

# In Touch with Prairie Living

September 2014

By Michael M. Miller

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



GERMANS FROM RUSSIA  
**GRHC**  
HERITAGE COLLECTION

The “Party on the Prairie: Proving Up the Welk Homestead” held August 1-3, 2014, at the Ludwig & Christina (Schwahn) Welk Homestead, near Strasburg, N.D. was a wonderful success. There were 78 volunteers from the Dakotas and other locations who completed extensive work on the barn, scraping and painting the house and other buildings. Close to 400 people attended the evening program.

The Emmons County Record, Linton, N.D., printed this article with many color photographs, “Several dozen volunteers participate in Proving Up the Welk Homestead”. – [http://library.ndsu.edu/grhc/history\\_culture/lawrence\\_welk/proving.html](http://library.ndsu.edu/grhc/history_culture/lawrence_welk/proving.html). Additional photographs from August 1-3, can be seen at [www.flickr.com/photos/ndsu-libraries-grhc/sets/72157646986537692](http://www.flickr.com/photos/ndsu-libraries-grhc/sets/72157646986537692).

While attending the Beulah, N.D. 100th Centennial in early August, I was most impressed with the events and organization of the festivities. The Germans from Russia displays were well received at the Beulah Civic Center. There was much interest from the younger Germans from Russia community. The Beulah area has a large settlement of German-Russian families with ancestry of Crimean Germans, Black Sea Germans and Bessarabian Germans. Photographs taken on August 7-9 in Beulah are at [www.flickr.com/photos/ndsu-libraries-grhc/sets/7215764579658277](http://www.flickr.com/photos/ndsu-libraries-grhc/sets/7215764579658277)

The Beulah Centennial Book Committee published an impressive hardcover book, “Beulah, North Dakota 100: 1914-2014” which includes many family histories with German-Russian ancestry. The book is available at [http://library.ndsu.edu/grhc/order/nd\\_sd\\_history/beulah100.html](http://library.ndsu.edu/grhc/order/nd_sd_history/beulah100.html).

Other historical books about Beulah include the limited hardcover of

“Beulah, North Dakota: Golden Anniversary, 1914-1964” – [http://library.ndsu.edu/grhc/order/nd\\_sd\\_history/beulahgolden.html](http://library.ndsu.edu/grhc/order/nd_sd_history/beulahgolden.html) and “Beulah, N.D. 1914-1989” – [http://library.ndsu.edu/grhc/order/nd\\_sd\\_history/beulah.html](http://library.ndsu.edu/grhc/order/nd_sd_history/beulah.html).

The nearby community of Golden Valley, N.D. also published an excellent book, “Golden Valley: Celebrating 100 Years, 1914-2014”, which includes many German-Russian family histories. The book is available at [http://library.ndsu.edu/grhc/order/nd\\_sd\\_history/golden.html](http://library.ndsu.edu/grhc/order/nd_sd_history/golden.html).

While in Beulah, I photographed at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, founded in 1889, north of Hazen, settled by Crimean German families. The church celebrated its 125th anniversary in June, 2014. Photographs taken of St. Paul’s Church are at [www.flickr.com/photos/ndsu-libraries-grhc/sets/72157646584782380](http://www.flickr.com/photos/ndsu-libraries-grhc/sets/72157646584782380) and Krem at [www.flickr.com/photos/ndsu-libraries-grhc/sets/72157646588135228](http://www.flickr.com/photos/ndsu-libraries-grhc/sets/72157646588135228).

It was most interesting visiting St. Paul Cemetery and the Krem cemeteries I, II and III. Family names include Baisch, Berkholz, Boecktel, Bohrer, Ellwein, Erbele, Erwin, Goetz, Grosz, Heine, Hinz, Hoechler, Hornung, Knecht, Knell, Krause, Kruckenberg, Kuch, Kunz, Lauf, Leupp, Link, Maas, Miller, Mueller, Netzer, Oster, Pischel, Priebe, Richter, Sailer, Scharf, Schimke, Schulz, Schweighert, Stuhldreher, Suess, Theilmann, Unterseher, and Weisz and Ziemann. Otto Richter wrote this article, “Krem: The City on a Hill” in “North Dakota History”, 1972 – [http://library.ndsu.edu/grhc/history\\_culture/history/krem.html](http://library.ndsu.edu/grhc/history_culture/history/krem.html).

The Fall season provides festive events for the Germans from Russia

community in the Dakotas.

The 27th Annual Schmeckfest will be Sept. 19-21 at Eureka, S.D. The entertainment features the Emter Family, Steele, N.D., on Sept. 20 – [www.emterfamily.com](http://www.emterfamily.com). Prairie Public Broadcasting featured the Eureka Schmeckfest in the award-winning documentary, “Germans from Russia Food Pantry” (Schmeckfest: Food Traditions of the Germans from Russia) – <http://library.ndsu.edu/grhc/order/tapes/foodpantry.html>.

The Napoleon, N.D. Corn Show is September 27, and the Oktoberfest is October 3 with fundraising for the community center. There will be lots of German music and German food. Go to [www.napoleonnd.com](http://www.napoleonnd.com). Linton, N.D. will host Harvest Fest on September 28 and Oktoberfest on October 18. Go to [www.lintonnd.org](http://www.lintonnd.org). There are many annual church suppers this fall in the Dakotas.

The 87th annual Sauerkraut Day at the Civic Center in Wishek, N.D. is October 8 with a free meal beginning at 11 a.m. including homemade mashed potatoes, wieners and sauerkraut. Entertainment featured the Wishek High School Choir and Accordion Band. The Armory hosts crafts and displays during the day. See photographs of Sauerkraut Day at <http://library.ndsu.edu/grhc/outreach/activities/sauerkraut12.html>.

For additional information about the Ludwig & Christina (Schwahn) Welk Homestead, Friends of the GRHC, the 21st Journey to the Homeland Tour to Germany (May, 2015) and donations to the GRHC (such as special collections, family histories and photographs), contact Michael M. Miller, NDSU Libraries, PO Box 6050, Dept 2080, Fargo, ND 58108-6050 (Tel: 701-231-8416); Email: [Michael.Miller@ndsu.edu](mailto:Michael.Miller@ndsu.edu); the GRHC website: [www.ndsu.edu/grhc](http://www.ndsu.edu/grhc).