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 Germans from Russia as an important part of the northern plains culture.

I want to extend special Thanksgiving Regards. We can be very grateful that our ancestors immigrated to America to settle on these prairies and Northern Plains.

Join us for the Pride of Dakota Holiday Showcase where we will have a booth at these events: Civic Center/ Centennial Hall, 207 4th Street North, Fargo (Saturday, 10 am-5 pm & Sunday, 12 noon-5 pm, November 18-19) and the Civic Center Convention Hall, 315 South 5th Street, Bismarck (Saturday, 10 am-5 pm) & Sunday, 12 noon - 5 pm), December 2-3.

I am pleased to announce the dates for the 13th Journey to the Homeland Tour to Ukraine and Germany for May 17-28, 2007. The tour will include four days in Odessa, Ukraine visiting the former German villages, and six days in Germany. Tour members will attend the large Germans from Russia gathering called the Russlanddeutschen Bundestreffen, at Wiesbaden on May 26-27, 2007. Please contact me for further information and registration.

Debra Marquart, a native of rural Napoleon, ND, and an associate professor of English at Iowa State University, Ames, has authored an impressive new book, “The Horizontal World: Growing Up Wild in the Middle of Nowhere: A Memoir”. From the earliest age, Marquart knows she wanted to move away, out of the harvests and the blizzards and the long dusty summer days full of nothing but hard work. But even after she got good at leaving, she kept coming back. It is this process of flight - from both the landscape and the family - and the return that Marquart finds her muse. She continues, “everyone was truly excited about participating in this project. They welcomed us into their homes with open arms, and candidly shared their memories of growing up German Russian on the Northern Plains. They invited us to eat some tasty German meals and partake in the occasional shot of red eye or burnt whiskey.”

For further information about the Dakota Memories Oral History Project, go to library.ndsu.edu/grhc/dakotamemories/index.html, or contact Jessica Clark at 701-231-8419; jessica.clark@ndsu.edu.

I am pleased to announce a new one-half hour documentary, “We’ll Meet Again in Heaven” funded by GRHC. The scholar and narrator is Ronald Vossler, UND, Grand Forks. Vossler guides the viewer from the small North Dakota town where he found the first letter, down the “blood-dark corridor of ethnic history” to former German villages in Ukraine and Moldova that were the source of numerous immigrants to the American prairie frontier.


For further information about Germans from Russia heritage, Dakota Memories Oral History Project, donations to GRHC including books, events, documentaries, CDs, DVDs, cookbooks and the June, 2007 tour, 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: library.ndsu.edu/grhc).