

American Historical Society Of Germans from Russia

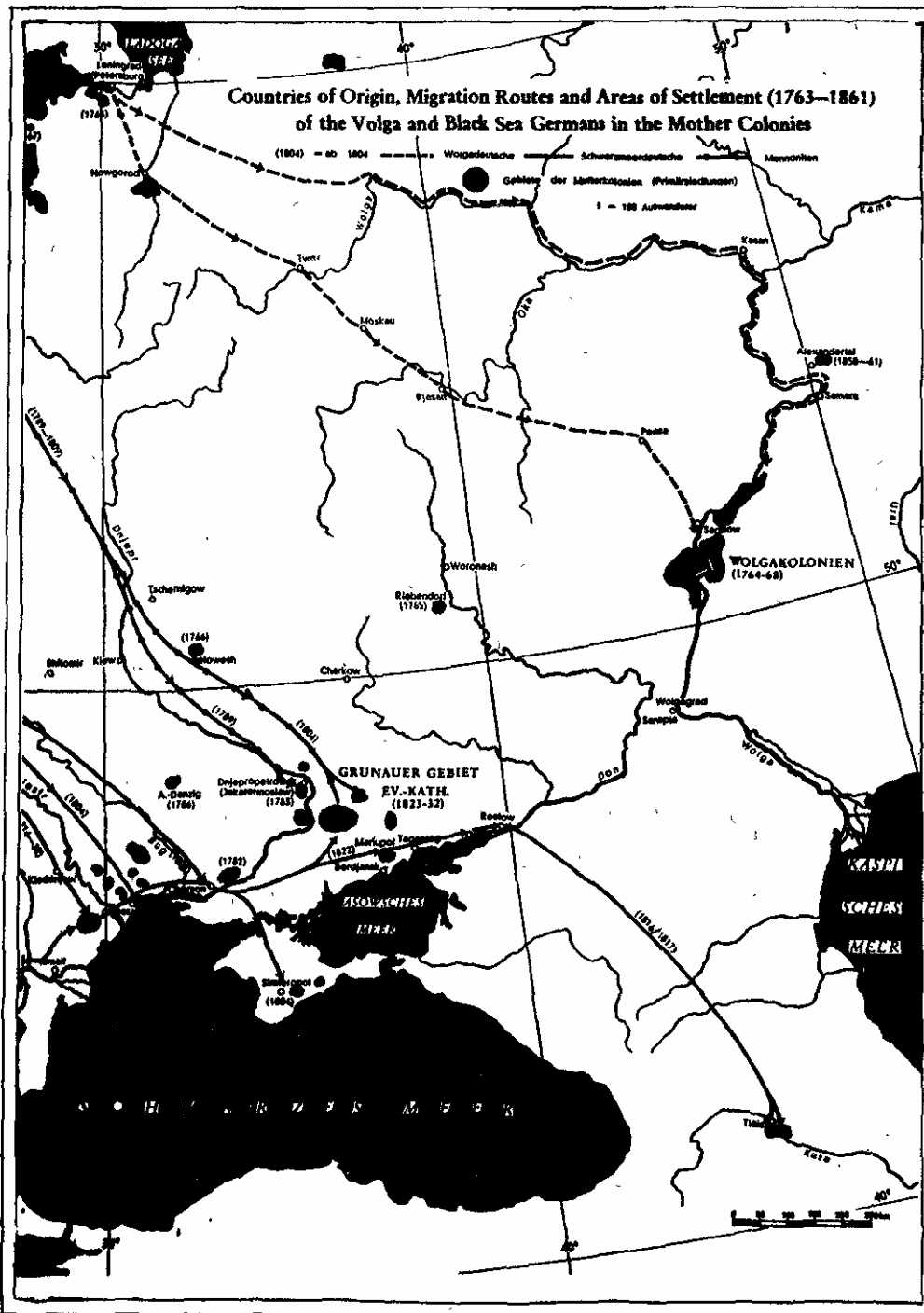


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About the cover: "Countries of Origin and Migration Routes..."
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AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF GERMANS FROM RUSSIA

POSTOFFICE BOX 1424

GREELEY, COLORADO 80631

(inside front cover WP4)

American Historical Society of Germans from Russia

1004A NINTH AVENUE - P.O. BOX 1424
TELEPHONE: 352-9467
GREELEY, COLORADO 80631

October 22, 1970

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

NEW MEMBERSHIP DRIVE. We now number 1,054 members. We are pleased with the growing membership. North Dakota Chapter is being formed. Northern Colorado and Denver, Colorado Chapters are on their way. Who is next on the line? We need a chapter in each state or business area.

DR. JOSEPH S. HEIGHT, Franklin, Indiana, is mailing material to all purchasers of the Height translation of Stumpp's German-Russians.

EMBLEM: Emblem used on the Convention program and the first printing of brochure is only a suggested emblem. Please participate; Send your ideas. A permanent emblem takes considerable time and effort. Mr. Paul E. Reeb, Route 2, St. Francis, Kansas, 67756, is chairman of the committee. Please send your art and suggestions to him.

DUES, RENEWALS, MEMBERSHIP CARDS. Work Papers Nos. 3 and 4 go with the 1970 dues. 1971 membership cards will go to all who pay 1971 dues. If you can pay 1971 now it will help. Reminders of 1970 dues are enclosed if you have not paid.

AHSGR FOUNDATION is being formed by board to promote larger bequests and gifts. What do you think?

NEW BROCHURE for membership drive. Alice Amen Heinz, Public Relations Chairman, has designed a new brochure. Write AHSGR, P. O. Box 1424, Greeley, Colorado, 80631, for as many brochures as you can use.

CARRY YOUR MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS with you - pick up the check or cash from your relatives and friends. AHSGR is open to everyone.

WORK PAPER NO. 5 - scheduled for March 1, 1971. Mail all articles reports, and ideas direct to AHSGR, P. O. Box 1424, Greeley, Colorado, 80631, attention Dr. J. Robert Lebsack.

THANK YOU for all you have done:



David J. Miller,
President

(WP4 insert one)



PR Agenda

From the Public Relations Chairman

American Historical Society of Germans from Russia

1913 Fifteenth Avenue
Greeley, Colorado 80631

WE POINT WITH PRIDE

To the many, many favorable comments and communications re the June, 1970, American Historical Society of Germans from Russia First International Convention in Greeley, Colorado. Were you here? If so, we hope you were inspired and happy with old and new friends as to our goals and projects. There was an atmosphere of cooperation, beauty, enthusiasm, and accomplishment. Hospitality was excellent. Food never tasted better! Everyone loved the beautiful wooden spoons from Russia at the Convention. Did your grandparents have them? Did you miss? Plan now to attend the 1971 International American Historical Society of Germans from Russia Convention in Lincoln, Nebraska. Place: Villager Motel, 5300 "O" Street, June 18 and 19, 1971. It will be great!

AHSGR STORY:

Membership is growing. Have you told your relatives and friends about AHSGR? *It's* a great story. You in all locales are surrounded by kinsman and friends. They are prominent Americans; leaders in your churches, your community activities, in government, business, small and large, professions, schools, colleges, and universities. Why not meet and know them? Have a coffee! Have a supper! Enjoy exchanges of ideas. Recall memories. Judge Ray R. Friederich did just that in Bismarck, North Dakota following a North Dakota Historical Society meeting recently. Wonderful! Result: Good attendance, including many young people. Another autumn touchdown, North Dakota chapter in the making! You will cherish the pleasant fellowship of these get-togethers and AHSGR will snowball. If you need ideas or suggestions for programs, write your AHSGR headquarters.

FAREWELL CENTENNIAL - TIME CAPSULE.

Greeley, Colorado's Centennial celebration closed October 12,

1970, a year of tribute to our pioneers, including our Germans from Russia, who are the backbone of Greeley's farming, culture, and prosperity. There was celebration, gaiety, happiness and reverence for the historical past. Wish you all could have seen the pageantry of costumes daily. Emphasis weeks on religion, education, music, literature, folklore, youth activities, historical films, and health progress exhibits were held. Dozens of national and state organizations honored Greeley by having their conventions here this year. AHSGR was one of the first to do so!

An event to climax the final Centennial week, along with the Spectacle Performance seen by thousands, was the planting of a TIME CAPSULE - a six foot aluminum cylinder - sealed by the Governor of Colorado, October 6, 1970. It was planted in Lincoln Park, sealed in the ground by cement, topped with an appropriately engraved marble slab. The capsule contains over 300 envelopes from organizations and people. Your Public Relations Chairman included AHSGR. The capsule will be opened October 6, 2020, fifty years from now. A copy of our 1970 International Convention Program, all press articles, plus a biography of our International President Emeritus, Mr. Henry J. Amen of Lincoln, Nebraska, and his family tree are in the Time Capsule. Alert our next generation, chiefly your grandchildren. The envelope in the year 2020 will be mailed to: The Meeker Museum in Greeley, Colorado, to be opened for historical exhibition.

THERE IS A HAPPENING - COMING SOON.

Organization of a Northern Colorado Chapter is well underway. We have interest, enthusiasm, sincere leaders and members to be. We expect to be a reality and in your AHSGR Christmas stocking! Look for further news about us in 1971.

May your coming holidays be peaceful and happy,

(signed)

Mrs. Theodore E. Heinz, National
Public Relations Chairman

October 21, 1970

(WP4 insert 2, p.2)

American Historical Society of Germans from Russia

TELEPHONE: 352-9467
GREELEY, COLORADO 80631

Dear Members:

For each of you I express my appreciation to Dr. J. Robert Lebsack for undertaking the editorship of the Newsletter, the Workpaper and the Yearbook. The success of our publications depends upon each of us. Send any material of interest to Dr. J. Robert Lebsack, 875 15th Street, Boulder, Colorado 80302. He will select, revise, and edit the material. I urge each of you to make a contribution in this field direct to him. If you have a newspaper item, a letter from a relative in Russia, a proverb, a family saying, a birthday greeting, a New Year's greeting in dialect, send it.

Our committee chairmen, whose names appear in this Workpaper need your help very much. Write them direct and give them your suggestions and your offer of help.

You have now been furnished with the roll of charter members. This roll was checked several times. We did find two omissions, that of Henry Werth, 637 W. 2nd Street, Hastings, Minnesota, 55033 and Mr. & Mrs. Eldon L. Goebel, Rebgarten 15, 6 Frankfurt/M-Ginnheim, West Germany. Write me direct if there are any other omissions.

The size, number, and quality of the Workpapers will depend on a continued expansion in membership and a step up in the class of membership. The \$5.00 individual membership simply does not pay for the cost of our organization. We are delighted to have those who cannot afford to pay more than the \$5.00 membership, but we do urge that each of you upgrade your membership from \$5.00 to \$10.00, from \$10.00 to \$25.00, and from \$25.00 to \$100.00 where possible. We also seek contributions of any amount, large or small.

In your own area contact those whom you know to be members, set up a local group, and work together to establish a local chapter. This will insure our continued success.

Congratulations on the success of the First International Convention continue to reach us. We are looking forward to an even better convention in Lincoln, June 19 and 20, 1971. We have committed ourselves to pay the cost of Dr. Stumpp's trip from Germany to the United States and return. A special fund is being established for payment of the cost of this trip since dues will not cover it. I would appreciate a check from those of you who can, toward the cost of Dr. Stumpp's trip. Please mark your check for that purpose.

Very truly yours,


David J. Miller

From the Editor's Desk

Work Paper No. 4 has many articles which, we hope, will be of interest to our membership, and continue the pattern of our earlier Work Papers. As before, we hope mix something old, translations of the reports of early travelers in the colonies, with something new, reports of travelers who are now visiting in Germany, and whenever possible, reports from travelers to the Soviet Union.

Of course, our historical experiences in the United States will not be overlooked, and hopefully, our readers will continue to supply items of humor, folkways, or personal experiences of our fathers in the early years in pioneering in the west.

The series on villages in the Black Sea region continues with a report on Lichtenthal, this one done by Herman D. Wildermuth, of Yucca Valley, California. The Society now has a set of translations of the "Gemeinde-Berichte der at. Kolonien in Cherson", provided by Professor Joseph S. Height.

The report of the first International Convention in Greeley is must reading for every member of the Society. While the excellent account reports the happenings, it cannot convey the emotional feelings experienced by everyone who attended. It was, in a sense, a finding of a family, a re-union of those who have shared a common experience, and perhaps, a tribute to our fathers who braved the experiences of immigration to make our life here possible.

In the coming Work Papers, we will examine the extent to which the Society members are established in the western states, and begin a series of reviews of new books, articles, thesis and reports as they become available to our archivists.

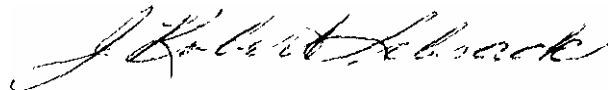
Our correspondent in Germany, Mrs. Haynes, will contribute her timely reports on our sister organizations in Europe, and keep us informed of new books or publications as they become available.

The need, now, is for the membership to help the officers and the editor, with contributions. Church records particularly those celebrating anniversaries are very welcome. Short articles of humorous aspects of life in the colonies are particularly welcome. Future issues will have photographs and sketches, as well as articles, and a cartoonist or artist is most desperately needed.

The first illustrated Annual is being prepared, watch for the president's newsletter for details concerning availability and price.

Good reading. . . .

J. Robert Lebsack



(WP4 p.2)

FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
American Historical Society of Germans From Russia
University Center, University of Northern Colorado
June 18 to 20, 1970

The first meeting of the convention began at 7:00 p.m., June 18, as an informal "get acquainted" reception, hold in the Weld County Bank Community Room, Greeley, Colorado. This was the first opportunity for many members to meet other members who had been unable to attend some of the general meetings of the society. Relatives, friends, and strangers met in a most cordial atmosphere with old friendships being renewed and new friendships being formed. The reception continued until shortly after 9:30 p.m.

June 19, 1970

The first general meeting of the convention was held in room 246 of the University Center Building, University of Northern Colorado, and was called to order by the Society President, David Miller, at 9:25 am. Everyone who had registered for the convention was invited to attend. The invocation was given by the Reverend Elmer Wilhelm, pastor of St. Paul's Church, Greeley, Colorado. The President introduced the Society officers and board of directors members present to those attending the meeting. He also gave a brief report on the original founding of the Society and how the officers and board members were selected. He further explained the general outline of the activities and meetings planned for the convention, and then explained where the various committee meetings and workshops would be held. Then, Miss Ruth M. Amen of Lincoln, Nebraska, presented a very interesting narration of the successful efforts in organizing Chapter One of the Society. She also mentioned some of the plans for the banquet to be held on Saturday evening, June 20. The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m. and the members in attendance adjourned to participate in the meeting and workshop of their choice.

Meeting of the Board of Directors — International
Convention, American Historical Society of Germans from
Russia, held in Room 243C, University Center, Greeley,
Colorado, 19 June 1970.

The meeting was called to order by the President, David Miller, at 11:10 a.m. Present for the meeting were: Mr. Miller, Theodore Menzlaff, Professor Joseph Height, Miss Ruth Amen, Mrs. Rachel Amen, Mrs. Gerda .Walker, Mrs. Marie Gilbert, Mrs. Anna Wardin, Robert Lebsack, Paul Reeb, Jerry Lehr, and Chet Krieger. This was the first board meeting that Professor Height and Mrs. Wardin were able to attend.

The President opened the meeting by welcoming all board members who were attending the convention. He explained that at an earlier meeting, the board of directors had authorized a charter for the group organized at Lincoln, Nebraska, and that the Lincoln group will be Chapter One of the Society. He also mentioned some topics for an agenda and asked the board to consider these subjects and offer comment; namely, increasing the board of director membership to 25, the problem of having a Society convention each year, and a resolution of appreciation for the work done by Mrs. William Urbach as treasurer. A new treasurer will be selected at the Sunday morning meeting as Mrs. Urbach has resigned and has asked to be relieved of that responsibility.

Some of the board members offered comments. Mr. Wenzlaff stated that having an annual convention was good. Such an event encourages participation of all members even if they cannot always attend. He also suggested that the present Society publications, such as the Workpaper, be continued and possibly add a society yearbook. These publications help to make membership more meaningful.

Professor Height stated that he was pleased to be attending the convention and his first board of directors meeting. He believed that the annual convention for the Society was very good. He felt that present membership of the Society could be increased considerably by next convention time. He suggested that everyone participate if possible and all members work together on all publications being prepared by the Society. There are a number of people interested in doing translation work to prepare some of the German language writings for publication in a workpaper or yearbook prepared by the Society. He stated that Dr. Stumpp has done tremendous work for the Germans from Russia. A large number of his writings and other material about the Germans from Russia is available and may be useful to us. Dr. Height asked if it were possible for the Society to honor Dr. Stumpp in some way, such as a position of honor for him. It was then suggested that Dr. Stumpp be invited to the next convention, and he could be invited now to have time to prepare for the travel and visit to Lincoln, Nebraska.

Following a brief discussion, it was moved and seconded that Dr. Karl Stumpp be invited to attend the next convention of the Society at Lincoln, Nebraska. The Society will pay all of his expenses. The motion was approved. It was moved and seconded that Dr. Stumpp be elected an honorary chairman of the board of directors of the Society. The motion was approved.

The president then honored Professor Height for his contribution in helping to bring about the organization and founding of the Society. Professor Height had prepared a list of people who were interested in forming a Society of German people from Russia. He had given a copy of this list to Mr. Miller. The president then contacted the individuals on the list and approximately 95 of these individuals are now members of the Society.

A discussion ensued concerning what can be published in the workpaper or yearbook. It was suggested that some of the articles published in Germany might be used, but this could cause some problems. The president stated that he has the authority to translate and republish any or all articles appearing in the Heimat Buch — an official publication of the Landsmanschaft der Deutschen aus Russland.

Mr. Lebsack gave the report on the yearbook committee. A discussion followed and it was agreed that more help was needed to prepare present publications and perhaps more contributors are needed. The editor of any publication prepared by the Society must have help, but, must also have some freedom to edit what is submitted and to decide what is to be included in the publication. It was suggested that a quarterly publication be prepared and sent to all members as part of the membership dues. This was considered to be within the financial capability of the Society but not an absolute certainty. It was agreed that the most complete publication program would be a monthly newsletter, a quarterly workpaper combining some of the articles of the newsletter and then a yearbook published annually. More funds must be acquired to publish the yearbook and it was suggested that part of the funds could come from the sale of the yearbook to members. Other additional funds may be available and an inquiry can be made as to their availability for the Society. Some foundations could be contacted for additional funds. Mr. Lebsack stated he would be willing to coordinate with other committees in securing enough material to publish the newsletter and workpaper on a regular basis if possible, and all of the efforts could be brought together by a central office for publication.

Jerry Lehr stated that the Finance Committee discussed a similar problem in their meeting; namely, the additional funds necessary to help the Society meet the needs of land and a building for a repository, library, and museum.

Mr. Wenzlaff mentioned an additional publication which could be prepared by the Society, namely, a "Who's Who" among Germans from Russia. Information must be gathered on the achievements of many of the people who would be listed in the book before anything could be published. No final action was taken concerning the publication of the "Who's Who."

A short discussion ensued on the problems of preparing and publishing newsletters, workpapers and the yearbook. The president asked for comment concerning what is published. He asked if some of the problems would be solved by having a board of publications or committee to help the editor. It was agreed that the editor of all publications must decide what is published. It was moved and seconded that the editor have free reign in deciding the final content of all writings and all publications prepared and published by the Society. The motion was approved.

The president stated that he would make a formal report to the convention at the afternoon meeting. This meeting should be held as a general meeting with all society members participating, or it could be held as a continuation of the board of directors meeting. After a brief discussion, it was agreed that the afternoon meeting give way to the various workshop reports and then be followed by an open board of directors meeting with society members participating.

It was moved and seconded that the board of directors be expanded to include 25 members, and that five board members constitute a quorum. The motion was approved. It was suggested that the charter membership list, prepared at the conclusion of the convention, be placed in the forthcoming Workpaper No. 4. No final agreement was reached. The meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

The noon luncheon was held in the Panorama Lounge of the University Center, with the President, David Miller, presiding as chairman. The invocation was given by the Reverend Edwin Dahmer of St. Paul's Church, Greeley, Colorado. The president introduced members of the Board of Directors who were present. Seventy-one (71) registrants from several states were present for the luncheon.

All members attending the luncheon received a spoon made in Russia presented by Mrs. Alice Heinz. The convention color scheme of green and yellow was carried out in printing the official program, and in the floral arrangements and table decorations.

(WP4 p.5)

Open Meeting of the Board of Directors, American Historical Society
of Germans from Russia, held in Room 2A6, University Center,
University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, Colorado, June 19, 1970.

The meeting was called to order by President David Miller at 2:00 p.m. The invocation was given by Mrs. Henry J. Stroh of Greeley, Colorado. The pledge of allegiance was led by Chet Krieger.

In his opening comments, the President invited all members attending the meeting to participate as this was to be an open board of directors meeting. He then explained how the name of the Society was decided upon in the first general meeting, when the Society was organized in Greeley on October 6, 1968. There was little or no desire by anyone to have the combined German-Russian or Russian-German words in the Society name. The words Germans from Russia were preferred by and had the approval of nearly everyone attending that meeting. Also, everyone strongly preferred the word American to further identify the Society.

The President then called for the workshop reports. Miss Esther Fromm reported for the Bibliography Committee. She stated that the Society is very interested in collecting all the information available about the Germans from Russia who settled in the United States and Canada. Copies of the bibliography which the Society has available can be sent to Society members if they desire to have a copy. Books are available upon loan if requested, and provided there is more than one copy of the book available. Other types of information are also welcomed by the Society if individual persons or families wish to make contributions. Pictures of individuals, homes in Russia and after arrival in America, pictures of churches and so forth are most welcome. Obituaries of older generation immigrants and their descendants are very helpful. Church bulletins, church histories and taped interviews are also very good sources of information. Any information about the Germans from Russia will be appreciated.

In a brief discussion which followed, the Reverend Elmer Wilhelm mentioned that some information about the old Conference of the German Congregational Churches may still be available. These churches grouped together and financially supported the old Pioneer Press at Yankton, South Dakota. Some of the information gathered by the Church Conference and the Pioneer Press may still be in existence and can probably be located. Mr. Gary Jerke of South Dakota mentioned that the United Church of Christ in Scotland, South Dakota, may have some information about the German churches. He was designated to inquire about the availability of information and any other church records. Reverend Theodore Radach stated that Dr. Hoffman of the South Dakota State Conference would probably release most of the church records and other information if an inquiry were made. Reverend Radach stated he would write to Dr. Hoffman at Huron, South Dakota, and inquire about getting this information for the Society.

It was moved and seconded that the President be authorized to expend the necessary funds to obtain the church records and other information. The motion was approved. Reverend Radach, Reverend Wilhelm, and Mrs. H. J. Stroh were designated by the President to serve as the Committee and obtain the desired information.

Mrs. Rachel Amen reported for the Membership Committee Workshop. She had reports from some of her state chairmen. Miss Ruth Amen reported for Nebraska; Gary Jerke and John Pfeiffer reported for South Dakota; Mrs. Marie Gilbert for Colorado. Paul Reeb and Mrs. Esther Miller reported for Kansas. Efforts at increasing membership have been well rewarded in some instances, and somewhat difficult at other times, depending on the circumstances. At the time the convention began, the Society had a total membership of 776, with members in 33 states, and the countries of Germany, Italy, and Canada.

The next workshop report came from the Nominating Committee. Mrs. Magdalene Novak of Lincoln, Nebraska, read the list of persons nominated for the Board of Directors. It was moved and seconded that the list of candidates for the board of directors be accepted. The motion was approved. Then the meeting was recessed for a short period.

Upon resuming the meeting, Mr. Theodore Wenzlaff reported on the "Who's Who" Committee. He stated that the purpose of such a publication was to point out the important accomplishments or achievements of Germans from Russia in various activities. Some of the individuals who would be listed in the book are living today. Such a publication must be the work of a committee which would collect and organize all the information, then prepare and publish the book. Also a criterion for being selected and listed in the book must be decided upon by the committee or the Society. It was moved and seconded that the "Who's Who" Committee consist of Professor Joseph Height, Miss Ruth M. Amen, Edward Schwarzkopf, J. Robert Lebsack, and Theodore Wenzlaff. The motion was approved.

The Genealogy Committee report was postponed until Saturday's meeting. There was no report from the Folklore Committee as there was no formal meeting and no one to serve as chairman. Professor Height stated that he would be happy to serve on the Committee. Mr. Victor Reisig and Mrs. Bruce Cardwell also volunteered to serve on the Committee. The Committee will meet and give a report before the convention closes.

The report on the Yearbook Committee was given by Dr. J. Robert Lebsack. He explained some of the problems in gathering, selecting, organizing, and preparing material for publication. He stated that at times, it is difficult to gather interesting and suitable material for publication. He further explained that plans for the near future include a monthly newsletter to all Society members. It is hoped that a quarterly report or workpaper also be published. Then, from all of this writing, a yearbook could be prepared. There will be some problems of financing the publications, particularly the yearbook, but it may be possible to secure some funds from various foundations in Colorado. The yearbook may also be sold to members in order to defray some of the expenses. All types of information, including photographs of communities, villages, and so forth, are most welcome and needed.

At 5:10 p.m., the meeting was recessed until Saturday, June 20, 9:30 a.m.

Friday evening, June 19, 1970

The Friday evening meeting was held in St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church-United Church of Christ at 3815 West 20th Street Road, Greeley, Colorado. A German buffet dinner was served at 6:30 p.m. in the Church Fellowship Hall. Two Hundred thirty-seven (237) people were served at the dinner. Following the dinner, group singing was led by Reverend Elmer Wilhelm of St. Paul's Church, Greeley, Colorado. Mr. John Werner presided as chairman. Music was provided by the St. Paul's orchestra and the Radio Choir sang several songs. Picture slides on Russia were presented by Miss Clara Wertz, Lincoln, Nebraska; Mr. and Mrs. Albert Wardin, Portland, Oregon; and Mr. and Mrs. David Miller, Greeley, Colorado. The meeting was concluded with the Lord's Prayer, and the hymn, God Be With You Till We Meet Again.

Saturday Morning, June 20, 1970

The day's events began with a hospitality hour and an opportunity for late registration for those unable to attend the Friday meetings. The exhibit room - 243C - was opened. The business meeting was reconvened at 9:55 a.m. with Mr. Theodore Wenzlaff presiding as chairman. The president, David Miller, introduced Mr. James Rucker of the Greeley City Council, representing the Honorable Richard A. Perchlik, Mayor of Greeley. Mr. Rucker extended a personal welcome to all the Society members in behalf of Mayor Perchlik and the City of Greeley. The president also welcomed the Schoenchen Singers from Hays, Kansas.

Mr. Miller then commented on the program and the activities planned for the day. He introduced officers and members of the board of directors who had not been present at other meetings—Mr. John Werner and Mr. and Mrs. William Urbach. Mr. Wenzlaff then called for the workshop reports from three committees. The Finance and Repository Committee report was given by Jerry Lehr. He said that his own hopes and plans for the future were almost a dream of what the Society might have in due time. He stated that one of the steps the Society could assume at this time is the selection of a temporary repository, and that future aims and goals of the Society should be carefully planned and carried out.

The Genealogy Committee report was given by Mrs. Gerda Walker. She explained what progress has been made thus far. Many members and non-members of the Society are very interested in the work of the Genealogy Committee. She also mentioned that the Society will help or assist members in tracing family history, if the Society has the information available.

Mrs. Dolores Schwarz of Lincoln, Nebraska, also gave a report on the Genealogy Seminar and Workshop. She mentioned some of the problems involved in getting information about family history, and suggested how bits of information may be gathered from different sources. A brief discussion followed and it was suggested that Society members not be discouraged about getting family history and genealogy information. Tracing any family history does take considerable time, effort and patience. With members exchanging information through the Society, more information becomes available to everyone. It was also suggested that information about family histories may still be available in Germany and Russia. There is still some hope that the Russian census of the Volga colonies may be made available to the Society.

Professor Joseph Height gave the report of the Folklore Committee. He mentioned cookbooks, types of food, folk songs, and stories as being part of our heritage. He stated that it was urgent that stories and the words and music of songs be collected. There may not be many individuals living who can recall some of the stories and the words and music of songs. The information gathered now would provide material for later research. The committee agreed that a German-Russian cookbook be prepared and published. Whoever has some recipes to contribute could send the recipes to the committee or Society. A discussion followed and it was agreed that a cookbook should be prepared by the Society and to incorporate many of the recipes which appear in cookbooks published by the Ladies Aid and other women's groups of our churches.

Mr. Wenzlaff then held a roll call of the various colonies represented by those attending the meeting. Both Volga and Black Sea regions (Ukraine and Crimea) were well represented,

President Miller then addressed the members, stating that he was greatly pleased by the attendance at the convention and with the representation from the various colonies. He asked Mr. Jacob Guenther of Denver, Colorado, to tell of his experiences in Russia before coming to America, Mr. Guenther arrived in the United States in 1923 and was the most recent immigrant to arrive in this country of those attending the meeting. Two other men, attending the meeting, had left Russia in 1913 to come to America. Mr. Guenther told of how he lived through the Revolution, the work he was engaged in after the Revolution and how he managed to escape from Russia and come to America.

The meeting recessed for lunch at 11:40 a.m.

The Saturday luncheon began shortly after 12:00 noon in the University Center ballroom, Mr. William F. Urbach, Vice President of the Society, presided as chairman. Following the luncheon, attended by 104 people, the Schoenchen Singers—a men's chorus from Hays, Kansas—entertained the luncheon guests with some rare, some old, and some unwritten folk songs of the Germans from Russia. The songs were enjoyed and appreciated by everyone. The story and origin of the folk songs was given by Mr. Larry Worth of Hays, Kansas, the chorus director.

Also as part of the program, Mr. John Pfeiffer of Aberdeen, South Dakota, performed a Ukrainian dance in full costume. Following the dance, he gave an interesting explanation of each movement and the significance of each movement. The music and the dance were very entertaining and everyone applauded with enthusiasm.

The meeting reconvened for the final session at 2:55 p.m. with President David Miller presiding as chairman. The president called on Mr. Fred Koch of Olympia, Washington. Mr. Koch commented on the use of the words German-Russian and Russian-German. He stated that the use of the combined or hyphenated term is not appropriate to describe our group of people, and therefore should not be used. It was generally agreed that the combined words were not descriptive of our Society and thus far the most acceptable wording of our Society name is Germans from Russia.

Mrs. Theodosia Urbach was then called on to give the Treasurer's report. She spoke of the very first meeting when the Society was organized in 1968 and of the early operational problems. She gave a history of the finances of the Society and explained the reasons for her resignation. Then she presented the Treasurer's report. It was moved and seconded that the Treasurer's report be accepted as presented. Motion approved.

Mr. John Werner presented the following resolution to the Society: Be it resolved that the members of the AHSGR hereby express their appreciation to Mrs. Theodosia Urbach, Treasurer of our Society, for her diligent and untiring efforts as Treasurer of our Society from its formation, to the conclusion of this first International Convention. It was moved and seconded that the resolution be accepted and made a matter of record. The motion was approved.

A discussion began concerning the attendance at the convention. The total registration for the convention was 257. This total did not include the 16 members of the Men's Chorus from Hays, Kansas. Regrettably, they had to return to their homes in Kansas after the luncheon. Of those attending the present meeting, 26 were born in Russia.

Attendance at the Friday luncheon totaled 71. At the Friday evening German dinner, attendance was 237. The Saturday luncheon was attended by 104 people. For Saturday evening, 190 place settings have been guaranteed and it is possible that perhaps a few more will be added. Members attending the convention represent 15 states, Canada, and Germany.

The President explained the policy of the Society concerning the formation of local and state chapters by groups of interested people. He stated that he favored the formation of a local or area chapter of the Society wherever and whenever there was a sufficiently large group of people interested in organizing such a chapter. He hoped that there would be more interest in forming local chapters now that the Lincoln, Nebraska Chapter had been organized. The more local or area chapters that can be formed, the stronger the Society will be. He was also hopeful of having at least one chapter being organized in Canada. He then recognized Mr. Michael Deck of Muenster, Saskatchewan, Canada, the only Canadian member of our Society attending the convention.

After recess for coffee and punch, the meeting was resumed with President Miller presiding. He introduced Dr. Darrell Holmes, President of the University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, Colorado. Dr. Holmes welcomed the members of the Society to Greeley and stated that he was pleased that the Society held its first convention here. He said he was pleased to learn that the Society was formally organized in Greeley, and wished the Society a long, active, and productive life. The goal of the Society in gathering the history of the Germans from Russia is very commendable, and such a history is needed.

The President then called on the Nominating Committee. Mrs. Magdalene Novak of Lincoln, Nebraska, presented the list of nominations for the Board of Directors. This was the complete list of names submitted earlier and contained additional names. Nominations for the Board of Directors were as follows:

David J. Miller, Greeley, Colorado	Jerry Lehr, Denver, Colorado
John H. Werner, Denver, Colorado	Victor C. Leiker, Atlantic Highlands, NJ
William P. Urbach, Denver, Colorado	W. C. Raugust, Odessa, Washington
Chester G. Krieger, Wheatridge, Colo.	Harold Stoll, Monte Vista, Colorado
Theodore C. Wenzlaff, Sutton, Nebraska	Mrs. Theodosia Urbach, Denver, Colo.
Mrs. Rachel Amen, Loveland, Colorado	Mrs. Gerda S. Walker, Denver, Colo.
Miss Ruth M. Amen, Lincoln, Nebraska	Mrs. Albert W. Wardin, Portland, Ore.
Arthur E. Flegel, Menlo Park, California	J. Robert Lebsack, Boulder, Colorado
Ray R. Friedrich, Rugby, North Dakota	Paul E. Reeb, Saint Francis, Kansas
Adam Giesinger, Winnipeg, Canada	Mrs. Theodore E. Heirz, Greeley, Colo.
Mrs., Marie Gilbert, Aurora, Colorado	John H.; Pfeiffer, Aberdeen, S. Dakota
Mrs. Emma S. Haynes, APO, New York	Victor A. Resig, St. Joseph, Michigan
Joseph S. Height, Franklin, Indiana	Edward Schwarzkopf, Lincoln, Neb.

Nominations from the floor were accepted. Mr. Fred Koch of Olympia, Washington was nominated from the floor. There were no other nominations. It was moved and seconded that the list of nominations submitted be accepted and approved, and the persons so named be elected, including the nomination from the floor. The motion was approved.

It was moved and seconded that the members of the Board of Directors be increased from 25 to 30. The motion was approved.

The President then informed those attending the meeting of the earlier action taken by the Board of Directors concerning this site of the next convention. The Society received an invitation to hold the 1971 convention at Lincoln, Nebraska, with the newly formed Chapter No. 1 being host to the Society. The board had accepted and approved the

the invitation, now the members of the Society would have the opportunity to accept it. It was moved and seconded that the invitation to have the 1971 AHSGR Convention in Lincoln, Nebraska, be accepted. The motion was approved.

A short discussion ensued concerning the best time of the year to hold the convention. It was generally agreed that the third or fourth week in June would be the best time to hold the convention as there would be less interference from holiday travel, vacations, farm problems, and school attendance. It was also agreed that the roster of those who registered for the current convention be prepared and sent to the Lincoln Chapter. This roster can then be used to prepare for the 1971 convention.

Mr. Fred Koch of Olympia, Washington, made the motion that a standing vote of appreciation from those present be given to the President, the officers, the Board of Directors and all those who participated in the preparation, organization and holding of the convention. The motion was seconded and approved and those attending gave the standing ovation. The President expressed his appreciation for such a fine vote of confidence, and then he directed the attention of the meeting to Mrs. Alice Heinz. He stated that Mrs. Heinz had served as Chairman of the Arrangements Committee for the convention. He expressed his appreciation for her hard work and extra effort in making the convention a success.

There being no other business to conduct, it was moved and seconded that the convention adjourn until the next convention at Lincoln, Nebraska. The motion was approved and the final meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

The convention banquet began shortly after 6:30 p.m. in the University Center ballroom. The entire banquet and program was arranged by Chapter One of Lincoln, Nebraska, with Miss Ruth M. Amen presiding as master of ceremonies. The invocation was given by Mr. H. J. Amen of Lincoln, Nebraska. Miss Amen then introduced the special guests attending the banquet. Special music was presented by a vocal duet—Mr. Henry Salzman, Jr. and Mrs. Keith Miller both of Greeley—accompanied by Mrs. Wallace H. Roberts. Then the Society President, David Miller, spoke to the banquet participants and stated he was well pleased with the turn out at the banquet. Before the convention, the Society had to guarantee 190 reservations for the banquet and only a short time before the convention, only 75 people had made reservations for the banquet. However, the attendance at the banquet reached more than 200 by 6:30 p.m.

Starting a different mood, Miss Amen stated that some surprises were in store for the banquet guests. Mr. Miller was honored by his grandchildren, who presented him with a scroll portraying the family tree. He was also given a standing ovation by everyone attending the banquet. Then a Canadian visitor was introduced and invited to the podium. He presented a humorous poem in a combined broken English and German dialect language, everyone thoroughly enjoyed the presentation.

The President introduced Professor Joseph A. Height, who addressed the group on "The History of Germans from Russia". Professor Height presented a brief but thorough history about the Germans from Russia and mentioned some of the more recent and current problems, faced by the German people living in Russia today. He stated, it was very important and urgent that the history of our people be prepared and recorded as-soon as possible. Throughout his address Professor Height enlivened his comments with references to stories about the Germans from Russia. These stories were told in dialect German and were both appreciated and enjoyed by the audience.

Following Professor Height's address, group singing was led by Miss Amen. Everyone joined in singing "Lebe den Herren" and "Gott ist die Liebe". Mrs. Theodosia Urbach was honored for her service to the Society as Treasurer and was presented with an initialed gold pin .showing the dates of her service to the AHSGR.

Mr. Edward Schwartzkopf of Lincoln, Nebraska, then presented a tribute "We Are Proud of Our Forefathers." Following this brief tribute, Mr. Schwartzkopf stated that the Lincoln Chapter had a special gift for all the Society members attending the banquet. The gift was prepared by the Lincoln Chapter and made possible by the generosity of Mr. H. J. Amen to commemorate the first international convention of the Society. The gift was a beautiful seven-inch plate in green and yellow on white, depicting the activities and interests that shaped the lives of the Germans from Russia. This lovely gift was appreciated by all the members who expressed their thanks with a round of applause. The gift, a memento of an historic occasion, also symbolized the efforts of the Lincoln Chapter and all Society members in making the convention a success.

In the final moments before adjournment, everyone seemed pleased with the convention and in heartfelt gratitude joined in singing the closing hymn "So Nimm denn Meine Haende". Thus ended the first international convention of the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia.

Post Convention meeting of the Board of Directors, American Historical Society of Germans from Russia, held at the Garden Kitchen Restaurant, 118 - 18th Street, Greeley, Colorado, Sunday, June 21, 1970.

The members assembled for a combined no-host breakfast and meeting at about 8:15 a.m. The prayer and blessing were given by Professor Joseph Height. After the breakfast, the meeting was called to order by the President, David Miller, at 9:00 a.m. Board members present for the meeting were David J. Miller, Joseph S. Height, John H. Werner, Jerry Lehr, Paul S. Reeb Jr., Robert Lebsack, John E. Pfeiffer, Victor A. Reisig, Edward Schwartzkopf, Chester Krieger, Theodore G. Wenzlaff, Miss Ruth H. Amen, Mrs. Rachel Amen, Mrs. Alice Heinz, Mrs. Marie Gilbert, Mrs. Gerda Walker, and Mrs. Albert Wardin. This was the first board meeting for some of the newly elected board members.

Guests at the meeting were; Mrs. David Miller, Mrs. Joseph Height, Mrs. Jerry Lehr, Mrs. Theodore Wenzlaff, Mrs. Chester Krieger, Mrs. Lydia Amend, Mrs. Ruth Payne, Mr. H. J. Amen, Mr. Carl Amen, Mr. Albert Wardin and Miss Suzanne Walker.

The President opened the meeting by expressing his appreciation for all the efforts put forth by the board of directors and society members, and their active participation in the convention. He stated that the achievements of the Society were the result of all the individual efforts and contributions of the members.

He then explained the task facing the new board of directors. The present members of the board must work together to achieve the aims and goals of the Society. The members of the Society have given their vote of confidence, and also their approval of the actions taken by the previous board of directors. New members have been added to the board in order to have more representation from different areas of the United State's, more representation from the various areas of German settlements in Russia, and to help the Society to expand and achieve its goals.

He stated that another purpose of the meeting was to elect officers for the coming year. He stated that he would serve again as President of the Society if the members of the board so desired and that the other officers had volunteered to serve for another year with the exception of Mrs. Theodosia Urbach, and so the office of Treasurer -was the only post to be filled.

The President placed the name of John L. Long, Greeley, Colorado, before the board as a candidate for the office of Treasurer, and gave his reasons for the selection. A brief discussion followed. It was moved and seconded that Mr. Long be elected as Treasurer of the AHSGR. The motion was approved. It was also suggested that an assistant treasurer be elected. After a brief discussion, it was moved and seconded that Mrs. Harvey L. (Oleta) Weber of LaSalle, Colorado, be elected as Assistant Treasurer of the Society. The motion was approved.

A short discussion ensued concerning the selection of another Chairman of the Membership Committee. No decision was reached and the subject was postponed for later action. The selection of a new Publicity Chairman was also set aside for later action.

It was moved and seconded that all officers now serving the Society be re-elected to their present offices. A short discussion followed. The motion was approved. It was moved and seconded that Mr. H. J. Amen of Lincoln, Nebraska, be elected as President Emeritus of the Society. The motion was approved. It was moved and seconded that Miss Ruth M. Amen of Lincoln, Nebraska, be elected as a Vice President of the Society. The motion was approved.

Jerry Lehr then commented on the Finance Committee and suggested that the name be changed to Planning and Finance Committee, as the two activities go together and that all members of the committee be aware of what is being planned and what finances are available. He also suggested that at least three or four members of the committee should attend the regular board meetings, and work directly with the board of directors.

John Werner commented that the Finance Committee could be broadened to include some future planning. A program could be prepared which would lead to some future benefits resulting from the program. A start could be made with a survey of the assets of the Society and what possibility there may be in future development. Mrs. Gerda Walker stated that a well-planned budget for each year to two years would be helpful in meeting the Goals of the Society. This would permit some allotted funds to be spent each year on projects sponsored by the Society. There was no final decision concerning the activities of the Finance Committee.

Miss Ruth M. Amen stated that a number of the special gift plates given to Society members at the banquet were on hand. She suggested that the plates be given to museums and historical societies in the areas where the Germans from Russia lived. Board members volunteered to take the commemorative plates and programs to several different state historical societies and museums. The organizations receiving the commemorative plates are as follows:

California State Historical Society — Sacramento, California
Colorado State Historical Society — Denver, Colorado

Kansas State Historical Society — Topeka, Kansas
North Dakota State Historical Society — Bismarck, N. Dakota
South Dakota State Historical Society — Pierre, South Dakota
Oregon State Historical Society — Portland, Oregon
Michigan Historical Commission — Lansing, Michigan
Nebraska State Historical Society --- Lincoln, Nebraska
Wyoming State Historical Society — Cheyenne, Wyoming

McCook Historical Society — McCook, Nebraska
University of Northern Colorado -- Greeley, Colorado
Greeley Museum — Greeley, Colorado
Loveland Museum --- Loveland, Colorado
Longmont Museum — Longmont, Colorado
Museum of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints — Salt Lake City, Utah

Mr. Victor Heisig then commented on the activities of the Society. He believes that the Society will grow and that every effort should be made to promote the recording of the history of the Germans from Russia. We should try to secure funding from any local or regional foundation that will help. Also an important thing to do is to identify the contributions which the Germans from Russia have made to America. He suggested that we should try to get some recognition of our history and have some history courses offered or available in colleges and universities—this may require considerable effort but is very worthwhile.

Bob Lebsack then mentioned that he will be serving as chairman of the "Clipping Committee". He is interested in any bit of information or history about the Germany from Russia including obituaries. He asked all board members to send him any newspaper articles, parts of books, copies of church records, and any other information about Germans from Russia. This information will be useful in gathering material for the newsletter, the quarterly workpaper and the yearbook.

Mrs. Alice Heinz reported on the convention, and stated that all bills incurred for the convention will be paid with funds from the convention treasury. A small surplus or overage will be returned to the Society's general treasury. Everyone was pleased to hear such a good report.

It was moved and seconded that we adjourn. The motion was approved. The meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Chester G. Krieger, Secretary

REPORT FROM GERMANY
Emma Schwabenland Haynes
Hqs V Corps SJA Section
APO New York 09079

In a recent letter from Mr. David J. Miller, I was informed that the Board of Directors of our Society had named me their official representative in Germany. I shall, therefore, be sending occasional reports to our Work Papers on German-Russian activities here in Germany.

My first announcement is that from October 8th to the 11th, in the town of Beilstein (North of Stuttgart) there will be a meeting of the Volga Germans living in Germany. Dr. M. Hagin, who is in charge of the arrangements, expects about forty people to participate in the proceedings. Five lectures will be given on various aspects of Volga German history, and each lecture will be followed by a discussion period. Two weeks later in the city of Wiesbaden, there will be a reunion of those people who come from the colony of Hoffnungstal in Southern Russia. (This is the village which was mentioned by Paul E. Reeb on pages 49-60 of Work Paper No. 3.) One of the organizers of the reunion is Dr. Georg Leibbrandt, whose doctor's thesis, Die Auswanderung Aus Schwaben nach Russland 1816-1823, stands as one of the landmarks of Russian-German history. Anyone interested in attending either of these meetings may obtain further information by writing to me at the above address. However, it should be understood that all proceedings will be conducted in the German language.

Those of our members who plan to come to Europe this fall might also be interested in acquiring information on the different methods of visiting the Soviet Union. The easiest and cheapest way is to join a tour group. It is also possible to plan a private itinerary, and then to either drive one's own car or to fly directly to those cities which one wishes to visit. However, all financial arrangements must be made in advance, and one must remember that only a limited number of cities are open to tourists. People wishing to meet relatives usually fly to such places as Moscow, Odessa, Alma Ata, Novosibirsk or Tashkent, all of which are on the approved list, and the reunion with Soviet German relatives takes place there. It is almost impossible to obtain permission to go directly to the collective farm or the small town in -which the relatives usually live.

To the best of my knowledge, Saratov is not on the approved list. and the only way an American of Volga German descent can obtain even a glimpse of the former German colonies is to take a trip on a Volga River steamer from Kazan to Volgograd (former Stalingrad).

Here in Germany most tourists to the Soviet Union make their arrangements through the Neckermann Travel organization. Chartered

planes leave the Frankfurt Airport for Moscow every Sunday from the end of March until the end of October. Last September my husband and I joined such a tour group and spent one week in Moscow and Leningrad, plus a second week visiting Tashkent, Samarkand and Bukhara in Soviet Asia. (If we had so desired, a third week could have been spent on the Black Sea.)

Visitors to the Soviet Union often bring back very conflicting reports on their experiences, based at least partly on their own preconceptions, plus such variable factors as hotel accommodations, Intourist guides and the weather. My own reactions were undoubtedly colored by the fact that I had previously visited the Soviet Union in the summer of 1934. This was at a time when so-called "kulaks" were still being deported; when the country was just beginning to recover from a terrible famine which had cost the lives of millions of citizens; when shops were almost completely empty of food and clothing; and when Russians seldom went to bed without fear of possible arrest. As Robert Conquest tells in his book The Great Terror: Stalin's Purge of the Thirties, approximately one-half of all the families of the Soviet Union had at least one relative in jail during the 1930's.

The things which I saw and heard in the summer of 1934 made such an indelible impression upon me, that in 1969 I was pleasantly surprised to notice many improvements in the Soviet Union. Most of the people in our tour group were shocked by the shoddy clothing in store windows, but it was still a marked change for the better in comparison with 1934. And, most important of all, the terrible fear of possible arrest on trumped-up charges was certainly less present.

In Moscow we stayed at the Hotel Russia directly across from the Kremlin. The weather could not have been more perfect, and the shining gold domes of the Kremlin churches against the deep blue Moscow sky will always remain an unforgettable memory. These churches are not used for religious services, but they are at least being preserved as cultural monuments. In the same way, the lovely blue-tiled mosques and tombs built by Tamerlane in Samarkand are being painstakingly restored. And outside of Leningrad, the palaces of Catherine the Great and Peter the Great, which had been left in ruins at the end of World War II, are now reconstructed. The latter palace was of special interest to me, because, according to Josef Ponten in his book Die Vaeter Zogen aus, it was here that Volga German colonists were brought upon their arrival in Russia in order to be interviewed by Catherine the Great.

My own Volga German grandparents came to the United States so long ago, that my family no longer corresponds with anyone in the Soviet Union, but through Russian-German friends in Frankfurt, I was able to spend a day in Tashkent with a woman who was born in one of the Catholic villages of the Kutschurganer area in

southern Russia. She now lives on a collective farm outside of Tashkent, and she told me that about six hundred German families from the Volga and the Black Sea worked in vineyards belonging to the collective farm. Some of the families had been deported to this area in 1941, and others had come after 1955 from Siberia, in order to escape the bitterly cold winters of the north. Tashkent lies in the Uzbek Republic, and at noon my visitor insisted that I accompany her to an Uzbek restaurant for a typical dinner of "plov" - a rice dish with meat. The floor of the restaurant wasn't very clean, but the "plov" was delicious, and it was a fascinating experience to sit surrounded by native Uzbek inhabitants whose faces showed the mingling of Mongol, Persian, Tatar and Turkish strains.

Shortly after our return to Germany, I was invited to attend the annual "Kulturtagung" of the "Landsmannschaft der Deutschen aus Russland." The meeting was held on November 8 and 9, in the town of Kornfeld just outside Stuttgart. The three main speakers were, Dr. Karl Stumpp, who discussed the use of Russian words in the everyday speech of our German people; Dr. Georg Leibbrandt, who described the various ways in which the German colonists and their Russian neighbors were of mutual help and benefit to each other; and Mr. Joseph S. Schnurr, the editor of the monthly paper "Volk auf dem Weg", who delivered an interesting lecture on the folk costumes of the Russian-Germans. Mr. Schnurr pointed out that the German men and women who lived in the larger Russian cities were influenced by changing styles, but that in the more remote villages, particularly on the Volga, clothing retained many features which had been brought to Russia as early as 1764. With the use of slides, he illustrated how pleated overcoats, waistcoats and jackets for men, as well as the skirts, shawls and jackets for women, remained practically unchanged until 1914.

In a private conversation with Mr. Schnurr at the conclusion of his lecture, he asked me to appeal to the members of our American Historical Society for descriptions of those articles of clothing which were brought from Russia to the United States and Canada. He would be particularly interested in obtaining pictures of such pieces of clothing, and wishes to know by what German or Russian names they were called. Society members who prefer to write in English could send their letters to me, and I shall be happy to translate them into German for Mr. Schnurr.

A second meeting which I was privileged to attend took place from February 27 to March 1, 1970 in Frommern, a charming little town in the Swabian Alps south of Stuttgart. The meeting was organized by Frau Irmgard Stoldt, who was born in Odessa, and is in charge of the women's section of the "Landsmannschaft der Deutschen aus Russland." The purpose of the gathering was to pay tribute to "The World Day of Prayer." For that reason I was asked to describe the religious life of Russian-Germans in the United States, and Frau Stoldt reported on religious conditions in the Soviet Union.

Of the seventeen women besides myself who attended the meeting, three had been brought to Germany by their parents after World War I; eight had fled to Germany during World War II and had succeeded in remaining here; four had come to Germany between 1943 and 1945, but had been forcibly repatriated to the Soviet Union. The other two had spent the war years as political prisoners in the Soviet Union, and had now, in their old age, been given permission to join their relatives in Germany. All of these women had stories to tell which were so heart-breaking that I asked for permission to relate some of their experiences.

Frau A is now seventy-seven years old. She was born in one of the German colonies near Odessa and was married to the local schoolteacher of the village. In 1930 he was arrested on charges of "inciting the people against the communist government", and sent north to Archangel. At the conclusion of his three year sentence, he was not allowed to return home. For that reason Frau A with her mother-in-law and two small sons joined him in Archangel. In 1937 he was re-arrested. Frau A never saw or heard from him again. A few days later she herself was arrested. Her children were nine and thirteen years old at the time. After a passage of twenty-five years she was reunited with one son, but the other had died in the intervening years. From 1937 until 1947 Frau A served a ten-year prison term working in a lumber camp near Archangel. Then, after shorter sojourns in various Siberian towns, where she still had to report to the police every month, she was able to join some relatives in Dushanbe near the border of Afghanistan. Here she lived from 1956 to 1962. In the meantime, one of her sons had worked his way to western Germany during World War II. After many repeated requests that his mother be allowed to join him, she was eventually given permission to leave the Soviet Union.

I was especially happy to meet this woman because I had already read a biography of her life, which is published on pages 14-19 in the Heimatbuch for 1966. The article ends with the notation that shortly before she left the Soviet Union, Frau A received notification, that although her husband had died in a prison camp, he had been posthumously "rehabilitated" because the records showed that there had never been any real evidence against him.

Frau B had been educated in Odessa and became a schoolteacher in that city. In 1937 during the worst of the Stalin purges, she was arrested on charges of being a German spy. After lengthy interrogations, one of which lasted three days and nights without sleep, she was asked to sign a "confession". Upon her refusal to do this, she was returned to her cell and shortly thereafter given a ten-year prison sentence to Archangel. At first she worked on a construction gang which was building a railroad through the Arctic wilderness, and later she was assigned to a prison factory. In 1942 she was moved to a labor camp near Gorke and then transferred

to Zelinograd in Siberia. In the meantime her prison sentence had been extended for an additional ten years. After 1955, restrictions against the Soviet Germans began to relax, and in 1958 Frau B was "rehabilitated" and told that there had never been any valid reason for her arrest. She then moved to Dzhambul in Kazakhstan in order to be with her father and sister; and in the fall of 1969 was allowed to resettle in Germany. Frau B is a devout Lutheran, but in Dzhambul, as in many Soviet cities, the Baptist Church is the only Protestant denomination legally recognized by the Soviet government. For that reason the German Lutherans usually meet in their own homes for religious services. Frau B told that the spiritual leader of the group with whom she worshipped was a "Brother" from one of the Volga colonies. She also commented on the harmonious relations which exist today between German Catholics and Protestants, and told that a Catholic family from the Volga had always been especially kind to her.

Frau C was a quiet woman with sad eyes who had arrived in Germany in December 1969. During the closing days of World War II she had participated in the great trek in which approximately 350,000 Black Sea Germans had fled from the Soviet Union. She and her family had reached the province of Mecklenburg in eastern Germany. At that point they were overtaken by the Russian army, put in boxcars, and deported to prison camps in the Komi Republic which lies east of Archangel in the extreme northern part of European Russia. This area is bisected by the Arctic Circle. In winter there are three months of darkness and in summer it stays light all night for about three months. Frau C also told about religious conditions in this part of the Soviet Union. Previously, it was only possible to meet in an outdoor spot, such as a cemetery, and any funeral was used as an excuse to conduct a religious service. Conditions have relaxed somewhat in recent years, and Frau C had the courage to allow fellow Lutherans to come to her home for religious worship, even though she knew that this would count against her as far as advancement in her factory was concerned. The comment was also made that children of religious parents are far less likely to get scholarships so that they can continue their studies.

Frau D was born in the Volhynien section of the Ukraine near the Polish border. She began to sob as she told me that her husband had relatives in the United States who sent him some money as a gift in 1937. That same week he was arrested and deported as "an agent of American imperialism". She never again heard from him, and assumes that he died long ago in some prison camp. During World War II she managed to come as far west as Hamburg, in the British zone of occupation. However, the three western allies (France, Great Britain and the United States) signed an agreement with the Soviet Union that anyone born in the Soviet Union would be turned over to Russian authorities. Frau D was told that she would be allowed to return to her native village in Volhynia, but instead her sealed boxcar was sent to Siberia. Here she spent the next ten years in a prison camp doing construction work. After

1955, when Soviet Germans were given more freedom, she moved to Novosibirsk, and in 1967 was allowed to come to Germany.

All four women told similar stories of the terrible deportation trains in which men, women and children were packed tightly together, with no toilet facilities except the use of a bucket; of the inhuman living conditions in the prison camps; of having to walk as far as five miles through knee-deep snow in order to reach their outdoor worksites; and of hunger so great that they were forced to eat grass and bark from trees. The most amazing thing to me was that these horrible experiences had not succeeded in de-humanizing them. Throughout it all they had retained their faith in God, and had even managed to keep a sense of humor. During one of our meals they began to laughingly compare various ways in which thistles can be cooked.

During the two days that I spent with these women, there were frequent periods in which I felt an almost guilty twinge of embarrassment that I, as a native American woman, had never in my whole life gone hungry, had never faced a bitter winter without warm clothing or adequate shelter, and had never lain awake at night listening for the possible arrival of the Secret Police. But in spite of this fact, there were other occasions in which I felt a close spirit of kinship with the women. One of these moments was at the conclusion of our Friday evening meeting, when Frau Stoldt suggested that we all join in singing the well-known hymn, "So nimm denn meine Haende und fuehre mich". (Take Thou my hands and lead me.) Every woman present, regardless of whether she had been born on the Black Sea, on the Volga, or in Volhynia, joined in the song. And I too, as an American of Russian-German decent, was able to sing the German words along with the group.

The meeting in Frommern was a very intimate event, in complete contrast with the "Bundestreffen der Landsmannschaft der Deutschen aus Russland" which took place in Wiesbaden on June 5th to the 7th of this year. To my amazement over three thousand Russian-Germans now living in Germany attended the conference. Meetings were held in a large convention hall called "Rhein-Main Halle", and addresses of welcome were given by representatives of the city of Wiesbaden, the state of Hesse and the national government in Bonn.

On Saturday morning I was invited to attend both the business meeting of the Board of Directors of the "Landsmannschaft" and the reception given for us by the mayor of Wiesbaden, to whom I was introduced as a representative of the "American Historical Society of Germans From Russia". On Saturday night there was a program of songs and dances, and on Sunday morning, a religious service was followed by the main meeting of the day at which Dr. Karl Stumpp was the "Festredner".

One of the most interesting features of the conference was that on Saturday afternoon Russian-German visitors could gather at tables which were marked with such geographical names as "Kutschurganer Kolonien", Beresaner Koloniern", "Bergseite- Volga", etc. I spent several hours talking to people from the Volga,

including an elderly lady whose family name was Jauk and who has relatives in Windsor, Colorado as well as in Saginaw, Michigan. I also met a man named Ziegler from the colony of Koehler, a Herr Gerhardt from Straub and a Frau Appelhans from the colony of Rothammel.

The most interesting conversation of the afternoon took place with a woman whose maiden name was Eisenach and who was born in Frank fifty-seven years ago. She had arrived in Germany from the Soviet Union on April 16th of this year, and was still living in a temporary refugee camp for immigrants. She was the first person I have met so far who actually participated in the mass deportation of the Volga Germans in 1941. I asked her, as well as all the other Volga Germans sitting at the table, if they could tell me something about the present-day conditions of the Volga colonies. All of them agreed, that to the best of their knowledge, none of the villages were burned to the ground in 1941. However, some of the colonies, especially on the Wiesenseite, had remained deserted, and were now ghost towns covered with sand. In the majority of cases the villages were either occupied by Russian soldiers or were inhabited by refugees from the fighting front. During the 1940's fuel was at such a premium, that both the soldiers and the refugees would sometimes tear down houses and use the wood for fuel. A great deal of pillaging and looting also went on, and in the course of time the villages began to present a very dilapidated appearance.

I mentioned that I had heard from members of the Society that some Germans had returned to Frank and other colonies to live. In response, I was told that at the time of their rehabilitation, all Volga Germans had to sign a statement that they would never present a claim to the government for the property which they had left behind, and that they would never return to the "rayon" or district in which they had formerly lived. However, some elderly people did return to their native villages, and so far no attempt has been made to force them to leave. I gathered that isolated cases are permissible, but that no widespread return will be tolerated.

This seems to be "Convention Year" as far as the Russian-Germans of Germany are concerned. By the time this report is distributed, there will have taken place a "Bundestreffen der Bessarabian Deutschen" in Stuttgart on Sunday July 26th. I was delighted to hear that two of our members, Mr. and Mrs. Herman D. Wildermuth of Yucca Valley, California, plan to come to Germany to attend this meeting. A report on the proceedings will undoubtedly appear in the next issue of our Work Paper.

A FOLK STORY IN DIALECT

Russlanddeutsche Erzählung in der Selzer Mundart.

Um M'ndag noch'm Dreifaltigkaatssundag bin ich amol niwwer zum Pfeifer Faltin un zu mei'm Schwoger dem Mitzel Andres, um a bissel Maastub zu mache. Weil's Wetter awwer so arig scheen g'wesst isch, isch der Faltin uff d'r Gedanke kumme, m'r sotte heit doch proviere a paar Fisch im Liman' zu fange. Do hemmer halt gleich unser Angel g'holt un sinn mit d'r klaane Lotka² uff's Wasser 'naus g'fahre. D'Sunn hat arig gebrönnt un ka Liftete Wind isch gange. Mer sinn iwwer zwaa Stund uff'm Liman rümg'fahre heun awwer nix g'fange.

"D'r Deifel muss nei'fahre un a Kreizmillionestardunnerwetter a noch derzue," hat d'r Pfeifer Faltin uff amol ang'fange zu fluche, "ich waas nit was zum Deihenker heit los isch! Ich bin doch geschter in d'r Karich g'wesst un hab allegebot uff's Fische gedenkt. Du hasch sicher a dran gedenkt, gell'Endres?"

"Ich?" hat d'r Endres g'sagt, "naa, ich hab nit dran gedenkt, weil ich nit wejerdem Fische, awwer wejer dem Bedde in d'Karich gange bin." "Na ja," brummt d'r Faltin, "du kannsch ruhig dei' Spott bleiwwe lasse. Do lug amol do na! Ganz schwarz kummt's do unne ruff vun Majaki³. Ich maan m'r krieje a arich beeses Wetter." Awwer der Mitzel Endres isch nit uffs Maul g'falle: "Hajo, wem'mer immer so viel Dunnerwetter im Maul hat wie due, wär's ka Wunner nit, wenn's amol kummt un dich holt!" "Lass es nar kumme," hat der Faltin g'sagt, "s'ward uns nit fresse; un wenn Himmel un Erde zittere, ich faricht nicht nit."

Uff amol hat's geblitzt un gedunnert as m'r sei eijenes Wort nit vestanne hat. Un a stärker Wind hat die schwarz Wolke wie wiedig iwver d'r Liman getriwwe. Awwer d'r harzhafte Faltin hat gleich wieder ang'fange zu wettete: "A fixe darike noch amol! Die kegle awwer heit dortdrowwe! Lasse nar bollere!" Awwer d'r arme Endres hat d'Hand z'sammeg'legt un hat ang'fange: "Liewer Gott, wenn ich geschter ebbes unrecht gedue hab (Faltin, a Knopf hab m'r in d'Hosse g'flickt!), so will ich's nimmi wider due." "Waas hasch du g'macht?" hat'n d'r Pfeifer Faltin angegrische, "a Hosseknopf ang'flickt uff'm heilige Dreifaltigkaatssundag? 'Sich ka Wunner, as m'r nix fanje un in so a Wetter 'neikumme sinn! Du Himmelssapperment, ich rot d'r uff d'r Stell, schmeiss die verdammte Hosse gleich in d'r Liman 'nei, sunscht simmer meinet Seel verlore!" Un richtig, d'r verschrockene Endres hat se ausgezoje un hat se 'nein g'schwisse un gleich hinnenoch isch a Dunnerkeil 'neig'fahre un s'Wetter isch bald widder ganz hell worre. Ja, un wenn's nit glaawe welle, bis Owed hemmer noch viel Fisch g'fange. Un zu guter Letscht wie d'r Endres sei Angel 'reingezoge hat, isch weiter nix dran g'hänge: die gedaafte Hosse.

Prof. J. S. Height

Professor Joseph S. Height

LICHTENTHAL – Lichtental (modern spelling)

I. The Founding of the Colony

Lichtental was founded in 1834. Pastor Lindl first came to Bessarabia in 1822 (when he established Sarata). This land (for the three colonies of Sarata, Gnadental, and Lichtental) was given to him by the Crown (Czar Alexander I) for this purpose (the establishment of the three colonies). After a short stay following the establishment of Sarata, Lindl left Russia (he was forced to leave because of religious animosity). Consequently the settlement of this colony did not begin until 1834, when it began with the migration of settlers from Wurtemberg.

II. The Location of the Colony

The colony, which is about 40 miles from the district city of Akkermann and about 75 miles from the provincial capital of Kischenew, lies in the north-to-south oriented Tschiligider Valley, which originates on the estate of County Mansier and flows into the Kagelnik Valley about 3 ½ miles below (south of) Lichtental. The stream flows only during periods of rain and snowmelt, drying up completely in many places during periods of drought. The village is rectangular in shape with four rows of houses situated on two north-south streets. A large public square, upon which the church has been built, is located in the middle of the village.

Lichtental has a pleasant appearance and, when the deficiencies are corrected, will become one of the more beautiful communities of Bessarabia, thus living up to its name. The name Lichtental was chosen by the Sarata Territorial Board and confirmed for adoption by the Colonist Welfare Committee. It was chosen with the expectation that the colony would, in every respect, become an ornament to this valley.

The wells which are from 15 to 18 feet in depth have very good water. Gardens are tended in the rear of the living quarters and yards.

III. Quality of the Land.

In general, the land is a flat plain with a slight rise toward the west. Part of the land is strongly impregnated with saltpeter; the ground has only ¾ to one foot of good, black soil. This is underlain by 8-10 feet of yellow loam and underneath this lies a strata of sand and gravel.

The colony has had very few productive grain harvests since its establishment. This is, however, not entirely due to the soil, but chiefly because of drought and

the dry periods prevalent during most of the growing seasons. The soil does not lack fertility and the fields would yield rich harvests if sufficient rain would fall at the proper time. The pasture lands produce a luxuriant growth of nutritious vegetation. The clay soil is detrimental to the vigorous growth of trees and grapevines.

Since its founding, the colony has taken great pains to plant fruit and forest trees but their efforts have been without much success. Every year trees have to be replanted while those that survive are weak and stunted. Even so, viniculture has been carried on, however, with small returns for the work expended. Now another site (for viniculture) has been chosen and we are awaiting a favorable result. This area has no natural woodlands, quarry or springs.

IV. The Settlement

In 1834 eight families settled here, four of these were from Wurttemberg, Waiblingen District, and the remainder were from Sarata Colony. In the years 1838, 1839, and 1840 the flow of settlers increased from the districts of Ludwigsburg, Waiblingen, and Marbach in Wurttemberg, as well as from Sarata, so that finally by 1847 the colony was complete with the established quota of 80 settlers. The immigrants made the journey overland without a leader. The first settlers found no houses ready for occupancy, but had to live in huts until they could build houses for themselves. The later arrivals were taken into the homes of the earlier settlers until houses could be built for them. At the time of the settlement, the steppes were occupied by Moldavians who used the land for pasturing their numerous herds of cattle. The immigrants received no assistance (from the government). Their possessions, brought with them, possibly averaged about 600 rubles for each family, the money being used mainly for the building of homes. Most of the settlers were afflicted with intermittent fever; from which many suffered up to six months.

V. Unusual Event

An earthquake of strong intensity occurred on 11 January 1838 at 9:00 o'clock in the evening; but no damage or injuries resulted.

VI. The Welfare of the Community

The welfare of the community was promoted by:

1. The use of all the community land from the time of the arrival of the first settlers until the settlement was complete with its 80 families. As has been mentioned

tioned before, only eight families settled in 1834, the settlers came in greater numbers in the years 1838-40, but only by 1847 was the settlement complete. The government allowed the community the use of all the community land to their best advantage. So, for a number of years, a large part of the land was rented out, which was most profitable for the community. From the rent money they built a church which cost about 5,000 rubles. In addition, the community had additional capital of about 1,200 silver rubles, partly in cash and partly in notes. This significant governmental favor to the community will always be gratefully recognized; for it also advanced the welfare of the individual in that it was possible for each settler to have a large number of cattle, which were the main source of income in the poor grain-harvest years.

2. By the local government. The local government has always seen to it that dissolute living by gluttonous eating and drinking and other time-and-money consuming foolish diversions would not be tolerated. In this they were assisted by the experience and active cooperation of the Sarata Territorial Board.

In addition, the Colonist Welfare Committee proved itself most cooperative and helpful in everything that concerned the welfare of the colonists.

Lichtental, 24 April 1848

Mayor's Report:
Mayor: Messerle
Settlers: Gassler and Wildermuth
Church-and-schoolteacher: Hahn
(Author)

NOTE: Not a literal translation. Phrases in parenthesis are not a part of the original text but are given for explanation or clarification of the text which was readily understood by the residents of these areas.

A Glimpse of History

Mill-Town Life

• William Urbach's ancestry was Russian-German—Germans who had settled in Russia during the reign of Catherine the Great. His father had emigrated to the United States in 1876. At one point the family lived at West Kearney, Neb. This reminiscence is excerpted and reprinted with permission from Nebraska History, published by the Nebraska State Historical Society.

At West Kearney . . . was a cotton mill. Dad learned that there were openings there and that Henry [William's brother] and I could obtain employment as well as himself. . . . On the pooled income of \$9.72 per week [the family] lived comparatively well.

. . .

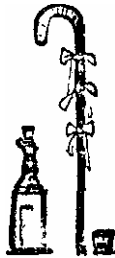
As a 'bobbin-boy I had an experience which impressed upon me a lesson of frugality. As I worked through the day, scraps of cotton sometimes fell to the floor. . . . I picked up the small pieces from the floor and put them in my pocket. On the way home I discovered them and pulled the light fluff out, scattering it along the path of travel.

The next morning I was called to the superintendent's office who stated that he saw me throwing cotton away, and he reprimanded me severely for wasting the valuable product. He informed me that it was shipped from

a great distance in the South and cost the mill six cents per pound. . . .

At West Kearney we lived for the first time in a community with a large number of Russian Germans. Their social behavior was slightly different from what ours had become. I remember one New Year's Eve we were awakened shortly after midnight by the firing of shot guns. We youngsters could not imagine what was happening, and were frightened, lest the Indians we had heard about were coming upon us. We soon learned that it was one of the New Year traditional celebrations practiced by the [German] colonists in Russia . . . They were invited in, and each was served a glass of whiskey. . . .

Dad and Henry and I were invited to join the group. We were provided with the semblance of a cane, and we noted that a number of small white ribbons were tied on those carried by some of the members of the group. We learned that the purpose of the ribbons was to show the number of drinks of whiskey the possessor had taken and was still able to remain in an up-right position.



Page 15 from The National
Observer Monday, Sept. 4, 1967

Pennsylvania Dutch sayings...

"Kissin' Don't Last, Cookin' Do.."

"The Hurrier I Go, The Behinder I Get.."

"Ve Get Too Soon Oldt, Undt Too Late Schmart. "

A TOUR OF THE SOVIET UNION

June, 1969

On Sunday afternoon, June 15, 1969, we flew from Vienna, Austria to Kiev, Capital of the Ukrainian SSR, Via Soviet Jet-prop Aeroflot. During the following two weeks, we visited on private tour: Kiev, on the Dnieper River; Odessa, on the northwest corner of the Black Sea; Tiraspol and the countryside by rented auto with driver from Odessa; Sochi, on the eastern border of the Black Sea; Rostov on the Don River where it flows into the sea of Azov; Tbilisi (Tiflis), Capital of the Georgian SSR., and situated in the heart of the Caucasus; Tashkent and Alma Ata in Asiatic Kasachstan; Moscow, Leningrad and Warsaw, Poland.

Although somewhat apprehensive at the primitive conditions which we had been conditioned to expect, we were quickly relieved by the attractive landscape and the general air of cleanliness. Wherever we went, the groves of trees and numerous parks were impressive. Upon inquiry, we learned that some twenty years ago, a program of tree planting had been initiated. On a given day of the year, every family goes out and plants a tree for each member of the family.

As we rode in our chauffeured Volga automobiles from airport terminals to the cities, distances of 10 to 25 miles, we enjoyed seeing people out for strolls in the countryside. On occasion, we would meet someone leading a cow or driving a flock of geese. Such a generally relaxed pastoral atmosphere, reminiscent of the USA 40 years ago, did much towards relieving our concerns and tensions.

Most of the areas visited by us had historical relation to earlier or present-day German population in Russia. We made contact with relatives who had been transplanted from the Caucasus to Karaganda in northern Kasachstan, where they have existed since 1940. The widow of our cousin, Alexander Flegel, with her son Johannes and Volga-German wife, Valentina (Valja) Ostertag, a native of the colony Seelmann, made the 300-mile trip by bus from Karaganda to Alma Ata to meet us at the airport and spend two days with us. We were permitted to obtain accommodations for them at the Kasachstan Hotel, just two doors from our room.

When asked if they feared any reprisal as a result of contacting us, Maria Flegel answered, "I have already lost everything three times. My husband was taken away in 1938. I never saw him or heard from him again—only years later, an official word came announcing that he had died-no other explanation." Johannes and Valja remonstrated with her, affirming that those were the "olden days" and that conditions were certainly much improved now.

To our question, regarding her reaction towards leaving the country if the possibility existed, her reply was no real surprise. "My four sons are now grown with families of their own. The children no longer communicate in German; essentially they are Russian, regardless of their genealogical heritage. I would dearly love to see my relatives in Germany, and am eternally grateful that someone whom I didn't realize existed until a few months ago, would take the trouble to make contact with us, but this is my home, and here I expect to be buried."

Clothing styles -which we saw women and girls wearing were not very different from those seen on the streets in the U.S. Mini-skirted young women could be seen in every community. Even in far out Asia (Alma Ata) we saw women on their way to work, make a morning stop at the beauty shops which open very early to afford this convenience. Mrs. Flegel chose to avail herself of such services while at Tbilisi and again at Alma Ata. In both cases she was greatly pleased with the work and amazed at the low cost.

Since Russian women have been "liberated", it is not at all unusual to see them engaged in heavy manual labor along with men. Upon commenting about this to a young Russian during a conversation, we were rather impressed by his response. "Personally, I would like to see an end to this salutation, and women become home-makers as in your country. In my opinion, women don't need big muscles to be beautiful."

The Black Sea climate is remarkably mild. The area of Sochi is sub-tropical in temperature and experiences little frost or snow fall. It is a delightful resort community with many fine hotels and luxury sanatoriums. Russian citizens as well as foreigners come from afar to spend vacations here. We met numerous foreigners from Finland, East Germany, Austria, the Balkans, England and the United States to a lesser degree. All of the Black Sea border cities seem to be of a resort nature. Odessa had also been filled with vacationers, and the beaches crowded with bathers.

Agriculturally, the Soviet Union seems well on the way to development. Sprinkling systems as well as subterranean irrigation is in common usage. By outward appearances, the region of the Ukraine, which had been known as the "Bread Basket of Europe" shows every possibility of regaining that title in the not too distant future. Beautiful farms and orchards can be seen in far out Kasachstan, a region that was principally desert until dams were built and irrigation initiated. The area in the vicinity of Alma Ata is quite reminiscent of Northern Colorado with its network of irrigation canals and snow-capped mountain peaks in the background.

By our standards, Russian highways are not better than secondary roads. Only near and within the limits of major cities does one see divided highways and wide boulevards. Every major city has excellent underground railway facilities. This solves a two-fold problem: (1) It provides speedy transportation throughout the city, and (2) it serves as adequate air raid protection.

As elsewhere in the world, a housing shortage exists in the Soviet Union. We saw private dwellings in the country, but the number is inadequate to fill the housing need. On the outskirts of every city, one can see huge apartment complexes newly built, or under construction. Many of these complexes are self contained, with shops on the lower floor and residences on the upper. Some will house as many as 400,000 people as the one we drove through in Kiev.

They told us that their several-hundred-member Baptist Church had collected sufficient funds, and had received government permission to construct its own Sanctuary at Karaganda. They were very grateful for the German Hymnals and Bible which we had with us and presented to them as gifts. Religious books of any type are very scarce.

At Tashkent, in the restaurant -where we went for our evening meal, we chanced to meet a group of young men from both East and West Germany engaged in building a glass factory for a West German firm for the Uzbekistan government. They related some interesting experiences about teaching the Uzbeks the operation of the factory. Apparently the natives of Uzbekistan enjoy working only long enough to earn a few rubles, then stay away from work until they are out of funds. They volunteered the speculation that unless the transplanted Western Europeans, especially the Volga Germans, would take over operation of the plant, there was little optimism for its future success.

Nineteen Seventy is the "Year of Lenin" --his one-hundredth anniversary. Everything was being geared for a gala year of celebration. His was the only picture visible. When -we asked about Kruschev and Stalin, the people answered that he was too despotic, and Kruschev too internationally minded with his country's money. Breshnev, who is more conservative than Kruschev, is again making possible the purchase of consumer goods.

Indeed, the majority of earlier churches are now museums, standing in ruins or have totally vanished. However, by request, we were able to visit an active Jewish Synagogue at Tbilisi where 10,000 to 20,000 Jews now live. We saw Russian Orthodox churches in good repair and active use. Our worship experience at the Moscow Baptist Church was the most emotional involvement of our entire trip. We even visited the Soviet accepted "Wedding Palace" where marriages are formalized after having been legalized by the proper officials. There was no evidence that the Church was nearly dead. Our observations, however, invited the conclusion that Leninism seems to be the predominate national religion.

We taxied to the main Baptist Church at Moscow, expecting to arrive in ample time before commencement of the ten o'clock service. Instead, we discovered that the services had begun at nine AM. It was nearly 9:30 when we arrived, and were ushered through a maze of standing worshippers to a pew especially reserved for visitors on the front row of the right side balcony. As we were being seated, the choir, composed of all ages, was rendering a glorious anthem. Gathering our bearing, we became aware that worshippers were crowded into pews, standing in aisles, and virtually occupying every available inch of room, even into the outer courtyard. What a surprise to see such religious fervor in a society where religion is supposed to be dying out.

The first service concluded at ten, and another was immediately commenced. No one left! Only, if it is possible to believe, a few more squeezed into the already overcrowded sanctuary. From time to time, one could note a slight movement as someone - would give up his seat to another who had been standing for some length of time.

Hymnals were totally inadequate in number. For congregational singing, a minister -would read a line of the hymn which was sung in lusty response by the congregation accompanied by the theatre-sized pipe organ. Even though we are usually not readily aroused emotionally, this religious experience made for difficulty in keeping a dry eye.

All the people with whom we were able to carry on conversations during jet flights or at convenient times in the outlying regions were most courteous and accommodating. At no time were we made to feel uncomfortable because we were Americans. Instead, they gave evidence of having a great "hunger" to learn about the "outside world" as they call it. They eagerly explained their system of collective farming and trade unions, but found difficulty in grasping our explanation of the American system of free enterprise. Young people—even some guides—would inquire if we had not brought some modern records or books for our personal enjoyment which they might acquire...To our reply that we were led to believe that it was improper to bring such items into their country, they would answer, "Of course, you may bring any thing you like for your own use." They have book and record shops in every city, but like young people everywhere, an eagerness to read the latest book or hear the latest in modern music still prevails.

Many, with whom we spoke, were fascinated by our private itinerary. That we were permitted to travel so extensively on our own, and not with a tour group, was of utter amazement. By the same token, it seemed to delight them and make them even more eager to be solicitous and extend their friendship. At Tbilisi, we met with the unique experience of having our dinners paid for by a Georgian patron seated at the adjoining table. His explanation was simply that he wanted to do something kind for the American guests in his country.

At no time did we feel that we were under surveillance. When not on one of the prepaid three hour tours of the city, with private guide and chauffeured auto, were on our own and walked or rode by taxi or streetcar to wherever we wished to go. We experienced no problem in hiring a car with driver to take us from Odessa to Tiraspol in the Moldavian SSR. We drove through a region of collective farms where many German villages had existed. Today, we were told, there are no German colonies left in the Black Sea Region.

The name, German, seems to be a "bad word" around the Black Sea districts. Where at one time Germans were so prominent in making the region productive, they are now in disrepute. When reference to the American Society for Germans from Russia failed to elicit a favorable response, we determined it prudent to emphasize the American aspect and minimize the German.

Consumer goods is no doubt more plentiful than it was a few years ago. Nevertheless, it appears remarkably inadequate by our standards. We visited a number of immense department stores, saw quantities of yardage and ready-to-wear merchandise, but with limited variety. It was almost impossible to accept the fact that the numerous individual shops were not under private ownership, but instead, all government-owned.

In Moscow, we enjoyed lunch with a young black man from Ethiopia who had just concluded his course of studies in agricultural development at the University of Moscow. He was very grateful for the quality of education he had received, but volunteered that he would have preferred to come to the United States to acquire a degree in his chosen field but the opportunity was not open to him at the time. He explained his great pleasure at now being able to return to his homeland and help some of his unfortunate countrymen move from their antiquated primitive methods to a more modern system of agriculture. He also emphasized that he was not a communist.

At Odessa, we had a long visit with a young engineer who related his experience in saving his money to make the necessary 40% down-payment on his 12,000 ruble apartment in preparation for his marriage. The interest for the one room unit will be calculated at 20%. He complained that he would have preferred to buy a larger two or three room unit which he could begin to furnish for the needs of his anticipated family, but was told by the authorities that after he was married, he could sell the smaller apartment and purchase a larger one. "Isn't this a ridiculous situation?" he questioned. Like other young Russians, he is eternally hoping for improved conditions—although he readily admitted that conditions are now much better than in the recent past.

Regarding the value of the ruble, we were amazed at the following:

- (1) It is illegal to bring rubles into Russia.
- (2) The official Russian exchange rate is \$1.10 per 1 ruble.
- (3) An American dollar can purchase 3 Russian rubles on the black market.
- (4) At many Western Europe banks, one can exchange one American dollar for five (5) Russian rubles.
- (5) The purchasing power of the Russian ruble is greater in Russia than the dollar in the United States. For example:

First class hotel accommodations with twin beds and bath such as we enjoyed on our tour cost 5 rubles. The equivalent in Vienna cost \$15.00 American, and would cost \$18.00 to \$25.00 per night in the United States. Comparative translation of money values at the Russian rate of exchange would make the hotel accommodations cost \$5.50 American. If translated in terms of the Western rate of exchange, the same accommodations would cost \$1.00, while in the U.S. its equivalent would be approximately \$20.00.

That an element of fear does still exist, was evidenced by the fact that others whom we attempted to contact asked that they be excused from meeting with us because of possible difficulties. Perhaps some of these difficulties -were imaginary, but nevertheless real, because of past history.

Generally, the people seemed jovial and content. They laugh at our demonstrations and riots, perhaps with a bit of satire, when they say, "Of course, they are not permitted in our country."

After two weeks and some ten thousand miles of air travel over the Soviet Union, we felt inclined to conclude that though the country was less sophisticated than ours in nearly every detail, it was not entirely backward either.

In conclusion, our travel experience could be well summarized by the succinct comment of one young Russian, when he said, "If governments would only get out of the way, people would realize no great difficulty in getting along with one another."

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur E. Flegel
Menlo Park, California

(WP4 p.31)

PRELIMINARY SKETCH

For A

Proposed Emblem

This emblem has been designed to show in graphic form something of the life and basic nature common to all the German-Russian people. The three principal symbols are:

- (1) The head of wheat in the middle which portrays the element which basically sustained their bodies,
- (2) The tri-mound just below the -wheat represents the three lands wherein which these people lived during the course of their migrations during the period of three centuries (18th, 19th and 20th) first living in the German States,. then migrating to Russia, and finally, the Americas; and
- (3) The ball and cross on the top illustrates the spirit and faith that motivated their lives, and this symbol always mounted at the top of every church steeple in Germany, Russia and America for all faiths, including Catholic, Lutheran, Mennonite, etc.

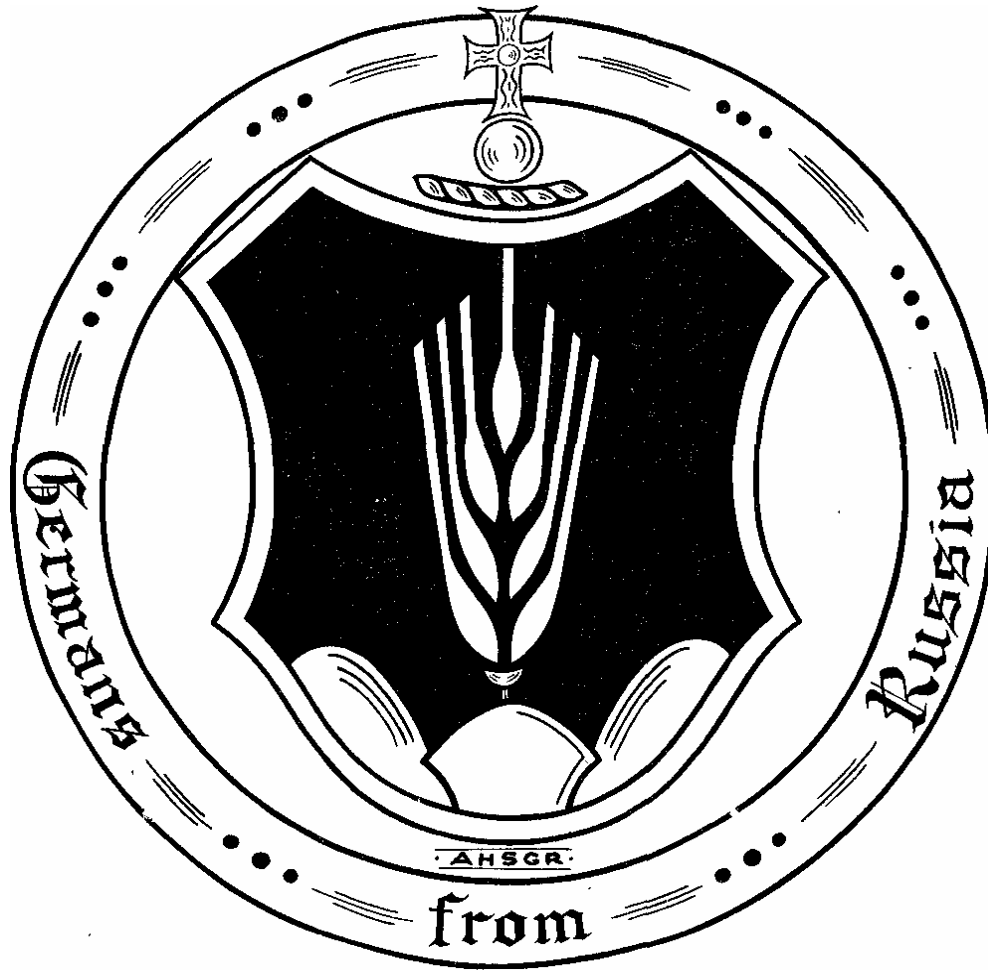
Nearly all originated from small villages in Germany, and they were an agrarian-oriented people. In both North and South Russia, they developed the land, and these areas later became known as the principal bread baskets of Europe. In the late 19th century when the German-Russian Mennonites came to Kansas, they brought with them the famous turkey red wheat from the Crimea. In the 20th century this wheat type became the progenitor of the bread wheats of the world.

It is fitting that the ball and cross serve as the crest for this emblem because it was the staunch and unwavering doctrine of Christianity among the German Russians that has brought forth a prideful heritage.

COLORS: Background of the shield is black outlined in a border of gold. The head of wheat is golden yellow. The tri-mound is vegetarian green. The wreath of six twists supporting the ball and cross is alternated from gold to green. The ball and cross are gold.

Editors Note: There have been several designs suggested as a permanent emblem for the Society. It is planned that the emblem within the circle could be used as a symbol for publications , and the entire emblem, with the outer circle, used on letterheads and for other applications. Readers are invited to comment upon this design, or to submit clear pencil sketches of alternative ideas.

Send them to Paul Reeb, Chairman of the committee at:
Rt. 2, St. Francis, Kansas 67756.



GENEALOGY SECTION

It was apparent at the convention in Greeley, June 19-20th that there is a great deal of interest among our members in researching their family history.

Everyone was eager to learn what material was available for doing genealogical research in the Soviet Union and in Germany. It was disappointing for them to hear that very little data is available as yet from Russian sources. If you can connect your Colonist ancestor, both by name and place of origin, to a town in Germany a great many sources of records are available for genealogical research. Even in Germany there was not too much written about the Colonists to Russia until after WW I and II when the government became aware of their forgotten emigrants. The most eminent authority on the history and genealogy of the Germans from Russia is Dr. Karl Stumpp of Tuebingen, Germany. Dr. Stumpp himself was born in South Russia and was an educator both in Russia and later in Germany. In 1958 he published a Bibliography of books and articles then available and in 1961 a history of the emigration to Russia in 1762-1862 which also contains about 9,000 names of emigrants, their place of origin and their destination, if known. Both of these lists are being revised by the author to include additional material and names.

For the descendants of Colonists to Russia in 1762-1770 the chances are slim that any documents exist outside of the Soviet Union which would give the ancestor's origin. A census was made of the Volga Colonies in 1769 which does give this information and we hope that this list may still be in existence and made available to us. Much more material is known for those Colonies in South Russia. The Colonists left their homelands later (1810-1862) and consequently family documents have survived, family traditions were more authentic and even some records still exist to tie the family to their place of origin.

It was emphasized that although genealogical research in the Soviet Union is still very difficult we should not be discouraged but look forward to better cooperation at some future date. In the meantime we should make an all-out effort to collect and record as much information as we can. It is hoped that our Society can feed this information into a computer and establish a cross-reference file which will be most helpful to anyone doing research on Germans from Russia.

We urge all of you to not only record your own genealogy but also to gather and record any information of G-R which otherwise might be overlooked. Clip and send in any news items such as obituaries, anniversaries, and old German language publications such as newspapers and church papers.

For the benefit of those who could not be at the convention to take part in the Workshops we are including Mr. Kermit Karn's article for the beginner in Genealogy. Mr. Karns had a fine demonstration, complete with large charts and forms to practice on. Another member of our committee, Mrs. Helen L. Hall has written an article on the Catholic Church records and following this is our first FAMILY SURNAME EXCHANGE. Let us know if you have any results from it!

Genealogically speaking,

Gerda S. Walker, Gene. Chrm.

SEARCH YOUR ANCESTORS

by Helen L. Hall

The American Historical Society of Germans from Russia through the request of Gerda S. Walker wants me to give some information concerning the methods of obtaining genealogical data from the Catholic Diocesan records, and to give a general coverage of what it takes for this type of research.

During the twenty years or longer that I have done genealogical research relentlessly and ceaselessly to compile the nearly 100,000 descendants found in the different family trees now in print, and those not in print, but resting in my files, there was very little information I was able to get from Diocesan records.

REMEMBER DIOCESES DO NOT KEEP RECORDS OF PARISHIONERS. These are kept in the parishes throughout the dioceses. For example, the Wichita Diocese to which I belong has over 110 parishes, where excellent records are kept on those baptized, married or buried. Thus it is best to get information directly from the parish records.

HOWEVER, I found few parish priests interested in doing research for you, so there must be ample information accompanying the request for dates and correct names. **BE SPECIFIC ABOUT CORRECT NAMES:** Example, John J. Mills or John W. Mills or John M. Mills, and approximate date of birth and always the name of his parents if at all possible.

BE NOT DISCOURAGED! If they were Catholic, they were listed. No one was forgotten! Remember in 1969 over 613,000,000 were actually counted in the Catholic world, and each one had a name and date. **THINK ABOUT IT!**

ALWAYS enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope with a stipend. Be aware that researchers' time is just as precious as yours or anyone else's, and they will not start looking through old, dusty files for nothing. Most of them charge \$5.00 an hour, or \$1.00 per date in most historical libraries. Parishes will sometimes (if you hit the jackpot) give you a full page of information for the \$5.00 stipend, but never put in less. I have paid as much as \$50.00 for two sheets of information. **BUT WHAT INFORMATION!** It might have taken the researcher a week or longer to get the **CORRECT** information to fill the two pages.

REMEMBER TOO, IF YOU WANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR FAMILY, THERE IS MUCH YOU MUST KNOW ABOUT IT BEFORE ASKING OR INQUIRING ABOUT IT IN ORDER TO MAKE VERIFICATION EASIER.

Those who have read thus far already realize without me reminding them that genealogical research is an expensive hobby, but one which can pay off in both money and in personal satisfaction. Perhaps it is better to exercise one's brain for research of this type, and place families together in **LOVE AND FAMILY PRIDE**, than to dissipate or spend money foolishly. Only those of us who do this can put a price on it:

DON'T BECOME FRUSTRATED, as there are many sources which can be pursued, investigated, probed and ferreted. There is always the chance that your line may already have been compiled, and thus the seed from which your family can

grow has already germinated. THIS DOES NOT SEEM TO BE THE CASE IN THE SEARCH for the Germans from Russia.

When compiling a genealogy I am a LONER. Compiling, editing, arranging, proof-reading is all done by myself. IT IS MY CREATION: Like the cows and mares on this ranch who drop calves and foal colts in less than a year, my genealogy is carried in my head for 18 months or two years, and when it is born, it is truly a creation!

I hire help only with the indexing, the arranging of the names in alphabetical order. For example I will give you the compiling statistics for the BRUNGARDT GENEALOGY VOLUMES I AND VOLUMES II (1968-1969):

3,500 questionnaires were mailed to that many married couples.

Self-addressed, stamped envelopes were enclosed with each questionnaire.

Up to 3 notices were sent if a questionnaire was not answered.

2,500 advertisements followed for the sale of the books.

It took 18 months of research, with approximately five hours of disciplined research every day, making 3,000 hours with 150 long distance calls to complete last minute editing. It took another six months to print.

2,500 miles were traveled for short distant trips to select old photographs which were all reproduced in glossy reprints for correct size for editing, and there were over 400 old pictures in the two volumes. (\$1.00 each for reprints and negatives.)

200 hours were spent on the index job alone. I paid the typist \$400.00 to arrange the 25,000 names. I typed them the first time, and the last time, and she typed them 8 times in between when they were arranged alphabetically. The volumes were proof-read eight times.

Each page of the two volumes was typed at least eight times from the first questionnaire information to the final proof-read sheet to be lithographed or printed OFFSET. The two volumes contained 1,357 pages, and multiply that by 8, which makes 10,856 typewritten pages.

ARE YOU GETTING TIRED? However, do you know what the printers asked for doing just this typing ALONE, not the compiling or the proof-reading? HOLD ONTO YOUR WIGS; \$4,000.000. So that amount was saved and absorbed in the printing and selling of the books to relatives and libraries.

HERE ARE A FEW GUIDELINES when asking for information: Make your own questionnaires. Have as much information on it (top) as possible, then have them fill the information typewritten or printed to minimize errors in transcribing.

BE SYSTEMATIC: Have several small notebooks, and one large one (loose-leaf). Place each finished family in the large one with colored markers between to find them easily. PROOF READ each page as it is typewritten from the original copy received from the informer, thus errors are corrected at

first typing. Then proof-reading does not have to be done again until after the manuscript is typed for the offset printing, mentioned above.

When mailing the QUESTIONNAIRE, ask the question at the bottom of the page INTERESTED IN A COPY (YES OR NO). If the answer is NO, then ads are not sent to them again. This saves much postage.

RESEARCH IN GENEALOGY seems apparently easy for me. I started soon enough in my families to be able to gap four generations easily, and thus gain a 5th generation. Twenty years ago, people born in the late 1870's were still living, and thus could give information of people who lived a generation before they did. Get it? SO DON'T DELAY. If you are now in your late or middle thirties, get busy with your great-aunt, great-uncle, and grandparents!

HOW DO YOU GET PAID FOR YOUR SWEAT, ACHING MUSCLES, TIRED EYES?

HAVE THE BOOKS PRE-SOLD. or have deposits for the books. Shop around for printers, good ones, and good binders, and dicker with them. BE TOUGH, and have the work done in your home town, so you can stop by each day to breathe down their necks. BE PARTICULAR. Get your money's worth, or you don't pay. REMIND YOURSELF how hard you worked, that the creation of a genealogy will live forever somewhere...that it is important to perpetuate those relatives who were so uncooperative, and who were always questioning WHAT you were actually going to put in the book, and why you asked so many questions?

IT IS IMPORTANT also for the one who ordered copies for all his grandchildren, and then decided to order several extra copies to salt away for the future, and then have them write later "We knelt every night and prayed you would have the information all correct. There are many mistakes, but it is A PERFECT BOOK. Thank you again for all your efforts." And then the letter which read "I'll sue you. You should not have put in that birth date. It wasn't my fault the man would not marry me, yet what would we do without that precious child?" Contradictions? Yes! But all of it was worth it. And let me add about the relative who said "\$30.00 for one volume? You must be getting filthy rich?" You say nothing, hoping he does not drop dead! He does not buy a book, but calls five years later and wants a copy for each of his five children, and there are none, and all he says is "How about reprints?" and continues to insinuate you make a million dollars on the copies already sold and those you hope to sell.

Interesting bit of information concerning the population explosion:
Prior to Christ, it took about 40,000 years to double the world population. At the current rate of about 2%, it would take less than 35 years to double the present population to about 7 1/2 billion.

EACH PERSON IN THE WORLD TODAY COULD HAVE 300 million living, descendants in 1000 years. This I can verify: I find one of my ancestors had six children in 1767, and 200 years later in 1967 had 25,000 descendants. Multiply 25,000 by 1000, which makes, 25,000,000, then by the 6 children, which is 150,000,000 and then by 2 (those they marry, which is 300,000,000. WOW!

Helen L. Hall

STARTING YOUR OWN GENEALOGY OR FAMILY TREE

By Kemit B. Karns

Genealogy or family trees go hand-in-hand with history. Have you ever wondered where you came from? Who were your ancestors? What did they do? Where did they live? Answers to these questions can often be obtained by asking questions of your various relatives. Additional steps must then be taken.

Before you get very far, however, you will find yourself in a state of confusion if you do not have a more or less systematic method of writing down the information. The first thing to do is to obtain a supply of the basic genealogical form known, as a "Family Group Sheet" (say 100), together with a few "Pedigree Charts" or "Ancestor Charts" (say 12).

The family group sheets are used to record data regarding a single family consisting of a person, his or her spouse, parents, and children, and who the children married. The pedigree or ancestor chart is used to record ancestral data about a person such as his parents, grandparents, great grandparents, and so on, back as far as one can go.

There are two grades of the forms. Low grade forms used to assemble data initially are known as work sheets. High grade forms used for permanent records are often of 50% rag content and should be completed with permanent black ink or black typewriter. Samples of these forms are included with this work paper. (F-2, F-6, P-1, P-2) In a subsequent column, we will talk more about furnishing copies to the Society. See note below for sources of additional forms.

Assembling the genealogical information to develop your family tree often turns into a delightfully interesting hobby. You will find that contacts with other people who are also interested in genealogy to be most pleasant, even total strangers.

The first thing to do is to start with yourself and record all of the data about yourself and your immediate family that you can obtain. The family Bible is an excellent source. Genealogically speaking, one is primarily concerned with dates and, places of birth, marriage, and death together with the place of burial. From the historical point of view, one should also record such information as occupation, offices held, significant happenings, where people lived, when they moved to other localities, etc. Sources of your data should be shown in light pencil on the back of the forms so you will know where to go to verify your information in case conflicts develop or someone challenges your data.

As you begin to exhaust the information available from relatives, you will need to look at other sources of data. For persons living in the United States in 1880 or earlier, the U.S. census records are good sources of information. Some of the larger libraries have microfilm copies of the census records for their area of concern. Rolls of U.S. census microfilm may be reasonably purchased from the U.S. National Archives in Washington, D. C.

For Germans from Russia, Dr. Karl Stumpp, 74 Tuebingen, Autenriethstrasse 16, Germany, has some census records available for Germans who lived in Russia in 1858. Inquiries to him should be written in German and funds should be included to pay for making a search (perhaps \$10.00 initially).

Published family genealogical books are another good source of data if your "line" happens to be carried in the book. Persons publishing such books often present a copy to their state library and other fairly large libraries that have genealogical collections. Genealogy books of Germans from Russia, however, are rather rare.

Many communities and churches, in areas where Germans from Russia predominate, have published Jubilee books and newspapers which usually contain a great deal of genealogy and family history data. (Readers are asked to advise us of dates that such Jubilee books or newspapers are known to have been published. We will later run a list of them)

Church records are excellent sources of genealogy. They often show names of members, baptisms, confirmations, marriages, and funerals. County courthouses always contain much data of genealogical interest. Some counties are reluctant, however, to permit one to conduct searches. The major items in court houses are birth, marriage, and death records. Other excellent county records are naturalization records, probate court records, wills, land records, etc. Much data can be obtained from county histories, newspaper obituaries, funeral home records, cemetery records and tombstones, etc.

Most publications catering to the genealogy business carry what is known as a "Query" column. Query columns are simply genealogical advertisements which are carried at a nominal charge or free to members of the society. The AHSGR will consider such a column if sufficient interest is expressed by readers.

(Note: Write Mrs. Gerda Walker for a copy of the catalog on forms, etc.)

DO YOU KNOW THESE PEOPLE?

Our Vice President in Germany, Mrs. Emma S. Haynes, has been contacted by two persons, both living in Germany and trying to -find relatives in North America, she says:

"The first request came from a Volynien German woman named
Frau Elfrieda Wirschke
Garten Strasse 43
7252 Walderstatt (Lemberg)
Germany

She is trying to locate an aunt named Maria Eisfeld, who was born in Volynia in 1917, had a father named Johann Eisfeld, and who emigrated to Canada or the Dakotas after World War II.

The second request came from a Crimean German named
Herr Otto Miller
Haupt Strasse 46
6691 Winterbach
Germany

He is trying to locate an uncle named Miller who left the Crimea between 1912-1918 and was a smith by profession. I was told recently that many Germans from the Crimea are now living in Lodi, California. Do we have any members from there who might be able to give us this information?"

Note: Sample forms F-6, P-1 and P-2 are not included with this Workpaper as they proved too long to be bound with it. You may write to me for sample copies. Please enclose a self-addressed, stamped, legal-size envelope.

Gerda S. Walker
1840 So. Utica
Denver, Colo. 80219

HUSBAND'S NAME _____

When Born _____ Where _____ (Husband's Full Name)
 Christened _____ Where _____ (Wife's Maiden Name)
 When Died _____ Where _____
 When Buried _____ Where _____ This information obtained from
 When Married _____ Where _____
 Other Wives (if any) _____
 Number (1) (2) etc. _____
 His Father _____ His Mother's Maiden Name _____

WIFE'S MAIDEN NAME _____

When Born _____ Where _____
 Christened _____ Where _____
 When Died _____ Where _____
 When Buried _____ Where _____
 Other Husb. (if any) _____
 Number (1) (2) etc. _____
 Her Father _____ Her Mother's Maiden Name _____
 City _____ State _____

Male or Female	CHILDREN (Arrange in order of birth)	WHEN BORN			WHEN BORN			WHEN BORN			WHEN DIED*			MARRIED			
		Day	Month	Year	Day	Month	Year	Day	Month	Year	Day	Month	Year	City	State	Married	
	1																
	2																
	3																
	4																
	5																
	6																
	7																
	8																
	9																
	10																
	11																
	12																
	13																
	14																

FAMILY NAME EXCHANGE

This Family Surname Exchange is being published to assist those of our members who wish to contact others who are researching the same Surnames. We would also appreciate the help of anyone who has some scrap of information about any of the person listed. Contact the older members of your family and acquaintances and read them the list of names. This personal interest on your part will be a valuable assistance to your Society and its work.

b. = born	intin. == interested in	GGF = Great Grandfather
d. = died	desc. = descendants	Rss = Russia
m. = married	F. = father	Pat. == father's side
abt = about	M = mother	Mat. == mother's side
info. = information	GF = grandfather	(?) = not sure of:

BEISEL, Paul B. 4856 No. Baffin, Wichita, Kansas 67220.

Info on Pat. GF, BEISEL, Gottfried and HEINZE, Katarina from Dobrinka (Volga); MAJOR, Phillip, MAJOR, Friedrich & MILLER, Maria (Mat.) from Grimm to Peabody, Kan. 1876-1878. Intin. DOBRINKA.

BOAM, Irene 1921 W. Andrews, Fresno, Calif., 95705

Info on: GLEIM, Johann F. abt 1830 in Hoffendahl (Hoffental in Samara?) or Schoonlhal (Schoental in Samara?), HEISEL, Katherine b. abt 1866, same place. PETERSON, Gottfried, b. 1877 Dingle, SOMMERS,-----b. abt. 1830 and WULF, Cathrine b. 1876, Dingle.

DAMSEN, Andreas, or DOMSON, Andrew, 2318 Myfield Road, Saginaw, Mich.48602

F: DAMSEN fm Dinkel, Samara Rss to Sebawaing, Mich in 1911
M: REISIG frm Muehlberg to Russel, Kansas in 1913 & to Sebawaing 1913.
Info on KOLB and WINTER desc also.

FRITZLER, Mrs. Kenneth C. 306 So. Elm, Box 82, Kimball, Nebr. 69145

Info on: WEBER, John, WEBER, Jacob, ILS HILL, Kathrine Elizabeth, Katherine_Maria GEIS, all of Frank, Rss.

KLEIM (Gleim) JoAnn C. P.O. Box 2042, Fresno, Calif., 93718

GF KLEIM (Gleim) John Fred, GM STEITZ, Dorothea, both frm Straub 1892 to Fresno, NIELSEN & SALWASSER from Stahl, Rss.

GRABER, Katheryn 11625 9th Ave., Anoka, Minnesota 55303

GM GUTH, Magdalena, dau. of GUTH, Johannes of Grim (had land in Grimm).
GF EHAUST (Echaus or Echoltz) Waldemar frm Odessa (?) who was son of:
EHAUST, Waldenar. his M name was TROAST.

HORST, Alexander, 3410 South G Street, Tacoma, Wash. 98408

HORST, Alexander F, ABLER, Katherine Elizabeth M. from Kolb to Tacoma in 1812 [1912?]. GF HORST came to Hastings in late 1870's and rtd to Kolb in early 1880's. Int. in Kolb and Frank.

HUDSON, Donna, Box 233, Indian Hills, Colo. 80454

wants info on SCHILLING, Wilhelm d. 1895, Glueckstal, Rss. BOSCHEE, Carolina (F. John) d. 1885, Glueckstal. BAUDER, Jacob, b. before 1820, Hoffnungstahl, Rss. STAHLICKER, Peter, Gildendorf, Rss (?), DENGLER, Agathe, wife of Peter from (?). Wkg on BAUDER & SCHILLING families.

KINDSFATER, Emma, 1902 21st Ave. Court, Greeley, Colo. 80631
F: BRUNNER, M: FRITZLER from Grimm to Cinn. Ohio in 1907

LEBSACK, Jacob Robert, 875 15th St., Boulder, Colo. 80302
wants info on LEBSACK and EISENACH families of Frank, Rss. Family known as
"Emmanuel's"

LESSER, Fred A. 6670 SE Stark, Portland, Oregon 97215
Info on: LESSER (french sp. LaSuer), orig came from Alsace, Strassbourg
POPP(or Pope) Mat. GRIENWALD, REPP, all from Frank to Sutton Nebr. in Dec. 1878.

MARQUARDT, Lewis R. 445 West 8th Ave, Webster, So. Dakota 57274
Gpts: VETSCH (sp?) Possibly from Kandel, Kutschurgan to Hague, USA 1889(?). also
MARQUARDT.

MEHLHAFF, Arlo C. Eureka, South Dakota 57437
Info on: MEHLHAFF, Christoph (GGF was Jacob) b. abt 1860, Kassel, So. Rss. OPP,
Jacob, came to U.S. in 1874, F name was Daniel and his F name also Daniel, from
Glueckstal, S. Russ.

MERKEL, Ross Donald Rt 3 Box 153, Galt, Calif. 95632
Info on: BENDER from Bergdorf, S/Rss, JESSER, Bergdorf, MAYER, Kassel. S. Rss.
GGpts were MERKEL from Bergdorf to Eureka, S.D, 1885.

MEYER, Gary E. Bx 442, Elgin, N. Dak, 58533
Info on: HUBER, Christian of Glueckstal, S. Rss, EHRMANTRAUT, John of Odessa, S.
Rss, WOHLMAN, Matt of Garvia, Hungary, HOYER, Magdalena of Garvia H.,
SIPPERT, Eltern of S. Rss, VILHAUER, Adam, MOOS. Katherine.

REMZ, A. Curtis, 1815 Northwestern Ave., Ames, Iowa 50010
Info on: RENZ, Konrad / WEKZEL, Magdalena - Gpts., BERNDT, Henry & DONNER,
Christina - GGGpts, BUCHOLZ, Andrew / KOTH, Maria, GGGpts, WOLFER, Friedrich
/ KELLER, Magdalena – GGGpts. RENZ, Guldendorf, WENZEL, Hoffnungeal,
BERNDT & DONNER, Danzig, BUCHOLZ & KOTH, Danzig, WELFER & KELLER,
Guldendorf to Herreid. S. D. in 1880's.

RETSLAFF, Mrs. Paul, 308 N. 14th St., Apt 13, Killeen, Tex. 76541
MEIDINGER, John R. GGF from Kassel to Zeeland, N. Dak. 1887 (?) RAILE. Jacob GF
or GGF(?) from Klein Neudorf to Wishek, ND 1903.

RUDOJ, Mrs. Wilhelmine, 3033 Fremont Ave. So., Minneapolis, Minn. 55408
Info on: KEILMANN, Johannes, F. FINK, Dorothea M, their children were: Boldemar,
(Woldemar?), Yakob, Gottlieb, Johannes, Friederich, Nickolaus, Therese, Lidia and
Wilhelaine. Her F brothers were: Gottlieb, Daniel, Karl & sister Emily. Mat: bro. Karl
& sister Lydia only two known.

SCHBUERMAN, Larry and Judy, Rt 2, Sterling, Colo. 80751
Info on; AMEN, Andrew, Sr. Gpts from Frank, Rss to Lincoln, Nebr. 1906, FRITZLER,
Jacob, Gpts from Rostov & Grimm to Russell, Kan. in 1905(?).

SCHEUERMAN, Richard Dean, Route 1, Endicott, Wash. 99125
Info. on: SCHEUERMAN, Henry B./ SCHMICK, Mary Elizabeth, GF side),
LITZEMBERGER, Phillip/ DIPPEL, Marikia GM side. fam. name. "JUSTA",
SCHEUERMAN, from Jagodnaja, Poljana to Florence Kan. May 1888 & then to
Endicott, Wash. Mar. 1891. Info: on GGf sister's deac., Henry B. SCHEUERMAN who
remained in Rss.- Anna, m a LUFT, Dealis(?) m "KRAUS", Katherine m a Peter
SCHMEIDMILLER, ? m a Weitz. All born around 1860 in Jagodnaja but contact lost
before WWI.

SHAFFSTALL. Mrs. Lucille F. 616 W. Yakima St., Pasco, Wash., 99301

Reqs info on Mat. family: KANZLER, Mary Elizabeth, b. 27 June 1889 in Kholm, Rss. Parents were wheat farmers from Kolb, fam. known as HONARM KANZLER. Gm was a KOCH. Imm to Odessa, Wash. in 1892, wants info on KOCH family of Kolb(Peskowatka), any brothers A sisters of her Gm.? Parents?

SOMMERS, Anna, 4504 E. Balch, Fresno, Calif. 93702

INFO on: SOMMERS, Christian F. of Anna, was a carpenter. Henry SOMMERS, br. to Christian, also Jacob SOMMERS, no sisters. Came to N.Y. in 1906 or 07 & directly to Fresno. Mem of St. Pauls Luth. Ch., took out 1st Citizen papers abt 1920. Mother was: Sophia Maria TRIPPEL, can anyone supply her with family info.?

WEGENER, Eugene Jerry, 1003 Mercer, Boise, Idaho 83703

Info on: LEHL. Louise of Norka, Rss. LEHL, Henry of Norka or Germany. KRIEGER. Christene of Norka. FRIES, Charles H. of Ger.

WESTON, Mrs. Adeline M., 7537 Circle Parkway, Sacramento, Cal. 95823

THURM (TURN) 1837 GGF Neudorf, PERMANN, Christoph, GGF, 9 Nov. 1847, Kassel & Glueckstal, BAUDER, Jakob. GGF, 17 Dec. 1844, Hoffnungstal, STAHLICKBR, Katharina, Guelden Dorf. All came to Edmonds, Walworth & McPherson counties, S. Dak in May 1893

WILDERMAUTH, Herman David, 7487 Bannock Trail, Yucca Valley. Cal. 92284

WILDERMUTH, Wilhelm, F. m, in Rss 1890 to ZACHER, Christiana from Bergdorf & Sofiental/Glueckstaler Gebiet. Came from Lichtental/ Bessarabia to Linten, N. Dak 1894. Locating /researching desc. of immigrants from Lichtental for a friend in Germany. Wants info on: SCHMIDT, Peter or his children. Reported having imm. to Canada. Peter Schmidt b. 1900, brother of wife's mother, Luis SCHMIDT. His father was Christian S. His M. Maria GRAMENSKE. Last colony he was in was Sofiental, Rss. Later married a Fraulein GRAF & lived in Klein-Glueckstal.

When writing to anyone for information be sure to observe a few rules of courtesy. Use standard size writing paper if possible (8 1/2-x 11). Make a carbon copy to keep for reference, type or write legibly. Keep your letter concise and clear. Do not ask for too much at once, be considerate. Provide enough facts to establish identity. Offer to share what information you have and to keep letters on file. Offer to pay for duplicating material sent to you or expense involved. Most people are happy to share. Be sure to always send a self-addressed, stamped envelope with your inquiry. Suggest they need not answer your letter if they are unable to help you (to save their time) but please to keep your letter in their file.

Let us know what results you are obtaining from this publication and send in your family names if you would like help in your research.

The Genealogy Committee

A VISIT TO THE GERMAN COLONIES

near Odessa in 1838

By J. G. Kohl

Translated by Prof. Jos. S. Height

This selection is taken from Kohl's book Reisen in Suedrussland, which was published by the Arnoldischen Buchhandlung, Dresden and Leipzig, in 1841.

The special interest that every German takes in the welfare and progress of his fellow countrymen in foreign lands, and also the general interest which the German colonies in Russia evoke in anyone that is concerned with the condition of peoples and states prompted me to live for a while in one of the colonies near Odessa. Such a visit, I felt, would enable me to make some interesting comments and at the same time to observe the peculiar character of the different nationalities that populate the steppes. I therefore chose Lustdorf, a friendly German village lying right on the shore of the Black Sea, twelve versts to the south of the city.

As I had already made the necessary arrangements for room and board with the mayor of the village, I mounted my horse one morning, to ride to my summer resort on the steppe. I rode leisurely through the gardens and chutors of Odessa and passed by the "Little Fountain", where people, like the Danaids of old, were ceaselessly occupied with the task of hauling water. After stopping briefly near the Russian hamlet of Fontal to view the garden of a wealthy Greek, I continued my ride past a small Russian monastery and the farm of a prosperous Bulgarian colonist who owned extensive vegetable gardens.

Soon I reached the borders of my German colony of Lustdorf. Just inside the border I came across a beautiful spring, where a plant for washing wool had been established. People told me that for a long time the spring was the object of contention between the monastery and the colony. Both parties had begun a lawsuit which had even been venued to Petersburg, where it was finally decided in favor the colony. Although the stream was only as thick as one's arm, the colonists were now deriving from it an annual revenue of 500 rubles, for that was the sum the Odessa merchant, who owned the wool-washing plant, had to pay for the lease of the spring.

Night began to fall as my chestnut steed and I finally reached the small liman (estuary) on whose elevated banks Lustdorf is located. I rode up from the seashore and reached the mayor's house where I found two small rooms in readiness for me, and the kind people anxiously awaiting my arrival. The "Gospodin Schulz," as he is called by the neighboring Russians, who have a profound regard for the mayors of the German colonies, was a highly respected, judicious man by the name of Lang. Throughout my stay at his house he was to become my sincerely devoted friend and also my teacher in regard to many interesting conditions existing in this area.

His wife, who was tirelessly busy with the management of the house and the children, proposed to prepare my meals, while the pretty seventeen-year-old daughter Baebele(1)—was to be my waitress and chambermaid. The mayors aged mother was also still living, a woman already in her seventies, who had come to this country at the age of forty, and who could therefore still speak the Swabin dialect as purely and fluently as if she had just arrived from the Neckar. After her husband's death she was spending the remainder of her days with her son, mending the clothes and stockings of her young grandchildren, preparing the salad for the kitchen, peeling potatoes, shelling peas and beans, and

1) Swabian form of Barbara of Engi. "Babs".

reading the Bible in the evenings.

A German traveling through Russia once remarked: "As I approached the banks of the Wolga near Sarepta I was struck by the prevalence of the German dialect in this region." Indeed, the heart of a German is thrilled when, after roaming about among all sorts of strangers, he suddenly finds himself in the midst of dear fellow countrymen and the amenities of his homeland, as though he had come upon a small piece of his native land right in the middle of a remote desert.

I felt completely at home with these good folk, who did everything to make my stay with them most pleasant. My room had a sofa, a table and chairs, and the windows were adorned with geraniums and myrtle. On one side I had a view of the small flower garden of my friend Baebele; on the other side I surveyed the farmyard, where the mayor and I set up a tent that very evening and where I intended to have my coffee the following morning. In my bedroom there was, of course, only a plain bed with a layer of straw, but I soon discovered that it was wonderful to sleep on it.

After I had taken an evening stroll with the mayor through his vineyard and got a view of his establishment, his wife invited me to a snack of Holderkuechle and milk which Baebele had already served in my room. I in turn invited the mayor to share the snack with me, and from that moment on he remained my daily companion and my constant guide on all walks and excursions. Those "Holderkuechle" are a Swabian pastry. The people gather the blossoms of the elderberries that grow by the seashore, dip the yellow umbles into a batter of eggs and flour, bake them in butter, and eat them with sugar and appetite. This we now proceeded to do, and the mayor began to tell me the story of a shipwreck that had taken place last fall and whose sad wreckage—a ship's rump—I had seen on the beach on my way here.

In the course of such and similar stories I spent my first night in the village of Lustdorf, of which I soon grew very fond. It also happened to be a Saturday evening, which has always been my favorite evening of the week. For me, too, it came as a surprise "to hear the German dialect," and indeed in song. For the young German boys sat together half the night and sang old German songs, such as: "Freut Euch des Lebens", "Es ritten drei Reiter zum Tore hinaus", and many others which I had not heard for years, and which I certainly would not have expected to hear again on the shores of the inhospitable Pontus.

As I had anticipated, I slept very well on my straw bed (I had lain on harder beds in the Russian post stations), and when my Baebele opened the shutters the next morning and the Sunday sun streamed through the window and the schoolmaster started to ring the bell for church, I felt so at home that I reached for my steaming coffee, enjoyed one cup after another, in good German fashion, and then took a stroll through the village.

When the village was first established, the colonists had given it the name "Kaisersheim". However, when Duke de Richelieu(1) came riding into the village one day and pondered the name, he deemed it inappropriate that his name should have been selected for no special reason and without the approval of the Czar. He therefore requested that another name be chosen, and the colonists agreed to re-baptize their village by the name it still bears.

The houses in the village are all nicely constructed of a soft conglomerate of limestone. All have only one story, spacious rooms, and green shutters on all the windows. All are kept neat and tidy.

1) Duc de Richelieu, a French emigre, was governor of Odessa and governor-general of "New Russia" from 1804 to 1816. He spoke German fluently and was acclaimed "Father of the German Colonists."

To be sure, Lustdorf has a special need for larger rooms, since suitable accommodation is required for the numerous summer guests that come here to enjoy the sea-baths. The progress of the colony is evident from the fact that in the 30 years of its existence the interior of the houses has been renovated for the third time.

In the beginning the government had provided the settlers only with reed huts, in which they practically froze to death in the wintertime. Following the example of the Russians, the colonists soon began to dig themselves into the ground and build adobe houses. Finally, when their situation improved and they had become more well-to-do, they built the present handsome houses. The same development took place in the other German colonies that I had the opportunity to visit.

The houses are situated on both sides of a broad street, and each house is surrounded by a spacious yard. In the rear part you find the unroofed threshing plot and the uncovered skirte (long stacks) of grain, hay, and straw. Behind these stacks are located the vineyards, orchards, and vegetable gardens. The village street is lined with two rows of beautiful acacia trees, and at the gable end of every house there is a small, well-tended flower garden, the care of which is always in the hands of the older daughters of the family. Decked out in their pretty Sunday clothes, these girls were now standing at the stone wall distributing larkspur and gilliflowers to their favorites among the lads of the village who were sauntering down the street and jesting with the girls.

When the schoolmaster sounded the second bell, the mayor's seventy-year-old mother, with a sparkling white bonnet on her head and a white apron over her blue cotton skirt, came out of the house to go to church. As I accompanied her on the way she told me that it took a long time and cost many a life before the colony achieved the prosperity I was now witnessing. During the first period of settlement the hardships had been great, and she was now one of the few that had survived those storms. Most of the German immigrants had, in fact, perished before they were even able to take possession of the land that had been granted them. Even the trek to Russia had been a terrifying experience. It lasted two summers and one winter. One party had come down the waterway of the Danube. They had fared worst of all, for at the delta of the Danube malignant diseases had broken out among those immigrants, and a large number of them were carried off. The other parties had come by way of Vienna, Moravia and Galicia, and after staying in the last-named province the entire winter, they continued their trek through Podolia. In the beginning all the women had been terribly frightened of the Russians, and even now she could not help tremble a bit whenever a Russian visitor comes unexpectedly into the house. There was also much fear of the Turks who, at that time, were still in possession of the west side of the Dniester. Indeed, the poor womenfolk suspected that every vessel that appeared on the river might be a part of the piratical Turkish fleet.

"The worst thing," added the mayor, who was walking along with us, "was the fact that the immigrants had found practically nothing prepared for them on their arrival. To be sure, the land was there, 25 desjatin for each of the 40 families who were to be settled, but the available dwellings were so wretched that the colonists had to dig themselves into the earth, like the Russians. Moreover, the plows given to them were such sorry contraptions that when put to use the plowshares bent like tin. To make matters worse, the colonists really had no idea in what latitude they were now living; some even thought that the land belonged to Podolia. Nor did they know when to start work in the fields when to sow, when to reap, whether to fertilize, or indeed what to plant and sow. The Russians, whose language they did not understand, were unable to enlighten them on these matters. Therefore, the more well-to-do among the settlers hired Russian farm

hands and let them manage the farms and fields as they liked. The best food was set before them and they were almost regarded as sacred persons. People were often heard to say: "For goodness sake, let's keep the Russians contented, for on them our whole welfare depends!" The poorer settlers simply imitated the example of the well-to-do and their Russian servants, sowed and planted when they did, etc. In due time the situation changed in a two-fold respect. On the one hand, the Germans not only soon learned what was needful and proper, but with their hard work and their ambition to improve themselves, combined with the greater knowledge of agriculture already gained in Germany, they were soon able to improve their farm implements and farming methods to such a degree that the Russians are now often heard to exclaim: "Tak i njemtzi sdalajut!" (That's the way the Germans do it!). On the other hand, those that were formerly well-to-do now belong to the poorer class, whereas those that had practically nothing to start with are now the most prosperous in the community.

This process was repeated in all the colonies, and the cause of it was that the rich always relied on their Russian servants and squandered their money on them as well as on their unsuccessful enterprises, whereas the poor gained useful experience without incurring any losses. Indeed, in relying upon their own efforts, they had learned more and learned it better.

The schoolmaster, a native Swiss, read the sermon rather poorly, but I was nevertheless edified, for the association with a group of people for religious purposes is always uplifting. However, I believe that church affairs in the colonies are not in their best condition. The best preachers from Lithuania and Esthonia, which supply most of the preachers in the Russian interior, do not like to come this far, even though the clergymen in the colonies are not badly off. They get 120 desjatines of land and a fairly good salary.

Since many Germans are scattered through all of Russia, the Lutherans have a certain number of superintendencies throughout the country, just as Russia (as a whole) is divided in many "gubernias" (administrative districts), or the Greek church into several eparchies. In every larger city there is a parish with its own preacher who at times is also the superintendent of a large area extending over several "governments", and is therefore responsible for the supervision of religious services in the German colonies. Oftentimes the preachers come into conflict with the colonial authorities who resent their influence and place all sorts of obstacles in their path. Hence it happens that many colonies do not engage a preacher, and the church remains in an obvious state of neglect. Often the schoolmaster takes over the functions of the pastor, although on occasion a visiting missionary from Basel may stop over at a colony.

In the course of several walks among fishermen, shepherds, and colonists, I gained a much clearer understanding of this area and its people. And so the first days of my sojourn at Lustdorf were spent with many informative talks with my friend the mayor and with some innocent banter and jesting with my cheerful Baebele. I even came to her defense a bit against her mother who claimed that the girls born in Russia were less inclined to work as hard as those from Germany, and yet I found that the girl was quite active. However, the careworn spirit of the German women, their restless, ceaseless activity, their unflagging drudgery and worrying—this, to be sure, tends to disappear among the Russian-born girls, and for that reason all the daughters here find themselves in opposition to their mothers. I found some fault here with the mothers who, in almost German fashion, get so involved in work that they miss the joy of living. Actually, I liked the balance of German diligence and Russian ease which I detected among the young people of the colony. Actually, it was very instruc-

tive for me to compare German housewives with Russian ones, and I could not help marveling at the striking difference in the character of each ethnic group. It seemed obvious to me that not a single exemplar of such a busy worker like the mayor's wife (and I found many others of her type in the village) could be found among the 50 million Russians, nor could such a lively product be derived from the stuff of which the Russian national character is baked.

In my opinion, there is no cause to fear that the poor management of Russian households, their customs, and language will soon replace the German way of life in the colonies. The Germans are massed together here in large numbers, almost always they marry their own people, and the Russians are not permitted (by colonial law) to settle in the colonies. They still dress in the German fashion; only the winter fur coat has been adopted—because of the climate. The Swabian dialect is passed on from father to son. Russian, which of course they must learn for business reasons, is spoken only with Russians. To be sure, some young German sons, and especially some of the poorer people, have defected and established themselves outside the colony where they became Russianized, but they are comparatively few. Most of the people who find no means of livelihood in the rapidly rising population of the colonies move to the cities, where many good opportunities are open to their industry and ambition, and where they again find German communities that preserve the German spirit through churches, schools, and other associations.

In point of fact, the superiority of the Germans over the Russians is, in many respects, so great that whenever the two nationalities come into conflict it is not surprising to see the German come out on top. The German thinks, the Russian does not; the German works and forges ahead; the Russian gets stuck and easily goes backward. The German even cheats more thoroughly than the Russian, who despite his wily chicanery is invariably the dupe in the end.

Also the physical character of the Germans has certain advantages over the Russian. If the latter is more versatile and resistant to wind and weather, hunger and thirst, the German in turn is more vigorous and robust. This is apparent even in the everyday petty conflicts—"I mean the fights that take place between Germans and Russians in which the latter are invariably the losers. A German fist is not afraid of two or three Russians, and a lone Russian will never venture to oppose a German, man to man. For the ethnologist I could adduce some interesting stories and observations the upshot of which is that "German blows", as Schiller already noted in his Fiasco drama, are feared as much here as they are in Italy. "Pisse Njemetzi", "Devilish Germans!" the Russians shout at us, when a German comes driving along in his heavy, ironbound, chain-clanking wagon, and they make way for him because they have already discovered that in the event of a collision their own wooden cart will get the worst of it. For all these reasons the German colonist is far more feared and respected by the local Russians than he is hated, as has been falsely stated in a recent newspaper article on the German colonists in Russia. The Russian is far too conscious of the superiority of the German, to leave much room for hatred.

However, while we are discussing scrapping and fighting, we should not fail to admit that the Russians resort to this disgusting activity far less frequently than the Germans. In this regard I have heard my countrymen use expressions that are quite unknown to the Russians. On hearing them, I could not help blushing for my nationality, and the more pacific and conciliatory character of the Russians appeared to me in beautiful light.

Often enough the Germans scrap and fight until the blood flows. The Russians, in contrast, poke each other a bit on their thick fur

coats, and the matter is settled. To be sure, the poor Russian is accustomed to getting more blows than he delivers, and thus it is not merely his greater love of peace but also his lack of independence, just as it is not merely German coarseness but also the feeling of greater independence. However, even in the raising of their children I found the Germans much more apt to resort to physical punishment than was the case with the Russians. The outcries of the vigorously beaten children could be heard through the villages all day. The Russians live much more amicably with their children and they caress them more often. On the other hand, it must be observed that the Germans pay much more attention to training and discipline than is the case in Russian families that are often completely wild and unruly.

In regard to the young children I also noticed that the German children appeared less neat and clean than the Russian ones whom I always found very tidy and proper. Even the grownup German women and men did not appear to have as much personal cleanliness as the Russian mujiks. It is, however, very difficult to make general judgments about cleanliness. One nationality is more particular in this respect, the other in that. The German women work a great deal and can therefore not always appear very attractive. Hence, on workdays the women, with their wild flying hair, give one the impression of just having emerged from the sheer despair of their household drudgery. On a Sunday, the day of rest and leisure, the situation is altogether different. Then the spic-and-span German woman definitely had the advantage. In point of fact, it is characteristic of the various classes in Russia that no very great difference can be noticed between their Sunday attire and their workaday clothes. The numerous feast days make it impossible to celebrate all of them in special holiday attire, and for the Russians the weekdays are not workdays or business days to the extent that special clothes are necessary. Everything flows together in a rather chaotic way.

My Baebele, who brought me flowers every morning from her garden for my breakfast table and found my humorous company quite congenial, had of course other admirers who took her more seriously. She was much sought after, for she was the prettiest girl in the village and the daughter of a man who held a most respected position and stood in high regard and frequent contact with Germans, Russians, and Greeks in the neighborhood as well as in Odessa.

Of her admirers, one was more richly endowed with emotion, the other with rank, and the third with money. The sentimental one was a young farm lad of the village; the man of rank was a Cossack officer; and the man of means, a young German who was the owner of a wine tavern in Odessa. The sentimental one called every evening and there was chatting, laughter and teasing. The Cossack rode up to the house a couple of times, drank a glass of wine with the girl's father, ogled her from a distance, and then one fine day came right out with a proposal of marriage. He told the mayor that he had known him for some time and had also become acquainted with his daughter Baebele (actually he had never spoken a word to her), and that he was well pleased with her diligence and good behavior. He admitted that he had only a rather poor house and a small salary, but he did possess rank and title, two medals, and a silver cross. At present he was the owner of three horses and was planning to buy a kaleska, a buggy. He would, therefore, like to ask for Baebele's hand. She would, he felt sure, do a fine job of housekeeping and on Sundays she could go out for a buggy ride. The mayor poured him another drink and suggested that the matter could be discussed some other time. The suitor, having gotten the mitten, mounted his steed and rode off.

The tavern owner from Odessa came out to the village every Sunday -- to the deep vexation of the poor sentimental one -- and asked permission to

take Baebele to a dance. The parents were decidedly in favor of him, and Baebele too was willing. The only point that created a feeling of apprehension was the fact that this suitor had a shock of flaming red hair. I, for my part, would have liked to see the girl remain in the village and, for that matter, would have gladly granted her to the smart village lad. Since I had also made an issue of the red hair, I now began to fan the flames even higher so as to increase their repelling force, although I gradually began to doubt my success. The matter was decided shortly before I took my departure from the village. The glitter of the gold won out, the aversion to the golden hair was overcome, and before I left I had to congratulate Baebele on the happy event that declared her the fiancée of the red-headed wine-seller from Odessa, and cast the poor village lad into the pit of despair.

The first longer excursion that I decided to undertake with the mayor was into the neighboring German colonies and to the mouth of the Dniester Liman. One fine morning at five the mayor's son Jakob hitched up a pair of bays and climbed on the buckboard of a Hungarian farm wagon, of the type which several Hungarian-German colonists had introduced into all the German colonies here. The mayor and I took our places in the rear on a layer of straw that was covered with a pretty multi-colored Russian blanket. Our way took us first along the small, narrow peressip of the village liman. It was completely dried out; only here and there on its cracked and scarred surface thin layers of salt were to be seen. After crossing the broad terrain that lies between the shore and the elevated steppe, we proceeded upon the long, wide peressip of a much larger liman that always holds salt water, but breaks out into the sea about every ten years. It was the Suchoi Liman, as our map indicated. Its water is strongly salinated and contains several varieties of sea fish. On its banks we also saw countless heaps of seashells.

More interesting were the human settlements on its shores. These were so numerous and so charming in their scenic setting that I imagined was at one of the small lakes in Holstein. The liman, which forms a connected mass towards the sea, divides into two crooked arms farther inland to the north. In the foot hills of the forked area lay a large German colony, with attractive church and handsome houses, named Kleinliebenthal. To the right of this village lay the large village of Alexandrowka, which is inhabited by Greeks. On the left stood the Russian hamlet of Burlaktschi Balk, "Valley of the Rogues", and at the apex of one arm the Malo-Russian village of Suchoi Liman. Besides these settlements, there were several fishing huts along the shore, and the estate and country house of the Countess Potocki.

The sight of so many settlements really came to me as a surprise. I never encountered a similar scene on the steppes. On the peressip stood a long row of fishermen's huts and between the villages herds of cattle and horses moved about. Enough variety of people and occupations to give us food for thought as we rode along the narrow ridge between the liman and the sea, enjoying our cigars. About midway on the long ridge, the mayor suddenly said: "Jakob, halt's mol an, de Pferde woll'n sich a Mol verschnaufe!" (Jakob, stop a while, the horses would like to catch their breath a bit.) I thought to myself that life is not made that pleasant for the poor Russian horses, for a Russian never stops to worry about what his horses want or do not want.

The "Rogues' Village" got its name in the old days when marauding bandits lodged in every ravine and at the mouth of every river. Now these places are inhabited by Russian tillers of the soil. And yet only a few years separate us from those earlier times in this region.

One must marvel at the magic power which the Russian empire has exerted on the civilization and cultivation of these vast wastelands. No matter how far we go back into history, we encounter nothing but wild, plundering hordes of nomads. But here before our eyes we now find a picture of peaceful, busy settlers. It would indeed be difficult to find any better ones in those lands that have been cultivated since the dawn of history.

Our way took us through the Greek colony of Alexandrowka. It was founded in the days of Catherine the Great, who had settled a group of unhappy Moreitoses here. The people were now all Russianized and spoke Russian much more fluently than the German colonists. They had also adopted most of the Russian customs, lived in indolence, and squandered their money in the taverns. They are inefficient farmers and even though they received much more generous grants of land from the Empress than was allotted to the Germans--depending on his rank, each Greek settler received 5 to 10 times more--they are now all in debt to the two neighboring German colonies. The latter find time, after having worked their own fields, to cultivate the fields they have leased from the Greeks. Indeed, the latter will often lease their land ten years in advance, in order to obtain ready cash. After the money is squandered, they eke out an existence in their wretched huts. The difference between the outward appearance of their village and that of the German colonists is that between night and day. Everything is in a state of unsightly decay. There are no trees and no gardens. The village church also had the same dreamy aspect. Instead of a bell they simply hooked up a piece of scrap iron on which the blows of a hammer called the community together. With sad thoughts we drove on.

After a long drive across the Greek steppe we again reached German terrain--the fields and gardens of the large colony of Gross-liebenthal, which is also the administrative seat of the entire German district and the headquarters of the chief mayor. Ten other colonies belong to this district, six of them Evangelical and four Catholic. In the Odessa region of "New Russia" there are four such districts, each with its chief mayor: Liebenthal, near the mouth of the Dniester; Kutschurgan, farther up the Dniester; Glucksthal, to the east of Odessa; and Beresan to the northeast. These four districts have about 25,000 inhabitants and, like other Russian colonies, are subject to the so-called "Colonists' Welfare Committee" in Odessa, of which the president is a Russian general. All matters coming before this Committee are conducted in Russian, although all the officers also understand German. For every district there is an inspector who serves as an intermediary between the colony and the Committee. He is generally also a Russian, but the mayors are of course Germans who are elected by their own communities. The same is true of the chief mayors and also the village and district clerks. In each village two men are elected as "burgomasters" to assist the mayor in his work. An adjutant of the mayor, known as the village beadle, assembles the townsmen to the regular meetings by ringing a bell through the streets. Those colonists who fail to appear are liable to pay a fine.

In addition to the colonial districts already mentioned, there are several others in South Russia. Over 30,000 colonists are settled in Bessarabia, 50,000 near the Sea of Azov, 5,000 in the Crimea, and 5,000 in the Caucasus. The most prosperous of all these German colonies are those on the banks of the Molotschna River, near the Sea of Azov. Some farmers there have herds of 20,000 sheep, and the colonists live in very attractive homes.

All the colonies in Russia are regarded as a distinct class, and when a colonist on the Wolga or in the Caucasus is punished for some crime, the deed is also made known on the Dniester. They are also

interested in one another in other ways, for instance when preachers from the Crimea are transferred to Bessarabia, or schoolmasters from Sarepta on the Wolga come into the southern colonies. Adventurers and beggars from Germany sometimes roam from colony to colony. Occasionally, also some practices and customs spread from one colony to another. We have already mentioned the Hungarian farm-wagon which is to be found in all the colonies of South Russia. I should, indeed also mention the cattle from the Molotschna, which all the South Russian colonies are trying to introduce.

To be sure, the colonies in the different regions of this vast empire did not all obtain the same amount of land grants and government loans. As a rule, those in South Russia received 60 desjatines (162 acres) of land per family, and a so-called "advance loan". This loan usually consisted of 2 horses, 2 cows, 2 oxen, a few farm implements, and a small sum of money. The 60 desjatines of crown land are regarded as indivisible property for which the colonist proprietor pays taxes, which at present amount to 14 rubles. All the German colonies in Russia probably pay a total of 2 million rubles per year to the imperial treasury. The original land grant, it should be noted, may not be divided among the sons through testament, but several families may live on it, if they can secure a livelihood. Nor may any of the land be sold without the permission of the government. Every district is held responsible for the tax payments of all its settlers, and also for the long-term repayment of the advance loans.

The increase of the population in the German colonies is commensurate with the great expansion of population in the Empire as a whole; perhaps it even grows faster. Thus, the small colony of Lustdorf had 208 people at the time of the census of 1815. In the census of 1835, there were 357 people, not counting those that came into the colony from elsewhere. If one adds the 19 that moved away, we find that the population had doubled in 25 years. Similar results are indicated in the lists that I saw in other colonies. On one half of the original home-steads two or more families are now living. Moreover, every year many families move away to the city. In Lustdorf one-sixth of the population has already moved to town. The younger men that can find no livelihood in the village often settle on some land that well-to-do fathers have purchased for them, somewhere among the Russians. Sometimes the landless sons became dessiatintschiks, namely renters that have leased a few dessiatin from some Russian nobleman. They build a sod house and work the land as long as they like or until they have saved enough money to buy property of their own.

To what extent the German colonists can thrive in this country is evident from the following example. A Mennonite in the Molotschna, though he came as a poor man to this country, has become so prosperous through his hard work and enterprise that his property today is valued at 2 million rubles. He owns a herd of 20,000 sheep whose wool contributes in no small way to the flourishing commerce of Azov. I was also told of other colonists that owned 12,000 sheep and 7,000 head of cattle. To be sure, there are also many poor people, but there are no beggars or uncared-for indigents to be found in any of the German colonies. All this is, of course, not solely due to German industry but also to the favorable conditions in which they are placed. It is easy for the Germans to better themselves among the Russians.

In point of fact, every German farm establishment on the steppes is generally superior to that of the Russians. The Germans are the only inhabitants of the steppe that have developed effective means against the depredations of the grasshoppers. They have also been the chief exterminators of the snakes that formerly infested the

steppes. When there is a famine in the land the Russians come to the German colonists to obtain some of the surplus grain from their granaries. The colonists cultivate the idle fields of the neighboring Greeks and other indolent peasants. They are never in arrears with their taxes and invest their capital, in useful enterprises. Hence a German colonist was led to tell me with justifiable pride: "If the Czar were to come to this district, he would have to acknowledge with joy that we Germans have been largely responsible for the cultivation of the steppes." As a matter of fact, when Alexander, while passing through the Molotschna on his final trip to Toganrog, surveyed the thriving German colonies, he cried out in astonishment: "Children, we really don't need to travel to Germany anymore. We have more than Germany right here in our own empire!"

The houses in the colony of Grossliebenthal were on the whole very attractive and in good condition. Less so, the gardens, which were full of weeds and thistles. In truth, gardening is not making much progress in the colonies of the steppe. They were actually in better shape in the earlier years. On the one hand, farming and the raising of livestock are really more productive, while on the other hand the difficulties of gardening are too great. The gardens on the higher levels of the steppe were particularly drab and desolate. Those located in the valley were still in good condition and of such impressive size that I could not help marvel that so much has been achieved in the short period of 30 years.

Every house has its well and its fine spacious cellar. Because of the hot summers, these cellars are dug to an astonishing depth. I found it most fascinating to observe how the people store the milk to keep it cool. There is a broad staircase with numerous steps. In the early spring the milk is placed on the top-most step. As the days grow warmer it is set several steps lower down, in the beginning of the summer still lower, and finally during the greatest heat, it stands at a depth of 25 and more feet.

Since we did not find the chief mayor at home, we called on the district clerk. In the offices we found everything spacious, neat, and even elegant. We then took a look at the communal sheep ranch, the community garden and vineyards. Every district owns certain communal property: a large orchard, a vineyard, a sheep ranch, and a fishery. From the proceeds of these various enterprises a communal treasury is set up, from which the needy or those that require capital for some useful enterprise can obtain a loan against the necessary security. We have here actually a kind of loan bank of the type which some of the noblemen back home established in several areas. These community treasuries provide good services, especially in lean years. In the treasury of this colonial district (comprising ten villages) there were cash assets of 300,000 rubles. The other treasuries of the district were in similar good condition, for the Fire Assurance Fund amounted to 197,000 rubles and the Widows' and Orphans' Fund amounted to 160,000 rubles. Thus, the total cash assets for the ten villages was 650,000 rubles. I think this is brilliant enough.

We stayed for the night with the district clerk, who had a very charming house and was indeed a man of status, married, with a nice income of 400 thalers, and, as I soon discovered, the real manager of the district. During the evening we discussed a hundred topics relating to the colonies and the steppes: snakes, grasshoppers, Mongolian mounds, agriculture etc. We finished with a discussion about egg-production and came to the surprising conclusion that the hens of the steppe lay twice as many eggs as the German ones. In Germany a hen lays no more than 60 eggs per year, while the hens here lay 120 and more.

The next day we drove through many other German colonies:

Alexanderhilf, Freudenthal, Petersthal—all of which lay in a row along the valley of the Baraboi, a small insignificant stream that was now completely dried up, except near the villages, where its water had been collected into stavoks, ponds. This construction of ponds is a common feature throughout the steppes of the Ukraine. Every land lord and every village builds a dam of earth across the river bed, to contain the water. A channel with sluice gate and bridge-crossing is provided to take care of the overflow in the spring. The man-made ponds are called stavoks, and every stream of significant size deposits its water in a large number of such stavoks. In this way, water for washing clothes and watering the livestock is obtained.

The colonies of Petersthal and Freudenthal are the most prosperous in this area. They are inhabited by Hungarian Germans, that is, by Germans who had originally settled in Hungary and later emigrated to Russia. In Freudenthal we visited a colonist who had such a splendidly furnished home that it would scarcely be surpassed by the richest peasant houses in Switzerland. In the spacious living room we saw the finest furniture, even a large, beautiful grandfather's clock for which he had paid 200 rubles in Odessa. In the bedrooms stood the most enchanting beds, with white curtained canopies, and everything else in the house was likewise well furnished.

The preacher of Freudenthal, who is also the Evangelical Superintendent of all Russia, was, regrettably, not at home. He is said to be a very original character, and completely devoted to his farmers. Indeed, he is himself a big farmer and hauls his cattle, his wheat, and his kirpitsch (dry manure) to the markets in Odessa. He is said to have done much to improve agriculture in the colony, which, to be sure, can still stand a lot of improvement. However, as long as the grain flows abundantly into the farmers' hands, improvements will be rather slow in coming. A big farmer here usually loses as much grain on his threshing floor as a small peasant back home can manage to harvest. The threshing floors are simply open surfaces on a level patch of hard-packed earth. An unexpected rain often soaks the grain that is spread out on the floor, where it is completely ruined, because with the rapid germination that takes place it begins to sprout at once. An enormous amount of grain is also lost to the ducks and chickens that have a splendid feast, and much is also trampled and destroyed.

Threshing, which for us back home is a perspiring job for even the toughest worker, is here just mere child's play. Two or three wagons are hitched up, the young boys climb on the buck seat, their sisters and the neighbor's children pile in the back of the wagon, and they drive round and round over the grain that is spread out on the threshing floor. In Freudenthal I was shown the strangest threshing rig I have ever seen—a Bulgarian one. It consisted of several boards set together on the same plane, curved in front like a sleigh runner and studded on its lower surface with numerous flint stones. The Bulgarians around here drag this threshing sled over their grain, but I could not rightly understand how the kernels were thereby separated from the ears.

From Freudenthal we drove westward to the Dniester. As we came into the valley of its tributary, the Kutschurgan Liman, we saw before us two broad terraces on which large herds of livestock were grazing. These belonged to the Russian village of Majak which is located about 5 versts above the Liman. Its inhabitants are so-called Raskolniki, that is to say, "Old Orthodox" Russians who in earlier times had left their fatherland because of its opposition to their faith and settled in what was then Turkish territory.

Since it was getting late in the day, the mayor suggested that

we ought to stay over night in the village with one of the families he was acquainted with. Just as the Scythian troglodytes in the time of Herodotus, so the native Malorussians of the steppes lives in a semlanka, a sod house. Indeed, there is every likelihood that his primitive type of dwelling is still much the same as it was in antiquity. Certainly, the building material is the same.

Because of the cold in winter and the heat of summer, but particularly because of the lack of timber and wood, the steppe dwellers conceal themselves and their dwellings half-way in the earth. They excavate a cellar three to four feet deep and according to the dimensions of the proposed house. Three beams of equal height are then erected on the south elevation, one at each end and the third in the middle. A horizontal beam, called the "swolok" (Durchzug), is placed over them to serve as a ridge pole. From the ground level on the north side a sloping roof of reed and turf is laid out to extend as far as the ridge. Seen from the northern approach, such a house looks deceptively like a slight elevation of the landscape. On the sunny side, a wall of earth about 4 feet high is erected and a couple of pieces of glass inserted into it to serve as window panes. From this side the house gives the impression of being in the process of sprouting from the earth.

The entrance to the semlanka is provided by the peressinja, a closed-in stairway leading from the ground level to the subterranean floor of the house. At each end of this passage-way there is a door, to keep out the heat as well as the cold.

Our prospective host gave us a very friendly and hospitable reception. No sooner had we expressed our desire to be permitted to stay overnight, when everyone began to provide for us in the very best way. The young son put our horses out to pasture. The wife and aged mother of our host set about to prepare a supper for us in the summer kitchen.

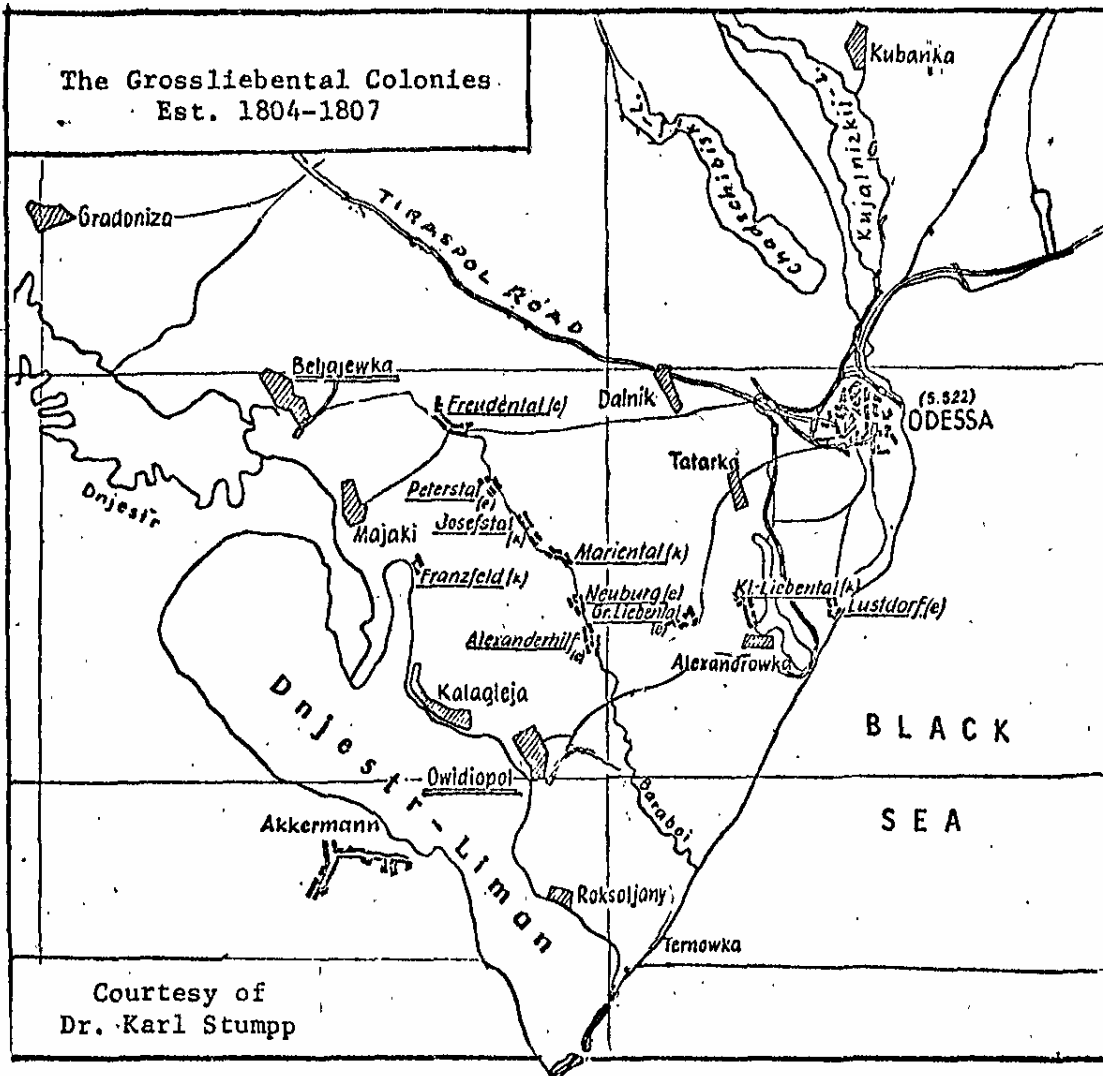
After having seen the primitive exterior of the semlanka, I was very pleasantly surprised to find myself in such a comfortable and attractive room. Outside -it was very hot, but down here it was delightfully cool. The air was fresh and fragrant, for the clay floor was strewn with grass and the walls adorned with bunches of aromatic herbs. Everything was so neat and tidy that one cannot sufficiently praise the Malorussians in this respect, compared with the Great Russians and the Poles. Pretty, quaintly colored quilts covered the benches and a number of plump comfortable pillows lay on the beds. The windows had gay curtains and the walls were adorned with brightly printed wall paper and several little mirrors. But nothing was more prettily decorated than the holy icon that hung in a niche in one corner of the room. The niche was bordered on three sides with small silver-edged curtains and on a painted shelf below it lay a profusion of offerings, fruits, and flowers. In front of the icon hung a silver lamp that was kept burning night and day. The whole thing seemed like something that had been set up for the children as a surprise on Christmas Eve. What a childlike simplicity of faith must animate the hearts of these good people*.

As we were chatting through the falling twilight the finest supper began to appear on the table: borscht soup, lentil pottage, egg omelet cake, and the best milk in the world. Borscht—the national dish of the Malorussians—is a treat for anybody, especially in the summertime. Every conceivable kind of delicious, savory -herb and vegetable gets into this soup: sliced beets, parsnip, kummel, parsley, purslane, thyme, leek, etc. The base of all these ingredients are lentils and a chunk of mutton, while the common element in which everything swims is a sourish kwas, the well-known national beverage of the Russians. To each bowl of the

steaming soup the diner adds a portion of cool thick cream.

The good people wanted to give us their own bed for the night, while they proposed to sleep in the yard. But we requested that they simply spread some straw for us in the adjoining vacant room, and there we had a good, if brief, night's rest. The next morning, just as the sun peered over the high grass of the steppe, we sat down for a light breakfast of tasty white bread and fresh milk. As our wagon rolled out of the yard our kind hosts send along a thousand good wishes: "Dai Bog warn starowie!"—"God give you good health! God grant your body and soul happiness, salvation, and well-being!"

My last days in Lustdort were spent visiting with all kinds of people, with colonists, gypsies, shepherds, and horse herdsman. I also made a last longer excursion—this time to the towns of Ovidiopol and Akerman, near the mouth of the Dniester. But as I gradually noticed that the sources of new ideas and the fountains of new information were beginning to flow rather sparingly, I found myself thinking of some new region to visit. So I packed up my writing materials, took leave of my excellent host, wished my Baebele a sweet life with the red-head from Odessa, and bade farewell to these good people. As I rode back to the city, I began to look forward to my projected excursion to the Crimean peninsula.



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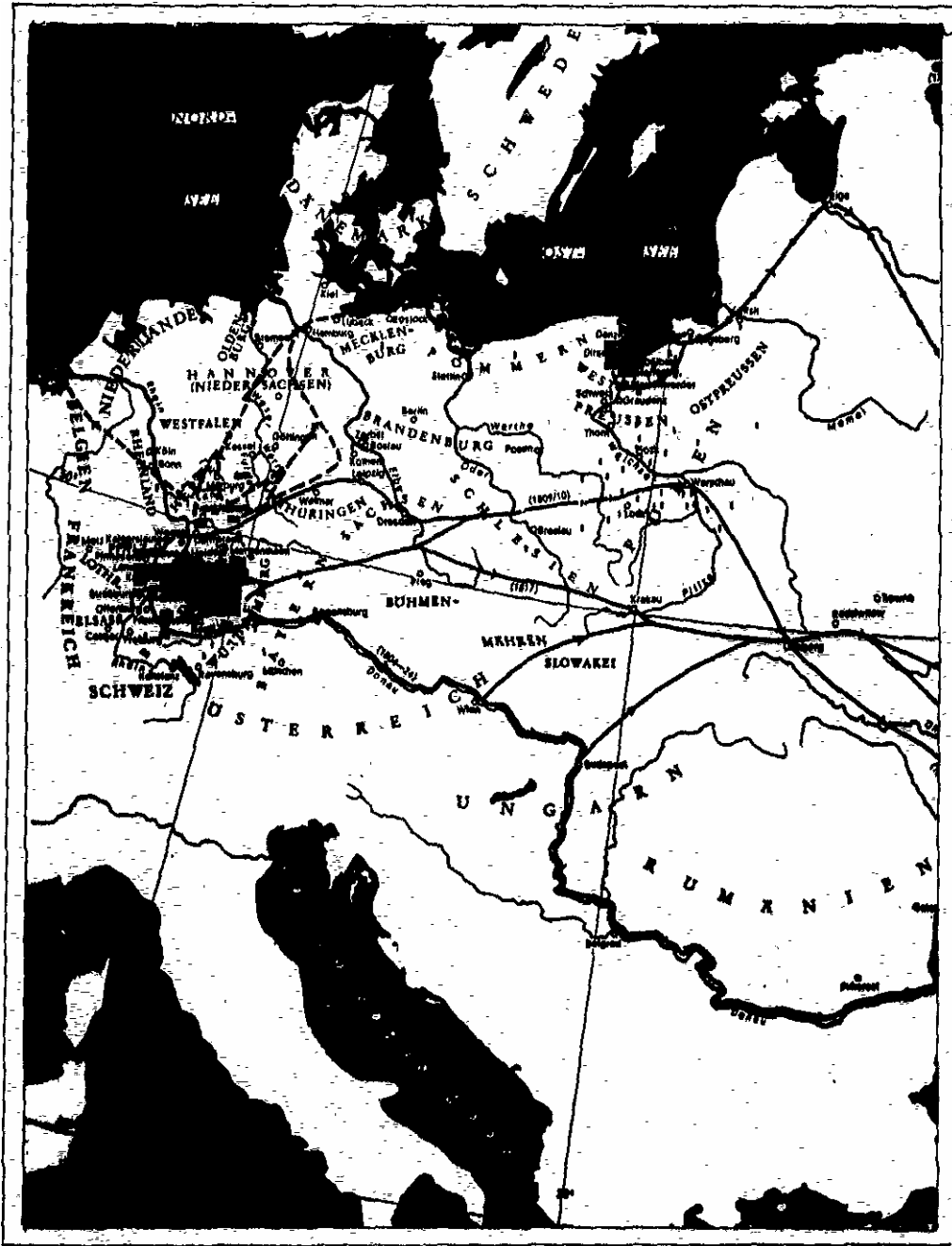
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