Letter from the Director

As I write this July column, Acacia Jonas Stuckle and I recently attended the 41st Germans from Russia Heritage Society International Convention at Spokane. We met many colleagues and friends.

At the GRHS Spokane Convention, the GRHC’s new hardcover book, “Bessarabia: Germans Colonists on the Black Sea”, by Ute Schmidt, with James T. Gessele, Translator, became available. We are deeply grateful to James Gessele of Minneapolis, a native of Mercer, N.D. for this major translation project, and to all those involved to make this impressive book become a reality.

We are very appreciative of the many financial donors who provided the major funding to publish the book. This is one of the most significant books ever published by the GRHC, and one of the most important resources ever published in the English language for the Germans from Russia and Bessarabian German communities.

Acacia and I attended “Dakota Air: The Radio Show” at the historic Wishek Civic Center in April with our GRHC outreach program. The event was like a family reunion in the heart of German-Russian country in south central North Dakota. Highlights included the St. Andrew’s Church Centennial Choir, the Wishek High School Choir accompanied by eight student accordionists, writer Ronald Vossler, and Kristi Goldade, North Dakota’s yodeling cowgirl.

Future Dakota Air performances include: September 10th at the historic Fargo Theater with a tribute to The Lawrence Welk Show, and October 29th at the Hopkins, Minn., Center for the Arts. More information about Dakota Air is at www.prairiepublic.org/radio/dakota-air-the-radio-show.

The 125th Bowdle, S.D. celebration in June and the 125th Rugby/Pierce County, N.D. celebration in July provided excellent outreach events with the GRHC displays. We extend our appreciation to these communities for their warm reception and to the many visitors we met.

While in Rugby, I visited the Little Flower Catholic Cemetery photographing the historic wrought-iron crosses. At the Pioneer Heritage Museum, I visited the Karl Stumpp Germans from Russia Exhibition Hall. I have fond memories of attending the dedication of this building in July, 1978 with Dr. Karl Stumpp of Germany, and Judge Ray Friederich of Rugby.

I look forward to joining the second Dakota Memories Heritage bus tour for September 15-18 as we travel to Emmons, Logan and McIntosh counties to see historic German-Russian sites, community gatherings and to taste some of the original German-Russian foods. The three counties are organizing future ideas to develop Germans from Russia heritage tourism.

We look forward to your continued support and interest as Friends of the GRHC. Please contact me should you need additional information regarding the GRHC.

Michael M. Miller

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With kind regards,

Michael M. Miller

Upcoming Events

SEPTEMBER 15-18
Dakota Memories Heritage Tour—South-Central, ND

OCTOBER 12
Sauerkraut Day—Wishek, ND

NOVEMBER 18-20
Pride of Dakota Holiday Showcase —Fargo, ND

DECEMBER 2-4
Pride of Dakota Holiday Showcase —Bismarck, ND

For more information and additional 2011 events, visit: http://library.ndsu.edu/GRHC/outreach/travel_dates/index.htm

GRHC STAFF
Meet Scott Barrett

M. Scott Barrett, PhD, is a Fargo resident. He joined the NDSU Development Foundation in 1997 as the Director of Planned Giving. Previously, Scott served as Assistant to the President and Assistant Vice President for Institutional Advancement at Fort Hays State University.

Dr. Barrett also served as Associate Director of Planned Giving for the LDS Foundation at Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah. In total, Scott has spent 23 years in higher education planned giving.

He is a member of the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education, a former member of the Association of Fundraising Professionals and the Red River Valley Estate Planning Council. He is the founder and former President of the Western Kansas Council on Estate Planning and Giving, a former board member of Smoky Hills Public Television.

He holds a business degree from BYU, an MBA from Fort Hays State University, and a PhD in Communication from NDSU.

German-Russian Food Traditions CD

"German-Russian Food Traditions" is now available on CD. It was produced by the NDSU Libraries Germans from Russia Heritage Collection and Prairie Public Radio.

During their oral histories, narrators share vibrant memories of traditional German-Russian food practices. This program features stories about canning, butchering, traditional German-Russian dishes and much more.

For more information, visit http://library.ndsu.edu/grhc/dakotamemories/order/audiocds.html.

17th Journey to the Homeland Tour

The 17th Journey to the Homeland Tour in May to Odessa, Ukraine and Stuttgart, Germany, was a memorable and rewarding experience. Elizabeth Pfieffe of Marcus, Iowa, native of Eureka, S.D., writes: "This visit helped me develop an appreciation for the land of my ancestors. It is a heritage to treasure and pass on to the future generations. I was privileged and honored to visit Friedenstal, Bessarabia, where my great grandfather was married and where my grandfather was born."

Delvin Dieiterle, Seattle Wash., native of McClusky, N.D., shared: "The Sunday before my mother passed away she made me promise that someday I would go to the ‘Old Country’ and see how my grandparents, Frandrich’s and Dieterle’s lived. That promise was fulfilled this past May 2011. With the flat open land with slightly rolling hills, lakes and streams, I could make a parallel with the land they homesteaded in North Dakota. I am sure that they felt a kinship with this new land because it was so similar to the land they had left in Bessarabia."

The 18th Journey to the Homeland Tour is May 17-18, 2012. For further information, go to www.ndsu.edu/grhc at Homeland Tours.
The GRHC is pleased to announce its newest publication, “Bessarabia: German Colonists on the Black Sea.”

According to the book cover, “In 1813, Czar Alexander I invited German settlers to make their home on the Black Sea as colonists. Within five to six generations, these immigrants, most of them coming from Prussia and Southwestern Germany, established a prosperous, organized community. They lived among Moldovans, Russians, Ukrainians, Bulgarians, Jews and other groups in peaceful neighborhoods as a small minority in a colorful variety of ethnic and religious communities. In 1918, the region came under Romanian rule. The resettlement of the Germans in autumn 1940 signified the end of a full 125-year settlement history.”

The book describes the origin and form of settlement of the Germans in Bessarabia, their local autonomy and their rural culture steeped in Protestant ethics as well as the coexistence with other nationalities. The author closes with observations about today’s Bessarabia that in part belongs to the Republic of Moldova and to Ukraine.

Allan Brosz, states “It is, without question, the authoritative history of the Germans in Bessarabia.”

Carol Just writes, “This is a book that will put the history and the contributions of the Germans from Russia on the global map.”

Alex Herzog says “I consider this book among the very best—a beautifully illustrated and comprehensive record on the Bessarabian Germans.”

This 448 page hardcover book is only $60 + shipping & handling. It includes two color maps and many color and historic photographs. To order you copy, visit http://library.ndsu.edu/grhc/order/general/bessarabia.html or call Acacia at 701.231.6596.

Dakota Memories Heritage Tour Public Events

NDSU Libraries’ Germans from Russia Heritage Collection, NDSU Extension’s Center for Community Vitality and Prairie Public radio will sponsor the Dakota Memories Heritage Tour on September 15-18, 2011 to south-central North Dakota.

During the tour there will be three presentations free and open to the general public.

Friday, September 16, Dr. Donald Schwert will give a presentation “A Heritage of Landscapes: the Geologic Setting of Settlement” at the National Buffalo Museum in Jamestown at 10:45 a.m.

Dr. Homer Rudolf will give a presentation on the German-Russian Brauche on the evening at Rueben’s Restaurant in Napoleon, N.D. at 6:45 p.m.

Saturday, September 17 will be NDSU’s History • Heritage • Culture Event in Wishek, N.D. at the historic civic center. There will be an ethnic evening meal at 6:30 p.m. (must purchase meal ticket in advance), musical entertainment at 6:45 p.m. and a presentation on German-Russian folk humor by Ronald Vossler at 7:30 p.m.

If you are interested in attending these events or would like more information about the 2011 Dakota Memories Heritage Tour, contact Acacia Stuckle at 701.231.6596 or acacia.stuckle@ndsu.edu.
The GRHC Attends 125th Celebrations

Acacia (Jonas) Stuckle, special collection associate at the NDSU Libraries’ Germans from Russia Heritage Collection, attended the Bowdle, S.D., 125th celebration June 24-25. Michael M. Miller, the collection’s director and bibliographer, attended the Rugby-Pierce County, N.D. 125th celebration July 1-3.

The Germans from Russia Heritage Collection had information tables and displays at the Senior Center in Bowdle and at the Heart of America Library in Rugby.

These were important outreach events for the GRHC, as both locations have heavy German-Russian populations.

Friends of the GRHC

NDSU Libraries’ Germans from Russia Heritage Collection

Enclosed is my gift of: ☐ $100 ☐ $250 ☐ $500 ☐ $1,000 ☐ Other $ ______

☐ My (or) ☐ My spouse’s employer will match this gift.

Name of employer: ______________________________

Name: ______________________________
Address: _____________________________

___ Check ___ Credit Card: ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover

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Signature ____________________________ Exp. Date ______
A Firm Financial Future
Free From Worry With An
NDSU Development Foundation Gift Annuity

Florence W. of central North Dakota recently chose to invest in North Dakota State University. A dedicated supporter of the university and NDSU Libraries’ Germans from Russia Heritage Collection, Florence saw opportunity in an invitation she received to fund an NDSU Charitable Gift Annuity. “Donating to the Germans from Russia Heritage Collection has been gratifying for me. Projects such as the translation of “Bessarabia: German Colonists on the Black Sea” is just one of the ways the GRHC is sharing our German-Russian heritage throughout the world,” says Florence. “I know my financial gift helps preserve our fading culture for our children and grandchildren.”

Like Florence, you can receive significant benefits with an NDSU Development Foundation Gift Annuity. Here is a brief summary of the benefits you will receive:

- A generous guaranteed income for life. The amount of annual income is determined by the age(s) of the donor(s) and the principal given to the contract. Single rates, like those shown below tend to be higher than joint life rates. (See the Rate Table below)
- A significant portion of the annual income you receive from the annuity is considered “tax free income” for tax purposes.
- A sizable charitable tax deduction in the year of the gift can be used to shelter other taxable income. You can “carry forward” any unused deduction into future tax years. (North Dakota tax payers also receive a significant North Dakota State tax credit.)

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1 When compared to a fully taxable investment such as a CD

For more information on the NDSU Gift Annuity Program, return the enclosed inquiry form and send it to:

M. Scott Barrett, Director of Planned Giving
NDSU Development Foundation
PO Box 5144
Fargo, ND 58105