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**Finding Aid to the
Kenneth L. Schmitt
Collection
2012.16**

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OVERVIEW

Donor: Kenneth L. Schmitt

Accession Date: 20 July 2012; 1 October 2012

Collection Number: 104

Quantity: 1.75 linear feet

Summary: Nine issues of *Kirchenblatt* from 1941 and 1942, two photographs relating to Johann Schmitt, Schmitt family information written from 2007 to 2009, an auction poster from 1929, and two poems in the German language.

Languages: English & German

Links:

- [Kenneth L. Schmitt Photograph Collection on the NDSU Institutional Repository \(DSpace\)](#)

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: Kenneth L. Schmitt Collection, 104, Germans from Russia Heritage Collection, NDSU Libraries, Fargo, ND.

BIOGRAPHY

Johann Schmitt (John Schmitt/ Schmidt) was born on January 19, 1869 in Bergdorf Colony, South Russia. He was born to parents Jacob and Elizabeth Schmitt/ Schmidt. Johann served in the Russian Army for six years. On November 24, 1887, Johann Schmitt married Friederika Laemmle, and they had eight children. Johann Schmitt immigrated to the United States with his family in 1892, eventually settling in the region northeast of Eureka, South Dakota known as Long Lake. Johann Schmitt died on April 11, 1927 at the age of 67.

Kenneth L. Schmitt was born to parents Jacob and Hazel (Richards) Schmitt. Both of Kenneth's parents were deaf. Jacob and Hazel were married on October 4, 1932. They made their home in Long Lake, South Dakota. Hazel (Richards) Schmitt died in August 1977, and Jacob Schmitt died in May 1978.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The **Kenneth L. Schmitt Collection** consists of nine issues of *Kirchenblatt* from 1941 and 1942, two photographs relating to Johann Schmitt, information on the Schmitt family written from 2007 to 2009, an auction poster from 1929, and two poems in the German language. The collection is divided into four series: *Kirchenblatt*, Photograph, Schmitt Family, and Subject.

The [Kirchenblatt Series](#) is the largest in the collection. It contains nine issues of *Kirchenblatt*, published by the American Lutheran Church in Columbus, Ohio. The nine issues date from October 1941 to February 1942, and they are entirely in the German language.

The [Photograph Series](#) is comprised of two images relating to Johann Schmitt (or Schmidt). The first image (2012.16.01) is a photograph on canvas of soldier holding a horn. An email received from the donor identifies the man as Johann Schmitt who served in the Russian Army as a musician. The second image (2012.16.02) is a photocopy of a farmstead with family group. There are buildings in the background with steam traction engine and separator and crew in front of them. A man holds a horse at the left. Two women and two children at the right; two boys with dogs are nearest the camera. Inscribed on back, "The photo is of the Johann Schmitt [farmstead] located 3 miles west of Long Lake, SD. All in the photo are from the Schmitt family except for a few members of the threshing machine, commonly known as a separator."

The [Schmitt Family Series](#) has two writings by Kenneth Schmidt and a translated obituary of Johann Schmitt. The first item is a typed manuscript by Kenneth Schmidt called "Memories of Long Lake." The manuscript dates to September 22, 2009 and includes reflections on Schmidt's life and his father. The second item is a typescript of a German letter with English translation with explanation, dated January 19, 2008. The third item is a typed translation of an obituary for Johann Schmitt, who was born January 19, 1869 in Bergdorf Colony, South Russia and died April 11, 1927. The obituary was printed in *Staats Anzeiger* and written by Friedrich Obenauer. It was translated by Donald Schmitt and later by Pastor Norman Greve, Salem Lutheran Church. Eagle Lake, MN. The obituary is dated November 27, 2007 by Kenneth Schmitt.

The [Subject Series](#) consists of a photocopied auction poster, a photocopied newspaper clipping, and a typed poem. The photocopied auction poster is for the Victor Colberg Estate, located 10 miles south of Ashley, ND. The poster is in English and German. The auction was held on Tuesday, February 19, 1929. The photocopied newspaper clipping is from the *Northwest Blade*, Eureka, South Dakota. The clipping is titled "Happy New Year" and includes a short poem in the German language. The clipping is dated December 28, 1918. The poem is a typescript in the German language wishing peace and good health to the farmer. The source of the poem is unknown.

BOX AND FOLDER LIST

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

1/2	Vol. 84, No. 42 – October 18, 1941
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1/2	Vol. 84, No. 43 – October 25, 1941
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1/2	Vol. 84, No. 44 – November 1, 1941
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1/2	Vol. 84, No. 45 – November 8, 1941
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1/2	Vol. 84, No. 46 – November 15, 1941
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1/2	Vol. 84, No. 45 [sic] – November 29, 1941
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1/3	Vol. 85, No. 4 – January 24, 1942
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1/3	Vol. 85, No. 5 – January 31, 1942
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1/3	Vol. 85, No. 6 – February 7, 1942
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PHOTOGRAPH SERIES

1/4	Photocopy of the Johann Schmitt farmstead [2012.16.02]
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2	Canvas image of Johann Schmitt holding a horn in Russian Army uniform [2012.16.01]
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SCHMITT FAMILY SERIES

1/5	“Memories of Long Lake” – September 22, 2009
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1/5	German letter from Kenneth Schmitt – January 19, 2008
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1/6	Translated obituary of Johann Schmitt
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1/7

SUBJECT SERIES

Victor Colberg Estate auction poster, 1929

Newspaper clipping – *Northwest Blade*, 1918

German poem