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**

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**CORRESPONDENCE SERIES**

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Correspondence – David Aippersbach, 1997-1998
Correspondence – James Gessele, 2012
Correspondence – Otto Wenzel, 1972-1978

NEWSPAPER SERIES

Dakota Rundschau, 1929
Das Nordlicht, 1921, 1926
Dakota Freie Presse, 1909, 1911, 1918-1921, 1933-1939
Der Staas-Anzeiger, 1908, 1918-1922, 1932, 1937
Eureka Rundschau und das Nordlicht, 1927-1928

PHOTOGRAPH SERIES

Hoffnungstal (11)

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

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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

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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

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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

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Photographs index

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1/50  1st International Convention roster, 1970
1/51  13th International Convention book, 1982
1/52  14th International Convention book, 1983
1/54  29th 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
1/63  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)”
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**

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

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1/81  “History and Settlement of the Banner County”
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19  Hoffnungstal – Family registers
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21  Hoffnungstal – Personal-Buch, 1861-1880 (Part 2)

NEWSLETTER SERIES

22  FEEFHS Quarterly, vol. 6, no. 1-4, 1998