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**Finding aid to the  
Delores Capstraw  
Collection  
1997.05**

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## OVERVIEW

**Donor:** Delores Capstraw

**Accession Date:** October 1997

**Collection Number:** 055

**Quantity:** 1 folder & 1 artifact

**Summary:** Small paper replica of South Dakota sod house that was owned by Philip and Amelia (Wacker) Zenker of Leola, South Dakota. The replica house was made by Delores Capstraw, circa 1997.

**Languages:** English

**Links:**

- [Transcribed interview of Kathryn Amelia \(Zenker\) O'Neill](#)
- [Robert Capstraw memorial](#) (Find A Grave)

**Access Restrictions:** Open to the public, available upon request. Copyrights to items in this collection remain with original copyright holders or are in the public domain.

**Citation:** Delores Capstraw Collection, 055, Germans from Russia Heritage Collection, NDSU Libraries, Fargo, ND.

## BIOGRAPHY

Kathryn Zenker was born on August 19, 1905 to Philip and Amelia (Wacker) Zenker. The family lived in a sod house near Leola, South Dakota for many years. On January 25, 1925, Kathryn Zenker married Joseph O'Neill.

Delores O'Neill was born to Joseph and Kathryn (Zenker) O'Neill. Delores married Robert Capstraw on June 16, 1984 in Sacramento, California. Robert Capstraw was born on October 9, 1925 and died on July 21, 2009.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT**

The **Delores Capstraw Collection** consists of one model replica of a sod home that was owned by Philip and Amelia (Wacker) Zenker of Leola, South Dakota. The original structure was built upon their homestead, circa 1898, and stood until 1938. The Zenkers raised eight children in this two-room home.

The model was created by Delores Capstraw, circa 1997, out of heavy watercolor paper. It is painted with watercolors on the exterior and demonstrates the home's thatched roof and basic structure. The main body of the model is white, and features red doors on the front and back. The roof has been painted brown and gold to simulate the branches and brush that were used on this type of building. It has two windows and a barrel painted on the front of the model, and one window on the side. Tall grasses are painted along the bottom of all four sides. A small chimney made of paper sticks out of the roof. The model measures 8.5" x 5" x 4".

A letter from the donor, Delores Capstraw, said, "...I am sending this little replica of the South Dakota home in which my mother was born and lived until about 18. I tried to design it so that it could fold flat and be sent and stored easily, but then I was afraid you might have trouble assembling it. I sure did! So it has a little glue to hold it together. It's just a painting on watercolor paper. My mother Kathryn Amelia O'Neill says it looks like the house. (This was my third attempt to get it right.)"

## **SEPARATION RECORD**

The model replica house has been separated from the rest of the collection and is on display at the GRHC.

## **BOX AND FOLDER LIST**

### **1990s-2000 Small Collections Box**

<b>Collection/Folder</b>	<b>Contents</b>
<b>1997.05/1</b>	Finding aid, detailed inventory, and initial inventory
<b>GRHC</b>	Paper model replica of South Dakota sod house



1997.05