Thanksgiving regards to you and your family. Let us be grateful that our ancestors immigrated to the Dakota prairies, Canada, USA, and South America from Russia. In preparing the November column, this is the 288th monthly column in 24 years (1996-2020). My appreciation for continued interest from readers.

I am often asked, “What books would you suggest for background information and research about the Germans from Russia?”

I would like to recommend the following books for introductory German-Russian research. These books would be excellent Christmas gifts, and are available at the GRHC website – www.ndsu.edu/grhc - Shop Online.

A popular newer book titled, *The German-Russians: In Words and Pictures*, by Dr. William Bosch, provides an excellent short history of the Germans from Russia including many photographs. The author writes, “When I was growing up in the southern part of North Dakota, all of my relatives spoke a German dialect. None of us ever asked how this came to be.” Bosch’s writing is of self-discovery which he shares with fellow German-Russians. His story of the circumstances that propelled the German-Russian people to the North American plains, and his description of their distinctive folkways, serves as an accessible introduction to the Germans from Russia. These people were one of the most significant ethnic settlement groups of the Great Plains of North America. Their story is a colorful and fascinating tale filled with triumph and tragedy.

Edna Boardman, in her review for the book, *From Catherine to Khruschev*, by Dr. Adam Giesinger, writes “This is the most thoroughly researched, most professionally written, of the popular books on the Germans from Russia, yet it is very interesting and absorbing to read. Giesinger traces the flow of German-Russian history from their arrival in Russia, through the Czars that succeeded Catherine, through immigration to the United States, Canada, and South America, to the takeover of Russia by the communists, and the deportation of the remaining people to scattered parts of Russia.” Dr. Adam Giesinger’s children donated his extensive private library to establish the Dr. Adam Giesinger Collection at the GRHC.

I would recommend three books by Dr. Joseph S. Height. Dr. Height was born in 1909 at Tramping Lake, SK, a son of German immigrants who came to Canada in 1900 from the Black Sea colonies of Mannheim and Strassburg, Kutschuragan District. For many years he taught German at Franklin College, IN. His daughter, Margaret Height, has donated her father’s library to the Germans from Russia Heritage Society, Bismarck. In May 2013, Margaret Height joined the Journey to the Homeland Tour to visit the former German colonies of Mannheim and Strassburg near Odessa, Ukraine.

The first recommended Height book, *Paradise on the Steppe: A Cultural History of the Kutschuragan, Beresan and Liebental Colonies, 1804-1972*, focuses on the Catholic colonies of South Russia by the Black Sea, today near Odessa, Ukraine. Height follows the settlers on the often disastrous journey to Russia and through the difficult years when colonists first tilled the iron-hard soil. Height writes about festivals, songs, sayings, languages, letters home, and photographs. Included in the book, are town plats of Beresan, Liebental, and Kutschuragan villages.

*Homesteaders on the Steppe: Cultural History of the Evangelical-Lutheran Colonies in the Region of Odessa, 1804-1945*, by Height, covers the Lutheran villages. Height describes the journey down the Danube River and the life of the villages, wedding customs, games and entertainment, songs and agriculture. The names of the original settlers for the villages are included.

*Memories of the Black Sea Germans: Highlights of Their History and Heritage*...