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**Finding Aid to the  
Katherine (Schneider-Wentz)  
Schneider Collection  
2004.01**

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## OVERVIEW

**Donor:** Janet (Schneider) Tillman

**Accession Date:** 21 March 2004

**Collection Number:** 072

**Quantity:** 4 folders

**Summary:** Two hand-written letters in German, dating to 1923; correspondence relating to the letters; and a biography of Katherine Schneider, written by Katherine's son, Philip Wentz.

**Languages:** German & English

**Links:**

- [Katherine Schneider memorial](#) (Find A Grave)
- [Obituary of "Kasey" K.L. \(Kasimer\) Schneider](#)

**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:** Katherine (Schneider-Wentz) Schneider Collection, 072, Germans from Russia Heritage Collection, NDSU Libraries, Fargo, ND.

## BIOGRAPHY

Katherine (Schneider-Wentz) Schneider was born in March 1890, in South Russia. She was born to parents Philip and Philippine (Weber) Schneider. When Katherine was seven years old, her father, Philip, died, and her mother later remarried to Michael Beitz. In 1902, Katherine immigrated to the United States with some of her family, settling around Towner, North Dakota.

In 1905, Katherine Schneider married John Wentz, and the couple had seven children. In 1909, the family moved to Canada. John Wentz died in 1923. A year later, Katherine married Kasimer Schneider, who also had lost a spouse and had seven children. Katherine and Kasimer Schneider had five children together.

The family later moved back to North Dakota and farmed. On June 8, 1935, Kasimer Schneider died of cancer at the age of fifty. In 1947, Katherine remarried again to Fred Schmidt. She lived with Fred in Towner, ND until his death in 1965. Katherine died on December 12, 1982, at the age of ninety-two.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT**

The **Katherine (Schneider-Wentz) Schneider Collection** consists of two hand-written letters in German, dating to 1923; correspondence relating to the collection and the letters; and a typescript of Katherine Schneider's biography written by Katherine's son, Philip Wentz.

The letters were discovered behind the drawers of a sewing machine cabinet belonging to Katherine (Schneider) Wentz Schneider Schmidt. It does not appear that the letters were written by any relative of the Schneider family. It is possible that the letters were already in the sewing machine when Katherine Schneider purchased it.

The correspondence, dating to 2004, relates to the letters and contains more information about them. Also included is a translation of the letters into English, but it is believed that the translation is not accurate.

The biography of Katherine Schneider was written by Philip Wentz, who was the son of Katherine and John Wentz. The nine-page biography is very extensive and covers the many years of Katherine's life. The biography is not dated, but it was written sometime before Philip Wentz's death on March 1, 2004.

## **BOX AND FOLDER LIST**

### **2004-2005 Small Collections Box**

| <b>Collection/Folder</b> | <b>Contents</b>                                    |
|--------------------------|--|
| <b>2004.01/1</b>         | Finding aid, inventory, and historical information |
| <b>2004.01/2</b>         | Letters, 1923                                      |
| <b>2004.01/3</b>         | Correspondence and translations                    |
| <b>2004.01/4</b>         | Katherine Schneider biography                      |