



GERMANS FROM RUSSIA  
**GRHC**  
HERITAGE COLLECTION  
NDSU LIBRARIES

**Finding Aid to the  
Curt Renz  
Collection  
2012.10 & 2013.05**

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## OVERVIEW

**Donor:** Curt Renz

**Accession Date:** June 2012; 13 March 2013

**Collection Number:** 111

**Quantity:** 21.5 linear feet

**Summary:** Collection of correspondence, newspaper translations, photographs, organizational materials, books, research, and newsletters. The bulk of the collection dates from the 1950s to 2013.

**Languages:** English, German, & Russian

**Links:**

- [Curt Renz photographs on the NDSU Institutional Repository \(DSpace\)](#)
- [Finding Aid to the earlier Curt Renz donation \(2010.03\)](#)
- [Curt Renz' Corner on the GRHS website](#)
- [A Companion to Albert Eisenbeiss' Familien und Sippenbuch Hoffnungstal/Bessarabien by Curt Renz](#)

**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:** Curt Renz Collection, 111, Germans from Russia Heritage Collection, NDSU Libraries, Fargo, ND.

## BIOGRAPHY

Curt Renz was born on May 18, 1940 to Alvin and Bernese (Berndt) Renz. Curt was born and raised in Herreid, South Dakota. Curt went on to earn a Bachelor's degree in music from Westmar College in LeMars, Iowa and later a Master's degree in Education from the University

of Northern Colorado in Greeley, Colorado. Curt later moved to Iowa and was a teacher there for many years. He retired in 2002. Curt Renz is well-known in the Germans from Russia community, and he has become a recognized and esteemed researcher on genealogy and the Germans from Russia. He has served on the board of directors of the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia (AHSGR) and the Germans from Russia Heritage Society (GRHS).

## SCOPE AND CONTENT

The **Curt Renz Collection** is an extensive collection that consists of correspondence, newspaper translations, photographs, organizational materials, books, research, and newsletters. The bulk of the collection dates from the 1950s to 2013.

The collection's organization is heavily centered on the order that was already established when the collection was donated to the GRHC. The Curt Renz Collection is comprised of ten series: Correspondence, Newspaper, Photograph, AHSGR, Copied Material, Hoffnungstal, Book, Subject, Research, and Newsletter.

The [Correspondence Series](#) is one of the largest in the collection, spanning from 1959 to 2012. The majority of the correspondence is incoming. It has primarily been organized in chronological order. There were a few individuals whose correspondence was separate from the yearly order when the collection was donated. These individuals have their own folder.

The [Newspaper Series](#) contains various German language newspapers that have been copied and translated into English, dating from the early 1900s to the late 1930s.

The [Photograph Series](#) contains forty-six images. Most of these images are undated. The first eleven images are of unknown origin, but they relate to Hoffnungstal and the Laeger family. The other thirty-five images are copied photographs relating to the Hepperle, Buchholz, Bernt, Wenzel, Renz, Wolfer, Hinzmann, and Klein families. The organization of these images has been based on the order established by the donor. Accompanying these thirty-five family images are four pages of text identifying the photographs.

One of the smaller series in the collection is the [AHSGR Series](#). The contents of this series include organizational materials relating to the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia, primarily items associated with conventions. The series dates from the early 1970s to the late 1990s.

The [Copied Material Series](#) is comprised of copied articles, papers, and excerpts of books. The majority of the material is in the German language. The series has been further arranged into two sub-series based on format: [Folders Sub-Series](#) and [Binders Sub-Series](#).

The [Hoffnungstal Series](#) contains a variety of materials relating to Hoffnungstal. The series includes copied documents and certificates, notes and typescripts, maps, and passenger lists.

The smallest series in the collection is the [Book Series](#). These books are research related books that were not sent to cataloging along with the others (see Separation Record below).

The [Subject Series](#) consists of miscellaneous items that did not directly relate to any other series. The series has been arranged into items, placed alphabetically, and a sub-series of unknown census materials ([Census Sub-Series](#)). The census records are organized by location, but their date is not known.

The largest series in the collection is the [Research Series](#). The series has extensive information on old German colonies, like births, letters, deaths, marriages, immigration, and obituaries. The majority of the materials in this series are in large binders. The series has been arranged by colonies in the following sub-series: [Danzig Sub-Series](#), [Güldendorf Sub-Series](#), and [Hoffnungstal Sub-Series](#).

The [Newsletter Series](#) is comprised of one issues of the *FEEFHS Quarterly* (vol. 6, no. 1-4, 1998) published by the Federation of East European Family History Societies.

## SEPARATION RECORD

Donated along with the Curt Renz Collection were a number of books and publications. These items have been cataloged and placed within the GRHC Library.

## BOX AND FOLDER LIST

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

## CORRESPONDENCE SERIES

1/2	Correspondence, 1959-1960
1/3	Correspondence, 1964
2/1	Correspondence, 1970
1/4	Correspondence, 1972
1/5	Correspondence, 1973
1/6	Correspondence, 1974
1/7	Correspondence, 1975
1/8	Correspondence, 1976
1/9	Correspondence, 1977
1/10	Correspondence, 1978
1/11	Correspondence, 1979

**1/12** Correspondence, 1980  
**1/13** Correspondence, 1981  
**1/14** Correspondence, 1982  
**1/15** Correspondence, 1983  
**1/16** Correspondence, 1984  
**1/17** Correspondence, 1985  
**1/18** Correspondence, 1986  
**1/19** Correspondence, 1987  
**1/20** Correspondence, 1988  
**1/21** Correspondence, 1989  
**1/22** Correspondence, 1990  
**1/23** Correspondence, 1991  
**1/24** Correspondence, 1992  
**1/25** Correspondence, 1993  
**1/26** Correspondence, 1994  
**1/27** Correspondence, 1995  
**1/28** Correspondence, 1996  
**1/29** Correspondence, 1997  
**1/30** Correspondence, 1998  
**1/31** Correspondence, 1999  
**1/32** Correspondence, 2000  
**1/33** Correspondence, 2003  
**1/34** Correspondence, no date (1 of 2)  
**1/35** Correspondence, no date (2 of 2)  
**1/36** Correspondence – David Aippersbach, 1997-1998  
**1/37** Correspondence – James Gessele, 2012  
**1/38** Correspondence – Otto Wenzel, 1972-1978

### **NEWSPAPER SERIES**

**1/39** *Dakota Rundschau*, 1929  
**1/40** *Das Nordlicht*, 1921, 1926  
**1/41** *Dakota Freie Presse*, 1909, 1911, 1918-1921, 1933-1939  
**1/42** *Der Staas-Anzeiger*, 1908, 1918-1922, 1932, 1937  
**1/43** *Eureka Rundschau und das Nordlicht*, 1927-1928

### **PHOTOGRAPH SERIES**

**1/44** Hoffnungstal (11)

**1/45** **Photographs 01-06**

2013.05.01 Portrait of Johann Hepperle in military uniform

- 2013.05.02 Portrait of the Johann and Maria (Quenzer) Hepperle family
- 2013.05.03 Portrait of Otelia and Helena Hepperle
- 2013.05.04 Image of Otelia and Helena Hepperle
- 2013.05.05 Portrait of Johann and Maria (Quenzer) Hepperle
- 2013.05.06 Image of Johann and Maria (Quenzer) Hepperle and Matthäus and Barbara (Keller) Wolfer

**1/46**

**Photographs 07-13**

- 2013.05.07 Portrait of Wilhelm Buchholz
- 2013.05.08 Portrait of Andreas Buchholz
- 2013.05.09 Portrait of the Heinrich and Maria (Buchholz) Berndt family
- 2013.05.10 Image of Jakob and Johanna (Berndt) Ulrich
- 2013.05.11 Portrait of Elisabeth Berndt
- 2013.05.12 Image of Jacob Berndt
- 2013.05.13 Wedding portrait of Heinrich and Maria (Buchholz) Berndt

**1/47**

**Photographs 14-24**

- 2013.05.14 Image of Bernese Berndt
- 2013.05.15 Image of Bernese Berndt
- 2013.05.16 Image of Bernese Berndt
- 2013.05.17 Image of Henry Berndt, Bernese Berndt, and Helena Hepperle
- 2013.05.18 Image of Bernese Berndt sitting on top of a cow
- 2013.05.19 Snapshot of Henry Berndt, Helena Hepperle, and Bernese Berndt
- 2013.05.20 Portrait of Bernese Berndt

- 2013.05.21 Image of Maria Buchholz holding Curtis Renz, 1940
- 2013.05.22 Image of Maria Buchholz, Henry Berndt, Bernese Berndt-Renz, and Curtis Renz, 1947
- 2013.05.23 Portrait of Margaretha (Hepperle) Renz with her two children: Margaretha and Konrad
- 2013.05.24 Portrait of the Michael and Magdalena (Gebhardt) Wenzel family

**1/48**

**Photographs 25-35**

- 2013.05.25 Portrait of Konrad and Magdalena (Wenzel) Renz
- 2013.05.26 Portrait of Konrad and Magdalena (Wenzel) Renz
- 2013.05.27 Portrait of Alvin Renz
- 2013.05.28 Image of Magdalena (Wenzel) Renz with her son Alvin Renz
- 2013.05.29 Image of Alvin Renz sitting in a chair
- 2013.05.30 Image of Alvin and Hilda Renz
- 2013.05.31 Portrait of Konrad and Magdalena (Wenzel) Renz
- 2013.05.32 Portrait of the Matthäus and Barbara (Keller) Wolfer family
- 2013.05.33 Portrait of Emelia Hinzmann and an unidentified woman
- 2013.05.34 Portrait of Michael and Anna (Hinzmann) Buchholz
- 2013.05.35 Portrait of Heinrich Klein and his wife

**1/49**

Photographs index

**AHSGR SERIES**

- 1/50** 1<sup>st</sup> International Convention roster, 1970
- 1/51** 13<sup>th</sup> International Convention book, 1982
- 1/52** 14<sup>th</sup> International Convention book, 1983
- 1/53** 15<sup>th</sup> International Convention book, 1984

- 1/54 29<sup>th</sup> International Convention roster, 1998  
 1/55 Charter Membership, 1970  
 1/56 Dedication Ceremony book, 1986
- 2/2 Miscellaneous AHSGR materials
- 1/57 Newsletter, No. 4, 1970  
 1/58 Newspaper clippings  
 1/59 PR Agenda, 1970-1971

### **COPIED MATERIAL SERIES**

- 1/60 "Aus der Kriegszeit in Polen"  
 1/61 Colonist Records – Odessa Regional State Archives  
 1/62 "Heimat Kalender," 1986-1987, 1999  
 1/63 Hoffnungstal  
 1/64 Hoffnungstal – German text  
 1/65 "Hoffnungstaler in Kanada"  
 1/66 Schuh family

### **4 Folders Sub-Series**

1. "Calanders – 1776 to 2000"
2. "Die Auswanderung der Württemberger nach Westpreußen und dem Netzegau, 1776-1786" – by Max Miller
3. "Die Familie Renz/Rentz aus ulm (Wuerttemberg)"
4. "Der Wanderweg der Russlanddeutschen" – 1939 – pages 84-110
5. "Der Wanderweg der Russlanddeutschen" – 1939 – pages 48-81
6. "Karlstal, gegr 1806 (Evang.)"
7. "Mein heimatland" – 1937
8. "Ostwanderung der Württemberger, 1816-1822"
9. Renz family research
10. "Schriften der Deutschen Akademie"
11. "Verzeichnis der deutschen Familiennamen"

### **4 Binders Sub-Series**

1. "Die Auswanderung der Wuerttemberger nach Westpreussen und dem Netzegau, 1776-1786" – 1935
2. "Die Deutschen in der Dobrudscha"
3. Information on the Germans from Russia
4. "In Search of Your European Roots"

## HOFFNUNGSTAL SERIES

- 2/3 Copied documents
- 3/1 Copied documents – oversize
- 2/4 Family charts
- 1/67 “Hinsz, Scheuffele, Wahl & Wall,” Vol. 9, Issue 1, 1999
- 1/68 “Hoffnungstal” – drafts
- 1/69 “Hoffnungstal” – notes
- 1/70 “Hoffnungstal – typescripts
- 1/71 Maps
- 3/2 Maps – oversize
- 1/72 McLean County, ND cemetery index
- 2/5 Miscellaneous Hoffnungstal materials
- 3/3 *Mitteilungsblatt*, 7 August 2003
- 1/73 Parish documents
- 1/74 Passenger lists, 1902-1903, 1907, 1909
- 3/4 Passenger lists, 1903-1904 – *Assyria*; Hansa Line; Boulogne, France & Hamburg, Germany to Halifax, Nova Scotia
- 1/75 Printed images
- 1/76 “Roll of Born and Baptised in Hoffnungstal Parish,” 1902-1904

## BOOK SERIES

- 1/77 Hutchinson County, SD, 1880 Census – transcribed by Ronald J. Seibert
- 1/78 “Hutchinson County, SD, 1880 Census addendum” by Curt Renz
- 1/79 Researching the Germans from Russia by Michael M. Miller
- 22 German Villages in the Ukraine: A Key to a Microfilm of the Captured German Documents by Dr. Adam Giesinger

## SUBJECT SERIES

- 1/80 GRHS Village Research Project
- 1/81 “History and Settlement of the Banner County”



### **Census Sub-Series**

1/82	Beresina
1/83	General census materials
1/84	Kulm
1/85	Teplitz

### **RESEARCH SERIES**

5	Elisabethgrad, 1858-1885
5	Josephstal/ AD, 1833-1858
5	Nikolajew, 1847-1885

### **Danzig Sub-Series**

6	Danzig letters, 1903-1926
6	New Danzig records, 1847-1885
7	Danzig obituaries (A-K)
7	Danzig obituaries (L-W)

### **Güldendorf Sub-Series**

8	Güldendorf births, 1833-1850
8	Güldendorf births, 1851-1875
8	Güldendorf births, 1876-1889
8	Güldendorf births, 1923-1924
9	Güldendorf birth/ marriage/ death, 1899-1916
9	Güldendorf confirmed, 1892-1918
9	Güldendorf deaths, 1851-1891
10	Güldendorf letters, 1905-1919
10	Güldendorf letters, 1920-1922
10	Güldendorf letters, 1923-1932
11	Güldendorf obituaries (A-G)
11	Güldendorf obituaries (H-R)
12	Güldendorf obituaries (S-Z)
12	Güldendorf records

### **Hoffnungstal Sub-Series**

13	Hoffnungstal births, 1842-1885
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- 13 Hoffnungstal birth/ marriage/ death  
13 Hoffnungstal deaths, 1842-1882
- 14 Hoffnungstal emigration  
14 Hoffnungstal emigration
- 15 Hoffnungstal emigration  
15 Hoffnungstal emigration
- 16 Hoffnungstal emigration  
16 Hoffnungstal emigration
- 17 Hoffnungstal emigration  
17 Hoffnungstal emigration
- 18 Hoffnungstal – Familienbuch, 1881-1900  
18 Hoffnungstal – Familienbuch, 1881-1900 (Part 2)  
18 Hoffnungstal – Familienbuch, 1920+
- 19 Hoffnungstal – Family registers  
19 Hoffnungstal information  
19 Hoffnungstal letters, 1909-1929  
19 Hoffnungstal letters, 1930-1939
- 20 Hoffnungstal obituaries (A-N)  
20 Hoffnungstal obituaries (O-W)
- 21 Hoffnungstal – Personal-Buch, 1847-1879  
21 Hoffnungstal – Personal-Buch, 1861-1880  
21 Hoffnungstal – Personal-Buch, 1861-1880 (Part 2)

#### **NEWSLETTER SERIES**

- 22 *FEFHHS Quarterly*, vol. 6, no. 1-4, 1998