GERMANS FROM RUSSIA
GRHC
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Finding Aid to the Connie (George) Nelson Collection

2009.09 & 2011.32

OVERVIEW

Donor: Connie (George) Nelson

Accession Date: 6 April and 6 May 2009; 28 September 2011; 12 October 2011

Collection Number: 069

Quantity: 0.5 linear feet

Summary: Business papers; correspondence, 1892-1998; genealogical information for the Erbele, George, Maclachlan, Nielson, and Zimmermann families; forty-nine (49) photographic images, circa 1905-1990; one German-language book, no date; and one picture frame.

Languages: English & German

Links:

- View the Connie (George) Nelson Photograph Collection on the NDSU Institutional Repository (Dspace)

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: Connie (George) Nelson Collection, 069, Germans from Russia Heritage Collection, NDSU Libraries, Fargo, ND.

BIOGRAPHY

The George family of McIntosh County, North Dakota is of German descent, tracing its line back to Peter George, who was born in Owen, England in 1805. Peter's family had immigrated to England from Hamburg, Germany and worked as wine gardeners. He married a German woman, Katharina Orman, and they moved to Hoffnungstal, Bessarabia in southern Russia, between the years 1830 and 1838. They had ten children. Several descendants of this family line

immigrated to the United States in the 1870s and 1880s and settled in North Dakota and South Dakota.

The Zimmermann family, also of McIntosh County, can trace its line back to Michael Zimmermann, who was born in 1628 in Bavaria. One of his descendants, Georg Simon Zimmermann, moved with his family to Russian-Poland in 1832, and then to Friedenstal, Odessa several years later. Many of his descendants in the late nineteenth century immigrated to the United States, including Gottlieb Zimmerman, who settled in Lehr, North Dakota, in 1899. Twelve children and eight step-children survived him when he died in 1930 in a farming accident. Many relatives of the George and Zimmermann families lived in the area around McIntosh and Logan counties and their descendants have settled throughout the United States.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The **Connie (George) Nelson Collection** contains materials relating to the George and Zimmermann families of McIntosh County, North Dakota, including family trees, pedigrees, typescripts, and clippings from books and periodicals. Some smaller series within this collection concerns information relating to three other families: the Erbele, Maclachlan, and Nielson families. Also present within this collection is a grouping of photographs depicting friends and relatives of the George, Zimmermann, and Buechler families. The Connie Nelson Collection has been arranged into seven series, as follows.

The **Legal Papers Series** consists of photocopies of documents relating to land ownership, citizenship, and marriage of Jacob H. George. The original documents were created in 1892-1939. Present within this series are photocopies of the citizenship affidavit for George, dated 1892; marriage certificate for Jacob George and Mathilda Blaskowski, dated 12 December 1900; a land homestead claim filed by George in 1907; a title for land, dated 1910; and legal paperwork involving the estate of George's brother, Heinrich, dated 1927.

The **Correspondence Series** contains letters sent to Connie Nelson that date from 1992-1998. This correspondence has information regarding the George and Zimmermann families.

Also contained within the Connie Nelson Collection is the **Family Histories Series,** which contains numerous resources concerning the Erbele, George, MacLachlan, Nielson, and Zimmermann families,, including pedigree charts, family trees, histories, and biographical information on family members. The Erbele Family History folder contains a historiography of the Erbele family that was prepared for Wilmer Erbele in 1973. This features a coat-of-arms and family chart for the Erbele family. Folder 5 contains family tree and pedigree information for descendants of the George family. Folder 6 contains biographical and historical information for the George family. The George Family Tree folder contains a photocopy of a handmade family tree, which reaches back to Peter Georg, born in 1788. The Maclachlan Family History Folder contains one page of information about the Maclachlan family, who originated in Scotland. The Nielson Family History Folder contains several pages of lineage of the Nielson family. The Zimmermann family materials have been separated into four folders, Folders 10-13. Folder 10 contains an extensive chart for the Zimmermann family, which reaches back to 1629. Within

Folder 11 is a photocopy of a document titled the "Zimmermann Encyclopedia: From A to Z", which contains biographical listings and photographs of many members of that family. Folder 12 contains biographical information regarding the Zimmermann family, including a print of the family crest, a CD ROM of information about that family, and a hand drawn family tree. Folder 13 contains a large, fold-out, colored family tree of the Zimmermann family, created by Gideon Zimmermann.

The **Typescripts Series** contains two typewritten documents. The "Clarence Master Sheets" consists of a folder of George family genealogical information and pedigrees. The "Friedenstal" folder contains translations from the booklet of the 150th anniversary of Friedenstal, which was observed in Marbach, Germany in 1984, and some translations from the book *Friedenstal* by Friedrich Ernst.

The Connie Nelson Collection also contains forty-nine (49) photographs, or the **Photographic Images Series**, which date from circa 1905-1990. Most of the images are portrait photographs of groups or individuals, mainly of people known by or related to the George family of McIntosh County, North Dakota. Many of the subjects have been identified, and some of their names include Nellie Griffin, Karl Buechler, Henry Buechler, Margaret Orsby, Patsy Doering, John A. George, Margarette Martin, Gottlieb Zimmermann, Lydia Zimmermann George, Fred and Violet Zimmermann, and Roy Krein. Some of the photographic studios represented include Kregel Photo Parlors, St. Paul, Minnesota; Artcraft Studio, Portland, Oregon; McCracken, Fargo, North Dakota; L.W. Naegle, Bismarck, North Dakota; and Heilman, Eureka, South Dakota. Five of the images are snapshots taken in Germany, circa 1990, of relatives of Kurt Zimmermann. Several photographic print formats are represented within this series, including real photo postcards, gelatin silver prints, albumen prints, 3 x 5 prints, one cabinet photo, and photo-quality copies. Forty-four of the images are black and white, five images are in color. Also arranged within this series is a folder of photocopies of photographs related to the George and Zimmermann families, the originals of which have been retained elsewhere. A folder of captions related to the photographs, which have been retained to ensure proper provenance, is also contained within this series.

The **Book Series** contains one book that was donated as part of the Connie Nelson Collection. *Wartburg Fibel* is a German-language primer that was written by August Engelbrecht, no date.

The **Artifact Series** contains one item, item 2011.32.50, a silver picture frame with floral decorations and black trim. It measures 7.5" x 5.5". The frame dates from circa 1935.

SEPERATION RECORD

Donated along with the Connie (George) Nelson Collection were other items, such as family histories. These have been cataloged and placed within the GRHC Library.

BOX AND FOLDER LIST

Box/Folder	Contents
1/1	Finding aid, detailed inventory, and initial inventory
	LEGAL PAPERS SERIES
1/2	Document photocopies
	CORRESPONDENCE SERIES
1/3	Correspondence, 1992-1998
	FAMILY HISTORY SERIES
1/4	Erbele family history
1/5	George family history, 1 of 2
1/6	George family history, 2 of 2
1/7	George family tree
1/8	Maclachlan family history
1/9	Nielson family history
1/10	Zimmemann family history, 1 of 3
1/11	Zimmermann family history, 2 of 3
1/12	Zimmermann family history, 3 of 3
1/13	Zimmermann family tree
	TYPESCRIPTS SERIES
1	“Clarence Master Sheets”
1	Friedenstal materials

PHOTOGRAPHIC IMAGES SERIES

1/14 **Photographs 1-10**

2011.32.01 Group of school children outside between two doors, circular window above. Inscribed "Year 1915/Teacher Miss Nellie Griffin" – 1915

2011.32.02 Studio portrait of man by lattice window. Inscribed "Karl Buechler, Goodrich, ND" – 1910

2011.32.03 Head and shoulders portrait of man with beard and mustache in black suit and woman in black blouse, 1900

2011.32.04 Head and shoulders portrait of man with beard and mustache in black suit and woman in black blouse, 1900

2011.32.05 Two young ladies. Girl on right standing in black dress. Girl on left seated in white hat. Inscribed "My mom-on left-Margaret Buechler [?] on rt." 1920

2011.32.06 Group in front of white house, clothes on line. Automobile visible in back. Inscribed "Grandpa & Grandma Buechler & family- baby in Dad's arms probably me." Circa 1935

2011.32.07 Older man and woman in front of white house. Woman is dressed in dark housecoat. Clothes on line. Inscribed "Grandpa & Grandma Buechler." Circa 1935

2011.32.08 Group of eight people standing in front of white house. Older woman in center holding large bouquet. Clothing and mattress are hanging to dry. Inscribed "Buechler Clan." Circa 1935

2011.32.09 Studio portrait of baby seated in white baby chair holding wooden duck toy. Inscribed "Patsy Doering." Circa 1945

2011.32.10 Group of adults in school room, most seated. Attached note states "John A. George, Ashley, ND." Circa 1940

1/15 **Photographs 11-20**

2011.32.11 Group of children standing in front of blackboard. Blackboard has design featuring turkeys across its top. Inscribed "Clarence George, age 8, born 1927. Danzig N. Dak. 1935/November 26." – 1935

2011.32.12 Group of children standing in front of brick wall. Sixteen girls standing, twelve boys kneeling in front. Inscribed "Peg George." Circa 1940

2011.32.13 Group of children standing in front of brick wall. Inscribed "Peg George." Circa 1940s

2011.32.14 Studio print of infant in light colored dress. Inscribed "Nancy Lou Krein/ age 6 weeks." Circa 1950

2011.32.15 Older woman with lace trim collar decoration. Inscribed "Karl Buechler, Goodrich, N.D./return to Erin [?] Heins/Wm Buechler, Cathay, ND." Circa 1915

2011.32.16 Studio portrait of young man with lapel pin. Inscribed "Karl Buechler, Goodrich, ND." Circa 1925

2011.32.17 Studio portrait of young woman with white collar and glasses with rhinestone trim. Inscribed "Evangeline (Zimmermann) Hoff." Circa 1950

2011.32.18 Man and woman standing behind two young girls. Girls are wearing small crucifixes. Inscribed "Gottheilf & Lydia Zimmermann & Vangie & Mavis." Circa 1950

2011.32.19 Man wearing large white ribbon on front of coat. Woman wearing white dress and headdress made of small flowers. Inscribed "Gottlieb Zimmermann, und Frau, Napoleon, North Dakota, USA/von Konrad Zimmermann, Ashley, No. Dak., USA/1958." Circa 1905

2011.32.20 Young girl seated on wooden table, holding small dog. Inscribed "Wanda George/3 1/2 years old 1937." – 1937

1/16 **Photographs 21-30**

2011.32.21 Head and shoulders portrait of young woman with finger waves in hair. Inscribed "Evelyn Buechler, sister of Bill." Circa 1935

2011.32.22 Snapshot of young boy seated on bench, legs crossed and hands on knee. Inscribed "Bill Buechler." Circa 1935

2011.32.23 Portrait of two young women wearing round glasses. Attached note identifies woman at left: "Lydia (Zimmerman) George." Circa 1925

2011.32.24 Portrait of young man in suit with high-collared shirt. In oval mat. Inscribed "Karl Buechler/5399 Petite." Circa 1910

2011.32.25 Head and shoulders portrait of young man wearing tie with geometric design. Attached sticker reads "Class of 44." Inscribed "Bud Gilbertson/ Valley City, ND." Dated 1944

2011.32.26 Young man wearing glasses, smiling. Attached sticker reads "Class 65." Inscribed "Curtis Were [?] Monago, ND." Dated 1965

2011.32.27 Hear and shoulders image of young woman holding a folding fan. Fan features images of women. Attached note states "Margaret (Orsby) Buechler." Circa 1925

2011.32.28 Full-length portrait of young woman in white dress and gloves holding a diploma. Inscribed "Margaret (Orsby) Buechler." Circa 1925

2011.32.29 Head and shoulders portrait of young woman wearing glasses and dark blouse with zipper. Inscribed Lois Augustadt." Circa 1945

2011.32.30 Head and shoulders portrait of young man in twill striped suit and glasses. Inscribed "Loren Linder/ cousin to Peg George." Circa 1945

1/17 **Photographs 31-40**

2011.32.31 Head and shoulders portrait of young man in three-bar tie and glasses. Inscribed "Bill Buechler/ Goodrich." Circa 1945

2011.32.32 Head and shoulders portrait of older couple, both wearing glasses. Woman has floral decoration at neck. Inscribed "To Peggy/Uncle John & Aunt Lydia." Circa 1950

2011.32.33 Portrait of two women and one man standing in front of a curtain backdrop. Man in glasses and tie with leaf design. Inscribed "Walter George & family." Circa 1950

2011.32.34 Portrait of two women and one man standing in front of a curtain backdrop. Man in glasses and tie with leaf design. Inscribed "Walter George & family." Circa 1950

2011.32.35 Full-length portrait of wedding couple. Man in dark pinstriped suit with white boutonniere. Inscribed "Mr. & Mrs. Rheiny Hofman, Nov. 13- 1948." Dated 1948

2011.32.36 Head and shoulders portrait of young man with dark handkerchief in pocket. Identified as Roy Krein. Inscribed "Love, Roy." Circa 1935

2011.32.37 Head and shoulders portrait of two men and one woman. Attached note states "Krein Family." Circa 1935

2011.32.38 Head and shoulders portrait of young man wearing glasses and striped tie. Attached note states "Gideon Zimmerman." Circa 1935

2011.32.39 Head and shoulders portrait of young man and woman, both wearing glasses and corsages. Attached note states "Gideon and Eleanor Zimmerman." Circa 1935

2011.32.40 Studio portrait of one woman and one man seated, one woman standing with hand on shoulder of seated woman. Man wearing lapel pin and tie with oval design upon it. Inscribed "From Mr. & Mrs. Fred K. Zimmerman and Violet/ December 25, 1948." Dated 1948

1/18 **Photographs 41-49**

2011.32.41 Head and shoulders portrait of woman wearing glasses and a self-bow at neck. Attached note states "Eliza Muralt (Buechler)- Sister of Karl, Goodrich." Circa 1945

2011.32.42 Snapshot of house with brown panel window. One white car and one red car are parked in front. Inscribed "A view of the Kurt Zimmermann home, at Panoramastrasse 24, 7141 Oberstenfeld, West Germany." Circa 1990

2011.32.43 Two women and one man seated at table. Small shelf and barometer hanging on wall behind them. Attached note states "Lunch Saturday evening at Kurt and Inge's home in Oberstenfeld." Circa 1990

2011.32.44 Two young men and two young women seated at a table. Wall clock is visible behind them. Attached note states "Michael, son of Kurt and Inge; Anya, his friend; Marc, younger son, and Inge." Circa 1990

2011.32.45 Snapshot of group of people in cemetery with tall hedge in background. Attached note states "Left to right: Kurt, Eleanor, Frieda, Olga, Peter, Brunie, Olga's sister; behind her Heinz Thurm, Wilma Thum, Artur. Front: Robert and Norman Krause, Armin and Ulrich Thum, twin sos of Wilma and Heinz." Circa 1990

2011.32.46 Headstone in rural field which states "Georg: Christian 1824-1904; Friederica 1827-1902. Christius ist mein leben und sterben mein gewinn."

2011.32.47 Portrait of man with large mustache and young woman posed with four small children. Circa 1910

2011.32.48 Man with large mustache and woman in white blouse and black skirt seated with fur rug on floor. Circa 1905

2011.32.49 Man with large mustache and woman in white blouse and black skirt seated with fur rug on floor. Circa 1905

BOOK SERIES

1 Engelbrecht, August. *Wartburg Fibel.* Chicago: Wartburg Publishing House. No date.

ARTIFACT SERIES

1 Silver and black picture frame (2011.32.50)

2011.32.50 (picture frame)