“I really enjoyed the trip. It was a rewarding experience on many different levels — spending time with other people with the same background and on the same quest, learning more about the history and current situation in the Black Sea area, as well as seeing, meeting and talking to people from the area were worth the trip.”

Janis Weisz Piotrowski
Tallahassee, Florida

The GRHC hosts special tours for individuals and families who wish to travel from the United States and Canada to Germany and Odessa, Ukraine. Travelers visit the villages of their ancestors near Odessa, including the former Black Sea, Bessarabian and Crimean German villages. Since our first tour in May 1996, we have sponsored at least one trip per year.

18th Journey to the Homeland Tour
May 17-27, 2012

For more information:
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Germans from Russia Heritage Collection
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(left to right): Joanne Beringer, Janis Weisz Piotrowski, Theresa Berg and John Zuern examine cemetery stone in Neudorf, Glückstal District, Moldova.

Alsace, France
The North Dakota State University Libraries is pleased to announce sponsorship of the 18th Journey to the Homeland: Germany & Ukraine Tour for May 17-27, 2012. The tour includes Odessa, Ukraine; the former Bessarabian, Black Sea and Crimean German villages; Stuttgart, Germany and Alsace, France. Leading the tour is Michael M. Miller, Director and Bibliographer, NDSU Libraries’ Germans from Russia Heritage Collection, Fargo.

"It certainly has given me a better understanding of my background… Indeed, we are blessed that our ancestors had the courage to leave home and family to seek a new life in an unknown country and thrive! Again thank you for all the effort you put into this trip and preserving the culture of the Germans from Russia."

Marie C. Tandeski Delizonna
San Jose, California

Only villages in southern Ukraine, including the former Bessarabian, Black Sea and Crimean German villages are included with the Journey to the Homeland Tours.

Travel to the former Volga, Mennonite, Volyhnian and Hutterite villages are not included.

| 2012 Journey to the Homeland Tour (Registration deadline is 1 March 2012) |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 17 May 2012                 | USA City - Frankfurt, Germany    |
| 18-19 May 2012              | Frankfurt, Germany               |
| 19 May 2012                 | Frankfurt, Germany - Prague, Czech Republic - Odessa, Ukraine |
| 19-23 May 2012              | Odessa, Ukraine & former German villages |
| 23 May 2012                 | Odessa - Prague - Stuttgart, Germany |
| 23-27 May 2012              | Stuttgart, Germany               |
| 27 May 2012                 | Stuttgart, Germany - USA         |

Total cost of the 2012 tour is $4,850 USD per person which includes: All airline tickets; hotel rooms for Stuttgart & Frankfurt, Germany and Odessa, Ukraine; all breakfasts and some meals; transportation, driver, and translator for village visits in Ukraine; city tours. Further details available.

To register for the 2012 tour, please make your first payment of $500 U.S. dollars per person payable to: NDSU Development Foundation. Mail to the following address: Journey to the Homeland Tours, Germans from Russia Heritage Collection, The Libraries, NDSU Dept. 2080, PO Box 6050, Fargo, ND 58108-6050. For complete tour cost information, visit: http://library.ndsu.edu/grhc/outreach/journey/index.html.