



# GROW QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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

Volume 14, Issue 2

January - February - March 2015

## Message from the President

3 Dec 2014

Ho, ho, ho! In 4 more days the B(P)elznickel will be shouting at the GROW Christmas Program, the 7th December 2014, starting at 2PM at the beautiful Germany American Society (GAS), which is all decked out with Christmas trees and ornaments. And wait 'till Marcine Herinck and others come with their festive table decorations, etc.!

Christmas has seemed to have come earlier after a wonderful time with family and friends for Thanksgiving. We have had so much for which to be thankful and we rejoice with the great support of the Board of Directors and members at large. We had increased our membership over last year; we had the most generous gifts ever, over \$1,000. We also gave \$5,000 to our German American Society who has housed our GROW Library and provided us with a lovely meeting place. Our Chapter meetings are always exceptional with potluck donations of scrumptious food. The list of gracious gifting of our members could be lengthened, but I'll just say THANK YOU Members for your benevolence.

Now on to some of the 2015 goals and concerns: we have to adjust ourselves to adapt our future plans and events. Allen White was the Oktoberfest coordinator. We had the great performance of the Kleinstädler Dancers, the Edelweiss wurst, and the Schirmeister home-brew beer which were just some of the outstanding activities. Allen White & Marcine Herinck were going to bring back the Old Fashioned Christmas Program, BUT, the number of children was not to be found. Fortunately, some grandchildren and



## Editor's Note:

Sorry the newsletter is so late. My life turned upside down on Nov. 15 when my husband Dean had a heart attack while he was working. He was in CCU for three weeks, in the hospital for a total of about five weeks, in a rehab center for two weeks, home for Christmas for five days and then back in the hospital for about a week. Dean got back home on January 2 and now 10 days later so far, so good!

A week to the day after his heart attack, my son Patrick ended up in the hospital for two days with pneumonia. And we're fostering two of our grandchildren who are nine and eleven. Needless to say... there's been a lot going on.

The day after Patrick went into the hospital, my older daughter and son-in-law brought my niece up from Portland to help. She was originally going to stay for two weeks and ended up staying a month. I couldn't have done what I needed to do if she hadn't been here to help, and I'm very grateful!

My son is pretty much back to normal now and is off and running with college classes and work. My husband is slowly recovering, but still has a very long road ahead with a probable surgery in the future.

Many thanks to my GROW family for your patience and understanding!

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# Random Thoughts

by Ronald Schauer

I have written for the GROW newsletter since the spring of 2011. This issue, I am doing something different; partly for a change of pace, but mostly to cover for the fact that I don't have a story (see pitiful explanation below). My plan instead is to pick up and run with several various and random lines of thought.



I have lost track of what I've written and what has been published. I feared that I would unknowingly (as opposed to deliberately) submit an already published and read story. I took several hours to look up what has been printed and where. I should feel more secure now.

Some interviews I was lining up for a story out of the WWII era ended up being more complicated than I imagined, and that grabbed even more of my interest and curiosity. I'm finding myself learning more about the small nation of Latvia than I knew possible. That story will appear next issue.

Pat and I love to travel. I am doubly blessed because I enjoy planning a journey almost as much as the actual travel. So it is with a mid-December getaway to Vancouver, BC. The main attraction will be the Vancouver Christmas Market. Modeled on the popular markets of Europe and especially Germany, the Market runs from 22 November to 6:00 PM on Christmas Eve, and offers a variety of food and food items, gluhwein, crafts, art, dazzling lights, crowds, and holiday entertainment. See the market website at <http://vancouverchristmasmarket.com/>

I have used memories of our 2005/6 German travels in a number of stories for GROW. During that journey, we visited a dozen Weihnachtsmarkts including those in the large cities of Frankfurt, Essen, Erfurt, and Leipzig. The markets of the old East German Luther towns--Eisenach, Eisleben, and Wittenburg--were in comparison fairly small and more likely to feature local foods and crafts. Located in the mediaeval town squares, they had a genuine authentic appearance and feel. The one market we didn't visit was the one most people know about, the venerable Nürnberg (Nuremberg) Weihnachtsmarkt. My favorite was the market at Erfurt. The huge side by side churches of St. Mary's and St. Severus's tower over the stalls, stages, food smells, and crowds and present a most glorious setting. For a glimpse of the Erfurt Weihnachtsmarkt, click on this link <http://www.erfurter-weihnachtsmarkt.eu/>

One of the things I do is to produce the Longview-Kelso Train Depot Volunteers monthly newsletter. Both of us are volunteer station hosts at the Amtrak station in Kelso. We are one of a handful of unstaffed (by Amtrak) stations in the USA that provide travelers' services through a force of lightly trained volunteers. In fact, we spent the afternoon and evening of Thanksgiving Day working at the station. Do not pity us, Pat prepared a simplified Thanksgiving dinner with home-baked pumpkin pie which we consumed between trains in the little office with the ticket windows.

Train travel is different and easier throughout Europe. During our 2005 time in Germany, we connected five trains from Bad Urach (home of the late Quenzer brewery, Pat's paternal line) to Freiburg, on our way to Freudenstadt (ancestral home of Schrenk's, Pat's mother's family). Only once did we jump on the wrong train...and off again to quickly board one traveling the same direction we were. It was a great day trip with magnificent scenery. The only sadness of all that was I left my hat on that wrong train.

In Freudenstadt, we delighted in winter with snow, ice and happy friendly people who breathed clouds of steam. We stopped at a butcher shop, marveling at the familiar supply of meats and sausages. The clerk warned us about the content of some of it; I replied that we ate these when I was a child. She clasped her hands and excitedly announced, "Du bist Schwaben!"

Leaving under blue skies and sparkling trees decorated in frozen fog, we rode a three-car electric train, slowly winding through the northern Schwarzwald valleys and mountains to Karlsruhe. There, we boarded an ICE (Inter-City Express) train to Frankfurt. After the 20-40 MPH of the train from Freudenstadt, the 150 MPH ICE ride to Frankfurt was a bit dizzying and disconcerting. The signs went by faster than we could read them!

As I write this, I'm looking at our photos and remembering with nostalgia and joy the excitement and warmth of those travels.

*Note to writer: Time to do it again.*

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## GENEALOGICAL HELP

by Harold Lang

will be held in a room

across from the library

one hour before each GROW Meeting

Christmas...brings to mind and heart thoughts about our family and friends through the years. Sometimes the Reason for the Season, the Christ child, gets lost in the hustle and bustle of shopping, dinners, events, finding the perfect gift and a myriad of other activities that take place this time of year.



My question to each of us... do our children and grandchildren and great grandchildren know about our faith? Have we shared how we feel about what we believe? Or are we distracted from what really matters

### President's Message, cont.

great grandchildren were available and are getting excited. Allen has brought back the brown goodie bag with peanuts, ribbon candy, an orange, a candy cane, a chocolate silver dollar, etc. Even the adults are going to be awarded by Santa Claus, Weihnachtsmann or B(P) elznickel. Our membership has changed, as some have no German Russia background and the Germans from recent Germany had a slightly different culture than those of us who had ancestors who left Germany in 1800.

Our membership renewal is falling behind and I would ask you to send in your dues immediately to continue your password to the secured GRHS website and continue to get the GROW Newsletter, Chapter Meeting Summaries, Announcements, etc. Please send your \$55 to Adi Hartfeil, Treasurer, at 4230 S. Terra Vista Ct, West Linn, OR 97068. THANK YOU!

The GROW Board of Directors has been working to apply for their 501c3 Non Profit Incorporation status. Your Treasurer, Adi Hartfeil, has spearheaded us with the 501c3 templates and the Four Board member Committee volunteered have prepared it for the Memberships' viewing and acceptance on 7 Dec. 2015 will bring about greater synergy with GAS and its four "sister clubs" in having several combined activities such as the Picnic, Oktoberfest, Weihnachtsfest and perhaps other events.

Have a Blessed Merry Christmas and a rewarding, healthy 2015!

Roger Haas

by things superficial? Are we passing on to our posterity our awe of the miracle of the baby Jesus?

We all have family and personal stories about faith promoting experiences that have made a difference in our lives. Take moments throughout December to share them with family. The spoken stories add to the spirit of the season and it brings generations closer. The written accounts can be read over and over again...so I would encourage you to write them.

When my children were very young I bought a book of Christmas stories and read a different story each night from Thanksgiving until Christmas Eve. We nearly wore the book out after four decades. I am now writing personal and family stories to replace that worn out book. Will it matter? Yes! Sacred family moments will be preserved and shared. The lessons learned, hardships endured, sacrifices made, encouragement given, and loved ones treasured will be like a warm blanket on a chilly winter night.

May your Christmas be full of love.

## Many Blessings for 2015



# Germans in the Russian Empire, Soviet Union and Their Successor States, and Their Descendants' Subsequent Life in Germany and the Western Hemisphere: A Historical Timeline, 1549-Present (Part IV)

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

*Compiler's Note:* I translated many of the following entries directly from the German and Russian languages out of numerous academic and popular sources. For some translated entries, I took the liberty to make careful modifications of words and phrases or include corrections and additional pertinent information. Like an expanding coral reef, key historical dates, personalities, events and developments continue to be collected, layer upon layer. Documentation of both our individual lives and family histo-



ries remains enmeshed by this accumulation of knowledge. Different versions of the historical timeline have already appeared in two significant publications: Eric J. Schmaltz, "Chronicle of Events for Ethnic Germans in Russia, 1549-Present," *Heritage Review* 32:1 (Mar. 2002): pp. 26-31, 33-44; and Schmaltz, *An Expanded Bibliography and Reference Guide for the Former Soviet Union's Germans: Issues of Ethnic Autonomy, Group Repression, Cultural Assimilation and Mass Emigration in the Twentieth Century and Beyond* (Fargo, ND: *Germans from Russia Heritage Collection*, North Dakota State University Libraries, 2003), pp. xiii-xxxvi. Copyright permission is granted by both publications. For this series, I made several necessary revisions and updates to the timeline.

- 1985-1991 -- Mikhail Gorbachev is Soviet leader; he soon launches the reform-era of *glasnost* and *perestroika* (sometimes called the "second NEP").
- 25 Sept. 1985 -- The Soviet press agency Novosti publishes in Bonn a German-language article on the situation of ethnic Germans with the title "The Soviet Germans: Past and Present" for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) meeting over human rights held in Budapest, Hungary.
- 25 Oct. 1985 -- Thirty-five Russian Germans from Baden-Württemberg and fifty-four fellow countrymen from Nuremberg speak in the Bundestag with representatives of all political parties on the situation of Germans in the USSR and the status of resettlement.
- 19-21 Nov. 1985 -- During the Geneva Summit between the two world superpowers, U.S. President Ronald Reagan, at the request of West German Chancellor Kohl, speaks with General Secretary of the USSR Gorbachev about the forced resettlement of Germans living in the Soviet Union.
- 28 Nov.-3 Dec. 1985 -- A Bundestag delegation under the leadership of Dr. Philipp Jenninger speaks in Moscow on the forced settlement of Germans from the USSR.
- 1 Jan. 1987 -- Soviet emigration reform legislation goes into effect for the "rehabilitation" of separated family relations; in 1987, a noticeable increase in the number of ethnic German emigrants to (West) Germany begins and peaks dramatically in the mid-1990s; between October 1989 and May 1991, the Soviet government permits the right to the freedom of travel for all its citizens, regardless of family separation (the law goes into full effect by 1 January 1993).
- 19 Mar. 1987 -- In a government statement, West German Chancellor Kohl announces: "Our criteria for real progress in East-West relations is and remains the condition of people in our divided nation and on our continent. We welcome the first signs of a change for the better in Soviet human rights policy, and we hope that these signs develop further. We hold to our demand that political prisoners be released, also in all countries of the Warsaw Pact. And we expect that the new emigration legislation of the Soviet Union finally alleviates the suffering of long-separated families; at the same time we are not thinking only of our fellow German countrymen, who are affected."
- Nov. 1987 -- Soviet leader Gorbachev publicly condemns Stalin's crimes.

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## A Historical Timeline, 1549-Present (Part IV) cont.

- 12-14 Apr. 1988 -- In Moscow, the so-called "third" major delegation (the first two significant delegations took place in 1965) consisting of fourteen ethnic Germans is received by the CC of the CPSU.
- 11 July 1988 -- In Moscow, the leadership of the so-called "fourth" major delegation of ethnic Germans is received by the CC of the CPSU; this delegation has fifty-six members.
- 14 July 1988 -- The chairman of the Soviet Nationalities of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, A. Voss, receives citizens of German nationality.  
In Moscow, the "fourth" delegation of Russian Germans creates a "Coordination Center of Soviet Germans," which later becomes the basis for the "Rebirth" (*Wiedergeburt/Vozrozhdenie*) Society.
- Oct. 1988 -- Gorbachev is elected President of the USSR.  
In Moscow, West German Chancellor Kohl receives representatives of the ethnic German autonomy movement.
- Early Oct. 1988 -- In Moscow, the so-called "fifth" major delegation consisting of 103 ethnic Germans is received by the CC of the CPSU.
- Nov. 1988 -- New Soviet presidential system and Congress of Peoples' Deputies are adopted.
- 16 Jan. 1989 -- The decree "Concerning Additional Measures for the Rehabilitation (Restoration) of Justice with Respect to the Victims of Repression, Who Possessed a Residence in the 1930s and '40s and Started Anew in the 1950s" is passed by the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet.
- Mar. 1989 -- Across the USSR, national elections including non-Communist Party candidates.
- 28-31 Mar. 1989 -- In Moscow, the First (Constituent) Conference of the "All-Union Socio-Political, Cultural-Educational Society of Soviet Germans 'Rebirth' (*Wiedergeburt/Vozrozhdenie*)"; Dr. Heinrich Groth is elected as the society's international (all-union) chairman, a position he holds until early 1993; the "Rebirth" will become the largest ethnic German umbrella-organization.
- 25 Apr. 1989 -- The speech of the First Secretary of the Volgograd Regional Committee of the CPSU, V. Kalashnikov, at the Plenum of the CC of the CPSU, in which he rejects the idea of restoring ethnic German autonomy along the Volga.
- 5 May 1989 -- The meeting of the Ideological Commission of the CC of the CPSU, in which a member of the CC, a state farm machine-operator, N. Gellert from Kazakhstan, presents his speech on the problem of ethnic Germans.
- 12 June 1989 -- A Deputy Committee on the Problems of Soviet Germans is formed by the resolution of the Soviet Nationalities of the USSR Supreme Soviet; Peoples' Deputy of the USSR, G. N. Kiselev, heads it.
- 14-18 Aug. 1989 -- In the Saratov Region, the sojourn of the Commission of the Workers Association on the Problems of Soviet Germans of the Soviet Nationalities of the USSR Supreme Soviet.
- 9-11 Sept. 1989 -- Journey of the Commission of the Workers Association on the Problems of Soviet Germans of the Soviet Nationalities of the USSR Supreme Soviet to the Volgograd Region.
- 12-14 Sept. 1989 -- First Plenum of the Coordination Center of VOSN (the All-Union Society of Soviet Germans or *Vsesoyuznoe obshchestvo sovetskikh nemtsev*) "Rebirth."
- 13 Sept. 1989 -- In the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, a meeting of the members of the Presidium of the Coordination Center VOSN "Rebirth" with the Chairman of the Soviet of Nationalities of the USSR Supreme Soviet, R. N. Nishanov, Deputy Chairman of the Soviet Nationalities of the USSR Supreme Soviet, I. O. Bisher, Chairman of the Committee on International Relations of the Soviet Nationalities of the USSR Supreme Soviet, G. S. Tarazevich, Departmental Director on the Question of International Affairs of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, A. A. Grishkevich, and Chairman of the Committee on the Problems of Soviet Germans of the Soviet of Nationalities of the USSR Supreme Soviet, G. N. Kiselev.
- 20 Sept. 1989 -- At the Plenum of the CC of CPSU, N. Gellert appears with an exposition on (rendering of) the problems of ethnic Germans.
- 3-6 Oct. 1989 -- Journey of the Commission of the Workers Association on the Problems of Soviet Germans of the Soviet Nationalities of the USSR Supreme Soviet to the Altai Region and Novosibirsk Region.

Continued on page 6.

## A Historical Timeline, 1549-Present (Part IV) cont.

- 3-7 Oct. 1989 -- Journey of the Commission of the Workers Association on the Problems of Soviet Germans of the Soviet Nationalities of the USSR Supreme Soviet to the Kazakh SSR.
- 11 Oct. 1989 -- In the *Literary News*, an article is published by A. Nikitin, "German Autonomy: Where? When? How?" in which, for the first time, the possibility of a constitutional republic in the territory of the Kaliningrad Region (the former German East Prussia) is discussed publicly; through the mid-1990s, the Kaliningrad issue generates interest among ethnic Germans and foreign observers.
- Nov. 1989 -- The Commission on the Problems of Soviet Germans of the Soviet Nationalities of the USSR Supreme Soviet prepares the plan for the urgent measures to solve the problem of ethnic Germans, in which the necessary restoration of an autonomous republic along the Volga to its former status and boundaries is recognized.
- 8-9 Nov. 1989 -- Fall of the Berlin Wall.
- 14 Nov. 1989 -- The USSR Supreme Soviet adopts the declaration "Concerning the Declaration of Illegal and Criminal Repressive Actions against Peoples, Exposing the Violent Repression, and Guaranteeing Their Rights."
- 14-16 Nov. 1989 -- The Second (Extraordinary/Emergency) Plenum of the Coordination Center of the VOSN "Rebirth."
- 15-16 Nov. 1989 -- In Moscow, the All-Union Research-Practice Conference takes place, devoted to the historical and contemporary problems of the ethnic Germans.
- 28 Nov. 1989 -- The resolution of the USSR Supreme Soviet "Concerning the Conclusion and Proposal of the Commission on the Problems of the Soviet German and Crimean Tatar People" is signed.
- 12 Dec. 1989 -- Residents of the Saratov Region arrive in Moscow for organized pickets and meetings as a sign of protest against the decision of the USSR Supreme Soviet concerning the restoration of the German state along the Volga.
- 21 Dec. 1989 -- In the decision of the Soviet Ministers of the USSR, a commission is created under Chairman L Voronin for carrying out the resolution of the USSR Supreme Soviet "Concerning the Conclusion and Proposal of the Commission on the Problems of the Soviet German and Crimean Tatar People."
- 1 Jan. 1990 -- West Germany's "Immigrant-Assimilation Law"; considerable cutbacks in social services for ethnic German emigrants or settlers from abroad (*Aussiedler*) and an assignment to a temporary place of residence for two years.
- 10 Jan. 1990 -- After twenty-five years, the newspaper *Neues Leben (New Life)* publishes in Russian the entire 29 August 1964 "rehabilitation" decree.
- 16-18 Jan. 1990 -- The Second Conference of VOSN "Rebirth" in Moscow.
- 29 Jan. 1990 -- The State Commission on the Problems of Soviet Germans under Chairman Viktor Gusev is formed by the Soviet of Ministers of the USSR with a total of twenty-eight members, six of whom are ethnic Germans; it continues until August 1991; it prepares the proposal about the creation of an "association" of Soviet Germans as a governmental administration without territory ("extra-territorial" or cultural autonomy); soon an Organizing Committee (*Orgkomitet*) consisting of ethnic Germans assists the State Commission.
- Feb. 1990 -- The "Rebirth" claims 50,000 members.
- 16 Feb. 1990 -- The meeting of the State Commission on the Problems of Soviet Germans approves "The Situation Concerning the State Commission on the Problems of Soviet Germans."
- Apr. 1990 -- In Ulyanovsk, Russia, the German newspaper *Nachrichten (The News)* begins circulation; in 1998, it is renamed *Rundschau (The Review/Panorama)*.
- 6 Apr. 1990 -- The meeting of the State Commission on the Problems of Soviet Germans considers the situation in the Volga Region and the pace of preparation for proposals on the repeal of governmental acts restricting the rights of ethnic Germans.  
The Executive Committee of the Ulyanovsk Regional Soviet of Peoples' Deputies accepts the decision to invite the permanent residence of ethnic Germans from Siberia, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan.
- 17-19 Apr. 1990 -- The Third Plenum of the Coordination Center VOSN "Rebirth."

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## A Historical Timeline, 1549-Present (Part IV) cont.

- 27 Apr. 1990 -- On a journey through the Sverdlovsk Region, USSR President Gorbachev expresses his view on the problematical restoration of German autonomy in the Volga Region.
- 25 May 1990 -- The Executive Committee of the State Commission on the Problems of Soviet Germans listens to the report about activity conducive to the treatment of the German population in Kazakhstan, and considers the complex program of restoring the cadre (trained personnel and officials) of German nationality.
- 25 June 1990 -- At the Executive Committee of the State Commission on the Problems of Soviet Germans, the decision of the Reven Local Soviet Red-Army Rayon of the Saratov Region concerning the repression of ethnic Germans from new dwellings and old lodgings is condemned; consideration of the pace of preparation of the First Congress of Soviet Germans of the USSR; discussions of suggestions about the status of former members of the Labor Army; adoption of an essential program of providing for the needs of ethnic Germans in the formation of and preparation for the cadre (trained personnel and officials) of German nationality.
- July 1990 -- In Moscow, the Politburo rejects the USSR Supreme Soviet's recommendation for a Volga German republic; government proposals for an "extra-territorial association" is rejected by the overwhelming majority of "Rebirth" delegates in August 1990.
- 1 July 1990 -- (West) Germany's "Ethnic German Immigrant-Admission Law"; proceedings for admission must be carried out from the country of origin.
- 9 July 1990 -- In (West) Germany, the adoption of the "Law of Entry and Residence of Foreigners in the Federal Republic."
- 16 July 1990 -- The Committee on Nationality Policy and International Relations of the Soviet of Nationalities of the USSR Supreme Soviet and the State Commission on the Problems of Soviet Germans accept the decision "Concerning the Preparation for and Realization of the Congress of Soviet Germans"; Dr. Boris Viktor Rauschenbach becomes Chairman of the Organizing Committee on the Preparation for and Realization of the (First) Congress of Soviet Germans; the Congress is originally scheduled for 11-15 December 1990, but the date is later postponed until March 1991; following another government delay in March 1991, the First Congress does not meet formally until October of that year.
- 17 July 1990 -- "The Situation Concerning the State Commission on the Problems of Soviet Germans" is affirmed by the Deputy Chairman of the Soviet Ministers of the USSR, L. Voronin.
- 13 Aug. 1990 -- The decree of USSR President Gorbachev "Concerning the Rights of All Victims of Political Repression from the 1920s-1950s" is signed.
- 14 Aug. 1990 -- The Executive Committee of the Saratov Regional Soviet of Peoples' Deputies adopts the document "Concerning the Top-Priority Measures on the Decisive Problem of Soviet Germans Living on the Territory of the Oblast."
- 14-19 Aug. 1990 -- The Third (Special) Conference of VOSN "Rebirth" in Moscow, which accepts the participation of representatives of 70 regional units; from the members of the society's leadership emerge Hugo Wormsbecher and his supporters.  
At the Third (Special) Conference, the rejection of the "Association Plan" ("Cultural Autonomy without Territory").
- Sept. 1990 -- In the Lower Tagil of the Sverdlovsk Region of Russia, the first memorial to Soviet Germans of the Stalinist genocide is made public (opened).
- 13 Sept. 1990 -- Established in 1957 as a central information source for the USSR's ethnic Germans, *Neues Leben (New Life)* is registered for the first time as an independent newspaper; it no longer falls under the political and ideological supervision of *Pravda* and the CC of the CPSU.
- 14 Sept. 1990 -- The State Commission on the Problems of Soviet Germans at its meeting considers the motion of preparing the First Congress of Soviet Germans, and it considers measures on the widening of the publication of books and periodicals in the German language.
- 17 Sept. 1990 -- The Secretary of the CC of the CPSU, A. Girenko, conducts the conference on the problems of ethnic Germans.
- 3 Oct. 1990 -- Under Chancellor Kohl, the political unification of West and East Germany is formally completed.

## A Historical Timeline, 1549-Present (Part IV) cont.

- 27 Oct. 1990 -- The CC of the CPSU accepts the position concerning the preparation for and the realization of the selections of delegates to the First (Constituent) Congress of Germans of the USSR.
- 30 Oct. 1990 -- In the next session of the State Commission, the work of the Saratov and Volgograd Regional Deputies on the creation of conditions for the fulfillment of the ethnic Germans' national demands is discussed, and the pace of preparation toward the First Congress is considered.
- Nov. 1990 -- In Moscow, the Confederation of Repressed Peoples is formed; several ethnic Germans serve as leaders on its presidium, including *Wiedergeburt* chairman Dr. Heinrich Groth.
- 9 Nov. 1990 -- "The Treaty on Friendly Relations, Partnership, and Cooperation between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Federal Republic of Germany" is signed by USSR President Gorbachev and German Chancellor Kohl, a series of clauses of which are concerned with the situation of the ethnic Germans in the USSR.
- 14 Nov. 1990 -- The newspaper *Neues Leben (New Life)* publishes an open letter from the Germans of Chelyabinsk, Russia, to USSR President Gorbachev and German Federal Chancellor Kohl with requests to permit resettlement (migration) to Germany by all those who wish to do so.
- 24 Nov. 1990 -- The resolution "Concerning the Preparation for and Realization of the Congress of Soviet Germans" is adopted by the Soviet Ministers of the USSR.
- 21 Dec. 1990 -- In Saratov, Russia, the *Zeitung der Wolgadeutschen (Newspaper of the Volga Germans)* is started up; in July 1994, it is renamed the *Wolgazeitung (Volga Newspaper)*.
- 27 Dec. 1990 -- The State Commission once again considers the problems of organizing the ethnic Germans in the USSR.

(To be continued.)

## Letter from Siegfried Trautwein

Greetings Roger und fellow GROW members,

I went to Tarutino in August 2014 to de-weed the cemetery and to hopefully find ancestral graves. I found two Ingber children's graves, my mother's maiden name. I don't know if they were directly related to us or were of another branch of the family. The abundant acacia trees have long sharp thorns and the wild rose vines have also. But we had heavy leather gloves which allowed us to grab them and carry them to the edges to be stacked vertically.

There are two older cemeteries adjacent to the one we 'worked over'!! I'd like to clear a path through both of these earlier ones to see what condition those stones are in and to see what may be hiding in the thick brush.

I bought a Stihl chain saw and a robust weed-eater kind of machine, both of which will be left there to be used in maintaining our cleaned 'Friedhof' (yard/garden of peace / cemetery). The brush and trees (up to 10 cm in thickness) we stacked at the edge of what we thought / hoped was the perimeter. We (my local crew of 3-6 and I) worked about three of the four weeks I was there. The crew was also used by the hotel where I stayed so several days went by with no work. I was not going to work there alone for fear of an accident and no one being there to help me.

The cemetery was cleared a few days before my scheduled departing flight (on 05 Sept.) to Muenchen/



**Tarutino Cemetery in 2001, early German Russian burials. Photo by and courtesy of Elaine (Becker) MORRISON**

Munich. On my final day of work we turned over quite a few stones to expose the text on them—which we were surprised to find being very legible compared to text which had been exposed to the elements. We also set quite a few stones upright, which idiotic vandals had topple over. Our crew of five had a hard time setting the big ones back on their pedestals.

I arranged for a married couple to spend a few days a month to keep the weeds in check. They were also given the powertools to care for since the gent has

*Continued on page 9.*



## Letter from Sigfried, cont.

similar ones—and the young men of the crew abused the tool I bought.

People continually comment that it must have been hard work. Granted! But I enjoyed it in the knowledge that now descendants could search for traces of their/our ancestors.

The reason I chose to come this year was the 200th anniversary celebration of the founding of our village in 1814—one of the first three in 'Bassarabien' on land donated to German settlers by Czar Alexander II, following the successes of other areas in feudal Russia, donated by his grandmother Catherine the Great.

The 'Bessaraber' (no connection to Arabia) lived peacefully among several nationalities until idiotic politicians stuck their noses into our ancestors' affairs in 1940 when almost 95,000 ethnic Germans were forcibly resettled to West Prussia (now Poland). Forcing them to lose what they and their ancestors had struggled to build and acquire. In Prussia they were placed on farms confiscated by Hitler who took the owners to work in factories in Germany. Four years later they were forced again to lose whatever they had accumulated when the Russian army advanced westward.

My brother and I were most fortunate that our parents both returned to us a few years after the war. My mother had been imprisoned for two years (released in 1947) by the Poles on trumped up charges of hoarding, and my father came to us two years later (1949) from the coal mines in the Ural mountains. Both traced us through the German Red Cross (das Rote Kreuz). In 1952 we emigrated to the US and settled in North Dakota, where we had/have relatives !!!

A monument in memory of those generations of Germans was erected in a park in Tarutino.

Quite a few Germans came to the 200 year celebration. I met a lady who was eight when she left Tarutino and was settled with her family in West Prussia, in the same village (Malken / Malki in Polish) where I was born!! She remembers many details of both villages and is willing to accompany me there!! She is the first person I met who came from there, besides my Mama with whom I visited Malken in 2004 and stepped on ground I last did in 1945, as a child of four. Doing so was too traumatic for my mother - but we ate an apple (each) which I brought back from the 'Hof' (farm yard).

I will return in mid-October to discuss placement of a 'Denkmal' (monument) to mark the 75 years since our parents were forced to leave their homeland. It will be placed on the same spot as the wooden cross which was erected in the last days before their

*Continued on page 11.*

## GROW Board of Directors

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*Term ends: 2015*

Allen White, Caller/Brochure Disseminator  
10400 SE Cook Ct. #75 (503) 253-9551  
Milwaukie, OR 97222-1574 allenandnancy@juno.com  
*Term ends: 2015*

Oscar Geiszler, Fundraising  
803 5th Ave. (503) 656-1802  
Oregon City, OR 97045 oscarandlorraine@msn.com  
*Term ends: 2016*

Ell Schiermeister  
12010 SE McGillivray (360) 253-2499  
Vancouver, WA 98683  
*Term ends: 2017*

Harold Lang, Membership Recruiter/Calling Chair  
410 NE 114th Ave. (503) 251-2948  
Portland, OR 97220 lh3689@comcast.net  
*Term ends: 2015*

Larry Kuntz, Name Badge Chair, Brochure Printer  
16500 SE 1st St. Unit 159 (360) 953-8709  
Vancouver, WA 98684 vwllarry@centurlink.net  
*Term ends: 2017*

Nancy White, Alternate #1  
10400 SE Cook Ct. #75 (503) 253-9551  
Milwaukie, OR 97222-1574 allenandnancy@juno.com  
*Term ends: 2015*

Sharon Bell, Alternate #2 - Set-Up Chair  
126 NE 86th Ave. (503) 254-2583  
Portland, OR 97220 bellglen@teleport.com  
*Term ends: 2015*



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

# GROW QUARTERLY CALENDAR

JANUARY 2015						
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 Martin Luther King Day	20 Board Meeting	21	22	23	24
25 Chapter Meeting	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**

FEBRUARY 2015						
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 Presidents Day	17 Board Meeting	18	19	20	21
22 Chapter Meeting	23	24	25	26	27	28

## Chapter Meetings

**25 January**  
**Genealogist Susan Baird**

**22 February**  
**Dr. Harley Miller, different German dialects**

**22 March**  
**Lyonie and Frank Gorsline, singers**

MARCH 2015						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Newsletter Deadline	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 Daylight Saving Time Begins	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 St. Patrick's Day Board Meeting	18	19	20	21
22 Chapter Meeting	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

## 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 Geiszler** 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

## Letter from Sigfried, cont.

departure—no trace remains of it. This time it will be a large boulder with one side cut and polished for appropriate text to be chiseled into it. Many gravestones have been taken from the cemetery by locals to be used for other purposes—a large boulder will hopefully not appeal to those kind of people.

Another reason for returning is to take a trip up the Danube from Galatz (in Rumania) from where our parents (and I as a fetus) journeyed to 'das Vaterland' (the Fatherland), leaving horses, wagons, furniture and assorted goods since there was basically only room for people on the rather small boats. I had intended that to be a major goal during August, but the trip in October will be more meaningful since that is when they left.

*Siegfried Trautwein*

# 2015 GRHS Youth Essay Contest

Sponsored by  
**Germans From Russia Heritage Society**

**Essay Contest Theme:  
Germany/Russia/Americas...  
Giant Steppes Toward Freedom**

**Deadline for entries is March 31, 2015.**

**For more information, rules and entry form go to:  
<http://www.grhs.org/youthn/current/current.html>**

## NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS WELCOMED!

Please send articles, photos, stories, anecdotes, recipes, etc. to: Jan Prunier, Editor • 1218 Pacific Ave., Everett, WA 98201

[grownnewslettereditor@gmail.com](mailto:grownnewslettereditor@gmail.com)

**Deadline for next issue is March 1, 2015.**



## 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](mailto: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](mailto:grownnewslettereditor@gmail.com) or by mail to: Janice Prunier, 1218 Pacific Ave., Everett, WA 98201

## RIGs Contacts *Compiled by: Roger Haas*

### **BERESAN (BDO)**

Spokesperson: Valerie Ingram: Valri@comcast.net, 509-467-7572

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Sundae Orwick, sundae.orwick@yahoo.com, 775-623-4196

### **BESSARABIA**

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### **CRIMEA**

Spokesperson & List Serv Administrator:

Wanda Hopkins, whhopkins@comcast.net, 509-926-6951

### **GERMANS to PRUSSIA & POLAND to RUSSIA (GP-PR)**

Spokesperson: Tom Stangl, tstanglsr@aol.com, 703-723-4692

List Serv Administrator: Janet Netz, netz@applecon.com

### **GROSLIEBENTAL (GDO)**

Spokesperson: Mia Boster: miab@wavecable.com, 360-452-1528

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### **HOFFNUNGSTAL (HOP)**

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### **KHERSON, EKATERINOSLAV, TAURIDA (KET)**

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Tim Janzen, tjanzen@comcast.net, 503-761-8781

### **KUTSCHURGAN**

Spokesperson & List Serv Administrator:

Dennis Roth, deroth100@msn.com, 425-235-5559

List Serv Administrator:

Margaret Rehwalt, mjrehwalt@aol.com, 509-466-9400

## 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

eefhs.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

ellisland.org

Canadian National Archives

archives.ca



Germans from Russia Heritage Society

### **GROW Chapter**

8618 SE 36th Avenue

Portland, OR 97222