

North Star Chapter

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

Preserving the heritage of the Germans from Russia, in dual affiliation with the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia (AHSGR) and the Germans from Russia Historical Society (GRHS).

Fall Genealogy Workshop: Saturday, November 19, 2011
10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Berea Lutheran Church
7538 Emerson Ave. S.
Richfield, MN 55423

10 a.m. to Noon: The North Star Chapter library will be open. Join other members working on genealogy. Newbies can get help from seasoned researchers. Bring a bag lunch or head to a nearby restaurant.

1 p.m. Business meeting with election of officers for 2012.

2 p.m. Program: "The Ukraine is Not a Hawaiian Musical Instrument, Nor is Bessarabia an Arab State—Just to Shatter Some Misconceptions."

North Star Chapter's own Jim Gessele gave this presentation this summer at the annual GRHS convention in Spokane, Washington. The setting was a seminar to debut the release of GRHS's latest publication **Bessarabia: German Colonists on the Black Sea**, a work by Dr. Ute Schmidt of Berlin, Germany, and one that Jim spent three years translating.

Jim raises insights into false notions, ignorance, lack of information, or—worse yet—false information as it pertains to Bessarabia, an enigmatic Russian province the size of Vermont. Following the presentation, Jim will open the floor to observations, questions and discussion.

33rd Annual *Weihnachtsfest*

Saturday, December 3, 2011

11:30 am–4 pm

Berea Lutheran Church,
7538 Emerson Ave. S.
Richfield, MN 55423

A great way to kick off the holiday season, our annual *Weihnachtsfest* promises good food, great music, and a visit from a jolly soul in a red suit. Steve Weninger, accordionist extraordinaire, will perform his musical magic, entertaining us with great music and leading us in song. This is a potluck event, an opportunity to prepare and share your favorite ethnic food. Beverages, plates and utensils will be provided. This is a multi-generational event so bring the whole family. If you are able to come early to help organize the tables, please contact Lil Ward, (763-784-8626) or lilward@comcast.net.

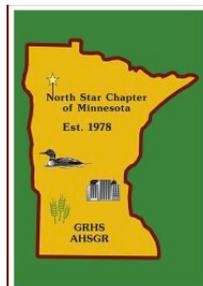


JOIN US AT BERA LUTHERAN CHURCH FOR THESE EVENTS:

Upcoming Chapter Events

November 19, 2011: Annual Fall Genealogy Workshop

December 3, 2011: *Weihnachtsfest*



January 14, 2012: Homesteading Video

April 28, 2012: Annual Spring Banquet

Remember: The Chapter's cookbook, *Sei Unser Gast*, makes a great gift for Christmas, showers, and weddings.

North Star Chapter 2011 Officers

President

Lil Ward

763-784-8626

lilward@comcast.net

1st VP/Program Chair

Carol Just

612-554-3050

caroljust@hotmail.com

Co-chair: Nancy Gertner

612-396-9186

nancygertner@mac.com

2nd VP/Membership

Ardella Bennett

952-884-4241

ardellabennett@msn.com

Treasurer

Ron Scherbenski

952-541-1917

ronscherbenski@msn.com

Secretary

Chuck Kurle

651-437-1380

kurlec@asme.org

Newsletter Staff

Editor/Production

Cynthia Miller

612-386-1436

cynmillbea@hotmail.com

Guest Layout/Graphics Editor

Nancy Gertner

Website

www.northstarchapter.org

Webmaster

Duane Stabler

952-447-8654

dstabler@bigfoot.com

Member News

Roy Becker, husband of Bernie, had open heart surgery on November 4. We wish him a comfortable and speedy recovery.

Happy Birthday!

November: Rebecca Ellsworth, Neoma Herrboldt, Chris Huber, Jim Rodlund, Tom Schonebaum.

December: Cheryl Presler, Jill Reiswig, Dayton Ward, Lil Ward, Kathy Wellman, Elinor Wenzel.

Happy Anniversary!

November: Jennie & Jim Rodlund, Mary Ann Weigel & Clarence Wanner, Sandi & Arnie Zimmermann.

December: Angie & John Ibarra.

Please Take Note!

Internet Resource:

There is a fantastic new internet resource for Black Sea German genealogy. A group of people who knew the late Dale Wahl got together to push his dream of a nonprofit, high-tech way for researchers all over the world to share information. Their efforts have produced the **Black Sea German Research Website** (<http://www.blackseagr.org>). The site includes 1.5 million names and is still growing, as well as maps, research links and guidelines, and a chance to connect with other researchers... and it's absolutely free!

Snowbirds:

If you have a winter address, please notify the Membership Chair (new officer to be elected at the November meeting) and Newsletter Editor Cindy Miller. That way, we can get your newsletter to you in a timely fashion! Also, if you prefer to save paper and postage, you can receive your newsletter as an email. Please let Cindy Miller or Webmaster Duane Stabler know.

It's All Relative!

It's not a secret in the German-Russian community that many of us are related. But the situation in Iceland is much more serious; almost every one of the 300,000 citizens are related, and often closely. An article on the website MinnPost (<http://www.minnpost.com>) called "Iceland: Where Everyone is Related to Bjork" is an interesting take on this genealogical phenomenon.

Locating the Dear Departed

If you're not familiar with the website Find A Grave (<http://www.findagrave.com>), it's definitely worth checking out. Volunteers have uploaded information on millions of graves, including photos of cemeteries and headstones. It's also fun to look through the section on celebrity graves.

Saint Nick Visits the Genealogist

'T was the night before Christmas
When all through the house
Not a creature was stirring,
Not even my spouse.

The dining room table with clutter was spread
With pedigree charts and letter which said . . .
"Too bad about the data for which you wrote;
Sank in a storm on an ill-fated boat."

Stacks of old copies of wills and such
Were proof that my work had become too much.
Our children were nestled all snug in their beds.
While visions of sugar plums
danced in their heads.

And I at my table was ready to drop
From work on my album with photos to crop.
Christmas was here, and such was my lot
That presents and goodies and toys I'd forgot.

Had I not been busy with grandparents' wills,
I'd not have forgotten to shop for such thrills,
While others bought gifts
to bring Christmas cheers,
I'd spent time researching those birth dates
and years.

While I was thus musing about my sad plight,
A strange noise on the lawn
gave me such a great fright.
Away to the window I flew in a flash,
Tore open the drapes and yanked up the sash.

When what to my wondering eyes should appear,
But an overstuffed sleigh and eight small reindeer.
Up to the house top the reindeer they flew,
With a sleigh full of toys and ole Santa Claus, too.

And then in a twinkle, I heard on the roof
The prancing and pawing of thirty-two hoofs.
As I drew in my head, and bumped it on the sash,
Down the cold chimney fell Santa—KER-RASH!

Dear Santa had come from the roof in a wreck,
Tracked soot on the carpet
(I could wring his short neck!)
Spotting my face, good ole Santa could see
I had no Christmas spirit. You'd have to agree.

He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work
And filled all the stockings, (I felt like a jerk.)
Here was Santa,
who'd brought us such gladness and joy,
When I'd been too busy for even one toy.

He spied my research on the table all spread
"A genealogist!" He cried! (My face was all red!)
"Tonight I've met many like you," Santa grinned,
As he pulled from his sack a large book
he had penned.

I gazed with amusement—the cover it read
Genealogy Lines for Which You Have Plead.
"I know what it's like as a genealogy bug."
He said as he gave me a great Santa hug.

"While the elves make the sleigh full of toys
I now carry,
I do some research in the North Pole Library!
A special treat I am thus able to bring,
To genealogy folk who can't find a thing."

"Now off you go to your bed for a rest,
I'll clean up the house from this genealogy mess."
As I climbed up the stairs full of gladness and glee,
I looked back at Santa who'd brought much to me.

While settling in bed, I heard Santa's clear whistle,
To his team,
which then rose like the down of a thistle.
And I heard him exclaim as he flew out of sight,
"Family history is fun! Merry Christmas!
Goodnight!"

—Author Unknown
From the New Mexico Chapter Newsletter
Oct.-Nov. 2011

Library Corner

by Bernie Becker

NEW BOOKS in the North Star Chapter Library

Lists of Colonists in Russia in 1766 – Ivan Kuhlberg’s Reports by Igor Pleve (J-V)

In 1766, As the colonists arrived in Oranienbaum, Russia, Titular Counselor Ivan Kuhlberg compiled lists. The first and last names of more than 20,000 persons include 6,500 families, the age of their children, their religion, the ship they came on including the name of the skipper, their port of departure, and place they were hoping to settle in Russia.

The colonists, having virtually no knowledge of the Russian language, gave their information to the Russian clerks in German. The Russian clerks, having poor knowledge of German, recorded the information as they heard it. This book is a translation into English and will be of special value to Volga descendants researching the German colonists.

A Man Called Andreas—*His story as told by his son, Andrew (Andy) Kroneberger (A).*

Andy Kroneberger’s book is a memoir that would make a good movie. Andreas went through heartbreaking difficulties and mental anguish trying to bring his family out of Russia to America in the early 1900s. He had a mail-order bride, and raised a second family. Author Andy eventually located and traveled to meet family members scattered across South America, Germany, and Russia. Andy spoke at our September picnic gathering and donated the book. Andy and his wife Joyce are members of our North Star Chapter.

Bowdle Quasi – On Track To the Future (J-4):

A fun perusal whether you knew anyone from Bowdle, South Dakota or not. The family histories show from whence they came, but it also lists children and grandchildren who are alive and well at the present (Bowdle’s track to the future)! You will find a photo of Chapter members Chuck and Vicki Kurle with their children and grandchildren on page 202. Both Vicki’s and Chuck’s family histories (Kempf and Kurle) are in the book. We’ve had Tom and Janice Stangl speak at our meetings—find them on page 242. I even found my own father’s name on page 128, included in his second wife’s family history (Banik). Thanks for the donation, Vicki and Chuck.

Tales of a Community That Was...Krassna, North Dakota by Angeline Reinbold Ibarra (A)

This little book is a nostalgic treasure. Angie captured the essence of life on the prairie during the 1920s, 1930s, and 1940s. The one-room country schools, barn dances, weddings celebrations, church life, home remedies for illnesses are just a hint of memories the book will stir up as you read. Take time to read *Flour Sack Underwear* (pg. 146). I know many of you will have memories of those useful sacks that became not only underwear, but also curtains and dishtowels. The section on the local newspapers “home town news” contained such tidbits as relating that a certain lady traveled the train to the larger town to get her new false teeth. In the next issue she received a second fifteen seconds of fame, stating that she “looked dandy.” And do take time to read the chapter on the war years, the rationing of rubber, tin, sugar, meat and gasoline. Lots of memories there, too. Thanks for this donation, Angie—also a member of our North Star Chapter.

LIBRARY CORNER (CONTINUED) BY BERNIE BECKER

Hosmer Favorites of 125 Years – 1887-2012, Revised Edition of Our Centennial Cookbook

Are you looking for a new recipe to bring to the next potluck, one that might even show up in the “Lutheran Church Ladies” basement kitchen? We’ve Americanized many of our ethnic favorites. Example, we use Rhodes frozen dough to make kuchen. Our great grossmutter would be shocked at how lazy we’ve become. You’ll find kuchen and knepfla in this book, but you’ll also find Barbecued Ribs with Sauerkraut, Poor Man’s Goose, Calico Beans, and Coke or Pepsi Cake. Who of our great-great-grandmothers knew anything about Coke or Pepsi? They probably would have used beer. Maybe one of the chapter members would like to try doing that and take it to a Christmas potluck.

AHSGR Publishes New Black Sea Book

AHSGR has just published a book that has been translated from German into English on the German colonies in the Black Sea region. Many thanks go to Tim Geiger who initiated and supported the efforts to translate this book and bring it to publication. Highly recommended reading for those interested in the history of the German colonies in the Russian Empire. While the locale is in the Black Sea region, this book has relevancy for those whose ancestors settled in the Russian Empire regardless of the area in which they lived.

Origin, Development, and Dissolution of the German Colonies on the Black Sea via the Example of Kandel from 1808 until 1944 by Anton Bosch and Josef Lingor, reviewed by Jerome Siebert

This book traces the history of the people and villages

established by German colonists in the Black Sea area beginning in the early 1800s until 1944 using the village of Kandel and neighboring villages as examples. Provides insight into all aspects of economic, religious, and cultural life from the immigration into the new area through the highs and lows of World War I, the Civil War, and Stalin’s persecution during and after World War II. It describes various events and achievements focusing on people in Kandel and emphasizes people who were instilled with an undaunted pioneering spirit, and who were diligent, hardworking, and deeply rooted in the language and culture of the old homeland of Germany. From the colonies’ origins to the height of their development, and then to eventual decline and dissolution through events that changed the political and economic landscape and environment, the book details the impacts on the lives of the colonists and provides insight into their unyielding spirit and quest to succeed and overcome

adversity. However, in the end, the village ceased to exist with their inhabitants dispersed in many parts of Siberia, Kazakhstan, Central Asia, East and West Germany, the United States, and Canada. However, the achievements they accomplished while colonists in Russia in order to assist their new homeland in becoming a huge empire and make it possible to achieve the status of a world power, are both notable as a tribute to their energy, and hard work. Whether someone has roots in the Black Sea area or is interested in German-Russian history, the book will provide interesting insights.

Certified translation by Ilona Richey. Translation edited by Ted J. Becker (2008). Editing and layout for AHSGR by Dr. Jerome Siebert (2010)





Author: *Andy Kroneberger, center, autographs his book, A Man Called Andreas, for chapter members Marilyn Brink, John Hafner, Patsy Ramberg, and John Ibarra, at the September chapter picnic held at the home of members Vicki and Chuck Kurl.*

September Picnic and Author Kick Off New Program Year

by Cynthia Miller

The past several years, we've begun our program year with a lunch social at Glockenspiel. This year, we had a potluck hosted in the lovely home of members Vicki and Chuck Kurl in Hastings. The autumn weather was a little spotty, but we were all comfortable indoors and ate well. After lunch, we were treated to an intimate visit with author and North Star member Andy

Kroneberger. In his book, "A Man Called Andreas," Andy relates the heartbreaking yet triumphant story of his father, Andreas. Andreas' journey took him from Russia to America, including trying to bring his family into the country later. Andy tracked down relatives in Russia, Germany, and South America, and told us the endearing story of family ties that held through the years and across the miles. Andy's book is available for sale, and we also have a copy in our library. Bernie has a short review in her "Library Corner" column, page 4.

Backstage with Carol and Nancy: North Star Chapter Pioneers Our First Live Radio Show

by Nancy Gertner

The North Star Chapter ventured into radio for the first time by hosting a variety show performed before a live audience, *DAKOTA AIR: The Radio Show*, at Hopkins Center for the Arts on Saturday, October 29.

Months of planning and coordination culminated in a two-hour show with guest stars featuring descendants of Germans from Russia immigrants. Debra Marquart, Napoleon, ND, native, now a professor at Iowa State University, shared her poetry and music. Sean Benz, Windom, MN, native, now a student at South Dakota State University, shared his music with guitar and vocal songs. Kate and Bill Isles, folk duo from Duluth, rounded out the guest star lineup with several of their original songs.

The Dakota Air crew was pressed for time, with no access to set up their stage until Saturday afternoon. Carol and I witnessed a few numbers being rehearsed on Saturday as we coordinated logistics details. It was interesting to see young Sean Benz practice with the Dakota Air Band for the first time. The band watched him very intently to take their cues in providing the

harmonics. The show was coordinated long distance using the conveniences of modern communication between participants in four states. To sit and watch the show on Saturday night and see how all those pieces fit together to build a humorous and informative show was quite entertaining. The show also provided moments of tributes to our German-Russian heritage, and to people of character. Most notably, I thought, was the song sung by Bill and Kate Isles, "Hobos in the Roundhouse," written by Bill as a tribute to his ancestor who worked for the railroad, and ignored company rules by allowing hobos to sleep in the roundhouse on cold Minnesota nights during the hard times of the Great Depression.

The show venue, Hopkins Center for the Arts, provided a fine stage for Dakota Air, with comfortable seating for the audience. We appreciate that this venue is accessible and affordable. The City of Hopkins secured some funding from the Minnesota Legislature to build this facility. While the cornerstone says 1997, the building still feels new; a tribute to the fine maintenance provided by employees of City of Hopkins. The North Star Chapter can be proud that our member James Gessele served as the Hopkins City Engineer during the planning and construction phase of this facility.

**Thank You
Chapter Volunteers!**

Many thanks to the chapter members who answered the call to volunteer for our pioneering event in Radio. Your contributions are greatly appreciated. Using volunteers as ushers and greeters enabled us to keep our event costs to a minimum, and put the friendly faces of our chapter members forward to welcome people attending this event. The tables in the lobby added an additional element of information to the radio variety show, displaying our cookbook, brochures on organizations, and offering books and CDs for sale.

Many thanks to the dedicated efforts of these chapter members:

Outdoor greeters **John Hafner** and **Paul Maggitti** for helping people into the venue; indoor greeters **Cindy Miller** and **Patsy Ramberg** for helping people find the correct theater and the restrooms; ushers **John Sailer**, **Marilyn Brink**, **Anne Halverson**, **Kate Halverson-Schirg**, Carol's friends **Maggie McCann** and **Marlyce Laurensen** for helping people find their seats in the auditorium; **Jaci Williams** for *Sei Unser Gast* Cookbook sales; authors and interpreters **Angie Ibarra**, **Shirley Chmielarz**, and **James Gessele**; and **Chuck Kurle** and **Ron Scherbenski** at the chapter

membership table. Special thanks to John Sailer for serving as head usher and sorting out a few seating dilemmas to resolve disability access issues, and to Marilyn Brink for printing name tags for the volunteers to make us look "official." Thanks also to Marilyn and others who helped with the venue cleanup following the show.

The Post Performance Party provided an opportunity for chapter volunteers to celebrate completing a pioneering chapter event and enjoy some fellowship and refreshments with the guest stars and Dakota Air crew.

To Programming Vice President **Carol Just**: A chapter salute to what our mothers referred to as "Pioneering Spirit" for your willingness to take a risk on a new venture to explore and showcase our cultural heritage in the medium of a radio show performed for a live audience. Prairie Public Radio's audience in North Dakota, and parts of South Dakota, Minnesota, and Canada will hear the show after it is edited for a 60-minute show. Check our Chapter Facebook page for updates of this, along with the opportunity to share your show impressions also. People outside Prairie Public Radio's broadcast area may access the podcasts via the internet at Dakota Air's website: <http://www.prairiepublic.org/>



Dakota Air: The Radio Show

Now a Memory!

Find audio of shows after broadcast at:

<http://www.prairiepublic.org/radio/dakota-air-the-radio-show>

**Newsletter
Contributors**

Thank You! To:



**BERNIE
BECKER**
Chapter Librarian. Book Reviews, pg 4-5.



**CYNTHIA
MILLER**
Newsletter Editor. Page 6.



**NANCY
GERTNER**
Program Director Assistant Pages 6-7.

Submit inputs for next newsletter to editor Cynthia Miller for late December publication.



Time to Renew Membership for 2012!

2012 Membership Form

New Renew Individual Family

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

National Membership: AHSGR GRHS Both

Local dues are \$12 per year per family, plus membership in either AHSGR or GRHS.

AHSGR members please submit \$62 (\$50 for AHSGR, \$12 for North Star).

GRHS members please submit \$12. GRHS request that you send you national membership (\$50) to GRHS, 1125 W. Turnpike Ave., Bismarck ND 58501

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

Chuck Kurl, 2040 Highland Dr., Hastings MN 55033

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

North Star Chapter
of Minnesota

AHSGR / GRHS Affiliated

Non-Profit Organization

PO Box 583642

Minneapolis, MN 55458