



GERMANS FROM RUSSIA  
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**Finding Aid to the  
Stanley R. Rall  
Collection  
2009.05 & 2011.42**

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## OVERVIEW

**Donor:** Stanley R. Rall

**Accession Date:** 20 February 2009; 18 October 2011

**Collection Number:** 006

**Quantity:** 4 folders and a book

**Summary:** The collection contains one original letter and photocopies of letters from Rev. Eugen Bachmann to his cousin Jacob Rall of Ashley, North Dakota; a photocopy of a funeral photograph with information about the cause of death; biographical information on Bachmann; and a book on the Arnold family.

**Languages:** German and English

**Links:**

- [Arnold Family, 1700-2010](#) by Stanley R. Rall [CS71.A75 2010]
- [Jacob Rall Family \(Genealogy\): Germany/ Russia/ America](#) by Stanley R. Ral [CS71.R172 1998]

**Access Restrictions:** Open to the public, available upon request. Copyrights to items in this collection remain with original copyright holders or are in the public domain.

**Citation:** Stanley R. Rall Collection, 006, Germans from Russia Heritage Collection, NDSU Libraries, Fargo, ND

## BIOGRAPHY

Eugen Karl Bachmann was born on March 2, 1904 in Worms near Odessa. His parents were Johannes Bachmann and his second wife Fredericka/Frederike Arnold. Eugen Bachmann's father, Johannes Bachmann was a teacher and sexton in a Bergdorf, Glueckstal district parish.

Eugen graduated from a Lutheran seminary in Leningrad studying under Bishop Malmgren. Arrested in 1934, Backmann spent five years working as a chemist in a forced labor camp in the Komi Republic in the northwestern part of the European Russia, now part of the Barents Region. From 1942 to 1950, he served in the “workers’ army.” In 1954, he received permission to move to Tselinograd.

Rev. Eugen Bachmann was only registered Lutheran pastor in Soviet Russia from 1955 through 1971. Soviet officials in Kazakhstan restricted Bachmann to one small prayer chapel in Akmolinsk (Zelinograd/ Tselinograd) They did not allow outward signs such as a cross-symbol or bell only later allowing a Latin cross on pulpit and altar. When he retired in 1972, Eugen and his second wife Berta Steblau Bachmann moved to West Germany. He died 1 October 1993.

Jacob Rall, donor Stanley Rall’s grandfather, was married to Fredericka Bachmann’s sister Magdalena Arnold. Jacob was born 18 Mar 1857 in south Russia, and died 2 May 1926 in McIntosh County, North Dakota. Jacob and Magdalena came to the United States in 1884. They lived a short time in South Dakota and in 1885 settled near Ashley, McIntosh County, North Dakota.

Fredericka and Magdalena’s father was Karl Arnold. The Arnolds lived in Bergdorf, Glueckstal district. A photocopy of a photo shows three caskets in the Karl Arnold family funeral. Stanley Rall noted they died in 1918 “at the dinner table from poisoned flour delivered by the Bolsheviks.” Jacob Rall had sent the wheat from North Dakota.

[Biographical information from Soviet Lutheranism after the Second World War, by Edgar C Dunn, German Lutherans in the Soviet Union by Kathleen Matchett, Ashley anniversary books and other sources.]

## SCOPE AND CONTENT

The **Stanley R. Rall Collection** consists of one original letter and photocopies of letters from Rev. Eugen Bachmann to his cousin Jacob Rall of Ashley, North Dakota; a photocopy of a funeral photograph with information about the cause of death; biographical information on Bachmann; and a book on the Arnold family. The collection has been organized into four series: Correspondence, Photograph, Family History, and Book.

The [Correspondence Series](#) contains four letters by Rev. Eugen Bachmann to the Rall family of Ashley, ND. The dates of the letters are 1927, 1987 and 1988. The letter from 1927 is the original and the other letters are copies, dating to the 1980s. All of the letters are in German. The 1927 letter has been translated by Stanley Rall. The 1927 letter and its envelope were laminated before their donation to the GRHC. Some of the copied letters contain family history information. Also present in the series is a note and maps from Stanley Rall. The maps provide locations for Bergdorf and Friedenstal (Trigrad/Trekhrady).

The [Photograph Series](#) is comprised of two photocopies of the Karl Arnold family funeral. Members of the family died after Bolsheviks poisoned their wooden casket of wheat flour sent

from the Jakob Rall family of Ashley, North Dakota. There are also photocopies of two envelopes and an accompanying letter from Stanley Rall.

The [Family History Series](#) consists an obituary and biography for Eugen Bachmann and a short history of Bachmann's Lutheran church in Russia. Pages and excerpts are all photocopies.

The [Book Series](#) has one book. The book was written by Stanley R. Rall and relates to Arnold family history, 1700-2010. The book, or binder, has some history, many family group sheets and photocopies of family photographs.

## **SEPARATION RECORD**

In 2011, Stanly Rall donated a book of Arnold family history. This item has been separated from the rest of the collection. It has been cataloged and placed within the GRHC Library.

## **BOX AND FOLDER LIST**

### **2009 Small Collections Box**

<b>Collection/Folder</b>	<b>Contents</b>
<b>2009.05/1</b>	Finding aid, inventory, and historical information
<b>2009.05/2</b>	<b>CORRESPONDENCE SERIES</b>  Letter from Rev. Eugen Bachmann, St. Petersburg, 27 January 1927 to Jacob Rall, Ashley, ND, 1927  Letter from Rev. Eugen Bachmann, Korntal, Muenchingen, 9 November 1987 to Rall family, Ashley, North Dakota  Letter from Rev. Eugen Bachmann, Korntal, Muenchingen, 11 March 1988 to Rall family, Ashley, North Dakota  Letter from Rev. Eugen Bachmann, Korntal, Muenchingen, 13 April 1988 to Rall Family, Ashley, North Dakota
<b>2009.05/3</b>	<b>PHOTOGRAPH SERIES</b>  Copy of three members of Karl Arnold family funeral

2009.05/4

**FAMILY HISTORY SERIES**

Obituary for Rev. Eugen Backmann from Kirchliche Gemeinschaft

Copied excerpts on Eugen Bachmann from Die Kirchen und das Religioese Leben Russland deutschen by Joseph Schnurr

Copies from The German Russian: two centuries of Pioneering by Karl Stumpp

“Pastors who suffered soviet persecution” (uncited excerpt)

**BOOK SERIES**

**GRHC LIBRARY**

*Arnold Family, 1700-2010* [[CS71.A75 2010](#)]