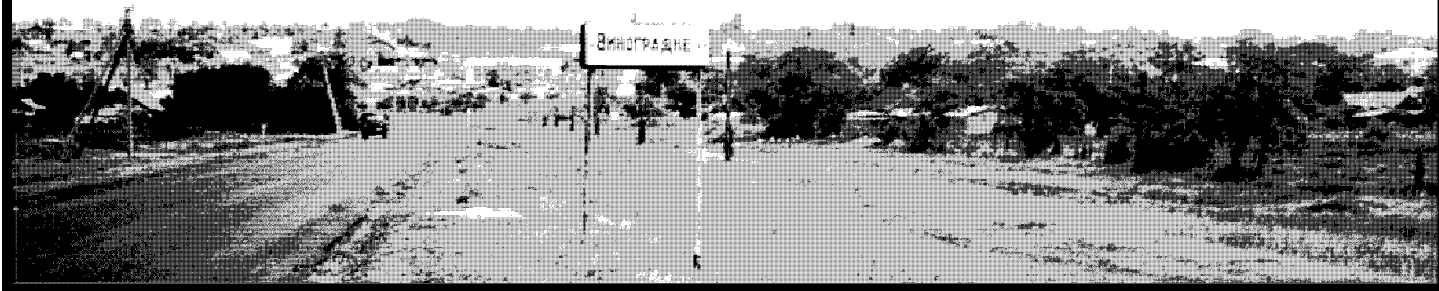


# vBeresan District Odessa Newsletterv

Volume 2 Issue 1

June 1997

**Worms** - taken on June 28, 1996 by Gary Maier



## Beresan District

### INCLUDES:

(Those in bold are first villages.)

Alexanderfeld, Alexandrovka,  
Annenthal, Annovka,  
Antonowka, Bagdanovka,  
Benderhof, Biswanje, Christina,  
Christofovka, Domanevka,  
Dvorjanka, Eigengut, Felsenburg,  
Friedensdorf, Friedrichstal,  
Gardegai, Gotta, Gradenfeld, Grise,  
**Guldendorf**, Halbstadt, Heck,  
Hoffmannstal, Hoffnung,  
Hoffnungsburg, **Johannestal**,  
Kantakusenka, Kapitanovka,  
Karlevka, **Karlsruhe**,  
**Katharinental**, Kavkas,  
Klein Karlsruhe, Klundovo,  
Kratovka, **Landau**, Lerisk,  
Lichtenfeld, Lubo-Alexandrovka,  
Manov, Marienfeld, Marlanavka,  
Michaelowka, **Munchen**,  
Navaselevka, Neu Karlsruhe,  
Neu Lustforf, Neu Munchen,  
Neu Rohrbach, Neu Worms,  
Neusatz, Novo-Amerika,  
Novonikolajevka, Olgino,  
Otschakov, Petrowka, Pokrovskaja,  
**Rastadt**, **Rohrbach**, Rosenthal,  
Savidovka, Schlosser, Schmatz,  
Schonfeld, Sebastiansfeld,  
Selingera, Skarupka, Sjepucha,  
**Speir/Speyer**, StadnaJa-Bulka,  
Steinberg, Steingut, Stuttgart,  
**Sulz**, Swenigorodka, Vossessensk,  
**Waterloo**, Weidenberg, Wilhelmthal, Wolksov, **Worms**, Wowtsche.

(this list is not yet all inclusive -- if you have additions, please provide to the Lead Editor)

*Many of these identified chutors and villages need much research. If you have any background information on them, please share with us.*

## Worms - 1848 Village History

*Original Translation by Theodore C. Wenzlaff - Published in the GRHS Heritage Review 18-4 (1988)  
On the internet at German Russian Digital Library URL: <http://pixel.cs.vt.edu/library/odessa.html>*

In the year 1810, with the building of houses for the immigrants who already had arrived in Russia in 1805, the foundation was laid and the formal establishment of the colony was begun.

The valley in which the colony of Worms is located is called the Zerigol; it is 93 versts[1] (62 miles) from the city of Odessa, 86 miles from the governmental district city of Cherson and only about 4 miles from the colony of Rhorbach.

The soil generally is strongly impregnated with saltpeter. The water at some places lies just under the ground, but most often it is deep-lying and thereby salty, so that only a few of the many wells of the colony provide good drinking water. Some wells here even produce water which cattle and especially horses refuse to drink, and since it is permeated with a bitter salt[2], it is unfit for watering trees or gardens. This deep-lying water and the spring weather that often remains cold for three to four months are the reasons that neither trees, vegetables, crops nor grass are able to thrive, and very often are so dried up that later heavy rains are unable to restore them again fully, with only middling crops or total crop failures resulting. Even when adequate rains in the spring and at the beginning of summer provide nourishment for the crops to grow to flowering and granulation, then, on account of later dryness and also of destructive bean-sized bugs, reddish brown in color with black wings, which invade large tracts of crop-sown fields in swarms and devour the milky substance, only a few shriveled kernels are left. Local rains often fall while the sun is shining, resulting in a so called mildew which, if occurring after the crops have flowered prevents the kernels from developing. If, on the other hand, similar rains fall when the kernels are ripening, they then remain pale and thin, and cannot be marketed. Such crops, however, can be used for seed and flour. When the weather is favorable, this is, when warm rains saturate the ground during April and May, then not only every seed and blade of grass grows, but also the trees grow rapidly and luxuriantly.

The soil here does not seem suitable for fruit trees for they grow with favorable weather only six to eight years and then suddenly die. Acacia[3] trees are most suited for the soil here and, in the valley, willows thrive fairly well and last longer. As the soil generally is composed of alkaline ingredients, all fertilization is not only useless but harmful. The most certain way of ensuring a crop after several years of cultivation is to let the land lie fallow for five, six or more years in succession before being re-worked. The land then produces every kind of grain crop even with unfavorable weather.

(Worms - continued on page 4)

## Line-up for Newsletter

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 Assistant Editor Leo Gottier / G089  
 Assistant Editor Carol McCormack / M150  
 Assistant Editor Roland Wagner / W011  
 Assistant Editor Dale Lee Wahl / W078  
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 Photography \_\_\_\_\_  
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### Archives:

Maps \_\_\_\_\_  
 Village Pictures \_\_\_\_\_  
 Pedigree Charts \_\_\_\_\_  
 Family Charts \_\_\_\_\_  
 German History \_\_\_\_\_  
 Russian History \_\_\_\_\_  
 USA History \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

### Village Coordinators:

Felsenburg George Hoff / H072  
 Guldendorf Curt Renz / R022  
 Johannestal Carol Fuchs / F061  
 Johannestal Ray Heinle  
 Landau Diane Wandler / W090  
 Landau Zita Gieser  
 Neu Lustdorf Elsie Heuther / H008  
 Neusatz Ken Aisenbrey / A013  
 Rastadt Diane Wandler / W090  
 Rastadt Letty Schoch / S193  
 Rohrbach Arletta Baskins / B115  
 Rohrbach Rosemarie Dinkel / D022  
 Rohrbach Nancy Schroeder  
 Rohrbach Ed Schulz / S043  
 Rohrbach Lucy Simpson / S046  
 Speier Diane Wandler / W090  
 Waterloo Betty Rennich / R103  
 Waterloo Lucy Simpson / S046  
 Weidenberg Richard M. Heli  
 Worms Arletta Baskins / B115  
 Worms Mary-Lynne Harding/H187  
 Worms Nancy Schroeder  
 Worms Ed Schulz / S043  
 Worms Lucy Simpson / S046  
 Worms Dale Lee Wahl / W078

(The addresses for most of the Editors and the Village Coordinators can be found in the latest issue of the *GRHS Der Stammbaum*.)

Eugene Hopfauf  
 Lumsden, Sask.

I particularly enjoyed the last issue since I was born in Karlsruhe in 1926 and left Russia in 1944. The last time I was in Karlsruhe was New Year's of 1944. You brought back many memories for me.

CCCCC

Rose Schmalz  
 1525 Nipissing Court  
 Pickering, Ontario L1V6T8

I like the suggestions about raising money for retrieving records from Odessa pertaining to the Beresan. It's a good idea and should be done.

I am enclosing copies of photos which might be of interest to your readers. I don't know the people in the photos. They were pictures that belonged to my parents. Perhaps someone of your readers might recognize them.



This was taken in Russia and has "Nikolaev" (the city I presume) on it, where it obviously was photographed. It is believed that she is Elisabeth Berger, second wife of my grandfather, Johann Schmalz. Can anyone confirm this?

This picture was taken in Canada. Does anyone recognize them?



This was sent to my grandfather, Georg Berger, and it was signed Fr. & M. Bechtle. It was written in German and addressed "Lieber Grossvater". It was sent from Pittsburgh, Pa. in October 1912. Does anyone know who they are?

CCCCC

*Letters* (continued from page 2)

Bertha Biel  
1018 Alder Ave  
Dickinson, ND 58601-4128

I belong to St. Josephs Church in Dickinson, ND so a lot of the short articles from the ND Herold sounded very familiar. My Grandfather Jacob and his son Ignatz were listed as founders of the church.

I am especially searching for my Great Grandmother's maiden name in Colony Katharinenthal. In the Stump book they say Hardy but that is not right as I have letters from a cousin of my father in Siberia and he said it was Bochert. But I don't have any date or first name. I'm sure he knows his Grandmother's maiden name and I have seen it written in some of my father's records. Some day I hope to find out more.

CCCCC

Carol McCormack  
P.O. Box 42037  
Tacoma, WA 98442

I finished my family history book "VOLLIG" which covers all of the Johann and Justina Goetz's children and their families. Included in over 400 pages are 260 family names, lots of pictures, family stories, news articles, poems, a puzzle, name origin, a knight and his castle, family in Germany and more. If interested in a copy, please contact me.

CCCCC

Arletta Baskins  
20919 Little Valley Rd.  
Poulsbo, WA 98370

I am involved in a project with a distant cousin in Germany. We are trying to contact all Gemar's in the US and Canada.

About 1500 family members have been collected starting in 1652 in Mannheim, Germany, where Isaac Gemar and Sara Cy founded the family. They moved from Mannheim in 1672 to the Palatinate on the other border with the Rhine River. Their son Peter Gemar settled at Rohrbach, Germany, and later at Winden in the Palatinate.

In 1816 Johann Gemar and Anna Barbara Baehr with six children emigrated from Germany to Russia, Ukraine to the village of Rohrbach near the Black Sea.

Two generations later, (1872), the following Gemar families left Russia for the USA.

Peter Gemar married to Katharina Holzwarth  
Children: Peter oo Sophie Roemmich  
Friedrich oo Emilie Ochsner  
August oo Sophie Ulmer

Jacob Gemar married to Margaretha Hofmann  
Children: Peter oo Eva Gries  
Johanna oo Jacob Gries  
Margaethe

Peter Gemar married to Elisabeth Woehl  
Children: Peter oo Magdalena Mehlhaff  
Wilhelm  
Heinrich  
Jakob  
Elisabeth oo Wilhelm Klundt  
Emil oo Ida Schenkenberger  
Wilhelm oo Mary Amann  
Emanuel oo Lydia Max  
Emma oo August Amann / Charles Colling

Friedrich Gemar married to Johanna Gemar (1878)  
Children: Friedrich oo Katharina Zempelmann  
Peter  
August

Emigrating directly from Minfeld, Palatinate to the USA between 1845 and 1855 five brothers and sisters Gemar. No idea where they settled.

Eva Katharina (\*1818)  
Johannes (\*1823)  
Johann Philipp (\*1825)  
Johann Peter (\*1828)  
Philippina (\*1830)

The intention of this letter is to collect all Gemars in the world to establish a family tree and to show them their roots of origin, because I am sure that all bearers of this name belong to the same family described above.

After finishing this project, I will be glad to share with each Gemar, and Gemar descendant, all information collected. It would be appreciated if answers are in the form of a letter or copies of genealogical papers.

CCCCC

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#### A Quotation . . .

Every book is a quotation,  
and every house is a quotation  
out of all forests and mines and  
stone-quarries; and every man  
is a quotation from all his ancestors.

Emerson

Ralph Waldo

**Worms** (continued from page 1)

There are no woodlands here. Rock quarries are at hand for the needs of the Worms colony, providing building stones of such quality that no better are to be found even in the famous rock quarries of Kujalnik near Odessa. The colony of Worms received its name by order of the then superior magistrate Brittner.

There were 65 families that established the colony of Worms, coming from various places as follows: 36 families from Alsace, 14 from Baden, six from Wurttemberg, four from Palatinat, two from the Vogtland District, one from Westphalia, one from Mecklenburg, and one from Saxony.

Who their column leaders were is not known, as on the immigration trip several columns might merge for awhile, then a column separates itself to join another column. Some might have their own vehicles to make the trip alone. A few immigrants recall a leader named Haffner.

For their settlement, 3,881 dessatines[4] of crown steppe land were designated; but there were no houses prepared to shelter the settlers, nor was there a valley suitable for laying out a colony. Therefore, on order of higher authority, through the intercession of the then superior magistrate, Mr. Brittner, 1000 dessatines[5] of land from the adjacent landowner Trotskewitsch, in exchange for a similar piece of land, was assigned for settlement. And this is the valley which, under the name of Zerigol and its characteristics, was described in the second paragraph. This 1,000 dessiatine tract of land was traversed by a Tachumaken road[6], presently the main road to Wosnesensky. On the tract were located four Russian houses and a tavern in which Russian families lived until 1811. Since the plague visited its ravaging fury on these Russian families that year and destroyed them, their houses, on the order of higher authority as recommended by a special doctor of the district brought thereto, were burned, the road blockaded, and Cossack guards posted so that no communication could take place with the infected area. The immigrants were spared and not one died of the disease, but they had occasion to see some of the Cossack guards fall dead from their horses.

The colonists, on their arrival, received money to procure draft animals and milk cows, each family receiving 125 rubles, and a house built at government cost, either of stone or compressed clay. As for the costs of the buildings, this was unknown to the immigrants.

Most of the immigrants brought cash funds as well as a considerable amount of clothing and other effects from the Fatherland, and many owned their own vehicles. A large part of them used up their ready cash on account of the long, difficult journey and on account of their large families, especially those who did not understand the Russian money and the rate of exchange, becoming victims of the Jewish money changers and traders. As a consequence, many of them were forced to sell their clothes. Since they were not yet established and went into winter quarters in 1809, their expenditures increased all the more until some spent all the money which they had brought with them. Even so, there

were some who still had a considerable amount of money left. Presently there are only a few of the original settlers still living who can give exact information about the property and money brought along. They estimate the total amount of money brought along to have been between 30,000 and 50,000 rubles.

None of the immigrants of the Worms colony at the time of the settlement have resettled elsewhere. Since the establishment of the colony, ten fires have occurred as follows: in 1812, one house; 1813, one house; 1814, one house; 1816 one house; 1817 one house; 1819 one house; 1826 one house; 1829 two houses; 1833, a barn with eight horses, a cow and some horse harnesses. No floods have occurred as the valley is too shallow. Earthquakes were distinctly felt in the Worms colony in 1829 and 1838, but caused no damage. The fields of the colony were overrun for five years with grasshoppers, from 1823 until the harvest of 1828, when they suddenly disappeared. Countless numbers of them were killed by the colonists themselves with the assistance of the authorities by driving horses and cattle into the masses. They left many evidences of their destruction behind, however, for during their stay here, little hay and few crops were harvested.

The exceedingly severe winter of 1824 caused many cattle of the colonists to die of starvation. Some of the first colonists had to go to Poland to find work there in order to provide for families. In 1814 and 1815, acute sicknesses prevailed from which few colonists escaped, but very few died. In 1841, however, there was an epidemic of acute nerve fever[7] which, in spite of all medical efforts, spread quickly, proving fatal to many colonists, old as well as young. Cattle diseases were very prevalent in 1825

**Worms Cemetery**

**Photo taken by Gary Maier on June 28, 1996**

and 1829. In 1815, a hailstorm almost destroyed the entire crop. It struck at 3 o'clock in the afternoon and at 8 o'clock the next morning, hailstones were still lying everywhere on the ground. There was another hailstorm in 1825, but with not so much damage, destroying perhaps only a third of the crop. Another hailstorm occurred in 1828 but did very little damage.

**Worms** (continued from page 4)

( **Worms** - continued on page 5)

A complete crop failure occurred in 1833 and in 1834 very few crops again were harvested. In 1835 and 1836, there were moderate crops.

The Worms community owes its well being to various favorable circumstances - to the wise management of the authorities and to the preaching of the Gospel through which many individuals came to a better religious enlightenment. Many have turned from vice to virtue, and especially away from wastefulness, which in the early years was condoned by the leaders of the colony, to thriftiness, diligence and well regulated lives, thereby being able to set their property in better order and to attend to the welfare of their offspring. For in the first years of the settlement, the school was so poorly ordered that the young people were not properly instructed in reading and writing, much less so in religion. The natural consequence was a general decay of morality among the growing generation and a lack of good example on the part of the parents. But the Almighty looked upon our colony with graciousness and inspired the higher authorities to demand discipline and moral uprightness, and then to forcefully strengthen



**The Worms Church Building**  
Photo taken by Gary Maier on June 28, 1960

the preaching of the Gospel.

There were abundant harvest in 1818, 1825 and 1829 which enabled the community in 1830 to build a new stone church, 90 feet long, 24 feet wide and 12 feet high, to replace an old, small, decrepit building. There divine services are being held and the youth are taught.

The bountiful crops of 1837 and 1843, as well as the raising of sheep which was practiced extensively until 1941, gave the community the means to build many new homes and farm buildings. But sheep raising had to be given up entirely by the colony because of insufficient grazing land. As the number of families increased and grew larger, so too the herds and other livestock increased, contributing, of course, to the prosperity of the colony.

Colony of Worms, April 28, 1848

Church schoolmaster: Johann Fried Grosshans (author)

Mayor: Gall

Associate (Councilman): Ochaner (?)

Associate (Councilman): Schuman

- 
1. verst = 0.6629 miles.
  2. Perhaps magnesium sulfate.
  3. Similar to the locust.
  4. About 10,479 acres.
  5. About 2,700 acres.
  6. Tschumaken roads were roads all such Ukrainian caravans of wheat buyers traveled. They traveled in caravans to protect themselves from robbers. The Ukrainian buyers later would sell their wheat in Odessa.
  7. Possibly a form of meningitis.

In the last issue the 1892 Rohrbach census was provided. We are pleased to provide the 1892 Worms census index in this issue. The introductory material is much the same as for the Rohrbach census.

## Catholic Families of the Beresan District

In the last issue we discussed a project we were getting underway that would provide us an index of the Beresan District Families Catholic data contained in the Keller and Stump books.

A lady by the name of Anna Smith responded and took the project and ran with it. There were others who came along late and volunteered to help, but by that time Anna was well along with the project.

The index has now been completed and has been submitted for posting to our German Russian digital library on the Internet - that site being called "pixel" or "odessa". The URL for this digital library is:

<http://pixel.cs.vt.edu/library/odessa.html>

If you don't have access to the Internet yourself, check with a neighbor or friend and see if they will help you get at the data.

As a post-script to this project, after Anna had finished with it, she took on a project to make the same kind of index for the rest of the Catholic villages contained in the Keller books. Anna has finished her part of the effort, now the file has to be prepared for the Internet (the pixel/odessa) and then put into the process for posting.

These two indexes will be of great value for those researching the Odessa Catholic villages contained in the Keller books.

Let us all send a special thanks to Anna for undertaking and completing these projects for us. Thank you Anna!

## Strategies for Dealing with the Poor in the Beresan Colonies

The letters appearing in the North Dakota Herold, a German language newspaper published in Dickinson, North Dakota, provide a wealth of information on the social and economic conditions in the German colonies around the turn of the nineteenth century. The following letters, published in 1908 and 1914, comment on the pressing economic circumstances in the Beresan colonies, which induced many families to emigrate. They also give us a glimpse of the social mechanisms in the colonies for making legal decisions -- in this case, of the process for allocating resources owned by the community.

Due to the large average size of families, the ethnic German population had skyrocketed during the latter half of the century and most colonies faced a chronic shortage of available land. The number of poor families was growing, and the communities were debating ways to meet their needs. In Landau, the citizens had considered the possibility of redistributing the lands owned corporately by the village. However, after some discussion they agreed on an alternative course of action which enabled them to keep the village lands intact. They agreed to purchase the estates of those who wished to move away from the village, and to redistribute the village charity funds to underwrite their relocation expenses. Karlsruhe made the same arrangement with their poor families. This raises the question of whether a similar strategy may have been followed in the latter decades of the nineteenth century, when large numbers of single men and families began emigrating from the Beresan colonies. Although the Black Sea colonies did not allocate land according to the communal Mir system used in many parts of Russia, families apparently did have some claim to corporate village properties, and they may have been given some funds to help meet travel expenses when they formally terminated their citizenship rights in the village.

April 10, 1908  
From the Beresan

The number of landless and poor people in the colony of Landau is very large, and it is increasing every day. It is difficult, yes very difficult for these people to procure the means for their daily existence, especially difficult if these people are blessed with a large family. The food supplies this year are very expensive, and the fuel likewise, since there was a weak harvest in the past year. And since the poorer classes must purchase everything, they are in an especially critical situation this year. There is a significantly larger number of poor children this year, from 7 - 12 years of age, begging from house to house, and totally missing out on all school instruction. Need teaches praying, states an old proverb (Not lehrt beten), and many have taken this to heart and have discovered how it can soothe their current needs. Many of them, as a result of these pressures, have already left their Heimat and sought their fortunes either in America or in some other region of Russia. However, not everyone can do that, however gladly they might want to do so,

since they don't have the means to leave. As a result, up until this date there were some who had the opinion that the community land of Landau should finally be divided up, and they were quite indifferent [to this strategy] because of their poverty. However, it now seems that these same people are convinced of the opposite, as are many of those who are financially better off. At this time 52 families have decided to accept the offer of the government, and to seek their fortunes on the Siberian primeval steppelands, especially in the region of Semipalatinsk. Upon their arrival there the families receive 15 dessiatin of land per male soul, and each family receives 160 Rubles of support money. But as already mentioned above, the majority of these families are so poorly provided for that it is impossible for them to succeed there without outside support. As a result, they decided to request support, and the following petition was presented to the Landau community (Gemeinde):

It is no longer possible for us to continue living in your midst under the present circumstances, since the necessities for life are so difficult to attain, and the number of poor people has become enormous, and we cannot be offered sufficient work. Also, the taxes increase each year and since we cannot cover these expenses, the community debts are piling up. We have therefore decided to relocate to one of the regions in Siberia suggested by the government. But since our own means for succeeding there are not sufficient, and moreover since we still owe debts in the community, we are requesting:

1. That the community appoint a commission to appraise the value of our immovable assets, consisting of houses and farm-estates, that this commission take over the ownership of our property and pay this sum to us.
2. That we be relocated cost-free, this is, our train-tickets should be paid.
3. That all village reserves (Vorrats) and orphan funds (Waisenschuld) should be given to us. If the community agrees to these conditions, we will depart from Landau.

The village assembly agreed to these stipulations on Feb. 5 and at the same time issued a community decree (Gemeindespruch), electing a commission to appraise the immovable property. This commission also had the obligation to provide the necessary money for the relocation journey and for living expenses. The money is for now borrowed, and the community debt will be covered at the next harvest. The commission has already made an estimate for the community of 1,499 Rubels for the relocation money. The 52 families will be sent 2,117 Rubels and 34 Kopecks out of the village reserves and the orphan fund.

Poor (continued on page 7)

Poor (continued from page 6)

In addition to this sum, a village decree was also issued and placed before the council (Behoerde) for their opinion and feedback (Begutachtung).

Obviously these families must be written out of the Landau community [i.e., no longer be citizens of the village] as soon as they arrive at their new location. Much luck to this decision!

April 10, 1908  
Karlsruhe, Odessa District

On February 13 our village assembled. At this assembly the mayor (Schulz) spoke to us about how we should be helpful to our landless people who wanted to relocate to Semipalatinsk, because all of these emigrants are poor people. The community considered the charge in a Christian spirit and agreed, issuing a community decree to provide the following help to their fellow villagers who are emigrating to Semipalatinsk: to absolve all emigrants of their outstanding debts (Rueckstaende); for each emigrant who couldn't sell his house, the community would take over ownership, cover the cost of the taxes, and pay the owners in cash; and pay 5 Rubles travel money to each person over 10 years of age, both males and females. To date there are 133 families reported who have emigrated. If they have relocated, then I wish that these poor people may be blessed with a better earthly good fortune in their new Heimat. I hope that all the colonies will follow this example set by the Karlsruhe community and that their landless people may also be provided with assistance.

April 24, 1908  
Muenchen, Ananjew District

March 5. As in many other places, so also our community has received a request to help our landless people relocate to Siberia, and our community assembled yesterday to address this issue. It was agreed that each landless family would receive 300 Rubles from the orphan fund (Waisenkasse), to be delivered after each family's community debts are determined. Since the account presently doesn't contain enough funds to enable the emigration to take place this Spring (Fruehjahr), B. Kessel and J. Bengert were authorized to loan up to 3,000 Rubles for this purpose.

The wonderful Spring weather in the second half of February weakened the raw, cold weather in March. There was still only very little work done in the fields, and today things have apparently completely frozen, since it is Siberian cold outside.

February 6, 1914  
Dickinson, N.D.

We have already been in America for six months, but I still haven't found the opportunity to give a report to my friends and acquaintances in the old Heimat, so some may have concluded that I have disappeared. I am now secure in Dickinson. Earlier I was in Alexajewka, South Russia. Some people from Katharinenthal may

wonder what kind of a place that is in the Heimat. It is a poor Russian village, located about 15 Werst from the district city of Blahodarnoje in the Caucasus, and it was founded in the year 1906. In that year the landless Germans were given a new Heimat among the Russians. Because we had almost paid for the land through lease, it was given to us as a settlement. Up until my departure to America, it was seldom possible to live in harmony with the Russians. It got worse from year to year, and the Russians often caused us great damage. Finally, we were forced to request that the government relocate us away from the Russians, and our wish was fulfilled. Many of the Germans made the suggestion that the land should be sold if we retained title to it as property. So this was done. Several sold their land for 500 Rubles and traveled to America, because they thought although the farmer in America may reside on a small piece of land, he is still his own master. Now all the people, so I have heard, have emigrated. This will not bring happiness to some of them because those who left their land behind and hoped that it could still be useful to them, [will discover that] their land has been taken and a line has been drawn through their names. The only ones who still retain title to their land are those who sent in a legal authorization to a Russian consul within the required time period. Peter Kuntz also left a message behind with me to notify his son-in-law (Tochtermann) Liberatus Walliser that he had not yet sold his portion. He still can't sell the land because the Bavitow [title?] is still not legal.

The Germans residing in this place owned 70 farmsteads (Hofstellen) and these were located in the middle of the village of Alexejewka. The most peculiar thing was that all was done according to Russian customs, and therefore it was no surprise that the Germans lived in such dissatisfaction. The community was also very weak (schwach) and didn't even have the skills to build a church. So two men were selected from the community and sent to the Cherson government in order to claim help from the mother colonies. But the plan didn't come to fulfillment, although the benefactors from the mother colonies spent much money on construction, because there was much poverty and not all was used for the purpose of construction. Instead of a church, only a prayer house was built, in which the rich people took the first places. The poor people were told, you can't place any chairs in here, your place is in the sinner's-corner (Sunderecke, probably near the confessional). The poor people sometimes stood at the door with more devotion than the rich, who sat in chairs further forward. It also developed that the priest had to be brought in from the government city, 120 Werst away, and that was the case almost all the time since there was a shortage of money (presumably they couldn't afford a permanent priest in residence).

There are now only 20 families still residing there, the others have all already emigrated, some to North Dakota, some to Argentina, some to Canada. Whoever is still of a mind to travel, I can recommend the trip through Hamburg. We traveled together with Johannes Matz and Georg Walliser through Russia and Germany. It went very comfortably and placidly, and we have nothing to complain about.

## SCHORZMANN SAGE ((LEGEND))

submitted by Carol McCormack

The first known Schorzmänn was Johann Friedrich, a müllermeister (baker), by trade. He was born in Thorn, Poland in 1762. His wife, Anna Rosina, was born in 1771. They had a son, Johann Jacob, born in 1799 and a daughter, Maria Elizabeth, born in 1802.

He took his family to Germany in 1802, but returned to Thorn before 1809.

Then in 1809, Johann Friedrich, his wife, son and daughter were issued passports to travel from Thorn through Lemberg, Zloczow, and Brody to Worms near Odessa, South Russia in the Black sea area.

Worms was founded in 1810 by immigrants who arrived in Russia in 1809. The settlement lies in the Zerigol Valley. There are stone quarries there which give building stone of excellent quality. The colony was given its name "Worms" by the chief mayor of the Liebental district, Franz Brittner.

Johann Jacob, born 1794, married Margareta Hagenlocher, daughter of Andreas and returned to Württemberg, Germany where their son, Johann was born in 1817. In 1818 Johann Jacob again left Germany with his family and returned to the Black Sea area.

Research indicates that Johann Friedrich, after Anna Rosia's death, married a second time, a woman named Elizabeth, also born in 1771, who had a son by her first marriage, named Johann Bol, born 1801.

Catharine II, Tzarina of Russia, had in the year 1762, decreed that any family settling in Russia would be given 125 acres of free land and exemption from military duty for 100 years from 1762. Thousands of Germans immigrated to Russia as a result of this promise.

They were allowed freedom of religion and speech, but since the Russian religion was Greek Orthodox, they were forbidden to practice mission work.

The immigrants came to Russia in horsedrawn wagons filled with their belongings and lived in dugouts and sod houses until their villages (dorfer) could be established, usually according to religious denomination.

The colonists came from regions in Germany where villages were close together and a farm was about 12 acres. They were quite startled when they saw the vast, treeless steppes of the Black Sea area, covered with grass as far as the eye could see.

Without the necessary equipment and draft animals the early years were very difficult.

But the people went to work.

Soon the wooden plow was replaced by an iron one. Four to six horses pulled the plow through the soil and soon the steppe gave way to waving fields of wheat.

Their homes were usually built of bricks 4 inches thick by 12 inches wide by 18 inches long, made of straw and clay mixed with water and dried in the sun. Families that lived near the hills (bergseite) dug their homes and barns out of the hillsides. These buildings all had dirt floors.

In these surroundings the people lived and raised children, livestock, grain and gardens.

Rarely were there marriages between the Germans and the Russians or between different religious denominations. These people attended their churches and schools in their own villages. Respect for parents was so great that sons did not smoke in their presence.

When the women got ready for church they would go to their flower gardens and pick mint (schmeck kraut) and put it in their prayer books. Then, during the service they could refresh themselves when tired.

The women always wore lace kerchiefs on their heads and in the winter they wore heavy shawls instead of coats.

Johann, born in 1817, married about 1840, Anna Marie Müller, born 18 January 1826 in Johannestal, South Russia, the daughter of Jakob, born in 1789 in Neckartailfingen/Nurtingen- Württemberg and Anna Marie.

There, in Johannestal, Johann and Anna Marie made their home and raised their children who were Jakob John, born 27 October 1844; Heinrick, born 8 August 1850; Johann, born 1 March 1853; Margaret, born November 1855; and Christian, born 9 March 1858.

Their first born son (no name is recorded) was kidnapped with his father by the Cossacks in late 1859 or early 1860, taken to Siberia and never heard of again.

After the kidnapping of her husband and son, Anna Marie married Karl Lutz, a widower born in 1800. He died, however, before 1872.

In June and July of 1872, Johann Ludwig Bette visited Johannestal urging immigration to the United States and so after many years of hardships, Anna Marie decided to take her family and go to America.

Schorzmänn (continued on page 9)



Schorzmann (continued from page 8)

She was in her early forties. Her eldest living son, Jakob John, had married Anna Christina Ulmer on 28 September 1864 and they had four children.

After selling their homes and property they packed their personal belongings and left Johannestal on 30 October 1872. The group also included the Barth family.

The first night was spent in Odessa. They left the next morning at 7:00 a.m. for Hamberg, Germany, arriving there three days later on the 3rd of November. On the 5th they boarded the steamship "Tiger" that took them to Hull, England, then on to Liverpool by train. In Liverpool they waited for four days before boarding the steamship that was to take them to their new country.

Three days westward the ship met with a violent storm. The doors were locked so that nobody could get out on deck. The high waves washed over the ship which was severely damaged. The cabin was destroyed. On deck, many things were swept away and ship's screw was so badly damaged that it could not be used.

The immigrants were terrified. It was reported by Freidrich Mutschelknaus (one of the passengers who later wrote of the experience) that they cried, "Were there no graves for us in Russia that we have to drown here?"

The ship was so badly damaged that it had to return under sail to Ireland, which took six days. In the Irish port they had to wait three days until another ship arrived to replace their storm damaged ship and it took an additional three days to transfer all their goods to the replacement ship.

Again they headed west with smooth high-running seas. Altogether they were on board ships for 36 days, arriving in New York in December 1872.

The next lap of their journey took them by train through Chicago, where they saw the remains of the great Chicago fire and on to Sandusky, Ohio where the very first Germans from Johannestal, Worms, and Rohrbach had settled in 1848 on Kelly's Island in Lake Erie. Here they spent the winter of 1872-73.

The following spring, on the 16th of April, they traveled onward to the land of the Sioux Indians and their destination, Yankton, South Dakota (this was as far as the train tracks went). They stayed in Yankton in barracks built by the railroad company until they could find land, file homestead claims and build sod

houses to live in. In later years they would haul lumber from Yankton and build more modern dwellings.

Anna Marie, Jakob (now Jacob) and his family and Christian located in Hutchinson county near Menno and Johann (now John) and Heinrich (now Henry) settled in Yankton country.

In the Fall of 1873, Anna Marie's daughter, Margaret married Peter Seydel who was born 12 April 1853 in Guildendorf, South Russia. He came with his brother and five sisters to America aboard the "Thuringia" with Capitan J. Meyer in command arriving in New York on 30 July 1873. They had left Hamberg, Germany 15 July after waiting three weeks.

Peter's siblings were Catherine - born 1855, Barbara - born 1859, Regina - born 1864, Margaret - born 1865, Margaretta - born 1866, and Jacob - born 1869.



**Christian and Christina (Ulmer) Schorzmann**

taken 1941 in Odessa, WA

Peter and Margaret moved to Menno in 1881 where he worked in general merchandising. He sold the business in 1909 and died in 1912. Their children were Emanuel, Henry, Julius, Reinhold, Elizabeth, Sophia, and Regina.

Henry, son of Anna Marie, married Magdalena Stoller on 5 March 1874 in Lesterville, S. D. where they made their home. They had 20 children of which 15 grew to adults. They were John, Julius, Peter, Henry, Katherine, Emilia, Johanna, Regina, George, Albert, Dominic, Karl, Margaret, Lydia, and Ida.

Magdalena died on 22 December 1920 and Henry married for a second time to Dorothea Bürkle. Henry died 4 August 1934.

John, son of Anna Marie, married Christine Barth in 1875. She was born 7 December 1857. They had 12 children: John, Jacob, Henry, August, Louise, David, Emilie, Andrew, Joanna, Margaret, Christina, Julius, and Theadou. Christine died 23 November 1912 and John married again on 2 February 1914 to a widow named Anna Krieger. John died on 22 June 1931 in Menno, S.D.

In 1879 there were 22 people listed in the first census of Menno when the railroad tracks reached the town. There were no schools, so the children were taught at home. The people held church services in private homes. In 1884 the first public school opened. Some churches had been built. John Schorzmann was among the first members in 1879 of the Saron Reformed United Church of Christ and Jacob Schorzmann was one of the founders of the Ebenezer Reformed Church in 1878.

Schorzmann (continued on page 10)

Schorzmann (continued from page 9)

On 10 April 1885, Olivet, a town near Menno, had a very bad prairie fire. In January 1886 112 children were vaccinated against scarlet fever. And on the 19th of January 1888 a severe blizzard raged as several people froze including four children.

There was great anxiety by the homesteaders when they heard about the widespread Sioux Indian uprisings in 1890. They were especially concerned when they heard of the battle of Wounded Knee in the southwestern part of South Dakota. This battle took place on what is now the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. During the battle the U.S. cavalry had orders to kill not only warriors, but women and children as well. As a result the Indians stayed on the reservation.

Christian, the youngest son of Anna Maria, took up a homestead near Menno in 1879 when he was 21 and he was married that same year in August to Christina Ulmer - born 7 September 1858 to Jacob and Caroline Mutschelknaus Ulmer (see picture on page 9).

All 14 of their children were born in Menno. They were Henry, Jacob and Emilia (twins), William, Christian, Anna, Katherine, Adam, Karl, John, Christina, Gottfried, Marlin, and Hertha. In 1901 Christian brought his family to Washington state and settled on a farm 12 miles northeast of Marlin, WA. They lived there until 1908 when he retired from farming and they moved to Odessa, WA.

When they arrived in Odessa there were no roads and no fences. Neighbors were few and far between. Most of the land was sagebrush and bunch grass. At one time he owned 6 1/2 sections of land, most of which he sold to settlers at a great profit.

Christian and Christina's children were as follows:

Henry farmed near Menno with his wife Katherine Sheffert. They had two sons and two daughters - Richard, Rueben, Pauline, and Esther.

Jacob "Jake" had a farm near Marlin and married Mary Goetz. They adopted a daughter - Mary.

Emilia (Jacob's twin) lived in Cashmere, WA. She was married to Fredrick Goetz and they had four sons and five daughters - Ewalt, Herbert, Raymond, Ralph, Annetta, Ernestine, Matilda, Laura, and Esther.

William and his wife, Dinah Mayer lived on a wheat and cattle ranch 18 miles north of Odessa. They had two sons - Arnold and Arthur.

Christian moved to Idaho with his wife, Rose Ziniker. Their children were Lester, Elmer, and Gladys.

Anna and her husband, Henry Schiewe lived in Odessa with one daughter - Harriette, who was adopted.

Katherine married Jacob Bertsch and farmed in South Dakota. They had six sons and three daughters - Jacob, Albert, Ed, Ewalt, Eldon, John, Nettie, Lena, and Bertha.

Adam and his wife, Rose Schiewe, moved to California and had six children - Theophil, Ivan, Mabel, Pearl, Dorothy, and Montana.

Karl was just 14 years old when he died.

John married Emilia Koth and they lived in Odessa. He was manager of the "Burgans" store for many years, then went into real estate and cattle raising. He lived to be 100 years old. They had no children.

Christine "Dina" lived in Odessa with her husband, Nathaniel Koth who managed a store. They had one son - Franklin.

Gottfried "Fred" married Anna Lauer and they first farmed in the Marlin vicinity and then moved to the area south of Odessa. They had a family of three - Ray, Lee, and Edna.

Marlin "Gus" took Ida Kallenberger as his wife and they farmed 10 miles northeast of Marlin. They had one son and three daughters - Eugene, Ellene, Deloras, and Marciel.

Hertha "Hattie" spent her life with husband Conrad Schlimmer. They're family of three were Roger, Loren, and Myra.

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## For All Speyerites

A new book is now available that should be of interest to all people interested in the village of Speyer.

*Speyer im Beresaner Tal der Südukraine: 1809/1810 - März 144 heute Pestschanyi Brod* by Johannes Philipps traces the origin of the colony, its people and their origins, the development of the colony, and its resettlement and repatriation.

The writer had studied at the Agrotechnikum of the town of Landau and was frequently sent to Speyer "to hold speeches in the area of agronomy." He obtained a position as an agronomist and was fortunate enough to be responsible for the district of *Speyer*. As such he came to know the area, the village, and its people and when writing the book was able to rely on his own knowledge and personal experience which he had gained while living in the former Soviet Union.

The book can be ordered by sending \$18 U.S. to the Germans from Russia Heritage Collection, North Dakota State University Libraries, P.O. Box 5599, Fargo, ND 58105-5599. Remittance should be made payable to the [Germans from Russia Heritage Collection](#)

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# 1892 Worms Census

(Indexing of the census list and preparation of this article was performed by Dale Wahl of Bremerton Washington)

Mr. Arthur E. Flegel, of Menlo Park in California, obtained a copy of the Russian version of the census of Worms and Rohrbach from the archives in Odessa. Arthur donated copies of these census to the AHSGR (American Historical Society of Germans from Russia).

The AHSGR has had the 1892 census for Worms translated and printed in English. The AHSGR has authorized the printing in the *Beresan District Odessa Newsletter* of this indexed list, taken from the English version, as follows, with the understanding that the copyright holder is AHSGR. (If interested, please see address for ordering at the end of this article.)

Clearly some of the most important data contained in this 1892 census for Worms, is in the introductory material.

In this introductory material, an explanation is given about exactly how the census was taken, what various categories of information mean, etc. This information is something a person must read to have a full understanding of the data included with the village census data.

Following the introduction, information is provided that is relative to the general characteristics of the village itself. For many researchers of the village of Worms this particular information will be worth the price of the census itself. With proper permission, portions of this wonderful introductory information may be future subject matter for this newsletter.

Of course, the complete census list available from AHSGR provides an explanation of the various headings, and we emphasize that anyone using this census data must fully understand these explanations of the heading.

The census data itself lists the name of each head of the household (H-o-H), but does not give the names of the other members of the household. The first impression of some may be that such information is of little use. However, if one fully understands the introductory material and then studies the data (such as, number and gender of the children in various age categories, religious affiliation, occupation, and more) that is included with a particular H-o-H entry, it is clear that the data is far richer than appears at first glance. The full census report must be studied to gain a full appreciation of what is included.

And again, with great thanks to Arthur Flegel and AHSGR, here is the list of the H-o-H in alphabetical order with the item number that will lead you back to that person's entry in the census.

Last, First Middle NAME"	No.	Occupation
Abolins, Karl	223	village service
Almer (Ulmer), Georg Christianovich	211	laborer
Almer (Ulmer), Georg Georgievich	212	laborer

Almer (Ulmer), Johann Christianovich	196	laborer
Ballenski, Jakob Johannovich	140	farmer
Ballenski, Ludwig Johannovich	142	farmer
Ballenski, Ludwig Ludwigovich	133	farmer
Ballenski, Philip Georgievich	132	farmer
Barreth, Georg Michaelovich	49	invalid
Bauer, Peter	220	village service
Baumgärtner, Georg	230	laborer
Beller, Georg	227	laborer
Bender, Georg Martinovich	206	farmer
Benz (Bentz), Georg Johannovich	84	farmer
Benz (Bentz), Wilhelm Johannovich	93	farmer
Bickel, Adam Jakovlevich	74	farmer
Bickel, Jakob Jakovlevich	87	farmer
Bitterman, Friedrich	25	farmer
Bitterman, Jakob Georgievich	193	farmer
Bitterman, Philip Johannovich	50	farmer
Braun, Georg Petovich	183	farmer
Braun, Johann Philipovich	109	farmer
Braun, Philip Petovich	112	farmer
Brunmeier, Friedrich	80	farmer
Brunmeier, Georg Leonhardovich	12	farmer
Brunmeier, Jakob Johannovich	15	farmer
Brunmeier, Jakob Leonhardovich	2	wheelwright
Brunmeier, Johann Johannovich	14	farmer
Brunmeier, Leonhard	6	farmer
Brunmeier, Philip Leonhardovich	1	farmer
Brunmeier, Wilhelm	7	blacksmith
Croissant, Heinrich	221	village service
Deuscher, Peter Johannovich	13	laborer
Ebel, Christian Friedrichovich	28	farmer
Ebel, Friedrich Friedrichovich	52	unemployed
Ebel, Georg Philipovich	82	farmer
Ebel, Jakob Friedrichovich	32	farmer
Ebel, Philip Friedrichovich	19	farmer
Ebel, Philip Philipovich	81	miller
Ebel, Wilhelm Wilhelmovich	29	laborer
Elbel, Wilhelm Wilhelmovich	59	farmer
Engelhardt, Heinrich Johannovich	43	carpenter
Engelhardt, Jakov Ludwigovich	104	farmer
Engelhardt, Ludwig Ludwigovich	79	farmer
Engelhardt, Ludwig Ludwigovich	103	invalid
Esser (Jesser), Georg	228	wheelwright

Census (continued on page 12)

Census (continued from page 11)

Fehr, Adam Jakovlevich	166	farmer
Fehr, Georg Georgievich	161	farmer
Fehr, Georg Jakovlevich	72	farmer
Fehr, Heinrich Jakovlevich	130	farmer
Fehr, Jakob Jakovlevich	91	farmer
Fehr, Johann Jakovlevich	160	farmer
Fehr, Johannes Georgievich	78	farmer



Scherer, Georg Georgievich	146	farmer	Weikum, Jakob Jakovlevich	169	farmer
Scherer, Georg Konradovich	152	farmer	Weikum, Jakob Petovich	4	farmer
Scherer, Jakob Christofovich	121	farmer	Weikum, Johann Wilhelmovich	71	merchant/postal clerk
Schmidt, Adam	158	farmer / wheelwright	Weikum, Michael Michaelovich	98	farmer
Schmidt, Adam Jakovlevich	77	farmer	Weikum, Peter Jakovlevich	3	farmer
Schmidt, Alexander Abramovich	88	wheelwright	Weikum, Philip Michaelovich	100	farmer
Schmidt, Friedrich Friedrichovich	75	farmer	Weikum, Wilhelm Jakovlevich	73	farmer
Schmidt, Johann Friedrichovich	92	shoemaker	Weitzel, Wilhelm	137	farmer
Schmidt, Peter Adamovich	90	farmer	Wenz (Wentz), Philip Antonovich	216	miller
Schmidt, Wilhelm Jakovlevich	53	farmer	Wruck, Jakob Johannovich	24	laborer
Schmierer, Georg Michaelovich	40	farmer	Wruck, Johann Jakovlevich	23	shepherd
Schmierer, Michael Johannovich	181	farmer	Zoller, Jakov Petovich	117	farmer
Schmierer, Michael Junior	42	farmer	Zoller, Philip Petovich	179	farmer
Schmierer, Philip Georgievich	85	farmer	Zotnik, Jakob	214	shepherd
Schmierer, Valentin	157	farmer			
Schöch, Immanuel	219	village service			
Scholl, Georg Jakovlevich	134	swineherd,wheelwright	The Worms 1892 Census costs \$25.00 plus \$3.00 for handling and shipping for AHSGR members, and a little more for non-members. To obtain a copy contact:		
Schuler, Johann	229	laborer			
Schumann, Gertrude (widow)	135	laborer	AHSGR		
Schumann, Peter Petovich	129	farmer	631 D STREET		
Schweigert, Heinrich Adamovich	47	farmer	LINCOLN NE 68502-1199		
Schwenk, Jakob Wilhelmovich	18	farmer			r
Schwenk, Johann Petovich	11	farmer			
Schwenk, Michael Konradovich	189	laborer			
Schwenk, Wilhelm Konradovich	147	farmer			
Serr, August Johannovich	131	farmer			
Serr, Christoph Michaelovich	126	farmer			
Serr, Georg Michaelovich	48	farmer			
Serr, Heinrich Michaelovich	153	farmer			
Serr, Heinrich Philipovich	186	farmer			
Serr, Jakob Jakovlevich	33	farmer			
Serr, Karl Petovich	213	laborer			
Serr, Peter Philipovich	175	farmer			
Seryi, Nukhim	240	glazier			
Seuss, Jakob Jakovlevich	173	farmer			
Sonnenfeld, Georg Heinrichovich	202	farmer			
Sonnenfeld, Heinrich	136	farmer			
Sonnenfeld, Leonhardt	110	farmer			
Steigerwald, Kasper	231	laborer			
Steinwand, Daniel	218	village service			
Trautman, Adam	159	farmer			
Trautman, Friedrich Jakovlevich	27				
Trautman, Friedrich Karlovich	5	farmer			
Trautman, Georg Jakovlevich	26	farmer			
Trautman, Jakob Adamovich	89	farmer			
Trautman, Jakob Jakovlevich	120	farmer			
Trautman, Jakob Nikolaevich	119	farmer			
Trautman, Jakob Petovich	17	farmer			
Trautman, Johann Jakovlevich	105	farmer			
Trautman, Nikolaus Jakovlevich	118	farmer / miller			
Vieng, Georg	222	village service			
Vruk (Wruch?), Johann Johannovich	191	farmer			
Walter, Georg Karlovich	22	laborer			
Walter, Konrad	209	laborer			
Weidenbach, Georg Kasparovich	102	farmer			
Weidenbach, Heinrich Kasparovich	65	farmer			
Weikum, Georg Georgievich	67	farmer			
Weikum, Heinrich Michaelovich	58	farmer			
Weikum, Jakob	41	farmer			

## To Help Your Research

### English

birth  
born  
baptism  
baptized  
marriage  
  
marry  
  
death  
died  
burial  
buried  
father, mother  
parents  
husband  
wife  
married couple

### German

Geburt  
geboren, geb.  
Taufe  
getauft, get.  
Heirat, Hochzeit, Trauung,  
Vermählung  
heiraten, verheiraten, verh.,  
vermählen, verm., trauen, getr.  
Tod  
gestorben, verstorben, gest.  
Beerdigung, Begräbnis  
beerdigt, beerd., begraben, begr.  
Vater, Mutter  
Eltern  
Mann, Ehemann, Gatte, Ehegatte  
Frau, Ehefrau, Gattin, Ehegattin  
Ehepaar

# Report from the Odessa State Archives Project

by Dale Lee Wahl

As reported in earlier newsletters, we have gone to the Odessa State Archives in the Ukraine to attempt to gain copies of records for our Beresan people.

There has been some dynamics in this effort. From the following table, we find that file 89 has not been in the archives since World War II. However, we have had some good luck with files

9 and 29. They have been photocopied and placed in the mail to us. If they are similar to other files received from the Odessa Archives in the past few months, we can expect that most of the data will be in Russian and we will have to find somebody to read it for us. Most of these files are about 90 per cent Russian with most of the remaining in German.

<u>FOND</u>	<u>INVENT</u>	<u>FILE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u># PAGES</u>
252	1	29	About marriages and transfer of households in the Beresan District, 1816 - 1817	134
252	1	9	About marriages in the Beresan District, 1816	29
252	1	89	About forwarding Würtemberg emigrants to the Beresan Colonies, 1817 - 1818	70

As we sort out this data and understand it, we will be sharing it here in the newsletter.

Following on to this first effort, we have learned recently that there is much more data in the Odessa Archives that we will be interested in. We find that there are collections of Beresan

interest. It is too early to reflect much data here for now, but we will be digging and trying to better understand what is held in these collections that we should be attempting to obtain copies of. Remember this is preliminary data and we have much to learn about the specific files in these collections. A sampling of the collections we should be interested in are as follows:

<b>DISTRICT (VOLOST) ADMINISTRATION</b>				
<u>No.</u>	<u>Collection #</u>	<u>Name of the Collection</u>	<u>Period</u>	<u>Quantity of Files</u>
22	56	Mannhiem (Baraboi)	1895-1919	28
24	394	Landau Notary I.G. Rappoport*	1888-1911	11
25	422	Landau Notary P.M. Timofeev*	1904-1913	2

\* Official papers about purchase, sale, donation, testament and inheritance of immovable property (real estate).

We are sure as we get closer to the new information we have in hand, that we will find other collections and files that will be of interest to us. One of the things we will need help with is somebody who can do some translations once we receive some of this data. We will need most - somebody who can help with the Russian language writing, and some help with the German translations.

Editor's note: Dale's address is 7370 Grevena Ave NE, Bremerton, WA 98311-4046 or you can e-mail him at:

[dwahl@kendaco.telebyte.com](mailto:dwahl@kendaco.telebyte.com)

This is an effort well worth the support of all of us.

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If you can help with any of this part of the effort, please contact Dale Lee Wahl.

A **COMPLETE** genealogy just can't be . . . there's always more.



## Notes from the Editor . . .

**Thanks**

This issue has been dedicated to the village of Worms. We want to thank Gary Maier for pictures that he took last summer on **A Journey to the Homeland Tour** conducted by Michael M. Miller, tour director.

We should mention that tours for 1998 and 1999 are currently being planned. The 1998 tour will coincide with the Bundestreffen (bundes = people of similar interests; treffen = meeting) Reunion held on June 6, 1998 in Stuttgart, Germany. Its a large gathering of "Aussiedlers" (outsettlers), people of German heritage who have returned to Germany.

The tours include a visit to the Odessa area and the opportunity to stand where your ancestors stood. If you would like to participate in one of these tours or would like more information, contact Michael M. Miller, c/o Journey to the Homeland Tours, NDSU Libraries, P.O. Box 5599, Fargo, N.D. 58105-5599 or phone (701) 231-8416 or, if you like, you can e-mail to: mmmiller@badlands.nodak.edu.

We also wish to thank Roland Wagner for another of his articles that he translated from the Nord Dakota Herald and Carol McCormack for her article on the Schorzmann Legend.

Thanks to Dale Lee Wahl for his 1892 Worms census input and the Catholic Project update. He says he has more data that will be ready for the next issue. So watch out for it. It is scheduled for distribution in October.

**Apology and correction.**

In this column in the last issue the statement was made that the German Russians are the only cultural group that can claim three homelands. We have been reminded that there are others who can also claim the same - like German Hungarians and German Romanians who have settled in North America or elsewhere. The German Russians are not the only group but may be the largest group who can claim this distinction. We again, apologize, if we offended anyone.

**New Book**

*Flotsam of World History: The Germans from Russia between Stalin and Hitler* by Dr. Richard H. Walth published privately in Germany in an English translation by Alex Herzog and Michael B. Herzog, 1996.

Richard Walth was born to ethnic German parents in Neu-Glückstal/Ukraine. He studied in Selz, Ukraine and in Germany after World War II. His book masterfully summarizes the Village Reports that were prepared by the Dr. Karl Stump during the German army's occupation of the "homeland" from July, 1941 to the early months of 1944. In addition to a brief, but excellent history and fate of the German settlers in the entire Soviet Union, his

book also includes his own personal observations, an extensive bibliography, numerous appendices, as well as historical pictures and documents.

The book can be ordered by sending a check or money order payable to Germans from Russia Heritage Collection, NDSU Libraries, PO Box 5599, Fargo, ND 58105-5599 for \$26 plus \$3 postage and handling each book.

**Another Book You May Like To Have**

*Researching the Germans from Russia* compiled by Michael M. Miller is an annotated bibliography of the Germans from Russia Heritage Collection at the North Dakota Institute for Regional Studies with a listing of the library materials at the Germans from Russia Heritage Society in Bismarck, N.D. The book is the most comprehensive and detailed annotated bibliography in the United States and Canada of books and materials about the Germans from Russia.

Listed in the publication are books on the Black Sea Germans, Hutterites, Mennonites, Vohlynian Germans, Volga Germans, and Germans from Russia in the two Dakotas and throughout the United States. Also included are church histories, literature, folklore, sound recordings, cassette tapes, community and county histories for North Dakota, family histories, maps, newspapers, census material, cookery, and periodicals. A title index, name index, and colony-district index provide easy access to the publication. Photographs are found throughout. The book is available from the Germans from Russia Heritage Collection. The price is \$20 for softcover and \$35 for hardcover plus \$3 postage for first book and \$2 for each additional book payable to Germans from Russia Heritage Collection, PO Box 5599, Fargo, ND 58105-5599.

**Next Issue**

The next issue of the *Beresan District Odessa Newsletter* is due for distribution in October 1997. So far we have been fortunate in having some pictures and stories to highlight the village articles. But our resources are running out. We would like to dedicate each issue to a village. If you have any stories, articles, items of interest, pictures old or new of any of the Beresan villages, we would be most appreciative of "borrowing" them for use in the newsletter. Some villages we are thinking about for the next few issues are Landau, Johannestal, Speyer, Waterloo, and Sulz.

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**A Quotation . . .**

It is indeed a desirable thing to be well-descended, but the glory belongs to our ancestors.

**Plutarch**, Greek essayist (ca. 100 A.D.)

## Beresan District Odessa Newsletter

**This issue is the first of three issues of the second year of publication (Volume 2). The next issue is scheduled for October 1997.**

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(\* - All in US funds please!)

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This newsletter is being published for those who have an interest in the Villages of the Beresan District Odessa South Russia. The staff consists of Lead Editor Merv Rennich; Assistant Editors Leo Gottier, Carol McCormack, Roland Wagner, and Dale Lee Wahl; with subscriptions handled by Arletta Baskins.

Many others contribute to each issue but there is always room for more participation. If anyone cares to get involved they

should contact Merv Rennich at the return address below or by e-mail to [mrennich@hrn.bradley.edu](mailto:mrennich@hrn.bradley.edu).

All submitted material should include a statement that gives permission for use in the newsletter. Pictures are welcome. We have a scanner to digitize images and all output is done on a laser printer. Material will be returned when requested and if possible return postage or an SASE is greatly appreciated.

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Subscription rates are set to recover material costs and mailing only. All time and a most other expenses are donated by the editors and those involved in producing each issue including the use of computer equipment, printers, and phone lines.

Ideas for articles and improvements to the newsletter are most welcome. Please address them to the Lead Editor.

## Beresan District Odessa Newsletter

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