



Finding aid to the Louise Wiens (Regehr) Collection

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OVERVIEW

Donor: Louise Wiens (Regehr)

Accession Date: 22 December 2014

Collection Number: MSS 172

Quantity: 15 folders

Summary: ID Cards, birth certificates, death certificates, family history, letters, newspaper article, marriage certificate, employment document, compensation document and an admission paper for the repatriation act.

Languages: English, German, Russian, Ukrainian.

Links:

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Citation: Louise Wiens Collection, Coll. 2014.20, Germans from Russia Heritage Collection, NDSU Libraries, Fargo, ND

BIOGRAPHY

Victor Regehr was born on August 20, 1929 in Kleefeld, Ukraine. His parents tried to emigrate before World War II began but were unsuccessful, and in 1943, Viktor was taken in a mass deportation and separated from his family but the Russian Red Army, along with thousands of others and exiled them to Siberia. He was there for 12 years in Kazakhstan, there he met his wife Maria, who had also been exiled

there. In 1961, Viktor was able to bring his family to Canada for a better life. Victor passed away October, 30th, 2014.

Maria Regehr Neumann was born on May 3, 1919 in Leipzig, Bessarabia, (Moldova). Maria was exiled in Siberia for 10 years, where she met Viktor.

Maria has written a family history that includes how life was before World War II, and then after and how it affected and changed the family's life. During World War II, Romania changed sides, and in 1940 the Soviets formed a Hitler-Stalin alliance, which led to the Soviets occupying Bessarabia. The German population faced expulsion from their homeland as the SS evacuated the villages. The village of Leipzig was vacated, each household only allowed a two horse wagon with few personal belongings. Maria was first taken to Poland, then in Germany. In 1945, Maria, her sister and mother were forced to leave Germany because they were not born there, forcing them to take a train to Kazakhstan. They were given housing in abandoned sheds, and for ten years they worked for meager compensation in harsh temperatures. In 1955 they received permission from Moscow to return to Germany where they were reunited with the rest of their siblings. In 1961 Maria and her husband chose to immigrate to Canada.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The **Certificate Series** consists of marriage, death, and birth records of the family, a passport belonging to Maria Nuemann, and admission papers. The series also includes two identification cards for Victor Regehr and Maria Nuemann Regehr. There is a certificate of death for Akon Nuemann from 1982, that formally was believed to be in Russian, but on 1/30/2018 it was discovered that the language was in Ukrainian. The certificate of dead was from the Kazakh South Socialist Republic in Ukraine. The birth certificate for Arthur Regehr born in 1953 was also believed to be in Russian, and found out later to be in Ukrainian.

The **Family History Series** consists of letters to family members, a letter describing the past of Maria Neumann, and a photocopied newspaper article in Russian that holds details in what the family members entailed during their lives. In addition, this series also contains the funeral program for Maria Regehr, and information from the German Red Cross.

BOX AND FOLDER LIST

Box/Folder	Contents
Certificate Series	
1/1	Finding Aid and Historical Information
1/2	Admission Paper for Arthur Reger, 1955

- 1/3** Birth Certificate, Arthur Regeher, 1953
- 1/4** Certificate of Death, Akon Neumann, 1952
- 1/5** Declaration of Compensation, Viktor Regehr, 1960
- 1/6** Deutsches Reich Umsiedler Auswis, Maria Neumann, No Date
- 1/7** Employment Document, Vicktor Regher, 1947-1955
- 1/8** ID Card for Maria Neumann Regehr, 1956
- 1/9** ID Card for Vicktor Regehr, 1956
- 1/10** Marriage Certificate, Viktor Reghr, Maria Neumann, 1951

Family History Series

- 1/11** Family History, No Date
- 1/12** German Article "German People Meet in Stodthagen"
- 1/13** Letter From Valentia to Luisa, No Date
- 1/14** Funeral Program, Maria Regehr, 2015
- 1/15** German Red Cross plus CD, No Date