



GERMANS FROM RUSSIA
GRHC
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**Finding Aid to the
Ron Vossler Collection
2010.13**

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OVERVIEW

Donor: Ron Vossler

Accession Date: June 15, 2010

Collection Number: 010

Quantity: 1.25 linear feet

Summary: Collection of photocopies of correspondence and periodical clippings regarding Germans from Russia, 1917-1937. Materials related to books written by Ron Vossler, 2002.

Languages: English and German

Links:

- [Ron Vossler Books on the GRHC website](#)
- [GRHC Interview with Ron Vossler](#)
- [Ron Vossler's website](#)

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: Ron Vossler Collection, 010, Germans from Russia Heritage Collection, NDSU Libraries, Fargo, ND.

BIOGRAPHY

A native of Wishek, North Dakota, Ronald J. Vossler is a free-lance writer, University of North Dakota writing teacher, and humanities scholar. His publications include numerous articles, essays, book reviews, short stories, poems, and memoir pieces which have appeared in journals, magazines, anthologies, as well as on public education and humanities websites.

Educated at Arizona State University, he has held various jobs, including farm laborer, archaeological fieldworker, small magazine editor, and high school teacher in Lahore, Pakistan. He is the recipient of various awards, such as the North Dakota Council on the Arts Creative Writing Fellowship, and the Larry Remele Fellowship from the North Dakota Humanities Council.

Ronald Vossler is the author of several books about the Germans from Russia, including *Not Until the Combine is Paid*, *We'll Meet Again in Heaven*, *Lost Shawls and Pig Spleens*, *Why I Never Called Death the River*, *Dakota Kraut*, and *The Old God Still Lives*.

He lives in East Grand Forks, Minnesota.

(Taken from <http://library.ndsu.edu/grhc/order/rvossler/rvosslerlist.html>)

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The **Ron Vossler Collection** consists primarily of photocopies of periodical clippings and correspondence related to Germans from Russia and their families. These materials were used by Mr. Vossler while doing research for the books *The Old God Still Lives*, *We'll Meet Again in Heaven*, and *Pilgrims in the Valley of Tears: Letters from the Terror Famine*. Much of the correspondence has been translated into English. Also contained within this collection are materials related to the production of documentary films about Germans from Russia with which Mr. Vossler was involved. The Ron Vossler Collection has been processed into four series: Correspondence, Newspaper, Folder Pockets, Interviews, and Subject.

The **Correspondence Series** consists of ten folders of correspondence, mainly photocopied. Four of the folders contain letters that were sent between members of particular families: Friedt, Widmer, Marchell, and Roesch. One folder contains letters concerning Siberia. There are four folders of various correspondences, dated 1917 to 1935. There is also one file of correspondence sent to Mr. Vossler.

The **Newspaper Series** consists of sixteen folders of photocopies of newspaper clippings which date from 1915 to 1935. Many of these are from German-language newspapers from the United States, including *Wishek Nachrichten*, *Dakota Rundschau*, *Nord Dakota Herold*, *Dakota Freie Presse*, *Eureka Rundschau*, *Staat Anzeiger*, and *St. Joseph Blatt*. Other newspapers represented within this collection are *The Wishek News* and *The Ashley News*. Many of these copies have been annotated with handwritten notations and these have been kept in their original order. The Possible Letters folder contains periodical clippings that may be letters that were published in some of these publications.

The **Folder Pocket Series** consists of an additional series of photocopies of newspaper clippings, mainly *The Wishek News*, however, these clippings are annotated with colored Post-It notes, and appear to be in a specific order. The original order in this series was maintained to preserve the provenance and research value of the clippings and the notations.

The [Interview Series](#) contains printed transcripts of interviews conducted by Ron Vossler and Bob Dambach. The series has interviews with three people: Annette Bamesberger, Annie Roesch Larson, and Pauline Lippers Litfin.

Contained within the [Subject Series](#) are several folders related to book and documentary film projects that Mr. Vossler worked on, such as *Pilgrims in the Valley of Tears* and *The Old God Still Lives*. Also in this collection is a folder of materials relating to letters that were translated by Alice Morgenstern of Munich, Germany, a folder of transcribed interviews from some people of German from Russian background, some information related to German handwriting and genealogy, and an advertisement for a poster featuring the Ukraine.

BOX AND FOLDER LIST

Box/Folder	Contents
1/1	Finding aid, detailed inventory, and initial inventory

CORRESPONDENCE SERIES

1/2	Correspondence – Friedt
1/3	Correspondence – general, 1917-1918
1/4	Correspondence – general, 1920
1/5	Correspondence – general, 1923-1929
1/6	Correspondence – general, 1932-1935
1/7	Correspondence – Paul Marchell, 1923-1925
1/8	Correspondence – Roesch, 1929-1949
1/9	Correspondence – Siberia
1/10	Correspondence – Ron Vossler, 2002, 2009
1/11	Correspondence – Georg and Wilhelmina Widmer, 1933

NEWSPAPER SERIES

1/12	<i>Dakota Freie Presse</i> , 1935
1/13	<i>Eureka Rundschau</i> , 1915
1/14	<i>Eureka Rundschau</i> , 1916
1/15	<i>Eureka Rundschau</i> , 1918
1/16	<i>Eureka Rundschau</i> , 1923
1/17	<i>Nord Dakota Herold</i> , 1915-1934
1/18	Possible letters
1/19	<i>St. Joseph Blatt</i> , 1918-1933
1/20	<i>Staatz Anzeiger</i> , 1932-1933
1/21	Various newspapers, 1917
1/22	Various newspapers, 1919

1/23 Various newspapers, 1920
1/24 Various newspapers, 1921
1/25 Various newspapers, 1922
1/26 Various newspapers, 1924
1/27 Wishek newspapers, 1932-1935

FOLDER POCKETS SERIES

1/28 Newspapers, 1920-1925
1/29 Newspapers, 1926-1928
1/30 Newspapers, 1929-1931
1/31 Newspapers, 1932-1934 (1 of 2)
1/32 Newspapers, 1932-1934 (2 of 2)
1/33 Newspapers, 1935-1937

INTERVIEW SERIES

1/34 Interviews – Annette Bamesberger, 2002
1/35 Interviews – Annie Roesch Larson, 1999, 2003
1/36 Interviews – Pauline Lippers Liftin, 2002

SUBJECT SERIES

1/37 “Death is Release” materials
1/38 Genealogy and German language materials
1/39 Morgenstern materials
1/40 Peterstal copies

2/1 *Pilgrims in the Valley of Tears* materials
2/2 *The Old God Still Lives* materials
2/3 Ukrainian poster information
2/4 Video materials
2/5 “We’ll Meet Again in Heaven” script – final revision