicolai Churches. At St. Thomas, we listened to J.S. Bach's *Christmas Oratorio* written for the Thomas



Choir several hundred years earlier. We had been at the Leipzig Jugendherberge until 23 December, when the hostel closed for Christmas and we moved to the Ibis Hotel across from the train station and just a few blocks from the two churches. We were the last guests to leave the hostel. The desk clerk apologized for their closing and gave us a locally-baked stollen wrapped in gold foil. I'm sure we ate more than that, but that is what I remember. We nibbled away at it for several days, and it was the best I ever tasted, although I do remember wishing for some cheese.

In mid-November 2011, we watched the lighting of the community Christmas tree in Columbia, South Carolina. Grumbling at the way-too-early festivities, we nevertheless stood with the crowds in short sleeves and cheered as the lights were turned on. After a visit at Charleston, we rode the train to Washington, DC for what turned out to be our final visit with my brother. We were a day late, but they fed us the massive remains of their family Thanksgiving dinner. Afterward, we toured the oddly fascinating Spy Museum, the setting of our final photograph together.

Our first Christmas in Washington State—after moving from the dry prairies of Dakota to the temperate wet of the coast—was quiet and cheap. Family that had been part of our holidays were now 1200 miles away. We attended the Christmas morning services at Saron Lutheran and drove the twenty miles back to our beachside apartment where we feasted on Pat's chicken dinner graced with candied red apples. Our tree, a scraggly and prickly pine our two-year old daughter and I found growing at the side of a road, was minimally decorated but Pat had somehow gotten a set of lights. As long as one didn't touch it or look too closely, it was a cheerful tree. When snow and 12 degree temperatures joined us after Christmas for a week, we felt right at home.

Along our life journey, friends and relatives who have included us in their holiday customs have showed how, in an unpredictable, erratic, and not always kind world, there is value in sameness. Comfort and stability can be found in turkey, dressing, yams, and pumpkin pie done the same way every year, served to family seated in the same places at a table that has been in service for fifty years.

In contrast, I am reminded of other holidays at which we volunteered at the Salvation Army or a local homeless shelter. There is a freedom in serving a huge sloppy meal out of giant cauldrons to people practicing the art of gratitude and Thanksgiving. Not as good as the Feeding of the 5,000, but still satisfy-

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Genealogy Forum

A Tale, Two Ships and Some Emperors

by Harold Lang, PhD

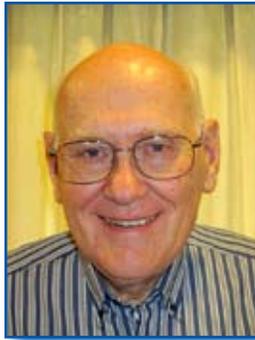
The last Genealogy Forum dealt with ship records. This time we will tell the story of two of the ships that some of our ancestors came on.

During one of our genealogical workshops, Larry Kuntz said that he was confused. His grandfather's Petition for Naturalization stated that he came to America on the SS *Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse*, but the Ellis Island ship records show him as coming on the SS *Kronprinz Wilhelm* in 1901. This surprised me as my grandfather's Petition for Naturalization also stated that he came on the SS *Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse* and the Ellis Island records also list him coming on the SS *Kronprinz Wilhelm* in 1902. Now which record was correct? Since the Ellis Island records come from the ship manifests which lists the name of the ship and a list of the passengers, they would have to be correct. Why the same error for both of us? My initial reaction was that the name of the ship was changed from SS *Kronprinz Wilhelm* to SS *Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse* when Kronprinz Wilhelm became Kaiser. It turns out that this response was not correct. They were two different ships named for two different people. And Kronprinz Wilhelm never became Kaiser (Emperor). Before talking about the ships let us look at the people for whom they were named.

Germany had only three Kaisers: Wilhelm I (Jan. 1871 - Mar. 1888), Friedrich III (Mar. 1888 - June 1888) and Wilhelm II (June 1888 - Nov. 1918).

Prior to 1871 Germany was not a unified country but a collection of German States. Our ancestors did not migrate to Russia from Germany but from Prussia or Wuettemberg, or Hesse, etc. When Otto von Bismarck, the Prime Minister of Prussia was able to unify Germany in 1871 he appointed Wilhelm I, King of Prussia, as Kaiser of Germany. In turn Wilhelm I appointed Bismarck as Chancellor of Germany.

The SS *Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse* was named for Wilhelm I. When Wilhelm I died in 1888 his son Friedrich III became Kaiser, but only for a few months when he also died and his son Wilhelm II became Kaiser. Friedrich III had married Victoria the oldest daughter of Queen Victoria of England, which made Kaiser Wilhelm II a grandson of Queen Victoria. Queen Victoria's second daughter Alice married Ludwig of Hesse and their youngest daughter Alexandra married Tsar Nicholas II, the last Tsar of Russia. At that time most of the royalty of Europe was related. Kaiser Wilhelm II was Emperor of Germany during World War I and abdicated in 1918 when he lost the



war. World War I was basically a war between cousins. Wilhelm II lived until 1941. SS *Kronprinz Wilhelm* was named for Wilhelm III, the son of Kaiser Wilhelm II.

Now back to the ships. In 1889 Kaiser Wilhelm II went to England to attend a naval review in honor of his grandmother Queen Victoria during her jubilee. At the naval review he saw the size and strength of the British ships, particularly the SS *Teutonic*, the largest ship afloat, owned by the White Star Lines. It could be converted to an auxiliary cruiser in time of war. He was impressed and said, "We must have some of these..." On returning to Germany he approached Norddeutscher Lloyd (NDL) one of Germany's leading ship lines. NDL, then commissioned AG Vulkan of Stettin to build a "superliner" to be named SS *Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse*. This ship was completed in May 1897 and was the first ship to have four stacks.

A slightly smaller sister ship, SS *Kaiser Friedrich*, was constructed at the same time. The larger ship were named for Kaiser Wilhelm II's grandfather and the other for his father. With the success of the SS *Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse*, three more ships like it were built, The SS *Kronprinz Wilhelm* in 1901, the SS *Kaiser Wilhelm II* in 1903, and the SS *Kronprinzessin Cecilie* in 1906. Kronprinz Wilhelm was Kaiser Wilhelm II's son and Cecilie was Kronprinz Wilhelm's wife.

The SS *Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse* soon established a new standard for ocean ships with regard to size speed and luxury. In 1900 She was involved in a fire in the port of New York, and in 1906, a collision in the port of Cherbourg, France. In 1913, after her sister ships joined the fleet, she was converted to all third class to take advantage of the lucrative immigrant market to the United States and sailed from Mediterranean ports. When World War I started she was converted to an auxiliary cruiser. She destroyed three enemy ships before being destroyed herself in the battle of Rio de Oro, off the west coast of Africa in August 1914. There is some question as to whether she was sunk by fire from the HMS *Highflyer* or whether her crew blew her up when she ran out of ammunition.

What ever the SS *Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse* did, the SS *Kronprinz Wilhelm* did it better. She was the fastest and most luxurious ship afloat. In September 1902 she set a speed record for the fastest crossing from Cherbourg, France to New York, of five days 11 hours, 57 minutes. The ship was one of the first to have Marconi telegraph. She had central electric heating and electric lights. When I told some of this to Larry he said yes but our ancestors came third class. The ship did have first class passengers as many famous people traveled on this ship. It could carry 367 first class, 340 second

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class and 1,223 third class passengers. The ship was 663 feet long and had a displacement of 24,900 tons. In comparison the *Titanic*, which was built nine years later and also had four stacks, but it was 882 feet long and had a displacement of 52,310 tons.

The *SS Kronprinz Wilhelm* was off the coast of South America when World War I broke out. She was commissioned into the Imperial German Navy as an auxiliary cruiser. Her mission was to raid Allied shipping. During a rendezvous with a German ship, some guns and ammunition were brought aboard, and the crew was quickly trained. During the next eight months she intercepted and sunk 15 Allied merchant ships usually without firing a gun.

With her superior speed she could overtake a merchant ship and order it to stop. The merchant ships were usually unarmed or lightly armed so the captain had no choice but to surrender their ship. A boarding party would board the ship and look for supplies. The crew and the desired supplies were taken aboard the *SS Kronprinz Wilhelm* and the intercepted ship was blown up.

Coal was a critical supply item that determined where the ship could go. Finally running low on supplies and coal, she put in to port at Portsmouth, Virginia in April 1915. At the time the US had not entered the war so its ports were neutral. However the US would not allow it to have coal or leave the port, thus interning the ship. In 1917 when the US entered the war, it seized the ship to be used as a troupe ship and named it the *USS Von Steuben*. After the war, it went into commercial use under the name *Baron Von Steuben* and later simply as *Von Steuben*. In 1923 she was scrapped.

The sister ships, the *SS Kaiser Wilhelm II* and the *SS Kronprinzessin Cecilie* were either in or near US ports when the war broke out 1914. They were also interned and seized in 1917 when the US entered the war. They were also used by the US as troupe ships during World War I.

The above information was largely taken from wikipedia.org, the online encyclopedia, a good place to look if you would like to find information on the ships your ancestors came on.

Back to the question as to why Larry and my grandfathers listed the same wrong ship on their application for naturalization. We can not get the true answer to this question without talking to them and they are no longer living.

However, I will make some conjectures as to the reason. I am sure that the ship lines had agents in Russia recruiting the Germans in Russia to go to America on one of their ships. I am sure that in 1901 the agents for Norddeutscher Lloyd would have litera-

ture that featured the *SS Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse* and our grandfathers may have even bought tickets for it, but when they got to Germany, by train, they found that Norddeutscher Lloyd had a new ship that they came on. However, it was the *SS Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse* that had been promoted in Russia and stuck in their minds. Three of my grandfather's brothers did come to the US on the *SS Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse* in 1903.

President's Message, cont.

hood soul memories and causing you to be interested and being a part of a dynamic club preserving your ancestral history.

GROW Co-Founder Oscar Geiszler is our Dakota-connect who puts out the GROW Signage each Chapter Meeting. He also collects or receives your Building-Use Donations and recycles your printer/copier cartridges as a fundraiser. He further demonstrates a type of esprit de corps by having brought his entire family of six into the GROW Family Membership.

Dr. Harold Lang has been primarily our Genealogist, having held Free Genealogical workshops for several years. He has helped in the moving of our GROW library as we have moved three times and he has taken the lead in putting it into an operational use again.

Larry Kuntz has been our technical geek and has been a volunteer wherever there is a need. He has helped with the Library as well. He has never said NO, is prompt, efficient, and reliable. He is such a likable guy and has so much expertise, that we couldn't do without him.

Allen White, what a great gentleman he is, full of common sense. He was instrumental to bring perhaps the best November GROW program: The Mount Angel "Kleinstädters". Not only is he a great volunteer for whatever and whenever, but he brings us the German costume with his authentic "leder Hosen und drei ecke Hut outfit". Additionally, he is a "caring, most compassionate sensible Director.

And then we have Ell Schiermeister. What a gold mine, but we don't see much of him! He has that beautiful deep melodious voice with a story at hand to accompany it. He will give a rendition of the old Christmas story and share a prayer at our Dec. 8 chapter meeting.

Dues Reminder

by Adi Hartfeil

Dear/Lieber GROW Members:

We are asking you, our loyal GROW members, to renew your 2014 dues to our unique German-based organization. GROW certainly doesn't want to lose your very valuable membership and participation in our organization. Only with your membership can we maintain and improve GROW!!!

As you know, GROW is made up of very supportive members who are interested in their German roots and ancestors who came from SW Russia and brought with them the German language, culture, customs and traditions. These German roots are honored, explored and remembered in our monthly GROW meetings. At these meetings, German food and Gemuetlichkeit are shared while listening to monthly presentations focused on past customs and the history of German people who emigrated or fled from the SW regions of Russia.

Another very important way to stay connected with GROW and your German roots, is to receive the GROW monthly meeting reports and the in-depth and professional quarterly newsletter. Both of these very informative GROW communications describe the meeting presentations; information on researching and finding your Deutsche ancestors; articles about GROW, GRHS or other German based clubs; etc. Additional information can now also be found on our new GROW webpage: <http://grow-chapter.webs.com>.

GROW membership ensures your German family history and interests stay alive and so please join us if you would like to maintain this Deutschland connection! GROW makes sure that the monthly meetings are very enjoyable and interesting subject matters are presented. In this manner you can hear stories or learn about information which is related to your German ancestry.

Since GROW is a member of GRHS (Germans from Russia Heritage Society), we are requesting that you submit your total yearly dues of \$55 (\$50 for GRHS and \$5 for GROW) to the GROW Treasurer (see below). He will then forward and send your annual GRHS dues of \$50 to Bismarck, ND and save you the effort of making two payments plus sending two envelopes and stamps. We will also inform GRHS of any address, telephone or other changes you want to make.

Please come to the GROW meetings and you can pay your dues in person and enjoy the next interest-



ing presentations. On December 8, the president of AHSGR (Volga Germans) will give a talk followed by German Christmas based festivities. Beginning 2014, there will be a speaker giving his GRHS presentation in January and a discussion of German dialects and phrases will be provided in February.

GROW is making all kinds of extra effort in keeping our organization relevant to all its valuable members. If you know of some of your friends or family members, they also have an excellent opportunity to explore and honor their past German roots and family history by joining GROW.

In closing, DANKE SCHOEN for YOUR renewal of YOUR 2014 membership and dues.

ALLES GUTE,

Adi Hartfeil, GROW Treasurer/ Schatzmeister
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GENEALOGICAL HELP

For a number of years Harold Lang has been offering genealogical workshops and a number of GROW members have participated.

We would now like to try something different. Harold will be at the GROW Library to give individual help from 1:00 to 1:50 on the Sundays that GROW meets. That is one hour before GROW meetings.

Holidays, cont.

ing. This year, we are joining a member of our church in hosting a Thanksgiving feast for single newcomers from the church, people with good hearts not encumbered by too much stuff. At last count, a half dozen invitees have said "yes."

This will simply be a passing on of a gift. When we first moved to the Kelso-Longview area, we were among a group of recently arrived strays gathered up by Sue and Bill, their three children, a large Boxer and at least one cat. We ate their holiday meal, told our stories and traditions, and especially, laughed. We shared together those things that make us uniquely human.

A recent *Travels With Rick Steves* radio broadcast contained a segment on the probable menu of the first Thanksgiving. I learned that Native Americans outnumbered European settlers at the event and probably provided much of the menu. What they all held in common was the experience of doing without, of surviving starvation, and of feasting on things they had never before eaten.

I highly recommend the experience.

Germans from Russia in South America:

New Research Frontiers in Our Group's History and Other 21st-Century Reflections (Part V-Final)

By Dr. Eric J. Schmaltz, Associate Professor of History,
Department of Social Sciences, Northwestern Oklahoma State University in Alva

In this final series installment, we will direct our attention to more recent trends for the group in the region and beyond.

As recently as the end of the Cold War, a brief discussion arose in the former USSR about possible German mass emigration to Argentina. In 1992, the outspoken chairman of the ethnic German "Rebirth" (*Wiedergeburt/Vozrozhdenie*) autonomy society, Dr. Heinrich Groth, traveled to Argentina to determine whether South America might prove more welcoming to German-Russians than their less receptive compatriots in united Germany. Buenos Aires rejected this proposal, however, and few of the former Soviet Union's Germans expressed any interest in this plan at the time.

Despite socio-economic challenges and assimilation pressures over the past century, some rural German-Russian enclaves in South America have persisted into the present and remain quite concentrated. For instance, according to Michael M. Miller, in the State of Entre Rios in Argentina alone, an estimated 28% of the population today can claim Volga German descent, a high figure considering that the state's total population is about one million.

According to some North American observers, it appears that Latin America's Germans from Russia have been able to hold onto their traditions a little longer than those in North America because only more recently they have left their compact communities in the countryside for the cosmopolitan centers. The more durable maintenance of traditional ethnic identity in Argentina and Brazil was probably attributable to the fact that unlike in Canada and the United States, which enacted their own homestead acts and thus created dispersed individual farm plots, the group's South American cohort had originally been settled in relatively compact "colonies" (villages), much like in Russia generations before. In other words, the group's assimilation process has been somewhat delayed in Argentina and Brazil.

Unlike in North America, part of the recent push for retaining ethnic identity comes from younger and middle generations of German-Russians, who have even embraced international trends in Bavarian-German culture in places like Argentina's capital city of Buenos Aires and the provinces (i.e., adopting for special occasions modern German forms of dress,



and dance traditions, national flags, etc., even if these do not represent authentic German-Russian folk customs). Especially among younger generations, the urbanization process has encouraged wider interest in their ethnic backgrounds as they have increasingly encountered the dominant culture and other ethnic minorities, though in time this development, too, might diminish as greater acculturation occurs in South America's larger population centers. This cultural phenomenon might at least partly explain why the ethnic group's status today bears striking resemblance to that of their ethnic counterparts in North America in the 1960s and 1970s with respect to limited numbers of academic publications, the continuing need to establish significant university special collections and libraries, and ongoing efforts to build up active heritage associations, etc., though in 1975, on the eve of the one hundredth anniversary of the first migrations to the country, the Volga Germans of Argentina organized their own federative heritage organization, the Association of the Descendants of Volga Germans in Argentina (*Asociacion Argentina de Descendientes de Alemanes del Volga*).

Some North American observers have noted that, in Argentina and Brazil, the Germans from Russia still have placed less emphasis on the publication of academic studies and genealogical efforts, but scholarly trends might be changing in recent years. Among the more prominent German from Russia scholars is Argentina's Dr. René Krüger, a Protestant church historian whose interests overlap with German-Russian topics. He was born in Paraguay, but later took Argentine citizenship. Based as a Lutheran pastor in Buenos Aires, Dr. Daniel Carlos Beros has also emerged recently as an important scholar and theologian in the ethnic community. Two notable Brazilians include Dr. Peter Pauls, Jr., a highly regarded Mennonite historian in the State of Parana, and Bro. Estevão Müller, a historian who works at the Catholic Marist University campus in Curitiba, State of Parana.

When it concerns heritage and religious festivals and food ways, however, the South American contingent of German-Russians has proved quite well-organized and active, more so than many of their North American ethnic counterparts. A few North American observers have even speculated that, in more recent years, local and higher-level government officials in Latin America have come to realize the possibilities of

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Germans from Russia in South America, cont.

drawing more income from tourism by encouraging these transnational ethnic contacts, much as has been happening since the 1990s between North America, Germany, and the former Soviet Union, especially in Ukraine.

Over the decades, genealogy has evolved in to a passionate pastime in both Canada and the United States, and to a lesser extent in Latin America, though that, too, is starting to change in places like Argentina and Brazil. In Germany and the former USSR, however, family history had long held far more profound political and legal ramifications, as evidenced by the status of Germans during the two world wars and the Cold War. Since the 1990s, with the end of the Cold War and the rise of faster means of communications, family history information exchanges have assisted ethnic Germans on both sides of the Atlantic, whether to reconnect with long lost relatives or, in the case of émigrés to Germany, to document and verify authentic and legal German ancestry. In recent years, the spectacular growth of online Websites, discussion groups, and Listserves (such as the Black Sea Listserve) have helped the Germans from Russia to expand their scope and capacity to access records and information, especially census, cemetery, church, and family records. Moreover, the collapse of the Iron Curtain opened doors to once-secret government and party archives.

Whether in the Americas, Germany or the former USSR, one of the most pressing challenges confronting the Germans from Russia heritage associations is the aging demographic of those who still more or less identify with the traditional ethnic identity. Connected with this issue is the crucial need to publicize more our Diaspora story to a wider international, or non-Germans from Russia, audience. Special collections at academic institutions, sometimes receiving assistance from the existing heritage societies, will perhaps assume more responsibility and possess greater resources and capabilities to help us preserve and even promote the heritage over the long duration.

Where are things going today for the ethnic Diaspora, as we embark on new, twenty-first-century research frontiers? Scholar Donna Reeves-Marquardt recently observed at the 2012 AHSGR convention in Portland, OR, that the ethnic group as a whole appears to be on the verge of two possible futures: a renaissance of German-Russian culture and memory, or complete assimilation and eventual cultural death. Indeed, as our academic special collections (in Colorado, North Dakota and Oregon) and major heritage associations (the AHSGR in Nebraska and the GRHS in North Dakota) continue to build upon their contacts and networks with like-minded

organizations, groups and individuals across the globe, the Germans from Russia Diaspora experience will perhaps assume an even more pronounced transnational character, one that combines contemporary trends in technology and information-gathering with traditional ethnic identity—a hybrid entity that straddles six continents (Asia, Australia, Europe, and North and South America, and even Africa). Though assimilation and acculturation persist in making definite inroads within the ethnic group in various countries, a core of dedicated scholars, students, enthusiasts and others might yet remain who will keep vital parts of a resilient group memory and identity.

Several years ago, German-Russian writer Debra Marquardt now at Iowa State University in Ames noted in an interview with Prairie Public Broadcasting in Fargo that among the Germans from Russia, the immigrants and older generations traditionally had been forward-looking, wishing to move beyond past disappointments and burdens in the hopes of improving their and their children's lot, while today their descendants (at least in North America) living in a world of relative plenty tend to be nostalgic about a long lost and perhaps even ideal past. For Debra Marquardt, the salvation of the ethnos might be centered on a shared, collective memory that we take care to preserve, but also one that is more realistic and can balance our understandings of the past, present and future. In other words, the group remnant's task beyond the twenty-first century might be to keep the German-Russian saga alive, but in the process we will also need to simplify and sort out the narrative for future generations, including among those outside of the ethnic group, especially as more and more data become available across greater stretches of space and time.

Based on my encounters, a number of German-Russians in recent years have expressed the sense that world events for the ethnic group in many respects are coming "full circle" in the generation since the Cold War—i.e., the reunification of once-separated families across the old Cold War divide; the creation of tour groups to former traditional villages and homelands; renewed contacts and missionary outreach among religious communities (whether Catholic, Lutheran, and Mennonite, etc.); the establishment of major university special collections and heritage societies; mass migrations to the ancient homeland (*Urheimat*) of united Germany from the former Soviet Bloc and USSR; the growing public awareness of once-forgotten famine, repression and Gulag letters distributed

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Germans from Russia in South America, cont.

outside of Stalin's USSR long ago; the accessing of former Soviet archives (an effort which still remains tenuous, to be sure); the dramatic rise of nearly instantaneous communications across the Ethernet or "digital commons"; the promises, and perhaps perils, of the burgeoning field of DNA genealogy (compressing space and time even farther); and not least of all, a richer appreciation of the story of South America's Germans from Russia.

Indeed, the Internet has led in the last generation to the implosion of space and time, leveling once formidable cultural and geographical barriers and connecting the world's distant corners in the process. The Germans from Russia Diaspora represents no exception to the rule. Scholar James N. Leiker, in his thoughtful article, "Antonio, Kansas: A Changing Village on the Plains," *AHSGR Journal*, Vol. 35, No. 3 (Fall 2012): p. 5., had this to say about current trends: "In 1905, the word 'community' described people who lived close together and therefore had no choice but to associate out of necessity. A century later, technological advances—cell phones, airplanes,

the internet—have made it possible to ignore one's next-door neighbor and form new bonds or sustain old ones with others living far away. The twenty-first century is an unprecedented time when 'community' is no longer dependent on place, meaning that communities of the future will not be defined by the accident of geography but by similar values, shared relationships, a common past, and simple feelings of belonging.... If we are willing to reconsider the meaning of the word 'community,' we may find that Antonio [a small German-Russian community in Kansas] and other ethnic networks have not disintegrated but have merely adapted to changing conditions, exactly as people of the German diaspora have done for centuries."

In closing, the future appears to be in flux more than ever in the 250-year history of this "people on the move" (*Volk auf dem Weg*), as the traditional saying goes. The discoveries that await us in South America and beyond represent yet another chapter in the ethnic group's unfolding historical odyssey.

*We wish you a
Very Merry Christmas*



GROW Library Wish List

Over the years the GROW Library collection has developed by the donation of books, however that does not lead to a balanced collection. There are books that we should have that we do not have. Now that the library is back in operation we are publishing a wish list with the hope that some of you will donate some of the books on the list or money to buy them. This is Christmas, maybe we should send the wish list to the North Pole. The first three books on the list are needed the most.

GROW Library Wish List

GRHS - Black Sea German Russian Census Vol. 1 - \$40

GRHS - Black Sea German Russian Census Vol. 2 - \$40

Kern, Albert - German-Russian Handbook - \$125

Rath, George - Black Sea Germany in the Dakotas - \$29

Height, Joseph - Memories of the Black Sea Germans - \$24

GCRA - Glueckstal Colonies Births and Marriages, 1833-1900 - \$70-95

GCRA - Glueckstal Colonies Deaths, 1833-1900 - \$65-\$90

Kern, Albert - Homeland book of the Bessarabian Germans - \$55

GCRA - The Glueckstalers in New Russia, and North America - \$68

GCRA - The Glueckstalers in New Russia, the Soviet Union, and North America - \$68

Marzolf, Arnold - Let's Talk German Russian - \$20

Uncapher, Wendy K. - Lands of the German Empire and Before

Many other books could be added to the list including, biographies, stories and books about specific villages. We would also welcome anniversary books from towns or counties where Germans from Russia lived in America. From time to time we will be adding to the list, and hopefully subtracting as we receive donations. You may have purchased a book or two for your own family research and now may be willing to share it with others.

We are always happy to receive donated books, whether they are on the list or not. Give donated books to Vivian Messenger or Jeannette McDermid.

For information about purchasing books for the library or to give money to purchase books contact Harold Lang at 503-251-2948 or vhlange@q.com.



GROW Board of Directors

Roger Haas, President/GRHS Director Rep
8618 SE 36th Ave. (503) 659-8248
Portland, OR 97222 rahaas@haasfamily.us
Term ends: 2016

Jan Haberman, Vice President/
Sunshine Chair & Calling Asst.
8110 SE Madison (503) 252-5480
Portland, OR 97215 haberman988@msn.com
Term ends: 2014

Jeanette McDermid, Secretary/Library Specialist
327 SE Elliot Ave (503) 666-6939
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Term ends: 2016

Adi Hartfeil, Treasurer-Membership
4230 S Terra Vista Ct. (503) 636-2272
West Linn, OR 97068 abhartfeil@comcast.net
Term ends: 2015

Allen White, Caller/Brochure Disseminator
10400 SE Cook Ct. #75 (503) 253-9551
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Term ends: 2015

Oscar Geiszler, Fundraising
803 5th Ave. (503) 656-1802
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Term ends: 2016

Ell Schiermeister
12010 SE McGillivray (360) 253-2499
Vancouver, WA 98683
Term ends: 2014

Harold Lang, Membership Recruiter/Calling Chair
410 NE 114th Ave. (503) 251-2948
Portland, OR 97220 vhlange@q.com
Term ends: 2015

Larry Kuntz, Name Badge Chair, Brochure Printer
16500 SE 1st St. Unit 159 (360) 953-8709
Vancouver, WA 98684 vwlarry@comcast.net
Term ends: 2014

Nancy White, Alternate #1
10400 SE Cook Ct. #75 (503) 253-9551
Milwaukie, OR 97222-1574 allenandnancy@juno.com
Term ends: 2014

Sharon Bell, Alternate #2 - Set-Up Chair
126 NE 86th Ave. (503) 254-2583
Portland, OR 97220 bellglen@teleport.com
Term ends: 2014



In Memory—Maxine Daily, Director Emeritus
In Memory—Clifford Haberman, Director Emeritus
Robert Majhor, Director Emeritus
Ed Weber, Director Emeritus

GROW QUARTERLY CALENDAR

JANUARY 2014						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 New Year's Day	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20 Martin Luther King Day	21 Board Meeting	22	23	24	25
26 Chapter Meeting	27	28	29	30	31	

FEBRUARY 2014						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14 Valentine's Day	15
16	17 Presidents Day	18 Board Meeting	19	20	21	22
23 Chapter Meeting	24	25	26	27	28	

MARCH 2014						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 Daylight Saving Time Begins	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18 Board Meeting	19	20 First Day of Spring	21	22
23 Chapter Meeting	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					



Chapter Meetings are held at:
New Deutsches Haus
(formerly the Fellowship Masonic Center)
 5626 NE Alameda St., Portland, OR
 (57th & Sandy Blvd.)

Directions:
 From the North taking I-205 or I-5,
 Take Columbia Exit and go to Cully, turn South
 until you come to Sandy Blvd. & 57th/NE Alameda.
 From the South on I-205 take Halsey Exit,
 go West to 57th, make Right to Sandy/Alameda.
 From I-5, take I-84 to 60th, turn North to Halsey,
 Left to 57th, North to Sandy & Alameda.
 38 car parking across from the Deutsches Haus.

Doors open at 1 pm • Meeting 2-5 pm

Chapter Meetings

26 January

German Dialects and Regional Language Speaking

23 February

Ancestral Village Round Table Concentrating on Two Villages

23 March

GRHS Convention Speaker, Doug Seibel

Fundraising Opportunities—

At No Cost To You!!

- Electronic Newsletters. Receive your newsletters via email, and save GROW in postage costs. Thank You!
- **Other Opportunities to Help...**
- **Oscar Geisler** 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 **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.
- **Family Heritage Recipe Book** - \$12.50 at Chapter Meeting or add \$4.00 s/h for mailing. Call 503-659-8248, rahaas@q.com

GROW Library is Open - Missing Books Notice

The books in the GROW Library have been shelved in proper order and are ready to be used. In the process of placing the books in order we have discovered that we do not have some of the books that are listed in the card catalog and we do not have records of them being checked out. They probably walked away one by one over a period of time. Now we would like them walk back to the library. Please check the books you have at home to see if you have any of the books listed below. If you find any, please return it to the library or check them out. The books would have a library numbers on the spine or cover.

If you have any books checked out of the library, please return them now or check them out again. We need to know that the books still exist and you need to know that the books belong to the library.

All library books should be checked out by and returned to Vivian Messenger, GROW librarian, or one of her assistants.

Missing Books

- Eisenberg, C. G. - *Geschichte des Ersten Dakota-Distriktes der Evangelisch-Lutherischen Synod...*
- Crandall, Ralph J. - *Shaking your Family Tree*
- Schenk, Trudy - *The Wuerttemberg Emigration Index, Vol. 1*
- McInnes, Edgar - *The Oxford Periodical History of War*
- Keller, Conrad - *The German Colonies in South Russia 1804-1904 v. 2*
- Hoffmann, Karl, translator - *Glueckstal Colony Census 1858*
- Height, Joseph S. - *Paradise on the Steppe: A Cultural History of the Kutschurgan, Beresan, and...*
- Ashley, North Dakota - *A Century of Pulling Together*
- Wishek, Max A. - *Ashley Diamond Jubilee: 1888-1963*
- Stiruim, ND - *Stiruim, ND Diamond Jubilee*
- Schumacher, Ervin - *Forward in Faith*
- C.S. Hammond & Company - *Hammond's Historical Atlas*
- Vossler, Ron - *Lost Shaws and Pig Spleens: Folklore, Anecdotes and Humor from the Oral Trad...*
- Forncek, Thomas, editor - *The Horizon Book of the Arts of Russia*

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS WELCOMED!

Please send articles, photos, stories, anecdotes, recipes, etc. to: Jan Prunier, Editor • 1218 Pacific Ave., Everett, WA 98201
grownnewslettereditor@gmail.com
 Deadline for next issue is March 1, 2014.



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 \$50.00 • GRHS Lifetime Membership \$1000.00 (\$200.00 per year)

Make checks payable to GROW - US Currency Only • Mail to: Adi Hartfeil, 4230 S. Terra Vista Ct., West Linn, OR 97068

Please send email updates and address corrections to Adi Hartfeil - abhartfeil@comcast.net

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

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

Send articles to: grownnewslettereditor@gmail.com or by mail to: Janice Prunier, 1218 Pacific Ave., Everett, WA 98201

Resources for Aiding in Your Research

Organization Websites:

AHSGR Library

ahsgr.org

G-R Heritage Collection

lib.ndsu.nodak.edu/grhc

GRHS Library

grhs.org

EEGS - East European Genealogical Soc, Inc.

eegsociety.org

FEEFHS - Fed of E. European Family His Soc

eeffhs.org

LDS Family History Library

familysearch.org

National Genealogical Society

ngsgenealogy.org

Archive Websites:

National Archives (US)

archives.gov/aas/

Odessa Archives (Pixel)

odessa3.org

Ellis Island

ellisisland.org

Canadian National Archives

archives.ca

GRHS CLEARING HOUSE HAS NEW FILES AVAILABLE!!

For a complete list please see the website - www.grhs.org

1816 REVISION LIST, COLONY OF LUSTDORF, GROSSLIEBENTAL DISTRICT, KHERSON GUBERNIA - a project of Germans from Russia Heritage Society, coordinated by the GRHS Clearing House, 2013

1816-1817 REVISION LIST, COLONY OF MÜNCHEN, BERESAN DISTRICT, KHERSON GUBERNIA - a project of Germans from Russia Heritage Society, coordinated by the GRHS Clearing House, 2012

STATISTICAL REPORT ABOUT COLONISTS, (Includes Family Members & Ages) DOMESTIC ANIMALS AND FARMING INVENTORY IN THE TAURIEN GOVERNMENT, FEODOSIA AND SIMFEROPOL DISTRICT, 1818: Colony of Friedental, Colony of Neusatz, Colony of Rosental - a project of Germans from Russia Heritage Society, coordinated by the GRHS Clearing House, 2012

1816 REVISION LISTS, CRIMEA: Includes Feodosia, Colony Near Feodosia, Friedental, Heilbrunn, Kronental, Neusatz, Rosental, City of Simferopol, Sudak, Zurichtal - a project of Germans from Russia Heritage Society, coordinated by the GRHS Clearing House, 2012

1811 BERESAN DISTRICT FAMILY LISTS With Statistical Information About Their Economic Condition; Includes villages of: Landau, Sulz, Karlsruhe, Speier, Worms, Rohrbach, Rastadt, München - a project of Germans from Russia Heritage Society, coordinated by the GRHS Clearing House, 2012

KUTSCHURGAN: Register of 6 colonies of the Odessa Settlement Region, 1814 - a project of Germans from Russia Heritage Society, coordinated by the GRHS Clearing House, June 2012

1816 Revision List, Colony of Neuburg, GROSSLIEBENTAL DISTRICT, Kherson, Gubernia - a project of Germans from Russia Heritage Society, coordinated by the GRHS Clearing House, 2012



Germans from Russia Heritage Society

GROW Chapter

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