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**Finding aid to the
Rev. George Rath
Collection
2004.19**

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OVERVIEW

Donor: Mrs. George Rath

Accession Date: Collection is a transfer made on 23 March 2004, from NDSU Archives to the GRHC. The materials were originally donated to the NDSU Archives by Mrs. George Rath on 21 June 1980.

Collection Number: 005

Quantity: .5 linear feet

Summary: Church histories primarily from South Dakota; questionnaires regarding German Russian congregations and ministers; town histories; other diverse material surrounding the history of Germans from Russia.

Languages: English and German

Links:

- [The Black Sea Germans in the Dakotas](#) by George Rath
- [Johannes Bonekemper Papers, 1802-1856](#) (NDSU Archives)
- [NDSU Archives](#)

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Citation: Rev. George Rath Collection, 005, Germans from Russia Heritage Collection, NDSU Libraries, Fargo, ND

BIOGRAPHY

George Rath was born in 1891 in Nesselrode (Kuyalnik), near Birsula, Province of Odessa. He attended the Gymnasium (High School and Junior College) at Ananyew and finished with

distinction. In 1912, he began his study of Theology at the University of Dorpat, Esthonia. In 1916, he was called to the Russian army. Dismissed after the war in 1918, he went to Germany and finished his theological studies at the University of Tuebingen, Wuerttemberg. In 1922, he came to the United States and after ordination as a UCC minister, took up ministerial duties at Loveland and Denver in Colorado; Worland, Wyoming; and Jansen, Nebraska. While in Denver, he obtained the Bachelor's Degree at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln. In 1946, he became Associate Professor of Modern Languages at the State College in Peru, Nebraska, where he taught until his retirement in 1961. He taught three more years at the Presbyterian College at Tarkio, Missouri. In 1923, he married Rosine, nee Eisemann, of Hoffnungstal, Province of Odessa.

Rath published in the German language a collection of poems Klaenge der Seele and a book of Fables. His book The Black Sea Germans in the Dakotas was published in 1977. He delivered an address about the immigration of the German Russians to the United States during the World Conference on Records in Salt Lake City, Utah in 1969. He wrote numerous articles in the Dakota Freie Presse during the oppression of the Germans in Russia under Stalin defending their human rights. Rath died in 1977. [condensed from Author's note in Rath, George. The Black Sea Germans in the Dakotas, Freeman, SD: Pine Hill Press, 1977]

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The **Rev. George Rath Collection** is organized into eleven series: correspondence, questionnaires, town history, church history, synod and district history, church conference, manuscript, newspaper, newsletter, magazine and subject files.

The [Correspondence Series](#) contains letters to and from Professor George Rath in 1972 and 1973 regarding information on German Lutheran and Catholic ministers and churches in North and South Dakota.

Professor George Rath developed a form in 1970 seeking information on the history of German churches, congregations and ministers in North and South Dakota. Nine are in this collection. This material has been organized into the [Questionnaire Series](#).

The [Town History Series](#) consists of two photocopied booklets and one page of history from Gackle, Logan Co., North Dakota and Akaska and Lowry, both Walworth County, South Dakota.

The [Church History Series](#) has twenty booklets and two excerpts from publications published between 1928 and 1975 from North Dakota, South Dakota, Kansas and Michigan churches. A few are photocopies. Most represent anniversaries or dedications.

The [Synod and District History Series](#) consist of four booklets of synod or district history dating from 1929 to 1968 from Michigan, Nebraska, Minnesota and "Dakota."

In the [Church Conference Series](#) there are eleven booklets, programs and a yearbook concerning church conferences in Lincoln and Wayne, Nebraska; Fresno, California; Quincy, Illinois; Forest Park, Illinois; Beaver Dam and Ripon, Wisconsin dating between 1872 and 1954.

A [Manuscript Series](#) has two typescripts: a 1957 history of the Lutheran mission to southern Dakota Territory and a photocopy of Harry G. Scholz's thesis on German colonists and the repeal of colonial law in Russia in 1871.

In the [Newspaper Series](#) there are seven church-related publications dating from 1936 to 1973. All are in English; one is in both English and German. Three were published in Illinois, two by Augsburg Publishing House in Minnesota, and one each from Fairbury, Nebraska, and the Assumption Abbey in Richardton, North Dakota.

The [Magazine Series](#) consists of five publications dating from 1949 to 1962, consisting of two Sudeten Bulletin: A Central European Review; two Concordia Historical Institute Quarterly and one Der Bote aus Zion.

The [Subject Files](#) have a variety of materials including a 1915 newspaper clipping on German Quakers; two newspaper clippings from 1975 on the Edelmann family settlers in South Dakota; membership forms and information from 1970 on the organization American Historical Society of Germans from Russia; a genealogy code list for the Hosmer family of Emmons County, North Dakota; a note with a listed of Baptist churches; a bibliography of 73 booklets most of which are in this collection; a 1970 Constitution for the Eden United Church of Christ in Chicago; an undated form letter by an unnamed group against school busing in Chicago, Ill.; a newspaper from Cardston, Alberta Canada dated 1907; an 1958 nomination sheet for an unknown church; and an archival finding aid for and excerpts from the Johannes Bonekemper diaries.

The [Book Series](#) consists of two books one is authored by Johannes Schneider and the other by Dr. Fred Schwarz.

SEPARATION RECORD

Book (GRHC catalogued book collection)

- [Bericht ueber die 16 Synodal Versammlung des Wisconsin Distrikts der Evangelisch-Lutheranisch Synod von Iowa und anderen Staaten](#), 1914.

BOX AND FOLDER LIST

Box/Folder	Contents
1/1	Finding aid and detailed inventory

CORRESPONDENCE SERIES

Two letters. One from Professor George Rath, State College, Peru, NE, on 10 October 1972; attached is letter from Kathryn DeWald, Freeman, SD. Concerns Lutheran ministers Rev. J. F. Doescher and Lutheran churches in Menno and Heilbron, SD

Copy of a thank you letter from Prof. G. Rath, State College, Peru, NE, to Rev. Wm H. Simpfendoerfer, January 19, 1973.

Letter from George Rath dated 10 January 1973 to unknown person regarding Rev. L. Pfaller's book and articles by Rev. A Kolbek, and requesting list of ministers, priests, "duel" friars for Bismarck diocese. Reference to Friar V[ictor] Frankenhauser of Assumption Abbey, Richardton, ND

Letter from Rev. R. Kirschenmann, Moses Lake, Washington, on 1 February 1993, to Professor George Rath, State College, Peru, NE. Contains brief history of Black Sea Germans in South Dakota towns and villages

Letter from George Rath 18 October 1972 to Mrs. Walter Essig, Denhof, ND, requesting names of American Lutheran ministers of German-Russian descent; reply on back from Rev Wilhelm H. Simpfendoerfer, Bismarck, ND, January 19, 1973

Letter of inquiry from Edward C. Fredrich, Church history, on letterhead of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Mequon, Wisconsin – requesting information on Wilhelm Staerkel in Seminary records and an unknown Neuman

QUESTIONNAIRE SERIES

Three blank questionnaire forms developed by George Rath sent in 1970 to Germans from Russia churches and people in North and South Dakota.

Response in German to questionnaire from Rev. John Erbes, Batesland, SD, Volga German Lutheran Synod history

Response to questionnaire from Pastor, Rev. Adalbert F.W. Geiger, Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, Firesteel [Dewey County], SD

Response to questionnaire from Rev. Tom Teske: St. John's Church, Underwood, ND

Response to questionnaire from Rev. Forss: St. Paul Lutheran, Mound City [Campbell County], SD

Response to questionnaire from Rev. M.A. Putz, Redeemer Congregational of Mandan [Morton County], ND

Response to questionnaire from Rev. R.W. Kloehn, of unnamed congregation, but directs to Tappen [Kidder County, ND] Jubilee Book

Response to questionnaire from unnamed pastor, Jamestown, ND

Response to questionnaire from unnamed pastor, June 12, 1970

Response to questionnaire from Rev. Arthur P.C. Kell, unknown location, mentions publication date of [unknown] Sievert's paper

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TOWN HISTORY SERIES

Akaska [Walworth County, SD] – Historical Book, Golden Anniversary, 1907-1957 (photocopy) Selby, SD: Selby Record.

Lowry [Walworth County, SD] – Historical Book, 1907-1957 (photocopy) Selby, SD: Selby Record.

Gackle, Logan County, ND. One page typed excerpt from the Golden Jubilee of Gackle 1904-1954.

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CHURCH HISTORY SERIES

Eben-Ezer: Die Geschichte der Medina-Pfarrstelle Nach funfund swanzig Jahren von 1903 bis 1928. Medina and Streeter [Stutsman County], ND: n.p., 1928, pages 31. Inscribed: Ludwig Ebel and Mrs. Ben Eissinger.

Reeb, Paul E. Hope Valley Church; 1907-1939 (near St. Francis), Cheyenne County, Kansas, Denver, Colorado: 1970

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1893-1943, 50th Anniversary, Roscoe, South Dakota: [local printer], October 1943. Inscribed: Pastor Rev. M.P. Janke

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1929-1954, "Twenty-Five years of Grace," Batesland, South Dakota, 1954

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 45th Anniversary, 1910-1955, Akaska, South Dakota: 1955. Inscribed on cover: Akaska

Dedication service, 50th Anniversary, St. Paul Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod), Scotland, South Dakota, (1950-1955)

Church of St. John the Baptist (Catholic Church), Golden Jubilee 1906-1956, Onaka, South Dakota: William O. Brady, Bishop of Sioux Falls (printer), 1956

St. John's Lutheran Church, Seventy-Fifth Anniversary, 6 October 1957, Yankton, South Dakota: 1957

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Thirty-fifth Anniversary, 1923-1958, Hazelton, North Dakota, history

St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 50th Anniversary, 1909-1959, Lemmon, South Dakota: [local printing], 1959. Inscribed: G Rath

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church and School, Dedication, 26 July 1959, Mobridge, South Dakota: Mobridge Reminder Print, 1959. Inscribed: G. Rath

Evangelical United Brethren Church, Seventy-Fifth Anniversary, 1886-1961, Eureka, South Dakota: (Le Mars, Iowa printer) 1961

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church (Wisconsin Synod), Fiftieth Anniversary (1911-1961), Akaska, South Dakota. (photo copy)

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Congregation, 1887-1962, Diamond Jubilee, Mound City, South Dakota: Pollack Pioneer printer, 1962

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Diamond Anniversary, 1888-1963, Bowdle, South Dakota: Pioneer Press, Bowdle, South Dakota, 1963. Loose material: questionnaire pasted in back

Dedication service program for enlarged Missouri Synod Sanctuary, Evangelical Lutheran Church 1924-1967, Saginaw Michigan. Loose material: Christmas card with one color interior photo of chancel at Christmas

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 50th Anniversary, (1918-1968) Chamberlain, South Dakota, (1899, Ola, Red Lake, West Point, Pukwana, and White Lake rural congregations); Chamberlain, SD: Register Publishing 1968

First Reformed Church (Volga-German Reformed) Church, 50th Anniversary (1919-1969), Flint, Michigan; unknown press, 1969

Zelms, Rev. E.J., St. John's Evangelical-Lutheran Church, Sixtieth Anniversary of Congregation, 1910-1970; Dowagiac, Michigan, June 14, 1970: self-published, 1970, pages 31. Inscribed: From Rev. EJ Zelms/ 601 McClary, Dowagiac, Mich.

"88 Years of Grace," 1887-1975 at Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church, Albion Township [near Ellendale], ND

Kassel parish (1888) at Menno, SD and First Salem Reformed Church in Menno, SD, German text. One page photocopy

Lutheran Witness (Missouri Synod), Vol. 64, No. 12, (South Dakota district missions), Trinity Lutheran Church of Reliance, SD (near Chamberlain), 1917 founding. One page photocopy

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SYNOD AND DISTRICT HISTORY SERIES

Eidenberg, C, Die Evangelische Synode von Nord-Amerika (21 years), Baroda, Michigan: unknown printer, 1929.

Campbell, I.C.G., History of the Lincoln Association (1875-1965 Nebraska Congregational Churches); Weeping Water, NE: 1965.

Bolliger, Dr. Theodore P., "Mission und Anstalten" articles, Kirchenzeitung, [history of Dakota district of German-Russian Reformed Church] Cleveland, Ohio: Central Publishing House, 1935. Photocopy.

Fredrich, Edward C., "The Minnesota District's First Fifty Years," 1918-1968, New Ulm, MN: Dr. Martin Luther College, 1968.

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CHURCH CONFERENCE SERIES

Congregational Churches of America, New Frontiers of Faith, 42nd Conference (Zion United Church of Christ), Lincoln, Nebraska: 1964

Congregational Churches of America (general conference), Diamond Jubilee (1883-1959), Fresno, California: Pioneer Press, Yankton, South Dakota; 1959.

Protokoll der Genera-Conferenz der Evangelischen Synode des Westens
(Juli 1872, Salems-Kirche in Quincy, Illinois) St. Louis, Missouri: Druck
von August Wiebusch und Sohn, 1872

Official reports to the 33rd North American Baptist General Conference,
(Chicago) Forest Park, Illinois: Roger Williams Press, 1961. Inscribed: G.
Rath

Synodal-Bericht der Deutschen Evangelisch-Lutheranischen Synod von
Nebraska, Hastings, Nebraska: 1918. Inscribed: "Raabe" [for Friedrich
Rabe, secretary]

Teckhaus, H.U., Synodal-Bericht, Verhandlungen der 45 Versammlung
der Deutschen Evangelical-Lutheran Synode von Nebraska, Wayne,
Nebraska: Wayne Herold, 1934. Loose material: two blank checks for The
Yellowstone Bank, Laurel, Montana, 193?, containing addresses

Konstitution der Evangelisch-Lutherischen Synod von Iowa und andern
Staaten, Waverly, Iowa: Druck des Wartburg Publishing House, 1921.
Inscribed: Geo. Rath

Bericht ueber die 16, Synodal-Versammlung des Wisconsin Districts der
Evangelisch-Lutheran Synad von Iowa in Beaver Dam, Wisconsin 1914

Bericht ueber die 17 Synodal Versammlung des Wisconsin Districts der
Evangelisch-Lutheranische Synode von Iowa und andern Staaten, Mai
1915 at Ripon, WI; Waverly, IA: Wartburg Publishing House, 1915

Bericht ueber die 30 Versammlung des Westlichen Districts der Synode
von Iowa and andern Staaten, Cole Camp, August 1924, Missouri,
Waverly, Iowa: [Wartburg Publishing House], 1924

American Lutheran Church [Department of Stewardship and Finance, ed.
1954 Yearbook of the American Lutheran Church, Columbus, OH: The
Wartburg Press, [1954]

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MANUSCRIPT SERIES

Typescript, 1957. History of Lutheran Mission to Dakota Territory
(Yankton County) in 1874 including the anniversary service programs

Photocopy of thesis by Scholz, Harry G., The German Colonists in Russia:
The Repeal of Russia's Law of the Colonists in 1871 and its Effects of
German Colonist Population, a history thesis, Orange, California:

Chapman College, 1969, pages 23-58 with bibliography. Includes a carbon copy of a two-page review in German by Georg Rath, Peru, Nebraska

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NEWSPAPER SERIES

The Inter-Church Messenger of Jefferson County, (Volume 14, No. 22, 12 August 1936), Fairbury, Nebraska: Inter Church Messenger, 1936, pages eight. Contains article "Religion in Russia" by George Rath

"American Fraternal Insurance Society" (formerly "Verein der Wolga-Deutschen"), Chicago, Illinois, 1st Quarter 1957

The Assumption Abbey "Brother", Volume 7, Number 2, Fall - Winter 1966, Richardton, North Dakota: Assumption Abbey, 1966, pages 6. Was mailed to Mr. & Mrs. John Schwab, Hazen, ND. Contents: obituary of Frederick Schuchard

"Expanding Horizons," Vol. 5, No. 2, February 1968. The Illinois Conference News, pages 8. Mailed to H. Schweibel, Chicago, IL. Loose material: newsletter, Eden United Church of Christ, Chicago, IL, February 7, 1968, mailed to Mr. & Mrs. Henry Schwebel, Chicago, and newspaper clippings

"Eden United Church of Christ," Chicago, IL, January 17, 1968, mailed to Mr. & Mrs. Henry Schwebel, Chicago

Book News Letter, Number 443, March-April 1973, Minneapolis, Minnesota: Augsburg Publishing House, 1973, pages 8

Book News Letter, Number 444, May-June 1973, Minneapolis, Minnesota: Augsburg Publishing House, 1973, pages 8

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MAGAZINE SERIES

Booklet, "Sudeten Bulletin: A Central European Review," Vol. 6, No. 4, April 1958, Munich, Germany: Sudeten German Archive, pages 73 – 96

Booklet, "Sudeten Bulletin: A Central European Review," Vol. 6, No. 5, May 1958, Munich, Germany: Sudeten German Archive, pages 97 – 120

Der Bote aus Zion, Jerusalem: Foerderung der Evangelischen Mission im Heiligen Lande (USA: Mr. A.W. Fiedler, Boonton, New Jersey), Syrisches Waisenhaus/Schnellersches Waisenhaus, Koeln-Marienburg,

Germany, July 1949, pages 22, includes photos. Postmarked Jansen, Nebr., Nov 17 1949, 11 AM

Kluender, Paul L., "Beginning a Prairie Ministry, 1908." (page 68)
Concordia Historical Institute Quarterly, Vol. 35, No. 2, July 1962, St. Louis, Missouri: Concordia Historical Institute, 1962, pages 31. (2 copies)

Concordia Historical Institute Quarterly, Vol. 37, No. 3, October 1964, St. Louis, Missouri: Concordia Historical Institute, 1962, pages 47. Contains list of District Archivists and Historians inside back cover

SUBJECT FILES SERIES

- 1/11** Cardston Unlimited, Vol. 4, No. 33, Cardston, Alberta, September 30, 1970. [Stamped: Jacob Rath, Box 296, Cardston, Alberta]
- 1/12** Newspaper clipping, Weshalb "Quaker" Speisung? Die "freunde" Nicht im Kriege. (excerpt) Eureka Rundschau, 3 June, 1915, and reprint of 1911 article from Odessaer Zeitung by Pastor Daniel Steinwand and Mrs. Maria Wolff (McIntosh County) ND
- 1/13** Two newspaper clippings, "Bible Reveals Family History," Aberdeen American News, Aberdeen, South Dakota, June 1975. Content: 1812 Bible of Edelmann family (Baden origins) from Rohrbach (?), Beresan district to Yankton as pioneers in 1873. [Menno-Freeman pioneers]; and Tobin, Ellen, "Edelmans Early Settlers" article, (page 4), Yankton Daily Press and Dakotan, (Wednesday, 2 July 1975), Yankton, SD: 1975, with one photograph
- 1/14** Membership Data Card, blank, for The American Historical Society of Germans from Russia, Greeley, Colorado; an invitational flyer promoting for an AHSG meeting, Sunday, March 8, 1970, 2 p.m., Lincoln, Nebraska and a form letter, undated, with invitation to join The American Historical Society of Germans from Russia, Greeley, CO. On back: photocopy of Stumpp map of Migration Routes
- 1/15** Three lists: one on note paper, of Baptist churches founded in North Dakota from 1888 to 1930, handwritten by George Rath. The second is a one-page list of 51 Genealogy data codes in electronic format with computer print-out list for Ulmer family of Hosmer (Edmonds County), SD, dated 16 January 1973. Stamped: Kermit B. Karns. The third is a handwritten bibliography of 73 historic Germans from Russia membership/churches of South Dakota and North Dakota

- 1/16** Booklet, "Constitution of the Eden United Church of Christ," Chicago, Illinois. Effective 1 October 1970; and a form letter against busing of school children in Chicago area
- 1/17** Nomination sheet. Voter's Meeting, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, January 18, 1958. Categories for Deacon, Trustee, Chairman, Board of Christian Education, Ushers, Recording Secretary, Evangelism Committee
- 1/18** Finding aid from the North Dakota Institute of Regional Studies, NDSU, Fargo, Manuscript 91, from Carl Bonekemper donor's files #2074/2064/2056. Consists of box list, short biography and bibliography for Johannes Bonekemper (1795-1857). Included is a 63-page synopsis of the diaries excerpted by Brigitte von Budde 1990. Johannes Bonekemper was an Evangelical Reformed Pastor in Rohrbach parish, Beresan district, near Odessa, Ukraine (South Russia)
- 1/19** Two-page excerpt from the book Immanuel by Pastor Herman Dalton/ Carl Bonekemper talks about his father

BOOK SERIES

- 1/ 20** Schneider, Johannes, Zwoelf Tage auf dem atlantischen Ocean, Winnipeg, Canada: National Press Limited, Winnipeg/Manitoba, 1921. Schneider's ocean- ship diary. Inscribed on cover: Herrn C Pfaffen Rath von A. Schneider Pastor. [Added: 2-page translation of one chapter and short biography of Johannes Schneider.]
- 1** Schwarz, Dr. Fred. You Can Trust the Communists (to be Communists), Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey