



GERMANS FROM RUSSIA
GRHC
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**Finding Aid to the
Dr. Adam Giesinger
Collection
2010.20; 2011.36**

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OVERVIEW

Donor: Ronald Giesinger, Jean (Giesinger) Van Wallegem, Carole (Giesinger) Tilley, and Jim Giesinger

Accession Date: 25 October 2010; 10 October 2011

Collection Number: 021

Quantity: 3.25 linear feet

Summary: A collection of books, correspondence, speeches, research, publications, photographs, and electronic media relating to various topics on Dr. Adam Giesinger and the Germans from Russia.

Languages: English, German, & Russian

Links:

- [GRHC Interview with Adam Giesinger](#)
- [Dr. Adam Giesinger's Friends of the GRHC webpage](#)
- [Giesinger books on the NDSU Institutional Repository \(DSpace\)](#)
- [Dr. Adam Giesinger photographs on the NDSU Institutional Repository \(DSpace\)](#)
- [From Catherine to Khrushchev: The Story of Russia's Germans](#) by Dr. Adam Giesinger
- [The Way It Was: A Family History and Autobiography](#) by Dr. Adam Giesinger
- [Donating the Dr. Adam Giesinger Collection](#)
- [Obituary of Adam Giesinger](#)

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Citation: Dr. Adam Giesinger Collection, 021, Germans from Russia Heritage Collection, NDSU Libraries, Fargo, ND.

BIOGRAPHY

Adam Giesinger was born on February 6, 1909, on a homestead near Holdfast, Saskatchewan, to parents Paul and Anastasia (Selinger) Giesinger. Paul and Anastasia had seven children: John, Adam, Anna, Gabriel, Frank, Peter, and Paul.

Adam attended Campion College in Regina from 1922 to 1929. During those years, Giesinger completed four years of high school and three years of college. In 1929, he graduated with a B.A. degree.

Giesinger taught German, chemistry, and mathematics at Campion College until 1933 when he returned to school at the College of Education at the University of Saskatchewan in order to be qualified for teaching in public schools. He also attended Queens University to further his studies in mathematics.

On December 26, 1935, Adam Giesinger married Margaret (Madge) Ingram, and the couple had six children: Paul (1936-1949), Ronald, Jean, Gerald (1943-2008), Carole, and Jim. Adam's beloved wife, Margaret, died in 1988.

From 1936 to 1942, Giesinger taught high school in Bruno, Saskatchewan. He also served as the school's principal. He received a Bachelor of Education degree from the University of Saskatchewan in 1937. He later continued his chemistry studies and received a Master of Science degree in 1951 and a Ph.D. in 1957 from the University of Manitoba.

For a number of years, 1942 to 1976, Giesinger was on the faculty at St. Paul's College, University of Manitoba. He was a former president of the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia. He was also a member of the Knights of Columbus, and he was invested in the Knighthood of St. Sylvester by Pope Paul VI in 1966.

Giesinger was a noted author and even published his own autobiography. He also wrote a number of articles and papers on the subject of Germans from Russia. He is well-known for his comprehensive book [From Catherine to Khrushchev: The Story of Russia's Germans](#).

Dr. Adam Giesinger died on June 5, 2004 at the Misericordia Health Centre in Winnipeg at the age of ninety-five.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The **Dr. Adam Giesinger Collection** comprises of correspondence, photographs, documents, publications, and writings that span the many years of Giesinger's life. Giesinger was the author of many books and papers. He also collected a large volume of books relating to the Germans from Russia, many of which are housed in the GRHC library. Giesinger was a talented writer, a helpful teacher, and a knowledgeable researcher. He was always an advocate in preserving, researching, and sharing the culture and history of the Germans from Russia.

The collection's organization was centered and developed upon the order that was already established when the collection was donated to the GRHC. The Dr. Adam Giesinger Collection is comprised of ten series: Correspondence, Speeches, Research, Publications, Records, Mennonites, Subject, Photograph, Audio Tapes, and Microfilm.

The [Correspondence Series](#) spans from 1960 to 2000 and includes both outgoing and incoming letters and emails. Most of the correspondence is in English but some is also in German. The majority of the correspondence has been organized by subject but some is also by the individual, and it has been placed in alphabetical order. Giesinger corresponded often on subjects ranging from personal and family matters to research.

The [Speeches Series](#) consists of lectures and addresses given by Adam Giesinger. He delivered a number of German speeches from Russia and was quite often a keynote speaker at events, like AASGR and GRHS conventions.

The [Research Series](#) is the largest in the collection. The series includes typed and copied versions of articles and papers, and excerpts of books. Some were sent to Giesinger from friends and colleagues and others he acquired over the years. Some of the series has been organized by the title of the work and others by the author or subject. The files by author or subject have been organized as such mainly because there are multiple records within the folder.

The [Publications Series](#) is comprised of published booklets, periodicals, newspapers, and documents. The series contains publications in English, German, and Russian. The series has been arranged alphabetically.

The [Records Series](#) includes documents and copies of statistical information on towns, people and families, and census records. The records are not necessarily about Giesinger and his family. Some of the documents are on the Giesinger family, but there is also information on subjects Giesinger researched for himself and for others. The series has been arranged alphabetically by subject.

The [Mennonite Series](#) contains information, documents, and publications relating to the Mennonites. There were numerous records on the Mennonites, enough to warrant their own series.

The [Subject Series](#) consists mainly of miscellaneous items that did not directly relate to any other series. The contents of the series were organized by subject and have been placed in alphabetical order.

The [Photograph Series](#) includes images of families, conventions, buildings, and people. Most of the photographs have been identified, but there are a few that are unknown. The photograph series has been organized into alphabetical order.

The [Audio Tapes Series](#) contains thirty-one cassette tapes, some of which are part of a set. The tapes have a variety of topics ranging from music to lectures. Most of the tapes are cased, and their names are derived from what was written on them. There was a note included with the

audio tapes from Giesinger that said, “These are audio tapes that people have sent me over the years. I don’t remember the contents.”

The [Microfilm Series](#) has nineteen rolls of microfilm, two of which are part of a set. Only a select few of the microfilm are in proper and usable rolls. On the microfilm are various copies of articles, excerpts of books, and complete copies of books. The organization of the series is based on the way in which it was donated. Most of the microfilm rolls have more than one item on them but they are mostly from the same publications; so the titles of the microfilm have been provided to reflect the title of the publication which the article or excerpt appears in on the particular roll. In some cases the title of the work and author are also provided.

BOX AND FOLDER LIST

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

CORRESPONDENCE SERIES

1/2	Allyn Brosz Correspondence, 1995
1/3	Bishop Anton Zerr Correspondence, 1998-1999
1/4	Bob Schuh Correspondence, 1995-1996
1/5	Early Medical Care in Saskatchewan Correspondence, 1984
1/6	Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen Correspondence, 1960-1982
1/7	Jo Ann Kuhr Correspondence, 1998
1/8	Lauber Family Correspondence, 1980-1992
1/9	Lew and Dona (Reeves) Marquardt Correspondence, 1996-2000
1/10	Libraries in Germany Correspondence, 1960-1968
1/11	Lutz and Ziegler Family Correspondence, 1998
1/12	Richelieu Letters to Kochubey Correspondence, 1993
1/13	Schell Family Correspondence, 1982
1/14	W.E. Roth Correspondence, 1995

SPEECHES SERIES

1/15	Speeches, 1971-1973, 1977-1981
1/16	Speeches, 1984, 1989
1/17	Speeches (no dates)

RESEARCH SERIES

1/18	AHSGR Journal
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1/19	“Canada,” Vol. 3 No. 1, 1975
1/20	“Catholic Heritage in Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota”
1/21	“Catholicism in Asiatic Russia”
1/22	“Clues” and Work Papers, 1969, 1972-1977, 1979-1980
1/23	“Die deutschen ansiedelungen in Russland”
1/24	“Die deutschen katholischen kolonien am Schwarzen Meere”
1/25	“Die deutschen kolonien in Cherson und Bessarabien”
1/26	“Die Franzosenherrschaft in der Pfalz, 1792-1814” – Part 1
1/27	“Die Franzosenherrschaft in der Pfalz, 1792-1814” – Part 2
1/28	“Die Planerkolonien am Asowischen Meere”
1/29	“Die Situation der deutschen Minderheit in der UdSSR”
1/30	“Down the Volga in a Time of Troubles”
1/31	“Ellis Island Goes Online with Immigration Lists”
1/32	Ernst Sartorius
1/33	German Immigrants
1/34	“German Russian Settlement in Ellis County”
1/35	“German Settlement on the Volga under Catherine II”
1/36	“Germans in Nova Scotia”
1/37	Germans in the Dobrudscha, 1985-1988
1/38	“Guide to Writing Local History in Saskatchewan”
1/39	Heritage Review, 1974, 1980, 1983-1986
1/40	Heritage Review, 1992-1993, 1996-1997
1/41	Johannes Brendel
1/42	Lorenz Reichert
1/43	Mittelsteiner
1/44	“My Disillusionment in Russia”
1/45	“On Dialect Mixture: the Case of Ellis County (Kansas) Volga-German”
1/46	“Ontario and the First World War 1914-1918”
1/47	“Osteuropa,” 1982
1/48	Paul Schach – German Dialects
1/49	Rev. H. Metzger
1/50	“Settlement of European Immigrants in Our Prairie Provinces”
1/51	Sidney Heitman
1/52	“St. Joseph’s Church at St. Joseph Post Office, Glen Ullin, ND”
1/53	“Studies on the Interior of Russia”
1/54	“The Disappearing Russian Embassy Archives, 1922-49”
1/55	“The Erection of Church Schools in the German Colonies in South Russia 1804-1914”
1/56	“The Formation of German Colonies in the North Caucasus”
1/57	“The German Colonies in the Kutschurgan Region,” 1979-1981
1/58	“The Immigration of the Russo-German Catholics and Lutherans into Canada”
1/59	“The Incidence of the Emigration during the French Revolution”
1/60	“The Trail of the Black Walnut”
1/61	“Tsar Nicolas I”

PUBLICATIONS SERIES

- 1/62 Bulletin – Canadian Ethnic Studies Association, 1980-1982
1/63 Cold War International History Project Bulletin, 1992
1/64 “Columbia: KC Report,” 1977
1/65 Der Deutsch-Kanadische Hausfreund, 1936
1/66 Exploring Family History in Saskatchewan, 1983
1/67 Family Records Today, Vol. 3 No. 2, 1982
1/68 Historical Review Paper No. 1 – AHSGR
1/69 Heritage Review
Vol. 2, No. 2, April 1981
Vol. 12, No. 4, December 1982
Vol. 28, No. 4, December 1998
1/70 Make History, 1978, 1982
2/1 Notable Works & Collections, 1980
2/2 Russia in 1955 – Magazine Articles
2/3 Saskatchewan Genealogical Society Bulletin, 1974, 1978, 1980
2/4 Spiegel Spezial: Alarm für die Umwelt, 1992
2/5 “The [Manitoba] Ensign” – Ordeal of a Deportee, 1950
2/6 The Genealogical Accredited Researcher’s Record Roundup, 1970

RECORDS SERIES

- 2/7 Alt-Schwedendorf Records
2/8 Black Sea Germans
2/9 “Die Deutschen in Russland”
2/10 “German-Canadians and the Federal Multicultural Policy”
2/11 “Germans from Russia who Came from Galicia, Bukowina, and Northern Bessarabia”
2/12 Giesinger Family Research
2/13 Kamenka in the Volga Region
2/14 Mühlhausendorf Records
2/15 Neu-Danzig Records
2/16 Odessa Calendar Records
2/17 Passenger Lists of Immigrant Ships
2/18 Studies and Reports on Colonization – Gregory Pisarevsky

MENNONITE SERIES

- 3/1 Festival Quarterly, 1975
3/2 “Manitoba and Its Mennonites,” 1974
3/3 Mennonite Booklets

- 3/4 “Mennonite Immigration to Manitoba”
- 3/5 Mennonite Mirror, Vol. 4 No. 5, 1975
- 3/6 Mennonite Newspaper Articles
- 3/7 Mennonite Village Museum
- 3/8 Red River Valley Echo, 1970
- 3/9 “The Mennonites Come to Kansas”

SUBJECT SERIES

- 3/10 Canadian Ethnic Studies Association Directory, 1985
- 3/11 German-American Conference, 1989
- 3/12 Immigration History Society – booklet
- 3/13 Kuehn Family History
- 3/14 Letters Patent – Canadian Benevolent Society of Germans from Russia Inc.
- 3/15 List of Books and Bibliographies
- 3/16 Maps of German Settlements in Russia
- 3/17 Memorial Card – Alexander Frison
- 3/18 Parliamentary Guide
- 3/19 Saint Fidelis Church Bulletin, 1976
- 3/20 Selinger Family Tree
- 3/21 Society for German-American Studies, 1994
- 3/22 Visits to Former German Villages

PHOTOGRAPH SERIES

- 4/1 AHSGR Convention, 1971 (6)
- 4/2 Churches – Kamenka and Marks (5)
- 4/3 Lauber and Heidrich Family (9)
- 4/4 Schell and Uebell Family (3)

5 AUDIO TAPES SERIES

1. Katy Michelson – 12 Jan. 1982
2. Lawrence Welk speaks to the Graduation Classes of Emmons Central Catholic HS, Strasburg, ND in the order on the tape 1976, 1977 & 1978 (continued on side 2) / School sisters of Notre Dame, Mankato, Minnesota
3. Music from Germany
4. NDHSGR Feb 10, 1979 (set of 2) – Tape 1 & 2
5. “Sources for Mennonite Research in Non-North American Libraries” by Peter J Klassen (set of 5)

6. "The Transformation and Polarization of the Mennonites in Russia; 1789-1914" by Jim Urry
7. "A Discussion with Dr. Walter Swatsky" (set of 3)
8. AM Saturday-Business meeting / The Russian German Menn's Response to the AM. Prairies Dr. E Suederman / AHSGR
9. Pauline Litfin / AHSGR / Lodi, Ca. 4/24/83
10. AHSGR
11. [no title either side]
12. Cultural Crossroads: Germans from Russia
13. GFR-06 / Village Research in the USSR / Dr. William Wiest
14. Windsor Gardens Sept 8, 1968 (set of 2) – Tape 1 & 2
15. Criticism of AHSGR / 24 & 25 June 88 from Herb Popcke (set of 3)
16. German Mass; Victoria, KS – Dec. 12, 1982
17. Dr. Adam Giesinger, guest Speaker, North Dakota State University, Fargo, April 5, 1978
18. Side 1. "Catholic Volga German Songs sung and played by Lawrence Weigel for Adam Giesinger."
Side 2. Variety of Volga German Songs sung and played by Lawrence Weigel for Adam Giesinger Aug. 5, 1977
19. Catholic Volga German Dialects of Ellis Co. Ks – Stories – Song – Die Vertriebene / 1-7-79 LAWeigel
20. Dr. Adam Giesinger, Guest Lecturer, North Dakota State University, Fargo; April 5, 1978 – Part 1 & 2
21. Dr. Adam Giesinger, Guest Lecturer, North Dakota State University, Fargo; April 11, 1979 / Germans from Russia Class

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MICROFILM SERIES

1. Osteuropa, 1926-1928, 1934-1935
Nation und Staat, 1934-1935, 1937
Die Getreuen, 1924, 1926, 1928-1930, 1934
2. Deutsche Post aus dem Osten, 1926, 1928-1929, 1937
Deutsches Leben in Russland, 1934
3. Deutsche Post aus dem Osten, 1938-1939, 1941
4. Deutsche Erde, 1906, 1908, 1910
5. Odessa-Kalender, 1907, 1909
6. Deutsche Monatsschrift fur Russland, 1912-1914
Deutsche Monatsschrift fur Russland, 1913-1914
Deutsche Erde, 1908

7. Odessa-Kalender, 1913
8. Odessa-Kalender, 1900, 1910, 1914
9. Odessa-Kalender, 1908
10. Odessa-Kalender, 1910
“Die Grossliebentaler (Mariinskoje) Wolost”
11. Die Getreuen, 1925, 1927, 1931, 1934-1935
Timpe, Georg.
12. (“Microfilm A”) Beratz – “Die deutschen Kolonien an der unteren Wolga in ihrer Entstehung und ersten Entwicklung”
13. (“Microfilm B” – 2 rolls) Keller – “Die deutschen Kolonien in Sudrussland”
14. (“Microfilm C” – 2 rolls) Klaus – “Unsere Kolonien. Aus dem Russischen übersetzt von J. Tows”
15. (“Microfilm D”) Lehmann – “Zur Geschichte des Deutschtums in Kanada. Band I: Das Deutschtum in Ostkanada”
16. (“Microfilm E”) Lehmann – “Das Deutschtum in Westkanada”