

In Touch with Prairie Living

February 2002

By Michael M. Miller

Germans from Russia Heritage Collection
North Dakota State University Libraries, Fargo



GERMANS FROM RUSSIA
GRHC
HERITAGE COLLECTION

The Germans from Russia Heritage Collection (GRHC) at the NDSU Libraries in Fargo reaches out to prairie families and former Dakotans. In various ways, it affirms the heritage of the Germans from Russia as an important part of the northern plains culture.

On Saturday, February 23, 2002, beginning at 1 pm, I will be in Sacramento, CA, to speak at a Germans from Russia gathering at the First Christian Church, Folsom Blvd and 39 Street. On Sunday, February 24, 2002, beginning at 2 pm, I will be in Lodi, CA, to also speak at a German-Russian gathering at the First Baptist Church, 19 South Central Avenue. Use the Oak Street entrance.

Joining me at the Lodi and Sacramento events will be Bob Dambach, director of programming and productions, Prairie Public Television, Fargo. John Philipps, Merced, CA, will attend the events and sign his book published by GRHC, "The Germans by the Black Sea Between the Bug and Dnjestr Rivers."

GRHC and the Germans from Russia Cultural Preservation Foundation will sponsor the "Arizona Premiere" of the new videotape documentary series, "Recipes from Grandma's Kitchen: Germans from Russia Food Preparations and Traditions," Volume 1. The event is Saturday, March 2, 2002, 9:30 am-11 am, at the Civic Center Library Theater, 3839 Civic Center Blvd., Scottsdale, AZ. All are welcome to attend.

The North Dakota Picnic is Sunday, March 3, 2002, 10 am-3 pm, at Pioneer Park, Mesa, AZ. Contact me for further information regarding the Scottsdale and Mesa events.

The "Recipes from Grandma's Kitchen" videotape is available in January 2002 from GRHC. See these persons cooking in their kitchens and reminiscing: Millie Doll Hauck, Dickinson, ND; Helen Gefroh Fischer, Hague Cafe, ND; Bernadine Lang Kuhn, Owatonna, MN; Erica Lang Wangler,

Bismarck, ND; and Alma Janke Schott, Gackle, ND.

Traditional foods, savory recipes, and folk memories are important in the history and culture of the Germans from Russia community. The videotape includes vignettes of culinary memories that feed the soul and warm the heart.

GRHC is pleased to announce the publication of this outstanding new book, "German Food & Folkways: Heirloom Memories from Europe, South Russia & the Great Plains," by Rose Marie Gueldner, Anamoose, ND. The book is available at this website: library.ndsu.edu/grhc/order/cookbooks/gueldner.html or by contacting me.

Dr. Timothy J. Kloberdanz, NDSU, writes: "Although there are German-Russian cookbooks currently on the market, this one is quite unusual because of the way it interweaves background history, ethnic heritage, and so many mouth-watering Old Country recipes. If the German-Russians have a Martha Stewart anywhere in North America, it may very well be Rose Marie Gueldner!"

Brother Placid Gross, German-Russian folklorist, Assumption Abbey, Richardton, ND, writes: "This book is the crowning achievement of all cookbooks. It is a great and wonderful tribute to our pioneer mothers who knew how to hold body and soul together with hard work and creativity to make a banquet with the simplest of basic ingredients."

Rev. William C. Sherman, Grand Forks, ND, author of "Plains Folk" and "Prairie Mosaic," writes: "This is not just a compilation of recipes - it is a genuine survey of foods which are unknown to some, exotic to others, and delightfully routine to many who have Eastern European roots. It is history, geography, ethnicity, and the passage of time, all combined; a treat for the mind, a treat for the taste buds."

GRHC co-sponsors the "Cultural Heritage Tour: Germany, Switzerland, Austria, and Alsace, France,"

September 12-23, 2002. Four members will visit the ancestral areas of many German-Russians in Alsace and southern Germany. The tour includes: Stuttgart, Strasbourg, Lucerne, Salzburg, and Munich including the Oktoberfest. To receive tour information details, contact me. The award-winning documentary videotapes, "The Germans from Russia: Children of the Steppe, Children of the Prairie" (1999), and "Schmeckfest: Food Traditions of the Germans from Russia" (2000), continue to be well received throughout North America. Each videotape includes 20 minutes of bonus video footage not shown in the one-hour documentary. To purchase the videotapes, contact PPTV at 1-800-359-6900, or the tapes may also be purchased by contacting GRHC.

For further information about Germans from Russia heritage, donations to the Collection, including family histories, books, videotapes, cookbooks, tours, and Arizona/California events, contact Michael M. Miller, NDSU Libraries, PO Box 5599, Fargo, ND 58105-5599 (Tel: 701-231-8416; E-mail: Michael.Miller@ndsu.edu; GRHC website: <http://library.ndsu.edu/grhc>).

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