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Finding aid to the Ludwig and Christina Graf-Buck Collection
2001.13

OVERVIEW

Donor: David, Katherine, and Phillip Westine

Accession Date: July 2001

Collection Number: 014

Quantity: 4 linear feet

Summary: A collection of photographic images used as the basis of the book, *Graf-Buck Family Heritage,* published in 2005, and the background information and commentary about these photographs. Also present are Graf-Buck family history items, correspondence, books, recipes, and religious materials.

Languages: English and German

Links:

- Ludwig and Christina Graf-Buck Photograph Collection on the NDSU Institutional Repository (Dspace)
- *Graf - Buck Family Heritage: Family Photographs and Memories of Streeter, North Dakota*
- Review of *Graf – Buck Family Heritage*, by Edna Boardman
- *Gazing Forward, Glancing Back, Remembering Always: Memories Retold and Relived by the Community of Streeter, North Dakota*, compiled by Sandi Dewald

Access Restrictions: Open to the public; available upon request

Citation: Ludwig and Christina Graf Buck Collection 014, Germans from Russia Heritage Collection, NDSU Libraries, Fargo, ND.

BIOGRAPHY

By 1875, Buck family from Friedenstal, Bessarabia immigrated to Tripp, Dakota Territory/ Columbus, Nebraska/ Scotland, Dakota Territory/ Eureka, South Dakota/ to Richville - Streeter, North Dakota in 1891, joined further Buck family from Friedenstal in 1893.

By 1885, Graff family from Neudorf, Glueckstal colonies, South Russia, immigrated to Tripp (Neu-Posttal), Dakota Territory/ Eureka, South Dakota/ to Richville, Streeter in 1893.

Three double marriages united between Graf and Buck families before 1900: John Graf, Jr. and Katherina Buck; Adolph Graf and Wilhelmina Buck; Christina Graf and Ludwig Buck, Jr. They provided fifty years of visionary leadership for the new settlement community of Richville/ Streeter (1895-1945), with church, cultural, business, and educational impact.

Adolph Graf/ Wilhelmina "Minnie" Buck Graf had sufficient wealth at Streeter to travel six months in 1913 to Berlin, Germany. They traveled to their birth villages of Neudorf and Friedenstal.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

Within the Graf-Buck Collection are three boxes of written and printed materials relating to the Graf and Buck families and the publication of their family history, *Graf-Buck Family Heritage.* Also present are three binders and two boxes of photographic prints, the majority of which were used in that publication.

The **Correspondence Series** consists mainly of email correspondence concerning the layout and publication of *Graf-Buck Family Heritage.* These emails date from 2003-2005, the majority of which were written to- and from- the Germans from Russia Heritage Collection and the donors of the collection. A second folder of correspondence, The **Historic Correspondence Folder**, contains two birth records handwritten in 1904 and 1933, and letters written Gottfrido Hoffmann from Argentina in 1926, and Ludwig Janke in 1946. The letters in this folder have been translated into English.

Also contained within the Correspondence Series are the two folders of the **Mittleider Letters.** These were written by Adolf Mittleider, a wealthy *kulak* or farmer in the Caucasus, from 1928 until 1930. These letters discuss societal and economic changes that took place during this period in the Soviet Union which ruined the *kulaks'* way of life. Mittleider was unable to pay the taxes designed to economically cripple the *kulaks* and he was sentenced to hard labor. These letters were translated into English by Alice Morgenstern of Munich, Germany.

The **Book Materials Series** contains materials which relate to the production and publication of the book, *Graf-Buck Family Heritage.* Present within the series are a book review by Edna Boardman, several cover designs, an early draft of the book, and drafts of commentary written for the book by family members Phyllis K. Bancroft, Patsy Ramberg, and Jerome and Shirley Hust.

Within the **Genealogy Series** are two folders, each dedicated to the history of the family of Ludwig Buck and John Graf, respectively. Each of these folders contains a family history, prepared by Jay Gage of GRHC in 2003, and also photocopies of handwritten genealogies of the particular families.

The **Image Copies Series** contains materials related to the images used in *Graf-Buck Family Heritage* that were present in the collection, outside of the images themselves. Present within this series is one folder of commentary from various family members and GRHC staff concerning the identification of the photographs. Also present within this series is one folder of color and black and white photocopies of the images used in *Graf-Buck Family Heritage* with handwritten notations used in the identification process.

Contained within the **Ephemera Series** are three folders of materials. The **Announcements Folder** consists of a birth announcement for Phillip Westine, and two wedding announcements: Paul and Gertrude (Buck) Westine, and John and Magdalene (Buck) Scher. The **Bookmarks Folder** contains three bookmarks, one of which is for the Sixtieth Anniversary of Trinity Lutheran Church in Jamestown, North Dakota. The **Christmas Cards Folder** contains two Christmas cards, one sent to Martha Buck, and another sent by the Arthur Graf family.

The **Religious Certificates Series** features six lithographs commemorating confirmations, baptisms, and a marriage for members of the Buck Family. Family members whose certificates are present include: Ludwig, Christina, Arthur, Gertrude, Minnie, Esther, and Martha Buck. Also present are two sets of laminated photocopies of these certificates.

Two books are contained within the **Books Series.** One book is a senior yearbook for the 1929 class of Minot High School, called *The Sunflower*. The other book is a Sunday School book written for young children. This book was published in 1876 and is printed in German.

The **Subject Files Series** of the Buck- Graf collection contains the following folders:

-Churches in Streeter, North Dakota Folder: One page concerning defunct Lutheran congregations in and around Streeter and Richville, North Dakota.

-"New Year's Wish" Folder: One page of a handwritten poem. In German.

-Prayer Cards Folder: Three German-language prayer cards.

-Recpies Folder: Photocopies and transcriptions of the recipes in the recipe box that is part of the Graf-Buck Collection.

-"Successful Farming" Folder- Contains the June 1941 cover of "Successful Farming" Magazine, featuring Marie Letnes, a college friend of Martha Buck.

-**Map Folder-** Contains a photocopied map of family farms of Saratov, circa 1943.

The **Photographic Images Series** forms the crux of the Ludwig and Christina Graf-Buck Collection. It was donated as a separate collection known as the Gertrude Buck Westine Collection by Phillip Westine, but was incorporated into the Graf-Buck Collection, per request of the donors. This collection consists of 409 photographic images: 257 prints and 149 digital images. The images date from the 1860s until the 1980s. The majority of these images are of relatives of the Graf-Buck family or unidentified individuals, but there are also several images of Streeter, North Dakota, including interiors of the Graf and Buck store, school children, and events such as weddings, confirmations, or school plays. This series is housed in three binders and two boxes.

Images numbered 1 to 180 were used in the publication of the book, *Graf-Buck Family Heritage.* These were kept in the original order as found so as to correspond with the commentary for the photos that was prepared for the book. (This information can be found within the Images Copies Series.) Original copies of photos found in this series were previously labeled as "a and b". These copies account for the twenty-one images that do not have their own number.

Images 181-217 were not used for the book and were processed within the same collection, but with their own schema. The subseries of this portion of the Photographic Images Series were processed thus: **Portraits of Individuals, Portraits of Groups,** and **Buildings.**

Some of the identified subjects of the photographs in this series are members of the Buck Family including: Jacob and Katherina Wolfer Wieland, Johann and Margaretha Wolfer Buck, Jacob Weisz and Elizabeth Buck, Ludwig and Christina Graf Buck, John and Katherina Buck Graf and Michael "Mike" Buck. Some members of the Graf Family that are represented include: Wilbert and Lydia Graf Cherryholmes, Jacob and Magdalena Dockter Graf, August Graf, Theo and Fredericka Enzminger Graf, Emma Martha Graf Ruff, and Lydia Graf. Some of the images feature scenes in and around Streeter, North Dakota. These include the Graf and Buck Store, Buck and Enzminger Implement Store of Streeter, Citizens State Bank, and the "second" schoolhouse and Main Street of Streeter. Also present are images of Menno, South Dakota. Depicted within this series are photos of homes, such as those of Theodora Graf and John Graf, Jr. Formats that are represented within the Photographic Images Series of the Graf-Buck Collection are tintypes, *cartes de visite,* photographic postcards, gelatin silver prints, and color Kodachrome prints. Also present are two 35mm negatives. **Note:** Photo 173 has been moved to box

Contained within the Ludwig and Christina Graf-Buck Collection, the **Adolf Graf Special Collection** contains correspondence, tax records, newspapers, business papers, and other ephemera collected by Adolf Graf, dating from 1912 to 1936. This grouping of materials was found in a "Hoosier" file folder box, c. 1910. This special collection within the Graf-Buck Collection was processed as follows:

The **Correspondence Series** of the Adolf Graf Special Collection contains two folders of correspondence written to- and from- Adolf Graf. The **Correspondence, Business Folder** consists of letters from 1917-1936. Some of the businesses featured are the First National Bank of Medina, North Dakota; M.N. Ringreide; Carr and Rittgers of Jamestown, North Dakota; Northern and Dakota Trust Company of Fargo, North Dakota; and the Secretary of Agriculture,

Washington, D.C. The **Correspondence, Personal Folder** contains letters twelve written to Adolf Graf from family and friends. Two of them are in English and date from 1923, and ten written in German, which are undated and were processed into subfolders to maintain their provenance and original order.

The **Business Papers Series** within the Adolf Graf Special Collection contains two folders. The **Business Papers Folder** features receipts, titles, mortgages, and other paperwork concerned with the business affairs of Adolf Graf. These date from 1912 to 1930. Some of the businesses represented within this collection are: Knauf and Knauf of Jamestown, North Dakota, Wanner Abstract Company, and Citizens State Bank. Also present are tax paperwork and income and expense ledgers. The **Business Papers, Tax Levies Folder** contains two long paper bundles of taxes levied against Logan County, North Dakota during the year 1921.

The Adolf Graf Special Collection also contains a **Subject Files Series**, which features the following folders:

> **-"60 jahren Jubelaums" Folder-** Contains a Sixtieth-Anniversary pamphlet for the "Reformierten Sarons-Gemeinde" of Sheboygan, Wisconsin. In German. Dated 5 September, 1915.
>
> ***-Atlas of the War in Europe* Folder-** Contains an atlas of World War I-era Europe. Published by Volkszeitung Printing and Publishing, St. Paul, Minnesota.
>
> **-Kaiser Wilhelm Lithograph Folder-** Contains one lithograph of Kaiser Wilhelm and his six sons. No date.
>
> **-Maps Folder-** Contains three maps. "Kaltenborn's New War Map", from World War II, "Central Europe and the Mediterranean", National Geographic, 1939. Township map of Logan County, North Dakota.
>
> **-"Reformed Church Messenger" Folder-** Contains one copy of the "Reformed Church Messenger", dated 1917, published by Central Theological Seminary, Dayton, Ohio.
>
> **-Travel Folder-** Contains two items. The "Kase Führer durch Berlin und Potsdam nebst Karten", a travel map for an automobile tour, c.1911. "North German Lloyd Passenger List" is a passenger list and timetable for the routes of the North German Lloyd Passenger Service for 1911.

SEPARATION RECORD

A related collection of photographs and artifacts, the LaVerne Ruff Graf Collection, accession number 2000.04, is housed within the Emily Reynolds Costume Collection, NDSU.

BOX AND FOLDER LIST

Box/Folder	Contents
1/1	Finding aid, detailed inventory, and initial inventory
	CORRESPONDENCE SERIES
1/2	Correspondence
1/3	Historic Correspondence
1/4	Mittleider Letters, 1928-1929
1/5	Mittleider Letters, 1930, n.d.
	BOOK MATERIALS SERIES
1/6	Book Review
1/7	Commentary Drafts
1/8	Covers
1/9	*Graf/Buck Family Heritage,* Early edition
1/10	Manuscript
1/11	Notes and Corrections
	GENEALOGY SERIES
2/1	Genealogy for Ludwig Buck
2/2	Genealogy for John Graf
	IMAGE COPIES SERIES
2/3	Commentary
2/4	Scans
	EPHEMERA SERIES
2/5	Announcements
2/6	Bookmarks
2/7	Christmas Cards

RELIGIOUS CERTIFICATES SERIES

6	Marriage Certificate, Ludwig and Christina Graf-Buck, 1899
6	Baptismal Certificate, Esther Buck, 1916
6	Baptismal Certificate, Gertrude Buck, 1918
6	Confirmation Certificate, Martha Buck, 1919
6	Confirmation Certificate, Minnie Buck, 1923
6	Confirmation Certificate, Arthur Buck, 1927

SUBJECT FILES SERIES

2/8	Churches in Streeter, North Dakota
2/9	"New Year's Wish"
2/10	Prayer Cards
2/11	Recipes
2/12	"Successful Farming"
2/13	Periodical Clippings
6	Map of Saratov/Balitzki

PHOTOGRAPHIC IMAGES SERIES

Binder

1	Images 001 - 061 (68 prints)
2	Images 062 – 106 (60 prints)
3	Images 107- 153 (63 prints)

Box

3	Images 154 – 180 (28 prints)
3	Images 181 – 329 (149 digital copies on CDs)

Box/Folder

4/1	Portraits, Individuals (6 prints)
4/2	Portraits, Individuals, Magdalena Buck (1 print)
4/3	Portraits, Individuals, Martha Buck (1 print)
4/4	Portraits, Individuals, School Portraits (15 prints)
4/5	Portraits, Groups, 1 of 2 (8 prints)
4/6	Portraits, Groups, 2 of 2 (5 prints)
4/7	Buildings (2 prints)

Box	ARTIFACTS
6	Recipe Box of Wilhelmina Graf, Contains 45 Recipes (Note: Recipes are listed individually within inventory in Folder 1/1.)
Box/Folder	
2/14	Cloth Ticket Holders, c.1911 (2)
7	**BOOKS**

1. *Gott Befohlen!*. Cleveland: Central Publishing House, 1904.
2. *Neues A-B-C=Buch für Sonntags Schulen.* Cleveland: Central Publishing House, 1876.
3. *Zweimal zweimundfumzig Bibliche Gefichten für Schulen und familien.* Chicago: German Pilgrim Press.
4. Fritschel, Gottfried. *Theophilus Eine Mitgabe für Konfirmanden.*.Chicago: Wartburg Publishing House, 1920.
5. Luther, Martin. *Die Bibel ober die ganze Heilige Schrif.*
6. Luther, Martin. *Die Bibel ober die ganze Heilige Schrif*. Halle, Germany: 1869.
7. Luther, Martin. *Die Bibel ober die ganze Heilige Schrif*. Berlin, Germany: 1900.
8. Luther, Martin. *Die Bibel ober die ganze Heilige Schrif*. Stuttgart, Germany: 1931.
9. Luther, Martin. *Neue Testament*. Cincinnati: Jennings and Pye, 1901.
10. Raufenbusch, Walter and Ira D. Sankey. Chicago:Bigelow and Main Company, 1897.
11. Rott, Katie L. *The Sunflower*. Minot, North Dakota: Ward County Independent, 1929.

ADOLF GRAF SPECIAL COLLECTION

Box/Folder

CORRESPONDENCE SERIES

5/1	Correspondence, Business
5/2	Correspondence, Personal

BUSINESS PAPERS

5/3	Business Papers
5/4	Business Papers, Tax Liens

SUBJECT FILES

5/5	*60 jahrigen Jubelaums*
5/6	*Atlas of the War in Europe*
5/7	Lithograph of Kaiser Wilhelm and Sons
5/8	Maps
5/9	"Reformed Church Messenger-1917"
5/10	Travel Brochures