



GROW QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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

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Message from the President

31 March 2015

To come up with words that are inspiring or motivating can sometimes be challenging.

Two words that are still current and applicable today are sacrifice and risk. Our parents, or maybe your grandparents, who left the old country, i.e., South Russia, Poland, or other Communistic countries, took risks and sacrificed that you could have a better life. Perhaps they left almost all behind to start over again for themselves, but chances are, it was also for their children and offspring who came to the Americas and Canada.

Today, in our affluent society, we have a difficulty seeing their evidence of frugality in our wasteful, throwaway society, whether it is foods, clothes, building materials, or you name it. Quality is substituted for shoddy workmanship and materials. I think we, as Germans, whether from Germany, Russia, or other countries, can do better and continue to set a higher standard.

My attention was drawn to an article that our GROW Treasurer shared with me that the German-Americans are the largest ethnic group (if you separate the Hispanics into Mexican Americans, Cuban Americans, etc.). As a whole, Germans were not part of colonial aristocracy. Germans went to the Midwest as farmers. As America's largest ethnic group, they assimilated so well that people barely notice them as the silent minority and the most successful with their national income being 18% above the national norm. They are more likely to have college degrees than any other Americans and less likely to be unemployed.

We, like people who are pacesetters, quietly do a quality work without fanfare and do it without solicitation and many suggestions. These people are much sought after, indispensable, but unsung VIPs. Our GROW Editor, Jan Prunier, for more than 10 years has been one of those invaluable, dependable, tal-



ented volunteers, who has been cordial and has done quality work. I want to especially salute her.

Jan was born in Portland, OR, having Lutz, Weber and Wetzel ancestors from Guldendorf, Worms, and Odessa. Jan's mom, Maxine Wetzel Daily was born in Wishek, ND, her grandmother, Ella Lutz Weber Wetzel was born in Greenway, SD and her grandfather Henry Wetzel was born in the Odessa Region of Russia, he immigrated with his parents and five of his siblings when he was five years old.

So, please help me to honor Jan for being a very special person, an unsung German from Russia VIP.



This family photo was taken at Christmas 2011, a few months before Mom passed away. From left: Clyde Daily, Jan Prunier, grandchildren Erik, Ella, Samantha-Rose, daughter Christiana Ostrander, Maxine Daily, and son Patrick Ostrander. Not shown: husband Dean Prunier (he's taking the photo) older daughter Sayra Iseli and son-in-law Justin Iseli.

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Mara's Story

by Ronald Schauer

I became acquainted with Mara and her family in the early 1970s when we attended Kelso's Gloria Dei Lutheran Church. Our children were of similar ages and we shared a love for the outdoors. Gradually we also learned to joke and share incidental stories about our respective Latvian and German backgrounds. A few years passed and I started writing stories for the GROW newsletter.



After several years during which my brain became increasingly clogged with information that was rapidly becoming useless, I began worrying about repeating myself in the search for new story ideas. So I talked to Mara. She had a story worth telling.

Mara was born in Mangali, Latvia in 1942, the third child in her family. Her father's position as a head regional forester overseeing a number of forestry districts, provided the family with a good but busy life. Their home, a comfortable manor situated on Kisezers Lake (northeast of Riga) was the setting for frequent dinners and other gatherings, common occurrences in the family life of a forester of rank.

Like most European countries, especially smaller ones, Latvia's history is replete with being over run, annexed, controlled, and—in good times—merely influenced by other, more powerful nations. They had been part of the Hanseatic League and the Swedish Empire and, in the war years, controlled by both the Germans and Russians. Latvia, a constitutional democratic parliamentary republic established in 1918, was annexed into the Soviet Union in 1940, and in 1941, invaded by Germany.

While Latvian loyalties were split between the two invaders, a common sentiment was "We're going to be over run by somebody, and we'd rather it be the Germans than the Soviets." In 1944, the Soviet forces, then pushing the invading German army out of its territory, again occupied Latvia. It remained part of the Soviet Union until August 1991 at the dissolution of the USSR.

Mara's family fled Latvia as Soviet bombs were beginning to fall on Riga and the surrounding area, including Mangali. Two days before the Red Army marched into the capital, they boarded a train at Riga, bound for the northwest port city of Ventspils. Their plan was to find a boat to Germany or to the Swedish Gotland Island. By this time however, Soviet planes were bombing boats and ships daring to enter the Baltic Sea. With help from a German forestry official, they found passage on a German military ship. Sail-

ing safely to Gdansk (Danzig), Poland, they boarded a train to Berlin. Another train took them on to Bad Kreuznach, west of Frankfurt.

A two-room suite in a residential hotel in the industrial area of Bad Kreuznach became a temporary shelter for the family and the mother's sister-in-law.

Meanwhile, Allied bombing activity increased, with the Americans bombing during the day and the British RAF at night. With short notice of a raid, they fled to the hotel basement (too far to the air raid shelter). One of the planes dropped a bomb which went through the hotel roof and landed in the family's suite. Had it exploded, they would have perished in the fiery collapse of the hotel. Mara's older brother can recall others fleeing the hotel when the bombing began, hoping to make it to a nearby wine cave turned into a shelter. He also remembers watching the city burn after the raid.

The railroads disrupted and destroyed, the family was able to hitch a ride out on a truck to the next point where the railroads were still operating. Traveling by train to Hörbering and then Neumarkt (Neumarkt-Sankt Veit) northeast of Munich, they were able to find refuge living and working on a farm, remaining there to the end of the war.

Mara's father found work with the Bavarian forest service, however, with the war's end and the rising employment needs of the many who had served in the German army, his forestry work ended. Soon after, he found employment with the United Nations Relief Association (UNRA) and the family moved to a large displaced persons' camp in nearby Mühlendorf.

In the midst of the destruction and chaos, family life continued. A brother, Juris, was born while the family lived and worked on the farm. He died just after his second birthday. Aina, a sister, was born in September 1945, and Karlis in 1948 while the family was in the Mühlendorf refugee camp.

The war was over—but not quite. Children especially were constantly at risk from leftover mines and unexploded bombs buried in the ground. Particularly dangerous were areas near the railroad where unexploded shells and bombs lay in wait, left over from the destruction of the tracks.

And there were other leftovers. For years afterward, mother would wake up screaming from her dreams of war. Brother John found himself temporarily frozen and overwhelmed by anxiety during a test of disaster sirens years later while a student at the University of Washington. Mara's body remembers being in a air raid shelter with bombs booming and shaking the structure. She still reacts to unexpected loud noises

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ANNUAL GROW PICNIC

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23, 2015 • 11 am to 3 pm

Willamette Park, West Linn, Oregon

Willamette Wetland Shelter (past the marina & close to the river)

Nearby parking, covered seating area, electrical hookup and water provided & fairly close to a nice restroom.

Bring along your best foods, drinks (with alcohol being permitted) and share some GROW Gemuetlichkeit.

From the park description, you can see that there are a number of things you can do with the little ones when they want to share in the fun.

Willamette Park and Bernert Landing Boat Ramp (4905 Volpp Street) are a combined 22.5 acres Located at the intersection 12th & Volpp Street where the Tualatin River meets the Willamette River, this scenic 15 acre park offers the following amenities: 2 large picnic shelters and a smaller gazebo all with water and power, stage area with concrete pad in front, baseball field, 2 soft-ball fields, 1 grass volleyball court and 1 sand volleyball court, 5 horseshoe pits, river access including boat ramp at Bernert Landing and dock system, playground, wading pool, and wildlife viewing.



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 V)

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.

- 1991-1994 -- Leonid Kravchuk serves as independent Ukraine's first president.
- 3 Jan. 1991 -- From the membership of the Organizing Committee for Preparing the First Congress of Soviet Germans, Dr. Heinrich Groth and his supporters walk out, impatient with the pace of events in Moscow.
- 2-3 Feb. 1991 -- The conference of leaders of the subdivision (regional) VOSN "Rebirth" in Novosibirsk, Siberia, Russia.
- 26 Feb. 1991 -- Chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet, A. Luk'yanov, receives the leadership of the Organizing Committee for Preparing the First Congress of Soviet Germans.
- 7 Mar. 1991 -- The resolution "Concerning the Repeal of Legal Acts in connection with the Declaration of the USSR Supreme Soviet from 14 November 1989 'Concerning the Declaration of Illegal and Criminal Repressive Actions against the People, Exposing the Violent Repression, and Guaranteeing Their Rights'" is accepted by the USSR Supreme Soviet.
- The postponement of dates for the carrying out of the First Congress of USSR (Soviet) Germans is officially declared.
- 11 Mar. 1991 -- The meeting in the Kremlin of the Commission on Nationality Policy and International Relations of the USSR Supreme Soviet, G. Tarazevich, Chairman of the State Commission on the Problems of Soviet Germans, Viktor Gusev, and Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, A. Girenko, with a representative number of delegates, who are attending the First Congress of the USSR Germans.
- 12-15 Mar. 1991 -- In Moscow, the arrival of delegates opens the First Congress, which is called by them as an emergency (defying the Soviet government's delay); subsequently, it receives the status of the "first stage" of the First Congress of the USSR Germans (the "second stage" occurs in October 1991); this "first stage" is led by Dr. Heinrich Groth and about 500 delegates (half of all ethnic German delegates selected for the First Congress) who support him.
- 18 Mar. 1991 -- USSR President Gorbachev and Germany's Minister of Foreign Affairs H.-D. Genscher discuss the problem of ethnic Germans.
- The meeting of Germany's Minister of Foreign Affairs H.-D. Genscher with representatives of the ethnic Germans in the USSR.
- 25 Mar. 1991 -- In the Russian-language press, an interview of the USSR President Gorbachev is reproduced in the German journal *Der Spiegel*, in which the conversation concerns a resolution to the problem of Soviet citizens of German nationality.
- 17 Apr. 1991 -- The Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Ukrainian SSR signs the Decree "Concerning the Rehabilitation of Victims of Political Repression in Ukraine."

Continued on page 5.

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

- 22 Apr. 1991 -- The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic (RSFSR) accepts the resolution "Concerning Urgent Measures over the Settlement of the Problem of Soviet Germans in the Territory of the RSFSR"; the Commission of the Presidium of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet is created on account of the problem of ethnic Germans, the chairman of which is Alexander Bier.
- 26 Apr. 1991 -- The RSFSR decree "Concerning the Rehabilitation of Repressed Peoples" is accepted; the groundbreaking decree also publicly acknowledges that the USSR had waged "slander and genocide" (*genotsid*) in the 1940s against the "repressed peoples," including the ethnic Germans.
- 7 May 1991 -- USSR President Gorbachev meets with representatives of the ethnic Germans, many of whom are moderates like Hugo Wormsbecher and Peter Falk; there is general agreement to proceed with a gradual restoration of autonomy across the USSR, based more or less on the notion of cultural autonomy or on an "extra-territorial" model (i.e., "association").
- 10-12 May 1991 -- The Fourth Conference of VOSN (the All-Union Society of Soviet Germans or *Vsesoyuznoe obshchestvo sovetskikh nemtsev*) "Rebirth" convenes.
- 14 May 1991 -- The State Commission on the Problem of Soviet Germans debates during its session of a general meeting of the USSR President with members of the Organizing Committee for Preparing the First Congress of Soviet Germans. In opposition to Dr. Heinrich Groth's wing of the "Rebirth," the Constituent Commission gathering of the Union (Association) of USSR Germans (*Verband der UdSSR-Deutschen/Soyuz nemtsev SSSR*) takes place; the charter of the Union of USSR Germans is worked out; Peter Falk and Hugo Wormsbecher are leading figures; in the early to mid-1990s, this moderate wing of the movement also goes by a number of similar names, including the *Bund der Deutschen der UdSSR* (Union of the Germans of the USSR), the *Verein der UdSSR-Deutschen* (Association of USSR Germans), the *Verwaltung von Angelegenheiten der Deutschen in der GUS* (Administration for the Affairs of the Germans in the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States]), and the *Zwischenstaatlicher (Internationaler) Verband der Rußlanddeutschen/Mezhdunarodny soyuz rossyiskikh nemtsev* or IVRD/MSRN (International Association of Russian Germans).
- 22 May 1991 -- The meeting of a member of the Presidium of the Social Democratic Party (SPD) of Germany, E. Barr, with representatives of the Organizing Committee for the Preparation of the First Congress of USSR Germans and the "Rebirth" Society.
- 28 May 1991 -- A talk between the Chairman of the State Commission of Nationalities (*Goskonnats*), L. Prokop'ev, and members of the Organizing Committee for the Preparation of the First Congress of USSR Germans. Meeting of the leadership of the Organizing Committee with the FRG envoy in Moscow, K. Blech.
- 6 June 1991 -- The Cabinet of USSR Ministers accepts the resolution "Concerning the Repeal of the Decision of the Former State Committee of Defense of the USSR and the Decision of the Representatives of the USSR in the Treatment of the Soviet Peoples Subject to Repression and Forcible Resettlement."
- 18 June 1991 -- The Executive Committee of the Altai Kray's Council of Peoples' Deputies accepts the decision "Concerning the Restoration of the German National Rayon in the Territory of the Altai Kray."
- 21 June 1991 -- The edict of the USSR President "Concerning the Decorative Medal 'For Valiant Labor in the Great Patriotic War of 1941-1945' of USSR Citizens Mobilized to the Workers' Brigades."
- 28 June 1991 -- At the Constituent Conference, the International Association of German Culture (*Internationaler Verband der deutschen Kultur* or IVDK/*Mezhdunarodny soyuz nemetskoy kul'tury* or MSNK) is formed; Heinrich Martens is chairman.
- 29-30 June 1991 -- In Moscow, the First (Constituent) Conference of the Union of USSR Germans (*Verband der UdSSR-Deutschen/Soyuz nemtsev SSSR*) meets; Peoples' Deputy of the USSR, Peter Falk, becomes the Union's chairman; this organizational move signifies a formal split inside the autonomy movement between Dr. Heinrich Groth's more aggressive faction and Falk's and Hugo Wormsbecher's more moderate supporters.
- 1 July 1991 -- The German National Rayon in the Altai Region (Halbstadt/Nekrasovo) of Russia is re-established.
- 2 July 1991 -- With FRG delegates, the leadership of the State Commission of Nationalities of the RSFSR discusses the problem of ethnic Germans.
- 10 July 1991 -- By winning the popular election, Boris Yeltsin becomes president of the Russian Federation.
- 25 July 1991 -- Representatives of the Organizing Committee for the Preparation of the First Congress of USSR Germans in consultation with Prime Minister of the USSR, V. Pavlov.

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

- 2 Aug. 1991 -- The Cabinet of Ministers of the USSR accepts the resolution "Concerning the Committee on the Problem of Soviet Germans."
- In anticipation of the rescheduled First Congress of USSR Germans (Second Stage) for 18-20 October 1991, the State Commission on the Problems of Soviet Germans headed by Viktor Gusev is formally abolished on recommendation of the Organizing Committee; the Organizing Committee is also no longer financed, as it has completed its duties.
- 19-29 Aug. 1991 -- Attempted coup by conservative Soviet leaders, who arrest USSR President Gorbachev in the Crimea; with various supporters standing beside him (one of whom is ethnic German activist Alexander Bier), Russian President Yeltsin leads a peaceful, popular uprising in Moscow against the plotters; Gorbachev returns to Moscow and resigns as General Secretary of the Communist Party; in most Soviet republics, Communist Party activities are temporarily suspended, pending an investigation of its role in the attempted coup.
- 23-24 Aug. 1991 -- The Constituent Conference of the "Baltic League."
- 6 Sept. 1991 -- Appearance in Moscow of the Union of USSR Germans (*Verband der UdSSR-Deutschen/Soyuz nemtsev SSSR*), led by Peter Falk and Hugo Wormsbecher.
- 1 Oct. 1991 -- Chairman of the State Commission of Nationalities, L. Prokop'ev, meets with representatives of the ethnic Germans in the USSR.
- 13 Oct. 1991 -- Twenty-seven villages of the former Asovo Rayon of Omsk Oblast in Russia vote in a referendum for the formation of the German National Rayon.
- 15 Oct. 1991 -- In the State Committee of the RSFSR for Nationality Affairs of the Cabinet of RSFSR Ministers, an administration is created for the affairs of peoples who do not have national statehood; later, the affairs of ethnic Germans is raised to the status of a Ministry Department, then down to a Ministry Section, and quickly back again to a Department; as deputy chairman, Peter Falk is the first to direct it; because of special political support from Germany, the ethnic Germans become Russia's one nationality group that holds its own Ministry Department.
- 16 Oct. 1991 -- The FRG Minister of Foreign Affairs, H.-D. Genscher, discusses the problem of ethnic Germans with Kazakhstan's President Nursultan Nazarbaev.
- 18 Oct. 1991 -- RSFSR President Boris Yeltsin signs the decree "Concerning the Rehabilitation of Victims of Political Repression."
- 18-20 Oct. 1991 -- In Moscow, the First Congress of USSR Germans (Second Stage); the carrying out of its original plans from 23-25 August (preparations had been delayed by the attempted Soviet coup).
- At the First Congress (Second Stage), the formation of an International Council for the Rehabilitation of Germans of the Former USSR (*Zwischenstaatlicher Rat zur Rehabilitierung der Deutschen der ehemaligen UdSSR*) under Dr. Heinrich Groth; a later modified incarnation of this council comes under several similar names, including the *Rat der Rußlanddeutschen (Sovet nemtsev Rossii)*, *Rat der Deutschen der ehemaligen UdSSR*, *Zwischenstaatlicher Rat der Deutschen der Ex-UdSSR and Zwischenstaatlicher Rat der Rußlanddeutschen/Mezhgosudarstvenny sovet nemtsev byushhego SSSR (ZSRD/MGSN)*.
- The First Festival of German Culture in the soon-to-be former USSR.
- 21 Nov. 1991 -- In the course of Russian President Yeltsin's visit to Germany, a joint declaration is signed; Point 12 concerns the possibility of restoring the German republic along the Volga; Yeltsin's declaration on the possibility of placing the restored republic on the military firing (shooting) range of Kaputsin Yar; this proposed site remains unpopular among ethnic Germans.
- Dec. 1991 -- In two rayons of Samara Oblast in Russia, land is set aside for ethnic German settlers.
- In Moscow, the All-Russian Fund for rehabilitation and assistance is registered for victims of Stalinism and the Labor Army.
- The RSFSR Supreme Soviet imposes a moratorium on territorial changes through July 1995.
- 12 Dec. 1991 -- The Russian Parliament ratifies President Yeltsin's call to establish a new Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) open to all former members of the USSR.
- 21 Dec. 1991 -- The Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) is created, including Russia and ten of the former Soviet republics; however, the CIS is not a country and is without a capital city or even a flag.
- 25 Dec. 1991 -- After seventy-four years, the formal demise of the USSR following President Gorbachev's resignation.

Continued on page 7.

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

- 1992 -- In Kiev, Ukraine, the German newspaper *Deutscher Kanal* (German Channel) is started up.
After the USSR breaks up, the VOSN becomes known as the International Union (Association) of Germans of the Former USSR "Rebirth" (*Zwischenstaatlicher Vereinigung der Deutschen der ehemaligen UdSSR "Wiedergeburt"/Mezhgosudarstvennoe ob"edinenie nemtsev byvshego SSSR «Vozrozhdenie» or ZSVD/MON*); in 1992, the "Rebirth's" membership climbs to about 100,000.
- 8 Jan. 1992 -- The appearance of Russian President Yeltsin in Saratov Oblast, where he actually rejects the restoration of the Volga German republic.
- 22-23 Jan. 1992 -- In Moscow, the Conference of the Executive Committee of the International Council for the Rehabilitation of the Germans of the Former USSR (*Zwischenstaatlicher Rat zur Rehabilitierung der Deutschen der ehemaligen UdSSR*) under Dr. Heinrich Groth.
- 23 Jan. 1992 -- By the edict of Ukrainian President Kravchuk, the Ukrainian-German Fund is created; Ukraine invites German resettlers from Siberia, Central Asia, and Kazakhstan.
- 29 Jan. 1992 -- The President of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan, A. Akaev, signs the edict "Concerning the Formation in the Republic of Kyrgyzstan of the German National Cultural District and National Commercial-Manufacturing Structures."
- 18 Feb. 1992 -- The RSFSR Supreme Soviet decides on the founding of the German National Rayon of Asovo in the Omsk area.
- 21 Feb. 1992 -- The edict of the President of the Russian Federation "Concerning the Urgent Measure for the Rehabilitation of Russian Germans" is signed; the formation of a German National Rayon and Okrug (District) in the Saratov and Volgograd areas.
- 20-22 Mar. 1992 -- In Moscow, the Second Congress of Germans of the Former USSR.
- 21 Mar. 1992 -- By the resolution of the government of the Russian Federation, the Russian part of the Intergovernmental (Joint Governmental) Russian-German Commission on the preparation of the joint program of legislative measures directed at ensuring a gradual restoration of statehood for ethnic Germans is established.
- 9 Apr. 1992 -- By order of the government of the Russian Federation, a representative commission on the problem of ethnic Germans is created, led by the Chairman of the State Commission of Nationalities, V. Tishkov.
- 13 Apr. 1992 -- The resolution of the government of the Russian Federation "Concerning the Organizing Committee for the Consideration of Questions and Preparation Proposals Connected with the Formation of the German National District in the Volgograd Oblast, the German National Rayon in the Saratov Oblast, and the Restoration of Statehood for Russian Germans" is accepted, and its managerial staff (personnel) is appointed.
- 21 May 1992 -- The edict of the President of the Russian Federation "Concerning the Creation in the Volga Region of a Settlement for Russian Germans on an Agricultural Basis and Guarantees for Their Socio-Economic Development."
- 29-31 May 1992 -- The Congress of the Union of Germans of the Former USSR (*Verband der Deutschen der Ehemaligen UdSSR/Soyuz nemtsev byvshego SSSR*) under Peter Falk and Hugo Wormsbecher convenes; delegates change the association's name to the *Zwischenstaatlicher (Internationaler) Verein (Verband) der Rußlanddeutschen/Mezhdunarodny soyuz rossiyskikh nemtsev* (International Association of Russian Germans or IVRD/MSRN); also, Wormsbecher succeeds Falk as its chairman.
- June 1992 -- The Bogdashkin Village Council of Ulyanovsk Oblast in Russia is given the status of a German national council.
- 18 June 1992 -- A session of the Engels Rayon Council of Saratov Oblast in Russia rejects the organization of German national-territorial formation.
- 22 June 1992 -- The Constituent Conference of the Society of Germans of the Russian Federation "Freedom" (*Freiheit/Svoboda*).
- 3 July 1992 -- The President of the Russian Federation Yeltsin signs the decree of the Russian Federation "Concerning the Establishment of a Transition Period for State-Territorial Demarcation (Delimitation) in the Russian Federation," which actually signifies a moratorium on the territorial rehabilitation of peoples.
- 10 July 1992 -- A protocol is signed between Russia and Germany about the eventual restoration of the republic on the Volga; this is to be accomplished in phases (over 4-5 years); a public opinion poll shows that a Russian majority opposes ethnic German autonomy in the region (in rural areas as high as eighty percent).
The passage of a Russian Federation law on education; for the citizens of Russia, basic training in the native language is formally conceded.
- 22-23 Aug. 1992 -- The Fifth Conference of the "Rebirth" Society.
- 16 Sept. 1992 -- The meeting of Bundestag delegates of the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) with members of the Russian Federation's Supreme Soviet commission on the repressed and deported peoples.
- 20 Sept. 1992 -- The meeting of Kazakhstan's President Nursultan Nazerbaev with leaders of the ethnic German national movement.

Continued on page 8.

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

- Oct. 1992 -- FRG officials provide 32 million DM to help establish ethnic Germans in Ukraine.
- 7 Oct. 1992 -- The meeting of the FRG Minister of Foreign Affairs, Klaus Kinkel, with community leaders of the ethnic Germans in Russia.
- 19-20 Oct. 1992 -- The Second Session of the Intergovernmental (Joint Governmental) Russian-German Commission for the Affairs of Russian Germans.
- 24 Oct. 1992 -- President Yeltsin signs the order "Concerning the Immediate Steps for the Development of the Relationship between the Russian Federation and the Federal Republic of Germany," in which among other things is the matter of the creation of an ethnic German university.
- 29-30 Oct. 1992 -- In Almaty, the First Congress of Germans in Kazakhstan is held.
- Nov. 1992 -- In Almaty, Kazakhstan, the German embassy is opened.
- 7-8 Nov. 1992 -- In Omsk, the Second Conference of the "Rebirth" Society of Germans of the Russian Federation takes place.
- Dec. 1992 -- Jakob Maurer is selected as the "Rebirth's" regional chairman in the Russian Federation and serves in this capacity for the next few years; this move stems in part from the formal decision to organize the "Rebirth" regionally in the aftermath of the USSR's fissure into independent states; Dr. Heinrich Groth formally remains the "Rebirth's" international chairman until late February 1993, when he leads an independent association affiliated with the "Rebirth" (the ZSRD/MGSN).
- In Russia, the *Orenburger Allgemeine Zeitung (Orenburg General Newspaper)* is established; it prints its first issue at the beginning of 1993.
- 2 Dec. 1992 -- By order of the government of the Russian Federation (consisting of the Academy of the Peoples' Economy), the Russian-German higher school administration is formed.
- 15 Dec. 1992 -- President Yeltsin signs the edict "Concerning the Creation of the Fund 'Russian Germans.'"
- 15-16 Dec. 1992 -- A visit by German Chancellor Helmut Kohl to Moscow and a talk with Russian President Yeltsin; Kohl also meets with representatives of Russia's Germans.

(To be continued.)

Sodak Stamm Germans from Russia Historical Society Presents its Second Tour

The Three Corners of Europe

Visiting Germany, France, Switzerland

September 18-27, 2015

Tour design by Vi Ranney

Escorted by Gary Jerke and Vi Ranney

10 Day Fully Escorted Tour

\$2749.00 per person (with 40 participants)

\$2775.00 if we get 30 people. So, tell your friends. Price based on double occupancy.

Price includes: Round-trip international air from Sioux Falls, SD, deluxe motor coach throughout, 3-4 star hotels, meals as indicated in red, one piece of baggage handling per person, fully escorted by Vi and Gary, plus local step-on guides. Please note: Switzerland is a little more expensive, thus the increase (\$54) over last year's price of \$2695. When we put together our own tours, there is no travel agency markup in it, thus our cheap prices.

Not included: Fuel surcharge if imposed by the airlines, meals not listed in itinerary, alcoholic beverages at meals, tip to driver, trip for local step-on guides, your passport, travel insurance and all items of a personal nature. We will offer a very reasonable cancellation plan for the tour after everyone is signed up.

Sign up today. When the bus is full... sorry...

June 1, 2015 is the deadline for signing up

Order your passport today.

Any questions call Vi Ranney at 605-665-3596

Note: The Euro is at an all-time low...now is the time to buy. Please sign up this week so I can purchase the thousands of Euros and Francs that I will need before the dollar declines. Thanks! It's all about signing up today. And when the bus is full... that's it folks!!

Mara, cont.

and cramped spaces.

With hopes of going to the United States, the family was moved to dormitories at a naval base in Bremerhaven in northwest Germany. There they found one last glitch: John was put in quarantine after an x-ray showed a spot on his lung. A later follow up x-ray was clear and in October, 1949, the family sailed for New York City. After the five day trip, their ship was greeted by a band and President Harry Truman. Among their shipmates was the 100,000th displaced immigrant arriving in the United States! Mara remembers drinking hot chocolate while the wooden boxes of their possessions were being processed.

Among those possessions was her mother's sewing machine, her companion through the entire journey. Mara has photographs of this period in her life, pictures of her and her siblings. Some show smiles, others show drawn faces full of stress and worry. Each photograph has children wearing beautiful clothes and traditional Latvian styles, all products of her mother's skill, artistry, and her well-traveled sewing machine.

They boarded a train at New York's Penn Station bound for Chicago where they transferred to another train traveling west to Kelso, Washington, arriving on November 2, 1949. With the assistance of Lutheran World Relief and under the sponsorship of Trinity Lutheran Church of Longview WA, they lived for a month with a Latvian family until they could locate and purchase a home from a member of Trinity Church. In a short time, a participating Weyerhaeuser executive helped her father find employment with the local mill.

There are more stories to this family's ordeal, and that number is multiplied by the untold and ongoing millions of victims of war. Next issue we'll conclude these stories and consider some of the effects of war.

Open Letter from Lois David

To whom it may concern:

Several years ago I received an email requiring about my WILD ancestors. At the time I had no idea, but since have researched my line in the German Lutheran Church records back to about 1500. If any of your members or this gentleman is still looking, I would share any information with them that I have. If you have any way of connecting me with anyone with me. My great Grandparents were Ferdinand Wild and Eva Schakalowsky. (sp.?) Ferdinand was born in Goppingen, Wurttemberg, Germany.

My email is lad377@comcast.net.

GROW Board of Directors

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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: 2017

Jeanette McDermid, Secretary/Library Specialist
327 SE Elliot Ave (503) 666-6939
Gresham, OR 97080-7726 toadlilyuniqu@comcast.net
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
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 vwlarry@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

APRIL 2015						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3 Good Friday	4
5 Easter Sunday	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21 Board Meeting	22	23	24	25
26 Chapter Meeting	27	28	29	30		



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 Sandy Blvd. Exit,
 turn right on Sandy going West to Alameda & Sandy.
 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

MAY 2015						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 Mother's Day	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19 Board Meeting	20	21	22	23
24 Chapter Meeting	25 31 Memorial Day	26	27	28	29	30

26 April

**Presenter: Susan Baird, Genealogical Program
Annual Elections**

24 May

**Presenter: Adi Hartfeil, Powerpoint on the
Volga, Petersburg and Moscow**

21 June

**Presenters: Alex & Jan Herzog
Their experience and the Nazi Occupation**

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

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 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 **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

GENEALOGICAL HELP

by Harold Lang
will be held in a room
across from the library
one hour before each
GROW Meeting

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS WELCOMED!

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

Jan Prunier, Editor
1218 Pacific Ave., Everett, WA 98201
grownewslettereditor@gmail.com

Deadline for next issue is June 1, 2015.

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



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

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CRIMEA

Spokesperson & List Serv Administrator:

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List Serv Administrator:

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KUTSCHURGAN

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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

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