

North Star Chapter

January 2009

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

Volume 34 Number 1

Grandma's Kase Knepfla

Saturday, January 17, 2009, 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

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

Who remembers the smell of Kase Knepfla cooking in the kitchen as you walked in the house? This video was filmed during the 2006 GHRS convention in Portland OR. The video features Tara, Carolyn, and Rachel Miller. They are the daughters of Harley and Sharon Miller of Chehalis, WA. Their grandfather was raised in the Eureka, SD area so what these three ladies share is very similar to what we may have enjoyed.

All three ladies are now adults and employed but it's nice to see that this cultural specialty lives on. Come join us for a review of the video and perhaps some discussion on variations of how this delicious soup is made.

After the video, you are invited to share your methods about how you make the soup or how you remember it.

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Biannual Genealogy Workshop

Saturday, February 21, 2009, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

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

This is your opportunity to dig into the library, which is a wealth of information for the researcher, during this morning opening of the library. Come and enjoy what the library has to offer from 10:00 AM until 1:00 PM. At 1:00 PM, a workshop will be conducted by several North Star members who regularly use various websites. James Gessele will demonstrate Ancestry.com, Ardella Bennett will demonstrate AHSGR's SOAR features, and Duane Stabler will guide you around the GRHS website.

Feel free to bring a bag lunch and eat your lunch between the morning and afternoon sessions.

Upcoming Dates

March 21, 2009: Program to be announced

April 25, 2009: Spring Banquet tentatively scheduled

June 15 – 21, 2009: AHSGR Convention

September 9 – 13, 2009: GHRS Convention

LIBRARY CORNER

By Bernie Becker

Just one book has been purchased of late. Rosemary Larson asked if we had *German Migration to the Russian Volga (1764-1767) Origins and Destinations* by Brent Alan Mai and Dona Reeves-Marquardt (J-V) in our library. We didn't so I ordered it. She is finding it very useful. Those of you with Volga background will be interested in this Volga Reference book in the J-V section.

Some time ago Carol Stabner donated *The Mascot, Unraveling the Mystery of My Jewish Father's Nazi Boyhood* by Mark Kurzem. I was selfish and took my time reading it before I put it into the library. It's a good read, but sad. When a Nazi death squad massacred his mother and fellow villagers, five-year-old Alex escaped, hiding in the freezing Russian forest until he was picked up by a group of Latvian SS soldiers. He hid his Jewish identity from them and ingratiated himself with the soldiers, becoming their mascot. But what began as a desperate bid for survival became a performance that delighted the highest ranks of the Latvian Nazi elite, and they found diabolical ways to make him useful.

Just want to remind you of something you've heard before, but bears repeating. Those of us in our senior years are the "old folks" now. We need to tell our stories before it is too late, and the stories are lost. My Christmas cards this year were full of sad stories of bad health and people passing on. Our grandchildren and great-grandchildren will be as surprised when they hear that we used a laptop as we were when we heard about farming with horses. As Cindy Miller once told us in a workshop: "Write it down." By the way, that CD is in our library. Check it out if you need help doing it.

Please Take Note

Tune into the Miss America Pageant on cable television channel TLC on Saturday, January 24, 2009, 7:00 CST. Representing South Dakota will be German-Russian Alexandra Hoffman. She is from Eureka and a junior at South Dakota State University.

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Fire in the Belly

By Bernie Becker

During our recent elections, when commentators reported on various candidates for office, they would sometimes suggest that the person didn't seem to have a fire in the belly. I took it to mean that they were going through the motions of campaigning, but somehow did not seem to have their heart in it—to not want it enough. Had I kept better track of who they said it about, I'd venture to guess that some of them didn't get elected either.

But I got to thinking about myself—my interests—my goals. And do you know what I discovered? I think the fire in my belly isn't burning so brightly these days neither. Maybe the fuel is damp—or the wood is green. The sparkle doesn't sparkle much lately.

Then my December *Guideposts* appeared in my mailbox. On page 20 is a quote from a book, *Change is Good... You Go First: 21 Ways to Inspire Change* by Mac Anderson and Tom Feltenstein. I haven't read the book and never before heard of the authors, but I sure did like the quote. It reads: **“You get the best efforts from others not by lighting a fire beneath them, but by building a fire within.”**

Aha! So that's my problem, no one's been building a fire within but don't I have to do that for myself? A new year is before me. What sort of fuel do I need to get that fire in my belly? For one thing, if I look back to when the fire burned brightly, I kept myself involved with other people who had that fire—call it enthusiasm—excitement--vision. I've somehow allowed myself to get into the doldrums and not make that effort—not just for myself, but to inspire others too.

Another thing—I need to tackle my two packed drawers of genealogical finds and get them into some permanent sort of order. What will be the stimulus (fire) to get started? Who do I know that will be my inspiration (fuel) to get that fire burning? What holds me back from tackling this job (lack of fuel)?

I can think of lots more areas of my life and the organizations I'm involved with where the fire seems to be burning pretty low. Is it them or me? Why is the fuel supply low? I think next time I go shopping I'll hit a bookstore and pick up that book. Maybe I'll even get one for the North Star Library. Can't we all use a little igniting fuel now and then?

Member News

Congratulations to Gwen & Phil Cowherd on the birth of their grandson Grady in October.

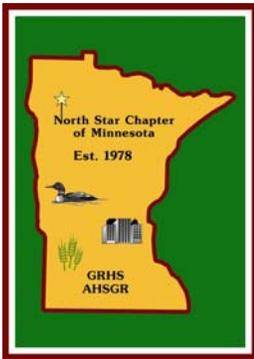
Congratulations to Cindy Miller and Sean Beaton on the birth of their daughter Susanna Esther Beaton on October 25, 2008, in St. Paul. Susanna joins big brother Gus, age two.

Happy Birthday

January: Ron Anderson, John Groh, Sara Sue Groh, Pete Kleingartner, Bernadine Kuhn, Roger Kuhn, Cindy Miller

February: Bernie Becker, Sandy Brown, Gordon Herrboldt, Marlene Schonebaum, Sandy Zimmerman

March: Glorian Anderson, Gordon Herrboldt, Ken Larson, Marlene Walth



President's Message January 2009

By Duane Stabler

Our 2008 meeting schedule is now only a memory. We'll again meet in January starting out the 2009 calendar year with some good things to look forward to but things could be better. More about that later.

Our fall meetings were really fun, and unique. Many of our members participated in the October meeting with displays of their merchant items and then again in November, talking about their most valuable genealogy books or items. Those meetings proved to be very good with many wonderful comments from those who attended. Weihnachtsfest was well-attended even though our entertainment could not attend due to a family emergency; we pulled together anyway and still managed to have Christmas music and our traditional singing of a few German and English songs.

In November, we also had our annual election of officers who are named elsewhere in this newsletter but I want to recognize three people. Glorian Anderson has served this past year as our secretary. When she was approached for this position last year, she stepped right up and did a great job. Unfortunately, she's made some other commitments that have consumed her time and she decided she could not keep up with the North Star needs. I do want to thank Glorian for all she has done. Sometimes, other obligations do need to take priority but I'm encouraged that Glorian will be back soon to fill another position. Ray Reinhardt has stepped up to pick up where Glorian is leaving off. I really thank Ray for doing this.

We do need each and every position filled if we will have an effective team to that is not overloaded with tasks. Any team needs to bring "new blood" into the leadership or it becomes stale and those who have done it for years burn out and we risk losing them all together.

I want to recognize Lil Ward for all she has done for our chapter. Lil has served in one capacity or another for the last 8 of 10 years. This is truly a remarkable accomplishment and she really needs a break. Thank you, Lil, and take a break; you deserve it. Now, here is where we need your help. We don't have a VP of Programming yet. This will become a serious issue if we don't have someone to coordinate the meeting programs. It's not a job that has to be very hard but does require some attention. The other officers pitch in to help in coming up with speakers, etc., but if we don't have someone, we may not have as many meetings this coming year. Alternatively, we might just have a business meeting and no program. I would be disappointed if it came to that. Please feel free to call me and discuss this even if you have just a bit of interest. I would like to offer my assistance to help you and I know there are others who will mentor you too.

One additional volunteer that is needed from those of you who are GRHS members is that of chapter representative. GRHS includes a chapter representative for its board of directors. If you are interested, please contact me as we are one of very few chapters who do not have such representation. If you are a bit computer savvy, you can attend the meetings from the comfort of your home. It's yet one more way to volunteer.

So, there you have it. We have the opportunity to have a great year but it doesn't happen without volunteers. See you at the January meeting.

AHSGR MS-Plus subscriptions may be purchased online with a credit card by accessing the SOAR web-

To Order More *Sei Unser Gast* Cookbooks

Share your German-Russian heritage with family and friends. *Sei Unser Gast* cookbooks make the perfect gift for birthdays, graduations, showers, weddings, anniversaries, and holidays. Give them to say "Danke schön." Donate copies to the libraries and schools in your community. *Sei Unser Gast* cookbooks are sold at some North Star Chapter meetings. To order by mail, complete the form below and mail it with a check payable to "North Star Chapter" (payable in U.S. dollars) and mail to: Cookbook Orders, North Star Chapter of Minnesota, P.O. Box 583642, Minneapolis, MN 55458-3642. Additional order forms can be printed from our website: www.northstarchapter.org

Name _____
St., Rt., P.O. Box _____
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*These are North Star Chapter prices. Other vendors may charge more or less for the book.

Alfred Opp Articles now on the North Star Chapter Website

By Duane Stabler, North Star Chapter Webmaster

Over the past few months, I've been busy rewriting the website to make information more accessible and manageable. During that time, I kept seeing an article every so often that was written by Alfred Opp who was born in Teplitz, Bessarabia. Alfred has lived a full life, having been one of the many people who were involved with the exodus from Bessarabia across to Poland and eventually Germany. Alfred ended up in North America and he has been busy documenting his memories of the many experiences.

I've found the stories most interesting as he talks about many topics and I decided to ask Alfred if he would allow me to publish these articles on the North Star Chapter website. Alfred emailed me with a day or two, telling me he is delighted and proud of the fact that I would publish his articles. They are also on the NDSU website but not all of us review what is published there all that often. I'm hoping that you will find them as interesting as I have. Alfred continues to write and I'll post more as I receive them so do take some time to read them and check back from time to time.

**North Star Chapter
of Minnesota-AHSGR and GRHS**
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2009 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 (\$40) to GRHS, 1125 W. Turnpike Ave., Bismarck ND 58501.

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

Helen Kleingartner, 9513 Pierce St. NE, Blaine MN 55434 Questions: Contact Helen at 763-205-2297.

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