In the summer of 2011, Acacia Jonas Stuckle will attend the Bowdle, S.D. 125th celebration on June 24-25, and I'll attend the Rugby, North Dakota 125th celebration on July 1-2. We will have the GRHC information tables and displays at Bowdle and Rugby, both communities heavily settled by German-Russian families.

Work continues on the completion of one of the most important scholarly books which GRHC will publish, "Bessarabia: German Colonists on the Black Sea." As a friend of the GRHC, we appreciate your financial support so that we can receive the necessary donations for this project to become a reality for publication in 2011. The GRHC still needs to raise additional funds for the book to be published!

Enclosed you will find the brochure for a donation to the Bessarabian book project.

With kind regards,

Michael M. Miller

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Letter from the director

With this letter, I want to share some wonderful experiences of this summer and fall.

In July at the Germans from Russia Heritage Society International Convention at Bismarck, N.D., and in August, at the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia International Convention at Lincoln, Neb., one of the highlights was the premiere of "It's All Earth and Sky," a new documentary of the award-winning Germans from Russia Series by Prairie Public Broadcasting, Fargo. The response was tremendous with large audiences in attendance. "It's All Earth and Sky," premiered on Prairie Public Television in October.

On August 1-3, Dr. Homer Rudolf and I traveled to southeast South Dakota to visit historic German-Russian towns and cemeteries near Yankton. This was a rewarding experience visiting Freeman, Lesterville, Menno, Tripp and Scotland. Lesterville was the first settlement in the Dakota Territory in 1872 of Black Sea Germans who immigrated from the village of Johannestal, Beresan District, Odessa Region.

While at the AHSGR Convention (August 3-8), we took a bus tour one hour west of Lincoln, Neb., to visit the Mennonite Village near Henderson and Sutton. Sutton was settled by Black Sea Germans from the villages of Worms and Rohrbach, Beresan District, Odessa Region. I was impressed with how these communities are saving their historical buildings and preserving their German-Russian foods and traditions. In Lincoln, I was pleased to visit in German with Isabel Kessler and Clara Elsässer who were traveling from Buenos Aires; representing the Association of Argentina Descendants of Volga Germans. There is a large population of Germans from Russia in South America primarily in Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay.

I look forward to joining our 17th Journey to the Homeland Tour on May 18-28, 2011 to Odessa, Ukraine and Stuttgart, Germany.

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Upcoming Events

**MAY 18-28**
17th Journey to the Homeland Tour - Germany & Ukraine

**JUNE 23-26**
125TH ANNIVERSARY QUASQUICENTENNIAL - BOWDLE, SD

**JULY 1-4**
Pierce County 125TH QUASQUICENTENNIAL - RUGBY, ND

**JULY 20-24**
GRHS 41ST INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION - SPOKANE, WA

**JULY 31-AUGUST 7**
AHSGR INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION - SALT LAKE CITY, UT

For more information and additional 2010 events, visit: http://library.ndsu.edu/GRHC/OUTREACH/TRAVEL_DATES/INDEX.HTM

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GRHC STAFF

Michael M. Miller  
Director and Bibliographer  
Michael.Miller@ndsu.edu

Acacia (Jonas) Stuckle  
Special Collections Associate  
Acacia.Stuckle@ndsu.edu

Pam Burkhardt  
Collections’ Manager  
Pamela.Burkhardt@ndsu.edu

Jay Gage  
Curator
Isern and Miller receive awards

Thomas D. Isern, distinguished professor of history, and Michael M. Miller, NDSU Libraries’ Germans from Russia Heritage Collection director and bibliographer, received State Historical Society of North Dakota 2010 Heritage Profile Honor Awards. The awards were presented at the 22nd annual Governor’s Conference on North Dakota History on Oct. 30.

The award recognizes individuals who have made a lasting or significant contribution in preserving, interpreting, promoting, researching or extending the knowledge and understanding of the history of North Dakota. Individuals to be considered include persons living or deceased who have demonstrated long-term dedication and commitment in pursuit of these goals.

Prairie Public nominated Isern for the historical contributions of his Plains Folk column on the radio. The State Historical Society of North Dakota nominated Miller for his work preserving the German-Russian culture and heritage in North Dakota and the Northern Plains.

Schmeckt Gut: German-Russian Foodways exhibit

A tasty, new display was cooked up by the staff at the GRHC. “Schmeckt Gut: German-Russian Foodways” will bring back memories of grandma’s cooking. There are four topics on display in two hall cases at the GRHC. Each topic is brought to life with the addition of canned goods, spices, dishes, cookbooks and numerous color photographs.

For more information, visit http://library.ndsu.edu/grhc/outreach/exhibit/fooddisplay.html.

2011 Dakota Memories Heritage Tour

Experience the rich history of North Dakota and take a bus tour through some of the state’s most treasured sites with NDSU Libraries’ Germans from Russia Heritage Collection.

The dates for the tour are September 15-18, 2011.

The tour will focus on German-Russian sites in south-central North Dakota and provide participants with direct cultural heritage and learning experiences.

The registration fee includes all meals and lodging.

Tour registration is limited. However, we must have at least 40 tour members registered by August 1, 2011 for the tour to be offered. If there are not enough registered participants, a full refund will be issued.

Visit: www.ndsu.edu/grhc/dakotamemories/heritage/index.html.
The Germans from Russia Heritage Collection (GRHC) received this historically significant collection documenting ethnic Germans of southern Crimea upon the 2006 bequest of the Ernest E. Zeiszler Estate from Hazen, Mercer County, North Dakota.

Ernest E. Zeiszler’s collection documents his heritage starting with German extended families originating in Württemberg, Germany and of Swabian heritage. He follows the Zeiszler and Kaiser families to the southern Crimea and documents their lives in Kronenthal [Kronental] from 1809 to 1886 where they labored as farmers and blacksmiths. One descendent of the original colonists immigrated to Freeman, Hutchinson County, Dakota Territory.

In 1887, Christian Zeiszler and family with a caravan of thirty wagons (with future grand-step-father John Suess, Sr.) trekked from Scotland, Dakota Territory, via Mandan and Hebron to north of Stanton in Mercer County, northwestern North Dakota.

Michael Zeiszler homesteaded near Mannhaven and later established a mercantile business in 1899 at Expansion, North Dakota, supported by forty-eight families with origins in Kronenthal [Kronental], Kasmer, and Neusatz, southern Crimea region.

The Ernest E. Zeiszler Collection contains research on the pioneers and early towns of Mercer County, North Dakota, the pioneers of Hutchinson County, South Dakota, pioneer family surnames, Crimean village names, Crimean German immigrants and Besarabian German immigrants. You can search the database by name, location, and topic. Some of the towns mentioned are Freeman, Menno, Parkston and Tripp, (Hutchinson County) South Dakota; and Beulah, Expansion, Hazen, Krem and Mannhaven, (Mercer County) North Dakota. There are also family histories from Alberta, Canada.

The GRHC has 15 linear feet of Zeiszler’s genealogy and family history materials. Most the information is held in binders. The content focuses on the Zeiszler side, but two binders contain the Bieloh/Biloh genealogy: his wife’s family. Ernest married Fern Mabel Biloh.

Materials in this collection include family histories; family group sheets; pedigree charts; birth, death, marriage, confirmation and citizenship/naturalization certificates; obituaries; news clippings; census information; a few maps, ships’ passenger lists and correspondence. Virtually all images and photos are photocopies. Books cover town and county histories and other family genealogy publications. Publications found are several FEEFHS newsletters and Hazen Alumni directories. One binder holds North Dakota WPA Historical Data Project stories (1937-1938), the survey forms and family group sheets. Zeiszler kept a binder with his LDS microfilm research and larger one with passenger list transcriptions. The collection also has duplicate, support or non-genealogy materials, floppy discs and a record of his book sales and expenses.

Seven volumes of family histories are in the GRHC library: Herrmann, Reiner Family, Sailer Erbe, The Elweins, Walz, Weigum, Zeiszler Genealogy.

Pam Burkhardt
Collections’ Manager

Search the Ernest E. Zeiszler Collection

A search engine is now available for the Ernest E. Zeiszler Collection at the GRHC website. Use this search engine to look up your family history or research the history of Germans from Russia. For more information, visit http://library.ndsu.edu/grhc/research/genealogy/zeiszler/intro.html.
The GRHC attended the Pride of Dakota Holiday Showcase Events in Fargo (November 19-21) and Bismarck (December 3-5) this past fall. These are the two most important outreach events for the GRHC each year. Sales from these events help to fund the GRHC’s many projects.

On October 13, 2010, Michael Miller and Acacia Jonas Stuckle traveled to Wishek, N.D. to attend the 85th annual Sauerkraut Day. It was very successful and the GRHC also received several archival donations.

Miller and Stuckle also were interviewed for Prairie Public Radio’s “Hear It Now” show with Merrill Piepkorn.

The GRHC plans to attend the 86th Sauerkraut Day in 2011.