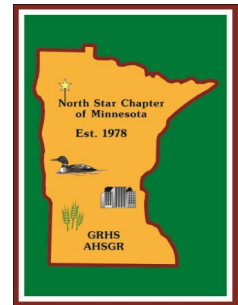


North Star Chapter

March 2011

<http://www.northstarchapter.org/>

Volume 36 Number 2



Spring Genealogy Workshop: Faith of Our Mothers: Ethnicity, Gender, and Religion in a German-Russian Community

Saturday, March 19, 2011, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Berea Lutheran Church, 7538 Emerson Ave. S., Richfield MN

Our bi-annual genealogy day will be highlighted by a presentation by Mary (Isaak) Sailer Speidel. A feminist academic and daughter of the Germans from Russia community, Speidel captures the voices of the American-born mothers as well as their foremothers in Germany and Russia. In her research she found that some of those voices are strong, some are faint whispers, but there is no question that the most important things in life were transportable: our family, our God, and our ethnic memories.

Originally from Hazen, ND, Speidel currently resides in Tucson, AZ. She holds a BA in both Religious Studies and Women's Studies and an MA in Women's Studies with a concentration in Religion. Presently Speidel teaches religious studies at Pima Community College and women's studies at the University of Arizona. She is active in the Grand Canyon Synod Women of the ELCA as a board member and anti-racism educator.

Our library will be open at 10:00 for family research and genealogy help. Lunch is on your own. There will be a short business meeting at 1:00 followed by Speidel's presentation.

“Tales of a Community That Was” 33rd Annual North Star Chapter Spring Banquet

Saturday, April 30, 2011, 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Berea Lutheran Church, 7538 Emerson Ave. S., Richfield MN

Nearly every North Star member comes from “somewhere else.” We left small towns or farms to live and work in Urban America, but our “somewhere else” lives on in our memory and holds a special place in our heart.

(Spring Banquet, continued on page 10)

President's Message

By Lil Ward

As we look forward to spring, which hopefully is just around the corner, I think of the past few chapter meetings we have had. Despite the weather we had quite a turn out for both January, when we viewed the DVD "It's All Earth and Sky," and February, when we heard about "The Murdered Family" by Dr. Vernon Keel. I am reading Dr. Keel's book after hearing him tell the story and it is quite fascinating. If you missed the meetings, we have a copy of the DVD and the book in the chapter library which you can check out. Never as good as seeing and hearing in person though.

The next couple of meetings also are "not to be missed" with Mary Speidel and Angie Ibarra presenting. Then comes our summer break and I hope you will consider attending the AHSGR or GRHS conventions this summer.

One of the challenges to keeping any organization alive is new members. So invite a friend and bring them with you to the next meeting. The spring banquet is a catered affair and reservations are needed so plan ahead.

Since this is the last newsletter until fall, I will wish you all Happy Spring and have a great summer. I remember in high school we used to say "Be there, or be square". So see you at the next meeting.

Like Us on Facebook

If you are on Facebook, please join our North Star Chapter group. Even if you aren't on Facebook, encourage your friends and family who are to join our group. We welcome all who are interested in German-Russian heritage, even they aren't members of our chapter. It's a quick, easy way to post information (**Facebook**, continued on page 10)

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Library Corner

By Bernie Becker

NEW!!

Kaleidoscope: Shapes and Colors of Childhood by Bill Kraft. Mr. Kraft is a native of Strasburg, North Dakota. He has taught high school English in Minnesota, spent ten years with the Central Minnesota Libraries Exchange at St. Cloud State University, St. Cloud, Minnesota, and his work has appeared in many newspapers.

From the prairies of North Dakota to the asphalt streets of Minneapolis, his kaleidoscope of memories takes an affectionate journey to places familiar and new. Using the format of the seasons, he takes us through his childhood in a small prairie town (Strasburg, North Dakota) where baby chicks arrived at the post office in cardboard boxes, and his father ran the general store, to the Lakeside Drive-in in Big Lake, Minnesota. If you like to reminisce, you'll enjoy this read. Thanks, Ardella.

The Murdered Family by Vernon Keel. This is a novel. However, it is based on a true story of a horrendous murder of a whole family in Turtle Lake, North Dakota, ninety years ago. Mr. Keel spoke of his novel at our February meeting. Asked why he wrote it as a novel he remarked that he felt he could make this story come to life if written this way. Otherwise it would be a relation of facts, statistics and speculation. Mr. Keel will be doing a workshop at the July GRHS convention.

BOOK REPORTS ON BOOKS ON OUR SHELVES:

Pioneer Women: Voices from the Kansas Frontier by Joanna L. Stratton. I like *old* books. This one is stamped: "Withdrawn from the Hennepin County Library!" I know they have to make room for new books, just as

our library does, but for a genealogical society, I have to say, "Old is what we are interested in." Don't you agree?

A recent public television program, "Pioneers of Television," featured "Westerns." We don't see them anymore unless they are re-runs. *Reading Voices from the Kansas Frontier* is like reading scripts for those old westerns. The difference is that instead of heroes, they have heroines—wilderness mothers, school-marms, immigrants, and homesteaders. Women of relentless determination share their experiences with prairie fires, locust plagues, cowboy shootouts, and cattle drives.

Chapter fifteen, *The Woman Crusaders, Temperance and Suffrage*, gives a detailed picture of the struggles women went through in their attempts to improve their lives. Please don't ignore this book because of its age. It a good read.

Growing Up in North Dakota by Philo T. Pritzkau. This has been on our shelves for some time, but I had never taken the time to read it. Born in a sod house in 1902, Mr. Pritzkau relates life in the early twentieth century, the time of my grandparents, and the time of my parents' childhood. Much of what he tells could have been the story of any agricultural state at that time. The world moved slower then, so those of us who are now "elderly" can remember glimpses of that life, especially if our parents were farmers.

I especially enjoyed Mr. Pritzkau's detailed telling of ordinary farm work such as haying, planting, threshing, etc. One-room schools were pretty much the same through much of the first half-century. Be sure to read the chapter about his father's REO car!

I hope you, too, found time to do some interesting reading during this snowy winter. It's good to read about the past—makes us ap=

(**Library Corner**, continued on page 6)

What Might Have Been

By Cynthia Miller

I'm an avid fan of the TV show "Who Do You Think You Are?" which is in the middle of its second series on Friday nights. I enjoy seeing all the ways people can investigate their ancestors, and jealous of all the professional help they get and paid trips to places their ancestors lived. Recently I watched a show featuring country music singer Tim McGraw. I didn't think I'd have anything in common with him; he's from the south and his last name is Scotch-Irish.

But late in the show, McGraw found out that his eighth great-grandfather was German and came to New York from Germany in 1710. "Palatine" is a term we've heard in our research, and is basically the British term in Colonial America for a German-speaking immigrant. Many German immigrants at the time came from southern Germany, where our ancestors were still 75-100 years from going to Russia.

At the time, a book was published in Germany extolling the wonders and opportunities of "Carolina" in the New World. However, it contained one crucial error. It indicated that if Germans could make their way to London, Queen Anne would pay for them to get to America and give them free land. When the Palatines reached London, the monarchy had a refugee problem on its hands. They decided they would send these immigrants to New York, but to work off their debt to the crown. They became indentured servants to the Queen.

It made me wonder about the turns of fate involved in the decisions our ancestors made. I know my ancestors didn't decide to do this, or they wouldn't have all come from Russia nearly 200 years later. But perhaps, way back, the brother of one of my direct de-

scendants did make the choice to throw their lot in with the British. They did it for many of the same reasons our ancestors eventually decided to head east: tired of being in the middle of war after war, tired of working for a landlord, tired of being denied freedom of religion.

Although for many of the early Germans (including McGraw's ancestor), the gamble paid off. But the first years were hard. They were made to work in the government's tar factories and given subsistence living arrangements. In many ways, our ancestors' decision to wait another hundred years to make their move was more fortunate for them.

If you are interested in seeing past episodes of the show, you can view them at www.nbc.com or www.hulu.com.

Member News

Welcome new members Matthew Klee, Hastings, and Wilma and Robert Sellin, Prior Lake

Sharon and Pete Kleingartner and Lil (Kleingartner) and Dayton Ward will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversaries this summer. They plan to celebrate with their family and friends back home in Gackle, ND. Congratulations!

Dr. Don Schenk, President of the AHSGR Foundation, presented a luncheon speech at the AHSGR Convention on August 5, 2010. Dr. Schenk's speech was titled, "The Threads Grow Thin" and focused on Gwen Schock Cowherd's story "The Girls of '66" which was a winner in the AHSGR 2009 Storytelling Contest.

The Era of the Railroad into Eureka SD

By Duane Stabler

The year was 1895 and the Chicago Milwaukee Railroad Company was moving west from Ipswich, SD, to Roscoe, SD. The railroad stopped in Roscoe for a period of time but a spur line started north coming to a full stop about eight miles north of a town once identified on the map as Hillsview, SD. The end of the track was some four blocks west of a small settlement by the name of Petersburg. The area had a few small homes constructed of sod and the small patches of ground were plowed using oxen. Settlers had to go to Ipswich for what they needed to purchase so the thought of a train track coming close to where they lived must have created a lot of excitement.

The location where the track ended became known as Eureka. There was a sidetrack some 100 feet east which allowed for a turnaround or turntable. The locomotive backed down the switching track onto this turntable; men could then manually turn the locomotive around so it was facing the correct direction for the trip back to Roscoe.

Plots were established near the track and the location for the depot was identified. Businesses that had been in Petersburg soon moved to the area which was plotted and thus, Eureka was born.

On July 27, 1887, the first train arrived in Eureka. People came on various modes of transportation to see the arrival of that very first train. Eureka soon became the destination as people from as far away as South Russia heard about fertile prairie and land for homesteading. Soon, trains filled with immi-

grants arrived in Eureka and set about the business of homesteading. By 1892, two million dollars' (that's in 1982 dollars) worth of wheat made its way out of the area and Eureka was named the wheat capital of the world. Certainly, the owners of the railroad must have considered this investment a very smart move that had become very profitable.

By 1902 the train tracks were extended further north, reaching Linton, ND, and this connected with the Northern Pacific Railroad which extended to Bismarck, ND. Soon, long trains were running between Linton and Roscoe twice per day carrying grain, passen-



gers, and mail. The two trains, the Number 805 and the Number 806, made regular stops in Eureka and other places as they traveled the tracks. The trains and their schedules certainly did change over the years but they were a vital part of the settlement of Eureka and areas around Eureka and especially areas in south central North Dakota.

Over time, roads became better and alternative means of transporting goods and services took hold even in the Eureka area. They cut deeply into the profits of the railroad. Then, as telephone service improved, Western Union telegraph service faded away.

(Eureka Railroad, continued on page 6)

(**Eureka Railroad**, continued from page 5)

The days of high profits started to fade for the railroad line.

Fortunately, I remember that depot and I remember it being open for business although I never got to ride that train. I recall my father taking me along as he went to pick up a freight package from that depot. That freight package contained a dog which made the trip all the way from Minnesota. She was not just a dog, she was German Shepard, and I have many fond memories of her as I grew up on the farm near Eureka. She went everywhere with me on that farm and truly became a great buddy and protector.

The spring of 1980 was the last time the train was heard in Eureka; soon the tracks were pulled from the land from Eureka to Roscoe. Farmers used the railroad ties for a variety of things around the farm. I remember them being used as fence posts as they were treated wood and it would last much longer than any other wood available. They were also very heavy and I recall how difficult they were to move.

But there was one last hope; the Burlington Northern Railroad Company had purchased the Linton to Roscoe line as far as Eureka, used to handle freight. There was some excitement but the decline of the railroad was too much for even The Burlington Northern to overcome. By 1985 the train once again stopped. Those tracks too were sold and the end of an era had arrived.

Note from the author: The photo included is an early real photo postcard taken of the depot along with people waiting for the train to arrive. The photo, titled "Train Time," captures an interesting group of people dressed in their Sunday best presumably meeting people or perhaps boarding the train to

travel to another town along the route.

©Duane Stabler, permission to publish the article is required by the author.

(**Library Corner**, continued from page 3)

preciate the present.

Jim Gessele will be introducing the English translation of *Bessarabia: German Colonists on the Black Sea* by Ute Schmidt at the GRHS Convention in Spokane, Washington, July 20-24. Jim has spent untold hours translating this book from German. Aren't we proud to have such an illustrious member as Jim? By the way, the book will be appearing on our library shelves when our 2011 fall meetings begin.

REMINDER!! It's "round-up" time for our library books. Please search your shelves and bring books you have checked out to the March meeting.

Happy Anniversary

April: Sara & John Groh, Vicki & Chuck Kurle, Shirley & Albert Pfeifle, Virginia Morton & Paul Winter

May: Gayle & John Hafner, Neoma & Gordon Herrboldt, Janet & Mayo Flegel, Rosemary & Ken Larson, Marlene & Tom Schonebaum

June: Glorian & Ron Anderson, Diann & Paul Bennin, Sharon & Pete Kleingartner

July: Jill & Myrle Reiswig

August: Cheryl & Marvin Presler, Wilma & Bob Sellin, Lil & Dayton Ward

Please Take Note

The GRHS Board of Directors has made increasing membership its number one goal in 2011, setting the bar at a 10% increase, or about 300 new members. To do this, they are asking all members to participate in the new member campaign. If even one in seven members signs up one new member, GRHS will meet the goal. For each new member you enroll, you will get a 25% discount on your 2012 dues. The campaign is going on now and will end on September 1, 2011. For more information, see the website at www.grhs.org.

Bowdle, SD, will be celebrating its 125th anniversary (quasiquicentennial) June 23-26, 2011. German-Russians helped settle this area, so if you're looking for a small-town celebration, check it out. More information can be found at www.bowdle.k12.sd.us.

If you change your phone number, please let Ardella Bennett, VP of Membership, know your new number. Usually people include a new number on their membership renewal form, but it's a long time until December, so it's helpful to have the new info as soon as possible.

Who Am I?

Author Unknown

I started out calmly, tracing my tree,
To find, if I could, the making of me.
And all that I had was Great-grandfather's
name,
Not knowing his wife's nor from whence they
both came.
I chased him across a long line of states,
And came up with pages and pages of
dates.
When all put together, it made me forlorn,

Proved Great-grandpa had never been born.
One day I was sure the truth I had found,
determined to turn this whole thing upside
down.

I looked up the record of one Uncle John,
Then found the old man was younger than
his son.

But then when my hopes were growing quite
dim,
I came across records that must have been
him.

The facts I collected...they made me quite
sad,

Dear old Great-grandpa was never a sad.
I think someone surely is pulling my leg.
I'm not at all sure I'm not hatched from an
egg.

After hundreds of dollars I've spent on my
tree,
I can't help but wonder if I'm really me.

The Difficult English Language

We need to give our ancestors more
credit...English is an extremely difficult lan-
guage to learn! Consider these examples:

A farmer can produce produce.

The dove dove into the bushes.

I did not object to the object.

The bandage was wound around the wound.

They were too close to the door to close it.

The farmer taught his sow to sow.

The wind was too strong to wind the sail.

I spent last evening evening out a pile of dirt.

We polish the Polish furniture.

The dump was so full, it had to refuse re-
fuse.

The present is a good time to present the
present.

The buck does funny things when the does
are around.

Travel & Learning Opportunities for Germans from Russia

“Footsteps From the Past to the Future” – 2011 AHSGR Convention Little America Hotel & Convention Center, Salt Lake City, Utah August 1-7, 2011

Hosted by the Intermountain Chapter

In addition to the tours, speakers, bookstore, storytelling, and meeting with friends from far and near, this location has the added benefit of access to the acclaimed Salt Lake City Family History Library. For more information or to register, visit www.ahsgr.org/Conventions/2011Convention.

“Celebrating Our Heritage” – 41st Annual GRHS International Convention

Davenport Hotel, Spokane, Washington

July 20-24, 2011

Hosted by the Inland Northwest Chapter

The convention will kick off on Wednesday evening with a dinner cruise. For more information, visit www.grhs.org.

Dakota Memories Heritage Tour September 15-18, 2011

This three-day bus tour, sponsored by the Germans from Russia Heritage Collection at NDSU, will visit several locations in south-central North Dakota that are important to German-Russians. The cost is \$500 per person based on double occupancy, and this includes food and lodging. For more information, visit <http://library.ndsu.edu/grhc> and click on “Dakota Memories.”

Happy Birthday

June: Pat Current, John Hafner, Robert Suppan

March: Glorian Anderson, Gordon Herrboldt, Vicki Kurle, Ken Larson, Wilma Sellin, Marlene Walth

July: Paul Bennin, Sharon Kleingartner, Rosemary Larson, Mary Ann Weigel

April: Gayle Hafner, Jennie Rodlund

August: Bill Brooks, Ray Current, Angie Ibarra, Chuck Kurle, Duane Maas

May: Sean Beaton, Diann Bennin, Pat Ramberg

Resolve to Get Involved

By Cynthia Miller

Your New Year's resolutions to exercise more and lose weight may be long gone. But there's still resolutions you can make that will be more fun to keep! They will help you have a better understanding of your heritage and help our group to better use the skills and creativity of all members. Many of these ideas come from Anna Dalhaimer Bartkowski of the Arizona Sun Chapter. If you aren't already reading her blog "Value Meals on the Volga" (<http://www.valuemeals.blogspot.com>), make that your first resolution!

1. Resolve to not only find family stories, but share them. Write them down, make family history books, record yourself, tell your family, and share them with the Chapter. If you are not comfortable speaking or writing, several of our members would be happy to help you.

2. Resolve to learn something new to further your understanding of your heritage. Maybe this means brushing up on (or learning) German. Perhaps you could tackle a new technology such as Facebook, blogs, genealogy websites, or computer programs (I'm planning on learning Photoshop to help collect and display my collection of family photos and documents). Purchase a new book or check one out of our library. Get a big dose of learning at once by attending a national convention.

3. Resolve to update your family history, and possibly get back one more generation. New information is constantly coming to light, and new connections are out there to be made. Even if you think you've got certain branches finished, it never hurts to look again. I recently discovered that we had the

wrong spelling of the last name of one of my husband's great-grandmothers, which meant we had been searching (in vain) for the wrong person.

4. Resolve to be an active member of the North Star Chapter. If you can't commit some physical help and time, keep your eyes and ears open. You could help recruit officers or volunteers. You might hear of a presentation that would make an interesting program topic. Bring someone new to a meeting and encourage them to join. When big activities come up, such as Weihnachtsfest, Harvest Fest or the possibility of hosting a national convention, resolve to be part of the process. We always fear burnout from our core group of active volunteers; resolve not to let that happen while you're a member!

Hochzeit Schnapps recipe

It will soon be wedding season, and what German-Russian wedding would be complete without Hochzeit Schnapps? Here's a common recipe that's been used for generations.

2 ¼ cups white sugar
58 oz. water
20 oz. 190-proof alcohol (everclear)

-brown sugar very slowly in pan to light or medium brown (it burns very easily)
-add water slowly; sugar will crystalize; continue to stir until sugar is completely dissolved
-let cool completely, then add alcohol

For different flavors, try one or two drops of anise per bottle or two or three red cherries per bottle.

(Spring Banquet, continued from page 1)

North Star member Angie Reinbold Ibarra has examined her “somewhere else,” Krassna, ND, in great detail. This small community was settled by emigrants who came to the rocky prairie of Emmons County in the late 19th century from the Kutchurgan River region west of Odessa, South Russia, and from Krassna, the only Catholic colony in Bessarabia, located south of the Kutchurgan colonies.

Ibarra examines early settlement, schools, celebrations and entertainment, fashion, food, games/toys, medicine, religion and the effect of World War II on the community. From this research, Ibarra has published a book with photographs, newspaper articles, and first-person accounts to support her research. “Tales of a Community That Was” will be available for purchase at this event.

This event will also feature an exhibit about rural life and country schools. If you would like to help or have one-room schoolhouse items to share, please contact Pat Ramberg at ptzk0520@gmail.com. This is a catered event, and there is a banquet registration at the end of this newsletter. Please send your registration and check by April 22 to reserve your spot. Guests are welcome!

(Facebook, continued from page 2)

about relevant events, share interesting links, post photos, and exchange information and ideas. Our group can be found by searching in Facebook for “North Star Chapter of Minnesota.”

Book Review: “Shaking the Family Tree” by Buzzy Jackson

By Cynthia Miller

Everyone starts their genealogy search somewhere, and for Buzzy Jackson, it was the realization that although she was a trained historian, she knew very little about her own family history. She thought her research skills would make it easy, but as she discovered, genealogy is more complicated, and more fascinating, than she ever thought.

“Shaking the Family Tree” is Jackson’s memoir of diving headfirst into the often obsessive world of professional and amateur genealogists. She discusses activities that many of us have participated in, such as joining a local genealogy group, interviewing your relatives, and finding long-forgotten graves. But she also tackles some higher-order genealogy journeys, such as taking a genealogy cruise with some big names in the business, getting her DNA mapped, and visiting the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. The chapter detailing her visit to Salt Lake City may be of special interest to those of you planning to attend the AHSGR convention this summer, where a visit to the Family History Library will be an option. She also meets several dedicated and fascinating family history buffs along the way.

Jackson’s writing is conversational and fun. She began her journey when she was in her late 30s, right after she had her own child, so while the book appeals to all ages and levels of genealogy expertise, it might especially resonate with younger people. The book is in paperback and should be available through all major book vendors.

Spring Banquet Registration

Reservations needed by Friday, April 22, 2011

Spring Banquet: Saturday, April 30, 2011

Social Hour: 5:00 PM; Dinner: 6:00 PM

Fee: US \$20.00 per person

Speaker: Angie Reinbold Ibarra

Menu: Baked chicken, roast pork with dressing, baby red potatoes, glazed baby carrots, green beans almondine, Caesar salad, fresh fruit, breads, coffee, punch, and dessert.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Number in Party: _____

Send form with payment to: Lil Ward, 5177 Red Oak Drive, Moundsview MN 55112

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Number of cookbooks being ordered _____

Total cost of books (see insert) \$ _____

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5 to 9 books: \$2.00 per book (U.S.), \$4.50 (Canada)

10 or more books: \$1.50 per book (U.S.), \$4.00 (Canada)

*These are North Star Chapter prices. Other vendors may charge more or less for the book.

North Star Chapter of Minnesota-AHSGR and GRHS

Non-Profit Organization

P.O. Box 583642

Minneapolis, MN 55458

2011 Membership Form

_____ New _____ Renew _____ Individual _____ Family
Name(s) _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip+4 _____
Phone _____ Email _____

Please note that a membership directory might be provided to North Star Chapter members that would include your name, address, phone, and email. If the chapter chooses to publish a membership directory:

_____ I **agree** to have my name, address, phone and email in the published directory.
_____ Please **exclude** my information from the published directory.

National Membership: _____ AHSGR _____ GRHS _____ Both AHSGR and GRHS

Local dues are \$12.00 per year per family, plus membership in either AHSGR or GRHS. AHSGR members please submit \$62 (\$50 for AHSGR, \$12 for North Star membership). GRHS members please submit \$12.

GRHS requests that you send your national membership (\$50) to GRHS, 1125 W. Turnpike Ave., Bismarck ND 58501.

Please make your check payable to North Star Chapter and submit to:

Ardella Bennett, 175 Spring Valley Dr., Bloomington MN 55420

Questions: Contact Ardella at 952-884-4211 or ardellabennett@msn.com

For newsletter greeting only: Birthday Month(s) _____ Wedding Anniversary Month _____